



VOLUNTARY SECTOR SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK ON WEDNESDAY, 20TH MARCH 2013 AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

Mr. R. Cooke – Chair

Councillors:

D. Carter, R. Gough, C. Hawker, A. Lewis, Mrs. J.A. Pritchard,
Ms. L. Ackerman, P. Bevan, J. Bevan, Mrs. J. Summers, R. Woodyatt.

Together with:

Abbeyfield	-	Mr. P. Jones
Abertridwr Community Church	-	Mr. L. Clay
Age Cymru	-	Ms. S. Brown
Caerphilly Groundwork Trust	-	Mr. R. H. Cooke
Caerphilly Mind	-	Ms. J. Lawton
Caerphilly People First	-	Mr. C. Luke
Cancercareline	-	Mrs. C. White
Cruse Bereavement Care	-	Mrs. C. Williams
Disability Can Do Organisation	-	Mr. R. Bevan
GAVO – Caerphilly	-	Mr. M. Bridgman
Graig y Rhacca Communities	-	Mr. I. Racz
Partnership		
SYDIC	-	Mr. P. Mitchell
The Vanguard Centre	-	Mrs. M. Wade
Van Road United Reformed Church	-	Mr. J. Wade
Vice Chair Voluntary Sector	-	Mr. D. Brunton
Representatives		

Also present:

J. Dix (CCBC Policy & Research Manager), J. Elliott (CCBC Senior Research Officer), Geraint Jones (GAVO), Inspector K. Childs (Gwent Police), Ms. Natalie Whyatt (Caerphilly Business Forum Representative), Mr. H. Llewellyn (Town & Community Council Representative)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. G. Jones, K. Dawson, Mrs. E. Aldworth, Mrs. P. Griffiths, Ms. J. Jones, Mr. S. Morgan, Mr. D. Morgan (Caerphilly 50+ Forum), Mrs. B. Helps (Caerphilly Parents & Carers Forum), Ms. M. Snowden (Homestart Caerphilly), Mr. N. Young (Hospital League of Friends), Mrs. J. Morgan (New CLURV), Mrs. B. Helps (Caerphilly Parents & Carers Forum), Mr. T. Sheehan (Caerphilly Business Forum), Ms. S. Crane (Aneurin Bevan Health Board), Superintendent B. Williams (Gwent Police)

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None declared.

3. MINUTES

- 3.1 MB commented on Item 3.3, from the December minutes. It had stated that GAVO was going to take over the administration of the Technical Assistance Fund (TAF) from CCBC's Policy Unit. However there have been some changes to the way the Council wishes GAVO to operate this fund. This essentially revolves around the issue of the payment of TAF monies in arrears, rather than an immediate, full payment to administer the scheme in advance, which is unacceptable to GAVO. JD explained that further talks were being undertaken within the Council's Corporate Finance Section on the issue of the TAF.
- 3.2 A wider discussion took place on advance payments. MB said that the Council, in not allowing advance payments caused serious cash flow problems for large and small organisations. This had led to some small organisations in the county borough turning down grant funding. MB commented on the fact that Newport City Council did make advance payments, and there were also examples of the Community Facilities and Activities Programme (CFAP), the Lottery, and other small grant schemes making advance payments. JD informed the committee that the financial

regulations at the Council, did not permit for advance payments to be made by CCBC. MB urgently encouraged the elected members present, to address these financial regulations. It was also noted that Cllr. G. Jones will be speaking to the Leader and Deputy Leader about the issue of advance payments.

3.3 Compact 2013-17, MB announced that the new compact would be launched in the Council Chamber at Penallta House on the 8th April 2013 at 11.30am until 1.00pm, followed by a buffet lunch. MB said that official invitations had been sent out to a wide audience to include all of the signatories to the Compact. The Members of the Voluntary Sector recommended invitations to be sent out to AM's, Regional AM's and MP's for the CCBC area. The Committee felt that MB should send a letter to the WG, expressing their disappointment that Carl Sargeant's replacement, Leslie Griffiths will not be attending the launch of the new Compact. Also there has been no outcome from the consultant, appointed by the WG, to look into the possibility of making Compacts a statutory obligation for each Local Authority in Wales. JD commented that the report is imminently due to be published by the Welsh Government and she will circulate a draft press release.

