



Review of the social use of the Welsh Language in the Vale of Glamorgan

Survey Report

July 2013

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Attachment 1 The Welsh Language in the Vale of Glamorgan Survey

1. Introduction

1.1 Menter Caerdydd and the background of the project

Following Welsh Government's decision to end Menter y Fro's funding in January 2013, a tender was secured to develop and lead a project involving the Welsh language in the Vale of Glamorgan. Menter Caerdydd received the sum of £30,000 by the Welsh Government to work with local partners as well as the local authority to raise the profile and increase social use of the Welsh language in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Menter Caerdydd has 9 members of staff, and a turnover of £599,308 (2012/2013). As a result of regular co-working with partners such as the Welsh Government, Cardiff Council and Arts Council of Wales, Menter Caerdydd has gained over 10 years experience in developing the Welsh language within the community. In a recent survey of Menter Caerdydd's Services (585 responses, Spring 2013), 92.2% of our customers noted that they see Menter Caerdydd as a central hub for the Welsh language in the capital. Menter Caerdydd's long-term aim is to work in partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan Council and local groups to ensure that the language thrives, and that the social opportunities available through the medium of Welsh corresponds to the opportunities available in English within the County.

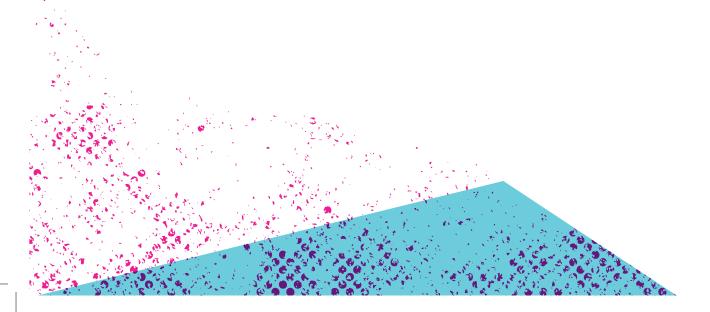
1.2 The Welsh Language in the Vale of Glamorgan

According to the 2011 Census, the County's population is 122,018, with 13,189 Welsh speakers. From the 22 Counties in Wales, the Vale of Glamorgan is the 12th largest in terms of population and 10.8% of the population can speak Welsh. Its most populated areas include Barry, Penarth, Llantwit Major and Cowbridge.

There is a substancial growth and increase in demand for Welsh medium education in the area, and there are 7 Welsh language primary schools and one Welsh language secondary school in the County by now.

Currently, almost 30% of the children and young people population of the Vale of Glamorgan are fluent Welsh speakers (to compare with almost 20% of the children and young people population of Cardiff that speak Welsh).

The National Eisteddfod was held in the Vale of Glamorgan in 2012, and the process of raising money as well as the week-long Festival itself was a great success. Thousands of the Vale's citizens organized and attended various Welsh language events and activities over a period of two years previous to the Eisteddfod, and there has been a great interest shown in the language in the area since last summer.



2. The Survey

2.1 The Survey's Aims

The aim of this survey was to collect information from the citizens of the Vale of Glamorgan regarding current Welsh language provisions available to them in the area at present, and to assess the need for more Welsh language services, activities and events for children as well as adults in the Vale.

- Current Welsh language services available in the Vale of Glamorgan.
- The use of the Welsh language socially/on a community level.
- Attitude towards the Welsh language in the Vale of Glamorgan.
- How many of those who received Welsh medium education are still using the language after leaving school.
- Ideas for developing further Welsh language services in each of the categories families, children and adults.
- Propose recommendations for the future, to strengthen the Welsh language's status in the Vale of Glamorgan.

2.2 The Survey's Methodology

The survey was created, and data was collected, electronically through the website Survey Monkey.

The main way of promoting the survey was via the primary and secondary schools in the Vale of Glamorgan. We asked each of the eight schools to distribute the information electronically via their Parent Mail, and a group of Menter Caerdydd staff visited some of these schools to collect more responses. We also discussed with year 10 pupils from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg to ensure that we also have enough responses and evidence from the area's young people.

The report was also sent to workplaces and community groups that currently exist through the medium of Welsh in the area — including Welsh language chapels, Merched y Wawr, and Mudiad Meithrin. Some prominent individuals were also supportive, and agreed to distribute the link to the survey to their own personal contacts.

