



Annual Report 2024 - 2025

GISDA

OUR AIMS

To provide support and opportunities to homeless and/or vulnerable young people in Gwynedd by offering:

Accommodation and support services

Therapeutic, creative, leisure, and educational activities

Advice and information

Training, volunteering opportunities, and work experience

STRATEGIC AIMS

Voice

The voices of young people are heard and included in matters that affect them

Accommodation

Increase our accommodation provision to meet the growing need among young people

Wellbeing

Improved wellbeing for every young person supported by GISDA

Support

A tailored support plan for every young person supported by GISDA

Opportunities

Every young person supported by GISDA is ambitious in their aspirations for the future



GISDA IS 40 THIS YEAR!

GISDA was established in 1985 to provide accommodation and support for homeless young people in the area. We are a charity that offers support and opportunities to homeless and vulnerable young people in Gwynedd.



SIAN TOMOS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF GISDA

Another busy and exciting year!

It has been an extremely busy and very productive year at GISDA. We managed to support over 700 homeless and vulnerable young people during the year. New partnerships were developed and among some of our main projects was the development of 3 new sites including Caxton House in Pwllheli. Despite the financial challenges, we managed to start new projects, develop hubs and more provide more opportunities for young people. I would like to thank our dedicated staff, experienced Management board members and the commissioner for their continued trust and support. As we reach a significant milestone for the charity, 40 years of service, we are proud to report that we are in a strong position to continue leading quality services for the young people in the area who need us.



LLINOS OWEN
CHAIR OF GISDA'S BOARD

The Board is pleased to present this annual report in what is a special year for GISDA as we approach the celebration of 40 years of service. We are extremely proud of the work of our dedicated staff who provide vital support to the young people of Gwynedd. Listening to the personal experiences of the young people has reminded us of the exceptional value of the charity. Without GISDA, the county would be a poorer place. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributes – together, we can continue to make a real difference.

2024-25 IN NUMBERS

764

of young
people have
received
support

Number of
GISDACTIVE
sessions

53

7

awards

2980

volunteering
hours

Number of
young people
who have
moved on from
housing support

167

144

Received
emergency
support in our
hubs

468

received mental
health and
wellbeing support

227

of people
received
LGBTQ+
training

80.56%

of young
people have
improved their
mental health
and wellbeing

335

Agored Cymru
Units and Virtual
Training
Completed

£69,305

in grants to
our young
people

Number of
LGBTQ+ Youth
Club nights

91

**“ I WOULD BE IN
A VERY DARK PLACE
WITHOUT SUPPORT
FROM GISDA ”**



GISDA

ESPOUNSAITH A CHYLLSODD I BODI SPANC
SUPPORT AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

GISDA

Llety / Accommodation



“WITHOUT GISDA, I WOULD BE ON THE STREET WITH NOWHERE TO CALL HOME.”

48

young people
received
accommodation
through Housing
Support"

6

young parents
received
accommodation in
our housing

84

young people
received supported
accommodation in
the community

144

have received
crisis support
in our hubs

312

young people
have received
support

100%

Stating that they
are able to
communicate
easily about any
issue.

100%

Stating that GISDA
has helped them
manage their
accommodation

100%

Stating that the
support is good or
very good

MY STORY, MY JOURNEY - THANK YOU GISDA

"GISDA came into my life during a dark period of isolation and struggle. Through their help, in particular with my transgender transition journey, my life has improved in every conceivable way. I am happier, more complete, and now being in university thanks to the help of all my support workers at GISDA, at a point where I am proud of my life. I would not have thought almost six years ago that any of this had been possible, but thanks to the love and support of GISDA I am now proud of my life.

Not only have I been supported in the above ways, I have also been treated with patience, kindness, and encouragement throughout my time living in Hafan, the halfway Tre Gof, and finally in the flat they helped me to get. This support gave me the essential time I needed to become who I am today. For this and so much more I thank GISDA with all my heart. In particular, living in Hafan allowed me to meet many of the people who are still my friends to this day, without whom I would have struggled all the more in life.

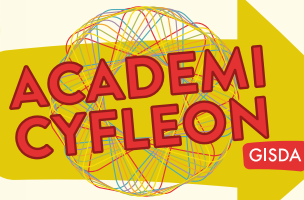
I owe a great debt of kindness to GISDA for supporting me and for teaching me vital skills that I would have been lost without, including budgeting, cooking, and socialising. It is with great joy in my heart that I am now studying in university, which, among other things, would not have been possible without the help of GISDA.

