



## VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 19TH MARCH 2014

**SUBJECT: VOLUNTARY SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES QUESTIONS**

**REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES**

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The report is on the questions put forward by the Voluntary Sector Representatives sitting on the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee to Compact Partners on the Committee.

### 2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 This paper provides written responses by the Compact Partners to the questions put forward by the Voluntary Sector Representatives.

### 3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Voluntary Sector makes an important contribution to public service provision across the County Borough, and has a key role in *Caerphilly Delivers - The Single Integrated Plan 2013-17*.

### 4. THE REPORT

#### Voluntary Sector Representatives Question 1:

- (i) ***How can the Voluntary Sector input into the Caerphilly Delivers - The Single Integrated Plan 2013-2017?***

Written response: Howard Rees (Programme Manager - Partnership Development and Collaborative Improvement, CCBC):-

As Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee (VSLC) members would be aware from my previous presentations, the rationalisation of the previous Partnership landscape, the reduction in the number of meetings and focus on delivery has inevitably resulted in fewer forums where partners, including the Voluntary Sector, can discuss, share and update as previously was the case.

However, as VSLC members will be aware the Voluntary Sector have been actively involved in the development, implementation and now delivery of “Caerphilly Delivers” – the LSB Single Integrated Plan. Indeed the Voluntary Sector are members of the Caerphilly Local Service Board (Martin Featherstone, Chief Executive of GAVO), and are represented on the Leads Group (by Martin as an interim to the appointment of the Assistant Chief Executive, GAVO) and on the Delivery Group (by Alison Palmer, GAVO).

Moreover the Voluntary Sector continues to be proactive and involved in the successful delivery of programmes/projects/initiatives under each of the Single Integrated Plan Outcome themes. For example, the Lead Officer for the Greener Outcome is Katy Stevenson of Groundwork Caerphilly. The Voluntary Sector are also involved in delivery of the Safer Outcome (on the Delivery Group, Volunteer Network, Neighbourhood Watch, Gwent Safeguarding Children Board, etc), Prosperous Outcome (on the Delivery Group, within Community First clusters, etc.), Learning Outcome (on Families First Board, Families First projects, Flying Start, Parent Network, etc.)

I have met with Martin and we have discussed that the involvement of the Voluntary Sector is critical to the successful delivery of the SIP, but acknowledge that in this world of ever increasing change and challenge, it will rely on ever-more effective methods of sharing, briefing and updating, including that within, and between Voluntary Sector Representatives and voluntary organisations.

