

Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee
18 April 2007

1196. **URGENT ITEM: 'HAWLIAU POBL NI'**

Councillor E. J. M. Thomas presented a verbal report to members regarding the need for future funding for 'Hawliau Pobl Ni', a small organisation based in Llanrwst and Cerrigydrudion, which offered bilingual advice and support on benefit matters to the rural, as well as coastal, population of Conwy County Borough. The Committee felt this was an extremely valuable service, and it was noted that approximately 1000 people a year received help and guidance in difficult circumstances through the scheme. It was also noted that local GPs acknowledged the important work of the organisation, and referred patients to the service regularly.

The current funding for 'Hawliau Pobl Ni' would be coming to an end in July 2007, and it was proposed that a recommendation be made to Cabinet to accept and progress a special business case to fund 'Hawliau Pobl Ni' until a Service Level Agreement could be established to continue to fund the service in the long term. Members were informed by the Statutory Head of Social Services that he had notified staff that there was £7K available from the voluntary sector budget and £3K from the carers budget in December 2006. It was confirmed that these monies were still available.

Reference was made to the impact of providing funding for 'Hawliau Pobl Ni' on the benefit shop in Rhyl, and it was noted that this situation was different, as the Rhyl office also received support from Denbighshire County Council.

RESOLVED-

That it be recommended to Cabinet as an urgent matter that a special Business Case be accepted and progressed to fund 'Hawliau Pobl Ni' until a Service Level Agreement could be established to continue to fund the service in the long term.