



VOLUNTARY SECTOR SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK ON WEDNESDAY, 19TH SEPTEMBER 2012 AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

Mr. R. Cooke – Chair

Councillors:

Mrs. E.M. Aldworth, D. Carter, R. Gough, C. Hawker, G. Jones, A. Lewis, S. Morgan, Mrs. J.A. Pritchard, R. Woodyatt.

Together with:

Abbeyfield	-	Mr. P. Jones
Abertridwr Community Church	-	Mr. L. Clay
Caerphilly Groundwork Trust	-	Mr. R. H. Cooke
Caerphilly Mind	-	Ms. J. Lawton
Caerphilly People First	-	Mr. C. Luke
Cruse Bereavement Care	-	Mrs. C. Williams
New CLURV	-	Mrs. J. Morgan
Disability Can Do Organisation	-	Mrs. H. Williams
GAVO - Caerphilly	-	Mr. M. Bridgman
Vanguard Centre	-	Mrs. M. Wade
Van Road United Reformed Church	-	Mr. J. Wade

Also present:

J. Elliott (Senior Research Officer), Lianne Dallimore (Lead Collaboration Project Officer), Ms. Sharon Savoury (Volunteer Manager - CCBC), Ms. T. Caswell (Social Services), Susanne Maddox (GAVO), Oliver Allies (Wavehill Consultancy), Mr. G. Jones (GAVO - LSB Support Officer), Ms. S. Crane (Aneurin Bevan Health Board).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Ms. L. Ackerman, J. Bevan, P.J. Bevan, K. Dawson, Mrs. P. Griffiths, Ms. J. Jones, Ms. S. Brown (Age Concern), Ms. J. Price (Bargoed YMCA), Mr. D. Morgan (Caerphilly 50+ Forum), Mrs. B. Helps (Caerphilly Parents & Carers Forum), Mrs. C. White (Cancercareline), Mrs. J. Render (GAVO - Director), Mr. I. Racz (Graig y Rhacca Communities Partnership), Ms. M. Snowden (Homestart Caerphilly), Mr. N. Young (Hospital League of Friends), Mrs. M. Gwynne (Oakdale Presbyterian Church), Venerable J. Blackburn CB QHC (Parish of Risca), Mr. P. Mitchell (SYDIC), Mr. J. Dilworth (The Settlement), Mr. D. Brunton (Vice Chair Voluntary Sector Representatives), Ms. D. Crossman (South Wales Fire & Rescue Service), Mr N. Taylor (Gwent Police Authority), Inspector K. Childs (Gwent Police), J. Dix (Policy & Research Manager).

BEREAVEMENT

The meeting was informed of the recent passing of Cllr. Phil Bevan's wife and all stood for one minute's silence as a mark of respect.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr. S. Morgan declared that he is on the Nelson Boys and Girls Club Trust.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 20th June 2012 were read and it was agreed that Cllr. H.A. Andrews name was omitted from the list of attendees. The minutes were accepted as a true record.

4. COMPACT ACTION REPORT

SAMANTHA CRANE, ANEURIN BEVAN HEALTH BOARD

SC presented to the Committee, an organisation chart indicating the senior posts and management structure of the Aneurin Bevan Health Board, which has undergone a restructure. There are some changes to ensure the provision of a better service. The most senior people are Dr. Andrew Goodall (Chief Executive) and Judith Paget (Chief Operating Officer/Deputy Chief Executive).

Since the restructure a certain amount of bedding in is required, to fine-tune the service provision. The Compact will need to be updated to reflect organisational name changes. The ABHB have a Voluntary Sector Interface Group, which will assist the remodelling of Third Sector Providers of Services across the ABHB footprint, and to take on development of plans and priorities. The Community Strategy will be a key driver to take change forward.

The Primary Care and Networks Divisional Manager is Bobby Bolt. This covers three main areas – GP's, Opticians and Dentists.

A statement from one committee member said that the Health Compact needs to be aligned with the Voluntary Sector Compact, so that the delivery arm matches for both.

SC said that she will attend the next meeting in December, and may be able to provide additional information at that time.

Additional item:- TRANSPORT - LOSS OF FUNDING

Cllr R. Gough reported on the potential effect that a 25% grant rebate on fuel is being withdrawn will have on local bus companies. This will also affect the Council schools transport. Loss of funding for CCBC will be £500,000 and that of Stagecoach will be £800,000. Free bus passes will not be affected. The Chair asked if Huw Morgan, Team Leader - Integrated Transport, could draft a report on bus subsidies and loss of bus services and to attend a future meeting.

