

## CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> January 2023
<b>Title:</b>	Ceredigion Youth Council Meeting Minutes (21.10.22)
<b>Purpose of the report:</b>	To present the minutes from the last Ceredigion Youth Council meeting
<b>For:</b>	For information
<b>Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Wyn Thomas, Cabinet Member for Schools, Lifelong Learning and Skills

### BACKGROUND:

One of the duties bestowed on Local Authorities within the Welsh Government - Shared Purpose: Shared Future: Statutory Guidance to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 – is Annex B – the **Statutory Guidance on Children and Young People's Participation**

In order to meet one of the requirements of the legislation, Local Authorities are expected to work with relevant partners to:

- *Support a County Youth Forum/Council as a representative body of young people to act as a channel for young people's views across their local authority and represent those views to local and national decision-making bodies.*
- *They should aim to be as inclusive as possible in terms of geographical spread, age, gender and to represent specialist needs and more marginalised young people.*
- *For County Youth Forums/Councils to operate effectively, they will need to be adequately supported by Local Authorities who should consider what support is required to do this.*
- *They should be informed and linked to their local democratic structures.*
- *They will also need to be effectively linked into national participation structures such as Young Wales, the Children's Commissioner for Wales and the National Assembly for Wales.*

*Children and young people have the human right to have opinions and for these opinions to matter. It says that the opinions of children and young people should be considered when people make decisions about things that involve them, and they shouldn't be dismissed out of hand on the grounds of age. It also says children and young people should be given the information they need to make good decisions.*  
**Article 12 (Respect for the view of the child - United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC))**

## **CURRENT SITUATION:**

Ceredigion Youth Work and Engagement Team is responsible for coordinating and managing the Ceredigion Youth Council since it was first established in Autumn 2015. They meet four times a year (once each term) and host an event at the end of their year 'in office'. Youth Council meetings now take place once again in the Chamber in Penmorfa.

**Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If, not, please state why**

**Summary:**

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

**Wellbeing of Future Generations:**

**Integration:** Considering how young people's well-being may impact upon each of the well-being goals

**Collaboration:** Working with others to create opportunities for young people

**Involvement:** Involving young people and seeking their views

**Prevention:** Providing early intervention to reduce problems from developing

**Recommendation(s):**

For Elected Members to agree that Ceredigion Youth Council minutes are presented to both the Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet, for information, each term.

**Reasons for decision:**

To meet the requirements of the legislation as set out in Annex B of Welsh Government - Shared Purpose: Shared Future: Statutory Guidance to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 - Statutory Guidance On Children And Young People's Participation

**Overview and Scrutiny:**

Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Policy Framework:**

**Corporate Priorities:**

Corporate Strategy 2022-2027 Investing in People's Futures

**Finance and Procurement implications:**

None

**Legal Implications:** None

**Staffing implications:** None

**Property / asset implications:** None

**Risk(s):** None

**Statutory Powers:** Statutory Guidance On Children And Young People's Participation.  
United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

**Background Papers:** None

**Appendices:** Appendix 1: Appendix B- the Statutory Guidance on Children and Young People's Participation  
  
Appendix 2: Ceredigion Youth Council Meeting Minutes 21.10.22

**Corporate Lead Officer:** Elen James, Corporate Lead Officer: Porth Cymorth Cynnar

**Reporting Officer:** Lowri Evans / Gwion Bowen

**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Shared Purpose: Shared Future 3 - Collective role (public services boards)

## **SPSF 3 - ANNEX B STATUTORY GUIDANCE ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION**

**This statutory guidance is issued in accordance with [Section 17\(3\) of the Children and Families \(Wales\) Measure 2010](#) and applies to local authorities both in respect of local well-being plans, and whenever they take decisions which might affect children and young people.**

Local Authorities have a duty to promote and facilitate participation by children and young people in decisions which might affect them. The legal basis for this duty is Section 12 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010. It requires Local Authorities to *make such arrangements as they consider suitable to promote and facilitate participation by children in decisions of the authority which might affect them, and to publish and keep up to date information about its arrangements*. These duties can be discharged via the local well-being plan.

The [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child \(UNCRC\)](#) ) is an international convention which sets out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of children up to the age of 18. It recognises not only their basic human rights but gives them additional rights to protect them from harm as one of the most vulnerable groups in society. The UNCRC has 54 articles. Articles 1-41 set out how children and young people should be treated. The other 13 articles set out how governments and adults should work together to make sure children and young people can access their rights.

