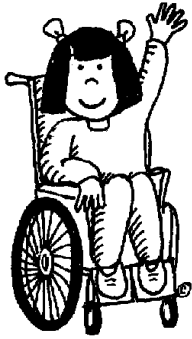


# Rights into Action—Newsletter of the Wales Network for Young Disabled People

Spring 2006



Hello

Welcome to the Rights into Action - Wales newsletter. Again I have asked for more articles from people and it would be great if I can include more members' articles in here.

The network has been very busy in the last year. We have held 3 residential meetings with people attending from all over Wales and a group from Scotland. Everyone should have received a copy of the write-up from The Glan Llyn residential on CD and the write-up for the October residential at Stackpole will be following shortly. I am putting together the last residential write-up as we speak and will send this to people as soon as this is done.

If you would like to join up to the YDPN and get involved then contact:

David Baker, Coordinator, Rights into Action, 24-26 High Street, Caernarfon LL55 1RH

Tel: 01286 677570

Fax: 01286 676095

Email: david.baker@childreninwales.org.uk

## WANTED!!!!

Your news for the next newsletter. It might be your group did recently or what you like to do for fact any information you think other members may interested in. You can do this in a group or on you Come on get scribbling and send it to the coordinator.

## WANTED!!!!



what fun. In be own.



## Glan Llyn

The network held an all Wales meeting in June, which was attended by groups from all over Wales. The residential gave members a chance to meet altogether for the first time



and was enjoyed by everyone attending.

This was the first meeting for the new network coordinator David Baker and Dynamix again facilitated the residential. Members had the opportunity to look again at rights and issues that affect everyone and what sort of actions the network may take to address these issues. Members consulted about bullying issues by the Welsh Assembly Government and also asked about wheelchair provision. As well as the usual activities organized in the sessions members tried ten pin bowling, circus skills, canoeing sailing and a trip on a lake. Lots of good work came out of the 3 days and the network is once again alive and well and looking forward to the next meeting.



## Stackpole Centre October 2005



A second all Wales residential was held at the Stackpole Dynamix in action at Stackpole. Dynamix in action at Stackpole. Centre in Pembrokeshire in Oct 05. Again the representatives worked really hard and we looked at issues that were important to us and how we can do something about them by lobbying and campaigning.

Dynamix in action at Stackpole



Some of you had some great idea's about getting our voices heard but we need to look at how we are going to do these things and it will still need a lot more work. The network reps discussed what the most important issue is for disabled young people and the overall message from the young people involved is that they

**“want help to become independent, earn their own money and lead independent lives. ”**

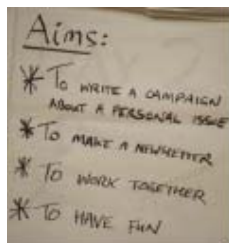
Network members know that this is not going to happen overnight but we are being heard by important people that can help us in our fight for rights for every disabled young person. At the residential we had a question and answer session with the Minister for Children Jane Hutt, Peter Clarke the Children's Commissioner for Wales, Christine Gwyther AM and Michael Brothers from the Disability Rights Commission. They were really impressed by the young people involved in the network; so impressed that they have asked to be invited to the next one in February 06! Jane Hutt asked for a list of the issues that came up in the residential and has been sent a letter with this information.

## Stackpole Centre February 2006

### WORK



This residential was held over four days and looked more at the local issues for groups and ways that we could campaign about them. There were workshop sessions from Dynamix, The Children's Commissioners Team and Funky Dragon. Unfortunately, neither Jane Hutt nor Peter Clarke could not make it, Jane sent a letter to apologise and has invited members to visit her at the National Assembly Building



Dynamix at work ..... and play



The Children's Commissioners team.

A workshop on rights



The network were consulted on several things like Independent Living and Work experience which means that again members are being asked for their opinions on things that effect them.



Members had a chance to try out a few campaigning idea's and select a local issue to take back and campaign about. Groups have decided to look at transport issues in their area, access to leisure facilities and funding for their groups to continue campaigning.

## Stackpole Centre February 2006

The residential was filmed by a team from Cardiff who will be producing a DVD of the event and what the network is about. We can use this DVD to tell other people about us and to promote the Network. The coordinator will let everyone know when this will be available. It seems that everyone enjoyed the four days and will be looking forward to the next one. If you would like a CD of pictures from the event then please contact the coordinator or look on our website: [www.ydpn.co.uk](http://www.ydpn.co.uk)



### FUN



During the residential members enjoyed some sports sessions, people played football and by Dynamix did lots of games during their session including a few parachute games. We also set up a large screen to watch DVD's in the main hall. On the last evening the members held a disco which every one said was really good.



A big thank you must go to James from Dynamic in Wrexham. He helped to set up the DVD show and brought all his disco gear with him. Every one thought the music and lights were brilliant. Hopefully James will do another one for us again.

The man himself in action.



## What is the Future for the Network?



During the residential in October the steering group were asked for their ideas about what the network will do over the next year. Network members were also sent a questionnaire about what you think should happen to the Network over the coming year and what you thought of the network so far.

You said things like:

- "I have learnt about my rights and can tell other young people about their rights. I get to meet and talk to other young disabled people share experiences from all across Wales, wouldn't get a chance to do this otherwise."
- "Challenging the people who make decisions by being part of the process."

This is excellent and is what the network is about; the more people we share ideas with the more people will have a say about what affects young disabled people and be able to speak up to those that make decisions about us.

The network needs to start thinking about what it should be doing next year and you came up with ideas like:

- "Get more disabled young people involved."
- "To have a longer residential meeting, more young people, taking on global issues."
- Make sure we get our issues sorted out!!

The network coordinator is trying to get more people involved all the time so that the network will get bigger and better. The coordinator is also following up issues by sending letters and reports to organisations like Funky Dragon and to people like Peter Clarke and Jane Hutt. I know that it is hard when it takes a long time to get things sorted but you are making a difference and we must not give up talking to people and letting them know how you feel about things. As one young disabled person said,

***"Nothing about us without us"***

## Plans for next year



The network is looking at plans for the future and what changes we can make to make things better. The steering group will be holding a meeting soon to see how we can put your ideas into action. We are also looking into what money we can find to make these things happen but any changes we do make will be after April. It is important that we come up with what's called a constitution for members and elect a chairperson or chairpersons so we will be doing this in the next residential to be held



## New logo

This is the new logo for the network. I hope that you like it. It was designed by one of the network members but it had to be changed a few times as it was very difficult to reproduce it for the website and as a letterhead. The coordinator is looking to see if we can get it printed or even sewn into T-shirts or hoodies for reps of the network. What do you think?

## Website Update

The new website has been late in arriving, but now it's here!!!!

The website will mean it will be easier for everyone to see what is going on with the network. You will be able to check for events, talk about things on the message boards and even write your own web page.

[www.ydprn.co.uk](http://www.ydprn.co.uk)

## News from Clebran, Barnardo's Cymru



As a result of the last network meeting in October we had the opportunity to meet Peter Clarke and we have asked him if he will attend a Clebran meeting in 2005, which he has accepted. We will let you know what he says and get some pictures.

## Anna Leaving

I think I speak from all the Network members when I say a big thank you to Anna for all the hard work she has done in the past. Anna is off on an exciting trip around the World but I am sure we will see her again when she gets back from her adventures.

Good luck Anna.

