

Annual Report 2018-2019



Digartref

Supporting People – Improving Lives

Celebrating 21 years

Chief Executive's Report



Welcome to Digartref Cyf's 2018/19 Annual report. The report provides an overview of the vital work the homeless charity has undertaken over the last 12 months.

2019 heralds the 21st birthday of the charity, and as part of our celebrations, a target was set for 'Friends of Digartref' to raise £21,000 by the end of January 2020. During the year, staff, volunteers and service users have been reaching out to the community and getting involved in a range of fundraising activities to support this initiative.

The response and support received from private businesses, schools, community groups and individuals has been overwhelming, with over £14,000 having been raised so far. A big thank you to all those who have supported this initiative.

As I outlined in last year's annual report, by September 2018, Digartref were noting a substantial increase in demand for the Lighthouse Day Centre service, based in Holyhead. I can now report accurately that we saw a 30% increase in the number of people accessing this provision for housing and homelessness related support.

In 2017/18, 67 individual people accessed the Lighthouse. Over the 2018/19 period this had increased to 94 people, nearly a 30% increase on the previous year.

Of these 94:

80 were male and 14 female

60 people or (87%) reported they were rough sleeping

In relation to age: 23 were between the ages of 18 to 25, 32 were between the ages of 26 to 40, 27 between the ages of 40 to 54, 10 between the ages of 55 to 69, 2 were over the age of 70.

The increases in numbers show no sign of stabilising or reducing. For the period April 2019 to end of August 2019, the numbers accessing the Lighthouse has reached 47, up by 11 on the previous April to August period.

Responding positively to this continued homelessness trend, Digartref are taking forward plans to develop a Homeless Hub in Holyhead that will incorporate a new and improved day centre, with additional staff to allow for a higher level of support for those requiring related services.

Over the next 12 months, we will seek to access capital and revenue funding and work to bring together external services that can deliver much needed support to our beneficiaries within the Hub. Additionally, we will be ensuring the staff structure required is available to meet fully the needs of those experiencing homelessness. The overall aim will be to provide a comprehensive and holistic homelessness prevention service within one Hub. The 21st birthday celebration funding raised so far will assist us greatly in meeting this aim.

Digartref Cyf have also been successful in securing funding to deliver two new services, both of which commenced after April 2019.

- Supported by the Area Planning Board, Digartref will be working as partners with the Substance Misuse Harm Reduction team, providing an outreach service across Gwynedd and Ynys Mon ensuring those in some of the more rural and hard to reach areas have access to a range of advice, information and onward referral services relating to housing and homelessness, including welfare benefits, access to rough sleeper packs etc.
- Funded under the Welsh Governments Innovation Fund, and aiming to assist in addressing Youth Homelessness, the service, 'Llety Pontio,' commenced in July. The service will work closely with private landlords in providing 12 week temporary accommodation in 4 properties, to young people aged 16 to 24, in need of support. In addition, the project will assist young people to access more permanent move-on accommodation. This service will run until the end of March 2020.

The achievements and positive impact the work of the charity has made on people's lives would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of our staff, volunteers, trustees and the support of funders and the wider community. I would like to sincerely thank everyone for making the last 12 months another successful year as we seek always to alleviate homelessness.

Treasurer's Report

During the year end 31 March 2019, the charity's net assets reduced from £920000 to £900000. Whilst a reduction in performance was expected due to a reduction in SPPG grants and an increase in staff salaries, the other main factor to be considered is the increase in the pension scheme deficit, recognised in the balance sheet from £164000 to £196000. This deficit figure is calculated annually by independent actuaries, and while regular contributions are made every month to reduce the deficit over time, it can still increase in the short term due to conditions outside the company's control.



Ignoring the pension, the underlying performance was still positive and is expected to remain so in the current year.



The other main feature of these accounts was the acquisition of the Holyhead Enterprise Centre property, utilising some of the company's cash reserves and a bank loan of £75000. This should have a positive impact on the Charity's



performance due to the saving in rent costs, even before considering the prospect of being able to improve and develop the building in order to provide new and more efficient services. Grant funding is now being sought for this purpose.



Overall the Charity remains confident in its ability to maintain and expand its operations profitably due to its staff and financial stability.

