

Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

REPORT TO:	Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee
DATE:	20 September 2021
LOCATION:	Video conferencing
TITLE:	Update on three Services within Porth Cymorth Cynnar (PRU, Support and Prevention and Lifelong Learning and Skills Services)
PURPOSE OF REPORT:	Provide an update on the <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupil Referral Unit in Ceredigion• Support and Prevention Service• Lifelong Learning and Skills
REASON SCRUTINY HAVE REQUESTED THE INFORMATION:	Provide information on the development of the above Services within Porth Cymorth Cynnar and as part of the Through-Age and Wellbeing Programme

BACKGROUND:

Ceredigion Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) has progressively transferred from Education to Porth Cymorth Cynnar (PCC) over the academic year 2020-21. Following 2 periods of consultation (one for Teachers and one for Mentors), from September 2021, the PRU will manage 6 Teachers and 6 Mentors to support Ceredigion's most vulnerable young people in education.

The proposal for the PRU to be transferred into PCC stated the following:

Relocating the Pupil Referral Units into Porth Cymorth Cynnar will ensure better partnership working between the Pupil Referral Units and the Support Services in Porth Cymorth Cynnar, along with greater cohesion with other services within the Through-Age and Wellbeing programme. These proposed changes should provide improved outcomes for children, young people and their families by facilitating early intervention and prevention services.

The Pupil Referral Unit will remain as a school, and therefore all school improvement functions will be undertaken by the Schools Service. This will include Performance Management of the Headteacher, all Headteacher fora and meetings and full access to Challenge Advisor support, policies and strategies. Leadership and curriculum professional learning will continue to be delivered by the School Service. The Pupil Referral Units staff will continue to have a close working relationship with all aspects of the School Service, in particular the Inclusion team.

PRU Staffing Structure:

Gareth Lewis - Headteacher				
Charlie Day (0.8)	Ricky Jordan (1.0)	Alex Meredith (1.0)	Rob Evans (1.0)	Mike Vobe (0.6)
Teacher in Charge Eos	Teacher in Charge Aeron	ALNCo	Health and Wellbeing - Physical Education Lead	Maths and Numeracy Lead
Pastoral, Health and Wellbeing Lead	Humanities Lead	Expressive Arts Lead		
Literacy, Language and Communication AOLE Lead				
Mentors Line Management:				
Sioned Jones	John Lynch	Sam Cooper	Angharad Jones	
Louisa Scannell	Gethin Roberts			

CURRENT SITUATION:

Ceredigion Pupil Referral Unit is for pupils with social, emotional and behavioural needs. Most pupils have special educational needs. All pupils either have a statement of special educational needs or a 'school action plus agreement' in a specialist resource provision.

Ceredigion Pupil Referral Unit is registered with the Welsh Government as a 'portfolio' pupil referral unit. The unit is located across 2 sites, namely Canolfan yr Eos in Aberystwyth, and Canolfan Aeron in Aberaeron. Canolfan Bro Steffan.

One management board oversees the pupil referral unit (PRU), and it has an integrated line management structure. Approximately twenty pupils receive full-time or part-time education at the PRU. The PRU also provides support for mentors providing outreach service for mainstream pupils in Ceredigion. The PRU provides a support and advice service on specific aspects of positive behaviour support for schools within the authority.

The aim of the PRU is to enable all pupils to return to mainstream education and/or further education, training or employment. All pupils receive full-time education, either at the PRU or through a shared arrangement with a mainstream school, college, training provider or employment.

Ceredigion PRU was recently inspected by ESTYN. It was judged to be the following in each inspection area:

Inspection Area	Judgement
Standards	Good
Wellbeing and attitudes to learning	Good
Teaching and learning experience	Good
Care, support and guidance	Good
Leadership and management	Good

ESTYN made some of the following statements in relation to good practice:

“During their time at the pupil referral unit (PRU), many pupils make strong progress in their social, emotional and behavioural skills, and their ability to work with adults and their peers”

“Most pupils show pride and report eloquently on the learning experiences that they receive and how the learning environment has a positive effect on them and their self-confidence.”

“Most develop resilience and valuable social skills. As a result, a minority of pupils return to the mainstream successfully. The remainder succeed in keeping their place in the PRU, gain suitable qualifications and move on to further education, training or employment. This is a strong feature.”