In Wales, the commitment to the UNCRC is enshrined in legislation with [the Rights of Children and Young Persons \(Wales\) Measure 2011](#) . Section 1 of the Measure places a duty on the Welsh Ministers to have due regard to the UNCRC when exercising their functions. This means the Welsh Ministers must consider how what they are doing relates to the rights and obligations in the UNCRC and every opportunity has been taken to identify ways of realising the relevant rights before making decisions. Consequently, this filters down to the local level through legislation, regulation and statutory guidance.

Shared Purpose: Shared Future 3 - Collective role (public services boards)

This guidance relates to children and young people's right to participate which is a fundamental and enabling right as set out in Article 12 of the UNCRC:

Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account.

**Article 12 (Respect for the view of the child)**

The articles of the UNCRC have been summarised into [Seven Core Aims](#) which should underpin the working practice of any service provision working with children and young people nationally and locally. Core Aim 5 in particular relates to children and young people's participation with the aim that:

All children and young people are listened to, treated with respect, and have their race and cultural identity recognised.

**Core Aim 5**

## **Requirements**

In order to meet the requirements the legislation, Local Authorities are expected to work with relevant partners to:

- promote and facilitate children and young people's participation within the broad context of the UNCRC, as part of their policies, services and wider citizen engagement. Local Authorities are expected to make sure as many children and young people as possible are aware of their rights as set out in the UNCRC, including their right to participate and for their opinion to be heard, and to be involved in decision-making about policies and services which affect their lives.
- embed children and young people's participation into all aspects of planning, delivering and reviewing services. This should include the assessment of local well-being, the local well-being plan and relevant sub plans;

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- adopt the [National Participation Standards](#). Support for the National Participation Standards reinforces the commitment to children's rights in Wales and there are many examples of good practice of organisations which have adopted the standards as a means of ensuring participation happens meaningfully and effectively. The expectation is all Local Authorities adopt the Standards when meeting their statutory duty regarding participation of children and young people.
- publish information about the benefits of and arrangements for promoting and facilitating participation in the authority, and disseminating examples of good practice, for instance through websites and newsletters as well as social media and linking in/working with '[Young Wales](#)'. Children and young people themselves can be actively involved in raising awareness of the importance of participation. The Welsh Government has many resources which could support this and could be adapted to suit local needs. As well as using resources and media which is accessible to children and young people information can be included in the public services board's annual progress report;
- ensure information and materials aimed at children and young people are clear and easy to understand, answer their questions and identified needs as well as being accurate, up-to-date, relevant and accessible in terms of language and format;
- ensure a range of opportunities and the appropriate required support are provided for effective participation. The opportunities for children and young people as individuals to participate should be integrated into day to day services as well as specific participation structures such as forums for children, forums for young people, or groups/forums which represent children and young people who are marginalised, vulnerable or have a special interest in a particular issue. These forums and groups have a key role to play in supporting children

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and young people to have a voice and to access their rights as set out in the UNCRC;

- support a County Youth Forum/Council as a representative body of young people to act as a channel for young people's views across their local authority and represent those views to local and national decision-making bodies. They should aim to be as inclusive as possible in terms of geographical spread, age, gender and to represent specialist needs and more marginalised young people. For County Youth Forums/Councils to operate effectively, they will need to be adequately supported by Local Authorities who should consider what support is required to do this. They should be informed and linked to their local democratic structures. They will also need to be effectively linked into national participation structures such as Young Wales, the Children's Commissioner for Wales and the National Assembly for Wales.
- give due consideration to the Welsh language in the promotion and facilitation of participation and as part of preparing the local wellbeing plan, reflecting its official status in Wales and the national well-being goal of 'a thriving Welsh language'.

### **Working with partners**

Whilst this statutory guidance, issued under the [Children and Families \(Wales\) Measure 2010](#) relates only to Local Authorities, we would encourage them to work closely with each of their relevant partners. Working in a multi-agency way is good practice and Section 25 of the [Children Act 2004](#) places a legal duty on local authorities to promote cooperation with a view to improving the wellbeing of children in the area. Furthermore, [Section 38 of the Wellbeing of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#) also places a requirement for public services boards to consult in assessing the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in its area.

