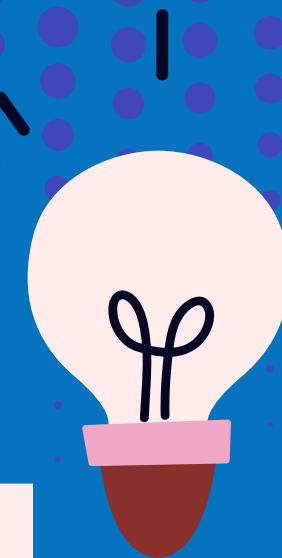


June 2026

our

STRATEGIC YOUTH WORK PLAN

For Ceredigion



From what we've heard → to what we do next

What we've done so far

NEARLY 500 YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGED!

"I wouldn't fill in a survey, but I'll talk to you."

We've spent time listening to young people and partners across the county, using a mix of surveys, conversations and engagement in real settings like youth clubs, schools and outreach.

👉 We've heard from:

Young people who attend regularly

Young people who attend sometimes

Young people who don't engage at all with youth services



WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE TOLD US

and

What matters most to them

Across all the feedback, the same key messages came up again and again.

- Young people want:
 - Youth clubs more often and closer to home
 - Safe, welcoming spaces to spend time
 - More choice – sport, music, trips, skills
 - Youth workers in schools

“One night a week isn’t enough”

“I’d go if I could get there”

“There isn’t a youth club where I live”



CHALLENGES & BARRIERS

What stops young people taking part?

For many young people, the problem isn't interest — it's access.

- ✎ The biggest barriers are:
- Transport and distance
 - Not being on a bus route
 - Confidence and anxiety
 - Not knowing what's available



"If I miss the bus, that's it"

"I'd go if it was closer – I can't get a bus"

"We just want somewhere safe to be"

PARTNERS & STAKEHOLDERS

WHAT ARE THEY SEEING?

Partners across the county told us they see the same challenges, but at a systems level.

👉 Key issues raised:

- Rurality makes equal access difficult
- Workforce and funding pressures
- Some young people are not being reached
- Partnerships don't always work in practice

YOUNG PEOPLE AND PARTNERS ARE DESCRIBING THE SAME PRESSURES FROM DIFFERENT ANGLES.

SEVERAL PARTNERS SAY THAT THERE IS FANTASTIC ACTIVITY HAPPENING - WE NEED TO BUILD ON THOSE SUCCESSES.

"How do we offer equal provision".

"We need to go where young people are"

"We need to protect the voluntary engagement nature of youth work"



WHAT THIS MEANS

AND WHAT WE THINK IT
TELLS US

Looking at everything together, it's clear that things need to work differently.

☞ We need:

- More local and flexible provision
- Youth work that reaches young people where they are
- A better balance of school and community support
- A focus on relationships, not just activities

☞ **This is about building a joined-up system**

**formed through
engagement with young
people**

**that provides
opportunities based on
needs and wants**

**easily accessible,
inclusive and
educational**

**delivered in a strong
collaborative way that
protects youth services**



WHAT WE NEED TO FOCUS ON

Our Priority Areas

From everything we've heard, these are the key priorities for the future.

👉 Our priorities are:

1. **School & Community Offer**
2. **Rural Youth Work**
3. **Mental Health & Wellbeing**
4. **Youth Voice & Participation**
5. **Workforce & Volunteers**
6. **Strong Partnerships**



✅ **THERE IS STRONG AGREEMENT THESE ARE THE RIGHT PRIORITIES**



WHAT WE THINK NEEDS TO HAPPEN

Our Ideas (but not final!)

We've started to turn these priorities into practical ideas.

👉 We think we need to:

**Provide more consistent
local youth work**

**Expand our outreach and
community-based provision**

**Protect and create more safe
spaces and support**

**Strengthen youth voice,
information and participation**

**Grow our workforce and
support volunteers**



What this could look like

The types of activities and approaches
we think are needed!

