



Appendix 1: Community Planning Quarterly Briefing July – September 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)
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Caerphilly Local Service Board (LSB) met on 23rd July 2012 and considered a report on reducing the harm caused by alcohol, which is one of the three priority projects of the LSB. The work will focus on three outcome areas:

- Reduce under-age drinking
- Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour associated with alcohol
- Reduce the long-term health related effects associated with harmful drinking.

A paper was also presented on poverty, another of the three Caerphilly LSB priorities. A Poverty Task Group in the Upper Rhymney Valley is to be established focusing on:

- mapping existing services, programmes and initiatives to identify potential gaps or duplication in tackling poverty;
- to assess the impact of new policy development and new significant investment for its contribution to tackling poverty;
- to act as a clearing house and to assist partners in overcoming any obstacles to tackling poverty;
- to consider a communication strategy to raise awareness such that tackling poverty becomes *everybody's business*;
- review approaches to community engagement to ensure that it is joined up and that opportunities to encourage take up of services are maximised.



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

A briefing paper was also presented to the LSB on the Welfare Reform Act 2012. Subsequently a special briefing was also given to the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee on the Welfare Reform changes.

The LSB also met on 23rd April 12 and received a report on developing the Single Integrated Plan for community planning. Task and finish groups have been established to work on:

- a single plan engagement strategy with people and communities;
- a Unified Needs Assessment and information strategy;
- Priority Outcomes for the Single Integrated Plan;
- developing a Results Based Accountability approach for constructing the Single Integrated Plan.

The groups are making good progress, and the Caerphilly LSB Single Integrated Plan will be published for consultation early 2013 for implementation by April 2013.

For further information on the work of the Local Service Board visit –

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

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REGENERATION STRATEGY

During 2011-12 Regeneration Champions have provided six monthly reports on progress against the activities set out in the Regeneration Strategy Action Plan:

1. Promoting lifelong learning and improving basic skills
2. Regenerating communities and raising aspirations
3. Increasing economic activity and addressing worklessness
4. Protecting and developing the economy
5. Strengthening town centres
6. Connecting people and places
7. Addressing health inequalities
8. Transforming estates.

In 2012-13 the Champions are conducting a review of the action plan and partners will have the opportunity to contribute, before the revised document is finalised and signed off.

The Training and Education Forum, which meets every two months, consists of representative from most employment support and skills providers operating in the County Borough. The Forum is working with Communities First to commission an

Employment and Skills Strategy, which will inform the work of Communities First and partners in the years ahead.

COMMUNITIES FIRST UPDATE

The Welsh Government consultation on the future programme of Communities First was held between 5th July & 26th September 2011. The new programme will be a Community Focused Programme that will support the Welsh Government's Anti-Poverty agenda. It will support the most disadvantaged people in the most deprived areas, focusing on three key strategic priorities; Healthier Communities, Prosperous Communities and Learning Communities.

In March 2012 Caerphilly County Borough Council submitted a proposal to be the Lead Delivery Body for the future programme. In April the Welsh Government agreed to the proposal that included a four cluster approach to delivery in the most deprived Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Caerphilly and invited the Council to move to full application.

In June 2012 the four full cluster applications were submitted. They included an area delivery plan, project templates addressing each outcome indicator, a Community Involvement Plan and the proposed staff resources required. Whilst Caerphilly County Borough Council will act as the Lead Delivery Body, implementation of the programme will involve both Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO) and Groundwork Caerphilly.

A response to the applications is due from the Welsh Government at the end of September 2012.

TOWN CENTRES

Newbridge - with the Calzaghe Bridge open and being well used, the next phase of the town centre £12 million transformation is now underway. Through funding



secured from European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the enhancement work to Newbridge's town centre started in January 2012. 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 Alan 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 - 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. Alan Griffiths contractors have been appointed to implement the final phases of the public realm improvements. Works will start in September and run for a ten month period.

Simons Construction has now commenced works on the new Morrisons food-store. Hoardings are in place, a new temporary public car park has been provided and utility diversionary works are in progress. 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.

