



Complete Agenda

Democratic Services
Swyddfa'r Cyngor
CAERNARFON
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Meeting

CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time

10.30 am, THURSDAY, 10TH NOVEMBER, 2022

NOTE: A BRIEFING SESSION WILL BE HELD FOR MEMBERS AT 10.00 AM

Location

**Hybrid Meeting - Siambr Hywel Dda, Council Offices, Caernarfon, Gwynedd,
LL55 1SH / Zoom**

*** NOTE**

This meeting will be webcast

https://gwynedd.public-i.tv/core//en_GB/portal/home

Contact Point

Sioned Mai Jones

01286 679665

SionedMaiJones@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

(DISTRIBUTED 02/11/22)

CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP (18)

Plaid Cymru (11)

Councillors

Menna Baines
Rheinallt Puw
Linda Ann Jones
Gwynfor Owen
Einir Wyn Williams
Jina Gwyrfai

Medwyn Hughes
Dewi Jones
Linda Morgan
Meryl Roberts
Sasha Williams

Independent (6)

Councillors

Elwyn Jones
Eryl Jones-Williams
John Pughe

Anwen J. Davies
Beth Lawton
Angela Russell

Liberal/Labour (1)

Councillor Gareth Coj Parry

Ex-officio Members

Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council

Other Invited Members

Councillors

Dilwyn Morgan

Elin Walker Jones

Craig ab Iago

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declarations of personal interest.

3. URGENT BUSINESS

To note any items that are a matter of urgency in the view of the Chairman for consideration.

4. MINUTES

5 - 13

The Chairman shall propose that the minutes of the meeting of this committee held on the 29th of September, 2022 be signed as a true record.

5. PRESENTATION BY THE AMBULANCE SERVICE

To receive a presentation from Jason Killens, Chief Executive of the Welsh Ambulance Service and Estelle Hitchon, Director of Partnerships and Engagement.

6. YOUTH SERVICE

14 - 29

To update the Committee on the Youth Service developments.

(Break for lunch)

7. HOUSING ALLOCATIONS POLICY

30 - 32

To present an interim report to the Committee on the progress of the Housing Allocations Policy since its implementation two years ago.

8. CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD PROGRAMME 2022/23

33 - 34

For the Committee to prioritise items for the upcoming meetings and to adopt a revised work programme.

CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, THURSDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2022

Present: Councillor Eryl Jones-Williams (Chair)

Councillors: Menna Baines, Anwen J. Davies, Jina Gwyrfai, Dewi Jones, Elwyn Jones, Linda Ann Jones, Beth Lawton, Linda Morgan, Gareth Coj Parry, John Pughe, Rheinallt Puw, Meryl Roberts, Angela Russell, Einir Wyn Williams and Sasha Williams.

Officers present:

Bethan Adams (Scrutiny Advisor), Llywela Haf Owain (Senior Language and Scrutiny Advisor) and Sioned Mai Jones (Democracy Services Officer).

Present for item 6:

Councillor Dilwyn Morgan (Cabinet Member - Adults, Health and Well-being), Aled Davies (Head of Adults, Health and Well-being Department) and Rhion Glyn (Assistant Head - Adults, Health and Well-being).

Present for item 7:

Councillor Craig ab Iago (Cabinet Member for Housing and Property), Carys Fôn Williams (Head of Housing and Property Department) and David Mark Lewis (Energy and Commercial Services Manager).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors R. Medwyn Hughes and Gwynfor Owen.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Declarations of personal interest were received for item 6 from Councillor Rheinallt Puw as his daughter worked in the care sector and Councillor Eryl Jones-Williams as his wife received care. These were not prejudicial interests therefore they did not withdraw from the meeting.

3. URGENT ITEMS

None to note.

4. MINUTES

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting of this Committee held on 7 July, 2022 as a true record.

5. PERFORMANCE CHALLENGE MEETINGS - CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The Committee was reminded that one other representative was required to attend challenge performance meetings in the Children and Supporting Families work field. It was noted that these meetings will be an opportunity to receive updates on priority projects and a chance to challenge and bring issues to the attention of the Scrutiny Committee. These meetings would take place twice a year.

RESOLVED:

To nominate Councillor Sasha Williams as the second Councillor to attend the Children and Supporting Families work field meetings.

6. RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF STAFF (ADULTS, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING DEPARTMENT)

The Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Well-being reported that the Recruitment and Retention of Staff Report provided the background and highlighted the staffing crisis that exists within the Department. It was noted that the report was honest and did not try to hide any issues. It was added that the staffing crisis in the field of adult care was a national crisis that impacts Local Authorities as well as Health Services.

The opportunity was taken to thank Department staff for their work as well as the Head and Assistant Head for the report. It was noted that the report would be submitted to the Leadership Team and the Cabinet and national and Regional discussions were being held to highlight the current crisis.

The report was presented by the Assistant Head who noted the background that reflected the seriousness of the situation. It was reported that staffing matters in this field had received priority for some time and attention locally pre-Covid, however, the pandemic had exacerbated the situation that was already vulnerable.

Members of the Committee were guided through the report and attention was drawn to the key challenges such as retention of staff and trying to attract new staff to the field. The reasons for these challenges were summarised prior to noting how the Department seeks to respond to the situation and the work that is currently on-going.

The Head of the Adults, Health and Well-being Department added that the report was very open about the challenges the Department faces and that other Departments such as the Children and Supporting Families Department, also faced significant challenges. It was believed that it was important to share the challenges as they impact the Department's ability to provide services. It was noted that this report gave an internal picture of the Council's situation and did not include similar challenges that exist in the private sector and in the third sector. It was reported that these sectors also faced the same recruitment challenges.

The impact of the situation was also mentioned for example long waiting lists, patients unable to return home from hospital and the pressure on staff. It was noted that a great deal of effort and activities were being undertaken, and although the Department had experienced small successes, there was no solution to the situation and this caused concern. It was emphasised that there was a need to look at what may be done locally and what was within the Council and the Department's control by securing a careful investment of current resources. It was noted that this was an initial report and it was hoped that suggestions would be received from the Scrutiny Committee and the Members' wish to assist and be part of the solution.

During the discussion, the following observations were submitted by members:-

- Members expressed their thanks for the report. It was believed that it was a duty of Councillors to promote jobs in the care field to local people.
- It was asked whether it was possible to increase the links with Colleges such as Coleg Meirion Dwyfor and to offer placements for pupils. It was asked whether it was possible to visit the College to talk about the type of work and opportunities available

in the care field. It was believed that health and social care classes needed to be encouraged to seek opportunities locally and ensure that continuous training was available in the workplace.

