

# Schools and communities together

- 2024-2025
- Events Report

## SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER EVENT

Explore local community activities and services for children, young people and families.

Plus a talk from PAPYRUS, the national charity for the prevention of young suicide.

For more information visit:  
[www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/togetherEvent](http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/togetherEvent)

## IGWYDDIAD SGOLION A HYMUNEDAU NGHYD

Chwiliwch weithgareddau a gwasanaethau cymunedol lleol ar gyfer plant, pobl ifanc a theuluoedd.

Gan gynnwys sgwrs gan PAPYRUS, yr elusen genedlaethol ar gyfer atal hunanladdiad ifanc.

Am fwy o wybodaeth, ewch i:  
[www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/togetherEvent](http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/togetherEvent)

# A background to the events

During 2024 and 2025, Monmouthshire County Council's Children's Services and Community Development Teams launched the first 'Schools and Communities Together' events.

In partnership with local comprehensive schools, Papyrus, and Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO), the events showcased what was going on and available in local communities, and provided information on support services for children, young people and families. The events provided a forum for support agencies to have conversations about what really matters to children, young people, and families.

The events were also a networking opportunity for public sector services, voluntary organisations, and community groups.

Web link -

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/togetherevent/>



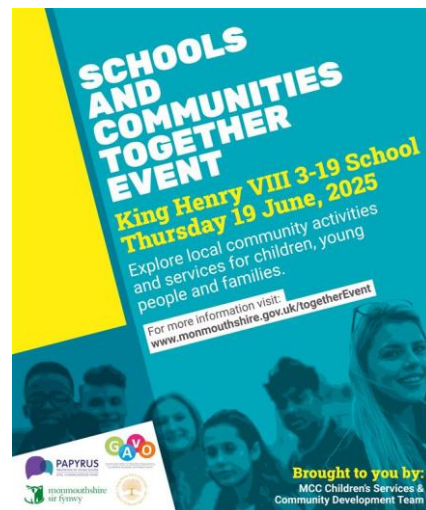
*An invitation to our students, their parents, and the Caldicot community*

Join us for our **Schools and Communities Together** event where we will be welcoming a variety of organisations and groups to share information and promote their services to young people, parents and families, and community members.

This is an exciting opportunity to find out what support is available locally, on a range of topics from health and wellbeing, to the cost of living, to climate change. The event will be well represented by organisations and groups across many areas of child, young person, parental and family support; disabilities; caring needs; learning, education and work; housing; nature and wildlife; community activities, sports, and socialising.

After a full school day whereby our year groups will be invited to carousel the organisations and their stands, we will open our doors at 3pm to parents, families and community members to do the same.

From 4.00-4.45 pm there will also be the opportunity to hear a talk from Papyrus, a national charity for the prevention of youth suicide. Papyrus will talk through their work supporting young people, equipping communities to recognise and respond to emotional distress, and will share information about their HOPELINE247.



# Who attended the events?

From our 4 events in Monmouth, Caldicot, Chepstow, and Abergavenny, we were able to meet and speak to over 2000 young people.

61 support agencies attended our events, some of whom are shown below:

*Aferiad (family support around mental health)*  
*Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (Camhs/SPACE Neurodiversity)*  
*Basecamp Cooperative (young people's counselling and wellbeing activities)*  
*Benthyg Abergavenny (recycle, borrow, reuse household items)*  
*BulliesOut (young people's support to overcome bullying behaviour)*  
*Building Strong Families (family support)*  
*Christians Against Poverty (money support and advice)*  
*Community Development Team (cost of living support)*  
*Family Group Conference (family support)*  
*Foster Wales (family support)*  
*Mediation (family support)*  
*Meic (young people's helpline support)*  
*Monmouthshire circular economy initiatives (borrow and reuse advice)*  
*Monmouthshire Libraries*  
*New Pathways (young people's support for sexual violence and abuse)*  
*NYAS Cymru (young people's advocacy support)*

*PAPYRUS (support and prevention of young suicide)*  
*Playwood (transforming outdoor learning spaces)*  
*Recovering from Illness Paediatric Service (young people's support for persistent physical health problems)*  
*RUSTIK Project (young people's views on living in Monmouthshire)*  
*School and Community Counselling (young people's support)*  
*Severn Wye (money support and advice)*  
*SPACE Wellbeing and Family Support Panel (young people and family support)*  
*Sparkle (young people's support for additional learning needs and/or disability)*  
*The Cookalong Clwb (young people's kitchen confidence and health eating)*  
*Together Works (community hub)*  
*Warm Wales (energy advice)*  
*Young Carers Service (young people's support)*  
*Youth Employment and Skills (young people's support)*  
*Youth Service (young people's support)*