A Town Centre Survey - is currently being conducted to give an indication of business optimism amongst retailers and appreciate their perception of the future in the current economic climate. It will also assess how helpful the Footfall Index and Town Centre News is. This is an annual survey and it is being conducted across the towns of Bargoed, Blackwood, Caerphilly and Risca. Approximately 600 businesses in the 4 towns centres have been given the opportunity to participate. The results will be published in the Autumn.

Town Centre Solutions Workshop - Caerphilly County Borough Council are hosting the Town Centre Solutions Workshops at Penallta House on 24th September 12. This national event is organised by the Action for Market Towns, which is a national membership group providing information, advice and national representation to small towns. Presentations will be made by the Business Enterprise Team's Town Centre Development Manager and the Strategic Planning and Urban Renewal Manager. Delegates are expected from small towns across Wales.



Risca Event Space – a new event space is being created in Tredegar Grounds, Risca. This all weather hard standing is designed for occasional events such as craft markets and is designed to encourage greater use of the park and also to increase footfall in the town.

Go2 My Town - is going from strength to strength with more and more businesses participating. [Go2Rhymney](#) is now live with over 200 businesses signed up and [Go2 Risca](#) already has over 300 businesses that have subscribed to the site - that is prior to the full launch of Go2mytown for 7 town centres scheduled for Autumn. The creation of these virtual town centres was a key findings in the Mary Portas report (December 2011) where businesses not only have an online presence but also are able to showcase their products and special offers to attract more customers. The Go2 project pre-empted this report and is already implemented in Caerphilly.



Additional project support will be provided for 2 new Go2 Assistants, who will encourage and support local businesses to participate in the Go2 project. Go2MyTown will create the first county wide digital business network to raise the profile and visibility of all businesses in the county borough.



Blackwood Summer Festival - Life's a Beach and the Beach was Blackwood for the annual Summer Festival event. This year's event was another great success, with over 6,000 people descending on the High Street over the two days. Food & Crafts stalls, funfair, a beach and children's characters kept families entertained throughout the event, with many enjoying the party atmosphere.

The Big Cheese Festival - proved to be a great success, with an estimated 70,000 visitors enjoying the thrills of the traditional funfair, sumptuous food & craft stalls, historical re-enactments and lots of family filled entertainment.

Three social enterprises exhibited at the Big Cheese and this was highly successful with Greencap picking up new leads and Rainbow Community Enterprises having bikes donated to them. Ann's Kitchen made and sold cakes and biscuits and made a good profit to be re-invested in the community.

This year's event proved extra special with celebrations on the Friday coinciding with the Olympic Opening Ceremony and both the *Embarrassing Bodies television series* and Scott Quinnel attending the event.

BUSINESS SUPPORT

Heads of the Valleys Business Seed Capital Fund - the Business Enterprise Support Team has again been successful in their bid for funding to support businesses in the Heads of the Valleys area of the County Borough. The Heads of Valleys Business Seed Capital Fund is a flexible scheme, which is delivered through a partnership across the local authorities of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Torfaen. Generally, all business sectors can be considered for support, including retail. The scheme is designed to help businesses and start ups to set up or expand in the Heads of the Valleys, by providing support for new capital equipment. A series of workshops are planned in the Heads of Valleys area in the Autumn to assist businesses with their applications.

Caerphilly Business Forum Awards - in recognition of successful businesses, the Business Enterprise Support Team are sponsoring 2 categories in the prestigious Caerphilly Business Forum Awards this year. The Caerphilly Business Forum Awards are open to businesses of all sizes and sectors within the Caerphilly County Borough and there are 8 Categories – providing opportunities for businesses of all sizes and sectors to showcase their success. Caerphilly County Borough Council and South East Wales Community Economic Development sponsor the Business of the Year with 25 employees or fewer and Social Enterprise of the Year. The closing date for entry is Friday 21st September and the Awards culminate in a lavish Ceremony and Dinner Dance in November.

Social Enterprise Update

A Social Enterprise Show Case is being planned for the Autumn. The Minister Leighton Andrews will be visiting Greencap on the 3rd October to see the work and employees of the social enterprise.

The Community Economic Development Programme Grants panel met recently and there are approximately 8 applications going through to the next stage. The panel will sit in November 12. A further 3 Social enterprises were awarded funding in July these are Tyfu Café in Caerphilly, GC Enterprises based in Rhymney and Rudry Parish Hall.

