

# CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

**Report to:** Language Committee

**Date of meeting:** 15 March 2024

**Title:** Cered: Menter Iaith Ceredigion's Annual Report

**Purpose of the report:** To update the members on Cered's activities during April 2023 – March 2024, providing an overview of achievements and outlining the programme of work for 2024-25

## **Background:**

### **The Aim of the Initiative / Menter Iaith**

Cered is the name for Ceredigion's Welsh Language Development Initiative or Menter Iaith, and as part of Ceredigion County Council's Schools and Culture Service we provide activities, information, advice and guidance to maintain and develop the use of the Welsh language as a vibrant community language in Ceredigion.

Since our inception in 1999, Cered's officers have successfully developed an exceptionally wide range of projects, events, and activities to promote Welsh as a living language in Ceredigion.

While the majority of the Mentrau Iaith in Wales are independent language development enterprises, Cered is one of three that are currently run by a local authority. This means that Cered's staff are central to the language planning work done by Ceredigion County Council, and they work closely with officers across the authority.

### **Cered's Contribution to Broader Strategies**

Cered implements schemes that deliver its own aims as well as the strategic priorities of the Welsh Government's Language Strategy - Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh Speakers, namely: to increase the number of Welsh speakers, to increase the use of the Welsh language, and to create favourable conditions – infrastructure and context.

Cered's work also reflects the priorities of the Ceredigion Language Strategy for 2018-2023, which states that the sustainability of the Welsh language is dependent on the process of strengthening Welsh-speaking communities by providing sufficient educational, cultural, and social opportunities to use the language on a daily basis.

Additionally, Cered's work supports the Ceredigion Local Wellbeing Plan for 2023-2028 and the corporate objective to strengthen and increase the use of the Welsh language. As a Menter Iaith that operates as part of Ceredigion County Council there are clear opportunities to collaborate and co-plan closely with a number of Council services including the Schools and Lifelong Learning services to enable the initiative

to achieve its objectives as a driver and facilitator in increasing the use of the Welsh language.

## Funding

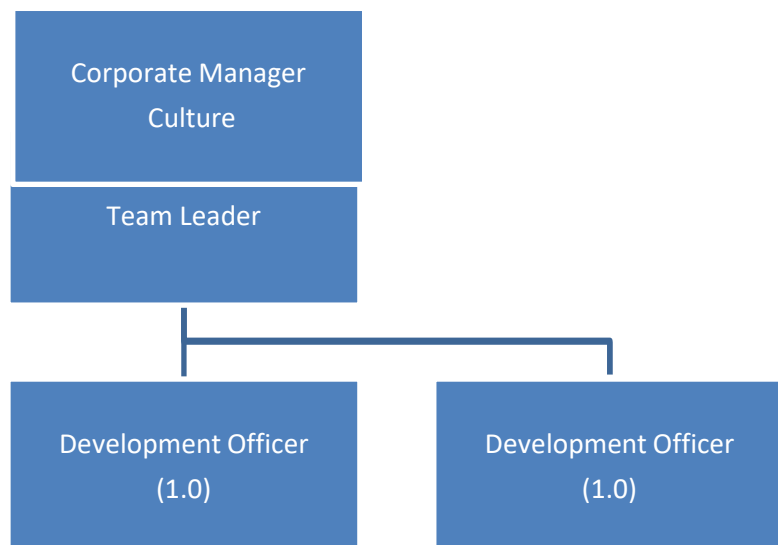
Cered receives core funding through Welsh Government's Grant for Promoting and Facilitating the use of the Welsh Language. In 2023-24 a grant of £120,626.00 was received (a figure which has been consistent for nearly 10 years). The remainder of Cered's funding comes from Ceredigion County Council.

The annual grant offered by the Government is based on a series of specific targets which are based on the strategic theme "Increasing the Use of the Welsh Language". Cered is expected to report on the progress made against these targets every quarter.

In 2023-24 Cered received funding from Cynnal y Cardi to develop two schemes namely our Lego Clubs which provide a popular opportunity for children to use their Welsh skills outside of school hours and a Welcome to Ceredigion e-book for newcomers to the county.

## Structure and Staffing

By the end of 2023-24, changes were seen in Cered's structure and line management after losing an experienced part time Development Officer and creating a new full-time role for another part-time officer.



