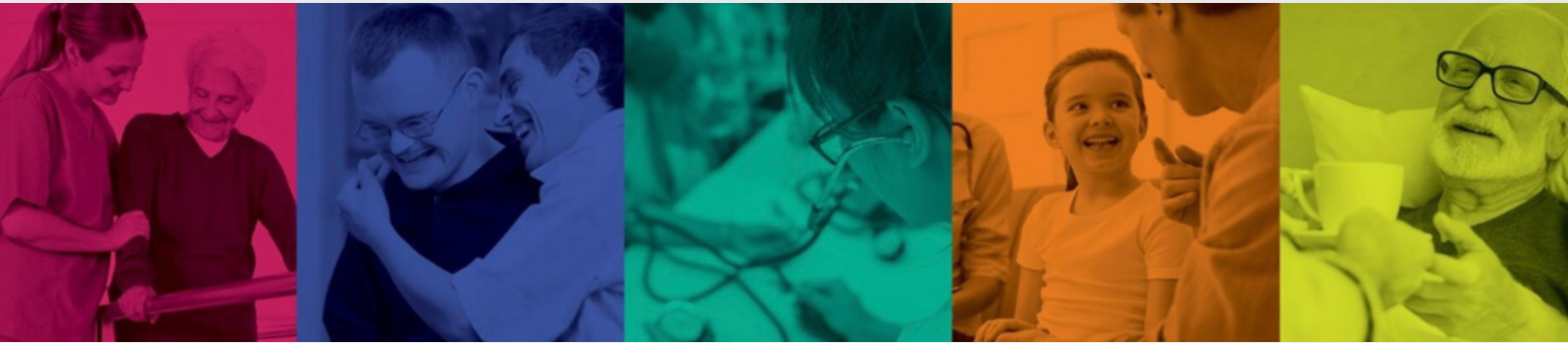




NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024



IN THIS ISSUE:

DEPUTY MINISTER
VISITS EARLY
HELP HUB

VOLUNTEERING
STRATEGY
LAUNCH

AGEING WELL
IN NEATH
PORT TALBOT

PLAN WITH
US!

CHEERS
TO
VOLUNTEERS!

KEEPING UP
TO DATE

CHAMPIONING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE DEPUTY MINISTER'S INSIGHTFUL VISIT TO EARLY HELP HUB

We had an eventful start to the month as on 1st February we welcomed Lynne Neagle, Deputy Minister for Well-being and Mental Health to the 'Valley Early Help Hub'.

In April 2020, Swansea introduced five Early Help Hubs at various sites across the city. The ethos of the Hubs is to ensure that children and families have access to the right support at the right time, regardless of age or location and with a focus on 'what matters' to families.

NYTH/NEST IN ACTION

The **NYTH/NEST Framework** features in the Early Help Hub's approach and delivers in practice the key principles: Nurturing, Empowering, Safe and Trusted.

November's edition of our Newsletter provided an overview of NYTH/NEST, which is a national drive by Welsh Government to place mental health and well-being at the heart of services for babies, children, young people, and families.

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The Deputy Minister met with young people and professionals to discuss the NYTH/NEST Framework and how it's being implemented across the region.



DEPUTY MINISTER'S VISIT : CONTINUED



As well as discussing the impact of NYTH/NEST with professionals, the Deputy Minister spoke to young people and families about their experiences of accessing services and the invaluable support they have received in school and in the community.

The visit, which coincided with Children's Mental Health Week 2024, was a great opportunity to highlight the fantastic service provided by the Early Help Hub model, which has been made possible thanks to investment from the Welsh Government's Regional Integration Fund (RIF).

JOINED-UP APPROACH TO SUPPORT

The Early Help Hubs operate a joined-up approach, supporting individuals and families using a locality-based hub structure and a single point of contact for professionals. By co-locating and bringing these services into one structure, support is made available on a collaborative basis with partners, utilising community assets to deliver child/early years work, youth work, and work around the whole family.

A key component of the model is the introduction of the 'Emotional Health and Well-being Workers' (EHWB), who provide a single, integrated resource for family support within Swansea's comprehensive schools. The offer incorporates the Youth Service as a 'tier one' provision, with more targeted interventions from the EHWB lead workers.

Improving access to emotional and well-being support is driven by the West Glamorgan Regional Partnership's Children and Young People's Emotional Well-being and Mental Health workstream, which reports to the Children and Young People's Programme Board.

"Speaking to the staff and young people gave a valuable insight into the hugely positive impact of this service, which is clearly delivering against the NYTH/NEST principles of prioritising mental health and emotional well-being."

-Lynne Neagle, Deputy Minister for Well-being and Mental Health

VOLUNTEERING STRATEGY LAUNCH

Did you know that 5th December is International Volunteer Day?

In West Glamorgan we were thrilled to be able to mark the occasion by launching our new regional **Volunteering Strategy** ([click here to view](#)).

