

Welsh Language Report 2022-23







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Accessibility

Arts Council of Wales is committed to making information available in large print, easy read, braille, audio and British Sign Language and will endeavour to provide information in languages other than Welsh or English on request.



Cover: Llais y Lle, Sharing Day (Image: Iolo Penri)

Introduction

There have been a number of changes and developments during 2022-23. We managed to set a firm precedent for the developments of the Welsh language both internally and within the wider sector. Here is a report on the progress of the Welsh language from April 2022 to March 2023.

An Arts Director and Portfolio Manager with responsibilities for the Welsh language were welcomed to the Arts Council. Both of these positions are responsible for ensuring the strategic developments of the Welsh language.

An Interim Chief Executive and a permanent Chief Executive fluent in Welsh were welcomed during the course of the year.

The Arts Council has been preparing for a new Investment Review and Strategy throughout the year. A positive development for the Welsh language was seen as the Council identified 6 principles as a strategic basis for the future. Welsh language is one of those six principles.



Our Mapping the Welsh language research and recommendations has made it clear that we cannot be reactive about the Welsh language. We have a clear role in developing it, promoting its use and value at every opportunity, and bringing creativity and imagination to ensure that the language will continue to thrive.

The Arts Council of Wales fulfils diverse and far-reaching requirements in many areas and commits to implementing all objectives across the council.

Overview of progress

The work of the Welsh Art Consortium has begun. The consortium comprises of 12 artists representing different arts and experiences of working creatively with/through the Welsh language. They have an advisory role and are working closely with The Welsh Language Enabler to explore and develop actions that will increase use and ownership of Welsh across the arts sector.

Four areas of work were set out and workshops were held to do discuss and plan how to implement the needs.

- 1. The lack of creative individuals who can provide in Welsh has an impact on the ability of all organisations to provide Welsh language creative opportunities. The Synhwyro'r Iaith (Sensing the Language) tool was discussed and designed as a response to this need; a resource that will equip and support individuals to grow the use of Welsh in participatory activities. Through the Synhwyro'r Iaith (Sensing the Language) schemes, a close working relationship has been developed with the creative learning programme and officials within Welsh Government.
- 2. A new lottery programme has been created Llais y Lle (Voice of Place) which sets the challenge for creative individuals in Wales to increase use and ownership of Welsh through creative approaches at a community level. We have allocated £250,000 lottery money for 9 creative individuals to work intensively within communities over the course of a year.
- 3. We explored the possibilities and needs of translation within creative fields. The driving force of the need was the question, 'how can identity be translated'? There will be further action and investigation into this area in the future.
- 4. The overarching field is 'Welsh in the middle'. A draft of a manifesto was developed during the year but instead of publishing the document, the focus was on including the action points within the Arts Council and Investment Review's strategic plans.



Llais y Lle, Llyn Dulyn Walk

A Welsh Language Learning Coordinator has been appointed as part of an agreement with the Centre for Learning Welsh. The partnership aims to create a 'Cymraeg Gwaith' service tailormade for the arts. During the year 175 individuals have received the various offers to learn Welsh. Those offers include weekly online lessons at all levels, support for those choosing to take an online self-study course, residential courses at Nant Gwrtheyrn, a sector-wide speaking scheme to support the use of Welsh and constant contact with the sector through the coordinator.

Cwmni Arad's research report on Welsh Language Development Pathways within the arts for creative workers has been completed.

The relationship of the Arts Council of Wales Night Out Scheme and the Welsh language Initiatives

(Mentrau Iaith) was developed by undertaking 3 national music tours. The partnership is going from strength to strength and ensures arts performances in communities across Wales.

The Wales Arts International department has undertaken a comprehensive programme of work to promote Welsh bilingualism on the international stage and contribute to the UN's International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022 to 2032, focusing on the human rights of indigenous language users who will be on a strategic roadmap to prioritise empowering indigenous language users. The Gwrando fund was launched during the year; a fund that sets the challenge for creative individuals to implement creative plans and approaches to listen to one another's' languages and voices creatively.

