

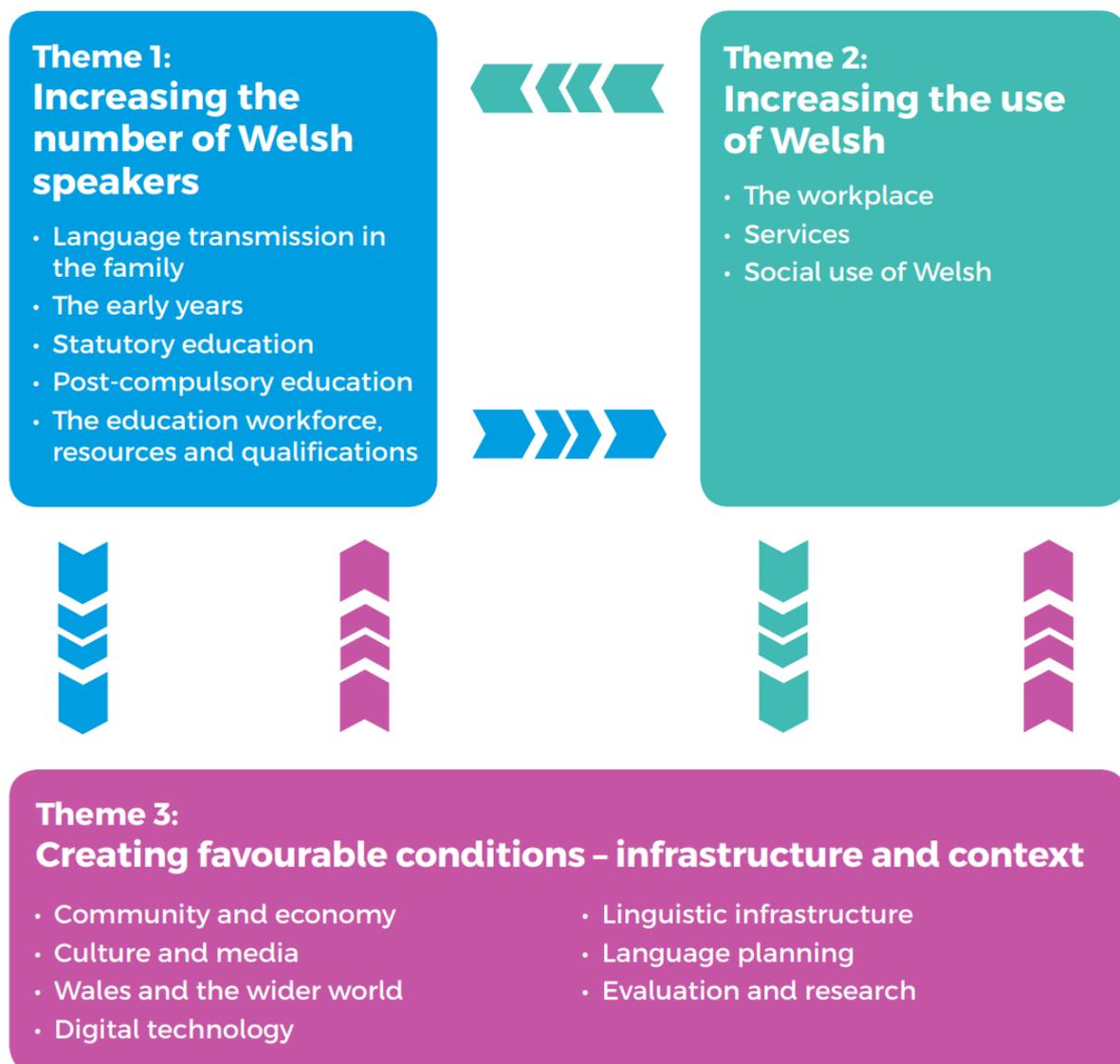
# WELSH LANGUAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

*Cymraeg 2050* is our national strategy for increasing the number of Welsh speakers to a million by 2050.

The Welsh Government is fully committed to the new strategy, with the target of a million speakers included in its Programme for Government. A thriving Welsh language is also included in one of the 7 well-being goals in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

We also have a statutory obligation to fully consider the effects of our work on the Welsh Language. This means that any Welsh Government policy should consider how our policies affect the language and those who speak it.

