

Item 6: Blaenau Gwent Council Self-Assessment 2022/23

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- In relation to economically inactive disabled residents – what is the Council doing to support those residents.

Education and Inclusion:

Some of our younger adults with disabilities 16+ are accessing the Post 16 special school provision at PenyCwm, where they are learning about skills for life to maximise their opportunities on leaving the school setting. Most of the learners will be supported to progress on to Further Education opportunities with our partner college Coleg Gwent. A minority of learners will access provision via our social care opportunities.

PenyCwm school links with external agencies to offer experiences for learners and, in collaboration with Careers Wales and the Local Authority Education Department, are delivering support events for transition, which will be attended by various agencies from the Blaenau Gwent area. Agencies will be able to provide support, advice, and guidance on future opportunities for the learners and their families.

All of the above opportunities are in place to support our young adults to become valued, active, and engaged members of their community on leaving the setting, and to prevent them from becoming inactive and isolated.

Youth Service:

From an SPF perspective we support and have supported young people with disabilities, but it depends upon level of understanding and need in relation to a specific disability. We have supported young people who were partially sighted in the past as an example and supported them into other organisations that have the expertise to support further, in this case it was Merthyr Institute for the blind who worked alongside us to get the young person into work through their contacts.

Another is supporting young people with ASD. It all depends upon needs and how much specialisms are needed to allow distance travelled.

Aneurin Leisure Trust

Aneurin Leisure Adult Community Learning provides a wide range of courses designed specifically for adults with a learning disability/difficulty or those experiencing poor mental health. All courses are taught in small friendly classes by qualified tutors and learners are encouraged and supported as individuals to work as independently as possible, while developing a wide range of skills in their chosen area. Participants are encouraged to improve their existing essential skills. Learners can gain an Agored Cymru qualification on successful completion of a course.

There are currently 15 ILS courses running in venues throughout Blaenau Gwent in subjects such as music and drama, computer and iPads, art and craft, cookery, and

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essential skills. Staff work closely with a range of partners such as Blaenau Gwent Social Services, Tai Calon, a range of sheltered accommodation providers, Blaenau Gwent People First, Sirhowy Woodland and Pen y Cwm School.

For more information on ILS courses see the Aneurin Leisure ACL Facebook page or email michelle.seabourne@aneurinleisure.org.uk.