



# MENTER BRO MORGANNWG ANNUAL REPORT 2017



# FOREWORD BY THE CHAIR

Blwyddyn Newydd Dda! Welcome to Menter Iaith Bro Morgannwg's annual report – an initiative which is now in its fifth year of providing activities and events to promote the social use of the Welsh language in the Vale.

2017 has been another busy year for Menter, providing sports clubs for children, storytime sessions and welly walks for the younger children, conversational sessions for Welsh learners, childcare during school holidays and much more – all through the medium of Welsh.

We held another very successful Gŵyl Fach y Fro over the summer, the best yet! It's great to confirm that the festival will be returning to Barry Island in 2018 – the planning has already begun and details of the line-up will be confirmed soon. Look out for the announcements!

Of course Menter continues to learn – some activities prove more popular than others, and we are always eager to get feedback and hear about new ideas from our service users as well as work in partnership wherever possible. Please share your ideas with us.

Looking forward to 2018, one of the exciting developments is the possibility of establishing a Welsh-medium full day nursery on the site of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg. This would be a

pioneering project, and I would urge citizens of the Vale to give us their feedback – you can do this until the end of January. If you haven't yet come across the Consultation, please contact us for a hard copy or link to the online survey.

It is the end of one era and a beginning of a new era for Menter Bro Morgannwg. At the end of 2017, Siân Lewis left her role as Chief Executive to work for the Urdd, and we would like to thank her for her dedicated leadership. Manon Rees-O'Brien has been appointed as her successor, and we look forward to working with her when she starts in her new role in February.

I'd like to extend thanks to everyone who has been involved with any aspect of Menter's work over the past year and to everyone who has attended our activities to ensure their success. Thank you to the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Welsh Government, Arts Council of Wales and Lottery Funds for their continued support and cooperation, to the Board members for their contributions, and above all, I'd like to thank Ffion Rhisiart for her enthusiasm and perseverance as Menter's Development Officer.

We look forward to another great year in 2018.

**Gwenllian Grigg**  
**Chair, Menter Bro Morgannwg**



## BACKGROUND

Menter Bro Morgannwg was established in January 2014, with the aim of promoting and extending the use of the Welsh language across the Vale of Glamorgan. It is a comparatively new organisation with 1 full time member of staff, 1 part time and 4 members of staff helping with the work in association with their work for Menter Caerdydd. The main aim of the Menter is to provide opportunities in Welsh ensuring valuable experiences which develop opportunities for children, young people and adults to use the Welsh language outside school and work hours. We also aim to work in partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan County Council and with all Welsh speaking and non Welsh speaking organisations in the area in order to raise the status of the language within the County.

The existing service of Menter reflect the needs of our customers; families, children, adults, learners and those who do not speak Welsh. We interact regularly with our customers to ensure that the voice of the customer is key to the planning of our services for the future. We are committed to ensuring that our work continues to reflect the needs of the Welsh communities and learners in the Vale and we have established a series of key performance indicators which will enable us to measure and control our performance accurately.

We established and have Chaired the Vale of Glamorgan's Welsh Language Forum since 2013, to bring together organisations and associations operating through the Welsh language in the

Vale of Glamorgan; with representatives from the Vale's Welsh medium Schools, Urdd Gobaith Cymru, Cymraeg i Blant / Welsh for Kids, Learn Welsh – the Vale, Merched y Wawr, Cardiff and Vale College, Mudiad Meithrin and representatives from Societies within the Vale. The Welsh Language Forum meets three times a year to report back on their field of work, to share ideas about good practice and explore opportunities for collaboration. Following these discussions an opportunity has arisen recently to apply for a grant from the National Centre for Learning Welsh, and we received confirmation before Christmas that the Vale's application has been successful. The project will run from January to July 2018, and is a great example of how we as partners can work together to provide more opportunities through the medium of Welsh for the Vale's citizens.

