



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE - 7TH DECEMBER 2016

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

REPORT BY: CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Committee Members with an items of interest report to the Voluntary Sector from Caerphilly County Borough Council as a Compact Partner.

2. THE REPORT

- 2.1 Below are brief extracts from Cabinet reports of items of potential interest to the Caerphilly county borough third sector:

2.2 **Cabinet held on 21st September 2016**

2.3 **Fochriw Community Centre Youth Service Provision**

The report seeks approval to provide an extension to the Fochriw Community Centre to enhance youth service provision on the site. The Fochriw Youth Club serves 133 members, most of whom attend on a weekly basis. A proposal has been developed to provide a smaller scale extension to the Community Centre comprising of an area of circa 55 square meters to include separate store and multi-use rooms. Cabinet are requested to endorse the £126,000 set aside in the Capital Programme to develop the youth service facilities on the site of Fochriw Community Centre.

2.4 **Cabinet held on 5th October 2016**

2.5 **Proposals for the development of a combined Sensory and Communications Service made up of the Visual Impairment Service, Hearing Impairment Services and the Communication Intervention Team**

The report sets out the proposal for the development of a combined Sensory and Communications Service made up of the Visual Impairment Service, the Hearing Impairment Service and the Communications Intervention Team, under a single employer and governance structure operated by Torfaen County Borough Council. This will involve the transfer of some staff from Caerphilly County Borough Council to Torfaen County Borough Council necessitating appropriate consultation following permission by Cabinet to proceed.

- 2.6 The three services are co-funded by the five local authorities in the South East Wales consortium area and provide a regional, highly specialist 0-19 training and interventions service to families, early years' settings and schools. In the academic year 2015-16 the services supported around 1700 children and young people. There has been a long held desire of all consortium members to see the teams amalgamated under the auspices of a single local authority for the development of a seamless, coordinated service that provides far more focused support to schools, families and settings through joined up advice and intervention.

- 2.7 The purpose of the report is to seek agreement from Cabinet to proceed with a consultation to transfer Gwent Visual Impairment Service, currently hosted by Caerphilly County Borough Council to Torfaen County Borough Council. Torfaen County Borough Council currently manages the Hearing Impairment Service and the Communication Intervention Teams on behalf of the South East Wales region. If permission is granted to proceed, a consultation with Sensory and Communications Service staff on 6th October 2016 with the proposal that all employees of Caerphilly County Borough Council who work in the Sensory and Communications Service transfer their employment to Torfaen County Borough Council as of 1st April 2017.
- 2.8 **Cabinet held on 19th October 2016**
- 2.9 **Corporate Asset Management Strategy**
Following being presented to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 14th October 2016, the Draft Corporate Asset Management Strategy is presented to Cabinet and thereafter to Council for approval. The Corporate Asset Management Strategy is an overarching document which aligns with the corporate aims of the Council. It identifies where the Council has appropriate individual service asset plans/strategies in place. Where such assets plans/strategies are not present, the challenge will be to determine whether those assets need supporting strategies, and if so, by when they can be delivered. The Strategy establishes a set of Principles, which are aligned to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, and has developed a number of Outcomes namely: Compliance, Condition, Suitability, Sufficiency, Accessibility and Sustainability. The expectation is that all individual council asset plans/strategies will reflect these Principles and Outcomes, and existing individual service assets plans/strategies will be reviewed and revised to align with these Principles and Outcomes.
- 2.10 **Cabinet held on 2nd October 2016**
- 2.11 **Former Risca Collieries Workmen's Institute**
The report seeks Cabinet approval to dispose of the former Risca Collieries Workmen's Institute by way of a Communities Asset Transfer. The Council acquired the asset in June 1996, for community education purposes, with the ground floor being occupied by Oxford House Industrial History Society. In 2014 Community Education determined that the asset was surplus to its operational purposes; officers engaged with the Oxford House Industrial History Society, which remained in occupation, to explore the possibility of a Communities Asset Transfer. It became apparent that the Oxford House Industrial History Society was not in a position to sustain a Communities Asset Transfer and officers engaged with Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations to explore whether a viable Communities Asset Transfer could be promoted.
- 2.12 After consultation with the Community, and Town Council, Newport and South Wales Railway Museum emerged as a suitable prospect forming the base for an expanding community facility in conjunction with the Oxford House Industrial History Society. It is proposed that local schools and colleges are approached for organised combined visits on the assumption that model railways attract an interest in budding electrical and mechanical engineers. It is suggested that the ground floor lecture room facility (with a digital projector and screen, and having a capacity of at least 60 people) could be made available to other groups in the local area needing a regular base.
- 2.13 **Some recent Caerphilly County Borough Council press releases:**
- 2.14 **Y Gwyndy's new 3G facility is now complete** (11th November 2016)
A £20 million development to create a new 3G facility at the Y Gwyndy school campus in Caerphilly has reached completion, following months of extensive works. The new 3G rugby and football pitch is securely fenced and flood lit for ease of use during the winter months. Adjacent to this are specialised areas for a number of sports including long jump and shot put, which have all been designed in-house by Caerphilly County Borough Council's Building

Consultancy Team. The development of the new 3G facility is phase 4 of the Y Gwyndy school campus development, which has previously seen the development of new school buildings for the pupils of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Caerffili and local pupils of Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni.