The survey was promoted through Menter Caerdydd's online services, as many people from the Vale of Glamorgan use our services in Cardiff at present, and receive regular information through Menter Caerdydd's website, Facebook page and Twitter, as well as through e@chlysur – Menter Caerdydd's electronic database containing over 5,000 e-mail addresses.

A copy of the survey is attached to this report (pages 19-21).

We created one survey which included bilingual questions and answers.

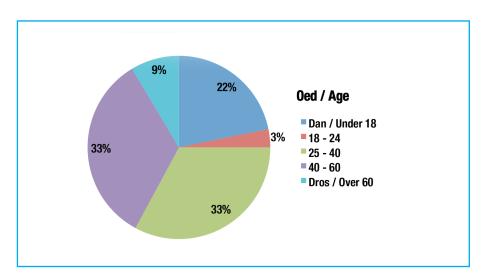
We received a total of 539 responses to this survey over a period of less than three weeks.

3. Results and Findings – Responses question by question

3.1 General

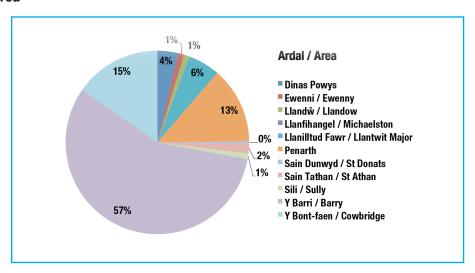
3.1.1 Age

The division of the respondants' ages is shown here.



It was important to us that we collected responses from a cross-section of ages, to ensure that the evidence we collect includes a fair representation of each age group. The chart shows that we received the most response from those in the 40-60 age category (33.5%). We obtained nearly as many responses by those who fall into the 25-40 age category (21.9%), and the response collected by individuals over 60 years old is significantly lower (8.6%). The responses collected by young people under 18 years of age is quite high (21.8)%, and we can see that the number of responses collected by individuals in the 18-24 age category is the lowest (3.2%).

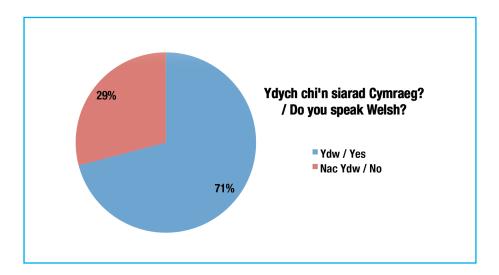
3.1.2 Area



By looking at the responses, it is clear that over half of those who responded to the survey live in Barry (56.7%). 15.3% live in Cowbridge, and 13.5% live in Penarth – three prominent areas where a high percentage of the Vale of Glamorgan's Welsh speaking citizens reside. When analysing this, it is important to remember that every Welsh medium school in the Vale of Glamorgan, except one, are located in these areas, and this has clearly influenced the results. 57 people specified 'Other' when completing this survey, and these include areas such as Rhoose (2.48%), Wenvoe (1.45%) and St Nicholas (1.04%). 56 people chose not to answer this question.

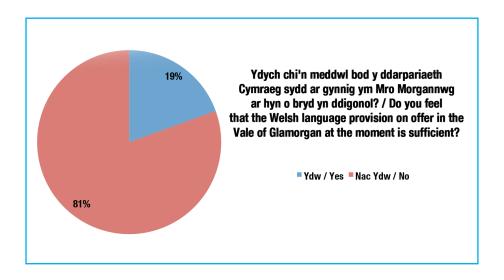
3.1.3 Number of Welsh speaking responders

The chart below shows how many of those who responded can speak Welsh. Of the 537 who responded, 380 answered 'Yes' (70.9%), and 156 'No' (29.1%).



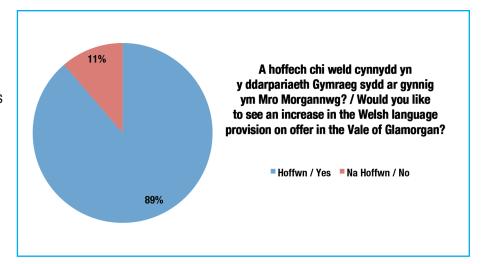
3.1.4 Welsh language provision currently on offer

As is evident in the chart below, the vast amount of respondants are discontented with the present Welsh language provision. 80.5% answered that they don't feel that the Welsh language provision on offer at the moment is sufficient.



