



Part 2

Group Discussions



We held meetings at:



- Pwllheli
- Porthmadog
- Blaenau Ffestiniog
- Dolgellau
- Caernarfon
- Bangor
- Bethesda



25 people came.

Everyone had their say.



People told us what worries them and their ideas for the future.



Here is what people told us.



Be careful when you make changes



Some people find a big change very difficult. They find it easier if there are a lot of small changes.



Some people find it scary to think about changes. We need to make sure we:



- keeping talking to people



- tell people about changes a long time before the change happens



- remember that each person is different. Some people don't want any change. Some people don't like spending time in a group.



People liked the idea of more independent living.



People wanted us to make sure independent living was safe. For example, people wanted to be able to get extra support if something went wrong.



People wanted support to take part in activities.



Talk to us!



People wanted more information from the Council. They wanted more chances to talk with the Council.



People wanted to know more about:



- why the Council has to make changes



- how the Council work with health staff



- who works out what support someone needs



Some people want a personal meeting with someone from the Council.



People said:



- some people are scared to complain



- the Council must **not** keep quiet about bad news



- families need to have their say about any changes, not just the person with learning disabilities



- we need to know how the Council will choose who needs support the most



People suggested:



- use the annual review to meet everyone involved in the person's care plan



- carers have a chance to say what they think at the annual review



- have all the information about health and social care services in one place



- make sure everyone tells the truth



- families and social workers need to work together to make sure people don't get scared



- drop-in sessions



- a meeting every year where everyone can have a say



- a group for parents and carers who want to help the Council get things right



- parents need to tell their Councillors why money for services should not be cut



- a chance for parents to meet to talk about their ideas



- a report to say what is being done



- all staff being good at listening, talking and giving people information



- events to learn about Direct Payments



Put me first!



Everyone is different. So each person needs a different service.



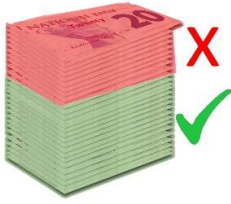
Someone was worried that the Council were putting people in groups to save money.



Most people liked the new way people get support at Pant yr Eithin.



But people need support to stay in their own community. This is very important for older people.



People were worried about cuts to:



- social workers



- leisure centres



- libraries



Someone suggested asking big companies for money.



There is still a big gap between education and social services.



Staff are important



We need fully trained staff.



Someone said we need more social workers



People need the same social worker, not lots of changes.



Some people were not sure about asking local communities to do more to help people with learning disabilities.



They said:

- volunteers will need proper training



- people have different needs.
Volunteers and community members cannot support some people



- how does the Council know that the local community wants to help?



- some people find it hard to get to know new people



Meeting people and making friends



Some people like groups. Someone said it is a good way to get more confident.



People suggested:



- more evening activities



- more sport



- more healthy group activities, like keeping fit and walking



- more chances to go shopping



- drama and singing groups



- local groups and activities



- quiz nights



- hobby groups



Some people were worried that Canolfan Gwystl may close.



It is hard to get to activities if you do not have transport.



Working



People said they like working and volunteering.



Some people think you should get paid for work. You should not always be expected to volunteer.



Daily life



Many people want more help to learn daily life skills.



Some people are worried about the changes to Independent Living Fund.



People suggested:



- use respite care as a chance to learn new life skills



- prepare for the future, when parents may not be around. This is very important if your parent looks after your Direct Payments for you.



- have a plan for times when your carer is ill



- learning to cook is important



- telecare can help you live independently



People had some worries:



- the telecare service is not very good



- the Direct Payments system hasn't worked well for everyone



- people need more support when life is difficult



- people need more support with letters or problems



- cooking classes stopped in Bangor. People were told in a letter. The letter was not well written.



Transport



Travel can be expensive.



There are not enough buses.