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CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr Dylan J. Williams
Prif Weithredwr – Chief Executive
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RHYBUDD O GYFARFOD	NOTICE OF MEETING
PWYLLGOR SGRIWTINI CORFFORAETHOL	CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DYDD MERCHER, 15 HYDREF 2025 am 2:00 y. p.	WEDNESDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2025 at 2.00 pm
YSTAFELL BWYLLGOR, SWYDDFEYDD Y CYNGOR AC YN RHITHIOL DRWY ZOOM	COMMITTEE ROOM, COUNCIL OFFICES AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM
Swyddog Pwyllgor	Ann Holmes 01248 752518 Committee Officer

AELODAU/MEMBERS

Cynghorydd/Councillor:

PLAID CYMRU / THE PARTY OF WALES

Geraint Bebb, John Ifan Jones, Jackie Lewis, Llio A. Owen, Alwen Watkin, Sonia Williams
(*Is-Gadeirydd/Vice-Chair*), Arfon Wyn

Y GRWP ANNIBYNNOL / THE INDEPENDENT GROUP

Ieuan Williams

LLAFUR CYMRU/ WELSH LABOUR

Keith Roberts

ANNIBYNNWYR MÔN / ANGLESEY INDEPENDENTS

Jeff Evans (*Cadeirydd/Chair*), Aled Morris Jones (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru/Welsh Liberal Democrats) R. Llewelyn Jones

AELODAU CYFETHOLEDIG (Gyda hawl pleidleisio ar faterion Addysg) / CO-OPTED MEMBERS (With voting rights when dealing with Educational matters)

John Tierney (Yr Eglwys Gatholig / The Catholic Church),
Wenda Owen (Yr Eglwys yng Nghymru/The Church in Wales)
Kathryn Seeney (Rhiant Llywodraethwr – Sector Ysgolion Cynradd/Parent Governor-
Primary Schools Sector)
Christina Williams (Rhiant Llywodraethwr – Sector Ysgolion Uwchradd ac ADY/Parent
Governor- Secondary Schools Sector and ALN)

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A G E N D A

1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

To receive any declaration of interest from any Member or Officer in respect of any item of business.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 1 - 10)

To present the minutes of the previous meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee held on 17 September 2025.

3 NORTH WALES REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD ANNUAL REPORT (PART 9:HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES) 2024/25 (Pages 11 - 70)

To present the report of the Director of Social Services.

4 NORTH WALES COUNCILS REGIONAL EMERGENCY PLANNING SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25 (Pages 71 - 96)

To present the NWC-REPS annual report for 2024/25.

5 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 97 - 104)

To present the report of the Scrutiny Manager.

6 OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE YSGOL UWCHRADD CAERGYBI TO A NEW SCHOOL BUILDING FOR 11-18 YEAR OLD LEARNERS (Pages 105 - 138)

To present the report of the Director of Education, Skills, and Young People.

7 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC (Pages 139 - 140)

To consider adopting the following –

“Under Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, to exclude the press and public from the meeting during the discussion on the following item on the grounds that it may involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the said Act and in the attached Public Interest Test.”

8 STRATEGIC OUTLINE CASE - RELOCATE YSGOL UWCHRADD CAERGYBI LEARNERS TO A NEW SCHOOL BUILDING FOR 11-18 YEAR OLD LEARNERS (Pages 141 - 246)

To present the report of the Director of Education, Skills, and Young People.

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held in the Committee Room and virtually on Zoom on 17 September, 2025

PRESENT:

Councillor Jeff Evans (Chair)
Councillor Sonia Williams (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Geraint Bebb, Aled M. Jones, R. Llewelyn Jones, Jackie Lewis, Keith Roberts, Ieuan Williams, Alwen Watkin, Arfon Wyn.

Co-opted Members: Mr John Tierney (The Catholic Church), Kathryn Seeney (Parent-Governor- Primary Sector), Christina Williams (Parent-Governor (Secondary Sector and ALN)

Portfolio Members

Councillors Gary Pritchard (Leader), Neville Evans (Portfolio Member for Leisure, Tourism and Maritime), Carwyn Jones (Portfolio Member for Corporate Business and Customer Experience), Alun Roberts (Portfolio Member for Adult Services and Community Safety), Nicola Roberts (Portfolio Member for Planning, Public Protection and Climate Change), Robin Williams (Deputy Leader and Portfolio Member for Finance and Housing).

**IN
ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive
Deputy Chief Executive
Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer
Head of Highways, Waste and Property (HP)
Head of Housing Services (NM)
Head of Adult Services (AWO)
Head of Democracy (DS)
Head of Profession (HR) and Transformation (CE)
Senior Primary Education Manager (OTD)
Performance Analyst (AW)
Scrutiny Manager (AGD)
Committee Officer (ATH)
Webcasting Officer (FT)

APOLOGIES:

Councillors John Ifan Jones, Dyfed Wyn Jones (Portfolio Member for Children, Young People and Families), Dafydd Roberts (Portfolio Member for Education and the Welsh Language), Mr Aaron Evans (Director of Education, Skills and Young People), Lynn Ball (Director of Function (Council Business/Monitoring Officer)

**ALSO
PRESENT:**

N/A

The Chair welcomed Kathryn Seeney and Christina Williams to their first meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee as newly appointed co-opted members representing Parent-

Governors in the Primary sector and Secondary and ALN sectors respectively. The committee formally endorsed the appointments.

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declaration of interest was received.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee held on 17 June 2025 were presented and were confirmed as correct.

3. MONITORING PERFORMANCE: CORPORATE SCORECARD Q1 2025/26

The report of the Head of Profession (HR) and Transformation incorporating the Corporate Scorecard for Quarter 1 of the 2025/26 financial year was presented for the Committee's consideration. The scorecard report details the performance of key indicators in delivering the Council's day to day operations which support the broader objectives of the Council Plan.

Councillor Carwyn Jones, Portfolio Member for Corporate Business and Customer Experience introduced the first corporate scorecard report of the year, highlighting newly added indicators for 2025/26 which were designed to more accurately reflect performance and enhance value. Most indicators (90%) with set targets performed well during the quarter, achieving Green or Yellow RAG status. Notable examples of good performance are detailed in section 2.3 of the report. Councillor Carwyn Jones also drew attention to five indicators currently rated Red or Amber against their targets as outlined in section 2.2 along with the associated mitigation measures. These indicators related to Housing Services (re-letting void properties and delivery of Disabled Facilities Grants), Climate Change (specifically waste recycling), and Whole Council Health (timeliness of responses to FOI requests), all of which are being monitored by the Leadership Team.

The committee reviewed the corporate scorecard in the context of the Council's strategic objectives – Welsh Language, Education, Social Care and Wellbeing, Housing, Economy and Climate Change. During the ensuing discussion the following matters were raised under these thematic areas:

- **Education and Welsh Language**

- The committee welcomed improved pupil attendance in both primary and secondary schools compared to Q1 of the previous year, though figures remain below target. Members requested an explanation for the underperformance and the measures being implemented to address it.

The Senior Primary Education Manager acknowledged that attendance continues to be a national challenge post pandemic. Schools are using attendance data effectively to identify at risk pupils and intervene appropriately. Contributing factors include illness, continuing pandemic related disruptions, social and mental health issues, disengagement with the curriculum, seasonal variation and family pressures such as financial hardship and caring responsibilities. Attendance remains a key priority for the Learning Service due to its strong link with pupils' wellbeing, attainment and long term outcomes. Despite being below target, the trend is improving. Welfare Officers work closely with schools and families to address the root causes of absences with increased use of personalised attendance plans for affected pupils.

In follow-up questions, the committee asked about the relationship between exclusions and absenteeism, and whether excluded pupils or those withdrawn by families are included in the data. The Senior Primary Education Manager clarified that subject to

confirmation, excluded pupils are not counted in the data. Welfare Officers maintain contact with excluded children and support re-entry into education particularly for primary aged pupils.

For children withdrawn from school, the Learning Service and Social Services provide holistic support although it is the service's view that formal education is the most beneficial setting. In response to a question about emotional based school avoidance, the Officer referenced ongoing work with trauma informed schools, pupil inclusion units and family support initiatives.

The Deputy Chief Executive added that all five secondary schools have established programmes now in their third year, to support pupils struggling in mainstream settings. To address exclusions, the Authority has invested in trauma informed approaches, staff training and awareness raising with similar schemes in place to support younger children in primary education. The attendance recording system includes a category for pupils educated at alternative sites, which helps identify home-schooled children and whether they maintain connection with school and the Learning Service.

- The committee enquired about Welsh language training for staff and whether current programmes build sufficient confidence to enable staff to use Welsh in the workplace.

The Head of Democracy explained that the Council works closely with the National Centre for Learning Welsh, regularly engaging one or two tutors to ensure consistency and familiarity. A range of courses – from beginner to advanced – is available and tailored to meet the specific needs of the workforce.

- A committee member asked the Leader what actions he had taken to improve schools on Anglesey.

In response, Councillor Gary Pritchard, Leader, emphasised that pupils with poor attendance are often among the most vulnerable and he highlighted the collaborative efforts between the Learning Service, Youth Service (via welfare Officers), and Social Services through school hubs to support these learners. He referenced a recent event at M-Sparc celebrating the island's progress to becoming trauma informed and noted the exceptional achievement of Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni in being the only secondary school in the UK designated as trauma informed. The Leader acknowledged the complex causes of poor attendance and he stressed the importance of empathy and understanding in addressing the issue. He also noted that Estyn estimates that it may take up to 10 years for attendance levels to return to pre-pandemic norms. Anglesey is seeing an upward trend which is encouraging, supported by ongoing efforts to assist learners.

- The committee asked whether the establishment of new schools had affected the Welsh language, particularly in terms of speaker numbers and usage.

Councillor Gary Pritchard, Leader responded that there was no evidence suggesting a decline in Welsh spoken at schools. The redesignation of schools in Holyhead had increased Welsh usage in Ynys Cybi, thereby boosting the Welsh stream at Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi over the first two years. No other schools have changed designation from bilingual status. When questioned about the impact of small school closures on the Welsh language and communities and whether Scrutiny should investigate further, Councillor Gary Pritchard stressed that all Council decisions including those in education, are made with consideration for the Welsh language.

- The committee also raised a question on the effect of the 2,000 person population decline on the Welsh language and education.

The Chief Executive said that census and population data which have been discussed previously in a members briefing session have broader community impacts beyond

education. He recommended that a new briefing session be held to review updated trends which can vary among communities with immigration currently more prevalent in coastal areas. This would then help Scrutiny identify where to focus any future investigations, including with regard to impact on schools and education.

Councillor Gary Pritchard, Leader also highlighted discussions in the Welsh Language Forum about supporting learners from non-Welsh speaking homes or where only one parent is Welsh speaking as well as newcomers to Wales. He referenced the Welsh Language Immersion Unit which was recently praised at the Eisteddfod for helping Ukrainian refugees gain fluency.

The committee was informed that the Education Scrutiny Panel had visited Ysgol Cybi and Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi to assess Welsh language development. The findings were positive with the new Ysgol Cybi along with staff efforts and enhanced language focus in the secondary school contributing to increased use of Welsh. These successes could guide future scrutiny of other new schools on the island.

- **Social Care and Wellbeing**

- A member raised concerns about limited leisure centre provision outside the standard opening hours which particularly affected adults at work during the daytime including those on exercise referral schemes (e.g. individuals with diabetes). Suggestions were made about improving flexibility, including weekend and early/late sessions. .

The Chief Executive explained that provision depends on demand, space and instructor availability. Councillor Neville Evans, Portfolio Member for Leisure, Tourism and Maritime agreed to discuss activity scheduling with the Môn Actif Manager and report back.

- The committee also sought clarification of KPI 11 - the number of visits to Leisure Centres – asking whether it includes exercise referral sessions and activities that are arranged externally.

Councillor Neville Evans, Portfolio Member for Leisure, Tourism and Maritime confirmed that the KPI captures all visits to the leisure centres, regardless of purpose. Councillor Gary Pritchard, Leader noted that the indicator reflects the Welsh Government's measurement criteria and excludes Môn Actif activities delivered in community settings. Representations have been made to Welsh Government requesting that the KPI be revised to reflect broader engagement.

- **Economy**

- The committee noted the introduction of KPI 02 – Expenditure (capital and revenue) on large infrastructure, economic development and regeneration projects – and sought clarification of how it differs from the quarterly capital expenditure monitoring reports.

The Chief Executive explained that the KPI is intended to provide assurance that economic regeneration is being prioritised. The KPI also includes revenue expenditure, reflecting the significant revenue grant funding received by the Council. This enables members to monitor trends and assess the Council's ongoing capacity to support the economy. As this is a non-statutory area, any reduction in grant funding would limit the Council's ability to invest and support the economy particularly given the wider financial pressures on the Council. While it is consistent with the capital monitoring reports, the KPI offers broader insight into whether the Council's ability to support economic regeneration is stable or declining.

- The committee referred to KPI 09 – the number of people supported to become prepared for work through SPF interventions and sought clarification of the nature

of the resulting jobs, whether permanent, part time or self-employed. Concern was expressed about the risks and potential impact if SPF funding is reduced or withdrawn.

The Chief Executive clarified that the indicator reflects pre-employment support e.g. training but does not track post-support outcomes. The possibility of monitoring the outcomes can be explored and reported back. He confirmed that any reduction in SPF funding would limit the Council's ability to intervene effectively.

- The committee noted that the performance for KPI 07 – the percentage of high risk businesses subject to planned inspections that were inspected to ensure compliance with Food Hygiene legislation – stands at 85% against a target of 90%. Given the public health implications, the committee questioned whether the target should be raised to 100%.

Councillor Nicola Roberts, Portfolio Member for Planning, Public Protection and Climate Change referred to a post pandemic backlog and capacity constraints as factors for the missed target. She confirmed that efforts are being made to address these issues while maintaining current inspection schedules. It was also noted that food risk levels vary depending on the food type and method of preparation meaning that not all businesses are considered high risk.

- **Climate Change**

- A committee member enquired about progress on implementing the Towards Net Zero Plan 2022-2025.

Councillor Gary Pritchard, Leader responded that climate change indicators within the scorecard form an integral part of the Plan, and all Council decisions are made with consideration of climate impacts and the goal of becoming carbon neutral. While the Plan is embedded across the Council's operations, not all climate related activities are measurable through the scorecard.

Given the significance of climate change and public interest in the Council's actions to tackle climate change, a proposal was made that a report on the Council's activities and progress toward achieving net zero targets be included as a standing item on the committee's quarterly meetings agenda.

The Chief Executive acknowledging climate change as one of the Council's strategic priorities, noted that reports are also provided through channels other than Scrutiny e.g. the Improvement Board. As the current Towards Net Zero Plan concludes this year, a review of outcomes, supported by external expertise is underway. These findings, along with a draft of the next five year plan will be presented to the committee and discussed at a members' briefing. An annual report on progress against the Council Plan, which includes climate related objectives, is also produced. He cautioned that due to the complexity and range of climate change issues, a standing item could consume a significant amount of the committee's time. He suggested that the matter be further considered outside the meeting and he referenced the monthly Political Group Leaders meeting and monthly Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs meeting as appropriate forums for discussing how best to enhance engagement and understanding in a way that adds value. He also proposed that he consult the relevant officers to determine the most suitable reporting mechanism.

An alternative suggestion was made that the corporate scorecard could be expanded to include additional climate change indicators to better reflect the Council's progress towards net zero. The Head of Profession (HR) and Transformation advised that any changes to the scorecard should take effect from

2026/27, as changing indicators mid-year could undermine consistency and make the results harder to compare.

Following further discussion, an amended proposal was agreed – that a quarterly report on the Council's climate related activities and progress towards achieving net zero status be included as a standing item on the committee's agenda, subject to the matter being first considered by the Political Group Leaders meeting and feedback received.

- Reference was made to KPI 02 – the percentage of domestic waste reused, recycled or composted and it was noted that the performance remains below target. The scorecard report references a contribution from a Programme Board established to consider any further mitigation measures to be introduced. The committee enquired when the Programme Board would be reporting on progress to this committee.

In response, Councillor Gary Pritchard, Leader acknowledged that the underperformance was disappointing but noted that the Council was not the only authority in Wales to miss the target. The Programme Board has been reviewing the Council's recycling practices and external experts have provided recommendations aimed at improving the recycling rate. Pilot schemes have been conducted in selected communities and the results are being evaluated. The recommendations to the Executive have financial implications and discussions are ongoing. The Leader further advised that he is scheduled to meet with the Welsh Government's Deputy First Minister who is also responsible for climate change next week to discuss the matter. Any decisions arising will follow the Council's statutory processes and progress will be continue to be reported to this committee quarterly.

- The committee discussed KPI 12 under Whole Council Health – the percentage of FOI requests responded to within timescale noting that the performance at 74% remains below the 90% target and that 55 of the 214 FOI requests were late. The committee enquired whether the target should be reviewed.

Councillor Carwyn Jones, Portfolio Member for Corporate Business and Customer Experience explained that the 90% target is set by the Information Commissioner's Office. The regulator typically intervenes when performance consistently falls below 70%. The Council's SIRO considers a compliance rate of 80% to be satisfactory considering the national context. It was noted that over the past 10 years the Council's FOI compliance rate has been above the 70% threshold that would trigger regulatory attention in all but one of those years. Councillor Carwyn Jones said that due to ongoing capacity and recruitment challenges current arrangements are being managed on an interim basis by agency staff. The Interim Officer for Corporate Information, Complaints and Governance will be conducting training sessions with departments to improve FOI response practices. He further advised that the Council aims to implement a new online system for managing FOI requests by Q3 and it is hoped the transition will support improved performance in future.

- **Housing**

The Housing KPIs were considered in conjunction with **item 4 on the agenda – Recommendations from the Corporate Scrutiny Task and Finish Group on Housing Voids and Allocations**. The report by the Head of Housing Services provided a progress update on the Housing Services Void Action Plan and was presented by Councillor Robin Williams, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Member for Finance and Housing.

Councillor Robin Williams reported that the KPI measuring the number of days taken to re-let units of accommodation has been revised for 2025/26. The indicator now reflects only the re-letting of existing properties, excluding new properties and is consistent with practices adopted by regional partners and housing providers across North Wales. The

target timescale for re-letting void properties has been adjusted to 51 calendar days. At the end of September 2024 the number of void properties stood at over 100; by mid-August 2025 the figure had been reduced to 57. Performance data for the period from 1 April to 18 August 2025 as detailed in the table in the report indicates an improvement in the turnover times. This has been achieved with a significant amount of work including the appointment of a Voids Supervisor, in-house painters and the deployment of external contractors under a newly implemented contractor framework.

The committee welcomed the report as a sign of progress. However, it was suggested that in cases of delay due to workload pressures or scheduling slippage, the contractor framework might allow contractors to undertake full property turnovers rather than on a trade by trade basis.

The Chair acknowledged the assurances provided but raised concerns regarding council owned properties he was aware of that have remained empty for over two years and have since deteriorated. He noted that empty properties represent a loss of revenue to the Council and a missed opportunity to house a prospective tenant.

In response, Councillor Robin Williams urged the Chair and any member aware of long-term empty properties to share specific details with either himself or the Head of Housing Services so that ownership of the properties can be verified, the delay in their re-letting investigated and any required remedial work identified. He emphasised that without concrete information, it is not possible to take action. The Head of Housing Services confirmed that he was not aware of any reported addresses to which he had failed to respond and he reiterated his willingness to address any queries provided the relevant information is presented.

Councillor Gary Pritchard, Leader said that the figures presented reflect the current position. Should there be any concerns regarding their accuracy, these should be raised with the Portfolio Member and the Head of Housing Services in the first instance.

The committee also discussed the homelessness indicators. While members welcomed the reduction in homelessness applications (KPI10), they noted a decline in the percentage of households successfully prevented from becoming homeless (KPI 09) compared to Q4 of the previous year and queried the reasons behind the downturn. The Head of Housing Services provided reassurance that the outcome reflected the nature of cases dealt with in quarter 1 and did not currently indicate any cause for concern.

Having reviewed the Corporate Scorecard for Q1 2025/26 (item 3) and having considered the update on the Housing Service's Voids Action Plan (Item 4), it was resolved -

- **To note the Corporate Scorecard report for Q1 2025/26 including the areas which the Leadership Team is exploring and investigating to manage and secure further improvements into the future. These were in relation to areas under Housing (re-letting of void properties and delivery of Disabled Facilities Grants) Climate Change (Domestic Waste recycling) and Whole Council Health (responses to FOI requests within timescale).**
- **To recommend the scorecard report and mitigating measures outlined therein to the Executive.**
- **To note the update since the last report to the committee on 19 February 2025 on the conclusions of the Voids Task and Finish Work Group.**

Additional actions:

- **That updated data regarding population trends be presented to a future members' briefing session. This would then help Scrutiny identify where to**

focus any future investigations, including with regard to impact on schools and education.

- The Portfolio Member for Leisure, Tourism and Maritime to discuss activity scheduling with the Môn Actif Manager including the feasibility of weekend and early/late sessions and report back.
- That a quarterly report on the Council's climate related activities and progress towards achieving net zero status be included as a standing item on the committee's agenda, subject to the matter being first considered by the Political Group Leaders meeting and feedback received.

5 MEMBERSHIP OF SCRUTINY PANELS

The report of the Scrutiny Manager requesting the committee to endorse a revised process for membership of the three scrutiny panels based on the Council's current political balance arrangements was presented for consideration. Details of the scope and remit of each of the three scrutiny panels were appended to the report along with the terms of reference of the newly established Welsh Language and Equality Steering group to which the committee was asked to nominate a member. It was noted that the Political Group Leaders recently agreed to amend the membership of scrutiny panels to be subject to political balance principles and rules.

It was resolved –

- To agree a revised process for membership of the three scrutiny panels based on the current political balance of the Council.
- To agree the terms of reference for each of the three scrutiny panels as detailed in the appendices to the report.
- To nominate Councillor Ieuan Williams to serve on the Welsh Language and Equality Steering Group.

6 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The report of the Scrutiny Manager incorporating the Committee's Forward Work Programme to April, 2026 was presented for consideration.

It was resolved –

- To agree the current version of the Forward Work Programme for 2025/26 subject to the feedback from the Political Group Leaders meeting regarding the inclusion on the committee's agenda of a standing item on climate related activities and progress towards net zero.
- To note progress thus far in implementing the Forward Work Programme.

**Councillor Jeff Evans
Chair**

22/11/2024

Isle of Anglesey County Council Scrutiny Report

Committee:	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
Date:	15 October 2025
Subject:	North Wales Regional Partnership Board Annual Report (Part 9): 2024/25
Scrutiny Chair:	Councillor Jeff Evans

1. Who will be the portfolio holder / lead officer presenting the report?

Name	Role
Gethin Morgan	Head of Regional Collaboration
Fôn Roberts	Director of Social Services & Head of Children & Families

2. Why the Scrutiny Committee is being asked to consider the matter

The aim of the North Wales Partnership Board is to work collaboratively across health and social care services to help support resilient communities and also ensure a seamless service for individuals that require care and support.

This aligns with the priorities set out in the Council Plan 2023–28 – one of which is identified as ‘Social Care and Well-being – providing the right support at the right time’. It also underpins the Values outlined in the Plan – Collaboration – ‘We work as a team, with our communities and partners to achieve the best outcomes for the people of Anglesey’.

3. Role of the Scrutiny Committee and recommendations

- ☐ For information
- ☐ To be noted
- ☒ For assurance
- ☐ For recommendation to the Executive

Recommendation(s):

R1 That the Committee confirms that it has read, understood and taken into account the work that is required to be undertaken by the Regional Partnership Board.

R2 That the Committee notes the work and progress in 2024/25 on the work areas that are being taken forward through the North Wales Regional Partnership Board.

4. How does the recommendation(s) contribute to the objectives of the Council's Plan?

This is aligned to the priorities set out in Anglesey County Council's new Council Plan 2023-28 – one of which is stated as 'Social Care and Wellbeing – providing the right support at the right time'. It also underpins the Values stated within the new Plan - Collaboration - 'We work as a team, with our communities and partners to deliver the best outcomes for the people of Anglesey'.

5. Key scrutiny themes

Key themes the Scrutiny Committee should concentrate on:

1. To what extent does the Annual Report provide assurance to the Committee that the NWRPB are prioritising their work to:
 - A) to represent the citizens of Anglesey, as well as other North Wales authorities;
 - B) ensure that Anglesey Council Plan objectives are being delivered;
 - C) offering value for money.
2. The priorities for the financial year 2025/26 and the likely impacts on Anglesey communities.

6. Key points / summary

Highlights and achievements from the year:

- Implemented the North Wales North Wales Memory Support Pathway to make sure we work better together so that people living with dementia and the people who care for them get the support they need.
- Agreed the new extended home care regional commissioning agreement. The joint agreement includes around 100 care providers with a potential value of around £171 million.
- Implemented our own North Wales Dementia Friendly Communities Scheme.

- Brought practitioners together to share ideas about how best to support people through Ripple Effect Mapping sessions. This is spread and scale at a local level, helping us adopt innovative ways of working across the region. More robust evaluation helps identify what works here.
- Held the first Welsh Digital Social Care Showcase on 5 March 2025, funded by external sponsorship. We've also facilitated procurement of a new social care case management system, which will put all six North Wales social care departments onto the same system for the first time, ready for future record integration.
- Improved dementia screening for people with Down's Syndrome.
- Held a successful 'Designing Success Together: Neuro-affirmative Innovations' event in March 2025 with over 100 participants, including people with lived experience and service providers, to develop an action plan for the next twelve months.
- Refurbished buildings to provide community hubs and high quality places for people with care and support needs to live safely as part of their community.
- Continued to implement the 10-year strategic capital plan to support the models of care. Schemes in development include Tŷ Croes Atti Flintshire, which will relocate a council-run care home for older people so it can expand, to be completed in Summer 2025.
- Increased local small group homes for children in care, with a £4 million investment. This helps improve options for children to live within or close to their local communities.

