

THE CARE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2019



The Care Society has been working hard, not only to secure and improve existing services but to also develop new innovative services, which will include the Housing First for Youth Project one of the first Housing First for Youth services in the UK.

The Care Society Community Support Service, which receives referrals from The Community Team for Learning Difficulties (C.T.L.D) and Community Team Mental Health (C.T.M.H), has continued to grow. Through this service, we are now providing up to 347.5 hours of support per week throughout Ceredigion for people diagnosed with Mental Health issues, Learning Difficulties, Disabled People, people on the Autistic Spectrum and Older People.

Despite Ceredigion County Council withdrawing funding for The Care Society Shop Mobility Scheme, through successful fundraising and the continued success and profitability of the Care Society Charity Shop, to date we have been able to save The Shop Mobility Scheme to meet the increasing demand.

The Executive Director of The Care Society is working with our Group Chief Executive with a view to ensuring our Homeless Services meet existing and future needs of homeless people across Ceredigion. Thank you to The Care Society staff who braved some truly appalling weather to conduct the November Rough Sleeper Count.

Improving quality standards and assurance continues to be a priority for The Care Society. Recently this has been evidenced by –

- ASTARI (Internal Auditors for Tai Ceredigion) completing a successful audit of Care Society Health and Safety policies procedures and practices. We are actively implementing three recommendations following this Audit.
- Thank you to all staff who contributed to The Care Society successfully retaining Investors In People Accreditation
- Thank you to Rhiannon Hicks and Katy Sinnett-Jones for their support and input in ensuring The Care Society has policies and procedures, which are now GDPR compliant.

Improvements in infrastructure and internal processes will benefit The Care Society and help to ensure Services meet the criteria of Welsh Government's proposed Housing Support Grant together with future Supporting People tenders .

Introducing our new Chair Anthony Hearn.

Anthony has been working in community and housing organisations for over 30 years. Since moving to Wales almost 20 years ago Anthony has been involved in homelessness, support and regeneration services. He has recently taken up position as Director of Housing and Communities at Merthyr Valley Homes.



School Visits

Guy Evans visited Ysgol Comins Coch Harvest Assembly and Ysgol Penweddig to talk all things Care Society. Guy talked to the children in the schools about the Night Shelter, how people become homeless and how the Care Society can help.

Children and Teachers at Ysgol Comins Coch very kindly donated food to the Care Society which was gratefully received.

Children at Ysgol Penweddig are kindly collecting toiletries, socks, scarfs and gloves to donate to the Care Society.



2019 Rough Sleeper Count

Staff and volunteers undertook the 2019 rough sleeper count. The count took place on the evening of the 7th of November 2019. They were provided with torches, documentation, food, drink and snacks to hand over to any rough sleepers they encountered. The night of the count the weather was very poor, cold, continuous rain, wind and flooding made it more difficult to find rough sleepers who tend to hunker down under shelter in such conditions. A total of 9 rough sleepers were spotted on the count. These were all found in Aberystwyth which is the most populous area of Ceredigion. In the weeks leading up to the count a minimum of 25 rough sleepers were spotted. The numbers have increased over the last year and the night shelter in Aberystwyth is almost continuously full throughout the year. Regrettably recently the increase in homelessness has become more visible than ever.



Shop Mobility

Following the recent successful on-line Charities Aid Foundation funding campaign (which raised a total of £3,145) we have been able to fund the shop mobility service up to April 2020. We are currently working on a grant application with a view to securing this service for the next three years.

The Shop Mobility service was also successful in a grant application to Tai Ceredigion's Community Fund to the sum of £1446.16. This money has been used to purchase much needed scooters and equipment.



Community Benefits

The inclusion of community benefits is a social requirement in public sector procurement that is designed to ensure that wider social and economic issues are taken into account when tendering construction, services or supplies contracts.

As part of this scheme JDM Construction carried out painting works at one of our properties at 38 Portland Road. A big thank you to JDM Construction.



What is coming up in the Care Society:

Future events that we hope to feature in our next Newsletter will include

Housing First for Youth project – this is an innovative project funded by Welsh Government. Tai Ceredigion are kindly providing the premises with which we can deliver interventions that will give young people access to support for as long as they need to recover, to grow and mature and to engage in school, college, training, employment and become socially included

Rough Sleeper Drop in Facility – Following the installation of a Wet Room and Laundry facilities in the Night Shelter funded with the support of The Local Authority, we are currently arranging to use these new facilities as part of a Drop In provision for rough Sleepers to access during the daytime.

Redecoration and Installation of a new kitchen at the Night Shelter. Thanks to Patrick Daniel from Tai Ceredigion for facilitating this through Tai Ceredigion's Community Benefit programme.



Thank you!

We would like to say a big thank you everyone who has donated over the last month:

- Lloyds Animal Feed
- CAF Shopmobility Donators
- Sarah Keen
- Dorothy Price
- Viasat World Ltd
- Aberaeron Women's Institute
- William Steed

We are very grateful for all the donations received this year

