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# The Programme & Our Mission

Dyfodol Ni is a funded Partnership of youth-focussed organisations and trusted professionals across Ceredigion. Funded by the National Lottery Community Fund's Mind Our Future Programme, Dyfodol Ni has come together to deliver joined-up, co-produced services, putting young people at the forefront to deliver mental health services and interventions for young people in the county. The programme will run until March 2028.

The ethos at the heart of the Ceredigion Partnership will be to listen to young people. We will provide opportunities for them to express themselves, to shape the direction of the programme, and co-produce future activities to improve the resilience and mental health of young people across Ceredigion as a whole. Therefore, through youth engagement and consultation, the Dyfodol Ni programme will work with young people to tackle the barriers that they are facing head on.

Having concluded the development period in August 2023, the programme will now work to roll out the successful delivery of its plan to improve the mental health and wellbeing of the young people of Ceredigion, led at every stage by the young people themselves.





# The Partnership

The Dyfodol Ni Partnership Pledge was created by young people in order to set the agreement of Partner organisations in maintaining the youth led focus of the Partnership's activities. Organisations agree to ensure the following:

### 1. Youth led

Young people's voices are central to the service offered to them. They can use their preferred service to build independence and trust in youth-led services, encouraging engagement and enthusiasm in what we do. Services respond to the needs of local young people, as defined by them, offering accessible support wherever possible, with targeted support for those considered more at-risk, disadvantaged or with higher needs.

### 2. Inclusivity, equality and diversity

Young people feel welcomed and included in their local area and can access the support they decide they need as they head towards adulthood. They should not feel isolated or different because of preferred language, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, nationality, socio-economic status, special educational needs, mental health issues, religion or any other characteristic. The local youth services should help to improve life circumstances for young people from all backgrounds by offering support to develop the skills, knowledge and networks they need to access and take advantage of opportunities.

### 3. Respect

The needs and wishes of local young people are considered as much as any other community group. They should feel heard, valued and respected. Local youth are actively encouraged to participate in their communities and enjoy opportunities in their area without worrying about judgement or negative stereotyping.

### 4. Quality, safety and well-being

Good quality, open access services are delivered by staff with safeguarding training who have links to further support if needed. Our services help to keep young people safe and supports their mental, emotional and physical health, improves their social and economic wellbeing, and makes sure they can access education, non-formal learning and activities of their choice.

### 5. Empowerment

Services empower young people to progress and engage in employment, education and training, and to take an active role in their local communities. Young people are listened to and can make positive changes to their communities, and understand how to engage with choice making.

### 6. Positivity

Services are focused on bringing out the best in each individual, helping them to develop their skills and attributes, rather than attempting to 'fix a problem'.





# The Development Period

**September 2022 - August 2023**

At the beginning of the development period, it was important that the project established its youth-led ethos and structure. A Young People's Management Committee (YPMC) was appointed following an open recruitment process. The appointed YPMC members, all under 25 years of age, represent varied demographics and life experiences to incorporate differing voices and opinions.

Dyfodol Ni's goal during the development period was to consult with as many young people as possible to enable the creation of a Delivery Plan that addresses need as identified by them. Extensive feedback, information, and ideas were collected for the YPMC, as the decision-making body for young people, to enable them to make informed decisions regarding the Delivery Plan.

Ceredigion is a large county, with a huge rural spread and small pockets of urban areas; it was important to the YPMC that consultation covered as much of the county as possible. During the development period each Partner ran engagement events, and this was the primary form of consultation. Our initial research suggested that these should be held in environments exclusive for the use of young people, where they were able to speak freely and honestly, without fear of censure.

37 engagement events were held over the development period. Events allowed for maximum reach, and provided young people with opportunities to access funded activities that may not have been afforded them previously. Large-scale events gave Dyfodol Ni a platform to raise awareness of the YPMC, the Partnership, and the power they have to make change for young people in Ceredigion.



