



## VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 16TH MARCH 2016

**SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR**

**REPORT BY: GWENT ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS**

### GAVO QUARTER 3 REPORT

#### 1. KEY DATA FOR APRIL 2015 – DECEMBER 2015

Caerphilly	Yearly Target	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3
Volunteers Placed	250	82	81	178
Enquiries good practice in managing volunteers	40	32	37	151
Website visitors	62000	18399	18379	13954
Enquiries	4000	1353	1964	3437
Trustee Enquiries	500	112	71	59
Trustee Events	5	0	0	4
Event participants	120	0	0	117
Funding advice enquiries	300	42	72	79
Funding events	7	0	4	5
Event participants	70	0	16	66
Funding obtained by groups	£250,000	£76,314	£925,680	£81,250
New orgs/social enterprise developed	30	4	8	10
Strategic planning groups	35	10	18	10
Third Sector Networks / forums	10	6	5	16
Membership	370	370	350	62

#### 2. OVERVIEW

GAVO's AGM and Funding Conference was held in November and new trustees elected by the membership.

Elected Voluntary Sector Organisation (1)	Bob Cooke	Groundwork Wales
Elected Voluntary Sector Organisation (2)	Laurence Clay	Abertridwr Church
Elected Voluntary Sector Organisation (3)	Dave Brunton	SYDIC
Elected Voluntary Sector Organisation (4)	Louise Evans	Gofal
Elected Voluntary Sector Organisation (5)	Andrew Lewis	Hafodyrynys Village Hall
Elected Voluntary Sector Organisation (6)	Christine Williams	Cruse Gwent

Elected Voluntary Sector Organisation (7)	Mair Wade	Van Guard Community Centre
Elected Voluntary Sector Organisation (8)	Cyril Luke	Caerphilly People First
Elected Voluntary Sector Organisation (9)	Doiran Jones OBE JP	Melin Homes
Elected Voluntary Sector Organisation (10)	Vacancy	Nomination received for co-option
Local Authority Rep - Officer	Jackie Dix	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Local Authority Rep - Elected Member	Cllr Chris Hawker	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Local Health Board Representative	Bronwen John	Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

GAVO's newly defined Membership offer went live on 1 October 2015 when all existing membership ceased; work is progressing and to date 62 organisations in Caerphilly have signed up as GAVO members.

GAVO continues to deliver excellent services for the third sector and is on track with its key performance indicators for Core Delivery in Caerphilly, having already exceeded some annual targets in the third quarter as per data above.

Following on from the consultation exercise in July, an online survey has been taking place to support the review of the Voluntary Sector Forum structure and delivery in Caerphilly CB. The survey closed at the end of December and the results will be analysed and added to the first report for consideration.

GAVO's core Third Sector Support service continues to offer governance and funding advice and one to one support to third sector organisations. General enquiries continue to increase as well as an increase in enquiries for Third Sector Support and Development - 212 of these were received from 40 different groups, of which 52 were relating to funding; this included 8 new projects/groups. Development activity during Qtr 3 included:

- 13 funding applications made for 10 groups amounting to £81,154.
- 8 successful applications awarded to 6 groups amounting to £49,400.

The second One Beat Road Show was held on 7<sup>th</sup> October in Rhymney and 38 voluntary organisations were booked to attend. This allowed a broad spectrum of services to be showcased to the local community members and was an excellent networking opportunity. 30+ members of the public also attended and children's activities were provided. Now planning for Caerphilly event in Qtr 4 - February 2016.

Development Manager also attended:

- The official dedication and opening of the memorial plaque for the Cwmfelinfach Mining Disaster after a long period of obtaining the funds.
- The IIV Award presentation to Disability Can Do (as their Advisor).
- BSL training and registered for ILM 5 Management Programme.

Libanus Lifestyles is the first Caerphilly organisation that GAVO has set up as a Registered Community Interest Company (CIC) to provide services for the community of Blackwood and surrounding area from the refurbished Libanus Chapel. The services will be developed over time according to identified need and by working in partnership with other voluntary and statutory organisations for the benefit of the community. These will include fitness and exercise sessions, lunch club, day services including respite, community café, social activities, and community events. The centre also wishes to provide drop in services for help and advice via various organisations, particularly for adults with disabilities, elderly people and the disadvantaged.

Wales International Documentary Film Festival Group has completed set up as a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). Their aim is to conduct year-round training and engagement activities within communities primarily in Caerphilly County Borough and surrounding areas raising levels of digital literacy and improving understanding in digital media skills. Also the promotion of film as an art form and an educational tool and provide volunteering opportunities to local communities, improving employability of participants. This will culminate in founding and managing an internationally recognized documentary film festival in Wales.