7. Impact assessments

7.1. Potential impacts on groups protected under the Equality Act 2010

The purpose of Part 9 of the Act is to improve outcomes and well-being of people, as well as improving the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery.

The key aims of cooperation, partnership and integration can therefore be described as:

- To improve care and support, ensuring people have more say and control
- To improve outcomes and health and wellbeing
- Provide co-ordinated, person centred care and support
- Make more effective use of resources, skills and expertise.

When the Board develops regional reports, strategies or documents, officers and Elected members who sit on the Board bring these to relevant meetings within their own organisations to be formally agreed. Regional Partnership Boards do not have arrangements for regional scrutiny, this is undertaken at a local basis.

7.2. Potential impacts on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage (strategic decisions)

N/A

7.3. Potential effects on opportunities to use Welsh and not treat the language less favourably than English

This report is available bilingually.

7.4. Net zero organisation by 2030

N/A

8. Financial implications

The 6 Local Authorities and BCU Health Board in North Wales pool funding to support regional working across the Region, this also funds the Regional Collaboration Team and there is a formal partnership agreement to underpin this.

Through the Regional Partnership Boards, Welsh Government is channelling grant funding streams such as the Regional Integration Fund for Health and Social Care and the Housing with Care and Integrating and Rebalancing capital funds. Where it is possible to charge regional partnership activity to these grants this is being actioned.

9. Appendices

North Wales Regional Partnership Board – Annual Report (Part 9) 2024/25.

10. Report author and background papers

Gethin Morgan - North Wales Regional Partnership Board – Annual Report 2025

Emma Edwards - Business Manager –Scrutiny Report Cover



BWRDD PARTNERIAETH RHANBARTHOL
GOGLEDD CYMRU
NORTH WALES
REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD



North Wales Regional Partnership Board

Annual Report 2025

This report has been produced to meet the requirements set out by the Welsh Government in the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014

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Foreword by the chair of North Wales Regional Partnership Board (NWRPB)



It is my great privilege to introduce the North Wales Regional Partnership Board (NWRPB) Annual Report for 2024/25. Working in partnership, allows us to continue to work together to improve our service and enable people in North Wales live the best lives they can.

This report highlights just some of the work that the Regional Partnership Board has delivered to improve the lives of people living in North Wales. I would like to thank everyone involved in our work for their commitment to working together to deliver seamless services that focus on the needs of local communities.

The past 12 months have seen positive changes to the workings of the NWRPB. Following extensive consultation with board members a review and refresh of the Terms of Reference and governance was undertaken and adopted in July 2024. Meetings previously held monthly are now every two months and have moved into the strategic realm. Workshops are held for the first part of meetings covering topics such as 'The Patients Journey' – a whole systems shift to preventative models; to focussing on the prevention agenda together considering a regional approach to developing partnerships built around wellness and improving wider factors of health and well-being.

2024/25 continued to be challenging for the health and social care sector with no indication that there will be any significant change as we go into 2025-26. This makes it even more imperative that we continue to work together to address these issues and to build on the good work already been done. We have seen significant progress in the prevention agenda here in North Wales. In addition to our Annual Report, further information can be found by visiting [our website](#).

On 5 March 2025 we brought together digital technology providers with people who plan, provide and use social care for the first North Wales Digital Social Care Showcase, the first event of its kind in Wales. Funded by sponsorship from technology companies like Synanetics, it was a great success with over 190 visitors seeking spaces to connect and reflect about how we use digital technology and try things out for ourselves.

Another first in Wales was the Designing Success Together: Neuro-affirmative innovations two-day workshop that was hosted by the North Wales Children's Regional Partnership Board in Llandudno. A follow on from the Welsh Government and All-Wales NHS Accelerated Design Event held in November 2024 to stimulate critical, systemic and needs led transformation of children's neurodevelopmental pathways. An introduction to the event in Llandudno by Sarah Murphy, Senedd Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing; saw representatives from the health board, social care, third sector, education and lived experience working intensively over the two days, codesigning solutions to the current challenges faced by Children's Neurodevelopment Services in North Wales.

One of my key priorities as chair is to continually raise awareness of the excellent work of the board as well as hear and share stories within health and social care. From experience, stories are moving and powerful ensuring action through learning and development. Through being united in our talking and thinking we can ensure that our work is known by the people of North Wales who, with far greater input, enables us to achieve the outcomes that matter to them.

Finally, on behalf of my RPB colleagues, I would like to thank everyone who has supported the RPB's work over the last year.

Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.

Best wishes,

Councillor Dilwyn Morgan.

Highlights and achievements from the year

We have:

- Implemented the North Wales [North Wales Memory Support Pathway](#) to make sure we work better together so that people living with dementia and the people who care for them get the support they need.
- Agreed the new extended [home care regional commissioning agreement](#). The joint agreement includes around 100 care providers with a potential value of around £171 million.
- Implemented our own [North Wales Dementia Friendly Communities Scheme](#).
- Brought practitioners together to share ideas about how best to support people through Ripple Effect Mapping sessions. This is spread and scale at a local level, helping us adopt innovative ways of working across the region. More robust evaluation helps identify what works here.
- Held the first Welsh Digital Social Care Showcase on 5 March 2025, funded by external sponsorship. We've also facilitated procurement of a new social care case management system, which will put all six North Wales social care departments onto the same system for the first time, ready for future record integration.
- Improved dementia screening for people with Down's Syndrome.
- Held a successful 'Designing Success Together: Neuro-affirmative Innovations' event in March 2025 with over 100 participants, including people with lived experience and service providers, to develop an action plan for the next twelve months.
- Refurbished buildings to provide community hubs and high quality places for people with care and support needs to live safely as part of their community.
- Continued to implement the 10-year strategic capital plan to support the models of care. Schemes in development include Tŷ Croes Atti Flintshire, which will relocate a council-run care home for older people so it can expand, to be completed in Summer 2025.
- Increased local small group homes for children in care, with a £4 million investment. This helps improve options for children to live within or close to their local communities.

About the Regional Partnership Board

As a Board we have been continually working together to ensure the health and well-being of people of all ages in North Wales.

The North Wales Regional Partnership Board works with health, social services, education and other services to identify and meet the needs of the people in our region. This includes people who use care and support services such as:

- children and young people with complex needs
- older people, including people living with dementia
- people with learning disabilities and neurodevelopmental conditions
- people with emotional and mental health needs
- unpaid carers.

Models of care

Part of the way we work is by implementing the national new models of care to improve the way organisations work together based around what matters to the people we support. A model of care is a description of the way services are organised and provided. This report sets out what we've achieved in the last 12 months for each of the models of care, which are:

1. **[Community based care – prevention and community coordination.](#)** Community services that help to protect residents from longer term health or well-being problems, including befriending groups, community hubs, support for carers and access to well-being services.
2. **[Community based care – complex care closer to home.](#)** Help to improve recovery following a period of ill health and to be more independent in the long term.
3. **[Home from hospital.](#)** Some people will always need treatment in hospital so we help people to be discharged and recover at home safely and quickly. When they do need hospital care they can access it easily.
4. **[Supporting families and children to stay together.](#)** Health, social care and education partners work together with families to help them stay together safely and prevent the need for children to become looked after by the local authority.
5. **[Promoting good emotional health and well-being.](#)** Creating and improving services for people who need emotional health and well-being support.

[Section 6](#) of the report thereafter includes system enablers, which are the essential behind-the-scenes elements that make it possible to provide new models of care.

- Capital programme and accommodation based solutions – providing buildings, equipment and facilities to support integrated services and safe and supportive living environments.

- Digital, data and technology – tools to support the Regional Partnership Board to improve well-being.
- Regional Innovation Coordination Hub – provides research and innovation support including project evaluation and the Population Needs Assessment.
- Workforce – planning what kind of jobs we need to provide care and support and working together to recruit and retain the right people in those roles.
- Mwy na geiriau – strengthening the use of the Welsh language within health and social care in North Wales.
- North Wales Social Value Steering Group
- Communication and engagement
- Safeguarding – working together to protect children and adults with care and support needs from harm. More information will be available in the [safeguarding annual report](#).

How the Regional Partnership Board works

The Regional Partnership Board (RPB) includes members from Anglesey County Council, Cyngor Gwynedd, Conwy County Borough Council, Denbighshire County Council, Flintshire County Council, Wrexham County Council, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board and others. [A membership list is available on our website](#).

The Children's Regional Partnership Board provide leadership on a wide range of issues facing different age groups from babies to young adults. [Learn more about the Children's Regional Partnership Board including the mission statement, guiding values and principles](#).

Regional boards and groups which report to the Regional Partnership Board include:

- North Wales Safeguarding Boards
- Integrated Learning Disability Board
- Regional Dementia Strategic Group
- Integrated Autism Services Board
- Together for Mental Health Board
- Regional Commissioning Board
- Regional Workforce Board
- Digital, Data and Technology Board

The Regional Partnership Board team also support partnership meetings including:

- Leadership Group: Directors from the six local authorities and health board
- Directors: Social Services Directors
- NWASH: North Wales Heads of Adult Services
- NWHOCS: North Wales Heads of Children's Services.

We plan to reflect, review and revise the purpose, membership and plans for these

boards and groups over the next 12 months.

About North Wales

There are six local council areas in North Wales, Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham.

Sometimes we plan and provide services at a sub-regional or area level, which is where we work across two of the local council areas as below:

- West (Anglesey and Gwynedd)
- Centre (Conwy and Denbighshire)
- East (Flintshire and Wrexham)



Self-assessment

We carried out a self-assessment in 2024 to reflect on how we work together as a partnership. Overall, we felt we had a clear vision with joint aims and objectives, a diverse and inclusive membership and a high level of trust between partners.

Brings people together. Acts as a place where colleagues can develop relationships, raise issues, understand the role of other agencies.
(RPB member)

We thought that we could be clearer about the governance structures for the board, accountability and decision-making processes. Our recommendations were:

1. Review the Regional Partnership Board governance structures and clarify decision making processes including links with the local Public Service Boards and primary

care pan-cluster planning groups.

2. Produce clear information about the Regional Partnership Board governance structures, the regional team structure and the way decisions about funding are made. Share this information on the website and as an information pack for new members.
3. Consider how to improve the way we address challenges facing health and social care.
4. Increase publicity about the work of the board and its successes, including case studies about the difference board decisions have made.

We've made good progress against these recommendations, which can be seen throughout the report for example in the [‘good news’ stories](#) work to increase publicity about the board in an integrated way. We will continue to reflect and improve on these recommendations during 2025-26.

Regional Integration Fund Programme Summary

The Regional Integration Fund (RIF) in North Wales supported 36 regional programmes across the six models of care in 2024/25. The total investment was over £85 million. Welsh Government provided £30.1 million of this investment and partners provided £55 million of match funding. Of this funding £5.2 million was used to support unpaid carers and £5.5 million was invested in social value schemes and services.

All the projects collect case studies and stories about their impact. We've shared a few throughout the report, where people have agreed we can share their story in public. They also report against a set of All Wales performance indicators (see Appendix 1).

Summary of RIF investment in each model of care

Model of care	Welsh Government funding	Total including partner match funding
Community Based Care – Prevention and Coordination	£7,990,000	£9,600,000
Community Based Care – Complex Care Closer to Home	£6,150,000	£51,900,000
Home from hospital	£3,450,000	£4,000,000
Supporting families and children to stay together	£10,500,000	£16,300,000
Accommodation Based Solutions	£690,000	£900,000
Promoting good emotional health and well-being	£1,320,000	£2,300,000
Total	£30,100,000	£85,000,000

Ripple Effects Mapping

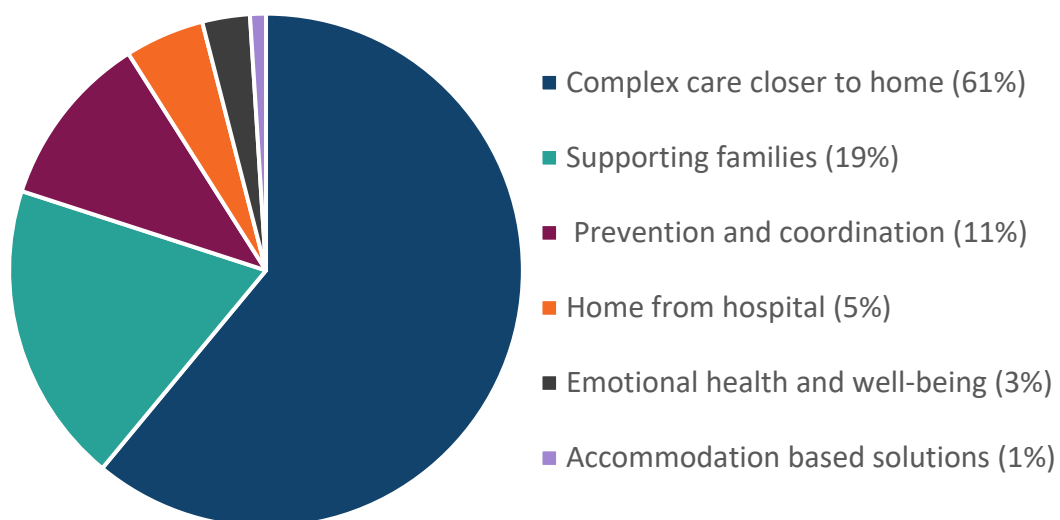
We held [Ripple Effects Mapping](#) workshops for 15 of the projects. This is an evaluation method we use to capture the wider intended and unintended impacts of our projects. It brings people with an interest in the project together to reflect on achievements, learn and improve. This report includes examples of some of the maps we created together, including one showing how Regional Partnership Board work back in 2017 is having an impact on improving well-being for people with learning disabilities in 2025 through the [Supported Employment Model](#).

Capture and compare initiative

‘Capture and compare’ is a way to review, compare and analyse similar projects across the region. It can help us identify similarities and differences in delivery and staffing models and highlight where and why there is variation. We can then share and capture learning in a consistent way.

The first exercise looked at the Community Resource Teams across the region and is due to report by July 2025.

Chart 1: Proportion of investment in each model of care



Section 1: Community based care – prevention and community coordination

Prevention and community coordination is about helping people understand how they can achieve good health and well-being. We want to create a sense of community and belonging in North Wales to reduce social isolation and loneliness to help people stay independent and improve their mental and physical health.

Funding

This work is funded by £9,600,000 from the Regional Integration Fund, plus funding from the Dementia Action Plan, Further Faster and Capital grants to support this model of care.

What we achieved



81,600 people accessed the service,
2,800 for the first time.



9,900 people received support that
prevented their needs escalating
(100% of those who gave feedback)



4,700 people felt less isolated
(94% of those who gave feedback)



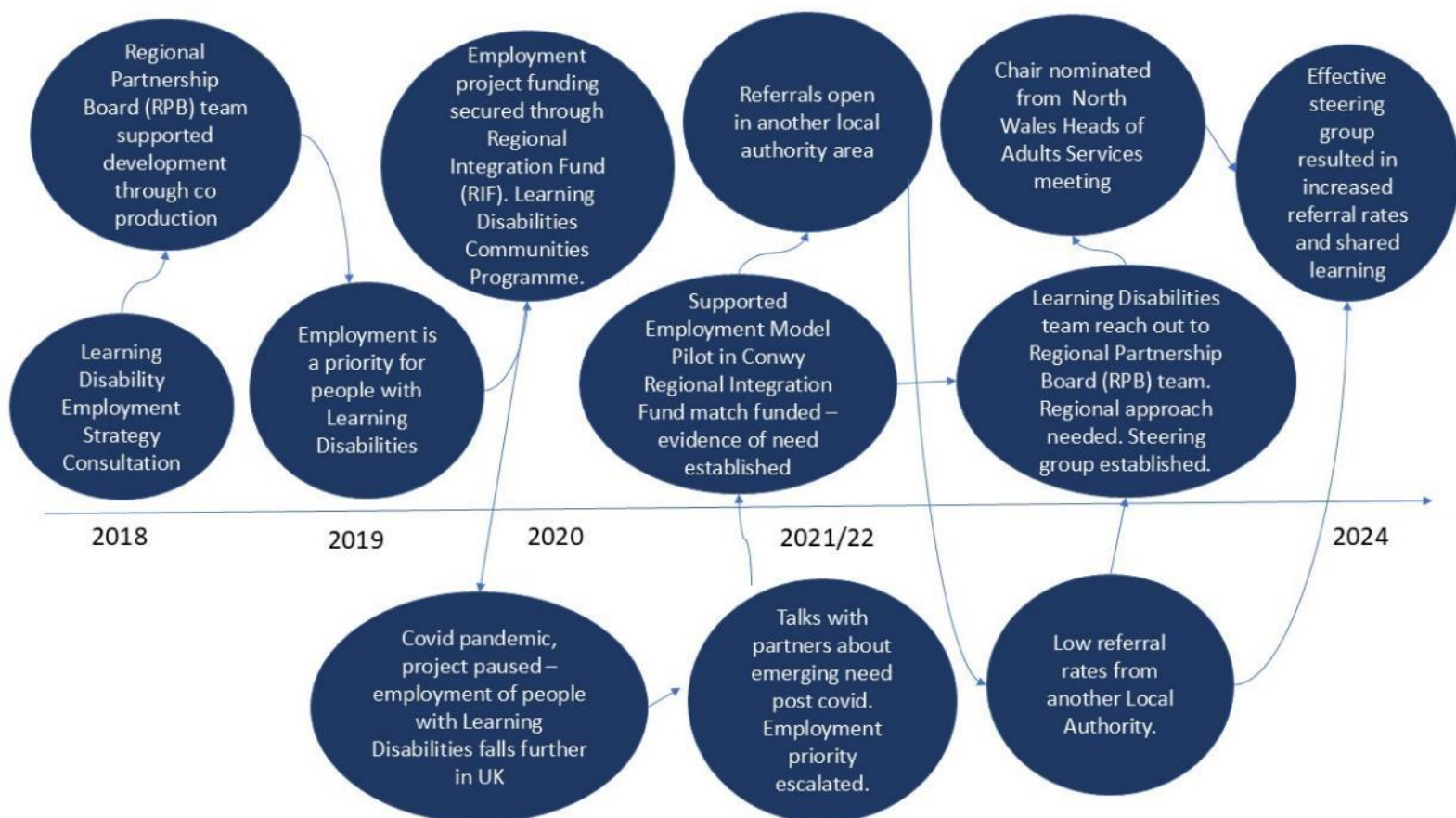
1,600 people living with dementia had
discussions about what matters to them

Our projects support older people, people living with dementia, people with learning disabilities and neurodevelopmental conditions including autism, people with emotional and mental health well-being needs and unpaid carers. They include projects specifically to support these groups of people, community connectors and Single Point of Access (SPOA) teams.

North Wales Supported Employment Strategy for People with Learning Disabilities

This year we published the [North Wales Supported Employment Strategy for People with Learning Disabilities](#). At the heart of the strategy is the voice of people with learning disabilities and the step change they told us is needed to enable more people to have access to paid employment.

The model was created in response to the Learning Disability Strategy the Regional Partnership Board published in 2018. The Ripple Effects Map below illustrates the contribution of the Regional Partnership Board and Regional Integration Fund towards implementing this as part of the model of care. It also shows how it was piloted and then scaled across the region.



Dementia community support services: successes and new activity

Short term placement beds

"Opens up the world of respite and care homes to individuals who may not have considered it before or who have been unable to consider it before."

Achievements:

Reduction in referrals for admission to hospital.
Earlier intervention – reducing the impact of carer stress and breakdown of care.
Medication titration in a safe space.

Dementia Actif Gwynedd (DAG)

Intergenerational Boccia Tournament.

The Dementia Actif Team have organized 6 dates throughout Gwynedd with Training2Care's Virtual Dementia Tour. All sessions have been fully booked with over 170 people receiving the training – including home care staff, family carers, social workers and first responders.

Dementia Support Workers

Co-location and partnership working with the CRTs and local dementia centres continues to be beneficial. The support workers continue to facilitate numerous health appointments to ensure that a person can be as healthy as possible and remain at home, e.g., memory clinic, optician, podiatry and audiology appointments.

Forward Thinking Forward Planning

This quarter, time has been invested in visiting community hubs and local organisations. Several new carers have been registered with the organisation and benefited from support from other internal projects.

Dementia Projects Successes and new activity

Dementia Actif (Môn)

Collaborating with other projects across population groups to support the local community (Mencap Môn). Collaboration with other services (Local Authority) to innovatively improve the active offer within the service, facilitating needs.

AHP Dementia Team

The AHP team has supported 206 people living with dementia from April 2024 – March 2025. (Wrexham 109 and Flintshire 97). We have also supported the carers/family of People Living with Dementia to improve mobility, improve safety in home environments, support communication, manage dietary changes, increase engagement in meaningful activity and signposting to support services.

Dementia support in extra care

Residents at Llys Raddington are located on a specific memory floor and receive bespoke support, including support in a dedicated lounge area which is less busy and impacted by noise than the main scheme lounge. An activity coordinator provides activities specifically for those living with dementia, as well as activities to integrate residents with the wider scheme resident group.

Learning disabilities community activities: successes and new activity

The Happiness Project

Throughout January, they focused on delivering the Happiness Project, a dynamic and uplifting initiative designed to bring joy and connection to participants during what can often be a challenging time of year. This project was designed and developed by our Project Sparc team. Activities included: Interactive workshops, art and craft and social events.

Making Sense – Sensory Parcel Service

Increased engagement and interest from Ty Pawb – a gallery in Wrexham in working with Making Sense and the Sensory Parcel Service. They collaborated with London based artist Liaqat Rasul to make a sensory parcel based on his solo show at Ty Pawb and were able to offer a workshop at the gallery to a small group from Cunliffe House day centre in Wrexham.

Sex Education Company – SPARC Project

Supported a cross-county Christmas social event at Trilogy nightclub by attending with freebies including Mistletoe and Lip Balm – discussing romance and consent with attendees. Continued support in development of the LGBTQ club in Gwynedd Networked and represented the project at the Stand Disability Roadshow and Learning Disability Wales annual conference.

Bingo Banter

Monthly Bingo Banter events have continued to thrive. The most exciting development has been their transition to being entirely participant-led, with individuals and their support teams taking on greater responsibility for planning and delivery.

Community Activities

Ripple Effect Mapping (REM)

The Learning Disabilities Regional Communities project participated in REM sessions looking at four projects: Mencap Mon, Making Sense – Sensory Parcels, Outside Lives, SPARC – Sex Education.

Conwy Connect and STAND activities (West)

Reached out to local groups to take activities in and get STAND NW and CC4LD recognised in the area. A drama session at Galleri Caernarfon went well and another has been booked. Four clay sessions have been booked to take place at Canolfan Addysg y Bont with parents and children together. They have a monthly meeting with Mencap Mon and Gwynedd to discuss collaboration and joint events including – a sports taster day and a later sports day in the summer.

Outside Lives (East)

Growth across the Sparc Project, with the continuation of existing standout activities such as Tuesday sessions at Brymbo Enterprise Centre, alongside a programme of training courses, on-the-road events, and new collaborations with organisations such as First Choice Housing to deliver activities to residents.

Conwy Connect

Regional Self-Advocacy Officer

Continued collaboration with the North Wales Flyers developing easy read documents for self-advocacy groups, improving resources/ accessibility Officer has been attending local and national advocacy events, including Tea At Three. Continued implementation of the Regional Self Advocacy Strategic Plan.

Further Faster programme

Welsh Government invested additional resources to support community care, called 'Further Faster'. We used this funding to expand social prescribing in Conwy and fund a Moving with Dignity Facilitator and equipment in Denbighshire. This meant that people could be supported at home by one person rather than needing two people, which freed up the capacity of home carers so they could support more people.

We funded a community frailty project to provide pro-active rather than reactive, patient-centred care to individuals within their own community, which has led to fewer people attending Emergency departments and being admitted into hospital.

Social prescribing

Following the launch of the [National Framework for Social Prescribing in Wales](#) we now have Social Prescribing Champions across North Wales who are contributing to the national work to develop a data set and competence framework.

We held a social prescribing event for practitioners and funders in March to celebrate achievements, share best practice and success stories of social prescribing in action, examine the evidence proving the value of social prescribing and discuss challenges. More than 80 people attended with 40 organisations brought together.

In addition to established social prescribing projects across the region, we've set up local action groups to identify local requirements and maximise future available sources of funding.

Dementia programme

Improving dementia screening for people with learning disabilities

To improve care for people with learning disabilities, a team of learning disability nurses in Denbighshire started screening the people they support for dementia. They carry out a baseline check when people turn 30 and then look for changes every few years after that. This helps to pick up people who are developing dementia at an earlier stage to make sure they get the best possible care.

As a pilot approach it's worked really well and the team are keen to share this model with other areas. There was just one problem. The system for identifying who needs to be checked for what and when was extremely complicated and involved a lot of time trawling through files. It made the approach a very hard sell.

That's where we came in. Our Research and Innovation Coordination Hub worked with the team to try and simplify that process. We came up with a simple Excel spreadsheet powered by some very elegant formulas that make it easy to see who needs to be

checked for what and when. And it's worked! The team now just need to glance at the spreadsheet and then get on with what they do best – supporting people to live well.

Phase 2 of this project is now underway. We've identified champions in each local authority who are starting to test this approach ready to adopt this new way of working.