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There are many examples of partners contributing to children and young people's participation and mainstreaming it into their areas of work and their arrangements for citizen engagement. Some of these can be found on [www.youngwales.wales](http://www.youngwales.wales) and [www.pupilvoicewales.org.uk](http://www.pupilvoicewales.org.uk).

### **What happens now?**

The scope of the duty to promote and facilitate children and young people's participation is wider than involvement in the local well-being plan. It is important participation becomes part of policy and practice of all local partners. Local Authorities should work with local partners, including children and young people, to ensure participation is promoted and facilitated.

However, the well-being plan could set out how children and young people's participation and engagement is embedded into all aspects of planning, delivering and reviewing services and their "arrangements for promoting and facilitating participation". The public services board's annual progress report could include a summary as to how these statutory duties have been met, and how they can be improved upon. The public services boards annual progress report could consider the protected characteristics in particular with reference to age, specifically reporting on outcomes for children and young people.

The Welsh Government will monitor local arrangements for children and young people's participation. In addition well-being plans provide evidence to Inspectorates and the Welsh Audit Office (WAO) when undertaking reviews of efficiency and effectiveness of local services. Inspectorates and the WAO may also review the outcomes achieved and procedures involved to demonstrate how effectively children and young people are being listened to, involved and engaged. Children and young people have a right to be listened to, have a voice and be able to access opportunities to play an active role in decision making wherever they are – in school, out and about in the community or as users of services.

Our ambition is for every child and young person in Wales to realise their rights as set out in the UNCRC. There may sometimes be barriers to



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achieving this, however, working in a collaborative way, we all have a responsibility and a role in considering ways in which these barriers can be removed or overcome. Wales has been leading the way in children and young people's participation and momentum must be maintained.

Further information on good practice in relation to children and young people's participation can be found on [www.childrensrights.wales](http://www.childrensrights.wales) or [http://www.childrensrights.wales/images/PDF/Participation\\_En2.pdf](http://www.childrensrights.wales/images/PDF/Participation_En2.pdf)

Information, resources, materials and good practice which support participation in Wales are also available at [www.youngwales.wales](http://www.youngwales.wales)



**Meeting Minutes**  
**Ceredigion Youth Council**  
**Council Chamber, Penmorfa**  
**Friday 21 October 2022**

(10:00 – 13.15)

**Present:**

Ysgol Uwchradd Aberteifi  
Ysgol Uwchradd Aberteifi  
Ysgol Gyfun Aberaeron  
Ysgol Gyfun Aberaeron  
Ysgol Gyfun Aberaeron  
Ysgol Bro Pedr  
Ysgol Bro Pedr  
Ysgol Bro Pedr  
Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig  
Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig  
Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig  
Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig  
Ysgol Bro Teifi  
Ysgol Bro Teifi  
Ysgol Bro Teifi  
Ysgol Bro Teifi  
Ysgol Penglais  
Ysgol Penglais  
Ysgol Penglais  
Coleg Ceredigion & Aberystwyth Community Ambassadors  
Coleg Ceredigion & Aberystwyth Community Ambassadors

**Also Present:** Gwion Bowen (Chair and Children and Young People’s Participation Officer, Youth Work and Engagement Service) and Lowri Evans (Team Manager, Youth Work and Engagement Service – Ceredigion County Council)

**Speakers:** Via MS Teams - Richard Timms and Becky Bloor-Steen (Partnership and Business Consultants, WELV Consulting Ltd)


**Apologies:** Lloyd Warburton (MYP - Senedd Cymru), Gethin Jones (Corporate Manager, Support and Prevention Service – Ceredigion County Council), Elen James (Corporate Lead Officer, Porth Cymorth Cynnar – Ceredigion County Council), Lowri Edwards (Corporate Lead Officer, Democratic Services – Ceredigion County Council), (Ysgol Henry Richard) and (Ysgol Henry Richard)




**Meeting Agenda:**



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MINUTES	
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome, Apologies and Introductions</b>
	Gwion Bowen opened the meeting by welcoming the new Youth Council to the Chamber.

