



## VOLUNTARY SECTOR SUB-COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK ON WEDNESDAY, 21ST MARCH 2012 AT 10.30 A.M.

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PRESENT:

Mr. R. Cooke – Chair

Councillors:

D. Carter, Mrs. B.M. Toomer, R. Gough, Mrs. J. A. Pritchard

Together with:

|                                 |   |                  |
|---------------------------------|---|------------------|
| Abbeyfield                      | - | Mr. P. Jones     |
| Abertridwr Community Church     | - | Mr. L. Clay      |
| Age Cymru                       | - | Ms. S. Brown     |
| Bargoed YMCA                    | - | Ms. J. Price     |
| 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 |
| GAVO                            | - | Mr. M. Bridgman  |
| Graig Y Rhacca Communities      | - | Mr. I. Racz      |
| Partnership                     |   |                  |
| Homestart Caerphilly            | - | Ms. M. Snowden   |
| SYDIC                           | - | Mr. P. Mitchell  |
| Vanguard Centre                 | - | Mr. R. Andrews   |
| Van Road United Reformed Church | - | Mr. J. Wade      |
| Volume                          | - | Mr. D Brunton    |

Together with:

G. Richards (Principal Solicitor), J. Dix (Policy & Research Manager), J. Beecham (Aneurin Bevan Health Board), J. Elliott (Senior Research Officer), S. Davies (Grants Co-ordinator - GAVO), Sgt. R. Davies (Gwent Police), J. Hughes-Wynn (Communications – CCBC), Ms. K. Howells & Ms. A. Williams (Disability Can Do).

### **Tribute to Cllr. A. S. Williams, who recently passed away**

The Chair of the Voluntary Sector Sub Committee, Mr. R. Cooke, paid tribute to Cllr. Allen S. Williams. He said that Allen was a great supporter of the Voluntary Sector and that they had both worked together, for a number of voluntary organisations. Latterly Allen was a keen supporter and member of the Caerphilly Disability Can Do Project. He will be very much missed.

The Committee then stood in silence for one minute as a mark of respect.

Details of the funeral arrangements were then given to the Committee.

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from, Vice Chair – Cllr. Ms. L. Ackerman, Cllr. J.O. Evans, Cllr. K. Lloyd, Mr. D. Morgan (Caerphilly 50+ Forum), Mrs. B. Helps (Caerphilly Parents & Carers Forum), Mrs. J. Render (Director - GAVO), Mr. N. Young (Hospital League Of Friends), Mrs. M. Wade (The Vanguard Centre), Ms. S. Martin and Mr. C. Edmunds (Aneurin Bevan Health Board), Inspector K. Childs (Gwent Police), Ms. D. Crossman (South Wales Fire & Rescue Service).

### **2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

### **3. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2011 were approved as a correct record.

### **MATTERS ARISING**

#### **Amendment to the 'One Beat' event (Minute No. 15)**

The One Beat event for 2012 will be on the 27th October, in Penallta House, and not on the 22nd October as stated in the previous minutes.

#### **Public Conveniences (Minute No. 6(a))**

Following on, from the minute from the last meeting, on the issue of a lack of public toilets in the county borough, MB referred to the comprehensive report which had been distributed to all committee members, prior to this meeting,

entitled 'Public Health Implications of Inadequate Public Toilet Facilities – Report of Evidence, March 2012.' This report was published by the **Health and Social Care Committee**, National Assembly for Wales – 5th March 2012

**Conclusion** (Extract taken from the NAFW Report)

"The evidence gathered by the Health and Social Care Committee is summarised in this document. In undertaking this work, the Committee set out to test the proposition that inadequate public toilet provision has a detrimental impact on public health in Wales. Based on the evidence received, the Committee is firmly of the view that the proposition is correct: the **public health case** for better public toilet provision is strong.

It is the Committee's view that, given the central role of local government in the provision of public toilet facilities, further investigation of the development of this network is a matter better considered by those more expert in local government matters. The Committee believes that the evidence not only supports the **public health case** for better public toilet provision to be strong, but also underscores the case for further investigation of **local authority provision** of public toilet facilities. Such investigation could be undertaken by the Communities, Equalities and Local Government Committee and the relevant Minister, but it would be for them to decide whether or not to do so."

**GAVO Health, Social Care & Wellbeing Officer (Minute 6(c))**

MB stated that the above post will continue but could cover both Blaenau Gwent CBC and Caerphilly CBC.

**Rate Relief (Minute 7(a))**

MB said that the question has, since been answered.

**4. THE WORK OF DISABILITY CAN DO – POWERPOINT PRESENTATION BY KATE HOWELLS**

KH explained that the organisation had originally been set up as a 'Beacon Project'. It provides an Independent Community Advocacy Service and acts as a Centre of Excellence for disabled people in the community. They are working on a project to develop a 'Talk Line over the Internet' to relieve the isolation which many disabled people feel, when they spend a lot of time at home, and have little, or no contact with other people.

