Caerphilly Local Service Board





Notes of Meeting

Held at 9:30am on Wednesday, 19th November, 2014 Hafod Deg House, High Street, Rhymney.

Present:-

Cllr Keith Reynolds (Chair)	Chair of Caerphilly LSB and Leader of Caerphilly County Borough Council
Chris Burns	Interim Chief Executive, Caerphilly County Borough Council
David Jenkins	Chair, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
Judith Paget	Chief Executive, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
Brandon Williams (for Jeff Farrar)	Chief Superintendent, Gwent Police
James Owen	Deputy Director, Expert Services & People Division, Welsh Government
Martin Featherstone	Chief Executive, Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

In attendance:-

Keri Cole	Manager, Learning Education and Inclusion, CCBC
Sara Mutch	Manager, Flying Start, CCBC
Tina McMahon	Manager, Community Regeneration, CCBC
Marcus Lloyd	Deputy Head of Programmes, WHQS, CCBC
Jane Roberts-Waite	Strategic Coordination Manager, CCBC
Robert Hartshorn	Head of Public Protection, CCBC
Jonathan Pinkney	Regional VI Project Officer, BGCBC
Howard Rees	Programme Manager, CCBC
Emma Sullivan	Democratic Services Officer (Notes)

Point	Matter	Action
1.	Welcome:Cllr KR welcomed everyone to Hafod Deg House, introductions were made and thanks expressed to Tina McMahon and her team for their warm welcome and to Jane Roberts-Waite for facilitating the site visit to Rowan Place in Rhymney.	
2.	Previous Notes and Matters Arising: The noted of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record.	
	Matters Arising - Minute No. 8 - Gwent Substance Misuse Area Planning Board HR confirmed that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was still to be	
	agreed and signed. It was noted that this would be circulated in due course prior	

Point	Matter	Action
	to its progress through the respective CCBC Cabinet and Council processes. It would also need to be considered through respective governance processes by ABUHB and other partners, as appropriate.	
3.	Update on 'Caerphilly Delivers' - the LSB Single Integrated Plan:	
a.	Learning Caerphilly Outcome Scorecard and Highlight/Exception Report: Keri Cole (KC) and Sara Mutch (SM) were welcomed to the meeting and provided a presentation which focused on the early part of children's educational lives and the role of the 'Flying Start' programme, as it related to the Learning Caerphilly outcome scorecard.	
	The importance of the home as the first influence in a child's life was emphasised as the value that parents place on literacy and numeracy directly related to that of the child. KC advised that parents that struggled at school were often reluctant to take an active part in school life and the relationship between school and home in these circumstances was key, with extreme poverty being the major barrier to parental involvement in education.	
	'Flying Start' provided a vital pre-school link with 2246 children aged between 0-3 years benefiting from the initiative. The impact of the programme was illustrated through the case study 'Tracy's Story'. SM described the way in which 'Flying Start' helped to develop Tracy's youngest child socialisation skills and supported Tracy herself when she suffered a series of crises within the family.	
	The importance of collaborative partnerships was acknowledged and the work done with The Parents Network, Families First and Communities First on the "Petra the Penguin" literary project was highlighted as a model of good practice and a copy of the finished book distributed. The project has proved to be a massive success and it was hoped that sales of the book would eventually make the project self-sustaining. SM advised that other local authorities were now using "Petra the Penguin" model as a platform for their own literacy projects.	
	In terms of performance for 2014, KC confirmed standards were rising steadily and that for the first time Caerphilly's secondary schools at Level 2+ and broken through the 50% attainment threshold. The importance of developing the relationship between family and school was recognised as the biggest challenge going forward and the different ways in which a child can be supported by the school when any barriers to attainment were highlighted.	
	In concluding the presentation KC advised that further case studies were available for the Board Members information. The Chair thanked KC and SM for their presentations and Board Members questions were welcomed.	
	Clarification was sought on the impact of Welsh Governments' Combined Outcomes Framework project and how this would affect delivery of local projects. SM confirmed that Flying Start worked closely with Communities First, Families First, partners and WG on all aspects of commissioning to ensure that there was no duplication. HR confirmed that Flying Start, Communities First and Families First in Caerphilly were exemplars of joint supportive working for delivery on the ground.	
	JP referenced the increase in referrals being received for child/young adult mental health services and advised of the growing struggle with emotional wellbeing. JP confirmed that more resources and links between Social Services/Education and Health were required if early interventions were to be secured. KC confirmed that Caerphilly's Youth Forum had identified mental health concerns as one of its top 3 priorities. KC acknowledged that schools understandably, often struggle to	

