

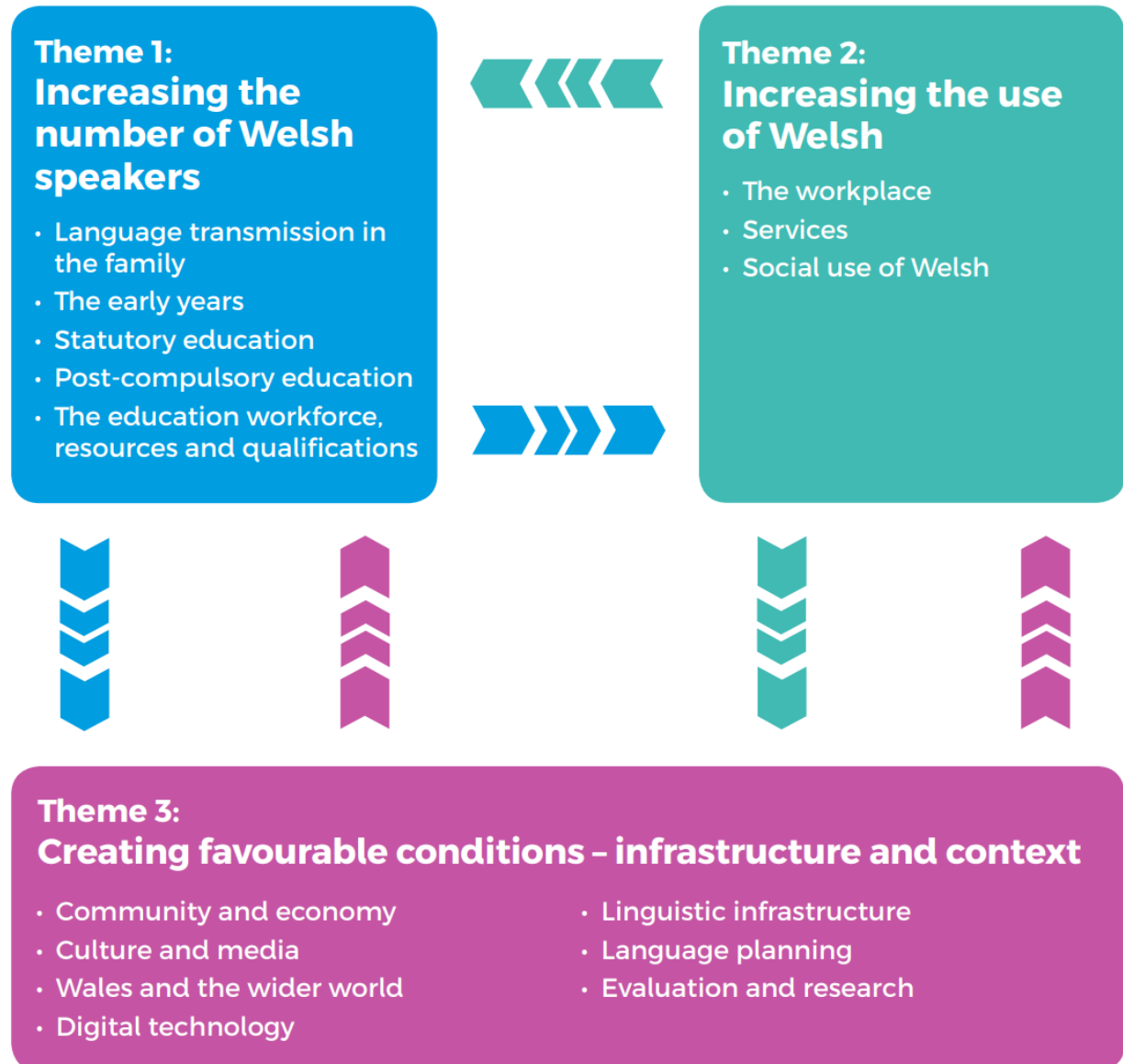
WELSH LANGUAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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:



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):

Clearance code: 06/07/2026

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 proposed changes link with the following Welsh Language Impact Assessment: [Improving adoption, fostering and kinship services: Welsh language impact assessment | GOV.WALES](#)

The proposed changes to the Part 6 Looked After and Accommodated Children and Special Guardianship codes of practice 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.

Firstly, the consultations which have taken place on the changes were bilingual, with a clear commitment to treating Welsh no less favourably than English. The documents were 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 proposed changes 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:

The proposals relating to adoption arrangements, including the improved alignment of adoption and care planning frameworks and the incorporation of the Welsh Early Permanence Framework, provide an important opportunity to ensure that Welsh language needs are considered at the earliest stages of planning and decision-making. This includes placement matching, where consideration of a child's linguistic and cultural identity is essential to ensuring continuity and supporting their long-term wellbeing.

Amendments to care planning, placement guidance, and review processes place a stronger emphasis on the voice of the child, which includes the ability for Welsh-speaking children and young people to express themselves in their preferred language. The strengthened role of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) further supports this by providing an opportunity for Welsh language needs to be consistently monitored, recorded, and addressed throughout the care journey.

Enhanced guidance on placement stability and the management of placement moves also presents a key opportunity to support Welsh language continuity. Ensuring that language needs are considered when placements change can help minimise disruption to a child's linguistic development and maintain important cultural connections.

