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CANOLFAN AWYR AGORED PENTYWYN

PENDINE OUTDOOR CENTRE

CROESO/ WELCOME

# WHERE WE WERE

- Pendine Outdoors is a large multi activity outdoor residential centre operating since the 1960's to a predominately Primary School audience.
  - Maximum capacity of 120 beds,
  - Over 2000 stays per year.
- Typical school experience:
  - a full week residential Monday to Friday
  - Sharing facilities:
    - with other schools (school clusters) include shared cabins, dining facilities and activity-based minibus travel.

# WHERE WE WERE –PROGRAMME DELIVERY

- The program is a mixture of:
  - Onsite including use of the sea and the coastal strip, climbing tower and team building.
  - Off site activities including lakes and woods and extreme stream. Day out option, usually further west, by coach.
  - Evening activities – Round House, Orienteering & Nature Walk,
- Very competitive price point:
  - In county £175.00 (FSM £125.00) with a view to keeping access to the opportunity of the experience as open as possible.
- Current non-residential options include Days Out : Pen Y Fan, River Studies etc. Also Tented Expeditions to Snowdon.

# WHERE WE ARE NOW – IMPACT OF COVID

- The Outdoor Industry as a whole has been particularly hard hit with industry on a knife edge:
  - Residential centres particularly bearing the brunt. Many will close.
  - Lack of certainty of the future
  - Significant risk of loss of capacity
  - Staff exiting the industry – loss of skilled practitioners & less new staff entering the industry. Reduced opportunity at HE and FE to study.
  - Affects on possible client experience going forwards.

# WHERE WE ARE NOW – IMPACT OF COVID

- The current situation
  - Pendine has been closed to residential groups as of March 2020, with Staff furloughed, redeployed, ongoing Repair and Maintenance issues and forward planning / financial modelling.
  - Instructors are employed on a casual basis – no certainty they will return.
  - Work on capital forward planning on hold
  - Detailed work on future options.
- Consequent impacts on children & young people:
  - No residential experience, compounded by measures seeking to mitigate COVID-19. Impact on well-being & mental health particularly.

# WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE ?

- `Finger in the Wind` - Industry is very uncertain with the likelihood of many Centres closing
- Very likely that no residentials will go ahead pre-Easter 2021
- School visits will be sporadic if at all
- `Looking Ahead to 2021`
- Established an Outdoor Education Forum to act as a sounding board and expert panel
- Operating in a COVID-19 Era post Easter 2021
  - Minimising risk, maximising possibilities.
  - Not just at POEC. Flexible and relevant approach
  - Linked to National Curriculum essential

# FUTURE DELIVERY – ON SITE

- Offering schools exclusive use of the site for their residential booking - `bubble protected`
  - Half week bookings – 2 nights only.
  - Adapted program – no use of minibuses. Onsite & walking distance activities only.
  - Dedicated Cabin.
  - COVID management around Dining/Catering & cleaning - including deep clean before/after.
- Advantages : seeks to offer a confidence-inspiring & robust shape around the booking.
- Downside : shorter stays, less inter-school interaction, some activities not offered.
- Less capacity in high season – bookings spread from March to early November. No guarantee of a summer slot.
- Levels of confidence on this shape & likely take-up, including fringe season?
- Can we staff this? Will staff return to the industry?

# POST COVID THE NEW NORMAL AND BEING RELEVANT

- Face reality. Work with Education on exploring other options not just at POEC.
- Core options going forward : Go more Mobile (invest in vehicles & kit).
- Day Visits to schools` sites and schools to other sites
  - Utilise the Climbing Tower
  - NNAS – support of maths/problem solving,
  - John Muir Award – wild places, environmental/conservation etc.
  - Develop North Dock as a boating base
- Utilise other residential facilities in County
  - Pendine Attractor Project, Llandysul Paddlers, Cwmamman Youth Centre
- Develop tented residential stays in different areas of the County.



# SUMMARY

## THE NEW NORMAL AND BEING RELEVANT

- POEC is an aging much loved facility
- Customers hold the delivery of activity in high esteem
- Future delivery will need to be a blend of POEC delivery, other residential and non-residential delivery at a range of safe sites in Carmarthenshire and direct working with Schools across the County
- The industry is at risk. Outdoor Education instruction as a career is at risk. But this could be an opportunity to be key in the market in Carmarthenshire.