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Audit & Needs Analysis of activities and services for children and young people (0-19 years) across Bro Ddyfi. (Machynlleth, Llanbrynmair, Glantwymyn & Cadfarch)

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

Aims - The purpose of this project is:

- To identify current level of provision for target group
- To highlight shortfalls in services/activities
- To consult with a cross section of local children and young people to determine views on potential improvements
- To liaise with statutory and voluntary child/youth organisations to ensure a multi-agency perspective.

Objectives – The project will identify the following:

- Nature of activity – Play, Recreation, Leisure & Childcare Services
- Age range
- Geographical location and venue
- Cost
- Contact details
- Access process
- Language

Additionally:

- Suggestions for improvements to range of services/activities
- Factors preventing access
- Proposed local/regional opportunities for children/young people

Project Overview:

- MCCP Ltd will consult with a cross section of local children/young people – visiting groups inviting comments and suggestions via age appropriate questionnaires / video diaries / oral feedback / photographic evidence etc
- MCCP Ltd will compile a survey which will form the basis of adult led consultation to assist with gauging feedback from local families with young children.
- MCCP Ltd will identify and record details of groups/activities for children/young people across Bro Ddyfi.
- MCCP Ltd will liaise with child/youth based organisations to determine opportunities, initiatives, strategies and key objectives which may have a benefit to the target group
- Working closely with Powys County Council Youth Service, and young people currently not engaged with any form of youth provision, MCCP Ltd will record identified factors preventing young people from accessing services/activities.
- MCCP Ltd will provide a list of recommendations for improvements to the current level of provision in the area

Please note where ‘Bro Ddyfi’ is referred to in this report, the specific areas of Machynlleth, Glantwymyn, Cadfarch and Llanbrynmair electoral wards in Powys are implied.

This audit and needs analysis of activities and services for children and young people (0-19 years) across Bro Ddyfi - Machynlleth, Llanbrynmair, Glantwymyn and Cadfrach, has been funded by Communities First Bro Ddyfi.



communities *first* **cymunedau yn gyntaf**



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

1.2 Background to the project

From various projects undertaken by agencies working with children and young people in Bro Ddyfi it had become apparent that there are a number of young people who were not involved with any form of social activity outside of education based settings. Specific gaps in provision had been noted and representatives from the statutory and voluntary sectors were keen to determine the underlying causes for this lack of engagement.

A Project Worker from Save the Children looking at establishing an improved youth service in Bro Ddyfi, who had been working in the area during the Summer of 2006 reported significant numbers of young people with whom he had come into contact were not attending any form of youth based provision in the area. Others felt that for a number of reasons their access to a wider range of social activities etc was restricted by factors including rurality/transport, cost, and age. Working closely with Powys County Council Youth Service, it was felt that an 'Outreach Youth Worker' would be beneficial to work with this group of young people and to eventually establish some form of provision which met their social/recreational needs.

Also at this time Machynlleth Community Children's Project Ltd - a local charity established to provide play and childcare for 0-12 year olds, identified the need for out of school provision for younger teens, whose parents were working during the day and many of whom had no formal 'care' arranged for them when they returned home at the end of the school day. The current After School and Holiday Play Club services provided by MCCP Ltd caters for 4-12 year olds and it was noted that children upon reaching their 12th birthday were expected to leave the familiar welcome provided at the Club to return to an empty household and 'fend for themselves'. Having spoken to young people who have experienced this, it was agreed that whilst for many this may have an initial novelty factor, the reality of the situation was not attractive in the longer term.

Project staff at 'Kidzone' a new *open access play** club providing a range of play activities for 8-12 year olds operating one Saturday morning per month, were also gathering information on the unmet play/recreational needs of children and young people in the area as part of the evaluation process which would be reported back via the Integrated Children's Centre in Bro Ddyfi. Attendees were requesting more free, child led, but adult supervised, play opportunities where they could come and go as they please. It was realised that whilst this type of provision was exactly what the children wanted funding restrictions meant that the frequency of the workshops was limited.