3.4 A Committee Member drew attention to the minute regarding Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr 'continues to be problematic', who wanted to know whether this had improved. The ABHB have provided a public information leaflet on how the Local Emergency Centre (LEC) works, this can be accessed from this link :-

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/documents/866/How%20does%20the%20YYF%20LEC%20work.pdf>

A detailed list of services provided can be accessed via the following link:-
http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/866/page/58116#Services_at_Ysbyty_Ystrad_Fawr

3.6 The minutes of the meeting on the 5th December 2012 were then recorded as a true record.

4. COMPACT REPORTS

4(a) Voluntary Sector input to Caerphilly Local Service Board – Geraint Jones, GAVO

A PowerPoint presentation was given by GJ, with the title 'Making The Connections Project', which described the key aim of the project, to support the Third Sector in its engagement with the Local Service Board

(LSB) and to help the third sector to support the LSB in its aim to improve the well-being of the citizens of Caerphilly. This will be undertaken:-

- by publicising the LSB and its aims,
- encourage engagement and participation,
- develop innovative ways of working – consortia.

This can also be accomplished by giving a response to the Single Integrated Plan consultation (Closing date 22nd March 2013) This will assist in designing existing services so they are more effective, and help initiate new services.

Caerphilly Local Service Board is a partnership of the key organisations that deliver services to the citizens of the County Borough of Caerphilly i.e. Aneurin Bevan Health Board (ABHB), Welsh Government, Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC), Gwent Police, GAVO. The LSB's present priorities are:- alleviation of poverty; address alcohol misuse; and the formulation of a single integrated plan. The Chair thanked GJ for the informative presentation.

4(b) Strengthening the relationship between the Welsh Government and the Third Sector – Mike Bridgman, GAVO

MB read out a Ministerial Statement (Agenda Item No. 4(b), from Carl Sargeant (Now, former Minister for Local Government & Communities), dated 22nd January 2013. This letter announced the start of a process to look into the relationship between the Welsh Government and the Third Sector, to ensure that support provided by the Welsh Government to the Third Sector infrastructure organisations, including Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA), County Voluntary Councils (CVC), and Volunteer Bureaux, is appropriate for present circumstances, and delivers the best possible value for money. The Welsh Government needs to ensure that the working and funding arrangements to support the sector takes into account the Programme for Government. There will be a formal consultation process later this year for everyone to contribute their responses.

The PowerPoint slides were presented verbally, by the Acting Director of GAVO, Mike Bridgman. Some of the following notes are connected to the previous paragraph.

The notes refer to the feedback from Workshop Sessions held on the 8th February 2013, with Paul Dear, of the Welsh Government. He described the current informal period of engagement to seek the views of the Third Sector. There were five different workshop sessions attended by MB.

They covered the following subject areas:-

- Third Sector Infrastructure
- Collaborative Working
- Volunteering
- Fundraising
- Engagement with the Welsh Government

More detailed work was discussed around the Strategic Action Plan; The Third Dimension, the Code of Practice for funding the Third Sector in Wales, Partnership Agreement between the Welsh Government and the WCVA.

There were representatives from CVC's, and large charities such as Barnardo's, Age Cymru, Wales Women's Institute, in attendance. This type of event was the first to be held with more to follow, for further consultation.

The aims of the workshops were to refresh the relationship between the Welsh Government and the Third Sector. Also to update the Welsh Government policy regarding current priorities, and to look at reviewing/ revising or replacing key documents, which were tabled at each workshop. There was a possibility, to rationalise and align organisations, in that 19 separate CVC's in Wales may reduce to 7 or 9. Funding could be available every 5 years, and there will be a need to produce detailed, regular reports on how funding is spent.

The informal period of engagement has started, and will continue across Wales to allow contributions from a wide range of stakeholders. A Reference Group will be established which will include WG Officials and representatives from the Third Sector. This group will meet twice in the preparatory phase February – March 2013. The consultation will start by May 2013 and last 12 weeks. Responses to the consultation will be analysed by October and a decision on funding and future infrastructure will be made by Christmas 2013.

4(c) Compact Action Plan 2013 to 2017 – Jackie Dix, CCBC

JD introduced this item, stating that the revised Compact Agreement 2013-14, aligns delivering the Community Strategy, through the Single Integrated Plan for community planning, which is coming into being from April 2013 with the following priority outcomes: Prosperous Caerphilly; Safer Caerphilly; Learning Caerphilly and Healthier Caerphilly.

The new Compact Action Plan for 2013-14 recognises that joining the Compact Agreement for the first time are: Caerphilly Borough Community/Town Councils, and Caerphilly Business Forum. The Police and Crime Commissioner Office is also coming on board, replacing the former Gwent Police Authority, a previous partner to the Compact Agreement.