Numbers and statistics

The Arts Council has two main sources of funding, core funding through Welsh Government and lottery funding. The core funding funds 67 portfolio organisations across Wales and lottery money is allocated through various specific lottery programmes and one permanent programme called 'Create'. Below are figures relevant to the Welsh language achievements for the two funding sources. The spending allocation percentages can be compared with the previous year based on the language allocation of the applications.



Lottery money

As an increasing number ensure the availability of work for all through widening participation programmes and ACW's commitment to ensuring BSL as a third language, differences in language allocation are seen. There are few applications for 100% Welsh projects although an increase can be seen within the table below. There is an increase in applications that are over 50% in Welsh but there is also an increase in applications that do not have Welsh at all. The six principles set out as the basis of future work have not been implemented during this year.

During 2021/22 17.5% of all applications were approved to schemes comprising over 50% of Welsh.

During 2022/23 23.2% of all applications to schemes comprising over 50% of Welsh were approved.

National Lottery		2021-2022			2022-2023	}
% Welsh language projects	Approved	Refused	% approval of all grants	Approved	Refused	% approval of all grants
0%	34	33	9.2%	58	44	11.6%
1%-15%	100	86	27.0%	128	83	25.5%
16%-29%	73	49	19.7%	91	61	18.2%
30%-49%	98	110	26.5%	108	77	21.6%
50%-74%	43	62	11.6%	68	48	13.6%
75%-99%	19	17	5.1%	36	25	7.2%
100%	3	9	0.8%	12	6	2.4%

Welsh arts portfolio organisations

The Arts Council funds 67 arts portfolio organisations. Here are the results of those organisations' annual questionnaire data for 2022/23. Generally very positive figures are presented. There is growth of some kind in all areas.

The figures below compare performance numbers, attendees, participatory activities and its attendees according to language allocation. The figures show an overall increase. There is a noticeable drop in Welsh language performances by touring companies but a huge increase in bilingual productions by touring companies. This reflects the general linguistic shift to include BSL and Welsh. It is encouraging to see a 50% increase in Welsh-speaking event attendees.

Event numbers

Performance	% change Welsh since 2021/22	% change bilingual since 2021/22
Film screenings	256%	-100.0%
Performances by touring companies	-42%	278%
Performances at venues	50%	400%
Total	-4%	242%

Attendees	% change Welsh since 2021/22	% change bilingual since 2021/22
Film screenings	89%	-100%
Performances by touring companies	43%	50%
Performances at venues	167%	1417%
Total	80%	118%

Participatory numbers

Sessions	% change Welsh since 2021/22	% change bilingual since 2021/22
Children and young people	10%	25%
Agored i bawb	54%	140%
Total	14%	42%

Attendees	% change Welsh since 2021/22	% change bilingual since 2021/22
Children and young people	59%	75%
Agored i bawb	110%	-13%
Total	66%	46%

Activity figures and participatory activity attendees have increased significantly. There is also an increase in Welsh-speaking employee (below). However, as the Welsh-speaking freelance figures have not shown the same progress we must keep an eye on these figures. It appears that employees are running Welsh-language activities and Welsh-speaking freelancers are being employed to run more activities.

Employment	% change
% Welsh speakers	27.1%
% of Welsh speakers on boards	9.6%
% of Welsh-speaking volunteers	54.9%

There is progress in all areas of employment and volunteering within the portfolio organisations but the freelance picture is different. There is tremendous growth in the number of freelancers between 2021/22 and 2022/23 as seen below and although there is growth in Welsh-speaking freelancers that does not match the overall figures. But it must be remembered that freelancers' data only began to be collected separately from hourly contract workers in 2021/22. Not all organisations previously recorded the data. The comparative figures of the next reporting year should give us a more consistent comparison.

Freelancers	2021-2022	2022-23
Number of freelancers	2,808	4,716
Number of Welsh-speaking freelancers	600	676
% of Welsh-speaking freelancers	21.40%	14.3%

