

**Welsh Language Impact Assessment
Supporting People Outcome Framework
Consultation 2017**

Template

Welsh Language Impact Assessment

Title: Supporting People Outcome Framework Consultation	WLIA Reference No 17/07/01 <i>(completed by WLU):</i>				
Name of person completing form: Donna Lemin	Date: 22.05.17				
Policy lead: Donna Lemin	Contact details: Supportingpeople@wales.gsi.gov.uk				
Programme/Project Type <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Grant <input type="checkbox"/> Business change <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/> Construction, Capital <input type="checkbox"/> ICT <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project or programme <input type="checkbox"/> Research, evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Services <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts, tenders				
Costs: How much is the projected whole life cost for the programme/project? If below £25k, then a full WLIA is not always required (see guidance).					
Under £25k	£25k - £49k	£50 - £249K	£250K - £1m	Over £1m	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Of the above, please provide details if there are any identified costs directly associated with the Welsh language?					
How long is the programme/project expected to run?					
Up to 1 yr	Up to 2yrs	Up to 5yrs	Up to 10yrs	More than 10 yrs	Unknown
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Key milestone dates for the programme/ project:					
The Supporting People Budget is an annual budget in line with Ministerial priorities, the programme has been running since 2003.					

STAGE 1: PLANNING

What are the aims and objectives of the policy?

What are the desired outcomes/ what constitutes 'success'?

The Supporting People Programme is a Welsh Government programme that helps approximately 60,000 people each year to live independently. This Guidance replaces the previous: *Supporting People Programme Grant (SPPG), Guidance – Wales (June 2013)*.

The Supporting People Programme provides vital support to people who find themselves in very difficult circumstances. It helps some of Wales' most vulnerable people to live independently in their own home or supported housing.

It is an early intervention programme which prevents people from becoming homeless or helps homeless people to find and keep accommodation. It helps vulnerable people address problems, sometimes multiple problems, such as debt, employment, tenancy management, substance misuse, and mental health issues. The support is geared to what people need e.g. to help deal with mental health problems and/or substance misuse, help to improve their health and well-being and/or helped them progress into, or nearer to, a job or training opportunity.

Part 2 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, the core of which is to prevent homelessness. The Programme reduces or prevents the need for more costly interventions by the NHS and/or social care for individuals and families and, in some cases, people who fall into the criminal justice system. It is essential that the Programme has a clear vision, is underpinned by strong values and its strategic objectives include how it works with and complements other Welsh Government programmes to maximise efficiency.

Important improvements have been made to the outcomes framework in recent years which have improved the quality of data on what the Supporting People programme does for the people who receive support. The further development of the outcomes framework has been discussed at length as well and the Supporting People Information Network, working with Cymorth Cymru, suggested changes to the Framework to make the outcomes more relevant, to cut down the number being collected and to reduce the time taken to report the outcomes.

The Supporting People Outcome and Data Group was set up in response to this request, and includes Welsh Government Officials, providers, local authorities and data experts. In 2015-16, changes were made to the existing Framework to enable evidence of the links between the Supporting People Programme and homelessness. It is proposed further changes are made to the Framework to strengthen alignment with the Well-being for Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 goals, and with other Communities and Tackling Poverty programmes.

Working with external stakeholders, we have developed this consultation document with the intention of changing both the current Framework and the way in which data is collected.

What policy options have been considered?

and

What impacts will there be if the policy is *not* implemented?

The revised Outcome Framework proposed does not suggest a change in policy, it is to ensure that the programme outcomes and impact is appropriately evidenced. Through discussions with stakeholders it is clear there needs to be some changes to the current framework to enable it to be more individual focused, able to recognise the differences in evidence needed between long and short term support, to increase the ability to demonstrate an individuals journey, and to ensure the outcomes are relevant to the programme.

If the changes are not made, whilst we will continue to gather evidence around the impact of the programme it will not be as robust as we would like, in particular around the journey of the individual.

