

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 children in their early years	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>1. We have acted on changing the Policy since September 2025.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>

<p>Education Department</p> <p>Modernise buildings and the learning environment</p>	<p>1. Bangor Catchment Area</p> <p>Hirael: Commencement of construction work on the school site.</p> <p>Ein Harglwyddes/Our Lady's: Complete the construction work and open the new school in Easter 2026.</p> <p>Tryfan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Compile and submit a business case (Outline Business Case) ii. Agree on a design <p>2. Bontnewydd:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Submit the full business case (Full Business Case) ii. Complete the construction of the temporary school iii. Demolish the existing building 	<p>1. Bangor Catchment Area</p> <p>Ysgol Hirael: A tendering process for appointing contractors to design and make improvements to Ysgol Hirael is still ongoing.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Ysgol Tryfan: An outline Business Case (SOC) Phase 1 of 3 was approved by the Welsh Government earlier this year.</p> <p>Further discussions will need to take place with the school's stakeholders during the autumn term 2025.</p> <p>2. Ysgol Bontnewydd:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Construction of the temporary school has been completed and the school has been operating from the temporary building since September 2025.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>
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	4. Develop a memorandum of understanding with secondary schools to ensure planning and reviewing of cohesive youth provisions within a school context, contributing to the well-being and positive behaviour of young people aged 11-18.	<p>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.</p> <p>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 people to check if the objectives have been achieved.</p>	Yes
Education Department Formulate and implement a 10-year strategic direction for education in Gwynedd	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engagement on the draft Strategy. 2. Present the Education Strategy to the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee. 3. Submit the final Education Strategy to the Cabinet with the Strategy becoming operational. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 2. The Strategy will be presented to the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee on 11 December 2025. 3. We will present the final Strategy to Cabinet in early 2026. 	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>
Education Department Review and improve the range of inclusion provisions in Gwynedd.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consult, restructure, and appoint staff. 2. Register the provision as a Portfolio Pupil Referral Unit. 3. Form a Management Committee for the PRU. 4. Induct and train staff. 5. Launch an Inclusion Strategy. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The work of restructuring and appointing staff has been completed. 2. The provision has been registered. 3. A Management Committee has been formed and the first meeting will be held in November 2025. 4. The staff induction sessions have been delivered at the start of term, with training on systems and strategies completed. 5. Strategy to be published in the autumn term. 	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>

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

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 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

<p>Education Department</p> <p>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</p>	<p>1. Language Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Engagement on the draft Language Policy ii. Presentation of the model Language Policy to the Cabinet <p>2. Immersion System:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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) ii. Present the Report to the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee on 16 October 2025 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 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 	<p>1. Language Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Draft Policy submitted to the Task and Finish Group and the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee. ii. We will be presenting a model Language Policy to the Cabinet for approval in December 2025. <p>2. Immersion System:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Report completed by Bangor University in July 2025. ii. The Report was submitted to the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee on 16 October 2025. 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. 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. <p>Following the recent inspection, Estyn has made a request to include a snapshot of innovative practice in its Annual Report.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>
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