



# Evidence paper to be presented on 12 June 2025 to Senedd Cymru- Cymraeg i bawb?

1. Use of the Welsh language in communities across Wales
2. Specific actions for communities including evidence (4-10)

## 1. Use of the Welsh language in communities across Wales

Enabling and supporting creativity through the medium of and with the Welsh language is one of Arts Council of Wales' principles. The purpose of the plan is to highlight the work within The Arts Council of Wales and the wider creative sector. It is a ten-year plan; reviewed and amended annually through the action plan and scrutinised by the Welsh language, Culture and Equalities Committee. Continual creative engagement with the sector, and frequent creative questioning of the plan, will ensure its relevance for the future. In the same way that we don't want to see Cymraeg being kept as an ornamental piece, neither does this plan want to be gathering dust.

**Our aim** is for Cymraeg and its culture to be central to creativity; to belong to everyone in Wales; to serve as a strong creative bond between communities and be a source of cultural celebration.

### How will we achieve the aim?

We want to **enable, create** and **share** creative opportunities, contributing to a growth in the use and ownership of Cymraeg in communities and internationally. By **supporting** the creative sector to place Cymraeg at the centre of its activity, we will **question** what is needed, **listen** to each other, **learn** and work **together** to **increase** the amount of creative output and services available to everyone through Cymraeg.

We will **create** a strong foundation for Cymraeg and will **enable** and create opportunities for creative uses of Cymraeg.

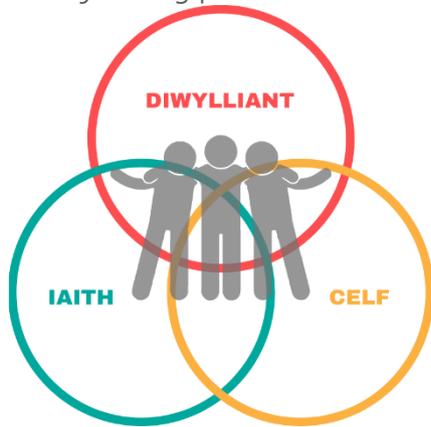
We will **share** good practice and opportunities by using technology as well as promoting arts through the medium of Cymraeg.

We will **support** individuals and organisations to develop their creative activity with Cymraeg as a central element.

We will improve our understanding of the sector's needs in relation to Cymraeg through research and cross-sector creative **questioning** and will **listen** to each other and others

through various networks ensuring a continuously **learning** sector by increasing Welsh language skills, awareness, training and career opportunities.

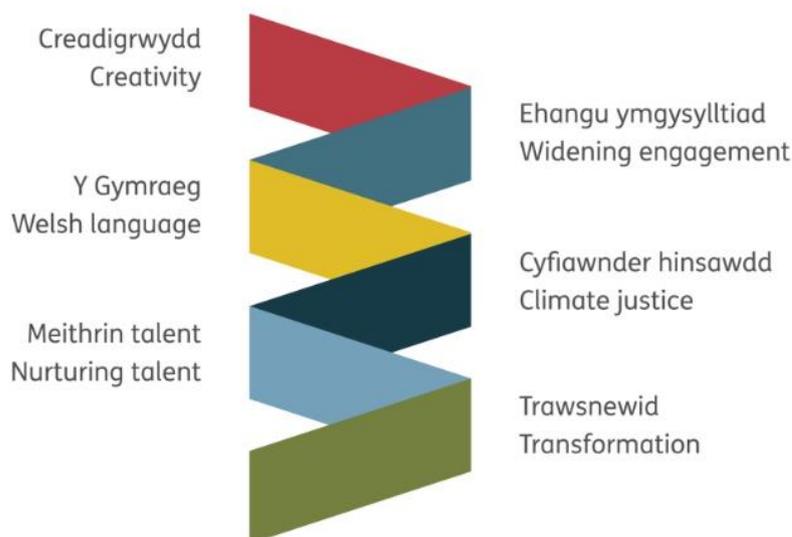
To ensure that the actions are effective we will **work with** with the Language and culture sector to share learning and create resilient partnerships and **increasing** the availability of creative Cymraeg products and services.



A Language is a skill to learn, a series of words to communicate and convey meaning, but it is also an integral part of our culture, our relationship with the world around us, and our creative expression. Cymraeg, belongs to everyone in Cymru; it's part of our land, our ways of speaking and ways of making. We see, hear, taste and feel Cymraeg through our creativity and culture. Everyone who wants to be Cymry can be Cymry, and through our culture, we welcome everyone to contribute to our aim of placing Cymraeg and her culture at the centre of creativity because it belongs to everyone and is a source of cultural celebration and a powerful creative connection between communities.

