Good News – Story

Within the ALNET (Wales) Act, 2018 there is a focus on increased participation of children, parents and young people and highlights the *'importance of the child and child's parent or the young person being provided with information and support necessary to enable participation'* (ALNET,2018 p7). In response to this the Central South region have been hosting parent/carer, children and young people engagement events seeking their views and recommendations.

Parent and Carer Engagement

We have become increasingly aware over recent years about the importance of having a "voice" and of being heard. This is important for every citizen but is especially important for the most vulnerable. Social institutions and service providers are keen to offer relevant, appropriate and accessible services. The current policy context stresses the importance of encouraging participation in the design and delivery of services and the need to engage fully with users. This requires taking into consideration the concerns, views and personal histories of those living with a difficult situation. Sadly, many still feel marginalised and isolated and disempowered from these processes.

The main purpose of this consultation is to inform the LA on how best to provide and disseminate information, so that parents and carers are empowered to be able to communicate more effectively regarding the wellbeing of their children and feel more involved in the process. As a direct result of the consultation the LA will be better equipped to respond appropriately to any issues raised. Parents and carers will have access to a menu of communication resources which will enhance their knowledge and information so that they are better able to make informed decisions and choices.

Parents, carers and families from across the Central South region are participating fully at events. It is apparent that they value the opportunity to discuss their concerns in an open, safe and user- friendly environment. The benefits to parents and carers have been obvious from the outset. An added bonus has been the mutual support offered by families to each other and the subsequent learning that takes place. Events in Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Bridgend have been well attended with participants engaging fully in the discussions. Further events are taking place across region including Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan throughout April 2019.

Children and Young People Consultations

Holos facilitated two consultations at the Merthyr Tydfil CBC Schools conference held at Merthyr College.

Based on the information gathered from last year's school conference, the young people were consulted on leaflet designs which would include a QR code to a digital storyboard. This involved them role playing a script designed to explain ALN provision as well as the appeals process. The groups were shown examples of digital animation / video which could be used to relate the message. Each young person from across all schools contributed to the consultation and the ideas presented were well received – especially the provision of a storyboard / animation for ALN information.

On analysing feedback, we received during the consultations, it is evident that the children and young people have understood our explanation of the ALNET Act – and have responded positively to its proposals and have provided constructive feedback on how LA's can provide information to them regarding ALN.

Consultations with young people from schools across the region are ongoing throughout April this year, where we are seeking the views of children and young people with ALN. Holos are using a range of methods to gather feedback from young people including; digital media, focus group exercises and the qualitative reporting of their direct experiences and interests of children and young people, facilitated by teams of professional youth workers.

As a direct result of this work Holos Education will present the views from parents/carers and young people to the LA and make recommendations. The information gathered from all 5 LA's, will result in the development of new communication resources. The aim is to enable an improved understanding of the ALN process and for improved outcomes for those with ALN and their families.

Newyddion Da

O fewn Deddf Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol a'r Tribiwnlys Addysg (ADYTA) (Cymru) 2018, mae ffocws ar gynyddu cyfranogiad plant, rhieni a phobl ifanc, ac mae'n amlygu'r pwysigrwydd *'bod y wybodaeth a'r gefnogaeth angenrheidiol yn cael eu darparu i'r plentyn ac i riant y plentyn neu i'r person ifanc er mwyn eu galluogi neu ei alluogi i gymryd rhan'* (ADYTA 2018, t7). Er mwyn ymateb i hyn, bu rhanbarth Canol y De yn cynnal digwyddiadau ymgysylltu â rhieni/gofalwyr, plant a phobl ifanc i geisio eu barn a'u hargymhellion.

Ymgysylltu â Rhieni a Gofalwyr

Dros yr ychydig flynyddoedd diwethaf, rydym wedi dod yn fwyfwy ymwybodol o bwysigrwydd cael "llais" a chael eich clywed. Mae hyn yn bwysig i bob dinesydd, ond mae'n arbennig o bwysig i'r rhai sy'n fwyaf agored i niwed. Mae sefydliadau cymdeithasol a darparwyr gwasanaethau yn awyddus i gynnig gwasanaethau perthnasol, priodol a hygyrch. Mae'r cyd-destun polisi cyfredol yn pwysleisio pwysigrwydd annog cyfranogiad wrth lunio a darparu gwasanaethau, a'r angen i ymgysylltu'n llawn â defnyddwyr. I wneud hynny, mae'n rhaid ystyried pryderon, safbwyntiau a hanes personol y rhai sy'n byw mewn sefyllfaoedd anodd. Yn anffodus, mae llawer o bobl yn teimlo eu bod ar y cyrion ac yn arunig, ac nad oes ganddynt rym yn y prosesau hyn.

