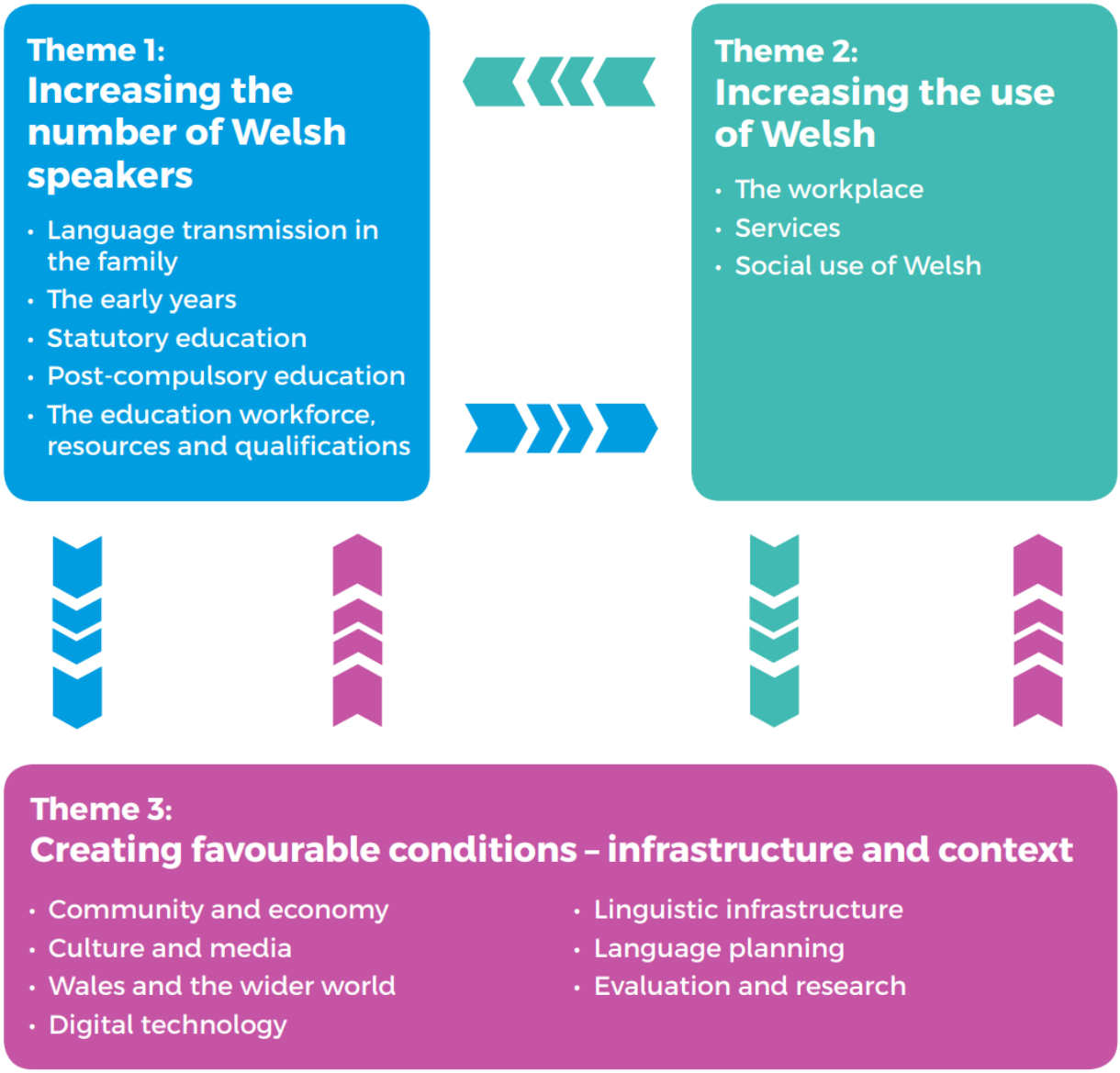
WELSH LANGUAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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

03/10/2026

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 proposal has a neutral to positive relationship with the objectives of Cymraeg 2050 and the Welsh Government's ambition to enable Welsh speakers to live their lives through the medium of Welsh. By enabling continuity of foster carer approvals where an existing fostering service provider transitions from a for-profit to a not-for-profit model, the proposal supports stability and continuity within fostering services.