3.1.5 Demand for more Welsh language provision

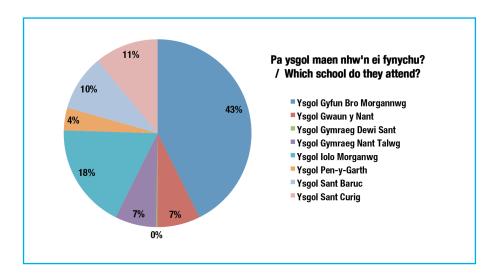
By studying the chart here, it is even more evident that there is a great demand for more Welsh language services – with 88.7% noting that they would like to see an increase in the Welsh language provision in the Vale of Glamorgan.



3.2 Family & Children

3.2.1 Welsh medium schools

The division of the Welsh medium schools are shown below.

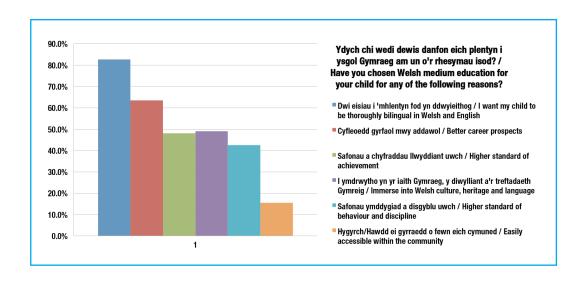


Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg had the most responses (42.6%) – and this includes parents who completed the survey online, as well as the 120 year 10 pupils who completed the survey during our visit to the school. Ysgol lolo Morganwg was the second most popular answer (18.1%), then Ysgol Sant Curig (11.0%), Ysgol Sant Baruc (9.6%), Ysgol Gwaun y Nant (7.4%) and Ysgol Pen-y-Garth (7.1%). Understandably, we received less responses from the parents of the area's newest Welsh schools, that have a lower number of pupils at the moment – Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg (7.1%) and Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant (0.2%).



3.2.2 Reasons for choosing Welsh medium education

In question 10, we asked what are the main reasons they chose Welsh medium education for their child/children. We gave 6 answers to choose from – 'I want my child to be thoroughly bilingual in Welsh and English', 'Better career prospects', 'Higher standard of achievement', 'Immerse into Welsh culture, heritage and language', 'Higher standard of behaviour and discipline' and 'Easily accessible within the community'. Respondants were able to tick more than one answer, and note any 'Other' reasons in the comment box.



Here are the responses in the order of their popularity:

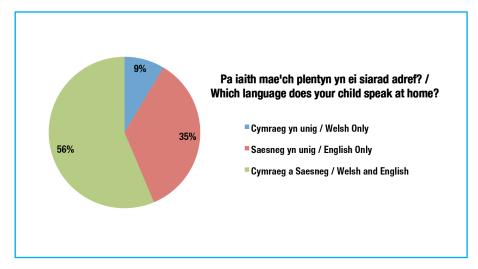
- 'I want my child to be thoroughly bilingual in Welsh and English' (82.6%).
- 'Better career prospects' (63.5%).
- 'Immerse into Welsh culture, heritage and language' (49.0%).
- 'Higher standard of achievement' (48.1%).
- 'Higher standard of behaviour and discipline' (42.5%).
- 'Easily accessible within the community' (15.5%).

36 people chose to answer 'Other', and these comments include:

- "Because it is good that we can speak both languages"
- "To learn another language, increase his knowledge & understanding"
- "I want the Welsh language to continue as a living, natural language on my children's lips"
- "I feel I have missed out myself as a result of lack of fluency in Welsh"
- "I want my child to receive education in the language of the home"

3.2.3 The child's language at home

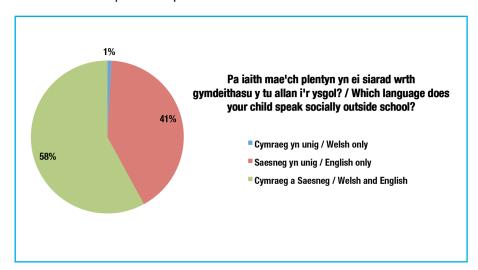
In question 11, we asked which language(s) their child/children speak at home – and gave the choices of 'Welsh only', 'English only', 'Welsh and English' and 'Other'.



The chart above shows that over a half of the children come from bilingual homes, 'Welsh and English' (56.3%). 35.0% of the children speak 'English only' at home, and only 8.6% of the children come from Welsh speaking homes – 'Welsh only' (8.6%). 18 people chose to answer 'Other', and these languages include: French and Thai.

