

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.*



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“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.



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(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



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- 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.

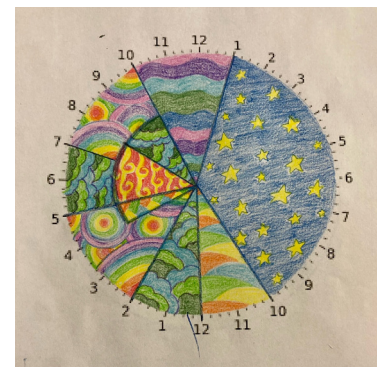
The individuals who are supported by the team have complex needs – many suffer from adverse childhood experiences, which have exacerbated as challenges since the pandemic, and again as a result of the cost-of-living crisis. The service is now addressing this by enhancing our service and working jointly 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.



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“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”.



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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

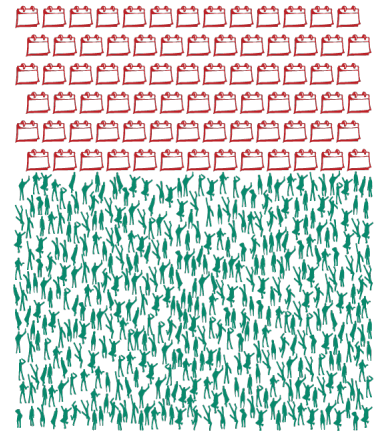
- residential weekends in Glan-llyn,
- a weekend to visit the Senedd in Cardiff
- ten pin bowling in Glasfryn
- climbing at the Beacon centre
- and ice-skating in Deeside.

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.



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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.

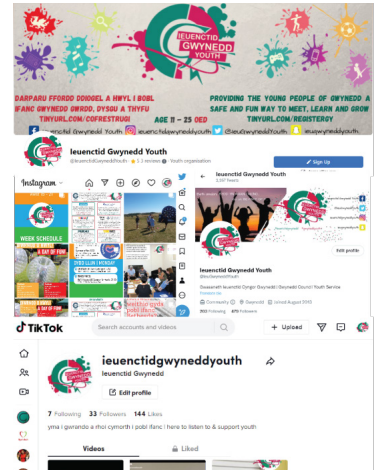
ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION ARRANGEMENTS

- 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.



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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.



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STATISTICS

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

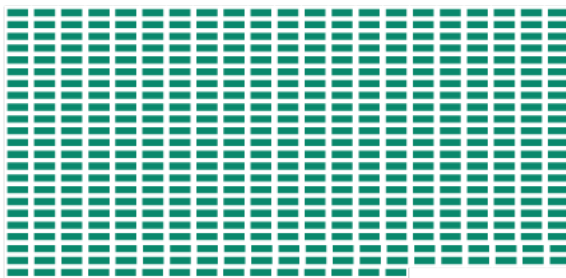


5500 participations across all projects



= 150

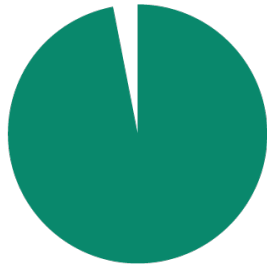
2850 sessions provided



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.



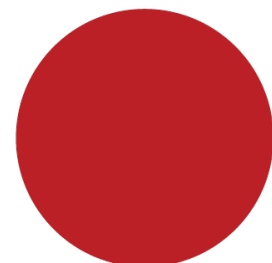
95% have learned a new skill / had a new experience



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.



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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)

