



VOLUNTARY SECTOR SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK ON WEDNESDAY, 7TH DECEMBER 2011 AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor Ms. L. Ackerman – Vice Chair

Councillors:

D. Carter, Mrs. B.M. Toomer, J. Evans, R. Gough, A. Williams, A. S. Williams

Together with:

Abbeyfield	-	Mr. P. Jones
Abertridwr Community Church	-	Mr. L. Clay
Bargoed YMCA	-	Ms. J. Price
Caerphilly 50+ Forum	-	Mr. D. Morgan
Cancercareline	-	Mrs. C. White
Disability Can Do	-	Mr. A. Williams
GAVO	-	Mrs. J. Render, Mr. M. Bridgman & Ms. S. Maddox
Homestart Caerphilly	-	Ms. M. Snowden
SYDIC	-	Mr. P. Mitchell
Vanguard Centre	-	Mrs. M. Wade
Van Road United Reformed Church	-	Mr. J. Wade

Together with:

G. Richards (Principal Solicitor), J. Dix (Policy & Research Manager), B. John (Aneurin Bevan Health Board), J. Elliott (Senior Research Officer), Lianne Dallimore (Lead Collaboration Project Officer), Mr. T. White (Waste Strategy & Operations Manager), John Rogers (Principal Solicitor), Maria Evans (Substance Misuse Co-ordinator, CCBC), Caroline Walters (Macmillan Involvement Co-ordinator), Sgt. R. Davies (Gwent Police)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from, Chairman - Mr. R. Cooke (Caerphilly Groundwork Trust), Cllr Mrs. J.A. Pritchard, Cllr K. Smallman, Cllr K. Lloyd, Ms. S. Brown ((Age Concern), Ms. J. Lawton (Caerphilly Mind), Mrs. B. Helps (Caerphilly Parents & Carers Forum), Mr. C. Luke (Caerphilly People First), Mrs. C. Williams (Cruse Bereavement Care), Mr. I. Racz (Graig y Rhacca Communities Partnership), Rev. J. Blackburn (Parish of Risca), Mr. D. Brunton (Volume), Ms. S. Martin and Mr. C. Edmunds (Aneurin Bevan Health Board), Superintendent J. Burley (Gwent Police)

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st September 2011 were approved as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

Voluntary Sector Representatives (Minute No. 5)

Elections were held in October, for new voluntary sector representatives. The number of people who were interested was very encouraging. Some of the newly appointed representatives are in attendance at this meeting, and were warmly welcomed by the Chair.

Update on the 'One Beat' event (Minute No. 15)

The event was great success this year, with 93 organisations represented, together with their respective stands. A question was asked about whether the venue had to be at Penallta House. The Assistant Director of GAVO replied that this was the most suitable building for this event, which was primarily for voluntary sector organisations, with little public involvement. The One Beat event for 2012 will be on the 22nd October and it is planned that the Rhymney Room will be used as the buffet area, and a crèche and all voluntary sector stands will occupy the whole of the ground floor. The organisations felt welcome at the Penallta House venue, and the attraction of the Mayor speaking to each of the voluntary organisations, individually, was well received. One Beat is seen as a 'shop window' to display the many voluntary sector organisations within Caerphilly County Borough.

4. THE WORK OF MACMILLAN & THE PROPOSED 'MACMILLAN IN EVERY COMMUNITY' PROJECT – PRESENTATION BY CAROLINE WALTERS (MACMILLAN INVOLVEMENT CO-ORDINATOR)

C.W. described how the work of Macmillan Cancer Support and the proposed project '**Macmillan in Every Community**', would extend to the provision of practical help and support for people coping with cancer. Also they can provide day-to-day assistance to those people undergoing treatment, which can be draining when it comes to completing ordinary tasks. For example arrangements can be made to cover 'dog walking', errands, cleaning, shopping, taking in the washing from the clothesline, and other practical help around the home. This will also extend to the provision of transport, buddying and befriending people who feel this is what they would most appreciate. In Caerphilly County Borough people over the age of 18 and who are receiving treatment or who have recently completed treatments, would be eligible for help from the Macmillan organisation.

Generally people will be referred to services provided by Macmillan, by their G.P.'s, Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS), Cancercareline, as a self-referral, or via friends & family. The services will be provided by volunteers who will have undergone training, including that of security, and Health & Safety issues.

The Macmillan In Every Community Project

There are numerous benefits, from this project, including:

Greater independence and confidence.

Improved quality of life.

Social aspect – the opportunity to talk to someone, even if they are confined within the house.

There are several levels to the proposed volunteer structure:- A Steering Group will organise and support Lead Volunteers, who will, in turn, support and assist two or three volunteers each. Feedback is provided to the Steering Group.

The Lead Volunteer will visit a new referral to carry out an initial assessment of the individual's needs and carry out risk assessment(s)

The initial time period for referrals is 6 weeks; reviewed every 6 – 10 weeks, to allow new people to access the service.

Volunteers to 'clock in / out' of each visit.

Reporting forms to be completed for every visit and this is returned to the Lead Volunteer.

All processes – detailed in the Operations Policy.