Does the programme demonstrate a clear link with the Welsh Government’s strategy for the Welsh language - *laith fyw: laith byw*?

Yes – The strategy, citing the 2011 Census, indicates that there has been a further decline in the number of communities in Wales where over 70 per cent of the population can speak Welsh – as well as a decline in the number of communities where the majority of the population can speak the language. It identifies that inward and outward migration processes, limited employment opportunities and limited availability of affordable housing for local people have had profound effects on the demographic and linguistic profile of many communities. Going forward the programme will ensure links with the published Cymraeg 2050 strategy which aims to introduce the vision of reaching a million Welsh speakers by 2050. . The goal of a million Welsh speakers is also a commitment within the Programme for Government, Taking Wales Forward 2016-21. In addition, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 included the Welsh language within one of its seven well-being goals, and it is clear that enabling vulnerable people to engage with support from the outset in Welsh if they choose to, can help to drive uptake of available support and encourage greater engagement.

The Welsh Government provides funding to local authorities to spend according with the locally identified needs. As part of the local authority contracts they ensure that they fully comply with the Welsh Language Standards and services provided are able to be provided in Welsh where needed across the whole of Wales in line with duties imposed on Welsh Ministers under the Welsh Language Standards. Any correspondence provided by Welsh Government to be used with our stakeholders is provided bilingually. Additionally the Grant Terms and Conditions as provided to local authorities contains the requirement below:

Welsh Language

Where the Purposes include or relate to the provision of services in Wales they must be provided in such a way as to not treat the Welsh language less favourably than English, in

line with the Welsh Language Measure (Wales) 2011.

What are the impacts/ effects (both positive and/or adverse) on the Welsh language you have identified at the initial planning stage

i.e. Welsh speakers, Welsh language communities, Welsh medium education, Welsh learners, services available in Welsh?

There are no impacts/effects on the Welsh language identified at the initial planning stage. Services have been provided, via local authority contracts as outlined above, in Welsh where needed for some time and local authorities continue to ensure this is the case. However, going forward, as part of the reviews of local authorities we undertake we will ensure they are complying with the Welsh Language Standards in line with their duties.

Who are the stakeholders? Are the needs of Welsh speakers and learners addressed? To what extent are Welsh language interest groups likely to respond positively to the proposals?

Stakeholders for this consultation are local authorities and Supporting People Service providers, along with any other people with an interest in the programme, including people who access the services.

The consultation has been provided in Welsh and English and additional questions will be added to the consultation to query the impact of the guidance changes, and implementation of those changes which is likely to be of interest to Welsh Language interest groups. These will also be discussed at the consultation event. Currently however, there is no reason to believe responses would be anything less than positive.

Where an assessment was not completed, or no impacts were identified, please provide a full account for record keeping purposes?

(This could be used in the Welsh Language Tribunal in future)

At this initial stage of the consultation process, no negative impacts have been identified. Positive impacts for Welsh speaking communities is that Supporting People services will continue to be provided in the language most suitable for the person receiving the service to help them gain and maintain a tenancy, regain independence and/or remain in their own home thereby preventing homelessness.

What actions/ further work has been identified at the initial planning stage?

e.g. data requirements, need for peer review, external engagement with Welsh speaking groups, identify stakeholders or consultation list, need to contact Welsh Language Unit for advice)?

No further action has been identified at this stage, however, as part of the consultation an event will be undertaken to publicise this work and encourage feedback, which will be run using translation services where needed. When the responses have been received for the Outcome Framework consultation the new Framework and the toolkit used to collect the data will include Welsh language considerations and be provided bilingually.

STAGE 2: IDENTIFYING AND ASSESSING IMPACTS

Impact Assessment Summary

Summarise the detailed impact assessment carried out together with the scores assigned.

Positive effects/ impacts:

The proposals to introduce a revised Supporting People Outcome Framework will support the Welsh Government's strategy for the Welsh language by helping people to avoid homelessness and stay in their own homes with appropriate support, helping to increase:

Sustainability of Welsh speaking communities.
Provision of services through the medium of Welsh.

