

Meeting Minutes
Ceredigion Youth Council
Council Chamber, Penmorfa
Friday 17 March 2023

(10:00 – 13.45)

Present:

Ysgol Gyfun Aberaeron
Ysgol Gyfun Aberaeron & UKYP MYP
Ysgol Bro Pedr
Ysgol Bro Pedr
Ysgol Bro Pedr & Youth Council Chairperson
Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig
Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig
Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig
Ysgol Penglais
Ysgol Penglais
Ysgol Henry Richard
Ysgol Henry Richard
Coleg Ceredigion & Aberystwyth Community Ambassadors
Coleg Ceredigion & Aberystwyth Community Ambassadors

Also Present: Gwion Bowen (Children and Young People's Participation Officer, Youth Work and Engagement Service), Lowri Evans (Team Manager, Youth Work and Engagement Service – Ceredigion County Council), Councillor Wyn Thomas (Cabinet Member for Schools, Lifelong Learning and Skills) and Councillor Alun Williams (Deputy Council Leader and Cabinet Member for Through-age and Wellbeing Services)

Speakers: Timothy Bray (Civil Contingencies and Community Safety Partnership Officer – Ceredigion County Council) and Richard Timms (WELV Consulting Ltd.)

Apologies: Lloyd Warburton (MYP - Senedd Cymru), Elen James (Corporate Lead Officer, Porth Cymorth Cynnar – Ceredigion County Council), Gethin Jones (Corporate Manager, Support and Prevention Service – Ceredigion County Council), (Ysgol Uwchradd Aberteifi), (Ysgol Uwchradd Aberteifi), (Ysgol Penglais), (Ysgol Gyfun Aberaeron), (Ysgol Bro Pedr), (Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig), (Ysgol Bro Teifi), (Ysgol Bro Teifi), (Ysgol Bro Teifi) and (Ysgol Bro Teifi)

Meeting Agenda:



Agenda Cyngor
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MINUTES

1 Welcome, Apologies and Introductions

Ifan Meredith opened the meeting by welcoming the Youth Council to the Chamber.

Apologies noted.

IM informed the Youth Council of 'housekeeping' arrangements.

- Speakers
- Translation devices
- Fire Exits
- Toilet facilities
- Lunch and refreshments

IM explained that a register will be going around during the meeting for members to complete.

2 Ceredigion Crime and Disorder Strategic Assessment Consultation and Questionnaire

The Chair welcomed Timothy Bray, Ceredigion County Council Civil Contingencies and Community Safety Partnership Officer to the meeting.

Timothy introduced his role and career background, and shared information around the work of the Community Safety Partnership, which sits in Ceredigion's Public Service Board.

Timothy and his team are currently facilitating the 'Crime and Disorder Strategic Assessment' which includes a public questionnaire that has been live for almost 3 weeks. A young person version of the questionnaire is available, and they are eager to gather the views of young people in Ceredigion to form part of the survey response.

Timothy shared a presentation on screen and provided members with paper copies of the questionnaire to complete.



YP Crime and
Disorder Questionnai



Youth Council SA
Presentation.pptx

3 Young People and Mental Health: Group Discussion

The Chair welcomed Councillor Wyn Thomas, Cabinet Member for Schools, Lifelong Learning and Skills. Councillor Thomas facilitated a discussion around Mental Health and Wellbeing and young people shared their thoughts on current support and gaps in provision. It was noted by young people, that there is a waiting list to within the Schools Counselling Service to be seen.

4 Support & Prevention Rural Community Engagement Review Project Feedback on Key Findings

The Chair welcomed Richard Timms, Consultant at WELV Consulting to the meeting, who first attended the Youth Council virtually on 21/10/22 to undertake an engagement session with young people into their rural community engagement review.

Richard has returned to provide an update and share feedback on key findings of the report.



Richard talked through the findings and provided a high-level overview to the key findings.

Richard asked whether the report (once signed off) can be shared with Youth Council members. LE and GB agreed that it will be shared on the Youth Council MS Teams Channel, and via the minutes.