And so, in August 2006, a working group involving representatives from Powys County Council Youth Service, Machynlleth Community Children's Project, Communities First Bro Ddyfi, Save the Children and the Local Community Strategy met to discuss ways of addressing these issues.

It was agreed that MCCP Ltd should be asked to conduct a comprehensive audit of existing activities and services, funded by Communities First Bro Ddyfi, along with a needs analysis following consultation with a cross section of the Bro Ddyfi community involving children, young people and their parents. This information could then be used to form the basis of an 'outreach' Youth Project Worker post - tasked with looking at ways of developing existing services and/or creating new provision. The overarching aim of this piece of work would be to ensure that children and young people in this area had their basic rights met as outlined in the 'UN Convention on the Rights of the Child' (see *appendix*) and subsequent Welsh Assembly Government white papers.

**Open access play: Freely chosen activities: 8-16 years, staffed, at no cost to the child / young person.*

1.3 County wide audit by Powys Children & Young Peoples Framework Partnership

In September 2006 a comprehensive audit of need was undertaken by the Powys Children and Young Peoples Framework Partnership recording statistical information of services and activities for children and young people aged 0-19 years across the county.

This audit was carried out following direct consultation with the target group via visits to schools, on-line questionnaires and discussions with the Youth Forum. Information was collected by many agencies and service providers directly involved in working with the 0-19 years age group and very detailed statistical data was taken from source documents to form an overview of life as a young person growing up and living in Powys.

This statistical information was compared with national figures, clearly identifying both the positive and negative aspects of provision for children and young people in the area. The shortcomings were to be included a youth action plan and used as baseline indicators from which to work to improve services across the county. In addition to the identified areas of required improvement, this report showed the successes in specific projects in the areas of health, social care and education.

The conclusions drawn from this audit were summarised as follows:

- **Transport issues** – young people felt that there were activities they wished to access but found that they were restricted from doing so by the lack of useful transport services
- **Finance/ Cost** – lack of affordable activities
- **Options System** – young people moving away to complete their education
- **Careers advice** – An identified lack of quality, concise information
- **No 'Meeting Places'** – few internet cafes etc for young people to meet/get advice
- **No 'Information Point'** – lack of centre for essential advice / information
- **Physical activity** – decreased numbers of 0-19 year olds taking regular exercise
- **Bullying/Community Safety**
- **Childcare** – lack of affordable childcare during and out of school term time
- **Housing** – lack of information and affordable local housing=outward migration
- **Disability** – insufficient services for children/young people with additional needs

This local audit and needs analysis of Bro Ddyfi does not seek to challenge the views represented in the PCYFPF Audit of Need 2006 but does present a more localised perspective on the issues identified within the county wide audit. In order to avoid duplication this report does not include the detailed area statistics which may be referred to in the PCYFPF Audit of Need.

Cost

**Poor
Options
System**

**Lack of
Careers
Advice**

**No
'Meeting
Places'**

**Not
enough
Physical
Activity**

**Need more
Affordable
Housing**

**Lack of
Childcare**

**More
Inclusive
Provision
needed**

**Poor
Transport
Network**

**Community
Safety /
Bullying**

**PCYFPF
(Powys)**

**Audit
2006**

**No
Information
Point**

1.4 National Commitment

In order to understand the principal of 'play' in its broadest terms and what it means for children and young people in Bro Ddyfi and indeed Wales as a nation, it is vitally important to determine the interpretation of 'play,' 'childcare' and 'leisure' services as set out by the Welsh Assembly Government and as is widely recognised by agencies involved in their delivery.

By fully understanding the rights of all children and young people, we can realistically measure via this local audit and county wide research the level of provision we currently offer in Bro Ddyfi and seek to address the identified shortcomings. Several Welsh Assembly Government key policies and strategies outlining the rights and visions for children and young have therefore been referred to as the basis of this project and it is to these aims we need to work.