- 2.15 The new facilities will be available to the community, as well as school pupils. Cllr Derek Havard, Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning said: "I am delighted that the new 3G facility at the Y Gwyndy campus is now complete. The pitch and other facilities are fantastic resources that can be used by both the school pupils and the community for a range of sporting activities. The 3G pitch will also provide a consistent surface suitable for use in most weathers".
- 2.16 The new 3G pitch forms part of the 21st Century Schools programme and is jointly funded by Caerphilly County Borough Council and Welsh Government.
- 2.17 **Spotlight on Safeguarding (14th November 2016)**
The Mayor of Caerphilly County Borough Council is keen to remind staff, social care professionals and the wider general public that we all have a responsibility to safeguard the most vulnerable people in our communities. This week (14th – 18th November) is National Safeguarding Week and the Mayor, Cllr Dianne Price is helping to highlight the fact that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
- 2.18 National Safeguarding Week aims to deliver awareness-raising events for the general public and professionals to reinforce key messages around safeguarding. Events and activities are taking place across Wales throughout the week and Caerphilly County Borough Council is keen to help raise awareness about this important issue.
- 2.19 The Gwent-Wide Adult Safeguarding Board, South East Wales Safeguarding Children's Board and the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Board are holding a combined conference on Wednesday 16th November at the Christ Church Centre in Newport. Various keynote speakers will address the conference, which brings together adult safeguarding, child safeguarding and the domestic abuse agenda. The key message for the day is 'safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.'
- 2.20 Cllr Dianne Price said, "We all have a duty to be the 'eyes and ears' of our community to ensure that the most vulnerable people in society are protected from abuse and neglect. National Safeguarding Week helps to raise awareness about this important issue so that we all know the role we must play in safeguarding vulnerable children and adults who may be at risk."
- 2.21 Cllr Robin Woodyatt, Caerphilly's Cabinet Member for Social Services added, "Caerphilly council is committed to ensuring that everyone is aware of the importance of safeguarding. Our 9,000 employees also play a vital role, so we are undertaking a widespread training programme to ensure that staff at all levels across the organisation are aware of their responsibilities."
- 2.22 A thought-provoking video will also be launched at the conference to bring into sharp focus how easy it can be for people to miss the signs of abuse. The video can be found on the Gwent-Wide Adult Safeguarding Board website - www.gwasb.org.uk
- 2.23 Break the Suffering; Break the Silence is a short digital clip providing information on abuse and neglect of children which can be found at the South East Wales Safeguarding Children Board website - www.sewsc.org.uk
- 2.24 If you have any concerns about a child or an adult at risk in the Caerphilly county borough please contact:

Information Advice and Assistance Service (Adults) - telephone 0808 100 2500 or email asdit@caerphilly.gov.uk

Information Advice and Assistance Service (Children's) – telephone 0808 100 1727 or email contactandreferral@caerphilly.gov.uk