The link to the full report can be found in [Appendix A](#)

ESTYN recommended the PRU improve on the following:

- R1 - Improve pupils’ standards, particularly in their extended writing skills, higher order reading skills, and information and communication technology (ICT) skills
- R2 - Improve the quality of teaching by ensuring that best practice is shared across the three sites
- R3 - Strengthen planning to develop skills and ensure increasing opportunities for pupils to develop their literacy, numeracy and ICT skills, and give more attention to developing the most able pupils
- R4 - Improve the rigour and effectiveness of quality improvement processes in order to strengthen provision and raise standards

Given the above recommendations, the PRU have identified ways to make progressive improvements over the coming years. During 2020-21, the PRU prioritized quality assurance process (including tracking), engagement with ICT, and given the situation with Covid-19, learner wellbeing. From September 2021-22, the school will continue to work through the recommendations and focus on sharing effective practice across units and engaging learners with literature and writing. Moreover, the school will work towards effectively implementing the new Curriculum for Wales and the new Additional Learning Needs Transformation Programme.

BACKGROUND:

The **Support and Prevention Service** is made up of multi-disciplined teams. The overall aim of the service is to provide child and youth-led approaches to enable children and young people to be empowered, to achieve, to develop personally, emotionally, socially and be the best that they can be. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) underpins the work of the service. Our teams provide universal and focussed support for children and young people and include:

- **Youth Work and Engagement;**
school-based youth work, education progression, accredited learning and participation
- **Support and Attainment;**
pre / post 16 transition, nurturing support, emotional wellbeing, mentoring and outreach
- **Community Youth Work and Prevention;**
16-24 support, youth centres/ clubs, community outreach and targeted preventions

Support and Prevention Youth Work and Engagement



The aim of youth work is to enable young people to develop holistically, working with them to facilitate their personal, social and educational development, to enable them to develop their voice, influence and place in society and to reach their full potential (*National Occupational Standards*).

The National Youth Strategy for Wales outlines the following five aims to meet its vision:

- Young people are thriving
- Youth work is accessible and inclusive
- Voluntary and paid professional youth work staff are supported throughout their careers to improve their practice
- Youth work is valued and understood
- A sustainable model for youth work delivery

Link to the Strategy - [The Youth Work Strategy for Wales](#)

As a Local Authority Youth Service, we are the smallest in Wales, but we have Youth Workers based in each Secondary School, whom also have direct links with feeder primary schools.

We also have Youth Workers based in the community, providing support for those young people over the age of 18, along with youth centres and a holiday activity programme. In 2019/20, the service had contact with over 4,500 young people in Ceredigion.

Support and Attainment



The Children and Young People's Skills (CYP) Mentors are new positions within Support and Prevention which have been developed from the previous SEBSA (Social, Emotional, Behavioural Support Assistants) roles. Mentors are allocated to support children and young people who exhibit challenging behaviour as a result of their social and emotional experiences in line with the ACE's (Adverse Childhood Experiences) agenda ([Supporting pupils-ACE's-government-response](#)).

The mentors provide support to children and young people who attend Primary Schools, Secondary Schools and other education settings across Ceredigion i.e. Alternative Curriculum and PRU. They engage with children and young people who may have social, emotional and behavioural difficulties in both focussed one-to-one and small group based settings. The aim is to support children and young people to manage their emotions, channelling their energy positively by focussing on attainment, both educationally and personally, providing restorative approaches to deescalate behaviours that are not conducive to education settings.

The team provides social, emotional and engagement support to approximately 80 pupils countywide. The Behaviour Support Team were also recently part of an Estyn Inspection of the Ceredigion PRU which scored an overall GOOD rating, along with positive feedback from Estyn's review of Local Authorities work during Covid.

Rather than focus on the child or young person being the issue, mentors promote a holistic and strengths-based approach to better understand the deeper reasons as to why they may be finding their current environment challenging and / or are displaying negative behaviours. The mentoring and support team offer targeted interventions for children and young people with an onus on social and emotional support.

Community Youth Work and Prevention



Youth work is a distinct profession with its own qualifications framework and National Occupational Standards (NOS). Youth Support Services is a suite of services given its statutory basis in the 'The Learning & Skills Act (2000)' Section 123, which states: services which in the opinion of the National Assembly will encourage, enable or assist young persons (directly or indirectly): (a) to participate effectively in education or training, (b) to take advantage of opportunities for employment, or (c) to participate effectively and responsibly in the life of their communities.

