



GISDA

CEFNOGAETH A CHYFLEOEDD I BOBL IFANC
SUPPORT AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2025

WELCOME TO OUR SUMMER NEWSLETTER

As the year races ahead, we're excited to share the latest news and events from GISDA. The past few months have been full of exciting activities, and in this edition, we'll talk about some of the ways GISDA is making a real difference to the lives of vulnerable young people in Gwynedd.

GISDA IS 40!

As we mark 40 years of supporting young people in Gwynedd—this summer has been filled with celebrations, memories, and inspiring events.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of the journey so far—you have helped shape a better future for hundreds of young people.



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YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES CONFERENCE



The Youth Services Conference was held at the Galeri, Caernarfon, as part of GISDA's 40th anniversary celebrations — a day full of energy, inspiration, and collaboration under bright sunshine and with great pride in the venue.

Various breakout workshops took place across the Galeri, covering:

- Introduction to GISDA's work
- A funding panel with representatives from Children in Need, WCVA, and the National Lottery Community Fund
- Workshops from Frân Wen, Cyngor Gwynedd Youth Employment Department, and Bill Rowlands (End Youth Homelessness Cymru)

Special guests included:

- Sian Tomos (GISDA CEO), Bill Rowlands (End Youth Homelessness Cymru),
- Iwan Trefor Jones (Adra Housing Association),
- Lewis Williams & Ann Owen-Williams (Youth Parliament Wales),
- The Right Honourable Liz Saville Roberts MP,
- Councillor Menna Trenholme (Deputy Leader of Gwynedd Council), and
- GISDA's Anya Sherlock and Zack Robinson.

The day concluded with a powerful speech and acoustic performance of 'Hawl i Fyw' by Dafydd Iwan, poignantly referencing the people of Gaza and human rights, ending with the iconic anthem 'Yma o Hyd' to uplift hearts and spirits.



40 YEARS OF STORIES

One of the highlights of the Youth Services Conference was the creative corner prepared by GISDA's talented Creative team. It featured a collection of short writings by people who have been supported by GISDA over the past 40 years, sharing powerful memories of their time with the organisation – an emotional and inspiring display.



This exhibition will be open throughout the summer holidays at Galeri Caernarfon – so if you have time, be sure to pop in and see it!

40KM - PWLLHELI TO CAERNARFON

There was a really special feeling at our 40km Challenge – it was so much more than just fundraising. A day full of energy, support, and pride. It was amazing to have staff and young people from all over GISDA together. By the end, there were plenty of sore feet... but it was absolutely worth it!

A big thank you to Urdd Awyr Agored for supporting us throughout the day. Special thanks to our sponsors and supporters – without your kindness and generosity, the day wouldn't have been such a success.



YNYS ENLLI

Recently, a group of young people and staff from GISDA spent five special days on Bardsey Island (Ynys Enlli) – a unique and unforgettable experience made possible thanks to the generous support of the Enlli Trust and the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The trip was a valuable opportunity for the young people to explore the island's ecology, history, and unique way of life through fun, hands-on activities led by the local wardens. It was also a chance to switch off screens and enjoy a much-needed break from the busyness of everyday life.

The atmosphere was filled with laughter, fun, creativity, and teamwork. The young people fully engaged, supported one another, and created memories that will last a lifetime. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who took part – and to the wonderful people of Enlli for their warm welcome and kindness.



PRIDE MONTH CELEBRATIONS



Here at GISDA, we've been celebrating Pride Month with creative activities, awareness-raising, and a special Pride party for our young people!

It's been a month full of joy, expression, and inclusion – reminding us just how important it is to create safe spaces where everyone feels seen, supported, and proud of who they are.



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CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS

Through the Academi Cyfleon project, our young people gain access to valuable volunteering opportunities – a chance to develop skills, build confidence, and prepare for the world of work.

As part of this year's Volunteers Week celebrations, a special trip was organised to thank all our volunteers. A group of young people and GISDA staff spent the day volunteering at Henbant Farm, working hard: preparing plant beds, feeding pigs and chickens, collecting eggs and strawberries, picking fresh herbs, and cooking pizzas and salad.

The day was filled with hard work, new skills, and fun together – volunteering at its best!



GWYNEDD VOLUNTEERING AWARDS

We were so proud to see Sion, one of our exceptional young volunteers, receive an award at the Gwynedd Volunteering Awards in Portmeirion. We're incredibly proud of Sion's dedication and hard work, and it's been a pleasure to watch him develop new skills and grow in confidence over the past few months. Well done, Sion!



Over the past few months, Alix, a young person supported by GISDA, has been volunteering by creating beautiful crochet blankets for Bryn Blodau Care Home to share with the elderly residents.

We're so proud of Alix for bringing warmth and joy to so many people.

GARDD GYMUNEDOL FRON FAWR YN FFYNNU!

Recently, staff and young people from Blaenau Ffestiniog came together to complete a special project at Fron Fawr Community Garden, with support from a grant by Keep Wales Tidy. The project was a great opportunity for young people to learn new skills and do something positive for the local environment.

They received a Food Garden Kit, including raised beds with trellises. These have now been planted with wild herbs, climbing plants, strawberries, redcurrants, and blackberries. An insect box was also installed to encourage wildlife in the area.

The garden is now a welcoming space for tenants – a place to relax, grow things, and connect with each other.



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"Thank you to the staff who have worked hard over the past 3 months to renew the community garden – it looks amazing!" – Sharon Thomas, Support Services Manager

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GIANT LEAP FORWARD – AN INSPIRING STORY



After spending three years with us in our hostel and move-on flat in Blaenau, we're very proud to share that one of our amazing young people has taken a giant leap – moving into their own home!

She came to GISDA shortly after her 16th birthday, and since then has worked incredibly hard to build their confidence and develop the skills needed to live independently.

Huge congratulations – we're so proud of you and excited to see what's next on your journey!


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"I'm happy to be closing this chapter. Thank you for all the support I've received over the past 3 years—it means a lot. Without everyone at GISDA, I wouldn't be where I am today, so thank you. I'll come to see you when I pass my driving test!"

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HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT GISDA:

GIVE

'GIVE AS YOU LIVE'  Give as you Live Online
Raise funds for GISDA from your everyday shopping at no extra cost! Scan the QR Code to find out more:



JustGiving

Head to our Just Giving page:
www.justgiving.com/gisda



DONATE THROUGH TEXT

TEXT : **GISD41 £X** to **70070**
(eg **GISD41 £5** i **70070**)



OTHER WAYS TO HELP

Volunteering: We welcome volunteers to help run our programs and events.

Fundraising: Organise a fundraising event or challenge yourself with a personal fundraising challenge.

Spread the Word: Tell your friends and family about GISDA and our work.

Follow Us on Social Media: Follow us on our social media channels to hear the latest news, events, and opportunities.

