

# A Strategy for Promoting the Welsh Language 2022 - 2027



Mae'r ddogfen yma ar gael yn y Gymraeg

*This document is available in Welsh*

## 1. Introduction

*“The Welsh language is one of the treasures of Wales. It is part of what defines us as people and as a nation. Our ambition as Welsh Government is to see the number of people able to enjoy speaking and using Welsh reach a million by 2050. This is certainly a challenging ambition, but a challenge we believe is worthwhile and necessary if we are to secure the vitality of the language for future generations”*

**‘Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers’  
Welsh Government’s Welsh Language Strategy**

The Welsh language, as one of the oldest living languages in Europe is integral to Eryri’s cultural heritage. Throughout the centuries, Eryri has played a central part in Wales’ most significant historical events, all the while the Welsh language has been at the heart of the people and events of this area.

Today, this corner of Wales has some of the highest number of Welsh speakers in the land. Sadly, this does not mean that the language is thriving, as the 2011 census showed us that numbers have declined.

As the primary language in many social and professional environments within the Park, the vibrancy of the Welsh language has been identified as an unique quality of Eryri which the authority has a duty to protect as well as promote through all aspects of its work. As a special quality it has been included in Cynllun Eryri, the National Park Management Plan to ensure that it continues to be a vibrant part of our everyday life.

## 2. Policy Context

This Strategy does not sit in a vacuum. As it reflects our core values and answers directly to our statutory purposes, it has been ingrained in our everyday work.

The Authority develops and implements its strategic corporate planning through the adoption of Cynllun Eryri – the National Park Management Plan, the Eryri Local Development Plan, and the Authority’s Well-being Statement.

These 3 documents represent the cornerstone for the Authority’s work in fulfilling its primary purposes as defined in the Environment Act 1995 and in implementing its vision.

### Cynllun Eryri

As one of the nine special qualities of the National Park, the vibrancy of the Welsh language has been included in Cynllun Eryri, to ensure that it continues to be a vibrant part of our everyday life. Specific policies within the plan ensure that the Welsh language continues to be celebrated, supported and strengthened.

### Eryri Local Development Plan 2016 -31

A specific policy within the Eryri LDP recognises the Welsh language as part of the social and cultural fabric of communities. This policy and the associated Supplementary Planning Guidance sets out the manner in which the Authority will deal with developments which may have an effect on the future of the Welsh language within communities.

### Well-being Statement 2021 – 26

As required by the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015, the Authority's Well-being Statement sets out its 3 Well-being Objectives, of Resilient Environments, Resilient Communities and Resilient Ways of Working. The Welsh language has been recognised as an important aspect of maintaining a resilient community, which is why the Authority has committed to continue to promote and actively support it.

## **3. Economic and Environmental Context**

It is no easy task to formulate a language strategy over the medium to long term. The economic and social environment can change quite quickly, and with it changes to the population. A stark demonstration of this is the far reaching social and economic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Historically, we know that people moving in and out of the National Park area can have a significant impact on the number of Welsh speakers in the area. In 2020, as other sectors locked down and were badly affected, the housing market bucked the trend. Local house prices have continued to rise since this time, as more people looked to move out of urban highly populated areas into more rural and coastal areas; some taking advantage of the new ability to carry out their jobs remotely, whilst others took the opportunity to retire early.

As we emerged out of the first lockdown, investment in second and holiday homes intensified, fuelled by the restrictions on international travel. This continued to drive up house prices out of the reach of many from within the communities. The additional knock-on effect on the availability of homes to rent, has resulted in a real struggle for many young people to be able to remain in the communities they were born and raised in.

Evidence shows us that the increase in second and holiday homes in Eryri, as in other areas, slowly erodes communities as it becomes a part-time community with insufficient all year-round population to sustain those businesses and facilities that lie at its heart. Village schools, community centres, post offices, village shops and pubs come under increased pressure to survive.