Following consultation with Compact Partners, and contributors to the Compact action plan, some minor changes have been made to wording and some additional actions have been added, which are underlined and in bold for easy identification.

The Compact Action Plan will be implemented from Monday, 1st April 2013, with Compact Partners and responsible bodies providing reports to the Committee, if requested by the Voluntary Sector Committee representatives, and will provide a 12 month final report on progress with the Compact actions 2012-13, to the CCBC Policy Unit.

5 WELSH GOVERNMENT DISCUSSION PAPER FOR LOCAL SERVICE BOARDS

- 5(a)** The (now former, Minister for Local Government and Communities), Carl Sargeant wrote to Chairs of Local Service Boards, February 2013, to seek views on a Local Service Board discussion paper. The Voluntary Sector is represented on Caerphilly Local Service Board by Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations, by Mike Bridgman (Acting Director GAVO) sitting on the Local Service Board.

This report presents the Discussion Paper for Local Service Boards on the Sustainable Development Duty and Collaborative Working, sent by the Minister Carl Sargeant to the Chairs of LSBs. The discussion paper expands on the proposals of the White Paper (**Welsh Government - Sustainable Development Bill – White paper**) to ensure that partnership working is placed on a more stable long-term footing within the Sustainable Development duty.

Through the proposed Bill, this Local Service Board (LSB) discussion paper has been sent to Chairs of LSB's seeking views on using the Sustainable Development Bill to include legislation to put integrated planning on a single statutory footing, simplifying the framework within which local partners work together to improve well-being embodying the principles of sustainable development, and to clarify and strengthen the role of LSB's.

Views are sought either collectively from the LSB, or through individual members on the discussion paper by the end of March 2013, with views used to inform the drafting of the legislation over the summer. Comments on the paper are required to be emailed to Paul Harrison at - paul.harrison2@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Members of the Committee were concerned at several proposals in the discussion paper described as follows:

‘Considering proposals to make local service boards statutory, without incurring additional running costs. Note the new statutory LSB core membership proposals do not include two current ‘core’ members of LSBS; the third sector (through CVC's) and the Welsh Government. Views are sought on whether the third sector and the Welsh Government should be statutory members of LSB's, or whether there should be a looser relationship, such as through invitation’.

Members of the Committee have concerns about the ‘statutory’ duty which could be placed on the voluntary sector, which it was felt, that this was not necessary. Also, the word ‘invitation’ does not confer official status on the Voluntary Sector representation, and the word should be removed from the proposal. The Voluntary Sector should always be included, and not just invited.

6. VOLUNTARY SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES QUESTION ON ADVANCE PAYMENTS

6(a) Where possible, to help organisations who show a need for funding in advance, can it be agreed for organisations that prove a need, to be paid in advance?

The substantive reply to this was that the Council’s Financial Regulations prevented advanced payments to the Voluntary Sector organisations. However the Council is willing to make interim grant payments to voluntary organisations, following the satisfactory completion of specific areas of work (excluding European funding). For example once a £500 component has been delivered, an interim payment of £500 could be made on what could be a larger project i.e. a project for £5k where an organisation has just £500 of available cash, may work with 10 stage payments, if the contractor selected by the organisation can be flexible and raise 10 invoices at 10 stages of the project.

MB said that although this is a good first step, it does not go far enough. Most other comments have already been made in item 3.1 above.

7. GWENT POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER UPDATE – MIKE BRIDGMAN, GAVO (VERBAL REPORT)

- 7(a)** MB said that, overall the meeting with Ian Johnston, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) was a success. IJ recognised the good work which GAVO and the Voluntary Sector is doing. The Police and Crime Commissioner is now a new signatory to the Voluntary Sector Compact. At the moment there will be no changes to funding for the voluntary sector.

IJ felt that voluntary sector organisations should be paid in advance and not in arrears, where the need is shown. It is the PCC's intention to attend a future meeting of the Voluntary Sector Sub Committee.

8. VOLUNTARY SECTOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS – MIKE BRIDGMAN, GAVO (VERBAL REPORT)

- 8(a)** MB urged all Voluntary Sector Members on the Committee, including Elected members, Gwent Police, South Wales Fire & Rescue Service, the Gwent Police & Crime Commissioner, Town & Community Councils, Caerphilly Business Forum, and Aneurin Bevan Health Board, to nominate worthy volunteers who have made significant contributions to the public and the voluntary sector, who may be considered for Achievement Awards. Forms were made available at this meeting but more forms can be obtained by contacting the GAVO office on 01443 863540. **Nominations are required now, for consideration.** The evening awards ceremony will be on the 19th June 2013, in Penallta House.

