

FFORWM CYMRU / FORUM WALES

Newyddion o'r Fforwm Cymru Cychin Ddiort a Gofalwyr

The Newsletter of the All Wales Forum of Parents & Carers

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AUTUMN 1998

A Message from the Chair

The All Wales Forum has arrived! Not only has the Welsh Office "put its money where its mouth is" but we now have a Newsletter and this is Issue No.1. At the time of writing we are waiting to hear about on-going funding but we are optimistic. Additionally our first major conference on 25 March 1998 and entitled 'The All Wales Strategy and The Future' was very well attended. I, as Chairman, and other members of the Management Committee have long believed firmly in the need for the Forum and in its aims and objectives. The Welsh Office has supported us 'verbally' and by assisting us to meet the Minister in each of the last four years; but we have always struggled without dedicated and funded administrative and development support. What a difference some financial backing makes!

Parent/carer groups throughout Wales are, I am sure committed to full participation in their local authority mechanisms for planning management and monitoring of services as without it there can be no certainty that services are needs-lead. Complete openness in discussion on all sides helps to ensure that good decisions - even through sometimes unpopular - are made and better understood. Through our conference and in our continuing dialogue with the Minister as well as in meetings on a more local basis we aim to make known and keep known at all levels the concerns of parents and informal carers for the needs and wants of those for whom they care.

NORBERT FLYNN
Chair

All Wales Forum Conference PARENTS IN PLANNING - PERSON CENTRED OUTCOMES



In March, over 100 parents and carers together with professionals in the multi disciplinary services for people with learning disability throughout Wales, attended the first conference of the All Wales Forum.

John Carter of the Welsh Office reaffirmed the three original principles with continuing emphasis on a planned and co-ordinated approach both at local and national levels by means of a partnership with statutory agencies/voluntary sector and the individuals supported by parent/carers.

He outlined the achievements over the past fifteen years and went on to stress opportunities across a range of activities including the new proposals on "Welfare to Work"; education in mainstream schools; an on-going review of benefit systems; and the continuation of transfer of people from long-stay hospitalisation to living through appropriate support in the community, emphasising the dignity and self respect of individuals.

The guest speaker Lynne Rucker of Rucker Associates in the USA and a consultant with the National Development Team in the UK shared her broad knowledge and experience relating to Planning for Person Centred Outcomes.

She explained the important value of stakeholders taking the lead in the planning of services in which the gaps and issues are identified so that policies can be established and then built upon to create best practice outcomes.

The stakeholders are people with disabilities, family members/carers and service providers working together in the participatory planning process through which decisions can be made for an agreed outcome. The Plan should contain the following elements - strategic, educational, persuasive and developmental, as well as analysis of individual needs relating to behavioural and counselling, physical and nutritional support, together with health and medical support.

The outcome of the Plan should focus and support people with developmental disabilities to experience ordinary life in the community - an *ordinary life* as defined by each person but which might include - family and friends, control and choice, arts, recreation and leisure, membership and responsibility, work and economic security, home and privacy, spirituality and worship.

During the afternoon Group Discussion focused upon issues across a broad range of topics relating to people with learning disabilities and their parents/carers. The report back sessions illustrated the All Wales Strategy enshrined the main principles for the development of services and the Person Centred Outcomes was a goal to be achieved. Although there is clearly a great deal of disparity throughout Wales relating to information, communication, service provision it was possible to find a consensus regarding best practice and forward planning.

John Carter acknowledged that the Welsh Office valued the contribution of the All Wales Forum and suggested that it should now work through its membership structure to identify a consensus of priorities for the Forum to pursue.

Parents/Carers and Professionals valued the opportunity for open discussion and the conference proved to be a successful event.

What the Minister said . . .

Last year representatives of the All Wales Forum met with Mr. Win Griffiths, the then Under-Secretary of State for Wales, and discussed issues relating to parents and carers throughout Wales.

AWFPC expressed concern about the lack of strategic targets and goals relating to the problem of an increasing number of elderly parents who have a son/daughter with learning disabilities was becoming more prevalent and there was no guidance to deal with this. Mr. Griffiths stated the Strategy would continue although the original impetus had slowed down and also stated the Welsh Office was planning a joint conference with SCOVO in September 1998 to discuss Strategy issues. AWFPC raised concerns about the perceived loss or diminution of parent/carer participation in joint planning mechanisms following Local Government reorganisation. In response, Mr. Griffiths stated the Welsh Office intended to issue guidance on social care planning and undertook to write to all local

authorities stressing the importance of consultation and parental participation in social care planning. AWFPC expressed concern about the adequacy of funding for resettlement schemes and that progress was not quick enough. Mr. Griffiths drew attention to his announcement of modest additional funding to aid the resettlement of 16 individuals from Bryn y Neuadd but in the case of Llanfrehfa Grange the delay was due to the resistance of relatives. He stressed the government remains committed to the concept of resettlement although he agreed the implementation of the programme had slowed due to a variety of factors. However, he was keen to see that all resettlement was accompanied by appropriate support in the community although he recognised that many of those still in hospital had severe disabilities and were among the most difficult to resettle. AWFPC was pleased at the Ministerial announcement that full transfer of Mental Handicap Strategy funds to

Revenue Settlement would be deferred until an appropriate formula had been devised. Mr. Griffiths explained that this would involve discussion with the Welsh Local Government Association to consider the possibility of phasing the transfer over a number of years. The final point AWFPC raised with the Minister was concern about the financial impact on existing shared housing projects on the change from the Special Needs Management Allowance to the Supported Housing Revenue Grant. Mr. Griffiths responded by stating his decision to transfer money from the General Housing Budgets to the Mental Handicap Strategy at a level which would ensure the total amount of funding for existing projects would remain as under the current year's transitional arrangements with no question of any services being jeopardised or discontinued.

The NDT wants ordinary lives and new opportunities for people with learning disabilities

AWFPC invited Lyn Rucker of Rucker Powell Associates, Kansas, USA, who is a lead consultant with the National Development Team which in 1992 became an independent not-for-profit agency with its head office in Manchester. The organisation is working to improve services and today reflects the changes that have taken place over the past 20 years. Its aims are to work with people with learning disabilities to have the same lives as everybody else; good quality services and supports; better legislation and policy in Health,

Social Care, Education, Employment, Housing and Transport.

NDT has experience of working directly with people with learning disabilities as self-advocates, consultants, policy advisers and trainers and works with many people who are keen to make positive changes in the lives of people with learning disabilities; their friends, families and professionals. The NDT provides consultancy to voluntary organisations, Health Authorities and NHS Trusts, Social Services and Education, and training agencies and

advises on services for adults and also children and young people. Alongside the consultancy, NDT has developed and supports good practice through research projects, conferences, work-shops and publications as well as working closely with government departments on national policy and practice issues. Other important areas of work for the NDT are: children's services, supported employment and day services; supported living; health services; short term care; and services for people with challenging behaviour.