Prif ddiben yr ymgynghoriad hwn yw hysbysu'r ALl o'r ffordd orau i ddarparu a lledaenu gwybodaeth, er mwyn i rieni a gofalwyr gael eu grymuso i allu cyfathrebu'n fwy effeithiol ynghylch lles eu plant a theimlo eu bod yn cael eu cynnwys yn fwy yn y broses. O ganlyniad i'r ymgynghoriad hwn yn uniongyrchol, bydd yr ALl yn fwy parod i ymateb yn briodol i unrhyw fater sy'n codi. Bydd rhieni a gofalwyr yn gallu manteisio ar ddewislen o adnoddau cyfathrebu a fydd yn hybu eu gwybodaeth er mwyn iddynt allu gwneud penderfyniadau a dewisiadau gwybodus.

Mae rhieni, gofalwyr a theuluoedd ar draws rhanbarth Canol y De yn cyfranogi'n llawn mewn digwyddiadau. Mae'n amlwg eu bod yn gwerthfawrogi'r cyfle i drafod eu pryderon mewn amgylchedd agored, diogel a chyfeillgar i ddefnyddwyr. Bu'r manteision i rieni a gofalwyr yn amlwg o'r dechrau. Un bonws ychwanegol fu'r cymorth y mae teuluoedd wedi'i gynnig i'w gilydd a'r dysgu dilynol sy'n digwydd. Bu nifer fawr o bobl yn bresennol mewn digwyddiadau ym Merthyr Tudful, Rhondda Cynon Taf a Phen-y-bont ar Ogwr, a bu'r cyfranogwyr yn cymryd rhan yn llawn yn y trafodaethau. Bydd rhagor o ddigwyddiadau'n cael eu cynnal ar draws y rhanbarth, gan gynnwys Caerdydd a Bro Morgannwg, yn ystod Ebrill 2019.

Ymgynghoriadau Plant a Phobl Ifanc

Hwylusodd Holos ddau ymgynghoriad yng nghynhadledd Ysgolion CBS Merthyr Tudful yng Ngholeg Merthyr.

Ar sail y wybodaeth a gasglwyd o'r gynhadledd ysgolion y llynedd, ymgynghorwyd â'r bobl ifanc ar ddyluniadau taflen, a fyddai'n cynnwys cod QR i fwrdd stori digidol. Roedd hyn yn cynnwys chwarae rôl mewn sgript a luniwyd i esbonio darpariaeth ADY, yn ogystal â'r broses apeliadau. Dangoswyd enghreifftiau o animeiddiad digidol/fideo i'r grwpiau, y gellid eu defnyddio i gyfleu'r neges. Cyfrannodd pob unigolyn ifanc o'r holl ysgolion at yr ymgynghoriad, a chafwyd ymateb da i'r syniadau a gyflwynwyd - yn enwedig darparu bwrdd stori/animeiddiad ar gyfer gwybodaeth am ADY.

Ar ôl dadansoddi'r adborth a gafwyd yn ystod yr ymgynghoriadau, mae'n amlwg bod plant a phobl ifanc wedi deall ein hesboniad o Ddeddf ADYTA, a'u bod wedi ymateb yn gadarnhaol i'w chynigion ac wedi rhoi adborth adeiladol ar sut gall ALlau ddarparu gwybodaeth iddynt am ADY.

Bydd ymgynghoriadau â phobl ifanc o ysgolion ar draws y rhanbarth yn mynd rhagddynt drwy gydol mis Ebrill eleni, lle byddwn yn ceisio barn plant a phobl ifanc ag ADY. Mae Holos yn defnyddio ystod o ddulliau i gasglu adborth gan bobl ifanc, gan gynnwys: cyfryngau digidol, ymarferion mewn grwpiau ffocws ac adrodd ansoddol ar eu profiadau uniongyrchol a diddordebau plant a phobl ifanc, wedi'u hwyluso gan dimau o weithwyr ieuenctid proffesiynol.

O ganlyniad i'r gwaith hwn yn uniongyrchol, bydd Holos Education yn cyflwyno safbwyntiau rhieni/gofalwr a phobl ifanc i'r ALl ac yn gwneud argymhellion. Bydd y wybodaeth a gesglir gan bob un o'r 5 ALl yn arwain at ddatblygu adnoddau cyfathrebu newydd. Y nod yw galluogi dealltwriaeth well o'r broses ADY ac arwain at ddeilliannau gwell i'r rhai sydd ag ADY a'u teuluoedd.