### Multi-year funding recipients and Lottery Programmes

With Cymraeg being one of the 6 core principles of the Arts Council of Wales, every financial applicant must include plans and an impact assessment for the Welsh language. Every organisation receiving multi-year funding is required to provide thorough plans for the Welsh language alongside creativity and the other principles.



It continues to be a challenging period for the sector, but despite this, the response to the challenge of increasing the availability of the Welsh language has received a positive response in the Investment Review and creative Welsh ideas in Lottery applications.

81 multi-year organisations have been operating across Wales since April 2024.  
[Investment Review 2023: Arts Council of Wales announces new funding for 81 Wales-based organisations | Arts Council of Wales](#)

Compared to previous rounds, more Welsh institutions with leadership through the medium of Welsh are being offered funding, including Theatr Soar in Merthyr Tydfil and Oriol Plas Glyn-y-Weddw in Llanbedrog, Llŷn Peninsula.

Multi-year funded organisations are often rooted in specific communities. Our job is to ensure that the Welsh language is given its rightful place in all the plans of these organisations and to support and enable them to establish far-reaching internal and creative developments. We work closely with the Welsh language Commissioner's Office by referring eligible organisations to the Cynnig Cymraeg and advising through the work of the Welsh language Enabler and Contact Officers. A further scheme is about to be launched in partnership with Creu Cymru to offer a Welsh Language Service called **Bydi Cymraeg** to organisations. The scheme will allow a creative individual to work intensively with an organisation for a period of 6 months to increase their use, ownership and creative actions in Welsh through the Synhwyr's Iaith methodology.

### Lottery funding and specific programmes

The Arts Council's specific work programmes provide their own plans that consistently engage with the Welsh language, the Arts and Health programme, the Creative Learning Programme, Wales Arts International, Night Out and Climate Justice. Plans are in the pipeline to closely collaborate with local authorities, and the capital programme ensures good infrastructure for the arts across Wales.

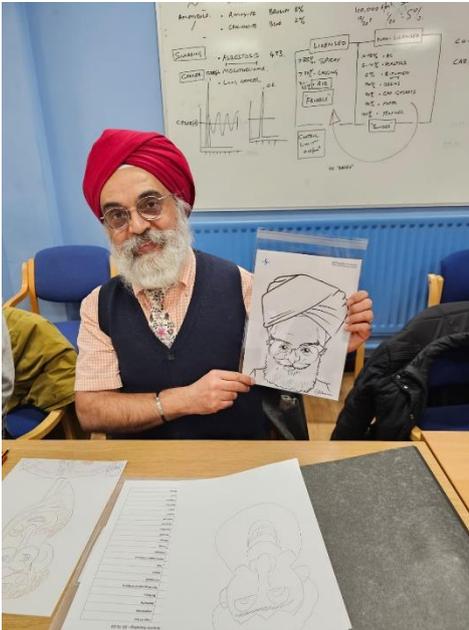
**Create** is currently the Arts Council's main lottery programme. Individuals, organisations and festivals can apply for funding throughout the year through this programme. There is an agreed growth target that at least 30% of all Lottery investment goes towards plans that are over 50% Welsh by the end of 2026/27.

In the last year alone, the Create Fund has financed several Welsh language festivals including the Urdd's Gwyl Triban, and creative events and activities at the Eisteddfod Genedlaethol. We have supported the work of the Mentrau Iaith and have been able to finance more of their festivals as a result, examples of these include Tafwyl, Gŵyl Fach y Fro, Gŵyl Tawe and Ffiliffest. We have also worked with broader Welsh Festivals over the last year to develop their commitment and their activities in Welsh individually and through BAFA (British Arts Festival Organisation).

## Support and Information

We provide a range of resources and guidance on our website under the heading Working Bilingually. The resources include advice for individuals and organisations, legislation, guiding resources for Synhwyro'r Iaith (see below), and information about learning Welsh. [Working Bilingually: Introduction and Requirements | Arts Council of Wales](#)

There are plans to extend what is on the website to include more of the specific programmes relating to the Welsh language, including explorations of the ongoing creative research for translating identity. [zine asesiad cyfieithu a dehongli.pdf](#)



## Learning Welsh

The Arts Council of Wales works with the National Centre for Learning Welsh to offer learning opportunities to staff, the Council and the wider sector. We work with Coleg Cambria to provide free weekly lessons for people in the arts sector and occasionally organise residential courses in Nant Gwrtheyrn. Here is an example of the weekly lessons currently running. [Free Welsh courses for people working in the arts sector | Arts Council of Wales](#)

This is a video showing the achievement of an advanced level integrative course in Nant Gwrtheyrn in March 2024. Creative learning methods called Synhwyro'r Iaith (more information below) were trialled alongside the usual Nant teaching <https://youtu.be/bjsVEWAoTBU> .

