

All Wales People First

Talk Back

The National Voice of People with

Learning Disabilities in Wales

Summer 2019



***“Thanks for your
fourteen years’
service to the
learning disability
movement”***

Linton Gower, thanked Celia Lewis of Conwy Connect, on behalf of the AWPf National Council.

Farewell and good luck Celia Lewis!

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Editorial

Welcome to the Summer 2019 edition of Talk Back. We are really excited about sharing what we have been up to.

If you have anything you want to share in the next Edition, then please send an email to. kelly@allwalespeople1st.co.uk



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Celia Lewis



Celia Lewis, support worker at Conwy Connect has retired from her post.

Celia attended her last meeting of the National Council on the 30th July.

Celia was presented with a bunch of flowers and words of thanks by the Vice Chair Linton Gower.

Celia gave a speech. She said it was a pleasure working with her colleagues

across Wales and that she would miss us all.

Celia has been a passionate advocate for people with learning disabilities for many years.

Celia has never been afraid to say what is needed to be said if it is in the best interests of people with learning disabilities.

Even if this means saying things that some people might not want to hear.

And Celia is loved by all she has supported.

They know she has their interests at heart in everything she does.

I first met Celia when I started my job as National Director in October 2012.

She worked for NEWSA supporting Denbighshire reps, and then she moved to Conwy Connect.

We wish Celia a long and happy retirement.

Stay in touch Celia!

Joe Powell

Transport Petition



Transport Petition

All Wales People First filed a transport petition with the Welsh Government. The petition said that people with learning disabilities should be included in all changes to public transport.

This includes bus routes.

And changes to bus stops.

We were advised to do this by Janet-Finch Saunders AM.

Who met with me and Conwy Representative, Michelle Williams in Bangor in January.

We met with her to explain concerns members of North Wales had about transport in their area.

Transport was cut without them being warned.

This meant they were not able to get around.

One member could not get to work because of it.

This goes against the principles of the Social Services and Well Being Wales Act.

Denbighshire Rep James Lewis and his group were also very concerned about public transport in the North Wales region.

They are planning to meet with Arriva to try to resolve this problem.

All Wales People First have promised to help in any way we can.

We are worried about transport cuts across the whole of Wales.

But especially in the North, Mid and Rural areas of Wales.

Powys especially has very limited public transport for people with learning disabilities.

Our petition asked that the Concessionary Bus pass scheme be allowed to be used on train services in local areas.

Transport Petition

The minister Ken Skates AM, Minister for Transport gave us a letter in response to our concerns.

We had the chance to respond to the letter which we did.

Both his letter and our response can be found at the Petitions Committee website

It was then discussed by the petitions committee and broadcast live on Senedd TV.

The petitions committee seemed to be sympathetic to our concerns.

And they decided to refer the matter back to Ken Skates AM.

We will be monitoring the situation.

And we will let you know the outcome as soon as we hear anything.

If you want to know any more about our position on transport you can read our position statement in the resource section of our website.

www.allwalespeoplefirst.co.uk

We are trying hard to fight this cause.

But we may have to be in this for the long haul.

I appreciate the support of everyone who signed our petition and the local groups for their sterling attempts to make important changes.

Changes we need to ensure people with learning disabilities can access their communities.

And live as equal citizens in Wales.

Joe Powell

Learning Disability Commissioner Petition

Cardiff People First – Learning Disability Commissioner Petition

Cardiff People First put together an online petition to call for a learning disability commissioner for Wales.

They felt this was very important because of more news of abuse in the care system.

A Learning Disability Commissioner would make help to make sure the voices of people with learning disabilities are heard in Wales and to prevent abuse in care services.

And champion funding for the right services to help people with learning disabilities get the best services and support possible.

Some other disability groups have a commissioner.

But there isn't one for people with learning disabilities.

The members of Cardiff People First handed their petition in person to the Senedd on the 2nd July.

Member Engagement Advisor Tracey Drew attended the hand in. She was very impressed.

And so were the people at the Senedd.

They said it wasn't very often that people handed their petitions in, in person.

The issue was then discussed by the Petitions Committee and broadcast on Senedd TV.

The Minister said he was not convinced that a Commissioner was needed at this time.

This was because of the work of the Learning Disability Ministerial Advisory Group which has people with learning disabilities on the group.

And the work of the Improving Lives Strategy.

Cardiff People Firsts responded saying that the Learning Disability

Learning Disability Commissioner Petition

Ministerial Advisory Group did not address issues that were affecting peoples everyday lives.

And they said that self-advocacy is the most important right for a person with a learning disability.