Volunteers will be appointed by February 2012. Volunteers involved in Service Planning and launch November 2011 – April 2012. Training provisionally booked for April 2012. Provisional service launches, May 2012.

C.W. said that they are working with St. David's Foundation and other cancer charities, to ensure that there is no duplication of effort, and will liaise with the

Disability Can Do Organisation. It was suggested that other organisations which could prove useful are, Care & Repair and Groundwork.

A member pointed out problems, which men have, if they develop breast cancer. Examination units, traditionally, tend to be geared to cater for women, to the exclusion of men. The reply was that appointments could be made by men, to be screened at a convenient time, and location.

M.B. said that GAVO could be a useful organisation to use, to obtain volunteers.

The Chair thanked C.W. for an informative presentation, on a sensitive subject and wished the project well. C.W. was also invited back to a future meeting of the Committee to provide a progress report.

5. COMPACT ACTION REPORTS

5(a) Tackling Substance Misuse – Presentation by Maria Evans (Substance Misuse Co-ordinator, CCBC)

The presentation started with a quiz, designed to gauge the committee's knowledge of illicit drugs and alcohol, a description of different types of drugs and the long term effects of drug use.

The long term use of drugs, including alcohol, affects individuals, families, the community, and all sectors of society. Abuse of alcohol costs the NHS in Wales, between £69 - £73 million, per year. A PowerPoint presentation revealed the following facts.

Classification of Drugs

Class A - heroin, ecstasy, cocaine

Class B - cannabis, amphetamine

Class C - valium, ketamine

Depressants:

Alcohol, Valium, Heroin, Cannabis. Reduces function or activity of one part of the body or brain. This leads to reduced ability to concentrate, limits co-ordination. Can then lead to unconsciousness, respiratory failure, and death.

Stimulants:

Cocaine, Amphetamine, Methadone. These drugs stimulate the brain and central nervous system. They increase feelings of energy and alertness, lifts mood, suppresses appetite. Long term use may induce a danger of tolerance, and psychological dependency.

Current Statistics For Caerphilly County Borough

This year the Team will have treated:

Opiate users - 149	Methadone - 13
Alcohol users - 430	Solvents - 2
Cannabis - 68	Poly-drug users - 23
Amphetamine - 41	Cocaine - 11
Crack cocaine - 5	
Other opiates - 26 (Includes common, prescribed, strong pain killers)	

Tiers of drug and alcohol treatment

These describe the degrees of intervention from the team.

Tier 1 - Non-specific services

Tier 2 - Brief interventions

Tier 3 - Structured care

Tier 4 - Inpatient treatment and residential rehabilitation

The Substance Misuse Advisory Team (SMAT) is based at Chambers House, Blackwood, NP12 2BW, 01495 233408

A member commented on the fact that most people can relate/admit to having an alcohol problem, but not to the fact that they have a drug addiction. This was acknowledged by all of the committee, and the comment was also made that young drinkers are often influenced by their parent's liberal attitude to drinking.

M.E. said that they use training scenarios, via a touring theatre group, to bring home the message on substance misuse in schools. They find this a very effective, and dramatic tool which gets the message over to youngsters of 15+ years of age.

There will be members of the SMAT staff working outside supermarkets, in the county borough, in the lead up to Christmas, demonstrating to the public exactly what a unit of alcohol looks like, quantity wise, and how many units are recommended for men and women per day. It is hoped that this will go some way to reduce, home, binge drinking. The pricing of alcohol was discussed, in that the greater the cost perhaps the less alcohol would be purchased. The problems associated with excess drinking of alcohol, was a theme at the recent Standing Conference, and it was encouraging that young people are also concerned about this problem, and suggested ways of reducing underage drinking.

The YMCA at Bargoed has a project designed to address the issues youngsters have, when their parents are drinking alcohol to excess. It appears now that excessive alcohol consumption is now a daily event, rather than was formerly the case, when it was associated with a particular event on, for example weekends.

The Chair thanked M.E. for her presentation and for making the Committee aware of some of the statistics, which are cause for concern.

5(b) WCVA Compact Annual Survey 2010 –2011 – Mike Bridgman (Assistant Director of GAVO)

M.B. introduced this as an information item for the Committee.

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

6(a) Public Conveniences

T.W., the Waste Strategy & Operations Manager, spoke on this item. He described an alternative to public conveniences being recommended by the Welsh Government, called the Public Facilities Grant. This is designed to involve the support of traders within a town, if they were to let members of the public use their toilet facilities, then they would receive a grant of £500 per year.

This scheme has not been successful. Some of the reasons given; that the £500 would not cover the extra costs of cleaning; there are security issues - when the public access the facility, they may walk past stock stored at the back of the shop; personal security issues from staff members; accessibility issues. Initially there had been six traders enquiring about the scheme, however the Welsh Government had a list of stringent requirements, which would be imposed on traders, if they wished to operate the scheme. One of these was to ensure toilets are fully accessible.

