



News from One Voice Wales:

Welcome to Issue 24 of the One Voice Wales E-Bulletin. This edition is packed with our regular update from our *Cost of Living* team and *Local Places for Nature* programme, along with key news and opportunities to support your work in local communities.

Please can we ask all clerks to share with their members and staff

NEWS

ONE VOICE WALES AWARDS
**RECORD
BREAKING
ENTRIES**
132 APPLICATIONS
FROM 37 DIFFERENT COUNCILS



We are thrilled to share that One Voice Wales has seen a record number of applications and engagement across our National Awards this year. Your active participation is what makes our network so vibrant. To keep this momentum

going, we want to ensure your council is represented at our National Conference on Wednesday 1 July at the Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells.

It would be wonderful to achieve record attendance this year - we encourage all delegates to book for the full day to enjoy the exciting Agenda we have lined-up for you at our National Conference and stay for the live announcements of the 2026 Awards in a special afternoon ceremony straight after lunch. We have listened to your feedback, and this year we have combined two face-to-face conferences into one, and it promises to be an inspiring afternoon as we celebrate the winners, highly commended, and commended community projects and initiatives from across Wales.

Successful councils will this year be invited to exhibit and display their award-winning projects at our Innovative Practice Conference on Wednesday 30 September 2026 as part of our new calendar of events programme. The **Agenda** is available on our website: [National Conference - One Voice Wales](#) – explore our keynote speakers and presenters, then ask your clerk to register your delegates in plenty of time; the **Booking Form** is also available on the same webpage (in an editable Word version).

Please email Tracy your completed booking form for our National Conference & Awards Ceremony 2026 now! If you have any questions regarding any of the above, please contact Tracy at tgilmartin@onevoicewales.wales or call the office on **01269 595400**. We look forward to seeing you for what promises to be our best conference yet.

Wales Coast Path



Llwybr Arfordir Cymru
Wales Coast Path

Spring is here with flowers sprouting up, a warmer feel to the air and lighter evenings to enjoy. Welcome to the special edition about walking the Wales Coast Path - practical, responsible and exciting ways to start exploring the path. Let May, officially National Walking month be the time you start your journey with us!

informative guide



TACKLING DIGITAL AGEISM IN WALES: PROTECTING RIGHTS, ACCESS AND INCLUSION

Date: Thursday 02 July 2026

Time: 10.30 – 12.00

Join the Older People's Commissioner for Wales and other expert speakers for a webinar to explore the impact of DIGITAL AGEISM and the action needed to address this rapidly growing issue.

Age-based disadvantage, prejudice and stereotyping within digital contexts – manifested through poorly designed platforms or biased AI systems, for example – create barriers in many aspects of older people's lives, including accessing services, recruitment and employment, learning opportunities and even social activities.

Ultimately, digital ageism leaves older people at significant risk of wider exclusion, as [highlighted in the Commissioner's recent report on this issue](#).

That's why it's crucial we take action together to prevent digital ageism and tackle the dangerous inequality that is already arising from it to ensure older people's rights are protected.

By joining us for the webinar, you'll learn more about:

- **The key findings from the Commissioner's report and the action she's calling for, including the role you can play in helping to take this forward.**
- **The difference between digital exclusion and digital ageism – and why this matters.**
- **The impact of digital ageism on older people's rights**
- **The ways in which digital service standards could improve access and the user experience.**
- **The role of data protection law in preventing bias and discrimination to ensure fairer outcomes for people of all ages.**

Confirmed speakers:

- **Rhian Bowen Davies, Older People's Commissioner for Wales**
- **Nia Bryer and Heledd Bebb, OB3 Research (lead researchers on the Commissioner's digital ageism project)**
- **Dr Mary-Ann Stephenson, Chair at Equality Human Rights Commission**
- **Dave Teague, Information Commissioner's Office**
- **Harriet Green, Digital Public Services Division, Welsh Government**

· Prof. John Williams, Chair of the Board of Trustees at Age Cymru

(Please note, speakers may be subject to change)

Alongside insightful contributions from our expert speakers, the webinar will also provide a chance to explore practical issues and solutions in more detail, as part of an interactive panel discussion and Q&A.

Through the webinar, the Commissioner wants to grow knowledge and understanding about this emerging issue and inspire action to help ensure digital equality for people of all ages.

The webinar is open to all interested individuals but is targeted at those working in the public sector in Wales.

We hope you can join us on the day!

[Register here](#)



Newsletter

EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS ACT 2025

Is your Council aware of the changes ?

[For more information](#)



You may already have received information on the in-person forums NESO are holding in Wales on Strategic Energy Planning. Further information can be found in the following links, and please feel free to share within your Council's networks.

[Swansea NESO Strategic Energy Plan Forum Tickets, Monday, June 22 • 9:30 AM - 4 PM | Eventbrite](#)

[Llandudno NESO Strategic Energy Plan Forum Tickets, Thursday, June 25 • 9:30 AM - 4 PM | Eventbrite](#)



Could You Help Welcome an Afghan Family to Your Community?