In a recent article in Soundtrack (NDT magazine) Lyn Rucker focused on the development of person-centered outcome measures - looking at what life was like for people using services. She stated that as the themes of person-centred planning, empowerment, self-determination and the 'five accomplishments' have begun

to take root it has become clear that primary measure of quality must be based on what people with learning disabilities are saying is important to them - what they want from services. Lyn Rucker went on to say that outcome-based accreditation emphasises responsiveness to individual needs rather than traditional compliance with

established standards.

In organising the AWFCP conference and inviting Lyn Rucker to be the guest speaker many parents/carers as well as the professionals found her talk enlightening, stimulating and provided 'food for thought' in a lively question and answer session.

PARENTS FOR INCLUSION EDUCATION

The Association of Disabled Professionals has been asked to contribute to some research into the educational experiences of disabled people.

Parents for Inclusion, an organisation of parents and disabled people campaigning for inclusive education, is seeking information about the experiences of disabled people in education. The association is also keen to gather experiences of those who have tried to use Access to Work.

If you have the appropriate experience and are prepared to assist in the project please get in touch with

MAYNARD CAMPBELL,

Association of Disabled Professionals,
170 Benton Hill, Wakefield Road,
Horbury,

NEEDS MUST . . .

A coalition of over 30 organisations set up to campaign to restore people's rights to community care services. The main campaigning objectives of the group are : to seek a change in the law to overturn the Law Lords' ruling in the Gloucestershire case; to ensure equal entitlement to services which support independent living irrespective of where a person lives; to ensure that community care is adequately funded so that entitlement is of a standard acceptable to service users.

NEEDS MUST is producing a campaigning pack for individuals and local groups, which will give advice on campaigning for better service provision where you live as well as how you can be part of the national campaign by acting locally. Personal experience needed ~

SOME CHANCE FOR A FORUM

Ken Davies, Development Officer, expresses his hopes for the future

The Forum has been in existence for a number of years, providing a voice for parents and carers at a national level. It has been successful in establishing a regular dialogue with the Welsh Office, and has regularly met with the previous Under Secretaries of State responsible for Health and Social Care in Wales. The Forum successfully influenced the 1994 document The Welsh Mental Handicap Strategy for the better, and the previous Minister, Mr. Win Griffiths, listened carefully to us. The All Wales Forum successfully convinced the Welsh Office of its worth, and has now been funded by them to set the stage for the future.

Without paid support it was always difficult to maintain a Forum of representatives from across Wales, a country not noted for ease of communication. Added to this basic drawback is the fact that the parents and carers involved in the All Wales Strategy are busy on a number of other fronts. We now need to make the best use of our money to overcome these difficulties and move the Forum into a higher gear. In May 1997 I began working part-time as both secretary and development worker. My brief is to work with key parents in each authority area to identify the barriers to participation at all levels, to collate information about the various approaches across Wales, to disseminate information (particularly about good practice), and to organise a conference focusing on parent/carer issues

in 1998.

I am quietly optimistic, although we would be foolish to underestimate the effects Local Government reorganisation has had on parental networks. One of the first things I discovered in the field was how hard very small groups of parents and carers are having to work just to keep abreast of events. The people they represent are often confused, demoralised and fearful for the future: but that indefatigable core of participants is able to help them co-operate with planning officers to re-kindle the local fires and carry the torch of the Strategy across Wales.

As a father of a young man with a learning disability, I believe that the Forum's task is to ensure that the spirit of the Strategy must not be allowed to die. I see the All Wales Strategy as a Bill of Rights for people with learning disabilities. It was launched to liberate them from social exclusion, over-dependence on their families, and the constant threat of institutionalisation. The work is far from complete, and the danger is that cash-strapped authorities will find it impossible to resist the pressures to dilute services established under the Strategy to meet the needs of other hard-pressed groups. A strong parent/carer and service user involvement in planning and monitoring is more essential now than ever at every level and the All Wales Forum will enable us to work together.

- Have you had services withdrawn or reduced ?
- Have you moved and found that you are not entitled to the same services as before ?
- Have you had to give up independent living because the support was not available ?

If you answered 'YES' to any of these questions, then SCOPE needs to hear from you.

POSTBAG AROUND WALES

NEWPORT Parents Group

Angela Deroy Jones

The Newport Parent Group was formed in 1989 and has a membership of around 90 people of which 25-30 are active members. The Group receives no official funding from any statutory body although Social Services has agreed to allow the use of its photocopier and has paid for some room hire. We recently received money from G.O.L.D (Gwent Organisation for Learning Disabilities) when the organisation was dissolved. This will enable us to develop parental representation and involvement in all aspect of planning.

The estimated number of people (all ages) with a learning disability in Newport is 550. There is 1 adult training centre with 3 satellite units, 6 learning disability hostels and 7 group homes. There are currently still 12 people residing at Llanfrechfa Grange waiting to be relocated into the community. This raises concerns about the shortfall in community places as parent/carers get older. A residential respite house for children was set up in 1995. Last year saw the opening of a new residential respite house for young adults.

Newport's official planning mechanism is centred on the Joint Locality Commissioning Team which incorporates the departments of Social Services, Housing, Education, Leisure & Environmental Health, Policy & Corporate Relations Unit, plus Health, Police and the Probation Service. The team meets monthly and receives feedback from 11 advisory forums. Service users and parents/carers are invited to attend the advisory forums but are not

directly involved in planning at the higher level. Representatives from the Parent Group attend the Learning Disability Forum and the Carers Forum.

The most developed service in recent years in Newport is the residential respite houses. Formerly there was 1 residential respite house catering for the needs of both children and adults. This service was in decline in Newport until parents and carers persuaded the local authority that there was a need for residential respite to compliment the family based respite schemes. The Newport Parent Group took an active part in the campaigning and subsequent planning of the children's house. The adult house was set up soon afterwards. Both houses have been adapted and equipped to suit a range of disabilities and are decorated and furnished to a high standard. The residential respite service has had a significant increase in demand and has proved to be a big success.

Newport County Borough Council is currently reviewing Day Care Services. Parents believe there is a need for a range of Day Care Services with specific expertise to meet the needs of the whole range of disabilities.

The latest cause for concern is the announcement that the Education authority is to merge the 2 local schools catering for ages 3-13 and 13-19. The Newport Parents Group sees this as an opportunity for a school with excellent facilities and expertise to be set up.

The fight goes on!