Whilst demography, geography and economics all contribute to the structure of the community in which we live, these factors should not prevent young people from accessing activities and services to which they have a right. Discussing such issues with children, young people, parents and service providers in Bro Ddyfi, produced an outpouring of negative feeling towards play, care, leisure and social provision in this area. It would not be true to say that they were unhappy with the current services available, but frequently commented on the lack of choice, access problems, inclusion concerns and cost issues. By re-examining here, the entitlements of 0-19 year olds and their families in Wales it becomes apparent that as a community we must find ways of addressing these issues in order to assist service providers already delivering the provision at ground level and to support those wishing to develop social enterprises or extend existing services.

In November 2000, the Welsh Assembly Government published 'Children and Young People: A Framework for Partnership'. This began with a commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child setting out the way that children and young people should be provided for.

Article 31 of the Convention states that:

'Every child has the right to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts'.

The responsibility belongs to us all, at every level, to ensure that this basic right is realised. As part of its commitment to children in Wales, the Assembly Government aimed to provide a series of improvement measures involving partnerships of local authorities, the Health Service, the voluntary sector and other local agencies to address the rights of children and young people. The focus was on listening to their needs-involving more direct consultation, and appointing a Children's Commissioner for Wales to lead the way on championing children's rights and ensuring that their needs were considered at policy making level. The grant funding system was to be considered, aiming to make the system easier to pay local authorities. 'Funky Dragon' was set up as a national organisation to represent the views of children and young people. Further key initiatives have since been implemented to ensure that **all** children are given the best possible start in life in line with their rights under the UN Convention.

To create a working document the Welsh Assembly Government translated these rights into: **'The Universal Entitlement'**

This states that every child (0-10) in Wales has a basic entitlement to the following **'Seven Core Aims'**:

- **A flying start in life and the best possible basis for their future growth and development;**
- **Access to play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities;**
- **Not to be disadvantaged by child poverty;**
- **Enjoy the best possible physical and mental, social and emotional health, including freedom from abuse, victimisation and exploitation;**
- **A safe home and community that supports physical and emotional well-being;**
- **Access to a comprehensive range of education, training and learning opportunities including acquisition of essential personal and social skills;**
- **Be listened to, treated with respect, and are able to have their race and cultural identity recognised.**



Additionally, '**The Ten Entitlements**' were introduced stating that every young person (11-25 years) has a basic entitlement to:

- **Education, training and work experience-tailored to their needs;**
- **Basic skills which open doors to a full life and promote social inclusion;**
- **A wide and varied range of opportunities to participate in volunteering and active citizenship;**
- **High quality, responsive and accessible services and facilities;**
- **Independent, specialist careers advice and guidance, and student support and counselling services;**
- **Personal support and advice-where and when needed in appropriate formats-with clear ground rules on confidentiality;**
- **Advice on health, housing benefits and other issues provided in accessible and welcoming settings;**
- **Recreational and social opportunities in a safe and accessible environment;**
- **Sporting, artistic, musical and outdoor experiences to develop talents, broaden horizons and promote rounded perspectives including both national and international contexts;**
- **The right to be consulted, to participate in decision making, and to be heard, on all matters which concern them or have an impact on their lives.**

In an environment where there is:

- **A positive focus on achievement overall and on what young people have to contribute**
- **A focus on building young people's capacity to become independent, make choices, and participate in the democratic process; and**
- **Celebration of young people's successes**

(Based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child)

Building on this commitment further, in October 2002, the Welsh Assembly Government published its '**Play Policy**'. This statement was produced to demonstrate the importance of play, social opportunities and recreational activities for children and young people in Wales.