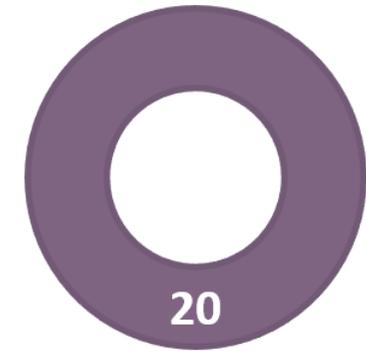
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2019

| | | |
|---|---|-----------------|
| <u>2018</u> | | |
| <u>FIXED ASSETS</u> | | |
| 531866 | Tangible Assets | 652941 |
| <u>CURRENT ASSETS</u> | | |
| 557176 | Cash at Bank and in Hand | 554008 |
| 43695 | Debtors and Prepayments | 36000 |
| <u>600871</u> | | <u>590008</u> |
| <u>CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</u> | | |
| 20839 | Sundry Creditors | 18844 |
| 27399 | Accruals and Deferred Income | 53229 |
| --- | Loans | 9026 |
| <u>48238</u> | | <u>81099</u> |
| <u>552633</u> | <u>NET CURRENT ASSETS</u> | 508909 |
| <u>CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR</u> | | |
| 1084499 | Loans | 1161850 |
| --- | | 65974 |
| | | <u>1095876</u> |
| 164000 | <u>PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES AND CHARGES</u> | 196000 |
| <u>£920,499</u> | | <u>£899,876</u> |
| 550508 | <u>UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS</u> | 548329 |
| 369991 | <u>RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS</u> | 351547 |
| <u>£920,499</u> | | <u>£899,876</u> |

