

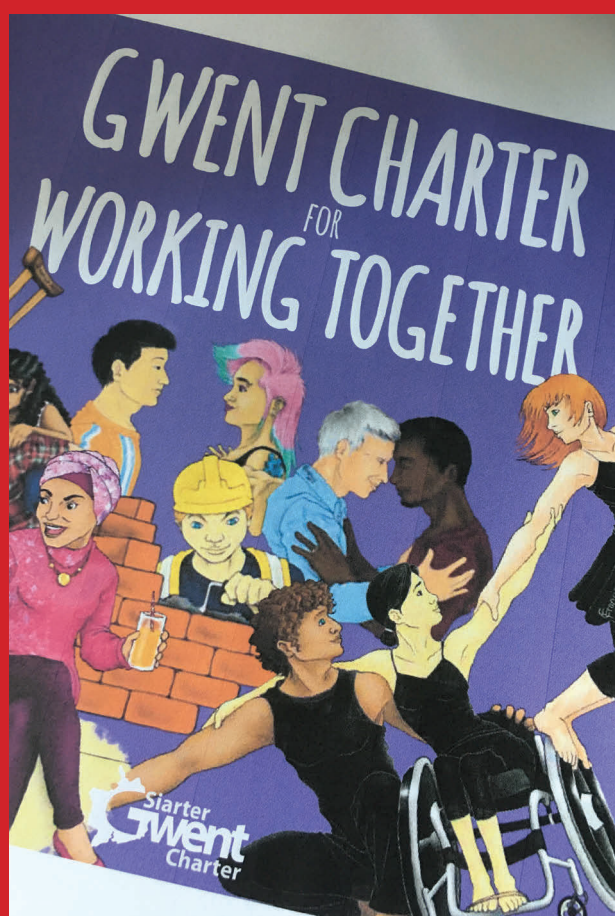


All Wales People First

Talk Back

The National Voice of People with Learning Disabilities in Wales

Spring 2018



Gwent Charter launch event

The Gwent Charter cover picture is by: Carrie Francis

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Editorial

Welcome to the Spring 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



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Working with Regional Partnership Boards



All Wales People First want to meet with the Regional Partnership Boards in Wales. Every region in Wales has a Regional Partnership Board.

Their job is to make sure that people who fund services work together together.

We want to meet with them to explain why it is important to fund self-advocacy as a preventative service.

We have already met with two of their sub-groups, which work with people with learning disabilities. Cardiff and the Vale and North Wales. Our presentations at the meetings were delivered by a National Council representative and the National Director.

We have also produced a self-advocacy factsheet that gives more information about self-advocacy, and why it is important that self-advocacy is funded.

You can find a copy of the self-advocacy factsheet on our website www.allwalespeople1st.co.uk

We have two more meetings booked. One in Gwent on the 12th July, and one in Western Bay on the 21st September.

We hope to have met with all Partnership Boards by 31st March

Gwent Charter launch event 25th March...



All Wales People First @AllWalesPF

Sharon and Ffion, Charter Checkers from @Caerphillypf kick off the Gwent Charter launch event

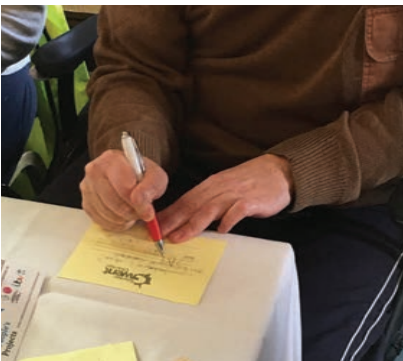
@2018Charter



All Wales People First @AllWalesPF

Joe Powell thanks everyone for working so hard to make the @2018Charter happen

@2018Charter



All Wales People First @AllWalesPF

Great to see so many people signing the @2018Charter at the Gwent Charter launch event

