

# RUABON NEWS LETTER 502

## Wrexham Council Budget Update

Latest proposals to help tackle budget pressures will be discussed by Wrexham Councillors next week – with the council looking to take early decisions because the situation is so serious.

Early this summer, Wrexham Council announced that unless it took action, it would be facing a potential shortfall of £23 million by the end of this financial year, with a further £20 million shortfall on the cards for next year.

On top of this, the council had already been forced to make cuts of over £60m between 2016 and 2020 due to real term reductions in funding.

All in all, this adds up to £103 million – highlighting the huge pressure on council budgets.

Councillors and officers have been working hard to find savings and efficiencies, with a [raft of cost-cutting measures already introduced](#) in recent months.

The council has already identified millions of pounds in savings in the current year, and next week (Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> December), members of the Executive Board will meet to consider further proposals on how to begin to plug the expected shortfall in 2024-25.

Key points up for discussion include:

- Reducing the use of temporary accommodation for housing needs by utilising 50 HRA (Housing Revenue Account) properties.
- Reviewing assets (land and buildings) owned by the council.
- Deleting unfilled and vacant jobs across the council.
- Stopping the City Centre Warden Service.
- Setting up a Change and Efficiency Programme Board to identify and propose further radical budget measures for 2024-25.

It's well known that councils across Wales are feeling the pinch from high inflation, pay settlements, demand on services, energy costs, material costs and other pressures.

Financial analysis suggests the authority may need to increase Council Tax by at least 12.5% next year just to 'stand still', based on current forecasts. Every 1% raises an extra £600k – helping to protect social care, housing and other key services.

Further analysis will take place with a decision on Council Tax likely to be taken in next February.

Councillor Mark Pritchard, Leader of the Council, said: “The financial situation is incredibly difficult, and no council can afford to sit on its hands. “We’ve already managed to identify a lot of savings and efficiencies in Wrexham Council, and we’re working tirelessly to protect both staff and customers. However, this is the biggest financial challenge we’ve ever faced and unless councils get more money, the sad reality is that jobs and public services will be reduced.”

The Executive Board will meet on Tuesday, 12th December.

In a separate report, councillors will also consider proposals to change parking fees in council-run car parks from April next year.

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Gwasanaeth Gwybodaeth i Deuluoedd Wrecsam  
Wrexham Family Information Service



### Rainbows Panel Notification

Due to the Christmas break, there will be NO Rainbow Panel held on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January. All Rainbow Applications will need to be submitted by the 8<sup>th</sup> December to be heard at panel on the 18<sup>th</sup> December, ready for January. After this, the next panel date is 15th January. Please note that applications will only be considered for Extra Hands 1-2-1 support for the Childcare Offer or to enable parents to work where there is existing funding in place.

Please be aware that the Rainbows Panel will not be able to consider new referrals for funding for Respite, Child Development placements or for Extra Hands 1-2-1 support for the interim period due to the grant funding streams currently being fully utilised.

All existing agreements to fund current placements and Extra Hands 1-2-1 support will continue to be funded for the agreed time frame as stipulated on the Grant Award Letter and Grant Acceptance Form. If you have any queries with regard to the end date of a placement or the funding for Extra Hands 1-2-1 support please email: [paneladmin@wrexham.gov.uk](mailto:paneladmin@wrexham.gov.uk).

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Big Welsh Rhyme Time is back from  
5th–9th February 2024  
and we'd love for you to join in.

The theme for Big Welsh Rhyme Time 2024 will be 'Rhyming Fun for Everyone' and we want to make this the most exciting and inclusive Big Welsh Rhyme Time yet.

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## Coleg Cambria

Coleg Cambria offers learning and development opportunities for all employed childcare practitioners. These include delivery of Levels 2, 3, and 4, both strands; Professional Practice and Preparing for Leadership and the progression to Level 5 Leadership and Management. We also offer a plethora of short courses to support the industry.

Please contact Sally Ewing at [sally.ewing@cambria.ac.uk](mailto:sally.ewing@cambria.ac.uk) for all enquiries and further information.

### **Funding for courses**

*All of the courses are fully funded through Work Based Welsh Government funding.*

*PLA Personal Learning Account funding is also available \* eligibility requirements in place.*

*As is the new Employers Skills North Wales Fund, which ends in October 2024 \* eligibility requirements are in place. This is exciting new funding, which will cover many sector-specific short courses too.*

### **CCPLD (Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development Level 2)**

**Expected completion 16 months** The Level 2 Core is delivered via off-the-job training, through the Google Classroom platform. Choice of a Monday afternoon or a Friday morning session. For those learners who have completed the legacy CCLD less than 10 years ago; the assessor will make a decision if the taught sessions will be necessary; learners may just need a refresher than sit the case study assessments.