Since 2023, we have provided weekly lessons at every learning level to around 70 individuals annually and have offered intensive courses in Nant Gwrtheyrn to 30 freelance individuals each year.

## 2. Specific actions for communities including evidence

We carry out assessments of all language use and ownership programmes, reporting on the Council's actions annually in the [AdroddiadyGymraeg\\_English.pdf](#) . There is ongoing scrutiny of Welsh developments through internal actions by the Welsh language Enabler and Senior Management, the Welsh language, Culture and Equalities committee, and the Council. [Gofynion gweithredol sy'n ymateb i'r cynllun strategol 2025-26.pdf](#). Detailed external scrutiny is conducted through individual assessments and the work of the Welsh Arts Consortium. Below is a list of evidence and some suggestions that are specific to language use in communities.

Work programmes and specific funding opportunities relevant to communities exist, and several of those programmes address the challenge of increasing the use and ownership of the Welsh language, enabling us to investigate and question creative methods of contributing to growth. Each programme has its own methodology.

## **Welsh Arts Consortium**

In 2022, the Welsh Arts Consortium was established, which is a collaboration of practitioners and creative researchers, to support the Welsh Language Enabler of the Arts Council and the Council as a whole in tackling the task of increasing the use and ownership of the Welsh language among artists and creative workers of all kinds in Wales.

Between 2022 and 2025, as part of its practical research work, the Consortium held a number of creative activities, discussions and training sessions, crafting promotional treasures, introducing alternative and transformative courses, and enriching learning landscapes to inspire creative workers to engage with the Welsh language through the imagination of creativity. Four work programmes were designated, each looking at areas of specific need in order to address the question of how to increase the use and ownership of the Welsh language through creative methods:

**Cymraeg in the Centre** – Placing Cymraeg at the heart of activities and plans (infrastructure)

**Llais y Lle (Voice of place)** - lottery programme for individuals and communities

**Synhwyro'r iaith (Sensing the Language)** - resources for increasing the use of Welsh

**Cyfieithu hunan-iaith (translating identity)** - exploring the relationship between languages [zine asesiad cyfieithu a dehongli.pdf](#)

The role of the Welsh Language Enabler and the Consortium are a direct response to recommendations within the the Welsh Language mapping report 2020. The Consortium of 12 individuals has created an open, creative, and productive working methodology. When gathering opinions and self-assessments from members at the end of three years of work, we discovered the strengths of the operational approach. The Consortium has created extensive outreach programmes by exploring and critically questioning creatively in a collaborative and equal manner, giving time to each discussion phase. Creative methods of reflection and exploration have been used, and we have rebranded some Welsh traditions for the purpose of discussion sessions. The 'Dull Plygeiniol' (Plygain methodology) of holding agenda-free meetings is very useful in certain relevant situations.

Here is the work pattern of the consortium, which will continue in a circular manner with 2 or 3 leaving annually to make room for new members.

Year 1 – discussion, planning, creation

Year 2 – implementation and discovery

Year 3 – implementation and assessment

What has been a sweeping success is the fact that the Welsh language, creativity and culture have been central to the actions consistently.

Here is an example of self-assessment by a member of the consortium as we prepare for the next phase.

“I believe that it is possible to implement the Consortium's work to create a new creative governance system or pattern that can be recorded as a template for organisations and other committees (including staff committees and the Arts Council's committee). More importantly, I believe we have devised a system, with a positive and creative approach, that can be recorded, studied academically, which reflects Wales' cultural strength and our history of inclusive practices, and that can be shared with minority language workers and the arts in other countries.”

[Y Consortiwm Celf Cymraeg – Sylwadau JT ar waith y Consortiwm hyd yn hyn - ebrill 2025 f2.pdf](#)

### Llais y Lle



Llais y Lle is a lottery fund that is open to creative individuals. It invites these individuals to answer the question, 'How can we place the Welsh language and Welsh culture at the heart of community creativity while encouraging ownership and use of it?'



The aim of the fund is to develop the creative use of the Welsh language within communities by enabling creative individuals to collaborate and co-create with a specific community.

[Llais y Lle | Arts Council of Wales](#)

The third year of operation is about to begin with 31 individuals and communities having experienced benefits so far. There is a specific work methodology for Llais y Lle that ensures we research, develop, and share throughout the process. The individuals create connections with others in Wales that lead to community and creative collaboration beyond the programme itself.