5. VOLUNTEERING & BEFRIENDING SCHEME

Sharon Savoury (Volunteer Manager - CCBC) and Trudy Caswell (Deputy Manager Twyncarn Day Centre) presented information on this scheme. Volunteers recruited for this scheme will

be supporting service users within the community. It increases a service user's support and access to the community. It empowers socially isolated people. The scheme provides:-

- A person centred service that enhances their quality of life
- Support to access community activities
- The opportunity to become more involved within their own community
- Friendships
- Recruitment of volunteers to support adults has social benefits such as shopping, coffee and chatting

The Service User Eligibility is as follows:-

- Must be over 65 years of age
- Must be able to self medicate
- Must be able to mobilise without assistance
- Must be self managing for personal care
- Must be able to manage finances without assistance.

The volunteers will have to go through the application process including CRB checks and references and they will also have to undergo a formal induction and training process. At present there are about 100 volunteers supporting vulnerable adults. Volunteers may come from professionals who have retired, others may come from persons who wish to alter their career paths.

The committee had several questions to ask. One was concern about duplication of effort within the county borough. SS said that she is aware of the GAVO Volunteer Bureau and does use it.

TC said she is partly involved with the scheme, although only 2½ days per week. She is also deputy manager of Twyncarn Day Centre in Brooklands Road, Risca.

Service users, wishing to join this scheme must be referred by a Social Worker and through ASDIT. Third sector referrals must go to ASDIT, Social Services or the Aneurin Bevan Health Board. The scheme is publicised in a number of locations e.g. GP and dental surgeries.

The comment was made that other befriending schemes are not so restrictive.

Because of some concerns on this scheme the Chair asked if answers could be brought to the next meeting in December. Why do referrals need to go to Social Services and why service users with mental health issues may not be allowed to take part in the scheme.

6. CAERPHILLY & BLAENAU GWENT SOCIAL SERVICES INTEGRATION UPDATE - LIANNE DALLIMORE (Lead Collaboration Project Officer). LD's update was attached to the meeting papers

During June/July 2011 the collaboration with Blaenau Gwent continued to improve effectiveness and economies of scale and to provide equality of service provision. It was found that some services were provided in Blaenau Gwent and vice versa in CCBC. This was rationalised to benefit both areas. Governance and accountability frameworks are in place.

The integration is in three phases 2011 - 2014. The first covers corporate back office services. The second merges together Adult and Children's Services. The third creates a single management team and one Director of Social Services.

The programme is going well. A reference group made up of stakeholders, partners and Councillors has been established.

Single joint submission has been made to the Welsh Government. Blaenau Gwent will administer the budget.

A Joint Scrutiny Panel has been established, and it first met on 11th July. These will be bi-monthly meetings.

Governance of the merger of Social Services, all elected members will still be accountable from CCBC and Blaenau Gwent.

It has been discovered that the two IT software systems (Swift and Drive), which are used by each council, are not compatible. A report will be prepared on the best way of dealing with this.

From the 1st September 2012 Nigel Brown will undertake the role of Assistant Director for Social Services across Caerphilly CB and Blaenau Gwent CB, this will be reviewed in March 2013. During this period further scoping and delivery plans will be developed for the integration of Children's Services.

Current methods of service user and carer engagement have been mapped across both boroughs to assist in developing joint approaches.

Priorities for 2012/13 will include engagement with the key stakeholders at an event planned for the 3rd October. On the 4th October elected members from CCBC and Blaenau Gwent will be invited to a seminar on the integration process. There will also be Staff Roadshows in November for CCBC and Blaenau Gwent CBC.

Equality Impact Assessments are undertaken on all policies to ensure there is no negative impact on service users.

Representatives in equal proportions will be ensured across CCBC and Blaenau Gwent.

Budget delegations are yet to be decided.

MB said that the voluntary sector applauded the detailed work which Lianne has done for this report.

Cllr. R. Woodyatt cautioned that with such a big project all concerned must work carefully.

7a. DIGEST OF COMMITTEE REPORTS FROM CCBC

Members read through the digest reports page by page. Cllr J. Pritchard noted that she felt that some information under the heading of 'Report of the Cabinet Member' was out of date and even predated a previous Voluntary Sector Committee and the local government elections.

