



## VOLUNTARY SECTOR SUB-COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK ON WEDNESDAY, 5TH DECEMBER 2012 AT 10.30 A.M.

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PRESENT:

Mr. R. Cooke – Chair

Councillors:

D. Carter, R. Gough, C. Hawker, G. Jones, A. Lewis, S. Morgan, Mrs. J.A. Pritchard, Ms. L. Ackerman, P. Bevan.

Together with:

Abertridwr Community Church	-	Mr. L. Clay
Age Concern	-	Ms. S. Brown
Caerphilly 50+ Forum	-	Mr. D. Morgan
Caerphilly Groundwork Trust	-	Mr. R. H. Cooke
Caerphilly People First	-	Mr. C. Luke
Cancercareline	-	Mrs. C. White
Disability Can Do Organisation	-	Mr. R. Bevan
GAVO – Director	-	Mrs. J. Render
GAVO – Caerphilly	-	Mr. M. Bridgman
New CLURV	-	Mrs. J. Morgan
SYDIC	-	Mr. P. Mitchell
The Vanguard Centre	-	Mrs. M. Wade
Van Road United Reformed Church	-	Mr. J. Wade
Vice Chair Voluntary Sector Representatives		Mr. D. Brunton

Also present:

J. Dix (CCBC Policy & Research Manager), J. Elliott (CCBC Senior Research Officer), Susanne Maddox (GAVO), Ms. S. Crane (Aneurin Bevan Health Board), Inspector K. Childs (Gwent Police), Dr. Jason Shannon (Assistant Medical Director, Cwm Taf Health Board), Nicole Davies (Assistant Director Partnerships, Cwm Taf Health Board), Jenny Render (Director – GAVO), Gina Jones (GAVO), Huw Morgan (CCBC – Integrated Transport Unit)

#### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. K. Dawson, J. Bevan, Mrs. P. Griffiths, Ms. J. Jones, Mrs. E. Aldworth, R. Woodyatt, Ms. J. Price (Bargoed YMCA), Mrs. B. Helps (Caerphilly Parents & Carers Forum), 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. J. Dilworth (The Settlement), Ms. D. Crossman (South Wales Fire & Rescue Service), Mr. N. Taylor (Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner), Mr. P. Jones (Abbeyfield), Ms. J. Lawton (Caerphilly Mind), Mrs. B. Helps (Caerphilly Parents & Carers Forum), Mrs. C. Williams (Cruse Bereavement Care), Mr. T. Sheehan (Caerphilly Business Forum)

## **2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None declared.

- 2(a) At this point an extra item was added to the agenda. MB announced that the Director of GAVO, Jenny Render will be retiring at the end of January 2013. A presentation, of an inscribed plaque, and a bottle of wine was made by the Chair - Bob Cooke who also recounted the long association, by various organisations, with JR. She was given best wishes, for the future by MB, and the Voluntary Sector Sub Committee.

## **3. MINUTES**

- 3.1 SC from the ABHB, said that under the Primary Care & Networks - Divisional Director there are five Heads of Primary Partnership & Networks, and under these would lie the Neighbourhood Care Networks.
- 3.2 MB reported that the 'One Beat' event held in October, was very successful and it was agreed by the contributors, as being an excellent day. There were 97 stands from voluntary organisations, and between 300 – 400 people attended. The event assisted the launch of the Community Directory. People attending the event were asked about their opinions on the event. It was felt that the venue, 'Penallta House', was convenient and would be the preferred location, the registration process would be discontinued, and the length of the speeches was just right. Disappointment was expressed at the lack of representatives attending from Elected Members, and the Police & Fire Services. The 'One Beat' event for 2013, will be on the 19th October.
- 3.3 MB also announced that the Technical Assistance Funding Scheme, which was administered by CCBC's Policy Unit, will in future be administered by the GAVO Funding Officer. This funding scheme has assisted voluntary and community groups in the county borough, over the past 10 years, to attract over £8 million, for an outlay of £250,000.
- 3.4 The minutes from the meeting on the 19th September 2012, were then accepted as a true record.

## **4. WELSH GOVERNMENT REVENUE CUTS TO BUS FUNDING**

- 4.1 A verbal report on this subject was given by Huw Morgan from CCBC – Integrated Transport Unit. He said that 80% of financial commercial transport provision is via contracts, timetabled routes and fare paying passengers. Operators get a Local Transport Services Grant, which is a rebate on fuel for local bus services.

20% of the network is subsidised covering evening and weekend services and also midweek services, all of which are generally considered as less attractive services for operators. Thirty thousand passenger journeys are made each day. A grant subsidy is provided for non commercial routes, by the Welsh Government.

- 4.2 The Welsh Government (W.G.) wishes to cut revenue funding by 25%. A major cut of this size will increase operating costs for services.

The 'Local Transport Services Grant' of £500,000 is provided by the W.G., and this will be cut next year by 25%. This will mean that some services will need support. The possibility is that some commercial services will become uneconomic, and routes may be cut. The council is unlikely to be able to support the services that are cut due to their own budget constraints.

