Blaenau Gwent Council Welsh Language Standards Annual Report for 2020-21

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This document is also available in Welsh.

1. Introduction

This report is the sixth Welsh Language Standards Annual Report produced under the requirements of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, and covers the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

The report considers 4 key areas (complaints; welsh language skills; welsh language training; and recruitment) and provides an overview of how we have met our relevant requirements as set out in the table below:

Areas	

2. Background and current situation

This report has been produced in-line with the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards.

views and experiences on any key consultations and are the main point of contact for discussing this report.

All staff across our directorates and departments are responsible for the efficient implementation of the standards and for supporting and encouraging the promotion of the Welsh language.

Each year the Welsh Language Standards Annual Report is presented to our Corporate Leadership Team and is presented to our Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee for approval prior to publicity and publication.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure that as an organisation we meet the Welsh Language requirements we recognise there is always room for improvement. The Corporate Compliments & Complaints procedure is available for anyone to make a complaint

3. Matters arising during the reporting period

Coronavirus Crisis

In March 2020, the First Minister officially declared there was a threat to public health in Wales due to Coronavirus. Due to these exceptional circumstances, this resulted in public services across Wales moving into emergency-response, in order to prioritise preventing the spread of the virus, and to ensure vital support was provided to local people and communities.

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appropriate methods of engagement and consultation with stakeholders, in order to inform key strategic priorities.

Chart 1: Speak Welsh

Ability to speak Welsh	Number of Staff
Fluently	41 (1%)
Moderately	143 (5%)
Quite Well	20 (1%)
A Little	353 (12%)
No ability	1,503 (51%)
No response	909 (30%)
Total	2,946

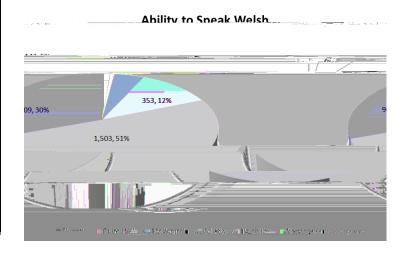


Chart 2: Understand Welsh

Ability to understand Welsh	Number of Staff
Fluently	42 (2%)
Moderately	167 (6%)
Quite Well	27 (1%)
A Little	396 (13%)
No ability	1,467 (49%)
No response	871 (29%)
Total	2,946

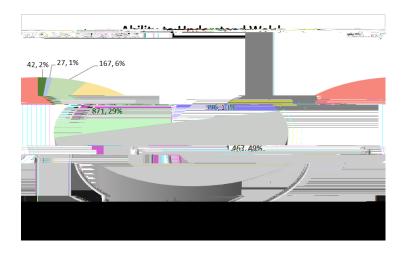


Chart 3: Write Welsh

Ability to write Welsh	Number of Staff
Fluently	37 (1%)
Moderately	118 (4%)
Quite Well	22 (1%)
A Little	291 (10%)

No ability

Fluent Welsh Speakers by Directorate and Contract Type
The following graphs and tables reflect the total number of Fluent Welsh Speakers by Directorate and Contract Type across the organisation.
A total of 42 staff declare fluency with no significant change in comparison to the previous reporting period (43, 2019/20) ¹ . The Education Directorate has the most fluent Welsh Speakers (31), and it is noted that there are no staff who are fluent within Corporate Services Directorate.
Fluent Welsh Speakers by Contract Type:

When considering the Contract Type of those staff who identify as Fluent Welsh

being on Fixed Term (3) or Relief (6) contracts. Therefore, no significant changes since the last reporting period
In terms of resilience it is noted that 122 of those staff who declare a 'Moderate' ability to
speak Welsh are on Permanent Contracts, as are 277 Permanent staff can speak 'A Little.'
Overall, there is a fairly good foundation

4.