



All Wales People First

Talk Back

The National Voice of People with

Learning Disabilities in Wales

Winter 2020

INTRODUCING GERRAINT'S
NightClub

MUSIC - CHAT - FUN
REALLY AMAZING TIMES

Tuesday 9th February
9pm til 11pm

On Zoom

Meeting ID: 822 3488 8818
Passcode: fun

Join Gerraint for
Self-Advocacy TV

Every two weeks, starting on
Friday 5th February

2pm to 3pm on Zoom

Meeting ID: 869 5144 0108
Passcode: talk

Funny and serious topics

Share your thoughts

New Outreach Worker - Page 5

Page 2	Page 4	Page 6	Page 10	Page 16
Editorial	Photography project	Chief Executive's update	Regional update	Facebook Round up



Editorial

Welcome to the Winter 2020 edition of Talk back.

We have continued our work on the MIRROR Strategy to make sure that your voices are being heard by those who make decisions.

At the start of 2021 we were part of a campaign calling on Welsh Government to offer all people with learning disabilities a covid vaccination.

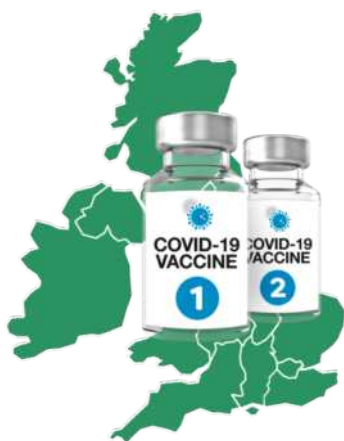
New guidance means that more people with learning disabilities will now be offered a vaccination under priority group 6.

The first National Council Meeting of 2021 took place through Zoom in February. We welcomed new Chair James Tyler and several new reps who have joined the National Council for the first time.

We hope you are keeping safe and well.

The AWPF team

If you are a full member and have not received a membership card, please contact Claire Morgan on 07399 059631 or claire@allwalespeople1st.co.uk



The Team

Joe Powell -

Chief Executive

joe@allwalespeople1st.co.uk



Kelly Stuart -

Policy and Communications Manager

kelly@allwalespeople1st.co.uk

Victoria Sidwell Brown -

Business and Finance Manager

victoria@allwalespeople1st.co.uk



Tracey Drew

Membership Engagement Advisor

tracey@allwalespeople1st.co.uk

**Gerraint Jones-Griffiths - Outreach
Worker and Project Lead Ambassador**

gerraint@allwalespeople1st.co.uk



Philippa Davies - MIRROR Co-ordinator

philippa@allwalespeople1st.co.uk

Sarah Ansell - Support Worker

sarah@allwalespeople1st.co.uk



Claire Morgan

Business & Communications Administration
Assistant **claire@allwalespeople1st.co.uk**



Through our eyes photography project



The Through Our Eyes Project is delighted that we now have a steering group. The Steering Group will help us to make decisions about the photos and videos that we will create with our members.

Lucy and Natasha have been working on developing resources for members who are interested in photography. We will also be running workshops for members who would like to learn photography skills.



"Through Our Eyes"

You can email Natasha on
natasha@allwalespeople1st.co.uk

You can email Lucy on
Lucy@allwalespeople1st.co.uk

You can follow us on social media and share your ideas with us.

We have a Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/ThroughOurEyes0>

We are on Twitter.

<https://twitter.com/ThroughOurEyes0>

We are on Instagram.

<https://www.instagram.com/throughoureyes0/>



Article by Natasha Hirst

Events 2021



We have lots of events going on at the moment!

Our New Outreach Worker, Gerraint Jones Griffiths has been busy running Self Advocacy TV and Gerraint's Nightclub events. Get in touch with Gerraint's if you'd like to join in!

This year's Ad Fest event will take place during Learning Disability week on 23rd June.

To book your place on this Zoom event, please call Claire Morgan on 07399 059631 or email claire@allwalespeople1st.co.uk



We have moved

If you need to write to us or send us something by post, please use our new address:

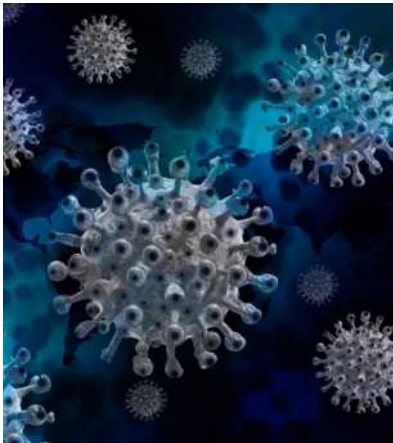
All Wales People First
Po Box 1988
NP19 1DT



Chief Executive's update



It has been difficult for everyone in Wales to start a new year with COVID-19 restrictions. At the end of last year, we were told there was a new strain. And that tough lockdown measures were needed again. We know this hits people with learning disabilities harder than most others. And we are working to represent your needs.