Get Caerphilly Working - the Business Enterprise Support Team and Caerphilly Business Forum have teamed up to help local businesses find out about the help and support that is available when employing people. The event gave businesses of all sizes the opportunity to meet providers and stakeholders to discuss many aspects of employing people from apprenticeships through to raising the skill levels. Career Wales, Jobcentre Plus, National Training Federation for Wales, Welsh Government - Jobs Growth Wales, CCBC's Human resources and the Wales Council for Voluntary action, gave presentations and over 20 organisations took exhibition space.

Ripe for Development - working with the Strategic Planning Team, a selected number of developers and landowners were invited to explore new ways of facilitating developments and investments in the Caerphilly borough. There are currently 96.7 hectares of land allocated for employment use and over 250 hectares allocated for residential housing in the borough. Delegates were able to find out about these opportunities and also to give their views on what would encourage them to invest in the borough. Further to the success of this new event, future sessions are planned later in the year.

EUROPEAN FUNDING UPDATE

The new European funding programmes will integrate the successor to Convergence and the other funds including Rural Development. The integrated approach is being mirrored in the realignment of all European funding in Wales European Funding Office (WEFO). Wales is in line to benefit from similar levels of funding for the next round of EU Funding from 2014-2020 i.e. around £3 billion. At the moment, WEFO is maintaining a January 2014 start date. However, negotiations on the 2014-2020 EU Budget must be completed and agreed before the content, shape and financial scope of future EU Programmes can be finalised. Any delays on will have a knock-on effect on agreeing and drafting programmes. Latest estimates regarding this start could be optimistic Spring 2014, which could create a potential transitional gap. The new programmes will adopt the European Commission's Europe 2020 strategy, and will concentrate resources on a restricted number of activities.

For the successor to **Convergence in West Wales and the Valleys**, there are 4 ERDF Priorities proposed for Research, technological development and innovation; Enterprise and Small Medium Enterprise (SME) competitiveness; Sustainable transport and network infrastructure; Renewable energy and energy efficiency, with Regeneration and ICT infrastructure undertaken across the priorities. With no specific priority, support for physical and economic regeneration of deprived urban and rural communities can be considered under the transport and network infrastructure priority; support for social enterprises under the enterprise priority and ICT activity under both the enterprise and network infrastructure priorities.

The EC proposes that at least 50% of the funding will have to be allocated to research, technological development and innovation, enterprise and SME competitiveness and renewable energy and energy efficiency and at least 5% of ERDF for each Member States towards *urban development*.

It is proposed that there will be two ESF Priorities addressing Skills and Employment, with a minimum 20% of spend on 'promoting social inclusion and combating poverty' and incorporating activity aimed at early years and young people and tackling youth unemployment. While directed by Welsh Government, the establishment of four *expert* Work Streams in June 12 saw the completion of the programme-drafting infrastructure, and stakeholders are encouraged to contribute to that debate through whatever mechanism available. The WEFO Web site <http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/?lang=en> contains the latest programme developments, and readers can contact the Councils European Team to discuss any of the above on telephone: 01495 235494.

The successor to the Rural Development Programme is running behind Convergence, and a longer delay is expected to establish it. The emerging details indicate that 6 Priorities are proposed: Knowledge transfer and innovation; Competitiveness of all types of agriculture and farm viability; Food chain organisation and risk management; Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems; Resource efficiency and shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy and social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.

DIGITAL INCLUSION

According to Experian 2011 there are 49,250 digitally excluded people in Caerphilly County Borough. Community Regeneration has been working with Communities 2:0 to submit an application to continue support for those most digitally excluded in Caerphilly. The Get Caerphilly Online proposal has been developed to build on the digital inclusion progress made within the county borough through Come Surf With Me and the Citizen's Online Project – Get It Together. The two members of staff as part of this proposal will be located within Community Regeneration to ensure essential delivery links are continued with:

- Communities First
- Housing (non stock transfer)
- 50+ Positive Action Partnership
- Social Services
- Disability Forum
- Finance (focusing on the significant Welfare Reform Changes)

Caerphilly County Borough Council was considered the ideal lead partner to progress the digital inclusion agenda in Caerphilly. The authority has been supportive of the digital inclusion agenda for many years. This has been backed up with a member of the Community Regeneration team playing an active role to

develop links within the authority, helping broker relationships with key departments.

