

## Elidyr Communities Trust

*Lives full of meaning and purpose*

### Who we are

*“This rural community has given my son who has a learning disability, a life full of freedom and experiences that he could never have at home.”*



Elidyr Communities Trust (Elidyr) is a sector-leading and award-winning charity that has been supporting people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities for over 50 years. Our provision transforms lives, helping those in our care to communicate, build skills, find greater independence and have fun.

We provide an established pathway to move from adolescence to adulthood through specialist residential higher education and onto a high-quality community living programme.

*“Finding the right solution for Tom was everything to us. We have huge confidence and trust in the organisation. He is safe, he is engaged, he has a life.”*

Our learners and residents learn to express their own opinions, live as independently as possible by developing essential life skills in a supportive and safe environment, and help the charity to push the boundaries in terms of what’s possible.

*“Elidyr is better than our home. When we visit we breathe in the love and support he receives. We are overwhelmed by watching him walk around shaking hands with people, being greeted. I love it, I love it, I love it.”*

## Where we are

Our main site is in Carmarthenshire in the heart of Mid Wales and is set in 180 acres of beautiful countryside and includes residential accommodation, an education hub, smallholding, gym, shop, workshops and extensive gardens.

*“The size and extent of the site blew us away. The scale really mattered to us – a safe site to move around independently and lots of friends to socialise with. He is not hemmed in. He is free physically and emotionally.”*

*“I like this place. I just love it”*



## The Need

### Lack of suitable options for young adults with complex needs

At the pivotal stage of transitioning to adulthood through higher education, young adults with learning difficulties and/or disabilities often face a severe lack of suitable options, as mainstream further education colleges are rarely equipped to support high-needs learners, and adult social care services can struggle to provide continuity or developmental progression.

*“Our local authority gave us a list of specialist providers to visit. Some other places were amazing, but all felt like institutions compared to Elidyr Communities Trust. They also offered a place to live, but it was not a home like Elidyr.”*

### Significant increase in demand for specialist services

Across the UK the need for individual support for young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities is more pressing than ever. This growing demand is demonstrated by the increasing number of individuals aged 0–25 who require an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) in England or Individual Development Plan (IDP) in Wales.

UK Government research in 2024 found there were 434,354 children and young people with an EHCP in England, which represents an 11.6% increase since 2023. In Wales, as of January 2024, the Welsh Government reports there were 21,319 pupils with IDPs in maintained schools across Wales.

### People with learning disabilities don't get the support they deserve

There is a pressing demand for specialist provision that doesn't just manage needs, but nurtures potential and builds confidence. Without the right support, young people with

learning difficulties and/or disabilities become vulnerable to social isolation and anxiety, losing previously gained skills, and experience increased dependency at the very point in their lives when they should be gaining independence and agency.

The NHS Annual Mortality Review published by Kings College cites, 39% of deaths of people with learning disabilities and autism were classed as avoidable in 2023, which is almost twice as high as the general population.

Aside from the impact of this on the individuals concerned and their families, long-term support also costs the state significantly more. Confident individuals, who are more able to express their wants and needs, are more likely to be able to find work, access health appointments to prevent issues escalating, and live day-to-day with less state-supported intervention. Elidyr provides a structured environment where learners and residents can advocate for themselves, and our programmes are tailored around the strengths and aspirations of each individual.

*“The quality of life my son has achieved and the progression he made is amazing. He has learnt to ride a horse and drive a train. He has got a girlfriend in the same house. It’s so beyond any expectations we had for him.”*



Every year, we receive more applications than we can accommodate, and our waiting lists are growing.

### **What we offer**

We are devoted to the people in our care and ground all our work on the principles of inclusion, mutual respect and increasing the life chances of people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

*“The best thing about Elidyr Communities is to make a cup of tea and make choices”*

*“I enjoyed my cooking skills competition in Manchester. I won my silver medal; I feel proud of myself. My favourite work experience is at the Co-op, I enjoy my work experience”*

At our main site in Rhandirmwyn, we run and manage a **specialist residential further education college** (*Coleg Elidyr*) alongside a **community residency programme** (*Inclusive Lives*) which offers a home for life. We also offer **long-term residential living** at Garnllwyd Barns in Llancafán and Victoria House in Llangadog. We are currently able to support 60 learners and residents aged between 18-61 years old.