- It was asked whether there was an intention to increase the wages of carers in the future to retain them and ensure they do not leave their posts.
- It was noted that the figure demonstrating a reduction of 42% in the number of persons who had applied to qualify as Social Workers across Wales this year compared to 2016, was striking. It was asked what the figure was for Gwynedd.
- It was asked if a national wage level existed for Social Workers as was in place for teachers.
- Pride was expressed that lobbying work was being undertaken with the Government and encouragement was given for this to continue in order to try and seek national change.
- It was asked how wage levels in Gwynedd compare with Anglesey or Conwy.
- It was noted that it was disheartening to hear about the crisis in the care field, especially that 44% and 34% of jobs advertised had not received any applications between April and July this year. It was asked how these figures compared with other Counties and with other Departments within the Council.
- It was added that it would have been beneficial for the report to focus more on the solutions to the recruitment problems.
- Reference was made to section 5.4 of the report enquiring about an update on the work of the officer appointed in December 2021 to further develop the career pathways within the field and to undertake various marketing work.
- It was asked what plans were in the pipeline to re-produce the success of the Plas Hedd event in Maesgeirchen.
- It was believed that there was concern amongst Social Workers and concerns had been stated regarding the transformation of domiciliary care arrangements that had been undertaken. It was asked, how does the Department support existing staff as well as trying to recruit new staff. There was a wish to know how much effort there had been when care workers ask for help and was it possible to lighten their load.
- It was suggested that the Department should look at further opportunities e.g. offering part time jobs when no one is available to fill full-time posts and look at the Council's in-house staff who may be trained to assist for a few days a week. It was emphasised that flexibility was required and perhaps to try and target staff who lose their work as a result of establishments/shops closing.
- It was asked whether the Department held interviews with staff leaving to note the reasons for leaving their jobs.
- It was asked whether staff had been lost in Gwynedd because they had refused their covid vaccines.
- The previous comments of Members regarding targeting Schools and Coleg Meirion Dwyfor were agreed, however, it was questioned if rural residents would take the opportunities to train while travel costs, fuel and running cars were so expensive. It was added that this was a challenge bearing in mind that shop workers were paid the same if not better than some jobs within the care field. It was believed that carers' wages were insufficient in recognition of the responsibilities.
- It was felt that the health and social care system did not cooperate effectively e.g. people unable to return home from hospital.
- It was believed that there was a need to work with the health system to ensure that jobs and further training were available to graduates in the field or those completing health and social care courses.

- The Chair expressed his appreciation of the Department's work under very challenging circumstances and he took the opportunity to thank Department staff for their work. In addition, Committee Members were thanked for their questions.

In response to the observations and questions from members above, it was noted that:-

- It would be possible to make inquiries to see if there has been a reduction in the number of those from Gwynedd who have applied to qualify as a social worker.
- The salary levels of social workers vary across Authorities. It was noted that Social Care Wales were looking at this National issue and it was part of the discussions with the Welsh Government. It was agreed that a National wage level would save staff from moving between Authorities.
- The Department was trying to encourage people to follow careers locally and a good relationship existed with Coleg Meirion Dwyfor. There was a need to ensure that this relationship continued and offers and opportunities were given in the context of work experiences and our part to assess courses. It was reported that the Workforce Development Manager was trying to move this work forward.
- It was possible for an Officer to attend Coleg Meirion Dwyfor to talk about the opportunities in the Care field. It was explained that this had occurred in the past, however, it was believed that cooperation should be emphasised and to firstly improve the structure. It was added that this may happen in the future.
- There was information in the report on the impact of the employment pay agreement, that was general across Local Authority jobs. It was reported that National negotiations were taking place with Partners to look at wage levels in the care field. It was added that internal work was also on-going to review Job Descriptions. It was considered timely to look at the duties and responsibilities of workers in the field as the work had increased and was more complex in the last few years. It was noted that the needs of residents had changed and intensified, by now workers needed to possess specialist skills and training before undertaking aspects of the work and therefore wages paid to staff needed to be verified.
- Following a request for clarification regarding what was noted in section 3.8 of the report, it was confirmed that 13 was the total number of staff in social work teams in the Adults field who had left their posts in 2021/22 to either work for other Local Authorities or to follow careers outside the sector. It was noted that the figure as a percentage was not currently available. It was added that the majority of these 13 posts had now been filled but it would take time for new post-holders to gain relevant experience.
- There would be a need to look further to find the figures regarding how the wage levels in Gwynedd compare to the wage levels in neighbouring Counties.
- It was agreed that the recruitment situation was complex and generally it was thought that consistent messages from other Counties suggested that they were facing the same recruitment challenges as Gwynedd. Compared with other Departments within the Council, it was confirmed that it was the Adults field that was facing the biggest challenges in terms of recruitment.
- It was noted that the post referred to in section 5.4 of the report had shown its value from the first month and that the demands on the officer were high. Reference was made to events that were held e.g. in Maesgeirchen, however, the officer had to select what could be achieved. It was reported that such posts were essential in order to assist to improve the image of working in this field and to

bridge the national work and to invest in branding. It was added that the resource was valuable.

- It was reported that similar events to the one at Plas Hedd had been held e.g. in Porthmadog and Blaenau Ffestiniog but unfortunately they had not proven successful. It was noted that there were differences between communities and it was thought that local campaigns tended to be more successful than National campaigns. It was noted that the Department had a long list of areas they wished to target.
- In response to an observation asking if the department was considering targeting Schools to highlight careers in the field, it was noted that the Department was in the process of creating a package but this needed further attention. This would be a means to summarise relevant information and part of the work of the Workforce Development Unit and the Marketing and Career Development Officer.
- It was acknowledged that there was pressure on staff such as Social Workers and that staff welfare was important to the Department. The Department requests regular input from the Social Workers and they try to give support to the workers. It was noted that the Team Leaders and the Senior Managers kept an eye on the situation and sought to lighten the load. There is communication at all levels and visits are undertaken. It was noted that the Cabinet Member and the Head had visited individuals who work in the field as well as care homes to chat with staff and service users. Members were encouraged to contact them if they were aware of a member of staff within the Department who wanted a further opportunity to talk.
- It was reported that the Department in cooperation with the Council offered services such as Medra, and that National support programmes also existed. An offer to arrange a talk by the Senior Manager, Adults Services or the Senior Manager, Safeguarding, Quality Assurance and Mental Health with Members was made to enable them to receive more details about the Social Workers support service.
- It was reported that work to transform the domiciliary care arrangements was being undertaken for the correct reasons to try and improve the service for Gwynedd residents. It was added that it was unfortunate that this change had occurred at a time when the Service was under huge pressure and this was complicated further due to recruitment challenges. It was believed that the results could be evaluated in a year to a year and a half to see if the transformation had worked. It was added that it was not the transformation that had caused the problems but the timing had been unfortunate and it was currently difficult to measure success.
- It was noted that the Department was trying to promote opportunities, they had already sent a newsletter to Department staff informing them of training opportunities in order to assist with elements of the work. The next step will be to extend the offer to Council staff to see if some wish to help. It was added that the Department was considering and received requests for a variety of working hours and there were opportunities available for the hours individuals were able to work.
- A comment was made that the Department did sponsor and offer work experiences and had supported current Department staff to train and develop their careers and enable them to receive a post following completion of the relevant courses. Individuals interested in pursuing a career in the care field were encouraged to contact the Department.
- It was reported that the Department already conducted exit interviews and a great deal of the information included in the report derived from those interviews. It was

added that the Summer holidays was a difficult time as there was competition with well-paid seasonal jobs.

- It was confirmed that staff had not been lost from the Department as a result of an objection to be vaccinated.
- It was reported that the Council offered assistance to staff to help them buy a car. It was acknowledged that travelling was an issue for some and as a result there was some movement to jobs where there was no requirement to travel.
- In response to a question regarding the success of the pilot scheme in Nefyn, it was reported that there had been successes and this had contributed to learning about new models of working.
- It was reported that there was a great deal of collaboration between the Council and the health sector especially at a local level, but sometimes the difference between health systems and care systems could make things difficult. It was believed that there was room for improvement.