Local & Community Provision

- More youth clubs open 2–3 nights per week
- Community hubs in North, Mid & South Ceredigion
- Make use of schools, halls and shared community spaces – support and help protect existing projects

Rural & Outreach

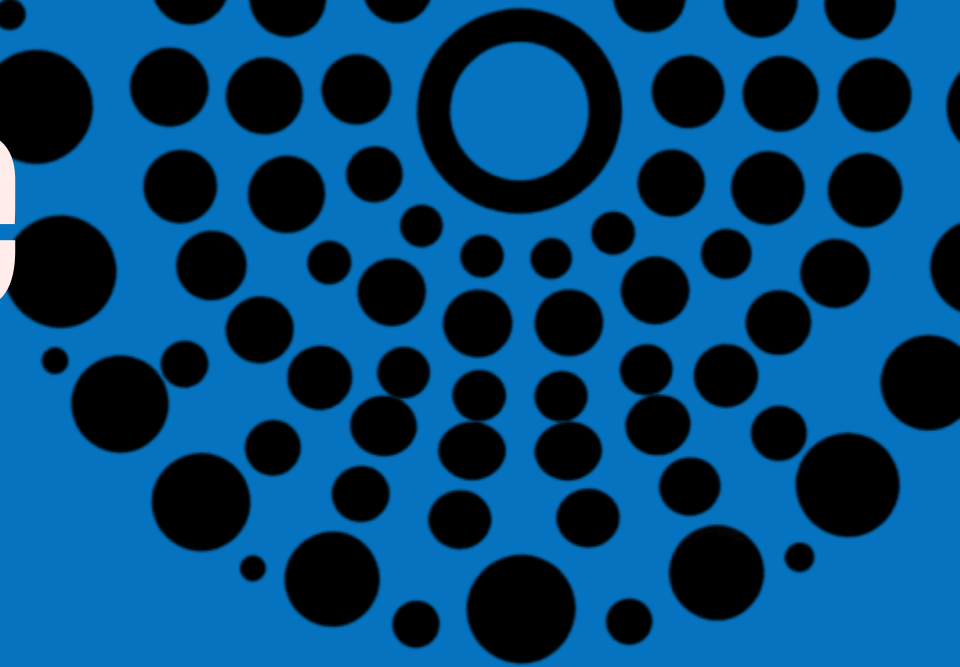
- Outreach in villages and smaller communities
- Mobile / pop-up youth work
- Youth Work in places young people already go

Wellbeing & Safe Spaces

- Drop-in safe spaces (not just structured sessions)
- Smaller groups / quieter sessions
- More trusted adult support and support pathways

Activities & Opportunities

- Trips, sports, creative activities and fun!
- Life skills (money, jobs, social skills, hobbies)
- Accredited and informal learning – celebrate successes!



DOES THIS FEEL RIGHT?