CONWY CONNECT

Sue Davies



Conwy Connect is a local voluntary organisation formed in 1996 to establish and maintain close links between everyone with an interest in learning disabilities in the County Borough of Conwy. The main aim of Conwy Connect is to enable people with learning disabilities, their parent and carers to assess the best care, accommodation, education, employment and leisure suited to their needs and choices.

To receive information on Conwy Connect is by filling in a simple form, being 'connected' enables everyone to have access to similar information and when necessary speak with a powerful voice. Members are regularly kept informed of activities of Conwy Connect by means of open meetings and newsletters. Open meetings are held quarterly and open to everyone with an interest in learning disabilities. We have held 5 on the themes of future services, social and leisure, day time opportunities, and welfare rights and benefits, all of which have been very successful with an average of 80 people attending. A group also meets from the voluntary section to identify gaps in service provision which they may be able to fill. All these meetings enable members to actively participate in the planning and development of services.

Conwy Connect has contacted many people who have an interest but knows there are more - if you or your organisation is interested in becoming Connected then contact **Sue Davies, Co-ordinator, on 01492 544266 ext 32.**

YNYNS MON

John Ashton

The founding of the Ynys Mon Learning Disability Interest Group coincided with local government reorganisation prior to the establishment of the new unitary authorities in April 1996. Although the Group comprises of parents, informal and professional carers, and professionals employed by the local government and health authorities, the Group's formal constitution provides that all elected officers and committee members shall be either parents or informal carers.

During the founding process, meetings were frequent but a pattern of quarterly full Group meetings has now evolved with the committee of eight getting together informally at each other's houses more frequently.

As a direct result of a Group initiative, the Social Service Department of Ynys Mon Council set up a Strategic Planning Group for learning disability services. The first of this Group's monthly

meetings took place in May 1996. The S.P. Group comprises of 14 people and includes two Council Members, senior officers representing social services, health, education, the case management team, and six parent/carers. Moreover, client advocates attend all meetings and are encouraged to participate in the discussions.

Over the last eighteen months there have been a number of satisfactory outcomes to planning group deliberations but, of late, it became apparent that some issues of importance had been decided without recourse to the planning group and the parents, in particular, made a number of very vocal objections to this practice. Determined enquiry established that, with the SSD, there were another seven planning groups individually targetted on such areas as day services, respite care, family placement, housing and social care, etc., and that of these seven groups, only the three with parent

representatives had instructions to report to the main planning group. Parent/carer representatives have now been appointed to each of the deficient sub groups, all of which have instructions to report their findings and recommendations to the main planning group for consideration.

Recent approaches to national government entreating them to maintain Welsh Office funding to those counties facing swingeing cuts as a result of per capita equalisation appear to have fallen on deaf ears. The latest talks between the Welsh Office and local authority representatives apparently have concentrated on the timing of the cuts rather than making any serious attempt to mitigate their inevitably destructive effect on services and parents and professionals alike on Ynys Mon share a concern bordering on panic about prospects for the future.

CAERNARFON

Kate Jones

At the moment our Parents and Carers Interest Group is undergoing a lot of change in its endeavours to set-up Forum style meetings. To enable us to make contact with most parents and carers we are being helped by Social Services who will distribute the information via its mailing lists. We hope to build on these activities and to support us in our developments we invited Ken Davies, AWFCPC Development Officer, to meet with us in April. The local authority Planning Group meets every

two months and we have excellent support from Social Services who attend the Afon Area Workshops.

One of our biggest problems is encouraging parents/carers to actively participate in the development but we hope to build on our achievements and strengthen the links between the local authority and all people with learning disabilities so that a range of services are developed to meet the on-going needs of service users. Come and join us - everyone is welcome. **Contact Kate Jones on 01286 675693.**

RHONDDA

Bill Pain

Bill Pain was pleased to state that many more people are now involved in the decision making process since the reorganisation of the local authorities. The Parents Alliance Forum works directly with Chris Hawker, Assistant Director, Social Services. The sub-committee is quite strong with five monitoring agencies: Support the Family; Family Links; Day Services; Accommodation and Respite. There are three parents on the District Co-ordinating Group which reports to the Strategic Planning Group.

On 27 February there was an Open Forum meeting with a Solicitor as guest speaker to talk about Wills and Trusts.

TORFAEN

Ken Davies

Its been 'all down hill' in Torfaen for a number of years now....well, as far as we know it is any way. It just may be that behind the scenes Social Services officers are busily building a great Utopia for people with learning disabilities, keeping it all a secret as a great surprise. Somehow I doubt it. One problem is that we haven't had sight of the report on the 1997/98 plan yet, and the brief summary offered in the Community Performance Plan is not enlightening.

It is not that some of us haven't tried. During the transition into the new age of the Unitary Authorities over 100 families signed up to our formal request for no change in services until a review with full involvement of parents and users had taken place. The chair designate of Social Services and her deputy listened with sympathy and understanding. But County Hall had other ideas. Behind closed doors the CMHTs were dissolved and their members 'relocated' in local teams (not generic, you understand, specialists in area teams!). A lifting policy ensures that if your relative weighs more than three stone no-body employed by social services can lift them. And if you want your child integrated into the local school, forget it unless your tot needs very little support indeed. We did have a very able planning officer for adult services. The workshop he convened to draw up our first Community Care Plan was as good as any joint planning team, and the result was a plan that had taken on board everything we said. The problem is that little has happened since. We have a feeling that isn't his fault, and now he's left.

We do make use of the structures available to us, rather sedate affairs organised generically either by Social Services themselves or the County Voluntary Body. O.K. for discussing such broad - based

issues as charging policy and bed-blocking, they are of little use for discussing the minutiae of the kind of day services or respite care services people need, and of no use at all for monitoring change. They suffer from the dilution genericism guarantees, and induce the kind of frustration that artillery men must feel when the real target is out of range. Everything that matters happens out of sight and without feedback. We hope things are looking up. The issue of user/carer involvement is now on the agenda, and the current consultation exercise about adult respite might give us just the chance we need to regroup. Ever the optimist, I still believe little Torfaen can do it; its just that some people need convincing that small really is beautiful if you flatten the structures a bit. I hope so. Perhaps I can tell you something good next time.

BRIDGEND - Glyn Rhys

Eight representative parents meet weekly, being the officers and area representatives of the Bridgend Parents' Forum. This group convenes open meetings of the Forum to discuss planning issues, the most recent being around a review of day services. Our meetings usually attract 30 to 50 people, depending on the issue. We now receive around £1,000 p.a. to operate and, with the exception of some sessional secretarial support, we have no paid workers. Like many other active parents, we feel quite isolated at times and wish that more parents would take a more active part..

