



APPENDIX 1 Community Planning Quarterly Briefing April to June 2012

This is a quarterly briefing designed to give everyone involved in the community planning process across the Caerphilly County Borough, as well as wider audiences, an overview of progress on the Community Strategy. Information has been supplied by each of the co-ordinators leading on different themes of the Community Strategy please get in touch directly with the co-ordinators for further information.

Community Planning (Jackie Dix, Alison Palmer & Howard Rees)
communityplanning@caerphilly.gov.uk

CAERPHILLY LOCAL SERVICE BOARD

The Caerphilly Local Service Board Standing Conference will be taking place on 27 June 2012 at Llancaiach Fawr Manor. The Standing Conference will be focusing on the three priority work areas of Caerphilly Local Service Board:

- **Child Poverty** – the Caerphilly county borough area has some of the poorest and most deprived communities in Wales with resultant poverty, exacerbated by the downturn in the economy and recessionary pressures, highlighting why this is a Local Service Board priority;
- **Tackling Alcohol Abuse** - alcohol misuse is a major health, economic and social challenge and a problem which is damaging families and communities across the county borough. Caerphilly Local Service Board is committed to leading the way in trying hard to address this issue;
- **The Single Plan** – the formulation and implementation of the single integrated plan for community planning by April 2013.

Please visit the community planning website for up to date news on the work of Caerphilly Local Service Board, and progress in developing a single integrated plan for community planning in the borough -

<http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/communityplanning/>



Please contact the relevant co-ordinator if you require further information on any of the above or Community Planning, Penallta House Tredomen Park, Ystrad Mynach CF82 7PG

THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR LAISION COMMITTEE

The Compact - is an agreement between organisations and the voluntary and community sector in the Caerphilly county borough. The Compact Partners are – Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations, Caerphilly County Borough Council, Aneurin Bevan Health Board, Gwent Police, Gwent Police Authority, and South Wales Fire and Rescue Service. The Compact recognises the mutual benefits that can be gained from close co-operation and sets out guidelines for how all parties should work together, and has an annual compact action plan. This provides a detailed programme of work for shared activities, which focuses around the Community Strategy. Below is the Compact Action Plan Annual Report 2011 to 2012, which highlights the many achievements of working together in partnership reporting on over 70 action areas.



9941-47 Compact
Report 2012 v4.pdf

For further information on the Compact (including hard copy) please contact Jackie Dix at Caerphilly County Borough Council on 01443 864447 or dixj1@caerphilly.gov.uk, or Mike Bridgman at GAVO on 01443 863540 or mike.bridgman@gavowales.org.uk

GWENT ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS UPDATES

New Chairman and Vice Chairman for GAVO Local Management Committee in Caerphilly



Bob Cooke



Dave Brunton

The GAVO Caerphilly Local Management meeting met with mixed emotions on 23rd April 2012. Having recently lost Allan Williams their first duty was to elect a replacement Chair. The Committee unanimously agreed that Bob Cooke should be elected to the position having been Vice Chair in Caerphilly for many years. Dave Brunton was elected

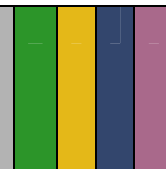
to replace Bob as Vice Chair. Both have had many years experience in the voluntary sector with firsthand experience as both directors and trustees of voluntary organisations.

Mike Bridgman, Assistant Direct for GAVO in Caerphilly said –

I welcome the election of Bob and Dave and congratulate them on their new appointments which they will hold until the next GAVO elections.

Regeneration (Antony Bolter)

regeneration@caerphilly.gov.uk



LOCAL BUSINESSES

Google Juice Bars

The Business Enterprise Support Team have been working in partnership with Google to bring the first Google Juice Bar to the South East Wales Valleys area. The first Google Juice Bar was held at Tredomen Business and Technology Centre, Hengoed in April where business had the opportunity to have free advice from Google experts. The Google experts comprise local businesses that share their expertise for free. Fifteen local businesses benefitted from free advice from the local Google experts. The Google Juice Bars are part of the *Getting Welsh Business Online Campaign*, which is spearheaded by the Welsh Government to both encourage more businesses to have an online presence and also enable those who are already online to grow and flourish.