3.2.4 The child's language socially

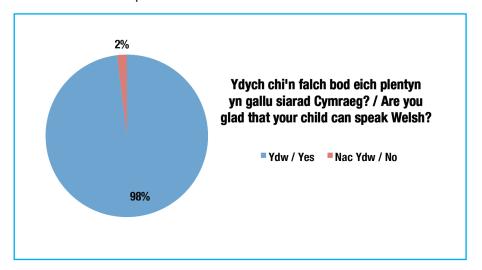
In the next question, we asked which language(s) their child/children speak socially outside school. The choices were the same as the previous question.



'Welsh and English' is the most popular choice once again (57.9%), but there is less of a difference between the second most popular answer this time, with 41.1% of the parents noting that their children don't use the Welsh language socially at all – 'English only' (41.1%). Only 0.9% answered that their children speak 'Welsh only' when socialising outside school. 8 people chose to answer 'Other', and the language noted here is French.

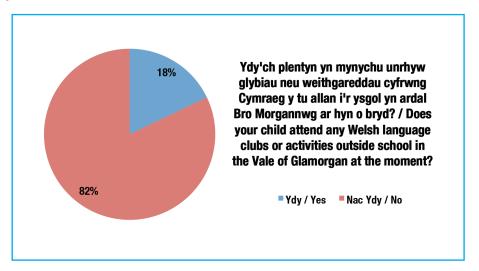
3.2.5 Pride

We asked the parents to note here whether they are glad that their child/children can speak Welsh. As is visible in the chart below, the response was overwhelmingly positive, with 98.1% answering that they are glad that their child/children can speak Welsh.



3.2.6 Welsh language activities for children

One of the main aims of this needs assessment was to discover the type of Welsh language activities already on offer for those children in Welsh medium education in the Vale, and to measure the opportunities available to them to use the language outside the school gates. Therefore, we asked if their child/children attend any clubs or activities through the medium of Welsh outside school, and to note the details of any activities they do attend at the moment in the comment box.



It is clear that most of the children do not attend any clubs or activities through the medium of Welsh outside school in the Vale of Glamorgan at the moment – with 348 answering 'No' (82.1%). 76 (17.9%) answered that their child/children do attend clubs or activities through the medium of Welsh. The most popular activities noted here were Adran Heol y March, the Urdd's youth clubs and sports clubs and activities located in Cardiff. It should be noted also that many who left comments said that they are not aware of any clubs held through the medium of Welsh in the Vale of Glamorgan:

[&]quot;There aren't any clubs"

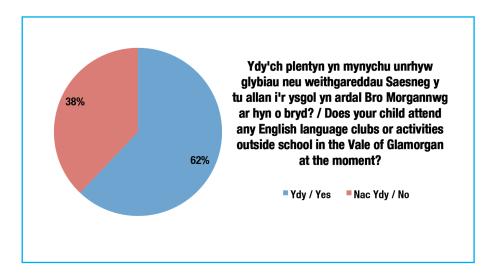
[&]quot;Clwb carco (after school club). I don't know of any other Welsh clubs in the area."

[&]quot;There are not any available or he would"

[&]quot;Are there any available?"

3.2.7 English language activities for children

Next, we asked if their child/children attend any clubs or activities through the medium of English outside school. It is clear from the chart below that the response is significantly different this time.



62.1% said that their child/children do attend English language clubs or activites, and from the comments left it is clear that there is a vast amount and variety of activities through the medium of English available for children that cover various areas of the Vale of Glamorgan, including Barry, Llantwit Major, Cowbridge, Dinas Powys, Sully and Penarth. Once again, some noted that they also attend English language activities in Cardiff.

3.2.8 Developing new Welsh language services for children

The next question asked what kind of clubs or activities they would like to see developed. The main points suggested here was the need for a Welsh language drama club, art and design club, more sports and keep fit activities, trips, and general opportunities to socialise through the medium of Welsh outside school. Here are some of the comments recorded:

"Activities that are held in English at the moment, but in Welsh eg. cooking"

"I would like to take part in social clubs, where I am able to practise Welsh in a fun and informal environment"

"I would like to take part in sports activities like hockey and netball. I would also like to see musical activities"

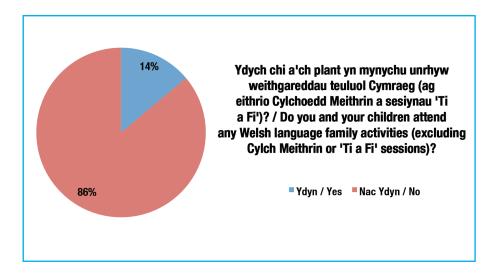
"Social clubs, sports eg. swimming, athletics, running. A chance to meet friends."

