

## Education Department

### Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-28 – Year 2 Actions (2024-25)

#### Gwynedd Yfory (Tomorrow's Gwynedd): Giving our children and young people the best possible start in life

Department & Project	What do we want to achieve during the <b>SECOND</b> year 2024-25 (milestones):	A brief update on progress with the milestones so far	Has the milestone been completed by the end of the financial year?
<b><u>Education Department:</u></b>  <b>Transforming education for children in their early years</b>	Collaboration arrangements with our health partners put in place (namely the review of the Flying Start Board).	<p>We have reviewed and changed some of our governance arrangements e.g. the Language and Oracy area of work by establishing a Gwynedd and Anglesey Forum in conjunction with Health.</p> <p>We need to discuss with our health colleagues about the need to continue with the Flying Start Management Board or move to a contract management arrangement only. We need to produce an Early Years Strategy jointly during 2025/26.</p>	Partial – elements remaining in 2025/26
	Implement the strategy's interventions in the following areas: - Support for fathers - Perinatal mental health support - Toileting Scheme - Speech and Language	<p>We are working with the company 'How's Dad' to run sessions for fathers, jointly with Mudiad Meithrin.</p> <p>The staff have received '<i>Train the Trainer – Fathers, Perinatal and Infant Mental Health</i>' training and we are organising a course for more Early Years staff. We will be appointing a Family Support Officer (Fathers) soon in 2025/26.</p> <p>External providers have been commissioned to pilot perinatal interventions in several settings across Gwynedd, e.g. the Lullabies Project – received very positive feedback and many provided feedback that it supported their mental health and also created relationships with other parents. Investment has taken place in '<i>Triple P Baby</i>' and '<i>Nurture Links – Child in Mind</i>' training for Cyngor Gwynedd and Health staff.</p>	Partial – elements remaining until Summer 2025

		<p>Gwynedd's schools admissions policy will change from September 2025 and children attending the Nursery class of schools in Gwynedd will be expected to be toilet-trained before they start. A cross-departmental task group has been formed, which includes Health, which is working on a work programme to support families with the policy change.</p> <p>The "Mam; Dad a Magu" podcast was filmed with podcaster Mari Elen and a panel of experts on toileting from Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board's Paediatric team.</p> <p>Investment was made to print 'Talk with Me' packs to share with families across Gwynedd. Sensory sessions and drop-in sessions were trialled for parents to come and talk about their children's language and speech development.</p>	
	Expand the childcare provision for 2-year-olds to new areas.	Since September 2024 the scheme is operational across the county, including, in Barmouth, Bala, Bangor, Caernarfon, Porthmadog and Trawsfynydd, with 21 childcare settings providing a service for two-year-olds through the medium of Welsh or bilingually.	Yes
<b><u>Education Department:</u></b>  <b>Modernise buildings and the learning environment</b>	<b>Bangor Catchment Area:</b>  <b>Hirael</b> Start the construction work.	<b>Hirael</b> The first phase of construction has started on the site of Bangor's Byw'n Iach car park in March 2025.	Yes
	<b>Our Lady's School</b> Start the construction work.	<b>Our Lady's School</b> The former Ysgol Glanadda building has been demolished to allow construction work to begin for the new Our Lady's School. Following the demolition, development and construction work has begun and the frame for the new school is already in place.	Yes

	<b>Tryfan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Compile and submit a business case</li> <li>ii. Agree on a design</li> <li>iii. Appoint an architect and contractor for the construction work.</li> </ul>	An Outline Strategic Case has been produced and submitted to the Welsh Government in December 2024. This is the first stage of a 3-stage business case to be submitted to the Welsh Government. Architects have been appointed to lead on this project.	No (There is no agreement on design, as negotiations are ongoing)
	<b>Cricieth Catchment Area</b>  Complete the construction work and open the new school in September 2024.	Construction of the school was completed during the 2024 summer holidays, and the new Treferthyr school for 150 learners opened its doors in early September 2024. As part of the new school there is an early years provision, along with an ABC Unit.	Yes
	<b>Bontnewydd</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Agree on design</li> <li>ii. Submit the business case</li> <li>iii. Construction of the temporary school</li> </ul>	The Outline Business Case was approved in July 2024. The creation of a temporary school is underway with the aim of being operational by September 2025.	Yes
<b><u>Education Department:</u></b>  <b>Promote the well-being of children and young people and reduce the cost of sending children to school</b>	Complete the Year 1 actions in terms of analysing questionnaire data.	The questionnaires have been analysed and the findings have been shared with the schools in the form of infographics.	Yes
	Prepare reports at individual school level to report the findings to the schools.	The findings of the questionnaires have been shared with individual schools.	Yes
	Produce and implement a work programme to respond to the findings.	A work programme has been designed and is operational to respond to the findings of the questionnaires.	Yes
<b><u>Education Department (and PP YGC):</u></b>  <b>Extend opportunities for play and socialising for the county's children and young people</b>	Gather young people's views on all the available youth provisions.	Questionnaires created, distributed and analysed.	Yes
	Map the county's youth provisions by all partners and identify any gaps.	A working group has been established and provisions mapped out. The gaps will be addressed in the Youth Service's new strategy.	Yes