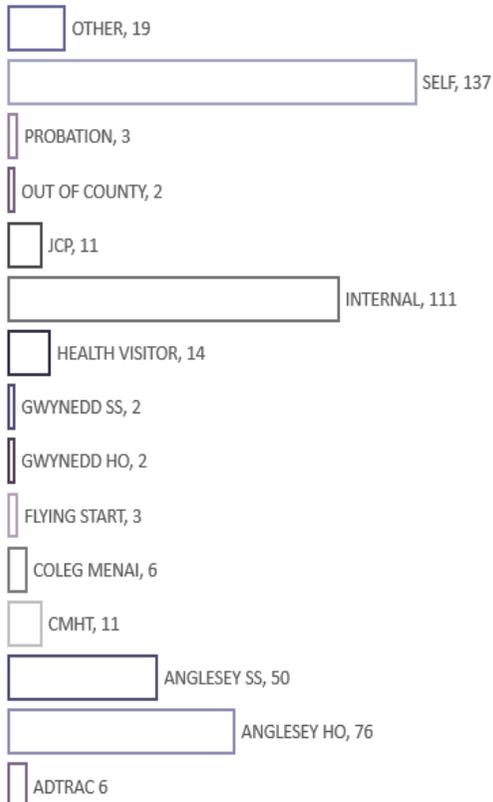
Statistics



ROUGH SLEEPER PACKS DISTRIBUTED



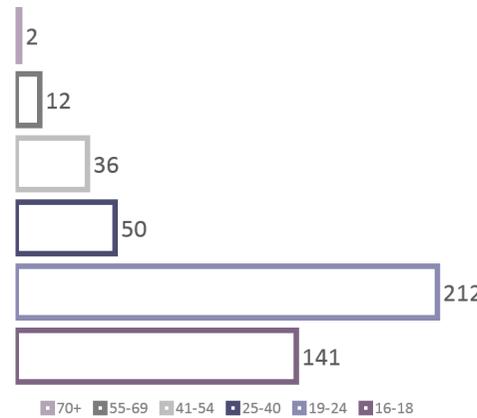
REFERRING AGENCIES



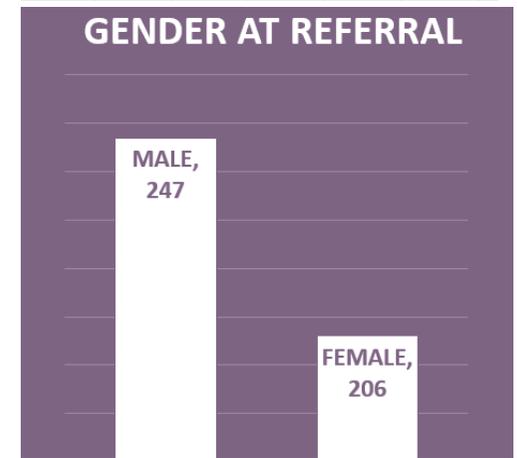
LEARN4LIFE



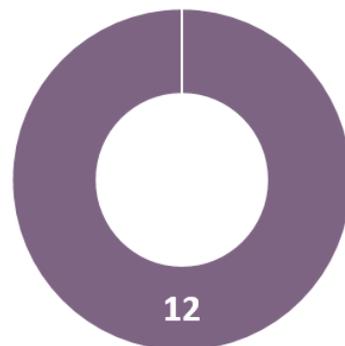
AGE AT REFERRAL



GENDER AT REFERRAL



VOLUNTEERS RECRUITED



MEDIATION & FAMILY LED INTERVENTION



Supported Housing

In July, Young people from Coedlys attended the NHS Mental Health awareness event, held at the beautiful village of Portmeirion. After attending workshops and getting involved in some fun activities, the young people then had a stunning lunch in the main hotel. In the afternoon they all had a tour of the village followed by Ice creams!!



Congratulations Ash!!

Whilst at Coedlys, Ash dreamt of having a career in outdoor activities but struggled to know how to move forward with it. Due to the support from Coedlys, Ash gained the skills and confidence to start thinking about applying. Ash then came across an opportunity that would change his life, working as an outdoor instructor, with training and accommodation. Ash had to attend 3 interviews before he successfully got the job at Kingswood Outdoor Centre in Doncaster. Ash was nervous for his interview but this did not stop him, on his first interview he had to do a presentation and he was the first one to get up and do this in front of 70 young people that tried for the job and out of that 70 Ash was one of ten that got the job!



Z Case Study.

Z was originally referred to Llys y Gwynt and received floating support which helped him to gain a tenancy, due to a relationship breakdown with his father. Z presented with low confidence and self-esteem issues, and was often exploited by peers. Z was befriended by local drug dealers who took over his flat. Z was easily influenced by these people and was often led astray which resulted in him using cannabis heavily. These 'friends' of Z eventually set fire to the bathroom at his flat, resulting in Z being evicted immediately. This would now be recognised as "cuckooing" and would likely have resulted in more support instead of an eviction.

Z moved into Llys y Gwynt following his eviction. Z was receiving no benefits and was kicked off his course at Coleg Menai, after completing two years of a three year course. Z was still using cannabis heavily and continued to be vulnerable to exploitation due to his past. Z struggled to maintain his benefits due to the continuous cannabis use combined with lack of engagement and motivation. Additionally, Z continued to be exploited and influenced by others as he allowed other residents to drink alcohol and smoke cannabis in his room at Llys y Gwynt. This led to Z going through the warning process and was at risk of losing his tenancy at Llys y Gwynt.

With intensive tailored support, Z appeared to turn a corner and began to improve. Z attended inspire sessions and improved at maintaining his accommodation with good behaviour and paying his utilities, as well as keeping his benefits intact. Z's confidence also began to improve along with his engagement. This progression allowed for Z to be moved into move on accommodation in early 2018.

However, Z began to quickly regress back to his old patterns of behaviour, allowing other residents and people to drink alcohol and smoke cannabis at his property. Z found it very difficult to say no to people. Z recognised this, and moved back into Llys y Gwynt in late 2018. Z's assistant support worker met with Z two to three times a week which significantly helped him. Z completed and received an IB request for running shoes to allow him to go running. Z's assistant support worker would go running with him often which transformed Z's outlook, allowing him to regain his confidence. Z was engaging well, and his rent account was kept up to date. Z also began attending inspire sessions on a 1:1 basis, further improving his skills and confidence and he significantly reduced his use of cannabis.