During the last two years the county has moved quickly to capitalise on the success of the two Come Surf with Me initiatives and the development of this proposal fits under a new county-wide digital inclusion banner/campaign - Get Caerphilly Online.

COMMUNITY PLANNING - GWENT ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

One Beat – the event showcasing and celebrating the work of the voluntary sector in the Caerphilly Borough is taking place on Saturday 27 October in Penallta House. The theme of this year's *One Beat* is *Caerphilly Local Service Board Priority Work Areas*. At the event the *Who to Contact Community Guide and Directory 2013* will be launched. For further information on both the event and for a free copy of the Guide and Directory please telephone the GAVO offices on: 01443 863540.

Star Volunteers shine for a Night

Volunteers who work tirelessly to help others within Caerphilly County Borough were honoured during a special awards ceremony, which took place on 20th June 2012. This awards evening was held at the Council Offices, Penallta House with Cllr Gaynor Oliver, Mayor of Caerphilly County Borough, assisting with presentations to the award winners. The theme for the event was *star volunteers* in tribute to those worthy volunteers nominated to receive an award, and the theme was reflected in the design of the Awards themselves. The venue was decorated throughout with blue, red and silver balloons to complement the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations and the décor succeeded in creating a celebratory atmosphere. The Supreme Star Volunteer Award went to a worthy winner, Major Gill Jones MBE TD from Senghenydd. Gill works as a caseworker for SAFFA Forces Help where, for over 30 years, she has helped servicemen and their families in improving their lives. Gill is also actively involved in a number of other local groups, one of which is the Aber Valley Heritage Museum in Senghenydd.



GAVO Caerphilly summer team day - Val Jackson gave a presentation on the successes of the Engagement Gateway project in Caerphilly, where she highlighted many good projects that continue to develop as a result of funding through this programme. Unfortunately the programme comes to completion in September.

There was also a presentation by Christine Thomas on *Young Asylum Seekers*, ensuing much interest and discussion and requests for further information around the topic. This was followed by a presentation by Suzanne Maddax on the *Changes in Health & Social Care*.

The Olympic torch made a guest appearance, courtesy of Anthony Thomas who was fortunate to carry the torch in Abergavenny, in recognition of his work with Junior Rugby coaching. Staff were offered the opportunity of being photographed holding the torch and in the ensuing group photograph Rob Gough was given the honour, as this was to be his last collated team day, due to retiring from GAVO a few days later, following eight years of service.



A new social enterprise creates jobs in Caerphilly County - GreenCap has been set up by a small number of highly motivated community members. The enterprise is based in the Western Industrial Estate in Caerphilly. The enterprise is committed to supporting people in the local community. GreenCap provides employment and work experience for disabled and socially disadvantaged

individuals. Four new jobs have been created in Caerphilly – three full-time and one part time.



Employees of GreenCap

GreenCap are also dedicated to help protect the environment by reducing the amount of waste that ends up in landfill from both domestic and commercial avenues by giving an alternative solution at a competitive rate.



Before

After

The services GreenCap currently offer:

- Clearance of used unwanted/excess office & call centre furnishings
- Re-upholstery of office & call centre furniture - with full collect and return service
- Sales of used refurbished office furniture to businesses and general public



Before

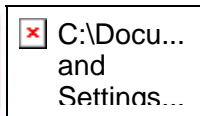
After

To find out more about setting up a social enterprise, please contact GAVO's new Enterprising Communities Officer, Val Jackson: val.jackson@gavowales, Telephone: 01443 863540.

GreenCap were also helped by the Wales Co-Op and Caerphilly Borough Council in securing start-up financial help from the European Regional Development Fund.

This project has been supported by the Community Economic Development (CED) Programme delivered in partnership by a 6 valleys Local Authority consortium of: Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda

Cynon Taf and Torfaen. The CED Programme is supported by the European Regional Development Fund through the Welsh Government.