- 4.3 The Westminster Government is encouraging the 'Green Bus Fund' which seeks to encourage operators to purchase more fuel efficient buses, buses which are greener / more environmentally friendly and which have lower operating costs. But this is only available in England and Scotland at the moment.

Considering the possible impact on the transport provision, it was felt that a report should be compiled on this, to go to Scrutiny and Cabinet.

- 4.4 HM did say that perhaps we should look more to community transport to cover specific gaps in transport service provision, such as the 'Connect 2' service, already operating. There is a need to provide transport between a variety of sites e.g. Sheltered Housing Complex, health hubs – G.P. & dental surgeries, hospitals, shopping centres.

- 4.5 It was stated that the removal of the fuel subsidy would also affect the council's Social Services transport service.

If some transport services around the county borough are cancelled then there may be driver redundancies made by bus transport companies. At the moment concessionary bus passes are not affected.

- 4.6 HM said that there are a lot of ongoing discussions with the W.G. revolving around other types of interventions, such as collaborative working, quality of vehicles etc., and much of these discussions are held under the SEWTA (South East Wales Transport Alliance) meetings.

## 5. VOLUNTARY SECTOR QUESTIONS

### 5(a) **Caerphilly CBC Volunteering & Befriending Scheme**

Following a presentation on the above by Social Services, at the last meeting, a position statement is attached to the papers for this meeting.

### 5(b) **Public Facilities Grant Scheme – Business participation to provide toilet facilities to the general public**

Questions were asked on this subject at the last meeting, with particular attention around signage, disabled access, and hours of opening. The Voluntary Sector Sub Committee were shown the revised information on the council's website, with regard to each business on the scheme, and whether the site was accessible or not.

Concerns were expressed that the current scheme is now fully subscribed and that no more businesses can be taken on board. There were also questions on whether the scheme should have an annual contract review, to ensure businesses are complying fully, especially with signage and with regard to opening times. Consideration should be given to consulting with Town and Community councils. It was agreed that a small number of people, representing the concerns of the Voluntary Sector, will meet with a representative from Waste Management to discuss their concerns. Names to be forwarded to Jackie Dix in the CCBC Policy Unit.

**6. POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER – VERBAL UPDATE FROM MIKE BRIDGMAN - GAVO**

- 6.1 M.B. said that in spite of the disappointing low turnout, for the election for the Commissioner, there were some very good workshops to discuss the work of the future Commissioner, held by the WCVA. It is now known that Ian Johnston was elected to the post.
- 6.2 Neil Taylor will be setting up a network of workshops for the Commissioner to attend, to gauge any concerns which people may have, at a local level. One is scheduled for the 17th January 2013, in association with the WCVA and Torfaen Alliance. Feedback will be given to the Voluntary Sector Committee, from these meetings. The Chair said that he would hope that there would be representation from the Commissioner's office, at future meetings of the Voluntary Sector Committee.

**7. COMPACT REPORTS**

**7(a) Compact 2013-17 verbal report by Jackie Dix (CCBC)**

JD said that compilation of the Compact was progressing well. The new Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, will be discussed with Neil Taylor. The Town and Community Councils have signed up as partners for the new Compact, and they will be represented, on this Committee, by Howard Llewellyn. JD has been meeting with the council's Graphic Design section, to discuss ideas around the design and production of the Compact. The draft of the new Compact will be available from the 17th December. The Compact will be launched in March 2013.

MB said the committee may remember that a consultant had been appointed by the Welsh Government to survey all Welsh councils, to evaluate their particular Compacts. This was with a view, by the Welsh Government, of making Compacts a statutory requirement. The consultant has been in touch with MB, with the result that it is considered that the Caerphilly county borough Compact was the best in Wales.

**7(b) Consultation on Challenges Facing Hospital Services in South Wales**

A presentation by Samantha Crane - Aneurin Bevan Health Board, Dr. Jason Shannon & Nicole Davies – Cwm Taf Health Board.

SC said that the PowerPoint presentation was a standard one for use across health boards in South Wales. It is hoped that this consultation will help develop a South Wales Programme to tackle the challenges faced by the Health Service.

The consultation will consider three main areas:-

**Obstetrics**

**Paediatric and Neonatal care**

**Accident and Emergency care**

The purpose of this exercise is trying to deliver a local neighbourhood model, linking the community to secondary care, into an integrated system with better communications. In emergency settings patients need to have different people dealing with minor injuries. Often there is no need for the assessment process to involve a doctor. The focus is to get the model balance right, between minor assessments and specialist emergency treatment. It was noted that 80% of emergency admissions are due to the frailty of older people.

The ABHB will use the feedback to inform the next phase of its work. The ABHB will continue to draw on clinical evidence / advice to develop proposals for formal public consultation early next year. No decisions will be made until the end of the formal consultation period.