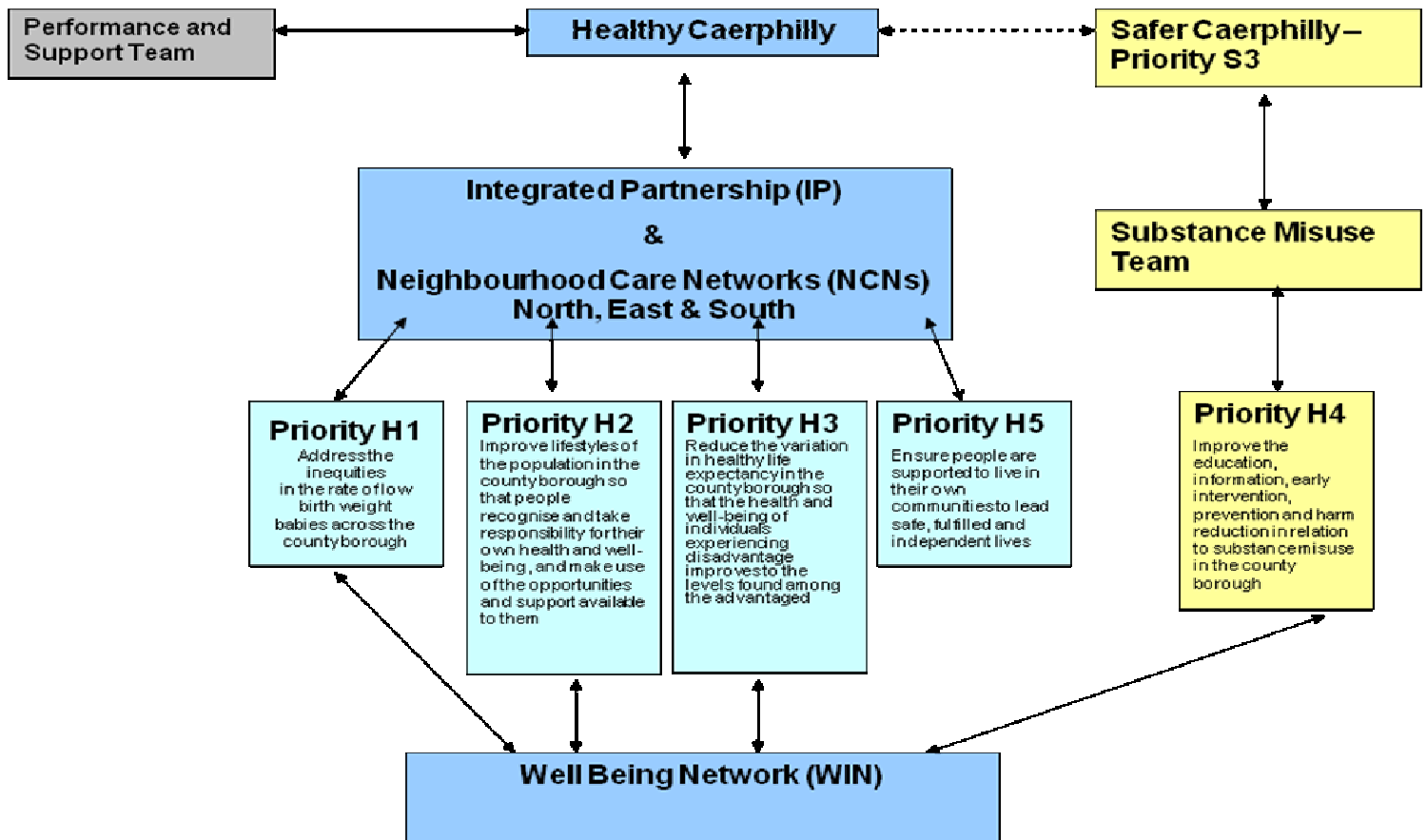
I can assure you that the LSB, Leads Group and Delivery Group members, Martin and I are committed to continuing to strengthen the involvement of the voluntary sector in the delivery of the Single Integrated Plan, as I know the VSLC is.

My colleague Sam Crane outlines the involvement of the Voluntary Sector in the Healthier Outcome in her response to the second part of the VSLC question.

**(ii) Focusing specifically on the Healthier Caerphilly Outcome how can voluntary organisations be engaged in the design and delivery of health-based services in the Caerphilly county borough?**

Written response: Sam Crane (Aneurin Bevan University Health Board):-

**Overview of the Healthy Theme Delivery Framework - DRAFT**



See Appendix 1 for Caerphilly Integrated Partnership & NCN Clusters.

## **Voluntary Sector Representatives Question 2:**

- (i) ***Three Assistant Directors are finishing at the same time. Is there going to be continuity? The Voluntary Sector in the Caerphilly borough has a brilliant relationship with Caerphilly County Borough Council and the partnership work is excellent. We don't want to lose this way of working and we need someone who can act as a go-between with the two sides. Are we isolating the rest of the county by centralising the two Chief Executives in Newport, or will there be someone in the GAVO office who we can contact over minor issues? We are concerned about the regional sector forums as there are meetings to gather views and recruit members of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee. Mike Bridgman co-ordinated all these meetings so we would like to know what the new structure that supports the forum will be.***

Written response: Martin Featherstone (Chief Executive, GAVO):-

The Executive Committee of GAVO, which includes representatives from the Third Sector comprised from the GAVO Area Committees in Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire and Newport recognised the need to take a pro-active approach to positioning GAVO moving forward in the context of a rapidly changing operating environment.

Strategic Drivers in the operating environment include challenging budget settlements for Statutory Partners and the Third Sector and the refreshing of the relationship between Welsh Government and the Third Sector at a time of increased demand for services. In addition to the need to demonstrate delivery at a local level through effective representation and maintaining a focus on building the capacity and resilience of the Third Sector, there is an increasing emphasis on regional footprints from Welsh Government. For example, GAVO in order to draw down their financial resources from WCVA for the Delivery Plan for 2014/15 have to demonstrate and develop elements of collaborative working with Torfaen Voluntary Alliance. GAVO is therefore committed to service delivery and capacity building at a local level which builds on and further develops existing partnership and collaborative arrangements and maximise the engagement of the Third Sector with the deliverables in the exemplar Compact Action Plan, CCBC Commissioning intentions and the Single Integrated Plan.