5 Environment and Period Dignity Sub-Groups Feedback

LE and GB provided an update to all member son behalf of both sub-groups.

Environment Sub-Group

GB presented to all Youth Council members a draft terms of reference for the environment sub-group that members had influenced and help design in previous sub-group meetings. As a newly established group, members ensured that the purpose and structure of the environment sub-group was clearly highlighted, and a number of priorities were identified to ensure that the sub-group is able to take small steps towards its main aim during its first year of running.

“Ceredigion Youth Council Environment Sub-Group Aim:

In accordance with Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the Ceredigion Youth Council Environment sub-group will have a focus on environmental and climate change matters that affect Young People living within the County of Ceredigion and further afield.”

The terms of reference also included a proposed sub-group programme for 2023.

The Environment Sub-group terms of reference was agreed and adopted by the whole Youth Council during the meeting.



Period Dignity Sub-Group

LE acknowledged that several members of the Youth Council who have formed the Period Dignity Sub-Group, and that they have been instrumental in shaping the work of the group and expressed gratitude to those members for sharing their thoughts, ideas, and experiences regarding Period Dignity. This has been extremely helpful in ensuring that the Period Dignity campaign considers and implements the voice of young people. The Sub-Group have informed much of how the Local Authority's Period Dignity Grant (received from Welsh Government) is spend, to ensure it meets the needs of young people and communities.

As a result of sub-group's work, this has enabled us to review elements of our approach towards Period Dignity and Period Poverty in Ceredigion, and what the Youth Council and its sub-group can influence in schools and communities, especially for young people. A work plan was created last year, and JD and AL presented to the Head Teachers forum. Whilst not everything within the work plan has been within reach this year, the information within it and shared by sub-group members has enabled us to understand what is important to young people when it comes to Period Dignity.

An update of what has been achieved / what is in progress as a result of the Youth Council's Period Dignity Sub-Group:

- **Staff Training:** is something that the group discussed and felt would support pupils in Primary, Secondary and FE Education. Therefore, staff training on puberty and period dignity has been organised for April 2023 and will be delivered by SRE charity, Brook. The aim of the training is to develop understanding and increase awareness, knowledge and confidence amongst professionals so that they can support pupils when it comes to periods, so that pupils can be educated on period dignity, and so that they feel they can have open conversations with professionals in various settings. The training is offered to all primary, secondary and FE settings, as well as to other agencies working with young people, such as Youth Workers and School Nurses. An invite will also be extended to Sub-Group members who may wish to sit in on the staff training, to learn about what the training offers.

Action: LE to ascertain whether any Sub-Group members wish to attend the training, and organise permission from their respective schools, and transport if required.



- Parent / Carer Training: 2 x webinars have been organised, again with Brook. These are for Parents and Carers of children and young people in Ceredigion, to develop understanding, awareness, and ways of supporting children and young people in terms of periods.



Period Dignity
Webinar Parents~Car

- Products: The Sub-Group discussed the range and variety of products available to young people, and the need to have a choice of plastic-free, reusable, or eco-friendly products as well as the 'standard' options. These products can often be very expensive, so it's unlikely that young people can afford to buy different items to try which ones suit them best, because of their price tag. Therefore, a large supply of a variety of products has been purchased, and once delivered will be distributed to Secondary Schools and Colleges and will also be available to Primary Schools. Products will continue to be distributed to community groups and organisations too.
- Access to products in schools: Sub-Group members discussed and acknowledged that this varies from school to school, and that there is scope to build on the good work already achieved across the County's Secondary Schools. Some schools have products available in the reception area or hafan, whilst others have products located in bathrooms or changing rooms. A method of having products available to pupils, without having to ask, in a central space that reduced the stigma of needing products, is important. In response to this, leaflets and posters have been created for schools, as well as 'stands' that will be offered to each secondary school, to located in a space where they feel is suitable, so that young people can collect a variety of products whenever they need to.