Dementia listening campaign

We carried out a listening campaign in each of the six counties to ask communities what they think about dementia care, and received hundreds of thoughtful responses. This led to the eight regional priorities below. We have a plan to work on each of these, which will lead to more coordinated and person-centred dementia services in North Wales.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Access to care and support | 5. Groups and activities |
| 2. Person-centred care | 6. Dementia friendly communities |
| 3. Support for unpaid carers | 7. Transport |
| 4. Access to services | 8. Welsh language |

Dementia friendly communities

We launched a new regional scheme on 1 January 2024 to embed dementia-friendly practices across North Wales, following the closure of the Alzheimer's Society Scheme. Our scheme includes the six county voluntary councils, six local councils, the health board, and four voluntary sector partners (who provide the Memory Support Pathway). It's coordinated by the Regional Partnership Board Team and the Regional Dementia Project Manager.

We've formally accredited and recognised Isle of Anglesey County Council for its commitment to dementia-friendly practices. They designated 25 community centres across Anglesey as dementia friendly communities.

In Gwynedd, Tywyn have received dementia-friendly communities recognition and interest is growing in communities such as, Porthmadog, Pwllheli, and Caernarfon.

Throughout Conwy, many towns are increasing dementia-friendly awareness, and Abergelhe has recently been re-recognised as a dementia friendly community. Numerous local businesses and organisations, including shops, pubs, supermarkets, golf clubs, post offices, and more have also engaged in the initiative.

Across Denbighshire, towns including Rhyl, Prestatyn, Ruthin, and Llangollen have received dementia-friendly communities recognition, with others currently working towards accreditation.

Wrexham has extended recognition to local leisure centres, supermarkets, churches, primary schools, and the university, all actively contributing to a more inclusive

environment for people living with dementia.

Wrexham and Flintshire had dementia-friendly council status before our scheme started, and their work is still a model of best practice.

This collaborative regional effort demonstrates strong local commitment to building inclusive, supportive environments for individuals living with dementia and their carers, ensuring the continuity and expansion of dementia-friendly initiatives across North Wales.

Rollout of dementia public information film

Following an initial premiere in Spring 2024, we've rolled out a new [series of films designed to create a better understanding of dementia](#).

The films were created by Eternal Media Ltd in Wrexham and involved people living with dementia and unpaid carers of people with dementia. The films are being viewed by a wide range of audiences as they work well as stand-alone information films and teaching aids.

The five films can be viewed separately or as a continuous 32-minute film and address the following topics:

- What is dementia?
- When to seek help
- Getting a diagnosis
- Living with dementia
- Planning for the future

Older people's mental health Prevention and Support Team Project

The Occupational Therapy Prevention and Support service teams provide early intervention to people with a diagnosis of dementia or mild cognitive impairment. Once they've had an assessment from the Memory Assessment Services, they receive post-diagnostic Home Based Memory Rehabilitation, Cognitive Stimulation Therapy, strategies to improve independence, and support to help carers to cope. This enables people living with dementia to remain in their own home and prevents admissions to hospital or an increase in services at home. The team is also starting to offer support to people who have not had access to occupational therapy on their journey through memory services, to broaden its scope.

100% of unpaid carers who gave feedback reported that they found occupational therapy helpful to their caring role and would recommend it to others. 93% of unpaid carers also reported an improved quality of life and carer life balance while 85% identified an improvement in their confidence and independence in their caring role after receiving occupational therapy support.

Unpaid carers support

The North Wales Carers and Young Carers Operational Group carried out their Regional Carers action plan which follows the Welsh Government Strategy for Unpaid Carers.

North East Wales Carers Information Service (NEWCIS) and Carers Outreach Service provide a Hospital Discharge Facilitation Service funded through Welsh Government's Annual Carers Grant. This service supports unpaid carers when the person they care for needs health care. Hospital Carers Facilitators help patients leave hospital as soon as they are well enough. They do this by supporting and involving their unpaid carers in the process, providing information and advice, carers assessments and what matters conversations, as well as providing 'carer aware' training and development for hospital staff. Around 200 carers across North Wales are supported by this service in every three month period.

Short breaks for unpaid carers are paid for with Amser funding, targeted at those who most need a break. These include traditional services along with more flexible and creative breaks tailored to the carer. Meaningful breaks from caring responsibilities helps improve the carers well-being and continue to provide unpaid care. Carers say the breaks improved their relationship with the person they care for and help them to feel valued. Examples of short breaks include therapeutic activities, microgrants or vouchers to support hobbies and activities, organised day trips and social events for both adult and young carers, overnight stays, camping trips and holidays.

The group supports the Regional Partnership Board to recruit a team of carer representatives to act as a voice for carers, ensuring their perspectives are heard and considered in the work of the board.

Well North Wales

The building blocks for good health include having enough money, fair work, a good education, and a safe and warm home. The Regional Partnership Board met in September 2024 to look at how we can build a healthier North Wales together. We set up a task and vision group to create a vision, scope and plan for this work, due to report during 2025/26.

Single point of access (SPOA)

Single Point of Access teams provide information, advice and assistance for people with health and social care needs. We held a Ripple Effects Mapping session with a Single Point of Access team and a local authority prevention team. In the map below you can see the positive impact that the different teams had in supporting a child – impacts that can emerge even after their direct involvement ended.

Ripple Effect Mapping Key

Catalyst event

What we did

Ripple Effect

Challenge

Outcome

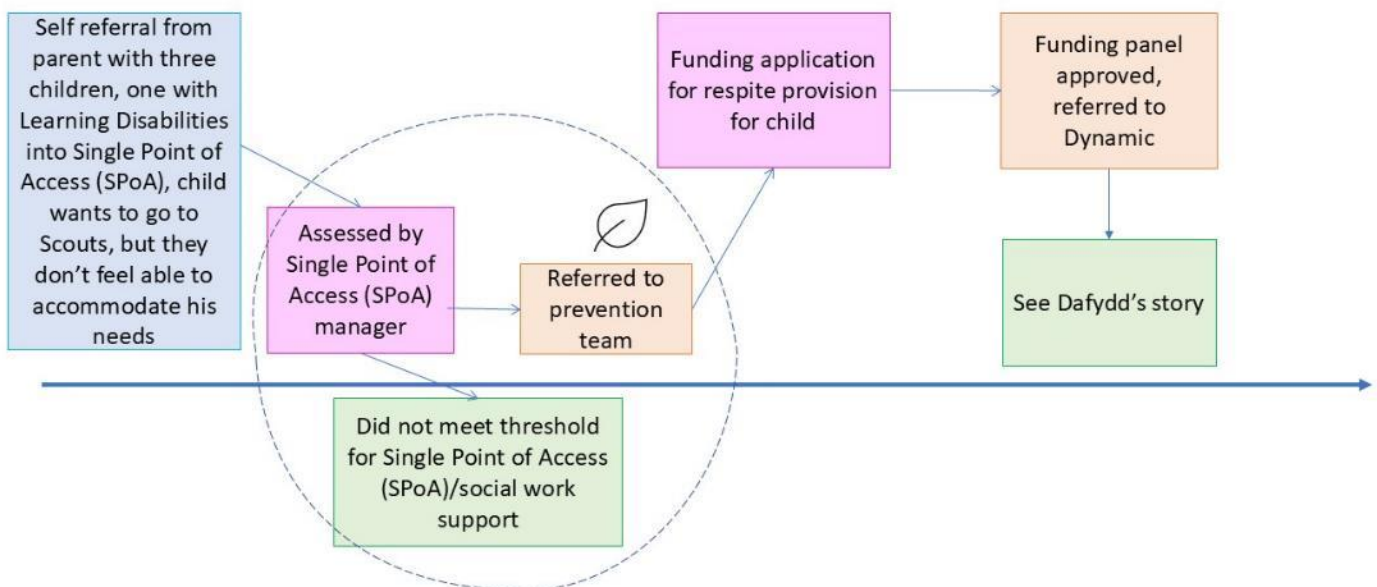
Intended outcomes (above line)

Date (from) Timeline Date (to)

Unintended outcomes (below line)

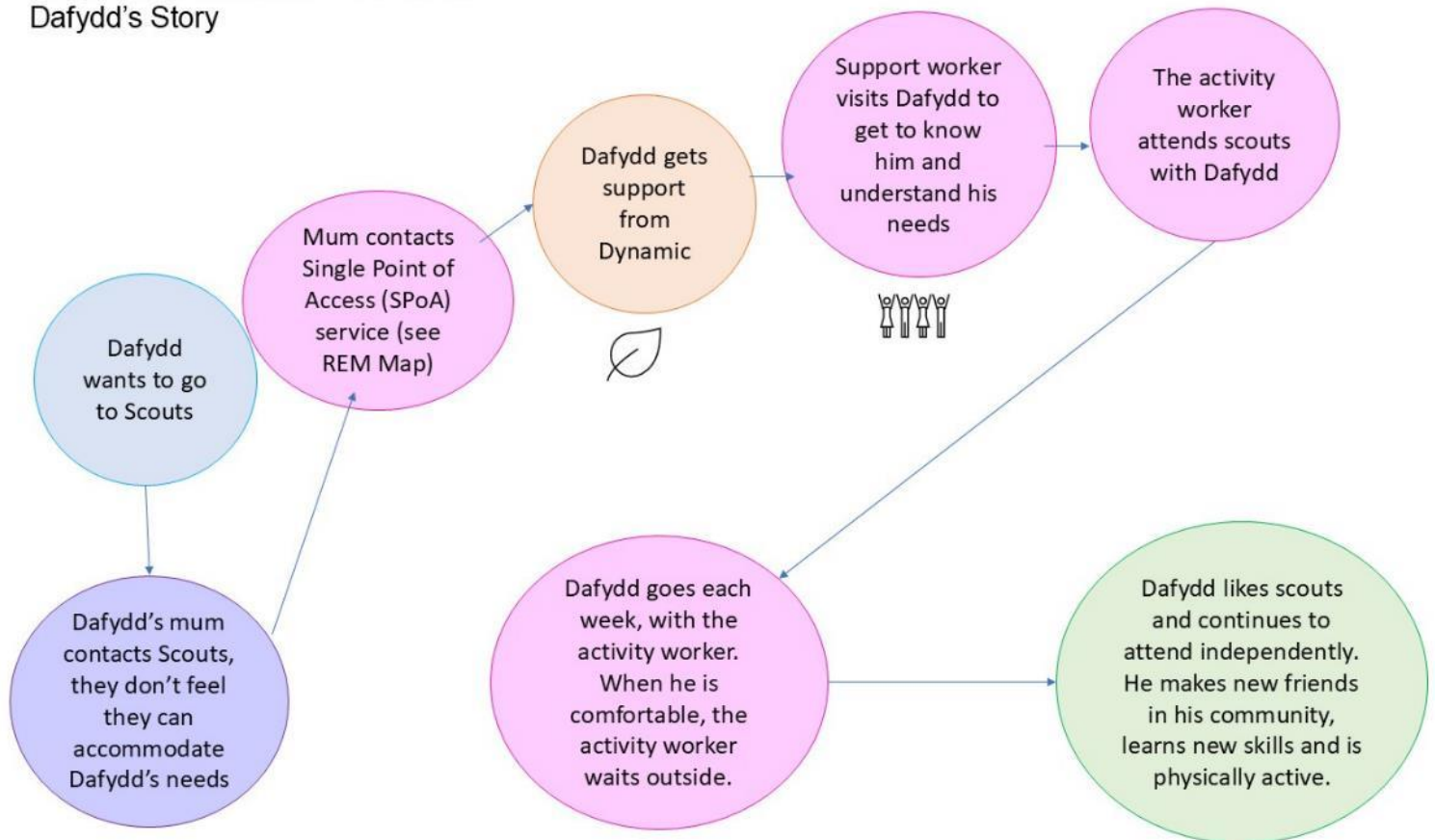
Single Point of Access – Wrexham The Ripple Effects of a referral from SPoA

Intended outcomes



Unintended outcomes

Single Point of Access – Wrexham Dafydd's Story



Capital programme: Canolfan Glanhwfa



We're transforming a former chapel in Llangefni into a fully accessible, multi-agency space. It will offer support for older people, people living with dementia, unpaid carers, and the wider community. The scheme includes lower floor renovations, lift installation, and restoration works. It will permanently host the Anglesey Dementia Centre and North Wales Memory Assessment

Service. Designed around the needs of the local community, the hub will reduce loneliness, provide tailored dementia support, offer intergenerational activities for parents and children, and deliver music, culture, and safety-focused training sessions. It will serve as a welcoming, inclusive space that promotes well-being, community connection, and access to essential services. Canolfan Glanhwfa has received £1.1 million from the Integrated Rebalancing Capital Fund and is due to open autumn 2025.

Challenges



Next steps

Based on these successes and challenges, next year we will:

- Improve reablement and domiciliary care capacity, including alternative delivery models.
- Improve community care capacity.
- Further develop early intervention and preventative community hubs and resources.
- Continue to deliver projects to connect people with support in their communities.
- Refresh and deliver the North Wales Dementia Strategy.
- Continue to deliver the North Wales Together programme: Seamless services for people with learning disabilities.
- Develop a prevention framework for partner organisations to build on the Well North Wales approach.

Section 2: Community based care – complex care closer to home

Integrated placed-based health and social care services to people with complex care needs to keep them well at home. Help to improve recovery following a period of ill health and to be more independent in the long term.

Funding

This model of care received £6.2 million funding through the Regional Integration Fund, and funding from the Care Action Committee 50-day challenge, Further Faster and Capital grants.

What we achieved



16,100 people accessed the service, 2,200 for the first time.



1,800 people received support that prevented their needs escalating (99% of those who gave feedback)



2,600 maintained or improved their emotional health and well-being (97% of those who gave feedback)



1,700 people now know more about the support available to them

The **Community Falls Team** reduce the risk of falls for older people. Their Care Home Bundle will help care homes to assess and refer people for falls prevention support, encourage care homes to manage the risk of falls to prevent them happening and give advice after someone has fallen. It will be out for consultation in May 2025.

We've created 16 **Community Resource Teams** each based in a local area to support people across North Wales. Community Resource Teams are delivering complex care closer to home. In January 2025 an enhanced care service model started in Colwyn Bay to prevent hospital admissions (also known as 'step up' care).

The **Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) team** trains staff to provide person-centred behavioural support to people with learning disabilities and/or autism. This improves people's quality of life by reducing behaviours of concern and promoting positive outcomes through evidence-based interventions

Anglesey Response Team supports people to live independently in their own homes for as long as possible using an integrated Community Resource Team (CRT) model.

The new enhanced personalised night-time support service means people now receive tailored care and reassurance during overnight hours. This helps people to feel safe and secure in their own homes and reduces the need for them to go to hospital.

Community Resource Team

Below is an example about the experience of caring for someone from someone who works for the reablement service.

We had a referral to our Community Resource Team (CRT) Reablement Service for someone who had just left hospital. The person had learning difficulties and is also eligible for our service for older people.

She experienced a dramatic change in daily activities following her hospital stay. Her reduced mobility meant she could no longer access the day centre she used to attend multiple times a week. She was not able to get out of bed by herself and was living downstairs. There were also some challenging behaviours displayed towards strangers. This made it difficult to communicate about the importance of getting out of bed, being mobile, and being able to return to the day centre and get back to social activities.

The hospital Occupational Therapist worked with the Community Support Team Manager and Community Therapies to share information about the person's care needs. They visited them at home multiple times to assess manual handling and support workers also worked to support them to return to the day centre.

This involved meetings between the Disabilities Service, Occupational Therapist, social worker, District Nurses, the Disabilities Nurse, Support Workers from the Day Centre and Advanced Nurse Practitioner from the GP Surgery.

The individual progressed slowly to the point where they were able to sit on the edge of the bed and put their own slippers on, which was a huge achievement. The support is ongoing now that the Reablement Service has stopped, and a Domiciliary Care Agency has been put in place. Community Physiotherapists continue to visit to offer support.

The perfect outcome will be for the person to attend the day centre once more and regain her social activities and social relationships. More time may be needed to achieve this fully; but in the meantime, the joint working between different teams has helped get this process well on the way.

Care Action Committee priorities and 50-day challenge

Welsh Government launched a 50-day challenge to help more people safely return home from hospital and to ease winter pressures on our health and care system. We set up an Urgent and Emergency Care Improvement Programme, which brought together people from the health board, local authorities and other partners.

The joint focus really helped make a difference to the care provided, along with an extra £2.4 million in funding. We were able to increase the number of people receiving care from around 7,650 to 7,800 between December 2024 and March 2025. This includes placements in care homes, at home and reablement (short term support to help people regain independence after illness). We also reduced the number of people waiting for care from 330 to 290 between December 2024 and March 2025. We still face challenges due to increasing demand and overstretched budgets, but this approach has helped to provide care closer to home.

Each local council used funding differently, depending on where it would have the greatest impact. This included providing equipment and adaptations to people's homes to help them get home from hospital or to avoid having to go into hospital in the first place. The funding was used to increase or sustain capacity in:

- domiciliary (home) care services
- social work provision
- occupational therapy provision
- care home staffing
- reablement teams.

There's more information about this programme in the [Home from Hospital model of care](#).

Further Faster Programme

Welsh Government provided additional funding as part of the Further Faster Programme to increase the capacity of community care so that older people only need to stay in hospital when it's the right place for them.

Across North Wales the funding was used to give more people access to places in care homes, reablement and care at home (domiciliary care). In the West of the region funding was used for the Community Frailty Programme. In the Central area it was used for anticipatory planning so we know what people want to happen if their health needs change, palliative care, and the step up and step down scheme to provide care outside of hospitals. In the East we funded an Enhanced Community Care Scheme.

Domiciliary Care Regional Commissioning Agreement

Domiciliary care (care at home) is provided by many different agencies across North Wales. The local councils and health board went out to tender to renew the North Wales Domiciliary Care Agreement, with Denbighshire County Council leading the procurement process. Around 100 care providers bid to be a part of the agreement and 97 have been appointed. The agreement has a potential total value of around £171 million and can be used for up to eight years.

The agreement means that providers have a contract setting out the terms and

conditions they need to meet. It's flexible, so that partners can work with care providers to develop the range of home care and support services across the region.

We've extended the scope of the agreement too. It used to be focussed on standard domiciliary care for adults. Now it includes children and young people, complex domiciliary care and respite care (carer breaks) for children and young people, adults, and their families / unpaid carers. The agreement can be used from 1 April 2025.

Creating the regional domiciliary care commissioning agreement between seven partner organisations and 100 different providers was a complex and demanding challenge for our team. The success of this project will help us make sure we have the right provision to meet the needs of people at home.

This work is a great example of joint commissioning in line with the National Framework for Commissioning Care and Support, which will help meet the needs of people receiving care and support and improve their well-being.

Capital programme: Learning disabilities supported living



Supported living accommodation schemes enable people with learning disabilities to live independently within their own communities. New developments are creating accessible, lifelong homes that offer people choice, control, and the ability to live close to family, friends, and local networks. These schemes promote true inclusion, allowing people to participate fully in community life and

access tailored support where needed. We've invested £2.5 million in several projects to provide homes for 20 people. This includes buying property, refurbishing and construction. This expansion helps reduce the number of people living outside their county or region, helps us house people in a crisis and creates more meaningful, person-centred housing options across the region.

Challenges

We didn't hear about the additional funding for the 50-day challenge until late into the year which limited what we could do with it. With more notice we could use it more effectively and sustainably.

The diagram below shows challenges identified by Regional Integration Fund projects.



Next steps

Based on these successes and challenges, next year we will:

- Develop a regional falls prevention and response service.
- Increase anticipatory care planning for people most at risk of going into hospital so we can ensure they receive care closer to home.
- Continue the work of the 16 Community Resource Teams.

Section 3: Home from hospital

Improvements in healthcare and addressing other causes of ill health means that people are living longer, and more people have long-term (chronic) health conditions which need life-long treatment. This is increasing demand on hospital care, when in many circumstances it would be better to provide care and treatment at home or in people's local communities.

The aim of 'home from hospital' is to get people home from hospital as safely and as soon as possible so they can recover at home. After they leave, we check to see what support they need, helping them recover more quickly and avoid spending more time in the hospital than necessary. This also helps hospitals and care services manage their space better, making sure that people who need urgent medical care can get it quickly.

Our goal is that within 48 hours of being well enough to go home, people are back at home with all the support they need in place.

Funding

In addition to £4 million funding through the Regional Integration Fund, we have also used funding from the Care Action Committee 50-day challenge and Capital grants to support this model of care.

What we achieved



616 people accessed the service,
200 for the first time.



190 people received support that
prevented their needs escalating.



123 maintained or improved their
emotional health and well-being.



175 people said they were as
independent or more independent
as a result of the project.

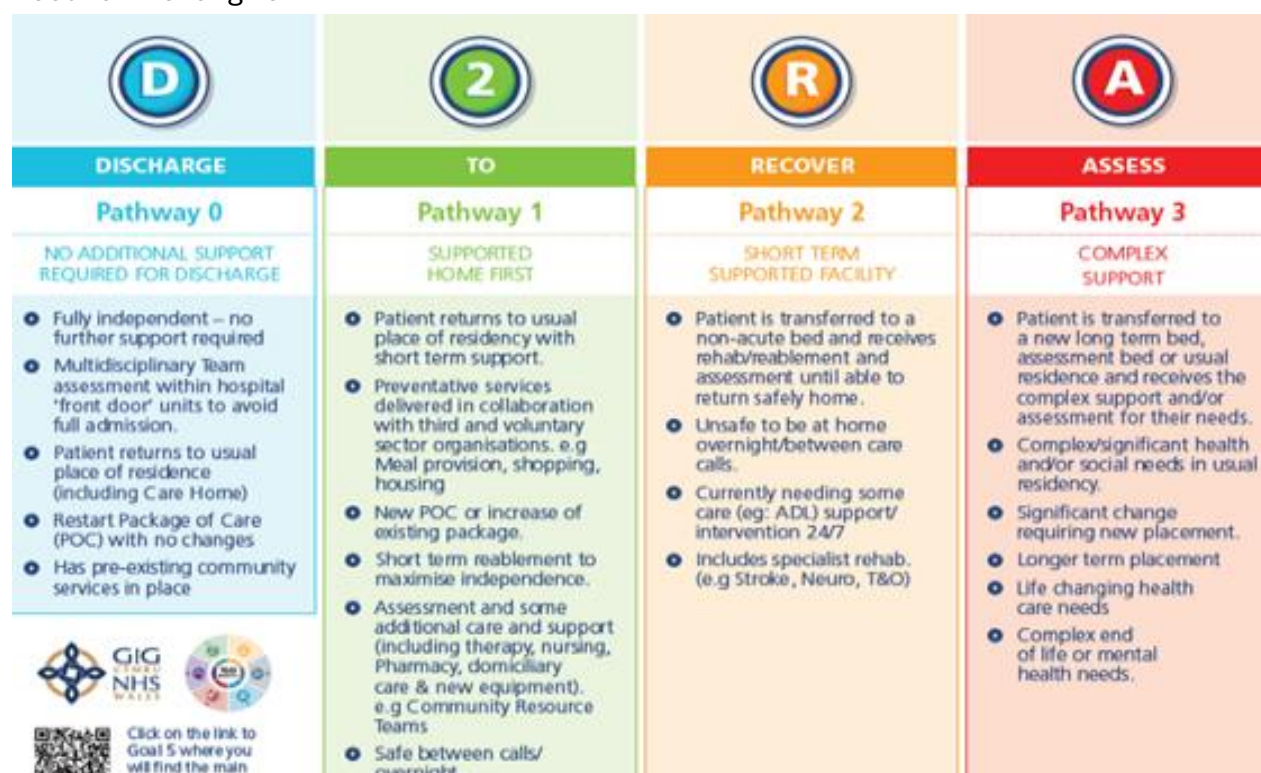
In the West area, our **Tuag Adref (Towards Home)** project provided reablement services (short-term interventions) to 1,600 people so they can go home as soon as they are well enough and avoid going to hospital unnecessarily.

In the Central area, the Conwy **Step Up Step Down Extra Care** scheme supported

people who are well enough to go home, but where there are other reasons that mean they can't go home. The team work closely with the Community Resource team so that people can have a short-term stay of about two weeks in one of five purpose-built flats in an Extra Care Housing scheme. While they are staying there a multi-agency team checks to see what support they need to get home. The Extra Care Housing Scheme is for people over the age of 55 who need domiciliary (home) care and have health needs that can be supported by the District Nursing Scheme. Domiciliary care is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week in the scheme.

In the East area, the **Home First Discharge team** supported 350 patients to get home from acute and community hospitals. They also support patients on the fast-track pathway that Hospice at Home are unable to support. The support they provide lasts an average of 27 days.

These projects are all part of the D2RA pathway show below, which means discharge to recover and assess. It sets out how we help people to get out of hospital to home if possible, or another place where they can recover and then check what support they need for the long-term.



Care Action Committee priorities and 50-day challenge

The Care Action Committee priorities are:

- Reduce the pathway of care delays due to assessment
- Increase weekend district nursing and palliative care nursing hours
- Increase the number of people benefiting from 'step up' care as safe alternative to conveyance / hospital admission and 'step down' care from hospital.

Funding from the 50-day challenge helped us with our hospital from home model of care.

- We reduced pathway of care delays to 311, down 25% between April 2024 and March 2025.
- We reduced pathway of care delays due to a wait for an assessment to 140, down 32% from April 2024 to March 2025.
- The number of days of delays was 11,000 in March 2025. This was 17% lower than in April 2024.
- We increased the amount of time district nurses were available on weekdays and at weekends. We're also working with Welsh Government to test a new model to get data about district nursing availability from our IT systems.