	Compile a report summarizing the main messages from the engagement and mapping work.	Report completed.	Yes
	Consider how the Youth Service and/or other partners can respond to key messages from the engagement	Report prepared for the Scrutiny Committee 10/04/25 with a possible direction for the Service to act on the findings of the engagement. This will be followed by a 3-year strategy (to be launched in 2025/26) shaped by the findings of the engagement.	Yes
<b><u>Education Department:</u></b>  <b>Formulate and implement a 10-year strategic direction for education in Gwynedd</b>	Work with local education stakeholders to co-produce the priorities and formulate an initial vision.	Over the past year, the Department along with stakeholders has been working on producing a 10-year Education Strategy for Gwynedd.	Yes
	Informal engagement on the draft document	Discussions have taken place with the Headteachers in informal sessions as well as in the Headteachers' Strategic Groups in February 2025 where the content of the draft Strategy was discussed.	Yes
	Present the Education Strategy to the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee	A draft strategy has been prepared, with a view to submitting it for the Scrutiny Committee's consideration shortly.	No (Intended to be submitted for the Scrutiny Committee's consideration soon)
	Submit the final Education Strategy to the Cabinet with the Strategy becoming operational	A draft strategy has been prepared, with a view to submitting it for the Cabinet's consideration shortly.	No (Intended to be submitted for the Cabinet's consideration soon)
<b><u>Education Department:</u></b>  <b>Review and improve the range of inclusion provisions in Gwynedd.</b>	Establish a Project Board Design a Work programme	The Project Board was established in March 2024.	Yes
	Map the services that are available, to identify opportunities for further joint-working and support	Mapping session held – the ALN Service/Children and Families Service/Youth Service/Justice Service.	Yes
	Map Inclusion training needs	A questionnaire was sent to all Primary and Secondary schools.	Yes

	Research provisions in other counties	Visits carried out to the following Local Authorities and provisions:  Conwy Monmouthshire Denbighshire Neath Wrexham Ceredigion Powys	Yes
	Plan Options for the provision from September '25	The preferred option was presented to the Cabinet on 08/04/25.	Yes
	Agree on an option	The preferred option was presented to the Cabinet on 08/04/25.	Yes

**Gwynedd Gymraeg (A Welsh Gwynedd): Ensuring that our residents can continue to live in a naturally Welsh speaking community**

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	<p><b>2. Welsh Language Capital Grant 2: Cymerau, Maesincla and Dolgellau Language Units:</b></p> <p>i. Agree on design</p> <p>ii. Appoint an architect and contractor</p> <p>iii. Carry out the construction work</p>	<p>The Modernisation Work in respect of the 3 Primary immersion units is ongoing.</p> <p>Cymerau: Work completed.</p> <p>Dolgellau: The work will be completed by the end of the Summer Term.</p> <p>Maesincla: The work will be completed by the end of the Summer Term.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Partial – construction work continues.</p> <p>Partial – construction work continues.</p>
<p><b>Education Department</b></p> <p><b>Review Gwynedd's Education Language Policy and conduct an evaluation of the Immersion System to ensure that all the education policies and services provided to children and young people in Gwynedd set a firm foundation for the Welsh language</b></p>	<p><b>1. Language Policy:</b></p> <p>i. Draw up a brief and appoint a consultant.</p> <p>ii. Engage with stakeholders such as headteachers, governors, parents, learners and organisations</p> <p>iii. Compile a draft document.</p> <p>iv. Following the engagement, present the draft Language Policy to the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>v. Submit the Draft Education Language Policy to the Cabinet.</p>	<p>i. During the Autumn Term 2024, Meirion Prys Jones, an independent Language Consultant, was commissioned to facilitate an engagement process in the context of revising the current model Language policy for Schools.</p> <p>ii. A series of stakeholder engagement meetings were held across the county.</p> <p>iii. A draft document has been compiled.</p> <p>iv. A draft Language Policy was submitted to the Scrutiny Committee on 10 April 2025</p> <p>v. A draft Language Policy has been prepared, with the aim of submitting it for the Cabinet's consideration soon.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No (Intended to be submitted for the Cabinet's consideration soon)</p>

	<p><b>2. Immersion System:</b></p> <p>i. Draw up a brief and commission Bangor University to collaborate on an Impact Study of the Immersion System.</p> <p>ii. Engage with stakeholders.</p> <p>iii. Compile a report on the findings of the impact study.</p> <p>iv. Submit the report to the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee including recommendations from the main findings and potential improvements for the future.</p>	<p>i. Bangor University's Research Team was commissioned to evaluate the Immersion Education System in Gwynedd.</p> <p>ii. The engagement process included observations of pupils' journeys through the immersion system, focus groups with teachers, focus groups with pupils who follow the immersion programme, a questionnaire with parents/guardians and scrutiny of quantitative data.</p> <p>iii. The University has compiled a draft report.</p> <p>iv. We will submit the report to the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee on 16 October 2025.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No (Aim to present to the Scrutiny Committee on 16/10/25)</p>
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