

Welsh Language Impact Assessment

Title: Revised Child Poverty Strategy for Wales	WLIA Reference No 14/09/3
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Date:	22 October 2014
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Programme/Project Type	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Project or programme
<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Grant	<input type="checkbox"/> Research, evaluation
<input type="checkbox"/> Business change	
<input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/> Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Construction, Capital	
<input type="checkbox"/> ICT	<input type="checkbox"/> Contracts, tenders
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify below)	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>The Revised Child Poverty Strategy for Wales is an overarching policy statement, setting out the Welsh Government's approach to tackling child poverty. The Revised Child Poverty Strategy links with the Welsh Government's Tackling Poverty Action Plan, which sets out key policies and programmes being taken</p> </div>	

forward to deliver the intended outcomes of the strategy itself.

Costs: How much is the projected whole life cost for the programme/project?

If below £25k, then a full WLIA is not always required (see guidance).

Under £25k	£25k - £49k	£50 - £249K	£250K - £1m	Over £1m
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Of the above, please provide details if there are any identified costs directly associated with the Welsh language?

The Revised Child Poverty Strategy for Wales is underpinned by a range of different policies and programmes that are making a contribution to tackling poverty and improving the outcomes of low income households. Individual programmes may have identified costs associated with the Welsh language and these will have completed their own Welsh Language Impact Assessments, and so this information is not included here.

How long is the programme/project expected to run?

Up to 1 yr	Up to 2yrs	Up to 5yrs	Up to 10yrs	More than 10 yrs	Unknown
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Key milestone dates for the programme / project:

The Revised Child Poverty Strategy for Wales reaffirms the Welsh Government's ambition to eradicate child poverty by 2020. It is linked to the Welsh Government's Tackling Poverty Action Plan – which sets out a number of key milestones and targets for improving the outcomes of those living in poverty.

- To offer 5,000 opportunities to people in workless households by the end of 2017 (through the LIFT Programme).
- To reduce the number of young people who are not in employment, education or training aged 16-18 to 9 per cent by 2017.
- To reduce the proportion of young people who are not in employment, education or training aged 19-24 in Wales relative to the UK as a whole by 2017.
- To invest at least 20 percent of our 2014-2020 European Social Fund

programmes in tackling poverty and social inclusion through helping people to find and maintain sustainable employment.

- By 2016, increase the proportion of 3-year-olds receiving Flying Start services that have achieved or exceeded their developmental milestones by 5 percentage points.
- To narrow the gap in attainment levels between learners aged 7 eligible for free school meals and those that are not eligible for free school meals (FSM), who achieve the expected levels at the end of the Foundation Phase, by 10 per cent by 2017.
- To improve the overall attainment levels of students eligible for free school meals, measured as the proportion of learners eligible for FSM at age 15 who achieve Level 2 inclusive at Key Stage 4 (GCSE grade C or above in English or Welsh and Mathematics or equivalent), to 37 per cent by 2017.
- To reduce the proportion of babies born under 2500g in the most deprived fifth of the population by 19 per cent by 2020.
- To improve the dental health of 5 and 12 year olds in the most deprived fifth of the population to that found in the middle fifth by 2020.
- To achieve 10,000 affordable homes by 2016.
- To increase the number of empty houses brought back into use by 5,000 by 2016.
- To improve and maintain the quality of 221,000 existing social homes by 2020.
- To support Credit Unions and increase Credit Union members to 143,000 by 2020.
- To generate £8million in additional benefits for individuals per year through advice services.
- To increase digital inclusion levels in Wales to 82% by 2015 and 87% by 2017.

The Tackling Poverty Implementation Board (chaired by the Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty) oversees delivery of the Tackling Poverty Action Plan – and the policies and programmes that contribute towards delivering these population outcomes and associated milestones and targets.

STAGE 1: PLANNING

What are the aims and objectives of the policy?

What are the desired outcomes/ what constitutes ‘success’?

The Child Poverty Strategy is a strategy for the whole of Wales – including those households with Welsh speakers (children and / or parents). We know from evidence that there are concentrations of Welsh speakers living in certain areas of high deprivation – and it is important that the policies, programmes and projects underpinning the Child Poverty Strategy are available and delivered through the medium of Welsh, where there is need / preference.