The Business Enterprise Support Team is currently working with other local authorities to co-ordinate the Google Juice Bars in Blaenau Gwent, Merthyr, Rhonda Cynon Taf and Torfaen.

Enterprising People in Caerphilly

The five social enterprises, which were supported through the last round of the Community Economic Development (CED) fund have continued to go from strength to strength and created eight new jobs. The June grant panel looked at applications for revenue and funding.

There will be an opportunity for social enterprises to apply to the Caerphilly Business Award for the new category *Social Enterprise of the Year*, which is being sponsored by the Community Economic Development Fund.

Go2 My Town

Go2 online town centre project is currently being rolled out across the county borough so that more businesses can benefit from trading online. Go2Bargoed is already highly successful, with over 400 businesses live on the site. The Go2 Risca website is currently being populated with information, with more and more

businesses registering their details online. The Go2Rhymney website and the Go2Newbridge are both currently under construction.

Go2 Website Grant

Funding has been secured to ensure that all businesses in the county borough can benefit from an online presence. The Go2 Website Grant is now available across the county borough for eligible businesses. The Go2 Website grant provides financial support to help eligible businesses to have an online presence and to start trading online. Generally all business sectors may be considered for support, including retail. These may be new or existing businesses. The support includes up to 50% financial assistance towards the set up and hosting costs of a new website or an eCommerce website to generate online sales. Over 60 businesses have been offered assistance under this scheme.

Caerphilly Business Forum

Caerphilly Business Forum is the county borough's most successful independent local business network. Caerphilly Business Forum's Marketing and Events Officer, Natalie Whyatt, has located to offices at Tredomen Business and Technology with the Business Enterprise Support Team. Natalie is currently working on the prestigious Caerphilly Business Forum Awards, which are in their 11th Year and launched in June.

On the road again

The season of roadshows commenced at Tredomen Business & Technology Centre in May where over 20 local businesses called in to speak first hand to the Business Enterprise Support Team and the Rural Development Team. Over the next couple of months both teams will be visiting industrial estates and business parks across the county borough from Risca in the south to Aberbargoed and Caerphilly to encourage more businesses to take advantage of the support schemes available to them, from funding for capital equipment through to help with ICT, whether the business is starting up or growing, rural or industrial.

TOWN CENTRES

Newbridge town centre - with the Calzaghe Bridge open and being well used, the next phase of the town centre £12 million transformation is now underway. The enhancement work to Newbridge's town centre started in January 2012 with funding secured from European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The initial Phase of the works will be carried out this calendar year, with Phase 2 commencing late 2013. The refurbishment of the main shopping streets and areas around important buildings is being undertaken by Alun Griffiths contractors and will provide a more pedestrian friendly and attractive centre. This coupled with the inclusion of community led public artwork into the street-scene will create a vibrant new identity for the town.

What is more, the eight year marathon to fully restore two nationally important buildings in the heart of the town centre is underway. Works to the Institute and

Memorial Hall buildings began during January 2012. Improvement works to the Institute including the town's new library will be completed this year with the Memorial Hall programme of works commencing in January 2013.

Bargoed town centre - thanks to funding secured from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) along with Welsh Government's Targeted Match Funding and Heads of the Valleys grant aid the £8m refurbishment of the main shopping street is entering into its final phase. Phase 1 works (New bus station and steps linkages) and Phase 2 (Northern town centre improvements) are now complete. Tenders for the final phase of works to improve the rest of the high street and provide an attractive public communal space at Hanbury Square have been submitted and an appointment of the works contractor will be made by the 16th May 2012. Works will start in late July and run for a ten month period.