Our Community Youth Work and Prevention team consists of youth workers, prevention and diversionary officers and support staff, all of whom provide targeted and universal interventions in line with the National Occupational Standards, 'Youth Work in Wales: Principles and Purposes' and the introduction of the [Youth Justice Blueprint](#) such as:

- Structured activity programmes
- Post-16 support i.e. engaging with those that are/ at risk of becoming Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)
- Centre-based support i.e. Youth Club / Youth Centre and drop in provisions.
- Detached / mobile, outreach and pop up youth work
- Supporting youth justice preventions delivery, including Out-Of-Court Disposals / Diversion
- Promoting voluntary youth sector partnerships including managing Service Level Agreements

CURRENT SITUATION:

Support and Prevention Service Staffing Structure:

Support Pathways Lorraine Davies	Youth work and Engagement Lowri Evans	Support and Attainment Dai Jones	Community Youth Work and Prevention Gwen Evans
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Team Manager (GR12) 1 30hrs CYP Participation Officer (GR9) 7 Full Time Youth Workers (GR9) 1 30hrs Training and Accreditation Officer (GR8) 1 Full Time Apprentice Youth Worker 2 3.5hrs Youth Support Workers (GR7) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Team Manager (GR12) 10 Full Time Children and young people skills mentors (GR8) 2 Full Time (term time) Children and young people skills mentors (GR8) 1 30hrs (term time) Children and young people skills mentors (GR8) 1 22hrs (term time) Children and young people skills mentors (GR8) 1 14hrs (term time) Children and young 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Team Manager (GR12) 2 Full Time PADOs (GR8) 1 30hrs PADOs (GR8) 1 14hrs PADO (GR8) (long term sickness) 2 Full Time Youth Workers (GR8) 1 Full Time Resource Officer (GR6) 2 16hrs 'Activity Project Workers (GR7) 1 7.5hrs Youth Support Worker (GR6) 9 Casual Project Support Workers (GR6)

		people skills mentors (GR8)	
	Vacancies: 1. 1 Full Time Youth Worker (recent notice given – being advertised)	Vacancies: 1. 1 Support and Attainment Coordinator (GR10) 2. 1 full time Mentor (maternity cover)	Vacancies: 1. 1 Full Time (GR9) Preventions Coordinator 2. 1 16hrs Structured Activity Worker (GR7) 3. 1 Casual Project Support Worker (GR6)
Changes: Honarium for Data and Information Coordinator has commenced	Changes: New Post to go through Job Evaluation (Youth Work and Engagement Coordinator). Training and Accreditation Officer recently redeployed to Lifelong Learning and Skills temporarily.	Changes: Support and Attainment Coordinator post recently gone through Job Evaluation and LG successfully. Currently being advertised. Maternity Cover has been advertised for the third time.	Changes: New Post to go through Job Evaluation (Community Youth Work and Prevention Coordinator). Honarium position (GR10 – 6month period) has been circulated to support Mobile and Rural Youth Work opportunities

Support and Prevention – The Journey so far

- 600 children, young people and their families have been supported through 3,000 welfare calls
- 800 Wellbeing packs have been delivered to 16-24 year olds
- Over 50,000 people have engaged with our Social Media pages.
- Since September 2021, we have supported 301 individuals in secondary school settings – an average of 43 pupils in each secondary school and with an average 3 designated staff located at each site.
- 63 children have been supported in primary school settings.
- 64 young people aged 16-24 are receiving support via outreach provision and organised visits.
- A high proportion of referrals have been related to mental and emotional wellbeing concerns (around 70%), behaviour issues with underlying additional learning needs and / or anxiety due to school / family life (around 70%).
- The support in primary schools have all been directly aimed at nurture and supporting emotional wellbeing, particularly with transition groups.