Point	Matter	Action
	understand the difference between absolute mental health and behavioural issues. Board Members were advised that a significant investment had been made to develop a Behaviour Strategy which would include a comprehensive training programme. SM advised that training would be delivered in line with the Solihull approach so that Health Visitors, Foster Carers and Parents were able to access a programme of training. JP confirmed that the ABUHB would be happy to work with Caerphilly on this to ensure health links into the programme. KC advised that a meeting with Dr David Williams had been scheduled on the strategy.	
	The Chair sought clarification as to whether it would be possible to share data on this issue so that the authority could better understand the scale of the problem and was advised that this would be considered going forward.	
	CB sought clarification as to the breaking of the 50% barrier at Level 2+ with regard to the remarking of examination papers. KC confirmed that remarking had taken Caerphilly over the 50%. It was noted that Caerphilly schools were currently the 2nd fastest improver in Wales, however all schools across Wales were also improving. KC was encouraged by the fact that the growth was steady with all schools showing improvement. The difficult choices facing Head Teachers in terms of a schools ability to meet an individual child's needs and requirements and the impact that these would have on that schools position within the bench mark was referenced.	
	The LSB noted the presentation.	
b.	Other Outcome Highlight/Exception Reports:	
	Prosperous Caerphilly: The report outlined the progress made against the Prosperous Caerphilly priorities P1, P2 and P3.	
	Clarification was sought in relation to educational attainment and job opportunities and whether these were joining-up and making the required connections. HR agreed to take this forward to the lead officer on this objective and bring back to the next meeting.	HR
	TM referenced the work being done with David Adamson on the skills gap. It was noted that the Prosperous Caerphilly group were looking at how to influence the skills training provided in order to meet the needs of the labour market.	
	MF referenced the recently published Sheffield Hallam University study on "The Impact of Welfare Reform on the Welsh Valleys" and the alternative growth figure quoted therein. This was discussed at length and Board Members were advised that the author would be speaking at the next Standing Conference.	
	Having fully considered the Prosperous Caerphilly report the LSB agreed the recommendations contained therein.	
	Safer Caerphilly: The report outlined progress made against the Safer Caerphilly priorities S1, S2, S3, S4 and S5.	
	The Chair welcomed Rob Hartshorn, CCBC Head of Public Protection.	
	A development against priority S4 (which includes domestic abuse provision in the borough) was the achievement of White Ribbon status by the local authority. This reflects the recent work done to support the Welsh Government 10,000 Safer	

Point	Matter	Action
	Lives agenda. It was noted that the re-launch of the Caerphilly Domestic Abuse Multi Agency Centre in Ystrad Mynach would coincide with White Ribbon Action Day on the 25th November 2014.	
	With regard to priority S1, an update was given on the Gwent-wide response to the new Anti-Social Behaviour legislation and the present position of the process and documentation to support the new provisions noted.	
	BW advised that Gwent Police had established a 'Hub' in Blackwood with 15 PCSO's designated to respond directly to high areas of anti-social behaviour.	
	RH provided an update on priority S5 and the intention to develop substance misuse services at Hafod Deg House. The lack of a needle exchange facility in the north of the country borough was noted despite there being substance misuse needs identified in the area. It was noted that the proposal had been sent to Welsh Government for approval, the planning application submitted and consultation undertaken with the local ward members. RH confirmed that the response so far had been positive.	
	Having fully considered the Safer Caerphilly report the LSB agreed the recommendations and actions contained therein.	
	Healthier Caerphilly: The report outlined progress made against the Healthier Caerphilly priority H2 which focused on emotional health and wellbeing.	
	Board Members were advised of the concerns raised at the Delivery & Leads Groups in relation to the difficulties in obtaining comparative data from the Health Board particularly in relation to the increase of prescribed antidepressants. It was noted that mental health and well-being was a priority for Neighbourhood Care Networks and that their support provided alternative therapies to prescription medication. JP confirmed that the ABUHB would be able to supply prescription by practice data and more generally other health related data, which had become problematic for Healthier Caerphilly colleagues to access for reporting purposes to the LSB.	
	Having fully considered the Healthier Caerphilly report the LSB noted its content.	
	Greener Caerphilly: The report highlighted the progress made against priorities G1, G2 and G3.	
	The projects commissioned were highlighted and Board Members were referred to the good community outcomes achieved and potential impact of budget reduction on service and on other outcomes.	
	Having fully considered the Greener Caerphilly report the LSB noted its content.	
C.	Voluntary Sector and GAVO Update: MF provided an update from GAVO and the voluntary sector. The impact of reduced financial resources on third sector service delivery and the need to maximise relationships at a regional level was emphasised and in particular collaborative working with Health Services. Internal changes to administration and IT services at GAVO in order to streamline operations were outlined and it was noted that office buildings and rents would also be looked at going forward in order to achieve further efficiencies.	
	MF confirmed that partnership working would be further developed in order to maximise resources. It was noted that meetings had already been held with the	

