Cyngor Gwynedd Plan 2023-28 - Year 3 Actions (2025-26) - Education Department

Quarter 2 Update 2025-26

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

Department and Project	What we want to achieve during the third year 2025-26 (milestones):	Update on the milestones to date:	Is the milestone completed/likely to be completed by the end of the financial year? (Yes/No)
Education Department Transform education for	1. Change the Toileting Policy for Gwynedd Schools by September 2025 and prepare families for the change by working collaboratively cross-departmentally and with the Health Board.	1. We have acted on changing the Policy since September 2025.	Yes
children in their early years	2. Extend the childcare scheme for two-year-olds to more areas by September 2025, namely Tywyn, Harlech, Llandderfel and Llanuwchllyn, Penrhyndeudraeth, Efailnewydd/Buan, Aberdaron/Botwnnog/Tudweiliog, Cricieth, Waunfawr, Seiont 1 – Caernarfon, Llanberis, Arllechwedd and Porthmadog West, providing services for two-year-olds through the medium of Welsh or bilingually.	2. We have taken action by extending the childcare scheme to more areas, providing a service for two-year-olds through the medium of Welsh or bilingually. Applications have opened online for families to register their children on the Scheme. We are currently in the process of re-advertising to appoint staff to the Early Years Teachers team. We are working with the IT Department to develop a system to administer the applications.	Yes

Education Department	1. Bangor Catchment Area	1. Bangor Catchment Area	
Modernise buildings and the learning	Hirael: Commencement of construction work on the school site.	Ysgol Hirael: A tendering process for appointing contractors to design and make improvements to Ysgol Hirael is still ongoing.	Yes
environment	Ein Harglwyddes/Our Lady's: Complete the construction work and open the new school in Easter 2026.	Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes/Our Lady's School: Construction work on the former Ysgol Glanadda site continues. The new school is set to open in the Summer term 2026.	Yes
	Tryfan:i. Compile and submit a business case (Outline Business Case)	Ysgol Tryfan: An outline Business Case (SOC) Phase 1 of 3 was approved by the Welsh Government earlier this year.	Yes
	ii. Agree on a design	Further discussions will need to take place with the school's stakeholders during the autumn term 2025.	
	2. Bontnewydd:	2. Ysgol Bontnewydd:	
	 i. Submit the full business case (Full Business Case) ii. Complete the construction of the temporary school 	A Business Case (FBC) was submitted in August. Following receipt of cost estimates for the project that exceeded the budget, a detailed process of reviewing prices is currently underway. It is anticipated that this will involve refined price estimates and, where possible, lowered cost estimates.	Yes
	iii. Demolish the existing building	Construction of the temporary school has been completed and the school has been operating from the temporary building since September 2025.	

Education Department	1.	Compile and distribute a 'Cost of attending school' audit for each school to evaluate existing arrangements.	1. A 'Cost Friendly School' audit was circulated to all schools in Gwynedd in November 2025.	Yes
Promote the well-being of children and	2.	Analyse the findings of the audit.	2. It is expected that it will be possible to analyse the responses in December 2025, after the schools have had the opportunity to finalise them through discussion with the school's Governors.	Yes
young people and reduce the cost of sending children to school	3.	Share findings with schools in the form of an individual action plan for each school.	3. The findings will be shared with the schools after the analysis period. This is expected to be completed in December 2025.	Yes
Education Department Extend opportunities for play and socialising for the county's children and young people	1.	Engage with Town and Community Councils with a view to increasing the number of community clubs across the county.	1. There are 32 community projects/clubs delivered across Gwynedd on a weekly basis; 16 are based in Arfon, nine in Meirionnydd and seven in Dwyfor. This provision includes 10 clubs funded by local councils, three Friendly Clubs in co-operation with Derwen, 18 mobile community clubs and one Neuro club. Four new community clubs have opened in Trawsfynydd, Tywyn, Ty'n Llan (Llandwrog) and Mynytho, and two additional clubs will open in the new year in Aberdyfi and Bala. The Youth Service co-funds the Urdd Youth Worker post which runs four branches across the county as well as a number of after-school clubs.	Yes
,	2.	Align the local authority's strategy with the Welsh Government's five-year plans.	2. We have carried out extensive consultation with young people across Gwynedd through a series of face-to-face events, questionnaires and participatory workshops. Meetings have been held with partner organisations, including statutory agencies and the third sector, to ensure that local priorities are reflected in the new final Strategy. We are awaiting guidance from the Welsh Government on the structure and content of the strategy to reflect the new legislation.	Yes
	3.	Identify ways of engaging more broadly with young people and, in particular, specific groups of young people.	3. The Youth Service has made significant progress towards identifying more inclusive approaches to engaging with young people, with a particular focus on reaching under-represented groups. Through local data and direct input from young people, we have mapped gaps in provision and are piloting new approaches such as theme-specific sessions, mobile youth work, and partnerships with schools and third sector organisations. This has led to an increase in engagement from young people with additional needs, rural	Yes