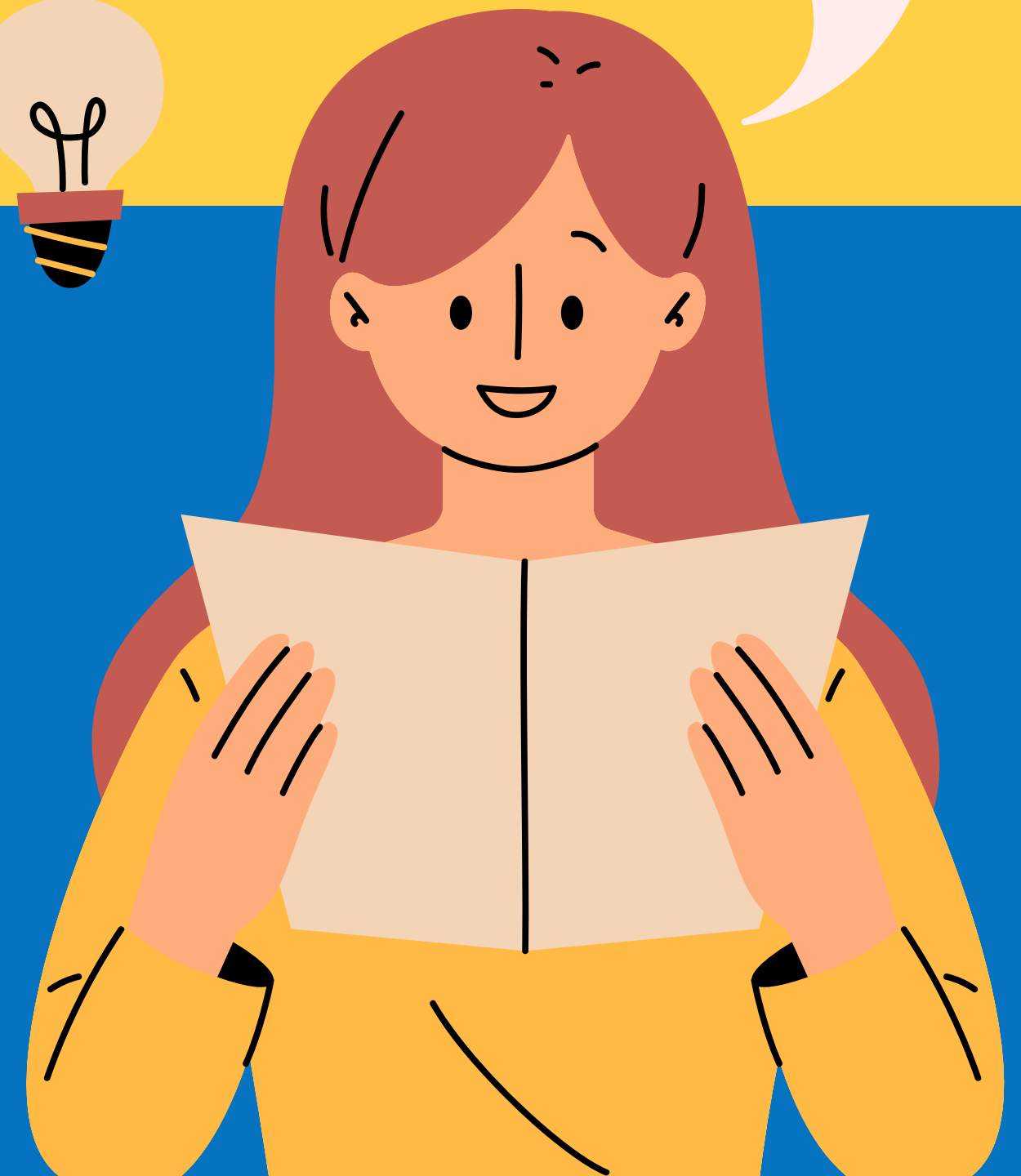
WE NEED YOUR HELP!

**BE HONEST – THIS
ONLY WORKS IF IT'S
REAL**

We now need to check this with you!

👉 Please tell us what you think:

1. Does this reflect your day-to-day reality?
2. Would you attend these kinds of activities?
3. What would stop you coming?
4. Where and when should they happen?
5. What's missing?
6. What should we prioritise first?
7. What already works in your local area?



THANK YOU!

What happens next?

This is just the next step — not the end.

➡ Next we will:

- **Refine the priorities**
- **Turn ideas into clear actions**
- **Test these further with young people & partners**
- **Build a plan that works for Ceredigion!**



THIS PLAN WILL BE SHAPED TOGETHER!
THIS PLAN WILL BE DELIVERED TOGETHER!



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GWASANAETH IEUENCTID CEREDIGION YOUTH SERVICE



Engaging young people = a quick guide for youth workers

Step 1 – Start Simple (5 mins)

Ask:

- What's good about youth work now?
- What's not working?

✎ Write on flipchart / notes

Step 2 – Show the Ideas (Slides 8–9)

Explain:

"These are ideas based on what young people told us across the county"

Step 3 – Get Them Talking (Choose 1 or 2 methods)

✓ Mind Map

- "What would a perfect youth club look like?"
- Write everything down – no filtering

✓ Ideas Cloud

- Each young person writes 3 ideas
- Stick them up → group into themes

✓ Graffiti Wall

- Put big paper up:
 - "What should we DO more of?"
 - "What should we STOP doing?"

✓ Voting / Dot Activity

- Give 3 stickers each
- "Pick what matters most"

✓ Scenario Chat

- "If we opened a youth club here 2 nights a week... would you come?"

Step 4 – Challenge Them (Important)

Ask:

- Why would that work?
- Who would NOT come?
- What would make it better?

✎ "Challenge friendly answers"

Step 5 – Capture It Properly

Make sure you record:

- Top 3 things young people want
- What would stop them attending
- Any new ideas

Step 6 – Close the Loop

Always say:

"We will feed this back into the plan – and we'll show you what changes."

✎ Good sessions =

- Everyone speaks
- Ideas are challenged
- You capture it clearly

✎ Not good sessions =

- Same 2 young people talking
- No challenge
- Nothing recorded