# Support agencies were invited to complete a survey on how well the events were coordinated – 20 agencies responded

- “How do you rate the timing of and the amount of information sent to help you prepare for the event?” = **9.1 (thumbs up out of 10)**
- “How do you rate the coordination and support provided to you at the event? = **9.7 (thumbs up out of 10)**

What can we do better next time to help you prepare for an event?	What can we do better next time to support you at an event?	We hope and plan to make these and other events a routine part of the yearly calendar. What can we do at such events to help you feel that attending is worthwhile and a good use of your valued time?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not make changes to event details as time nears</li> <li>• [Give a] Rough idea of numbers</li> <li>• If any cash is needed for purchases of drinks at school</li> <li>• Earlier notice of event</li> <li>• Knowing which services are coming</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To have info to orientate earlier e.g. stands, other agencies, maps,</li> <li>• Link it to a parents evening</li> <li>• Timetables of times and pupils so we can prepare and adapt</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early scheduling</li> <li>• [Have a] Delegates list</li> <li>• September/October scheduling is better than June/July</li> <li>• Find ways to encourage parents/carers to attend</li> <li>• It would be useful if the teachers and other school staff also were given specific time to find out more about the services without the responsibility of looking after their students thus limiting their time and attention.</li> <li>• Parking near venue is important</li> </ul>

*“It was well organised, I cannot think of anything that can be improved on”*

*“The team were amazing”*

*“It was very helpful that the young people were now aware of our service”*

# Support agencies were asked what their aims were in attending the events, and how well the events met these aims – 20 agencies responded

## How did agencies rank their aims as an organisation in attending the events?

1<sup>st</sup> - To promote the organisation to children and young people who might use their services

2<sup>nd</sup> - To promote the organisation to parents and carers who might use their services

3<sup>rd</sup> - To network with other agencies & to help and empower the local community to be aware of ideas and resources that are available to them

4<sup>th</sup> - To talk with the local community about their needs and gather information that can help develop the organisation/service

5<sup>th</sup> - To participate in a meaningful local community event & to generate new referrals for services

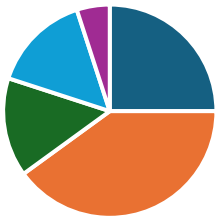
*“Feedback from young people was extremely positive regarding awareness of all the agencies available to them”*

*“We saw an increase in numbers to our clubs and sold out on our thorpe park trips so it was well worth our time”*

*“One child said that sitting down and completing an activity with Meic staff and her peers was the most social engagement she had had in over a year”*

## How well did the event meet those aims?

Promote to CYP



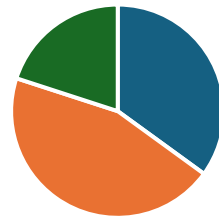
- Extremely well
- Very well
- Somewhat well
- Not very well
- Not extremely well

Promote to Parents



- Extremely well
- Very well
- Somewhat well
- Not very well
- Not extremely well

To network



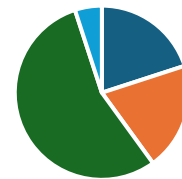
- Extremely well
- Very well
- Somewhat well
- Not very well
- Not extremely well

To empower the community



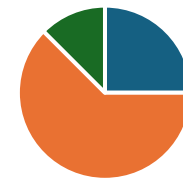
- Extremely well
- Very well
- Somewhat well
- Not very well
- Not extremely well

To talk with the community



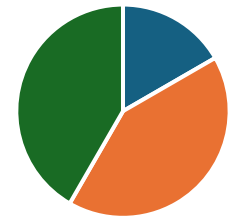
- Extremely well
- Very well
- Somewhat well
- Not very well
- Not extremely well

To participate in a community event



- Extremely well
- Very well
- Somewhat well
- Not very well
- Not extremely well

To generate new referrals



- Extremely well
- Very well
- Somewhat well
- Not very well
- Not extremely well

# What did teaching staff say about the events?



[There was] Value in letting young people orientate themselves in event

ALN pupils need a quieter space

Chaperones [are] needed for quieter pupils and/or to show young people the way

[There were a] Diverse range of agencies

Stall activities were engaging

Activities to do in the middle of the hall would benefit

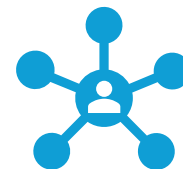
# What's next in 2026/27?



4 new school and community together events have been organised for Caldicot, Chepstow, King Henry, and Monmouth schools.



*You said we did* – we will build in young people, agency and teaching staff feedback, so that upcoming events bring more fun, the more frequently requested services, and more tailored planning to each schools' needs.



We will have more information at upcoming events, on what is available in the local area, outside of formal support services (e.g. clubs, hobbies).



We will continue to invite young people views on their needs and explore opportunities to bring the community together to create solutions to local issues.

Keep up to date with us -

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/togetherevent/>