Health Social Care and Well Being (Tiffany Thackway)

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NORTH RESOURCE CENTRE

Work on the North Resource Centre has started on site at the Lawn Industrial Estate in Rhymney on 30 April 2012. The first phase of work concentrated on clearing the site, installing pilings for the building's foundations and removing and re-locating the public footpath which crosses the site. Construction work has started with the steel frame for the lower part of the building currently being erected. It is anticipated that building work will be complete in June 2013.

The North Project Board and the North Project Team have undertaken a public consultation with residents in the 'north' to select a name for the new building. The ballot ended on 19 July with the result being in favour of naming the building the **Rhymney** Integrated Health and Social Care Centre. It is proposed that the result of the ballot will be formally announced at the turf cutting ceremony.

Chris Hodson (Aneurin Bevan Health Board Public Participation Officer – Caerphilly Locality) is producing a video diary of the development and visits the site regularly to photograph the building work. As part of the project he will also be interviewing local residents to record their memories of Redwood Hospital and their aspirations for future health and social care services in the area.

A north service modelling workshop was held at Ysybty Ystrad Fawr on 12 July 2012, the purpose of which was to consider whether 'the North Resource Centre as planned is what the local population really need?' Public Health colleagues presented detailed needs assessment data for the 'north' and attendees participated in facilitated workshop sessions to consider whether their services met these needs.

Task and finish groups are now being arranged to consider specific service areas such as –

- Mental Health (including substance misuse)
- In-patient beds
- Minor Injuries Treatment services

- Children and families
- Learning disability
- Health promotion
- Professions allied to health
- Staff accommodation
- Primary care/GP services
- Palliative Care
- Heads of service

It is anticipated that these will report back to a further workshop planned for late autumn. A similar workshop for the voluntary sector and other statutory agencies is also being planned to be held after the turf cutting ceremony.

A number of sub groups have been established within the project structure and meet regularly to work on specific areas such as finance, facilities management, IT, decommissioning, use of the in-patient beds etc

For further information contact Kathryn Wall, Project Officer
kathryn.wall@wales.nhs.uk

ALCOHOL UPDATE

The Welsh Government is reviewing the achievements made so far under the *Working Together to Reduce Harm Strategy 2008*. This is the Welsh Government's 10 year strategy for tackling the harms associated with the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in Wales. This strategy sets out a clear national agenda for how partners can tackle and reduce the harms associated with substance misuse in Wales.

Locally work within this arena is strategically coordinated by the Gwent Substance Misuse Area Planning Board and current work streams include :

- Updating an evidence paper on effective interventions
- Planning and delivering a Gwent wide conference, 10th October 2012, on the impact of alcohol across the life course. This day will be hosted by Caerphilly County Borough Council
- Alcohol Brief Intervention Training – this is to be rolled out to appropriate partners
- Communications
- Alcohol licensing
- National campaigns

In addition the Caerphilly Local Service Board has Alcohol as one of their priorities for 2012. Partners in the Caerphilly borough got together in June for a day to contribute to the development of a Caerphilly Alcohol Action Plan. Three topics were reviewed: 1) health 2) crime and anti social behavior 3) underage drinking. It

is intended that the final Action Plan will be completed for presentation to the October meeting of the Local Service Board

If you would like to find out more please contact Maria Evans, Lead Officer for Substance Misuse in Caerphilly on 01495 233408 or email EVANSM5@caerphilly.gov.uk

SMOKING

A Tobacco Action Plan for Caerphilly has been developed. Three priority areas have been agreed for 2012-13. These are :

- Smoking cessation
- Prevention
- Smoke Free environments

A performance scorecard is being developed to assist in measuring progress against these priorities.

Smoke free Playgrounds - Caerphilly County Borough Council has agreed plans to ban smoking in all play areas across the area, in an effort to protect the health of local children. New signs will now be erected in all playgrounds in parks across the county borough. Smoking in enclosed public places has been prohibited in Wales since April 2007, and the council hopes that extending this ban to include children's play areas will promote non-smoking as the social norm among children and parents alike. The issue of passive smoking in parks was this year signalled as a priority by the Caerphilly Youth Forum who have recently co-ordinated an art competition with Caerphilly Primary Schools to design the signs.