# Engagement Events

All consultation information gathered throughout the development period came from over 1200 young people, ranging from ages 4-25. The engagement events varied from small gaming nights that attracted ten people, to large-scale music or performance events that drew over a hundred.

Some Partners co-produced events with young people, or even handed over the reins altogether, giving young people the opportunity to develop employability and leadership skills, and gain experience. The key aspect of all of these events was to give young people a feeling of ownership and agency over them, in spaces where they felt that they could speak freely. We wanted to get consultation that was honest, good or bad, and in a way where young people didn't feel pressured to give certain answers, or please anyone.

The consultations were primarily conversations with individuals or groups of young people, as opposed to surveys, which young people said felt too impersonal. The Engagement Team were bilingual, and so consultations could be held in Welsh and in English, making sure that young people knew they could use whatever language they felt most comfortable.

# Outcomes

These were the issues most frequently raised by young people during consultations:

1

## Access to services

Reducing the postcode lottery of available services, strengthening diversity of services available

3

## Safe spaces

'Safe spaces' has become the catchment term for the single biggest request received from young people during the development phase. Young people noted that there were few, or no, safe spaces exclusively for the use of young people in Ceredigion.

2

## Poor transport system

A transport system that is not fit for purpose is contributing to young people failing to access services in a timely or appropriate manner.

4

## Representation







# 4

## Representation Cynrychiolaeth

After several comments from young people on the subject, the YPMC directed the Engagement Team to start asking young people about representation, and whether they felt listened to by those in power.

The findings were absolutely crystal clear. Young people feel that they are not listened to, let alone taken seriously, by people in power who are making decisions that affect them. This view was found across the age range during Dyfodol Ni's consultation – from 4 to 25-year-olds – and across the whole of the county.

Given that a large number of young people who were consulted are of voting age, or on the cusp of voting age, this should be of serious concern to those in positions of power who claim to represent the electorate. It was of huge concern to the YPMC.