Eventually, Z created a C.V and took it to many local garages in an attempt to gain employment and support in completing his level college course. Z received a call back from a local garage offering him a month's trial which he accepted. As a result of this, Z gained a place back in college and secured employment. Z moved out of Llys y Gwynt to live with his mother in Holyhead in May 2019, until he finds his own tenancy. Z regularly visits Llys y Gwynt and speaks to staff. Z is doing very well and is now optimistic and looking forward to his future.

Case Study – V

V was referred to Llys y Gwynt at the age of 16, due to family breakdown. V first moved into Llys y Gwynt then proceeded to move on accommodation after only 4 months. This was because of the progress he made in reaching his goals. During V's stay in the projects, he succeeded in completing his sixth form education and gained the necessary qualifications to study at University. V was supported in completing applications for student finance in order to gain the necessary funding for him to be able to complete his degree.

V contributed largely to his political party and committed his spare time to campaigning around the community. Additionally, V became a member of the youth section of his political party during which he gained a highly responsible role. To this day, V continues his hard work with this political party. V also became a union representative and would often travel to Cardiff to attend conferences.

In preparation for his time at University, V decided to look for a part time job. In order to improve his job prospects, V undertook training to become qualified as door security staff. Consequently, this shows how V thought responsibly and prepared for his future.

Nearing the end of his stay, V began to build a relationship with his family. This allowed V to be able to begin his new journey with a positive outlook. During V's stay, he showed excellence in maintaining his accommodation through keeping the property to a good standard of cleanliness and tidiness. V also succeeded in paying his bills on a regular basis.

V was very thankful for the support he received during his stay. V continues to succeed and do well and keeps in touch with the project, updating us on his progress.



A resident from Coedlys was really interested in mechanics and hoped to gain employment in a garage in the Amlwch area, however, he would have to rely on public transport which would cause barriers due to the lack of busses traveling in the mornings.

The resident discussed this with his key worker who made a request to IB for his theory and practical CBT test.



Ella felt very proud of herself after our radio interview with Mon FM.

Ella was extremely nervous about doing the interview but

she didn't let this stop her!

Ella spoke well during the interview and gave the listeners all the information about our community event that she had been busy planning with the other young people, the community event was a success as 90 people turned up!!



On the 28th of March 2019, a trip was arranged to **Go Below**, an underground adventure centre in Betws y Coed. Five residents from the project attended the trip along with two staff members.

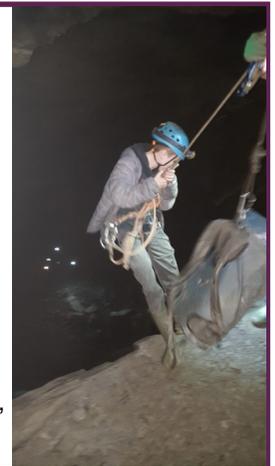
The activities included zip lining, abseiling, boating, climbing and traversing in underground caves. This activity enabled the residents to develop many skills such as confidence, working as a team and health & fitness. Additionally, the residents had the opportunity to develop team building as they worked together to overcome and pass obstacles on the course. Some of the residents also took this activity as an opportunity to overcome their fears. An example of this was shown as one resident helped another in overcoming their fear of heights through supporting them and reassuring them.

Positive feedback was received after the trip as seen in the quotes below:

"Brilliant day. Was good that staff got involved with us and we all had a laugh"

"I never thought I'd have confidence to do something like that. It was something really different and had a really good time"

"I was very scared of heights before doing Go Below. Now I feel a bit more confident and would try it again to get even better"



G Achievement.

G has been at Llys y Gwynt for approximately 15 months, during which she has accomplished a lot and gained many achievements. For example, before moving into Llys y Gwynt, G was a year behind at school and had to complete an additional year. Since then, G has engaged well with her education and is currently awaiting her A Level results. G has also received a conditional offer for University to study English, which will be confirmed if she gets the expected grades. Currently, G is working on passing her theory driving test supported by Digartref.

G regularly volunteers at a local shop to gain experience of working and various skills for life and employment. Also, in her spare time G often participates in pageants locally as well as in other areas.

Additionally, G has been successful in arranging many fundraising events to raise money for Digartref and other community projects. These events included bag packing at Tesco, a cake decorating class and various raffles. G also volunteered in helping staff arrange a garden party at Llys y Gwynt last summer which was a successful event. Recently, G also participated in the community voice project as well as the Llaingoch horticultural show in which she entered with her photography.