Point	Matter	Action
	Citizen Advice Bureau and CCBC's Corporate Management Team (CMT) in order to present practical applications to local provision through the third sector and ensure that the Voluntary Sector was in the best position possible to move forward.	
	The work done to develop awareness of "Social Enterprises" was highlighted that would culminate in a larger event to be held in March 2015. CCBC, ABUHB and local third sector organisation would be brought together to look at how they can support the delivery of public services and specific outcomes.	
	The Chair thanked MF for his update and full discussion ensued.	
	CB acknowledged the impact that loss of funding was having across the board and how this had forced organisations to work differently in order to retain services. The need to explore the potential and appropriate establishment of social enterprises to secure service retention was discussed at length. The positive impact that social enterprises could have on local economies was also discussed and Board Members agreed that they would welcome the development of a local provider network and fully supported the "Provider Fair" referenced above and scheduled for March 2015.	
	JRW referenced the positive impact made by the WHQS programme on local business through its small lots provision and the environmental improvements programme. The possible involvement of tenant social enterprises in this programme was highlighted and JRW confirmed that tenants would be fully supported to undertake as much of this work as appropriate. Board Members were advised that a report on the revised timetable for the environmental works programme would be brought to the CCBC Caerphilly Homes Task Group and Cabinet shortly.	
	The Chair welcomed the forthcoming reports and acknowledged the benefits of WHQS programme was having on local businesses, the local economy and local communities was acknowledged.	
	The Chair referenced "One Beat", a recent held voluntary sector event attended by Dave Roberts, Para-Olympian, in which he gave an inspirational speech on the impact that volunteers, had made on his life and the lives of other disabled people.	
4.	Welsh Government Effective Services For Vulnerable Groups (ESVG):	
a.	Letter from ESVG Chair: HR referred Board Members to the letter from the newly appointed Chair of the ESVG, Jeff Farrar (Chief Constable Gwent Police) which drew attention to recent reports, projects and reference the work being done with regard to information sharing and "Team Around the Family" projects.	
b.	ESVG feedback on 'Improving Information Sharing' Exercise: HR referred Board Members to the previously circulated ESVG feedback on the Improving Information Sharing exercise.	
c.	ESVG update on learning from 'Team Around The Family' projects across Wales: The ESVG update provided Board Members with a summary of evidence on the benefits of the Team Around The Family (TAF) approach, how it reflected on local practice and contributed to the embedding of the TAF approach in service delivery.	

