

## 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:

## Theme 1: Increasing the number of Welsh speakers

- Language transmission in the family
- The early years
- Statutory education
- Post-compulsory education
- The education workforce, resources and qualifications



## Theme 2: Increasing the use of Welsh

- The workplace
- Services
- Social use of Welsh



## Theme 3: Creating favourable conditions – infrastructure and context

- Community and economy
- Culture and media
- Wales and the wider world
- Digital technology
- Linguistic infrastructure
- Language planning
- Evaluation and research

The headings under each theme outline the scope of activities that can affect the language.

As a general rule, if your policy has the potential to impact on people, it will impact in some way on Welsh speakers and therefore on the Welsh language.

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

2. 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 2021-2026? [Cymraeg 2050 work programme 2021-2026](#)

The proposals set out in the consultation document demonstrate a meaningful, if implicit, alignment with the Welsh Government's strategy for the Welsh language, Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers, and the associated Work Programme for 2021–2026. While the primary focus of the proposals is to improve adoption, fostering, and kinship services across Wales, several elements support the broader aims of promoting and normalising the use of Welsh in public services.

Firstly, the consultation itself is bilingual, with a clear commitment to treating Welsh no less favourably than English. The document is available in Welsh, and the Welsh Government welcomes correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh. This reflects the principle of linguistic equality embedded in Cymraeg 2050 and ensures that Welsh-speaking stakeholders can fully participate in the consultation process.

The proposals also take into consideration More than just words the Welsh Government's strategy for strengthening Welsh language services in health and social care.

In terms of the proposals themselves, several areas offer opportunities to strengthen Welsh language use in practice:

- **Adoption and fostering support services:** The proposed regulatory changes aim to simplify access to support services, including counselling and therapeutic services. These services are often deeply personal and culturally sensitive, and the ability to be offered to them in Welsh is crucial for many individuals. While the proposals do not explicitly reference Welsh language provision, the expansion of service accessibility should include consideration of bilingual delivery including delivery of the active offer of Welsh language support so that Welsh speaking patients, families and individuals can easily access the care, services and support they need in Welsh, without having to ask, particularly for adopted adults and families seeking therapeutic support.
- **Care planning and review processes:** Amendments to the Part 6 Code of Practice emphasise the importance of the child's voice in care and support planning. For Welsh-speaking children, this must include the right to express themselves in their preferred language. The proposed changes to strengthen guidance on placements, reviews, and the role of independent reviewing officers offer a valuable opportunity to embed Welsh language considerations into everyday practice.
- **Kinship care and fostering reforms:** The creation of a separate assessment framework for kinship foster carers and the introduction of more flexible review and visit arrangements are designed to be person-centred and responsive to individual needs. These changes could support Welsh-speaking families by allowing for culturally and linguistically appropriate care arrangements, especially in families where Welsh is the first language.
- **Special Guardianship Support Plan:** The proposal to make the use of support plan templates statutory across Wales presents a clear opportunity to

ensure that Welsh language needs are consistently considered in the development and review of support plans.

Finally, the consultation includes specific questions that invite feedback on the impact of the proposals on the Welsh language. This demonstrates an awareness of the importance of linguistic inclusion and provides a mechanism for stakeholders to highlight both opportunities and risks.

With further emphasis on Welsh/bilingual service delivery and the linguistic rights of children and families, these reforms have the potential to contribute positively to the Welsh Government's ambition of creating a million Welsh speakers and embedding the language in everyday life.

3. 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. **How will the proposal affect Welsh speakers of all ages (both positive and/or adverse effects)? You should note your responses to the following in your answer to this question, along with any other relevant information:**

The proposals have the potential to positively impact the Welsh language, particularly in the context of children's social care services. The implementation of the changes across adoption, fostering, kinship care, and special guardianship services presents several opportunities to strengthen the visibility, accessibility, and sustainability of Welsh language use in public services. Consultation responses were received relating to the Welsh language. A full summary of responses which includes feedback on the Welsh language will be published alongside this assessment.

### **Impact on Welsh Speakers of All Ages**

The proposed reforms aim to improve access to support services for vulnerable children and families, including counselling, therapeutic services, and care planning.

More than just words is the Welsh Government's strategy for strengthening Welsh language in health and social care. The central aim of the strategy is to embed the Active Offer in services so that Welsh speaking patients, families and individuals can easily access the care, services and support they need in Welsh, without having to ask.

For Welsh-speaking children and adults, the ability to access/be offered these services in Welsh is essential for effective communication, emotional wellbeing, and cultural identity. The inclusion of the child's voice in care planning and review processes, particularly in the revised Part 6 Code of Practice, must ensure that children and families can express themselves in Welsh where that is their preferred language.

For adults impacted by adoption, the proposal to remove CIW registration requirements for counsellors and therapists may increase the availability of support services including those available through the medium of Welsh.

## **Sustainability of Welsh-Speaking Communities**

By improving the accessibility and flexibility of care arrangements, especially within kinship and fostering contexts, the proposals support families to remain within their communities. In Welsh-speaking areas, this can help sustain the use of Welsh within family and community life. The emphasis on placing children close to home and within familiar networks aligns with the goals of Cymraeg 2050 to strengthen Welsh-speaking communities.

## **Impact on Welsh-Medium Education and Learners**

While the proposals do not directly address education, they indirectly support Welsh-medium education by promoting stability in placements and reducing disruption for children in care. Stable placements within Welsh-speaking families or communities can help ensure continuity in Welsh-medium schooling and support Welsh learners of all ages.

## **Impact on Services Available in Welsh**

The proposals affect a wide range of services - social care, therapeutic support, and local authority functions. To ensure these services are actively offered in Welsh, it will be important to embed Welsh language standards and More than just words the Welsh Government's strategy for strengthening Welsh languages in health and social care into commissioning, training, and service delivery. The central aim of the More than just words strategy is to embed the Active Offer in services so that Welsh speaking patients, families and individuals can easily access the care, services and support they need in Welsh, without having to ask. This includes ensuring that information, support plans, and guidance documents are available bilingually, and that professionals are equipped to offer and deliver services in Welsh where needed.

The importance of developing the Welsh language skills of staff is a key theme in the strategy. Welsh language courses are available to staff in the health and care sector including confidence building courses and introductory courses. Staff are being supported and encouraged to improve their Welsh language skills.

## **Ensuring Awareness and Access**

To ensure people know about and are offered services and support in Welsh, the Welsh Government will:

- Promote bilingual service options clearly in all public-facing materials including the active offer of Welsh language services.
- Ensure local authorities and service providers communicate and offer services in Welsh rather than services users having to ask.
- Ensure Welsh speaking families and individuals are able to share their experiences in Welsh.

Evidence from Welsh speakers, practitioners, and interest groups such as feedback from the National Adoption Service and AFKA Cymru, has informed the development of these proposals. However, further engagement with Welsh-speaking families and professionals will strengthen the assessment and help identify specific gaps in provision.

## **Measuring Success**

Success will be measured by:

- Increased access to services in Welsh across adoption, fostering, and kinship care.
- Positive feedback from Welsh-speaking service users.
- Greater consistency in bilingual service delivery across Wales.
- Improved outcomes for children and families, including those in Welsh speaking families and Welsh-speaking communities.