



Scrutinising Changes to Community Services: Guidance for Local Authorities (February 2016)

Guidance weblink:

[http://www.olderpeoplewales.com/en/Publications/pub-story/16-02-16/Section 12 Guidance Equality and Human Rights Assessments Scrutiny.aspx](http://www.olderpeoplewales.com/en/Publications/pub-story/16-02-16/Section_12_Guidance_Equality_and_Human_Rights_Assessments_Scrutiny.aspx)

Good Practice

Pembrokeshire

Pembrokeshire County Council has a dedicated scrutiny committee to address older people's issues. The role of the Older Persons, Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to review or scrutinise issues and services relevant to health and wellbeing, particularly those relating to older persons¹.

One example of how the Committee can influence decisions was the recent 'Learning Pembrokeshire – Managing the Welsh Government Funding Reduction for Adult and Community Learning' proposal. Committee members expressed concerns regarding how the cabinet decision had been reached without public consultation and without sufficient consideration of how closing down Community Learning Centres will impact on older people and others². As a result, the cabinet decided to undertake a public consultation exercise to examine the issue further, with a final report to cabinet by November 2015³.

Anglesey

In 2011/12, Anglesey County Council's Environment and Technical Services Scrutiny Committee produced a report on the 'Future Provision of Public Toilets on Anglesey'⁴. The report acknowledged that public toilets are "often seen as a lifeline to the elderly community" and that it

¹ http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/content.asp?nav=101,2159,2170&parent_directory_id=646

² <http://mgenglish.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=283&MID=3305#AI22904&LLL=0>

³ [http://mgenglish.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/Published/C00000281/M00003161/\\$\\$\\$Minutes.doc.pdf?LLL=0](http://mgenglish.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/Published/C00000281/M00003161/$$$Minutes.doc.pdf?LLL=0)

⁴ <http://www.anglesey.gov.uk/Journals/2011/12/08/scrutiny-review-public-toilets-review.pdf>

was therefore vital that older people were consulted with “in relation to any proposed shortlist for closure at an early stage”.

Following consultation with older people it was found that awareness about alternative provision was low, and therefore it was recommended that “officers work with existing organisations offering the Public Toilet Grant Scheme to improve signage and promotion of these facilities”.