The Revised Child Poverty Strategy will be issued for consultation on 06 November 2014. It is an update to the statutory Child Poverty Strategy that was published in 2011 by Welsh Ministers – in accordance with the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010. The Revised Strategy sets the strategic direction for the Welsh Government’s approach to tackling child poverty in Wales. The Strategy is closely linked to the Welsh Government’s Tackling Poverty Action Plan. The Action Plan will remain the key delivery mechanism for taking forward specific policies and programmes for tackling child poverty and improving the outcomes of children, families and parents living in low income households.

The Child Poverty Strategy includes three strategic objectives for tackling child poverty in Wales. These objectives are: reducing the number of children living in workless households; increasing the skills of parents and young people to enable them to secure well paid employment; and reducing the inequalities that currently exist in the health, education and economic outcomes of children, young people and families living in poverty. These three strategic objectives / outcomes are based on what the evidence tells us about where we can have most impact and maximise the levers available to the Welsh Government.

The key population indicator being used to measure child poverty is the percentage of children living in relative income poverty (defined as 60% of the median income) After Housing Costs.

What policy options have been considered?

and

What impacts will there be if the policy is *not* implemented?

The intended beneficiaries of this Revised Strategy are children, young people and families living in low income households. The strategy will specifically affect children and young people living in poverty. It aims to tackle income poverty – and ensure that parents earn enough to ensure that their children are not living in a low income household. Crucially, it also aims to improve the educational and health outcomes of children and young people living in poverty, so that they are less likely to live in a low income household in the future.

Child poverty remains stubbornly high. The most recent Households Below Average

Income (HBAI) data show us that for the three year period 2010/11 to 2012/13, an estimated 31 per cent of children in Wales were living in relative poverty (After Housing Costs). The equivalent figure for England is 28 per cent, Scotland 21 per cent and Northern Ireland 24 per cent. The Progress Report on Child Poverty published by the Welsh Government in November 2013 highlights that although we are taking important steps to improve outcomes in some areas, significant challenges remain.

Within the Revised Strategy, we specifically state that improving the outcomes of children and young people needs to be at heart of all Welsh Government policies and programmes. We know that children growing up and living in low income households are much more at risk of having poorer health outcomes, are less likely to reach cognitive and developmental milestones in the early years, have poorer educational attainment, are more likely to be not in education, employment or training (NEET) between the age of 16 and 24, and more likely to be unemployed and living in poverty as an adult. This strategy sets out how the Welsh Government will address these issues – by taking forward policies and programmes across all Government Departments.

Does the programme demonstrate a clear link with the Welsh Government's strategy for the Welsh language - laith fyw: laith byw?

There are links with the Welsh Government's strategy for the Welsh language, as the Revised Strategy will look to improve outcomes – particularly in relation to skills, in order for parents to secure well paid employment. The strategy is also focussed on improving the educational attainment of pupils (including those attending Welsh medium schools) who are eligible for Free School Meals.

What are the impacts/ effects (both positive and/or adverse) on the Welsh language you have identified at the initial planning stage

i.e. Welsh speakers, Welsh language communities, Welsh medium education, Welsh learners, services available in Welsh?

This is the Child Poverty Strategy for the whole of Wales and therefore it sets out the Welsh Government's approach for tackling child poverty – which includes Welsh language households.

There are specific policies, programmes and services underpinning the Child Poverty Strategy that are delivered bilingually. Our three main tackling poverty programmes (Communities First, Families First and Flying Start) operate in high areas of multiple deprivation, some of which have concentrations of Welsh speakers. The services delivered through these programmes are available through the English and Welsh language.

The provision of advice services to ensure people have access to income

maximisation schemes and debt advice also forms part of the Revised Child Poverty Strategy. A review of advice services was recently undertaken and the availability of services through the medium of Welsh was found to be sufficient within these services. The Communities 2.0 digital inclusion programme supports people to improve their lives through the use of digital technologies. Activities are delivered through the medium of Welsh as required and all marketing materials and resources are available bilingually. .