@2018Charter

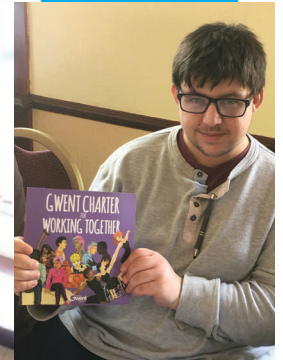
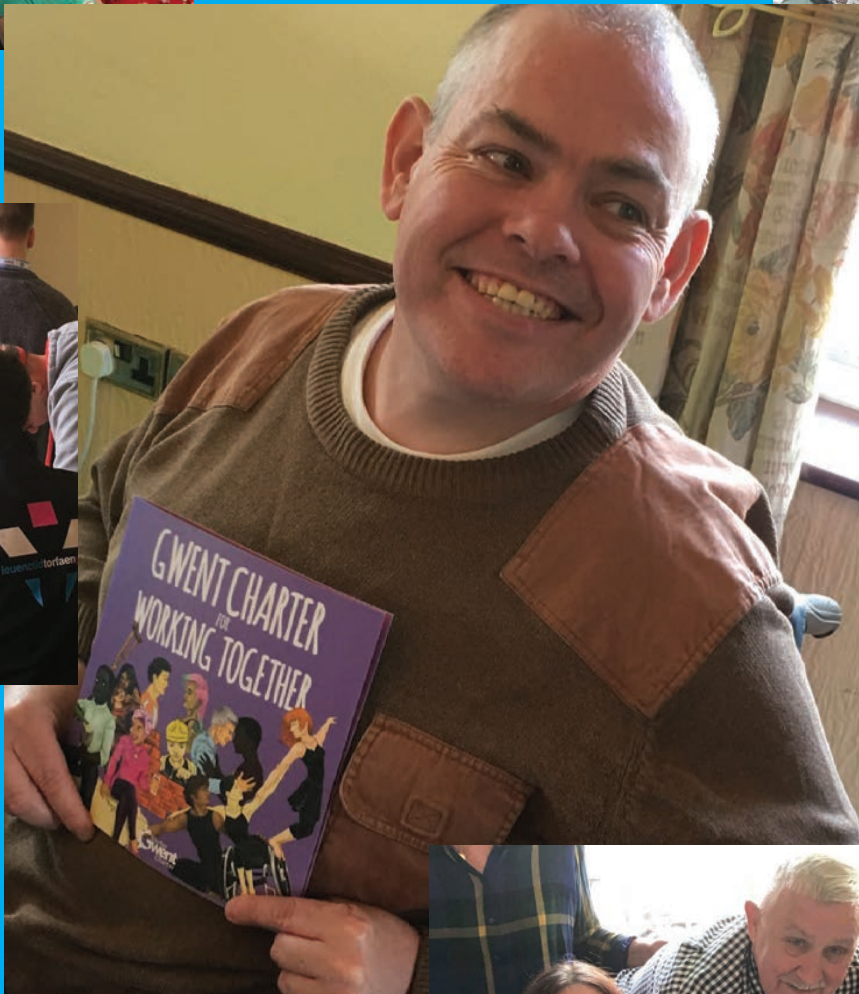
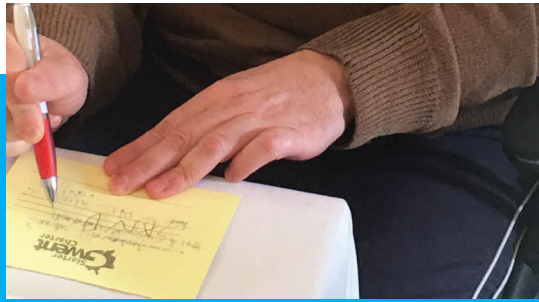


All Wales People First @AllWalesPF

Gwent Charter film - "I want to get a job and I want to get paid" "Give us the right support please"

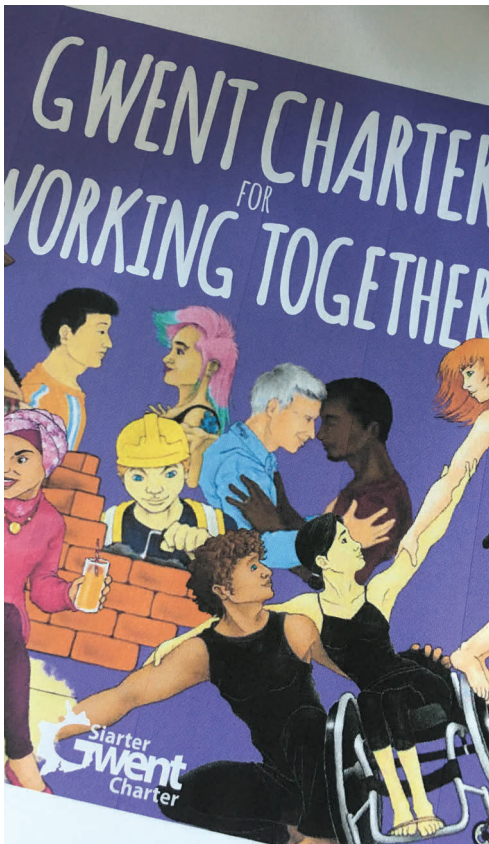
@2018Charter

Gwent Charter launch event 25th March...