Our Urgent and Emergency Care Improvement programme is working on:

- Support to prevent people from needing to go to hospital. This includes a community falls response to help people who have fallen.
- When people arrive at hospital, our 'Hospital Front Door' workstream provides the right support without people needing to be admitted to hospital wherever possible. This includes our front door frailty service and work with the ambulance service.
- The Optimal Hospital Flow Framework, which is about planning to help people leave hospital with 24 hours of them being admitted. This helps avoid deconditioning which is where people can lose strength and fitness from being in a hospital bed.
- Discharge from hospital. This is about health, social care and other services working together to make sure people can leave hospital as soon as they are well enough.

There are six national goals which the Urgent and Emergency Care Improvement Programme is working towards. The health board received £2.7 million for the programme.



1. Coordination planning and support for the populations at greater risk of needing urgent or emergency care.



2. Signposting people with urgent care needs to the right place, first time.



3. Clinically safe alternatives to admission to hospital.



4. Rapid response in a physical or mental health crisis.



5. Optimal hospital care and discharge practice from the point of admission.



6. Home first approach and reduce the risk of readmission.

Capital Programme

Tŷ Croes Atti Redevelopment, Flintshire



Relocating a council-run care home for older people so it can expand from 31 to 56 rooms. This £19 million scheme – funded by Welsh Government's Housing with Care Fund (HCF) and Integration and Rebalancing Capital Fund (IRCF) alongside Flintshire County Council's Capital Programme – is being delivered jointly with the health board to support integrated

health and social care. The new model will combine longer-term residential care with intermediate reablement services, supporting safe hospital discharge and person-centred recovery in a community setting. Key features include D2RA (Discharge To Recover and Assess) principles, a rapid-access Admissions Coordinator, and a reablement-led approach with wraparound support. Adapted from a successful model, delivered in Flintshire at the Marleyfield site, it aims to improve outcomes and satisfaction for residents and families. Completion is expected in Summer 2025.

Challenges

The lack of available suitable short term nursing home placements for step down for patients with health needs remains a challenge. Due to the lack of care provision in the community the main challenge is handing patients back after the period of reablement. A lack of technology for reporting purposes and sharing information securely between teams and Home First Bureaus remains a significant challenge.

Next steps

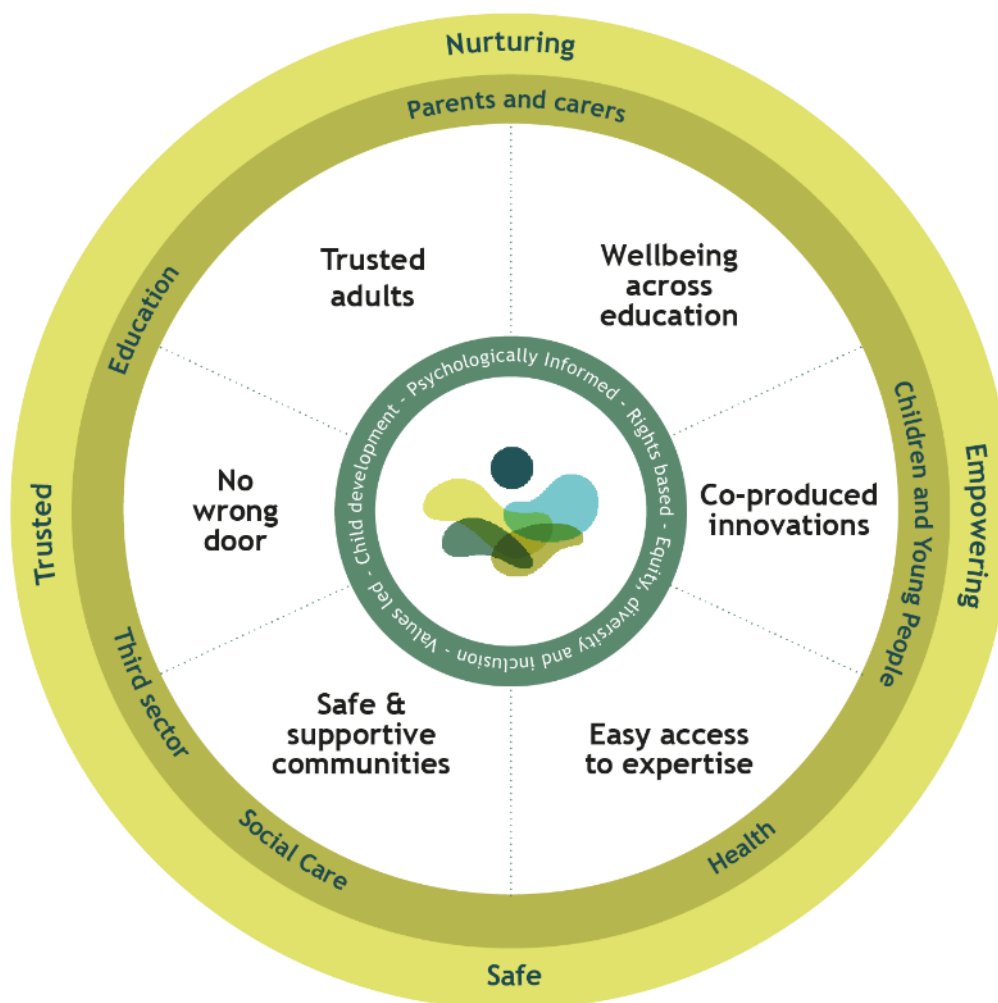
Based on these successes and challenges, next year we will continue to support:

- Home First Teams.
- Discharge to recover and assess.
- Step up step down. Step up care is to prevent hospital admissions and step down care is support for people who are well enough to leave hospital but where there are other reasons that mean they can't go home.

Section 4: Supporting families and children to stay together safely

We want children and young people to enjoy their best mental health and well-being. We do this by making sure the organisations that support them are easy to access, work well together, make sure results happen quickly and efficiently based on children and young people's choices and those of their families.

This model of care is based around our strategy 'The Right Door' (previously known as 'no wrong door') and the NYTH / NEST framework shown below. This includes giving trusted adults, those closest to the child, easy access to expertise to support them to 'hold on' to children when they can instead of 'referring on'. And where more specialist support is needed, we want there to be 'no wrong door'. New ways of working will involve children, young people and their families and be based on what matters to them with their well-being supported across education and through safe and supportive communities.



Funding

In addition to £10.5 million funding through the Regional Integration Fund, we have also used funding from the Neurodiversity Improvement Programme and Capital grants to support this model of care.

What we achieved

Projects in this model of care are working more closely together, sharing knowledge, resources, and good practices as they grow. Efforts to guide people to the right services and make referrals based on individual needs have helped projects support each other in providing well-rounded, effective care. This has made better use of local resources and strengthened the system's ability to deliver the care that really matters to individuals and families.



12,000 people accessed the service,
2,300 for the first time.



2,300 people received support that
prevented their needs escalating.



4,000 maintained or improved their
emotional health and well-being
(98% of those who gave feedback)



3,200 people received a specialist
intervention and 96% of those who gave
feedback said they were satisfied with it.

Neurodivergence Improvement Programme (NDIP)

The Neurodivergence Improvement Programme added capacity to existing neurodivergence services, reduced assessment waiting times and supported the piloting of innovative approaches to integrated delivery of neurodivergence services, which support the delivery of the Children's Regional Partnership Board vision.

We delivered 18 projects and a further 11 activities. The projects have been focused around four themes of work which have looked to:

- develop needs led advice and support pre and post diagnosis
- build skills and knowledge for both staff and families
- undertake research to support service development and
- pilot a new collaborative approach to working across health and education.

The work has resulted in more informed 'what matters' conversations that suit people's

circumstances, so they receive more tailored advice and support. This can prevent escalation and enables parents and carers to be in a better position to manage their own situations.

Staff knowledge of neurodiversity has increased generally across teams providing support to children, young people, and families through bringing in colleagues with specialist neurodiversity knowledge to the teams. This has enabled more targeted support to be provided and staff to feel better informed and more confident.

Individuals and their families say they feel better understood and less isolated and that the help they receive is helping them gain confidence and feel empowered to make decisions over day to day living situations. Improved mental well-being and cohesion within the family unit is helping reduce the risk of care proceedings.

The [focus on neurodevelopment information pack](#) we developed last year was used as a key part of the Welsh Government Accelerated Design Event. The pack pulls together a range of evidence about the experience of children, young people and families with neurodevelopmental conditions in North Wales.

A successful ‘Designing Success Together: Neuro-affirmative Innovations’ event was held in March 2025 with over 100 participants, including people with lived experience and service providers, to develop an action plan for the next twelve months.

Poem and comments made by a Wrexham Dad

“Life is a race we are running in
Its distance we’re not told
With ups and downs and in-betweens
The challenges unfold
The journey is long and sometimes hard
And sometimes quite rewarding
One moment high above the clouds
Then through thick treacle fording
The challenges they come and go
And deal with them we will
Some sweetened with some sugar
Some like a bitter pill
That said we move with tiny steps
And ever forward motion
With toil and smiles and gratefulness
Our hearts are filled with devotion

“On behalf of our family, I would like to say a huge thank you for all the advice support and resources that you have provided over the last several months, we are eternally grateful. All our best wishes.”

Ripple effects mapping

The Local Integrated Family Team (LIFT)

The LIFT team is a multi-disciplinary team that includes staff from the health board, Conwy County Borough Council and Denbighshire County Council. During a Ripple Effects Mapping workshop in 2025, the team shared how support from the Regional Partnership Board Team in 2017 enabled them to develop closer working relationships across health and social care. We were able to link together the ripple effects from LIFT and their local neurodevelopment service (funded through NDIP) to understand how facilitating regional working can support improved relationships across organisations to meet the needs of children, young people and families.

Tŷ Nyth – Multi Systemic Therapy

The team at Tŷ Nyth mapped a young person's move back to the part of North Wales that they come from. Originally the plan was for the young person to move into a foster care placement but they are now living in a residential placement that suits their needs and has improved relationship with their dad and siblings. Ripple Effects Mapping supported the team to reflect on the journey, identify elements of the model which helped staff to support the young person to overcome significant challenges in regulating emotions and behaviour. This led to improved placement stability closer to home.

Capital programme: Bwthyn Y Ddol – Sub-Regional Children's Residential Assessment Centre

Opened in winter 2024, Bwthyn Y Ddol is a pioneering sub-regional residential assessment unit delivered in partnership by Conwy County Borough Council, Denbighshire County Council, and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board.

The centre works with families in crisis and provide a place of sanctuary and assessment for young people with complex needs. They work with families to create positive change, **enabling children** to: remain home safely or return home safely, or develop an alternative placement plan, and **enabling parents** to challenge and change their own behaviours in order to meet the needs of their children. The team will work with children and their families:

- To prevent children going into care on a long term basis
- To provide a period of assessment to assess, plan and deliver intensive bespoke interventions
- To provide therapeutic respite for families in crisis
- To facilitate complex change
- For the small number of children unable to remain with parents or family to identify the most appropriate alternatives in a planned and responsive way

The £5 million scheme has received funding over a number of years.

Early intervention

Early intervention projects include developing and piloting a regional Emotional Health, Wellbeing and Resilience (EHWR) Framework. Based on the five ways to wellbeing, it has been developed through coproduction with children, young people, families and carers, and professionals. The framework has been tested in various places from early years to secondary schools and across different groups to see where it's effective, for example, teachers have been using it as a discussion reference at parents evening. We've used this practice to inform a toolkit to accompany the framework in 2024/25. The regional team is using the Most Significance Change model to assess the impact of the framework and is identifying a range of stories with further work being undertaken especially gathering stories from parents, carers and children and young people.

Challenges

Based on the challenges faced across North Wales, the Children's Regional Partnership Board has identified three priorities for next year.

- Neurodiversity – supporting children and young people to have equal life opportunities
- Supporting mental well-being – supporting children, young people and families with therapeutic needs who don't meet criteria for mental health support
- Not for profit in care – commitment to remove private profit from the care of children looked after

Challenges relating to neurodiversity include:

- Shifting support to be needs led with an early intervention and prevention focus, rather than having to wait for a diagnosis.
- Managing the increase in demand for support that is being seen regionally and nationally, coupled with a shortage of professionals with neurodevelopmental specialist knowledge in areas such as Social Work, Occupational Therapy and Teachers.
- Gaps identified in provision for mental health services for children and young people with neurodiversity needs.
- Raising awareness about unintended consequences for people with neurodiversity of decisions made by services, for example, in school settings.
- Raising awareness about neurodiversity and how reasonable adjustments can make a positive difference for individuals.

Next steps

Based on these successes and challenges, next year the priorities for children will be:

- Neurodiversity – Regional Strategic Neurodivergence Group will oversee the programme action plan and develop work regionally and monitor overall via regular monthly meetings. Three Children's Area Groups will take local decisions, develop,

deliver and monitor by area – meeting every two months.

- Supporting mental well-being – supporting children, young people, and families with therapeutic needs who don't meet criteria for mental health support – Children's RPB to hold workshop to develop strategic focus in mid July, then develop a programme of work. Implement a regional strategic group to oversee the programme.
- Not for profit in care – commitment to remove private profit from the care of children looked after: Children's RPB to hold workshop to develop strategic focus in mid-September, then develop a programme of work. Implement a regional strategic group to oversee the programme.

Section 5: Promoting good emotional health and well-being

Creating and improving services for people who need emotional health and well-being support and connecting them to support in their local community.

Funding

This model of care receives £1.3 million from the Regional Integration Fund and £4 million from capital funds.

What we achieved



11,000 people accessed the service, 3,000 for the first time.



38,000 contacts (some people were contacted more than once)



2,900 maintained or improved their emotional health and well-being (97% of those who gave feedback)



320 people received support that prevented their needs escalating.

Developed an interactive, classroom-based Autism Awareness session to help raise awareness of autism and the challenges Autistic people can face every day. People attending the session included those from HR, Project Management, Disability, Single Point of Access, Well-being Hub and Reablement teams.

Mencap Môn's community activities support people with a learning disability and their carers. Through partnership working with Dementia Actif Môn they work collaboratively to support people with learning disabilities with a greater risk of a dementia diagnosis.

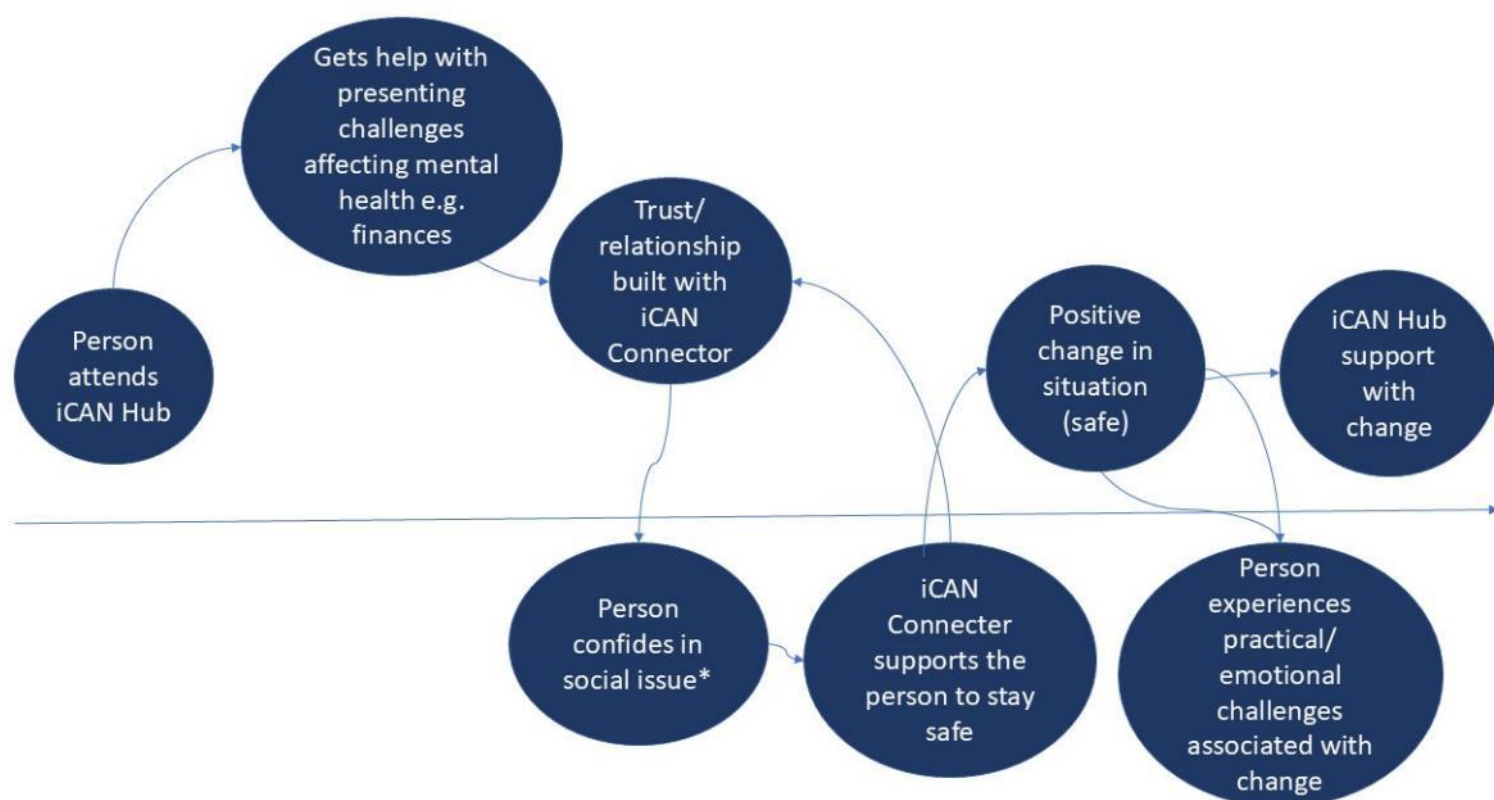
iCAN

The health board's iCAN service supports people with mental health and well-being. It connects people to their communities and has great collaborative working between health and social care services and third sector partners. This includes GPs, Primary Care teams, Community Mental Health Services, pharmacies, the Integrated Autism Team, social workers, police, fire, and housing.

The iCAN Hubs give people an opportunity to step into volunteering and peer support

roles. During the Knowledge Exchange Event in March 2025 volunteers shared their experiences and explained the positive impact the volunteer role has had on their mental health and well-being.

The Ripple Effects Map below was produced as part of two workshops involving link workers and managers, police, community navigators, a substance misuse charity, and housing providers. It shows that the relationships between iCAN and the people they support helps people make changes for their own safety, support recovery and experience change. This may be practical support and advice about their situation, or emotional support responding to change in themselves or their feelings.



Capital programme: community and health and well-being hub developments



In Flintshire, Coed y Ddraig in Mold will be a centrally located hub providing day and work services for people with learning disabilities, autism, and mental health support needs. The £5.7 million scheme – jointly funded by Flintshire County Council and the Welsh Government’s Integration and Rebalancing Capital Fund (IRCF)

– will support up to 80 people and create meaningful employment opportunities for service users. Construction is progressing well and we expect it to be complete by

summer 2025.

In Denbighshire, a new integrated Health and Well-being Hub in Denbigh will bring together children's and adult services including Community Resource Teams (CRTs), midwifery, mental health, and learning disability services. Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board has secured £1.1 million for the site which is due to open in spring/summer 2026. It will improve access to coordinated care by co-locating health, social care, and third sector services in a single, community-focused facility.

Next steps

Based on these successes and challenges, next year we will:

- Continue to develop the health board's iCAN service to support people with mental health and well-being.
- Provide training and development, community activities and Community Well-being Officers to promote good emotional health and well-being.

For 0 to 25 year olds, see [section 4, supporting children young people and their families](#).

Section 6: Integrated system enablers

The essential behind-the-scenes work over the past 12 months that make it possible to provide new models of care are evidenced as follows.

Capital programme: buildings and infrastructure

The regional programme is supported by £6.7 million from capital funds and £690,000 from the Regional Integration Fund. The programme delivers the [10-year Strategic Capital Plan](#). Each model of care above includes examples of how the work has been enabled by the capital programme.

This Regional Integrated Fund element is about enabling people to live where they want, in the way they want and to stay safe and well with support within their communities. This includes helping people gain or regain an independent life where appropriate. The diagram below shows the achievements for this aspect of the programme.



244 people accessed the service,
38 for the first time.



105 people received support that
prevented their needs escalating.



436 staff accessed training.



100% of people were satisfied with the
specialist intervention provided.

The Progression Service

The Progression Service helps people achieve independence, well-being and control. The service has helped prevent the need for and reduced impact on paid services through the support provided. The Progression Service also continues to work with the Employment Co-ordinator to enhance work opportunities for individuals to have meaningful employment for those with a learning disability. They have worked with local businesses / volunteering opportunities to achieve this.

Capital programme



Increased local small group homes for children in care, with a £4 million investment. This helps improve options for children to live within or close to their local communities.

Invested £2.7 million in around 60 projects to adapt and refurbish property and provide specialist equipment and digital assistive technology.

Arosfa

Refurbished the Arosfa Centre in Mold, which provides short term breaks and respite for disabled children, to provide high quality, safe and supportive accommodation. This means children and young people can receive complex support services in their local area. A transport programme supports young people to attend school, college and other education with increased independence. It's been a challenge to use the accommodation fully and safely at Arosfa and to implement safe and effective transport plans. Other challenges facing respite services (carer breaks) are that not many voluntary sector organisations provide them, increased referrals and demand, the cost of living, as well as the specialised staff and equipment needed.

Digital, Data and Technology Board

Priority 1: Getting the basics right – seamless secure access to systems and information at any time from any place.

Working in a multi-agency team can be frustrating when the IT gets in the way and our 'getting the basics right' workstream is trying to put this right. Last year local councils and health worked together to make sure staff could work together across organisations using Microsoft Teams and we're hoping to be able to roll out SharePoint and calendar sharing in the next stage.

Priority 2: Innovation. North Wales Digital Social Care Showcase 2025

On 5 March 2025 we brought together digital technology providers with people who plan, use and provide social care for the first North Wales Digital Social Care Showcase. The event was funded by sponsorship from technology companies like Synanetics. It was a great success with spaces to connect and reflect about how we use digital technology and try things out for ourselves.

Workshops included:

- tips for using everyday technologies to help you live the way you choose.
- how to co-design a bespoke care solution using everyday smart technologies.
- mobile phone apps that you can use to help improve your health and well-being.

- how to help your organisation and your staff get ready for a digital future.
- a chance to see and try out medication management gadgets to support people to take their medication on time.

Around 190 people attended on the day, in addition to speakers, exhibitors and organisers. People told us their main highlights were networking, hearing from people with learning disabilities about their experiences, demos and user experience stories, the Welsh Local Government Association presentation, workshops, and exhibitions. We have also started mapping the ripple effects from the event, which includes improved relationships between partners for facilitating digital innovation and support to take forward innovative ideas.

More information: [Digital Showcase website](#), [video of the event](#), [social media story](#).

Priority 3: Digital inclusion

The health board have continued their research programme into digital inclusion and exclusion and its impact on health and healthcare in North Wales.

Priority 4: Connecting Care integrated health and care records

The main focus was on the Connecting Care (WCCIS programme). Market research found that there was no single system that would work for all the different departments in health and social care, so the decision was made to purchase the best system for each service area and then integrate them as the next phase in the project. This year we helped develop a business case and facilitated procurement of a new social care case management system, which will put all six North Wales social care departments onto the same system for the first time ready for future record integration. We work closely with colleagues from Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board and the North Wales Local Authorities around the Connecting Care Programme.

Regional Innovation Coordination (RIC) Hub

The hub provides health and social care research, innovation, and improvement support for the Regional Partnership Board.

The impact of the team can be seen throughout this report in the Ripple Effects Mapping evaluation, the Digital, Data and Technology workstream, communications and website development, and support for the Children's Regional Partnership Board [focus on neurodevelopment information pack](#), [communication and collaboration](#) and [Early Years](#) workshops.

The team produce the Population Needs Assessment which underpins the work of the Regional Partnership Board. Updates include:

- Key drivers of demand for children's services bulletin.
- Demand for care home places in North Wales bulletin.

- Housing and homelessness research bulletin.
- Dementia strategy statistics update.
- Updated area profiles for primary care clusters, unitary authority areas and local health areas.
- Updated prevalence estimates for dementia and neuro developmental conditions based on latest mid-year population statistics.
- Evidence summary: [Bringing care closer to home](#)
- Evidence summary: [Neurodiversity assessment – the views of children and young people](#)
- Evidence summary: [AI in health and care](#)
- A searchable collection of health and social care research related to the Regional Partnership Board priority groups that was published by people working in North Wales.

Please follow us on Bluesky [@nwrch.bsky.social](#), Twitter/X [@_NW_RICH](#), [sign up to our newsletter](#) and visit the [RIC hub webpages](#) for more information.

Workforce developments

The North Workforce Board works on their overarching priorities from their [Workforce strategy 2024-26](#), which include:

- stabilising the workforce.
- learning and development.
- workforce intelligence and planning.

The board has extended its membership in the last 12 months to include additional partners responsible for delivering on the overall strategy. The board meetings focus on priority themes.

A key achievement for this year is the commissioning of six occupational therapy course places through Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) which are ringfenced to North Wales local authorities. There is also ongoing work in place to explore post graduate opportunities across the partnership.

The board continued to campaign and lobby Social Care Wales to progress the work on the portability of Level 2/3 Health and Social Care qualifications. This is underway and should be completed over the summer of 2025 and will improve the overall learning pathway into the sector. It has benefited both Coleg Cambria and Grŵp Llandrillo Menai to develop a unified placement process for students studying these qualifications.

A workstream focussing on the first three years in practice for social workers has successfully updated the learning and development training plan and standardised this document across the region, so that newly qualified social workers (NQSW) are supported by a consistent development plan.