The *Cymraeg 2050 strategy* has three interrelated themes:



*Welsh Language Impact Assessment reference number (completed by the Welsh Language Standards Team, email: [Safonau.Standards@gov.wales](mailto:Safonau.Standards@gov.wales)):*

**Does the proposal demonstrate a clear link with the Welsh Government's strategy for the Welsh language (Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers)?**

**Policy Objectives:**

Welsh Government is consulting on a new Substance Misuse Treatment Framework (SMTF) and new standards for mental health services in the prisons in Wales. The development of the SMTF and the new standards for mental health services in the prisons are priorities set out in the Partnership Agreement for Prison Health<sup>1</sup> developed and agreed by Welsh Government, health boards, Public Health Wales and Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) in Wales. The Partnership Agreement aims to drive improvements in the health and wellbeing of people in prison in Wales, recognising the unique statutory obligations of key partners. It aims to build on the shared objective of ensuring those in prison can live in environments that promote health and wellbeing and where health services can be accessed to an equivalent standard of those within the community.

The development of the SMTF and the new standards for mental health services in the prisons are specific commitments in the [Substance Misuse Delivery Plan for Wales](#) and the [Mental Health Delivery Plan for Wales](#).

Specifically: The Welsh Government Mental Health Delivery Plan for Wales 2019-2022<sup>2</sup> outlines clear actions for people in prison including development of "consistent mental health, mental well-being and learning disability services across all prisons that are tailored to need though an agreed set of standards and indicators for mental health services in prison" and to develop approaches to improve mental health support to youth and female offenders.

Similarly, the Welsh Government Substance Misuse Delivery Plan 2019-2022<sup>3</sup> also includes the action for Welsh Government to work closely with her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS), Area Planning Boards, health boards and other stakeholders to undertake work that will aim to ensure that all prisons in Wales (to also include Eastwood Park) have a coordinated, transparent and consistent service for those with substance misuse issues, based on best practice. The aim is to produce a standardised clinical pathway for the management of substance misuse in

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<sup>1</sup> [Partnership Agreement for Prison Health in Wales](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Mental Health Delivery Plan for Wales 2019-2022](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Substance Misuse Delivery Plan for Wales 2019-2022](#)

prisons in Wales – as well as ensuring continuity of care in the community as set out the Partnership Agreement for Prison Health<sup>4</sup>).

Developing the SMTF and the new standards for mental health services will help to ensure that while a person is in prison, they have access to equivalent care and treatment to that available in the community. It will also help to support people in prison to improve their health and wellbeing and make an important contribution to reducing those inequalities in outcomes which currently exist.

**Does the proposal demonstrate a clear link with the Welsh Government’s strategy for the Welsh language? – *Cymraeg 2050 A million Welsh speakers* and the related Work Programme for 2017-2021?**

These proposals include opportunities in support of Theme 2 above: “Increasing the use of Welsh”, and Theme 3: ‘Creating favourable conditions (infrastructure and context) of Cymraeg 2050”.

In Wales, there are currently six male-only prisons and these prison populations will include Welsh speakers who can choose to receive services in Welsh under commitments set out in the HMPPS and MoJ Welsh Language Schemes, and under the Welsh Language Standards when receiving services from health boards.

Welsh female offenders must serve their sentences in English Prisons. However, HMPPS’s Welsh Language Scheme (Section 2, 66) states that they will work with the women’s estate to ensure women are given the opportunity to declare a Welsh language preference.

In relation to health, the strategic framework “*Mwy na geiriau... More than just words...*” aims to strengthen Welsh language services in health and social care services.<sup>5</sup> The key principles of this framework have been embedded into the Substance Misuse Delivery Plan 2019-2022 and the Mental Health Delivery Plan 2019-2022 – in that all people and organisations associated with mental health and substance misuse must have regard to the right of people to communicate in Welsh. One of the outcomes in the Substance Misuse Delivery Plan 2019-2022 – for example – is to ensure that “*Welsh speakers and their families are able to receive support for substance misuse issues through their own language*”.<sup>6</sup> A new work plan for *More than just words* is currently being drawn up and we will consider how the SMTF and the new standards for mental health services can reflect any relevant actions in that plan.

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<sup>4</sup> [Partnership Agreement for Prison Health in Wales](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Strategic Framework for Welsh Language Services in Health and Social Care](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Substance Misuse Delivery Plan for Wales 2019-2022](#)

The Welsh Language Standards<sup>7</sup> placed on the Welsh Government requires it to give full consideration when making policy decisions to any potential impact on the Welsh language, in all policy areas, in order to ensure more robust policies which are in line with the aspiration of having a million Welsh speakers by 2050. It also ensures that there are no unintentional consequences to the Welsh Government's policies and no harmful impacts on the Welsh language.

Standard questions regarding the impact of the policy on the Welsh Language will be asked as part of the consultation process on the draft SMTF and the new standards for mental health services in the prisons.