In line with the proposals supported by the GAVO Executive Committee, at a Senior Management Team level, GAVO has implemented a structure of two Assistant CEO's which have replaced the four Area Assistant Directors. Karen Vowles (former GAVO Assistant Director for Newport) has been appointed to the position of Assistant CEO for Projects and Programmes. Emily Forbes from the Third Sector Unit at Welsh Government and Cardiff Third Sector Council will join GAVO on the 17th March in the role of Assistant CEO, Third Sector Support and Development. Phase 2 of the restructure will be completed by the 31st March 2014 and will involve confirmation of the reporting arrangements to the Senior Management Team. A revised Organisation Chart will be circulated following the completion of Phase 2, this will clarify and confirm the contacts at the local GAVO offices, which will reflect continuity in terms of many of the local GAVO staff who you currently have contact with for day to day issues and for progressing work programmes and issues and opportunities for discussion with CCBC.

GAVO is committed to an office presence in each of the four local authority areas of its operations, but recognises that the head office location is in Newport and to this end the Senior Management Team (SMT) will be 'based' at the head office, however the SMT will be visible and working across the GAVO patch. Representatives from the GAVO Caerphilly Team and I are shortly to meet with CCBC representatives to discuss priorities in the Service Level Agreement (SLA) for 2014/15

with CCBC. Opportunities to maximise and build representation from the Third Sector through existing and emerging partnership arrangements will be discussed in line with the principles of the Compact Action Plan and the expectations of the CCBC. GAVO looks forward to reporting on progress to Third Sector representatives as the SLA moves to an implementation phase and working with you to achieve maximum benefit from the CCBC investment.

The details in this response broadly reflect updates I have provided in person to the Caerphilly Standing Conference (December 2013), the Interim Chief Executive at CCBC (6th February 2014), Caerphilly Local Service Board (12th February 2014), Caerphilly VCS Representatives Committee (12th February 2014) and the GAVO Caerphilly Local Area Committee (20th February 2014).

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information at this stage:-

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### **Voluntary Sector Representatives Question 3:**

- (i) ***The one year funding for the part time post of VOLUME Coordinator finishes at the end of March 2014. How can the Network be supported to continue as a forum for voluntary organisations working with children and young people through the Single Integrated Planning process?***

Written response: Sandra Aspinall (Acting Deputy Chief Executive, CCBC):-

In 2013 the Authority in discussion with the former Assistant Director of GAVO Mr. Bridgeman agreed to support the appointment of the Volume Co-ordinator for one year to the value of 6k. In the next financial year 2014-2015, this contribution as explained in 2013 will not be available. However, in the central team we have a full time officer whose brief is to engage and work closely with the Voluntary Sector. This post is funded through the Families First grant and was agreed by the Children and Young Peoples partnership.

Therefore, through discussion with the postholder's line manager, agreement could be reached as to the level of support the officer would be able to provide to the network.

As the Delivery Framework for the Single Integrated Plan is embedded roles and responsibilities will also need to be reviewed.

## **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The workings of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee are grounded on the basis of equality issues. The Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee complies with Caerphilly County Borough Equalities Statement:

*"This Council recognises that people have different needs, requirements and goals and we will work actively against all forms of discrimination by promoting good relations and mutual respect within and between our communities."*

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 None arising.

## **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 None arising.

## **8. CONSULTATIONS**

8.1 The questions were formed by the Voluntary Sector Representatives sitting on the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee and sent to representatives of the Compact Partners to answer as appropriate.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 To note the Compact Partners responses to the questions.

## **10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 The report provides a written response to questions put forward by the Voluntary Sector Representatives.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

11.1 Local Government Act 2000

Author: Jackie Dix, Policy and Research Manager, CCBC  
Consultees: As included under Section 8 of the report: Consultations

Appendices:  
Appendix 1 Caerphilly Integrated Partnership and NCN Clusters