Simons Construction have commenced works on the new Morrisons food-store. Hoardings are now in place, a new temporary public car park has been provided and utility diversionary works will commence shortly. The programme is aiming for the store to be open in late Autumn 2013. Meanwhile, letting agents acting for Caerphilly County Borough Council will shortly be advertising for tenants to occupy the 7 unit shops that will also be provided as part of the development. The Council is also pressing ahead with the procurement process to identify a cinema operator for Phase 2 of the plateau development programme.

Olympic Torch Relay, Food and Flower Festival and Blue Peter

An estimated 30,000 people lined the streets of Caerphilly on Saturday 26th May from Watford Road to Nant Garw Road to cheer the Olympic Flame. After the Olympic Torch Relay had made its way through the town, residents continued to celebrate at the Food and Flower Festival, enjoying tastes and blooms from across the world. Street entertainers kept the exciting atmosphere as residents made their way through the festival, and onto the Sport Caerphilly Olympic Village and Blue Peter Big Olympic Tour.

Risca Footfall

A new electronic pedestrian counting system has been installed in Risca. The index provides continuous information about the change in visitor numbers and enables the monitoring and assessment of how events affect the retail business. The figures also allow weekly, monthly and annual comparisons. Footfall trends can also be identified when compared with other principal towns in the county borough.

FORTH COMING EVENTS

Blackwood Summer Festival

Blackwood Town Centre will turn into a street party with a difference on 30th June & 1st July 2012. The high street is again being transformed into an event site that will have the children feeling like they are living the dream! Thrown into the mix will be some high quality children's funfair rides, music, street entertainment, food and craft stalls as well as Punch and Judy, children's workshops and face painting.

The Big Cheese Festival

Owain Glyndŵr Fields/Crescent Road – Caerphilly (CF83 1AB)
Friday 27th, Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th July 2012. This annual free family festival commences with a traditional funfair, entertainment and a fireworks display on Friday night. Saturday and Sunday offers over 150 food and craft stalls, dance, music, entertainment, funfair plus lots of activities for the whole family. There is also free entry into Caerphilly Castle on Saturday and Sunday.

Independents' Day

Independents' Day is a national campaign, which seeks to promote and celebrate the independent retailers present in the British High Street. The campaign is in its second year and aims to persuade consumers to purchase at least one thing from their local independent shop. Independent businesses will be publishing special offers and displaying posters in their shop windows during between 2nd and 7th July 2012.

Proms in the Park and Tour of Britain

BBC Proms in the Park is returning to Owain Glyndwr Playing Fields on Saturday 8th September 2012. BBC Cymru Wales is in collaboration with Caerphilly County Borough Council to bring this event to Caerphilly. The BBC National Orchestra of Wales will be attending and are leading the last night of the proms.

The Tour of Britain will also be returning to the county borough on Friday 14th September. This is another prestigious event for the county borough. Cyclists will travel from Nelson through to the finish at the Caerphilly castle – via Caerphilly Mountain.

Events & Marketing Apprentice

The Business Enterprise Support Team has welcomed their first apprentice. Business Management graduate, Rubecca Clinch joined the Business Enterprise Support Team in May as Events & Marketing Apprentice (for three years) as part of Caerphilly County Borough Council's Apprenticeship Scheme. Rubecca starts at a busy time of year with a summer full of events and business roadshows.

GWENT ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS UPDATES

National Playday event in Morgan Jones Park on Wednesday 1st August 2012 from 12 - 4pm - will be hosted by the GAVO Play Service to celebrate the importance of play for families in the Caerphilly borough. Many partners are already involved in the event including Caerphilly County Borough Council (Sports Development), Police, Fire & Rescue Service, Flying Start, Home Start, St John's Ambulance, Communities First and the Parent Network. The event will be free and open to all families across the borough.

The Annual Speed Funding Day - took place on 16th May 2012 at the Oasis Christian Centre, Cefn Fforest. In attendance were 148 representatives from a wide variety of voluntary organisations working within the Caerphilly county borough. Seven funding bodies gave one to one funding information.



