

# Talk with Me – Phase 2

## Speech, Language and Communication (SLC) Delivery Plan 2026 to 2030

A consultation



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



# Hello

The Welsh Government wants all babies and children to have the best start in life.

In 2020 we started the Talk with Me programme. It helps:

- make sure people spot speech, language and communication needs early
- make sure children aged under 5 have the right support.

It's about how everyday chatting, playing and listening helps develop communication skills.

## Speech, language and communication skills matter.

How we say words.

The words we understand and use.

How we share ideas, feelings and needs with others.

They:

➤ help build strong relationships with friends, family, and others

➤ support learning

➤ boost confidence and self esteem

➤ reduce frustration because children are able to explain things

➤ support mental health and wellbeing

➤ improve children's opportunities in education, work and life

➤ protect children's rights and help them take part in decisions about their lives.

## What's this about?

The Talk with Me programme has helped lots of babies and children — but we want to do more.

Any child, whatever their age, might need help with their communication skills. So, we want to support older children too, not just babies and toddlers.

This tells you about **Talk with Me Phase 2**: SLC Plan 2026 to 2030.

## We want to know what you think.



Answer the questions as you go.



# Our aim

We want to:

- make sure people know and understand the importance of speech, language and communication
- make sure babies and children who need help are spotted and get support in the right way, at the right time.

## Why is this called Talk with Me Phase 2?


This plan is called Talk with Me Phase 2 because it builds on the first Talk with Me plan.

**Phase 2 goes further. It keeps what's already working but adds new actions to support older children aged 5 to 11.**

This plan includes:

- things we're already doing – to keep up the progress for younger children
- new things – to reach more children, including older ones, and give the right support at the right time.

It's about making sure every baby and child gets support — wherever they live, and whatever their age.

 Do you think Talk with Me Phase 2 is a good name for this plan?



If not, what name would you suggest instead?



# Goal 1: To raise awareness of speech, language and communication

## Our main action

We will raise awareness about how to support speech, language and communication.

### We'll keep on:

- sharing information about how to support speech, language and communication skills for children aged under 5
- working with Public Health Wales to make sure speech and language tips are included in Every Child resources
- sharing clear messages with early years staff.

### New in Phase 2. We will:

» look at research to find the best speech, language and communication messages for children aged 5 to 11

» run a bilingual campaign to show how children's speech, language and communication skills usually develop when they are aged 5 to 11, and how to support their talking and communication

» share clear messages with school staff through Curriculum for Wales resources

» share information about how screens and technology can affect children's communication skills.

### Outcomes — What we want to see

- Staff and families will know how to help support children's speech, language and communication development.
- Families will get the help they need at the right time from the people who know them best.



### Do you agree?

Goal 1 will help babies and children do better.



Strongly agree



Agree



Neither agree or disagree



Disagree



Strongly disagree



Don't know

Comment?



# Goal 2: To improve how we spot the speech, language and communication needs of babies and children

## Our main action

We will make sure children's speech, language and communication skills are checked in the right ways at the right times.

### We'll keep on:

- developing the bilingual early years assessment and support tools (Prosiect Pengwin)
- using these tools more and checking how well they are working.

### New in Phase 2. We will:

» work with schools to see how they are already spotting children with speech, language and communication needs

» get experts to review the systems we use for spotting the speech, language and communication needs of children aged 5 to 11 in Welsh and English.

### Outcomes — What we want to see

- Staff will be better at spotting speech, language and communication needs early.
- Children will get the right help, from the right person, at the right time.

### ? Do you agree?

Goal 2 will help babies and children do better.



# Goal 3: To make sure children get the right support for speech, language and communication when they need it

## Our main action

We will make sure people who work with babies and children know how to give the right kind of support.

### We'll keep on:

- developing and improving support tools as part of Prosiect Pengwin
- using these tools more widely and checking how well they're working
- working with education staff to make sure children aged under 5 get the right support for speech and language in Welsh and English.

### New in Phase 2. We will:

» check which speech and language programmes work best for children aged 5 to 11, in both Welsh and English

» check what speech and language support is already being used in schools to see where there are gaps.

### Outcomes — What we want to see

- Children will get the right kind of speech, language and communication support at the right time.

### ? Do you agree?

Goal 3 will help babies and children do better.





# Goal 4: To build skills across the workforce so more children get the speech, language and communication support they need

## Our main action

We will make sure staff are well trained and can support babies and children's speech, language and communication skills.

### We'll keep on:

- updating and improving the early years speech, language and communication training framework
- sharing the new school-age training framework and checking how well it's being used
- giving training for Health Visitors and their teams.

### New in Phase 2. We will:

» explore how new Health Visitors, teachers and social workers can be told about speech, language and communication

» look at where training is missing in different parts of the workforce

» create a free short online course for staff working with children aged 5 to 11

» work with Estyn (who check schools) and the Care Inspectorate (who check services) to make sure their Inspectors look at speech, language and communication when they carry out reviews

» share examples of good speech, language and communication support

» work with teams across the UK, Ireland and the world to share learning and ideas.

### Outcomes — What we want to see

- Staff will be well trained and have the skills to support children's speech, language and communication.
- Children will get the help they need from the people who know them best.

### Do you agree?

Goal 4 will help babies and children get support.



# Goal 5: To make sure all babies and children in Wales can get speech, language and communication support

## Our main action

We'll make sure children can get the speech, language and communication support they need. That includes general help that's available to everyone as well as extra support.

## We'll keep on:

- putting children's rights at the centre of everything we do
- using research to guide our work
- keeping speech, language and communication guidance for staff up-to-date and checking how it's working
- helping services work together to give joined-up support
- planning how to review and measure what Talk with Me has achieved
- helping specialist speech and language therapy services offer earlier support, in more areas.

## New in Phase 2. We will:

» work with mental health teams to make sure they understand speech, language and communication needs

» work with school staff to show how speech, language and communication skills support reading and writing

» work with Additional Learning Needs teams to see what training staff need

» work with justice services to show how speech, language and communication support can help keep children out of the criminal justice system.

## Outcomes — What we want to see

- Every baby and child in Wales will get the speech, language and communication support they need, wherever they live.

## Do you agree?

Goal 5 will help babies and children do better.





# Other questions

## Now you've read the plan...

? What age are you?

0-5

6-11

12+

? Are there any other big goals you think should be added to this plan?

? Are there any extra actions you think should be included in the plan?

## The Welsh language

? How might these plans affect the Welsh language, in good or bad ways?

? How could these plans be changed to support the Welsh language better?

## Children's Rights

? Could we change the plan to support children's rights more, or reduce any harm to those rights?

## One last thing

? Is there anything we haven't asked about that you think is important?



## Your privacy - GDPR

This survey doesn't ask for your name or anything that can identify you.

The Welsh Government will read the answers to help them understand young people's views and improve their work.

Your answers may be shared with staff or trusted research partners who are helping with this consultation.


What you say may be included in a summary report, but it will not be linked to you.


Sometimes, the Welsh Government may have to share information by law, such as through Freedom of Information rules.

Your answers will only be kept for a limited time and then safely deleted.

## Thanks for taking part

Please send your answers to:

 [talkwithme@gov.wales](mailto:talkwithme@gov.wales)

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