Looking forward, it is difficult to see any positive news economically. Global events such as the war in Ukraine and extreme weather due to climate change has driven up energy, fuel and food prices causing a cost-of-living crisis, which has been exacerbated with the added effects of Brexit.

If we are to head into another prolonged recession over the coming years, it is likely to have an effect on the local population – both individuals and young families moving out of the area to look for employment and affordable housing options, which in turn is likely to have a detrimental effect on the Welsh language.

We know that changes to migration levels presents a challenge to the prosperity of the Welsh language in rural areas, although we do not yet know what the true impact will be of current events on the linguistic demography of Eryri.

Outside of the economic impact, the pandemic also had an effect on the various opportunities for social interactions within our communities. Restrictions and social distancing reduced opportunities for Welsh speakers and learners to use the language together informally at work and socially.

Within communities, the inevitable winding down of various groups and events, have led to a reduction in opportunities for less frequent users and learners to practice the language in person with others. Whilst the restrictions have now gone and social activities can resume, there may be further barriers posed in the future through the effects of the economic downturn.

To counteract these effects, supporting children, young people and families to learn and use Welsh in everyday life is key.

As a National Park Authority with a specific remit, we do not have a direct influence in areas where choice of language is important. However, by working closely with partner organisations through for example Fforwm Eryri, we can ensure that we share resources and give support where it is needed to make the biggest impact, whilst at the same time continue our everyday promotion of the Welsh language through various aspects of our work.

#### **4. The Vision**

The Vision for this Strategy is to see the Welsh language flourish in Snowdonia National Park.

##### Fulfilling the Vision

This Strategy builds upon the foundations of our original strategy. During its development, we have faced a number of challenges, not least the lack of up-to-date data from the 2021 UK Census. This is the only accurate source of comparative data on the number of Welsh language speakers within Eryri available to us.

It is these figures which will show us if we are heading in the right direction to fulfil not only our vision of seeing the Welsh language flourish in Eryri, but also the Welsh Government's ambition of having a million Welsh speakers in Wales by 2050.

Although this Strategy keeps the vision from the previous Strategy, we have however reviewed our priority areas, to ensure that we can focus our efforts on where we can have the biggest impact and where we can make a difference.

As a National Park Authority, it is recognised that we do not have the remit which would enable us to have a direct influence on a number of key areas which are vital for securing language transfer. Evidence tells us that it is direct interventions within the community, the family and within schools that are the most important areas to focus on when aiming to increase the number of Welsh speakers. It is therefore very difficult for us to set a target for increasing the number of Welsh speakers within the National Park, as we do not have direct control over it.

The statistical analysis from the 2011 UK Census is included as an appendix to this Strategy. Although we now know that there has been a 1% decrease (3,440 people) in Gwynedd and a 1.5% decrease in the number of Welsh speakers in Conwy (1,600 people), we do not yet have the detailed ward data that would enable us to calculate the exact position within the borders of the national park.

Once the 2021 UK Census data is available in full, we will review this Strategy to ensure that key priority areas and associated actions remains relevant and appropriate and we will set a target for increasing the numbers of Welsh speakers, as required under the Authority's Welsh Language Standards.

As our previous Strategy demonstrated, although we cannot link the effect of our Welsh language promotion activities directly on the number of Welsh speakers in Eryri, there is still plenty of positive work we can undertake.

We can provide opportunities for learners to practise and improve their skills, we can increase the visibility of the language, we can improve people's understanding of the historical and cultural significance of the language, and we can promote the language as a useful skill in modern business.

To facilitate this work, we have set 3 Key Priority Areas to focus on:

**Key Priority Area 1: The Workplace**

**Key Priority Area 2: Businesses**

**Key Priority Area 3: The Community**

## 5. Key Priority Areas

### Key Priority Area 1: The Workplace

#### Aim:

- To support our staff to enable them to provide excellent services through the medium of Welsh.
- To support our staff to promote and actively encourage use of our services through the medium of Welsh.
- To increase the visibility of the Welsh language.
- To provide opportunities to promote the Welsh language as a valuable and essential skill in the modern workplace.