The Level 2 Practice standards will be assessed '*on the job*' via observations of skills and knowledge and understanding criteria.

\*If exemptions aren't available, Essential Skills in Application of Number and Communication at Level 1 will be required to be completed.

### **CCPLD (Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development Level 3)**

**Expected completion is 18 months** If learners need the Core qualification; the same model as above is applied.

The Level 3 Practice standards will be assessed '*on the job*' via observations of skills and knowledge and understanding criteria.

\*If exemptions aren't available, Essential Skills in Application of Number and Communication at Level 2 will be required to be completed.

### **Level 4 and Level 5 Child Care**

**NB** *Potential learners need to complete an initial assessment assignment within a deadline, before being accepted onto the course.*

### **Level 4 Professional Practice in Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development**

#### **Expected completion 21 months**

The Level 4 Professional Practice is delivered in sessions at college, around *8 full days and 3 half days over the academic year from Sept to June* with a big emphasis on self and independent study. Skills are observed in the workplace and a 45-minute professional discussion.

### **Level 4 Preparing for Leadership and Level 5 Leadership and Expected completion 24 months**

The Level 4 Preparing for Leadership is delivered in sessions at college, around *8 full days and 3 half days over the academic year from Sept to June* with a big emphasis on self and independent study. Skills are observed in the workplace.

### **Level 5 Leadership and Management of Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice**

The Level 5 Leadership and Management of CCPLD can be completed following the successful completion of the Level 4 Preparing for Leadership. Practitioners need to be in a managerial role as they need to complete a business plan. Delivery is work-based mainly. Again. The main emphasis is on self and independent study.

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\*If proxies/exemptions aren't available, Essential Skills in Application of Number and Communication at Level 2 will be required to be completed.

### **Play work Levels 2, 3 and Transition Level 3**

The Play Work Transition Level 3, is for those learners with an existing Level 3 Childcare qualification or STL Level 3 qualification. Play worker's competence is assessed in practice, through knowledge and skills assessments. The Play Work Level 3 Transition can be accessed through the

The level 2 and 3 Play work qualifications are again funded by the *Welsh Government's work based learning funding*. Play workers competence is assessed in practice, through knowledge and skills assessments. \*If exemptions aren't available, Essential Skills in Application of Number and Communication at Level 2 will be required to be completed.

## Information and toolkit to support settings engagement work with parents and carers on Curriculum for Wales.

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### Wrexham Businesses Celebrate at the North Wales Tourism Awards



It was another amazing night at the Go North Wales 2023 Tourism Awards back in November, with Wrexham businesses doing the whole county proud!

[The Lemon Tree](#) deservedly picked up the Go Eating Out Experience of the Year 2023 award, with award-winning café and deli [Toast](#) was also making it as a finalist in this category, proving just how incredible Wrexham's food offer is! [Rossett Hall Hotel](#) celebrated winning -Go Large Hotel of the Year 2023~, a testament to the hard work of the team there.

Congratulations also to [Commonwood Leisure](#), in Holt, for being chosen as a finalist in the Go Self Catering of the Year category. Fantastic achievements all!

If you're looking for a little inspiration, somewhere to take the whole family this month, look no further than [Ty Pawb's December events guide](#). With food, drink, shopping, markets, music, craft and entertainment, there's something to keep everyone happy in Ty Pawb this December! Check out this handy what's on guide.

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and finally... If you're in need of a break from the hustle and bustle of the Christmas build-up, head to the tranquillity of Llanarmon in the Ceiriog Valley – with stunning scenic walks, followed by a warming drink and delicious food at either the [West Arms](#) or the [Hand](#). Just imagine fuelling up by the fire after your walk! Stop of at the villages of Pontfadog and Glyn Ceiriog, and maybe take in Chirk's lights on your way home. What a cosy day!

- We have been working in partnership with Coleg Cambria to support learners leaving construction courses to gain CSCS Cards (required for building sites) and help to gain employment.

Finally, we would like welcome our new members of the team, Ellen (Participation and Engagement Officer), Leah (Community Mentor) and congrats to Julie (Team Leader), on their new roles.