Our Management Board includes 15 members, 8 of which are Company Directors, and the Board meets 6 times a year to discuss Menter Bro Morgannwg's latest developments. Our Management Board will continue to scrutinise our work and provide a strong governing model to ensure that Menter Bro Morgannwg will create services which are fit for purpose, and that we continue to be in a strong position to maintain our services successfully.

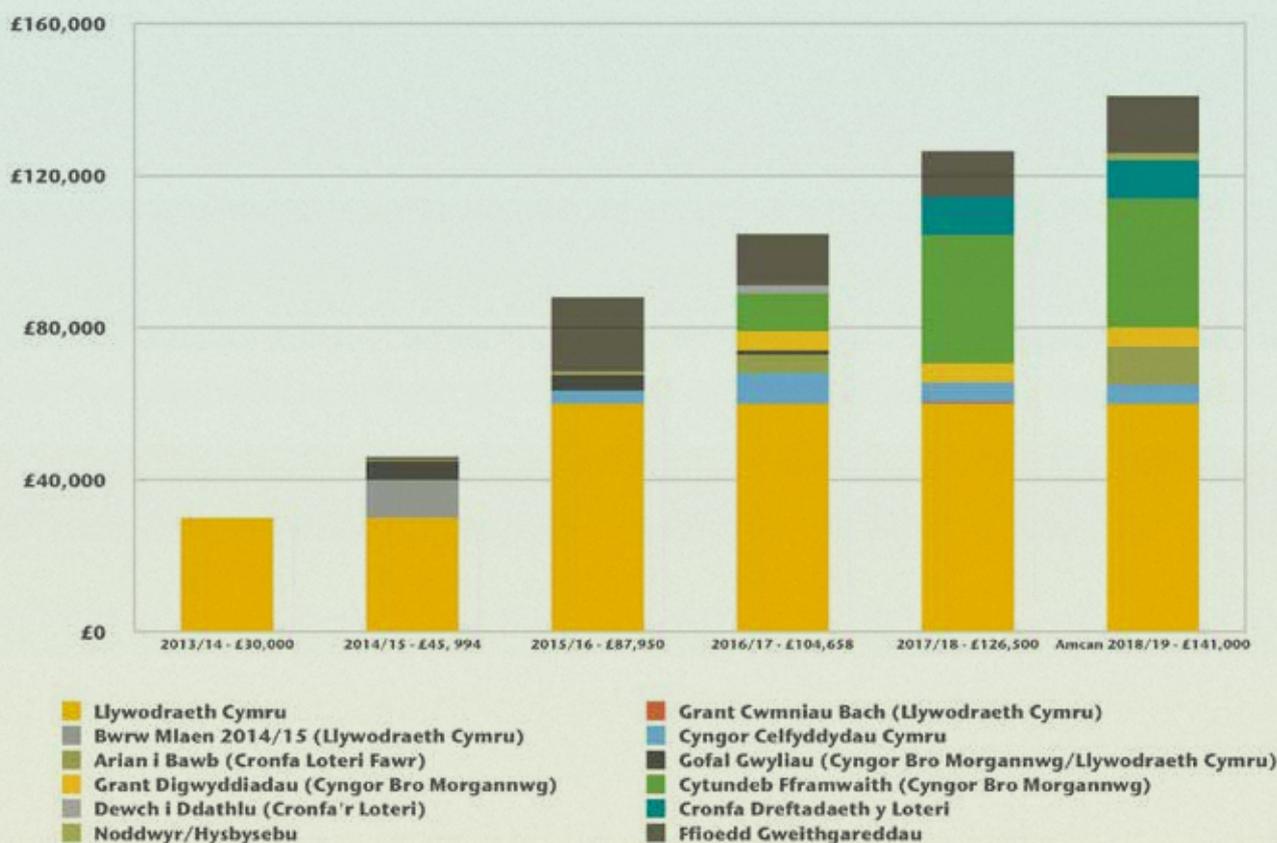
Menter Bro Morgannwg's main funders are Welsh Government, the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Arts Council of Wales and Lottery Funds.