- We have also been supporting more young people with substance misuse and potential offending behaviour i.e. behaviour online, assault / violence.
- Just over 50% of cases are known / open to specialist / statutory services.
- Out of the 63 pupils in Primary school settings receiving support, 19 are known to have emotional wellbeing concerns and a further 14 children and have been referred to CFAST due to mental health concerns.
- 67 young people engaged in the three week summer targeted programme in 2020. This year we are expecting over 100 young people to access structured activities and support
- 60 people attended the official launch of the Arad Goch / Youth Service collaborative project highlighting the theme Youth homelessness
- 27 staff redeployed to support critical services and many staff in addition to their day-to-day job, supported with the food parcels and welfare calls to vulnerable and shielding residents.
- In our first whole service meeting, 47 staff responded to a question via a Menti poll, “What 3 words best describe the work that you do” and ‘Challenging, Rewarding and Supportive’ came out as the top 3 responses.
- One of Ceredigion’s Youth Workers was awarded the Youth Work in Schools category at this year’s Professional Teaching Awards.
- Ceredigion YOT was awarded funding as part of a Pathfinder project, which is led by the YJB and jointly collaborated with Aberystwyth University.
- We have had 10 new staff starting with the service including a Youth Work Apprentice.
- 10 members of staff have had support via the Corporate Qualifications panel to access further / higher learning opportunities i.e. ‘Youth Work Level 6’ and ‘Effective Practice Certificate in Youth Offending’.
- We have only recently started using the new Childview system which we’re aiming will increase the way we utilise data, monitor and measure performance and impact in relation to the key themes for prevention.
- At the moment, our reporting mechanism has been via MS Teams with individual service areas, tracking forms etc. with the new teams formed we will be in a better position moving forward in September.

Case Studies are provided in **Appendix B**

BACKGROUND:

The **Lifelong Learning and Skills Service** ensures that the residents of Ceredigion have access to a rich and broad, vocational, lifelong learning curriculum, and to employability support. We ensure that we are meeting resident’s needs, enabling them to achieve their full potential in order to achieve a sustainable and more resilient economic growth for Ceredigion.

Lifelong Learning and Skills sits within Porth Cymorth Cynnar and consists of the following services, Hyfforddiant Ceredigion Training (HCT), Alternative Curriculum, Vocational Provision for Schools, Dysgu Bro and the Employment Support Team.



Hyfforddiant Ceredigion Training (HCT) offers a wide range of training programmes and courses to the people of Ceredigion, seeking to both improve the employability of individual learners and the skills provision for employers in the County. In addition to working closely with schools in the delivery of both vocational and alternative curriculum courses, HCT delivers Traineeship and Apprenticeship Work Based Learning programmes on behalf of the Welsh Government, currently via sub-contracting agreements with ACT Ltd. HCT also delivers training on a commercial basis to the wider community across various occupational areas. HCT has been actively involved in the delivery of work-based learning in Ceredigion for over 30 years. HCT offers a range of vocational courses that prepare people for the workplace by providing skills training in the following subjects:



Welding & Engineering



Vehicle Maintenance



Childcare



Hairdressing



Business Administration



Electrical Systems



Plumbing



Wood Occupations

Engagement programme: a programme for 16-18-year-olds who don't yet know what career they want to pursue. HCT offer a varied programme to prepare the young person for employment via CV writing, job searching and undertaking essential and employability skills.

Traineeships (Level 1): once the young person has chosen a 'route' they wish to follow, HCT will work with the young person to find a suitable work placement to enable them to complete a Level 1 qualification and provide support with securing a full-time job.

Apprenticeships (Levels 2 and 3): HCT are able to offer a wide range of vocational apprenticeship courses to those in employment who are looking to gain a vocational skills qualification.

The aim of the **Alternative Curriculum** is to ensure that vulnerable learners (Years 9-11), have access to a tailored curriculum to meet their needs with a range of different courses currently being offered, giving them the best opportunity to achieve and reach their full potential. The aims is to develop their social, emotional and behavioural skills and improve their attainment and attendance.

We currently have a range of internal and external providers delivering a range of accredited level 1 and level 2 qualifications. During the academic year of 2019/2020 we had 83 learners, from across all of the seven Secondary Schools in Ceredigion and the PRU, attending the Alternative Curriculum.

Examples of courses delivered below:

- Level 1 Introductory in Transport and Vehicles
- Level 1 Introductory in Land-Based Studies
- Level 1 Introductory in Construction
- Level 1 Introductory in Hospitality and Tourism
- Level 1 Introductory in Sport
- Level 1 Introductory in Digital Media
- Level 1 Introductory in Engineering
- Level 1 Introductory in Art and Design

HCT also offer a wide range of Level 2 (for 14-16 year old) and Level 3 qualifications(for Post 16 learners) in Secondary Schools across Ceredigion which include:

- BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Blacksmithing and Metalworking
- BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Blacksmithing and Metalworking
- BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Vehicle Technology
- City and Guilds Level 2 Certificate in Hair Services



Dysgu Bro provide learning opportunities for the people of Ceredigion in their local community to encourage them to develop new interests, work towards gaining a qualification or improve their skills for the workplace. We have online, face-to-face and e-learning courses available.