	Develop a memorandum of understanding with secondary schools to ensure planning and	communities, and those not participating in education or training. We will continue to pilot new approaches to ensure equal access for all. Forums have been developed across the county to receive feedback from young people through the Youth Service, schools and the wider/third sector services to get a broad overview of the county's input. 4. A specific plan has been identified individually with each secondary school to outline the Youth Service's offer for the term. We will be holding an end of term meeting to showcase the work that has been done with the young	Yes
	reviewing of cohesive youth provisions within a school context, contributing to the well-being and positive behaviour of young people aged 11-18.	people to check if the objectives have been achieved.	
Education Department Formulate and implement a	 Engagement on the draft Strategy. Present the Education Strategy to the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee. 	1. Three informal sessions were held with the Cabinet members – June, July, September 2025. We will engage with the Heads of Primary, Secondary and Special Schools, the Children and Young People's County Forum, as well as the Governors' Forum in December 2025.	Yes
10-year strategic direction for	Submit the final Education Strategy to the Cabinet with the Strategy becoming operational.	2. The Strategy will be presented to the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee on 11 December 2025.	Yes
education in Gwynedd		3. We will present the final Strategy to Cabinet in early 2026.	Yes
Education Department	Consult, restructure, and appoint staff.	The work of restructuring and appointing staff has been completed.	Yes
Review and	 Register the provision as a Portfolio Pupil Referral Unit. 	2. The provision has been registered.	Yes
improve the range of inclusion	3. Form a Management Committee for the PRU.	3. A Management Committee has been formed and the first meeting will be held in November 2025.	Yes
provisions in Gwynedd.	4. Induct and train staff.	4. The staff induction sessions have been delivered at the start of term, with training on systems and strategies completed.	Yes
	5. Launch an Inclusion Strategy.	5. Strategy to be published in the autumn term.	Yes

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

Department and Project		we want to achieve during the third year 2025- lestones):	Update on the milestones to date:	Is the milestone completed/likely to be completed by the end of the financial year?
Education Department Modernising and extending the immersion provision to teach Welsh to children	1.	Ensure that the organisation in relation to the provision for newcomers to Welsh-medium education is communicated in a clear and effective manner with parents and carers. Prepare new resources and presentations for parents outlining the benefits of bilingualism.	1. The immersion system's new website is currently under development. Work is underway to prepare new resources. This is a priority within the Immersion System Development Plan 2025-26 and responds to the findings and recommendations of the Bangor University Study examining the efficiency of the Immersion model. The resources for the children attending the immersion units have been updated.	Yes
	2.	Establish a WESP Outcome 5 Project Board to ensure collaboration and communication with relevant stakeholders with a view to mapping the activities offered by partnerships within the county and be able to deliver them to parents and families.	2. We are working with the language adviser within the Corporate Services Department on this milestone. Work is underway to gather the information that is shared with members of Fforwm Iaith Gwynedd (Language Forum) to create a corporate resource. This milestone will be discussed with the Language Forum at its meeting in January 2026.	Yes
	3.	Equip the Foundation Phase workforce in terms of the principles of immersion education. Conduct regular training for Foundation Phase staff to share the principles of successful immersion. Ensure that they have access to pre-prepared, standard immersion resources on a user-friendly digital platform.	3. An immersion teacher continues to support three schools in the Bangor catchment area with best practice in immersion. We are currently working with Bangor University where the immersion unit staff are providing training to prospective teachers in October 2025. A training programme for the rest of the workforce will launch in terms 2 and 3. The collation and introduction of immersion resources along with preparing training is a priority within the Immersion System Development Plan 2025-26.	Yes

Education	1. La	nguage Policy:	1. Language Policy:	
Department	i.	Engagement on the draft Language Policy	i. Draft Policy submitted to the Task and Finish Group and the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee.	Yes
Review Gwynedd's Education Language Policy and	ii.	Presentation of the model Language Policy to the Cabinet	ii. We will be presenting a model Language Policy to the Cabinet for approval in December 2025.	Yes
conduct an evaluation of		imersion System:	2. Immersion System:	Yes
the Immersion System to ensure that all the education	i.	Complete the Report on the Evaluation of the Immersion Education System by Bangor University (Bangor University Research Team was commissioned to evaluate the Immersion Education System in Gwynedd in 2024-25)	i. Report completed by Bangor University in July 2025.	
policies and services provided to children and young people	ii.	Present the Report to the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee on 16 October 2025	ii. The Report was submitted to the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee on 16 October 2025.	Yes
in Gwynedd set a firm foundation for the Welsh language	iii.	Respond to the findings of the Bangor University Report – Evaluation of the Gwynedd Immersion System by reviewing the practical arrangements of the 10-week course and strengthening the after-care provision	iii. A response to the recommendations was prepared, highlighting the pros and cons of potential models. The recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee will be presented to the Cabinet.	Yes
	iv.	Respond to the findings of the March 2025 Estyn report – continue to provide accessible after-care resources on a digital platform and strengthen the System's self-appraisal processes	 iv. A response to Estyn's findings was prepared. Discussions have taken place to design and launch a new digital platform. Arrangements to strengthen the System's self-appraisal processes are included within the priorities of the 2025-26 Development Plan. Following the recent inspection, Estyn has made a request to include a snapshot of innovative practice in its Annual Report. 	Yes