The Forum has three representatives on the Strategy Planning Team, which determines the strategic direction of service planning. Other members of the team include representatives from the Social Services Department, users and their advocate from People First, the NHS Trust, the Community Health Trust and, occasionally an educational psychologist. We have been unhappy with the infrequency of the meetings but we believe we have now successfully overcome this problem. In addition to strategic planning, officers of the forum also have involvement in planning specific services. Currently the major activity relates to day services for which workshops involving users, carers, day services staff and administrators are being held to address the problems raised by continuous underfunding in relation to increasing demand for services and enhanced user expectation. We feel we are part of the planning process and we are determined to make the parents' voice heard even though we wonder how effective this voice is.

DENBIGH

David Gunning

Here is an opportunity for you to forget the dark and dismal days of winter and look forward to an Easter or Summer break in a caravan in the beautiful Snowdonia countryside. Interested? Then read on.....

The Denbighshire Learning Disability Service has a six-berth caravan which is available to all service users and families within the county. The caravan is situated in Snowdonia, just outside Caernarfon in the small picturesque village of Llanrug on the Brynteg Holiday Park. The first thing you notice about Brynteg is its peace and tranquillity placed as it is within a rolling wooded landscape and with its own fishing lake. There is never a dull moment, whether you want to escape with a book or fishing rod, or take advantage of the numerous activities on hand - Brynteg is the ideal spot. There is a wide range of activities including heated swimming pool with spa bath, well fitted games room with short mat bowling, table tennis and snooker tables; entertainers, disco cabaret and bingo sessions. The local area abounds with historic castles and stately homes and only a few minutes travel from Brynteg brings you to the coast and its many attractions. Sporting facilities are unrivalled with coarse and sea fishing, horse riding, golf, wind surfing and boating all available close by.

The caravan is fully equipped and visitors only need to provide their own bedding. It has been specially selected to meet the needs of all our clientele and this includes wheelchair access to all areas.

The season runs from Easter to November inclusive, with option of weekly or weekend bookings. For further information on the facilities available please contact the **Learning Disability Service at Ruthin on 01824 704870**

MEIRIONYDD

Nellie Jones MBE

eth cefnogol i bobol ag dysgu ym Meirionnydd aw. Mae'n cael ei redeg Adran Gwasanaethau Masol. Men'n cynnig ystod o wasanaethau gan gofal ysbaid yn y cartref i cartref mawn cartref cofrestredig, cefnogaeth I wylliau, cefnogaeth yn y gartref, mewn gweithgareddau addysg, Cynigir gartref yn y cartref yn gofal personol a chartref y'n byw'n annibynnol a'r byw gyda gofalwyr.

sanaeth cefnogol mae'n mewn dull cyd-weithredol Iechyd, Addysg ac hau eraill gan ddilyn Strategaeth Cymru sefydlwyd yn 1983. Rhan

amlaf wrth gwrs mae'r gwasanaeth Canllaw i unigolyn yn rhan o gynllun gofal llawer mwy. Mae Canllaw yn bodoli i ddatblygu cefnogaeth gymunedol i bobol ag anabledd dysgu i geisio cynydd ansawdd bywyd yr unigolyn yn ei gartref, ei fan gwaith neu'r gymuned yn gyffredinol. Mae'n rhoi cyfle ehangach i unigolion ddatblytgu eu potensial ac i fyw bywyd cyflawn fel aelodau gwerthfawr o'u cymunedau. Yn aml gall y gwaith cefnogol olygu'r gwahaniaeth i berson gydag anabledd dysgu ddilyn patrwm normal o fywyd e.e. mynd allan i weithio, cymryd rhan mewn gweithgareddau cymunedol, byw'n annibynnol a datblygu a chynnal sgiliau.

Delwedd Gweithwyr Cefnogol yw un o berson llawn gofal gyda'r

aeddfedrwydd i weithio gyda amrywiol bobol ag anabledd dysgu gydag anghenion gwahanol a niferus. Mae disgwyliad i'r gweithiwr cefnogol weithio i'r safon professiynol uchaf posibl ym mhob agwedd o'i gwaith gyda'r gofyniad am ddynesiad arbennig i'r gwaith sy'n cydnabod a pharchu hawliau'r unigolion. Mae Canllaw yn darparu a threfnu pecynnau hyfforddiant i'w staff yn canolbwyntio ar faterion cyffredionol megis - Cymorth Cyntaf, Codi a Thrin, Ymddygiad Anhydryn ac yna'n rhoi hyfforddiant arbennig penodol ar gyfer gweithio a'r defnyddwyr gwasanaeth dan sylw.

Amcan pennaf gwasanaeth Canllaw yw sicrhau cylch cefnogaeth i unigolion fydd yn barod i ymateb i ymateb ym mhob amgylchiad.

* * *

is a Support Service for people with learning disabilities (handicap) in Meirionnydd by the Social Services. It offers a varied range of services including respite care at home or away from home in residential homes, support days, support in the workplace, day opportunities, in activities and personal activities. Support is offered at home in terms of domestic and personal care for people living alone and also working with carers.

Support service it works with Health, Education and other agencies following the

support. The Support Worker works side-by-side with the individual in the home or in the workplace.

Canllaw helps to develop community based support for people with learning disabilities and to improve the quality of life for the individuals and their carers. It gives individuals greater opportunities to fulfill their potential and to lead dignified lives as valued members of the community. Support work will often be what makes the difference between a person with learning disabilities being able to live as normal a life as possible, ie. going out to

maturity to work with a variety of people with learning disabilities who have many and different needs. The expectations are that the Support Worker will work to the highest professional standards in everything they do - requiring a particular approach to the job which recognises and respects the rights of individuals.

Training packages are arranged and put together by Canllaw which concentrates on First Aid, Lifting and Handling, Challenging Behaviour and then organises specific training opportunities to the individual service use.

NEATH PORT TALBOT

Rosina Field

When re-organisation occurred, Neath Port Talbot County Council had inherited the unenviable position of only one establishment for respite care for clients with special needs over the age of 19. As a result the problems we carers now have is a direct result of non-consultation before spending vast amounts by the old authority. As a Carer/Forum representative on the Joint Planning Group for Learning Disabilities, I am trying to ensure that the new authority does not do the same and I am pleased to state that there is a determination to keep carers informed and more importantly, consulted before spending! It is hoped this policy will continue.

There is no Carer group at all services and this is a great tragedy because when a group get together they have more influence on what happens at their service. At Neath we formed originally because of problems at the service, but these were diplomatically solved and now we enjoy a partnership with staff and authorities for the high level of service and ensuring the dignity of our loved ones. Carers should try and form groups but use tact and diplomacy to solve issues, not confrontation.

