

HITZARGIAK – Languages illuminating each other

Bocsŵn

GENERAL INFORMATION

DATE: 2016-03-21

1	Name	Menter Môn
2	Language	Welsh
3	Working area (education, communication, teaching, leisure, administration...)	Teaching, leisure
4	Email and phone number for contact	Helen Thomas – Lead Language Officer helen@mentermon.com // 01248 725700
5	Social networks (Webpage, Facebook, Twitter...)	Website: http://www.mentermon.com/index.php Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/mentermon/ Twitter: https://twitter.com/mentermon

DESCRIPTION OF GOOD PRACTICE

1	Description of the practices	Bocsŵn
2	Brief description of the practices	<p>We aim to promote the Welsh language in our project and many of the young people we work with speak Welsh as their second language. Using music and composition activities is a fantastic way to inspire young people to make better use of their Welsh language skills.</p> <p>Therefore, Bocsŵn provide unique opportunities for children and young people to work with experienced musicians who encourage and inspire them, teaching new skills in playing instruments, composing music and recording work in our studio. We use music as a tool for expression, as type of therapy and to encourage personal development.</p> <p>Children and young people between 9 and 18 years old can take part in composing and music making sessions. They can come by themselves or with a group of friends. Tutors will even help you to put together words for your song, compose the music, help you and teach you how to play new instruments. The sessions are held either at the state of the art Bocsŵn Studio in Llangefni or we can come to a community centre.</p>
3	Precedents (reasons, needs...)	There is no other project like Bocsŵn on Anglesey. It provides musical and creative experiences for young people, some who would never have the opportunity to create music outside the project. All our activities are free and provide a valuable outlet for young people who in many cases cannot afford instruments or music lessons



4	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current project is Coordinated by Huw Owen alongside tutor Richard Owen • Our aim is to provide musical activities for young people between the age of 5 and 18 • To give new experiences whilst being creative using the Welsh language
5	Main and close working areas	<p>Language is our working area, and we have developed many projects which enable every member of our community to enjoy opportunities in Welsh.</p> <p>We work within the 4 main strategic priorities as identified in the Welsh Government's Language Strategy – The Family; Young People; The Community; The Workplace.</p> <p>We help encourage language transition within the family through various structured projects and workshops; provide social opportunities for children and young people to socialize naturally through the medium of Welsh; hold events and activities in our local communities to enable everyone to enjoy and embrace the Welsh language and help support workplaces and businesses to increase their use of Welsh as an USP and for the benefit of the local economy.</p>
6	Collaborating entities and their working areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urdd – Welsh Language Youth Organization • TWF – Introducing Welsh to babies from day 1 • Cymraeg i Oedolion – Welsh for Adults lessons • Ffermwyr Ifanc – Young Farmers Society
7	Implementation period	Since 2005

FILE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT BEST PRACTICES

8	Expansion (number of influenced people, internal and external expansion...)	<p>In the first 9 months of a 3 year project over 170 young people have taken part in our projects, with many more involved in larger less formal sessions. Also the project has grown in stature with an online presence showcasing the young people's work.</p> <p>Some have gone on to form bands and are now performing live and organising their own events.</p> <p>Popularity of the sessions / workshops we organise has grown greatly, with sessions and spaces taken up as soon as they become available and us having to create waiting lists of young people wanting to take part in the project.</p> <p>In the coming months we aim to increase the number of young people we work with and reach out further afield to more rural communities.</p>
9	Investment (economic, time, people...)	<p>Investing time in young people is what makes our project work. We work with people from the age of 5 to 18 and from all backgrounds. We aim to give the best experience possible and help them gain new skills which will be of benefit to them in life, in education and in work.</p>