The **Play Policy** statement focuses on the following principles:

- **Every child is entitled to respect for their own unique combination of qualities and capabilities;**
- **The perceptions of the child, their views and opinions should always be respected for each child is connected to, and a bearer of, a wider culture;**
- **The child's free choice of their own play is a critical factor in enriching their learning and contributing to their well being and development.**

In this policy 'play' is defined as:

'play encompasses children's behaviour which is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. It is performed for no external goal or reward, and is a fundamental and integral part of healthy development – not only for individual children, but also for the society in which they live'.

'freely chosen' - children themselves choose when, how and what to play.

'personally directed' – children themselves decide the rules and roles they take within their play.

'intrinsically motivated' – play is undertaken for its own sake, and not performed for any reward, certificate or status

The Play Policy (2002) lays out the Welsh Assembly Government's ongoing vision and commitment to providing high quality play and social opportunities for children and young people whilst re-enforcing the idea that 'play' can take many forms which will include an element of risk taking which should be balanced during the planning process to ensure that the benefits of the play opportunity are not outstripped, a concept which is difficult to appreciate in the current 'no win, no fee' climate. It suggests that play is natural and instinctive, essential to a child's learning and social development and that it continues to be useful for children of all ages, without access to it, the policy infers that children's development and learning capability would be impeded. It also recommends that children and their needs should be considered at policy making level and that any resulting play provision should be formed from those identified needs.



Following this Play Policy, the '**Play Policy Implementation Plan**' (PPIP) was published in February 2006 as an action plan setting out how the aims of the play policy would be implemented. This action plan published in February 2006 aims to co-ordinate the Welsh Assembly Government's existing commitment to 'play' in its broadest sense by offering focussed and detailed targets for delivery of its key objectives across the play, leisure and childcare sectors.

Building specifically on the Welsh Assembly Government's strategic plan entitled '**Better Wales**' and the policy statement '**Children and Young People: Rights to Action**,' the PPIP sets out how the Play Policy relates to and contributes to other Assembly strategies. Within the PPIP actions to support the development of the following key aims are outlined:

- **Encouraging more play provision:** more outdoor, staffed play provision
- **The role of schools:** better use of playgrounds / playing fields out of school hours,
- **Play in the Community:** safer communities, community play provision
- **Playwork as a profession:** appropriate, locally delivered playwork training
- **Managing risk and parental concerns:** safer communities, 'balanced risk'
- **Play across the Assembly:** ongoing commitment to the value of play / social activity

The Young People's Partnership's '**Play, Leisure & Recreation Strategy**' is currently under development and will undoubtedly build on the objectives of the PPIP at county level. In addition to the county wide 2006 '**Audit of Need (Activities and Services for Children and Young People)**' a full county wide audit focussing specifically on '**Play**' is being prepared to assess levels of play provision across Powys.

A number of interesting developments are currently under discussion which should offer a broader range of services and activities for the wider Bro Ddyfi community including a '**Community Campus**' described as a '*world class bilingual resource that will provide residents of the Dyfi Valley with learning, community and social care services in an easily accessible one-stop shop*'.

The implementation of the '**Dyfi Valley Pathfinder**' project, will also see plans to increase participation in 16 years+ education and raise achievement levels in this group by reviewing the current delivery of learning and training opportunities. It would bring together all 11 years+ secondary, A Level, vocational, community learning and adult learning provision, with other learning/training service providers-envisaged as an '*integrated community learning centre*'.

With Big Lottery funding secured for 3 years from 2007, further development of the new **Integrated Children's Centres (ICC's)** in Powys can continue with the Bro Ddyfi based service facilitating and co-ordinating 'wrap around' childcare provision, community development and training, open access play and early years education. The co-ordination of information role can be continued to provide a signposting service to parents and professionals within the network, seeking information and advice on local play, childcare and leisure services in the area.

'**The Foundation Phase**' in Wales is a new curriculum outlining key areas of desirable learning for children aged between 3-7 years and sets out high expectations that from a very early age children will grow and develop to their full potential. Funded, part time pre-school education is now provided for 3 years olds attending registered care facilities.