The Cabinet Member expressed his gratitude to the Committee for their questions. He added that matters appeared to be dark but innovative and exciting schemes were ongoing in the Department.

The Head added that every effort was being undertaken in the care field and he appreciated the Committee's input. It was offered to facilitate focus group meetings for two of the Scrutiny Committee members and Department staff in order to hold crucial talks that they could then report back to the Committee.

To close, the Head noted that he hoped that the report gave a taste of the work that was continuing and will be undertaken in the Department. He expressed his desire for Councillors to receive information to get a clear picture of the situation in the field. It was reported that the Department would try to update the Committee regarding possible developments in the hope that the Department would prove success and our ability to reduce the challenges.

DECISION

To accept the report, noting the observations made during the meeting.

7. NEW ENERGY CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Property gave an introduction and referred to the work of the team of Officers in the Property Service who were trying to reduce the Council's carbon footprint. He noted that they had experienced successes and as a result, when drafting the Housing Action Plan, there was a desire to assist the public in Gwynedd by offering help and practical support. As a result it was explained that the New Energy Conservation Service had been established. Under the leadership of the Energy and Commercial Services Manager it was considered that this service had been successful. Pride was expressed in the work and the importance of disseminating the message about the good work undertaken by the team was emphasised.

The Head of Housing and Property Department expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to report on the activities of the New Energy Service to the Committee. She noted that the report referred to the journey of establishing the service and what had been achieved thus far as well as the work that was in the pipeline. The report referred to how the Council's carbon management plan intertwines with the Climate Change work to which the Council had committed.

The report was presented by the Energy and Commercial Services Manager and he referred to the key messages in the report. It was noted that the report was in two parts, the first part referred to the New Energy Service and the second to the Carbon Management Plan and the work undertaken over the last twelve years.

Members of the Committee were guided through the report and attention was drawn to the de-carbonisation of homes and the help available from the Council regarding fuel poverty. It was noted that the information in the report such as the graphs were striking as they indicated the seriousness of the situation in Gwynedd and reference was made to the energy inefficiency of the majority of the County's houses. Details were provided of schemes such as Nest and ECO and the payments available to offer support to the people and residents of Gwynedd who are on prepayment meters.

It was added that the team was trying to ensure that the County's residents claimed everything that was available to them and to refer individuals to the appropriate schemes. It was anticipated that the demand on the team would increase as a result of increasing fuel costs and that time would tell if what is available from the team is sufficient for the needs of the people of Gwynedd. It was noted that there was a new site for poverty on the Council's website which contained useful information about the available support.

During the discussion, the following observations were submitted by members:-

- Thanks was given for an exceptional report and the detailed content was commended.
- A comment was expressed that it was more costly to have prepayment meters but this was the most affordable option for many in the County as there was no need to pay a quarterly lump sum.
- Reference was made to ECO 4 and the grants available to insulate housing to save energy. There was concern that damp may develop in a property as a result of insulation work and it was asked if someone from the Council carried out visits to ensure that the materials used by companies were suitable. It was also asked if the companies used were local, from Gwynedd or North Wales.
- It was stated that it was a good opportunity for joint working and for the Council to attract apprentices or to promote job opportunities. It was deemed that it would be good to offer opportunities for young people and to contribute to climate change work.
- It was asked what was the grants criteria and if help was available for those who pay bills quarterly.
- It was stated that the figures noted in the report were very heartening such as the 349 referrals to ECO 3. The Nest scheme was praised and this had assisted to warm the properties of residents and make them more energy efficient as well as offering advice. It was noted that these were schemes with a substantial benefit to the health and well-being of the county's residents as well as to reduce their bills.
- The figure for calls and referrals to Nest had been checked and it was noted that the report made reference to 55 referrals out of 257 of calls in one part but then there was a reference to 257 referrals in another part.
- It was asked if a person had received support via the Nest scheme in the past does the Council contact them again and is there further assistance available.
- It was asked whether those who receive Council tax single person allowance were eligible for the scheme.
- It was believed that there was a need to look at housing as a whole noting that there was not much value to improve boilers and heaters if there were poor windows in a property.

- A comment was made that working persons now also face poverty and were sometimes poorer than those who are in receipt of benefits. It was emphasised that there was a need to assist this population group.
- It was believed that the increase in fuel costs had alarmed many people and there would be a higher demand for other services such as the ambulance as a result. There was concern that the efforts of the County's residents to save on energy costs would lead to them taking risks within the home.
- It was also asked what Hydro establishments in locations such as Llanberis, Maentwrog and Tanygrisiau contribute and whether they could contribute or offer support to Gwynedd residents.
- Concern was expressed about some companies adding costs to late payment electricity bills and within a week referred them to a debt company.

In response to the observations and questions from members above, it was noted that:-

- All types of people contacted requesting assistance but the vast majority were on prepayment meters and the majority of the help available was for these people. It was confirmed that the tariff tended to be higher for residents on prepayment meters.
- It was noted that there were many issues with the former Arbed 1 and Arbed 2 schemes. It was explained that the Council's website listed four contractors who had been verified where these people could be referred to. It was reported that it was the Government who funded these schemes and the contractors were paid on condition that they had improved the EPC of the property in question. It was unlikely that the Council would conduct monitoring visits as it was a contract between the contractor and the person. It was confirmed that one of the four companies was from Anglesey with none from Gwynedd as they were large, specialist companies. It was added that there may be opportunities in the future to promote the scheme and attract more contractors following assessing the demand. It was noted that monthly meetings were held with the contractors.
- It was noted that the majority of the schemes were available for those on prepayment metres, however, payments such as DAF (discretionary assistance fund) were available for those who pay quarterly bills. It was added that the information on how to apply was noted on the Gwynedd Council's website.
- The Energy and Commercial Services Manager noted that he would check the Nyth figures in the report and would contact the Councillor in question to confirm as he had received the figure directly from Nest. It was reported that from now on as part of the service performance monitoring report they would report on the work completed and the houses that had been improved.
- It was reported that Nest usually conducted only one visit and there was nothing to prevent individuals from applying for help under the ECO scheme if they had received help from Nest in the past, as long as there was room to improve the property's EPC.
- It was considered that it was not a problem for those in receipt of Council tax single persons allowance to receive assistance from Nest and they would certainly be eligible under the ECO scheme. It was reported that the Department tended to refer more individuals to the ECO scheme.
- It was noted that the aim was to try and assist as many people as possible, especially in terms of the ECO Flex that would commence either in the Autumn or after Christmas. This would be flexible to include many people.

- It was reported that an additional scheme may be created; discussions would be held with the North Wales Economic Ambition Board who have some budget for this purpose. It was noted that unfortunately no scheme had ever existed to assist to improve and replace the windows of properties, this may be something the Council could look into.
- It was added that there was room to update the report as developments occurred swiftly and the report developed would be a live report.
- In response to a comment about re-opening fireplaces that had been closed in social housing, it was noted that unfortunately open fireplaces generated carbon emissions.
- It was reported that the electric carbon factor had reduced compared with 10 years ago mainly due to renewable energy such as Hydro, solar and wind turbines. It was noted that a study was taking place in Tanygrisiau to see whether it was possible to provide local electricity from the Hydro to the houses. It was explained that there were barriers e.g. the need for every house to be with the same electricity supplier, however, it was currently ongoing work.
- It was explained that work was being undertaken by the Ambition Board in terms of Smart Networks looking into local electricity for local people and reports were currently being produced. This work was being conducted across North Wales.