In addition, the Welsh Government is committed to working with a range of external stakeholders to deliver policies and programmes to tackle poverty for Welsh speaking groups. The Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2011 places a duty on Welsh public bodies to develop their own strategies for tackling child poverty. Organisations such as National Museum Wales and the Arts Council for Wales are already supporting families living in areas of high deprivation to access projects that are being delivered through the medium of Welsh. These projects are working collaboratively with the Welsh Government's key tackling poverty programmes: Communities First, Flying Start and Families First.

Action to reduce health and educational inequalities is central to the poverty agenda. It is important that health services in Welsh are accessible. The *Together for Mental Health* Strategy has a key outcome to ensure that Welsh speakers receive services through the medium of Welsh when needed and to increase language capacity in the workforce. The Revised Child Poverty Strategy also refers to *Rewriting the future: raising ambition and attainment in Welsh schools*. This sets out the Welsh Government's approach to improving the educational outcomes of pupils eligible for Free School Meals, and outlines key developments to be taken forward to break the link between poverty and educational attainment in both English and Welsh medium schools. Improving the educational outcomes of pupils eligible for Free School Meals will contribute to reducing the number of people living in poverty in the longer term. This is because there is strong evidence to suggest that educational attainment is a key predictor of economic and employment outcomes in adulthood. Improving economic outcomes will also potentially contribute to improving the overall wellbeing of people in Wales, which may then have a positive impact on the Welsh language.

The provision of high quality and affordable childcare is critical to being able to deliver on the strategic objective around reducing worklessness. High-quality early education and childcare makes a difference to children's outcomes, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds. In July 2013, the Welsh Government launched *Building a Brighter Future: The Early Years and Childcare Plan*. This brings programmes and policies together in a more joined-up and coordinated way to support children and their families across the early years. Specifically, the Plan sets out an agreed course of objectives to improve our early years and childcare provision over the next 10 years. The main themes in the Plan are children's health and well-being; supporting families and parents; high-quality early education and childcare; effective primary education; and raising standards. The availability of affordable and high quality

childcare through the medium of Welsh will be important for Welsh speaking families.

Improving skills is central to our aim of reducing the number of families living in in-work poverty, and it is important that training and opportunities to improve skills are also available through the medium of Welsh. Improving skills, including Welsh language skills, will contribute to improved employment opportunities.

Who are the stakeholders? Are the needs of Welsh speakers and learners addressed? To what extent are Welsh language interest groups likely to respond positively to the proposals?

Consulting, listening and acting on the views of children and young people is essential and this revised Child Poverty Strategy includes a commitment to involve the participation of young people in the ongoing development of our Tackling Poverty Action Plan. This will include children and young people from Welsh speaking households.

Other relevant stakeholders include:

End Child Poverty Network.

Tackling Poverty External Advisory Group.

Local Authority Tackling Poverty Champions.

Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin

Twf

Third Sector Organisations

Where an assessment was not completed, or no impacts were identified, please provide a full account for record keeping purposes?

N/A.

What actions/ further work has been identified at the initial planning stage?

A Communications Plan for the consultation period on the draft Revised Child Poverty Strategy is currently being developed. The Tackling Poverty Division will work with the Welsh Language Unit to identify Welsh Language stakeholders – who will then be notified of the consultation.

The Revised Child Poverty Strategy sets out a number of key population indicators for measuring the impact of the Revised Child Poverty Strategy for Wales. This includes indicators on the number of children living in workless households / skills / health inequalities / educational attainment / number of young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) aged 16-24. These are also the key population indicators that underpin our Tackling Poverty Action Plan for Wales. The Welsh Government will report on these indicators as part of the Annual Report on the Tackling Poverty Action Plan.

STAGE 2: IDENTIFYING AND ASSESSING IMPACTS

Impact Assessment Summary

Summarise the detailed impact assessment carried out together with the scores assigned.

Positive effects/ impacts:

The Revised Child Poverty Strategy for Wales could potentially have a positive impact on the Welsh language.

