

Tŷ Pride



Tŷ Pride is a specialist LGBTQ+ project, staffed 24 hours a day, supporting LGBTQ+ young people community who were experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness.

It is the first provision of its kind in Wales. The project is run as a partnership between Denbighshire Council, Llamau and Viva LGBTQ+, the specialist team from the charity West Rhyl Young People's Project. The scheme is currently funded by the Welsh Government's Innovation fund.

The project contains 3 units of accommodation, a 'step-down' flat, and floating support in the community. The young people living within the project are provided with 24/7 psychologically informed support, access to one-to-one counselling, as well as individual and group support and social activities, to help build a sense of community and belonging through interacting with peers.



Personal budgets for each young person provides them with the means to overcome some previously insurmountable barriers e.g. by meeting transport costs associated with appointments at a Gender Identity Clinic.

Another key objective of the partnership is to help educate local communities, housing organisations and other professional bodies. Training offered by the partnership increases awareness and understanding of LGBTQ+ identities and experiences and promotes sensitive, informed and inclusive practice; leading to much improved outcomes for LGBTQ+ young people.

What does the scheme hope to achieve?

The need for such a scheme was identified by EYHC's 'Out on the Streets: LGBTQ+ Youth Homelessness in Wales' report in August 2019, which consulted with young people and organisations working in the sector. The report found that for LGBTQ+ young people who became homeless it is often due to their family's rejection of their sexual orientation or gender identity. The report also highlighted that although LGBTQ+ people are disproportionately overrepresented in the wider homeless population, their needs are not well understood by homeless services, nor adequately addressed, with young people reporting rejection, isolation and stigmatisation. Which in turn, directly and indirectly contribute to their increased risk of experiencing homelessness and poor mental health.

The project concerns itself with three main aspects of LGBTQ+ homeless support; prevention, response and consolidation. 'Prevention' - through community-based support, education, inter-agency training and family support. 'Response' - by meeting the immediate accommodation and support needs through the fully staffed house and semi-independent flat. 'Consolidation' is where young people are ultimately supported via outreach to experience successful independent living.



The principle of Tŷ Pride is to offer a haven where LGBTQ+ identities are understood, valued and celebrated. This helps to heal traumas and address some of the harms visited upon the young people because of who they are.

Viva LGBTQ+ member of staff



Location

Tŷ Pride is based in Denbighshire and has been running since July 2019. Due to the level of demand for the service, and the findings of EYHC's report, at EYHC we think that, at least, a similar scheme to Tŷ Pride should be replicated in each region of Wales.

Implementation

Partnership working is crucial to Tŷ Pride's effectiveness, with each partner organisation contributing something important. The collaborative approach allows the whole to become more than the sum of its parts. Together, the partnership are able to offer LGBTQ+ young people security, community, learning and an overall package of support that was not previously available.

For any future scheme that takes inspiration from the work of Tŷ Pride, ensuring that you have this buy-in from a range of partners is of the upmost importance; to benefit from the diverse skills and experience they each bring and to ensure that the partnership reflects the community it seeks to serve.

Results

Since the project first opened, the Tŷ Pride partnership has been able to support ten young people. Four of those young people were supported to move into Tŷ

Pride during the pandemic, three young people have since moved on to live independently and all are thriving in their new homes.

One young person commented on a survey conducted by the partnership that the ongoing support made them feel less alone. Another said they felt the environment was more inclusive than where they lived before because there were only three housemates from the same community.

There have been many successes to celebrate since Tŷ Pride was first established. Outside of the fact that the project has brought safety, hope and a fresh start to young lives, both FEANTSA (Belgium) and True Colours United (New York) invited members of the partnership to share and discuss Tŷ Pride with colleagues from around Europe.

As local connection rules do not apply to the project, Tŷ Pride have received over 50 referrals since its inception from across Wales. This level of demand, coupled with the findings of the EYHC report, highlight the need for similar partnerships to develop across other parts of Wales.



More Information

At EYHC, we will offer any help or support to see more partnerships develop across Wales, if you'd like to get in touch please contact:

Bill Rowlands
Project Manager,
End Youth Homelessness Cymru
billrowlands@llamau.org.uk

If you would like any further information on Tŷ Pride specifically, please make contact with:

Claire Owens
Programme Lead,
Housing Support Grant (DCC)
claire.owens@denbighshire.gov.uk

Emma Evans
Project Manager (Llamau)
emmaevans@llamau.org.uk

Hannah Rowan
Project Manager
(West Rhyl Young People's
Project – Viva LGBTQ+)
hannah@rhylyouth.co.uk