Here at Llys y Gwynt we decided to take on our biggest project yet! After much planning and fundraising we started on our gardening project in the spring. What to do and where to start!

Residents decided that they would like raised beds for veg so they still had some garden to chill and chat. The raised beds were built, compost ordered and seeds waiting in the wings. Thank you to Grwp Cynefin for the grant towards this.

Two residents put in the back breaking work of filling the beds and a great job they did too. With the help of our local Soroptimists things started to come together. Soon, all the residents were wandering into the garden; first to look, then to help.

The residents took pride in their work and needed little encouragement to go into the garden to do the weeding and watering. Even staff took their turn. Soon, sprouts were coming up all over the place; with residents deciding which veg was theirs, what they could cook with it and what winter veg to plant.

Harvest time came around and residents took their pick of what they wanted. Staff supported with cooking sessions with the most delicious veg, and all residents loved the labor of their hard work. They harvested; cauliflower, broccoli, broad beans, potatoes, courgettes, pumpkins, and lettuce.

The surplus was blanched and frozen ready for Christmas dinner and the rest was sold to staff and visitors to fund next year's seeds. Everyone really enjoyed the produce.

The garden project was a massive success all the resident's participated in some way to make the garden bloom.

Feedback from the residents:

'I love it out here' 'I like to come and potter it takes mind of things' 'staff can fill the beds next time lol' 'I can't believe we got these to grow' 'tastes better than the shops'



Floating Support

Congratulations to Sophie Russell who was successful in winning the Promoting Independence Award 2018 – ‘Personal Achievement Award’

She has overcome some tremendous barriers in her life and has not let them hold her back; her drive and her motivation have been flawless, she is now running her own little business and is doing very well.

Unfortunately Sophie was unable to attend the awards due to childcare issues but the young people who attended had an amazing time.

Sophie was over the moon to hear the good news and has also been nominated for ‘Welsh Nail Technician of the year’. Sophie has done amazing and should be very proud.



‘We have really enjoyed it Thank you’

‘What a fab idea using this room (leisure centre hall) nothing seems to ever go on’

*‘Mmmm that is lush what it is’
(child trying mango for the first time)*

‘My children have had the best time thank you’

‘Baby shark is a massive hit’

‘Love the healthy table great idea’

‘How will we find out if you do anything else we would really like’

‘This is amazing and I recommend you apply again as your application is one of the best we have seen’ (mon cf)

Floating Support Community Day – October 2018

Applications for funding were submitted and were successful.

Funding was sourced from Gwirvol and Mon CF.

The event was planned, organised and facilitated by a group of young people using the services of Digartref. They planned, booked, managed the finances and facilitated the whole day working well as a team.

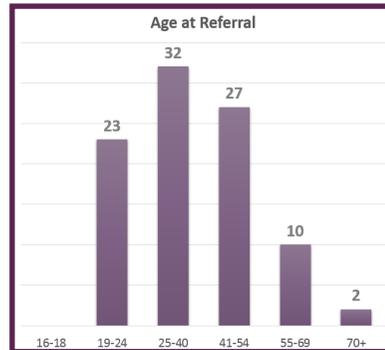
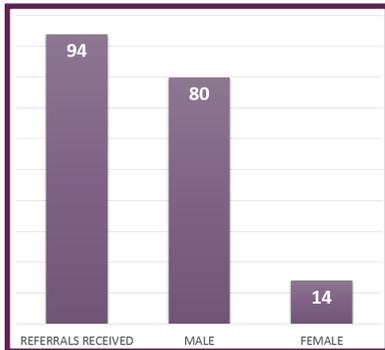
They agreed a theme for the event, ‘health and wellbeing’, and was held in October at the Holyhead Leisure centre. It was a Great success and enjoyed by all who attended, in total we had over 90 attendees this was measured by giving out a raffle ticket and then there was a free prize draw at the end of the event and no one left empty handed.

Young people involved showed great commitment and did fantastic organising the event we even had an appearance of the famous ‘Baby Shark’. And the healthy food table was enjoyed and had some new tastes for the children.

