



## Cambian Pengwern College - Bryn Dedwydd



Chester Street, St Asaph, LL17 0RE



01745592300

Date inspection visit: 26 November 2025.

### Service Information:

Operated by:	Cambian Whinfell School Ltd
Care Type:	Care Home Service Adults and Children Without Nursing
Provision for:	Provision for learning disability, Care home for adults - with personal care, Care home for children - with personal care.
Registered places:	5
Main language(s):	English
Promotion of Welsh language and culture:	The service does not actively promote the Welsh language and culture, and the Active Offer is not embedded in practice.

## Ratings:



Well-being

**EXCELLENT**



Care & Support

**EXCELLENT**



Environment

**EXCELLENT**



Leadership & Management

**EXCELLENT**

## Summary:

The service delivers excellent outcomes across all areas. People benefit from tailored care and support that promote well-being and meaningful relationships. Care and support are consistently high-quality, with improved personal planning through an electronic system and a dedicated, consistent staff team. The environment is comfortable, homely, and equipped to meet individual needs. Leadership and management are very strong, with the manager, and Responsible Individual (RI) providing clear oversight and a commitment to continuous improvement.

The service demonstrates exceptional standards of care and support, creating an environment where individuals thrive emotionally, physically, and socially. Personal plans are highly personalised, outcome-focused, and reviewed regularly to reflect changing needs and preferences. People enjoy meaningful activities tailored to their interests and abilities, with strong opportunities for community involvement and maintaining family connections. Advocacy and rights are actively promoted, and equality, diversity, and inclusion are embedded in everyday practice.

## Findings:



### Well-being

**EXCELLENT**

At Bryn Dedwydd, people experience an exceptionally high standard of well-being. They make significant progress in education and in developing independence and self-care skills, which enhances confidence and identity. Relationships between people and care staff are warm, respectful, and nurturing, creating a strong sense of community. Individuals were observed to be comfortable around staff and spoke positively about opportunities for creative projects, recreational activities, and life skills training, all of which promote emotional resilience and physical well-being. Care staff demonstrate a deep understanding of individual needs and consistently uphold dignity and individuality. Parents report high levels of satisfaction with the well-being outcomes of their family member.

People benefit from a nurturing and respectful environment where care staff know them well and consistently promote dignity and individuality. People are actively involved in decisions about their care, routines, and environment. They have choice in meals, activities, and how their bedrooms are decorated. People views are respected and they are sought through house meetings and keywork sessions. Independent advocacy is available and people know how to make a complaint and have access to information about their rights. Care staff speak with pride about the people they support and demonstrate a strong commitment to helping them achieve positive outcomes.

Care staff encourage people to develop a strong sense of self and explore their identities through hobbies, creative experiences, and community engagement. Opportunities such as walking, listening to music, and work experience enable people to build friendships, develop independence, and feel connected to their local community. Practice is underpinned by evidence-based strategies, including compassion and reflective meetings, ensuring emotional and educational needs are met. This approach has supported measurable progress, including developing empathy, managing anxiety, and preparing for adulthood through life skills and formal qualifications via Pengwern college.

People benefit from consistent, high-quality care provided by passionate and dedicated care staff who understand their individual needs and provide sensitive emotional and physical support throughout the day. People enjoy access to extensive amenities, including sports facilities such as an indoor swimming pool and football pitches, which further enhance their well-being. They also participate in life skills activities such as cooking which prepare them for adulthood and build confidence.

During the inspection, we found that the service promotes a culture of respect and inclusion. Care staff demonstrated a good understanding of individual needs and provided care in line with personal plans. People told us they feel safe and well supported, and we observed positive interactions that reflected dignity and choice. Records were accurate and up to date, and governance arrangements ensured effective oversight of quality and compliance.



## Care & Support

**EXCELLENT**

People's care and support needs are thoroughly assessed prior to admission. The management team reviews all available information and consults with relevant professionals to ensure the placement is appropriate and meets the individual's needs. Planning meetings take place with key stakeholders, and assessments consider each person's background, experiences, and specific requirements. People benefit from continuity of care provided by a dedicated team of motivated care staff, who work consistently to promote positive outcomes and enhance overall well-being.

Bryn Dedwydd provides high standards of care and support through a trauma-informed and outcome-focused approach. Multi-agency collaboration is a notable strength, ensuring care remains dynamic and responsive to changing needs. Specialist assessments provide person-centred, trauma-informed guidance, equipping care staff with effective strategies to manage emerging needs and associated risks. Regular multi-agency meetings facilitate robust planning and review, supporting consistent and well-coordinated care for individuals.