#### Results:

- An improvement in staff Welsh language skill levels.
- An improvement in the quality of the services through the medium of Welsh.
- An increase in opportunities for young people to experience and appreciate the value of the Welsh language in the modern workplace.
- Actively promoting and raising awareness of the availability of services through the medium of Welsh.

### The Next Steps

Our aim has always been to ensure that our services through the medium of Welsh do not need to be requested, that they are available at the first point of contact, therefore easily accessible and easy to use. Whilst the Authority currently has a high percentage of Welsh speakers to facilitate this, we can support our staff further by improving their skills, in particular their written skills.

Building upon the support currently available, we will develop a programme of options for improving Welsh language skills. Staff who need it, will then be able to choose an option that fits into their work schedule. This will include developing an on-line module which can be accessed at any time as well as online and face-to-face classroom type training sessions. As part of the overall training package, awareness raising of the technology available to proofread Welsh will also be incorporated, so that staff are fully aware of the tools available to help them.

For new employees, work has commenced on incorporating the first three modules of our very successful Ambassadors Scheme into the on-line induction programme, which all staff must complete within the first three months of employment. We will then look to expand this further by including a module on improving Welsh language skills, which will be compulsory for those staff who require some additional training to reach the required standard for their post. Undertaking this module will form part of a package of training required during the probationary period.

We will also support opportunities for informally improving spoken Welsh through 'Bore Coffi' sessions and staff social and volunteering activities.

We also need to plan ahead and consider our future workforce. We have attended Jobs and Careers Fairs to promote the importance of having Welsh language skills to work for the Authority, as well as offering work experience placements for school and college students. Most of these fairs have not taken place since the pandemic. These have since recommenced, so we must now take full advantage of them.

Over the next five years we need to develop this aspect of our work further to counteract the recruitment difficulties we are experiencing. An important part of this is encouraging young people to use and develop their Welsh language skills, to see it as a useful life and career skill which will stand them in good stead for their future.

If funding allows, we will look at developing an apprenticeships programme to equip and train young people for careers with the Authority, as well as developing current staff to progress to higher paid jobs within the Authority.

Further developing our volunteer programmes to include a wide range of opportunities for young people especially, will not only raise awareness of all the possible career opportunities open to them with the Authority, but will let them experience Welsh being used as a natural part of everyday work.

We already have our very successful Young Rangers Scheme, as well as our Cader Idris and Yr Wyddfa Volunteer Wardens Scheme. The Young Rangers Scheme in particular, gives younger people a taste of a range of different activities and experiences over the course of the placement. We will review the success of these schemes and look to apply best practice into developing other volunteer opportunities.

We also need to do more to proactively promote the availability of Welsh language services to encourage the public to make full use of them. To start with, we will make the Welsh language more visible in our public spaces and reception areas, than it currently is, through improved signage and promotion. Improving the visibility of the Welsh language will normalise its availability and raise its profile. This is important not only for Welsh speakers but also for non-Welsh speakers; especially visitors who may have little understanding of the importance of the language.

We will also actively promote our Welsh language services, both on-line and in our written communications – undertaking social media campaigns, in our invitations and event information, as well as in more informal ways. This has already been included as a core target in the Authority's Communication and Engagement Strategy. All of the Authority's staff have a role to play in this, and therefore we need to support and give guidance to enable them to do this.

**Indicators:**

- Skill level assessments for staff using the Authority's Welsh Language Skills Framework.
- Number of staff attending Welsh language improvement courses and / or modules.
- An increase in the number of residents who use services in Welsh – face to face and on-line.
- Numbers of people given opportunities to experience work and volunteering with the Authority.

**Key Priority Area 2: Businesses****Aim:**

- To normalise Welsh as a language of business within the area.
- To provide support for local businesses to increase their use of the Welsh language.
- To provide support for local tourism businesses to promote understanding and appreciation of the language to visitors.
- To improve awareness amongst business owners and managers of the value of Welsh language skills amongst their workforce and the ability to offer services through the medium of Welsh.