We are concerned about Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders given in some hospitals. This is not acceptable. We have made this point before. The Welsh Government too is very clear that having a learning disability is not a reason to give a DNR order.

Unfortunately, this isn't always understood in some medical professions.

We have met with Welsh Government and other consortium partners to make sure this point is clear.

I am very confident they understand and are sympathetic.

We will continue to monitor the situation.

Our consortium partners have written to all

DNACPR



Chief Executive's update



leads of health boards to reinforce this point.

Thank you to all groups and members who have shared your experiences and stories with us.

This has informed our Winter report.

Our Winter report has been fed into Welsh Government.

It has been important to the work they do.

We have also been meeting with the Disability Equality Forum.

They have a COVID-19 sub-group looking at the impact of COVID-19 on disabled people.

It will be ready soon.

It is very long.

An Easy Read summary will be produced.

But it shows that all disabled people are affected by the same issues.

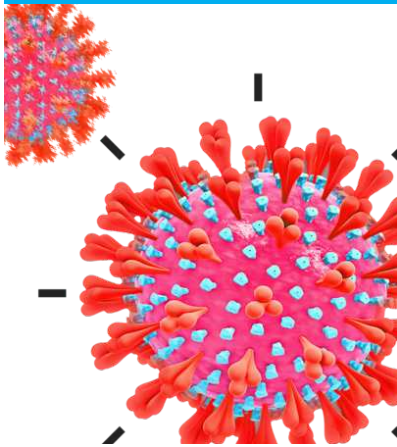
This is positive. We are stronger when we work together.

This work has been commissioned by Jane Hutt MS.

And will be used to help address the health and equality issues that have affected disabled people in Wales.



Chief Executive's update



It is important that we make sure the barriers to equality for disabled people are closed. COVID-19 did not cause the inequalities. It just made them worse.

We need to use the lessons learned from COVID-19 to make things better for all disabled people in the future.



We are also working with the University of South Wales and Cardiff University.

And other third sector organisations in Wales. To measure the impact of COVID-19 on the lives of people with learning disabilities. We can only hope that the negative COVID-19 experience will produce a very positive outcome.

That is a more equal Wales for people with learning disabilities.



Finally, it is wonderful that Welsh Government announced the change to the COVID-19 Vaccine for people with Learning Disabilities. This was announced on the 25th of February. It will mean lots of vulnerable people with learning disabilities will get their vaccine soon. We have been working hard with Welsh Government, Public Health Wales and our

Chief Executive's update



consortium partners since September on this.

Our consortium partners are:

- Learning Disability Wales
- All Wales Forum of Parents and Carers
- Mencap Cymru
- Down's Syndrome Association
- Cymorth Cymru



Your stories have been essential in allowing this to happen.

Unfortunately, we could not let you know about this work until it was announced by the Welsh Government.



Sometimes self-advocacy is a long road.

This is because some issues are complicated. But this is an example of when self-advocacy works.

And that your voice matters.

Victory for self-advocacy!



Article by Joe Powell

Regional update



Members of Monmouthshire People First are meeting online for quizzes and meetings. The group have set up 21 iPads for members to enjoy and join in with more activities. They have also made Easyread guides to help. Members had afternoon teas delivered for Valentines Day.

One member has also got involved in interviews for student learning disability nurses. They are also a member of the networking group for the "Insight" app.



In Blaenau Gwent People First & Cwm Taf People First the illustration service has supporting people to understand:

- more the virus,
- things to do to stay safe
- updates about what you can and can't do.



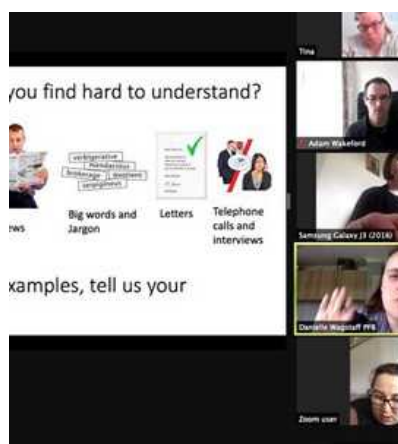
The 'What Matters to Me' project has supplied over 100 iPads to members. They have learned new digital skills. They are also working with other groups to get more equipment.

Regional update



The project has also supplied 200 self-care packs to members and vulnerable groups. Members have written a Cwm Taff People First Charter which launched on 19th March 2021.

