

Appropriate facilities

- Wales has a generally good range of provision in terms of built facilities for sport.
- Many facilities, however, are nearing the end of their lifespan and do not meet users' expectations.
- Maintenance of facilities and the higher running costs of some older facilities are an additional burden.
- Alternative ways of managing facilities are increasingly being used or considered by local authorities.
- Specific issues around increasing usage of facilities are improving links with sports clubs, better programming, and provision of attractive ancillary facilities.
- Wales has an excellent network of national and regional facilities and superb natural facilities for sport.

Rationalisation/new facilities

Many sports facilities were built in the 1970s and 1980s and are in a dilapidated condition requiring significant investment to refurbish or renew. They are not attractive to potential new participants and their associated higher running costs are an additional drain on scarce resources.

Because of historical factors and population change over the past 30 years a number of facilities are not necessarily in the optimal location. Facility provision also needs to reflect changing trends in participation as well as the effects of changes in population. In recent years a number of local authorities have rationalised their leisure provision.

Often this has resulted in one or more older facilities being replaced with a new facility which provides a much higher standard of provision, be less costly to maintain, and better meets user needs. All such exercises should be undertaken on the basis of an analysis of local need backed by a robust evidence base. **Planners should not simply identify the need for generic sports facilities, but should consult widely to understand what sports clubs and participants want from facilities¹.** Collaboration might be between different local authority departments, between a local authority and other agency, national governing body or area association or key local voluntary groups, or between neighbouring local authorities, or a

combination.

Because of the economic pressures some local authorities have reduced facility opening times. It is important to stress, however, that despite the recession a number of significant new facilities are either being constructed or are at the planning stage. **The opportunity to locate new sports facilities alongside health, library or retail units should be explored to encourage crossover.** New and innovative sports surfaces and building designs should be utilised to enhance the sporting experience and decrease running costs.

Sports clubs are a significant provider of facilities and there has been some frustration that the *Community Chest* scheme does not support capital projects¹. Where appropriate, Sport Wales will use its statutory planning function to protect sports facilities. We will also advocate that we should be a statutory consultee for any indoor or outdoor facility development, not just playing fields. Sport Wales holds data on existing and planned facilities so can provide a central source of information for those looking at potential developments.

Ownership/management issues

A small number of local authorities either already have facilities operated by leisure trusts or commercial organisations, or are considering this option. Encouraging greater community ownership of

facilities through, for example, asset transfer, which involves transferring ownership of land or buildings from a local authority to a community group such as a sports club or trust, is another option which some local authorities are exploring. The transfer often takes place at a discounted price, provided that there is some community benefit, and can enable a sports club to take responsibility for managing and maintaining the facility.

Better use of school facilities

There is some evidence that the opening of school facilities for community use is patchy across Wales¹. Pilot schemes to enable sports clubs to use school facilities out of school hours without the need for staff to be in attendance might help to open up more facilities where a lack of funding is currently preventing this. There are many areas across Wales where community use of school facilities works really well. An example of a how multi-agency approach has provided the funding, support and coaching to enable the community to use a school facility is the floodlit synthetic athletics track at Brynmawr Comprehensive School².

A number of local authorities have developed, or are developing, new facilities under the 21st Century Schools Programme. **Management of community facilities on school sites is crucial to their success.** Research in Scotland suggests that the presence of a clear strategy for the management of school facilities is the most critical success factor for ensuring effective provision for community use³. This study also found that **good quality changing and showering facilities are key elements in developing community use of school facilities.**

Programming

Better programming of facilities, particularly at peak times, could help. For example, there is evidence from focus groups set up to discuss issues around the *Community Sport Strategy* that clubs from different sports were sometimes competing for the same space in leisure centres¹. In some cases leisure centres give priority to certain age groups (particularly young

people) and sports. Facility management must decide whether the 'right' activities/sports are using the 'right space' at the right times. Sometimes an innovative solution can free up space. In one area the local authority took most of the dance/fitness classes out of the leisure centre and into community halls and other venues. This attracted more participants to these classes (as delivery was more localised) whilst also freeing up the leisure centre space for other sports activities. Programming, by targeting hard to reach groups, can also play a key role in helping make sport more inclusive.