Progress of Welsh mapping report recommendations

Mapping report recommendation 2020	CCC 2020 operational commitment as a response to the report	Progress
Recommendation 1 The Council to lead on forging a long-term strategic partnership across sectors and establishing a Memorandum of Understanding between the arts sector and the Welsh language sector, adopting a match funding model for specific agreed initiatives and national projects.	Set up a meeting for key public sector organisations identified in the research to meet discussing options to collaborate. Facilitate the development of a strategic partnership with clear aims for promoting activity in Welsh. Seeking to establish a Memorandum of Understanding between us and the network before the end of the 2020/21 financial year. Making sure that our activities support our commitment to and report back on the Wales Future Generations Act.	Held an initial discussion with the Mentrau Iaith (Language Initiatives) to discuss the focus, need and practicality of creating and maintaining a network between the language and arts sectors. Appoint a Learning Welsh Coordinator within the Council through a partnership with the Learning Welsh centre and implement a plan that responds to requirements and research. Formalise a partnership between ACW and the National Centre for Learning Welsh including a £50,000 investment from the Centre which has resulted in the position of Learning Welsh Coordinator within the Council. Continue to encourage and enable grassroots partnerships through the Connect and Flourish funding scheme. Welsh language promoter network set up through the Night Out scheme. Discuss the creation of a joint network with the Mentrau Iaith (Language Initiatives). Commit to exploring the possibilities. Hold intersectional conversations with Mudiada Meithrinand ensure their presence in the developments of the creative learning programme early years plan.

Mapping report recommendation 2020	CCC 2020 operational commitment as a response to the report	Progress
Recommendation 2 Council/sector to develop the Welsh language to establish a consortium and network about the Welsh language comprising members of the Welsh language sector and the Portfolio to implement agreed priorities and develop closer collaboration and sharing expertise and knowledge.	Inviting key institutions identified in the research from the Portfolio and the Welsh language sector to meet to discuss options for creative collaboration. If co-objectives can be agreed between partners, we will encourage and support the formal development of the Welsh Language Arts Consortium. Our aim is for this to develop a list of possible creative ideas to develop in line with our objectives. Ensuring that the consortium is diverse and includes Welsh representatives of all protected characteristics.	Create a Welsh language art consortium of 12 members from different arts specialties with a particular focus on working through and with the Welsh language. Ensure diversity of lived experiences, arts, geographical and aged experiences when selecting Welsh art consortium membership. Formulate an action plan with the Welsh Language Art Consortium: 1. the Synhwyro'r Iaith (Sensing the Language) tool to equip and support individuals to grow the use of Welsh in participatory activities. 2. The Llais y Lle (Voice of Place) lottery programme sets the challenge for creative individuals in Wales to increase use and ownership of Welsh through creative approaches at a community level. £250,000 lottery funding allocated to 9 creative individuals to work intensively within communities over the course of a year. 3. The possibilities and needs of translation within creative fields. The driving force of the need was the question, 'how can identity be translated'? 4. Placing the Welsh language at the centre of creativity. Advise on the strategic developments of the Welsh language within the Council and the sector.
Recommendation 3 Council and language development sector to jointly create new position, Welsh Language Arts Development Manager, to lead on working more closely nationally/across the sector.	Increase our capacity to support developments in the Welsh language and we will be earmarking funds to support the recommendation in the current financial year. In consultation with the potential partners identified in the report (and possibly the Strategic Partnership if established quickly), we will investigate the most cost effective way to present the recommendation as a matter of urgency.	Welsh Language Enabler (Caled D) appointed on 3-year contract to start on November 1st 2021. Discover the needs and challenges of developing Welsh language across the sector and adjust job requirements as required. See the need for regulatory care and stimulating development within the sector and the Council.

Mapping report recommendation 2020	CCC 2020 operational commitment as a response to the report	Progress
Recommendation 4 Council to make it a condition that a quarter of all boards in the Portfolio are Welsh speakers.	Ensure that the boards of all the Portfolio represent the public they serve and promote equality. (25% may be unrealistic for some organisations depending on their location and purpose. So, we welcome the spirit of the recommendation but we will find an alternative method to set quota and percentage.) We recognise the influence any board has on its organisation. We also recognise the importance of having a live experience of Welsh on boards. As the overall progress to inclusive and diverse boards has been unacceptably slow, we will be more proactive in our demands on the composition of portfolio boards so that they become more representative and informed about the needs and interests of those they serve. This will be included in the annual funding agreements for 2021/22 and will be a condition for receiving funding schemes.	The Bilingualism Promotion Pack developed specifically for the arts sector with the office of the Welsh Language Commissioner has been published on our website and can be viewed here. The Pack includes completing a questionnaire 'How bilingual are you?' which can be the first step in the process of joining the Welsh Language Proposal scheme. Our guidance notes for the Investment Review also make it clear that the Welsh language is one of our priorities and has been included in our assessment process. All organisations meet the following requirement as part of their application processes: • Your organisation is proactive and ambitious in their plans and policies regarding the Welsh language across all aspects of the organisation and monitors them regularly. • You are committed to increasing the number of Welsh speakers in the organisation at all levels. • Your programme of work maximises opportunities to connect with and learn and use the language with everyone, developing creative strategies to positively promote Welsh as a minority language in a global context. • You ensure creative ways of sharing and celebrating the story of Wales and the Welsh language, raising awareness of its development within the context of contemporary culture. • You implement all the requirements that the Welsh language measure expects you to implement and earn a Cynnig Cymraeg quality mark to improve, expand and develop your Welsh language services.

