

## Report on Welsh Language Training in 2013 (May 2014)

### Welsh Language Training for Gwynedd Council Staff January – December 2013

	January/ July 2013	August/ December 2013	
Total Learners – all standards	<b>50</b>	<b>47</b>	
<b><u>Departments</u></b>		<b><u>Departments</u></b>	
Education	<b>4</b>	Education	<b>2</b>
Trunk Road Agency	<b>4</b>	Trunk Road Agency	<b>6</b>
Finance	<b>1</b>	Finance	<b>1</b>
Provider and Leisure	<b>16</b>	Social Services	<b>27</b>
Economy and Community	<b>0</b>	/Housing/Provider and Leisure	
Social Services	<b>10</b>	Economy and	<b>0</b>
Regulatory	<b>4</b>	Community	
Strategic and Improvement	<b>2</b>	Regulatory	<b>4</b>
Consultancy	<b>9</b>	Strategic and Improvement	<b>1</b>
		Consultancy	<b>6</b>
<b><u>Course Providers:</u></b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal Tutor: 2 classes in Caernarfon throughout the year</li> <li>• Bangor University</li> <li>• Aberystwyth University</li> <li>• Llandrillo-Menai Group (Coleg Meirion Dwyfor/Coleg Menai)</li> <li>• Nant Gwrtheyrn</li> </ul>			
<b><u>Intensive External Courses (i.e. 3-5 days):</u></b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nant Gwrtheyrn</li> <li>• Dolgellau January School (Aberystwyth Uni.)</li> <li>• Bangor and Mold New Year School (Bangor Uni.)</li> <li>• Dolgellau Easter School (PA)</li> <li>• Bangor/Pwllheli/Mold Summer School (BU)</li> <li>• Dolgellau Summer School</li> </ul>			<b>7</b> <b>3</b> <b>3</b> <b>1</b> <b>2</b> <b>2</b>
<b><u>Welsh in the Workplace Course – 3 days – all language levels</u></b>			
<i>In collaboration with Anglesey, Conwy, Flint Councils, North Wales Police, Fire Service, Countryside Council for</i>			<b>10</b>

<p><b>Wales</b>  <b>10 – 12 September 2013</b></p> <p><b><u>Language Improvement</u></b>  <b><u>Courses up to 20 hours over a period of weeks</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Total:</u></b>  Coleg Menai Bangor/Coleg Llandrillo Dolgellau</p> <p><b><u>Half-day Internal Workshops:</u></b>  'Mutation'  Verb Tenses  Common Errors</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>11</b></p>
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### **Monitoring Progress 2013**

Progress monitoring forms were sent to tutors and line managers in July and December to note the improvement of staff in the Welsh language and any relevant comments regarding the learning process. The following boxes were available to be ticked:

- *No measurable improvement*
- *A little*
- *A lot*

These options were listed against Listening and Speaking, Reading and Writing. If no comments were provided by the line manager, the tutor's comments were taken as evidence.

Here are the percentages – from the evidence received:

	A lot	A little	No measurable improvement
July 2013	48%	38%	14%
December 2013	46%	46%	8%

### **Observations:**

#### **Staff turnover**

The number of staff who attend language training changes constantly as new staff arrive and others leave for various reasons.

This is the position during 2013:

**No. withdrawn from the list** - 14

#### **Reasons:**

Attained the aim - 2

Left the Council - 6

Unable to find a suitable class - 4

### WJEC Language Levels – December 2013

#### Percentage of staff attending lessons according to language levels

**Entry:** Entry Course 1 and 2 , or first half of Wlpan Course

**Foundation:** Foundation Course or second half of Wlpan Course

**Intermediate:** Intermediate or Higher Course – equivalent to GCSE standard

**Higher:** Higher Course (1) Mastering Course (2)

Access	Foundation	Intermediate	Higher
27%	23%	20%	30%

### Dafydd Orwig Memorial Prize 2013/14

Two were awarded this year – both came from amongst the 'Beginners':

- The first prize was awarded to **Caroline Jackson** from Blaenau Ffestiniog Leisure Centre.
- The second prize was awarded to **Tracey Linton**, Care Assistant in Frondeg residential home, Caernarfon.

### The new Language Framework – an update

No move has been made to officially adopt the new language framework thus far.

### WJEC Language Level Indicators

This tool is a good way of assessing the language levels of staff - be that learners or confident Welsh speakers.

The Language Indicators are based on acknowledged steps for learning Welsh for Adults – namely:

- Access
- Foundation
- Intermediate
- Higher
- Proficiency

At the beginning of 2013 Gwynedd Council took part in a pilot scheme to see how this would work. It enables individuals to undertake a test on their computers in Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking. 47 have participated in them thus far.

More than one manager has recently made enquiries in order to use it to assess the language level of their staff, including fluent staff in order to assess the level of their written language.