Personal plans are comprehensive, strengths-based, and subject to regular review, with clear evidence that people's wishes and aspirations are central to planning. The service engages with individuals, their families, and a wide range of professionals to ensure care is holistic and responsive to changing needs. Care staff demonstrate a strong understanding of trauma-informed practice, and there is an embedded culture of reflection and learning. Keywork sessions are purposeful and contribute positively to emotional and behavioural development. Daily records and monitoring tools are used effectively, evidencing care and support is provided in line with personal plans.

Safeguarding arrangements are robust, supported by clear recording systems, prompt referrals, and a commitment to learning from incidents. Health needs are identified and met effectively, with people attending appointments as required. Medication is stored securely, subject to weekly audits, and administration records are well maintained. Infection control measures and hygiene standards are consistently upheld to a high standard, ensuring a safe environment for all.



## Environment

**EXCELLENT**

Bryn Dedwydd is located in a residential area with easy access to local amenities. The property is spacious and equipped with appropriate facilities and utilities. The environment is maintained to a very high standard, offering a homely, well-organised, and supportive setting for people. Recent refurbishment has created a fresh, comfortable, and welcoming atmosphere. People are actively involved in personalising their bedrooms, choosing themes and decor that reflect their interests, which promotes a sense of ownership and belonging. People and care staff describe the home as homely and comfortable, contributing positively to overall experiences and well-being.

The home is furnished with age-appropriate furniture and provides a range of toys and play opportunities, ensuring people have access to stimulating and enjoyable activities. A secure garden promotes physical activity, social interaction, and overall well-being. Communal areas are spacious and welcoming, while personalised bedrooms offer privacy and space for time alone when needed. People are actively involved in meal planning and preparation, supporting independence and choice. The kitchen is clean, well-organised, and stocked with healthy food options, contributing to a balanced and nutritious diet.

Fire safety checks, risk assessments, and maintenance records are current and subject to regular review. Security measures, including door alarms and window restrictors, are in place to safeguard people. The home is responsive to the needs of people, including those with sensory sensitivities; for example, care staff use preparatory materials to reduce anxiety during fire drills. Maintenance requests are addressed promptly, and recent refurbishment has enhanced the property, including layout changes and environmental improvements to support comfort and safety.



## Leadership & Management

**EXCELLENT**

Leadership and management at Bryn Dedwydd is highly effective. The management team demonstrates a nurturing, caring, and trauma-informed approach that underpins the culture of the home. The manager is suitably qualified and experienced in providing care and support to children and young people. Both the Responsible Individual (RI) and manager describe the team as strong, committed, and aligned to shared values. The RI is regarded as approachable and provides consistent oversight, supported by a manager. There is clear evidence of collaborative working and a value-based ethos that promotes positive outcomes for people.

The Responsible Individual (RI) is aspirational and seeks to challenge wider perceptions of residential care by removing stigma and promoting it as a positive, therapeutic option rather than a last resort. The RI maintains regular oversight of the service through visits and consultation with individuals, care staff, and professionals. Comprehensive reports are completed following these visits, with feedback used to identify strengths and areas for development. Actions are tracked to ensure progress. The management team is proactive in addressing challenges, including meeting the complex needs of individuals living at the home.

Staffing levels are monitored regularly and remain sufficient to meet the needs of people. The team comprises permanent care staff who are familiar with the home and receive supervision and training to ensure consistency of care. Recruitment is values-based, and all required pre-employment checks are completed to promote safe practice. Induction includes shadowing experienced care staff and completion of the All-Wales Induction Framework, supporting new care staff to develop confidence and competence. Care staff are either registered or in the process of registering with Social Care Wales, and several new care staff hold relevant childcare and nursing qualifications.

Supervision arrangements are robust, with regular reflective sessions supporting staff development and well-being. Monthly team meetings provide opportunities for collaboration, and care staff report feeling valued and supported, with access to professional development and career progression. A wide range of mandatory and specialist training is available, including safeguarding, physical intervention, and trauma-informed practice. Audit systems monitor care quality, health and safety, and regulatory compliance. Feedback from people, care staff, and professionals informs service development.

## Areas identified for improvement

Where we identify **Areas for Improvement** but we have not found outcomes for people to be at immediate or significant risk, we discuss these with the provider. We expect the provider to take action and we will follow this up at the next inspection.

Where we find outcomes for people **require significant improvement** and/or there is risk to people's well-being we identify areas for **Priority Action**. In these circumstances we issue a Priority Action Notice(s) to the Provider, and they must take immediate steps to make improvements. We will inspect again within six months to check improvements have been made and outcomes for people have improved.

**CIW has no areas for improvement identified following this inspection.**

**CIW has not issued any Priority action notices following this inspection.**

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