All the young people received a ‘Participation certificate’ and a treat out for a meal at Harvey’s.



Lighthouse Day Centre



Rough Sleeper
Packs
Distributed
20

Volunteers
Recruited
12

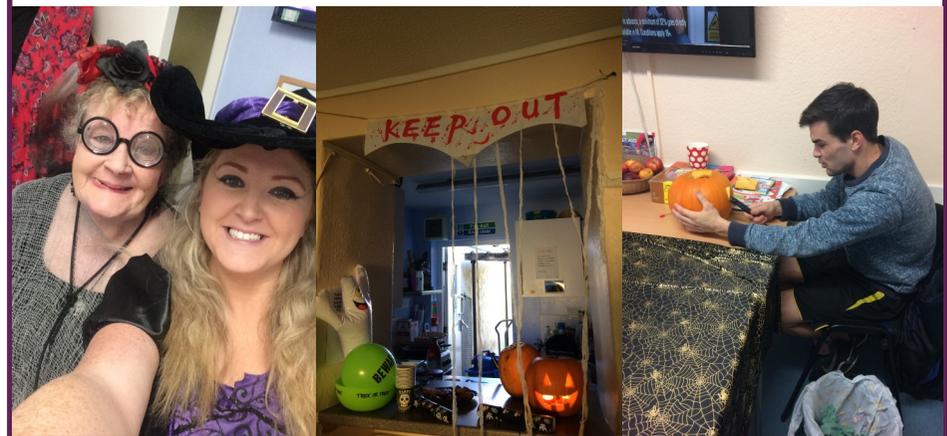
Case Study

- Re-referral – 26 Year Old Male
- Completed Day Centre referral form
- Living in temporary accommodation due to relationship breakdown
- Has a Life medical condition
- Supported to change address for universal credits
- Given hot meal and drinks
- Moved into own tenancy
- Supported to appointment in Parc Menai by Digartref Staff.
- Supported by the Day Centre to go to the J E OToole Centre for assessment with benefits.
- Calls made to Service User by the Day Centre whilst he was in hospital for welfare check.
- Staff of Digartref visited Service User in Hospital.
- Supported by staff at the Day Centre to apply for an Emergency DAF payment as he had no Gas
- Service User attended workshops through Digartref.
- Supported by staff at The Day Centre to apply for jobs.
- Service User had a loan from Digartref for travel fare to start a new job.
- SPOA form regarding support in maintaining tenancy
- Accesses Day Centre for Support Session with Key Worker of Digartref

Halloween at the Day Centre

Staff, Volunteers and Service Users at the Lighthouse Day Centre were busy getting into the Halloween spirit this year.

Konnor was busy pumpkin carving, and Lucy and Linda were very creative in the kitchen making punch & gooey eye balls, a pumpkin soup, Toffee apples and chocolate flapjacks and lollies.



Learn 4 Life

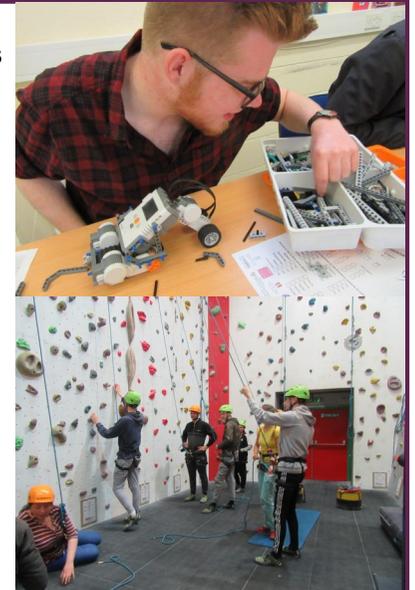
Agored Accredited sessions, which take place weekly at the Enterprise Centre, have been well-attended by the young people from Llŷs y Gwynt, Coedlys and Floating Support. The aims of the programme are to increase tenancy skills, self-confidence and employability. This is done by regular group sessions, which are delivered by Digartref staff as well as a range of external partner agencies such as North Wales Wildlife Trust and Alcohol Youth Outreach. The project aims to increase self-confidence through supporting the young people to try new things for example, conservation work and woodwork, and develop new skills. It also helps provide a routine ad structure to the week.