Thank you."



GISDA

Cyfleon / Opportunities



335

**AGORED CYMRU
UNITS AND
VIRTUAL
COLLEGE
TRAINING
COMPLETED**

344

221

**INDEPENDENT LIVING
SKILLS**

651

TRAINING

of young people
received support **72**

DRIVING THEORY

86%

of young people have
moved on to work,
volunteering, or
training

82%

young people
reporting increased
confidence and work-
related skills
following support



VOLUNTEERING



69

people have
volunteered this
past year



2980

of volunteering
hours

“ GISDA HELPED ME FIND MY VOICE, AND NOW I VOLUNTEER TO HELP OTHERS FIND THEIRS. TOGETHER, WE'RE NOT JUST CHANGING LIVES; WE'RE SHAPING THE FUTURE AND BUILDING A COMMUNITY WHERE EVERY VOICE COUNTS. ”



Trips to New York, Poland, Cornwall, Liverpool, London, Italy

10

**YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE
TRAVELLED ABROAD**

5

**YOUNG PEOPLE
TRAVELLED IN THE UK**

17

**STAFF MEMBERS HAVE
HAD TRAVELLING
OPPORTUNITIES**

5

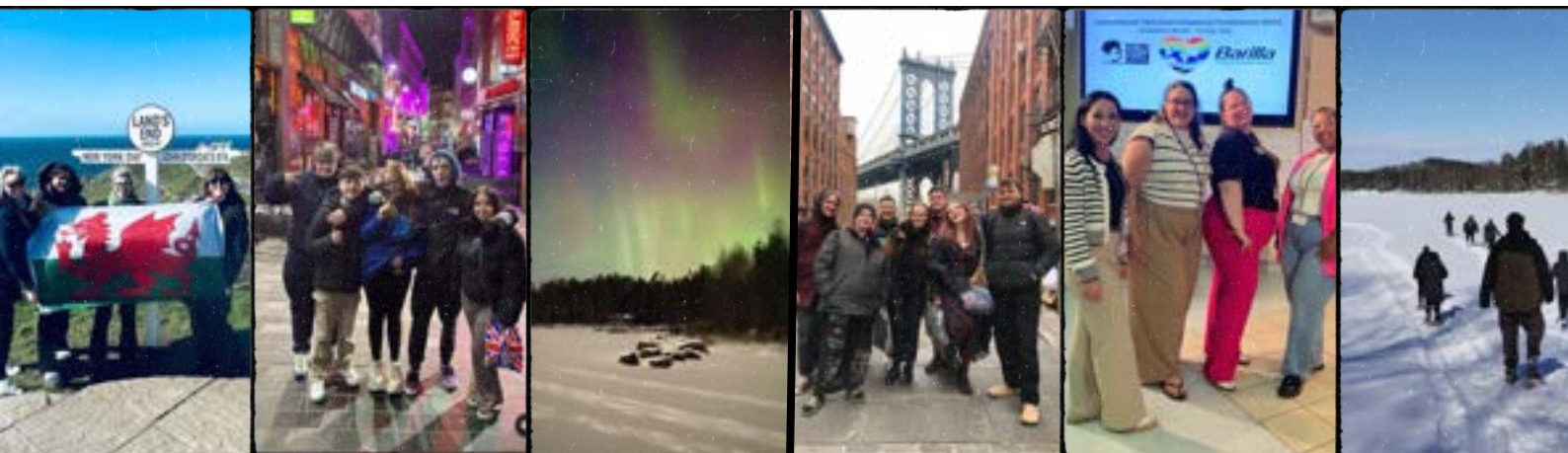
**COLLEAGUES FROM
POLAND HAVE VISITED
WALES**



— “ —

**THIS TRIP TO
POLAND HAS
CHANGED MY LIFE.
I'VE EVOLVED AND
COME OUT OF THIS
EXPERIENCE A
BETTER MAN.**

— ” —



PROJECT FOR CARE EXPERIENCED YOUNG PEOPLE

121

Number of young
people supported at
any one time

93 REFERRALS (AGES 18–25)

28 REFERRALS (AGES 16–18)

- 10% are asylum seekers
- 3% are in prison
- 3% are young people in foster care
- 6% are homeless



We have worked in partnership with Gwynedd Council and the Welsh Government to develop 4 self-contained flats for care leavers, with practical support provided on-site.



