

CFA02 Individual 01

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

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Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee

Cymraeg i bawb? | Cymraeg for all?

Ymateb gan: Unigolyn 01 | Evidence from: Individual 01

1. What are the main barriers that prevent wider use of the Welsh language in areas with fewer Welsh speakers, and what might help to change this?

In Blaenau Gwent we only have the 1 Welsh school so people don't see the point of the language as there aren't many children leaving school and using it. Also the comprehensive is in Pontypool so that deters people from sending their children to Welsh schools. The area needs a Welsh Comp and more Welsh primary schools with a direct route of education. I also think we need Welsh speakers in these departments so it becomes more than just a tick box exercise and becomes more of a labour of love and need for our culture. More finding needs to be put into more Welsh advertising so the language is more visible, more businesses should be supported in understanding why its important we celebrate our language whether they speak it or not. More events that become natural so that it is seen and heard daily and is a normal part of daily life. More positive messaging that contradicts the history we have with the language and culture give people ownership of it. Use messengers who have not been born into it to share their success stories and share experiences of not having Welsh speaking families. Sometimes 1st language Welsh speakers can put people off as they come across snooty.

Show people we can have fun with it that its in our DNA and belongs to us all. Education and visibility is so important.

2. What sort of spaces and opportunities might encourage greater use of, and increase confidence in, the use of the language in areas where day-to-day use of the language is limited?

More Welsh groups at all times of the day. Most are in the day when people are working. Have them in public areas and not closed away in back rooms, allow people to be proud to be heard and to answer questions. More support for businesses, free classes for them and not just council staff. More advertising of the services available to them, Helo blod etc. Most people don't even know this service exist. More music and cultural events so more staff funding for Menter Iaith for example, so they can cover bigger areas and run more events. Just needs to be more visible in every aspect.

Better pay for jobs needed Welsh language.

3. Can you share examples of successful initiatives or activities that have encouraged Welsh language use in areas where use of the language is limited?

The Eisteddfods are brilliant, also free festivals like Tafwyl and Ffilifest that are open to all. Get more community groups involved and not just make it all about schools.

4. What sort of spaces and opportunities might encourage greater use of, and increase confidence in, the use of the language in areas where day-to-day use of the language is limited?

Free lessons in libraries open to all, like a Welsh drop in centre. More Welsh books in libraries and more support for staff. Encourage discount for Welsh speakers etc

5. What impact, in your view, do cultural events such as national Eisteddfodau or Welsh language festivals have on Welsh language use, particularly in areas with fewer Welsh speakers?

These are hugely beneficial, not just for the language but for the communities also. When it came to Ebbw vale in 2011, the number of Welsh learners increased. This was a free to enter Eisteddfod so people who had no idea what it was about and had never been to one, experienced it for the 1st time. Eisteddfod's should be free to enter as stall holders pay and people pay for advertising. The prices for these are going up so this will deter people from visiting them. We want to encourage anyone to go not just the die hard welsh speakers or families of schools who have to be there.

6. How might these events (whether large or small in size) be adapted or improved to better serve communities with fewer Welsh speakers?

Free entry. Keep it all Welsh, I don't believe these should be bilingual as they get English everywhere, these events are our opportunities to shine and showcase all that our beautiful culture and language has to offer.

7. Are there any other matters you would like to draw to the Committees attention about the Welsh Government's approach to supporting the Welsh language in areas with fewer Welsh speakers?

More rules on social media. Stop them being separated so that the Welsh is no longer seen unless the small minority is on the Welsh pages. These must all be bilingual on the one page. Welsh

speakers in departments that run social media. The constant battle with English only speaking staff is exhausting. The pandering to people complaining then giving in to them. It needs to be ignored and seen every day. It needs to be celebrated and not seen as an inconvenience as it is now.