The Head of Housing gave thanks for all the enquiries and the opportunity to share the report with the Committee. A wish was expressed to come back in the near future in order to provide a further update on the schemes to Committee Members.

It was reported that the information shared today would be placed on the Members' Intranet so that Members may share the information with their electors. To close, it was noted that the Department was doing its best to assist as many people as possible in Gwynedd over the next winter and hopefully schemes such as the ECO 4 scheme gave assistance to a wide range of the County's residents.

DECISION

To accept the report that provided an overview of the New Energy service as well as the Climate Change work.

8. CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD PROGRAMME 2022/23

A short report was provided to the Members showing the Committee's latest work programme following changes due to slippage of items. It was noted that the November and February meetings would be heavy and may continue all day. Members did not have any observations or questions.

DECISION

To accept the report and adopt the work programme for 2022/23.

The meeting commenced at 10:30 and concluded at 13:50

CHAIR

Committee	Care Scrutiny Committee
Title of Report	Update Report: Youth Service
Date of Meeting	10 November 2022
Relevant Cabinet Member	Councillor Elin Walker Jones
Author	Steffan Williams, Youth Service Manager

1. Background

- 1.1. The Cabinet resolved to remodel the Youth Service in 2018. The remodelling of the Youth Service to establish the new model commenced on 1 September 2018.
- 1.2. The Youth Service has been reporting on the progress of the remodelling and the service's performance via the Performance Challenging procedure. The Service submitted a Progress Report on the first year of the remodelling process to the Education Scrutiny Committee in January 2020.
- 1.3. Very soon after that report, Covid restrictions came into force. The Cabinet Member wishes to provide the Scrutiny Committee with an update of the effect of the pandemic on the remodelling, and the service's latest position.

2. The Structure of the Remodelling: Youth Service

- 2.1. The provision of Youth Support Services is a statutory requirement under the Learning and Skills Act 2000. The Welsh Government (WG) directs local authorities to provide, ensure the provision of, or participate in the provision of youth support services. WG does this for the Youth Work and Youth Services of Local Authorities through the "Extending Entitlement – Direction and Guidance (2002)", the National Youth Work Strategy for Wales 2014-18; the Engagement and Progression Framework 2015-2018; and the Youth Charter 2016.
- 2.2. The following structure was established for the Youth Service back in 2019:
 - Provide a Programme of Youth Work Activities and Projects for young people aged 11-19 through the schools (14 secondary schools and 2 special schools) through a 11-19 Youth Support Team with eight full-time Youth Workers.
 - Provide a Programme of Social Activities and Projects for young people aged 11-19 in communities throughout the year, by moving from place to place. This work is carried out by the Community Youth Work Team, with 37 part-time staff.
 - Support Community and Town Councils to establish Social Youth Clubs for young people according to demand. This work is carried out by the Community Youth Work Team, with 24 part-time staff.
 - Provide personal support to young people aged 16-25 who are facing barriers to engaging with education, training or employment, through the 16-25 Youth Support Team – XX full-time Youth Workers.
 - Commission the 3rd Sector to deliver activities, projects on behalf of the Youth Service as required.
- 2.3. The main conclusions of the first-year review were as follows:
 - the service's performance was somewhat better than expected;
 - young people's rates of engagement with the Service have remained the same despite the reduction in service;
 - those young people who have been involved with the Service report that they get the help they need.
 - recruitment challenges had meant that the Service was not operating at full capacity;
 - that more of the Management Team's time has been spent on helping to establish Community Council Clubs as they dealt with recruiting and managing staff, identifying and negotiating a suitable venue, responding to and supporting with behaviour management on Club nights.

3. The Service during COVID and its effects.

- 3.1. All face-to-face activities were suspended by the Youth Service, the commissioned partners, and the Community Council Clubs.
- 3.2. The Service moved to virtual activities fairly smoothly, and managed to attract young people during a very competitive time in terms of the "digital offer" that was available (the world of on-line gaming, on-line groups etc.)
- 3.3. The Service continued to maintain contact with small groups of young people either virtually or through phone calls; and some door-step visits, as well as outdoors face-to-face meetings for some very vulnerable young people.
- 3.4. As we recovered the Service we recommenced face-to-face provision, focusing on work in schools. Working through the schools allowed the easiest access for young people to a youth worker, and the support provided added value to the wider well-being support in the schools.
- 3.5. During the pandemic the Ad-Trac project ended, which was our main intervention for the Youth Work with 16-25 year olds. A review of the team's work was completed and a restructure of the team was carried out to address young people's needs, thus moving away from focusing on work, training and employment support for young people to emotional, personal and social development support.
- 3.6. Recommencing the work in communities was difficult because of the restrictions which meant having to register in advance, and placing limits on numbers for TTP purposes. Forcing young people to register, and also limiting their ability to socialise without any stipulations, was contrary to the principles of youth work which is meant to be an open, voluntary, easily-accessible offer. The restrictions stopped us from meeting the demand, and many young people failed to access activities, trips and projects for a period of time.
- 3.7. Re-opening the Community Clubs was one of the final things we resumed. The main barrier to this was that the entire provision relied on a Voluntary Committee completing assessments and putting procedures in place to control the spread of COVID before they could open their doors and hire out to users.

4. What were young people telling us?

- 4.1. The Youth Service engaged and discussed with young people throughout 2020-2021 regarding what mattered to them, and we responded and altered our provisions to address what they said, when circumstances and restrictions allowed.
- 4.2. Our virtual provision was stopped once the young people reported to us that too much of their time was spent on screen, and that they needed to prioritise screen-time for school.
- 4.3. Young people also told us that as they returned to schools, they needed emotional support rather than project work such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award.
- 4.4. Parents and partners of Youth Support told us that the general social restrictions as well as having to manage their interactions with their peers in strict bubbles in schools had affected young people's social skills and opportunities.
- 4.5. In addition, a survey by the BBC in 2021 found that the group that had suffered most from loneliness due to the pandemic were the 16-24 age group. This survey led to local consultation work with young people aged 16-25 years old which shaped the work of the Youth Support Service (as noted in 3.5 above).
- 4.6. Young people stated that the most prominent challenges they had faced were social isolation, loneliness and the negative effect on well-being. As we asked them what and how could the Youth Service help them, young people stated that they were keen to see more social, fun activities being held which would help them to go out, come together with other young people and have fun.
- 4.7. As well as the change of emphasis by young people, parents and partners, the Welsh Government also announced a new Youth Work Strategy and a review of the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework, together with the release of the revised Youth Support Grant which places emphasis on homelessness, health and well-being and language.