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### Christmas Shopping at the Wrexham

#### Visitor Information Centre

#### Ty Pawb's Packed Christmas Programme

If you're looking for a little inspiration, somewhere to take the whole family this month, look no further than [Ty Pawb's December events guide](#). With food, drink, shopping, markets, music, craft and entertainment, there's something to keep everyone happy in Ty Pawb this December! Check out this handy 'What's On Guide.'



## Enjoy a Christmassy visit to Chirk Castle and Erddig this December



The [National Trust](#) really knows how to celebrate Christmas, and bring out all the nostalgic feels! With enchanting decorations and ornate Christmas Trees, take a magical walk around the medieval castle at Chirk, stroll the grounds and savour the festive atmosphere. Erddig have also pulled out all the stops this year, with the house dressed grandly for the occasion and cosy

Christmas activities such as marshmallow toasting, Christmas crafts and storytelling.

## **Festive Fun at the William Aston Hall**

With the festive period soon upon us, [William Aston Hall](#) has a great line-up of events perfect for seasonal celebrations with friends and family or for any last-minute gifts!



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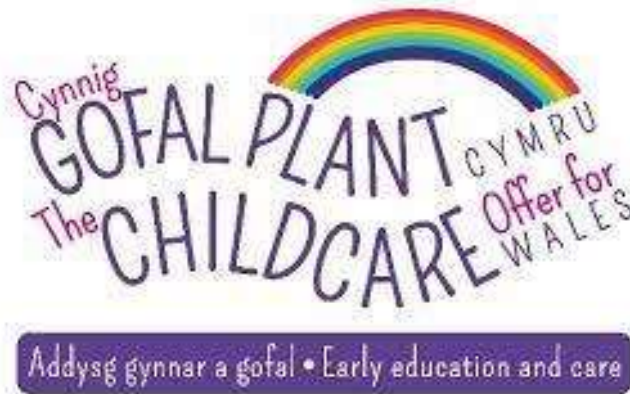


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Gwasanaeth Gwybodaeth i Deuluoedd Wrecsam  
Wrexham Family Information Service



The Deputy Minister for Social Services has [announced](#) the launch of the Welsh Government [consultation](#) on professional registration of the childcare and playwork workforce.

The consultation asks whether the childcare and playwork sector should have a workforce register and if so, who should be included in that register.

We have written to all registered childcare and playwork providers to alert them to the launch of this consultation and will be working with key partners to raise awareness.

The consultation runs from **30<sup>th</sup> November 2023 to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024**.



If you sell, cook, store, handle, prepare or distribute, you may be considered a food business and will need to [register with your local authority](#).

You will need to [register with your local authority](#) if you:

- sell food
- cook food
- store or handle food
- prepare food
- distribute food

Registration will apply to all types businesses who sell food and or drink, regardless of where they operate from. It includes businesses trading from home, a mobile unit, or temporary premises such as a stall or van and applies if you only sell food or drink online.

If you operate in more than one location, you need to register each premise with the local authority in which they are located. If you are un-sure if you need to register or require further advice, please [contact your local authority](#) in England, Wales or Northern Ireland.

Registration of your food business is free and can't be refused. If you are already trading and have not registered yet, you need to register as soon as possible as this is a legal requirement.

If you supply food regularly, for free or otherwise, to the public, then you need to register as a food business.

Register your food business on the [food business registration portal](#).

Anyone who sells, cooks, stores, handles, prepares or distributes food for the public needs to register as a food business, however there are also other guidelines you need to follow to make sure you're running your business correctly.

The Christmas holidays are coming. Make sure the Agreements you have with parents cover holiday hours if they are using the Offer in the holidays.

More information available here:

<https://www.gov.wales/providers-manage-agreements...>

<https://www.gov.wales/providers-claim-payment-childcare...>

For help and advice contact our national helpline on 03000 628 628

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## Time to Remember at Ruabon Library

Join us at Ruabon Library to share your memories, reminisce with books and music, try out our new activities and meet and chat with others.

Time to Remember at Ruabon Library will take place on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm**. Individuals, families and carers will be very welcome. Call 01978 822002 for more details.

\*\*Please note, this is a change of date for December only.

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## Birthday Parties at: Ruabon Sports Complex.

with a:

Sports hall, Seminar room  
and Spectators' area.