Disability Can Do provides a variety of training, including Advocacy Awareness Training, Disability Awareness and advice to Carers. They hold frequent 'Carers Coffee & Chat' sessions and run the Caerphilly County Borough Disability Forum.

Volunteers are a valued resource for Disability Can Do and the organisation is based in the:

Penllwyn Millennium Centre,  
Penllwyn Lane,  
Pontllanfraith,  
Blackwood, NP12 2EQ  
Info line: 01495 233555  
Advocacy: 01495 233550  
Admin: 01495 233559  
Fax: 01495 619874  
Web site: [www.disabilitycando.org.uk](http://www.disabilitycando.org.uk)

Disability Can Do's mission statement is 'Empowering & Enabling Disabled People & Carers'.

Disability Can Do deals with physically disabled people, people with learning difficulties and their carers and not for people who have mental health issues. KW mentioned that the next Caerphilly CB Disability Forum will be on the 3rd April at the Penllwyn Millennium Centre, at which Gwent Police are giving a presentation on Disability Hate Crime and how to report incidents.

A statement was made that in these tight financial times all Voluntary Organisations have reduced funding opportunities and that this needs to be closely monitored if an organisation is to be made sustainable.

The Chair thanked KH for giving an informative presentation.

## **5. COMPACT ACTION REPORTS**

### **5(a) FUNDING PRESENTATION BY SANDRA DAVIES (GAVO Grants Co-ordinator)**

SD said that the total amount of grants lost, which are not being re-funded for 2012, amounted to £230,000. However the total amount of grants secured to date for the financial year 2012-2013 is £113,777.

The Grant Schemes Booklet for 2012-2013 is currently being updated and will be launched at the Annual Speed Funding Half Day on Wednesday 16th May 2012 at the Oasis Christian Centre, Cefn Fforest. The event will hold funding surgeries with a variety of funding organisations who will give advice to potential applicants. Unfortunately due to the economic climate the number of grant schemes overall, have reduced. On this occasion it is planned that this session will take the form of a half-day event, 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m, with only light refreshments available.

The Wanless Funding ceased in 2011, and was superseded by the Health Social Care and Well Being Grant. For 2011-2012 the HSCWB grant awarded £23,314 to 12 Groups. The HSCWB grant scheme will continue for 2012.

The Safer Caerphilly CB Grant was approached just before Christmas 2011 to administer an under spend of £6,000, to 6 groups. Future funding for 2012-2013 is unknown.

Healthy Living Grant URV. For 2011-12 £10,000 was awarded to 4 groups. Final year for this scheme, it will cease 2012.

Gwirvol Youth Led Grant. In 2011 a total of £3,003 awarded to 6 projects. Confirmation has been received from the WCVA that this scheme will continue for 2012 (Pan Gwent)

CFAP Small Grant Capital Scheme. Budget available for awards is £80,000. Grant application has been submitted to the Welsh Government, now awaiting a decision on whether funds are available for another year of funding.

Mental Health Small Grants. The budget for this scheme for 2011-12 was £11,473, from which 6 groups were funded, and the full budget was allocated. The funding will continue for 2012.

Grants to the Voluntary Sector and Welsh Church Fund. A total of £30,197 was awarded to 113 projects. GAVO no longer administers these schemes. For more information on this funding please contact Gaynor Elliott in CCBC's Finance Division, on 01443 863105.

SD said that GAVO subscribes to a large IT Database called 'Grantfinder'. This database contains many potential sources of funding for projects, both from major funders to Trusts which specialise in supporting specific types of projects. SD recommended that voluntary and community groups contact her so that the Grantfinder database can be searched for potential funding sources. Number of searches carried out to date for the whole of GAVO is 331. Evaluation of the number of groups successfully receiving funding via Grantfinder to be assessed during financial year 2012.

SD will continue to work with groups seeking finance from funders during 2012-13, although SD will now only be working 25 hrs each week.

Contact details:- Sandra Davies (GAVO Grants Co-ordinator),  
Unit 1 A, First Floor, Withey Dyffryn Court,  
Dyffryn Business Park, Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed, CF82 7TT  
Tel: 01443 863540  
E-mail: [sandra.davies@gavowales.org.uk](mailto:sandra.davies@gavowales.org.uk)  
Website: [www.gavowales.org.uk](http://www.gavowales.org.uk)

The Chairman mentioned the tendering process which will apply to a number of Voluntary organisations as well GAVO, for contracts. MB is awaiting a report on this. MB also mentioned that due to the recession and reduced funding that some GAVO staff have reduced hours of work, and a number of other voluntary organisations have been affected as well. MB stated that GAVO core funding could be affected in the next financial year. CCBC, the Aneurin Bevan Health Board and the Voluntary Sector are all working to maintain funding. It is hoped that sometime in the future, the financial position will get better for all.