5. How the Youth Service has responded.

- 5.1. The re-modelled structure is still operational in the Youth Service. That structure was established because young people had told us (prior to the remodelling) that they wanted the Youth Service to help them with what mattered to them, which was learning and developing their life-skills that they don't get at home or in school; to help them with their personal development, and to give them support with their health and well-being. Young people had also told us that socialising and having fun with their friends was important to them. These things remain a priority for our young people, but the emphasis between them might have changed. Young people have also told us that issues around accommodation and homelessness, and language, equality and inclusion have become more of a priority for them since the pandemic.
- 5.2. *Appendix 1* states what is currently provided by each team to address the above; and it also provides an outline of how the Service has responded to the change of emphasis in priorities and addressed new priorities.

6. The Service's Strategic Themes – Health and Well-being, Youth Homelessness and Language and Inclusion

6.1. The Service's whole provision is now based on the "Five Ways to Well-being" in order to ensure that all its activities, projects and interventions build personal resilience and promote young people's emotional well-being. Through grant-funding the Service has a Health and Well-being Worker to lead on this work and ensure that the provider teams all address the five ways to well-being in the work they do from day-to-day.

6.2. We have returned to implementing the recommendations from the Young People's Emotional Well-being and Mental Health report that was commissioned by the Mental Health Foundation in 2021. The main recommendations of the report were:-

- To review the Service's Communication Plan so as to promote good well-being and mental health messages using plain language.
- To develop a simple evaluation process that is consistent across the service, using it to measure the effect of our work on young people's well-being
- To clearly define the role of youth workers in relation to the five ways to well-being
- Develop a staff well-being plan.
- Develop a young people well-being pathway jointly with other youth support services (such as CAHMS, Barnardo's, ALNI Service) and with young people so that they understand what is available from services and specialist services.

6.3. A Well-being Festival for the Young People of Gwynedd aged 11-25 was held during 21-27 March 2022, in response to the need identified by young people following COVID restrictions. The aim of the festival was to promote young people's mental health and well-being. A whole host of virtual and face-to-face activities were planned during the week. We worked in partnership with young people and over 31 organisations from the voluntary and statutory sectors, and we worked with a group of 15 young people and partners to stage the festival across the county of Gwynedd. This project has reached the short list for nominations for the Youth Excellence Awards this year.

6.4. The Youth Service is one of six organisations that will be running the 'Mind our Future' project across Gwynedd and Anglesey. It is a unique and pioneering project, funded by the National Lottery

for a period of five years to address low-level mental health in young people aged 11-25 years old. This project enables young people to lead so that they can imagine and create a more resilient and mentally healthy future for young people. Aspects of this project, and its evaluation will steer our well-being plans and objectives in future.

6.5. As well as the above the service has received additional funding from the Welsh Government to appoint members of staff to provide a bespoke service to tackle youth homelessness and well-being.

6.6. The Youth Homelessness Prevention Coordinator works alongside the homelessness and community housing service, and other departments and partners to provide education, training and assistance to young people who are homeless or at risk of being homeless.

6.7. The Youth Homelessness Prevention Coordinator will provide targeted support to young people across the county who are homeless/at risk of homelessness. This work will include 1 to 1 work and small group work with young people through the youth service's referral procedures, including tier 2 PIP. The Coordinator will deliver educational sessions, services and workshops to schools and colleges. The Coordinator will work in partnership with other departments and external partners such as GISDA to incorporate a youth work approach to supporting young people.

6.8. The Service has also enhanced its provision to address the promotion of the Welsh language and equality issues for specific groups of young people through an external grant for the next three years. We have established arrangements with partners to collaborate on projects across Gwynedd, which include developing Language Forums with Hunaniaith, strengthening the provision and developing the Young Farmers' local eisteddfod, the Urdd Ambassadors project, extending the LGBT+ provision by GISDA, providing Christian Youth Clubs with the Presbyterian Church, developing and extending the provision by the North Wales African Society, offering well-being activities jointly with Homes for Ukraine and workshops for young parents to the Council's Edge of Care Team.

7. The Future and our challenges

7.1. Recruiting staff to work on our community provision remains a major challenge for the service. We have tried to overcome this by revising the way we promote the jobs and have attended a number of job fairs, but it is still challenging especially in the rural areas.

7.2. We are seeing a continuation of behavioural challenges amongst some groups of young people, and/or in some specific areas. We are continuing to work with North Wales Police and the Youth Justice Service when these situations arise. Often the young people choose not to engage in the activities provided by the Youth Service, nor do they wish to receive support from a Youth Worker. We try to adapt our offer, talk to groups of young people to find out their interests, to help them be involved in activities or to provide directly for them, but because of the voluntary nature of Youth Work we cannot force young people to engage with us or what we offer. At times young people's behaviour in their communities can be challenging and be the subject of statutory intervention by the Police, Youth Justice Service, but it can at times involve improving society's understanding and tolerance of young people.

7.3. As some young people's needs become more profound, and as the number of young people needing support increases, the challenge of working with other partners continues. Many of our young people are finding it increasingly difficult to live a full life because transport is now one of the

main barriers to them being involved with the Youth Service, but also in general in their lives in terms of having access to education, training, employment, social opportunities and enjoyment.

YOUTH SERVICE UPDATE REPORT

'I want you to listen to me, include me and help me; so that I can learn and develop, and be a healthy, happy and safe young person'
- The purpose of Gwynedd Youth Service



Fun on the water in Glan Llyn, August 2022

The structure and objectives of the Youth Service have remained constant since the remodelling in 2018.

The Youth Service is split into three streams in order to respond to what matters to the young people of Gwynedd, and to maximise opportunities for collaboration, co-designing and co-providing with partners. All of Gwynedd Council's youth service provision, and any service commissioned, is provided fully through the medium of Welsh or bilingually.

The Service is based on:

- Age 11-19 Youth Work in Schools
- Age 16-25 Youth Work
- Community Youth Work



*(Above) 'Lego League Challenge' session during the Wellbeing Festival.
(Below) Deiniolen graffiti project.*



Providing the young people of Gwynedd a safe and fun way to meet, learn and grow.

“I want you to listen to me and include me. I want you to help me through my teenage years to make a contribution in my community, with my health and well-being and with learning skills so that I am a happy, safe young person and ready for life and work.” - The purpose of the age 11 - 19 Youth Support Work Team.

THE YOUTH WORK TEAM FOR 11-19 YEAR OLDS IN SCHOOLS.

The purpose of the Youth Support Team is still to foster positive relationships with young people, helping young people to foster a positive relationship with themselves, with others and the community. The Team includes six full-time Support Workers, one part-time worker and an Alcohol Misuse Worker.

They run a programme of activities and projects based on an informal curriculum of learning, which stems from the Five Ways to Well-being for building young people’s personal resilience and promoting emotional well-being. There are work programmes in place in all the schools and these include Well-being sessions (Five Ways to Well-being), Volunteering activities, Gardening, Sports, Anger Management, Healthy Relationships and Agored Cymru accreditations.

We provide the Duke of Edinburgh Award in 12 out of 16 Secondary Schools.

The Programme also includes informal time for the Worker at each school to chat with young people, to promote young people’s rights, and to hold sessions raising awareness on matters that are important to young people (e.g. Mental Health at Ysgol y Moelwyn, jointly with School Nurses and a CAMHS Practitioner) The workers on average spend around 10 hours per week in each school.



(From top left) Team Leader Annette Ryan. Youth Workers: Alaw Paul, Andrew Owen, Barry Williams, Carina Elias, Ffion Williams, Lieam Williams, Llio Roberts and Nia Rees.