**Available Evenings and weekends.**

## Birthday party options available

Including:

**Football, Nerf, Netball and Cricket.**

Contact: Ruabon 01978 822978 or Chirk 01691778666



# ALWAYS FOLLOW THE WATER SAFETY CODE



Whenever you are around water:

## STOP AND THINK

Take time to assess your surroundings. Look for the dangers and always research local signs and advice.



## STAY TOGETHER

When around water always go with friends or family. Swim at a lifeguarded venue.



In an emergency:

## Call 999

Ask for the Fire and Rescue Service when inland and the Coastguard if at the coast. Don't enter the water to rescue.



## FLOAT

Fall in or become tired - stay calm, float on your back and call for help. Throw something that floats to somebody that has fallen in.



Enjoy Water **Safely**

Learn basic lifesaving and CPR skills.  
Visit [www.rlss.org.uk](http://www.rlss.org.uk)

Thank you to Julie Haslam for this information

Chirk Leisure and Activity centre are pleased to announce that we have spaces available on our junior Swimming lessons.

Lessons run Monday to Friday after school and Saturday and Sunday Mornings. Wave 1 lessons start from the age of 4 years for those who are unable to swim. For those who have had lessons in the past, we offer a Free-swimming assessment to determine which Wave they will need to be placed on. Please call 01691 778666 for further information.



With the summer on us and Drowning prevention week promoting the dangers of water.

centre

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## Should the school year change?

Last updated: 29.11.2023 at 11:19 am

Welsh Government is thinking of making changes to the school year in Wales to better support learners, their families, and the education workforce, and want to know what the people in Wrexham think about their plans.

These plans could mean a two-week autumn break in to give everybody a chance to recharge; a five-week summer break to allow for the longer autumn break; and a break in the middle of the spring term instead of one tied to Easter so that learners and teachers have a more balanced term.

The total number of days spent in school, and the amount of school holidays learners get will not change.

Any changes would be from September 2025 at the earliest, meaning that the first two-week autumn break could be in 2025 and the first five-week summer break could be in 2026.

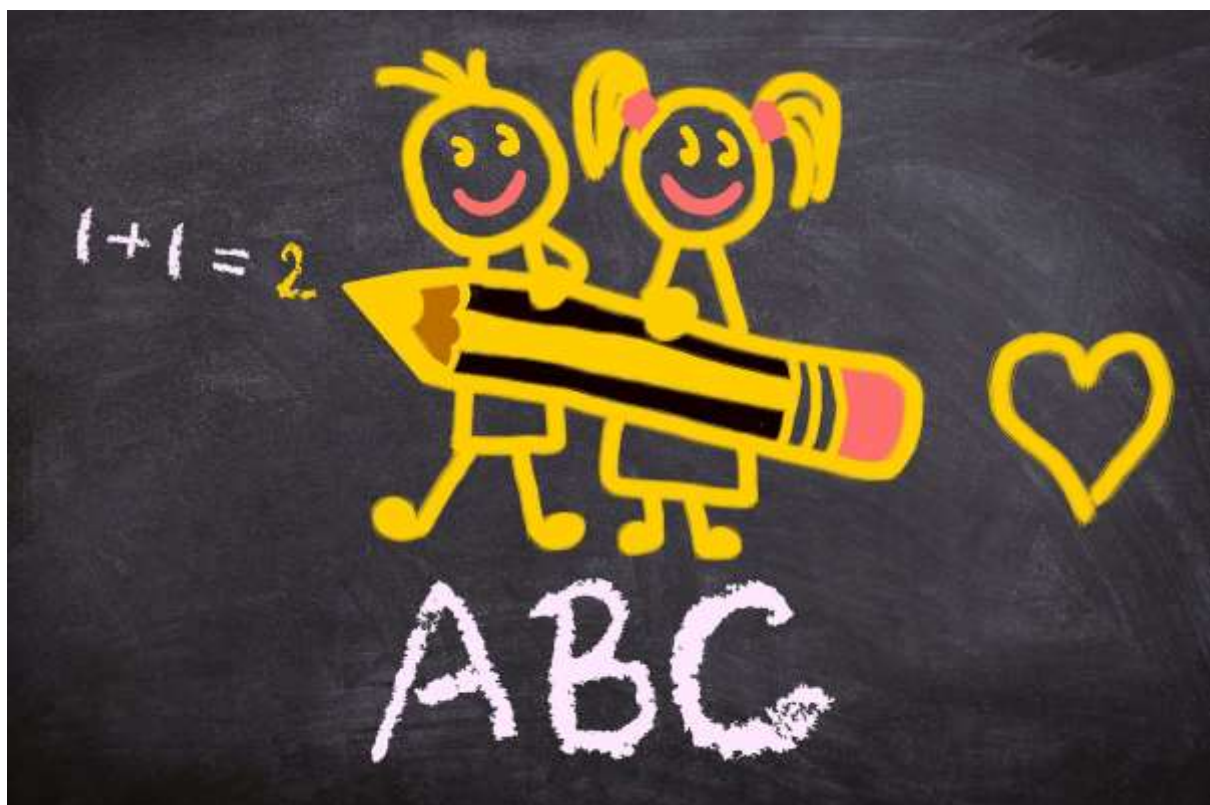
Share your views by visiting [The structure of the school year](#) on the Welsh Government's website.