**Promoting and expanding the use of the Welsh language on a community level in the Vale of Glamorgan, ensuring that the language becomes a central part of life in the Vale and that every citizen shares the responsibility for its future and success.**

# INCOME

We have seen an increase of 322% in Menter's income between 2013/14 and 2017/18, and we continue to seek further funding and opportunities to develop new services. We continue to receive a grant of £60,000 from Welsh Government, and by now also receive funding of £34,000 a year from the Vale of Glamorgan Council on a 3 year contract. The remaining income comes from activity fees and applications for funding to develop and co-ordinate projects such as Gŵyl Fach y Fro (Arts Council of Wales, Big Lottery Fund) and 'lolo ar Daith' (Heritage Project).

## MENTER BRO MORGANNWG'S INCOME



## OFFICERS

**Siân Lewis**

Chief Executive

**Ffion Rhisiart**

Development Officer

**Jén Dafis**

Community Officer

**Leah Dafydd / Gwenno Roberts** (maternity cover)

Childcare and Family Officer

**Llinos Williams and Lia Hawen**

Tafwyl Officers

**Nia Donnelly**

Finance Officer

A number of Menter Bro Morgannwg staff are Menter Caerdydd's core staff sharing their time to create services in the Vale.

Manon Rees-O'Brien, Menter Bro Morgannwg's new Chief Executive, will start in her new role in February 2018.



## NEW FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT WITH THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

In October 2016, we received confirmation of a new Framework Agreement between the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Menter Bro Morgannwg – an annual investment of £34,000 on a three year contract. The Framework’s aim is to develop new services to strengthen the Welsh language within communities in the Vale, and is the first time the Vale Council has invested in a long-term strategic plan to support and promote the social use of Welsh. The service areas within this new Framework include;

- Activities for Families
- Childcare and School Holiday Provision
- Sports and Play Opportunities
- Adult and Community Learning

This Framework funding has enabled us to substantially develop the programme of social opportunities across the Vale, and more details about each individual service area can be found in the sub-headings below.

**“This framework agreement is a formal recognition of the partnership work that has already taken place between Menter Bro Morgannwg and the Council to provide these activities and a commitment to continue to working together to deliver these opportunities in the future.”**

# LOCAL AND NATIONAL STRATEGIES

Menter Bro Morgannwg's core work encompass six priorities. They are to:

- Promote and create opportunities to use the Welsh language
- Raise confidence and change people's attitudes towards the Welsh language
- Strengthen the Welsh language and its use amongst families
- Develop employment and training opportunities for young people and adults
- Develop Welsh Festivals to raise awareness of the Welsh language

By focusing on these main priorities, Menter Bro Morgannwg play an important role in promoting the Welsh language across the Vale and encompasses Welsh Government's strategic priorities in reaching a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

We will continue to support and ensure that the Vale of Glamorgan Council meets its statutory requirements by providing equal opportunities in Welsh for citizens in the Vale, by meeting regularly with Councillors and Council Directors, attend the Welsh Education Strategic Plan Forums and contribute towards the process of planning and drafting strategic documents.

Well-being Outcome 3: An Aspirational and Culturally Vibrant Vale

Objective 6: Work with partners to promote the use of the Welsh language.

**Corporate Plan 2016-20, Vale of Glamorgan Council**

In order to maintain and increase the number of Welsh speakers over the next five years the Vale of Glamorgan Council and its partners need to prioritise some key policy areas for action, which include:

- i. Expanding Welsh-medium education from pre-school to post-16
- ii. Improving language transmission in the home
- iii. Increasing the number of adults learning Welsh
- iv. Extending opportunities for children, young people and families to use Welsh as a social language
- v. Increasing provision of community and leisure activities through the medium of Welsh
- vi. Expanding the use of Welsh in the workplace.