"Welsh activities – outside adventures. Sports i.e. sailing, canoeing, days away etc"

"Any activity which would encourage my children to use Welsh outside of the school setting. Perhaps a social/youth club on a weekly basis to meet with children from the other Welsh primary schools."

3.2.9 Welsh language activities for families

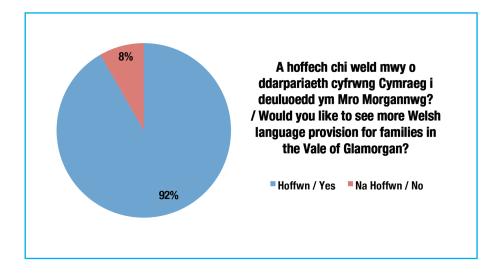
In question 21 we asked if they, as a family, attend any Welsh language activities (excluding Cylchoedd Meithrin and 'Ti a Fi' sessions) in the Vale of Glamorgan at the moment. The responses can be seen below.



Only 13.9% answered 'Yes', and 86.1% answered that they do not attend any kind of activities through the medium of Welsh at all. Some have noted that they attend Welsh language chapels and Sunday schools in the Vale of Glamorgan, Cardiff and Bridgend, and others note that they, as a family, attend Welsh language activities such as the Eisteddfod and Tafwyl. People responded by saying that there aren't any Welsh language activities aimed at families on offer in their area at the moment — "There is nothing in Barry", "There aren't any Welsh language ones".

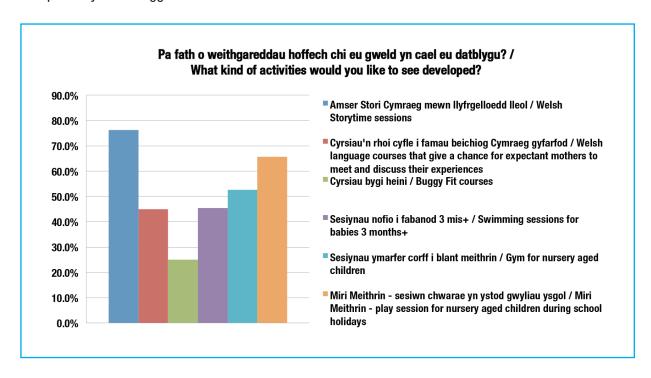
3.2.10 Demand for Welsh language provision for families

In question 23, we asked if they would like to see more Welsh language provision for families in the Vale of Glamorgan. The response was clear – with 91.7% answering that 'Yes', they would like to see more opportunities for families to take part in activities in their community through the medium of Welsh.



3.2.11 Developing new Welsh language services for nursery/pre-school aged children

Next, we asked what kind of Welsh language activities they would like to see developed for pre-school aged children. There were 6 options to choose from - 'Welsh Storytime sessions', 'Welsh language courses that give a chance for expectant mothers to meet and discuss their experiences', 'Buggy Fit courses', 'Swimming sessions for babies 3 months+', 'Gym Tots', 'Miri Meithrin (soft play and song) – play session for nursery aged children during school holidays'. They also had the option to choose 'Other' and post any other suggestions in the comment box.



The most popular answer was 'Welsh Storytime sessions' (76.3%). The second most popular activity according to these responses are play sessions for nursery aged children, 'Miri Meithrin' (65.7%).

42 people chose to answer 'Other', and here is a selection of those comments:

[&]quot;Music lessons"

[&]quot;Sports clubs for aged 3+"

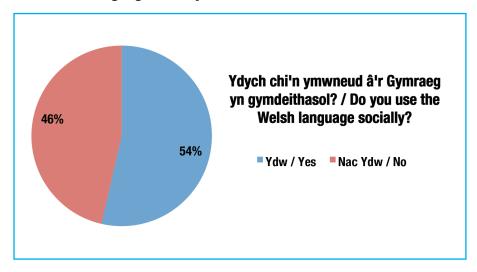
[&]quot;I would like the opportunity to meet other parents who speak Welsh with their children."

