

Redesign of SEMH services

By [Newcastle City Council](#)

Newcastle's redesign of their Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH) services involved closing four additionally resourced provisions (ARPs) in primary schools and establishing a new service structure.

This new approach includes eight specialist teachers and nine specialist support assistants, divided into four locality teams. The service aims to support schools in managing SEMH needs more effectively within mainstream settings.

The redesign aimed to:

- Strengthen SEMH provision in mainstream primary schools.
- Reduce the number of pupils requiring specialist provision.
- Support schools in helping children cope and adapt effectively.

- Provide a universal offer with regular school visits and support.

Since the implementation of the redesigned services, achievements include:

- 2,400 school visits conducted since October 2023.
- 300 individual pupils, along with staff training and advice meetings, received support.
- Significant reduction in calls and referrals to specialist SEND services.
- Positive feedback from primary leaders and school staff.
- Expansion plans to include Year 7 from September 2024.

The redesign has not been without obstacles. **Challenges faced include:**

- Initial scepticism from primary leaders who wanted more ARP places.
- Managing high levels of activity and behavioural issues in pupils.

- Ensuring continuous professional development and training for staff.

This project has revealed several key insights:

- Building strong relationships with schools and locality services is crucial.
- Regular, practical support and specialist expertise are highly valued by schools and families.
- Addressing presenting behaviours rather than focusing solely on diagnoses can lead to significant positive impacts.
- Continuous engagement and feedback from schools help refine and improve service delivery.

See more: [Social, Emotional & Mental Health \(SEMH\) Service](#)

Coproduced services putting young people at the heart of mental health support

By [Dyfodol Ni](#), a youth-led partnership of 17 organisations across Ceredigion

Funded by the National Lottery Community Fund's Mind Our Future Programme, Dyfodol Ni is a **youth-led initiative in Ceredigion focused on transforming mental health services for young people**. By adopting a co-produced model, Dyfodol Ni places young people at the centre of decision-making, ensuring that mental health interventions are designed and delivered to meet their needs.

A defining feature of Dyfodol Ni is its youth-led structure, where young people are given full authority over the development and operation of the project. During the Development Period, decision-making was overseen by a Young People's Management Committee (YPMC), made up of individuals aged 14 to 25. The YPMC was responsible for managing the project's budget, guiding its direction, and overseeing Engagement Officers, who conducted consultations and gathered insights on their behalf.

To gather meaningful feedback, Dyfodol Ni hosted 37 engagement events, ranging from music festivals and sports activities to arts and crafts and theatre workshops. Some events attracted over 100 participants, creating opportunities for young people to share their views and experiences. Over the course of the Development Period, Engagement Officers connected with 1,200 young people through conversations about their aspirations, challenges, and ideas for improving mental health services in Ceredigion.

From these consultations, three key priorities were identified:

Safe spaces: Young people highlighted the need for spaces exclusively for them to promote well-being and connection.

Access to services: Unequal access to services based on location was raised as a significant issue, with calls for a wider and more consistent range of support.

Transport: Limited transport options were identified as a major barrier to accessing mental health services.

The YPMC analysed the feedback gathered and developed two new projects to address the priorities identified:

- **Feelz on Wheelz / Llyw a Byw**
A mobile youth café and support service designed to overcome transport barriers and bring mental health services directly to young people in their communities.
- **Safe Space to Speak / Safle Saff i Siarad' (S3):**
A youth lobbying group that acts as a representative body for young people in Ceredigion. This group collaborates with partner organisations to advocate for improved services and drive change in the region.



"[The Innovation Leadership course provided a] dedicated time to plan, think and reflect but with practical outcomes which you can use!"