



## **VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2018 AT 10.30 A.M.**

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PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs E.M. Aldworth (Chair)

Councillors:

A. Collis, S. Cook, K. Etheridge, J.E. Fussell, R.W. Gough, D. Harse, and W. Williams

Together with Representatives from:

Charter Housing (Ms S. Howells) Homestart Caerphilly (Mrs M. Snowden), Menter Iaith (Mrs L. Jones), Right From The Start (Ms C. Loring), South East Wales Carer's Trust (Ms N. George-Titley), The Vanguard Centre (Mrs. M. Wade) and GAVO (Mr. S. Tiley)

Also present:

P. Cooke (Senior Policy Officer), V. Doyle (Policy Officer), Sian Wolfe-Williams (Policy Officer), A. Palmer (Community Planning Co-ordinator - CCBC/GAVO) and K. Houghton (Committee Services Officer).

ABUHB (Jonathan Lewis) and Town and Community Council Representative (Mr H. Llewellyn),

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Bevan, A.G. Higgs, Mrs B.A. Jones, Mrs T. Parry, A. Whitcombe, R. Whiting and L.G. Whittle. Apologies were also received from Abbeyfield (Mr H. Billington), Abertridwr Community Church (Mr. L. Clay), SCOPE (Mr M. Goldwyn), Bargoed YMCA (Ms. J. Price), Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly Care and Repair (Mrs P. Jones), Caerphilly People First (Mr. C. Luke), Citizen's Advice Bureau (Ms J. Channing), Cruse Bereavement Care (Mrs. C. Williams), Disability Cando Organisation (Ms. N. Perkins), Drugaid Young Persons Services (Ms L. Tibbs) GAVO (Mr M. Featherstone), Caerphilly Groundwork Trust (Mrs K. Stevenson), The Parent Network (Ms. M. Jones), Van Road United Reformed Church (Mr J. Wade), YMLAEN (Mr D. Brunton), Gwent Police (Chief Inspector N. Mclain), Office of the PCC (Ms J. Tippins), South Wales Fire and Rescue Service (Mr R. Hassett), Caerphilly Business Forum (Mrs D. Lovering) and Natural Resources Wales (Mr J. Goldsworthy) and GAVO (Ms G. Jones)

## **2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

## **3. MINUTES – 14TH MARCH 2018**

A representative from GAVO requested two minor amendments in relation to Agenda item 7 of the minutes. The sections headed as follows should read;

### **Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations**

Members are advised that the 'One Beat' roadshow is now held twice a year and that the next event had been arranged for Saturday 9th June 2018 at Caerphilly library.

and;

### **Updates from Voluntary Sector Organisations**

The Committee were pleased to hear that the Vanguard Caerphilly Centre currently have a busy schedule of events and the choir have recently performed at several concerts with professional opera singers

Subject to the aforementioned amendments, the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th March 2108 were approved as a correct record.

## **4. MINUTES – 20TH JUNE 2018**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 20th June 2018 were approved as a correct record.

## **5. PRESENTATION BY CHARTER HOUSING**

S. Howells, the representative from Charter Housing provided the Committee with a presentation on the work and approaches undertaken by the organisation.

She informed the Members that the well-being of people was central to their approach to the work they undertake and community engagement is an integral part of this. It is the aim of the organisation to tackle housing management and community concerns using relational approaches such as working to build confidence and self-esteem in tenants to achieve successful, happy resilient people and safer communities. Within Charter Housing there is a Community Regeneration Team, split into three sections, Social and Economic Inclusion, Young People and Families and Enterprising Communities, who support this relational work. Members of these teams come from a variety of specialist professions such as housing professionals, health professionals, family therapist, employment officers and FCA registered Money Advisors. This multi-discipline team allows for the provision of wrap around support for clients and is delivered via a project based framework.

The core focuses of early intervention and community engagement have been designed to align with current strategies particularly the Wellbeing Plan associated with the Wellbeing and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Members questioned how Charter Housing collaborates with other partners such as CCBC Social Services, ABUHB and particularly Gwent Police. The representative from Charter Housing advised members that across the three sections, within the Community Regeneration Team, there was continuing collaborative working with the Police authorities in South Wales and team leads regularly attended joint working groups with the Police and other partners. Members discussed the potential for further collaboration opportunities between Partners and Charter Housing. Members did recognise that the spread of the communities that Charter Housing support was huge however they requested that the provision of satellite officers or contact points be investigated by Charter Housing to improve tenant accessibility to the organisation's support services.

## **6. REVISED PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (COMPACT) BETWEEN THE PSB AND THE THIRD SECTOR**

The representatives from GAVO presented the report which sought the views of Members on the draft revised Partnership Agreement (Compact) between the Public Services Board (PSB) and the Third Sector. Members were asked to consider and agree any amendments to the draft Partnership Agreement, prior to presentation to Cabinet.