**Describe and explain the impact of the proposal on the Welsh language, and explain how you will address these impacts in order to improve outcomes for the Welsh language.**

The proposal should have a positive impact on both the promotion of the Welsh Language and in the delivery of services in Welsh:

- All prisons in Wales are required to record data on those with a Welsh language preference and Welsh speakers should be made aware of the rights and opportunities available to them to receive information and services in Welsh under the HMPPS<sup>8</sup> and MoJ Welsh Language Schemes.<sup>9</sup> All health boards in Wales must operate in accordance with the Welsh Language Standards under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure (2011) and enable everyone who receives or uses their services to do so through the medium of Welsh or English, according to personal choice.
- **New Mental Health Standards:** The proposed new universal standards for mental health and co-occurring substance misuse state that as part of the standards for assessment and care planning, information should be provided to patients in a format they can easily understand. In order to comply with the Welsh Language Standards (health boards) and Welsh Language Scheme (MoJ and HMPPS) this information should be made available in Welsh to patients according to personal choice.
- **SMTF:** The proposals should allow prisoners to access the SMTF in Welsh if that is their personal choice, in accordance with Welsh Language Standards and with

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<sup>7</sup> [Welsh Language Standards](#)

<sup>8</sup> [HMPPS Welsh Language Scheme 2020-2023](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Ministry of Justice Welsh Language Scheme 2018](#)

commitments in Welsh Language Schemes, and thus would lead to opportunities within the prison setting to further Theme 2 and Theme as set out above. There should be a positive impact on the health of Welsh speakers where the intervention offered by substance misuse services (particularly where it includes an element of counselling) is offered in Welsh. This will allow Welsh speakers the opportunity to discuss their issues/concerns in a language which best meets their needs.

- As stated previously, in accordance with the “*Mwy na geiriau...More than just words...*” Strategic Framework,<sup>10</sup> patients should receive an “Active Offer” (providing a Welsh language service without service users having to ask for it) and providers should actively encourage their workforce to develop capacity to use Welsh in the workplace.

Aside from the overarching positive impacts brought about by the proposals, no adverse impacts on the Welsh language have been identified by officials.

### **How will the proposal affect the sustainability of Welsh speaking communities<sup>11</sup> (both positive and/or adverse effects)?**

The draft proposal should not affect the use of the Welsh language, numbers of Welsh speakers or the sustainability of Welsh speaking communities.

### **How will the proposal affect Welsh medium education and Welsh learners of all ages, including adults (both positive and/or adverse effects)?**

Ensuring and planning for services to be made available in Welsh would lead to a positive impact on the Welsh language in the workplace. It would allow for more opportunities for those with Welsh language skills and Welsh learners of all ages to use Welsh in a work setting.

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<sup>10</sup> [Strategic Framework for Welsh Language Services in Health and Social Care](#)

<sup>11</sup> These can be close-knit rural communities, dispersed social networks in urban settings, and in virtual communities reaching across geographical spaces.

**How will the proposal affect services<sup>12</sup> available in Welsh (both positive and/or adverse effects)?**

As stated above, the services outlined in the proposal should comply with their legal duties in relation to the Welsh language, and ensure that the Welsh language is treated no less favourably than the English language.

**How will you ensure that people know about services that are available in Welsh and are able to access and use them as easily as they can in English? What evidence / data have you used to inform your assessment, including evidence from Welsh speakers or Welsh language interest groups?**

There is also a continuous process in place to collect current data on the language skills of prison staff. This data should be used to help plan services for Welsh speakers, including raising prisoners' awareness of the opportunities available to use Welsh with staff and enable prisons to improve their services. If service users are aware that they can receive support in their preferred language, this would provide an opportunity for Welsh speakers to use Welsh at work and for service users to increase their use of Welsh in everyday life.

Again, the SMTF specifically states that staff should be aware of the need to make the "Active Offer" (providing a Welsh language service without service users having to ask for it) and encourage providers to actively encourage their workforce to develop capacity to use Welsh in the workplace.

People currently in prisons are aware that they have the right to complain to the Welsh Language Commissioner about matters relating to the Welsh language, and staff should facilitate any complaint a person wishes to make.

**What other evidence would help you to conduct a better assessment?**

Welsh Language groups may have an interest in this area in particular whether services are delivered in the medium of Welsh and as such it is expected that they will respond positively to the proposals.

As part of the planned consultation process, we will seek views on whether the actions proposed within the delivery plan need to be strengthened and whether there are any further actions we could undertake.

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<sup>12</sup> The Welsh Language Strategy aims to increase the range of services offered to Welsh speakers, and to see an increase in use of Welsh-language services.

We will use feedback received from the pre-consultation engagement events to help tailor these questions accordingly.

**How will you know if your policy is a success?**

Prisons in Wales are required to record data on those with a Welsh language preference. Using this dataset, it should therefore be possible to monitor if prisoners who wish to access services in Welsh – and who also require treatment under the SMTF and in accordance with the new standards for mental health services in the prisons – are able to access services in Welsh.

**Mental Health, Substance Misuse and Vulnerable Groups Team, Welsh Government (January 2022)**

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