



# All Wales People First

# Talk Back

*The National Voice of People with Learning Disabilities in Wales*

## Autumn 2018



*“It doesn’t matter what words you use, it’s how you treat us that matters”*

**Adfest 2018**

## National Conference Special



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## Editorial

Welcome to the Autumn 2018 edition of Talk Back. We are really excited about sharing what we have been up to.

If you have anything you want to share in the next Edition, then please send an email to. [kelly@allwalespeople1st.co.uk](mailto:kelly@allwalespeople1st.co.uk)



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# Congratulations Ruth Northway Lifetime Achievement Award...



All Wales People First, Board member Ruth Northway has won an important award.

It came from the Royal College of Nursing.

It is to recognise a lifetime achievement.

This recognises all the work she has done over the years.

Ruth has helped:

- To advocate for good nursing for people with learning disabilities.
- To educate people to be learning disability nurses.
- To make the case for more learning disability nurses.

Ruth has also done a lot of important research work to help people with learning disabilities live a better life.

She has worked with people with learning disabilities as co-researchers on important projects.

Ruth also has taken part in lots of expert groups to help increase the quality of life for people with learning disabilities.

Ruth's work is well known and well respected in many countries. She is an important ambassador for people with learning disabilities.

Ruth's award is important because there aren't enough learning disability nurses.

It is also not known if there will be learning disability nurses in the future. Congratulations Ruth.

**Article by Joe Powell**

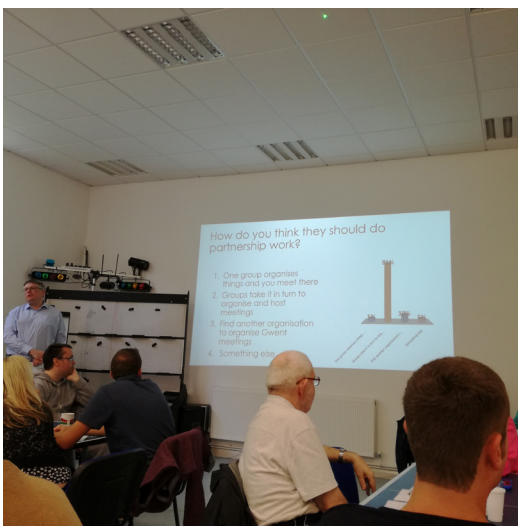
# Regional Update Gwent...



## People First groups in Gwent vote to work more together

In September members from People First groups across Gwent had a big meeting to talk about working more together.

At the meeting over twenty members said they wanted to do more partnership work.



They said working more together would be good because they could help each other and keep their groups going.

Nearly all the members said they wanted their groups to take it in turns to organise and host Gwent Partnership meetings.



They said they wanted to meet four times a year and they want the meetings to be fun.

All Wales People First said it would help the groups in Gwent organise their first meeting.



# AdFest National Conference DRILL toolkit launch...



We launched the DRILL Self-advocacy project toolkit at AdFest!

We hope that the toolkit will help people with learning disabilities track self-advocacy projects and to monitor project successes.



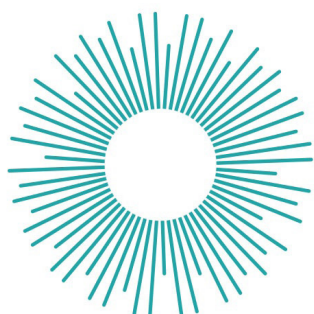
The tool kit includes a set of prompting cards to help people develop ideas for projects around key issues such as self advocacy, hate crime and better health services.



The tool kit was developed with the help and support of a range of organisations, led by All Wales People First, including Barod CIC, independent researchers, People First groups across Wales and representatives from statutory services in Wales.



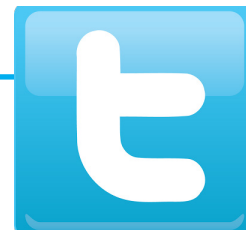
Funding for the tool kit was a £40,000 grant through DRILL (Disability Research on Independent Living and Learning), a £5 million programme funded by the National Lottery.



# drill

Disability Research on  
Independent Living & Learning

# AdFest National Conference Twitter feed...



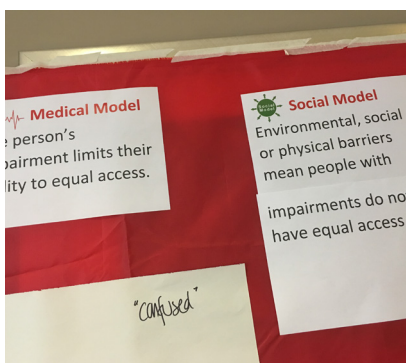
**All Wales People First @AllWalesPF**

“Gerraint and Elsa are getting ready to talk about @Engage\_2\_Change @AllWalesPF conference today ” #Awpf2018



**All Wales People First @AllWalesPF**

“I feel happier about Social Model than Medical Model. I like the words ‘learning disability. Cognitive impairment is difficult”



