

Talk with Me Phase 2: Speech, Language and Communication (SLC) Delivery Plan 2026-2030

Consultation response form

Your name: Welsh Language Commissioner

Organisation (if applicable): Welsh Language Commissioner

email/telephone number: post@cyg-wlc.cymru

Your address (if responding by post):

Responses should be returned by 30/04/2026 to:

Talk with Me
Early Years, Childcare and Play Division
Primary Care, Mental Health and Early Years Directorate
Health, Social Care and Early Years Group
Welsh Government
Rhydycar Business Park
Merthyr Tydfil
CF48 1UZ

or completed electronically and sent to:

email: talkwithme@gov.wales

Question 1:

Do you agree with the statement - the name Talk with Me Phase 2 is helpful and relevant to cover the extension of this work to children aged 5 to 11.
If not, can you suggest an alternative?

(Insert an x under the relevant heading.)

Strongly Agree	Agree		Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know/ no opinion
			x			

Additional comments, please include suggested name changes here:

Question 2: Do you agree that the suggested approach to raising awareness of the importance of speech, language and communication (SLC) (objective 1) will help facilitate better SLC outcomes for babies and children?

(Insert an x under the relevant heading.)

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know/ no opinion
		x			

Additional comments:

We agree with the new activity proposed under **Objective 1** to undertake a national, bilingual publicity campaign to raise awareness of patterns of typical development and strategies to promote speech, language and communication in children aged 5 to 11. It is important to ensure that a campaign of this type contains positive messages about the Welsh language and how to promote speech, language and communication in the Welsh language. It should also raise awareness of the typical development of children from various linguistic backgrounds, including children who speak Welsh as a first language and bilingual and multilingual children.

Question 3: Do you agree that the suggested approach to improving the identification of speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) (objective 2) will help facilitate better SLC outcomes for babies and children?

(Insert an x under the relevant heading.)

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know/ no opinion
		x			

Additional comments:

Under **Objective 2** we agree with the new activity proposed to commission, if necessary, an independent review of evidence based identification tools for children aged 5 and older in Welsh and English. It is important to ensure that a review of this type considers thoroughly the possible differences between the needs of children from backgrounds where Welsh is the language of the home, where Welsh is one of the languages of the home, and where Welsh is a language learned only through the education system. We also agree with the intention to continue the development of the bilingual early years surveillance and intervention package, that is Prosiect Penguin, and to evaluate it.

Question 4: Do you agree that the suggested approach to improving support for those with SLCN (objective 3) will help facilitate better SLC outcomes for babies and children?

(Insert an x under the relevant heading.)

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know/ no opinion
		x			

Additional comments:

We support the change to **Objective 3** to ensure that the workforce supporting babies and children are informed and equipped to provide speech, language and communication interventions. We emphasize the importance of the Welsh language skills of the workforce to ensure that babies and children are supported effectively with the Welsh language. We agree with the new activity proposed to carry out a review of evidence based speech, language and communication interventions for children aged 5 and older in Welsh and English, and to scope the provision of evidence based speech, language and communication support for school aged children in Wales. It is essential to analyse the Welsh-medium interventions and provision offered as part of this activity.

Question 5: Do you agree that the proposed actions to upskill the workforce to address SLCN (objective 4) will result in better identification of, and support for SLCN?

(Insert an x under the relevant heading.)

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know/ no opinion
		x			

Additional comments:

Under **Objective 4** we agree with the new activity proposed to explore opportunities to incorporate speech, language and communication into pre-registration training content including Health Visitors, Initial Teacher Education and Social Workers, and to scope gaps in training resources for different sectors. We support the intention to continue with existing commitments under 'Talk with me', including updating the early years speech, language and communication training framework, publishing the school age speech, language and communication training framework and evaluating its uptake and impact, and continuing to roll out and evaluate speech, language and communication training for Health Visitors. In each of these contexts, the Welsh language should be a core consideration of the main aim of the objective to upskill the workforce.

Question 6: Do you agree that the suggested approach to embedding preventative SLC support across Wales (objective 5) will help facilitate better SLC outcomes for babies and children?