**Results:**

- An increase in the number of businesses who have recognised and embraced the vibrancy of the Welsh language as a special quality of Eryri.
- An increase in the number of visitors who appreciate and respect the vibrancy of the Welsh language as a special quality of Eryri.

**The Next Steps**

There is more to promoting the Welsh language than just aiming to increase the number of speakers. An important part of this Strategy will focus upon raising awareness and increasing respect for the language amongst people who do not speak it. The National Park attracts many millions of visitors annually, not only from the UK but from all over the world. One of the things that make us unique to other National Parks is the prevalence of the Welsh language and its use in everyday life, and this needs to be celebrated and positively promoted to both our visitors and to people who move into the area.

To truly make a difference within the National Park, we need to encourage businesses to embrace the Welsh language within their offering. Many local businesses do this already of course – there are some prominent businesses that have used the Welsh language as a unique selling point, adding value to their businesses and making them stand out from the competition. There is much to be learned from these businesses and their best practices, and this can be used to sell the benefits of bilingualism to other businesses within Eryri.

There is great potential here for the tourism sector. Many of course will already employ Welsh speaking staff that can service customers bilingually, but there is potential to make the Welsh language more visible. Increasing visibility will subconsciously raise visitor awareness to the fact that the Welsh language is a working living language that is used daily in our business and social life. This is a positive first step in trying to increase respect and understanding of the language to the people who visit us.

Work has commenced on developing a Sustainable Visitor Economy Plan in partnership with Gwynedd and Conwy County Council's Destination Management Bodies. As part of the Plan, we will develop a signposting and advice service for business to access help and assistance with developing Welsh materials, signage, branding and marketing. We will also offer assistance through our in-house translation service to undertake small scale translations for signs, branding etc., to help smaller businesses to embrace the Welsh language in their offering.

On a wider level, we will continue to work with national and international companies to develop truly bilingual electronic and on-line systems we can use to enhance and improve our services. It is no small task to persuade companies that the investment of time and financial resources required to develop a bilingual product will pay dividends, as their products can then be sold to various public authorities and businesses across Wales. Our recent experience with JustPark and Smart Parking shows that we can work together to develop innovative solutions.

Apart from the visibility of the Welsh language, we will also look to further promote the learning and use of the language.

Since its launch in December 2020, the Eryri Ambassador Scheme has gone from strength to strength with many hundreds of individuals and local businesses taking part – making it a resounding success. The Scheme is a unique training opportunity to learn about the special qualities of Eryri and to help play a part in protecting the National Park for future generations. We will continue to promote the Scheme and encourage more businesses to undertake the modules.

As one of the special qualities of Eryri, there is a module within the Scheme which highlights the rich history of the Welsh language in Eryri, and how it forms an important part of our cultural heritage. The module includes learning about the history of place names through the stories, myths and legends which lay behind them.

We will look to develop upon this module further, starting with often used words and phrases that would demonstrate basic courtesies in Welsh for those who cannot speak it, so that it provides a good introduction to the Welsh language, which would hopefully spur people on to continue with their learning with new found enthusiasm. Consideration needs to be given to whether this would be included in the Scheme itself, or would it be better placed as a standalone module.

**Indicators:**

- Number of businesses who have enabled their staff to undertake the Eryri Ambassador's Scheme.
- Number of businesses who have increased the visibility of the Welsh language within their business.
- Number of businesses who have been assisted with improving the visibility of the Welsh language through advice and signposting and small-scale translation.

**Key Priority Area 3: The Community****Aim:**

- To provide opportunities to strengthen the standing of the Welsh language within our communities.

**Results:**

- The protection of the Welsh language is prioritised in the Eryri Local Plan.
- To offer a wide range of community activities and events through the medium of Welsh.
- Learners and less confident Welsh speakers welcomed and supported to participate in community events.
- Learners and less confident Welsh speakers welcomed and supported to participate in volunteering opportunities with the Authority.
- Increase opportunities for young people to use Welsh socially.
- To increase the visibility of the Welsh language by agreeing and adopting an Authority policy on the use of indigenous and historical Welsh place names within the National Park.