Pricing and affordability

There is evidence that clubs are finding it prohibitively expensive to book facilities as the cost of facility hire is rising year on year¹. A recent survey found that the main providers of hired facilities to sports clubs are local authorities and schools and colleges⁴. These two sources account for 73% of all hired sports facilities (48% of all sports playing facilities). 'Such dependence places sports clubs in a vulnerable position...It is possible that any increase in facility hiring costs will drive increases in membership fees as clubs struggle to afford essential facilities.' Such increases could affect how inclusive a club can be.

Disadvantaged communities

According to StreetGames, lower levels of participation within disadvantaged communities are largely down to the poor level of facilities encountered in disadvantaged areas which bring about natural levels of under-usage⁵. Research from StreetGames coupled with their experience working with disadvantaged communities lead them to say that this under representation 'is not a demand side problem. It is a supply side problem'.

Whilst the majority of users travel to sports facilities by car, figures are available from Stats Wales for the average travel time to a leisure centre (mean time in minutes) by walking or using public bus services or both. The average travel time for those in the 10% most deprived group is 18 minutes; the Wales average is 28 minutes⁶. This suggests that, if there is a supply

side problem, it is not the provision of facilities, but their quality and programming.

Links with clubs

Links with schools are seen as very important for many clubs, particularly in relation to raising participation and accessing facilities. Some clubs indicated that they felt this was an area where local authorities and national governing bodies should be supporting them. This is happening in cricket, where the governing body has identified officers to help clubs to work with schools; however feedback suggests this needs to be a structured approach delivered across all sports¹. Links between leisure centres and sports clubs can provide benefits for both. Long term block bookings provide guaranteed finance for the centre whilst clubs securing regular facility time and support towards their development.

Challenges and issues

- An aging stock of facilities which are expensive to maintain needs updating or replacing at a time when resources are scarce.
- When planning new facilities, greater collaboration between local authorities, other organisations and clubs and participants is essential.
- Wider community ownership, through asset transfer and other means, can help in providing a more inclusive and responsive service.
- Whilst the extent of the problem is not fully known, it is clear that there are still many school facilities which could be opened for community use.
- Pricing/affordability and programming are critical issues which need to be addressed through consultation between facility management and clubs and other users.
- Quality of facilities is important in attracting and retaining a wide range of participants, meaning that good design and maintenance are vital.

References

1. Brightpurpose Consulting (2012). *Evidence to Support the Community Strategy for Sport*. Report prepared for Sport Wales.
2. Sports Council for Wales (2009). *A community back on track*.
3. Sportscotland et al (2008). *The use of school sports and cultural facilities: a review of the impact of policies and management regimes*.
4. Sport and Recreation Alliance (2011). *Survey of sports clubs 2011: a review of clubs, facility access, finances, challenges and opportunities*.
5. StreetGames (2010). *Evidence submitted to the Facilities Inquiry*.
6. StatsWales.

Cyfleusterau priodol

- Yn gyffredinol mae gan Gymru ystod dda o ddarpariaeth o ran cyfleusterau adeiledig ar gyfer chwaraeon.
- Er hynny, mae nifer o gyfleusterau'n cyrraedd diwedd eu hoes ac nid ydynt yn bodloni disgwyliadau'r defnyddwyr.
- Mae cynnal a chadw cyfleusterau a chostau rhedeg uwch rhai cyfleusterau hŷn yn faich ychwanegol.
- Mae mwy a mwy o ddulliau amgen o reoli cyfleusterau'n cael eu defnyddio neu eu hystyried gan awdurdodau lleol.
- Mae materion penodol cysylltiedig â chynyddu'r defnydd o gyfleusterau'n cynnwys gwella'r cyswllt â chlybiau chwaraeon, rhaglennu gwell, a darparu cyfleusterau ategol atyniadol.
- Mae gan Gymru rwydwaith rhagorol o gyfleusterau cenedlaethol a rhanbarthol a chyfleusterau naturiol gwych ar

Newid strwythur / cyfleusterau newydd

Adeiladwyd llawer o gyfleusterau chwaraeon yn y 1970au a'r 1980au ac maen nhw wedi dechrau dirywio bellach ac angen buddsoddiad sylweddol er mwyn eu hadnewyddu neu eu newid. Nid ydynt yn atyniadol i gyfranogwyr newydd posibl ac mae eu costau rhedeg uchel cysylltiedig yn faich ychwanegol ar adnoddau prin.