(Top) Ysgol Ardudwy DofE crew practicing orienteering. (Bottom) Ysgol Eifionydd DofE crew on their expedition.



Providing the young people of Gwynedd a safe and fun way to meet, learn and grow.



(Top) A session run with Technocamps within a school. (Middle) Working with the Police during the 2022 Summer of Fun. (Bottom) A project run with Frân Wen.

They work alongside other youth support partners. They mainly work alongside:

- Schools
- School Nurses
- The Youth Justice Service
- The Police
- Agored Cymru
- Social Services
- CAMHS
- The Education and Inclusion Department
- The Fire Service
- Housing Associations
- and Local Voluntary and Community groups.

The workers also hold activities and projects in the evening in their area by offering 'pop-up' evenings for a six-week period in each location. These evenings offer fun and sociable sessions.

“I want you to give me time, to listen to me and give me the opportunity to develop.” - The purpose of the age 16 - 25 Youth Support Work Team.



(From top left) Team Leader Bethan Jones. Youth Workers Donna Taylor, Glyn Price, Sarah Anderson and Steph Sherlock.

THE YOUTH WORK TEAM FOR 16-25 YEAR OLDS

The team provides one to one support and group work for young people to overcome barriers that prevent their personal development. The support includes work on health and well-being (Healthy Relationships and Programmes on Developing Resilience), accommodation issues, developing digital and financial literacy together with careers and employability advice, in accordance with the purposes of the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework. The Team works in partnership mainly with

- Careers Wales



Providing the young people of Gwynedd a safe and fun way to meet, learn and grow.

4

- Further Education Colleges
- the Health Board (primarily CAMHS)
- Job Centres+
- the Social Services After-care Team
- Adults Social Services
- Housing Associations and Homelessness agencies
- and Voluntary and Community organisations.

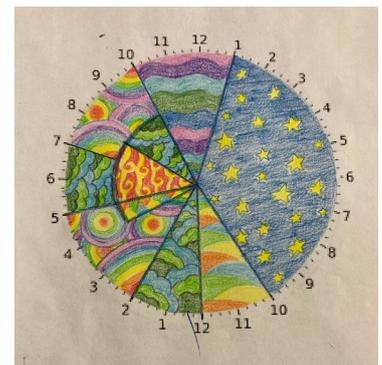
The individuals who are supported by the team have complex needs – many suffer from adverse childhood experiences, which have exacerbated as challenges since the pandemic, and again as a result of the cost-of-living crisis. The service is now addressing this by enhancing our service and working jointly with other departments to offer a ‘Financial Helper’ service, working closely with CAMHS to extend our ‘Buddies’ provision, offering an Art for Well-being course, and establishing ‘Warm Welcome’ hubs in Caernarfon and Bangor.

Data is beginning to show that Young People are seeing an improvement in their well-being – this improvement is illustrated through the WEMWEBS score and the Health and Well-being score within the Youth Pathway. The Team is leading on the Council’s delivery of the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework, and is leading on transition arrangements with the schools and education department for supporting those pupils who are, or are at risk of not being in education, training or employment (namely the Secondary Panel, Transition Panel, Post-16 Panel).



Grŵp
**Llandrillo
Menai**

Some of the organisations we work with.



An example of a daily cloc made during an Art for Wellbeing session.



A cup of hot chocolate enjoyed during a FRIENDS session.



Providing the young people of Gwynedd a safe and fun way to meet, learn and grow.

“I want you to create an opportunity to socialize and develop for young people in our communities.”- The purpose of the Community Youth Work Team



37 mobile Youth Workers.

THE COMMUNITY YOUTH WORK TEAM

Mobile

The team includes 37 mobile Community Workers to work in the evenings, running fun-filled social activities for young people as part of the ‘Youth Service’s Weekly Schedule’. We have put more focus on the work of this team and have extended the provision during the past year in response to young people’s feedback.

The Team has held a variety of activities, taster sessions and more structured projects – according to the interests of the young people. Over the year these have included cookery, sports activities, competitions, arts and crafts, outdoor sessions, computer games, beauty activities and many more.

The Team has reached young people across the county by visiting 42 communities during the year. The Team also runs three youth clubs in partnership with Derwen for young people with additional needs and these are available over five evenings across the county: Caernarfon (three evenings), Y Ffôr (one evening) and Blaenau Ffestiniog (one evening). The young people have an opportunity to enjoy activities, choose their own projects and to gain skills. The Team has worked with a number of organisations such as Byw’n Iach, Wild Elements, WITH Gobaith, The Gaming Van and has also worked with the community cinemas of Barmouth and Tywyn to provide ‘Summer of Fun’ activities across the county in 2021 and 2022, and Winter of Well-being activities.



A trip to Glasfryn for a game of bowling.



A crew of young people queuing for the “Gaming Van”.



Providing the young people of Gwynedd a safe and fun way to meet, learn and grow.

The team has also piloted Play Workers for the school holidays, and this year two workers held 78 play sessions over the summer attracting over 400 participants. In accordance with the young people's wishes regarding trips and weekends away the team has organised

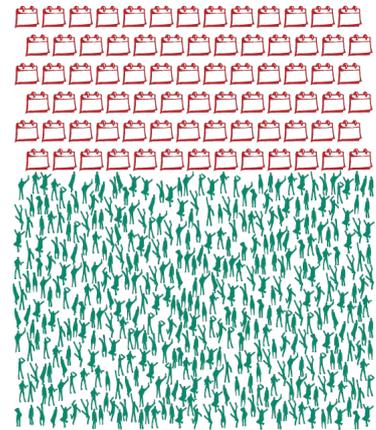
- residential weekends in Glan-llyn,
- a weekend to visit the Senedd in Cardiff
- ten pin bowling in Glasfryn
- climbing at the Beacon centre
- and ice-skating in Deeside.

This project collaborates with eight town councils to provide Youth Community Clubs for 30 weeks a year.

In Community and Town Council Clubs

The Team includes 24 workers who are linked to a Community Youth Club to provide a social club for young people to get together and have fun. We have re-opened the clubs in Caernarfon, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Llanrug and Llan Ffestiniog with over 200 people attending every week. We have also supported and established four new Clubs in Bethesda, Llanberis, Bethel and Deiniolen over the past month. We have also begun working with the town councils of Bangor, Barmouth, Aberdaron, Porthmadog and Bontnewydd who have expressed an interest in funding the community clubs in their areas.

In addition to these 3 Teams, we also offer homelessness and health and wellbeing support to the young people of Gwynedd.



78 sessions with over 400 participants.



A young person having a go at the high ropes at Glan Llyn.



A poster advertising a community disco in Blaenau.



Providing the young people of Gwynedd a safe and fun way to meet, learn and grow.



PREVENTING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

The Youth Homelessness Prevention Coordinator works alongside the homelessness and community housing service, and other departments and partners to provide education, training and assistance to young people who are homeless or at risk of being homeless.

The Youth Homelessness Prevention Coordinator will provide targeted support to young people across the county who are at risk of homelessness or are currently homeless including one to one work and small group work through the youth service's referral system which includes tier 2 PPI, delivering educational sessions, services and workshops to schools and colleges to increase and target early intervention.