They also said that local authorities are funding statutory advocacy at the expense of funding self-advocacy.

The Petitions Committee said that this would go back to the Minister of Health and Social Services, Vaughan Gething AM and they would ask him how people with learning disabilities could raise concerns about care and support.

And how people with learning disabilities could engage with self-advocacy.

Both the Ministers letter and the reply from Cardiff People First can be found on the petitions website.

We will let you know as soon as we know the outcome.

We would like to congratulate Cardiff People First on an excellent piece of work.

It is a positive example of self-advocacy trying to affect political change.

“People with learning disabilities are put in these places and not treated with respect. It’s disgusting. A commissioner for people with learning disabilities would champion lessons being learnt, tougher penalties and better regulation.”

Simon Richards, Chair of Cardiff People First and Chair of AWP National Council.

Joe Powell

News from Groups



Anglesey



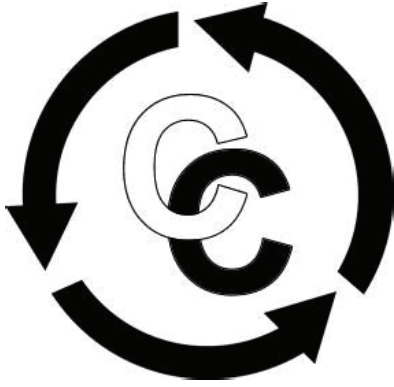
My group has attended a few meetings recently.

In one meeting we talked about what is safe on internet sites like Facebook, what you can do on Facebook and what you should not put on Facebook or your account, and who do you trust on the internet and not send rude photos or messages.

Before the meeting, the group didn't know what the dangers were and a few other things.



James Andrew



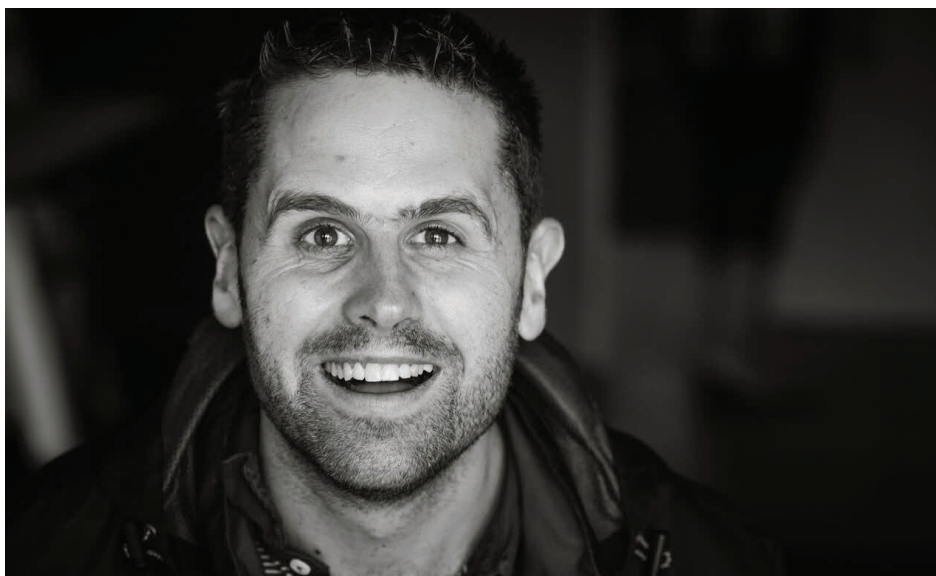
The photos have been taken in TAPE in Old Colwyn which has been where we have held the Regional Partnership meetings since the Regional Partnership Boards have been on board.



Flintshire Do-it have helped move the project forward by hosting the regional partnership during the recruitment of a new co-ordinator.

Their support to cover North Wales Region has included the six counties of Wrexham, Flintshire, Denbighshire, Conwy, Gwynedd and Anglesey (which still does not have a representative).





We have secured our Service Level Agreement again this year.

So we are still here - horray.



We are still involved in the Gwent Advocacy Strategy making sure that self-advocacy is included and that information is in easy read.



We attended the Blaenau Gwent Annual Stakeholder Event.

We have three local groups meeting across the County making sure peoples voices are heard



We have held our 6th Regional People First Group and have applied to the Charity Commission to Register Cwm Taff People first as a Charity

We have made a Cwm Taff People Business Plan



Drawn up a new constitution



Between March and May all the self-advocacy groups in Powys worked towards an Art Exhibition. 'Similarities and Differences' explored the following questions:

What makes us all the same?

What makes us all different?

Do we all deserve respect?