Oherwydd ffactorau hanesyddol a newid yn y boblogaeth yn ystod y 30 mlynedd diwethaf, nid yw nifer o gyfleusterau, o angenrheidrwydd, yn y lleoliad gorau. Hefyd, mae'n rhaid i'r ddarpariaeth o gyfleusterau adlewyrchu'r newid mewn cyfranogiad a hefyd effeithiau'r newid mewn poblogaeth. Yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf, mae nifer o awdurdodau lleol wedi newid strwythur eu darpariaeth hamdden.

Yn aml iawn mae hyn wedi arwain at un neu fwy o gyfleusterau hŷn yn cael eu newid am gyfleuster newydd, sy'n cynnig darpariaeth o safon uwch o lawer, yn llai costus i'w gynnal ac yn diwallu anghenion y defnyddwyr yn well. Dylid cymryd rhan mewn arferion o'r fath ar sail angen lleol a ategir gan sylfaen dystiolaeth gadarn. **Nid dim ond tynnu sylw at yr angen am gyfleusterau chwaraeon cyffredinol ddylai cynllunwyr, ond ymgynghori'n eang er mwyn deall beth mae clybiau a chyfranogwyr chwaraeon ei**

eisiau mewn cyfleusterau¹. Efallai bod y cydweithredu'n digwydd rhwng gwahanol adrannau mewn awdurdodau lleol, rhwng awdurdodau lleol ac asiantaethau eraill, cyrff rheoli cenedlaethol neu gymdeithas ardal neu grwpiau gwirfoddol lleol allweddol, neu rhwng awdurdodau lleol cyfagos, neu gyfuniad.

Oherwydd y pwysau economaidd mae rhai awdurdodau lleol wedi cyfyngu ar amseroedd agor eu cyfleusterau. Mae'n bwysig pwysleisio, fodd bynnag, bod nifer o gyfleusterau newydd arwyddocaol yn cael eu hadeiladu er gwaetha'r dirwasgiad, neu maent yn y cam cynllunio. **Dylid edrych ar y cyfle i leoli cyfleusterau chwaraeon newydd ochr yn ochr ag unedau iechyd, llyfrgell neu adwerthu er mwyn annog defnydd ar y cyd.** Dylid defnyddio arwynebau chwaraeon a chynlluniau adeiladu newydd a blaengar er mwyn gwella'r profiad chwaraeon a lleihau costau rhedeg.

Mae clybiau chwaraeon yn ddarparwyr cyfleusterau arwyddocaol a bu peth rhwystredigaeth nad yw cynllun y *Gist Gymunedol* yn cefnogi prosiectau cyfalaf¹. Lle bo hynny'n briodol, bydd Chwaraeon Cymru'n defnyddio ei swyddogaeth gynllunio statudol i warchod cyfleusterau chwaraeon. Hefyd, byddwn yn hyrwyddo y dylem fod yn ymgynghorai statudol i unrhyw gyfleuster dan do neu awyr agored a

ddatblygir, nid dim ond caeau chwarae. Mae gan Chwaraeon Cymru ddata am y cyfleusterau presennol ac arfaethedig ac felly gall ddarparu ffynhonnell wybodaeth ganolog i'r rhai sy'n ystyried datblygiadau posibl.

Materion eiddo / rheolaeth

Mae gan nifer bychan o awdurdodau lleol gyfleusterau a weithredir eisoes gan ymddiriedolaethau hamdden neu sefydliadau masnachol, neu maent yn ystyried yr opsiwn hwn. Mae annog mwy o berchnogaeth gymunedol ar gyfleusterau drwy drosglwyddo asedau sydd, er enghraifft, yn cynnwys trosglwyddo perchnogaeth ar dir neu adeiladau oddi wrth awdurdodau lleol i grŵp cymunedol fel clwb neu ymddiriedolaeth chwaraeon, yn opsiwn arall y mae rhai awdurdodau lleol yn edrych arno. Yn aml iawn, mae'r trosglwyddo'n digwydd am bris is, ar yr amod bod rhywfaint o fudd i'r gymuned, a gall alluogi i glwb chwaraeon gymryd cyfrifoldeb am reoli a chynnal y cyfleuster.