You can also email [ExploringUseOfSchoolTime@gov.wales](mailto:ExploringUseOfSchoolTime@gov.wales)

This consultation closes on the 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2024.

[Get the latest news and info straight into your inbox.](#)

: [customer.service@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:customer.service@canalrivertrust.org.uk) **BIZ & EDUCATION**



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## Celebrating World Fisheries Day

From the Blue Belt programme came the exciting news that St Helena’s MPA has become a ‘Hope Spot’.

The organisation ‘Mission Blue Highlights’ special areas of marine environment that are scientifically critical to ocean health, and recognises the work undertaken to protect and sustainably manage them. The Blue Belt Programme is proud to have supported St Helena on their journey to designate and manage their Marine Protected.

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## RHYBUDD TWYLL

Mae Heddlu Gogledd Cymru wedi cael gwybod am dwyllwyr yn targedu trigolion gan honni eu bod o'u meddygfa leol. Mae'r troseddwr yn gofyn i'r dioddefwr am eu hiechyd yn gyffredinol ac yn argymhell presgripsiynau newydd ar gyfer eu hanhwylderau. Gofynnir wedyn i'r dioddefwr am eu manylion banc.

Buaswn i'n annog trigolion fod yn ymwybodol o'r dacteg hon a **pheidio rhoi manylion personol neu fanylion banc i UNRHYW UN** dros y ffôn. Os 'da chi'n derbyn galwad o'r fath, rhowch y ffôn i lawr a riportiwch wrth Action Fraud ar **0300 123 2040**.

Os 'da chi'n poeni am unrhyw anhwylderau neu feddyginiaethau, cysylltwch hefo'ch meddygfa gan ddefnyddio rhif ffôn 'da chi'n wybod ac un dibynadwy.



## FRAUD ALERT

North Wales Police have been made aware of fraudsters targeting residents, purporting to be from their local GP Surgery. The criminals are asking the victim about their general health and recommending new prescriptions for ailments. The victim is then asked to provide their bank details.

I would urge residents to be aware of this tactic and **not provide personal details or bank details to ANYONE** over the telephone. If you receive such a call, please hang up and report to Action Fraud on **0300 123 2040**.

If you are concerned about any ailments or medication, please contact your GP surgery using a phone number you know and trust.





## Crefftau'r Nadolig Christmas Crafts



Ymunwch â'n sesiwn Crefftau'r Nadolig am ddim.

Come and join us for free Christmas Crafts.



05/12/23 and 12/12/23 12.30pm – 2.30pm

Neuadd Bentref Rhiwabon, Maes y Llan, Rhiwabon, LL14 6AD  
Ruabon Village Hall, Maes Y Llan Lane, Ruabon, LL14 6AD



Rhaid archebu ymlaen llaw!  
Booking is essential!



Cysylltwch â | Contact  
training@groundworknorthwales.org.uk  
www.groundworknorthwales.org.uk



[www.groundworktraining.org.uk](http://www.groundworktraining.org.uk)



**FEEL GOOD. DO GOOD. FOR GOOD.**

Community wellbeing choirs rehearsing weekly near you! No experience necessary!

**FIRST SESSION FREE!**

*mondays 6:30pm - 8pm  
singing starts at 7pm  
Plas Pentwyn, Coedpoeth  
email: [hello@choirsforgood.com](mailto:hello@choirsforgood.com)  
for more info.*



**SCAN ME!**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO FIND OUT MORE**  
[www.choirsforgood.com/join](http://www.choirsforgood.com/join)



MANY THANKS (AGAIN) to Dianne Williams.

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I do hope everything is well with you ALL and that you are able to deal with the 'LAST MINUTE special items!

Best wishes

Sybil (Bremner).