If you would like to find out more about Smokefree Playgrounds please contact Sian Wolfe-Williams, Health Challenge Caerphilly co-ordinator on 01495 235401 or email : wolfes@caerphilly.gov.uk

SUBSTANCE MISUSE

DAYS (Drug and Alcohol Youth Support), formerly CRI Young Person's Substance Misuse Service, marked their first year working in the Caerphilly county borough and Blaenau Gwent by inviting professional partners to visit them at their base and view a selection of projects, artwork and poetry created by young people. The service has offered information, support and advice to approximately 3,500 young people in their first year through attending local events, information days, holding workshop sessions and working with local schools and youth organisations. With the start of a new school year DAYS will be liaising with local schools reminding them that they can make referrals to the service through the single point of contact number: 0808 168 7176.

Three winners of a campaign competition designed to educate young people about the dangers of alcohol misuse have been revealed - and all come from the Caerphilly county borough. Community Safety Partnerships in the Caerphilly county borough, Blaenau Gwent, Rhondda Cynon Taff and Merthyr Tydfil launched the alcohol awareness campaign entitled *Wreckedlastnight.com* in January, asking young people aged 14-16 to get involved, log on to the campaign website and educate themselves about the risks associated with alcohol use. They were then asked to complete a short quiz to test their knowledge - with three top scorers picked out all living in the Caerphilly county borough. All will share in a prize of £1000 in Apple Vouchers.

A unique group offering support to people who have been newly diagnosed with Hepatitis C has been launched in the Caerphilly county borough. The scheme is a pilot being run in Caerphilly, but open to people across Gwent. Run as a joint initiative between Terrence Higgins Trust Cymru and Drugaid, the group will be held fortnightly at the Phoenix Drop In Centre in Cardiff Road, Caerphilly, and welcomes anyone who has been newly diagnosed with the condition, including people who have been diagnosed with Hepatitis C for some time but only now feel the need to access support. The group will be an opportunity for people to come along and access peer support from other people living with the condition and transform their fears and concerns into positive views and actions about keeping healthy and living well.

Drugaid GOALS are working with other local service providers to raise awareness of issues associated with mephedrone use. Anyone concerned about mephedrone or requiring further information about services which can offer support, information or education about this issue or any other issue related to substance misuse please contact Drugaid GOALS on telephone: 02920 868675 or DAYS (Drug and Alcohol Youth Support) on telephone: 0808 168 7176

CRI have recently launched a new harm reduction service and needle exchange at Chambers House in Blackwood. Running five days a week the service is totally confidential and offers harm reduction information and support, needle exchange, BBV testing, access to dental services or wound care and can also act as a gateway to intervention if appropriate.

The new Employment Support Service, which operates under the umbrella of Peer Mentoring Wales, is now providing a three tier service to local employers supporting them with training and implementation of drug and alcohol policies in the workplaces, offering training to managers and staff in substance misuse awareness and recognising and dealing with this issue in the workplace and providing one to one interventions to any member of staff who identify themselves or are identified by another as experiencing substance misuse issues. The focus of this service is to ensure the benefits of retaining and maintaining employment for the employee and the employer.

Partnership Performance - the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership (SCCSP) continues to work in partnership to reduce crime and disorder in Caerphilly county borough. As at 15th August, there was an overall reduction of 18.2% in all crime compared to the same period last year. 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 41.2% reduction in anti-social behaviour across the county borough (as at 15th August, compared to the same period last year).

ASB Victim/Witness Champion - the Victims Champion 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 April – June 2012, there have been 90 referrals have been made to the service. The Victims Champion (Lana Harrison) can be contacted on telephone: 01495 235441.

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 April – June 2012, 4104 hours of work were carried out within the county borough. Any person wishing to nominate any location/project please contact either the Wales Probation Trust on 01633 247300 or for further details please contact the SCCSP on telephone: 01495 235350.

The Safer Caerphilly Volunteer Network - 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. Recent borough-wide networking events have taken place on 27th February and 28th May 2012. These sessions have included a variety of presentations regarding the tools and services available to the Volunteer Network. Recent events have provided 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 231 Volunteer Network members across the county borough.

Partnership Communications - the SCCSP was represented at the Big Cheese event this summer. The theme for this year's marquee was - *Reducing the harm caused by alcohol*. Each agency made specific links with alcohol and gave important advice and messages. The focus of the team was to engage members of the public and inform of the work that is going on around community safety issues in the county borough with a particular emphasis on alcohol.