EXPERIENCED TEAM LEADER - AMY THATCHER JONES



**“ MEETING MY PERSONAL ADVISER
WARMED MY HEART- IT’S DIFFERENT
WHEN SOMEONE TRULY UNDERSTANDS.**

”



227

of people received
LGBTQ+ training



65

Regular members
of the Club



130+

Hours contributed by
volunteers in our
clubs



24

received specialist
1-1 support

“

**IT'S SO NICE TO HAVE A PLACE
WHERE I CAN BE MYSELF.**

”

A young person receiving support through the LHDTC+ Project



224

number of young
people who have
received mental
health and
wellbeing support



“

COMING TO THE ICAN HUB TAKES THE PRESSURE OFF MY LIFE. I GET TIME TO RELAX, THINK ABOUT POSITIVE THINGS, AND DEVELOP SKILLS TO COPE WITH LIFE.

”



163

of referrals
received

81%

young people
have experienced
improved mental
health and
wellbeing

72%

young people
feeling less lonely



GISDACTIVE



200

attendees of
Active sessions



53

of Active
sessions

40km Challenge: Pwllheli to Caernarfon

GISDA staff and young people walked 40 kilometres from Pwllheli to Caernarfon to mark 40 years of GISDA's service, raising over £2,000. The journey demonstrated strength, collaboration, and commitment to supporting young people facing challenges, raising funds and awareness along the way.



“

I get the chance to set clear goals, go to the gym, and work on my health.” - Young person receiving 1-1 support from Gisdactive

“I’ve made friends through GISDACTIF, it’s easy to talk while going for a walk or in the gym.”— Young person attending Gisdactive sessions

”



CREATIVE

282

of sessions /
activities

“ I LOVE IT. I LOOK FORWARD TO THE
ACTIVITIES EVERY WEEK. I REALLY
ENJOY THEM. ”

Aber i Aber – Community Music Wales



A 10-week music project in partnership with Community Music Wales. Young people developed musical skills, composed an original song about Caernarfon, and professionally recorded it in a studio.

Olion (Frân Wen x GISDA)

An ambitious theatre project with Fran Wen, featuring seven young people from GISDA performing in Olion after two years of development work through the Nabod project.



Art in Nature : Ysbyty Gwynedd Gallery



A project in partnership with iCAN where young people used art as a therapeutic outlet to explore mental health, with nature at the heart of the work. The project concluded with an exhibition at Oriel Ysbyty Gwynedd.



GISDA
Llais / Voice

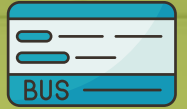
48

Young
People's
Board
sessions

118

young people
attended

TRANSPORT CAMPAIGN



Our Young
People's Board
has contributed
to a public
transport
campaign that
has resulted in £1
bus tickets for
young people
under 25.



SENEDD IEUENCTID CYMRU

Lewis has been elected to
represent GISDA in the
Welsh Youth Parliament
2025–2028.



SEFYDLIAD PARTNER
PARTNER ORGANISATION

OUR HUBS

PARTNERSHIPS

We have developed a strong network of partners in the hubs to provide practical support to young people to help them overcome barriers and achieve their potential.



GISDA has distributed
£69,305
in financial grants to
young people



Cymraeg

We provide bilingual support to young people across Gwynedd, covering over 979 square miles across the county.

AWARDS



GWYNEDD SPORTS
AWARDS 2024
ACTIVE EMPLOYER OF THE
YEAR



MENTAL HEALTH
& WELLBEING
WALES AWARDS
2024
SHORTLIST FOR
THE
INSPIRATIONAL
CHARITABLE
ORGANISATION

YOUNG PEOPLE



GWYNEDD
VOLUNTEERING
AWARDS 2025
SHORTLIST –
VOLUNTEER OF THE
YEAR



GWYNEDD
VOLUNTEERING
AWARDS 2024
JEM – VOLUNTEER OF
THE YEAR



WALES CHARITY
AWARDS 2024
REECE – SHORTLIST
FOR YOUNG
VOLUNTEER OF THE
YEAR



CENTREPOINT AWARDS
2024
ANYA – CENTREPOINT
PARTNER AWARD



CENTRE
POINT

WcVA
CGGC



TPAS GOOD PRACTICE
AWARDS 2024
ANYA – YOUNG
TENANT OF THE YEAR

VISITS

SIAN GWENLLIAN MS

Sian Gwenllian MS visited GISDA to meet with young people and see the Youth Board to discuss the Transport Campaign. She had the opportunity to hear about their experiences and the important messages raised by young people regarding local transport challenges.



