On behalf of Action for Children’s Ynys Môn young carers service, we would like to nominate Ynys Môn Local Authority (LA) for the 2022 collaboration award. Our young carers service delivers specialist support to children and young people aged between 5 and 18 living in Ynys Môn who have caring responsibilities at home. The young carers service has been funded by Ynys Môn LA for 20 years and our success is largely due to the exceptional support received from Ynys Môn LA.

Ynys Môn LA pride themselves on collaborative working and values the role of third sector organisations within child protection practice. Often, young carer services are not given the recognition they deserve in child protection practice, despite being able to offer valuable insight into children’s lived experiences. However, over the past few years Ynys Môn LA have ensured statutory professionals and third sector professionals have an equal voice.

Ynys Môn LA demonstrate strong leadership and innovative working by facilitating multi agency hubs/meetings ensuring prompt and effective early intervention. To further promote coworking, the LA has facilitated for third sector workers to be based within the social services referrals team. As a result of this, our young carers service has seen an increase in referrals and an increase in collaborative child protection working.

Having a young carers professional based within the LA team enables greater communication between services and effective information sharing. For example, having the opportunity to discuss cases with social workers between multi agency meetings allows us to provide essential support to young carers and their families before they reach crisis. If a young carer is open to children’s services, the LA ensures the inclusion of all agencies to enable a holistic approach to child protection.

With 68% of the Ynys Môn population speaking Welsh, a further strength of Ynys Môn LA is their dedication to offer a service to children in their language of choice. This is particularly important when it comes to child protection as the inability to effectively communicate with children and young people has a detrimental impact on their lives as identified in previous high-profile serious case reviews, such as Victoria Climbié and Daniel Pelka.

We are submitting this nomination because we want to highlight the exceptional work of Ynys Môn LA. Their commitment to child-centred working and facilitation of multi-agency working promotes the best outcomes for children and families. We look forward to continued collaborative working to ensure that the young carers we support have a safe and happy childhood.