Gwent Charter launch event

25th March...



What is the Gwent Charter?

The Gwent Charter for Working Together is a document which has been put together based on the views of over 130 people with learning disabilities. The charter aims to improve the lives of people with learning disabilities by stating what they would like to happen in their lives.

Now the charter has been written, the aim is to encourage public bodies, charities and third sector organisations to sign up to the charter and pledge to

respect people with disabilities, provide choice, and allow them to be themselves.

A small group of people with learning disabilities will be the 'Charter Checkers', who will make sure that organisations and charities who sign up to the charter stick to what they have said they will do. - Thanks to Caerphilly People First for explaining about the Gwent Charter.



Jim Wright, Local Government Manager, Trustee of Newport People First, supporter of Torfaen People First said:

The most important thing is people finding their own power. The Charter gives people power. The Charter gives people the tools to say "These are my rights and you're not listening to me"

Development work Regional update...



This year AWPf is supporting Self Advocacy events in each region of Wales. Over fifty members and support workers came to the event in Cwm Taf.



At the event members from RCT and Merthyr decided to make a Cwm Taf People First group. The new group will help people with learning disabilities in RCT and Merthyr speak up for themselves, know their rights and be heard.



The next Self Advocacy event is in Cardiff and Vale and will be celebrating the partnership work of People First groups across the region.



If you want to know more about our development work or your group needs support contact Matthew on his mobile 07376372383



News from Groups



RCT



Rhondda Cynon Taf

PEOPLE FIRST

RCT People First and Merthyr working together



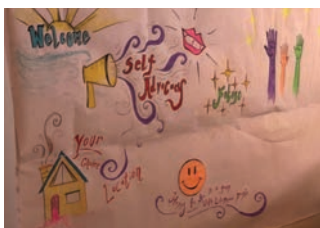
Is Self Advocacy important?



Discussing a Cwm Taff People First Group.



92% voted that they wanted a Cwm Taff People First Group.

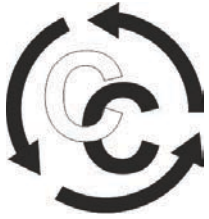


Discussing the future for members across Rhondda Cynon Taff and Merthyr.

The day was funded by All Wales People First - Thank you.



Conwy



Celia was interviewed by TAPE Podcast group about her new role and she also said that we are looking to increase our membership for The Connect Advocacy Group.



Michelle Williams was asked to represent Conwy Connect at The Welsh Ambulance Service board meeting held in Wrexham Football grounds. She was able to put her experience of the ambulance service from a recent accident.



The Employment event held at Colwyn Bay Cricket club was a really good day with 2 awe inspiring life stories from Gerraint Jones-Griffiths and Joe Powell that definitely gave food for thought on how a positive determined attitude can bring about real change.



Good things foundation .org

Here is the Conwy Connect team training on using the latest technology.



Swansea

Neil and Anne's Wedding



Neil and Ann are the reps for Swansea people first. In December 2017 they got married at Swansea County Hall.

Ann was walked down the aisle by her carer and his wife as her bridesmaid.



Neil was nervous but managed to keep himself calm. Neil's Brother was the best man.

The colour theme of the wedding was purple. Ann wore a lovely purple dress with a cloak to keep her warm from the cold December weather. Neil had a very smart suit with a purple tie.



After the wedding everyone had photographs outside done by a professional photographer. It was great to see so many members of other People First groups there. Tracey and Joe from All Wales People First came too.



Kathy and Mario made the trip from Belgium especially to come to the wedding. Neil had family travel from London.



Some people went along to Revolution for a meal to celebrate the wedding.



Neil and Ann arrived in style in a Limo.

There was an evening reception in the Welcome Inn pub.



The cake was made by a friend and the whole place was decorated with a purple theme.