[&]quot;Craft activities"

[&]quot;Family fun days"

3.3 Adults

3.3.1 Use of the Welsh language socially



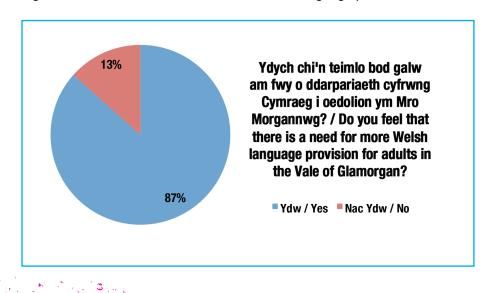
Over a half of respondants, 53.45%, answered that they do speak Welsh socially. The impression given by these responses is that many respondants belong to the older age group, and who use the Welsh language socially in voluntary community groups such as Welsh language chapels and Mercher y Wawr. It is clear that the statutory Welsh language provision for adults is scarce, especially for the 20-50 aged category, and some respondants draw attention to this in their comments:

"With personal friends, because there are no suitable events in the Vale"

"Socialising with Welsh speaking friends but I'm not aware of any specific activities that concentrates on Welsh in the Vale."

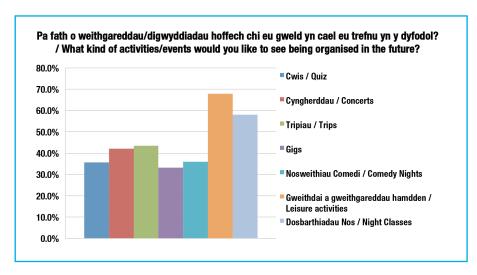
3.3.2 Demand for more Welsh language provision for Adults

As in the 'Family and Children' section, we asked next whether they feel that there is a demand for more Welsh language provision for adults in the Vale of Glamorgan. The response, once again, is clear, with 86.6% answering 'Yes' – that there is a need for more Welsh language provision for adults.



3.3.3 Developing new Welsh language services for Adults

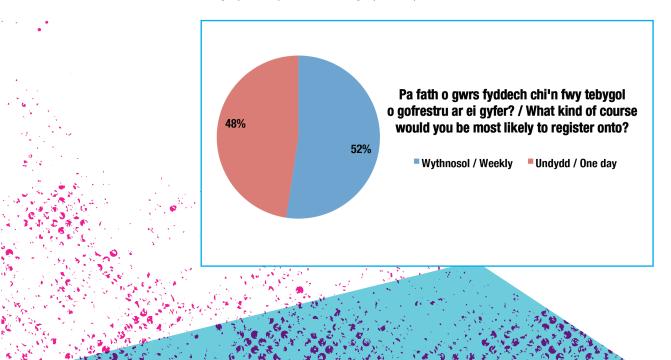
The next stage was to ask what kind of activities or events they would like to see being organized in the future. We gave 7 possible answers – 'Quiz', 'Concerts', 'Trips', 'Gigs', 'Comedy Nights', 'Leisure activities' and 'Night Classes'. It was possible to choose more than one answer, and to leave any comments in the box labelled 'Other'.



The two most popular answers are 'Leisure activities' (67.8%) and 'Night Classes' (58.0%). 28 chose to answer 'Other', and here is a selection of their comments:

3.3.4 Adult Courses

The last part of the section for Adults concentrates on the need for more Welsh language courses for adults in the Vale of Glamorgan. In question 30, we asked whether they would be more likely to sign up for weekly or one-day courses. The responses are fairly equal, but there is a slight preference to weekly courses – 'Weekly' (52.4%) and 'One day' (47.6%).



[&]quot;Social groups"

[&]quot;Literature evenings or something similar to 'Noson 4a6' in Caernarfon."

[&]quot;Sports lessons/coaching in Welsh"

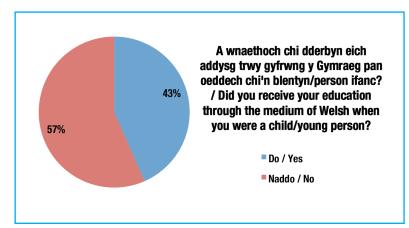
[&]quot;Talks/lectures/beer making, wine"

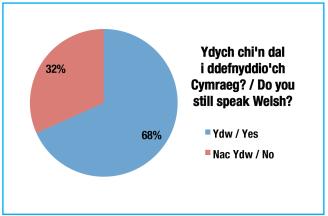
[&]quot;Everyday services, like siops, buses etc"

[&]quot;Welsh spoken in Council properties; Welsh speaking cafes etc"

3.4 Use of the Welsh language

In the last section of the survey, we were keen to obtain how many people who received Welsh medium education still use the language now in the Vale of Glamorgan. The response can be seen in the charts below.