Health Social Care and Well Being (Tiffany Thackwray)

HSCWB@caerphilly.gov.uk <mailto:hscwb@caerphilly.gov.uk>

YSBYTY YSTRAD FAWR (YYF)

WRVS Shop – The WRVS shop opened on the 1st April 2012, selling provision such as newspapers, magazines, cold drinks. It is staffed by permanent WRVS employees supported by volunteers. The shop is located on Level 1 at the entrance to the Out Patient Departments. The WRVS have also ordered a trolley which will visit all Wards and waiting areas and will greatly enhance the patient experience

Signage – new signs are continuing to arrive at YYF and patient flow and day to day use of the hospital is prompting revision of some signage. Public consensus is that is now much easier to find the way around the hospital.

Visits to YYF – these have proved successful and the latest groups to visit are the Council's Youth Forum and Councillors from Bargoed Town Council. Groups interested in visiting YYF should contact Chris Hodson on 01495 241244

Time Capsule - the time capsule contents are complete and the location for the capsule is on Level 1 next to the Welcoming Service desk. The capsule now in place will be visible in a glass cabinet and opened in 2062. The contents were suggested by the Youth Forum, and reflect current interests and trends. It also

includes material about the construction of YYF and the community hospitals it replaced.

Art Work Steering Group - the first meeting of this group was held in May. The group is made up of representatives of local art groups and individual artists and the brief for the group is to identify local art work to enhance the appearance of the hospital, and identify suitable locations to display, and arrange a schedule for turnover of work to keep the displays fresh.

Birth Centre – the official opening of the Birth Centre was held on the 5th April. The Birth Centre is midwife led and this successful service model transferred in from Caerphilly District Miners' Hospital. Staff and patients have enjoyed the improved facilities and extra room with two birthing pools now available.

Community Engagement Forum – the hospital continues to provoke discussion and debate, and the final Community Forum took place on the 12th June giving residents an opportunity to provide instant feedback and allow the Health Board to quantify the benefits that YYF has brought to Caerphilly residents who go there.

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE RESOURCE CENTRE FOR THE NORTH

Integrated Health & Social care Resource Centre for the North – work started on site on the 30th April 2012. Services planned for the centre include two GP practices, a dental practice, optometry suite and social services day opportunities. In addition, the centre will act as a base for health and social care staff working in the North of the borough who provide care to a wide range of clients including children, older people, and people receiving mental health support. The centre will also have twelve in-patient beds, two of which will be designated for palliative care.

Scheduled to open in the summer of 2013, the centre will complement the range of healthcare services provided in Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr. Before then, a number of events will take place to keep residents informed. The first of these will be a turf-cutting ceremony followed by a Community Forum. For further information, please contact Kathryn Wall (Project Officer) on 01495 241275 or by email at kathryn.wall@wales.nhs.uk

COMMUNITY HEALTH CHAMPIONS

Local people in Gwent are being given the opportunity to become champions for health in their community, thanks to a new scheme launched on 15 May 2012. The Community Health Champion programme aims to provide local people with the knowledge, skills and confidence necessary for them to become champions for health in their local community. Across Gwent, approximately 120 champions have been recruited to the programme, and will be given training from public health professionals on issues such as smoking, alcohol and obesity. In Caerphilly

county borough, the recruitment of nearly 50 Champions to the programme has been facilitated by Health Challenge Caerphilly.

Anyone can sign up to be a Community Health Champion, with the key criteria being the willingness to pass on information and encourage people to look after their health when the opportunity arises. The programme is being run as a partnership with Aneurin Bevan Gwent Public Health Team, Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations, Torfaen Voluntary Alliance, Communities First and five local authorities across Gwent.

For further information, please contact Sian Wolfe-Williams:
wolfes@caerphilly.gov.uk or 01495 235419.

CREATING AN ACTIVE CAERPHILLY 2011-14

Following a multi agency workshop in Jan 2012, three priority areas have been agreed for 2012-13. These are :

- Collecting and sharing the evidence
- Developing a profile and promotion campaign
- Communities and volunteers

The group will now focus on developing actions to deliver on these priorities.