The photographer in the evening was a friend called Graham.



Neil and Ann had their first dance to Ed Sheeran Thinking out Loud, and then started the karaoke.

There was a lot of singing, dancing and laughing.

The Transform Project

Working Together to address the needs of adults with learning disabilities who experience or who are at risk of experiencing domestic abuse.

A research partnership between Carmarthen Domestic Abuse Services & Carmarthenshire People First.

We are inviting people with learning disabilities who live in Wales to take part in a research project.

We want to learn about your understanding and your experiences of domestic abuse.

You can help us by : Coming to meetings and sharing your ideas filling in a questionnaire, talking to us on your own or as part of a small group.

We want to know what sort of support you have been offered, if any. We want to work with you and others to make sure that support gets better. Part of our work will involve the design of a toolkit.

We would like your help with this. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact us by calling : Ffion Davies
Carmarthenshire People First on 01267 234635 Or by emailing :
ffion@carmarthenshirepeoplefirst.co.uk

Bridgend



Since the last Talk back we have been doing a lot of planning.

We have decided that we want to work with the Glamorgan Archives on a project about how buildings in Bridgend have changed over the years.

Our office assistant Julie has been doing some research about how the project could look. She visited Ysgol Maes Y Coed who had a heritage project on display. She took away lots of ideas how we could show everyone what we found out.

We have met with Alys From Valley to Vale and we are going to visit the Sony Eco centre in Pencoed to see how our advisory team can help leave a message about how people with learning disabilities can use the outdoors accessibly.

Tina went to North Wales for the All Wales Reps meeting. It was her first time staying at a hotel and she really enjoyed. When she came back to the Group she told them all about the plans for the conference later in the year.

Caerphilly

On Wednesday 25th April 2018 Ffion Bethell, Sharon Cochrane, Kath Toms, Cyril Luke, Christy Taylor, And Fran Hancock from Caerphilly People First attended the launch of the Gwent Charter for Working Together.



The following is a report on the the event by Ffion Bethell, Chair of Caerphilly People First:

“In preparation for this event, the Gwent Charter team worked really hard to get everything ready, so I'd like to begin by thanking everyone for their hard work.

The opening speech was delivered by the Gwent Checkers, who did an amazing job. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces, including the lovely Joe Powell who gave a wonderful speech about Self Advocacy and how the Gwent Charter will make a difference.



We also had the pleasure of listening to the Treble Trouble choir who sang two wonderful songs. We then watched the charter film that was produced by the Gwent Charter Checkers, which really impressed the audience who gave it

a big round of applause. We then heard an amazing speech from Alison Ward, Chief Officer of Torfaen County Borough Council, who praised us for all of our hard work on the Gwent Charter”.

Active Communities



Ian Swannick is the active communities project officer at Vale People First.

Vale People First Active Communities group gives people with a learning disability the chance to speak up.

Everybody's voices need to be heard!!!

Well done everybody who made our open day a success!

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 8th May 2018 5pm until 7.30pm at Salem Church School Hall, Beryl Road, Barry, CF62 8DN

Blaenau Gwent

We worked with groups across Gwent to produce safeguarding videos to deliver training to our members.

We delivered training to student nurses and police officers. We delivered training to our members on their rights.

We got our grant for another year from Blaenau Gwent County Council.

We took part in reviewing the Learning Disability Strategy

We produced a joint charter for better lives, called the Gwent Charter for Working Together.



facebook®



All Wales People First, National Director- Joe Powell March 26

It's that time again. The National Council sub group met today in Wrexham to plan the 2018 National Conference. This years conference will be in North Wales and is focusing on how All Wales People First can work with other organisations (pan Disability) to raise awareness and to work as a united voice to make political change and be visible in society. The conference will be called 'All Wales People First presents, All Together Now'. More details will be circulated once they've been finalised. Thanks to all members for their fabulous contributions today.



All Wales People First, National Director- Joe Powell March 31



**Happy
Easter**

From All Wales
People First's
National Director -
Joe Powell



Round up



All Wales People First, April 12

Was a privilege to speak at Conwy Connect for Learning Disabilities 'To Work or not to Work' event in Rhos on Sea today about my experiences in work and my journey to become National Director of All Wales People First. Thanks to Gerraint Jones-Griffiths for taking the picture and thanks to Celia Lewis for the lift back to the station