Tenancy skills such as interacting with neighbours, what to do in the case of a power cut and how to manage tenancy administration. In addition the young people are supported to develop a CV, for which the certificates earned on Inspire are particularly valuable for the large number of young people staying with us who did not have the chance to complete their education at 16.

One young person, T.R., who attended regularly, pictured in a STEM session, gained employment in a garage shop via inspire, he was disappointed due to an injury he was not able to take this, but this taste of success then motivated him to get back to work, which he has done in another garage in Llangefni.

Various 'reward' activities also serve to increase confidence and motivation, such as the climbing session pictured. The young person J.A., pictured climbing, has also successfully, following becoming a very proud dad, gone on into employment in a Care home which he finds very rewarding, as well as working out regularly in the gym to keep in shape.

Learn4Life staff have also reported an increase in the number of one-to-one sessions with young people. These are necessary for some young people to help build self-belief and/or alleviate anxiety, before the young person feels confident to engage in the group sessions. This can be particularly the case for young people who may have had negative school experiences and are wary of classroom based activities. However for many jobs formal qualifications are necessary, which usually entails formal training. For practically all jobs, the confidence to interact and communicate with others is essential in ensuring success. The one-to-ones and the Inspire group sessions provide a supportive environment for the young people to develop abilities, skills and confidence to progress to the next stage of their life. In addition, the programme includes subjects such as managing emotions which are not always appropriate in a group. Feedback from the young people has all been very positive and they have really benefited from the one-to-ones for emotional management and the group sessions for learning tenancy and work-related skills.



Advice & Resettlement

Case Study for Over 25's 1-2-1

Background to the case

- Male, 26 years old
- In past has worked with Digartref Supported Accommodation, Wallich and is currently working with CAIS
- Currently in CAIS property and has received a Section 21: Notice to Quit due to non-engagement and Health and Safety of property
- Mental Health and Physical health issues
- Lived in own tenancy 3 times

Worked carried out with the young person

- Re-engaged with GP around Mental Health and Physical health Issues
- Accessed Homeless & Housing Assessment with Anglesey County Council
- Accessed Shelter Cymru for support around Section 21: Notice to Quit
- Accessed DHP for support with rent in advance and deposit
- Supported to gain copy of birth certificate
- Issues in CAIS property regarding untidiness and collection of rubbish
- Supported him to re-engage with CAIS Worker

Outcomes achieved for young person

- Been placed back on medication for Mental Health and physical health issues
- Regular appointment with GP and being supported to attend appointments
- Shelter Cymru supporting him to fight his eviction notice
- Supported to view suitable affordable properties
- Completed a Housing Application with Anglesey County Council
- Made claim for ESA with support from worker
- Extended his Notice to Quit to avoid him rough sleeping in the area

Mediation and Family Led Intervention

The service delivers a number of intervention programmes including mediation, the parenting programme Escape, Parallel Lines a young person's communication programme and Seasons for Growth again for young people to help them in dealing with emotions and bereavement and loss.

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p>Mediation Referrals Received</p> <p>46</p> <p>Mediation Sessions Attended</p> <p>11</p> | <p>Seasons4Growth Referrals Received</p> <p>16</p> <p>Seasons4Growth Attendees</p> <p>9</p> | <p>Parallel Lines Referrals Received</p> <p>22</p> <p>Parallel Lines Attendees</p> <p>11</p> | <p>ESCAPE Referrals Received</p> <p>32</p> <p>ESCAPE Attendees</p> <p>13</p> |
|--|---|--|--|