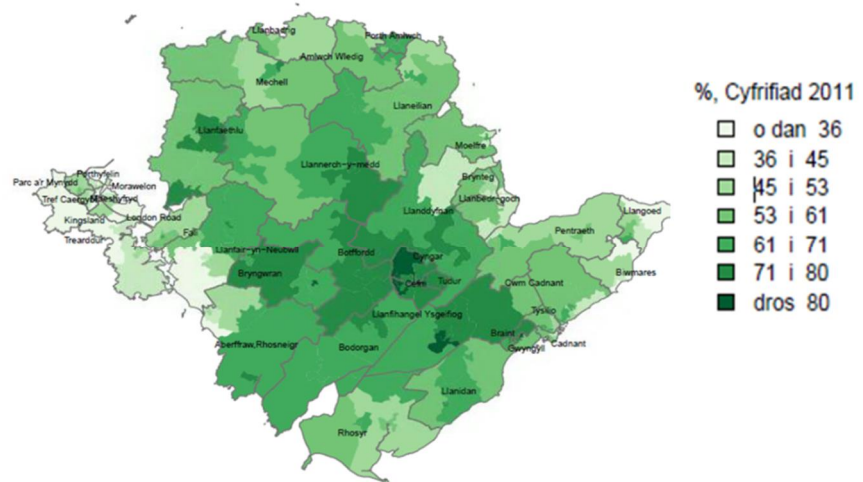
	<p>We provide all the equipment needed throughout the projects. Everything from live band instruments to music tech. This means that there is no pressure on the young people to supply or own any musical equipment in order to take part in our music workshops. This is vital and gives everyone the opportunity to take part in our projects.</p> <p>Many of our workshops are held at our recording studio, Stiwdio 12, which further excels the participant experience.</p>
<p>10 Results</p>	<p>Before and after every project we assess the young people's use of Welsh. Results show an increase in their use of the language both socially and in an educational environment</p>
<p>11 Documentation, reference material</p>	<p>https://soundcloud.com/bocswn http://www.mentermon.com/bocswn.htm</p>
<p>12 Other relevant information</p>	<p>Menter Môn was established in 1995 with the main objective of maximizing the various resources we have here on Anglesey. Menter Iaith Môn was established two years later as part of Menter Môn following a successful application to the then Welsh Language Board. 18 years later Menter Môn provides a cross section of activities that supports efforts to maintain the Welsh language locally.</p> <p>The work of Menter Iaith Môn is realised by 8 members of staff and 4 regular freelancers. Our work is also supported by 18 volunteers. We are also a member of a national network, Mentrau Iaith Cymru where there is constant support and opportunities to develop professional skills as well as great support for all our national efforts across Wales to give status to the Welsh language.</p> <p>Our mission is to offer varied and exciting opportunities for everyone in Welsh. We want Anglesey to remain a stronghold of the Welsh Language and encourage all residents to embrace their Welsh confidently and proudly within their communities, thereby enabling them to develop their personal and social skills.</p> <p>We provide a unique service for the youth of Anglesey helping you people experience new things and gain skills. We take the individuals needs into consideration and build musical activities within their capabilities to begin with. Being able to notice the individual's growth within a project allows us to further develop particular skills of those taking part in our projects.</p> <p>We take into consideration the participant's background, social skills and behavior and monitor their development during their time with us. We also take into consideration the needs of young people who cannot access out service due to transport issues. As a project we aim to reach out to as many young people as possible.</p> <p>We have a professional set up and the participants experience activities of a high level, at our recording studio and in the community.</p>



Being able to provide the best service possible has seen our project become very successful. We have experienced staff, both employed by our organization and in the staff we hire to conduct some of our other activities. It is of great importance to us that we reach as much of the island's young population as possible and no one feels that the service is not available to them. The success of our projects over the last 12 months has resulted in waiting list to take part in our activities. The online presence of the material created by individuals we've worked with has been a great help boost the popularity of our music workshops. Songs from the bands formed with us have been played on national radio, Radio Cymru and Radio Wales. Gigs have also been organized by the young people we've worked with, seeing attendances of over 600 people over 3 events, with more events to follow in the year to come.

Short description of the sociolinguistic situation: Ynys Môn, Cymru (Anglesey)

According to the 2011 census 38,568 or 57% of the people of Anglesey speak Welsh. This makes Ynys Môn one of the strongholds of the Welsh language.



Between 2001 and 2011 there was a decrease in the number of Welsh speakers (38,893 to 38,568) with percentages falling from 60.1% to 57.2%. In 2011, 45.6% were able to speak, read and write Welsh. 10.7% could understand Welsh. 30.4% had no Welsh skills.

The general population increased from 67,800 in 2001 to 69,700 in 2011 (an increase of 2.8%). This has not been a natural growth (more deaths than births over the decade), so the increase in population is due to migration. On average, 2350 people moved from the rest of the UK to Anglesey every year in the decade from 2001 to 2011. Around 2200 people move out of Wales to other areas in the UK (including students), thereby resulting in a positive net migration of about 150 people each year.

The highest negative net migration was among the 15-19 age-group with approximately 210 on average moving out of Wales rather than coming in. For all other age groups except for 70+ years, there has been a positive net migration.

There are 27 wards where over half the population can speak Welsh, and three

wards in Llangefni where over 80% of the population speaks Welsh. The numbers decrease as we look at the coastal and seaside areas towns - Trearddur (38%), Beaumaris (39%) Benllech (48%), Rhosneigr (36%).

The positive net migration naturally impacts the language use as more non Welsh speakers move into the area.