CEREDIGION

Alan Thompson

Parents' Representatives - Learning Disabilities Consultation Groups - Service Planning Structure... what does it mean?

When the All Wales Strategy was launched in 1983 the Welsh Office insisted that Parents were an essential part of the consultation process in the planning of the ten year development programme. Accordingly Parents Groups were formed in Dyfed and each Group was represented at the Planning Table by a Parents' Representative elected by ballot managed by DAVS.

The most difficult part of the representative's role was the achievement of frequent and regular face to face debate with the parents. Two representatives in north and south Ceredigion met regularly with parents at opportunity venues since it was implicit in the role of parents and carers of people with learning disabilities that travel to attend meetings was an unacceptable over-burden to their daily lives.

In consequence the representatives could never be sure that such representation accurately reflected a consensus in their areas. To remedy this a Parents' Representative Group was set up to share the information gathered by the representatives. The Group was granted £5000 per year to defray clerical support (AWS Funding) and it is on record that this became the most effective consultative Group of the Dyfed County Planning Group LD. Although the Dyfed organisation is long defunct, the Parents' Representatives still communicate on common interests in recognition of the fact that political divisions in local government will never alter the individual needs of people with mental handicap wherever they live.

The creation of the Unitary Authorities in 1994 brought about a complete review of the service planning organisation and, at the same time, the demise of the AWS and a new development funding virtually brought planning of new or extended services to a halt. Ceredigion's two Parents' Representatives took the opportunity to attempt to set up a Parents' Association to facilitate the direct consultation that then seemed to be necessary if the Representatives were to function effectively.



The opening shots in creating the Forum drew a small but encouraging response from Parents but interest rapidly dwindled as it emerged that whatever representation went forward to the County's strategic planning forum there was no available funding; in fact existing services were under threat. It also soon became obvious that an Association that required parents to travel away from their dependents to attend meetings could not be adequately supported.

To obviate the last mentioned impediment, a small working group of 'determined' parents who were willing to give active support devised a newsletter medium by which means parents could be informed of progress in the county's strategy for learning disability, invited to telephone or write in their opinion and similarly raise new issues for representation. A questionnaire designed to determine how this proxy representation could be brought to effect using the services of area contacts was sent out to all identifiable parents in Ceredigion. (There are over 300 families in the county.)

At the May 1997 meeting of the LD Consultation Group, the South Ceredigion Parents' Representative reported concern about the mandate of his representation and proposed that the two representatives should now revert to their individual AWS roles in direct opportunity consultation with parents. CAVO is now organising the nomination paperwork in preparation for the next election.

SWANSEA

Maurice Wilde

With the knowledge that there is an immediate funding crisis affecting all areas of need serviced by the SSD, the specific crisis affecting Learning Disabilities in the year 1998/99 is of the order of £430,000. This was pursued by way of a public meeting and by subsequent meeting with the Chairman of Social Services and latterly at a meeting with the Council Leader and the Chairman of Finance. Our view was that following the advice given to us by the Minister, Win Griffiths, the solution to the (short term) crisis lay with the Authority funding essential needs by economies and efficiency gains within its control.

Pressed by the Leader for suggestions (?) we commented on the need to reappraise the relative priority of the various Authority

departments and drew attention to the funding of the subsidised element of Leisure Services and indeed the existence of some elements of that Service compared with the inescapable needs of our people and people with other forms of disability. Our views were heard. We await results.

Pursuing the campaign for funding beyond the capability of the Local Authority to deal with the short term crisis the Forum convened a public meeting to which the three local constituency MPs were invited. Two of the three, namely Donald Anderson and the Rt.Hon.Alan Williams attended. Martin Caton was genuinely unable to be present. The meeting was well attended and the discussion was wide ranging if not, at times, a little unfocussed.

The summary of the proceedings must be that while accepting that little or no additional funding will be forthcoming from

national sources for two years there was a firm call to the M.Ps to enlighten the National Authority as to the funding crisis as it affects Swansea (and by implication the whole of Wales).

It was emphasised that in the medium term adequate funding to enable the practical interpretation of the objectives of the ALL WALES STRATEGY must be resumed.

A letter is being sent to the M.Ps reiterating our concerns and our campaigning issues.

What effect our campaigning actions and efforts, considered in isolation, can or will have, are a matter for conjecture. There is no doubt that any or all Fora, armed with full knowledge of the short and long term funding situation, can and should be lobbying their Local Authorities and constituency M.Ps will produce results.



POWYS

Gwynfa Moore

Whilst we are pleased to have a new worker for the Brecon Forum, we are still disappointed at the number of people attending the meetings. The resettlement of people from the Brynhyfyd Hospital was achieved in March 1997 and the 21 people are all living in the community. Bronllys Hospital resettlement programme is continuing with nine people now living in the community and 12 people remaining on the site until accommodation is complete. Llys Maldwyn Hospital resettlement programme is due for completion in September 1998 when the 33 people will be living in the community.

VALE OF GLAMORGAN

Derek Parker

The Director of Social Services, Mr. Terry Mooney, is taking earlier retirement. It would seem that there may be a joint appointment and joint provision of Education and Social Services. This could mean a lowering of 'clout' in any arguing for allocations to the Learning Disabilities department. The Advisory Planning Group is not a decision making committee but reports to the Joint Consultative Committee. The Chair of the Advisory Planning Group is a parent and represents the APG on the JCC.

The local support team is very low on staff, having only one social worker available at the moment. To help out two specialist nurses are being employed on eight month contracts and two others on six month contracts.

A review of the roles and responsibilities of the support team members has taken place with the Cardiff Community Health Trust, Social Services Department and the Llandough Hospital Trust with a view to creating a formal partnership agreement. What this means for the consumer is anyone's guess! A review of transport for day services is being undertaken.

West Glamorgan Forum - Gerald Powell

Towards the end of January, the West Glamorgan Forum were told by Neath Port Talbot Social Services Department that they would not be continuing to fund the forum to undertake participation and consultation work in the area.

The main reason for the withdrawing of the funding was said to be the extreme financial pressures on the local authority and the low level of participation of Parents, Carers and Service Users in the joint planning committees. The forum was told that all services and voluntary organisations would face cuts in their budgets and that the Social Services Department were seeking ways of minimising the effects of these cuts.

The decision to withdraw funding from the forum will end 13 years of independent support and advice to Parents, Carers and Service Users in the Neath Port Talbot area. In time of ever increasing service cutbacks we need to question the wisdom of preventing Parents, Carers and Service Users having their say on how services should be organised and delivered by being supported by a specialist independent organisation which was specifically established to undertake this work.

