

Iwan Davies
The Chief Executive
Conwy County Borough Council
Bodlondeb
Bangor Road
Conwy LL32 8DU

Dear Iwan Davies

Support for continued services from North Wales Deaf Association for residents of Conwy who are D/deaf and have a hearing loss or hearing and sight loss

I am aware that Conwy County Borough Council Disabilities Services are having to make imminent funding cuts and as such are looking to withdraw funding for the specialist services provided by North Wales Deaf Association. I would like to ensure that you are aware of the important role North Wales Deaf Association play in promoting the independence, protection, safety, confidence and ability of people living with sensory loss to successfully carry out everyday tasks that would without this support become impossible for many people, leaving them unable to remain living independently in their own homes and communities.

North Wales Deaf Association have been supporting Conwy residents for over 20 years and have built up valuable working links with a network of statutory and voluntary organisations including: Education, Social Services, Betsi Cadwalder Health Board, North Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Citizen Advice Bureau, Employment Agencies, Department of Works and Pensions as well as a comprehensive network of voluntary organisations such as Community and Voluntary Services Conwy and Carers and Disability supporting organisations. North Wales Deaf Association also work in Partnership with Action on Hearing Loss as well as other Deaf/hearing/sensory loss organisations to ensure there is no duplication of services.

Potentially there are as many as 38,600 residents with a hearing loss living in Conwy if not more given the higher than average number of people over retirement age living in the county. Therefore preventative work is essential to ensure people like myself living with a hearing loss do not reach crisis point before they seek or are offered support. Providing such early intervention support is one of North Wales Deaf Association's strengths due to their skilled and experienced staff team who have been working with D/deaf and hearing loss communities in Conwy for over 20 years. This skilled team is currently developing the Association's premises in Colwyn Bay into a Sensory Loss Centre for North Wales which I believe would be an extremely valuable resource to Conwy residents like myself who are Deaf/living with a hearing/sensory loss. It would be a real shame therefore if due to these cuts the Association has to relocate their Sensory Loss Centre to another North Wales county where the Local Authority is more supportive of its development.

With this in mind I would strongly wish you to consider not cutting North Wales Deaf Association's funding as is currently proposed, and to instead continue this essential partnership with them providing vital services on your behalf in 2016/17 and for the foreseeable future.

Yours sincerely