KC from Gwent Police, said that he would be looking at nominating some Police Cadets and will put their names forward for consideration.

GAVO has been asked to take on the operation of the Heroes Award, however they feel that they must be careful not to confuse the two awards, which are separate.

9. ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR FROM COMPACT PARTNERS:

- 9(a) Digest of Committee Reports from Caerphilly County Borough Council**

MB introduced these items and said that he was impressed at the large

number of high profile council projects, and initiatives being undertaken. This was particularly so from a Leisure point of view, with the eventual construction of a new Caerphilly Leisure Centre on the St Illan school site, and the Sporting Centre of Excellence at Ystrad Mynach, on the old hospital site. There was also the impending Welsh National Mining Memorial at Senghenydd, due to be completed this year to commemorate both, the major disaster in 1913 at the Universal Colliery in Senghenydd, when 440 men and boys died, following a huge explosion, but also to act as a national memorial for all mining loss of life, in Wales. There is also an impressive report on the Council's implementation of a living wage. If any member of the Committee wishes to see any of the reports in full, please contact John Elliott in the council's Policy Unit, on 01443 864415 or e-mail ellioj@caerphilly.gov.uk

9(b) Items of Interest from the Aneurin Bevan Health Board – verbal report

Unfortunately SC from the ABHB had to send her apologies for this meeting.

9(c) Items of interest from the office of the Gwent Police & Crime Commissioner

Some members of the Committee expressed their concerns over the closure of police stations within CCBC's area. MB to send a letter to the PCC.

9(d) Items of Interest from Gwent Police

KC said that he may be able to answer the question on police station closures. He said that with the technological changes which have taken place over the years, particularly with the massive use of mobile telephones, contacting the local police has changed. People, who would at one time have visited a local police station, now would communicate by mobile telephone or e-mail or even by using social media sites. The requirement therefore for a staffed police station, front desk service, has diminished, and even the new police station at Ystrad Mynach has withdrawn the front desk service. Gwent Police have invested in a number of mobile police stations, which are large blue vans, to which the public can go to discuss any issues with the staff, on board. The locations and timing of these mobile units are available from the Gwent Police website. See below for Web contact details:-

Go to <http://www.gwent.police.uk/>
Click on my area

Click on Caerphilly (i.e. Caerphilly CBC)

Click on Ward

Click on 'Meet with us' for details on:- the Police Surgeries, PACT meetings and location of Mobile Police stations and times.

9(e) Items of Interest from South Wales Fire & Rescue Service

With no representation or report from the SWFRS, the Chair asked if MB could draft a letter from this Committee to Rob Morris asking for future representation. MB did say that DC had been ill recently so that may be a reason for her non attendance.

9(f) Items of interest from Caerphilly Business Forum

The Chair thanked the Caerphilly Business Forum (CBF) for their report and noted the information on the Passport to Employment Scheme. Natalie Whyatt introduced herself, and explained that she was representing the CBF for this meeting as Tony Sheehan, the Chair of the CBF, was unavailable.

The Chair of this Committee mentioned that the official launch of the Passport to Employment scheme, was on the 5th April 2013, in Penallta House.

9(g) Items of interest from the Town & Community Councils

HL who is the Town & Community Councils representative, said that he found these meetings very informative, however at this time he had nothing to report to the Committee.

10 INFORMATION REPORTS

10(a) Community Planning Quarterly Briefing January to March 2013

The Community Planning Quarterly Briefing January to March 2013, was attached for information.

10(b) The Chair announced that leaflets were on the tables for Committee members to view regarding the Celebration of the Centenary of the Mynyddislwyn Offices, which now houses the Groundwork Caerphilly Offices. To take place on the 21st March 2013 at 3.00pm to 7.00pm.

10(c) CL said that he was pleased to see that the Department for Work and Pensions are giving a presentation on the new Personal Independence Payments (PIP) which will replace the Disability Living Allowance, on

Monday, 25th March 2013 in the Council Chamber at Penallta House.

CL also said that he had not had word of a Welfare Reform Act presentation by the CAB, on Benefits Payments and Council Tax Reform, which had been promised six weeks ago. MB to investigate.

11. THE DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 19th June 2013 in the Rhymney Room, Penallta House.

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

The next meeting for the **Voluntary Sector Representatives** will be 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 15th May 2013 in the Rhymney Room, Penallta House.

The meeting closed at 12.10 p.m.