

# RUABON NEWS LETTER 510



## Graduation Day CU



Tuesday, 20th February  
Emily Ruby Aston  
Grace Evans Yr 7,

from [Children's University](#) on Monday 19th February.

2024  
Yr 7, and Lily  
both graduated

They earned this graduation by taking part in over 30 hours of Extra-Curricular activities, or voluntary work, in the community.

Both students attended this graduation hosted by Glyn Dwr Wrexham University and were presented with their graduation certificate by the vice chair of the university, Maria Hinfelaar, whilst friends and family watched.

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# Options to improve the Air Ambulance Service in Wales and tell us what you think



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## EMRTS service review Phase 3 engagement 01 February – 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Email: [eascservicereviewqueries@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:eascservicereviewqueries@wales.nhs.uk);

Simply write to:

EMRTS Service Review Feedback  
Emergency Ambulance Services Committee,  
Unit 1 Charnwood Court, Billingsley Road,  
Nantgarw Park, Cardiff, CF15 7Q

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## The Audit Wales

### Finance issues

The Audit Wales report also states that investigations into financial irregularities identified by them and by the EY review are complex and has had a disruptive effect on the finance team.

A small number of staff from our Finance Department remain suspended whilst the investigation is ongoing. The health board has a duty of care to staff and cannot comment further until the investigation has concluded.

### Industrial action

Further industrial action by junior doctors takes place in Wales for 72 hours from Wednesday 21st February.

As happened during the action taken in January, this will impact our hospital services. We are working with our staff to keep patients safe during planned strikes while delivering the best care possible.

It does mean, however, that some planned care appointments will need to be rearranged. Anyone who has an appointment that needs to be rearranged will have been contacted directly.

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If anyone has a planned appointment then they should still attend unless they are contacted directly to say otherwise.

During this time we would urge anyone who requires care or support to contact NHS 111 Wales in the first instance to be advised about the most appropriate service, which might be self-care at home, a visit to the pharmacy, a GP appointment, a Minor Injuries Unit, or, in life threatening circumstances, the hospital Emergency Department.

### **Special Measures progress one year on**

We're planning a series of special briefings for our staff, key stakeholders and the public to describe the progress we've made since Welsh Government placed the Health Board into Special Measures in February 2023. Invitations to these briefings are on their way to your inbox, and we hope you will be able to join in.

### **Not too late to protect against COVID-19 and flu**

Flu and COVID-19 are still circulating in communities across North Wales. Over the last four weeks more than 200 inpatients at our hospitals have tested positive for flu. This is the highest level since the first week of January 2023.

The best way to protect against serious illness caused by COVID-19 and flu is to get the COVID-19 booster and annual flu vaccine.

Walk-in COVID-19 and flu vaccination clinics for eligible adults are being held at our community vaccination centres this week and until the end of March. [Check your eligibility for the vaccines](#) and [dates, times and locations of our clinics](#).

### **Measles outbreaks**

We are concerned about recent outbreaks of measles and are calling on parents to ensure their children have had the MMR vaccine.

While data shows children in North Wales have a higher level of protection against measles than many other areas of Wales and the UK, MMR vaccine coverage at 91% is below the recommended level of 95%. Any parent who thinks their child may have missed an MMR vaccine should check the vaccination record in their red book. If you need to catch up with an MMR vaccine, please contact your [GP surgery](#) or [health visitor](#).

Our [school nursing](#) and immunisation teams are reviewing records and offering catch up MMR vaccination to secondary school age children who need it as part of routine HPV, MenACWY and 3-in-1 teenage booster vaccine clinics.

### **Whooping cough on the rise**

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Suspected cases of whooping cough have risen rapidly in recent weeks. Anyone who is pregnant or has a new baby should make sure that they or their child has the pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine and all other routine vaccinations. Anyone with questions should speak to their [community midwife](#) or [health visitor](#).

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Please find below an update from Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board.

We also need your feedback - tell us what you think...