Members were informed that the previous Compact Agreement "Delivering Together" finished in April 2017. The renewal of the Agreement was deferred to allow for the introduction of the Wellbeing and Future Generations (Wales) Act. The draft Agreement attached to the report has been written to align with the Wellbeing and Future Generations (Wales) Act and the Welsh Government review of Compacts and the Third Sector. The WG review has not progressed but a new agreement is being formed in anticipation that it will fit with the review findings. The draft Agreement reflects the PSBs increased involvement with the Third Sector. The representatives from GAVO highlighted the following key details of the Agreement – the Code of Practice is now imbedded in to the document, the original principles are still in place with some refocussing on to the Wellbeing and Future Generations (Wales) Act and the reporting process has been streamlined, this is to achieve greater buy in from the Third Sector however reporting will still be verbal.

The GAVO representatives advised the Committee that the draft Agreement went before the PSB on Tuesday 4th September 2018 where minor amendments to the document were made including the addition of an introductory paragraph for each of the following - Natural Resources Wales, Community Rehabilitation Company and Public Health. Members were asked to consider the draft Third Sector Partnership Agreement and agree any amendments to the Agreement.

Members' discussed the need for commitment from partners to ensure the Agreement is a meaningful document and all levels of the organisations are aware of it and use it as a matter of course. Following from this discussion a Member made the following proposal to be put to Cabinet from the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee which was supported by a fellow Member;

'the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee wishes to propose that the Partnership Agreement (Compact) between the Public Service Board and the third sector should be cascaded down and marketed to all heads of service and staff within Caerphilly County Borough Council and request this is placed on the agendas of the Corporate Management Team and Cabinet so this can be taken forward with all directorates to

ensure engagement, communication and consultation throughout our County Borough and beyond, with all partners who have signed up to it'

This was agreed to by the Committee.

## **7. TOILET STRATEGY CONSULTATION**

The Policy Officer for Caerphilly County Borough Council provided the Committee with a presentation on the work being undertaken to produce a Local Toilet Strategy as required by the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017. The Local Toilet Strategy aims to improve access to toilets available for public use whether this is through Council owned public toilets or liaising with local businesses and organisations to make available toilets on their premises. Initial work to inform this strategy is focussed on identifying the community need and opportunities to encourage community involvement to help provide solutions to meeting the community need for access to facilities around the County Borough. It was outlined to Members that the schedule for the production of the strategy was as follows; the draft plan would be released for formal consultation between December 2018 and February 2019 with the final strategy being published by no later than 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019. Following the publication of the Strategy it will be subject to a statement of progress every 2 years and a review within a year of each local election. Contact details of how Members could respond to the consultation on the draft plan were provided. Members suggested that the Youth Forum be consulted as potentially the main service users.

Members welcomed the Strategy as it was felt that access to publicly available facilities was a much needed community provision. A discussion followed raising concerns regarding the willingness of private businesses to allow public access to toilets on their premises and the safety aspects of using public toilets. The Policy Officer highlighted to Members that although a strategy was required there would be no funding as a result of it and the strategy needed to reflect a move away from County Borough owned public toilets and a move towards privately supported facilities.

## **8. WELL-BEING PLAN ACTION AREAS UPDATE**

The Community Planning Co-Ordinator updated members on the Wellbeing Action Areas. Following the publication of the Wellbeing Plan the area leads, working groups and Champions have been put in place. There are 5 Action Areas and 4 Enablers within the draft action Plan which went to the Public Service Board on Tuesday 4th September 2018. It is available on the PSB website where it will be continuously updated.

The Chief Executive of GAVO was appointed the Champion for the Volunteering action area and a workshop was held to refine the volunteering outcomes identified in the Wellbeing Plan. Members were informed that action area leads were keen to engage with all relevant parties and their views were welcomed.

Performance reporting to the Public Service Board on the Wellbeing Plan has been set as December and June of each year with the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee meetings scheduled to take place in January and July to correspond with this.

**9. ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR COMPACT PARTNERS  
– VERBAL UPDATES**

**Aneurin Bevan University Health Board**

The representative from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board updated Members that the Board had identified a need to improve communication with Compact Partners. Therefore there will be a series of workshops taking place throughout November with Partners. The content of these workshops is to be confirmed but there will be discussion on engaging with the third sector. The representative will confirm if these workshops are invitation only or open to interested parties including elected Members to attend.

**Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations**

The representative from GAVO congratulated the success of the Vanguard Centre's Gala Concert in July on behalf of the Tommy Cooper Society. Funds were raised to purchase and present a Defibrillator to the Beeches Centre with enough funds left to purchase another Defibrillator.

He highlighted a number of events due to take place in the coming months. There will be a GAVO Third Sector Forum taking place on 28th September 2018 at Libanus Lifestyles, Blackwood, the Volunteer Awards in Blackwood Miners Institute on 19th September 2018, a funding fayre on 8th October 2018 in Bargoed YMCA from 9.30pm to 1pm and the GAVO AGM on the 21st November 2018 in the Christchurch Centre, Newport.

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday 5th December 2018 at 10.30am in the Council Chamber, Penallta House.

The meeting ended at 11.59am .