

I confirm that I have not used any AI tools in the research and creation of this assignment. I confirm that I have not presented any AI generated materials as my own work. I confirm that I have copies of my drafts, notes, and other resources I used, which I may be asked to provide in evidence.

Community Profile:

A Community Profile exploring the facilities and support that Canolfan Elfed, in Carmarthen, provide for young people with special educational needs and additional needs.

This is a community profile which will explore the facilities and support available for families and young people with special educational needs, neurodivergence, long-term illnesses/conditions and disabilities in Canolfan Elfed, an SEN unit, located in Queen Elizabeth High School. This community profile will also start to explore what facilities, support and resources would be needed to make it easier for a young person or family with additional needs to shop and spend time in Carmarthen, specifically the town centre.

Canolfan Elfed is a “fully integrated inclusion centre” (Canolfan Elfed, 2024) as a part of Queen Elizabeth High School located in Johnstown, Carmarthen. Canolfan Elfed is recognised as a school that is within but also separate to the mainstream secondary school. Canolfan Elfed provides education to secondary school aged pupils between the ages of 11 to 19 (Year 7 to Year 14) who have a range of special educational needs, such as ASC (Autism spectrum condition, as used in teaching young people with autism), hearing impairment, sight impairments, paralysis, among many other additional needs (Canolfan Elfed, 2024). Canolfan Elfed give young people with special educational needs to gain an education and qualifications, according to their individual needs (Canolfan Elfed, 2024). This includes teaching a range of curriculums, such as;

GCSE's, A-Levels, WJEC Entry Pathways, ASDAN, and the Duke of Edinburgh awards (Canolfan Elfed, 2024). This is as well as employing a range of specialist teachers and staff, including two teachers of the deaf and having several members of staff, trained in or learning British Sign Language and Sign-along. The pupils in Canolfan Elfed may travel from across Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, and Ceredigion, to access the resources that Canolfan Elfed provide. Unfortunately, there is such a high demand of young people who need to access the opportunities and resources that places like Canolfan Elfed provide. There is an in-depth and detailed application process to be considered for a place; this includes an inclusion panel and lots of meetings and visits to see where a young person may fit in. Canolfan Elfed only have a certain amount of places that they are able to offer because of the space and the amount of staff that they have.

There are many different types of additional needs that should be catered for within any area, so that families and young people with additional needs can spend time and shop in the town. These needs and facilities that may be needed will differ from person to person. For example, for someone who is neurodivergent, they may need to regulate their sensory needs, to regulate their temperature, to be able to cope with the brightness of the lights or the volume of the noises, the town should be easy to navigate, and to have tools and resources around the town to reduce as much anxiousness and uncertainty as possible. Again for example, for someone who is a wheelchair user (including ambulatory wheelchair users), they need suitable disabled bathroom facilities, appropriate paths, pavements, crossings and lowered curbs, and buildings that are easily accessible and easy to manoeuvre around. There are also

facilities and support that people with hearing and/or sight impairments need. For example, this could include staff who understand how to communicate with deaf or hard of hearing (such as British Sign Language and Sign-along), signs that are easily read and easily understood, and a town that is easy to navigate and easy to find their way (similarly to neurodivergence). It would also be helpful to families and young people to have spaces to take breaks. For instance, in Carmarthen, there are several cafes, such as Costa, Cafe Nero, Cofio Lounge, Greggs, and Tea Traders, and there are several places to eat, such as Toby Carvery, Harvester, The Welsh House, Wetherspoons, and West End Fish & Chips. However, not all of these spaces would be accessible to a wheelchair user, such as Tea Traders, where one would struggle to get a wheelchair through the door (although there is outside seating). Many of these places will have a 'disabled toilet' but it might not be made for purpose, as the size of the room and how it is laid out matters regarding whether, for instance, a wheelchair user can use the facilities comfortably. On the other hand, Tea Traders is one of the businesses that offer work experience to students in the Canolfan Elfed Sixth Form as part of their work experience programme, for those who have the ability to carry out a work placement.

In conclusion, Canolfan Elfed have a huge impact on young people and families in Carmarthen and the surrounding areas, and therefore, the Elfed unit also raises awareness of special educational needs and additional needs. Carmarthen could be a lovely place for a family or young person with additional needs to shop and spend time outside, if there were more accessibility in the town centre.

Reference List:

Canolfan Elfed. (Accessed February 2024). *Canolfan Elfed Website*. Queen Elizabeth High School. [Canolfan Elfed | Queen Elizabeth High School](#)