[Phase 3 Engagement Process - Emergency Ambulance Services Committee \(nhs.wales\)](#) Can you please share that link and display/share the attached poster with your networks, patients, customers or service users.

**Anna Kepinska** (Swyddog Ymgysylltu / Engagement Officer)



rhif ffôn • phone 07732415679 e-bost

email: [Anna.Kepinska@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Anna.Kepinska@wales.nhs.uk)



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## University Health Board Update Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024

### Reducing waiting times

We are seeing tangible benefits for the people of North Wales as we continue to improve the health service.

We are determined to reduce waiting times for treatment, and in the 12 months between November 2022 and November 2023 we have seen the following improvements.

- Diagnostic and therapy waiting list numbers down more than 5%;

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- Echocardiogram waiting list numbers down more than 30%;
- Radiology waiting list numbers down more than 30%;
- Physiotherapy waiting list numbers down more than 12%;
- Speech and Language waiting list numbers down more than 17%.

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We understand that there is still much work to do to bring down waiting lists for a wide range of services even further. We will keep you informed of our progress.

## **Report shows we're moving in the right direction**



We have welcomed a new Audit Wales report which states that, compared with a year ago, the Board is in a more stable position and that working relationships amongst senior leaders are more positive.

Audit Wales also said the dysfunctionality within the Board described in their previous report was no longer evident.

Our Chair Dyfed Edwards said: "I welcome this report which acknowledges the progress the health board has made over the past year. I fully understand that there is much more to be done as we continue on our improvement journey in order to ensure excellent healthcare services for the people of north Wales."

"I see the Audit Wales report as a milestone to show we are moving in the right direction. Over the last 12 months we have worked to create stability and a positive and supportive culture within the health board, whilst focusing on quality of service provision and reaching out to patients and the public we serve.

"We now have a firm foundation to build on, with a new Chief Executive and new Board members in place who are committed to improving our governance, our financial management and ultimately improving our focus on quality and the experience of the patient and their families. I am grateful for the support of our partners and Government in all our efforts."

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## **Be a part of International Women's Day in Tŷ Pawb on 8<sup>th</sup> March**

(last updated: 19.02.2024 at 4:10pm)

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We're working with partners across Wrexham to honour and highlight International Women's Day and we're looking for more groups, businesses or organisations to get involved.

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The event is to celebrate all the Safer Street work that has been undertaken over the last few years as well as showcase all the good work that is being done by local companies, organisations and charities to support and empower women in Wrexham.

It takes place on Friday 8th March at Tŷ Pawb between 10am and 1pm.

On the day there'll be lots of activities and offers along with stalls and entertainment but we're looking for even more stall holders to come together to mark the occasion.

If you would like to be involved to celebrate and showcase your organisation or area of work please email [communitysafety@wrexham.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety@wrexham.gov.uk) for further details

**Cllr Beverley Parry Jones, Lead Member for Corporate Services, said:** "International Women's Day is a worldwide event that promotes the achievements of women, greater gender equality and empowerment. 2024's theme is to inspire inclusion and we're keen to have as many Wrexham organisations as possible represented."

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## Wrexham's Sweet Chestnut is through to "The European Tree of the Year"



We're excited to announce that having won UK Tree of the Year in 2023, the Wrexham Sweet Chestnut is now through to the European Tree of the Year!

The Wrexham Sweet Chestnut stands proudly in Acton Park and received some well-deserved recognition in September 2023 when it competed with 12 other nominees throughout the UK to be crowned UK Tree of the Year. This automatically puts it through to the European stages where it will compete with trees from all over Europe to claim the title.

It's easy to see why the Wrexham Sweet Chestnut is now heading to Europe; standing an impressive 24 metres tall and boasting a 6.1m circumference, this veteran tree is estimated to be approximately 480 years old which means it began growing in 1534, during the times of King Henry VIII. It has withstood many challenges during its half-millennium, from post-war plundering of the park for firewood in the forties to dozens of deadly storms, including that of 2021 when many neighbouring trees lost limbs or were toppled completely.

To celebrate getting into this prestigious competition will be hosting events and educational visits around the Wrexham Sweet Chestnut throughout February.