	<p>GB and LE introduced themselves and their roles.</p> <p>Apologies noted by colleagues: Gethin Jones, Elen James and Lowri Edwards. Elen James will try to join virtually.</p> <p>Apologies received from Ysgol Henry Richard representatives whom are unable to attend due to an event happening in the school, but will be present at the next meeting.</p> <p>Apologies also received from Lloyd Warburton, Senedd Cymru’s Member of Youth Parliament for Ceredigion. Lloyd has recently started Aberystwyth University.</p> <p>GB informed the Youth Council of ‘housekeeping’ arrangements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speakers</li> <li>• Translation devices</li> <li>• Fire Exits</li> <li>• Toilet facilities</li> <li>• Lunch and refreshments</li> </ul> <p>GB explained that there will be guest speakers joining virtually and due to new soft wear in the Chamber a couple of minutes may be needed at the beginning of this slot to ensure sound quality.</p> <p>Youth Council members introduced themselves and which schools / organisations they are representing.</p> <p>GB explained that a register will be going around during the meeting to collect e-mail addresses for correspondence, and LE asked if members could note any dietary requirements for future reference. Membership forms will also be distributed during the meeting or by e-mail in due course.</p> <p>GB explained that following today’s meeting a MS Teams Hwb Channel will be created to share information.</p>
<b>2</b>	<b>What is the Youth Council?</b>
	<p>GB presented to the Youth Council, providing background information and explained the current structure of the Youth Council.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Cyfarfod 1af Cyngor leuencid 2022.23.ppt</p> </div>
<b>3</b>	<b>Workshops: Environment and Period Dignity Sub-Groups</b>
	<p>GB explained that there are two sub-groups to the Youth Council. Members can choose one in which to participate. The Youth Council split in order to undertake two sub-group workshops.</p>

<u>Environment Sub-Group</u>	<u>Period Dignity Sub-Group</u>
<p>Participants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ysgol Bro Pedr</li> <li>2. Ysgol Bro Pedr</li> <li>3. Ysgol Bro Pedr</li> <li>4. Ysgol Bro Teifi</li> <li>5. Ysgol Bro Teifi</li> <li>6. Ysgol Bro Teifi</li> <li>7. Ysgol Penglais</li> <li>8. Ysgol Penglais</li> </ol> <p>Notes:</p> <div style="text-align: center;">             CI Environment Sub            Group Workshop Not         </div>	<p>Participants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ysgol Uwchradd Aberteifi</li> <li>2. Ysgol Uwchradd Aberteifi</li> <li>3. Ysgol Gyfun Aberaeron</li> <li>4. Ysgol Gyfun Aberaeron</li> <li>5. Ysgol Gyfun Aberaeron</li> <li>6. Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig</li> <li>7. Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig</li> <li>8. Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig</li> <li>9. Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig</li> <li>10. Ysgol Bro Teifi</li> <li>11. Ysgol Penglais</li> <li>12. Coleg Ceredigion &amp; Aberystwyth Community Ambassadors</li> <li>13. Coleg Ceredigion &amp; Aberystwyth Community Ambassadors</li> </ol> <p>Notes:</p> <div style="text-align: center;">             CI Period Dignity Sub            Group Notes 21.10.22         </div>
<b>4</b>	<b>Wales Youth Parliament Update - Information</b>
	<p>In Lloyd Warburton's absence, GB shared an update from the Wales Youth Parliament on his behalf.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">             Diweddariad Senedd            Ieuenctid Cymru.pptx         </div>
<b>5</b>	<b>Youth Room Feedback - Lampeter Wellbeing Centre</b>
	<p>Feedback wanted from Wellbeing Centres Service in regards to the proposed 'youth room' that will be available at Lampeter's Wellbeing Centre, which is at present in construction. The Wellbeing Centre will take the place of Lampeter Leisure Centre. Leisure facilities plus</p>

meeting rooms and wellbeing areas will be available. As part of this development a designated youth space is proposed, and feedback is sought about what that needs to look like and what furniture/equipment/resources should it have. Question was posed to the Youth Council.



Adborth Ystafell  
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IM (YBP) asked about the timeline of the build and when it will be open to the public.

**Action:** LE will follow up with the Wellbeing Centre Team and extend an invitation to them to the next Youth Council meeting to provide an update.

Thoughts captured during the session will be shared with Lampeter Wellbeing Centre.



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## 6 United Kingdom Youth Parliament (UKYP) Election

GB presented the opportunity for the Youth Council to elect Ceredigion's next UK Youth Parliament, Member of Youth Parliament, who will work alongside Lloyd as the Wales Youth Parliament MYP for 2022-23. Poppy Evans (Ysgol Gyfun Aberaeron), who has recently finished her term as Ceredigion's MYP has moved away to study at University and therefore it is now time to elect a new MYP.