**Next Steps**

As a planning authority, we must use our limited powers to ensure that we protect our local communities through the provision of affordable housing.

A review of the Eryri Local Development Plan will take place over the next few years, and one of the key priorities will be to review and strengthen the current policies relating to affordable housing and the effects of developments on the Welsh language. Looking to the future, we must make sure that our policies are robust and fit for purpose and are able to effect real change which will benefit our local communities. Change means affordable housing options for young people to be able to remain in their Welsh speaking communities and to be able to raise the next generation here.

Another important aspect for communities, is the ability to socialise in Welsh. Children and young people especially need encouragement to see the value of the Welsh language outside the classroom, especially if Welsh is not the first language at home. By making the Welsh language the natural choice for undertaking events and activities and for socialising, could subconsciously reinforce positive messages about the language.

This is an area in which the Authority can and does make a positive contribution to the promotion of the Welsh language in Eryri, and this is work that will be continued and developed further over the next few years.

Through all aspects of our work, the Authority provides numerous events and activities every year through the medium of Welsh or bilingually. Both our Wardens and Engagement services undertake educational sessions for schools, colleges and community groups on various subjects relating to the National Park.

Yr Ysgwrn not only provides educational activities and visits for school groups as well as accompanying educational resources for teachers and educators through Yr Ysgwrn curriculum; it also provides a wide variety of community events and activities for all ages, as well as volunteering opportunities. Ranging from literature and poetry events, arts and crafts, wildlife and forestry schools, clog dancing workshops to carol singing – there is something to appeal to everyone.

Most of the Authority's projects also offers a wide variety of events and activities for all ages to not only learn about important aspects of the work but to experience the wellbeing benefits of outdoor activities and being in nature.

The Carneddau Partnership works with schools as well as local communities to offer events and activities such as archaeological digs, collecting and planting seeds whilst learning their Welsh names, guided historical walks, and guest speaker talks on a wide variety of subjects. The partnership also supports training the trainer programmes for Outdoor Practitioners, and various volunteering opportunities from clearing gorse and bracken to archaeological events.

Other projects such as LIFE Celtic Rainforests, the Eryri Ambassador Scheme, Prosiect Nos (North Wales Dark Skies Partnership), Dolgellau Townscape Heritage Initiative, and Partneriaeth Natur Leol Eryri organise various community engagement events as part of their remit.

The Authority's Wellbeing Wednesday sessions over the summer months will be continued and further developed for the future. Guided walks, yoga sessions etc., encourage people to both enjoy the health benefits of outdoor activities and to make the best of what the National Park can offer. They are also excellent opportunities for new Welsh speakers to practise.

As previously mentioned, we will continue to develop and expand our volunteer programmes, which are an excellent way to not only provide socialising experiences, work experiences, skill development and confidence building, but to learn and practice Welsh. It is our policy with front facing volunteer roles, where possible, to match new and less confident Welsh speakers with fluent speakers, to help them practise whilst out working.

Outside of what we offer as an Authority and the events and activities we support through partnership working; we also have some funding pots for community groups to apply for funds to hold various community and volunteering events and activities. An important part of this grant funding is the inclusion of grant conditions which will ensure that the Welsh language is visible and is treated with equality in public events and activities.

Looking to the future, we have recently started a new project called the Conservation Areas Project which is suitable for the twenty first century. The aim of this project is to try to protect and improve the history and character of the 14 conservation areas within the National Park in a sustainable way for future generations.

In addition, our Local Place Names Group / Scrutiny Panel is doing important work on developing a policy on the use of indigenous and historical Welsh place names within the National Park. The remit of the Group is to develop a policy framework to enable the Authority to protect and standardize the use of place names in Eryri, by the Authority, our partners and stakeholders. It will also raise awareness among different audiences including monolingual, multilingual, multi-ethnic and international audiences of the importance of place names in Eryri.