Caerphilly People First members have been involved in the Love Locks project. The aim is to make a sculpture using padlocks decorated by the community.



The padlock has been used as a symbol of lockdown. The finished sculpture will be placed near Blackwood Miners Institute, Blackwood. Ffion Poole has been hosting regular activity evenings on TikTok. There have been quizzes on Disney and flags and bingo.

Since December, People First Bridgend have been getting more involved with the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Partnership Board. Members attended a branding workshop to help design the website. They are also doing a research project to find out the best ways the partnership board can communicate with people.



Regional update



Members have provided their first virtual training session to the public. The session was about autism awareness and was attended by 15 people who found it very useful. BAVO helped to advertise it and provided tech support.

In January, the group welcomed three new members - Darren, Michael and Malcolm - onto their Advisory Team. They are proving to be fantastic self-advocates.



University College London and MENCAP are doing a pilot project called Digital STORM (Standing Up for My Rights). The project aims to help people self-advocate when facing discrimination.

The Advisory Team have been asked to try it out. If successful, it will be turned into a resource which other self-advocacy groups can use to train their members. It will be run during April.



There's been lots of joint working between groups been going on in South-East Wales

Regional update



too. People First Bridgend, Cardiff, Cwm Taf & Monmouth People First group are working together to develop and run online Teaching for Medical Students at the University of Cardiff.

Cwm Taf People First and People First Bridgend exploring what members want to do during the day when the virus ends. They are also looking at different ways to communicate.



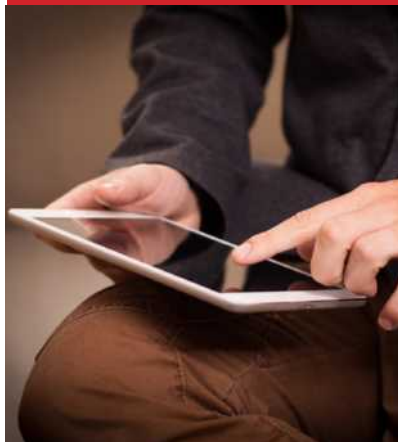
Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Merthyr, Monmouth, Cwm Taf & Torfaen People First Groups are working with University of South Wales to deliver teaching online.

Self-advocacy Prestatyn had elections at the end of January. The group is working on a film story about their life in the Pandemic. The film story will tell everybody about daily life in the pandemic.



The group is now a constant member of the cross-party disability group and spoke with Jane Hutt about the Commissioner for

Regional update



Learning Disabilities in North Wales in January. Reps attended a Police Disability Equality event. There is a big increase in disability hate crime but not just directed at people with learning disabilities



Denbighshire is meeting as one group every two weeks. Members are learning how to teach others to be digital self-advocates Members have been speaking about the vaccine with Megan.

A few members have already had their first injection. They are happy that Welsh Government has now made it clear which priority group people with learning disabilities are in.



Self-advocacy Mold organised their first virtual meeting in Flintshire last months and will meet on Zoom every 2 weeks to introduce people to self-advocacy.

Since October there has been a virtual LGBT+ drop-in for North Wales. Last month members spoke with Tadgh from LGBT+ social in North

Regional update



Wales. Next month they have Jennie-Anne Bishop (OBE) from UNIQUE speaking about transgender. Also how people, who were LGBT+, were discriminated against by the law in the past and now.

The group wants to have representation with the National Council and the Regional Participation Group in the future.

Wrexham had to come to terms with the loss of Linton, but are looking to re-launch the SOUL Group soon.



Gwynedd meets every Friday for their Tea at 3. The group discussions are member lead and include people from all parts of Gwynedd.

Getting a group going in Anglesey was stopped last year as people couldn't come to meetings. A virtual group has just started and is meeting every 2 weeks.



Article by Philippa Davies

facebook®



All Wales People First, Chief Executive - Joe Powell
3 February

Was wonderful to meet the new National Council at day one of the first meeting (on Zoom) this afternoon. Was great to meet so many new and talented members. I know that you are going to show the great leadership the organisation needs, on behalf of members in Wales.

I look forward to getting to know some of you better in our social meeting this evening and of course, during day two tomorrow when we will be electing the new Chair and Vice Chair. Here we all are, doing our Victory for Self-Advocacy salute.

Round up



All Wales People First, Chief Executive - Joe Powell
13 January

It's that time again, the planning of this years AdFest. This time and from now on it will take place during Learning Disability Week. This year the theme is 'Pride' and it will take place on the 23rd June 2021 on Zoom.

Massive thanks to all members of the National Council AdFest planning group this afternoon for taking the time to plan this years event.