Point	Matter	Action
d.	Update for LSB on the Caerphilly 'Team Around the Family' Project: HR introduced the report and gave apologies on behalf of Gareth Jenkins (Assistant Director Children's Services) who was unable to attend today's meeting. HR confirmed that if Board Members had any queries on the report he would refer them to GJ and invite him to attend at a later date if required. The report detailed the TAF model in Caerphilly and its benefits as well as providing examples of areas of success and the future challenges for the service. The Chair welcomed the report but felt that it might have benefitted from some	HR/GJ
	real-life case studies to better illustrate the success of the project. Board Members expressed their confidence in the TAF project and acknowledged the breadth of the work being undertaken and the difference it was making to Caerphilly's most vulnerable families.	
	The LSB agreed their support on any cross-cutting issues and to continue to provide strategic leadership on embedding approaches.	
5.	Update On LSB ESF Projects: HR advised Board Members of that the below LSB sponsored projects, funded via the European Social Fund, will close by 31 st December, 2014 and will be subject to WG ESF project closure processes and a final closure report, which will be reported to the LSB in due course.	
a.	Vulnerability Intelligence: Jonathan Pinkney (JP), Regional VI Project Officer, BGCBC, introduced his report which updated the LSB on the Vulnerable Intelligence (VI) Project.	
	The project sought to collate existing data from various public sector sources and present it as a source of improved intelligence around a range of indicators or characteristics of vulnerability. This data could then be utilised by the different public sector teams to develop operational planning and service delivery, focussing on early intervention and prevention, enabling more proactive and targeted person-centred service delivery across regional boundaries.	
	The in-roads this data made to the understanding of vulnerability was noted and JP confirmed that the outputs produced had established 'proof of concept' and the projects focus would now be on how to use the intelligence going forward. It was noted that the independent evaluation process had commenced.	
	The difficulties encountered when extracting data from the different systems was noted and the information sharing protocols required to ensure the safe exchange of information outlined. Analytics would now be working with practitioners and strategic leads to establish how the information could be modelled going forward and JP expressed his thanks to all the Officers involved as it presented a big commitment from all of the project partner organisations.	
	In concluding PJ advised that it had provided an enhanced understanding of vulnerability and how data sharing could be used to improve quality and efficiency. It had highlighted how data could be better recorded in order to inform dialogue between professionals as well as the context of the data required to enable vital modelling to support targeted deliverability. The potential for modelling outputs to identify and therefore allow early interventions and support targeted deliverability characteristics was acknowledged.	
	The Chair thanked PJ for his report and the views of the LSB were welcomed.	

Point	Matter	Action
	Clarification was sought in relation to the projects closure process and Board Members were advised that a dissemination event would be planned to promote the project and give a holistic overview of its outcomes.	
	Board Members queried why individuals that live alone had been excluded from the data parameters. PJ confirmed that the single person discount data had been used as the indicator and had not proved to be useful as a data set. There were also consent issues around the use of the data that could be shared. These were explained and the complexity of the collating of data whilst staying within the appropriate data protection legislation was explained.	
	Clarification was sought as to next steps and the projects legacy going forward.	
	HR referenced the forthcoming dissemination event which would present the outcome of the evaluation process and the way forward. Having established the proof of concept the future implementation would depended on the degree of involvement from Welsh Government. The potential benefits for early intervention and reduced costs were recognised by Board Members.	
	The LSB agreed that continued Welsh Government involvement would depend on the projects evaluation and presentation of a sustainable model.	
	The LSB having considered the report and taking into account that proof of concept had been established agreed that further discussions needed to take place on how best to engage with Welsh Government on the future of vulnerability intelligence modelling given its potential impact on public service provision.	LSB
b.	Programme Manager (Partnership Development and Collaborative Improvement): HR advised Board Members that WG ESF would be expended by 30 th November, 2014, when the project would close. However CCBC will temporarily fund the post until the end of the financial year, providing continued support and administration for the LSB, whilst the LSB decide the level of support required, its cost and future contributions thereto. Reference was made to the Well-being and Future Generations (Wales) Bill and its impact on LSB's was noted.	
c.	Personal Information Sharing: The report provided a quarterly update on the progress of the ESF LSB Information Sharing Project.	
	Board Members noted the progress made and work yet to be done on the Personal Information Sharing protocols and action plan for LSB organisations, also noting that the National WASPI team would cease to be funded on 31 st March, 2015.	
	The Chair referenced the success of the recent dissemination event entitled "Information Sharing - adding value to partnership working" and acknowledged the positive feedback received.	
d.	Passport Programme: HR confirmed that additional funds had been made available from other sources to continue the project. TM advised Board Members of a conflict between Jobs Growth Wales and Communities First programme which was inhibiting the placement process. The conflicting programmes were confusing for employers and were actually prohibiting placement opportunities for young people from the most deprived communities. James Owen agreed to feed these issues back to Welsh Government.	JO