Running side by side with this are other projects such as the Carneddau Names and Voices project, which raises awareness and records local place names through community recording sessions. There is also the Harlech and Dyffryn Ardudwy project, which works with local volunteers and the local community to raise awareness, record and interpret local historical place names.

All this and more will form part of the Authority's new Cultural Heritage Strategy, which will be developed over the coming year and will be implemented over the life of this Strategy.

**Indicators:**

- Relevant policies within the Eryri Local Development Plan on protecting the Welsh language in relation to the impact of housing developments reviewed and strengthened.
- Actions under section C1 of Cynllun Eryri are delivered by 2025.
- Numbers of community activities and events organised through the medium of Welsh or bilingually.
- Welsh language conditions included within grant awards for community projects, activities and events.
- Number of volunteering opportunities.
- The Authority's policy on the use of indigenous and historical Welsh place names within the National Park is adopted and implemented.

## **6. Implementing the Strategy**

This Strategy mainly focuses on areas over which we have a direct influence. However, as with much of the Authority's work, there are elements of partnership working interwoven within all work streams. As a small Authority, we are well adept at co-ordinating efforts to make the best use of scarce resources in order to maximise outputs.

For each year of the Strategy's life there will be an action plan. Monitoring and reporting of the annual action plans will be incorporated into the Authority's corporate work programme, and by direct reports to the Performance and Resources Committee.

At the end of each year, a record will be kept of the period's activity. These records will form the basis of our end of Strategy Outcome Assessment Report which will be published on the Authority's website.

## Statistical Analysis

Following the last census in 2011, the planning policy service analysed the data for Snowdonia National Park and identified the following major findings:

- The number of Welsh speakers in the National Park fell 3.5%;
- The number who could speak, read and write the language had fallen 4.8%;
- The percentage decrease in the number of Welsh speakers in the National Park is above the Welsh average, which is 2%;
- 89.5% of the total population aged between 3-15 in the National Park, can speak Welsh. But only 48% of the people aged over 65 can speak the language;
- Llanuwchllyn (78.6%) was the ward with the highest percentage of Welsh speakers. Llangelynnin (54.6%) had the highest percentage of people on the ward with no Welsh language skills; and
- Compared to 2001 figures, there was an increase of 16.6% in the number of people living in the National Park but had been born in England. In addition, there were 16.1% fewer people who lived in the National Park, who had born in Wales.

Table 1

Census 2011	Actual number	% SNPA	% Wales
<b>Total Population - (Age 3 and over)</b>	24,959		
No skills in Welsh	8,104	32.5%	73.3%
Can understand spoken Welsh only	1,861	7.5%	5.3%
Can speak but cannot read or write Welsh	1,334	5.3%	2.7%
Can speak and read but cannot write Welsh	834	3.3%	1.5%
Can speak, read and write Welsh	12,413	49.7%	14.6%
Other combination of skills in Welsh	413	1.7%	2.5%

Table 1 presents the results of the 2011 Census for the Welsh language for Snowdonia National Park. The relative percentages for the national level are also available in the table.

The percentages of the population in the National Park who can speak Welsh, and speak, read and write in Welsh is much higher than the national average. For example there are 39.6% more people who speak Welsh in the National Park than the national average.

Table 2 shows the comparison between the 2001 and 2011 census percentages for Snowdonia National Park.

Table 2

<b>Heading</b>	<b>Actual Number 2011</b>	<b>% SNPA 2011</b>	<b>% SNPA 2001</b>
<b>Total Population - (Age 3 and over)</b>	24,959		
No skills in Welsh	8,104	32.5%	30.2%
Can understand spoken Welsh only	1,861	7.5%	6.1%
Can speak but cannot read or write Welsh	1,334	5.3%	5.3%
Can speak and read but cannot write Welsh	834	3.3%	2.3%
Can speak, read and write Welsh	12,413	49.7%	54.5%
Other combination of skills in Welsh	413	1.7%	1.6%

The change in figures / percentages for the National Park is consistent with the trend seen at the national level. There was a 3.5% decrease in the number of people who could speak the language between 2001 and 2011 within the National Park. This percentage of reduction is above the national average of 2%.