By ensuring we are working in line with the duties under the Welsh Language Standards we may encourage more vulnerable people to access support available to them where Welsh is available to them at the first point of access, which could lead to greater uptake and engagement with services. This could have a substantially positive impact on the programme.

Adverse effects/ impacts:

No adverse impacts have been identified.

Opportunities to promote the Welsh language e.g. status, use of Welsh language services, use of Welsh in everyday life, Welsh at work increased?

The proposed revised framework in itself will not provide additional opportunities to promote the Welsh language in every day life. Local authorities and the providers they work with are already expected to communicate with people in the language they wish to use and support plans for individuals should be undertaken in the appropriate language.

However, should a database be developed as part of this it will simplify the way in which information can be submitted and analysed, which could encourage people to use the Welsh language more often in the workplace, and this could have a ripple effect through to the way in which households communicate with their providers and encourage use of the Welsh language.

Evidence/ data used including demographic profile when considering the effects/ impacts:

- A living language: a language for living – Welsh language strategy 2012 to 2017.
- Supporting People Local Authority Reviews 2015-2017.
- Discussions with local authorities.
- Discussions with Supporting People Outcome and Data Group.

What is the overall anticipated likely impact on the Welsh language if this policy is taken forward based on the impact assessment/ risk assessment?	Positive: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adverse: <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral: <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown: <input type="checkbox"/>
Decision following IA	1. No major change <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	2. Adjust the policy to improve impacts <input type="checkbox"/>
	3. Continue the policy with mitigation measures <input type="checkbox"/>
	4. Stop and remove the policy <input type="checkbox"/>
<p><i>If answered 2,3, or 4 above – then answer the following:</i> How will you address these impacts in order to improve the outcomes for the Welsh language? Details of mitigation measures/ action points/ alternative options to reduce adverse impacts and increase positive outcomes:</p>	

If engaging or consulting, what are your plans? What questions do you wish to ask stakeholders about the Welsh Language Impact Assessment and Welsh language related issues?

The consultation invites stakeholders to express views on the proposals to revise the Supporting People Outcome Framework. Whilst this Impact Assessment was not undertaken prior to the commencement of the consultation, it will now be published alongside the consultation and stakeholders will be able to provide comments on it if they wish.

Additionally, we will add two questions to the existing consultation to enable people to consider the impact the revised framework may have on the Welsh language, the questions that will be submitted are below.

1. We would like to know your views on the effects that the revised Framework would have on the Welsh language, specifically on
i) opportunities for people to use Welsh and
ii) on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.

What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

2. Please also explain how you believe the proposed Framework could be formulated or changed so as to have
i) positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and
ii) no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

STAGE 3: POST CONSULTATION AND PREPARING FOR PUBLICATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Following consultation, what changes have you made to address any Welsh language issues that were raised?

How will you monitor the ongoing effects during the implementation of the policy?

Please outline how you will continue to capture effects/ impacts in future monitoring and evaluation?

Any other comments – ongoing results of evaluations, emerging impacts

4. Declaration

Policy lead:
The policy does not have an impact upon the Welsh language. Where there were identified adverse impacts or missed opportunities, the appropriate amendments and actions have been put in place.
Name:
Steve Lynch
Department:
EPS – Housing Policy
Date (s):
8 th June 2017
Signature:
Planned Review Dates: August 2017, August 2018, August 2019

SRO ENDORSEMENT and REVIEW	
I am satisfied that the WLIA is an accurate reflection of the programme/project at this stage of development. By signing, I am able to confirm that the Welsh Language Standards have been given the appropriate attention. I will re-assess the programme/project at key stages throughout the life of the programme/ project, including policy reviews.	
Signed: Simon Prothero (Senior Responsible Owner)	Date 8/6/17
Signed (Senior Responsible Owner)	Review Date
Signed (Senior Responsible Owner)	Review Date
Signed (Senior Responsible Owner)	Review Date