### **3. STRATEGIC WORKING AND ENGAGEMENT IN POLICY**

GAVO's Community Planning Co-ordinator continues to work as part of the Policy Unit on the LSB / Single Plan / Citizen Engagement work and spends time weekly in Ty Penallta, attending policy unit meetings and other partnership meetings.

Representation of third sector interests at strategic partnerships include Caerphilly LSB, Leads Group and Delivery Group, RDP LAG, Armed Forces Forum, Caerphilly Access Forum, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Partnership, and Greater Gwent Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Partnership. The third sector is also represented through membership of the Wellbeing Integration Network, the three Neighbourhood Care Networks and the Social Care Workforce Joint CCB and BG Partnership Board (where third sector providers are well represented through the open forum).

Work is progressing on the move from Local Service Boards to Public Service Boards and the continued involvement of the third sector. The need for third sector involvement in the wellbeing assessment and the development of the Wellbeing Plans under the Future Generations Act is being promoted with statutory partners and third sector organisations.

Voluntary Sector Representatives/Liaison Committee took part in the budget consultation by CCBC, along with voluntary organisations. GAVO Community Voices Team is raising awareness of and promoting a series of engagement events called 'Caerphilly's Budget Challenge', consulting citizens on the proposals regarding the council budget setting process over the next two years.

Partnership working continues with the NCN members increasing awareness signposting and referrals to the third Sector. Third sector information is now starting to be hosted on GP websites.

A consultation is being undertaken for the Play Sufficiency Audit which will inform the CCBC Play Sufficiency Action Plan. So far the consultation has been carried out with 350 children and young people through schools, youth centres, play sites and Caerphilly Children's Centre. The consultation is also online with Family Information Service, CCBC website and Youth4U.

Third Sector representations continue to be made to offer support to the local authority, particularly looking for new solutions to third sector delivery of public services. A meeting has now been arranged with CCBC officer responsible for Community Centres to follow up on VSLC discussions re: third sector support.

GAVO's Deputy Chief Executive sits at the Welsh Government led External Advisory Group on Asset Transfer which has now met twice. There is a recognition nationally that there is a gap in 1:1 support for local groups wishing to take on community assets. GAVO's Regional Community Asset Transfer Support Officer (CATSO), (pilot project funded by WG) continues to work with representatives of the local authority, particularly on the adoption of best practice policy, procedure and process for Community Asset Transfer, which is being taken forward for ratification through internal processes. This post is funded until 31 March 2016 and an evaluation of the pilot is being commissioned via Welsh Government.

GAVO's Third Sector Development Officer (funded via the OPCC) has been recently working with Newport City Council on a consortia model for third sector delivery of social services in Newport; learning / best practice from this will be shared with CCBC officers to inform future thinking and models for commissioning.

#### **4. CONTRIBUTION TO SIP**

GAVO undertakes a range of core and project work which contributes to the outcomes of Caerphilly's Single Integrated Plan as reported below under each theme:

##### **Prosperous**

##### **Active and Involved Citizens**

The second Volunteers Managers Networking meeting was held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at Pontypool Leisure Centre. The event was attended by 85 individuals from over 80 organisations. Presentations were made by representatives from Welsh Government on the new Volunteering Policy, WCVA in respect of IT support and GAVO staff in respect of the Volunteering Wales website, DBS and the Volunteering Recognition scheme. The discussions and subsequent networking were very well received and good constructive feedback was provided, that will assist in the development of future meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for May 2016.

The Volunteering Recognition scheme, where volunteers over the age of 25 are presented with certificates for achieving 50,100, 200 and 1000hrs volunteering commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015. To date there have been seventy seven registrations resulting in the issue of 14 50hr, six 100hrs and one 200hrs certificates.

There has been an increase in the number of organisations that have requested assistance from a group of volunteers to complete varying tasks. One such success was at the Markham Community Centre, Markham. The premises are a former council owned sports centre, now in the control of the local community. Assistance was requested to paint the walls of the sports hall, in readiness for their Christmas festivities. Assistance was provided by DWP staff that completed the task in November, well ahead of schedule. Such was the impact on both sides that the team from DWP have offered to return to the centre to do further decorating in other areas.

There has been an increase in the number of volunteers being placed via the Caerphilly Volunteering Centre. In Q3 95 individuals (over 25's) were placed. This in part has been as a direct result of the increase in requests for group assistance from organisations and also the introduction of the recognition scheme, where volunteers are more likely to notify the centre of their placement in order to be presented with certificates. It is anticipated that this spike will however drop out over the coming year.