We want to celebrate Acton Park and all the visitors that the tree has seen over the years, even our four legged friends! A fun dog show will be held on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February 11.30-4pm around the tree, inviting dogs and their owners to take part in categories such as waggiest tail and scruffiest dog. There will be 11 categories all together to enter and other stalls and activities on hand to entertain all the family throughout the day such as agility shows, dog treats, art and craft and refreshments. .

## A Love Your Trees Valentines Special

age | 8 Will also take place on Wednesday February 14<sup>th</sup> 1pm-3pm where people can enjoy a self-guided walk around the park looking for all the Valentine themed marker points before coming back the Wrexham sweet Chestnut to collect a Valentines prize and take part in some Valentine themed craft. Come along and share your love of trees this Valentines and bring along all the family to take part in this half term treat.

### Wrexham's Sweet Chestnut is a "Truly Incredible Tree"

Cllr Terry Evans, Lead Member for the Environment, said, "This is a truly incredible tree and is a firm favourite of many generations of people in the area.

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## Wrexham Library News



### Meet the Author

Join author Martine Bailey in conversation with writer and musician, Dr Elaine Walker, as we celebrate the launch of Martine's new book, *Sharp Scratch*. A thriller packed with suspense set at the heart of a sprawling NHS hospital where a killer roams unchecked. The book launch will take place at Wrexham Library on Tuesday 27 February at 6.00pm. It is a free event but you must reserve your place. Contact the library on [library@wrexham.gov.uk](mailto:library@wrexham.gov.uk) or 01978 292090.

We look forward to seeing you there.



## **Brynteg Library Craft sessions**

Join us at Brynteg Library for two special craft sessions for children. The first one takes place on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 4-5pm for St. David's Day crafts. The second session takes place on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March, 4-5pm for an activity to make Mother's Day cards. Both of these sessions are suitable for children aged 4+. They are free of charge but you must reserve your space as places are limited. Contact the library on 01978 759523 or [Brynteg.library@wrexham.gov.uk](mailto:brynteg.library@wrexham.gov.uk)

## **Learning at Lunchtime**

**Come along to our monthly Learning at Lunchtime session and learn how to crochet a Granny Square. The session will take place on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March, 1-2pm at Wrexham Library. If you would like to attend please bring a 3.25mm or 4mm crochet hook with you. Basic understanding of crochet techniques are required, but full tuition for making the square will be given. Booking is essential, so please reserve your place by contacting Wrexham Library on 01978 292090 or [library@wrexham.gov.uk](mailto:library@wrexham.gov.uk)**

## **Meet**

### **the Author:**

## **Clare Mackintosh**

The latest in our Meet the Author series is bestselling author Clare Mackintosh. Clare will chat about her writing career and her latest book *I Promise It Won't Always Hurt Like This*. With 18 assurances that are full of compassion, this book draws from Clare's experiences of losing her son and her father and offers the reader comfort as they navigate grief. This event will take

place at Wrexham library on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm. Tickets are £3 and can be purchased online at [www.wrexham.gov.uk/meettheauthor](http://www.wrexham.gov.uk/meettheauthor) or you can buy them directly from Wrexham Library.

### “Sisters under the Rising Sun” by Heather Morris

In the midst of World War II, an English musician, Norah Chambers, places her eight-year-old daughter Sally on a ship leaving Singapore, desperate to keep her safe as the island falls to the Japanese Army. Welsh Australian nurse Sister Nesta James has enlisted alongside the Allied forces. As Singapore falls to the Japanese she joins the terrified cargo of people, including the heartbroken Norah, crammed aboard the *Vyner Brooke* merchant ship. Only two days later, they are bombarded from the air off the coast of Indonesia, and in a matter of hours, the *Vyner Brooke* lies broken on the seabed. Nesta and Norah reach the beaches of a remote island, only to be captured and held in one of their notorious Japanese POW camps. The camps are places of starvation and brutality, where disease runs rampant. But even here joy can be found in music, where Norah’s ‘voice orchestra’ has the power to transport the internees out of the squalor and into the light. Sisters in Arms Norah and Nesta devote themselves to the women’s survival while discovering their own extraordinary reserves of courage, love and strength. An amazing true story, well worth reading.