The process is important to the programme as we ask for creative collaboration at every level of the work. Here are some crucial aspects of the Llais y Lle work methodology:

1. Creativity, Cymraeg, Community. These are the three central interrelated aspects of every plan.
2. Each plan lasts for a year and starts and ends at the same time.
3. The community and creative individual have a central voice in the question regarding the use and ownership of the Welsh language.
4. To ensure this, we ask applicants to specify the artistic methods of the plan and the community on application, but it is important that they do not know exactly what the outcome will be.
5. There are 4 national sharing days as part of the year, with the expectation that everyone attends. The Welsh language Enabler and members of the Consortium leads the sharing.
6. Each plan receives a page on the Am platform (Ambobdim).
7. Each plan reports by following an Outcomes Based Accountability approach [OBA - Llais y Lle 2024.pdf](#).
8. We assess impact and outcomes annually (see recommendations below)

This is a video summarising impressions from Llais y Lle at the end of the first year of the scheme: <https://youtu.be/M-GFKOkax8o>

Here's the home page of each Llais y Lle plan to date: <https://amam.cymru/llais%2520y%2520lle>



Areas that have held the Llais y Lle scheme:

Anglesey, Gwynedd, Nantlle Valley, Penllyn, Conwy, Denbighshire, Wrexham, Montgomeryshire, Ceredigion, Carmarthenshire, Llanelli, Swansea, Cardiff, Brecon Beacons, Blaenau Gwent, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr

Priority areas 2025:

Newport, Bridgend, Pembrokeshire, Flintshire, Meirionnydd, Torfaen, Caerphilly

The first year assessment of Llais y Lle is nearly complete. Here is a draft copy that has been prepared from individual report responses by the internal research department of the Arts Council and is going through scrutiny and academic reform by a member of the consortium who has not been part of the scheme. [Llais y Lle evaluation - jmt draft.pdf](#) We are also collecting and mapping the development of the entire programme through the Llais y Lle Miro board [Llais y Lle - Adroddiad Ionawr 2025 - Miro](#).

Here are some relevant headings that have been noted:

## **LONG-TERM IMPACT: BUILDING A LEGACY FOR SUSTAINABLE WELSH LANGUAGE**

### **ENGAGEMENT**

The impacts of these Welsh language projects illustrate that Welsh language learning and sharing is most effective when grounded in community, culture and creativity. By creating accessible, inclusive, and culturally resonant language opportunities, the projects helped transform Cymraeg from a classroom-based language to one that is lived, shared, and cherished by participants in their daily lives.

#### **Sustainable Welsh Language Infrastructure**

By creating community-centred events building on a long-term and far-reaching relationship with local residents and groups, projects laid the foundation for an enduring Welsh language infrastructure. This structure enables communities to support language learning through consistent, local programming that feels naturally integrated into daily life.

#### **Catalyst for future initiatives**

The success of these projects provides a replicable model for future Welsh language initiatives, demonstrating the value of participant-centred, culturally relevant, and innovative engagement methods. By highlighting the effectiveness of these approaches, the projects have inspired new possibilities for expanding Welsh language programs, positioning Cymraeg as adaptable and scalable across different regions and demographic groups.

#### **Long-term language retention**

By embedding Cymraeg in contexts that are personally meaningful, such as nature, personal growth, and cultural events, these projects have contributed to sustainable language retention. Participants are likely to continue using Cymraeg as it has become

embedded in their personal identity and social interactions. This emotional and social connection to the Welsh language supports long-term commitment to the language and encourages intergenerational transmission.

### **Cultural continuity and heritage preservation**

By documenting Welsh stories, folklore and traditions, the projects have ensured that Welsh cultural heritage remains accessible for future generations. This digital legacy enables Cymraeg to remain a language of culture that celebrates and preserves identity, making our language an integral part of diverse communities for years to come.

