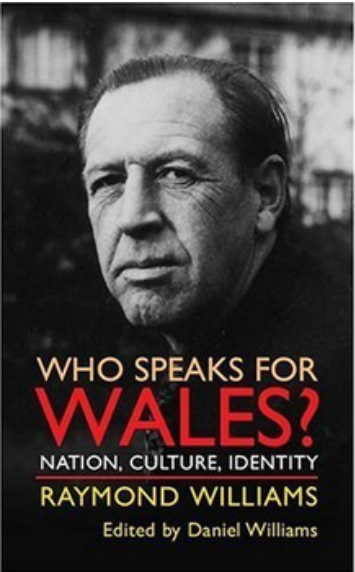


THE ROLE OF WELSH LANGUAGE AND IDENTITY IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

THE LINK BETWEEN IDENTITY AND HEALTH

- **WELSH LANGUAGE IS CENTRAL TO CULTURAL IDENTITY.**
- **DELIVERING CARE IN WELSH SUPPORTS DIGNITY, RESPECT, AND FAIRNESS.**
- **CULTURAL CONNECTION IMPROVES PERSON-CENTRED HEALTHCARE.**

"THE HEALTH OF A NATION IS CLOSELY TIED TO ITS SENSE OF IDENTITY AND THE VALUES IT UPHOLDS, AND IN WALES, THIS INCLUDES ENSURING THAT HEALTHCARE IS EQUITABLE, ACCESSIBLE, AND REFLECTIVE OF ITS CULTURAL IDENTITY."
– WILLIAMS, R. (2021)



THE CHALLENGE

- **A 2012 REPORT BY IAITH (WELSH CENTRE FOR LANGUAGE PLANNING) HIGHLIGHTED THE CHALLENGES FACED BY WELSH SPEAKERS IN HEALTHCARE—ESPECIALLY CHILDREN, OLDER ADULTS, AND MENTAL HEALTH PATIENTS.**
- **MANY FELT DISTRESSED WHEN THEY COULDN'T ACCESS SERVICES IN THEIR LANGUAGE.**



**THE RESPONSE: MORE THAN JUST WORDS
LAUNCHED: 2012 (UPDATED PLAN FOR 2022–2027)
OBJECTIVE:**

- **MAKE WELSH-LANGUAGE CARE STANDARD, NOT OPTIONAL.**
- **TRAIN THE WORKFORCE TO USE WELSH CONFIDENTLY.**
- **PROMOTE DIGNITY THROUGH CULTURAL RESPECT.**

A KEY GOAL OF THE FRAMEWORK IS TO ENSURE THAT INDIVIDUALS WHO REQUIRE SERVICES IN WELSH RECEIVE AN "ACTIVE OFFER." THIS MEANS SERVICES ARE PROVIDED IN WELSH WITHOUT THE INDIVIDUAL REQUESTING IT.



NATIONAL LANGUAGE STRATEGY: CYMRAEG 2050

**GOAL:
ONE MILLION WELSH SPEAKERS BY 2050.**

THREE PILLARS:

- **GROW THE NUMBER OF SPEAKERS.**
- **INCREASE DAILY USE OF WELSH.**
- **CREATE SUPPORTIVE POLICIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE.**



MAIN LAWS & POLICIES

- **WELSH LANGUAGE (WALES) MEASURE 2011 – WELSH IS AN OFFICIAL LANGUAGE.**
- **WELSH LANGUAGE STANDARDS – HEALTH AND CARE MUST OFFER SERVICES IN WELSH.**
- **WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT 2015 – PROMOTES WELSH IN PUBLIC LIFE.**

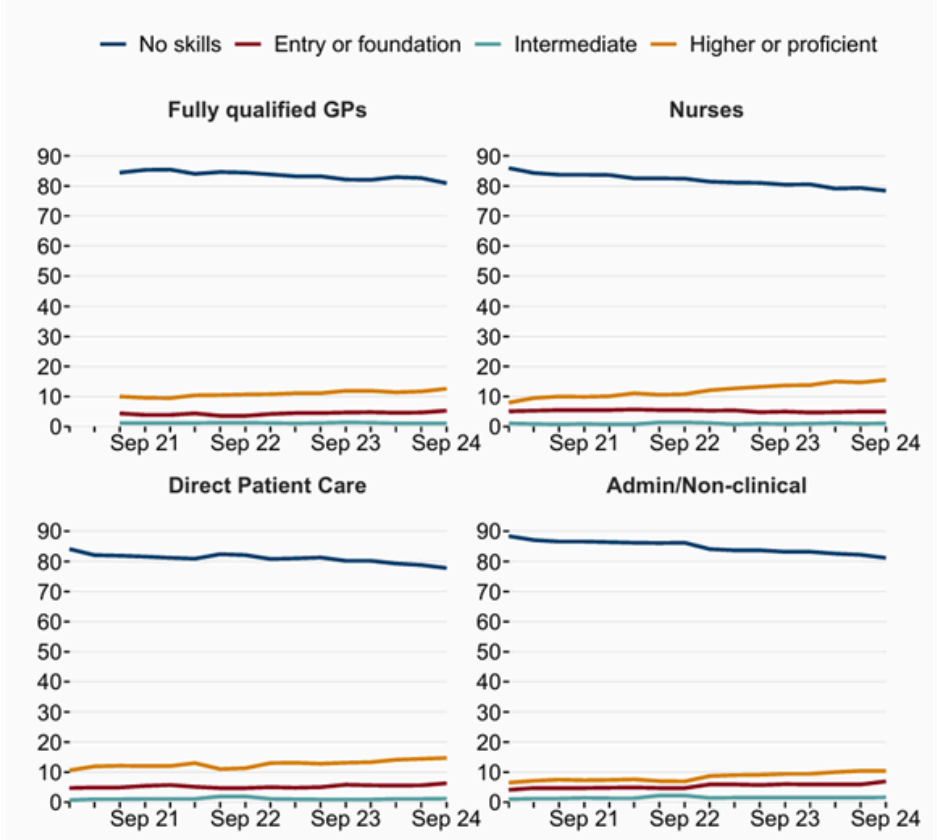
IMPLEMENTATION IN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

- **HEALTH BOARDS & CARE PROVIDERS: MUST MEET WELSH LANGUAGE STANDARDS.**
- **REGULATORY BODIES: NINE KEY REGULATORS MUST COMPLY (FROM DEC 2023). INCLUDING THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL AND THE NURSING AND MIDWIFERY COUNCIL, ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH WELSH LANGUAGE STANDARDS**
- **WORKFORCE TRAINING: MANDATORY LANGUAGE AWARENESS FOR NHS STAFF.**

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

- **YOU CAN ACCESS HEALTH AND CARE SERVICES IN WELSH WITHOUT NEEDING TO ASK.**
- **STAFF SHOULD BE TRAINED TO SUPPORT YOU IN WELSH.**
- **FORMS AND INFORMATION SHOULD BE AVAILABLE IN WELSH.**

FIGURE: PERCENTAGE OF PRACTICE STAFF (HEADCOUNT) BY WELSH SPEAKING ABILITY, 31 DECEMBER 2020 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2024.



SOURCE: WALES NATIONAL WORKFORCE REPORTING SYSTEM, LOCUM HUB WALES; NHS WALES SHARED SERVICES PARTNERSHIP