**Welsh Language Strategy Plan (September 2016), Vale of Glamorgan Council**

Moving towards the position where we have a million speakers is one aspect of our vision for a thriving Welsh language. However, a thriving Welsh language is a language that is used... People need opportunities to use Welsh in a variety of situations which reflect the diversity of their lifestyles. These includes opportunities within the family, in the workplace, in local activities, or in wider interest networks and communities which can span continents. Opportunities and services in Welsh must be offered proactively, so that the individual does not have to request the Welsh language. Ultimately the vision is for people to use it at every opportunity, with opportunities available everywhere.

**Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers, Welsh Government**

Goal: A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.

**Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, Welsh Government**



# ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES

Promoting the Welsh language amongst families and pre-school aged children are some of the main targets outlined in Welsh Government's 'Cymraeg 2050: million Welsh speakers' strategy, therefore continuing to offer opportunities for families to take part in activities together is an important part of Menter's work.

## Amser Stori

We now run 4 Amser Stori sessions – in Penarth, Barry, Cowbridge and Llantwit Major Libraries. These free storytime sessions are held weekly during the school term, and over 50 parents and children attend every week. The session at Cowbridge Library is a bit quieter than the others, and we will continue to promote Amser Stori over the next couple of months to increase numbers generally, and in the Cowbridge area specifically. During the Summer term, we also held a storytime and arts and crafts at Dinas Powys Library.

## Welly Walk Sessions

The nature trails have also proved very popular over the last few years, and during 2017 we have held 5 Welly Walk and 'Dawns y Dail' sessions in various locations including Llantwit Major beach, Amelia Trust Farm, Cosmeston, Barry Island beach and Porthkerry. Although these sessions are targeted mainly at children aged 2-6 years, they are suitable for the whole family, and more than 25 families have engaged with these Welsh-medium activities together during 2017.

## Family Weekend to Llangrannog

We organise a Family Weekend to Llangrannog every year, in partnership with Menter Caerdydd, which brings Welsh speaking and non-Welsh speaking families together for a weekend of fun. As well as the opportunity to try out all of the activities on site, Menter organise a Welsh for Adults lesson for the parents as well as evening entertainment, to ensure that the children and their families are given as many opportunities as possible to take part in a wide range of activities and socialise through the medium of Welsh. The weekend is always popular – and we look forward to going back again during the Easter holidays!



# CHILDCARE

**“Well done for offering activities and trips that cater for such a wide range in age and abilities.”**

## Holiday Carescheme

Since we received an ‘Out of School Childcare Grant’ (Welsh Government) in February 2015, Menter Bro Morgannwg has worked in partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan Council to provide Holiday Childcare provision at the primary building of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg. We now receive £2,000 from the Council’s Framework to further support this service, and this sustainability funding allows us to keep fees reasonable and competitive, whilst also continuing to offer a varied timetable of workshops, activities and trips.

The Holiday Carescheme is available to every child receiving Welsh medium primary education in the Vale, and is held during every school holidays, excluding Christmas. This is the only full day provision available through the medium of Welsh in the Vale (8.30am – 5.30pm), and provides an important service which allows parents to continue to work during school holiday periods and for the children to continue to speak Welsh outside the school term.

We have continued to see an increase in the number of children attending, and over 600 children have attended our Holiday Carescheme provision during 2017.

We have employed 15 members of staff throughout the year, 11 of which have received further training and qualifications including Play (Level 2), Managing a Holiday Carescheme (Level 3), Paediatric First Aid and Food Hygiene.