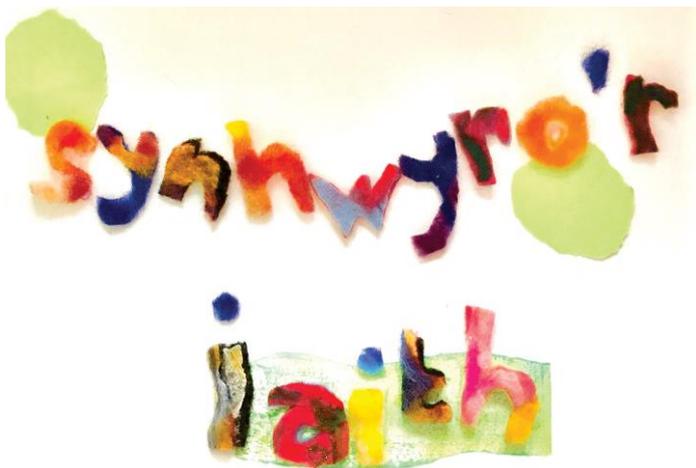
### **Sustainable and adaptive language infrastructure**

These projects have provided a model for sustainable Welsh language initiatives, showing that when Cymraeg is accessible, adaptable, and relevant to participants' lives, it can thrive. By setting up bilingual community events, experiential learning activities, and digital archives, the projects have created a sustainable infrastructure that can support ongoing engagement with our language.

### **A plan for Welsh language programmes that can reach many people.**

These initiatives provide valuable information about the effectiveness of language programmes related to culture and focused on participants thereby meeting the needs of diverse communities, and through continued adaptability, inclusivity, and innovative approaches, ensuring that Cymraeg can flourish.

### **Synhwyro'r Iaith (Sensing the language)**



The focus of this inquiry is to investigate, "How can the senses be used creatively to increase the use and ownership of the Welsh language?"

Ffeltio - <https://youtu.be/XwdlImNdp>

Symud - <https://youtu.be/sO1B8xJqRMc>

Geiriau - <https://youtu.be/ysOguhvdhcA>

Resources have been created that can be considered and used and are available on the Arts Council website [Synhwyro'r Iaith \(Sensing the language\) | Arts Council of Wales](#)

We have expanded our understanding and learning by collaborating and piloting methods with various individuals and organisations. Here are some specific actions of importance:

- Llais y Lle practitioners - training and mentoring methods with individuals from Llais y Lle.

- Creative learning programme of the Arts Council of Wales - collaborating on opportunities and practical information for creative practitioners within the programme
- Nant Gwrtheyrn - collaborating on intermediate and advanced learning courses by piloting the Synhwyrō'r Iaith methodology
- Welsh Arts Consortium and Creative Learning Programme collaboration with a PhD project sponsored by the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and Cardiff University (2022-2025) looking at the new curriculum with a focus on creativity and the subject of Welsh. - Piloting and sharing possible methods with sample teachers.

Following piloting and exploring over the past 3 years, we are responding to the findings by planning and implementing the following:

- Creating and piloting purpose-driven mentoring plans for Language Awareness by working in partnership with Welsh and creative organisations to develop creative mentoring approaches to support the skills and confidence of creative individuals working in Welsh.
- Supporting freelancers to learn and use new Welsh language skills in partnership with the National Centre for Learning Welsh and Nant Gwrtheyrn by creating a long-term purpose-driven scheme that includes individuals' financial resilience, and developing a Language Awareness resource.
- Strategically planning the growth and development of the agreement with the National Centre for Learning Welsh by establishing a formal partnership and planning growth in the provision and support by continuing to engage individual freelancers attending residential courses, providing weekly lessons nationally and ensuring language use support through specific schemes including the Synhwyrō'r Iaith mentoring schemes.
- Supporting and contributing to national specialist research in the field of education through Synhwyrō'r Iaith training methods and Creative Learning with a focus on creativity in the Curriculum for Wales.
- Providing exploratory opportunities linked to the UNESCO Decade of Indigenous Languages and through creating and discussing in and with the indigenous and minority languages of the world – Supporting the international arts action plan for Wales.
- Collaborating with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and Welsh Universities on further and higher education projects and the Welsh language in creative courses and working in partnership across the creative sector to increase the creative courses available across Wales.

## Night Out

The Night Out fund supports communities to hold high-quality creative events without risk. One example of the fund's work with the Welsh language is the Welsh Promoters Network Scheme, which is a three-way partnership between Night Out, Pyst, and the Mentrau iaith. One outcome of this work are national musical tours that allow Welsh musicians to hold tours within various communities in Wales.

<https://www.nosonallan.org.uk/>

Last year, Noson Allan supported 543 events across Welsh communities. Of these, 128, or 26%, were Welsh medium events, with a further 54 or 10% being bilingual.

## Wales Arts International

The aim of the Gwrandu fund is to nurture the craft of listening to endangered languages and communities and to learn about their efforts to preserve the land they inhabit. You will find an overview of these activities here:

<https://wai.org.uk/cy/newyddion-swyddi-chyfleoedd/gwrandu-gwrandu-ar-ieithoedd-brodorol>

[Egwyddorion CRhC.pdf](#)

## Arts Council of Wales

6 June 2025

