

# WELSH GOVERNMENT INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

## WELSH LANGUAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

<b>Title of proposal:</b>	<b>ESOL Policy for Wales</b>
<b>Official(s) completing the Integrated Impact Assessment (name(s) and name of team):</b>	<b>Helen Scaife</b>
<b>Department:</b>	<b>SHELL</b>
<b>Head of Division/SRO (name):</b>	<b>Andrew Clark</b>
<b>Cabinet Secretary/Minister responsible:</b>	<b>Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning</b>
<b>Start Date:</b>	<b>November 2018</b>

## A. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

1. **Welsh Language Impact Assessment reference number (completed by the Welsh Language Standards Team, email: [Safonau.Standards@gov.wales](mailto:Safonau.Standards@gov.wales)):**

Clearance Code: 02/08/2018

2. **Does the proposal demonstrate a clear link with the Welsh Government's strategy for the Welsh language? – *Cymraeg 2050 A million Welsh speakers* and the related Work Programme for 2017-2021?**

The policy highlights the importance of the Welsh Language and how being a bilingual society provides a richness that improves the learning experience. Providers are encouraged to integrate the Welsh language into their ESOL classes where possible. Recognising and understanding that there are two languages in use in Wales is very important, but can be difficult when the Latin alphabet itself is 'alien'. Welsh place names and signs offer an additional challenge and complexity to language learning. Providers are conscious of this and help learners to understand the differences, and integrate the Welsh language into their lessons.

The policy includes case studies of learners who have learnt Welsh, and reference to the pilot studies currently being run by the National Centre for Learning Welsh who are aware of the necessity to address the needs of ethnic minorities, refugees, asylum seekers and migrants to access suitable provision to learn Welsh, and are looking at different options to help make the language accessible to as many people as possible.

More generally, ESOL learners are encouraged to learn Welsh through the Welsh for Adults provision funded by the Welsh Government.

3. **Describe and explain the impact of the proposal on the Welsh language, and explain how you will address these impacts in order to improve outcomes for the Welsh language:**

The learners who are the focus of this policy are migrants, refugees and asylum seekers who have settled in Wales – the majority of whom may not have chosen to live in Wales, but have been placed in one of the UK Dispersal Centres by the Home Office.

In determining the needs of these learners, the Welsh Government and providers have been conscious to determine the most important requirements to enable individuals to integrate effectively. The vast majority of individuals are settled in Cardiff and Swansea.

As part of the Vulnerable People's Resettlement Schemes (VPRS), which is a UK led initiative and funded through the Home Office, local authorities across Wales have agreed to settle families. This has meant that there are now greater incidences of families being settled in communities that are predominantly Welsh speaking. Local authorities are responsible for ensuring that settled people have access to the language provision needed for them to integrate effectively. Local authorities can use their allocated ESOL funding from the Home Office to support settled people to learn Welsh, as well as, but not instead of, English.

Funding for ESOL is part of mainstream funding for post-16 education. It does not impact on the amount of funding allocated to supporting welsh language provision.

There are no direct adverse impacts caused by the ESOL Policy.

There is an issue within some sectors on the perceived inequity in the fact that the Welsh Government funds free English lessons through its ESOL provision, but the current Welsh for Adults provision incurs fees. The policy regulating the provision of welsh language lessons is not within the remit of ESOL policy.

The fees policy for Welsh for Adults sits with the National Centre for Learning Welsh who are currently considering their policy with regard to refugees and asylum seekers.