- One of the key objectives for tackling child poverty in Wales is to improve the skills of parents/carers and young people living in low-income households so they can secure well-paid employment.
- There is also research to suggest that the ability to speak Welsh can help with employment prospects and increased earnings.
- The consultation period will be used to identify Welsh language impacts.

Adverse effects/ impacts:

There are no adverse impacts anticipated at this stage. However, the consultation period will be used to further explore and gather evidence on the impacts of the Revised Child Poverty Strategy on the Welsh language.

Opportunities to promote the Welsh language e.g. status, use of Welsh language services, use of Welsh in everyday life, Welsh at work increased?

Opportunities to promote the Welsh Language will be explored during the consultation period.

Evidence/ data used including demographic profile when considering the effects/ impacts:

The Revised Child Poverty Strategy will include 10 key Child Poverty Population Indicators. These will be used to report on the progress of child poverty in Wales. It may be possible to analyse these data to show outcomes for children and families who speak Welsh. For example, one of the indicators being used to measure progress against the three strategic objectives of the Revised Child Poverty Strategy is the *percentage of pupils eligible for Free School Meals who achieve the level 2 threshold*. This indicator will include data from Welsh and English medium schools.

What is the overall anticipated likely impact on the Welsh language if this policy is taken forward based on the impact assessment/ risk assessment?

Positive: X
 Adverse:
 Neutral:
 Unknown:

Decision following IA

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. No major change | X |
| 2. Adjust the policy to improve impacts | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Continue the policy with mitigation measures | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Stop and remove the policy | <input type="checkbox"/> |

If answered 2,3, or 4 above – then answer the following:

How will you address these impacts in order to improve the outcomes for the Welsh language? Details of mitigation measures/ action points/ alternative options to reduce adverse impacts and increase positive outcomes:

Not applicable.

If engaging or consulting, what are your plans? What questions do you wish to ask stakeholders about the Welsh Language Impact Assessment and Welsh language related issues?

The Welsh Government is publishing the Revised Child Poverty Strategy for a 12 week consultation period (06 November 2014 to 29 January 2015). As part of the consultation period, the Tackling Poverty Division will be holding Regional Tackling Poverty Events with Local Authority Anti-Poverty Champions and other stakeholders. During these events, there will be a workshop focussing specifically on the Revised Strategy. The Tackling Poverty Division will also be consulting with members of the Welsh Government's Tackling Poverty External Advisory Group (TPEAG), members of the End Child Poverty Network and Welsh language groups.

Those wishing to respond to the consultation can complete on-line consultation form, which can be access via the following link:

English: <http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/people-and-communities/revised-child-poverty-strategy/?lang=en>

Welsh: <http://cymraeg.gov.uk/consultations/people-and-communities/revised-child-poverty-strategy/?lang=cy>

STAGE 3: POST CONSULTATION AND PREPARING FOR PUBLICATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Following consultation, what changes have you made to address any Welsh language issues that were raised?

To be completed in light of consultation responses.

How will you monitor the ongoing effects during the implementation of the policy?

To be completed in light of consultation responses.

Please outline how you will continue to capture effects/ impacts in future monitoring and evaluation?

To be completed in light of consultation responses.

Any other comments – ongoing results of evaluations, emerging impacts

To be completed in light of consultation responses.

TO BE COMPLETED FOLLOWING THE CONSULTATION:

4. Declaration

Policy lead:
<i>*Please delete as appropriate:</i>
The policy does not *does / does not have an impact upon the Welsh language. Where there were identified adverse impacts or missed opportunities, the appropriate amendments and actions have been put in place.
Name:
Department:
Date (s):
Signature:
Planned Review Dates:

SRO ENDORSEMENT and REVIEW

I am satisfied that the WLIA is an accurate reflection of the programme/project at this stage of development. By signing, I am able to confirm that the Welsh Language Standards have been given the appropriate attention. I will re-assess the programme/project at key stages throughout the life of the programme/project, including policy reviews.

Signed (Senior Responsible Owner)	Date

Signed (Senior Responsible Owner)	Review Date
Signed (Senior Responsible Owner)	Review Date
Signed (Senior Responsible Owner)	Review Date