The Social Care Wales Workforce Development Grant (SCWWDP) grant provides a significant contribution to supporting the workforce development needs of the social care workforce in Wales, supporting equality of access to all types of social care providers in each region and reflective of the profile of the sector in each county and region. SCWWDP supports the 5 key themes of the health and social care workforce strategy:

- Building a digitally ready workforce
- Excellent education and learning)
- Provision of qualifying and post qualifying social work training
- Leadership and succession
- Workforce supply and shape

While the SCWWDP grant has not increased in the last 3 years, the demand within the wider social care partner organisations to access training has risen significantly. Local councils are having to do considerably more with the same level of funding.

In the autumn of 2024 the North Wales Workforce Board together with the North Wales Regional Skills Partnership and Isle of Anglesey County Council developed a pilot programme tailored for Year 9 across Anglesey secondary schools. The purpose was to provide an insight and awareness of occupations within the health and social care sector, what the different roles involve, and the career opportunities available. It also provided practical insights and experiences to complement theoretical knowledge and dispel myths, and facilitated exploration of various pathways into social care professions including social workers, occupational therapists, and management, in both adults and children's settings.

The event was held at all five Anglesey high schools and approximately 700 pupils attended. We will monitor whether there was an increase in the number of pupils choosing health and social care as a GCSE option from September 2024. To date Coleg Menai, Llangefni campus has received 53 applications to complete a Level 3 Health and Social Care course and 36 applications to complete a Level 2 Health and Social Care course for the next academic year (2025/26). This is approximately a 40% increase in applications to undertake a course compared to this time last year.

There continue to be ongoing workforce challenges throughout the sector and the North Wales Workforce Board will continue to work with partners and stakeholders to support the sector. This will complement the work of the national Fair Work Forum, and along with our work with overseas and international workers will help ensure the recommendations of the Anti-Racist Wales Action plan are implemented.

Mwy na geriau

We promoted the use of the Welsh language including sharing [resources on our website](#) to strengthen the use of the Welsh language within health and social care sectors. This has been one of the most visited sections of our website.

North Wales Social Value Steering Group

The North Wales Social Value Forum Steering Group has had new members since it was formed in 2016. New members include partners from Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, local authorities, housing associations, and third/voluntary sector. This group help meet the requirements of the Social Services and Well-being Act (Wales) 2014 and promote collaboration, partnership, and networking opportunities across sectors with an aim of maximising social value and co-production across all providers delivering health, social care and well-being services in North Wales.

In November 2024, in partnership with the North Wales Insight and Research Partnership, the group held its first North Wales Social Value conference. This well-attended event brought together providers, procurement and commissioning officers and managers from across North Wales to ensure a shared understanding about maximising the well-being of citizens and communities through commissioning activities. The focus was on delivering ‘what matters’ to the people of North Wales and how we could address social, environmental, economic and cultural needs through procurement and commissioning activities.

Over the next two years, the group will focus on:

- a learning and development programme.
- the 2025 Social Value Conference.
- working with the North Wales Social Value Network.
- measuring the impact of social value and how it is being delivered in North Wales.
- working with the voluntary services councils (the forum will focus on voluntary sector projects and using Regional Integration Funding to maximum benefit).

Communication and engagement

We set up a ‘good news’ stories group which brings together communications teams from across the six local councils and health board. The group meets regularly to identify stories about the impact of the Regional Partnership Board and share them widely through press releases and other methods.

The first two stories the good news stories group shared were:

[Accessing the right support: North Wales Memory Support Pathway](#)

[North Wales Dementia Friendly Communities Scheme](#)

We created a new process for generating content for the Regional Partnership Board website to share good practice, improved the site structure to make it easier for people to find the information they need and developed a style guide to improve consistency. Popular pages this year included the [Population Needs Assessment](#), [Digital Social Care Showcase](#) and [North Wales Memory Support Pathway](#). One of the most searched terms that lead people to our website is ‘mwy na geiriau’, which takes people to the page: [Mwy na geriau: Resources to help strengthen the use of the Welsh language within health and social care in North Wales](#).

Annual delivery plan 2025/26

The annual delivery plan was agreed following a Regional Partnership Board workshop, which reviewed the successes and challenges set out in this report. This is an ambitious work programme which no one organisation can achieve alone.

It will be delivered by partner organisations working together through Regional Partnership Board programmes and projects.

Models of care

1. We will provide community-based care including prevention and community coordination by:

- Improving reablement and domiciliary care capacity, including alternative delivery models.
- Improving community care capacity.
- Further developing early intervention and preventative community hubs and resources.
- Continuing to deliver projects to connect people with support in their communities.
- Refreshing and delivering the North Wales Dementia Strategy and the North Wales Together programme: Seamless services for people with learning disabilities.
- Developing a prevention framework for partner organisations to build on the Well North Wales approach.

2. We will provide community-based care including more complex care closer to home by:

- Developing a regional falls prevention and response service.
- Increasing anticipatory care planning for people most at risk of going into hospital so we can ensure they receive care closer to home.
- Continuing the work of the 16 Community Resource Teams.

3. We will help people to get home from hospital by:

Working together to address the reasons for pathway of care delays by continuing to support projects to address the causes of delays, including:

- Home First Teams
- Discharge to recover and assess
- Step up step down. Step up care is to prevent hospital admissions and step down care is support for people who are well enough to leave hospital but where there are other reasons that mean they can't go home.

4. We will support children, young people and their families by:

Focusing on the following priorities.

- Neurodiversity – supporting children and young people to have equal life opportunities
- Supporting mental well-being – supporting children, young people, and families with therapeutic needs who don't meet criteria for mental health support
- Not for profit in care – commitment to remove private profit from the care of children looked after

5. We will promote good emotional health and wellbeing by:

- Continuing to develop the iCAN service to support people with mental health and well-being.
- Providing training and development, community activities and Community Well-being Officers to promote good emotional health and well-being.

For 0 to 25 year olds, see [section 4, we will support children young people and their families](#)

To enable the above to happen:

6. We will deliver the capital programme and provide accommodation-based solutions (safe and supportive places to live) by:

- Developing and further progressing projects as set out in our 10-year [Strategic Capital Plan](#) including:
 - Opening the 56 bed provision in Flint – Croes Atti which combines longer-term residential care with intermediate reablement services, supporting safe hospital discharge and person-centred recovery in a community setting.
 - Completing and opening Coed y Ddraig in Mold which will be a centrally located hub providing day and work services for people with learning disabilities, autism, and mental health support needs.
- Providing places to provide respite care (carer breaks).
- Providing the progression service to help people with learning disabilities achieve independence, well-being and control and have safe and supportive places to live.

7. We will work together to jointly commission services and promote social value by:

- Reviewing the implementation of the new North Wales Domiciliary Care Agreement 2025 (Adults/Children and Standard/Enhanced).
- Issuing and implementing the North Wales Pre-Placement Agreement for Care Homes including an accompanying Care Home Specification.
- Reviewing the current Regional Supported Living Agreement and deciding whether a

new regional agreement is to be re-tendered which meets the needs of the commissioning partners and citizens.

- Developing a Regional Commissioning Strategy for residential homes and nursing homes.
- Working with the Children's Regional Partnership Board to develop a Regional Commissioning Placement Strategy for children's services.
- The North Wales Social Value Steering Group will focus on a learning and development programme, the 2025 Social Value Conference, working with the North Wales Social Value Network, measure the impact of social value and work with voluntary services councils to maximise funding and benefits.

8. We will work together on workforce planning and development by:

- Stabilising the existing workforce to remain within the health and social care sector and support and drive a continual attraction and recruitment activity.
- Creating a workforce which is competent, capable and confident to perform their role.
- Working with partners to capture relevant workforce data to inform and improve future workforce requirements and planning.

9. We will use digital, data and technology well to create integrated, seamless, sustainable services and improve health and well-being by:

- Getting the basics right: making sure people who work in health and social care have seamless, secure access to systems and information at any time from any place.
- Innovation: taking a joined-up approach to digital innovation and maximise use of funds.
- Digital inclusion: joined-up approach to developing digital skills and helping people get online.
- Integrated Care Records and Connecting Care oversight.

10. We will engage and communicate the work of the Regional Partnership Board by:

- Continuing Good News Stories group with communications teams from across the six local councils and health board.
- Continuing Ripple Effect Mapping of Regional Integration Fund and Capital projects.
- Beginning research and engagement for the next Population Needs Assessment to be published in April 2027.
- Promoting and updating the Regional Partnership Board website and social media.
- Continuing the work of the Mwy na geriau board.
- Working with partners to continue to identify, value and support unpaid carers and ensure their voices are heard.

This work programme will be delivered using funding from Welsh Government and partners including the following funding streams: Regional Integration Fund, Further Faster, Regional Innovation Coordination Hub, Dementia Funding, Neurodiversity Improvement Programme, Carers Funding, Integrated Rebalancing Capital Fund, Housing with Care Fund, Winter Pressures Funding, Connecting Care and Social Care Wales Workforce Development Programme.

Appendix 1

How Much Measures	Definitions
HM1. Number of individuals accessing the service (total per quarter)	The total number of individuals who access the project during a quarter.
HM2. Number of new individuals accessing the service for the first time You must also select HM1 if using the HM2 measure	The number of individuals who access the project for the first time.
HM3. Number of referrals received	The number of individuals referred to the project.
HM4. Number of contacts (count multiple contacts per individual)	The number of times individuals have contact with the project.
HM5. Number of people receiving IAA (universal)	The number of individuals receiving Information, Advice, and Assistance (IAA) services.
HM6. Number of people receiving Early Help and Support (Targeted)	The number of individuals receiving early help and support services that target specific needs and issues. This could include groups and events.
HM7. Number of people receiving Intensive Support (Targeted)	The number of individuals receiving intensive support services that are tailored to meet their specific and more complex needs.
HM8. Number of people receiving Specialist Intervention (Specialist)	The number of individuals receiving specialist interventions that require advanced knowledge and expertise to deliver.
HM9. Number of people completing a survey or providing feedback	The number of individuals completing a survey or providing feedback

How Well Measures?	Definitions
HW1. The number of referrals accepted by the project.	The number of referrals accepted by the project.
HW2. The number of individuals who report being satisfied with the IAA provided. HW2a. The number of individuals who were asked and gave an answer as to whether they were satisfied with the IAA provided.	The number of individuals who report being satisfied with the IAA they received from the project.

How Well Measures?	Definitions
HW3. The number of individuals who report being satisfied with Early Help and Support (Targeted) provided. HW3a. The number of individuals who were asked and gave an answer as to whether they were satisfied with the Early Help and Support (Targeted) provided.	The number of individuals who report being satisfied with the EH&S they received from the project.
HW4. The number of individuals who report being satisfied with Intensive Support (Targeted) provided. HW4a. The number of individuals who were asked and gave an answer as to whether they were satisfied with the Intensive Support (Targeted) provided.	The number of individuals who report being satisfied with the IS they received from the project.
HW5. The number of individuals who report being satisfied with Specialist Intervention (Specialist) provided. HW5a. The number of individuals who were asked and gave an answer as to whether they were satisfied with the Specialist Intervention (Specialist) provided.	The number of individuals who report being satisfied with the SI they received from the project.

Difference Made Measures	Definitions
DM1. Number of individuals feeling less isolated as a result of project support DM1a. The number of individuals who were asked and gave an answer as to whether they feel less isolated as a result of project support.	The number of individuals who report feeling less isolated after receiving support from the project.
DM2. Number of people reporting that they are maintaining or improving their emotional health and well-being. DM2a. The number of individuals who were asked and gave an answer as to whether they maintained or improved their emotional health and well-being.	The number of individuals who report maintaining or improving their emotional health and well-being after receiving support from the project.
DM3. Number of people reporting they feel they have influenced the decisions that affect them.	The number of individuals who report feeling that they have influenced the decisions that affect them.

Difference Made Measures	Definitions
DM3a. The number of individuals who were asked and gave an answer as to having influenced the decisions that affect them.	
DM4. Number of individuals reporting they feel their independence has improved or remained the same with the support of the project. DM4a. The number of individuals who were asked and gave an answer as to whether their independence has improved or remained the same with the support of the project.	The number of individuals who report feeling that their independence has improved or remained the same with the support of the project.
DM5. Number of individuals who feel more confident accessing services following project support. DM5a. The number of individuals who were asked and gave an answer as to whether they feel more confident accessing services following project support.	The number of individuals who report feeling more confident accessing services following the support of the project
DM6. Number of individuals who received support that has prevented them from escalating their level of need. DM6a. The number of individuals who were asked and gave an answer as to whether they received support that has prevented them from escalating their level of need	The number of individuals who report they received support that has prevented them from escalating their level of need

Dementia Specific Measures North Wales Only	Definition
DEM1. Number of carers supported by the service (total per Qt)	The total number of carers who access the service during a quarter
DEM2. Number of PLwD receiving what matters discussions	The number of individuals who received what matters discussions
DEM3. Number of PLwD attending activities /groups / dementia centres	The number of individuals who attend activities /groups / dementia centres
DEM4. Number of PLwD who achieved	The number of individuals who report they

Dementia Specific Measures North Wales Only	Definition
what matters to them You must also select DEM5 if using the DEM4 measure	achieved what matters to them.
DEM5. Number of PLwD were asked the question and gave an answer as to if they achieved what matters to them	The number of individuals who were asked and responded that they achieved what matters to them.
DEM6. Number of carers who feel supported to continue in their caring role You must also select DEM7 if using the DEM6 measure	The number of carers who report they feel supported to continue in their caring role
DEM7. Number of carers who were asked the question and gave an answer as to if they feel supported to continue in their caring role	The number of carers who were asked and responded that they feel supported to continue in their caring role

Local measures North Wales only	Definition
NWM 1. Number of staff accessing training	The number of individuals accessing training sessions offered by the project.
NWM 2. Number of citizens accessing training	The number of individuals accessing training sessions offered by the project.
NWM3. Number of training sessions delivered for Staff	The number of staff training sessions delivered by the project.
NWM4. Number of training sessions delivered for Citizens	The number of citizens training sessions delivered by the project.
NWM5. Number of people receiving aids and adoptions	The number of individuals who receive aids and adaptations that help them.
NWM6. Number of people starting an Assistive Technology Package	The number of individuals who start an assistive technology package provided by the project.
NWM7. Number of people with increased knowledge of services/support available to them.	The number of individuals who report having increased knowledge of the services and support available to them.

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22/11/2024

Isle of Anglesey County Council Scrutiny Report

Committee:	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
Date:	15 October 2025
Subject:	North Wales Councils – Regional Emergency Planning Service Annual Report 2024/25
Scrutiny Chair:	Councillor Jeff Evans

1. Who will be the portfolio holder presenting/leading the report?

Portfolio Holder	Role
Councillor Gary Pritchard	Leader of the Council
Service Officer (Supporting)	Role
Helen Kilgannon	NWC-REPS Regional Manager
Susan Owen Jones	Executive Manager (Leadership Team)

2. Why the Scrutiny Committee is being asked to consider the matter

The North Wales Council's Regional Emergency Planning Service is required to report annually to this committee through an Annual Report.

3. Role of the Scrutiny Committee and recommendations

- ☒ For assurance
☐ For recommendation to the Executive
☐ For information

Recommendation(s):

The Committee is invited to scrutinise and comment on the North Wales Council's Regional Emergency Planning Service Annual Report 2024/25.

4. How do the recommendation(s) contribute to the objectives of the Council's Plan?

4.1 The Council has responsibilities for emergency planning and response under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001, and the Pipeline Safety Regulations 1996.

4.2 The Council is a principal responder and meets its obligations by collaborating with the North Wales Local Authorities through the North Wales Council's Regional Emergency Planning Service (NWC-REPS).

4.3 The North Wales Council's Regional Emergency Planning Service is required to report annually to this committee each year through an Annual Report.

5. Key scrutiny themes

Key themes the Scrutiny Committee should concentrate on:

1. Key responses during the period focussing on collaboration with multi agency partners
2. Current measures to ensure compliance with statutory duties
3. The service priorities for the current financial year

6. Key points/summary

6.1 The Council has emergency planning and response duties under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001, and the Pipeline Safety Regulations 1996.

6.2 The Council is a principal responder and meets its obligations by collaborating with the North Wales Local Authorities through the North Wales Councils Regional Emergency Planning Service (NWC-REPS), for which Flintshire County Council is the host authority.

6.3 Within the Council, responsibilities for emergency planning and response are shared across services and nominated service representatives are identified within the Emergency Management Response Team structure.

6.4 The key areas of focus during this reporting period include:

- 6.4.1 NWC-REPS Effective Incident Management: 24/7 Duty Officer service maintained, handling nearly 200 flood alerts, 21 flood warnings, and 352 Met Office weather warnings across the region.
- 6.4.2 Supported multi-agency responses to significant incidents including Storm Darragh, Storm Eowyn, the Synthite COMAH incident, and severe snow/ice events, representing the local authorities within the established silver room at police HQ.
- 6.4.3 NWC-REPS delivered a Voluntary Sector Capabilities Day with British Red Cross, REACT, 4x4 Wales, and others, enhancing responder–volunteer networking.
- 6.4.4 Storm Darragh was an extratropical cyclone which formed on 5 December 2024 and dissipated on 9 December 2024 with gusts of more than 90mph. The storm affected the Island during Saturday, 7 December 2024 & Sunday, 8 December 2024. The Council took the following precautions on Saturday, 7 December 2024:
- Closure of all leisure centres.
 - Closure of both the Penhesgyn and Gwalchmai Household Recycling Centres.
 - Closure of all libraries.
 - Closure of Oriel Ynys Môn and café.
 - Closure of all public toilets.
 - Closure of the Holyhead Breakwater Country Park and Dingle Local Nature Reserve, Llangefni.
 - Closure of both the Beaumaris Pier and St George's Pier, Menai Bridge.
 - Flood gates at Beaumaris, Trearddur Bay and Bull Bay were closed.
 - As the storm took place over the weekend, the main office building was already closed as were schools.

The storm had a significant impact: closing roads, closure of the Britannia Bridge, closure of Holyhead Port, the loss of power and caused damage to structures and properties.

During this period the council collaborated with partners, responded to issues and impacts, and ensured effective community and information with residents.

A significant number of homes across the island experienced prolonged power outages. The most significantly affected were Llangoed (Heulfre), Llangefni (Carelink) and Amlwch (Maes William Williams). In response, the council worked in close collaboration with key partners to prioritise the welfare of affected residents, coordinating the provision of essential resources (e.g. generators) where needed and ensuring support was delivered where most needed.

The following infographic summarises the council's information sharing activity between the 4-9 December 2025.

Engagement during Storm Darragh

6 - 9 of December 2024



2,400+

Total calls, messages
and e-mails received



22,594

Views on our web pages



1m+

Views on our social media
warning and informing
messages



www.ynysmon.llyw.cymru
www.anglesey.gov.wales



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COUNTY COUNCIL

A review and lessons learnt exercise took place to help gain views on what was done well and what could be improved in case of similar future events.

6.4.5 Following significant damage sustained during Storm Darragh, Holyhead Port experienced a total closure to ferry traffic from 7 December 2024 to 15 January 2025.

The Council was part of a multi-agency emergency response, collaborating through formal Strategic and Tactical Coordination Group structures. This enabled effective and timely communication, information sharing, and decision making. The Council was not the decision-making body in relation to the Port of Holyhead but was part of the response arrangements to manage the impacts (i.e. HGVs not being able to travel across the Irish Sea). The Council engaged and collaborated with the Port Authority, Welsh Government and other partners throughout the closure period to manage the impacts and ensure information was shared with residents.

To understand the impact the closure had incurred upon Anglesey and Welsh businesses, the Council launched an online survey on the 8th of January. The Council provided evidence to the inquiry being conducted by the Senedd's Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee on the Holyhead Port Storm Damage and Closure.

6.4.6 The Council has signed the Charter for Families Bereaved by Public Tragedy promoting compassionate public service. The Deputy Chief Executive attended the launch event on 18 March 2025.

6.4.7 A Task and Finish Group was formed in May 2024 to review the Menai Strait crossing contingencies. The group includes category 1 and 2 responders and a review of the framework, clarifying roles and expectations is underway. The document was exercised in November 2024 and March 2025. This work has strengthened multi-agency coordination, reduced potential response delays, and improved emergency readiness. More changes have been made to the framework document and will be reviewed at the LRF co-ordination group. In addition, the Welsh Government are developing a HGV stacking plan.

The recent emergency closure of the Menai Suspension Bridge has once again highlighted the lack of resilience in the Menai Strait crossings and the need for robust, fit for purpose emergency response arrangements in the event that both crossings have to close.

7. Impact assessments

7.1. Potential impacts on groups protected under the Equality Act 2010

None identified – all protected groups under the Equality Act 2010 will be treated equitably, with no differential.

7.2. Potential impacts on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage (strategic decisions)

There have been several events which have highlighted the need for a coordinated approach to how we identify vulnerable people in emergencies. NWC-REPS have established a task and finish group to advance this work to ensure we can collate information with partners identifying those who may need additional assistance in emergencies to address any disadvantage.

7.3. Potential effects on opportunities to use Welsh and not treat the language less favourably than English

No potential impact identified.

7.4. Potential impact on the Council's Net Zero Carbon target

No potential impact identified.

8. Financial implications

The Isle of Anglesey County Council's annual contribution to the service is £58,752 a further reduction of 5% on the previous year costs. The contribution is based on a proportion of 10.472% towards the annual budget for the service. Since its inception, the Service has reduced the contributions of the 6 local authorities by over £350k.

Local Authority	Annual Contribution %
Isle of Anglesey County Council	10.472%
Conwy County Borough Council	16.940%
Denbighshire County Council	14.865%
Flintshire County Council	19.348%
Gwynedd Council	17.979%
Wrexham County Borough Council	20.396%
Total	100%

9. Appendices

North Wales Councils Regional Emergency Planning Service Annual Report 2024/2025

10. Report author and background papers

Helen Kilgannon – NWC-REPS Regional Manager



Annual Report 2024/25

This is the annual North Wales Councils - Regional Emergency Planning Service report for the year 2024-2025. It covers the work carried out by NWC-REPS across the six local authorities in the region, as well as multi-agency activities undertaken to support North Wales Local Resilience Forum.

North Wales Councils Regional Emergency Planning Service

enquiries@nwc-reps.org.uk
01352 702124



North Wales Councils Regional Emergency Planning Service (NWC-REPS)

Isle of Anglesey County Council, Gwynedd Council, Conwy County Borough Council, Denbighshire County Council, Flintshire County Council and Wrexham County Borough Council work together in a partnering relationship through the establishment in 2014 of a Regional Emergency Planning Service for North Wales. This Service undertakes the functions of the Councils in respect of civil contingencies and is accountable to an Executive Board that comprises senior representatives of those Councils. NWC-REPS provides a service to ensure the Local Authorities are compliant with the following legislation: -

- Civil Contingencies Act, 2004
- Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations, 2015
- Pipeline Safety Regulations, 1996
- Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations, 2019

The Service works to:

- Reduce duplication and repetition of tasks
- Improve the harmonisation of the work and resilience of teams
- Improve the deployment of available resources by sharing specialist support and common tasks
- Improve consistency of response between authorities
- Improve communication channels between the North Wales Resilience Forum and Local Authorities



Byword from the Executive Board Chair

As Chair of the Executive Board, and on behalf of the six local authorities across North Wales, I am pleased to introduce this year's Annual Report. This report highlights the collective work and ongoing commitment of our councils in ensuring the safety, resilience, and preparedness of our communities in the face of a wide range of emergencies.

Over the past year, our Emergency Planning team have continued to work diligently to enhance our regional response capabilities. From co-ordinating multi-agency exercises and reviewing critical risk assessments, to supporting communities through severe weather events and other incidents, their work has remained both proactive and responsive.

The challenges we face - whether environmental, technological, or societal - require not only robust planning, but also effective collaboration. Our shared service model is a testament to the strength of partnership working across North Wales. Through shared expertise, resources, and a unified strategy, we continue to build a more resilient region.

This report outlines key achievements, developments in risk management, training and exercising, and the strengthening of links with emergency services, the NHS, voluntary organisations, and other partners. It also demonstrates how we are embedding continuous improvement into everything we do, ensuring that the lessons of today inform the planning of tomorrow.

We remain committed to supporting our Emergency Planning team and partners, and to safeguarding the wellbeing of all who live and work in North Wales.

Thank you to all staff, volunteers, and partners who contribute to this vital work.



Incident Management

NWC-REPS provides two 24/7 year round Duty Officers to act as the initial point of contact for emergency response.

During the financial year 2024-2025, NWC-REPS assisted in this role in the following ways:

Receiving and assessing Natural Resources Wales warnings and alerts:

- 199 Flood Alerts
- 21 Flood Warnings

Receiving and assessing Met Office Weather warnings:

- Gwynedd = 69 (64 Yellow / 4 Amber / 1 Red)
- Conwy = 66 (61 Yellow / 4 Amber / 1 Red)
- Anglesey = 41 (38 Yellow / 2 Amber / 1 Red)
- Denbighshire = 60 (56 Yellow / 4 Amber)
- Flintshire = 58 (54 Yellow / 4 Amber)
- Wrexham = 58 (55 Yellow / 3 Amber)

Receiving and responding to incident reports that included:

- Synthite COMAH Incident April 2024
- Amber Rain Warning May 2024
- Storm Darragh December 2024
- Amber Snow and Ice Warning January 2025
- Storm Eowyn January 2025
- Bryn Cowlyd Water Incident January 2025



Working together

Humanitarian Assistance Voluntary Group (HAVG) Capabilities Day 3rd of September 2024

Wrexham County Borough Council Emergency Planning Officer and East Emergency Planning Project Officer, with the guidance of the Regional Manager, arranged a Voluntary Sector Capabilities Event on behalf of LRF HAVG. A Task & Finish Group of four key HAVG members from 4x4 Wales, British Red Cross, REACT and North Wales Police was established. Three Task and Finish meetings took place prior to the event along with a site visit.

