

CFA14 Individual 07

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Cyfathrebu, y Gymraeg, Chwaraeon, a Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol |
Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee

Cymraeg i bawb? | Cymraeg for all?

Ymateb gan: Unigolyn 07 | Evidence from: Individual 07

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?

There are few Welsh speakers in the village where I live. Events are organised by the Menter Iaith in Flintshire or Wrexham city centre, but there is scant provision in rural areas.

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?

Perhaps libraries could be used as venues for social events; for example, coffee mornings, afternoon teas, evening wine tastings, occasional guest speakers. We have to travel to Saith Seren in Wrexham or the 'Stiwt in Rhos if we want to see Welsh language performances. How about using concert halls or other community venues?

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?

Saith Seren appears to be successful and has helped to develop opportunities for people to socialise through the medium of Welsh, but not everyone wants to go to a pub. A centre for learning Welsh has helped to increase the number of learners in the county.

4. How could technology and digital offers help to use the use of the Welsh language, to identify those who use the language infrequently or lack confidence?

It is very important that the Senedd and councils encourage children receiving Welsh-medium education to use the language outside school. Creating additional opportunities for families to socialise through the medium of Welsh would help them to enjoy the language and take pride in it.

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?

It is clear that the Eisteddfod has an impact in areas with fewer fluent speakers and that it helps to persuade people to start learning the language. It may be a good idea if every school were supported to compete in the Urdd Eisteddfod, for example—every school, not just Welsh-medium schools.

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

It is important that information is available bilingually and that events are publicised well ahead of time. Every child should be invited to the Urdd Eisteddfod free of charge. Families would spend money on their own tickets and on the Maes. If someone lived in France or Spain, they would have to learn the language, but the same is not true of Wales. People who have come here from abroad—for example, from Ukraine—are learning Welsh, but people who were born here are not. We must appeal to young people and share the benefits of speaking the language.

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

The possibility of allocating additional funds to schools that promote the language should be explored.