Health & Safety

First Aid in the workplace - Emergency first aid -
Paediatric first aid - Food Safety –CSCS.

Computer courses

Beginners - Microsoft Office - Office 365 - Google Suite – Photoshop – iPad - Social media - BTEC Creative Media.

Essential Skills

Numeracy – Communication - Digital literacy.

Business

Sage One - Report writing - Business literacy - Minute taking - Time management - Coaching & Mentoring - Introduction to Supervisory skills - Presentation skills - Customer Service - Conflict management - Alcohol licensing - Underage Sales Prevention - Working as a Security Officer within the Private Security Industry.



The **Employment Support Team**, comprises of Workways+ (Long-term unemployed and Short term unemployed) and Communities for Work+, and offers support to citizens, throughout the County, to gain skills, qualifications and paid employment, recognising that the best route out of poverty is through employment.

Workways+ - is a project for the Long-Term Unemployed (LTU), Short-Term Unemployed (STU) and Economically Inactive (EI). It is a WEFO funded project for people aged 25 years or over, who are NEET and have complex barriers such as:

- Being affected by work-limiting health condition or disability
- Having caring responsibilities
- Low or no qualifications
- Having childcare responsibilities
- From a single adult or jobless household
- From a Black Minority Ethnic group etc.

Support provided:

The Workways+ Team offer - 1:1 support for participants with writing CV's, interview skills, job application support applications, job searches, paid work opportunities, training, volunteering opportunities, funding for travel & other expenses, PPE etc.

Communities For Work+ - is a Welsh Government funded project for individuals in or at risk of poverty **aged 16 or over**. Participants may be; experiencing in-work poverty, are unemployed, living on a minimum wage, struggling to pay basic monthly outgoings, on sporadic zero hour contracts etc.

Support provided:

The Communities For Work+ Team offer - 1:1 support for participants with writing CV's and mock interviews, job application support applications, job searches, up-skilling and funding a wide variety of training, help with starting up own businesses, funding for travel & other expenses, PPE etc.

CURRENT SITUATION:**Lifelong Learning and Skills****Lifelong Learning and Skills Service Staffing Structure:**

Employment and Training	Vocational Learning and Skills
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1 Team Manager 2. 5 full time Workways+ Mentors 3. 1 full time Workways+ Training & Publicity Co-ordinator 4. 1 full time Workways+ Quality & Performance Officer 5. 1 full time Workways+ Employment Liaison Officer 6. 1 full time Employer Liaison / Work Placement Officer – Communities For Work+ 7. 3 full time Community Employment Mentor - Communities For Work+ 8. 1 full time Participants Support Officer 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1 Team Manager 2. 1 Deputy Manager HCT 3. 6 Full Time Training Advisors 4. 14 Part Time Training Advisors 5. 1 Full Time Support Officer for Vocational Learning 6. 2 Part Time Support Officers for Vocational Learning 7. 1 Community Education Manager – Dysgu Bro 8. 1 Full Time Community Learning Tutor 9. 2 Part Time Community Learning Tutors 10.7 Casual Community Learning Tutors 11.1 Full Time Accreditation Support Officer 12.1 Full Time Alternative Curriculum & Extended Work Experience Support Officer 13. 1 Full Time ESF Quality Co-ordinator

- LLS Digital Learning Strategy developed with support from JISC to meet the WG Digital 2030 Framework.
- Community Benefits – ongoing attendance at South West Wales regional group reviewing inclusion and compliance with community benefits requirements in framework contracts.
- HCT Centre has been open to all learners for face to face teaching since September 2020 and reopened in April 2021 after the second lockdown.

- HCT has completed its Self-Evaluation Report for ACT who we subcontract to for our Traineeships and Apprenticeships programmes. We report against Estyn framework and our judgements are recorded below. These are validated by ACT as part of their ongoing quality cycle.

Inspection Area	Judgement
Standards	Good
Wellbeing and attitudes to learning	Good
Teaching and learning experience	Excellent
Care, support and guidance	Good
Leadership and management	Excellent

- Occupancy figures for the last 3 years (Jan – December) are recorded below which shows numbers pre-pandemic and current numbers to date (Alternative Curriculum/ School learners/Traineeship/Apprenticeships due to start September).