From those that responded, 43.4% said that they did receive their education through the medium of Welsh, and 68.3% continue to use their Welsh language skills now. The next question was targeted at the 31.7% who answered that they no longer speak the Welsh language.

3.4.1 Support to revive their Welsh language skills

Finally, we asked what actions could be taken to help and support them to regain their confidence to speak Welsh now. Here are a selection of their comments:

"Evening/weekend workshops - either individually or as a family."

"More social events to speak to Welsh speakers"

"Social activities, especially in the WEST. Every Welsh language event held at the moment is in the Eastern area of the Vale or in other locations eg. Cardiff."

"More family based activities for those that speak Welsh, most of my friends are English only so it would be nice to make some bilingual friends with children of the same ages!"

3.5 Finally

3.5.1 Any other comments

To complete the survey, we gave the respondants a chance to leave any other comments or observations in the comment box. Here are some of the comments given:

"It would be nice to see Welsh being used outside school – not only as a language for the classroom!"

"There is a great need for more provision for children to use the Welsh language socially – as is available in Cardiff"

"There is very little Welsh medium provision available in Penarth. This is disappointing, especially as many of the area's children attend either Ysgol Pen y Garth or Bro Morgannwg. There are many adults here who are able to speak Welsh but there isn't anywhere for them to meet to use the language amongst themselves."

"I would like to see more activities for Welsh speakers in Barry, especially social activities for my son. Menter Caerdydd are great – I would like to see similar things in the Vale!"

"I feel that increasing the use of the Welsh language by establishments within the Vale, like the Council, and recreational locations like the Memo, would encourage Welsh speakers to be a part of community life in general instead of feeling alienated or that we are a statutory inconvenience to be kept quiet by throwing some fragments of Welsh towards us. There isn't a trace to be found within the Council that the Eisteddfod was held here less than a year ago, for example."

4. Conclusions

The feedback that was collected from this survey clearly shows that there is a current lack of Welsh language provision within the County at the moment, and that there is a demand among its citizens to see an increase in the Welsh language provision in the Vale of Glamorgan. To summarize some of the findings:

- Almost 30% of the children and young people population of the Vale of Glamorgan are fluent Welsh speakers.
- 41.1% of children receiving Welsh medium education in the Vale of Glamorgan do not use the Welsh language at all outside of school hours.
- 82.1% of children receiving Welsh medium education in the Vale of Glamorgan do not attend any Welsh medium clubs or activities outside of school hours.
- 62.1% of children receiving Welsh medium education in the Vale of Glamorgan do attend English medium clubs or activities outside of school hours.
- 88.7% of respondants wish to see an increase in the Welsh language provision on offer in the Vale of Glamorgan.
- 91.7% would like to see more Welsh language activities for families in the Vale of Glamorgan.
- 86.6% would like to see more Welsh language provision for adults in the Vale of Glamorgan.
- 31.7% of respondants, who did receive Welsh medium education, no longer use any of their Welsh language skills.

It is apparent that there are a host of activities for children to attend English language clubs and activities, and to compare, the opportunities available to them to use the Welsh language outside school is very limited. There is a substancial growth in Welsh medium education in the area at the moment, but this growth is not reflected in the provision of services offered through the medium of Welsh.

It is clear that there is a strong demand for more Welsh language services across each age category – families, nursery aged children, school aged children, young people and adults – in order to ensure equality and to give the citizens of the Vale of Glamorgan the best possible opportunities to use the Welsh language in their communities.

4.1 Recommendations

Our vision, following this report, includes:

- To create, in partnership, more opportunities for people to use the Welsh language socially.
- Increase the provision of Welsh language activities for children and young people, and increase their awareness of the language's worth.
- Strengthen the Welsh language's position within the community.
- Increase and improve Welsh language services for citizens.