Continued engagement with colleagues in the CF areas to attend and support their various drop in centres and support groups has been extended. New groups attended include the Phillipstown Residents Brunch Club, Tir Y Berth drop in / job club and St Gwladys Church Hall drop in. This approach has ensured that the Caerphilly Volunteer Centre is more visible in the community.

GAVO's Youth Volunteering Officer has placed 45 volunteers during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr as well as the following key highlights:

- Drop in Days established at Cross Keys College with support from Careers Wales representative at the college.
- Links have been forged with Careers Wales and Drop in Days arranged for 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr at their Caerphilly Office.
- Students interviewed at St Martins Comprehensive School and referrals made.
- Presented Millennium Volunteering Certificates at the Caerphilly Youth Service Awards Evening.
- Support and advice given to Network Rail/British Transport Police in setting up the Rail Ambassadors Project. Should be up and running by end of Qtr 4.
- Millennium Volunteering Certificates issues include:
  - 4 x 50hr
  - 1 x 100hr
  - 1 x 200hr

## **Healthier**

The Sunflower Project held a successful presentation for stakeholders on the 18 month interim evaluation where the Lottery sent representation. The chair of ABuHB Trustees paid a visit to the Ystrad Mynach site to spend an afternoon with the volunteers and was extremely impressed. A stage one application has been submitted to the lottery for succession and expansion of the project.

Caerphilly Health and Social Care Facilitator is engaging the third sector and the Caerphilly Health and Social Care Alliance with developments in the context of implementing the SSWB Act and assisting with their positioning to take advantage of emerging opportunities. Support has also been provided towards the development of two new initiatives; Dementia Friendly Communities, Living well Living Longer.

The ABUHB Living Well Living Longer Health Check, for people 40-64 years of age is now being piloted in the North Caerphilly NCN area (also in Blaenau Gwent). Many clients/ service users/ patients in the area will be invited to attend the programme. A launch was held in Rhymney at St David's Community Centre, where partners were invited to workshops to identify how they could contribute to the success and delivery of the Initiative. The Health and Social Care Coordinator gathered service information from the third sector to assist with populating the database to be used by front line staff to make referrals and signpost to community services for the benefit of members of the public accessing the Health Check. In due course a further pilot is planned for the Caerphilly basin area.

## **Learning**

This period, GAVO's Training team have delivered 11 courses and had 105 participants in attendance.

A total of 33 courses with 304 participants have attended training courses provided by GAVO in the Caerphilly area since April 2015.

POVA training delivered during Trustee week in November was well received by a local group in the Ynysddu area with very positive comments with regards to the content and the knowledge gained. Other sessions offered throughout Trustee Week had low take up which will be explored further through Development Team meetings.

Planned training across the county has received interest from community groups and organisations within the area. GAVO's Training team were targeted with delivering a mixture of accredited and non-accredited training. Of the training mentioned above, there were:

- 7 x accredited courses
- 63 participants attended these 7 courses

These courses have included CIEH food safety level 2, CIEH paediatric first aid Level 3, Emergency First Aid level 2, range of health courses Agored levels 1&2. The Caerphilly area has always seen good attendance at the National Framework training events (these include basic accounts, roles & responsibilities of trustees, minute taking etc).

This success is due to the close working arrangements with the development team in GAVO and that the training officers attend network events and forums within the Caerphilly County area. The team also attend on a regular basis the Education & Training Forum which involves other agencies and organisations across the training sector.

Both members of the Training team attend the POVA Trainers Network event that has been developed by the Caerphilly Workforce Development Officers and represent GAVO at the Social Services Training network events.

Both Training staff are now PQASSO Mentors and have attended a follow up training day in December to ensure that their knowledge and skills are up to date before working with groups across the Gwent area in the new year.

Students from Ystrad Mynach College, who are enrolled on the CACHE II in Playwork course, have been given placements on Adventure Play sessions. GAVO's Play Development Officer has delivered two training workshops at the College on Risky Play and Introduction to Playwork.

Adventure Play Teams delivered 105 sessions to 368 individual children - Senior Play Officer and her Team. Inclusive Play Team received 4 referrals which are in addition to those other children receiving this support.

Play Sufficiency and Local Participation Action Plan meetings attended by Play Development Officer and Senior Play Officer.

## 5. CONTACTS

For further information or to discuss any of this information in more detail please contact:

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