Gwell defnydd o gyfleusterau ysgol

Ceir peth tystiolaeth bod yr arfer o agor cyfleusterau ysgol at ddefnydd y gymuned yn ddarniog ledled Cymru¹. Gall cynlluniau peilot i alluogi i glybiau chwaraeon ddefnyddio cyfleusterau ysgolion y tu allan i oriau ysgol, heb fod angen i'r staff fod yn bresennol, helpu i gynnig mwy o gyfleusterau, lle mae diffyg cyllid yn atal hyn ar hyn o bryd. Ceir llawer o ardaloedd ar hyd a lled Cymru ble mae defnydd y gymuned o gyfleusterau ysgolion yn gweithio'n dda iawn. Un enghraifft o ddull aml-asiantaeth o weithio gan ddarparu cyllid, cefnogaeth a hyfforddiant i alluogi'r gymuned i ddefnyddio cyfeuster ysgol yw llifoleuo'r traciau athletau synthetig yn Ysgol Gyfun Brynmawr².

Mae nifer o awdurdodau lleol wedi datblygu, neu yn datblygu, cyfleusterau newydd o dan *Raglen Ysgolion yr 21^{ain} Ganrif*. **Mae rheoli cyfleusterau cymunedol ar safleoedd ysgol yn allweddol i'w llwyddiant.** Mae gwaith ymchwil yn yr Alban yn awgrymu mai presenoldeb strategaeth glir ar gyfer rheoli cyfleusterau ysgolion yw'r ffactor mwyaf allweddol o ran llwyddo i sicrhau darpariaeth effeithiol at

ddefnydd y gymuned³. Mae'r astudiaeth hon hefyd wedi canfod bod cyfleusterau newid a chael cawod da, o safon, yn elfennau allweddol wrth ddatblygu defnydd cymunedol o gyfleusterau ysgolion.

Rhaglennu

Gallai rhaglennu cyfleusterau'n well, yn enwedig yn ystod amseroedd brig, helpu. Er enghraifft, ceir tystiolaeth o grwpiau ffocws a sefydlwyd i drafod y materion perthnasol i'r Strategaeth Gymunedol bod clybiau ar gyfer gwahanol chwaraeon yn cystadlu am yr un gofod weithiau mewn canolfannau hamdden. Mewn rhai achosion, roedd canolfannau hamdden yn rhoi blaenoriaeth i grwpiau oedran penodol (yn enwedig pobl ifanc) a chwaraeon penodol. Mae'n rhaid i reolwyr cyfleusterau benderfynu a yw'r gweithgareddau / chwaraeon 'priodol' yn defnyddio'r 'gofod iawn' ar yr adeg iawn. Weithiau, gall ateb blaengar ryddhau gofod. Mewn un ardal, tynnodd yr awdurdod lleol y rhan fwyaf o'r dosbarthiadau dawns / ffirwydd allan o'r canolfannau hamdden, gan eu symud i'r neuaddau cymunedol a lleoliadau eraill. Denodd hyn fwy o gyfranogwyr i'r dosbarthiadau hyn (gan fod y cyflwyno'n fwy lleol) gan hefyd ryddhau'r gofod yn y ganolfan hamdden ar gyfer gweithgareddau chwaraeon eraill. Gall rhaglennu drwy dargedu grwpiau anodd eu cyrraedd chwarae rhan allweddol hefyd mewn helpu i wneud chwaraeon yn fwy cynhwysol.

Prisio a fforddiadwyedd

Ceir tystiolaeth bod clybiau'n teimlo ei bod yn rhy ddrud i archebu cyfleusterau gan fod cost eu llogi'n codi flwyddyn ar ôl blwyddyn¹. Canfu arolwg diweddar mai prif ddarparwyr cyfleusterau a logir i glybiau chwaraeon yw awdurdodau lleol ac ysgolion a cholegau⁴. Mae'r ddwy ffynhonnell yma'n cyfrif am 73% o'r holl gyfleusterau chwaraeon a logir (48% o'r holl gyfleusterau chwarae). 'Mae dibyniaeth o'r fath yn rhoi clybiau chwaraeon mewn sefyllfa agored i niwed ... bydd unrhyw gynnydd yng nghostau llogi cyfleusterau yn arwain at gynnydd mewn ffioedd ymaelodi wrth i glybiau gael anhawster i fforddio cyfleusterau hanfodol.' Gallai cynnydd o'r fath

effeithio ar ba mor gynhwysol gall clybiau fod.

