

One Voice Wales Conference 1 July 2026

Visit report by Cllr Barry Griffiths

As TKBTC rep for OVW I attended the conference and awards event nr Builth Wells. The meeting was well attended; well-presented and agenda relevant. Attached also please find list of attendees, organisers and speakers plus front page scans of docs where web links are included in this report.



Of particular importance was –

1

The Cost-of-Living Crisis impact assessment as summarised in OVW please see the report online @ <https://www.onevoicewales.wales/services/social-impact-assessment/>

OVW have a Facebook page on the crisis; themes include age-friendly communities; <https://ageing-better.org.uk/> the challenge facing people in their 60's seeing the crisis across age groups. We don't need to be reminded that Towyn and Kinmel Bay suffer deprivation. An AI search confirms -

Towyn and Kinmel Bay face higher-than-average levels of deprivation compared to the rest of Wales. The area is heavily impacted by income disparity, precarious service-sector jobs, and poor health outcomes, with parts of Kinmel Bay classified as highly deprived and Towyn made up almost entirely of low-income neighbourhoods.

The [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation \(WIMD\)](#) measures the structural challenges affecting the community across eight domains. Localized deprivation in this coastal area manifests in several keyways:

- **Income & Employment:** The local economy relies heavily on seasonal holiday parks, leisure, and retail, which leads to lower household incomes, a lack of professional jobs, and a high proportion of children in low-income families.
- **Health:** The area experiences worse health outcomes compared to the UK averages. There is a notably high proportion of residents with limiting long-term illnesses, chronic diseases, and many unpaid carers.
- **Housing & Community Safety:** The town has an older demographic with many single-pensioner households. The housing stock struggles with high energy costs and crime rates, notably in violence against the person, which sits above Conwy and national averages.
- **Physical Environment & Flood Risk:** The community is situated in a high flood risk zone, a legacy of the 1990 floods, which has historically affected the physical environment and housing insurance access

We individually may feel some of these above statements are wrong, but the Council do need to recognise the risk of poverty in our community and have an informed position. The OVW Impact Assessment could prove useful.

2

Grant funding: Heather Ferguson presented the National Lottery Community Fund Wales delivering small, medium and large project funding. It could be worth testing the process by contacting fund management to see if projects like Parc Hanes; unmade roads; other projects in the place plan. Initiatives like the Climate action fund; funding partnerships in collaboration; Poverty focus grants.

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/wales>

3

Biodiversity: I was able to discuss biodiversity with Rachel Carter and co at the display after her presentation and discussed the Tiny Forest with Joanna Friedii of Keep Wales Tidy.

<https://www.onevoicewales.wales/services/local-places-for-nature/>

I collected a guide on Community growing by OVW – can be found at the following link: -

<https://www.onevoicewales.wales/app/uploads/2025/01/Com-Growing.pdf>

In my view the event was well worthwhile, in fact to an extent a duty to have a presence with some 200 attendees, many councils sending several members, list and docs attached.

Presentations from Chair and CEO were brief and informative; I left feeling happy we had OVW support, particularly for our administration and with potential to be further involved.



Some of the OVW Awards 2026

BG

8 July 26