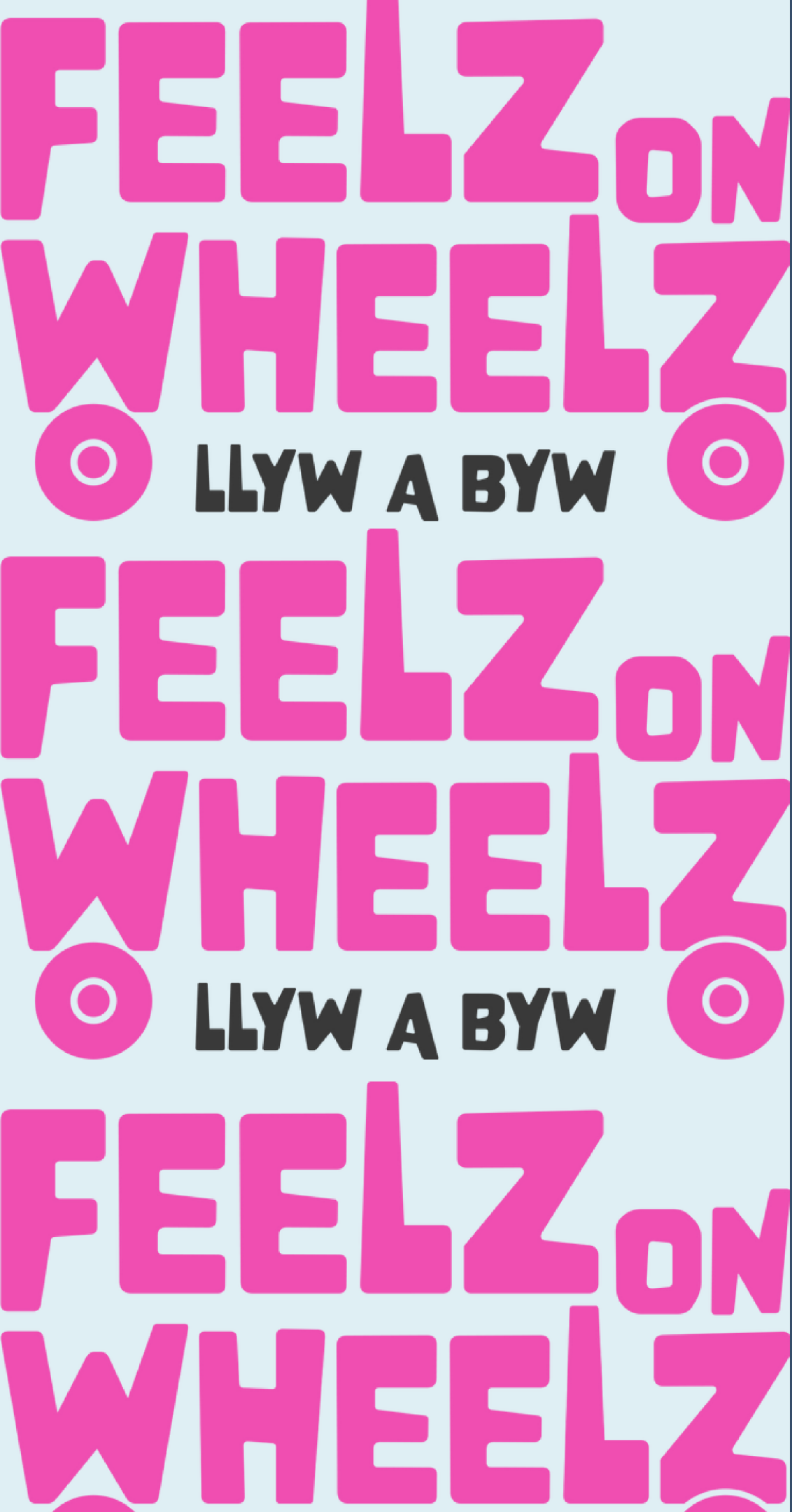
**Safe Space  
to Speak**

**Safle Saff i Siarad**

# Delivery Plan:

Following consultation, the YPMC noted that the majority of young people want to feel represented, and listened to, by people in power who make decisions that affect them. Fuelled by this demand, the YPMC will establish Safe Space to Speak / Safle Saff i Siarad (S<sup>3</sup>), a representative group for young people separate from traditional power structures, which is youth led from the outset. Its overall aims are set out in their Manifesto, with a focus on campaigning for systemic change for the benefit of young people.

S<sup>3</sup>'s primary task will be to campaign for better services in support of young people's mental health and wellbeing. It will begin in Ceredigion, but its aims are far more wide-reaching. S<sup>3</sup> want to create a model that other counties and organisations can follow, particularly in relation to their ideal view of safe spaces.



# Delivery Plan: Feelz on Wheelz

Feelz on Wheelz / Llyw a Byw is intended to address three key issues which came from Dyfodol Ni's consultation: access to services, a lack of safe spaces for young people in the county, and transportation.

Feelz on Wheelz / Llyw a Byw is a mobile youth café where young people can drop-in have a cuppa and access trained Support Workers should they wish. Food and drink will be subsidised, however there is no obligation for young people to spend any money; the YPMC's long-term goal is to provide food and drink for free. The service will cater to 13-25 year olds, 5 days a week. The service is run bilingually, in Welsh and English.

The service aims to cover as much of Ceredigion as possible, particularly targeting areas where there is a need for services for young people. Depending on the weather, the team will create an outdoor café space using the van as the hub, however the timetable will include indoor spaces, provided by Partners or by local amenities such as village halls.

Feelz on Wheelz / Llyw a Byw will run Saturday Events to aid consultation and information-gathering required for ongoing evaluation and development of the service.



**If you are interested in learning more about the project, or are an organisation interested in joining our Partnership, please contact one of the following:**

**For partnership (Dyfodol Ni):**  
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