There was a significant change in the percentage of people who could speak, read and write in Welsh, with a decrease of 4.8%.

There was a 2.3% increase in the percentage of people with no Welsh language skills within the National Park. This meant that the figure had reached 32.5%.

Table 3

<b>Census 2011</b>	<b>Actual number</b>	<b>% SNPA</b>	<b>% Gwynedd</b>	<b>% Conwy</b>
<b>Total Population - (Age 3 and over)</b>	24,959			
No skills in Welsh	8,104	32.5%	26.5%	60.6%
Can understand spoken Welsh only	1,861	7.5%	6.5%	9.5%
Can speak but cannot read or write Welsh	1,334	5.3%	5.8%	4.1%
Can speak and read but cannot write Welsh	834	3.3%	3.4%	2.4%
Can speak, read and write Welsh	12,413	49.7%	56.0%	20.6%
Other combination of skills in Welsh	413	1.7%	1.5%	2.7%

Table 3 shows the results of the Census for the National Park, and are compared with the results for Gwynedd and Conwy.

It can be seen from the table that the percentage of people able to speak Welsh in the National Park is higher than Conwy (27.4%) but lower than the percentage for Gwynedd (65.4%). This trend is also true for the percentage of people who can speak, read and write Welsh.

There are 6% more people with no Welsh language skills within the National Park compared to the percentage for Gwynedd. The figure for Conwy is very different with 28.1% more of the population with no Welsh skills in comparison with the National Park.

## The Welsh Language Profile

Table 4

Heading	Actual number	Percentage
<b>Total Population - (Age 3 and over)</b>	24,959	
Age 3 to 15	3,103	12.4%
Age 16 to 64	15,362	61.5%
Age 65 and over	6,494	26.0%
Can speak Welsh age 3 and over	14,626	
Can speak Welsh: Age 3 to 15	2,776	11.1%
Can speak Welsh: Age 16 to 64	8,751	35.1%
Can speak Welsh: Age 65 and over	3,099	12.4%
One or more skills in Welsh age 3 and over	16,855	
One or more skills in Welsh: Age 3 to 15	2,934	11.8%
One or more skills in Welsh: Age 16 to 64	10,320	41.3%
One or more skills in Welsh: Age 65 and over	3,601	14.4%

Table 4 provides a more detailed analysis of Welsh speakers in the National Park in accordance with age groups. It can be seen that the group aged between 16-64 is the age group where most of the population can speak Welsh, but again this is the group with the largest number of people in it. When creating a new table, based on looking at how many people within each category speak Welsh (e.g. how much of the total population aged 3-15 speak Welsh), the results are quite different.

Table 5

<b>Category</b>	<b>Actual number</b>	<b>Percentage of the total category population</b>
Can speak Welsh: Age 3 to 15	2,776	89.5%
Can speak Welsh: Age 16 to 64	8,751	57.0%
Can speak Welsh: Age 65 and over	3,099	48.0%

By setting out the table like this it can be seen that in this age category, 3-15 is the highest in terms of Welsh speakers at 89.5%. This also means that the age category '65 years and over' is the one with the lowest percentage of Welsh speakers with 48.0%.

### **Analyzing the Reduction**

At the national level the figures for Welsh speakers in Wales has fallen again according to the 2011 census. In 1911 the figure for the number of people who could speak Welsh was close to a million. The figure fell during the twentieth century until reaching a low of 504,000 in 1981. Figures increased slightly between 1981 and 2001 but fell again in the most recent census in 2011.

At the national level the figures for Welsh speakers in 2011 was higher than that seen in 1991 of 18.7% and 508,000 people.

