

Education and Youth Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee (03/07/2025)

Tŷ Llidiard Summary

Introduction

- Further to a request made at the Education and Youth Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee (EYSOSC) meeting on Thursday 4 July 2025, the purpose of this report is to provide an overview of Tŷ Llidiard.

Background and context

Tŷ Llidiard

- Prior to 2010, the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) In-Patient Service was housed at the Harvey Jones Unit in Whitchurch Hospital (Cardiff). At that time, the provision was managed by Cardiff Council. The provision was moved to a temporary building at Glanrhyd Hospital (Bridgend) in 2010.
- The current provision, Tŷ Llidiard, was built on the Princess of Wales Hospital site and officially opened in February 2012.
- Tŷ Llidiard is a Tier 4 specialist unit providing a service across South, Mid and West Wales. It is a multi-disciplinary team offering assessment followed by intensive community support or a two-week assessment admission to the Inpatient Unit.
- Tier 4 Specialist Services care for young people whose mental health problems are particularly complex and severe, who have not responded to other forms of treatment, and who require this specialist assessment/treatment.
- Children and young people attending the provision benefit from specialist supporting in relation to one or more of the following issues:
 - severe eating disorders;
 - psychotic disorders;
 - severe affective disorders;
 - severe obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD); and
 - other severe mental illness where physical, social and family variables operate to inhibit progress.
- Tŷ Llidiard caters for children and young people between 11 and 18 years of age.
- The admission of a young person to the unit is regarded as an exceptional event and the length of stay should be as brief as possible.

Tŷ Llidiard Learning Centre

- The Tŷ Llidiard Learning Centre (TLLC) functions as an integral part of Tŷ Llidiard.
- The TLLC is resourced and managed by Bridgend County Borough Council on behalf of other local authorities across South Wales (including Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Bridgend, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Vale

of Glamorgan, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Caerphilly, Newport, Torfaen, Monmouthshire and Blaenau Gwent).

- The TLLC functions as an Education Other Than at School (EOTAS) provision to meet the local authority's duty to provide EOTAS for all children of compulsory school age who are not attending school because of illness or injury.
- Previously, provision was open to Post-16 as well as statutory school-age pupils. In September 2022, this was changed to only providing education to statutory school-age patients.
- The Bridge Alternative Provision Teacher in Charge is responsible for the management of the TLLC. The TLLC is staffed by a full-time lead teacher and full-time learning support officer as well as a part-time specialist teacher in English and mathematics.
- The TLLC observes the Bridgend school term times even though the catchment area extends beyond this (Bridgend) local authority.
- TLLC staff recognise that close cooperation between medical and teaching staff is needed. TLLC teachers are an integral part of the multi-disciplinary team and are required to attend ward rounds, case conferences and multi-disciplinary meetings to cover the educational perspective.
- TLLC staff play an active role in agreeing targets on the patients' Care and Treatment Plan and contribute to the Global Assessment Scale (CGAS) within ward rounds. TLLC recognises that individual sessions, family meetings and reviews are essential to the young person's treatment and will, at times, take priority during school time.
- TLLC learners generally attend the provision on a full-time basis as soon as they are well enough to do so. However, upon admission it is expected that patients will initially be met by the staff of the TLLC to ease any anxieties and to check details. Once this has been completed, the patient is encouraged to attend regularly.
- TLLC patients/pupils are offered individualised programmes, negotiated with the young person to cater for their abilities, aspirations and interests. Information from mainstream school as well as that provided by in the two-week assessment period provides the basis of discussion with the pupil when developing individual programmes. Individual programmes facilitate working towards accredited achievements wherever possible.
- All pupils attending the TLLC are offered physical education and careers guidance from Careers Wales.
- Section 19 of the Education Act 1996 states that education within a hospital setting is exempt from the National Curriculum. However, staff recognise the value of working with the recommendations of the curriculum to ensure a smooth transition for the learners back into mainstream school.

Outcomes

- Data for 2023-2024 shows that, following discharge from hospital:
 - 57% of pupils returned to mainstream schools;
 - 22% of pupils remained at Tŷ Llidiard at end of the 2023-2024 school year;
 - 17% of pupils returned to education EOTAS package in their community; and
 - 4% of pupils went on to study via an alternative education route.
- Pupils only sit examinations at the centre if they are hospitalised during relevant school terms and in set year groups.
- Due to the low numbers of pupils that enter examinations during their stay at Tŷ Llidiard, it would be inappropriate to provide examination outcome in this report as it may be disclosive.

Funding

- Tŷ Llidiard is funded by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and, according to The Education Inter-Authority Recoupment Regulations 1994, the patient's local authority is invoiced for the time the patient attends the TLLC.
- The 'belonging regulations' (Education (Areas to which Pupils and Students Belong) Regulations 1996 as amended) make it clear that school pupils for whom primary or secondary school education is provided in hospital are to be treated as belonging to the local authority area in which their parent is ordinarily resident.
- A letter is emailed to the statutory director of education in the local authority in which the parent is ordinarily resident, according to the 'belonging regulations', (1996) on each admission and on discharge. Invoices are created, on a termly basis, by BCBC's Finance Department.
- Attendance/funding can be impacted upon by leave arrangements organised by the medical team
- The patient is dual registered with their mainstream school and our register is marked accordingly.
- If a patient is well enough, it is expected that they attend their mainstream school when on leave, and the registers will be marked 'D' accordingly. No monies will be re coupled in this situation.
- On admission, the patient's school and local authority are informed of the admission and the costs will equate to £185 per day.
- On discharge, the local authority is informed.
- At the end of every school term, the local authority's Finance Team receives attendance data and invoices the respective 'home' local authority accordingly.
- Where a pupil has a Bridgend home address, the pupil will be dual registered at their home school and The Bridge Alternative Provision.

Main challenges and strengths

Challenges	Strengths
Funding-some issues with some local authorities.	An excellent team of staff, who are flexible to meet the needs of pupils.
Lack of understanding of Tŷ Llidiard in some local authorities.	The education team provides consistency for patients in a chaotic environment.
Teacher:pupil ratio can be too high at times for the staff employed.	Individualised learning.
Small number of teaching staff so there is a limit to the subjects offered. In particular where there is a lack of specialist subject teachers to deliver GCSE qualifications.	Strong links have been developed with the ward-lead and Education staff are part of the Health multi-disciplinary team meetings.
Uncertainty of pupil numbers due to health managing the referrals.	The lead teacher attends review meetings.
	Tŷ Llidiard is an exam centre for pupils to sit GCSEs.

Feedback from regulators

- The report published following Estyn's visit to The Bridge Alternative Provision in January 2025 notes:
 - Ty Llidiard staff have a strong collaborative working relationship with the medical team at the hospital to meet the significant mental health needs of their pupils. This provides a cohesive approach to the treatment and educational needs of pupils.
 - The education staff were dedicated and caring and noted that the environment of the classroom was appropriate and conducive to providing suitable educational and learning opportunities for the young people.

- The report published following Health Inspectorate Wales visit to Tŷ Llidiard in December 2023 notes:
 - The Education Service on the unit had been proactive in adapting to virtual spaces and effectively liaising with young people's schools and colleges to outsource up-to-date work.
 - Parent/carers report that they are very happy with the school on the unit, highlighting that the teachers and headteachers had been very supportive.