Although wards within the Bro Ddyfi community have not been included in the initial round of implementation, **'Flying Start'** supports the Welsh Assembly Government's vision of providing children aged from birth up to 3 years with the best possible start in life and is a rolling programme providing funded, part time childcare for two year olds either at a registered Nursery setting or childminder, matched with additional parenting support and antenatal care with an increased role for health visitors. High on the list of priorities will be ensuring access to quality, Welsh medium provision and also provision that is considerate to the cultural and ethnic needs of the individual community. This initiative is being rolled out to some of the most disadvantaged areas in Wales, with Powys initially focussing on Ystradgynlais, and specific areas of Newtown and Welshpool. Priority for the delivery of this first phase was determined by the 'Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (2005)' in which Bro Ddyfi is classified some way below the chosen areas.

Flying Start builds on the success of the **'Sure Start'** project for babies and pre-school children and their families, which has seen projects delivered by **NCH Montgomeryshire Children and Families Project** in Llanbrynmair, Glantwymyn and Machynlleth including 'Welsh for Parents' classes, Literacy & Numeracy programmes such as the Language/Number and Play project, Healthy Lifestyle courses, new baby support groups (BABS), weekly Ti a Fi meetings and additional support from midwifery and health visiting services.

Genesis Wales Powys is a new project aiming to break down barriers to training and employment for target groups by offering free or subsidised childcare, confidence building activities with childcare provision, support, information and advice on a range of personal development issues, mobile crèche facilities and local, flexible, childcare provision to encourage participation in community events etc. This programme is targeting young people over 16 years, lone parents, and those wishing to retrain, learn new skills or re-enter the labour market. A key priority is the recruitment and development of more childminders in the area. Supported locally by a North Powys Genesis Co-ordinator a number of community events have been facilitated in Machynlleth in recent months.

The 5 year **'Food and Fitness Implementation Plan' (2005)** sets out some of the ways in which the Assembly Government is helping children and young people to eat well, stay fit and achieve the highest possible standard of health. Bro Ddyfi has a locally based **Inequalities in Health** Officer working from **Bro Ddyfi Leisure Centre**, actively supporting community groups and schools to consider the health and well being of the children and young people in their care and working in partnership to explore ways of addressing their needs. With restrictions placed on young people accessing physical activity in this rural area and with a number of socio-economic factors preventing families from providing a balanced healthy lifestyle for their children, a great deal of work remains to be done in this area. The free swimming programme for children under 16 years of age during school holidays is a popular way of encouraging physical activity as well as providing social interaction opportunities with their peers. Figures show that in 2005 a total of 971 males and 1042 females aged from 0-16 years took advantage of this scheme at Bro Ddyfi Leisure Centre.

A wide range of physical activities are available at the Leisure Centre including, inclusive sports programmes, badminton, swimming lessons, climbing wall, 5 a side football, netball, bowls, squash, circuits, triathlon and gymnastics.

The Welsh Language Board is also committed to sustaining and developing the language and culture of Wales and has implemented a '**Language Action Plan**' for Bro Ddyfi to raise awareness of the importance of bilingualism and to support and improve activities and services for children and young people. Complementing the work of '**Twf**', a programme designed to promote the value of raising pre-school children bilingually, **Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin** (Welsh Playgroups Association) and **Urdd Gobaith Cymru**, support is available to deliver bilingual and welsh medium play and social opportunities in this area.

Library service programmes such as 'Bookstart', 'Book Crawl' 'Quick Reads' etc all work towards improving literacy skills in children and young people. **Machynlleth Library** stocks a wide range of bilingual books, DVD's and resources and also has IT access available. A mobile toy library service operated by **Play Montgomeryshire** provides low cost art & craft materials and toy/equipment loan to community groups and parents in villages across Bro Ddyfi in addition to the static based Toy Library at Ty Melfed

Holistic improvements to the welfare and development of children and young people are being considered and focussed upon now, more than any other time. With the wide range of support programmes in place to reduce the negative impact in children's lives, it is encouraging then that a recent study by the **Joseph Rowntree Foundation** showed that due to significant falls in recent years, the proportion of children in Wales living in low income households (Government figures suggest around 1 in 4) is now around the same as the UK average as a whole. The child poverty strategy, '**A Fair Future for our Children**' outlines the idea to develop an action plan to eradicate child poverty by 2020.