It appears from this decision that Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council is abandoning the principles of the All Wales Strategy for People with Learning Disabilities. This places firm emphasis on ensuring that Parents, Carers and Service Users participate in the planning and management of their services. It will be very difficult for people in Neath Port Talbot to have an effective voice

on services if they are not represented by an independent and accountable organisation. The cutting of the forum funding will mean that we will not have the resources to continue to represent and support Parents, Carers and Service Users in Neath Port Talbot. Whilst central Government maintain tight control over public expenditure it falls to Local Authorities to use their priorities for service provision. The decision to cut the funding to the forum strongly suggests that Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council do not believe that PARTICIPATION, CONSULTATION and REPRESENTATION is a priority. They have indicated to us that they will seek ways of consulting with Parents, Carers and Service Users and are currently holding quarterly open meetings to do this. Having attended the last open meeting, which had only ten parents present, we can only conclude that this was a meaningless exercise which merely involved telling people what may happen.

We believe strongly that Participation must be meaningful. To achieve this there must be agreed clear policies on how people can participate and how these people will be accountable. The forum has been seeking to agree such policies with Neath Port Talbot C.B.C. over the last eight months but we have found a high degree of reluctance to discuss this with us. This has taken the form of deferring the discussion at the Service Planning Meetings and failing to attend meetings which were specifically organised to draft these policies.

The forum Advocacy project, which is funded through the National Lottery, will continue to provide Advocacy support to Service Users in the area and will maintain a minimal forum

presence in Neath Port Talbot. In the meantime the Forum is actively lobbying local Councillors to prevent these cuts taking place.

It is important that Parents, Carers and Service Users in Neath Port Talbot support the Forum in lobbying to stop these cuts. If Neath Port Talbot are genuine in their commitment to listening to people they service they will respond positively to this lobby.

* * *

CARMARTHEN Colin Pask

Since local government reorganisation the Parent/Carer Association role in the decision making process in Carmarthenshire has diminished but it is our intention to pursue the matter in accordance with the All Wales Strategy. The local authority believes that by making contact directly with parents and carers the action will fulfill the requirements under the Strategy. We feel that as an organisation the views and needs of parents/carers and people with learning disabilities were more effective through a strong voice which could be achieved by the activities of the Parents/Carers Association. Further difficulties have arisen when the funding of the Consumer Participation Officer was withdrawn.

Carmarthenshire produces its own Newsletter five times per year and circulates approximately 600 copies of each issues to parents/carers, services users and professionals.

RHONDDA CYNON TAF ALLIANCE

Albert Hopkins

The Parent Forum Alliance of Rhondda Cynon Taf was formed as a direct response to the 1996 Local Government reorganisation. It was in fact operating as a steering group for some two years prior to the reorganisation taking place.

The three District Fora of Rhondda, Cynon and Taff Ely continue to operate as they did prior to reorganisation, and it is representatives from these Fora that make up the Committee of the Parent Forum Alliance.

It is members of the Committee of the PFA that are actively involved in the Service Planning Groups of the authority, ie. Service Planning Group for Learning Disabilities and the Service Planning Group for Children with Disabilities. We are of the opinion that the involvement now taking place is far more meaningful and effective than it

ever was in the old county of Mid Glamorgan.

One of the main changes to the operation of the parent bodies, which will take place during this coming financial year, relates to the way in which funding is to be allocated. In the old county each district fora was funded independently, however, as Social Services now see the PFA as the 'umbrella' organisation, it is the PFA who will receive funding and not the District Fora.

From the start of the new financial year the PFA will be subject to a Service Level Agreement and we are told that our funding will be long term. The three District Fora will now be funded by the PFA and they will be subject to Service Agreements with the PFA. This means that the PFA has found it necessary to set up a Finance Committee as it is this organisation that will be ultimately responsible for all Social Service funding received.

Our main concern regarding the financial situation, is that we are of

the opinion that we are underfunded!

The biggest and most advantageous change in this new authority concerns the other areas that we now have contact with. In Mid Glamorgan the working relationship that Fora had was virtually exclusively with Social Services. At both District and County level, ongoing relationships have now been established with the Education and Leisure Departments, and the Police. Contacts with other service providers, e.g. Housing Providers, Supported Employment Agencies, that were established in Mid Glamorgan continue.

Given the present commitments to joint planning, from of all of those involved with service provision for children and adults with a learning disability, the PFA intends to build on these current good relationships for the benefit of all those who both currently and in the future receive services.

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Shirley Thomas

The members of the Caerphilly Parents and Carers Forum (formerly the Rhymney Valley Parents Forum) are pleased to be invited to contribute to the All Wales Forum Newsletter.

We are not without our problems here in Caerphilly but most of these are due to the fact that we are working with an entirely new authority comprising of the former districts of Rhymney Valley (which originated in Mid Glamorgan) and Islwyn (prev-

iously in Gwent). This is also the only County Borough which did not set up a 'shadow' authority during 1995/96 and consequently re-organisation happened literally 'overnight'. However, we are reasonably satisfied with the dialogue we currently have with the new Caerphilly County Borough Council. At least, we are meeting directly with the relevant officers and are discussing matters concerning the people we care for. But there is still an awful lot of work to do. At the moment we have between

twelve and fifteen active members in the Forum out of a total mailing list of nearly 250. We do not consider this to be good enough and hope to spend some time in the next year developing and expanding our membership activity levels within the County Borough. If anyone reading this Newsletter would like more information regarding our Forum, please do not hesitate to contact us through our Chairman - **Brenda Helps** on 01443 837009 or our Secretary - **Shirley Thomas** on 01222 867527.

WREXHAM

Gaynor Pugh

With the Clwyd split of the Unitary Authorities, Wrexham Forum officially began on 1 April 1997.

It had always been one of the strongest areas for support by parents and carers and after twelve months on their own Wrexham is doing very well.

Our objectives when we started were to organise public meetings on subjects of concern or interest - this was done on a quarterly basis covering topics such as Education, Welfare Rights, and Children's Services. We also hoped to produce a newsletter which would be sent free of charge to all members including current news, views and comments. This we have done with increasing success even managing to have photographs in the latest issue.

We hoped to give advice to members and link members to other agencies - this I think we have managed to do very well and having raised a small amount of cash have arranged a seminar to be run over two days which will include parents, carers, service users and professionals. Both days are practically fully booked with only a few places left for Saturday. This we now hope to make an annual event.

The Forum has also now agreed to take over from the Social Services and co-ordinate the Strategic Planning Group which meet bi-monthly at Wrexham. Members who attend are from Education, Social Services, Works Opportunities, Local Councillors, Forum Representation, Service Users, and Voluntary Organisations. The role of the SPG is to maintain the range and quality of existing service provision and continue to develop new services according to assessed needs within a joint framework on the basis of policy and legislative requirements. With Forum being able to facilitate the SPG it has a greater involvement in the decisions made and

can only be seen as a forward step for Forum.