CYMORTH
GWIRFODDOLI
GORLLEWIN
MORGANNWG



WEST
GLAMORGAN
VOLUNTEERING
SUPPORT

The Strategy was developed as part of the **West Glamorgan Volunteering Support (WGVS)** project and is accompanied by a **Volunteering Strategy Principles** document which sets out how the region intends to work collaboratively to enrich the volunteering experience for everyone ([click here to view](#)).

The WGVS project was established thanks to investment from the Welsh Government's 'Coronavirus Recovery Grant for Volunteering'. Along with the Volunteering Strategy, a key deliverable has been the production of a series of resources, including toolkits and infosheets designed to aid volunteers and volunteer-involving organisations.

To find out more about WGVS and to access the resources, visit www.westglamorgan.org.uk/wgvs

AGEING WELL IN NEATH PORT TALBOT

A big part of our work involves connecting with our communities and forging positive and productive relationships with our partner organisations.

In previous editions of our Newsletter, we've touched on the fantastic work being undertaken by Swansea Council's 'Ageing Well' initiative, and how we've been able to join forces on a number of interactive engagement activities.

In this issue, we're very happy to be highlighting **'Ageing Well' Neath Port Talbot**, which is gathering some real momentum in the area thanks to Ageing Well Officer Dan Garnell (pictured) and his colleagues in Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.

Dan took up the role in May 2023 with the primary focus of gathering the thoughts and experiences of a broad range of local older people to determine the things that really matter to them.



'AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY' ASPIRATION

One of the aims of 'Ageing Well' Neath Port Talbot is to achieve official recognition as an 'Age-friendly Community' by the World Health Organisation.

"Neath Port Talbot is already known for being a welcoming and supportive environment for everyone who calls it home. Our plan is to harness this thriving community spirit. We have big plans for 2024 and are keen to link with the West Glamorgan team and other partners to advance the Ageing Well agenda across our region". - Dan Garnell

Huge strides have already been made in terms of the 'Ageing Well' remit, particularly in the area of dementia as the team have been instrumental in helping to establish the new 'Dementia Hwb' located in Aberafan Shopping Centre. Other planned work includes the development of a new Loneliness and Isolation Strategy - a vital topic, particularly in this post-pandemic climate.

We look forward to working jointly with all our 'Ageing Well' contacts as part of our new regional 'Communities and Older People' programme.

GET
IN
TOUCH



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PLAN WITH US!

The regional **Emotional and Mental Well-being Strategy** ([click here to view](#)) was launched last year, and now it's time to 'Turn Vision into Action' as we start planning the Strategy's implementation.

If you're interested in taking part, you can join members of the West Glamorgan team on **Friday 8th March in Swansea's National Waterfront Museum (10am - 12.30pm)**.

There's no need to book, just come along and help us identify our priorities for transforming emotional well-being and mental health support across our region.



CHEERS TO VOLUNTEERS!

Friday 12th January saw our team gather at Swansea.com Stadium for an informal get together with our brilliant West Glamorgan Volunteer Representatives.

We welcomed some new recruits towards the end of 2023, so the session gave everyone a chance to get to know each other and to find out about the regional work programmes and what's in store for 2024.

Lydia Harley, the **West Glamorgan Volunteer Representative Coordinator**, said:



West Glamorgan is a place where we pool our resources, ideas, and efforts to improve the lives of those receiving services. Volunteers provide broader perspectives and a greater understanding of what's needed to help our communities thrive. We're all working towards a shared vision and are here to support each other. Every volunteer has a unique insight and plays an integral role in this collaborative effort. Their dedication is what drives the positive change we aspire to achieve.



The session consisted of presentations which provided an overview of the partnership's work. Volunteers were also able to chat to staff and share feedback and suggestions via the interactive 'Talking Wall'.

Keep an eye out in the next edition of our newsletter for an update on the fantastic efforts of our Volunteer Representatives and to hear all about our plans for Volunteering Week (1-7 June).

KEEPING UP TO DATE



We were excited to kick off 2024 with the launch of our brand new **Joint Working Journal!**

Our new venture comes in the form of a short blog-style update which appears on our website shortly after every **West Glamorgan Steering and Advisory Board (SAB)** meeting.

New journal entries will be posted every three weeks or so, in line with the SAB meeting cycles.

Our first three entries are already live on our website (link below!). We'll still be producing this quarterly newsletter and continuing to grow our social media platforms (**@WGlamPship** on X and **West Glamorgan Regional Partnership** on Facebook - why not give us a follow?).

The Joint Working Journal is another way of highlighting our achievements and also sharing digital stories demonstrating the difference regional working is making to individuals and communities.

www.westglamorgan.org.uk/journal 

For more information on the West Glamorgan Regional Partnership, please email west.glamorgan@swansea.gov.uk or telephone 01792 633 805.

This newsletter is available in different formats - please contact us with details of your requirements.