Some comments were made about the '**Public Facilities Grant from the Welsh Government**'. Essentially, this grant provides £500 annually for businesses in or near town centres, to provide toilet facilities to the public.

One member of the committee said that although the participating businesses display a sign indicating that they are part of the scheme it might also be useful to display, on a town centre notice board, a map of the exact locations of those businesses within the relevant town centre.

There were other comments regarding accessibility. Some toilet facilities are not fully accessible, for disabled people. One facility, in particular, is only open for two hours per day making its use negligible but that business is still getting the £500 grant. Within the report it states the following 'there are quite strict qualifying criteria to obtain the grant, such as signage, opening times, facilities available etc'.

The Chair asked for a report on these issues for the next meeting in December.

MB said that the council's 'Implementation of the Living Wage' is a considerable step forward and is the only council in Wales to pay £7.20 per hour.

The comment was made that it was good to see that the Nelson Boys & Girls Trust is moving forward.

Social Services Director's Annual Report – JP recommended committee members to visit the council website to view the report and also to view some excellent digital stories.

7b. Additional item - OLIVER ALLIES FROM 'WAVEHILL' REGARDING COMPACT CONSULTATION

Wavehill has been commissioned by Welsh Government to do research on compacts in Wales to see if this needs to be a statutory requirement or not in the future. The research will demonstrate best practice and what works and what does not. The first phase will be a desk based research, in each local authority area.

He will look at all local authority areas, on what is working and what is not, to develop good practice. The survey finishes at the end of October.

Members of the committee felt that the compact should be a statutory item.

Voluntary sector representatives decided to produce a paper, emphasising that bodies signed up to the compact must adhere to the compact. It was felt that when there were changes within an organisation e.g. officers leaving and are not replaced. This affects the continuity of the principles within the compact. If officers are replaced they may not know about the compact.

The Compact is designed to promote good partnership and relations. In the future it has been agreed that the Caerphilly Compact will take on board Town and Community Councils as new members of the Compact. Jackie Dix will be working on the new Compact to reform and restructure the document.

The Chair stated that good Compacts come down to trust. All organisations can be strengthened in this way.

When discussing how to deal with OA's survey the question was asked "would it be down to individuals or would it be better to have a combined reply?" In this meeting it was felt that Oliver Allies could interview two representatives.

However after the meeting it was felt by OA that with GAVO's co-operation and assistance a more all round representative survey could be produced if OA undertook a telephone survey with as many individual members of the Voluntary Sector Sub Committee as possible.

Members felt that overall the compact provides a positive experience and provides benefits with the partnership working, compared to areas where it does not exist.

With the subject of the Compact in mind and all of the partners it covers, concern was expressed about the transition from Gwent Police Authority to the Gwent Police Commissioner. It was strongly urged that a representative from the Commissioner's office should continue to attend these meetings.

MB informed members that a special meeting on the subject of the future Police Commissioner would be held by GAVO on the 27th September at Christchurch, Newport.

8. ONE BEAT UPDATE

MB reported that a record 85 organisations had responded to exhibit at the One Beat event on the 27th October and those organisations would be able set up their stands on the day before. There are 3 priorities covered by the LSB - Poverty, Single Integrated Plan and Drug and Alcohol Abuse. The Community Directory will be launched at this event.

9. CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF THE COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME (CFAP)

MB introduced this item and said that 35 organisations within the county borough had been funded over the years through this scheme, amounting to £5 million.

Some successful organisations include:-

- The United Reformed Church, Caerphilly £300,000
- Kendon & Woodview Community Hall £143,266
- Cwmcarn Institute & Village Hall £69,565
- Britannia Community Association £35,321

Using the Technical Assistance Grant Scheme had assisted many of these. He urged the members of the committee to respond to the Welsh Government's consultation. The consultation period ends on the 31st October 2012.

10. THE COMMUNITY PLANNING QUARTERLY BRIEFING – JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2012

Members viewed the quarterly briefing as an information item.

11. THE DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 5th December 2012 in the Rhymney Room, Penallta House.

The next meeting for the **Voluntary Sector Representatives** will be 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 24th October 2012 in the Rhymney Room, Penallta House.

The meeting closed at 12.20 p.m.