To finance this commitment the Welsh Assembly Government has allocated around £50 million between 2005-2008, mainly through '**Cymorth**' and '**Communities First**'. This is seen as an investment to combat child poverty and provide a better quality of life for disadvantaged children in Wales. The Assembly Government's 'Cymorth' – (Children and Youth Support Fund) uses partnership working and targeted investment in disadvantaged areas to achieve maximum impact.

An important piece of legislation is just out for consultation - '**Childcare Act 2006**' which underpins the '**Childcare is for Children**' strategy published in 2005. The core principles of this legislation are:

- 'Parents' legitimate expectation of accessible high quality childcare for children and their families'; and
- Local Authorities' responsibilities for providing information to parents and prospective parents to support them in their parenting role.

The Childcare Act will ensure that statutory duties are placed on Local Authorities to play the lead role in supporting childcare providers to meet the needs of local families, specifically working parents, children with additional needs, those requiring welsh medium play/care provision or families faced with economic disadvantage.

This increased level of support would be welcomed by the Cylchoedd Meithrin, Community Nursery, Childminders and other providers in Bro Ddyfi.

Access to affordable, high quality care, play and learning, social and recreational activities will provide our children and young people with the life skills required to play and full and valuable role in society in adulthood.

2 Area Information

2.1 About Powys & Bro Ddyfi

Powys is the largest county in Wales, covering 5,197 square kilometres and nearly a quarter of Wales' total landmass. Formerly separated into three historical shires, Brecknockshire, Radnorshire and Montgomeryshire, Powys was created in 1974 as part of the local government reform. It went on to become a unitary authority in 1996. There are 73 electoral wards within Powys with 111 Town / Community Councils forming 15 community forum areas.

Powys lies in Mid Wales, and has boundaries on 11 other counties in Wales with a further 2 in England. It is long and thin in shape and extends from Snowdonia, Gwynedd in the North, down to the Swansea Valley in the South.

The Dyfi valley extends from the village of Llanbrynmair across the western border of Powys at the main town of Machynlleth, covering Ceredigion north of Aberystwyth, south Gwynedd and the southern edge of the Snowdonia National Park. It is widely accepted as the natural border between North and South Wales.

Powys is an extremely rural area and although the beautiful natural environment is the envy of many urban dwellers, it does present issues to those living there wishing to access services, training, jobs and activities. There are no general hospitals, no large shopping complexes and limited higher education facilities. Machynlleth is around half an hour's travel from the nearest town.

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation published by the National Assembly for Wales in 2005, calculates levels of deprivation in Wales. 'Multiple deprivation' is not a specific form of deprivation-it is a combination of specific forms of deprivation, which can each be measured. The forms of deprivation measured in the Welsh Index include income, employment, health, housing, education, geographical access to services, crime and physical environment and child poverty.

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation shows Powys generally to be one of the most deprived counties in terms of access to services. Machynlleth, Glantwymyn, Cadfarch and Llanbrynmair make up the electoral divisions forming the Machynlleth Planning Area and in the areas of employment, education, income and child poverty, Machynlleth was ranked as significantly more deprived than the other electoral divisions alongside it. It also showed significant deprivation scores, when compared with the rest of Wales, for housing, health and geographical access to services.

Children and young people in Bro Ddyfi seeking specialist health care, higher education, employment and social activity travel out of the county to larger towns such as Aberystwyth or Shrewsbury which also offer shopping and leisure facilities.

Although Bro Ddyfi is identified in the index it is not considered to be amongst the highest overall. It has however been designated a Communities First 'Necklaced Area of Rural Communities'.

