

Senedd Cymru / Welsh Parliament

Pwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chyfathrebu / Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee

Ymchwiliad i'r achosion o COVID-19 ac effaith y feirws ar ddiwylliant, y diwydiannau creadigol, treftadaeth, cyfathrebu a chwaraeon / Inquiry into the COVID-19 outbreak and its impact on culture, creative industries, heritage, communications and sport

CWLC COV50

Ymateb gan Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Conwy / Response from Conwy County Borough Council

## **Welsh Parliamentary Inquiry: response re Sports at both grass roots and elite levels.**

- **What has been the immediate impact of Covid-19 on the sector?**
- **How effectively has the support provided by the Welsh Government, the UK Government and arms-length bodies addressed the sector's needs?**
- **What will the likely long-term impacts of Covid-19 be on the sector, and what support is needed to deal with those?**
- **What lessons can be learnt from how the Welsh Government, the UK Government, arms-length bodies and the sector have dealt with Covid-19?**
- **How might the sector evolve after Covid-19, and how can the Welsh Government support such innovation to deal with future challenges?**

### **Leisure Services – Sports at both grass roots and elite levels. - Conwy County Borough Council**

**The immediate impact:** - Covid-19 has resulted in the complete closure of the sporting sector at both grass roots and elite level. Many National Governing Bodies (NGBs) have cancelled activity and are reviewing on a month by month basis in line with Welsh Government advice. All Leisure, Libraries & Culture facilities are closed for primary purpose and staff and facilities have been repurposed and re-deployed in support of Health, Social Care and Community Support. E.g. Colwyn Leisure Centre/Eirias being used as MDT offices/Colwyn Bay Hospital Midwifery Support. John Brights Leisure Centre, Llandudno being used as Llandudno Hospital Midwifery Support. Llandudno Junction Leisure Centre and Hwb yr Hen Ysgol, Llanrwst being used as Red Hubs by BCUHB.

**The most immediate support:** - Conwy County Borough Council's Leisure Development team issued guidance and for those eligible the emergency funding streams have been made available. Conwy clubs have made applications to the Sport Wales Emergency Relief Fund, supported to the value of £17.5k. A number of clubs have been successful in accessing the Small Business Grant and funding through Business Wales.

**The most immediate long term impact:** - Under the guidelines for lockdown, people have had to exercise at home, or within the vicinity of their home. With facilities like leisure centres and gyms closed, people who regularly exercise have had to depend on online, home works outs provided by Local Authorities or private gym facilities or undertake their own training regime. The lockdown will have encouraged more people to exercise, as under the lockdown rules exercise has been deemed one of the eligible activities for going outside. Some people will have had more time to undertake exercise, and potentially had more motivation to get outside and be active, especially with the weather that we have had during the lockdown period. When we return to normality, it may be that people are less likely to re-join gyms and exercise in classes and group settings for some time, they may have become over dependent on online fitness workouts, and may feel safer undertaking these in their own homes. The situation may lead to the demise of some sports clubs, who

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have not had the ability to sustain themselves. Elite sport athletes have not been able to train under the rules imposed.

**Lessons learnt:** - Clear, consistent messaging is required across all levels at all times. In this instance grass roots is dealt with in the same way that the sporting elite are treated.

**Kind of support:** - People may be reluctant to return to the normal way of exercising, preferring instead to undertake their own activities.

Welsh Government need to promote that sport is safe and accessible when possible.

Make funding available to clubs and organisations who may not have met the criteria for the emergency funding.