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**There will be an ‘IT Skills for Beginners’ Course starting at Ruabon Library on 29<sup>th</sup> February**

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## Sgiliau TG i Ddechreuwyd IT Skills for Beginners

Arweiniad i ddechreuwyd ar sut i ddefnyddio gliniadur gan gynnwys chwilio'r rhyngwyd, anfon negeseuon e-bost ac ysgrifennu dogfennau.  
Beginners guide to using a laptop, including searching the internet, sending emails and writing a document.

Cwrs 6-wythnos yn dechrau ar 29 Chwefror  
6 weeks starting 29th February

10:30am - 12:30pm

Llyfrgell Rhiwabon, Caer Llan, LL14 6NH  
Ruabon Library, Caer Llan, LL14 6NH

Rhaid archebu ymlaen llaw!  
Booking is essential!

Cysylltwch â | Contact  
✉ helen.armstrong@groundworknorthwales.org.uk  
☎ 07708 395491  
🌐 www.groundworktraining.org.uk

 

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

We welcome correspondence in Welsh, We will respond to any correspondence in Welsh and this will not lead to any delay.  
Mae'r neges e-bost hon ac unrhyw atodiadau wedi eu bwriadu ar gyfer yr unigolyn neu'r sefydliad y'i cyfeirir atynt yn unig. Am yr amodau llawn ynglŷn â chynnwys a defnyddio'r neges e-bost hon, ac unrhyw atodiadau, cyfeiriwch at

[www.wreccsam.gov.uk/top\\_navigation/disclaimersw.htm](http://www.wreccsam.gov.uk/top_navigation/disclaimersw.htm)

Take a look - you can pay, report, request, have your say and find information online at [www.wrexham.gov.uk](http://www.wrexham.gov.uk)

\*\*\*\*\*  
“YR OWAIN GLYNDWR”,

## LLANDONNA, IN NATIONAL PUB AWARDS FINAL

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The finalists in the influential pub industry awards, PubAid's Community Pub Hero Awards, have been announced and Yr Owain Glyndwr, Llandonna has been shortlisted.

Yr Owain Glyndwr was nominated by owner, Mark Williams, who nominated the pub in the Community Support Hero Category which saw competition from almost 1000 other pubs nationwide.

This Community Support Hero Award recognises licensees who help their communities. It recognises pubs that are a 'good neighbour' to their local community.

The pub, which was bought just under two years ago, had previously become run down. It was shortlisted because the new owners have brought it back to life. The owners have done various activities to bring the community together and raise money for a local church and cancer ward, including a Boxing Day swim and tractor rally. The team check in on regulars if they are unwell and take them food. It is a local with the community at its heart.

Owner, Mark said "As freehold owners of a traditional rural village pub, we are delighted to be selected to the final stages.

"After purchasing and redeveloping the premises in February 2022 we felt, with so many pubs closing their doors due to reduced custom and rising costs, that it was important to keep the village pub open for the community. We are so pleased to have fantastic support from our locals.

"Being the only public business in the village, we employ nine local staff and provide freshly prepared food sourced locally where possible, a fantastic range of beers and guest Ale and a warm welcome to both local and tourists alike which also enhances the holiday attraction for the local area.

"With both Tammie and I in full time employment, we took the pub over and feel we have transformed a tired and quiet pub into a busy local and an important part of the community and contribute to help organise local charity events, including bingo, annual tractor rally and tug of war. Our annual Boxing Day swims have attracted over 100 locals to the beach to raise money. Our latest charity effort is to provide a community

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defibrillator at the pub and we thank everyone for their contribution and donations towards our fundraising events.”

The winners will be announced at an award ceremony, sponsored by Matthew Clark, at the Houses of Parliament on 5 March and all shortlisted pubs are invited to attend along with industry leaders and MPs.