Between 2001 and 2011 there are visible differences in age groups in terms of speaking the language at the national level. For example, there was an increase in the number of children (3-4) and adults (20-44) who could speak Welsh but a drop in every other age group. However there was a decrease in the number of people aged over 3 years old who could speak Welsh in almost every local authority, with the largest decreases in areas with a tradition of a high level of Welsh speakers.

There are many possible reasons for this reduction. At the national level there have been a number of demographic changes over the years; changes which also applies to Snowdonia National Park level.

According to the Welsh Government Statistical Bulletin, the reasons for the decline of the language at the national level includes fewer young children, increase in the migration among older adults, loss of older Welsh speakers, and some losing their Welsh language skills between the two censuses (e.g. some identified with Welsh language skills in 2001, not identified in 2011)

Other data can be viewed in order to try to explain the trend as well, for example the age structure and country of birth / origin of the National Park's population.

There have also been changes in the patterns of age structure of the Park between 2001 and 2011.

Table 6

<b>Age group</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2011</b>
0-4	5.3%	4.6%
20-29	4.1%	4.6%
30-44	18.8%	15.4%
45-59	22.4%	22.2%
60-64	6.9%	9.1%
65-74	11.2%	13.7%
75-84	7.3%	8.4%
85-89	1.8%	2.1%
<b>Mean age</b>	<b>43.2</b>	<b>46.0</b>

Table 6 shows a lower population between the ages of 0 – 4 years within the National Park boundaries in 2011 compared to 2001, as well as a reduction of 2.4% in the population between the ages of 30 – 44 years. Another trend shown here is an increased percentage of the population between the ages of 60 - 64, 65 - 74, 75 - 84 and 85 - 89 by 2011.

Table 7

<b>Country of Birth - Snowdonia National Park 2011</b>	<b>Actual Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Total</b>	25,702	
England	9,495	36.9%
Northern Ireland	63	0.2%
Scotland	183	0.7%
Wales	15,237	59.3%
United Kingdom (not otherwise specified)	6	0.0%
Ireland	87	0.3%
EU: Member countries in March 2001	141	0.5%
EU: Accession countries April 2001 to March 2011	73	0.3%
Other countries	417	1.6%

If we compare the percentages shown in table 7 with the information from 2001, we can see that major changes have occurred. In the 2011 census, 16.6% more of the population had been born in England compared to the 2001 census.

The percentage of people reported to have been born in Wales in 2011 has reduced since 2001. 16.1% fewer of the population of the Park are now born in Wales.

Country of birth alone is not an indicator of migration and why the Welsh language has suffered, but it can serve as a useful insight to some of the reasons for this; it is also likely that more non-Welsh speakers have settled in the National Park since 2001.

We can also look at migration patterns to explain the decrease in Welsh language skills within areas of Wales.

**Total Migration 2010/2011 - (migration between Wales and the rest of the United Kingdom)**

Table 8

Area	Migration	Migration (Total)	Migration (20-24)	Migration (25-29)	Migration (45-64)
Wales	Inflow	57,120	13,830	6,630	7,970
	Outflow	54,590	15,510	8,070	5,870
	<b>Net</b>	<b>+ 2,530</b>	<b>- 1,670</b>	<b>- 1,450</b>	<b>+ 2,100</b>
Gwynedd	Inflow	5,490	1,420	520	690
	Outflow	5,580	2,060	750	600
	<b>Net</b>	<b>- 100</b>	<b>- 650</b>	<b>- 230</b>	<b>+ 90</b>
Conwy	Inflow	4,700	820	460	1,070
	Outflow	4,030	610	440	620
	<b>Net</b>	<b>+ 670</b>	<b>+ 210</b>	<b>+ 20</b>	<b>+ 450</b>

At a national level, we can see that there is a higher inflow than outflow in Wales during 2010/2011. Despite this, more people between the ages of 20 - 24 and 25 - 29 are leaving Wales to the United Kingdom, with more people between the ages of 45 - 64 years coming in.