We evaluate the service annually through face to face conversations with children and parents as well as a more formal online survey for parents and staff, and here is a selection of comments and feedback received after the 2017 Summer holidays;

- From the 29 parents who responded, 76% noted that their child/children attend this Holiday Carescheme because of their own work commitments
- 97% choose the Bro Morgannwg Holiday Carescheme because it’s a Welsh medium provision
- 89% feel that the Bro Morgannwg Holiday Carescheme helps to increase their child’s confidence to use Welsh socially
- 100% of parents believe that Menter Bro Morgannwg provides a good and professional service

**“Excellent playscheme through the medium of Welsh”**

**“The staff are fantastic and really make an impression on our son. He continues using the Welsh language during holiday times and really enjoys the activities.”**



**“Without this scheme myself and my husband wouldn’t be able to work full time. This scheme is so important to our son as he loves all the organisers who run it but it also gives him the opportunity to meet new friends who he could meet again when he progresses to comprehensive school. He continues to be educated while having fun in the Welsh language too.”**

**“It provides childcare to cover a full working day, not many schemes do! And as we are a non Welsh speaking family at home it was a fantastic opportunity to keep up with the Welsh language.”**



## SPORTS AND PLAY OPPORTUNITIES

### Sports Clubs

In partnership with the Urdd's Sport Department, we provide 10 weekly clubs across the Vale for children in reception to year 6. These include swimming clubs at Penarth Leisure Centre, Barry Leisure Centre and Hebron Hall, gymnastics club, athletics, netball and numerous after-school multi sports clubs. We also provide Swimming for Beginners lessons for children aged 3-4 years. These clubs are run by experienced and qualified instructors, with over 220 children taking part in leisure activities through the medium of Welsh every week.

### BWRLWM Open Access Play Sessions

A new provision for this Summer were the BWRLWM open access play sessions, which were held during the first 3 weeks of the holidays. These 1 hour 55 minute sessions were held twice a day at different parks and outdoor locations every day of the week – Victoria Park (Barry), Bear Field (Cowbridge), Belle Vue Park (Penarth), Knap Gardens (Barry) and Llantwit Major Rugby Club. These free sessions proved very popular - with over 230 children attending at least 1 sessions over the 3 weeks, and an average of 37 children in every session!

The feedback we have received from parents and guardians has been very positive and has highlighted the demand for similar sessions during every school holidays throughout the year.





## ADULT COMMUNITY LEARNING

### Social Opportunities for Welsh Learners

There are over 40 Welsh for Adults and Welsh for Families lessons held weekly across the Vale, which attract over 200 learners. Since August 2016, these have been provided by Learn Welsh the Vale, which is a part of the Vale of Glamorgan Council. Developing a programme of extra-curricular activities is crucial, in order to support the formal learning process, and Menter Bro Morgannwg focuses on providing social opportunities for learners to practise and use their Welsh outside the classroom environment.

The Framework has enabled us to develop this area substantially over the past year. By now we run 4 weekly coffee mornings; at Foxy's Deli (Penarth), Academy Espresso Bar (Pumphouse, Barry), Bear Hotel (Cowbridge), and Café Velo (Llantwit Major). We also run 'Dysgu a Diod', an evening conversational session, which is held on the first Monday of every month at the Old Swan Inn in Llantwit Major. Over 50 individuals attend these sessions every month with new learners joining regularly.

During 2017, we have also held two Pub Quizzes which have provided further opportunities for learners to practise their Cymraeg in a social environment.



## GIGS BACH Y FRO

Gigs Bach y Fro was established in October 2014 with support from the Arts Council of Wales, with the aim of providing performing opportunities within the Vale for prominent Welsh bands and artists, and to organise local event for citizens to enjoy the best of the current Welsh music scene within their communities.

Gigs Bach y Fro now continues with the support of the Night Out Scheme (run by the Arts Council of Wales), and we aim to organise 4 gigs throughout the year, with Gŵyl Fach y Fro as the pinnacle to our calendar of music events in the Vale. Over the last year we have enjoyed performances by Al Lewis, Alys Williams, Osian Williams and Steve Eaves a Rhai Pobl.