Des O’Flanagan, co-founder of Pub Aid, added: “We launched these awards to celebrate the great work that pubs do for their community. Yr Owain Glyndwr is a perfect example of how pubs support and are a hub for many people in their community. The awards are in their fifth year and the volume of entries this year was staggering. What clearly came across from reading all the entries is that there are so many publicans that are doing amazing work nationwide. It was very hard to get to a shortlist so even getting to the finals is an amazing accolade for Yr Owain Glyndwr.”

Pub Aid, which organises the awards in association with Matthew Clark and the All Party Parliamentary Beer Group, has refreshed the awards and created more categories to congratulate more community pubs throughout the UK. There are 33 finalists in total across five categories.  
Ends

For more information and to speak to Des O’Flanagan please contact Emma Trimble at Just Nothing on [emma@justnothing.co.uk](mailto:emma@justnothing.co.uk)

### **The Categories**

**Community Support Hero:** recognising licensees who help their communities. If your pub is a ‘good neighbour’ to your local community, then this award is for you!

**Charity Fundraising Hero:** recognising pubs who support charities and other good causes through fundraising. This is not just judged on the amount of money raised, but on how it was done.

**Community Hero Regular:** recognising an individual or group of customers who help the pub’s fundraising efforts or its work to support the community.

**Community Sport Hero:** recognising pubs who bring the community together via sport. This could be events for national sport competitions or at a grass roots level with local teams.

**Community Sustainability:** recognising how pubs are helping the environment whether that’s in pub itself or within the local area.

**Community Pub Hero Awards:** Pub-Aid launched its Charity Fundraiser Pub Awards in 2018, with sponsorship from C&C and support from the All-Party Parliamentary Beer Group. The awards ran again in 2019, sponsored by Matthew Clark, and in 2020, with pubs closed for months due to Covid, they were reshaped and renamed as the Community Pub Hero Awards.

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**Pub Aid:** is a working party created in 2009 to promote UK pubs as a force for good in their communities, sharing the message that they raise over £100m per year for charities and contribute £40 million to grassroots sport.

**Pub Aid** runs the annual World's Biggest Pub Quiz, which has raised £750,000 since its launch in 2016, the Community Pub Hero Awards and, launched in early 2022, the Grassroots Sports Champions, in association with Sky, to recognise pubs' support for local sports.

**The Pub Aid** steering group is led by co-founder Des O'Flanagan, and includes a number of well-known figures from the pub world, who lend their time and other resources to help spread the positive messages about pubs' role at the heart of their communities.

**Matthew Clark** is a leading national drinks wholesaler with over 20 years' experience supplying drink products, hospitality training, labour management and marketing support to over 16,000 On-Trade premises in the UK.

**The All-Party Parliamentary Beer Group** was set up in 1993 and has a membership of over 350 MPs and Peers. The Beer Group's objectives are to broaden recognition of the enormous contribution of brewing and pubs to the UK economy from grain to glass - and to celebrate the unique role that beer and pubs play in our society.

Emma Holgate-Lowe  
07909776617  
PR Consultant  
Oyster PR & Communications

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## **Strategy takes new, broad approach to supporting Mental Health**

**Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing launches the New Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Suicide and Self-harm Strategy for consultation.**

First published: 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Last updated: 20th February 2024

**“We need to think more broadly and creatively about how we support people’s mental health and wellbeing,**

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**” Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing, Lynne Neagle said as she launched the new [Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#) also the [Suicide and Self-harm Strategy for consultation today](#) (Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February).**

ge | 16 The draft strategies, out for consultation until 11<sup>th</sup> June, aim to change how we think about mental health, empower people to improve their mental health and remove the barriers and stigma around getting help.

With half of mental health conditions impacting people by the age of 14 and 75% by the age of 23, there is a strong focus on prevention through ensuring everyone has equal access to the things they need to maintain good mental health, like exercise, the natural environment and belonging to the community.