2019		2020		2021 (up to 10/08/21)	
Alternative Curriculum/ Schools	190	Alternative Curriculum/ Schools	146	Alternative Curriculum/ Schools	112
Traineeships	92	Traineeships	105	Traineeships	55
Apprenticeships	136	Apprenticeships	114	Apprenticeships	84
Total	418	Total	365	Total	251

- Alternative Curriculum learners who gained a recognised Level 1/ Level 2 qualification

2019	56
2020	50
2021 (up to 10/08/21)	46

- New development of workshops are due to be completed this month with the versatility to deliver vocational training from Cwrtnwydd mainly through the Alternative Curriculum.
- Dysgu Bro have delivered Adult Learning in the Community classes online using Zoom and Teams via eLearning. They have been able to use remote invigilation to ensure learners can achieve their qualifications, eg in British Sign Language, ECDL, Digital Skills and Essential Skills.
- Dysgu Bro continue to deliver courses for the Food Skills Cymru and Farming Connect projects, Paediatric First Aid (71 Childminders) and 61 sessions to 569 attendees for CCC Learning and Development team.
- We have also started delivering Paediatric First Aid to/Emergency First Aid & First Aid at Work to schools and the Youth Service.

- Number of learners accessing Dysgu Bro courses over the last 3 years (Jan – December) (numbers during the pre-pandemic and current numbers to date).

	2019	2020	2021
Number of learners accessing DB courses	609	862	252 (up to 10/08/21)
Number of businesses supported through courses	11	11	10 (up to 10/08/21)
Number of courses run for CCC L&D team	9 courses & 29 sessions	13 courses & 61 sessions	6 courses & 12 sessions (up to 10/08/21)

- The Employment Support Team have resumed face to face appointments with the most vulnerable participants at risk of disengaging to ensure they are fully supported in getting back into work.
- Volunteering/Work placements and paid work opportunities in a variety of jobs have restarted ensuring that all Covid and health and safety procedures are followed.
- A number of qualifications have been delivered which include Food Hygiene, Hospitality, HGV, Work Skills, Health and Safety in Construction (CSCS), Security Guard and Chainsaw courses.
- Advertising about the projects continue in the press and radio. There have been a number of case studies in Cambrian News recently. The team is currently carrying out mailshot to all residential addresses in Ceredigion promoting all employability projects and support they can offer.
- Number of Participants accessing Employment Support over the last 3 years (April – March). Numbers during the pre-pandemic and current numbers to date.

	April 19 – March 20	April 20 – March 21	April 21 – 10/08/21
Number of participants gaining employment	56	51	61
Number of Citizens engaged in projects	188	172	98
Number of participants gaining qualifications	94	56	31

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If, not, please state why – Information only

Summary:

Long term:
Balancing short term need with long term planning for the future

Integration:
Positively impacting on people, economy, environment and culture and trying to benefit all three

Collaboration:
Working together with other partners to deliver services

Involvement:
Involving those with an interest and seeking their views

Prevention:
Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse

WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS:

RECOMMENDATION (S): Information only

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION (S): Information only

**Contact Name: Elen
James**

**Designation: CLO Porth
Cymorth Cynnar**

Date of Report: 01 / 08 / 2021

Acronyms: Porth Cymorth Cynnar (PCC)
Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)
Recommendations (R1, R2 etc.)
HCT – Hyfforddiant Ceredigion Training
LLS – Lifelong Learning and Skills

APPENDIX

APPENDIX A

The link to the ESTYN report - <https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2020-08/Ceredigion%2520Pupil%2520Referral%2520Unit%2520en.pdf>

APPENDIX B

Support and Prevention Service

Case Study 1 – Early Intervention and Prevention of Mental Wellbeing in Schools

We teamed up with a local counselling voluntary organisation and the Schools service to propose a comprehensive 6 week psycho-educational programme for young people focussing on early intervention and strategically applied theoretical and evidence-based approaches that are proven to promote wellbeing and prevent mental health problems.