Our approach gives people the space and time they need to thrive, and this was recently recognised by **Estyn who have highlighted the educational provision we offer as sector leading** as well as numerous areas of exceptional delivery.

*“Whilst at college learners thrive in a familiar and exceptional community setting to live more independent lives. As a result, nearly all develop strong independence skills. The college provides learners with significant opportunities to continually develop skills in real life settings and in the wider community, which will support them in their future lives. This is a significant strength of the college.”*



Many of the people we support are transitioning from adolescence to adulthood. This life change is more significant for people with learning disabilities and/or disabilities and their families, and can be a time of great anxiety and challenge. Throughout this process we support our learners and residents to expand their horizons and live the most fulfilled lives they can.

Underpinned by a highly skilled and committed staff team, we achieve this by offering **enriched, personalised support** including **specialist therapeutic interventions, vocational learning**, regular participation in **creative workshops**, and daily access to beautiful **outdoor spaces and activity**. This is how we transform lives.

*“M strides around like a man on a mission instead of shuffling around. Our expectation was that M would end up in supported living – sitting in a corner listening to music and no one paying attention to him, because he lacks assertion. Now we are confident he is going to have a happy, fulfilling life with lots of activity.”*

Each learner or resident who receives a placement at Elidyr receives funding through their local authority through a statutory grant, however this funding only covers the most basic provision. We believe the people we support deserve the best possible opportunities, which is why our approach always goes above and beyond.

*“You have turned my boy into a man and developed him to be the best he can be.”*

We rely on charitable support to ensure that every learner or resident receives the highest possible quality of care and opportunity. Core support from funders enables us to sustain and strengthen this enhanced provision – not as an ‘extra’, but as the standard our young people deserve.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

Elidyr has strong systems in place to monitor and evaluate our work. We collect both numbers and personal feedback so we can see what’s working well, where to improve, and how we’re making a difference for learners, residents, and staff.

We use different processes for each part of the charity: education, residential care, and community living. We also track data across the whole organisation, covering our key goals, safety, and staff wellbeing. This helps us spot patterns and measure progress over time.



Our work is inspected by **Estyn, Care Inspectorate Wales**, and the local authorities who commission placements. These inspections are detailed and thorough, and we are regularly praised for the high quality of our provision.

The Board of Trustees reviews performance through a clear **Quality Improvement Cycle**. Each area of work has a named trustee. The CEO and Leadership Team manage a Quality Improvement Plan to make sure actions are completed and improvements last. We also produce a yearly Self-Evaluation Report for our education provision, which trustees review and sign off.

We use **the RARPA framework** to track each learner’s progress, this provides a structure through which learners can achieve personalised outcomes and be best prepared for their post-college adult lives. We also invite external reviews to keep learning and improving. Independent consultants assess areas such as governance and estates planning, and peer organisations visit to observe and share feedback.

Learners and residents help shape our services. They take part in regular surveys and one-to-one conversations about their routines, education, and community life. **A Student Forum** meets through the year and reports to the Board every quarter, ensuring their voices are heard. Families also stay involved through an **active Parent Association**, which meets several times a year with the CEO and trustees.

