



Comisiynydd y
Gymraeg
Welsh Language
Commissioner

Working in partnership to promote the Welsh language

Work in partnership to develop an effective strategy to promote the Welsh language on Anglesey.

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Background

The Welsh language standards require local authorities to adopt and implement a 5-year strategy which explains how they intend to promote the Welsh language and facilitate the wider use of the Welsh language in their areas.

Although this duty falls upon the Isle of Anglesey County Council, the Council felt that a number of its partners could also have a contribution to the strategy.

What prompted the change? / Why was change necessary?

Although Anglesey is considered one of the strongholds of the Welsh language, like many other areas, the 2021 Census showed that the percentage of the population that speaks Welsh had decreased. The language continues to face historic challenges such as migration, young people moving out of rural areas to look for work, and the lack of language transmission from one generation to the next.

Influencing people's language use is a significant challenge for one organisation to achieve. The Council's status as the area's main service provider and employer means that it has more opportunities to make a difference, for example through the education system and its internal Welsh language policy. But, for the strategy to work it needed wider ownership and for other organisations to help influence all aspects of the lives of the local people.

The willingness of the members of the county's strategic language forum, Fforwm Iaith Ynys Môn, to work in partnership with the Council to achieve the promotion strategy was key.

How were the changes implemented?

The Council's Welsh language strategy has three priority areas for 2021 – 2026 which are:

1. Children, young people and the family
2. The workplace, Welsh language services and the infrastructure
3. The community

Fforwm Iaith Ynys Môn adopted the priority areas of the promotion strategy as its priority areas and thematic sub-groups were established. The remit of the forum was adjusted in 2023 to reflect the priorities of the promotion strategy.

The project was supported by the Council's Welsh Language Promotion Group which includes elected members and senior officers.

The language forum meets four times a year. The policy and Welsh language team administer those meetings and are members of a steering group that meets regularly to plan the work of the forum. Council officers are members of the following subgroups:

- Workplaces (lead by the Council)
- Education (lead by the Council)
- The community and young people
- Children and families
- Infrastructure and endowment

What are the advantages of the partnerships?

Being part of the language forum and working in partnership gives partners on the island the opportunity to come together, and to share good practice, to understand more about what everyone else is doing. But more important than that, to plan together and work with each other on a practical level and deliver projects that can make a real difference.

The forum can take advantage of the expertise and resources of one of the main partners - Menter Môn - to secure a budget for the language forum as part of an application for grant money from the UK Government's shared prosperity fund. This money has allowed the forum to employ a part-time facilitator to promote its OgiOgi language use app with parents and carers.

Quantitative data shows that the numbers downloading and using the OgiOgi app have increased significantly the partners worked together strategically to promote it.

Examples of working in partnership

- The Council's registrars share forum materials with parents/carers when they register births

- Collaboration between the Council, Menter Môn and Learn Welsh North-west to produce a [resource](#) to welcome newcomers to Anglesey. A copy has also been posted to every property in the county.
- Collaboration between Menter Môn, Llwyddo'n Lleol, the Urdd and the Young Farmers to organise a 'youth weekend' as part of the Gŵyl Cefni festival. A free event for young people who have left the area, including accommodation, activities, tickets etc. An opportunity to experience the festival and learn more about what may influence young people to move away.
- Collaboration between Menter Môn and the Council's children and family services to offer Welsh language support (learning and confidence building) to youth club members.
- Collaboration between the Council's Learning service, RhAG, Gwynedd and Anglesey language charter officer and Mudiad Meithrin to create a resource promoting Welsh-medium education.
- Collaboration between North Wales Police, Fire and Rescue Service, Anglesey Council and Menter Môn to maintain a [Facebook](#) page. A destination to share information about Welsh language promotion activities of the forum members, and others.
- Hosting an event to celebrate ten years of the language forum at the Anglesey Agricultural Show 2024. Materials summarising the forum's main achievements were shared with attendees.

What advice would you give an organisation thinking of adopting similar arrangements?

To ensure success, a healthy working relationship with other prominent stakeholders in your area who contribute to the development of the language is essential. Here is a list of the Council's partners, many of which are national bodies that operate in all parts of the country:

- **Independent chairman**
- **Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board**
- **Natural Resources Wales**
- **Cymdeithas Elusennol Ynys Môn**
- **Ynys Môn Islands Games Association**
- **Cymdeithas yr Iaith**
- **Learning Welsh North-west**
- **Young Farmers Clubs**
- **Anglesey Primary School Heads' Forum (Chair)**

- Anglesey Secondary School Heads' Forum (Chair)
- Grŵp Cynefin
- Grŵp Llandrillo Menai
- North Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- GwE
- North Wales Police
- Llys Eisteddfod Môn
- Welsh Government
- Medrwn Môn
- Menter Iaith Môn
- Menter Môn
- Merched y Wawr
- Môn CF
- MônFM
- Mudiad Meithrin
- Bangor University
- RhAG (Parents for Welsh Education)
- Welsh Government Language Charter
- One Voice of Wales
- Urdd

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