**All Wales People First @AllWalesPF**

“Disability is about your experience and the barriers you face. The word disability doesn't mean your impairment or condition”



**All Wales People First @AllWalesPF**

“What's in a name? It doesn't matter what words you use, it's how you treat us that matters”

#Awpf2018



# AdFest National Conference Selfie Booth...

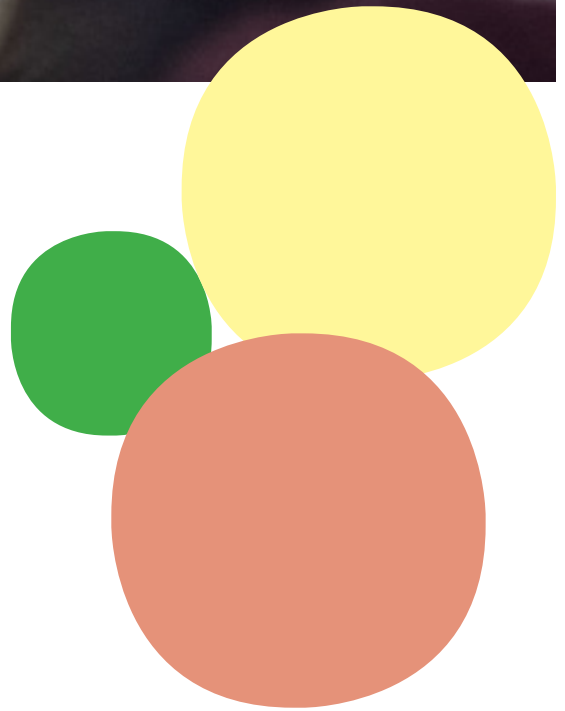


[#AdFestPhotobooth2018](#)











**All Together**





her Now!

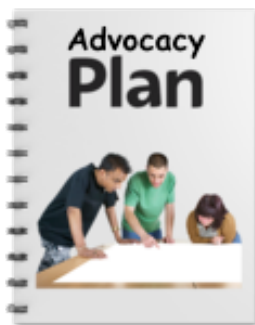
# News from Groups



## Blaenau Gwent



Our vision house group having Empower Training learning about the UK Parliament and Welsh Government



We are involved in the Gwent Advocacy Strategy making sure that Self Advocacy is included and that information is in easy read



We have been training student nurses in Communication and Easy read.

We visited the South Wales Police Museum to learn about policing through the ages



# Cwm Taff



We have held our Third Regional People First Group and have started to produce a business plan.



We are involved in the Cwm Taff Advocacy Strategy making sure that Self Advocacy is included and that information is in easy read.



Our group in Merthyr is now meeting regularly but we still need to get reps from Merthyr on decision making forums across Cwm Taff.

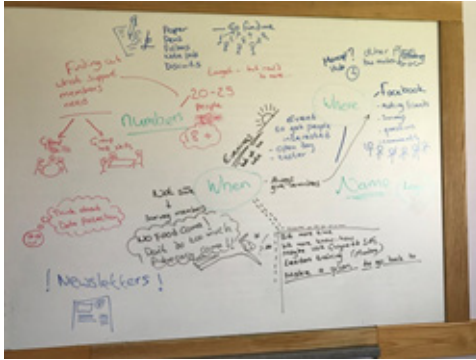


We have got a reserve representative onto the Public Services Board.

Next step is to get one there permanent



# Anglesey



We had a first meeting about getting people involved in our

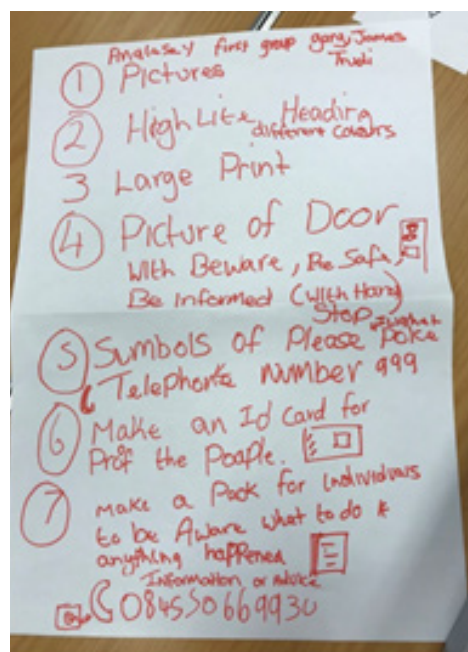


new group. We worked with Jan and Alan from Drill to think about doing a new group.



People 1st met with Anglesey Council Trading Standards. We helped them make a leaflet about Door Step Crime.

Trading Standards said the group had given them ideas about changing to easy read.



They said they would make a booklet and show the group to make sure it was good enough.



# Pembrokeshire



We were shortlisted for the Western Telegraph Health and Social Care Awards.