5. Points of Action

- Distribute copies of the report to all Councillors in the Vale of Glamorgan Council.
- Distribute copies of the report to all Headteachers of the Vale of Glamorgan's Welsh medium schools, as well as Welsh speaking and non-Welsh speaking partners in the County.
- Arrange to meet with Christopher Elsmore, Gwyn John and Neil Moore, Cabinet Members for the Vale
 of Glamorgan Council, to discuss the report's findings.
- Arrange to meet with Sian Davies, Managing Director of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, to discuss the report's findings.
- Arrange to meet with with the area's Assembly Member, Jane Hutt, to discuss the report's findings.
- Arrange to meet with with the area's Member of Parliament, Alun Cairns, to discuss the report's findings.
- Arrange to meet with with the Welsh Assembly's Welsh Language Unit (Caroline Turner) to discuss the report's findings.
- Send a copy of this report to the First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones, who now also has responsibility for the Welsh language.
- Complete applications for external fundings eg. Big Lottery Fund, Lottery Heritage Fund and Arts Council of Wales to develop Welsh language activities in the Vale of Glamorgan.
- Distribute copies of the report to the public through Menter Caerdydd's email database, and Menter Caerdydd's Facebook and Twitter accounts.
- Ensure that there is a copy of the report available on Menter Caerdydd's website.

Attachment 1 The Welsh Language in the Vale of Glamorgan Survey / July 2013

Conoral		
General 1. Name 2. Email		
3. Age – Age categories		
4. Area		
Dinas Powys St Donats Ewenny St Athan Llandow		
Sully Michaelston Barry Llantwit Major Cowbridge		
Penarth Other		
T Official at		
5. Do you speak Welsh?		
Yes No		
6.Do you feel that the Welsh language provision on offer in the Vale of Glamorgan at the moment is sufficient?		
Yes No		
7. Would you like to see an increase in the Welsh language provision on offer in the Vale of Glamorgan?		
Yes No		
Family & Children		
8. Do you have children in Welsh Medium Education in the Vale of Glamorgan at the moment?		
Yes No		
9. Which school do they attend?		
Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg Ysgol Iolo Morganwg		
Ysgol Gwaun y Nant Ysgol Pen-y-Garth		
Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant Ysgol Sant Baruc		
Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg Ysgol Sant Curig		
10. Have you chosen Welsh medium education for your child for any of the following reasons?		
I want my child to be thoroughly bilingual in English and Welsh		
Better career prospects Higher standard of achievement		
Immerse into Welsh culture, heritage and language Higher standard of behaviour and discipline		
Easily accessible within the community Other		
44 Militab language daga yang abildan saluat bansa0		
11. Which language does your child speak at home?		
Welsh only English only Welsh and English Other		
otilei		
12. Which language does your child speak socially outside school?		
Welsh only English only Welsh and English		
Other		
13. Are you glad that you child can speak Welsh?		
Yes No		

-	Welsh language clubs or activities outside school in the Vale of Glamorgan at the
moment?	No
15. If yes, please give details of	the activity and location below.
16. Does your child attend any E moment?	inglish language clubs or activities outside school in the Vale of Glamorgan at the
Yes	No
17. If yes, please give details of	the activity and location below.
18. What kind of clubs/activities	would you like to see being developed?
19. Which areas/locations would	be suitable for these clubs/activities?
20. Do you have pre-school age	
Yes	No
21. Do you and your children a sessions)?	ttend any Welsh language family activities (excluding Cylch Meithrin or 'Ti a Fi'
Yes	No
22. If yes, please give details of	the activity and location below.
23. Would you like to see more V	Velsh language provision for families in the Vale of Glamorgan? No
24. What kind of activities would	you like to see developed?
Welsh Storytime sessions	Gym for nursery aged children
Welsh language courses thatBuggy Fit courses	give a chance for expectant mothers to meet and discuss their experiences Swimming sessions for babies 3 months+
Gym for nursery aged childre	
Miri Meithrin – play session f	or nursery aged children during school holidays
Adults	
25. Do you use the Welsh langua	
Yes	No
26. If yes, please give details of	the activity and location below.
07 Da way 61 H1 !!	and for many Wales Innovance providing for adults in the V. I. of Change of C.
Yes	ed for more Welsh language provision for adults in the Vale of Glamorgan? No

28. What kind of activities/events would you like to see being organized in the future? Quiz Trips
Gigs Comedy Nights Leisure activities
☐ Night Classes Other
29. Which areas/locations would be suitable and convenient for these activities? If you know of any specific centres, please give the details below.
30. What kind of course would you be most likely to register onto? Weekly One day
Use of the Welsh language 31. Did you receive your education through the medium of Welsh when you were a child/young person? Yes No
32. Do you still speak Welsh? Yes No
33. What actions could be taken to help and support you to regain your confidence to speak Welsh now?
Finally 34. Any other comments