



Introduction



Social Co-operation Forum
Fforwm Cydweithredu Cymdeithasol

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act and User-led Co-operatives

This factsheet series is developed by Disability Wales and the Social Co-operation Forum and funded by the Care Council for Wales.

The aim of this learning resource is to support the workforce and citizens to implement the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, and includes a specific focus on user-led co-operatives.

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act aims to transform social services in Wales, improving the well-being of people who receive care and support, and carers who need support.

Aim of Resources:

- To increase awareness, knowledge and understanding of user-led co-operatives in providing social care and support;
- To inspire the development of user-led co-operatives delivering social care and support;
- To provide information to support the development of user-led co-operatives.

Target Groups: co-operatives delivering social care and support.

These resources are aimed at the following groups:

- Social care and support workforce;
- Citizens (users of social care and support services);
- Other citizens.

Learning Outcomes

These resources will:

- Promote greater understanding of how user-led co-operatives can deliver social care and support services;
- Support learners to identify the benefits of, and opportunities for, user-led co-operatives delivering social care and support services;
- Increase knowledge as to how to develop a user-led co-operative to deliver social care and support services, and where to get further guidance.

Resources

This factsheet series includes 5 topics:

1. Introduction
2. What are co-operatives?
3. Co-operatives delivering social care and support
4. Examples of user-led co-operatives delivering social care and support
5. How to set up a user-led co-operative

What is the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014?

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act changes how social services are delivered in Wales.

This means that the way social services will assess and deliver care and support in Wales will change.

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act aims to provide people with **stronger voice and control** over the services that they receive, and promote people's independence.

Section 16 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014

This factsheet series is linked to **Section 16** of the Act which provides a duty for local authorities to promote social enterprises, co-operatives, user-led services and the third sector in providing social care and support. The **Code of Practice (Part 2)** highlights that the aim is to see an increase in not-for-profit organisations delivering services in care and support, and to have more diversity in what services are available.

Local authorities also have to promote the involvement of people who use care and support services in the planning, designing and running of such services.

This gives people more voice and control over their services and makes sure that services are designed around what people need.

This is linked to co-production. **Co-production** is an approach which values citizens and professionals equally. This approach enables everyone who has an interest in a service to be involved with making decisions about a service. User-led co-operatives are well placed to apply **co-production principles** as they are run in a democratic way.

This factsheet series focuses on **user-led co-operatives** delivering such services. Such organisations empower individuals and communities to take control over the delivery of their services.

● User-led Co-operatives and Independent Living

User-led co-operatives in social care and support work to principles of **Independent Living**.

"Independent Living enables us as disabled people to achieve our own goals, and live our own lives in the way that we choose for ourselves."

Disability Wales, 2010

User-led co-operatives support Independent Living as it puts those using services, in control of their services.

User-led co-operatives are an important part of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act as they advance the Act's values, including greater voice and control for citizens.

● Using these resources

Each factsheet can be used on their own for specific guidance on a particular area of user-led co-operatives, or the entire series can be used to develop more in-depth knowledge about the whole topic.

For more information about Independent Living, please visit:

www.disabilitywales.org

For more information about Co-production, please visit:

www.goodpractice.wales/co-production-catalogue-from-wales