Our ASC Us team has created, and is starting to deliver, a fantastic course on autism awareness and acceptance. It is written and presented by adults with autism and is very powerful. Thanks to the Big Lottery for funding us to develop this – now we need to get the course out there and use it for income.



We held our AGM in October. 12 members wanted to be trustees and very bravely gave speeches. We have 5 new trustees and a new national Council rep, Anna. Well done to everyone.



We are really pleased that our council is employing 4 Learning Disability Champions to make our Pembrokeshire LD Strategy actions happen. This is a big step forward in employing people with disabilities. One of the Champions, JD, will be based at PPF and help us with communication.

# Cardiff



## Dawn Gullis

I have started a new project called 'Come Together' which will help people to get involved in things happening in their local community. This new project is funded by The People's Health Trust. I am the Project Worker and will be working within the Grangetown area of Cardiff.

## Joanna Jones

Hi! My name is Joanna and I am now a Cardiff People First 'Come Together' Project Worker. This job really excites me because I love to help people with learning disabilities to do activities.

I will be working in the Ely area in Cardiff. I hope that people have fun at the activities and find them rewarding. We can all make a difference in each others lives. I have just started this role and look forward to meeting lots of new people in my local area soon.

## James Reid

Hi! My name is James. I have just started a job for Cardiff People First. I am based mainly in the office. I love computers and I love working with people. I like hearing about people's problems because I love problem solving.



**Cardiff People First's 'Come Together' Team**



# Newport



Rhiannon and Becky went to the Peoples HealthTrust event at The Savoy Hotel in London. Newport People First have gained important funding from The Peoples Health Trust and both Rhiannon and Becky had a great time and we all look forward to working with them for a long time.



We held an understanding diversity work shop at Newport. We discussed about embracing difference and diversity and not fearing it. It was a very well attended workshop which was vibrant, educational and thought provoking.



Rhiannon and Zara delivered understanding people with a learning disability awareness training to Police Students at Gwent Polices training base in Cwmbran.



It is with great sadness that we announce the death of our colleague, and friend, Linda Willshare. It was a privilege to work with Linda and she will be deeply missed by everyone whose lives she touched at Newport People First.



## Learning Disability Awareness Training In Schools

Caerphilly People First has begun a very exciting, project which involves visiting schools to provide learning disability awareness training to pupils aged 7-11.

The plans for the training were put together by Caerphilly People First and Hayley Gray and David Williams from the Gwent Regional Partnership Team.

The first training sessions took place at Pontnewydd Priary School in Cwmbran on 18th and 19th October 2018, and the training was carried out by Caerphilly People First members Ffion Bethell and Kath Toms, with support from staff member Christy Taylor. The team trained over 200 pupils aged 7-11

We hope that the outcome of the training will be that young people will become more aware of the issues faced by people with learning disabilities, and gain an understanding of the issues they face in their lives.



The training will be ongoing and there are many more sessions planned for the future in other schools.



# Denbighshire



## Self-Advocacy Prestatyn is

working hard to speak with ARRIVA to train their bus drivers. Gwynfor Lewis, the chair of the group says: "Bus drivers are driving past people who are disabled or elderly, to save on time. Or they drive off before you sit safely".



Stephen Thomas, another member of the group says:

"We want to help ARRIVA to train the bus drivers, to understand us better".



Our national representative James and Malcolm, the chair of SPG and RPG are pushing in the committees for a solution. We know that the bus drivers even don't help, when people are getting verbal or physical abused. Some of our members are not using the buses anymore.

**Self-advocacy Group Denbigh** is working on the Safe Places Scheme. Peter from the Denbigh group says: "We may work separate, but aim for the same: a safe Denbighshire".

# facebook®



**All Wales People First, National Director- Joe Powell 14 October**

Returning home from a fabulous awards ceremony hosted by the Royal College of Nursing at City Hall in Cardiff. As posted on the AWPf page, Professor Ruth Northway was presented with a lifetime achievement award. I feel it was great that a learning disability nurse won this award given the lack of certainty about the future of learning disability nursing...



# Round up



**All Wales People First, 25 October**

The fabulous Gerraint Jones Griffiths pictured here with his award from the Learning Disability and Autism awards. Gerraint was nominated by Learning Disability Wales, who have shown great faith and belief in Gerraint over the years. An award well deserved Gerraint



**All Wales People First, National Director - Joe Powell 7 November**

Attended the last meeting of the year of the AWPf Board of Directors in Gabalfa today. Was lovely to see and welcome new Directors, Ruth Northway and Louisa Addiscott...



**All Wales People First, National Director - 24 September**

Today I attended a meeting to discuss the draft discussion paper on the Commissioning of Supported Living Services for People with Learning Disabilities at the Welsh Local Government Association buildings in Cardiff. It was encouraging that service providers, commissioners and rights organisations share same values in empowering people with Learning Disabilities to be genuine consumer of services under the SSWB Wales Act.