If you would like to find out more please contact: David Phenis, Community Development Manager Education and Leisure, Caerphilly County Borough Council on 01443 864077 or email : PHENIDH@caerphilly.gov.uk

SMOKING

Following on from the development of a draft Tobacco Action Plan for Caerphilly, three priority areas have been agreed for 2012-13. These are :

- Smoking cessation
- Prevention
- Smoke Free environments

The group will now focus on developing actions to deliver on these priorities.

If you would like to find out more please contact either: Rhianon Urquhart, Senior Health Promotion Officer, Caerphilly County Borough Council on 01495 235349 or email: URQUHR@caerphilly.gov.uk or

Annie Petherick Senior Health Promotion Specialist, Public Health Wales, on 01495 241206, or e-mail: annie.petherick@wales.nhs.uk

HEALTH INCLUSION PROJECT

This is a new project established within the Family First Initiative co-ordinated by the Children and Young Peoples Partnership. An inclusive outreach health promotion delivery service in relation to sexual health and smoking cessation for individuals who adopt behaviours which impact on their health and that of their family. Key components include :

- Promoting positive attitudes to developing healthy lifestyles in order to improve the current and future health for children and young people;
- Support to whole families who smoke and suffer from poor sexual health;
- Training to enable universal services to support their service users with these issues;
- Expert advice and support to practitioners.

For more information contact Christine McKnight, Sexual Health Outreach Worker, Aneurin Bevan Health Board on Christine.Mcknight@wales.nhs.uk or tel : 07854 679 583.

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE ADULTS (POVA)

A new POVA coordinator health post, funded jointly by Caerphilly County Borough Council and Aneurin Bevan Health Board has been established. Initial benefits so far include: the two day level 3 POVA education course supporting practitioners with their roles and responsibilities of participating in the POVA process including completing non criminal investigations now jointly facilitated by health and social care POVA Coordinators. POVA Coordinators have also benefited from peer discussion about cases that involve complex health issues and broadening their understanding of health services available from which to draw upon safeguarding support.

The Caerphilly multi agency Area Adult Protection Committee (AAPC) became part of the Gwent Wide Adult Safeguarding Board in April 2012. Caerphilly Local Authority is represented on the Board and subgroups: Serious Case Review, Training and Awareness, POVA Coordinators and quality and policy. An action plan is currently under development in relation to the work of the new Board whilst terms of reference for the subgroups and their future work programmers are being determined. The Board spent some time discussing the safeguarding proposals contained in the Social Services (Wales) Bill, which will have significant impact on the work of the Board over the next few years. A response to the consultation document was forwarded by the Chair of the Board.

The World Elder Abuse Awareness day took place on 15 June 2012. Each year World Elder Abuse Awareness Day has been organised by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse with the charity Action On Elder Abuse helping to co-ordinate activities across the UK. This is the 5th year that the Caerphilly County Borough Council Protection of Vulnerable Adults Team has held an event to mark this day. An event was held for staff at the Council Offices, Penallta House, over the lunch time, including staffed information stands in the restaurant area, selling of cakes made by Caerphilly service users, selling of

purple ribbons supplied by Action on Elder Abuse, a pledge board for staff to sign up to and a raffle. The event for the general public were held in the visitors centre in Caerphilly Town centre.

For more information contact the POVA Team on: 01443 864563, email povateam@caerphilly.gov.uk or view www.caerphilly.gov.uk/pova

Breathe Easy Britain 18-24 June 2012 – is a week devoted to lung conditions, organised by the British Lung Foundation. The theme this year is about the dangers of asbestos, a deadly fibrous material that 73% of Welsh people cannot identify.

All across Wales, Breathe Easy groups, open to anyone with a lung condition and their carers, will be out and about raising awareness about the dangers of asbestos, and lung conditions, as well as raising money for the British Lung Foundation to advance research in beating lung disease.

For further information on Breathe Easy please contact the British Lung Foundation on 01792 455764.