(Insert an x under the relevant heading.)

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know/ no opinion
		x			

Additional comments:

We welcome the emphasis in **Objective 5** on ensuring that support for speech, language and communication is available across Wales. As part of this, it should be ensured that full and consistent Welsh language provision is available in all areas. We agree with the new activity proposed to maintain strong links with colleagues working in Additional Learning Needs (ALN) in order to consider training needs for the ALN workforce. The Welsh language should be an important consideration in this context due to the shortcomings in Welsh-medium ALN provision which is a cause for concern throughout Wales, [noted](#) by the Welsh Language Commissioner and the Children's Commissioner for Wales.

Question 7: Other than the 5 objectives currently suggested in the consultation document, are there any others we should include? Please provide suggestions in the comments box below.

(Insert an x under the relevant heading.)

Yes	No	Don't know/ no opinion

Additional comments:

Question 8: Other than the proposed actions contained in the consultation document, are there any others we should include? Please provide suggestions in the comments box below.

(Insert an x under the relevant heading.)

Yes	No	Don't know/ no opinion
x		

Additional comments:

We believe that the proposed actions should be strengthened to have a positive impact on opportunities to use the Welsh language, as discussed in our answers to Questions 2 to 6 above.

Briefly, the actions should include the following elements:

- ensuring that positive messages are issued about the Welsh language and the importance of speech, language and communication in the Welsh language
- promoting understanding of the typical development of children from various linguistic backgrounds
- including the Welsh language as a core element of any review or evaluation of identification tools, provision or support resources
- making the Welsh language a key consideration when providing training to the extensive workforce involved in this field
- encouraging and supporting the workforce continuously to develop and use their Welsh language skills to support babies' and children's speech, language and communication
- ensuring that full and consistent Welsh language provision is part of the support for speech, language and communication in all areas in Wales.

Question 9 – What, in your opinion, would be the likely effects of the proposed objectives in the consultation document, to further promote and support SLC development throughout Wales, on the Welsh language? We are particularly interested in any likely effects on opportunities to use the Welsh language and on not treating the Welsh language less favourably than English.

Do you think that there are opportunities to promote any positive effects?

Do you think that there are opportunities to mitigate any adverse effects?

Supporting comments:

We believe that the proposed objectives could have a positive impact on opportunities to use the Welsh language. To ensure that, the objectives should be strengthened in the context of the Welsh language, as discussed in our answers to Questions 2 to 6 above.

Briefly, the delivery plan for 2026 to 2030 should include the following elements:

- ensuring that positive messages are issued about the Welsh language and the importance of speech, language and communication in the Welsh language
- promoting understanding of the typical development of children from various linguistic backgrounds
- including the Welsh language as a core element of any review or evaluation of identification tools, provision or support resources
- making the Welsh language a key consideration when providing training to the extensive workforce involved in this field
- encouraging and supporting the workforce continuously to develop and use their Welsh language skills to support babies' and children's speech, language and communication
- ensuring that full and consistent Welsh language provision is part of the support for speech, language and communication in all areas in Wales.

Question 10 – In your opinion, could the proposed objectives in the consultation document, to further promote and support SLC development throughout Wales, be formulated or changed so as to:

- have positive effects or more positive effects on using the Welsh language and on not treating the Welsh language less favourably than English; or
- mitigate any negative effects on using the Welsh language and on not treating the Welsh language less favourably than English?

Supporting comments:

We believe that the proposed objectives could be strengthened to have a more positive impact on opportunities to use the Welsh language, by accepting the advice in our answers to Questions 2 to 6 and 9 above.

Question 11 – In your opinion, could the proposed objectives in the consultation document be formulated or changed so as to promote positive effects, or reduce any negative effects, on children’s rights? Please provide suggestions in the comments box below.

Question 12 - We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:

Anonymity

Responses to the consultation may be published. Your response will be anonymous. However, if you would like your name to be published alongside your response, please insert an x in the box.

I agree to my name being published alongside my response to this consultation.	X
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