Point	Matter	Action
	Clarification was sought as to the number of projects that would be spent out at the conclusion of the funding. HR confirmed that all projects apart from the Information Sharing project which might return approximately £20,000. However when taking into account the different project constraints (WG project approval processes, etc) it could be spent out by its conclusion.	
6	The Well being of Euture Concretions (Welce) Bills	
6.	The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill: HR confirmed that this item would be discussed as part of the Standing Conference update.	
7.	LSB Standing Conference:	
a.	 Feedback to LSB from Last Conference: HR provided feedback on the comments received following the last Standing Conference and noted that a number had referenced a lack of understanding on the work of the LSB. Board Members agreed that this needed to be considered in line with the impact of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill and the development of Public Service Boards. Clarification was sought with regard to the potential make-up of a Public Service Board and an example discussed. Possible composition could be CCBC, ABUHB, South Wales Fire & Rescue Service and National Resources Wales as 	
b.	core membership, with Welsh Government, Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner, Voluntary Sector plus other appropriate agencies as its invited members. It was agreed that the level of and extent to which the different agencies would be able to make a commitment for attendees would need to be considered strategically.	
	commencing at 10am.	
8.	LSB Anti-Poverty priority:	
a.	Verbal Update Anti-Poverty Strategy: Rob Hartshorn (Anti-Poverty Champion and Head of Public Protection, CCBC) provided a verbal update on the Anti-Poverty Strategy. The multi-agency approach being taken forward in the Upper Rhymney Valley and Lansbury Park as part of the LSB Anti-Poverty priority was noted. RH advised on the development of a CCBC Anti-Poverty Strategy and highlighted that although this was currently a Council approach, partner organisations would be asked to make a commitment to the strategy going forward as poverty issues could not be tackled in isolation. It was noted that the endorsement of the LSB would be vital to the strategy's progress. It was noted that a strategy template would be presented to CCBC CMT shortly.	
	Having considered the issues the LSB noted the update.	
b.	"Vibrant, Viable Places" initiative and Hafod Deg: The report provided an overview of the Rhymney Regeneration Programme, funded by Welsh Government under its 'Vibrant, Viable Places' initiative.	
	TM outlined the background of the Twyn Carno area and the bid to secure capital funding for the Hafod Deg building as a central point to support social outcomes	

Point	Matter	Action
	for the area. The impact of the WHQS programme on the regeneration and renovation programme at Rowan Place and the issues arising from it were highlighted.	
	It was noted that the Hafod Deg building would continue to support service users with low level mental health needs, assisting integration into the community. The building would also establish a 'Training and Enterprise' hub with Job Centre Plus facilities to target long-term worklessness and would be closely aligned to the Welsh Government's LIFT programme. A café running nutritional courses as well as community food growing initiatives would also form part of the project. The Primary Mental Health Team would be represented and Drug and Alcohol Support Services would operate a needle exchange and support service from the building. The facility would provide an holistic approach to support and service provision to the local community.	
	Clarification was sought as to whether a Royal British Legion outreach facility could also be accommodated on-site. TM confirmed that this could be possible once a better idea of the centres usage could be established. The Chair confirmed that there were a high number of veterans in the area who could benefit from more localised support.	
	The budget spend was confirmed as $\pounds 200,000 \times Hafod Deg, \pounds 600,000 \times Rowan Place (2015/16) and \pounds 200,000 \times Hafod Deb (2016/17).$	
	The important role of the LSB going forward was acknowledged by all. The need to ensure a multi-agency approach to tackling poverty was stressed with the LSB as the overarching strategic lead. RH confirmed that all CCBC priorities tackled poverty in some aspect although this might not be directly noted within them. Poverty required a high level strategic commitment and although not implicitly stated within the Single Plan it had an anti-poverty basis.	
	JP confirmed that the ABUHB acknowledged that in to "develop healthier communities" (an ABUHB strategic priority), it needed to tackle poverty and would welcome the pooling of resources and activity to target specific localities, with high levels of deprivation, in order secure positive outcomes.	
	CB agreed that this project was an ideal opportunity to make the statement that poverty would not be tolerated. By bringing together jobs, training, social service support, health, lifestyle, living environment something very positive could be achieved in this area.	
	TM acknowledged that this was a very ambitious undertaking, as the largest single investment the project was taking a strong anti-poverty stance with far reaching outcomes for quality of life, impact on educational achievement, health and a prosperous community.	
	The LSB having fully considered its content noted the report.	
	Board Members, together with officers, then undertook a site visit of Rowan Place, Rhymney.	
9.	Information Items: Items circulated for information were noted.	
10.	Date of Next Meeting: At 9.30am on Tuesday, 3rd March, 2015 in meeting room 1.3 at CCBC Offices, Ty Penallta.	