There is also a focus on the wider causes of mental health and suicide prevention –including housing, employment and finances – and sets out work is needed across the whole Government and across sectors to improve mental health and wellbeing and to reduce suicide and self-harm in Wales.

Some groups are at greater risk of poor mental health than others and inequalities can contribute to poor mental health. This is why the strategies will promote equity of access, experience and outcome for all.

When people do need help, the strategies recognise that people’s needs are diverse and not everyone will need access to clinical or specialist mental health services. The aim is to build on the success of easy to access support like 111 press 2 and online cognitive behavioural therapy, alongside broader approaches to continue to improve support in schools and workplaces. This will provide a ‘no wrong door’ approach to support mental health and well-being.

Speaking ahead of the launch of the draft strategies, at The Hangout, Cardiff-based mental health and wellbeing hub for young people, the Deputy Minister of Mental Health and Wellbeing, Lynne Neagle said:

Good mental health is as critical to our wellbeing as physical health, and it is affected by so many things in our lives. It is not just a health and social care issue; we need all parts of society and Government to work together to help people maintain good mental health.

We need to change how we talk about and support mental health issues, to better reflect the needs of individuals. We have listened to a range of



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views in developing the strategies and people have told us not to medicalise mental health. For most people, whilst they do need support, they don't necessarily need clinical or specialised mental health services.

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The centre hosting the launch today in Cardiff, is the result of partnership working between Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and Platform. It is innovative approach to providing trauma informed and compassionate support for young people in a safe and comfortable environment. We need all sectors working together, recognising their role in supporting mental health and well-being.

Ewan Hilton, Chief Executive of Platform, said:

We are delighted to be at the Hangout today, as the strategy consultation is launched. The wellbeing hub here is an example of a new mental health approach we advocate for, which is judgement free, compassionate, and accessible. It is a place where people can connect to others and get support when they need it – and we are really proud of this approach.

We will be engaging with the consultation, recommending progressive approaches and championing the excellent work already happening.

Katie Simpson, Deputy General Manager for Children, Young People & Family Health Services at Cardiff and Vale UHB, said:

The Hangout has allowed us to redefine how children and young people across Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan access mental health and emotional wellbeing support.

Our aim is always to ensure that children and young people receive the right support at the right time in the right place and hopefully The Hangout reaffirms our commitment to deliver this.

It's been a fantastic journey and seeing the ideas of your young people finally come to fruition through a coproduced service is an amazing milestone. We look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with young people and Platform to develop and continuously improve services.

Lynne Neagle continued:

Suicide

and self-harm have a devastating impact on families, loved ones, professionals and communities. Whilst suicide and self-harm are complex, they are preventable and never inevitable. understand the

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causes and who are the most vulnerable groups, so we can deliver rapid

Fforwm Ymarferwyr Ymgysylltu  
Ardal y Dwyrain  
29 Chwefror 2024 10:00-12:00  
Drwy Team

East Area Engagement  
Practitioners Forum  
29<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
10:00- 12:00 Via Teams

## AGENDA

and impactful prevention, intervention and support.

Amser / Time	Eitem / Item	Pwy fydd yn siarad / Who
10:00	Croeso a Chyflwyniad / Welcome and Introduction	<b>Anna Kepinska</b> Swyddog Ymgysylltu / Engagement Officer
10:05	Diweddariad gan y FLVC /FLVC update	<b>Katherine Hussey</b> Third Sector Development Manager- Health and Social Care/ Rheolwr Datblygu'r Trydydd Sector gyda – Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol (FLVC)
10:15	Diweddariad o'r Rhaglen Gwella Strôc / An update of the Stroke Improvement Programme	<b>Sharon Ellis</b> Rheolwr Prosiect Cynorthwyol / Assistant Project Manager
10:30	Trosolwg o'r rôl a sut y gallai gweithio ar draws y gymuned ac mewn cydweithrediad helpu pawb / An overview of the role and how working across the community and in collaboration might help everyone	<b>Andrew Tower</b> Cydlynnydd Actif Gogledd Cymru -Sir y Fflint / Active North Wales Coordinator – Flintshire Datblygu Chwaraeon / Sports Development
10:50	Trosolwg prosiect Best Start /Best Start project overview	<b>Siwan Sutton</b> Uwch Ymarferydd Iechyd Cyhoeddus / Senior Public Health Practitioner
	Egwyl / Break	11:10-11:20
11:20	Trosolwg o CC4LD - Cyswllt Conwy ar gyfer Anableddau Dysgu a'r gwasanaeth a gynigir./Overview of CC4LD - Conwy Connect for Learning Disabilities and the service offered.	<b>Matthew Collier</b> Prif Swyddog Teulu Trosiannol / Lead Family Transition Officer