We have also tried to reach more communities by organising different events in key areas across the Vale, and gigs have been held this year at Llantwit Major Rugby Club, Park Hotel in Barry, Cogan Coronation Club and the Ex-Servicemen's Club in Penarth.

Planning has already started for the 2018 programme, and we look forward to welcoming many more artists to perform in the Vale of Glamorgan over the next year.



## GLAMORGAN GEM

The partnership with the Glamorgan GEM continues, and by now we contribute bilingual pages 4 times a year – which includes a newsletter at the beginning of every school term, and a special issue about Gŵyl Fach y Fro. This is a great platform to raise awareness of the Welsh language across the County as well as an effective source to promote Menter's services, and the fact that we now publish the content in both Welsh and English extends the reach to new audiences.

As well as an online version, over 46,000 copies of the paper are distributed every week to homes and public places across the Vale of Glamorgan. Copies of our newsletters are also published on Menter's website.

# GŴYL FACH Y FRO 2017

Gŵyl Fach y Fro is the annual festival established by Menter Bro Morgannwg in 2015 to celebrate the use of the Welsh language in the Vale of Glamorgan. The festival is located on Barry Island Promenade and now plays an important part in the Council's summer events calendar.

Gŵyl Fach y Fro 2017 was without a doubt the best yet, and we as organisers are so glad to see the festival developing and growing year on year. This year's event succeeded in attracting a larger audience than anticipated, with over 6,500 people attending in 2017, an increase of over 100% on the previous year.

The highlights included:

- A substantial increase in the number of activities, with 40 performances and workshops offered as part of the event.
- A varied musical line-up which attracted a vast range of audiences – with genres including pop, rock, indie, folk, jazz, electronic and brass bands.
- For the first time this year there was a Play Area for children; which included a craft area, bubble activities, bubble and disco bikes, circus skills, parachute games and a climbing wall. We also worked with Green City Events for the first time to provide a fantastic programme of activities which included Green Head Dresses, Wildlife Clay Art and Magazine Flowers – all of which were very popular additions.
- Work with local businesses and producers to provide a variety of food and drink. Catering this year's festival were Ffwrnes Pizza, Grazing Shed, Bay 5 Coffee and Tomos & Lilford Brewery.
- Craft stalls by: Cyfarchion, Draenog, Katherine Jones, Haden Fach, Gweni, Tamaid Bach, Michael Goode, Bethan Cuddihy, Nia Clements, Cymraeg i Blant, Mudiad Meithrin and Learn Welsh the Vale.
- There were 12 volunteers assisting us on the day, and are an important point of contact in directing people towards the festival area and raising awareness of the event amongst the wider public by sharing information across the promenade.
- The event succeeded in attracting many more visitors from the Vale of Glamorgan and beyond to Barry Island for the day.
- The festival enjoyed extensive online attention and media coverage: including a live interview on S4C's Heno, a chat on Radio Wales, coverage on many Radio Cymru programmes, and articles in the local press including Buzz Magazine, Y Selar, Glamorgan GEM and The Barry & District News.

We continue to work closely with the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Events Officer, and discussions for next year's festival are already underway with the Council and other key partners. A date for your diary – Saturday June 16th!

**99% feel that Gŵyl Fach y Fro has a positive effect on the Welsh language in the Vale**

**“Fantastic to have such an event in Barry, showcasing the Welsh language, music and culture at its best”**



**99% are likely to come to Gŵyl Fach y Fro again next year**

**“It was great to see our teenage children enjoying as much as we were!”**



**“The kids things – circus skills, arts and crafts etc – were particularly good this year”**

**“Lively, friendly, inclusive, festive atmosphere”**

**“The event was fantastic in promoting the Welsh language and lots of fun”**



## HERITAGE PROJECT

During 2017, Menter Bro Morgannwg received a grant of £10,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a project named 'lolo ar Daith'; a project which delves into the life and work of one of the Vale of Glamorgan's most extraordinary historical figures, lolo Morganwg.