Mapping report recommendation 2020	CCC 2020 operational commitment as a response to the report	Progress
Recommendation 4 (continued)		You collaborate with other organisations and individuals, ensuring shared creative ownership that draws on the experience and knowledge of others to develop the Welsh language in your organisation and communities.
		 You ensure a commitment to develop and maintain career pathways in Welsh and Welsh language skills that facilitate, promote and enhance the foundations of the Welsh language arts sector.
		You are ready to explore opportunities to connect Welsh with other languages, practice intersectionality, and initiatives, for example the UN's Decade of Native Languages.
Recommendation 5 Council to bring about a step change in the awareness of the Welsh language, its culture and history in the arts sector starting with an introduction to the Welsh language, its culture and history led by Professor Peredur Lynch and Professor Mererid Hopwood for all Council staff.	Making an online learning programme on Welsh history and cultural context available. Commissioning inspirational speakers to prepare talks to share.	Hold leadership sessions in a bilingual country with Senior No Management, Council members and managers within the Arts Council. Gather feedback and need to hold language awareness sessions across the Council before extending it to the wider sector.

Mapping report recommendation 2020	CCC 2020 operational commitment as a response to the report	Progress
Recommendation 6 The Council to include in its wider Welsh language strategy a bold and inspiring 5 year strategy (along with an action plan with measurable targets specifically to increase the level, diversity and consistency of live arts product/content available to audiences across Wales).	A statement about our new Vision which is inspiring and dynamic to develop the Welsh language in response to the emergency situation. It will show how we can leverage all aspects of our work to support the Welsh language. Working with our Portfolio and research team to develop measurable targets for consistency and quality of products available to Welsh audiences and participants so that we can work together to show that there is real improvement. Working closely with the Welsh Language Strategic Network and the Arts Consortium (when established) to work in partnership for the Vision to ensure we use the 5 Ways of Working. Using our Promoting foundation and facilitating the use of Welsh to encourage better scrutiny of National Lottery applications to assess their impact on the Welsh language. Ensuring a commitment to equality, inclusion and accessibility in all our activities – these are equally important in Welsh too. A vision to include Wales' contribution to the protection of linguistic diversity as part of the UN's Global Wellbeing and Responsibility goals.	First draft vision statement produced and under discussion. The statement was produced following a series of internal and external discussion sessions to discuss the strategy and vision. Collected findings from public and internal consultations and relevant research findings and summarized them to form the initial drafts of the Plan. Have included the Welsh Art Consortium's findings in those drafts. Decide to delay the strategy making process and call it a plan in the interests of clarity in relation to the Council's main strategy.