Cymunedau difreintiedig

Yn ôl StreetGames, yr hyn sy'n bennaf gyfrifol am lefelau cymryd rhan is mewn cymunedau difreintiedig yw safon isel y cyfleusterau a geir mewn ardaloedd difreintiedig, sy'n arwain at lefelau naturiol o danddefnydd. Mae gwaith ymchwil gan StreetGames ar y cyd â phrofiad o weithio gyda chymunedau difreintiedig yn peri i'r mudiad ddatgan mai 'nid problem o ran galw' yw'r tanddefnydd hwn - 'mae'n broblem ar yr ochr gyflenwi'.

Er bod mwyafrif y defnyddwyr yn teithio i gyfleusterau chwaraeon mewn car, mae ffigurau ar gael gan Stats Wales ar gyfer yr amser a deithir ar gyfartaledd i ganolfan hamdden (amser cyfartalog mewn munudau) drwy gerdded neu ddefnyddio gwasanaethau bus cyhoeddus neu'r ddau. Yr amser teithio ar gyfartaledd ar gyfer y 10% yn y grŵp mwyaf difreintiedig yw 18 munud; cyfartaledd Cymru yw 28 munud⁶. **Felly, os oes problem ar yr ochr gyflenwi, mae hyn yn awgrymu nad darparu cyfleusterau yw'r broblem honno, ond eu safon a'r gwaith o'u rhaglennu.**

Cysylltiadau â chlybiau

Mae cysylltiadau ag ysgolion yn cael eu hystyried yn bwysig iawn i lawer o glybiau, yn arbennig mewn perthynas â chynyddu cyfranogiad a sicrhau mynediad i gyfleusterau. Dywedodd rhai clybiau eu bod yn teimlo bod hwn yn faes ble dylai awdurdodau lleol a chyrrff rheoli cenedlaethol fod yn eu cefnogi. Mae hyn yn digwydd mewn criced, ble mae'r corff rheoli wedi pennu swyddogion i helpu clybiau i weithio gydag ysgolion; er hynny, mae'r adborth yn awgrymu bod rhaid i hwn fod yn ddull strwythuredig o weithredu a gyflwynir ym mhob camp. Gall y cyswllt rhwng canolfannau hamdden a chlybiau chwaraeon gynnig manteision i'r ddwy ochr. Mae archebion bloc am dymor hir yn cynnig gwarant o incwm i'r ganolfan ac mae clybiau'n sicrhau amser rheolaidd yn y cyfleusterau a chefnogaeth i'w datblygiad.

Yr her a'r rhwystrau

- Mae'r stoc o gyfleusterau'n heneiddio ac yn ddrud i'w cynnal ac mae angen eu moderneiddio neu eu newid ar adeg pan mae adnoddau'n brin.
- Wrth gynllunio cyfleusterau newydd, mae gwell cydweithredu rhwng awdurdodau lleol, sefydliadau a chlybiau eraill, a chyfranogwyr yn hanfodol.
- Gall perchnogaeth gan y gymuned ehangach, drwy drosglwyddo asedau a chyfryngau eraill, helpu i ddarparu gwasanaeth mwy cynhwysol ac ymatebol.
- Er nad ydym yn gwybod am wir raddfa'r broblem, mae'n glir bod mwy o gyfleusterau ysgol y gellid eu hagor at ddefnydd y gymuned.
- Mae prisiau/fforddiadwyedd a rhaglenni'n faterion allweddol sydd angen sylw drwy ymgynghori rhwng rheolwyr cyfleusterau a chlybiau a defnyddwyr eraill.
- Mae safon y cyfleusterau'n bwysig i ddenu a chynnal ystod eang o gyfranogwyr, gan olygu bod cynllunio a chynnal a chadw da'n hanfodol.

Darllen pellach a chyfeiriadau

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