As there has been no take up on this scheme, the Committee suggested that the Welsh Government be contacted to see if more money could be granted to traders, as a better incentive to participate in the scheme. However T.W. will try again to encourage traders to join the scheme, in conjunction with A.H. the Town Centres Manager. If successful, the shops will display signs, advertising the facility, and mention of those businesses participating, will be posted on the council's website. Cllr Ackerman said she would investigate if council toilet facilities could be advertised on the council's website, and report back to the next Committee meeting.

Members said they had seen signs in some Blackwood shop windows charging 50p for the use of shop toilet facilities to non-customers. It was suggested that shoppers at the one end of Blackwood town centre could, for example, use the Blackwood Miners Institute, the ASDA store facilities, or even the use of council public buildings e.g. libraries.

In Bargoed the old conveniences at the south end of the town will remain open for a number of months. Another member of the Committee asked if there were adult changing facilities in any public toilets in Caerphilly C B? T.W. answered that there were none.

6(b) Allotments – John Rogers, Principal Solicitor, CCBC

J.R. said that allotment land requires registration after seven years of it being leased. Legal representation should be sought by the Association, and not from the Local Authority. The L.A. could provide advice. Annual tenancy does not require registration of land, at the Land Registry. R.G. said that if anyone had signed a lease pre 2004, they would need to register the land. J.R. said that if leases are simplified, including covenants and legal restrictions, this would save £300 - £500 in legal fees. Streamlining the lease, and registering at the Land Registry, would be useful if an organisation was applying for grants from a number of sources.

6(c) The GAVO Health & Social Care Facilitators Post

B.J. from the Aneurin Bevan Health Board, explained that this post was partly funded by the local authority, other similar posts in the Gwent area are funded by the ABHB. The ABHB was working with GAVO across Gwent. At a future meeting of the ABHB on the 16th January 2012, the funding for the post will be discussed based on a commissioned piece of research on the posts. But until there is a clear view on the future role for this post, funding cannot be committed at the moment. However emphasis of the service provision should be equal across Gwent.

Members pointed out that council budgets are now being finalised, and they will need to know what the decision of the board is, very early on in January 2012. B.J. said the local decision will be made on a Gwent wide basis and not on a Local Authority basis. She will report back to the next meeting.

7. ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR FROM COMPACT PARTNERS

7(a) Digest of Committee Reports from CCBC

M.B. advised that he will be putting a question on Rate Relief to the next Voluntary Sector Committee.

7(b) Items of Interest from the Aneurin Bevan Health Board

The report items were noted.

8. CAERPHILLY & BLAENAU GWENT SOCIAL SERVICES INTEGRATION PROGRAMME STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATIVE FORUM – LIANNE DALIMORE (LEAD COLLABORATION PROJECT OFFICER, CCBC)

Progress of the details in the report, were noted by the Committee, and the following nominations were made:- Laurence Clay, Cyril Luke, Dave Brunton, Melanie Snowdon, Allen Williams, Jill Lawton. Mike Bridgman will forward names to Lianne Dalimore and contact information, so that she could send information directly.

9. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUND VAT BRIEFING – JOHN ELLIOTT (SENIOR RESEARCH OFFICER, CCBC)

The Technical Assistance Fund is now subject to the levy of VAT at 20% on all grants awarded to third sector organisations, regardless of whether the goods or services are provided internally within the council, or externally via a third party organisation. The VAT is not recoverable by the Council. The Policy Unit has repaid HMRC £15,000, from the Technical Assistance Fund, but there may additionally, be a penalty charge, and interest applied. So the fund will be monitored to see if there are sufficient funds available for the next round of applications, which ends on the 13th January.

R.G., Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Engineering & Transport suggested that in order to maintain effective funding, for the community and voluntary sector organisations, who apply to this fund, the current amount of £28,000 per annum should be increased by 20%, to offset the non recoverable VAT. The Committee were in agreement with this.

Since 2001 the council has granted approximately £250,000 (over ten years) of Technical Assistance Funding, which has brought in over £8 million, for many schemes and projects, throughout the county borough.

It should be noted that since the finalisation of the minutes it has been noted that the Report dated 7th December 2011 "Information Report on VAT Implications for Technical Assistance Funding Applications" makes specific reference in para 2.1 to the names of staff. This was an administrative error and consequently in order to bring the issue into line with the Council's standard practice the names of the staff have been redacted from the Report stored in the Council's records.

10. GAVO MONITORING REPORT, APRIL TO SEPTEMBER – MIKE BRIDGMAN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, GAVO

This report is provided to the Committee for information.

11. FUNDING UPDATE ON VOLUNTARY SECTOR BUDGET – FOR INFORMATION

The update report on the Voluntary Sector Budget lists Service Level Agreement information and a full breakdown of the voluntary sector budget.

12. COMMUNITY STRATEGY QUARTERLY BRIEFING OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2011

Report provided to keep Voluntary Sector Representatives up to date.

13. DATES OF 2012 MEETINGS AT PENALLTA HOUSE (ALL AT 10.30 A.M.)

Wednesday 21st March 2012 – Ebbw Room
Wednesday 20th June 2012 – Rhymney Room
Wednesday 19th September 2012 – Rhymney Room
Wednesday 5th December 2012 – Rhymney Room

The meeting closed at 12.36 p.m.