DEREK WALKER - THE FUTURE GENERATIONS COMMISSIONER

GISDA welcomed Derek Walker, the Future Generations Commissioner, to Caernarfon. He had the opportunity to hear about our work and the challenges we face. Our 'Gall GISDA' strategy was shared, aligning with the priorities of the 'Cymru Can' plan. The Commissioner appreciated the approach and was keen to return to follow our developments.



EFA GRUFFYDD WELSH LANGUAGE COMMISSIONER

GISDA welcomed Efa Gruffudd Jones, the Welsh Language Commissioner, to our site in Caernarfon. We discussed our work with young people and the emphasis on delivering services through the Welsh language. It was a valuable opportunity to share our offer and learn about the Commissioner's priorities for the coming years.



**AT GISDA,
WE WALK
SIDE BY SIDE
WITH OUR
YOUNG
PEOPLE.**



GISDA

CEIMMOGAETH A CHYLLCRODD I NGŊL ISIANIC
SUPPORT AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

REPRESENTING GISDA ACROSS WALES AND BEYOND

YOUTH WORK CONFERENCE

Gwaith
Ieuenctid
Cymru | Youth
Work
Wales



GISDA was present at the Youth Work Conference in Cardiff – an inspiring day highlighting the NABOD project, work through the Welsh language, and educational overseas trips. An opportunity to learn and build partnerships to support young people.

SHELTER CYMRU CONFERENCE

Shelter
Cymru

GISDA attended the People and Homes Conference hosted by Shelter Cymru, focusing on the housing crisis in Wales. The importance of social housing, homelessness, and the need for ongoing support were discussed. There was an opportunity to share the experiences of young people in Gwynedd and to hear about the commitment to making housing a national priority.



FEANTSA



GISDA is a member of the FEANTSA membership movement, an umbrella body for homelessness organisations across Europe. This year's conference was held in Athens over two days in May. It was a fantastic opportunity to learn, reflect, and meet great organisations from across Europe. It was clear that no country is untouched by the challenge of responding to homelessness. Learning good practice and learning from others is a very important part of how we operate at GISDA.

ALI FORNEY



Kaya, the TAPI Project Manager, went to Parma with the TAIH Project to attend an LHDTC+ forum led by the Ali Forney Centre. Twenty-five agencies from 16 countries came together to share ideas and learn about services for LHDTC+ young people. It was a valuable opportunity to share GISDA's work, learn from others, and gather ideas to develop our local support.

MY STORY, MY JOURNEY - THANK YOU GISDA

I stayed with GISDA in 2015, during one of the hardest times in my life. As a young person with nowhere else to go, GISDA gave me more than just a roof over my head — they gave me safety, support, and a real chance to rebuild.

What stood out most was the kindness and patience of the staff. They didn't just see a "homeless teenager" — they saw potential, even when I couldn't see it in myself. Thanks to their support, I gained stability, confidence, and direction.

After moving on from the main GISDA house, I went on to a supported flat in Tre Gof, where I had more independence, but still knew the staff were by my side whenever I needed them. That balance of freedom and support helped me grow even more.

Now, 10 years on, I'm proud to say I'm living independently in my own home. I have a full-time job and have even passed my driving test and got my licence. It's been a journey, but I wouldn't be where I am today without GISDA's support.

I want to give a special shout-out to Andy (head of the GISDA house), Elin (my support worker), Lynne (a staff member who was a great support while I was there), the late Anwen, and Sandra, who took us on our weekly cleaning tasks — and to everyone else at GISDA who played a part in helping me through that chapter of my life. You all made a difference.

I'll always be grateful for the part GISDA played in helping me grow into who I am today. They truly change lives, and I'm proud to say I'm one of them.

Thank you Gisda



GISDA'S FUNDERS – THANK YOU!



Ariennir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
Funded by
Welsh Government



CRONFA FFYNAINT GYFFREDIN
GOGLEDD CYMRU



Funded by
UK Government
Wedi ei ariannu gan
Llywodraeth y DU

GOGLEDD CYMRU
ACTIF
NORTH WALES



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NHS
WALES
GIG
CYMRU

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Betsi Cadwaladr
University Health Board



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