We are proud members of Natspec, the national network for specialist education providers. This gives us access to training, advice, and sector benchmarking. Our CEO now serves on the Natspec Board, ensuring we stay connected to national best practice. Staff wellbeing is a

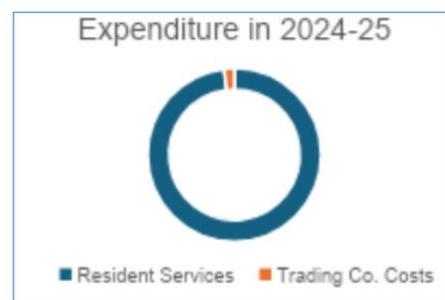
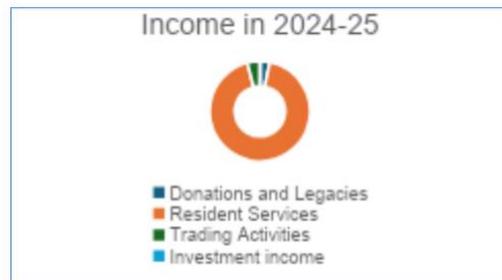
priority. We are proud to hold **Great Place to Work accreditation** and continue to review staff satisfaction so we can respond to needs and maintain a positive culture.

## The financial model

The main income for the charity is derived from fees received in exchange for services provided to learners attending our specialist FE provision, **Coleg Elidyr**, and to residents on our **Inclusive Lives** programme.

At the end of July 2025, we supported **60 learners and residents**, with income for this provision predominantly derived from statutory funding distributed through Local Authorities (75%), Welsh Government (13%), and Health (10%).

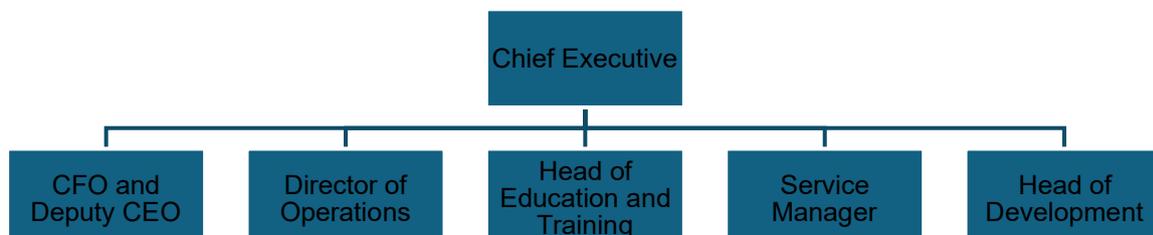
In 2024-25 Elidyr had a turnover of **£8.2m**, primarily from resident services (96.8%), with small proportions from other trading activities (1.7%), donations (0.9%), and investment income (0.6%). This was matched by **£7.6m of expenditure**, reflecting the high staffing and resource costs associated with providing high-quality, individualised education and lifelong learning opportunities. We maintain a risk-assessed general reserve equivalent to **3.9 months' trading costs** to ensure stability for those in our care.



However, **statutory funding alone does not cover the wider enrichment, therapeutic, and wellbeing opportunities** that enable our learners to reach their potential. Philanthropic support therefore plays a vital role in enhancing learning outcomes and improving quality of life for people with limited resources.

## Governance and leadership

Elidyr is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee which is governed by the Board of Trustees, several of whom have lived experience of a family member with additional learning needs. The trustees delegate the responsibility for the day-to-day management of the charity to the Chief Executive and Leadership Team.



## Your support

Elidyr is a place for people to grow, belong and thrive. We provide life-changing educational and developmental opportunities so that our learners and residents can build confidence, develop independence, and participate fully in their communities.

Your support could help us:

- enhance access to **non-statutory learning activities** that promote communication, creativity, and wellbeing;
- expand opportunities for **lifelong learning** through vocational skills, nature-based education, and community engagement; and
- strengthen **emotional, social, and personal wellbeing**, ensuring every individual feels valued and connected.

With your help, we can continue to nurture potential, improve lives, and offer meaningful opportunities to those who have limited access to specialist education and learning elsewhere.

*“This is a wonderful place ... our son has achieved things we’d never dreamed he could. He’s been so happy.”*

## Thank you

Thank you for your time and interest in our work. Should you like to visit one of our sites to experience what we do or if you have any further questions, please contact us on 01550 760243.

**Web:** [www.elidyrct.ac.uk](http://www.elidyrct.ac.uk)



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