The day saw 10 key presenters along with the show casing of vehicles and equipment outside the venue. This allowed attendees to view vehicles and equipment during their breaks.

The day was successful and allowed Category 1 and 2 responders to network with the Voluntary Sector and see how they can support before, during and after an incident.

Future priorities

Recovery Plan

The LRF Recovery Plan has been drafted and shared with partners for comments, this will be ratified at the next LRF Executive meeting.

Inphase (performance system)

A small Task and Finish Group was set up to review Inphase. Inphase is a performance system which will be used in order to track progress of Emergency Planning Officers. Workplans are currently being uploaded, with system testing underway.

Training database

The training database is currently under development. The training database will hold all internal details of training Local Authority staff have completed to aid identification of training needs. System design team are attending team meetings in August to look at roll out of the system.

Kronospan Exercise Cycle

The three yearly cycle of exercising for the off-site COMAH Plans will be undertaken prior to the end of the financial year.



Isle of Anglesey County Council

Work carried out during financial year 2024 to 2025

Since October 2023, considerable progress has been made on the Menai Strait crossing contingencies. A Task and Finish Group formed in May 2024 has completely rewritten the framework document with input from category 1 and 2 responders, clarifying roles and expectations. The document was assessed in November 2024 and March 2025. This work has strengthened multi-agency coordination, reduced potential response delays, and improved emergency readiness. More changes have been made to the framework document which it is awaiting agreement in the LRF co-ordination group. The Welsh Government is developing a stacking plan.

The Local Authorities Business Continuity Plan has been revised following the management teams exercise feedback. Critical functions now focus on actual services (e.g., “critical care for vulnerable populations” rather than “social services”). This clarifies essential emergency services, improves resource prioritisation, and enhances resilience during disruptions. Individual services have received support to update their specific plans. A new emergency directory template has been developed to make the document more user-friendly regarding its use and future updating.

A loggist procedure document was created and shared. The document ensures accurate and consistent record-keeping during incidents, provides staff with clear guidance on roles and responsibilities and strengthens audit trails and accountability during emergency response. Loggist training was delivered to 13 members of staff across all services and a loggist meeting will be convened towards the end of the year.



Gwynedd Council

Work carried out during financial year 2024 to 2025

The Business Continuity plan template has been successfully rolled out, NWC-REPS are currently supporting each department with the completion of their Business Impact Assessments (BIAs) and accompanying documentation.

All Local Authority sub-groups are meeting regularly. The Humanitarian, Recovery, and Response groups have actively taken part in case studies and have delivered presentations as part of a series of mini-exercises.

Gwynedd was significantly impacted by severe weather events during the winter of 2024, with Storms Eowyn and Darragh causing notable disruption. Additionally, in December, a derelict building in Caernarfon partially collapsed. From January 2025 to March 2025, Gwynedd saw a rise in wildfire incidents, with 8 incidents recorded.

Gwynedd's internal training matrix continues to be maintained, with increased staff attendance at JESIP training sessions across various departments and sub-groups. Further work is required to identify operational managers for JESIP Operational / Bronze-level training.

Terms of Reference have been drafted in collaboration with sub-group Chairs and are currently awaiting translation prior to final review.

Rest Centre resource boxes and contact information have been updated, with additional centres identified in Bangor and Fairbourne evacuation plan (to support the Fairbourne evacuation plan).

A delegation from the Welsh Government Infrastructure Group visited Fairbourne to review the partnerships approach, recognising it as a model of best practice in community engagement and resilience. This framework may be adapted for use in other communities across Wales.



Conwy County Borough Council

Work carried out during financial year 2024 to 2025

Following the adoption of the NWC-REPS template, Senior Managers attended a presentation in March to embed the Plan and structure. It was also used as an opportunity to raise awareness of the work of NWC-REPS and the responsibilities of Local Authorities under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. This was complimented by engagement on the 2024 Wales Gold and JESIP training programme.

The NWC-REPS suite of Business Continuity documents were introduced to Conwy for consultation. Workshops were arranged with Senior Managers to review the Corporate and Service Continuity Plans. The Policy and Framework has been adopted and The Corporate Plan is in final stages of draft awaiting approval of amendments.

A proposal to change the Emergency Planning Governance and response structure to better align with internal and external Civil Contingencies workstreams, was approved by the Chief Executive. The proposed structure is akin to the EMRT (Emergency Management Response Team) frameworks utilised in other North Wales Local Authorities and was presented to Conwy senior leaders and managers during the first quarter of 2025. A suite of TORs for the relevant sub groups has been drafted to assist in the introduction of the new structure over the next few months. The TORs have been circulated to the members of the Civil Contingencies Strategic and Operations Groups (CCSG and CCOG) for consideration and comment.

NWC-REPS and Welsh Water/Dŵr Cymru liaised with Environment, Roads and Facilities to develop water distribution arrangements to mitigate a significant disruption to supply. This was put in place to prevent a second incident, similar to the Bryn Cowlyd incident occurring. Partners, including Conwy Council were briefed and resources were placed on standby to ensure there wouldn't be any negative impact to Conwy communities.

The Conwy Valley Flood Partnership Group convenes quarterly and provides an opportunity for members, Councillors and partners to discuss planning, maintenance and emergency response arrangements for the area. NWC-REPS chaired a Task and Finish Group to develop the Conwy Valley Multi Agency Flood Response Plan.

The Morfa Rhuddlan Community Partnership's main area of focus has been consultation regarding proposed flood defences in the Kinnel Bay area.

NWC-REPS attend and contribute to the work of the Cyber Response Programme Group. TOR, work programmes, CIRT membership, staff workshops and training programmes have been agreed and continue to be implemented.

NWC-REPS assisted Conwy County Borough Council planners with regards to the multi-agency emergency plan for Major Accident Hazard Pipelines (MAHP).

A presentation outlining Civil Contingency arrangements and the work of NWC-REPS was delivered to Elected Members at the Members Development and Information Forum on 14th February.



Denbighshire County Council

Work carried out during financial year 2024 to 2025

Following last years live Rest Centre exercise, all recommendations have been embedded in Denbighshire. The Rest Centre Plan was reviewed in February 2025. An information session for new volunteers has taken place and led to a further 7 Rest Centre volunteers signing up. Bi-annual meetings / information sessions have been introduced to all Rest Centre volunteers to ensure they stay engaged.

Denbighshire's Corporate Emergency Information Team handbook has been revised and embedded in the group. There are now 10 loggists fully trained and operational. Two loggists have been allocated to each SEMT sub-group and will be attending the quarterly meetings to practice and build relationships with staff.

The new Chair of the Operations Team is now fully trained and has taken over as Chair. Following discussions within the Operations Team meetings, the Operations Team Handbook has now been reviewed and updated.

All services have now completed their new Service Continuity Plan, the IT disaster recovery plan has also been updated for 2025.

The Recovery team within Denbighshire is now established and has a Deputy in place.



Flintshire County Council

Work carried out during financial year 2024 to 2025

Quarterly meetings of the EMRT (Emergency Management Response Team) and its sub-groups were held to maintain strategic oversight, ensure coordination across the Local Authority, and review preparedness activities. These meetings provided a platform for discussing emerging risks, sharing best practices, and progressing ongoing resilience initiatives.

In addition to routine meetings, the EMRT was also activated in response to incidents as required. These activations facilitated a coordinated response.

The Business Continuity Team received a comprehensive overview from the Isle of Anglesey County Council's IT Management of the cyber incident that occurred affecting Anglesey, including the impact and the response measures. There has also been a comprehensive review of Business Continuity Plans and the Cyber Resilience Plan.

The Business Continuity Team were also preparing and planning for Flintshire County Council's (FCC) official move to the Tŷ Dewi Sant offices in Ewloe.

Two new Rest Centre locations have been identified in Mold, addressing a key vulnerability, as one of the previously designated centres in Mold Leisure Centre had a known risk of flooding. Checks for their suitability are ongoing. The East Project Officer is in the process of checking and replenishing the Rest Centre Boxes in Flintshire. Paperwork has also been collated and organised. Rest centre annexes have been completed and familiarisation meetings have been held with identified Rest Centres.

In April 2024, there was a fire and multiple explosions at Synthite, in Mold, one of the four upper tier COMAH sites within North Wales. At the onset of the fire, it was unclear if stored chemicals, predominantly formaldehyde, were at risk as the fire was in an adjacent building to the storage area. North Wales

Police requested support from Streetscene, to assist with road closures, and requested a Rest Centre was opened, which was subsequently closed. Testing from Natural Resources Wales identified a formaldehyde release into the water course. The TCG escalated this to SCG. Once the levels decreased in the watercourse the SCG was stood down. The HSE investigation into the incident is ongoing.

Several Resilience Direct familiarisation sessions were delivered during 2024 by the Emergency Planning Officer Statutory Projects. The sessions were well attended and positively received by participants.

A Weather Warning Escalation Policy was established within the Operations Team, this is used during periods of severe weather for the team to decide at what point it needs escalating to EMRT.

The Mass Fatalities Plan has been successfully embedded into the Operations Team Handbook. This is now a standing agenda item to ensure ongoing awareness and preparedness.

The Transport Plan and the Operations Team Handbook has been reviewed and will be shared during the next Operations sub-group Team meeting.

Support and assistance provided to the Community Flood Group, when creating the Sandycroft and Broughton and Bretton Community Flood Plan.

A register of loggists for FCC has been finalised, following a recruitment drive. The loggist training is currently under development, and will be delivered in 2025.

Wrexham County Borough Council

Work carried out during financial year 2024 to 2025

The Emergency Management Response Team (EMRT) and its sub-groups participated in an exercise centered around a simulated train derailment incident. This scenario-based training enhanced interdepartmental coordination, tested response protocols, and reinforced preparedness for related emergencies.

A focused presentation was delivered to the Housing Department outlining the role and capabilities of the EMRT (Emergency Management Response Team). As part of this engagement, a scenario involving a terraced house explosion was used to test multi-agency coordination, response planning, and the potential impact on residential communities. The session highlighted the importance of preparedness and collaboration across departments within the Local Authority.

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A presentation was delivered to the Recovery Team on the subject of recovery within the Local Authority and the role of the EMRT (Emergency Management Response Team).

As part of ongoing risk mitigation efforts, NWC-REPS developed Coal Tip plans for three sites within Wrexham County Council. This work followed consultation with relevant partners including emergency services, and environmental agencies. The planning process involved identifying potential impact zones, and establishing clear roles and responsibilities within the plan for incident response. These plans significantly enhance Local Authority preparedness and ensure a coordinated multi-agency approach to managing the risks associated with coal infrastructure.

Service Continuity Plans have been reviewed and are now using the revised template.

Service Continuity exercises were held throughout the year for Finance and ICT, with a separate exercise for ICT, Housing, Economy and Planning departments within Wrexham County Borough Council. These exercises tested the departmental Service Continuity Plans and provided teams with the opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness and resilience of their plans.

Rest Centre visits were conducted by the Wrexham Emergency Planning Officer, and East Project Officer to evaluate their suitability and ensure the accuracy and relevance of associated appendices for each site.

An overview of the Gold (Strategic) response was presented in accordance with a request from Chief Officers.

The Emergency Contacts Directory (ECD) was updated every 3 months by the East Project Officer, this consisted of the Project Officer requesting any updates from the Departments within WCBC, and updating the ECD accordingly. This was then uploaded to RD.

A Resilience Direct Overview Session was held for WCBC staff by the Statutory Projects Emergency Planning Officer. This was well received by staff, and gave a full overview of the use of the site.



Control Of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH), Pipeline and Nuclear Work

Work carried out during financial year 2024 to 2025

COMAH Planning and Exercising:

Site Specific:

- **Synthite** - completed the delivery of Exercise WAVE modules with the operator and NWLRF partners to ensure COMAH 2015 compliance. Ensure there is ongoing liaison with NRW & HSE as the COMAH competent authority, to review the compliance and intervention measures being undertaken with the site as part of the post-accident work.
- **Great Bear Distribution** - worked with the operator and partners to implement Exercise STAR debrief recommendations, including improvements to the companies warning and informing capability and future improvements to the Flintshire County Council (FCC) External Emergency Plan.
- **FMC Agro** - worked with the operator and partners to develop a range of Exercise WYVERN debrief recommendations, including improvements to FCC External Emergency Plan template.
- **Kronospan** - provision of support and advice to Kronospan's site Health and Safety team regarding restriction of access to one of their primary emergency exits by a local business potentially compromising any required COMAH major accident response to the site by WAST & NWFRS.

Generic:

- Participation in the National COMAH Good Practice Group working group.
- Attendance at the COMAH regulatory compliance meetings with HSE and NRW in their regulatory capacity.

Pipeline Safety Regulations Planning and Exercising (MAHP):

Operator specific:

- **Uniper** - completed two Exercise VENT modules with the operator and NWLRF partners to ensure PSR 1996 compliance.



Generic:

- Reissue of all nine major accident hazard pipeline (MAHP) plans for the six North Wales local authorities, thus ensuring regulatory compliance with the PSR 1996 - these plans involve four high pressure pipeline network operators (Uniper/ENI/National Gas/Wales & West Utilities).

NWC-REPS Regional Work

Rest Centre provisions were reviewed and all six Local Authorities activation procedures were agreed and added as a supplementary document to the Regional Plan.

Several members of NWC-REPS staff have been working on creating layers for DataMap Wales, which is a mapping system ran by the Welsh Government. A map has been created with six separate layers for each Local Authority in North Wales, showing each Rest Centre and the Rest Centres key information.

NWC-REPS have collaborated with the NWP Counter Terrorism Security Advisor and Local Authority education leads to develop and deliver major incident workshops to education leads in the North Wales Local Authorities. Several sessions have been held throughout all six Local Authorities.

The six Local Authorities emergency procedures were used during Storm Darragh in December 2024 and Storm Eowyn in January 2025. Storm Darragh brought a red weather warnings across the majority of all six Local Authorities. A multi-agency silver control room was established in the North Wales Police headquarters, NWC-REPS staff were based there as a link between the local authorities and multi-agency partners. This assisted with road closure incidents and homes affected by power loss. This was considered good practice from the Local Authority perspective.

All Local Authorities have signed the Charter for Bereaved Families, and workstreams are underway to embed its principles across the organisations.

NWC-REPS attend the PSPG and SAGs for all Local Authorities. A particular area of focus has been the impacts on the Local Authority regarding the introduction of Martyn's Law.



NWLRF work streams

NWC-REPS are now representing the Local Authorities in the Lessons Management Group, which has been set up to manage the embedding and implementation of recommendations from debriefs, inquiries and learning and Development. This will be Regional and National recommendations.

The Emergency Planning Officer Statutory Projects is assisting in the review and revision of the Local Authority action card in the NWLRF Chemical, Biological, Radioactive & Nuclear response plan.

There is also attendance at the Wildfire group, and NWC-REPS have assisted with the completion of an action card with the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley National Landscape officers, to support the ongoing development of the NWLRF Wildfire plan. There has also been the development of a call out procedure with the NWFRS control room, to ensure that NWC-REPS duty officers are notified of the severity of emerging wildfires when they occur.

NWC-REPS is also participating in the Battery Technology Risk Working Group which is focusing on the societal impact and regional response implications of incidents involving lithium ion based battery technology.

An action which came from the Maritime Response Task and Finish Group was to create a Local Authority action card for the NWLRF Maritime Emergency Response Plan. This has since been completed by NWC-REPS.

Within the Emergency Water Distribution Task and Finish Group, work is ongoing to identify suitable Local Authority-owned sites in Conwy and Gwynedd, in collaboration with Local Authority Highways and Streetscene leads, for use in emergency water distribution during a mass outage. In addition, Dŵr Cymru's emergency water distribution plan is being reviewed following the Bryn Cowlyd incident.

NWC-REPS NWLRF in the planning of a multi-agency tunnel incident exercise (Exercise Viper) that was held on Sunday 1st December. A further exercise was facilitated by the North Wales Resilience Forum (NWRf) and attended by NWC-REPS and Conwy staff. It provided the opportunity for delegates to take part in a tactical coordination group and media cell in response to a multi-vehicle road traffic collision within the Conwy Tunnel.

Learning & Development

- NWC-REPS attendance at the Cyber Breach Workshop.
- NWC-REPS attendance at the Packsaddle Exercise - LRF Reservoir exercise in Wrexham.
- Recovery training sessions are being held in Wrexham to support the development of subgroups and their deputies.
- NWC-REPS attendance at River Dee Exercise at Cheshire West and Chester Council.
- Training for EMRT membership following review.
- NWC-REPS participated in the LRF Loggist Training to enable them to deliver the training internally to Local Authorities. Since then, the training has been adapted to better meet the needs of Local Authorities through a Task and Finish Group. The training will be delivered throughout 2025 in all 6 Local Authorities.



NWLRF work streams

- In addition to Wales Gold, Local Authority staff have attended JESIP Silver, Operational and loggist training programme. NWC-REPS facilitators are part of the JESIP planning team and contribute to the development of presentations and exercises that reflect the training needs of Local Authority participants as well as the blue light services and other partners.
- Local Authority staff have access to civil contingency e-learning packages developed by NWC-REPS. The complete list of the Emergency Planning courses available are:
 - What is a Rest Centre?
 - Rest Centre Staff and Volunteers
 - Rest Centre Manager
 - Humanitarian Response Coordinator
 - Operation Officer
 - Statutory Emergency Planning Legislation
 - Tactical Officer
 - Risks Relevant to Local Authorities
 - Debrief
 - Local Authority Partnership Working in Emergency Planning
 - Structures
 - Strategic Officer
 - Recovery
 - Log Keeping
- NWC-REPS facilitates Exercise Cooper every quarter throughout the year. This is an exercise which tests our Emergency Contacts Directory, and helps us keep the numbers up-to-date. The exercise is done during office hours, and out of hours too.



NWC-REPS Planned Work for Financial Year 2025-2026

Regional Work

- Mop up Counter Terrorism Sessions will be held during 2025-2026 for all six Local Authorities.
- Introduction and roll out of the NWRF Recovery Plan and associated embedding activities

Isle of Anglesey County Council

- A modern slavery rest centre exercise is being planned for September 2025 and is to be held in Plas Arthur Leisure Centre. Rest centre exercises are essential for Local Authorities as they ensure preparedness for emergencies. A modern slavery exercise will test the specific requirements of such an event that could be exclusive to the Isle of Anglesey due to the Holyhead Port. These exercises allow staff and volunteers to practice their roles, test equipment and logistics, and improve coordination with emergency services and partner organisations.

They help identify gaps in existing plans, ensuring services are inclusive and responsive to the needs of all, including vulnerable individuals. By running these exercises, Local Authorities build public confidence and meet legal responsibilities under the Civil Contingencies Act.

- An IT-based business continuity exercise will be held in May 2025. This will test the services' ability to respond to I.T and system loss to ensure plans and processes are adequate.
- Further revisions to the simultaneous Menai Strait bridge closure framework, the service will also support work undertaken by the Welsh Government regarding stacking arrangements.
- Corporate volunteers and a Gold rota are being considered following lessons learnt from Storm Darragh and Eowyn.
- The Menai Strait Crossing Contingencies document was tested in March 2025, with further revisions identified in April 2025. This is awaiting LRF coordination group ratification.

- The Rest Centre briefing session is scheduled for April 2025. It outlined the structure and responsibilities of local emergency planning under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, the purpose and types of emergency Rest Centres, the roles within these centres, and practical considerations such as catering, communication, and managing diverse needs during a crisis. The presentation aimed to prepare staff to effectively support the community in emergency evacuation situations.

Gwynedd County Council

- Terms of Reference have been drafted in collaboration with sub-group Chairs and are currently awaiting translation prior to final review.
- A Multi Agency Operational and a separate Communications exercise for the Fairbourne evacuation plan is being arranged for September and October.
- Representation is being arranged for Exercise Pegasus.
- Major Emergency Arrangements (MEA) are being updated June/July.
- The Threat and security plan being developed July/August.
- A Business Continuity exercise is being prepared for the Strategic Panel.
- The Recovery Group has expressed interest in running a mini exercise based on the LRF Recovery plan.
- Operational handbook being developed in June/July.
- Emergency Contact Directory will be updated in June.
- We aim to conduct a test exercise and begin embedding the plans into operational practice by early summer.
- The Fairbourne evacuation plan is currently awaiting final sign-off. A tabletop exercise has been drafted and is under review, with an aim to deliver the exercise in early summer. Work is ongoing to model weather patterns and assess potential impacts to strengthen the response strategy. All additional Rest Centre locations have been approved and invited to take part in the relevant training.

NWC-REPS Planned Work for Financial Year 2025-2026

Conwy County Borough Council

- Establish and support EMRT structure. Agree Terms of Reference (ToR) and membership of sub groups. Introduce response action cards for EMRT subgroups.
- Review of Conwy Council workstreams and risks in Conwy.
- Review of Conwy Response Plans and prioritise any remedial actions accordingly.
- Align Business Continuity arrangements to the Framework. Support implementation and the development and testing of individual service plans.
- Continue to assist in the development of cyber resilience and maintain momentum of the cyber resilience response programme.
- Identify loggists, develop training package and confirm training arrangements.
- A presentation is to be delivered to Town and Community Councillors in April 2025, with an opportunity to focus on the impact of the significant water disruption experienced in January.

Denbighshire County Council

- School Emergency Plan template to be rolled out.
- A Loggist Training Session to be held, ensuring all Loggists within DCC have been trained.
- Informal Gold Exercise session
- Micro Business Continuity sessions for each service.
- All services to have completed their business impact analysis to inform the corporate plan.
- Operations Team desktop exercise
- New elected Members guidance booklet



NWC-REPS Planned Work for Financial Year 2025-2026

Flintshire County Council

- Ongoing attendance at SAGs
- Business Continuity Workshops to be held in 2025, to support the Local Authority portfolios with testing their Business Continuity plans.
- Ongoing meetings and information sharing around the Flint high-rise flats.
- Planning an 'Emergency Management Members Event' to inform members of their role during an emergency, and to inform them what the Council response and structure looks like.
- Rest Centre Manager training to be delivered in late 2025. The training is currently under development.

Wrexham County Borough Council

- A Recovery exercise will be conducted, following the LRF plan roll out.
 - Final Service Continuity Plan exercises for:
 - Chief Executive's Services
 - Environment and Technical
 - Governance and Customer Service
 - Social Service
- Loggist pool meetings to be established following the training.
- A follow up Resilience Direct Overview Session to be held in June 2025.
- Review of actions that came out of the Cyber workshop.
- Introduce action cards for EMRT subgroups.
- Review of TOR for EMRT and subgroups.



COMAH, PIPELINE and NUCLEAR WORK

COMAH Planning and Exercising:

Site Specific:

Synthite:

- revision and reissue of the Emergency Management Response Team (EMRT) for the site
- ongoing liaison with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and HSE as the COMAH competent authority, to review the compliance and intervention measures being undertaken with the site and the outcomes of the accident investigation
- **Great Bear Distribution** - revision and reissue of the FCC External Emergency Plans for these sites
- **Kronospan** - development and delivery of four emergency exercise modules with the operator and NWLRF partners to ensure COMAH 2015 compliance

Generic:

- Overhaul of the COMAH recharge system, and cost recovery with the four COMAH operators
- Participation in the National COMAH Good Practice Group working group
- Attendance at the COMAH regulatory compliance meetings with HSE and NRW in their regulatory capacity

Pipeline Safety Regulations Planning and Exercising (MAHP):

Operator specific:

- **Uniper** - negotiation with the operator regarding scheduling in the delivery of the remaining Exercise VENT modules during the 2026-27 financial year.
- **Wales & West Utilities** - review, revision and reissue of the MAHP plans for this operator.
- **ENI** - negotiation with the operator regarding decommissioning the current MAHP plan for their high pressure gas pipeline network

- **National Gas** - review, revision and reissue of the MAHP plan for this operator to include the proposed pipeline extension to their high pressure network at Deeside Industrial Park
- **Shotton Mill/Eren** - liaison with the operator regarding the potential need to develop a MAHP plan for their on-site pipeline infrastructure, which is likely to fall under the pipeline safety regulations

Generic:

- Delivery of a series of online MAHP / PSR emergency planning awareness sessions for local authorities, with the support of UKOPA

Nuclear/REPPiR Planning and Exercising:

- Attendance at the national LANWG and NULEAF nuclear emergency planning and response working groups, on behalf of all six local authorities.
- Attendance at the Anglesey & Gwynedd nuclear decommissioning site stakeholder groups, for the former Wylfa and Trawsfynydd nuclear power stations.
- Ongoing development of a nuclear response framework guidance document for all six local authorities, to ensure compliance with the REPPiR 2019 regulations.





CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL



CONWY
CYNGOR BIRNIEISTREF BRIG
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL



sir ddinbych
denbighshire
County Council



wrexham
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CYNGOR BRITHDIRIED SWIG
WRECSAM



CYNGOR
Sir y Fflint
Flintshire
COUNTY COUNCIL

22/11/2024

Isle of Anglesey County Council Scrutiny Report

Committee:	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
Date:	15th October, 2025
Subject:	Corporate Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme
Scrutiny Chair:	Cllr Jeff Evans

1. Who will be the portfolio holder presenting / leading the report?

Portfolio Holder	Role
Not applicable	
Service Officer (Supporting)	Role
Anwen Davies	Scrutiny Manager

2. Why the Scrutiny Committee is being asked to consider the matter

Assist the Scrutiny Committee in considering, agreeing and reviewing its forward work programme for 2025/26

3. Role of the Scrutiny Committee and recommendations

- ☒ For assurance
☐ For recommendation to the Executive
☐ For information

Recommendation(s):
 The Committee is requested to:
R1 agree the current version of the forward work programme for 2025/26
R2 note progress thus far in implementing the forward work programme

4. How does the recommendation(s) contribute to the objectives of the Council's Plan?

Effective work programming is the foundation of effective local government scrutiny. Our Scrutiny rolling forward work programmes are aligned with the corporate priorities of the Council and corporate transformation programmes – ensuring the role of Member scrutiny makes a tangible contribution to the Council's improvement priorities.

