



sparkle

helpu plant arbennig i ddisgleirio
helping special children shine

Spring - Gwanwyn 2025

We're delighted to share that our waiting areas now feature **brand-new communication boards** for families—made possible thanks to funding from the **Welsh Government!**



Communication boards are visual tools that use pictures or symbols to support anyone who may have difficulty speaking or understanding spoken language. They provide a simple, inclusive way for anyone—especially non-verbal individuals—to express their needs and interact with staff. By using a universal communication approach, these boards ensure that everyone has a voice.

BACK IN ACTION! INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS

We're pleased to share that our Independent Living Skills sessions have recently been reintroduced for a few sessions, thanks to generous funding from the **Newport Shared Prosperity Fund**. These valuable sessions were paused last year as part of a difficult decision during our restructure, so we're especially excited to see them return.

Young people participated in a series of well-being sessions focused on promoting positive mental health, developing money-management skills, and learning practical cooking techniques. As part of the programme, they gained confidence in preparing meals, safely using an oven, and taking responsibility for cleaning up afterwards.

During half-term, the young people enjoyed a trip to Cardiff, where they independently purchased train tickets, navigated the journey themselves, and built valuable confidence in using public transport.

One of the most popular sessions centred around personal hygiene. During this interactive workshop, young people explored different hygiene routines, took part in a practical activity where they learned how to wash and blow-dry their hair, and received personal hygiene gift bags to encourage ongoing self-care.

Natalie Smith (a parent) said:
"We have a confident girl who believes in herself and has managed to change a very rigid routine as result. We know how hard that must have been for her."

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Two Sparkle parents recently spoke to **BBC News** about the barriers young people with disabilities face when learning to swim and highlighting the urgent need for inclusive lessons.
[Click here to view.](#)

Sparkle's specialist swimming lessons cost £53,000/year for 84 children, and we receive no government support for this.
For more info, please read our recent **[Swim Evaluation report by clicking here](#)**

If you have any feedback on this issue, we would encourage families to reach out to your local MP/MS.

Thank you.

If you would like more information on any upcoming events or if you would like any further support, please get in touch with our Family Liaison Officers...

family.liaison.abb@wales.nhs.uk

CONGRATULATIONS MEDICINEMA!

We were thrilled to celebrate MediCinema's recent BAFTA win for Outstanding British Contribution to Cinema, recognising not only its impact on the film industry but also its profound contribution to patient well-being.

At Serennu Children's Centre in Rogerstone, we're proud to be home to Wales' only MediCinema—a fully accessible and inclusive space where children with additional needs can experience the magic of the latest film releases in a safe, supportive environment.

Over the past year alone, more than 4,300 attendees from across Gwent have visited our MediCinema, offering hundreds of families the chance to enjoy a memorable day out at the cinema—an experience that might not otherwise be possible.

Paul Giggal, Chief Operating Officer of MediCinema, shared: "The award belongs to our entire team and all our amazing partners, like Sparkle. We couldn't deliver the impact we have without the dedication of amazing people and partners such as the Sparkle team, so a part of that statuette firmly belongs in South Wales!"

MediCinema's BAFTA win is a testament to the power of film in enhancing well-being for families, and at Serennu, that impact will continue.

A MILESTONE FOR CHILD HEALTH

We were delighted to host the first ever Wales Community Child Health Network (WCCHN) conference at Serennu Children's Centre.

Over three years, the WCCHN has grown into a thriving Community of Practice, uniting healthcare experts to address the complexities of various disabilities and develop essential guidelines to support both specialists and families.

The conference provided a valuable opportunity to bring together professionals from across Wales to collaborate and share effective strategies. After the conference, attendees were given an exclusive tour of the state-of-the-art children's centre.

Dr. Sabine Maguire, Founder of Sparkle, said: "It has been wonderful to see so many paediatricians dedicated to the care of children with disability coming together to share best practise and research findings." A big thank you to Dr. Lizzy Nickerson and her team for helping make the conference such a success.

Find us online!



Sparkle



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justgiving.com/sparkleappeal



www.sparkleappeal.org



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THANK YOU MAYOR MOGFORD!

We are incredibly grateful to have worked closely with **Mayor Ray Mogford** and **Mayoress Sallie Mogford** this year, as Sparkle was honoured to be one of their chosen charities of the year.

The support we've received over the past 12 months has been truly remarkable, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to Mayor Mogford for his genuine interest in and commitment to Sparkle's work.

As his year in office comes to a close, we're looking forward to joining the Mayor for his **farewell dinner this May**—a special evening featuring a delicious three-course meal and fantastic entertainment, all in support of Sparkle and SARA.

We hope to see you there!

The Mayor and Mayoress of Newport
Charity Fundraising Dinner
Featuring Robb Dee, renowned Tom Jones Tribute Act
at the
Holiday Inn at the Coldra Newport
Thursday the 1st of May - 7.00pm until late
Tickets £28 each via mayors.office@newport.gov.uk or QR below

Menu
Cream roasted carrot and ginger soup
Roast farmed chicken, served with spring onion cream potatoes, roasted pumpkin and grilled courgettes, with fresh truffle and garlic sauce
Sticky toffee pudding
Tea and coffee
*Vegetarian options and some special dietary options are available on request

All proceeds will be donated to our chosen charities, Severn Area Rescue Association (SARA) and Sparkle Children's Charity

Sponsored by **SWIFT**

Are you interested in fundraising for Sparkle?

Email

fundraising@sparkleappeal.org

or

Call

01633 748041

to learn more or get started.

If you would like to contribute to the Sparkle newsletter, please email Marketing@sparkleappeal.org.

If you no longer wish to receive our newsletter, please email Marketing@sparkleappeal.org with the subject line "STOP".

Newsletter available in Welsh upon request.