



NEWSLETTER

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SPOTLIGHT ON LEARNING DISABILITY

REGIONAL STRATEGY PROMOTES INCLUSIVITY AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY

Welcome to this spring/summertime edition of the West Glamorgan Regional Partnership Newsletter!

In this issue we're pleased to bring you an item on the Regional Learning Disability Strategy, which was launched earlier this year following a series of engagement and co-production activities.

PRIORITY THEMES

The new strategy spans over a five year period and has been shaped by people with a learning disability, their families, carers and professionals working in the field.

Seven key priority themes were identified during the development phase, all based on what matters to people and the action needed to eliminate the barriers they face. These are:

- Transport
- Getting the right care and support
- My Community
- Lifelong Learning
- Jobs and Volunteering
- My Home
- Making my own decisions and having my say.



Continued overleaf...



LEARNING DISABILITY STRATEGY – CONTINUED...

The West Glamorgan 'Well-being and Learning Disability Programme Board' oversees the delivery of the Strategy, and the first step is to arrange a workshop on the key theme of 'Transport'.

This will see transport providers operating within our region come together with people with a Learning Disability to discuss accessibility issues and share ideas on how services can be improved (see page 3 for more details).

We'll update you on this programme of work and how the Strategy is making a difference in a future edition of the Newsletter.

English, Welsh and Easy Read copies of the Regional Learning Disability Strategy can be found on the 'Well-being and Learning Disability' page of our website ([click here to view](#)) or scan the QR code



"As Co-Chair of the Well-being and Learning Disability Programme Board, I am really pleased to see the recent launch of the Regional Learning Disability Strategy.

The Strategy and its implementation plan support the Programme Board's commitment to co-production principles and working in partnership with, listening to, respecting and supporting people with a Learning Disability in West Glamorgan."

Amy Hawkins, Swansea Council's Head of Adult Services and Tackling Poverty

MEET NEIL – A VOLUNTEER REPRESENTATIVE

To mark the launch of the Regional Learning Disability Strategy, we met with **Neil Williams**, one of our Volunteer Representatives on the 'Well-being and Learning Disability Board' to chat about his involvement with the Partnership...

Hi Neil 🙌 – tell us a bit about yourself...

Hello! I'm Neil and I live in the Resolven area of Neath Port Talbot. I work part time for **Your Voice Advocacy**, which is an organisation supporting people with a Learning Disability. I also volunteer with **Your Scene**, which is a charity that runs social activities for people with a Learning Disability living in our area.

I've just become a trustee and the chair of Your Scene. Between that and my role of West Glamorgan Volunteer Representative, I'm definitely keeping busy!

Do you enjoy what you do?

Absolutely! I enjoy attending the West Glamorgan meetings, and I've also just joined a Disability Network in Swansea.

Everything has been really good so far. I receive support to attend and participate in the West Glamorgan Board meetings, which has been really helpful as they cover a lot of information!

I also really value my free time. I like being with my wife Ann and we enjoy taking care of our animals – we have two dogs and 15 rabbits! I like to take the dogs out for walks, and sometimes Ann will come too.



Neil Williams

MEET NEIL – CONTINUED...

What is your favourite thing about volunteering with West Glamorgan?

Seeing you guys! I also like it when there's something that needs to be challenged. I have attended meetings before where there have been issues like people talking too quickly or too quietly. It's very important for meetings to be accessible – I like speaking up to make sure everyone is included and is able to provide feedback.

Is there anything you dislike about the volunteering role?

I'm not a big fan of Teams meetings. I prefer to meet face-to-face as you get the chance to chat to people before and after the meeting. It is useful to have people's names on the screen though as sometimes I forget what people are called!

The Well-being and Learning Disability Board is focusing on the theme of 'transport'. Why do you think it's important?

Public transport can be a real pain to use. I catch the bus often and it can be unreliable and confusing. They bring out new systems and ways to pay that make it hard for people to understand. I'm happy that the Board are looking at ways of making things better!

Big thanks to Neil for taking the time to speak to us! If you've been inspired to get involved in the Partnership as a Volunteer Representative, we'd love to hear from you!

Our contact details can be found at the end of this Newsletter.

TALKING TRANSPORT

As we've already highlighted, **'transport'** is a key priority for the West Glamorgan Well-being and Learning Disability Board.

On Tuesday 9th July (10am – 1pm), people with a Learning Disability are being invited to a workshop which will allow them to have their say on the challenges they face when using transport and make suggestions for improvements.

Representatives from transport companies and community transport schemes will be attending to talk about the services they provide and take questions.

INTERESTED IN ATTENDING?

The workshop will be held in Llys Nini Animal Centre, Penllergaer, Swansea, SA4 9WB. You can reserve a space by clicking [here](#) or scanning the QR code on the flyer to the right.

If you're unable to make it, you can still contribute by completing this online survey –

www.surveymonkey.com/r/VCM8M2X

The closing date for workshop reservations and the survey will be 10am on Tuesday 2nd July 2024.