Afghan families are beginning new chapters across the UK, and we're looking for warm, community-minded people to help make that welcome a real one. Gulab Sorkh Foundation is a UK charity working to resettle 125 Afghan families as part of Communities for Afghans Phase 2, a UK Government funded initiative. To make this work, we need volunteers who are willing to be part of a small welcome group of around six people supporting one family as they find their feet. This isn't a big commitment. It's about being a friendly face, helping someone get to know their local area, and making a family feel they truly belong. Town and community councils are at the heart of their communities, and we believe council members are perfectly placed to help us find the kind of people this project needs. Whether you'd like to volunteer yourself, or simply know someone who might, we'd love to hear from you. If you think your community could play a part, please get in touch with us directly at enquiries@gulabsorkh.org

Poster



Planning Aid **Wales**
Cymorth Cynllunio **Cymru**

Events



TRAFNIDIAETH CYMRU
TRANSPORT FOR WALES

Bulletin

Worth taking the time to view on the One Voice Wales Website:

Model Governance Documents and guidance for Councils



Model Governance Documents and guidance for Councils:

One Voice Wales has published model arrangements to help Councils run effectively and meet their statutory obligations. We also circulate statutory guidance and other guidance.

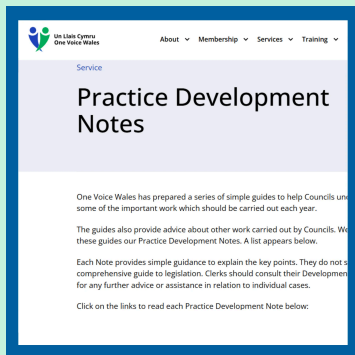
We keep these arrangements under regular review, helping Councils to maintain a sound governance framework.

Click on the the link to see the wealth of documents that are available

[For further information](#)



Practice Development Notes:



Practice Development Notes:

One Voice Wales has created Practice Development Notes - simple guides to help Councils understand key annual tasks and provide advice on other council activities.

NEW PDN's added recently - take a look

[View all Practice development notes here](#)

One Voice Wales Training Dates:



Councillors wishing to attend training modules please contact your clerk who will book you on to the relevant session.

[Click here to view dates](#)

AGM's - Have you reviewed your Training Plan?

AGM's are a time where Councils review and re adopt all of their policies and this now also includes your Training plans . So a perfect time for your new Council Chair to attend our chairing Skills module 10 (if they haven't already done so) and do you ask members of your Finance Committee to undertake Module 6 on Local Government Finance ? Staffing committee members could also consider a number of Modules - The Council as an Employer , Equality and Diversity , Effective Staff Management - Food for Thought !!

[See all modules available](#)

JOBS

Vacancies within Community and Town Council Sector:



Vacancies:

As part of annual membership, One Voice Wales offers member Community and Town Councils the opportunity to advertise sector-related vacancies, such as Clerks, Responsible Financial Officers, and other staff roles.

[Further Information on vacancies](#)

Welsh Government Jobs



If you are looking for a new career then a job in the Welsh Government is a great place to start.

A career in the Welsh Civil Service offers you:

- the opportunity to make a difference to people's lives in Wales
- learning on the job and good career development opportunities
- flexible working hours and comprehensive benefits

There are a number of different ways to join the Welsh civil service.

We are keen to work with our external partners to build a pipeline of individuals who are interested in applying for a board position.

[Jobs and vacancies](#) | [GOV.WALES](#)



Save the Date

Events you don't want to miss

ONE VOICE WALES
NATIONAL
CONFERENCE AND
AWARDS CEREMONY

ONE VOICE WALES
INNOVATIVE PRACTICE
CONFERENCE

1st JULY 2026

30th September 2026

One Voice Wales Funded Projects Updates:

Cost of Living Crisis Project News:

Mental Health Awareness Week 2026: Supporting Residents



This week (11-17 May) marks Mental Health Awareness Week and highlights the continued impact cost of living pressures can have on residents' mental wellbeing.

Financial pressures, uncertainty and isolation continue to affect many individuals and families across Wales. Community and Town Councils play an important role in helping residents feel supported, connected and aware of the support available locally.

Our Cost of Living Crisis webpages include free resources, guidance, case studies and practical tools to help councils support their communities.

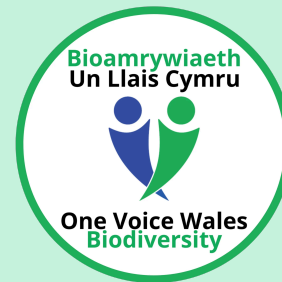


[One Voice Wales Cost of Living Crisis Support Pages](#)



LOCAL PLACES FOR NATURE


NEWS




Biodiversity Packages 2026-2027

Applications are now open for Round 1 of our 2026 - 2027 Biodiversity packages.

[Click here to find out more and apply.](#)

 **Deadline for applications**

 **Round 1 - May 31st 2026**

Five Pillars of Nature Recovery - Webinar Series

Join us for a series of five 1-hour webinars every Tuesday in June at 11 am.



2.6.26	Pillar 1: Create and Protect habitats
9.6.26	Pillar 2: Provide Forage
16.6.26	Pillar 3: Provide Water
23.6.26	Pillar 4: Create Connections
30.6.26	Pillar 5: Spread the Word

 [Find out more here](#)

Big Meadow Search



Looking for ways to help nature in your area?

The Big Meadow Search is a UK, Ireland and Channel Island project developed by Carmarthenshire Meadows Group to raise awareness and interest in grasslands and to record plant species. You can get involved by undertaking plant searches on grassland near you.

Head to the [Big Meadow Search website](#) for more information.

Un Llais Cymru / One Voice Wales

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This E-Bulletin is distributed to all Councils in Wales . Please note that if you unsubscribe you will unsubscribe from both languages and the Newsletter . If you wish to receive only one version please send to kbrown@onevoicewales.wales

[Dad-Tanygrifio / Unsubscribe](#)