The proposals relating to kinship care and fostering, including more proportionate and flexible review and visiting arrangements, support a more person-centred approach that can better respond to individual linguistic and cultural needs. These changes can help sustain placements within Welsh-speaking families and communities, supporting children to remain in environments where their language and identity are understood and nurtured. Greater clarity around fostering arrangements and financial support may also help sustain Welsh-speaking placements over time, contributing to capacity within local communities.

The introduction of a more consistent approach to special guardianship support planning, including the use of national templates, provides a clear opportunity to ensure that Welsh language needs are systematically identified and addressed as part of assessment, planning, and review processes across Wales.

In addition, the strengthened emphasis on multi-agency working supports a more coordinated approach to meeting Welsh language needs across services, including social care, education, and health. This helps ensure that language considerations are embedded across the whole system rather than addressed in isolation, supporting the delivery of bilingual and culturally appropriate services.

The creation of a dedicated section on corporate parenting will provide guidance to local authorities on their role as corporate parents. By being a corporate parent, the local authority must safeguard and promote the well-being of looked after children, ascertain and have regard to their views, and prepare and support them for adulthood, including when they leave care. For Welsh-speaking children and young people, this includes supporting them to express themselves in their preferred language. The proposed changes to include the setting up of corporate parenting panels, providing information and support and demonstrating progress in the delivery of corporate parenting offers. Each of the areas provide a valuable opportunity to embed Welsh language considerations into their delivery.

- **Strengthening the importance of the voice of the child:** As outlined above under care and planning and review processes – the changes aim to strengthen the importance of listening to the voice of the child in various processes throughout the Part 6 code of practice. Alongside strengthening their voice generally, it also includes for Welsh-speaking children, the right to express themselves in their preferred language.
- **Strengthened guidance on the undertaking of moves and review meeting:** The changes refer to the handling of looked after children's personal belongings and avoiding where possible the use of black bags in placement moves. In addition, trying to avoid holding review meetings during lesson times. Linking with the points made above this about listening to the voice of children and young people in the language of their choosing.

Finally, the consultations included 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.

While the proposals do not introduce specific new Welsh language duties, they provide a number of opportunities to strengthen the active offer of Welsh language services in practice. By embedding consideration of language, culture, and identity across care planning, placement decisions, and support arrangements, the proposed changes support the ability of Welsh-speaking children, young people, and families to access services in their preferred language and maintain their linguistic and cultural identity.

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, special guardianship services, corporate parenting, moves and placements 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 proposals are expected to have a positive impact on Welsh speakers of all ages, supporting the aims of *More than just words*, the Welsh Government's strategy for strengthening the Welsh language in health and social care. Central to this is the principle of the Active Offer, ensuring that Welsh-speaking individuals can access care, services, and support in Welsh without needing to ask.

Strengthened corporate parenting responsibilities, alongside improved care planning, placement, and review processes, provide greater opportunity to recognise and respond to individuals' linguistic needs. In particular, the increased emphasis on the voice of the child within the revised Part 6 Code of Practice ensures that children and young people can express themselves in their preferred language, which is essential for effective communication, emotional wellbeing, and maintaining cultural identity. The focus on placement stability, early permanence, and local or kinship care arrangements may also help individuals remain within Welsh-speaking families and communities, supporting continuity in language use.

More consistent approaches to fostering, adoption, and special guardianship planning, supported by a strengthened corporate parenting approach across organisations, provide further opportunities to ensure that Welsh language needs are identified, actively offered, and embedded throughout assessment, planning, and review processes, supporting improved access to services in Welsh and the maintenance of Welsh language and cultural identity across all age groups.

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. Through corporate parenting, it is about local authorities working with partners in the wider community to support and provide opportunities for looked after children and care leavers. 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, the work to strengthen corporate parenting across Wales does link with education with a principle specific on providing a good education included within the [Corporate Parenting Charter](#). The proposals as a whole 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 primarily affect local authority social care functions, including corporate parenting, care planning, placements, fostering, adoption, and special guardianship arrangements. To ensure these services are available in Welsh, it will be important to embed Welsh language considerations, including *More than just words*, the Welsh Government's strategy for strengthening the Welsh language in health and social care, within service delivery, workforce practice, and guidance implementation.

Central to the *More than just words* strategy is the Active Offer, ensuring that Welsh-speaking children, young people, and families can access care and support in Welsh without needing to request it. The strengthened focus on corporate parenting, care planning, and review processes provides an opportunity to embed this principle in practice, particularly by ensuring that communication, reviews, and engagement with children and families can take place in their preferred language.

The proposals also support the availability of Welsh language services through more consistent and structured approaches to placement planning, fostering and adoption processes, and special guardianship support planning. This includes ensuring that care plans, support plans, and associated documentation are available bilingually,

and that language needs are identified and responded to throughout assessment, planning, and review.

The importance of developing the Welsh language skills of staff is a key theme in the strategy. Supporting practitioners to build confidence and capability in delivering services in Welsh will be important to ensuring that the Active Offer can be realised in practice, particularly where strengthened corporate parenting and multi-agency working require consistent and coordinated service delivery.

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 all of the services included in these changes to the codes of practice.
- 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.