2. Pick and Mix
Leaflets ENG.pdf

- Access to products in communities: Community groups and organisations, such as libraries, food banks, leisure centres, family centres etc. all receive regular stock of period products to distribute to people in their communities, free of charge. The sub-group felt it would be useful for people to have a list of these places, so they know where they can collect products. As a result, a directory of stockists has been created and is available on the Ceredigion County Council website: [Period Dignity in Ceredigion - Ceredigion County Council](#)



1. Community
Leaflets ENG.pdf

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spare clothes in schools: The sub-group talked about having spare clothes (trousers, tights, and underwear) available in secondary schools for the purpose of period dignity. They felt that this could reduce the stigma attached to period. Therefore, as a result a stock of tights, trousers, and underwear in a variety of sizes has been purchased for each secondary school, so they are readily available if needed by pupils. • Education for pupils: It is felt that providing consistent messages and education around periods across all Ceredigion schools, both primary and secondary will tackle some of the stigma surrounding period and provide children and young people with education for life. The sub-group talked about some of the challenges associated with puberty education in primary schools, and how at times, or previously, has been split by gender, which doesn't then provide the education for all. As a result, the Period Dignity Grant in 2023-24 will fund a series of sessions delivered by specialist organisation, Brook, and will be offered to all schools for year 7, 8 and 9 pupils (in secondary) and all year 5 and 6 pupils (in primary). These sessions will be rolled and referred to as an 'information roadshow' between September 2023 and January 2024. Information will be shared with schools about the offer in due course. <p>Once again, LE thanked the group for their input during the year, and it is hoped that they themselves will see the impact of their work before they finish Year 13. As their term in office comes to an end, LE stated that if members wished to continue as part of the sub-group in September, they would be welcome to do so.</p>
6	United Kingdom Youth Parliament (UKYP) Ceredigion UKYP Member Update
	<p>GB provided a short update regarding a recent UK Parliament announcement, confirming that the British Youth Council will continue to lead on the UKYP Programme for 2023 – 2025.</p> <p>During the forthcoming term, the UKYP will focus on the cost of living crisis and in particular, 'Universal' free school meals for <u>all</u> school pupils. The UKYP will be launching a 'food for learning campaign' that will look to gain local MP support for Universal free school meals for all school pupils throughout the UK.</p> <p>As part of the UKYP programme, AL confirmed that he is looking forward to meeting other Welsh MYP's during monthly meetings (hosted by Children in Wales) and working towards the UKYP end of term event 'the big debate', scheduled to be held in the Houses of Commons, London in November 2023.</p>
7	Youth Council 'Rhoi dy Farn 2023' Local Campaign results
	<p>GB presented the 'Rhoi dy Farn 2023' campaign results. GB stated that a total of 2184 young people voted in the ballot this year, which is around 37% of the population, in comparison to last year, where 2160 young people voted in the British Youth Council's Make your Mark ballot.</p>



Canlyniadau Rhoi Dy
Farn.pptx

GB explained that all 7 secondary schools participated as well as Coleg Ceredigion (Aberystwyth and Cardigan), Hyfforddiant Ceredigion Training (HCT), Aberystwyth Ambassadors and Post-16 Inspire Group.



Canlyniadau Rhoi Dy
Farn Results 2023.pdf

Members spend some time digesting and analysing the results. Members recognised the results as being representative of the main issues facing young people at the moment.

IM commented that the number of votes for promoting the Welsh language can also be viewed as a positive, in that, does it reflect the work that is being done by Welsh Government and others to reach the target of 1 million Welsh speakers by 2025?

AL suggested that it is difficult to choose one topic, as they are all important. MB suggested that the results demonstrate how these matters are affecting everyone, and that many of the subjects all stem from the cost of living, and essentially poverty associated worries. For example, the debates around second homes and transport, all relate to affordability and that it is reasonable to suggest that the 'cost of living crisis' which is the most voted for topic, is the most pressing issue for everyone right now.