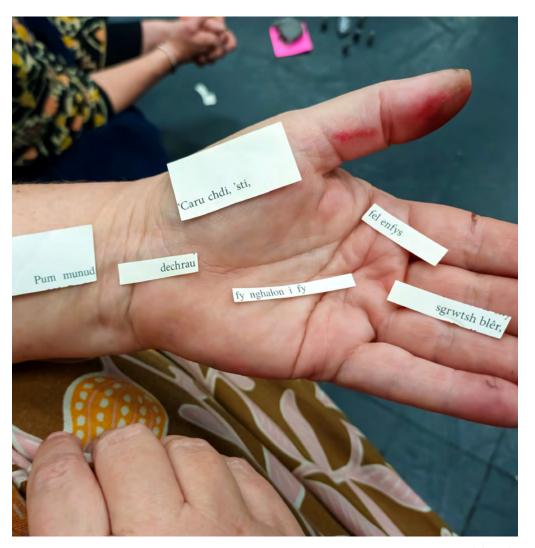
Mapping report recommendation 2020	CCC 2020 operational commitment as a response to the report	Progress
Recommendation 7 Develop clear and creative pathways to develop a sustainable career in the arts in Welsh with the Further Education/Higher Education sector, the Welsh College of Music and Drama, the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and the Council's Creative Schools programme.	Develop discussions at the Strategic Network focusing on creative pathways through the Welsh language. Ensuring Welsh language provision and opportunities are properly incorporated into our Creative Learning through the Arts programme. Continue to work to develop imaginative solutions with key partners and individuals/freelancers.	Cwmni Arad was commissioned to conduct research on Welsh language development pathways within the arts for creative workers: Research and recommendations The research was completed by the end of this reporting period. Gathering information on the various works currently taking place. Gathering information on the shortcomings and creative workforce development opportunities. discuss needs and ideas with the creative workforce, arts organisations and creative course providers. Reaction to the report will be shared in the future.
Recommendation 8 The Council to establish and continuously manage a central, dynamic database of Welsh practitioners/artists to 'provide expert information and advice about the arts' (from the Council's corporate plan) and to identify the existing baseline.	Consider issues regarding the General Data Protection Regulations that may affect our ability to implement the recommendation. Set up the existing baseline internally. Working with the Welsh Government through its Freelance Pledge on the possibilities of the recommendation.	There are several questions and concerns about the relevance of such a database to the arts funding body. We are focusing our efforts on increasing the number of creative Welsh-speaking individuals seeking Arts Council sponsorship and increasing the Welsh language skills of the existing creative workforce. We will work with arts organisations, creative individuals and language organisations to create practical links and secure partnership support to grow and share knowledge about Welsh creative practitioners and new speakers.

Mapping report recommendation 2020	CCC 2020 operational commitment as a response to the report	Progress
Recommendation 9 Significantly increase the number of Welsh practitioners by an agreed percentage.	Urgently review how it will be possible to implement the recommendation through our Creative Pathways programme once an accurate baseline has been established. Accelerating our support of apprentices, mentoring opportunities and work experience through Welsh.	Maintain an agreement with the National Centre for Learning Welsh. As part of the agreement we are receiving additional funding from the Centre to appoint a Welsh Language Learning Coordinator for the sector for 2022/23. The aim of the post and partnership is to create a 'Welsh in the Workplace ' service for the art sector. The Coordinator took up his post in August 2022. By the end of the reporting year 175 individuals have received the various offers to learn Welsh. Those offers include weekly online lessons at all levels, support for those choosing to take an online self-study course, residential courses at Nant Gwrtheyrn, a sector-wide speaking scheme to support the use of Welsh and constant contact with the sector through the coordinator.
Recommendation 10 The Council to share with the sector information on the best practice in Welsh language marketing to Welsh audiences and undertake related research into the needs of Welsh audiences.	We have already commissioned a piece of research into Welsh marketing. The research concluded in October 2020 and our response was published in October 2021. As part of our work to meet Standard 90 of the Welsh Language Measures, we have developed a toolbox that promotes good practice. Improved partnerships with the Welsh language sector should enable us to use academic, practical and technological advances in a timely manner and extend their profile and use in the arts community.	Share a Bilingualism Promotion Package specific to the arts sector with the Welsh Language Commissioner's office. The Welsh Language Marketing Report was completed during 2020, and a response was published in October 2021. We are in the process of implementing the relevant recommendations. Achieve potential recommendations within the mapping report and comply with Council requirements through the language standards.

Compliance

Overview of Welsh service and compliance

The Welsh Language (Wales) Bill 2011 establishes the principle that the Welsh and English language should be treated on an equal footing when conducting public business. The Welsh Language Commissioner is responsible for enforcing the legal duties of the Bill through a series of Standards that must be met by public bodies such as the Arts Council of Wales. The Commissioner also monitors us every year to assess how well we are doing in reaching them.