We used video, photography, self portraits and sensory experiences to show our thoughts and feelings on the questions.



The exhibition ran in the Andrew Lamont Gallery at Theatr Brycheiniog from 25th May until 29th June.

It was a great success promoting the work we do and getting the artists seen. There was lots of wonderful feedback from visitors to the exhibition.

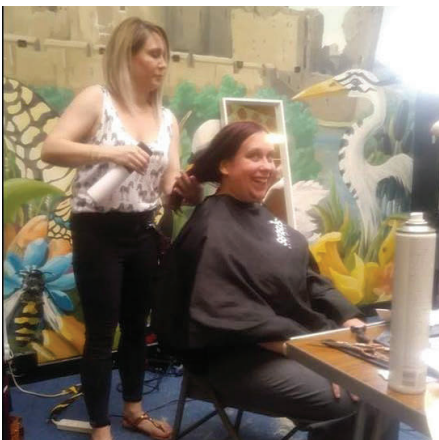
Thank you to all the artists who contributed.





Screening Champions Training

Ffion Poole, Kath Toms, Sharon Cochrane and Christy Taylor recently attended the Public Health Wales Screening Training Program at Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Victoria House, Newport.



The training included discussions on cervical screening, bowel screening, breast screening, abdominal aortic aneurysm screening, and diabetic eye screening.



Having completed the training, the four people who attended from Caerphilly People First are now 'Screening Champions' and are hoping to raise awareness about the importance of screening among our members, and other people in the wider community.



Friday 24th May

FREE
PAMPER TREATMENT | LIGHT LUNCH

Inspirational Speakers | Games | Information Stalls

9.30am - 1pm

at St James ICC, Caerphilly

FREE PARKING

Celebrating Women Event

In May 2019 Ffion Poole, Kath Toms, Christy Taylor and Sharon Cochrane attended the 'Celebrating Women' event in Lansbury Park arranged by the Caerphilly Parent Network. The event included speakers, games, and workshops entitled 'what it means to be a woman' and 'if I could I would'. There were also information stalls on health screening and domestic abuse.

Free pamper treatment was also available at the event, and a couple of us had our nails done and our hair cut.

Training

Ffion Poole, Kath Toms and support buddy Christy Taylor have been delivering training to Caerphilly County Borough Council staff. The training provided to the project officers and training officers included Medical Training and Safeguarding. They really enjoyed the training and the feedback was amazing. Here are some of the comments we received:

'Brilliant training, really enjoyed it!'

'Great trainers, good engagement.'

'Very informative courses, trainers were professional and I learned a lot.'

'The presentation was clear and full of helpful advice.'

Kath and Ffion always enjoy providing the training, and if anyone is interested in receiving the training you can contact us on 01443834444 and ask for Ffion Poole or Christy Taylor, or email us on caerphillypf@hotmail.co.uk



AdFest 2019

Isolation and Loneliness

**A celebration of the
role of people with
learning disabilities
in Welsh Society.**

**Village Hotel, Cardiff
17th and 18th October 2019**

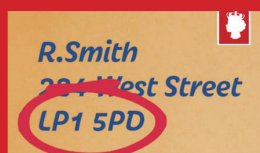


Have you booked for AdFest?

If you would like to book, you can get a booking form by visiting our website

www.allwalespeople1st.co.uk

Or



If you prefer a paper copy by post, please email victoria@allwalespeople1st.co.uk

Or telephone 07498024763

Please book early as the overnight places are limited and almost fully booked.

Bookings close on 31st August.

We look forward to seeing you there!

facebook®



All Wales People First - July 30

Linton Gower presented Celia Lewis with a card and flowers on behalf of the National Council.

We thank Celia for her dedication and support to people first over 14 years. Today is Celia's last National Council Meeting.

We wish her well in the next chapter of her life, and her upcoming wedding.



All Wales People First, July 26

You said

The Chief Executive should visit local groups more



We pledged

The Chief Executive will visit at least eight, member groups per year



We did

The Chief Executive visited eight member groups during 2018/2019 financial year



Round up



All Wales People First, Chief Executive, Joe Powell - April 12

Attended a Disability Wales event on the social model of disability today at the Futures Inn, Hotel in Cardiff. I was joined by Sophie Hinksman (co chair of the AWPf board of directors), Kelly Stuart, Tracey Drew and members of Cardiff People First. The event is one of three which aims to discuss the social model of disability and how to promote and encourage its use in Wales. I am personally keen for AWPf to look at the social model in terms of learning disability and where/ how it is similar/ different to the experience of people with other disabilities/ impairments.