Wrexham Forum has been fortunate to receive very valued support from both Social Services and also certain members of the local Council who not only attend the Forum meetings but regularly speak out in support of the group. Membership since April has increased by 20% due largely to the unitary split and being able to concentrate on a smaller area. The outlook for the Wrexham Forum is very encouraging and I hope will go from strength to strength.

CARDIFF

Norbert Flynn

The Cardiff and Vale Parents Federation is delighted to have won the 1997 Community Care Award for an innovative project.

Pauline Young (Chair) Bernard Honeysett (Vice Chair) and Sarah Stone (Field Officer) went to London in December to receive the award from Martin Bell, M.P.

The award of £7000 will be used to set up a website for the Federation on the Internet and to train parents in its use and in accessing information.

Included in the information available will be the up-dated contents of 'Where You Stand', the directory of services produced by the Federation and which received a Welsh Office award in 1993.



FLINTSHIRE

Peter Bennett

The first full year has been marred by Flintshire County Council only being prepared to fund at a rate which was 25% of the previous year's allocation! Fortunately a reserve transfer from the former Clwyd Forum enabled us to continue, albeit at a reduced level, on a combined budget of some £7000!

However, our Co-ordinator and Chair, assisted by a small Executive Committee, have worked well together resulting in four Newsletters, three Open Meetings and a variety of planning arenas all receiving input from Forum.

Additionally, we have benefitted from free office accommodation, lighting and heating, etc., compliments of Flintshire Local Voluntary Council which has been most appreciated. At the time of writing this report, we are hopeful of benefitting from an improved financial settlement from the County Council/North Wales Health Authority whereby we would be able to continue and extend the part played by Forum. It is surely more important than ever to ensure that the needs of people with learning disabilities are not forgotten at a time of increased financial pressure on the statutory authorities.

MERTHYR TYDFIL

Tony Edwards

In Merthyr Tydfil we recently met with the Director of Social Services to express our concern at the lack of meetings of the Joint Consultative Strategy ~ none since April ~ and we are now pleased to report that meetings of the JCS Commissioning Group have been scheduled for the whole of 1998 - that 's one achievement!

We have now written regarding the District Co-ordinating Group for Learning Disabilities and hope that we can achieve a similar outcome - although to-date we have not yet had a reply.

Funding has been reduced by £10000 to £3000 but we do not yet have any indication as to when this money will be available.

We now intend to pursue matters and hope that we will be able to report further developments for the next newsletter.

MONMOUTHSHIRE

Diana Mills

The Monmouthshire Learning Disability Forum, although only recently in existence since the disbanding last year of the Gwent-wide organisation GOLD has managed to become firmly established with a mailing list, at this time, of over sixty and a strong core group of about twenty parents of adults and of children with learning disabilities. We are shortly to receive some financial support from Monmouthshire Social Services to enable us, hopefully, to obtain some regular administration/clerical support plus help with various expenses, postage, etc.. The Forum meets approximately every four to six weeks and members have been involved in providing direct input, with Social Services, into the planning of a new day

service centre for thirty adults, which provides for those in and around the Abergavenny area. Parents and Carers were also involved in the selection and the appointment of staff for the centre which opened earlier this year. Monmouthshire now has a second day service established within a year. The other opened last year in the south of the county in Chepstow provided by Mencap for Social Services. The group has also been involved in the consultation process of Monmouthshire's charging policy for day services. Also we were able to convene an informal meeting with our local MP, Mr. Huw Edwards, who was very interested to hear our views about respite care, as he is due to present to Parliament, a 'Ten-Minute' Bill with the aim of making respite a statutory requirement. If anyone has any comments or

views on the provision, or otherwise, of respite care that they would like to contribute to assist the preparation of the Bill they can be sent directly to Mr. Huw Edwards, 7 Agincourt Street, Monmouth, NP5 34DZ : Telephone 01600 713537.

It is still difficult to say, at this early stage, as to how successful Monmouthshire's new approach and structure to future planning will be and to what extent and effect the learning disability perspective input will take it must surely be a situation of 'watch this space'. The fear is that too greater commitment will be demanded of too few individuals..... which is also one of the main concerns of our own group. Possibly we are not alone in this concern.

CYNON

David Morgan

We are constantly searching for ways to encourage parents to become actively involved in the District Forum through which the Parent Forum Alliance is supported. Parent representatives are members of the District Liaison Group which was formerly the District Co-ordinating Group. The brief of this group covers the monitoring and evaluating of the service provision within the District. There are three representatives from the Forum Alliance who are members of the Service Planning Group for the county borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf. One member of the Parent Forum Alliance is also a member of the Planning Group for Children for Rhondda Cynon Taff.

As a District Forum we hold approximately eight committee meetings each year and endeavour to hold open meetings for parents

and carers approximately three-four times a year. At each of these open meetings we arrange for a guest speaker to talk about specific issues such as benefits, service provision, wills and trusts, etc. Our next open event will be the annual general meeting and we hope to encourage many parents and carers to attend so that we can share with them developments that are happening in the Cynon Valley. If anyone is interested in further information about our activities then please contact **David Morgan** 01685 811916 - everyone is welcome.

PEMBROKESHIRE

Mary Esmond

Our open meetings are held monthly with speakers covering a wide range of topics which are particularly relevant to issues for parents/carers and people with learning disabilities.

Guest speakers have included the Deputy Director of Social Services, the Service Manager, representatives from the Benefits Agency, Cartrefli Cymru, as well as discussions on advocacy, etc. We endeavour to arrange our meetings in different locations so that as many parents in each area can attend at least some of the meetings which will enable them to keep up-to-date with service provision and other local authority developments.

We are very concerned that parent/carer involvement in the decision making structure in the local authority has diminished since reorganisation but we hope to actively pursue the matter in accordance with the principles of the All Wales Strategy.

Details of the Conference organised by the All Wales Forum of Parents and Carers has generated interest and we hope many people from Pembrokeshire will be able to attend such an important event.

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NEWS OF LEARNING DISABILITIES AROUND WALES

PATHWAY -

the supported Employment Services of Mencap in Wales

In February 1992 an exciting new service was launched in Gwent to provide people with learning disabilities opportunities in paid employment in integrated work settings. Pathway is currently supporting 83 people throughout Gwent, in paid employments. 50% are in full time employment, the remainder are undertaking therapeutic work. 18 people are currently being supported in Torfaen. Jobs have been found in a wide range of vocational settings i.e. manufacturing, retail, wholesale, catering distribution and municipal services, working hours varying from 4 to 45 hours per week and clients range in ages from 20 to 58 years. One gentleman who previously received sickness benefit now earns in excess of £15,000 per year and is considering taking a mortgage. Clients placed by Pathway benefit from the service in many ways. The staff find the jobs, help prepare the client for work and provided one to one support in the workplace to help them settle in the job.