Programme Aims:

- To develop a culture of positive mental health and wellbeing across the whole school
- To increase awareness and reduce stigma of mental health and wellbeing
- To up-skill and empower young people to manage their own mental health and wellbeing
- To prevent mental health and wellbeing issues through early psycho-educational intervention

Young people were able to:

- Gain invaluable life-long skills in managing their mental health and wellbeing
- Manage challenging life events more effectively limiting disruption to education, attendance and behaviour.
- Gain skills to help develop a more positive mind-set.
- Feel more confident in themselves, their abilities and have improved self esteem and self worth.

Outcomes:

17 pupils from two secondary schools started the course on week 1 and completed pre-programme

75% of pupils said that after attending our programme they now have “lots of” or “some” skills to manage their mental health and wellbeing.

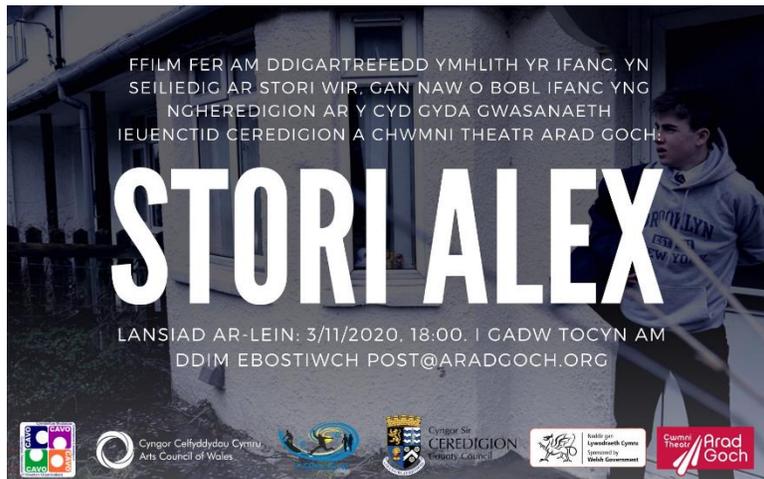
‘I believe that it has given me access to more techniques which I can use in order to improve my mental health.’ (young person)

We are now looking to continue the pilot within a Work Based Learning Environment.

Case Study 2 – Youth Homelessness

To promote World Homeless Day, young people from Penparcau Youth Club, who form the Aberystwyth Community Ambassadors Group, embarked on a new project in partnership with Arad Goch to create a short film in a bid to educate and raise awareness of youth homelessness. The project was funded by Ceredigion Association of Voluntary Organisations' (CAVO) Youth Led Grant Scheme and co-delivered by youth workers and partners.

The group researched the topic, discussed with local organisations, created a script, filmed scenes in and around Aberystwyth and edited and evaluated every stage of the project. The film was produced by young people, for young people under the support and supervision of local Theatre Company, Arad Goch. The project was also supported by drama pupils from Ysgol Gyfun Gymunedol Penweddig who participated and supported the production. The short film follows the poignant journey of a young person who faces family breakdown and subsequently homelessness, before finding support with a local organisation. <https://aradgoch.cymru/stori-alex/?lang=en>



Case Study 3 – Digital Youth Work (during lockdown)

- The youth service virtual activity programme engaged with a total of 74 young people in weekly sessions which include thematic areas such as healthy lifestyles, PE and wellbeing. Activities included cooking, yoga, quizzes and games, etc.
- Daily themes were shared on our social media pages for promoting healthy lifestyles, Physical Activity and wellbeing. The theme headings were cooking, mindfulness, brain teasers, exercise and arts and crafts. In total the daily themes averaged around 1,000 views per post on our social media platforms.
- We worked closely with Ceredigion Actif and Active Young People (Insport/ Disability Sport Wales) to promote inclusive activity initiatives to target children and young people throughout lockdown.
- 66 young people in total registered for our virtual activities with parental consent in place. Covid-19 restrictions has had an impact on the reach and contacts of the

service, but the digital element has enabled us to maintain and grow our engagement with children and young people.

- Youth Council and our Young People's Forum 'Dewis' continued to meet throughout lockdown via Teams and Zoom. The Dewis group also worked in partnership with CAVO and a local business to distribute both the youth-led grant and the young people's bursary to children and young people that applied.
- Each of our practitioners in Support and Prevention have access to their own laptop and smartphone – which has enhanced and strengthened our virtual interventions and support for young people.

Case Study 4 – Post 16 Outreach and Transition Support

From April – September, we received a total 43 referrals for young people aged 16-24 who were NEET and screened 'Not ready for EET via our community employment team.