The project included many opportunities for adults, children and young people to experience, take part and learn more about lolo Morganwg's substantial contribution to Welsh culture and heritage in the Vale of Glamorgan and Wales.

As part of the project, we worked with the local drama company 'Mewn Cymeriad' to create a one man show about lolo Morganwg. This family-friendly show was performed for the first time in Gŵyl Fach y Fro 2017, as well as at every Welsh medium school during the Autumn term, and received a great response. As part of the writing process, Aled Richards held a scripting workshop with Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg pupils, which was a unique experience for them. The script will also be adapted into a stand-up show for adults, and will be performed as part of the Gigs Bach y Fro programme in March 2018.

The project also included a series of research groups, exhibitions and lectures. Elements of the project depend on research by members of the community, and this research group led by Dr Dylan Foster Evans worked together to collate information for exhibition boards, flyers and the People's Collection Wales website.

lolo Morganwg was an influential and intriguing character who's given us many facets to explore over the last year, and every element of the project will be completed by March 2018.



# WELSH NURSERY IN THE VALE

During 2017 we have started planning and researching into the demand for a Welsh full day nursery in Barry. This is a subject which has been discussed during our meeting with the Vale of Glamorgan Council for many years, and discussions have been pushed forward over the last year as the opportunity arose to consider including the Nursery as part of the plans for expansion and building work on the site of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg.

There is currently no Welsh-medium provision for children as young as 6 weeks old in the Vale, and with the growth in the number of children receiving Welsh-medium education, the demand for more childcare provision is increasing.

About this Nursery:

- Open Monday to Friday 7.30am - 6pm, for 52 weeks of the year
- For babies and children aged 6 weeks - 5 years old
- Capacity for 36 children
- Employment for 10 members of staff
- Training and work experience opportunities through the medium of Welsh for Childcare students
- Could offer a wrap-around service according to demand
- Will offer competitive fees in line with similar local provision (£45 - £50 a day based on 2017 prices), and will register to accept Childcare Vouchers

We have met with partners and possible stakeholders over the last few months, and have received strong support from the Headteachers, staff and Governors of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg. In July we met with Cllr John Thomas (Council Leader), Cllr Jonathan Bird (Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning), Rob Thomas (Vale Council's Managing Director), and Alun Cairns MP. These discussions were positive so the next step for us was to complete market research and needs assessment.

We are running a Consultation between December 2017 – January 2018 to gather feedback from parents, expectant parents and possible service users in the future. We want to ensure that we have responses from a wide representation of the community, and are distributing the survey through the following networks as well as Menter's usual contacts:

- Contacts and events through the Family Information Service
- Email to all Council staff
- Cymraeg i Blant groups
- Distribute through the schools as well as face-to-face conversations with parents of Meithrin classes
- Distribute information through the Vale's midwives and health visitors
- Parent craft sessions
- Distribute information through a network of local businesses
- Focus groups with Childcare students at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg and Cardiff and Vale College

A full report on the Consultation's findings will be published in February 2018.



# FINANCIAL INFORMATION - SUMMARY

## Year ended 31 March 2017

The following figures are taken from the full financial statements of Menter Bro Morgannwg for the year ended 31 March 2017, prepared by the auditors Watts Gregory LLP. The full report is available from Menter Bro Morgannwg on request.

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL 2016/17	TOTAL 2015/16
<b>INCOME</b>				
Grants and sponsorship	12,507	78,683	91,190	66,843
Fees from activities	13,468	-	13,468	19,502
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>			<b>104,508</b>	<b>86,345</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Less: Expenditure on salaries, overheads and project administration	17,658	78,683		86,451
<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>	<b>8,317</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,317</b>	<b>(106)</b>
Tax on surplus	(1,642)	-	(1,642)	-
Surplus (deficit) for the financial year	6,675	0	6,675	(106)
Brought forward	(106)	-	(106)	418
Reserves	6,569	-	6,569	312

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