GB explained that members now have the choice of which topics they want to present to the Pawb a'i Farn panellists in July 2023. Do they want to reflect the ballot results completely, or do they also want to consider any other topics which haven't scored so high in the results?

The general consensus amongst members was that they would like to focus on the 4 topics most voted for by young people which are:

- 1.) **Cost of Living Crisis** - more support with costs of transport, school meals and energy
- 2.) **Careers** - A greater choice of better paid apprenticeships and access to a range of work experience opportunities
- 3.) **Education** - business and entrepreneurship skills should be taught in schools
- 4.) **Transport** - buses need to run later and be more affordable, better train links and improved bike routes

GB explained that after lunch, members will be split into groups to focus on devising questions in response to these 4 hot topics, that will be presented to a panel of public figures at Pawb a'i Farn 2023. Members will also need to decide who they would like to invite to join the Pawb a'i Farn 2023 panel.

8 'Pawb A'i Farn Ceredigion 2023' Event: Event Topics, Questions and Panel

During this session, the Youth Council split into groups to begin to look at drafting questions under each hot topic. Each group prepared a question to present to the panel and these will then be refined and shared with panel members before the Pawb a'i Farn event in July 2023.

Cost of Living	Careers	Education	Transport
Members: MJ, CJ, SB & EM	Members: AL, JD & IE	Members: MHe & MHo	Members: XSB, MB, LJ, MB & IM

Youth Council members then shared ideas and decided on the panel members that they would like to invite.

GB stated that Ben Lake MP is a panel member each year and has confirmed his attendance for 2023. GB also mentioned that the Children’s Commissioner for Wales has attended previously, but unfortunately they are unavailable on this date, but their office has proposed that Sara Jarmin, Head of Communications and Performance at the Children’s Commissioner for Wales Office is available in Roccio Cifuentes’ absence. Members confirmed that they wish to extend an invite to Sara Jarmin from the Children’s Commissioner for Wales’ Office to attend.

In terms of matters associated with Careers and Education, the Youth Council wished to extend an invite to representatives from the Local Authority, and decided to invite Councillor Bryan Davies, Lead of the Council and Mr Barry Rees, Corporate Director of Ceredigion County Council.

Furthermore, the Youth Council wished to extend an invite to a Welsh Government Minister and after looking at each Minister’s portfolio areas, felt that Vaughan Gething MS, Minister for Economy would be most suitable to respond to this year’s hot topics.

It was recognised that it may not be possible to expect each proposed panel member to attend, due to their busy diaries but GB and LE will prepare invites shortly after the meeting and confirm attendance with the Youth Council as soon as possible. It was acknowledged that in the absence of some proposed panel members, other colleagues will need to be considered.

Proposed Panel Members to invite to Pawb a'i Farn 2023
1.) Mr Ben Lake MP 2.) Ms Sara Jarmin, Head of Communications and Performance at the Children’s Commissioner for Wales Office 3.) Mr Bryan Davies, Councillor and Leader of Ceredigion County Council 4.) Mr Barry Rees, Corporate director at Ceredigion County Council 5.) Mr Vaughan Gething MS, Minister for Economy

GB provided further information and background to previous Pawb a'i Farn events and explained that an 'audience' will be invited to join from each Secondary School, College

	and representative organisations, and they will also have the opportunity to respond, ask questions or provide feedback as part of the debate.
9	Information Sharing and Date of Next Meeting
	<p>The Chair called for any other business from members. None reported.</p> <p>GB stated that the next time the Youth Council will be in the Chamber, will be for the end of office Pawb a'i Farn Event on 14/07/23. GB explained that information will be shared with Youth Council members and Schools / Organisations in due course, around the arrangements for the event, and that GB may be in touch prior to the event to confirm some logistics, details around questions etc.</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>The Chair asked all members to sign out on their way out of Penmorfa and wait for their transport in the reception area.</p> <p>The Chair and GB thanked the group for a productive and positive 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, to ensure that the views of young people are fed into the democratic process in Ceredigion.</i></p>