Pathway Supported Employment Service South East Wales is the employment arm of Mencap and is funded by the Social Services in the Unitary Authorities of Newport, Caerphilly, Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent and Monmouthshire. Whilst Pathway is proud of its record to date a great deal of work remains to be done as Pathway is in receipt of over 350 referrals on behalf of people with a learning disability, a number that continues to grow on a daily basis.



Hijinx is primarily a performance orientated theatre company. Hijinx offer the thrill of live theatre with music, bringing to life characters, themes and issues which are relevant, challenging and inspiring. The immediacy of live theatre, more than any other medium, presents audiences with a potentially life changing experience. At its best - it is pure magic. Hijinx Theatre has 18 years experience working in the specialist area

SCOPE - Day Services for People with Learning Disability

The aim of the service is "To create an environment in which each person with a disability is encouraged and helped to determine his or her own way of life through the provision and promotion of services which are responsive to individual need."

The key principles employed are *integration, individualism, and choices.*

The Centre is committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for people who use its service and for its staff and volunteers, and accordingly operates a very effective Equal Opportunities Policy. The organisation's Quality Assurance Division constantly monitors, evaluates and seeks to ensure this along with other aspects of the service. Volunteers help make it possible for the unit to provide service users with the range of training and activities they desire, enabling and supporting them in their chosen pursuits.

The Centre's marketing strategy is based around providing a unique value for money, quality skills development service for people with disabilities, whilst constantly looking for opportunities to provide an even better value for money service by way of cost reductions and improvements and refinements in service delivery.

Parents and Carers are very supportive of the service and it is a dynamic, progressive and unparalleled in that it provides service users with opportunities for personal development and social integration through a structured, well organised and dedicated process. Over the past 5 years the service has moved on from being a combination of a traditional day-cum-work centre model with only token support for its service from customers to becoming seen as a dynamic, progressive service with all the associated trappings of a successful sought-after service envied by other organisations and professionals alike.

SCOVO SCOVO is the collective voice of voluntary organisations in Wales, committed to the rights of people with learning disability to full and valued lives in the community. We seek to promote these rights through the active development of the voluntary sector and its interests. SCOVO was established in 1983 following the launch of the All Wales Mental Handicap Strategy. It represents members' views and pro-

of creating theatre for adults with learning disabilities. It spearheaded a new approach in the development and creation of a new show 'A ROOM OF MY OWN' by dividing directly with adults with learning disabilities and their carers. The play is specially created for adults with learning disabilities and the community.

Contact: **01222 - 300331**

moted their interests by speaking as 'one voice'. Its alliance reflects the diversity of voluntary sector activity in Wales including service providers, givers of advice and information, self help and promoters of innovation and research. The benefits of SCOVO provides an opportunity to keep abreast of news, developments, databases and good practice. Members are given priority access to a comprehensive information resource. SCOVO maintains an unrivalled database of contacts within learning disabilities in Wales, details of networks and organisations can also be obtained.

One member says "I value SCOVO as a central resource of information, as a means of identifying trends as opposed to local issues, as a way to learn about good practices and as a source of advice."

Further information -
Tel: **01222 492443**

A. W. F. P. C.
ALL WALES FORUM OF
PARENTS AND CARERS

Ff. C. G. Rh. G.
FFORWM CYMRU GYFANI
RIENI A GOFALWYR

LOCAL CONTACTS

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Bro Morgannwy/Vale of Glamorgan	Mr. Derek Parker 01222 700845
Conwy/Conway	Mrs. Joan Hayes 01492 514757
Caerdydd/Cardiff	Mr. Norbert Flynn 01222 757387
Caerfyrddin/Carmarthen	Mr. Colin Pask 01550 750224
Caerffili/Caerphilly	Mrs. Shirley Thomas 01222 867527
Casnewydd/Newport	Mrs. A. Deroy-Jones 01633 216187
Castell Nedd a Porth Talbot/Neath & Port Talbot	Mr. Gerald Powell 01792 646573
Ceredigion/Cardigan	Mr. Alan Thompson 01239 810965
Cynon	Mr. David Morgan 01685 811916
Gwynedd (Arfon)	Mrs. Kate Jones 01286 675693
Gwynedd (Dwyfor)	Mr. Robert Roberts 01758 720563
Meirionnydd/Merioneth	Mrs. Nellie Jones M.B.E. 01766 770007
Merthyr Tydfil	Mr. Tony Edwards 01685 374391
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Powys	Mrs. Gwynfa Moore 01874 711699
Rhondda	Mr. Bill Pain 01443 440076
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Sir Ddynbych/Denbighshire	Mr. David Gunning 01745 853003
Sir Fynwy/Monmouthshire	Mrs. Diane Mills 01495 785380
Sir y Ffint/Flintshire	Mrs. P. Bochenski 01352 755468
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Ynys Mon/Isle of Anglesey	Mr. John Ashton 01248 490289

A. W. F. P. C.

ALL WALES FORUM OF PARENTS &

CARERS

The spirit of the All Wales Strategy cannot be allowed to die because it is still the only chance our sons, daughters and relatives have of living full and valued lives where they belong - in their communities

The All Wales Forum exists to help parents work with their local authorities to keep the spirit of the strategy alive.

There is a group of parents in your area which is working hard to make this happen

They need your support, opinions and your view of the needs of your son, daughter or relative as well as of your own needs as a parent or carer

Pick up a leaflet and find out where a group can be contacted in your local area

Ff. C. G. R. G

FFORWM CYMRU GYFAN RIENIA

GOFALWYR

Ni allwn adael i ysbryd Strategaeth Cymru Gyfan ddiplannui'n llwyr oherwydd dymair unig gyfle i'n meibion, merched a'n perthnasau i gael byw bywydau llawn a gwerthfawr yn y man y dylent - yn eu cymunedau

Mae Fforwm Cymru Gyfan yn bodoli i gynorthwyo rhieni i weithio gyda'u hawdurdodau lleol i cadw ysbryd y strategaeth yn byw

Mae grwp o rieni yn eich ardal chwi yn gweithio'n galed i geisio gwneud hyn

Mae arnynt angen eich cefnogaeth, barn a'ch sylwadau am anghenion eich mab, merch neu berthynas yn ogystal a'ch anghenion chi fel rhiant neu gynhalwyr

Cymerwch daflen i weld sut i gysylltu a grwp yn eich ardal leol