Cyflwyniad ASI - MYP  
Presentation 2022.ppt

GB explained that there is now the opportunity for young people to declare whether they wish to nominate themselves for the UKYP election. Young people who wish to do so will have 30 seconds to 'pitch' why they would like to take on the role to the rest of the Youth Council. The Youth Council will then vote, by placing their ballot papers into the ballot box at the front of the Chamber. Each young person has one vote. The votes will be counted during lunch and the successful candidate will be announced shortly after lunch.

Seven young people put their names forward and were congratulated for doing so, as it is not an easy task to speak in front of so many others especially in a setting like the Chamber. Each young person gave a short explanation to support their application.

(Ysgol Bro Teifi)

(Ysgol Bro Teifi)

(Ysgol Bro Teifi)

(Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig)

	<p>(Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig)  (Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig)  (Ysgol Penglais)  (Ysgol Gyfun Aberaeron)</p> <p>A ballot was held, and it was announced that the successful candidate, who will be this year's Member of UK Youth Parliament for Ceredigion is: <b>Aled Lewis (Ysgol Gyfun Aberaeron)</b>. AL was congratulated, and others were acknowledged for putting themselves forward. Work will be ongoing with AL, and GB and LE will be in touch with AL in due course.</p>
<b>7</b>	<b>Support &amp; Prevention Rural Community Engagement Review Project: WELV Consulting Ltd.</b>
	<p>WELV Consulting Ltd has been commissioned as part of the 'Support &amp; Prevention Rural Community Engagement Review' project by the Local Authority. Ceredigion County Council have commissioned WELV Consulting Ltd to lead on an independent evaluation and feasibility study of the Councils' Community Engagement and Outreach Provision.</p> <p>The aim of the project is to support the Local Authority in developing stronger, more efficient, and integrated approaches of delivery and management for the benefit of its residents.</p> <p>WELV intend is to engage and capture a wide range of views, from children and young people and also from internal staff and other community partners and stakeholders, along with relevant committees and boards, who will benefit or will be impacted upon through the decisions made based on the recommendations within the review.</p> <p>Becky and Richard joined the meeting on screen via MS Teams, and engaged with the Youth Council on a series of questions around social opportunities in Ceredigion. The Youth Council talked about issues such as transport, facilities, clubs and post-16 education.</p> <p>Becky and Richard asked if there were any further comments that members wanted to make but were not able to due to time limitations, to write a note and LE will share with them after the meeting. LE asked members to leave notes on their tables and they will be collected at the end of the meeting.</p> <p>Becky and Richard also extended an invitation for any young people to visit them at Lampeter Wellbeing Hub. They hope to visit and work from there for two days in December. There was interest from some of the Youth Council to do this, and WELV will confirm these dates with LE as soon as possible, and LE/GB will share with the Youth Council.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> LE/GB to share dates with Youth Council members once received from WELV.</p> <p>The Youth Council were thanked for their contribution and participation in the engagement sessions, and Becky and Richard stated that it was very helpful to them and their evaluation.</p>
<b>8</b>	<b>Youth Council Chairperson 2022/23 Election</b>
	<p>Due to time constraints of today's meeting, this agenda item will be moved to the next meeting.</p>

9	<b>Information Sharing and Date of Next Meeting</b>
	<p>GB shared information about the next meeting which will be held again in the Chamber on the 03/02/2023.</p> <p>Dates of meetings:</p> <p>Meeting 1; 21/10/22  Meeting 2; 03/02/23  Meeting 3; 17/03/23  End of office, Pawb a'i Farn Event; 14/07/23</p> <p>GB explained that sub-groups will meet before the next Youth Council meeting, most likely over MS Teams. Sub-groups may meet more regularly to ensure project / campaign work can progress. More information will follow to sub-groups in due course.</p> <p>GB asked all members to sign out on their way out of Penmorfa and wait for their transport in the reception area.</p> <p>GB thanked the group for a productive and positive first meeting of the Youth Council 2022-23.</p> <p><i>Youth Council meeting minutes are presented to both the Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Full Cabinet, in order to ensure that the views of young people are fed into the democratic process in Ceredigion.</i></p>