- 2.25 **Pupils celebrate library makeover (15th November 2016)**
Pupils from three local schools have joined visitors to celebrate Ystrad Mynach Library's recent internal makeover. Young people from Ystrad Mynach Primary School, Ysgol Bro Allta and Ysgol Penalltau joined the Mayor Cllr Dianne Price and other guests for the library's 're-launch' after it underwent an impressive £48,000 internal makeover recently.
- 2.26 Pupils took part in interactive workshop sessions with scriptwriter and short story writer Dan Anthony while admiring the surroundings of the facility, which includes new internal furniture, shelving and staff desk, as well as new carpeting and internal decoration throughout.
- 2.27 In addition, £30,000 of new book stock has also been provided for adults, children and young people and a new wi-fi area has been installed to enable customers to use their own laptops and tablets.
- 2.28 Cllr Derek Havard, Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning said, "It was wonderful that so many of our young people were able to join us for this 're-launch'. Libraries really are the hub of our communities and in Caerphilly county borough they continue to be as well-used as ever. In fact, last year alone over 884,000 visitors were welcomed to the county borough's libraries – above the Welsh average. It just goes to show that our libraries continue to be extremely popular places for people of all ages to visit. These works will help ensure this important town centre facility is able to offer modern and attractive facilities for years to come".
- 2.29 Ystrad Mynach Library also offers a wide range of regular activities for people of all ages to enjoy – including sessions for under-fives, knit n' natter, toddler time/baby rhyme, reading group and homework clubs.
- 2.30 For more information on these activities and other library facilities, please visit the [libraries section](#) or call 01443 864068
- 2.31 **Caerphilly Youth Forum Member takes part in UK Youth Parliament debate (16th November 2016)**
A member of Caerphilly's Youth Forum attended the UK Youth Parliament debate on 11th November at the House of Commons. Daniel Rodrick, 18 from Blackwood represented Caerphilly during the UK Youth Parliament debate at the House of Commons. Issues discussed during the debate included education, racism and religious discrimination, public transport, votes at 16 and the health service, following a nationwide ballot of 978,216 young people.
- 2.32 The UK Youth Parliament's sitting will mark the seventh year that the Youth Parliament has debated on the green benches in the House of Commons. The sitting heralds the start of UK Parliament Week (14-20 November); an annual festival of events intended to connect communities across the UK with their democracy.
- 2.33 Cllr Derek Havard, Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning said: "The UK Youth Parliament debate provides young people with the opportunity to debate key issues which affect both themselves and the wider population within the UK. I am delighted that Daniel Rodrick represented Caerphilly's Youth Forum, as he presented the opinions of Caerphilly's young people to their peers from throughout the UK".
- 2.34 Cllr Mike Prew, Young People's Champion said: "Well done to Daniel for representing Caerphilly's Youth Forum during such an important event at the House of Commons".

- 2.35 **Planting Project visits Riverside Park (18th November 2016)**
Pupils from Tyn Y Wern Primary School took part in an environmental project at Riverside Park in Trethomas during which hundreds of native bluebells and snowdrops were planted in the woodland and daffodils at the park entrance to enhance the area. The pupils were supported by Sophie Gibbs from DS Smith Recycling, Tim Wort and Andy Kind from Keep Wales Tidy, local resident Billy Hughes and members of Caerphilly County Borough Council's Countryside and Cleansing Teams.
- 2.36 Cllr Nigel George, Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services said: "I would like to thank the pupils from Plas Y Felin Primary School, the students from Coleg Y Cymoedd and Caerphilly County Borough Council's Tidy Team and Countryside Team. They should be all very proud of their efforts in helping to improve the quality of the local environment. Caerphilly County Borough Council will be continuing this environmental improvement work throughout the winter and will help us meet the objectives of Welsh Government's Wellbeing of Future Generations Act".
- 2.37 **Cabinet Secretary for Education unveils new facility at Trinity Fields School (16th November 2016)**
Kirsty Williams AM, Cabinet Secretary for Education visited Trinity Fields School to unveil their new rebound therapy room. The new room contains a sunken trampoline which will be used to provide therapeutic exercise and recreation for pupils with a wide range of disabilities at the school. The therapy room will also be used by pupils with mild to severe disabilities, including dual sensory impairment and autistic spectrum disorder.
- 2.38 Rebound therapy is used to facilitate movement, promote balance, promote and increase or decrease in muscle tone, promote relaxation, promote sensory integration, improve fitness and exercise tolerance, as well as improving communication skills.
- 2.39 Mr Ian Elliott MBE, Head Teacher at Trinity Fields School said: "On behalf of the pupils, staff and governors at Trinity Fields School, I would like to thank Caerphilly County Borough Council for supporting this very exciting development. The new rebound therapy facility will provide fantastic opportunities for the pupils to experience enhanced movement patterns, therapeutic positioning, exercise and recreation while at the school. Each child will have a specific programme development for them by the rebound instructor and will work with the instructor to develop the skills required to complete their targeted goals. I am also very grateful to the ongoing support from parents, staff and Governors for their ongoing support".
- 2.40 Cllr Derek Havard, Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning said: "I am delighted that through funding provided by Caerphilly County Borough Council, Trinity Fields School now have a fantastic new rebound therapy room. The new facility will provide pupils with a resource which can improve fitness and exercise tolerance, promote relaxation and sensory integration and also facilitate movement".
- 2.41 The new rebound therapy facility was made possible through a joint venture between Trinity Fields School and Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- 2.42 **Young people front community clean-up (22 November 2016)**
A community clean up took place in Energlyn. 15 young people took part in the clean-up, where footpaths along the old railway sidings were made clean and tidy. Bulbs were then planted including daffodils, bluebells, tulips and snow drop in and around the local park and ride. Cllr Nigel George, Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services said: "I would like to thank the pupils from Plas Y Felin School, the students from Coleg Y Cymoedd and Caerphilly County Borough Council's Tidy Team and Countryside Team. They should all be very proud of their efforts in helping to improve the quality of the local environment."