**CCBC/Gwent Police GCSx case study**

government connect

# GC Communicate

**socitm**

We are learning, through Government Connect, that central and local government can work well together. OK – mistakes have been made, and lessons have been learned, but in less than a year, spectacular progress has been made in joining-up securely and efficiently. Good job too! If ever there was a need for secure, efficient and joined-up government, high profile data losses and the credit crunch conspire to tell us it's now!

Government Connect lays the foundation for a single pan-government security infrastructure. It can't make sense, and is spectacularly inefficient, for local government to engage separately with each central government department. I'm delighted, therefore, that the Government Connect team aims to work with the Public Service Network programme, and related developments to advance the vision, further enhancing our ability to deliver public services securely and efficiently and demonstrating that Government really can connect!

*Richard Steel, Former President of Socitm and GC Programme Board Member*

## Gwent Police affirms GCSX network

Caerphilly County Borough Council (CBC), Gwent Police and other local agencies have recently signed up to the GCSX programme, with several departments within the council looking to use the network to securely share information with trusted partner organisations. Those organisations include Housing Benefits, Community Safety, Social Services, Youth Offending Service and HR/payroll.

Head of Caerphilly council, Cllr Lindsay Whittle, said: "This system is excellent in that we are now able to securely transfer sensitive and confidential data between partner agencies swiftly and accurately. Not only is it of real benefit to us, but it will also benefit the residents of the Caerphilly county borough. No doubt others will follow suit in the near future to take advantage of this new secure communication facility."

Caerphilly's Community Safety Manager, Howard Rees agreed: "Residents of the Caerphilly county borough should feel safe in the knowledge that this technology will now aid us even further in tackling crime and disorder across the area, as it allows us to communicate with our partners quicker and more accurately than ever before.

Those responsible for committing crimes and acting anti-socially will not be tolerated, and this new technology will help significantly in helping us bring them to justice quickly."

Detective Inspector Huw Watkins of Gwent Police has emphasised the timeliness of the implementation: 'we are working together on a daily basis in the sharing of information for the benefit of the community. As the staff at Caerphilly CBC are working with us on a variety of themes, it is essential that we are able to communicate securely.

This approach has allowed us to drive down volume crime, and share information about preventing radicalisation. This is great news for the people of Caerphilly, who can be sure that those responsible for ensuring their safety are working together to target those who cause harm.

One particular incident recently highlights this to very good effect. Following the deployment of a 'capture car' in Blackwood the footage of the suspected offender was circulated to Caerphilly staff. Almost a month later, police officers saw some men acting suspiciously in Blackwood and asked the council's CCTV operator to focus on the person. That operator recognised the man as being wanted by the police, was arrested by the officers and the crime cleared up.'

**CAERPHILLY** COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL CYNBOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL **CAERFFILI**