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11:35	Dementia	<b>Kate Evans</b> Cydylynydd CCU Dementia / Person Centred Dementia Coordinator
11:50	Trosolwg o Bresgripsiynu Cymdeithasol ar draws Gogledd Cymru / Overview of Social Prescribing across North Wales	<b>Brian Laing</b> Rheolwr Partneriaeth Strategol / Strategic Partnership Manager Iechyd Cyhoeddus / Public Health
12:00	Unrhyw ddiweddariadau eraill / Any other updates Dyddiad y cyfarfod nesaf – Fforwm Ymarferwyr Ardal Dwyrain : 6 Mehefin 2024 /Date of next meeting – East Area Engagement Practitioner Forum : 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	<b>Anna Kepinska</b> Swyddog Ymgysylltu / Engagement Officer (BCUHB) anna.kepinska@wales.nhs.uk

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## **Ken Skates MS | Clwyd South**



**Senedd Cymru  
Welsh Parliament**

***for immediate publication***

### **MS highlights violence against teachers before meeting**

**28/02/24**

**Member of the Senedd Ken Skates has highlighted increasing violence against staff in Welsh schools.**

During First Minister's Questions yesterday (Tuesday), the Clwyd South MS said: "We must respect our teachers and not tolerate violence or abuse against them."

Mr Skates met with the Wrexham Primary Headteachers' Federation late last year and will meet with local heads, Wrexham MS Lesley Griffiths and Education Minister Jeremy Miles today.

In the Senedd, he asked Mark Drakeford: “How is the Welsh Government supporting schools facing increasing instances of abuse and violence against staff?”

The First Minister responded: “There is a duty on local authorities and schools to ensure schools are a safe environment for all. Recognising the impact that poor behaviour can have on the well-being of staff, we continue to fund education support's well-being services. That service provides free advice and support for schools across Wales.”

The issue was one of a number raised with Mr Skates during his November meeting with Wrexham headteachers.

Addressing the First Minister, he said: “There are various challenges in education that have been amplified and intensified as a result of the pandemic, and one is the sharp increase in abuse of teachers and teaching assistants. Attacks have become more frequent, including in primary schools.

“Do you agree that we must respect our teachers and not tolerate violence or abuse against them?”

Mr Drakeford told the Senedd: “I absolutely associate myself with what Ken Skates has just said. There is no tolerance at all by this government of abuse of public servants going about the service that they provide, and that is certainly true of teachers and others in the classroom.”

The First Minister continued: “Condemnation by itself is never sufficient though, is it? We have to look at the causes of those difficulties and we have to provide help to those who face them in the jobs that they do, and that’s the work that the Minister for Education has embarked upon.

There’s a toolkit for senior leaders in the education services being prepared to help them to find ways of de-escalating those difficulties; to try to find a way of managing the tensions that arise in the lives of children that spill over into the classroom; to find a way of managing those things by recognising the root causes of them and finding effective ways of helping.”

After Senedd proceedings had concluded, Mr Skates said he has also made personal representations to the Education Minister regarding funding cuts.

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He added: "I have also invited the Minister to meet with me and a delegation of local parents in Clwyd South so he is able to hear first-hand their concerns and the impact these measures would have on their children and local schools." **-Ends-**

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**Hello Everyone**

**Please do send in ALL the information that shows what will be taking place IN THIS AREA.**

**THANK YOU**

**Sybil (Bremner)**