In secondary schools and colleges the Coordinator will work in partnership with other departments to incorporate a youth work approach to supporting young people.



YOUNG PEOPLE'S HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The Health and Wellbeing Youth Worker uses the Five Ways to Well-being to build young people's Personal Resilience and promote their Emotional Well-being. We will reach these objectives by fostering relationships through our curriculum, our activities and the opportunities we offer; through our way of working, and through communication. The main objectives will be to:

- Review the Service's Communication Plan
- Develop a simple evaluation process that is consistent across the service, to measure the effect of our work on well-being
- Clearly define the role of youth workers in relation to the five ways to well-being
- Review the training and supervision plan



- Develop a staff well-being plan.
- Draft a Well-being Pathway for participants
- Work together with partners such as CAMHS, Barnardo's, The Outdoor Partnership etc.

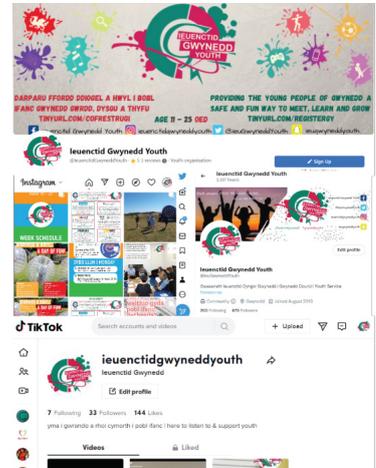
ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION ARRANGEMENTS

- Establish and maintain Facebook / Twitter / Instagram / Snapchat accounts and a YouTube channel.
- Release a 'Weekly Calendar' to notify people of our activities.
- Release a regular newsletter on Rhaeadr and on our social media pages.
- Publish information pamphlets about the service
- Hold information stalls and deliver presentations in schools, colleges and events to promote the Youth Service.
- Work with the youth workers to develop resources for our provision.
- Extend working networks with partners, stakeholders and other organisations around Gwynedd.
- Gather case studies and share good practices by the Youth Service.

WHAT DID YOUNG PEOPLE TELL US?

The Youth Service engaged and discussed with young people throughout 2020-2021 regarding what mattered to them, and we responded and altered our provisions to address what they said, when circumstances and restrictions allowed.

Our virtual provision was stopped once the young people reported to us that too much of their time was spent on screen, and that they needed to prioritise



We use multiple social media accounts.



A stand during Bangor University's Freshers Week.



Some of the posters designed.



Providing the young people of Gwynedd a safe and fun way to meet, learn and grow.



screen-time for school.

Young people also told us that as they returned to schools, they needed emotional support rather than project work such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Parents and partners of Youth Support told us that the general social restrictions as well as having to manage their interactions with their peers in strict bubbles in schools had affected young people's social skills and opportunities.

In addition, a survey by the BBC in 2021 found that the group that had suffered most from loneliness due to the pandemic were the 16-24 age group. This survey led to local consultation work with young people aged 16-25 years old which shaped the work of the Youth Support Service (as noted in 3.5 above).

Young people stated that the most prominent challenges they had faced were social isolation, loneliness and the negative effect on well-being. As we asked them what and how could the Youth Service help them, young people stated that they were keen to see more social, fun activities being held which would help them to go out, come together with other young people and have fun.

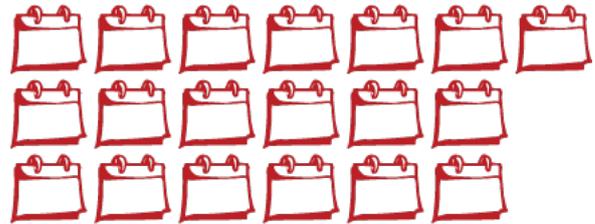
As well as the change of emphasis by young people, parents and partners, the Welsh Government also announced a new Youth Work Strategy and a review of the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework, together with the release of the revised Youth Support Grant which places emphasis on homelessness, health and well-being and language.

STATISTICS

Please see below a breakdown of statistics from this financial year (Quarter 1 and Quarter 2).

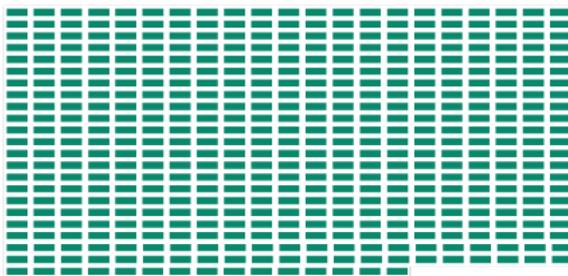


5500 participations across all projects



150

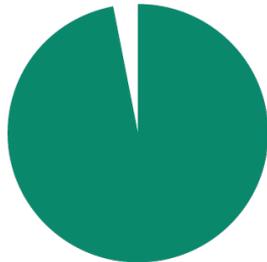
2850 sessions provided



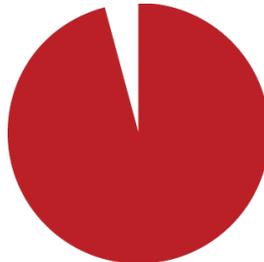
477 have completed an accreditation



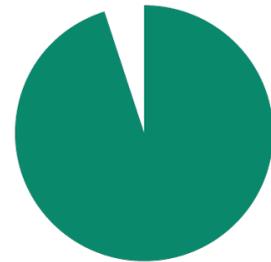
Engaged with 180 vulnerable tier 1 & 2 young people



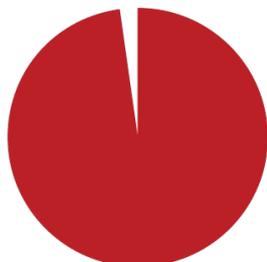
97% of young people stated that their well-being has



96% have enjoyed the service provided.



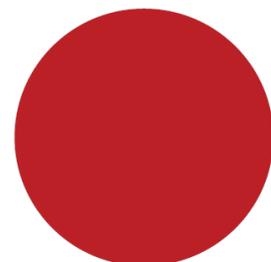
95% have learned a new skill / had a new experience



98% will attend similar sessions in the future



82% of vulnerable young people (16-25) have improved well-being over a period



100% of young people 16-25 fulfilled their personal plan.



Providing the young people of Gwynedd a safe and fun way to meet, learn and grow.

WHAT DO YOUNG PEOPLE TELL US ABOUT THE YOUTH SERVICE?

The quotes are a mixture of what was said in a young people's opinion survey and feedback sent to the Youth Support Workers in the course of their work.



“The support has helped me by having someone to talk to when I was feeling worried and not sure. It has given me more confidence to achieve my goals”.
(Young Person, Gwynedd)



“I think that they give everyone a chance and help you develop new skills. And the staff are so nice and always happy to help.” (Young Person, Bangor)



Learning formal things in an informal environment suits me better – I forgot that I was doing work.”
(Young Person, Pwllheli)



I really enjoy these sessions - it doesn't feel like we are in a lesson because we have a lot of fun as we learn.
(Young Person, Nefyn)



“Thing is we've had a strange few years with covid, I remember doing this before it all so it just feels nice you know? Like it was before?” (Young Person, Blaenau Ffestiniog)



“This session has brought me out of the house, and I enjoyed so I'm going to come back” (Young Person, Trawsfynydd)



Date:	10 November 2022
Title:	Housing Allocations Policy
Purpose:	Present an Interim Report
Contact Officer:	Carys Fôn Williams, Head of Housing and Property
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Craig ab Iago

1. Introduction

1.1 At a meeting on 29 September 2022 the Care Scrutiny Committee agreed that the following aspects needed to be considered:

- Has the policy served its purpose which is to maximize the number of properties allocated to Gwynedd residents with a local connection?
- Have there been problems with the new policy?
- Do further changes need to be made to the policy?