Case Study

There was one particular young person who took part in the Parallel Lines Workshop who greatly benefitted from the workshop. J, 12 years of age, had been exposed to the separation of his parents, who regularly argued in front of him. This made J act out at home and at school, where J was regularly punished at school for his behaviour with suspensions or detention. J found himself getting involved with the 'wrong crowd' at school, with a group of boys that were much older than him. When J was first visited, he was very quiet and demanding at home with his father. Each week, a worker would go pick J up from his home after school, and bring him to the workshop, before taking him home again after the workshop. Conversation was very limited during the first week, and J did not engage much during the PL session. During the second week, J did start to open up about his day etc, where most of his conversation revolved around what he did negatively at school, or the trouble he was getting into with his friends. He discussed these situations with a grin on his face, in a boasting way that he clearly found entertaining. As the weeks went on, J was full of conversation. The fourth week of the workshop, J was being taken home, and he was slightly quieter than usual. 'Ripples of Consequence' had been discussed during the session. J was asked if he was OK, and he said that he enjoyed the session today as it made him realise a lot of things that he may do or get himself involved in have consequences not only to himself, but to his family also. J opened up about an opportunity he had to seek counselling when his parents separated but he did not take it seriously. He asked the worker if it was possible if she could help him get back into counselling, as he has realised he had some anger issues that he did not understand and did not want to entertain any longer. J stated that he did not want to be involved with the group of older boys he was friends with any more, and did not want to cause any problems at home with his father. The worker spoke with his father later that evening, and they were able to arrange extra support for J from external agencies as he had requested. J completed the course and completed the evaluation form.

In J's evaluation before he started the workshop, he stated that the changes he would make to his family and himself would be to "speak without arguing". He also stated that if something goes wrong, he "gets mad". J wishes after completing the workshop was "to be able to speak with family about things and not argue", and "to be able to communicate well".

In J's evaluation after the workshop, he stated the differences the workshop had made to his life: "It's made a difference in the way I communicate with my parents/family and has made me be able to not argue in conversations". J also ticked the 'a lot' boxes to outcomes such as, improvement in engaging in education, improvement in self-esteem/motivation and improved skills to manage relationships.

When discussing his attendance on the workshop with his father, his father stated that he is much better behaved at home, arguments have decreased, listening first or second time, helps around the house occasionally and he does not demand things as he used to. He has also opened up a lot more to his father about the difficulties he faces.

By now, J has been referred by his GP to access CAHMS as he requested with the help of his father. He has also expressed an interest in our 'Seasons for Growth' Workshop in the next few months so he can explore his emotions around the separation of his parents.

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

At the end of November, Digartref released a public appeal for donations of Christmas Shoe Boxes for those who are homeless (including rough sleepers, sofa surfers, those living in temporary accommodation etc...)

The response received from the public was unbelievable, with over 100 boxes received.

The boxes included;

- hats, gloves, socks,
- food,
- drinks,
- toiletries,
- sweet treats,
- thermal flasks,
- books etc...



Christmas Eve Food Hamper Appeal

On Christmas Eve, Digartref staff and community volunteers including staff from other agencies gathered at the Ebenezer Centre in Llangefni, to prepare and distribute Christmas Food Hampers to vulnerable families and individuals on Anglesey. Approximately 150 hampers were delivered, including gifts for children.

We would like to thank all the local individuals, shops and supermarkets for their very generous donations towards these hampers.



#iwill

Hostel Sweet Hostel

During workshops in the spring of 2018 the #iwill team became interested in the subject of stigma and in particular the stigma regarding youth homelessness. They decided that they wanted to address this by making a film to tell their stories, to talk candidly about living in supported accommodation and raise awareness about youth homelessness.

They sent a pitch for a short film to Cardiff based Production Company It's My Shout and after a nerve wracking group interview in the BBC building were lucky enough to have their pitch selected! The group were paired with BBC film maker Amy Cuff who visited us in Holyhead several times to help fine tune the production and ensure the film told a story the young people could be really proud of.

The film crew arrived in Llys y Gwynt in December for a couple of days intensive filming. Staff and service users did a fantastic job, giving funny and heart felt interviews about how it really feels to live and work in supported accommodation.

In February, the group had the opportunity to attend a really exciting film premiere in Cardiff, where they saw their film on the big screen, met film producers and TV executives as well as seeing the other 3 films that were produced as part of the It's My Shout Short Film Series. It was an emotional experience and the group felt really proud of their film and were a bit overwhelmed by all the positive feedback.

The film, Hostel Sweet Hostel was aired on BBC 2 in March 2018 and has had a fantastic response; it's even been used as a teaching resource in Coleg Menai and at a Cymorth Cymru event.