5. Key scrutiny themes

Not applicable

6. Key points / summary

1. Background

1.1 Effective work programming is the bedrock of an effective local government scrutiny function¹. Done well, work programming can help lay the foundations for targeted and timely work on issues of local importance demonstrating where Member scrutiny can add value. Good practice advocates two key issues at the heart of the scrutiny forward work programme:

- i. Challenge around prioritising work streams
- ii. Need for a member-led approach and interface with officers.

1.2 Basic principles of good work programming²

- Work programming should not be a “start-stop” process
- Complementary work programmes for separate scrutiny committees
- Balance between different methods of work
- An effective process for reporting / escalating issues to the Executive
- Input and views of internal stakeholders
- Close working with the Executive
- Links with the Annual Scrutiny Report (evaluation and improvement tool).

2. Local context

2.1 There is now a well-established practice of forward work programming which are now rolling programmes focusing on the quality of scrutiny with fewer items, to add value. They are an important tool to assist Members in prioritising their work and are discussed with the Leadership Team and Heads of Service. Both committees review the content of their work programmes on a regular basis, to ensure that they remain relevant and keep abreast with local priorities. Our local forward planning arrangements now ensure greater focus on:

- Strategic aspects
- Citizen / other stakeholder engagement and outcomes
- Priorities of the Council Plan and transformation projects
- Risks and the work of inspection and regulation

Matters on the forward work programme of the Executive. **Outcome:** rolling work programmes for scrutiny committees which are aligned with corporate priorities.

2.2 Committee chairs lead on developing the forward work programmes and are submitted to the monthly Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-chairs Forum and for approval at each ordinary meeting of the scrutiny committees. The Forum is considered an important vehicle to oversee these programmes and jointly negotiate priorities.

¹ A Cunning Plan? Devising a scrutiny work programme, Centre for Public Scrutiny (March, 2011)

² A Cunning Plan? Devising a scrutiny work programme, Centre for Public Scrutiny (March, 2011)

2.3 **“Whole council” approach to Scrutiny:** our work programmes provide a strong foundation for our improvement programme, ensuring the role that Scrutiny plays in the Authority’s governance arrangements:

- i. Supports robust and effective decision-making
- ii. Makes a tangible contribution to the Council’s improvement priorities
- iii. Continues to evolve.

3. Issues for consideration

3.1 The Scrutiny Committee receives regular update reports on the implementation of its forward work programme. A copy of the current 2025/26 work programme is attached as **APPENDIX 1** to this report for reference and includes changes made to the work programme since the Committee last considered the document.³

3.2 Where appropriate, items may be added to the Committee’s forward work programme during the municipal year. Requests for additional matters to be considered for inclusion on the work programme can be submitted via the Members Request Form for an item to be considered for Scrutiny. Requests are initially considered by the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-chairs Forum, using the following criteria:

- the Council’s strategic objectives and priorities (as outlined in the Council Plan)
- the ability of the Committee to have influence and/or add value on the subject (A Scrutiny Test of Significance Form will be completed).

7. Impact assessments

7.1. Potential impacts on groups protected under the Equality Act 2010

Not applicable

7.2. Potential impacts on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage (strategic decisions)

Not applicable

7.3. Potential effects on opportunities to use Welsh and not treat the language less favourably than English

Not applicable for this overarching issue but will be considered as an integral part of preparing for specific proposals to be submitted for consideration by the Committee.

³ Meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee convened on 17th September, 2025

7.4. Potential impact on the Council's Net Zero Carbon target

Not applicable

8. Financial implications

Not applicable

9. Appendices

Corporate Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme 2025/26

10. Report author and background papers

Anwen Davies, Scrutiny Manager, Isle of Anglesey, Council Offices, Llangefni. LL77 7TW

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR SCRUTINY → MAY, 2025 – APRIL, 2026
[Version dated 30/09/25]

Note for Stakeholders and the Public:

A [Protocol for Public Speaking at Scrutiny Committees](#) has been published by the Council.

Should you wish to speak on any specific item at a Scrutiny Committee then you should register your interest by submitting a written request using the form available as soon as possible and at least 3 clear working days prior to the specific Committee meeting. You can access information about the meeting and which items being discussed by reading this Forward Work Programme. Contact the Scrutiny Manager if you have any queries

[\[AnwenDavies@ynysmon.gov.uk\]](mailto:AnwenDavies@ynysmon.gov.uk)

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
May, 2025 (20/05/2025)	May, 2025 (20/05/2025)
Election of Chair: 2025/26	Election of Chair: 2025/26
Election of Vice-chair: 2025/26	Election of Vice-chair: 2025/26
May, 2025 (21/05/2025)-Additional Meeting	
Results of Engagement on Post-16 Education Provision	
Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi School building	
June, 2025 (17/06/2025) – Q4	June, 2025 (12/06/2025) – Education / Welsh Language
Performance Monitoring: Corporate Scorecard Qtr4: 2024/25	Welsh Language: • Annual Report on the Welsh Standards: 2024/25 • Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032: Measure Progress→2024/25
Annual Delivery Plan: 2025/26	UK Government Funded Programme [Ynys Môn Levelling Up Programme – Measure Progress]
Canolfan Addysg y Bont Roof Repair: Lessons Learned	
Item for Information: Ambition North Wales Qtr 4: 2024/25 Progress Report	
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26
No meeting scheduled	July, 2025 (15/07/2025) – Emergency Services
	North Wales Police
	North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner
	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
September, 2025 (17/09/2025) – Q1	September, 2025 (16/09/2025) – Joint Working with Grŵp Llandrillo Menai & Bangor University
Performance Monitoring: Corporate Scorecard Q1: 2025/26	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai
Recommendations of the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group: Letting of Council Accommodation – update on progress	Bangor University
Membership of Scrutiny Panels	Membership of Scrutiny Panels
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26
October, 2025 (15/10/2025)	October, 2025 (14/10/2025) – Crime and Disorder
Annual Report North Wales Regional Partnership Board (Part 9): 2024/25	Menter Môn
Regional Emergency Planning Service Annual Report: 2024/25	Gwynedd & Ynys Môn Community Safety Partnership Annual Report: 2024/25
Results of Consultation on Proposal to Relocate Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi to a New School Building for 11-18 Year Old Learners	
Modernising Learning Communities: Strategic Outline Case (exempt item)	
Item for Information: Ambition North Wales: - Annual Report: 2024/25 - Qtr 1: 2025/26 Progress Report	
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26
	November, 2025 (13/11/2025) - Education
	School improvement guidance: framework for evaluation, improvement and accountability
	Education Scrutiny Panel Progress Report
	Education Digital Strategic Plan
	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26
November, 2025 (18/11/2025) - Q2	November, 2025 (26/11/2025) – Health
Monitoring Performance: Corporate Scorecard Q2: 2025/26	Audit Wales: Urgent and Emergency Care: Flow out of Hospital-North Wales Region- measure progress
Self-Assessment, Performance and Wellbeing Report 2024/25	Welsh Ambulance Services Trust
2026/27 Budget Setting (Revenue Budget) – initial budget proposals	Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Resources Scrutiny Panel Progress Report	
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26	
January, 2026 (21/01/2026) – 2026/27 (morning)	January, 2026 (20/01/2026)
	Corporate Safeguarding
	UK Government Funded Programme [Ynys Môn Levelling Up Programme] – Measure Progress
	Gwynedd and Ynys Môn Public Services Board: • Annual Report 2024/25 • Governance arrangements / scrutiny of delivery of the Wellbeing Plan
	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26
January, 2026 (21/01/2026) (afternoon)	
Modernisation of Learning Communities – Objections Report and Final Decision on Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi	
Towards Net Zero Strategic Plan	
Item for Information: Ambition North Wales Qtr 2: 2025/26 Progress Report	
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26	
February, 2026 (18/02/2026) – 2026/27 Budget	February, 2026 (12/02/2026) - Education
Final Draft Budget Proposals for 2026/27 – revenue & capital	Gwynedd and Ynys Môn Additional Learning Needs & Inclusion Partnership
Resources Scrutiny Panel Progress Report	Education Scrutiny Panel Progress Report
	Shared Prosperity Fund (to be confirmed)
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26
March, 2026 (18/03/2026) - Q3	March, 2026 (17/03/2026)
Monitoring Performance: Corporate Scorecard Q3: 2025/26	Natural Resources Wales
Housing Revenue Account Business Plan: 2026/2056	Annual Report on Equalities: 2024/25
	Ynys Môn Free Port – measure progress

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Item for Information - Ambition North Wales Qtr 3: 2025/26 Progress Report	
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26
April, 2026 (22/04/2026)	April, 2026 (21/04/2026)-Tackling Poverty
	Ynys Môn Citizens Advice
	Medrwn Môn
	Communities for Work Plus Programme: Annual Report 2024/25
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26

Items to be scheduled:

Corporate Scrutiny Committee	Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
Census 2021	Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Action Plan
Modernisation of Learning Communities and Strengthen the Welsh Language Programme	Improving Reliability and Resilience across the Menai Straits
Smallholdings Estate Strategic Plan 2025-2030	Impact of Tourism on Anglesey Local Communities (resolution of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, 21/06/2023)
Ambition North Wales Qtr4: 2025/26: Progress Report	Ynys Môn Local Development Plan
North Wales Corporate Joint Committee	Local Tourism Levy for Wales
Health and Safety Strategic Plan	Anglesey Homelessness
	North Wales Fire & Rescue Service
	UK Government Funded Programme [Ynys Môn Levelling Up Programme] – Measure Progress (June /July 2026)

22/11/2024

Isle of Anglesey County Council Scrutiny Report

Committee:	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
Date:	15 October 2025
Subject:	Outcome of the consultation report on the proposal to: “Relocate Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi learners to a new school building for 11-18 year olds.
Scrutiny Chair:	Cllr Jeff Evans

1. Who will be the portfolio holder presenting / leading the report?

Portfolio Holder	Role
Councillor Dafydd Roberts	Portfolio holder for Education and the Welsh Language.
Service Officer (Supporting)	Role
Aaron C Evans	Director of Education, Skills and Young People

2. Why the Scrutiny Committee is being asked to consider the matter

To seek the views of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee on the outcome of the statutory consultation held on the proposal to **“Relocate Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi learners to a new school building for 11–18-year-olds”**, for approval by the Executive and to authorise officers to publish a statutory notice.

3. Role of the Scrutiny Committee and recommendations

- ☐ For assurance
☒ For recommendation to the Executive
☐ For information

Recommendation (s):

The Committee is requested to review the consultation report and agree with the following recommendations to the Executive:

1. To approve the proposal (following the report on the outcome of the statutory consultation held on the proposal) to **“Relocate Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi learners to a new school building for 11–18-year-olds”**.
2. To authorise officers to publish a statutory notice in report of the proposal.

4. How does the recommendation(s) contribute to the objectives of the Council's Plan?

By meeting the Welsh Language and Education Strategic objectives by:

- Ensuring that the modernising learning communities and developing the Welsh language strategy creates effective schools with strong leadership and an appropriate teaching environment
- Increasing the number of children and young people studying through the medium of Welsh by implementing the 'Welsh in Education Strategic Plan'.
- Securing the best possible education for each child and young person by investing in our workforce, developing good quality learning communities and implementing the Curriculum for Wales.

5. Key scrutiny themes

Key themes the Scrutiny Committee should concentrate on:

1. The Proposal - 79% of stakeholders who responded to the consultation agreed with the proposal.
2. Of the 21% who disagreed with the proposal had the following concerns:
 - Around half of the stakeholders who disagreed indicated that the proposed site near the leisure centre was too far from the current site and the town centre.
 - A minority of stakeholders suggested updating the current building / rebuilding on the current site.
 - Very few commented about the high cost of the proposed new school building.
3. To what extent has the consultation process followed the statutory requirements?
4. Response from learners – to what extent do learners agree with the Proposal?

6. Key points / summary

- In response to the statutory consultation held 5 June 2025-17 July 2025 the majority of stakeholders (79%) agreed with the proposal to “Relocate Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi learners to a new school building for 11-18 year olds”.
- Stakeholders concerns regarding the location, updating the current building/rebuilding on the current site and the cost have been answered in the consultation report section 5.
- After considering all the feedback as summarised in accordance with the school organisation code (11/2018) in section 5 of the consultation report (appendix 1), the

Council concludes that the most appropriate response is to build a new school building for Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi (the original proposal).

7. Impact assessments

7.1. Potential impacts on groups protected under the Equality Act 2010

See Impact assessment [Impact assessment YUC - 130525.docx](#)

7.2. Potential impacts on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage (strategic decisions)

See Impact assessment [Impact assessment YUC - 130525.docx](#)

7.3. Potential effects on opportunities to use Welsh and not treat the language less favourably than English

See Impact assessment [Impact assessment YUC - 130525.docx](#)

7.4. Potential impact on the Council's Net Zero Carbon target

Positive / Neutral / Negative and how

Positive

The new school building will be fit for purpose and meet BREEAM standards and the standards of the Welsh Government's Modernisation of Learning Communities programme of being Net Zero carbon. The new school building will be Net Zero Carbon in Operation and will help reduce the Council's carbon emissions.

8. Financial implications

Positive / Neutral / Negative and how

Positive .

Approximately £66m - with £60.7m to be delivered through the [Mutual Investment Model](#) (Welsh Government contributing 81% towards the Annual Service Charge through the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme / the Council contributing 19%), with the remaining £5.2m financed through the Council's capital (35%) and the Welsh Government (65%) Sustainable Communities for Learning .

9. Appendices

Appendix1- Consultation Report-Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi

10. Report author and background papers

Carol Sorahan, email carolsorahan@ynysmon.llyw.cymru

Background papers:

- Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi Statutory Consultation documents
<https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/en/Have-your-say/Consultations/Previous-consultations/Statutory-consultation-Ysgol-Uwchradd-Caergybi.aspx>
- School Organisation Code (11/2018)
[school-organisation-code-second-edition.pdf](#)
- IACC's Modernising Learning Communities and Developing the Welsh Language Strategy (July 2023)
[Modernising Learning Communities.pdf](#)
- Strategic Outline Programme – Rolling Programme
[Strategic Outline Programme \(SOP\) – Rolling Programme](#)



CONSULTATION REPORT

SCHOOL MODERNISATION

**Outcome of the consultation held between
5 June 2025 to 17 July 2025**

On the proposal to:

Relocate Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi learners to a new school building for 11-18 year olds

October 2025

Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg / This document is also available in Welsh.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Isle of Anglesey County Council (the Council) has a statutory duty to secure sufficient and suitable places for children within the county's schools.

The Council has a responsibility under the School Organisation Code (011/2018) to consult with stakeholders when considering school reorganisation proposals that meet a specific criterion.

The Council from 5 June 2025 to 17 July 2025 held a statutory consultation process in respect of the following proposal to:

“Relocate Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi learners to a new school building for 11-18 year olds”.

The purpose of undertaking a statutory consultation was to seek the views of stakeholders/interested parties on the proposal.

This consultation report now represents the Council's responsibilities in line with the School Organisation Code (011/2018) to produce a report to inform stakeholders/interested parties of the outcome of the statutory consultation by means of:

- Summarising each of the issues raised by stakeholders/interested parties;
- Responding to the issues by means of clarification, amendment to the proposal, or rejection to the concerns with supporting reasons;
- Setting out Estyn's view on the proposal in full with the Council's response;
- Express the views of children and young people affected by the proposal.

2. DISTRIBUTION OF THE CONSULTATION REPORT

The consultation report was published on the Council's website www.anglesey.gov.uk and the following stakeholders / interested parties were informed directly of the publication of the consultation report.

- Staff (Teaching and Ancillary) of Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi
- Governors and Parents/Guardians of Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi
- Headteachers and Chair of Governors of Primary Schools in the catchment area
- Local Elected Members
- Local Member of Parliament
- Local Senedd Member
- Regional Senedd Members
- Welsh Government-Sustainable Communities for Learning
- Estyn
- Police and Crime Commissioner
- Welsh Language Commissioner
- Grŵp Llandrillo Menai
- MEDR-Commission for Tertiary Education and Research
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- Local Town and Community Councils
- Teaching and staff trade unions representing Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi
- Canolfan Addysg Y Bont
- Church in Wales

- Catholic Diocesan Authority

3. THE PROPOSAL

The Council consulted on the proposal to:

“Relocate Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi learners to a new school building for 11-18 year olds”.

3.1 The New Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi’s Proposed Details

The new Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi’s proposed details are noted below:

Age range	11-18 years.
Total Places for learners	900 (750 years 7-11 and 150 years 12 -13).
Admission number per academic year	150 (based on year 7-11 only).
Location	Land near Holyhead Leisure Centre, contingent upon successful land acquisition.
Category	Community.
Language Category	T 3 -Transitional Welsh medium. The school is transitioning towards category 3 by September 2029.
Proposed facilities	Sustainable Communities for learning facility to realise the new Curriculum for Wales (CfW).
Anticipated Project Cost	Approximately £66m - with £60.7m to be delivered through the Mutual Investment Model (Welsh Government contributing 81% towards the Annual Service Charge through the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme / the Council contributing 19%), with the remaining £5.2m financed through the Council’s capital (35%) and the Welsh Government (65%) Sustainable Communities for Learning .

3.2 Proposed Design

In accordance with the Welsh Government document - Area Guidelines for Schools in Wales Building Guidance, (WG51809) – issued March 2025, it is proposed that the school design for the new Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi shall include:

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Rooms/Areas	Examples
Teaching rooms	Design and Technology Art, Music and Drama and Science Laboratories
Learning Resource Areas	Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and a Library
Staff Administration	Headteacher's Office, Community and other office, Staff Work Rooms
Storage (Teaching)	Instrument stores, PE Stores
Storage (non-teaching)	ALN Appliances, lockers, cleaner's store
Dining Social Areas	Dining Area, Social and sandwich area
Catering Facilities	Kitchen and servery area
Other	Toilets and Pupil Changing Rooms & showers

The Council would provide appropriate help and support for pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN). Should parents/guardians with pupils' who are registered ALN have any questions regarding the support offered, individual meetings can be arranged with the Additional Learning Needs Manager, Email: ffionellis2@ynysmon.llyw.cymru telephone 01286 679007.

4. CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The Council's Executive in its meeting held on the 22 May 2025 authorised officers to conduct a statutory consultation in line with the requirements set out in the School Organisation Code (011/2018).

4.1 Methodology

The Consultation was held between 5 June 2025-17 July 2025. During this period stakeholders / interested parties were invited to express their views on the proposal to:

Relocate Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi learners to a new school building for 11-18 year olds.

The consultation document <https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/en/Have-your-say/Consultations/Previous-consultations/Statutory-consultation-Ysgol-Uwchradd-Caergybi.aspx> and impact assessment [Impact assessment YUC - 130525.docx](#)

were made available to all the stakeholders and interested parties listed in section 2.

The consultation document and impact assessment were also published on the Council's website.

The Council raised awareness of the consultation via the Council's social media networks and by displaying posters with QR codes at the local public spaces e.g. library.

An Easy Read version of the consultation document and response form was also produced and was available on the Council website.

Consultees were also advised of the following opportunities to respond to the consultation proposal or ask questions by:

- Sending an email to angleseyschools@anglesey.gov.uk or
- Completing the online response form or
- Completing a paper response form and posting back to the Programme Manager (Schools Modernisation), Human Resource and Transformation Service, Council Offices, Llangefni, LL77 7TW

Hard copies of the consultation document or alternative formats were also available on request.

4.2 Consultation Meetings

The following meetings/sessions were held to present the consultation documents and explain the consultation process to Learners, Staff, Governors, Parents/Guardians and all other interested parties who attended.

Attendees were advised of the importance of responding to the consultation as described in section 4.1 as no formal minutes were taken at the consultation meetings.

A workshop facilitated by the School and Council staff was also held with Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi school council and other learners in person as well as a virtual Teams session with the primary school councils in the catchment area.

The consultation process with Children and Young People was carried out in accordance with the School Organisation Code 011/2018.

Date	School/Location	Stakeholders	Time
2 July 2025	Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi	Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi School Council and other learners	2:00pm-3:00pm
2 July 2025	Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi	Staff and Governors	4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
2 July 2025	Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi	Parents/ Guardians	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
8 July 2025	Virtual teams session	Catchment area Primary School Councils	10:00am-11:00am

5. RESPONSES AND COMMENTS

The following section summarises all the responses and comments received by stakeholders to the statutory consultation. Responses were received on -line (response form), and on email.

5.1 Summary of responses from the on-line response form

The Council received a total of 1,023 responses to the statutory consultation via the on-line response form. The following table provides a further breakdown.

Respondent category	Percentage	Response total
Learner / pupil	32.3%	329
School governor	1.2%	12
Staff	6.6%	67
Parent / guardian	22.5%	229
Elected member	1.2%	12
Town and community councillor	0.6%	6
Local resident	42.1%	429
Other (e.g. former pupil) or did not specify	3.4%	35

Some stakeholders responded in more than one capacity e.g. responded as a parent/guardian and a school governor which has been recorded as one response in the overall total of 1023.

No responses were received on the paper response form.

5.2 On-line response form replies

This section provides stakeholders responses to the three questions asked in relation to the proposal.

A further question relating to the Welsh Language was also asked as follows:

We would like to know your views on the effects that the proposal would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.

What effects do you think there are? How can positive effects on the Welsh language be increased, or negative effects reduced?

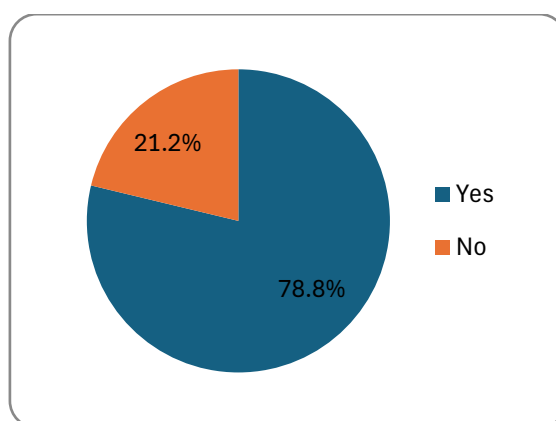
Feedback received in response to this question is available in the updated impact assessment [Impact assessment YUC - 130525.docx](#)

5.2.1. **Question** -Do you agree with the proposal to “Relocate Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi learners to a new school building for 11-18 year olds”? Yes/ No?

The table below indicates that 79 % of stakeholders who replied to this question on the online response form agree with the proposal with 21% not agreeing to the proposal. 58 of the stakeholder responses did not answer this question.

Answer choice	Response percent	Response numbers
Yes	79%	760
No	21%	205
No reply		58

The graph below indicates the answer choice of stakeholders who responded to this question.



5.2.2. **Question** -Do you wish to make comments regarding the proposal to: “Relocate Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi learners to a new school building for 11-18 year olds”.

In accordance with the School Organisation Code (011/2018) the table below summarises the issues raised by the stakeholders together with the Council’s response by means of clarification, amendment of the proposal or rejection of concerns with supporting reasons.

Summary of issues raised by stakeholders	Council's response
Around half of the stakeholders who replied no to the proposal, indicated that the proposed site near the leisure centre was too far	A detailed options appraisal has been completed of potential sites in Holyhead area, and the site near the leisure centre is the only site meeting the requirements. The site has not been confirmed and there may be additional travelling times and costs.

from the current site and the town centre. Here are comments that reflect the issues raised: • The proposed location is out of the way for many pupils • Much too far out for children to walk to school	However, it is anticipated that some transport costs may well be reduced because those learners who wish to access Welsh-medium, fully bilingual provision should be able to remain within their school catchment area and not be transported to the nearest Welsh-medium secondary school. Furthermore, other learners may decide to remain within their catchment area because of having access to a new school building and modern resources. The Council has a duty to provide travel assistance in accordance with the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008. The Council provides free school transport for full time secondary school learners residing 3 miles or more from the school in whose catchment area they reside (except for 6th form learners / further education students). Further information available from the school transport policy: https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/en/Residents/Schools-and-learning/School-transport/School-Transport-Policy.aspx The Sustainable Communities for Learning programme is linked to the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013. The Act sets a clear ambition to improve walking and cycling routes to help us satisfy our environmental and health objectives. If the proposal is accepted, active travel plans will be reviewed and prepared in accordance with the Act for the new Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi building once the new site is confirmed.
A minority of stakeholders suggested updating the current building / rebuilding on the current site.	The Council has already considered and discounted refurbishing the current building as an option as highlighted in the consultation document. The current site area would not meet the Welsh Government - Area Guidelines for Schools in Wales Building Guidance (WG51809). The current school site area is 27,000m² and the Gross Site Area required for new school without playing fields is 31,625m². A further appraisal of rebuilding on the current site is available below in 5.2.3.
Very few commented about the high cost of the proposed new school building.	The proposed cost is estimated at £66million, the majority of which will be funded through a mutual investment model Mutual Investment Model.

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	The Council's contribution (estimate) towards annual service cost for 25 years (MIM) is £1,238,218 which is considered affordable.
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5.2.3. **Question**-Do you wish to suggest other reasonable alternatives that addresses the key challenges that Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi faces?

In accordance with the School Organisation Code (011/2018) stakeholders were given an opportunity to make representations regarding the alternatives identified by the Council as well as the main proposal.