Llais y Lle

Welsh Language Committee

The Arts Council of Wales has a Welsh Language Committee (formerly the Welsh Language Monitoring Group). The Committee reviews, monitors and contributes to the development of policies and procedures that enable the Council to pursue a progressive agenda promoting the use of the Welsh language and the fact that it belongs to all in the development of its bilingual service as set out in its Policy for the Facilitation and Promotion of the Welsh language and in compliance with the Welsh Language Standards.

The Welsh Language Committee is one of the 7 sub-committees which, together with the Council, initiate and monitor work, and to which the Council delegates certain powers.

Committees below the Council are in our governance structure but have delegated defined tasks and/or authority to act as well as an important advisory and scrutiny role, reporting to the Council on the performance of those activities that are part of their remit.

More information can be found here including the Welsh Language Committee's Terms of Reference.

A key task for the Welsh Language Committee, as in previous years, was to implement the new Welsh Language Standards, as defined in the legislation.

You can see a full list of the Standards that apply to us here.



Complaints

As part of our commitment to promoting and facilitating the use of the Welsh language, both internally and externally, we record and monitor any complaints we receive regarding the Welsh language. Complaints may relate to us directly or relate to organisations or activities we have funded.

During 2022/23, we received no complaints about the Welsh language.

Welsh language standards

We will continue to review and update our processes in line with Welsh Language Commissioner standards. Click here to see the standards necessary to implement.

Staff language skills

Staff members are asked to complete an annual language skills self-assessment. A language skills self-assessment was completed by 75 members of staff in January 2023. Here are the results:

Fluent	33
Proficient	4
Advanced	4
Intermediate	5
Foundation	8
Entry	16
No Welsh	5

New appointments

18 new members of staff were appointed during the year. A language skills assessment was performed for each position. The following language requirements were advertised:

Welsh language essential	9
Welsh language desirable	9
Need to learn Welsh after appointment	0
No Welsh-language skills	0

Training

55 workplace relevant training sessions were conducted by external providers. Simultaneous translation was secured for face-to-face sessions and a Welsh subtitle option for digital training.

19 members of staff attended weekly Welsh lessons during the year.

A Welsh Language Learning Coordinator was employed during the year. It attracted 175 members of the creative sector to attend Welsh lessons including the aforementioned members of staff.

30 freelancers attended an Entry to Foundation level accelerated course.

Llais y Lle, Sharing Day (Image: Iolo Penri)



Other statutory requirements

By pursuing 5 ways of working the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act (Long Term, Prevention, Integration, Collaboration, Involvement) we can support the Welsh Government's Welsh 2050 target of achieving one million Welsh speakers and doubling daily use of Welsh by 2050 by delivering its themes

Strategic

- Creating favourable conditions for the language to flourish.
- Increasing the daily use of the Welsh language.

Increasing the number of Welsh speakers

The Welsh Government has put a clear message in its strategy on the Welsh language, Cymraeg 2050 – the ambition to achieve one million Welsh speakers in Wales by 2050.

Welsh 2050 has three main themes. namely increasing the number of Welsh speakers, its use and creating favourable conditions. All our actions in 2022/23 will contribute to these greas and the well-being aims of the Welsh Government-owned Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act of creating "a Wales with a vibrant culture where the Welsh language thrives".

The following areas include the recommendations of the Mapping Report, adjusting the purposes of the actions in line with the feedback from our consultation. We have divided our areas of work into two key parts: Development and Monitoring.

We are contributing to achieving the Well-being Aim of the Well-being of Future Generations Act of creating "a Wales with a vibrant culture where the Welsh language thrives".

Requirements of our Royal Charter

"achieve the objectives (development, accessibility and advisory) through the medium of English and Welsh."

International Responsibilities

UN Indigenous Languages Decade 2022-2032

UNESCO's International Year of Indigenous Languages stressed that languages around the world continue to disappear at an alarming pace despite their enormous value and the enormous contribution they make to the world's rich cultural diversity. 40% of the 7,000 languages used worldwide face some risk. The job of the International Art Wales department within the Council is to work intensively with representation from the countries of the World to discuss collective creative approaches to the challenge. Conferences, events and arts projects have started and we will see the fruits of their labour over the next few years.



Welsh Language Report 2022-23

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