**5(b) New Compact Action Plan 2012-13 – Jackie Dix (CCBC) & Mike Bridgman (GAVO)**

Attached to the agenda for this meeting was a copy of the Compact New Action Plan. The consultation on the Compact Action plan ended on the 30th March 2012. The changes within the text of the plan are underlined and italicised. It is intended to develop a new compact document in the autumn, based around the Single Integrated Plan which Howard Rees (Programme Manager), in the CCBC Policy Unit, is at present working upon.

**6. Question from the Voluntary Sector:- ‘What facilities are there for patients with learning disabilities, when attending Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr? – Joanne Beecham (Intermediate Care Manager, Aneurin Bevan Health Board)**

The response to this question is attached to the agenda for this meeting. CL asked if there is a learning specialist nurse in the new hospital or is there a learning champion available who would know about learning disability awareness? JB responded, that all nurses undergo a variety of equalities awareness training. However she will take back to ABHB the concerns expressed over specialist learning disability nurses covering Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr.

**7. Items of interest to the Voluntary Sector from Compact Partners**

**7(a)** Attached to the papers for this meeting was a ‘Digest of Committee Reports from Caerphilly County Borough Council’ for information.

**7(b)** Items of interest from the Aneurin Bevan Health Board. A report on this is attached to the papers for this meeting. Joanna Beecham pointed out the new system for rating the accessible appointments slots for GP’s surgeries. It is the first scheme of its kind, and awards each practice either an A, B or C rating. Various comments were made about actually being able to get an appointment when one was actually ill, not being happy with condition diagnosis over the telephone and indeed the success rate for telephone calls actually getting answered by surgeries to place an appointment. An idea was put forward that perhaps ‘text messaging’ as a reminder for appointments, could reduce the number of occasions when patients with an appointment fail to turn up. Another

idea was an answerphone service, allowing the patients to cancel appointments in advance. Also making or cancelling appointments by email. Ms. Beecham agreed to take back the suggestions to the Aneurin Bevan Health Board.

- 7(c)** Items of interest from Heddlu Gwent Police. A report on this is attached to the papers for this meeting. Sgt. RD described the details in the report. In addition he reported verbally on 'Project Bernie' which is an initiative by the Fire Service and Gwent Police to reduce the number of incidents of fires set in woodland, particularly over the Easter fortnight holiday. A Seat Belt campaign is underway to ensure drivers and passengers comply with the law. He described 'The All Wales Metal Theft Campaign' which is designed to reduce metal thefts. This involves the Police, Trading Standards, the DWP and VOSA in a combined operation looking at vehicles transporting metal. It also involves the supervision of scrapyards and a check on records kept of where scrap was purchased and from whom. If the records are unsatisfactory then the goods can be seized. If it subsequently turns out that the transactions were legal then the scrap metal is returned to the dealer, if not then the scrap metal is sold and the proceeds will go to public funds.

A committee member commented on the lack of publicity for PACT meetings in their area. The reply was that publicity is generally widely distributed and dates and times can be obtained from the Gwent Police website. CL reported that hate crime incidents are not well covered by the Police. Sgt. RD advised the Committee that PC Andrew Mason may be the person to speak to about this, as he deals with various aspects of hate crime reporting for the CCBC area.

**8. CCBC and the Voluntary Sector Annual Funding Day – Mike Bridgman (Assistant Director, GAVO)**

MB provided an update on the Annual Funding Half Day as it will now be. It is intended to have another half-day event in September. The first will be on the 16th May 2012, 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m, with light refreshments only.

**9. Voluntary Sector Achievement Awards - Mike Bridgman (Assistant Director, GAVO)**

An update on the Voluntary Sector Achievement Awards 2012 was given by MB. GAVO have sent out many nomination forms, over the past few months, which have to be returned to GAVO by the 30th April. The event will be held on the 20th June, at Penallta House. MB reminded the Committee that Police Cadets could also be nominated.

**10. Community Planning Quarterly Briefing January to March 2012**

Papers describing the Community Planning progress were attached to this agenda and are for information only.

**10(b)** MB asked for an additional item to be mentioned at this point. It involves the organisation known as the VOLUME Network. Due to cuts in funding and the lack of success in obtaining other funding it is with regret that the VOLUME Network will need to close down. The representatives for VOLUME on this Committee are Dave Brunton and Ms. M. Snowden. The demise of the VOLUME Network will create a gap in the good work undertaken by VOLUME, with families and children. It will cease to exist after 31st March. MB will look into the terms and conditions of the Voluntary Sector Sub Committee.

MB also thanked all of the elected council members for their support over the years on this Committee and wished them well at the forthcoming County Council Elections on 3rd May 2012 and hoped to see them again.

**11. Dates of Voluntary Sector Sub Committee, 2012 meetings (all at 10.30am)**

Wednesday, 20th June – Rhymney Room

Wednesday, 19th September – Rhymney Room

Wednesday, 5th December – Rhymney Room

The next meeting for the Voluntary Sector Reps will be on Wednesday, 9th May in the Rhymney Room, Penallta House, at 2.00 p.m.

Meeting finished at 12.40 p.m.