Stakeholders were also given the opportunity to suggest other alternatives which would address the key challenges Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi faces which the Council is seeking to address.

Many of the stakeholders in response to this question suggested refurbishing the current building / rebuilding on the current site. The Council has already considered and discounted refurbishing the current building as an option as highlighted in the consultation document.

The Council has further considered rebuilding from new on the current site and has rejected this option with reasons in the table below.

Additional option for consideration	Main reasons for rejection
Rebuilding from new on current site	Site • The current site area would not meet the Welsh Government's- Area Guidelines for Schools in Wales- Building Guidance (WG51809). • The current school site area is 27,000m². Gross Site Area required for new school without playing fields is 31,625m².
	Cost • Estimated Demolition Costs for phased demolition and disposal of material off site is £1,307,040. • Estimated cost of new Site Construction and Development as demolition proceeds is £60,697,000. • Total Cost of Option is therefore £62,004,040 (as compared to £66.million for the new site).
	Challenges • A phased demolition and reconstruction programme would be required over a 5-6 year period. • Large number of learners would need to be taught remotely or relocated to other buildings for very long periods. • Impact on learners, staff and all users during the period. • Huge impact during demolition regarding noise and dust impacting all site users and nearby residents. • Huge impact during construction regarding noise and dust impacting all site users and nearby residents. • Minimal external play and social areas available over the construction period potentially impacting pupil's wellbeing.

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	• Impact on the availability of on-site staff and visitor parking over the construction period. • Limited available area on site for contractor's compound for welfare facilities and material storage. • Likely disruption to services during demolition / re-construction. • Most of the new building would likely need to be a 4 storey structure creating possible accessibility issues. • Limited available space for any temporary classroom accommodation on site during construction.
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5.3 Summary of a response received by email

Stakeholder/ interested party	Summary of their response	Council's response
RhAG /Parents for Welsh Medium Education	RhAG noted that they “appreciate the challenges the school has faced recently regarding the buildings, and it is good to see that there has been a positive response in order to see the learning community receiving suitable buildings”. Most of the response relates to the school transitioning over the next 4 years to a category 3 Welsh-medium school. It calls on the Council to ensure that increasing Welsh language education opportunities is a central consideration of this proposal.	Response noted. The Council explained in the consultation document (5.4.8) that the change of language category is independent of the proposal. The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) is the key strategic driver for developing Welsh language education locally. Appropriate measures as in place to support Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi (YUC) to become a category 3 Welsh-medium school with an agreed timeframe. This proposal does not impact / impair those measures. The points raised by RhAG will be given consideration as part of the YUC language category transition plan.

5.4 Estyn's Response

In accordance with the School Organisation code (011/2018) Estyn's response to the consultation is set out in full in section 7. (The bold letters have been inserted by the Council).

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code, and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore, as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

5.4.1. Council's response

The Council wishes to clarify /respond to some matters identified within Estyn's response as follows:

Estyn's response	Council's response
The school will be built near Holyhead Leisure Centre, and it appears that the scheme will cost £66 million, with 65% of the cost being a contribution from Welsh Government and 35% being a contribution from the Council.	The cost of the proposal at present, depending on the outcome, is estimated to be £65.9m if delivered as a MIM scheme; it is proposed that this will be part funded by the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme. Welsh Government invites Councils to use the Mutual Investment Model (MIM) to fund new build projects of significant value. Mutual Investment Model The Welsh Government intervention rate for funding Sustainable Communities for Learning MIM projects is 81%, with the remaining 19% funded by the Council. Most of the expenditure associated with the new building is likely to be eligible to be delivered and funded using the Mutual Investment Model. Any costs not eligible to be funded via MIM, would be funded as Capital expenditure. The Welsh Government intervention rate for capital costs is 65%, with the remaining 35% funded by the council.
If the proposal is implemented, it appears that the current leadership and management structure may need to be reviewed. If it is on a larger site, more site management is likely to be required. It is not clear from the proposal if the leadership team will receive support and guidance from the local authority to	The Council confirms that the leadership team will receive support and guidance to manage the new site.

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ensure that best practices in leadership and management are adopted.	
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5.5 Summary of response from learners

In this section feedback from the learners' sessions at Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi and the virtual Teams session held with the primary schools is provided. Both sessions/ consultation process with learners was carried out in accordance with Section 3.5 of the School Organisation Code 011/2018.

Officers explained that the Council are responsible for schools on Anglesey and that the Council has the ambition of ensuring that all our children and young people, despite their background and circumstances, achieve their full potential, enabling all learners to develop towards the four purposes of the curriculum to be:

- Ambitious, capable learners,
- Venturous, creative contributors,
- Principled, knowledgeable citizens,
- Healthy, confident individuals.

Learners were reminded of Article 12: The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child i.e. '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'.

It was explained that the information they submitted will be transferred to a report and presented to Councillors as part of the Statutory Consultation who will then decide on the way forward.

5.5.1. Learners' session at Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi 2 July 2025

Council officers visited Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi, to find out their views on the proposal. Over 30 learners representing the school attended the session.

Learners were asked to provide their comments based around the questions included in the consultation document:

Their **summarised** responses are noted **below in their own words.**

	Questions discussed	Responses
1.	Do you agree with the proposal to "Relocate Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi learners to a new school building for 11-18 year olds"?	All pupils that attended the session agreed with the proposal. However, whilst in agreement with the proposal, some said: • It might be difficult for pupils who walk to school to get access to transport to go to the new location as its going to be outside the town centre. • May be challenging for those with physical disabilities to get there. Council's response The Council has a duty to provide travel assistance in accordance with the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008. The Council provides free school transport for full

		time secondary school learners residing 3 miles or more from the school in whose catchment area they reside (except for 6th form learners / further education students). Further information available from the school transport policy: https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/en/Residents/Schools-and-learning/School-transport/School-Transport-Policy.aspx The Sustainable Communities for Learning programme is linked to the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013. The Act sets a clear ambition to improve walking and cycling routes to help us satisfy our environmental and health objectives. If the proposal is accepted, active travel plans will be reviewed and prepared in accordance with the Act for the new Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi building once a new site is confirmed. The Council will provide appropriate assistance and support for the learners with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and a disability. Individual needs of ALN and disabled learners will be assessed at the time of transferring to any school.
2.	Do you wish to make comments regarding the proposal?	Learners gave their comments as well as, what they would like in the new school building. Summary of comments • The situation with RAAC has affected learners education. The new school will be a better environment for pupils to learn in, and I think that the money won't be wasted. • As the new school building is proposed to be next to the leisure centre, then we can use the facilities there as well. • More focus on after school clubs and community involvement at the new site. Could rent /charge for the hall use. • The structure of the school will be more secure and safe, helping learners feel more comfortable in their school environment. • I think it is better if the current building was renovated and stayed where it is. Summary of what they would like in the new school building • More outside space and would like a canopy for outside learning. Would like a football and rugby pitch as well. • A large common room for students and social activities.
3.	Do you wish to suggest other reasonable alternatives that addresses the key challenges that Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi faces?	

		• A room / area where we could always go for support to make students feel confident and secure in themselves and their education (Like Ystafell Pawb in YUC) • Basic first aid training taught to all students and teachers. • Would like a theatre and professional stage with props and costumes. • More accessible for pupils with disabilities. • Better parking at the new site. • Revision rooms /quiet spaces/library for GCSE. • More information on how to access college, what GCSE's you need etc. Or more help on how to study at university and giving support on how to get a place there. • Lockers for students. • More subject options available for Years 12-13. • Cleaner, more hygienic environment to learn in. • Additional resources (e.g. sensory room) for those with additional needs. • Having solar panels will be good. Council's response All the comments have been noted and included in the overall response to the consultation. Their summary of what they would like within a new school will be considered when appropriate at later time.
4.	We would like to know your views on the effects that the proposal would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English. • What effects do you think there would be? • How can positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?	• More Welsh lessons and less English lessons, so we become fluent in Welsh earlier. • More Welsh language lessons in the new school building as I feel the Welsh language is currently limited in our school. • Hire more Welsh teachers and add more Welsh lessons with more Welsh focus. • All staff to be bilingual • I think the Welsh language should be used more often in all lessons and outside of lessons as children are speaking less and less Welsh. • Improve the amount of Welsh speaking and teaching in the school • Have Welsh signs across the new school • Have Welsh posters around the school Council's response Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi is on a journey to transition to a Welsh-medium secondary school, irrespective of the proposal to relocate learners to a new school building. However, the responses are noted and will be included in the updated impact assessment going forward.

5.5.2. Virtual learners' session with primary schools 8 July 2025

Council officers held a virtual session over TEAMS with the school council from six schools in the Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi catchment area namely:

- Ysgol Cybi
- Ysgol Kingsland
- Ysgol Llanfawr
- Ysgol Rhosneigr
- Ysgol Santes Fair
- Ysgol Y Tywyn

Learners were given an age appropriate PowerPoint presentation about the proposal. They were asked to give their opinions comments on the proposal as follows:

Their summarised responses are noted below **in their own words**.

	Questions discussed	Responses
1.	What do you think about getting a new building? Agree/ Disagree?	All six schools agreed that a new school building is required and made the following observations as well: • An excellent idea. It is going to help with costs and eco issues. • Good idea to have a new school. But it must be ensured that there is access for everyone because YUC building is not suitable now. • Good idea to have a new school building as the current school has a lot of problems.
2.	Is there anything else you want to say about the plan to move YUC children to a new school building?	Learners gave their comments as well as what they would like in the new school building. Summary of comments • Like the idea of a new school but some reservations about the location • Would like a sensory room in the new school building • Would like to see a wildlife park/play area on the old school site. • Would like a garden/ forest garden on the new site. • Give the school a new name rather than YUC, naming it after someone historically famous/significant from Holyhead. • New school building – give it Welsh language branding to encourage use of the language.
3.	Do you want to suggest other ideas that can help YUC?	
4.	Will the changes help children use the Welsh language more or less? If less, what would help to use the language more?	

	Questions asked	Council response
	Where will the school location be?	The proposed (although not yet confirmed) site is near the current Holyhead Leisure centre. A detailed options appraisal has been completed of potential sites in Holyhead area, this is the only site meeting the requirements.
	Can we use the sports centre?	If the school is built near the leisure centre, then there would be discussions regarding using their facilities as part of the plan.
	If the new school uses the Leisure Centre wouldn't that limit the use by the public/primary schools?	Discussions will need to take place to make the best use of the leisure centre for all concerned to make sure that no one is disadvantaged.
	How long will it take to build the school?	The whole project (when a new school building opens) will take up until September 2030.
	How much will the building cost?	Estimated costs are £66 million.
	How will pupils go from the town to the new school? Will you need a bus?	The Council has a duty to provide travel assistance in accordance with the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008. The Council provides free school transport for full time secondary school learners residing 3 miles or more from the school in whose catchment area they reside (except for 6th form learners / further education students). Further information available from the school transport policy: https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/en/Residents/Schools-and-learning/School-transport/School-Transport-Policy.aspx
	Will there be enough bike / scooter racks there, for the pupils who want to go by bike instead of walking/bus?	The Sustainable Communities for Learning programme is linked to the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013. The Act sets a clear ambition to improve walking and cycling routes to help us satisfy our environmental and health objectives. If the proposal is accepted, active travel plans will be reviewed and prepared in accordance with the Act for the new Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi building once a new site is confirmed.
	Are 900 places enough? more children will want to come to a new school	The Council has made its calculations based on future learner number projections and have also considered birth rates as per 2021 census. It is important to note

APPENDIX 1

		that projections are difficult as some learners attend the schools from other catchment areas.
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6. CONCLUSION

The proposal consulted on was to Relocate Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi learners to a new school building for 11-18 year olds.

In accordance with the School Organisation Code (011/2018) this section explains the proposal assessment, how the assessment differs from any earlier assessment (if at all), assessment of any other reasonable alternatives and confirmation whether to implement the original proposal (wholly or partly).

6.1 Confirmation whether to implement the original proposal (wholly or partly)

After considering all the feedback as summarised in accordance with the school organisation code (11/2018) in section 5 above, the Council concludes that the most appropriate response is to build a new school building for Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi (the original proposal).

Feedback from the majority of stakeholders (79%) to responded to the on-line response form agrees with the proposal and the Council has responded to the summary of issues raised by those who replied “no “in section 5.

6.2 Recommendation to the Executive

After considering the responses from all stakeholders, the Council is of the opinion that its further assessment of the proposal “To Relocate Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi learners to a new school building for 11-18 year olds” does not differ from the initial assessment made. In this respect the Council confirms the most appropriate response is to ask the Executive for the authority to publish a statutory notice to proceed with the proposal.

The benefits of the proposal are:

- A new school building with latest technology and learning resources, suitable for the latest and most modern methods of teaching and learning, should have a positive effect on staff and learner wellbeing and experience.
- Well-designed and thoughtfully developed school grounds enrich opportunities to learn and play. Connection and contact with nature create more positive emotions and feelings of vitality, and less negative emotions; it also offers a release from mental fatigue, and the ability to concentrate for longer.
- Having purpose-built community resources in the new school building and access to modern facilities would be expected to attract increased community use. The proposal would enable the Council and the potential new school to be a Community Focused School, building strong partnerships with families, engaging with the wider community and collaborating effectively with other sectors and services. This would be in line with Welsh Government’s latest guidance. By being a Community Focused School, the new location can also act as a community hub to help support and encourage Welsh speaking in the wider community.
- As there could be a new school building, the Council would avoid having to conduct work to address the current and projected future maintenance cost of almost £29

million (2024) on the current building.

- The proposal would lead to a saving in the central repairs & maintenance budget for the next 25 years (if the scheme is delivered via the Mutual Investment Model (MIM))
- It would address those urgent current mitigations taken in 2023/24 due to Reinforced Autoclave Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in 30% of the school building because of changes to UK Government guidance in August 2023.
- The potential new school site would have its own playing fields on the same site as the school building.
- Surplus places at Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi would be reduced.
- Increased likelihood that learners will remain within their catchment area because of having access to a new school building and modern resources.
- No additional transport costs are foreseen to the Council associated with the proposal.
- The new school building will be net zero carbon, with broader biodiversity enhancement opportunities on the proposed site.

7. ESTYN REPORT

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer.

Estyn's response to the proposal to relocate Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi learners to a new school building for 11–18-year pupils.

This report was prepared by His Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code, and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore, as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals. **Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer.**

The proposal is to relocate learners at Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi to a new school building for 11–18-year-old pupils.

Summary / Conclusion

Estyn considers that the proposal is at least likely to improve the standard of educational provision and outcomes for pupils in the area.

Description and benefits

The local authority has outlined a clear rationale for its proposal, namely, to relocate learners at Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi to a new school building for 11–18-year-old pupils by 2030. If the proposal is approved, the school will be built on land near Holyhead Leisure Centre, subject to successful land acquisition.

It appears that Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi's current building is in poor condition (Grade C according to the Welsh Government's building condition categorisation scale), with £29 million worth of repairs required, along with significant accessibility issues. Currently, it appears that there are 29% surplus places and a lack of suitable playing fields for learners. It also appears that the school in its current form is very energy-reliant and is one of the top ten for carbon emissions among the Council's assets.

The local authority provides an appropriate description of the proposal, which includes an expected timetable for the statutory procedures. It proposes to build a new school for 900 pupils, with 750 pupils in Years 7 to 11, in addition to 150 spaces for post-16 provision. **The school will be built near Holyhead Leisure Centre, and it appears that the scheme will cost £66 million, with 65% of the cost being a contribution from Welsh Government and 35% being a contribution from the Council.**

The proposer identifies the expected advantages and disadvantages clearly and fairly, compared to the status quo. One of the main advantages is that it would address the current emergency mitigation work completed in 2023-2024 due to Reinforced

Autoclave Aerated Concrete (RAAC) being present in 30% of the school's current building. The proposal is also likely to lead to a saving in the central repair and maintenance budget for the next 25 years. The proposer states that the new school building will be net zero carbon and that the current and projected maintenance cost of the current building is almost £29 million.

It appears that the new building would have a wealth of state-of-the-art resources, science and technology laboratories suitable for the latest teaching methods. It is likely that this, in turn, would have a strong effect on learners' well-being and outcomes. It is also proposed that the new school site would have its own playing fields, which will provide valuable opportunities to foster learners' well-being, physical skills and learning continuously. It will be modern, accessible to all learners and it is noted that there will also be offices and spaces to meet the needs of staff and learners. A multi-use games area (MUGA) is likely to be available to learners, which will encourage participation in sports and leisure purposefully.

Another advantage is the increased likelihood that learners will stay within their catchment area as a result of having access to a new school building, larger class sizes and modern resources to support their well-being and learning. There will be no additional transport cost associated with the proposal and, currently, learners between the ages of 16 and 18 travel for extended periods during the school day as some subjects are taught by alternative providers. The proposer outlines the expectation of having purpose-built community resources within the new school building and access to modern facilities to attract more community use. As a result, it appears that the proposal would enable the Council and the proposed new school to be a community-focused school, fostering strong partnerships with families, providing meaningful opportunities to engage with the wider community and cooperate effectively with other sectors and services. The new setting could also serve as a community hub to help support and encourage people and learners to use the Welsh language in the wider community.

It appears that there are a few disadvantages to the proposal along with associated risks, and clear and achievable measures to mitigate these are described in response to the proposal. It is likely that there will be some uncertainty for learners and staff. The proposer outlines openly that, as a result of reduced capacity, fewer staff will be required. Continuous communication with staff and unions will need to be ensured to keep them fully informed of developments. The proposer also identifies the need to bring learners together into a new site in a sensitive and careful manner to ensure continuity in their teaching and learning. In terms of well-being, care and health, pupils who are already used to the new building may find it difficult to move to a new school. In addition, if the distance is greater than the current distance for some learners, this may have a detrimental effect on attendance rates. There may also be delays in terms of the funding and construction of the new school and the possibility of opposition to the new build from residents, environmental groups or other stakeholders. Another disadvantage seems to be if the number of applications exceeds the school's capacity, there may be more admission appeals. In terms of the likely financial challenges, it appears that there will be an additional cost of approximately £26,000 through the school's delegated budget.

The local authority has considered five alternative options, identifying a clear rationale for not selecting them. It appears that relocating learners at Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi is the preferred option to address the key drivers for change and the key challenges for Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi. The proposer has given appropriate consideration to the impact of the changes on pupils' travel arrangements and on the accessibility of provision. The current situation is that 42.5% of learners who live in the catchment area attend other schools on the island or in Gwynedd. It is anticipated that transport costs may decrease because those learners who wish to access Welsh-medium, fully bilingual provision will not need to be transported out of their school catchment area to the nearest Welsh-medium secondary school. Free transport is provided for full-time secondary school learners who live 3 miles or more from the school in whose catchment area they reside, with the exception of sixth-form learners. If the proposal is accepted, it is anticipated that active travel plans will be prepared in line with the Act for the new Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi building.

The local authority has demonstrated the effect of the proposal on surplus places appropriately. Since September 2024, the number of learners who attend the school from outside the catchment area is low at Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi (4.5% of learners). The proposer outlines clearly the projections for the next five years in terms of surplus places, which may potentially reach 37.4% by September 2029. The projections confirm that the number of learners at Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi is expected to decline. The authority also estimates that around 80 learners may also attend the school as a result of the construction of new houses. It is likely that should all housing provision be realised, there would still be sufficient places at the new Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi building.

The proposal also gives appropriate consideration to the effect of the proposal on Welsh-medium provision within the local authority. The proposer states that the proposal would protect and promote the Welsh language within Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi and its catchment area, as eight of the nine primary schools in the catchment area have been designated as Welsh-medium. The proposer states that the proposal would lead to encouraging learners to stay within their catchment area to receive a fully bilingual education rather than attending an alternative neighbouring secondary school. It is anticipated that learners will no longer need to travel to a nearby Welsh-medium secondary school when the new building opens in 2030. It is likely that any new staff recruited would be Welsh speakers, in line with the Welsh language policy and would be trained through the medium of Welsh. The proposer theorises further by stating that when learners leave the school, they will be fully bilingual which, in turn, will contribute purposefully to preserving the Welsh language within their communities. It is also proposed that it will provide opportunities for learners to use the Welsh language during after-school activities, in addition to the childcare and pre-school breakfast clubs.

Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi is currently categorised as a school that teaches through the school is in this transitional category and has begun the ambitious process of transferring to category 3 within a five-year plan, which is Welsh as the main language of teaching. The proposer states clearly that the change of category separate to this proposal but, if the proposal is agreed, it appears that it will increase the provision of Welsh-medium education over time.

The local authority has given appropriate consideration to the financial implications of the proposal. It appears that the estimated cost is £65.9 million and that this will be funded partly by the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme. However, the current and projected maintenance costs at the current building are almost £29 million. It is assumed that the sale of Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi will release capital receipts towards the cost of constructing the new school building. It is proposed that there will be no additional transport costs, and, in addition, there will be a saving of approximately £45,798 against the central Repair and Maintenance budget for the next 25 years. However, the proposer anticipates an additional cost of £26,000 through the school's delegated budget.

Another potential financial challenge outline in the proposal is that if the scheme were to be delivered through the Mutual Investment Model (MIM), the Council's contribution (estimated at 17%) towards the Annual Service Charge would result in an additional revenue cost of approximately £1.3 million per annum for the Council to fund for years 1-25 and approximately £94,000 to £141,000 for years 26-60. The delegated schools budget requirement is likely to increase by approximately £26,000 per annum if the proposal is implemented. In terms of short-term transitional costs that will need to be funded, the proposer states that these could include an additional one-off cost to release a member of the school's senior leadership team prior to the opening of the new school building. There are also likely to be premises costs for the closed building until it has been disposed of. It is estimated that the transitional cost will be around £8,000 per annum from 2025-26 – 2027-28, around £19,000 in 2028-29, around £177,000 in 2029-30 when the new school building opens, and around £115,000 per annum from 2030-31 until the existing school property is transferred from the Council's ownership.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The authority considers the effect of the proposal on the quality and standards of educational usefully. The proposer states that the new school would meet the 'Sustainable Community' standards and would be an inspirational learning environment for learners. It is also likely that the new school would be designed to deliver Curriculum for Wales purposefully. It appears that the existing school has limited outdoor learning environments to promote learners' independent learning. Standards are expected to at least be maintained or improved in the new building. A new school building could likely provide additional specialist modern resources and outdoor green spaces to meet the needs of the curriculum and enrich provision and learners' experiences. In line with their arrangements with other schools in the authority, it appears that the new school will receive the usual challenge and support in terms of teaching, learning and leadership.

In terms of well-being and attitudes to learning, the proposal states that the new school environment, together with dedicated outdoor green spaces, would be likely to improve the physical and emotional well-being of learners, in addition to improving staff's well-being.

It is likely that there will be no significant change in provision and arrangements for care, support and guidance for pupils. The Estyn report in February 2025 stated in part, 'There is a strong culture of safeguarding at the school. Many pupils feel safe, and nearly all know where to go for support if needed.'

If the proposal is implemented, it appears that the current leadership and management structure may need to be reviewed. If it is on a larger site, more site management is likely to be required. It is not clear from the proposal if the leadership team will receive support and guidance from the local authority to ensure that best practices in leadership and management are adopted.

A useful description is provided of the effect of the proposal on the community and on vulnerable groups, including children with additional learning needs (ALN). It appears that the proposal would lead to a change in the learning environment of Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi so that disabled learners and staff are able to have full access to the whole of the proposed building. However, it is acknowledged that the change could be more challenging for some learners with ALN, but the proposer states that it will endeavour to ensure as little disruption as possible and support learners during the transition to the new provision. It is also noted that the authority will seek advice from specific teams to identify and implement relevant strategies to ease the transition. The proposal highlights that a needs assessment would be undertaken to identify the level and type of support needed to facilitate the transition process for learners with additional learning needs. It is likely that any learners with additional learning needs who currently attend Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi would continue to receive the level of support needed to meet their individual educational needs in the new school building.

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PRAWF BUDD Y CYHOEDD

PUBLIC INTEREST TEST

Moderneiddio Ysgolion – Cyflwyno’r Achos Amlinellol Strategol ar gyfer adeilad newydd i Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi i Lywodraeth Cymru
School modernisation - Presenting the Strategic Outline Case for a new school building for Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi to Welsh Government

Paragraff(au) Atodlen 12A Deddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972 Paragraph(s) Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 [un neu fwy o/one or more of 12,13,14,15,16,17,18,18A,18B,18C]	
Y PRAWF – THE TEST	
Mae yna fudd i'r cyhoedd wrth ddatgan oherwydd: Mae moderneiddio stoc ysgolion ar Ynys Môn yn bwysig i drigolion Ynys Môn er mwyn sicrhau fod holl ysgolion yr Ynys yn addas at y pwrpas. <i>There is a public interest in disclosure as:</i> <i>Modernising the school estate on Anglesey is important to Anglesey residents in order to ensure that all school buildings are fit for purpose.</i>	Y budd i'r cyhoedd wrth beidio datgelu yw: Gall yr wybodaeth sy'n ymwneud â materion ariannol roi'r Cyngor dan anfantais pan mae'n dod i osod contractau ac ati ar gyfer gwaith i'r dyfodol. <i>The public interest in not disclosing is:</i> <i>Information relating to financial issues could put the Council at a commercial disadvantage when it comes to awarding contracts etc. for future work.</i>
Argymhelliad -Yn rhinwedd Paragraff 14 Atodlen 12A Deddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972 -Gwybodaeth yn ymwneud â materion ariannol neu fasnachol unigolyn penodol. (Gan gynnwys yr awdurdod sy'n dal y wybodaeth honno). Mae budd y cyhoedd wrth gadw'r eithriad yn fwy o bwys na budd y cyhoedd wrth ddatgelu'r wybodaeth. Recommendation - By Virtue of Paragraph 14 Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 -Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	

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