Equalities & Welsh Language (David Thomas)

equalities@caerphilly.gov.uk

In April 2012, new legislation came into force in Wales covering equalities issues under the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011, and Welsh Language issues under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. These impose new duties and expectations on the public sector in Wales, not only in the day-to-day work of delivering their own services, but also in how they deliver services in partnership with others, how they contract third party services and how grant schemes are developed and delivered.

Caerphilly County Borough Council's approach to moving ahead on these issues can be found on the Council's website at: www.caerphilly.gov.uk/equalities - particularly the Strategic Equality Objectives and Action Plan, which for 2012/2013 provides a unified set of Equalities and Welsh Language actions.

The Council produces guidance on specific issues and the equalities dimension also available on the website on the equalities guidance page. So far, the following four sets of guidance and information have been produced, and more will follow:

- Accessible Voting Guidance;
- Equalities Consultation and Monitoring Guidance;
- Ward Profiles by Equalities Categories 2008;
- Welsh Language Scheme Editorial Policy 2012.

On the training page you will also find details of the types of Equalities and Welsh Language courses available to Council staff and partners. For the Council's partners the costs of attending is £10 for a half day and £15 for a full day.

To find out more on any of these issues and for a full course list, please email - equalities@caerphilly.gov.uk

Community Safety (Kathryn Peters & Natalie Kenny)

saferrccbc@caerphilly.gov.uk

Partnership Performance - the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership (SCCSP) continues to work in partnership to reduce crime and disorder in the Caerphilly county borough. At 30th April 2012 there was an overall reduction of 23.1% in all crime compared to the same period last year. Other crime categories have also seen impressive reductions over the last year with a 29% reduction in Criminal Damage, a 71% reduction in Most Serious Violence and a massive 59.6% reduction in anti-social behaviour.

One of the SCCSP's current priorities is to *Reduce anti-social behaviour and improve the street scene*. The SCCSP has been working hard alongside partners, community groups and local volunteers to address this priority and related issues through a number of means. This includes initiatives such as: The Safer Caerphilly Four Strike Process, Project Bernie, The Street Pastors, Victims Champion and the Street Pride Initiative. All of this work has culminated in a massive 59.6% reduction in anti-social behaviour across the county borough (as at 30th April 2012, compared to the same period last year).

ASB Victim/Witness Champion – the officer continues to attend all multi-agency groups to tackle anti-social behaviour, liaise closely with all departments within the local authority and outside agencies whilst supporting victims in the community and throughout the court process. Throughout 2011 referrals totalling 12, 377 have been made to the service. The Victims Champion, Lana Harrison, can be contacted on 01495 235441.

Home Office White Paper *Putting Victims First, More Effective Responses to anti social behaviour* - sets out the changes that the Home Office intend to bring in to improve the current anti-social behaviour tools. This will include replacing the 19 existing powers with six new ones, which for example will result in Anti-Social Behaviour Orders being replaced with Criminal Behaviour Orders and Crime Prevention Injunctions. Whilst most of the issues covered in the White Paper are not devolved, the Home Office are working with the Welsh Government on implementing the reforms in Wales.

The White Paper can be viewed on the following link:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/anti-social-behaviour/white-paper/>

Community Payback - offenders work under the supervision of Wales Probation Trust and recent projects have included extensive work to clear, improve and maintain Crosskeys RFC, Caerphilly War Graves, ad-hoc clearance of areas and the removal of graffiti from various locations across the borough. Throughout 2011-12, a total of 37,582 hours work, were carried out within the county borough. For nominations for location/project please contact either the Wales Probation Trust on 01633 247300 or the SCCSP on 01495 235350.