1.2 What is presented here, with the agreement of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Care Scrutiny Committee, is an interim report with a view to presenting a full report to the Committee in the new year. This is on the basis that potential changes will be underway as a result of changes in Government policy and/or legislation, along with the need for the Council to prioritise certain aspects relating to homelessness. However, this is an opportunity to give the Committee a broad overview of progress since the implementation of the Housing Allocations Policy two years ago.

2. Background and Overview

2.1 It is a statutory requirement, in accordance with section 167 of the Housing Act 1996, for all local housing authorities in Wales to have a housing allocation scheme (or housing allocations policy) for setting priorities and the process to be followed when allocating housing. The Act and statutory guidance from the Welsh Government sets out the rules that must be followed in formulating and implementing the policy.

2.2 On 25 June 2019 the Council's Cabinet decided to adopt a new Housing Allocations Policy which prioritizes the needs of applicants on the basis of placing them in a priority band rather than the previous system of awarding points to each application. A definition of the bands is included in the table below:

Band	Degree of Housing Need
Band 1	a. Applicants in Urgent Housing Need with a Gwynedd connection
	b. Applicants in Urgent Housing Need (without a Gwynedd connection)
Band 2	Applicants in Housing Need with a Gwynedd connection
Band 3	Applicants in Housing Need without a Gwynedd connection and Applicants with reduced priority
Band 4	Applicants with no housing need with a Gwynedd connection

2.3 The band in which an applicant is placed will depend on their housing need and whether or not they have a connection with Gwynedd. Although it is important to note, applications without housing need and without a Gwynedd connection will not be included in any of the priority bands and as a result such applications will not be registered.

- 2.4 The new Policy became effective during the Autumn of 2020. During the formulation of the current Policy the Welsh Government challenged the use of local connections which was in the first draft of the Policy. The content therefore had to be slightly modified to comply with Government expectations, but also to recognize that the Council had sought to maximise the use of local connections.
- 2.5 Since the implementation of the Policy, 1237 family units have received social housing. 1194 of those applications had a Gwynedd connection (as defined in the Policy) which is 96.5% of the allocations. Prior to the implementation of the new policy the number of allocations to people with a Gwynedd connection was 90.0%.

3.0 Work Programme

- 3.1 With the Policy having been in effect for two years, there is now an opportunity to review elements of its implementation. From the perspective of the use of local connections (as detailed above) it is recommended that the Policy does not need further modification. It is highly likely that any attempt to strengthen this element would result in a challenge to the legality of the Policy that would be difficult to defend. In addition, as noted above the percentage of allocations to applicants who have a Gwynedd connection (as defined in the Policy) has been very high since the change in policy.
- 3.2 A desktop review of the Policy has already commenced to ensure that all operational aspects of the Policy meet the requirements of the Government's Code of Guidance and also ensure that we are properly addressing the housing needs of Gwynedd residents.
- 3.3 These elements will be fully addressed and form part of the report that will be presented to the Committee in the new year.
- 3.4 Committee Members will be well aware of the significant increase in the Council's Homelessness services over the past few months which has in turn had an impact on the Housing Register, with the number of applications for social housing having increased by 49.3% in the last 2 years.
- 3.5 The effects of this are now visible with the number of vulnerable homeless applicants staying in temporary accommodation having increased significantly to the point that temporary accommodation capacity is no longer available in the county. Spending on temporary accommodation is also significant and therefore there is a real need to move these vulnerable applicants on to long-term stable accommodation.
- 3.6 There is also a need to recognise the Welsh Government's national strategy which aims to avoid the use of temporary accommodation for long periods of time. This approach - Rapid Rehousing - is based on the principles of moving people into stable accommodation quickly, with temporary accommodation a key, but limited, part of the process. The Housing Allocations Policy will need to reflect this national shift in emphasis. A number of authorities in Scotland have maximized the percentage of allocations for homeless applicants as part of the Rehousing scheme and we are aware that authorities in Wales also considering this approach.
- 3.7 It is likely that there will also be changes to legislation and we will be in discussion with the Housing Associations about how we can maximise allocations to people who are homeless and facing homelessness.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 We are currently aware that a number of authorities in Wales are looking at the need to review housing allocations policies as a result of the homelessness situation (specifically the significant increase in the use of temporary accommodation). The department will discuss with our colleagues in other authorities together with regional and national forums to ensure that the policy remains current and aligns with the field's priorities.
- 4.2 Formal discussions are planned with the Housing Associations early next month about the extent of the potential change and what aspects of the current arrangements will need to be modified.
- 4.3 Taking into account that the proposed changes may have a significant impact on the implementation of the policy in the coming months, we request that committee members accept the contents of this report and agree as well for the Department to submit a further comprehensive report that will be presented to the Committee in the new year.

Agenda Item 8

MEETING	CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE	10 November 2022
TITLE	Care Scrutiny Committee Forward Programme 2022/23
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT	For the Committee to prioritise items for the upcoming meetings and to adopt a revised work programme.
AUTHOR	Llywela Haf Owain, Senior Language and Scrutiny Advisor

1. The Committee's Forward Programme for 2022/23 was adopted at the Committee's meeting on 29 September 2022.
2. Since that meeting, the item 'Gwynedd Population Needs Assessment Report', which was to be considered at this meeting, has slipped with the need to re-programme.
3. In addition, the Chair and Vice-Chair have had meetings with the relevant Cabinet Members and Heads of Department. One additional item was identified for the Committee to consider prioritising, namely, the result of an audit recently carried out by Care Inspectorate Wales in the Adults, Health and Well-being Department.
4. As you can see in the Appendix to the report, four items have already been programmed for the Committee's next meeting in February. An effort was made to prioritise a maximum of three items per meeting in order to ensure that due attention is given to matters and that scrutiny can add value. That was not possible on this occasion.
5. Another consideration for the Committee when prioritising items, will be what has resulted from the discussion in the Committee on the item 'Housing Allocation Policy'. The report states the intention to submit a further report to the Committee in the new year.
6. **The Committee is asked to prioritise items for the upcoming meetings and to adopt a revised work programme.**

CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD PROGRAMME 2022/23

07/07/2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Wales Care Market Stability Report
29/09/2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruiting and retaining staff in the care field (Adults, Health and Well-being Department) • New Energy Conservation Service
10/11/2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambulance Service • Youth Service • Housing Allocation Policy
16/02/2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Stop Shop for Housing Matters • Housing Action Plan • Looked-After Children Placements • Recruiting and retaining staff in the care field (Children and Supporting Families Department)
20/04/2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gwynedd Mental Health Service (Adults, Health and Well-being Department) • Autism Plan 2021-23 • Dementia care provision

Item to be programmed:

Gwynedd Population Needs Assessment Report