## Partners

Working with partners is an integral part of the Cered's work. By working with the community, we naturally foster effective working relationships with a vast range of partners. This year we established a network called *Gigs Cymraeg Ceredigion* ('Ceredigion Welsh Gigs') to bring together the organisers of Welsh gigs in the county in order to minimise clashing of dates and to plan projects together.

Cered's partners include the following: Welsh Government, Mentrau Iaith, Aberystwyth University, Cymraeg i Blant, Theatr Felinfach, Ceredigion Library, Ceredigion Museum, Urdd, Careers Wales, The Arts Centre, Community Committees etc.

## Cered Activities 2023-24

Main headings (to the end of Quarter 2)

Outputs	Number
Number of activities for children	32
Number of children who attended	735
Number of activities for young people (11-25 years old)	5
Number of young people (11-25 years old) who attended	303
Number of activities for families	17
Number of adults and number o children who attended the activities for families	Children 542 Adults 757
Number of activities for adults	41
Number of adults who attended	324

Outputs	Number
Number of messages / posts published	Cered: 249 posts  Reach of 29,526  Browlan: 254 posts  Reach of 10,277
Number of live online / hybrid activities	23
Number who have participated in live online activities	120

## Details of the Provision

A varied programme of digital activity was delivered including the following:

### Work with Children and Young People

- Events and sessions for families – e.g. *Bwrlwm Barlys* and Cered on the Prom
- *Iwcadwli i Blant* – an ukulele group for children – a new Welsh opportunity for children in the area
- *Dim Clem* Quiz – a quiz competition for year 6 children in Ceredigion schools
- *Theatr Fach Llandysul* – a popular drama club for children
- Young Sports Commentators Team – an opportunity to try football commentary
- Lego Clubs – three clubs are run for children in Lampeter, Aberaeron and Aberystwyth

## Work in the Community

- Cymru United – an English-medium podcast for learners
- *Cefn y Rhwyd* – a Welsh-medium football podcast
- Coffee morning and ‘*Coffi a Chlonc*’ sessions – creating opportunities for learners to practice
- Language Fairs – events to open the door to opportunities to use the Welsh language
- Welcome to Ceredigion – post cards and e-book scheme for newcomers
- *Ar Gered* – Welsh-medium walks in the Elenydd mountains
- *Hel Atgofion* – Welsh-medium sessions for groups of the elderly
- *Gigs Cymraeg Ceredigion* (Ceredigion Welsh Gigs) – developing an audience for Welsh music
- Y Fari Lwyd Festival – a mass event in Cardigan and St. Dogmaels
- *Browlan* – a Welsh online community for south Ceredigion and north Pembrokeshire
- St. David’s Celebrations – organised parades and competitions
- *Ras yr Iaith* – a mass event for the area’s children on Aberystwyth Promenade
- Translation equipment – equipment is hired by organisers of various events
- *Hapus i Siarad* – supporting the use of the Welsh language by businesses and learners
- Iwcadwli – Cered’s popular ukulele group in Aberystwyth

## Plans for 2023-24

In December 2023, an application was submitted to Welsh Government for a Grant for Promoting and Facilitating the use of the Welsh language in 2023-2024.

Some additional targets are included such as the following:

- Family Events – concentrate on developing fewer but larger events in locations across the county.
- Music Workshops – provide sessions to develop new Welsh bands and artists in the secondary schools.
- *Hwyl a Hamdden* – imitate the successful model of this Welsh club for the elderly in the Aeron Valley by developing similar groups where there are gaps.
- *Hapus i Siarad* – develop this scheme in other towns in Ceredigion after the pilot period in Cardigan and Lampeter.
- *Gwreiddiau Gwyllt* – arrange activities that inspire people of all ages to enjoy nature through the medium of Welsh and raise awareness of local Welsh words and sayings that are connected to nature.

## Cered Priorities for 2023-24

- Continue to provide activities, information, advice, support, and guidance to maintain and develop the use of Welsh as a vibrant community language in Ceredigion.

To achieve this, we will:

- Work towards achieving the targets agreed with the Government;
- Raise awareness about Cered through staff engagement with communities.

**Recommendation(s):**

That the Welsh Language Committee accepts the annual report as a record of Cered's work during the period in question and notes its work in promoting and developing the use of the Welsh language in Ceredigion.

**Background Papers:**

None

**Attachments:**

None

**Contact Name:**

Steffan Rees

**Designation:**

Cered Team Leader

**Date:**

14 February 2024

**Acronyms:**

None