Since October, we have received a further 71 referrals for those in need of support. Our provision continues to be regular weekly contact via phone calls/ support via Teams ensuring that the most vulnerable young people are provided support with their emotional and mental health and wellbeing.

Essential wellbeing / doorstep visits have been undertaken whilst undertaking appropriate risk assessment to support young people who are at high risk and needing further support.

It has been incredibly challenging to maintain positive relationships with this cohort without the face to face element. However, many have been engaging well in virtual groups – and there is a clear need for us to provide a robust blended support as we develop through our adjustment phase processes.

Case Study 5 – Participation

The young person 'DEWIS' panel have recently re-established as a virtual panel and they have been successful in supporting the local voluntary association organisation (CAVO) with distributing the youth-led grant – which is a young-person led project that awards local businesses, organisations and charities to promote children and young people projects. 6 applications were awarded with grants to support projects around promoting mental health activities, wellbeing projects and training courses.

Case Study 6 – Mobile Youth Work

In July, 2020 Ceredigion Youth Service were awarded £99,000 by the National Lottery Community Fund to develop a mobile provision for children and young people.

“the aim of this project is to establish a mobile youth centre, extending our youth provision to rurally isolated areas in Ceredigion, providing bespoke programmes and flexible provision to engage with young people, particularly those who are disadvantaged, vulnerable and require support.

The project will provide a wide range of activities and opportunities for residents to access advice and support via workshops, taster sessions, information drop-ins and various clubs that will aim to promote education, health and wellbeing.

Children and young people have taken the lead in developing this project, with over 500 young people engaging in consultation over a three year period. They will continue to drive the project forward when we hope to officially open the service in September / October 2021.



Case Study 7 – A young person’s experience of support during Covid-19

“Going into the first lockdown I had no support and struggled massively. By the firebreak in October I was surrounded by support, including a youth worker. This has made a massive difference to my experience in lockdown. In the first lockdown I found it very easy to spiral and become unmotivated very quickly. Now that I have the support of a youth worker, my lockdown has been very different.

Through having a youth worker it has meant I have had opportunities to have a phone call or text whenever I want or need, I have been offered to go for a walk if needed and I was offered the opportunity to go into school several days a week during this lockdown. Being able to have these resources at my hands has meant that I have been able to cope emotionally during this lockdown, but also being able to stay on top of school work which also contributes to coping better emotionally.

Although these opportunities have had a significant impact on me as an individual during lockdown, it has also had a noticeable affect of the rest of my family who I live with. Through being able to access support for my mental wellbeing, the detriment to my family has been far less and areas in which they need support during lockdown have been identified and resolved.

Now that I have consistent support during lockdown, I am able to stay emotionally well allowing me to look after myself more effectively. Through enforcing meditative techniques during the week with a support worker, and having a check in several times a week with a youth worker I am now able to better manage myself and cope in a far healthier way. This allows me to then take my wellbeing into my own hands slowly with support and be able to still feel good in lockdown.

Another advantage to having a youth worker during lockdown, is being able to discuss the government announcements with someone when they sometimes come as a surprise and make me unsettled. The most beneficial part of having a youth worker in lockdown is having someone to text or call whenever, about anything but to also have someone checking in on me as sometimes picking up the phone is easier than it sounds. This then gives me the opportunity to raise any concerns or anxieties without having to specifically reach out, which isn't always easy for me.

Overall, I feel as though the support I have now been offered during this lockdown has had such a significant impact on me that I am able to continue to work hard towards what I want without significantly spiraling”.

APPENDIX C

Lifelong Learning and Skills have developed new brochure highlighting courses for learners and up skilling opportunities for business. This gives financial information to both learners and employers regarding any grants that are available to them at this current time. Please see link below.



LLS Booklet
July21.pdf

Employment Support Team have recently released a number of press releases and links are listed below. They have also carried out a number of TV and radio interviews highlighting the good work they are doing for the citizens of Ceredigion through various employment projects we deliver.

<http://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/resident/news/communities-for-workplus-participant-secures-job-as-a-hgv-driver/>

<http://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/resident/news/resident-supported-through-uncertain-times-to-secure-new-job/>

<http://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/resident/news/communities-for-work-plus-helped-resident-to-get-back-into-work/>

<http://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/resident/news/ceredigion-residents-supported-back-to-work/>

<http://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/resident/news/communities-for-workplus-support-ceredigion-resident-to-develop-professionally/>