There are no motorways in Powys with only a few dual carriageways. Travelling from North-South the road system on the western side of Wales necessitates crossing the River Dyfi at some point and subsequently winds through parts of the Dyfi Valley. There are very few regular co-ordinated bus services operating in this area although there is a community transport scheme in place providing travel support for the elderly and disabled. The main rail routes through Powys are:


Aberystwyth – Machynlleth – Shrewsbury – Birmingham
Machynlleth – Barmouth – Pwllheli
Shrewsbury – Llandrindod Wells – Swansea

The rural nature of the area and infrequent / unreliable public transport services places a higher dependence on cars for access to services, shopping, work or leisure activities. This consequently increases the pressure on household budgets. Cars are often seen as a necessity to avoid rural isolation and social exclusion.

The Welsh language is used extensively throughout Bro Ddyfi. The 2001 census recorded 57% of local people were able to speak Welsh with 79% of 5-9 year olds able to speak Welsh fluently. The Welsh Language Board have developed a Language Action Plan for Bro Ddyfi to maintain and increase the level of Welsh used on a daily basis and this is implemented locally by a development worker based in Machynlleth. In-migration particularly of non-Welsh speakers has led to areas of language division within the community and is an issues currently being considered.

The local socio-economy is faced with a number of challenges including:


- Long distances to travel to seek employment, education and training
- A limited public transport network – restricting access to services
- Continuing out-migration of skilled, young people
- Local income levels, well below the national average
- Falling farm incomes, farm employment and manufacturing employment
- Lack of professional / managerial jobs locally
- Barriers to employment/training : limited childcare, poor literacy/numeracy skills
- Limited number of community buildings / land to support local business initiatives



**Limited,
un-coordinated
public
transport**



**Little opportunity
for business
initiatives or
social enterprise**



**Distance
from
services**



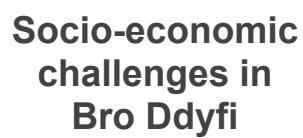
**Out-
migration of
young
people**




**Lack of local
'professional'
jobs**



**Barriers to
employment
& training**



**Socio-economic
challenges in
Bro Ddyfi**



**Low
income
levels**



**Reduction
in local
industry**

2.2 Key Facts & Statistics

Based on: 2001 Census of Population – Powys & Machynlleth Local Community Forum referred to **LC04**

- Powys is the largest county in Wales covering 5,197 square kilometres. It is an extremely rural county with large mountainous areas.
- The population of Powys is 126,400 with a 6% population increase between the censuses of 1991 and 2001. This was mainly due to a net in-migration by retired adults. At this time an increase in out-migration was recorded by younger adults.
- Should the migration patterns of the last decade continue the child population of Powys will steadily fall. The projected reduction in child population (0-15yrs) by 2016 for Montgomeryshire is estimated to be -13.8% with an -11% reduction forecast for the Machynlleth area. Powys has a higher proportion of older working adults/retired and a significantly lower proportion of infants, children and young people. In 2001 the average household size in **LC04** was 2.30
- Geographical size and population density combine to make Powys the most sparsely populated county in England and Wales with only 25 people per square kilometre.
- In Powys, Newtown is the only town with a population of over 10,000, there are 15 other main towns and hundreds of small villages and hamlets.
- In the 2001 census, only 13% of Powys residents recorded themselves as being Welsh with 44% of the county's population being born outside Wales. This high percentage however includes those born to mother's living in Wales but actually giving birth in hospitals in England. In **LC04** 66% of residents were born in Wales 57% of local people were able to speak Welsh with 79% of 5-9 year olds able to speak Welsh fluently.
- 4.11% of **LC04** residents were lone parents with dependant children.
- Although unemployment was recorded as relatively low in Powys and LC04 generally, the average wage and household incomes remain amongst the lowest in England and Wales. The lack of well paid employment opportunities in **LC04** encourages the outward migratory trend in young adults.
- Households in **LC04** with no car/van were recorded as 19%, with 45% owning 1 car/van and a further 34.5% owning 2 or more cars/vans.
- **LC04** census statistics record the following population results for 0-19 years