The 12-week engagement process runs until 19th December. Health boards and the South Wales Programme will review the public feedback, clinical advice and guidance and will develop options for formal consultation in January 2013.

A formal consultation period may begin in late January, subject to approval and community health council agreement. Consultation may end in late March 2013. Subject to agreement, specialist services could begin to change from late spring /early summer 2013.

Some questions were put to the presentation panel by Committee members. It was felt by some that more discussion should be entered into with the Ambulance Service as there had been a number of recurring incidents, where patients were sent to the wrong hospital. There needs to be far more integration of this service, with the appropriate medical personnel. Dr. S replied that the Wales Ambulance Service Trust (WAST) had been involved with this consultation.

It was acknowledged that there will be a need in the future to provide a new style of ambulance service. Currently there are delays when ambulances are tied up at A & E departments, but WAST are considering new styles of operating and this will be part of the 'Core Pathway'. The role of medical emergency services may eventually be rolled out into the community. With rapid diagnosis and quick treatment it may be possible to assist people to remain at home, rather than be admitted directly to hospital. This would require the availability of appropriate skills so that patients are treated quickly. In the Cwm Taf area a telephone call is made to a Triage Unit, to gauge what would be the appropriate level of care for a patient. Reference on this point was made to the slide in the presentation 'Getting the Right Balance'.

It was stated that if the current trend, and volume of admissions to hospitals were to continue into the future, based on present calculations, there would be a need for a number of new hospitals throughout the S.Wales area. This was not feasible for economic reasons, there is no money available to cover such a provision. An alternative to this is to attempt to change the public's perception of bed care medical provision. Rather than be hospital based bed care, where appropriate, this could be turned into bed care in the community or at home. Many patients do not need to be admitted to a hospital bed.

Another point was raised for consideration in this consultation, on the transport of carers, and transport for family members, where public transport is not available.

Since the opening of Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr, it continues to be problematic as to what medical problems the staff can deal with. What is needed is a comprehensive list of what is treatable at this hospital and ensure this information is widely publicised. It may be a good idea to give this information to sporting organisations, where minor injuries may frequently be encountered, so they know which hospital to use.

Would the use of satellite tracking equipment fitted to ambulance vehicles provide better information for managing the service? The reply was that vehicles may already be fitted with this equipment, but that many other factors affect the management of the ambulance service, not just knowing the location of each vehicle. The Welsh Government is currently involved with a review of the ambulance service.

One member of the Committee said that on four consecutive occasions, when collecting her regular prescriptions for a particular medical issue, the tablets came in different coloured boxes and from four different pharmaceutical companies. Even though the strength and dosages were exactly the same, the package colouring and package size differences, could cause massive confusion to some patients. SC stated this was due to the manufacturing companies, but will look into this to see if some form of standardisation could be agreed.

Comments were made on a South Wales Argus article, copies of which were handed out at the meeting. It refers to Community First Volunteer Responders, and to a similar scheme of rapid response being undertaken by the South Wales Fire & Rescue Service and WAST. Both schemes operate emergency response, to cover the period before the ambulance service arrives at an incident. The difference is that Community First Volunteers are not paid, but those recruited to do the same work, by SWF&R are paid. Also, to purchase some equipment, the voluntary sector volunteers have undertake fundraising, as WAST do not automatically provide such equipment. According to the press article, both organisations failed to respond to the Argus by the time that edition went to press.

## 8. ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR FROM COMPACT PARTNERS

- 8(a) Digest of Committee Reports from Caerphilly CBC. For Information only.

## 9. INFORMATION REPORTS:-

- 9(a) **The Committee had requested information on the Rural Development Plan (RDP) and Community Regeneration Grants, Update and Guidelines, and papers are attached to the agenda on this matter.**

MB stated that the operation of the above schemes was not in agreement with the 'Compact'. Funding was made in advance for some schemes but others required payment in arrears. This could be very serious for voluntary organisations who have to find funding to complete a project before they are paid. This applies to the Community Regeneration Grants in particular.

The Voluntary Sector does not agree with the guidelines and they will be tacking this up with the Local Authority. It would take the form that if they had the finances in the first place, they would not be applying for funding, from the grant scheme. Cllr GJ will take this up with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning.

- 9(b) **NEST – Welsh Government Scheme to reduce the number of households in fuel poverty.** Information was attached to the papers for this meeting.

- 9(c) **Community Planning Quarterly Briefing October to December 2012.**

JD briefly explained that this is an information item only, and it provides the Committee with an update on work undertaken for this period.

### **Additional Item.**

MB announced that the Welsh Government is conducting a consultation into Rate Relief for Charities and Credit Unions, as some questions have been asked, regarding which organisations should be able to apply for this relief, and the qualifying criteria.

## 10. THE DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 20th March 2013 in the Rhymney Room, Penallta House.

Future meeting dates: 19th June, 18th September, 4th December 2013.

The next meeting for the **Voluntary Sector Representatives** will be 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 13th February 2013 in the Rhymney Room, Penallta House.

The meeting closed at 12.16 p.m.