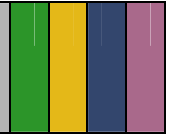
The Safer Caerphilly Volunteer Network - incorporates the diverse range of individuals who are actively involved in their communities and have an interest in working alongside other partner agencies to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. The Volunteer Network is made up of individuals from groups such as Neighbourhood Watch, Crime Prevention Panels, Community Groups and Partnerships, Street Pastors and Tenants and Residents Associations. A recent borough-wide networking event took place on 28th May 2012, including presentations regarding the tools and services available to the Volunteer Network, and information on: The Online Watch Link (O.W.L), which is the Neighbourhood Watch I.T System, the legalities of using CCTV and a presentation from Gwent Police on their recent changes. There are currently 235 Volunteer Network members across the county borough. The next event will be held on 17th September 2012. If you would like to attend the next event please contact the SCCSP office (01495 235350) to book your place.

Project Bernie - the SCCSP's Fire Safety Action Team have recently completed Project Bernie, which is an initiative to address deliberate grass fires. Grass and mountain fires cost the UK economy approximately £35 million per year. The cost within the South Wales area as a whole amounts to £7m per year and the majority of these fires (approx 95%) are set deliberately.

Project Bernie is based on a social marketing concept, which aims to reduce deliberate grass fires by addressing behaviours and attitudes within the community. The project ran in the Bargoed area and was launched at Tesco, Ystrad Mynach on 23rd March 2012 and ran for six weeks. The project involved a multi agency response to the problem and included an advertising and marketing campaign, patrols of the area and numerous youth activities, which all focused on addressing the problem of deliberate grass fires.

The project was completed on the 6th May and an evaluation will be carried out over the following months. However, initial feedback from the agencies involved show that the project was a success.

For more information visit the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership website at - <http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/saferccb/>



Consultation with children and young people

In June two consultation events took place with children and young people to explore how well they feel listened to by adults. The Children's Commissioner, Keith Towler opened the first event for primary age children. The second event was for comprehensive age children. The events asked children and young people how well they feel listened to in school, in the community, using health settings and generally by adults in their families. Facilitators and chaperones for the events were drawn from the member agencies. The event while consultative also gave children and young people information about keeping safe, making complaints, children's rights and advocacy.

Future Developments for Local Safeguarding Children Boards

In April 2012 the Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) Chairs, Vice Chairs, Co-ordinators and representatives from Board member agencies, met to discuss how to progress the collaborative agenda across the region. A decision was made to recommend that the 5 current LSCBs in South East Wales, merge to become one regional Safeguarding Children Board by April 2013. Each of the 5 LSCBs have considered the proposals and have agreed them. The LSCBs already share a regional training group, improving practice group and protocols and procedures group.

A meeting in June further developed the transitional work programme. It is proposed that a regional engagement and communication group is established taking responsibility for engaging with children and young people, parents and carers, professionals and the public, developing and maintaining a regional Safeguarding Children Board (SCB) website, developing a communications strategy and ensuring a link between local participation and consultation and regional work. The meeting also considered a proposal to establish a regional SCB Business Unit that will support the regional Board and be asked to sign off the regional training plan for 2012-2013.

Multi Agency Practitioner Forums

These events are delivered every 6 to 8 weeks in various venues in the Borough and are free to attend. They cover various topics that include the impact of substance misuse on children, working with children who have experienced abuse/neglect and keeping children safe online.

Research into the Effectiveness of Child Protection Planning processes

In September 2011, the Board commissioned research by Professor Jan Howarth of Sheffield University to identify what is working well in child protection planning processes and what needs to be improved. The research was concluded in June. The findings will be used to commission regional training on this issue, and an event will be held in Caerphilly for practitioners to discuss the learning points, give their views and hear about what the Board is doing in response.

Regional Safeguarding Children Training

The regional training plan for 2012-2013 is now available on the professionals section of the safeguarding website.

If you have any queries regarding the above information or would like to know more about Caerphilly Safeguarding Children Board, practitioner forums, training please contact Zarah Newman, Board Co-ordinator on 01443 864798 or newmaz@caerphilly.gov.uk

If you want to learn more about the Board and what it does or access any of the leaflets, guidance etc produced by the Board click on the website – www.caerphillysafeguarding.org.uk