Total Residents	Number (5060)	Percentage %
Age 0 to 14 years	870	17.25%
Age 15 to 19 years	278	5.49%

2.3 Bro Ddyfi & Communities First

The Bro Ddyfi Communities First area covers the Powys part of the Dyfi Valley, consisting of four wards, Machynlleth, Llanbrynmair, Glantwymyn and Cadfarch. It is the only Communities First area in Wales to cover exactly the same area as the Local Community Strategy Forum. Bro Ddyfi is not listed as one of the 100 most deprived areas in Wales, but has been included in the Welsh Assembly Government's Communities First programme as a 'Necklaced Area of Rural Communities'. Bro Ddyfi is in Objective 2 and Objective 3 areas designated for ESF funding. Objective 1 does not cover any areas of Powys. Objective 2 supports business based initiatives whilst Objective 3 supports the development of skills and potential of people.

Communities First is a Welsh Assembly Government programme aimed at reducing poverty and improving the lives of people living in some of the most disadvantaged areas of Wales.

It is a long term programme that will run for a minimum of ten years. With the support of the Communities First Partnership and locally based officers, community members will be encouraged to identify local needs and take positive action to facilitate change.

Communities First aims to encourage people to become involved in improving their community by providing financial support, information and advice. Working directly with members to seek new ways of tackling social, economic and rural issues and formulating sustainable plans to create a better community in which to live and work.

A number of local groups work in partnership with Communities First forming a network of services committed to the regeneration of Bro Ddyfi. Ideas for community development may be forwarded to the Partnership for consideration in the action planning process.

The current action plan based on ideas and suggestions given during direct community consultation events were formed under 24 sub headings. During a further consultation activity the following 7 main categories were highlighted:

- **Economy & Employment**
- **Education & Training**
- **Countryside & Environment**
- **Health & Community Well Being**
- **Community Activities**
- **Transport & Communication**
- **Housing**

3 Audit of existing activities and services

3.1 Methodology

In order to define services and activities for young people across Bro Ddyfi (Powys) as geographically accurate as possible and considerate of the rural definition of the area, information will be sectioned separately according to the primary base of the organisation/group in the following 3 headings:

- Machynlleth
- Glantwymyn/Cadfarch
- Llanbrynmair

Wherever appropriate, details of local activities and services will be provided including the following:

- Name of service / activity provider
- Nature of provision
- Targeted age range
- Venue
- Cost – if appropriate
- Contact details
- Access process
- Language in which the activities are predominantly delivered

Additionally, county wide / general services will be recorded under 1 heading:

- General services for children and young people

Whilst some of the services listed will indeed have a broader remit than stated, for the purposes of this local audit they have been included in this document as services available to children and young people in this area, and which have been actively delivering projects in the community within the past 12 months. A number of national/county wide services initiate specific projects for targeted areas i.e. Inequalities in Health, NCH Sure Start and the Welsh Language Board.

This is not an exhaustive list and details only the most relevant information to this audit. Religious groups have not been included

3.2 Sources of information

Information provided by the Bro Ddyfi Integrated Children's Service formed the basis of the audit of local services and activities. Additional information was sought directly from:

- Caretakers of community buildings
- Children & young people (service users)
- Parents / Carers
- Children's Information Service
- Powys Youth Service
- Local service providers
- Public directories
- Websites

Information for this audit was given and received in good faith and has been checked wherever possible for accuracy. However, it is important to note that some variations in detail may occur as a result of factors such as seasonal activities, change of contact information, cost or days of operation etc.

The evidence recorded is current as of **20th March 2007**.

In the interests of Data Protection, contact telephone numbers and addresses are not provided. More detailed information is available however via the Powys County Council based Children's Information Service or Bro Ddyfi Integrated Children's Centre.