The flyer features the logos for Partneriaeth Ranbarthol Gorllewin Morgannwg and West Glamorgan Regional Partnership at the top right. On the left, there is an illustration of a red double-decker bus, a black car, and a blue train. The main title is 'Learning Disability Transport Workshop'. Below this, it states: 'West Glamorgan Regional Partnership would like invite people with learning disabilities, transport companies and community transport schemes to our workshop.' It then says 'Come along to our workshop to:' followed by a list of topics: 'talk about the following topics: what would a good journey look like to you? what would help you feel more confident using public transport? what would help make public transport easier to use?' and 'speak to transport organisations and companies to find out about services and support available.' The date and time are listed as 'July 9 Tuesday 9th July 10.00AM - 1.00PM'. The location is 'Llys Nini Animal Centre, Penllergaer, Swansea SA4 9WB'. There is an image of a group of people sitting around a table. At the bottom, it says 'If you would like to attend, please reserve your space on Ticketsource by scanning the following QR Code. There is space on the form to note if you require transport' and includes a QR code with a 'SCAN ME' label.

HANNAH'S DAY IN DOWNING STREET!

You may already be aware of the fantastic work of the **Dementia Hwbs**, which support people living with Dementia across Swansea and Neath Port Talbot. This much valued initiative has been able to expand its reach thanks to 'Regional Integration Fund' (RIF) investment, administered by the West Glamorgan Regional Partnership.

It's fair to say the Dementia Hwbs' success would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the project's founder, **Hannah Davies** (pictured right in the obligatory No.10 door selfie!).

We were delighted to hear that Hannah's efforts had been recognised on a national scale as she was invited to attend a Downing Street reception arranged by the Dame Barbara Windsor Dementia Mission on 20th March this year.

Here's what she had to say about her experience of rubbing shoulders with the great and the good at this prestigious event:



"I was so honoured to receive this invitation- and what a day it turned out to be!

Walking along Whitehall I saw Hilda Hayo, CEO of Dementia UK and Chief Admiral Nurse and we happily chatted whilst we waited to be let through the airport style security system. Once through the gates clutching our paper invitations and photo ID, we were told to stroll down to the big black door and just give a knock. The No. 10 resident cat, Larry, welcomed us through the window and we headed inside.

A short walk along the corridor before I ascended the yellow staircase with the black and white pictures of all the previous Prime Ministers, just like it is in the film 'Love Actually'.

I resisted the urge to break into a dance, although I admit that the song 'Jump' by the Pointer Sisters was loudly playing inside my head!

The next two hours were filled with speeches, canapes, mugs of tea and conversations with some of the most interesting people I could ever hope to meet. The husband and wife who have set up the WalkWyse charity, the Mental Health advocate from Scotland, the respite charity founder from Bristol, the English cricketer who is on a mission to use his sport to spread awareness, the drug company manager who had flown over from Japan for the day for discussions on licencing their product.

The only other Welsh person I found amongst the 150 guests was from the North Wales Carers Trust run Dementia Centre. All too soon the mugs were collected, and people were gathering their belongings by the front door and we headed back out into the Spring sunshine. I realised I had been floating for two hours and was grateful that Larry came for a stroke to help my feet touch the ground again after such an inspirational afternoon".



Congratulations, Hannah - you've already achieved so much, and we can't wait to see what the future holds for the Dementia Hwbs!

HUB CAPITAL WORKSHOP

27th March saw a range of stakeholders come together at the Swansea.com Stadium for the first West Glamorgan Hub Capital Workshop.

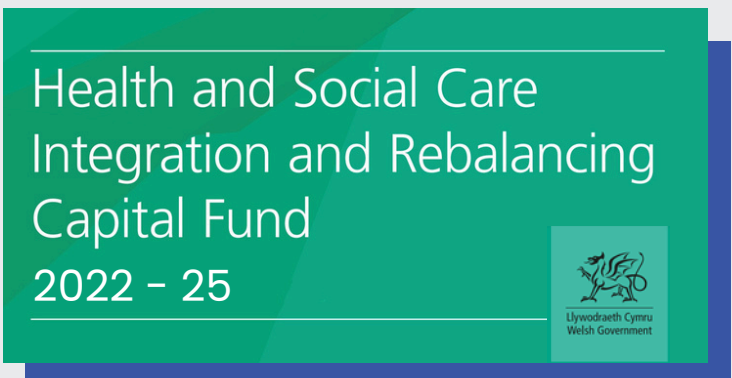
The aim of the session was to consider the provisions of the Welsh Government's **Integration and Rebalancing Capital Fund**, which has been established to facilitate the co-location and integration of health and social care services.

Participants exchanged ideas and insights, emphasising their shared commitment to addressing community needs and considering the practicalities of the proposed collaborative approach.

The session included presentations from Ifor Glyn (*Chief Executive Swansea Carers Centre*) and Rebecca Hooper (*Capital Planning Lead, Cardiff and Vale Regional Partnership Board*), sparking engaging discussions on community development.

Looking to the future, the Capital Team here at West Glamorgan plan to use the information gathered at the workshop to strengthen the Strategic Capital Plan and devise a proposed approach for hub developments.

We look forward to updating you on the progress of this work in a future edition of our Newsletter.



FLYING THE FLAG FOR PRIDE!

We were thrilled to participate in **Swansea Pride** for the very first time this year, and it was an incredible experience!

Our information stall attracted a lot of interest, and we were delighted to have the opportunity to engage with so many enthusiastic and supportive members of the community.

It was also great to see representation from so many of our fellow health and social care-focused organisations.

The vibes were immaculate, and we had a fabulous time connecting with you all!



We're already planning how we can make things even better for 2025, including exploring the possibility of attending **Neath Port Talbot Pride** too. We're in talks with the organisers who did a fantastic job with this year's event. It's going from strength to strength, and we love to see it!

Thanks again to everyone involved in making this year's Pride season such a success. We look forward to continuing our journey in promoting equality, diversity and inclusion across our region and beyond.

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.