The proposal does not alter existing Welsh language rights, duties or service standards. However, by helping to avoid unnecessary disruption to foster placements, it may support the continued provision of care and support in a child's preferred language, including Welsh, where this is important to their identity, wellbeing and sense of belonging.

While the proposal does not directly create new opportunities to increase the use of Welsh, it does not introduce any barriers to accessing and offering fostering services through the medium of Welsh and may help maintain existing Welsh-speaking placements and support arrangements. Mwy na geiriau / More than just words is the Welsh Government's plan to strengthen Welsh language services in health and social care. At the core of the strategy is the principle of the Active Offer which places a responsibility on health and social care providers to offer services in Welsh, rather than on the patient or service user to have to request them. The aim of More than just words is to improve Welsh language care and outcomes for Welsh speakers.

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:

- How will the proposal affect the sustainability of Welsh speaking communities[1] (both positive and/or adverse effects)?

[1] These can be close-knit rural communities, dispersed social networks in urban settings, and in virtual communities reaching across geographical spaces.

The proposal is expected to have a neutral to positive impact on Welsh-speaking communities. By enabling continuity of foster carer approvals where an existing fostering service provider transitions from a for-profit to a not-for-profit model, it supports stability and continuity for children and foster families. Stable placements can help children maintain important family, community and cultural connections, including connections to Welsh-speaking communities where these already exist. The proposal does not alter the organisation or delivery of fostering services and, therefore, no adverse impacts on the sustainability of Welsh-speaking communities have been identified

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

The proposal is not expected to have a direct impact on Welsh-medium education or opportunities for Welsh learners. However, by supporting placement stability and reducing the risk of disruption to existing foster placements, it may help children remain in their current educational settings, including Welsh-medium schools where appropriate. Maintaining stable placements can support continuity in learning, relationships and educational progress. As the proposal does not alter education provision or access to Welsh-language learning opportunities, no adverse effects on Welsh-medium education or Welsh language learning have been identified.

- How will the proposal affect services[2] available in Welsh (both positive and/or adverse effects)? (e.g. health and social services, transport, housing, digital, youth, infrastructure, environment, local government etc.)

The proposal does not alter existing Welsh language rights, duties or service standards that apply to fostering services. Welsh-language services currently available through fostering providers will continue to be available following the transition from a for-profit to a not-for-profit model. By supporting continuity of foster carer approvals and fostering arrangements, the proposal may help maintain existing Welsh-language support and care arrangements for children and foster carers who choose to receive services through the medium of Welsh. As the proposal does not change how services are delivered or accessed, no adverse impacts on the availability of Welsh-language services have been identified.

- 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

[2] 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.

evidence / data have you used to inform your assessment, including evidence from Welsh speakers or Welsh language interest groups?

Existing Welsh language duties and standards will continue to apply to relevant organisations, and information about fostering services and support available through the medium of Welsh will continue to be provided through existing communication channels and service arrangements. This assessment is informed by the nature of the proposal, which relates solely to the continuity of foster carer approvals where a fostering service provider transitions from a for-profit to a not-for-profit model and does not change service delivery arrangements, eligibility criteria, support entitlements or Welsh language requirements. As a result, no evidence has been identified to suggest that the proposal would reduce access to Welsh-language services or create barriers for Welsh speakers.

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

Further information on the number of Welsh-speaking foster carers and children affected by any future transition from a for-profit to a not-for-profit provider could provide additional context for the assessment. Feedback from Welsh-speaking foster carers, children and fostering services during implementation would also help identify any unforeseen impacts on the use of Welsh within fostering services. However, given the limited and technical nature of the proposal, which relates solely to the continuity of foster carer approvals, no significant impacts on the Welsh language are anticipated.

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

Success will be demonstrated if foster carer approvals can continue seamlessly where an existing fostering service provider transitions from a for-profit to a not-for-profit model, without unnecessary disruption to foster placements or support arrangements. Existing Welsh-language service provision should remain available throughout the transition, with no evidence of reduced access for Welsh-speaking children, foster carers or families. Feedback from fostering service providers, foster carers and regulatory oversight arrangements will help identify any unintended impacts on Welsh-language provision. Overall, success will be evidenced by continuity of care and fostering services, alongside the continued availability of services through the medium of Welsh without adverse impact on Welsh speakers.