The SCCSP and its constituent responsible authorities of Gwent Police, Caerphilly County Borough Council, Aneurin Bevan Health Trust, The South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Wales Probation Trust and the Gwent Police Authority, together with other public and voluntary sector colleagues, continue to deliver core activity and services, striving to reduce and prevent crime, disorder, the impact of substance misuse, domestic violence and in doing so make Caerphilly county borough a safer place to live, work and visit. For more information visit the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership website at - <http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/saferccb/>

50+ Positive Action (Mandy Sprague)

50plus@caerphilly.gov.uk

This quarter the focus has been on establishing the two new 50+ Positive Action Partnership operational sub groups: Information, Empowerment and Dignity, Respect and Age Equality. Each group has met twice and they are actively developing action plans that will make an impact on their relative outcomes.

- The **Information and Empowerment group** is targeting the first phase of their work on improving signposting to services and a more coordinated local approach to providing information online. The group are looking to work with the current community information networks and schools to keep this work both *local* and useful.
- The **Dignity, Respect and Age Equality group** will be facilitating a workshop with Age Cymru in late January 2013 to bring together residents and key stakeholders to consider what are their issues around dignity in care and what actions need to be in place to ensure we sustain current good work and drive improvements where needed. The group will also be seeks actions that help us make better use of our brand '50+ Positive Action' to help signpost residents to appropriate service and support.

A further 500 information packs have been delivered directly to older people in community, following last autumn's success with the *Keep Well Keep Warm* information packs, that were given to those more vulnerable and potentially isolated residents, receiving either meals direct or the Supporting People house cleaning service. This time demographic analysis will be used to help identify areas that have potentially higher levels of vulnerable older people. Work with

then be undertaken with the 7 Communities First partnerships that cover those areas to deliver packs to older people known to be least able to access the information otherwise.

Finally congratulations to Joy Matthews of the Caerphilly 50+ Forum for her success in the European Digital Inclusion awards. Joy was short listed from over 300 submissions from across Europe for the *I am part of IT* awards. The Commission flew Joy out to Brussels for the awards ceremony and although she did not win, she was presented with a certificate that acknowledged the effort she has made to become part of the *online* community and the positive impact it has had on her life. Anyone 50+ wanting support to get online whether you are an individual or a group please get in touch with Kerry on telephone: 07785465481 or Matt on telephone: 02920 556 192 from [Get Caerphilly Online](#) to see how they can help.

For more information on 50+ Positive Action please contact Mandy Sprague on telephone: 01443 864277.

Children and Young People (Lynne Bosanko Williams)

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The three Priority Outcome Groups (POGs) are now fully established. These groups are responsible for delivering the action plan in relation to the Priority Outcomes in the Children and Young People's Plan 2011 –2014. All groups have multi agency representation, and report to the Children and Young People Partnership Board. The Board is incorporating the performance management of the Children & Young People Plan, the Priority Outcome Groups and the performance of the Families First projects into the web based Ffynnon system. Potentially this could positively contribute towards the development of the Single Integrated Plan, information sharing. The system could also capture personal information to evidence individual family outcomes.

A further commissioning phase around the Families First Programme is currently underway. Projects will be commissioned against need, grant criteria and complement the existing Families First programme. Further funding is available and has to be allocated and invested this financial year through commissioned projects overseen by the Children & Young People's Board. The current Families First projects, which have only been running since November 2011, have already started to achieve positive outcomes for children, young people and families in the borough. A summary of some of these outcomes include:

- 10 young parents completed 31 OCNs and 5 registered to sit GCSEs.
- 6 new community areas have been identified and are receiving Adventure Play.

- 5 new areas for Pop in and Play have been established in non flying start areas.
- The mobile outreach team have provided structured drop in sessions to colleges and community venues supported in Caerphilly basin area by a health inclusion worker.
- 24 Parents attended *Parenting Programme* Training sessions.
- Piloted a group for mothers and babies around the theme of Postnatal Well-being.
- Training delivered promoted best practice in order to develop quality play provision across the borough.
- 21 staff achieved *Launch into Language* a speech, language and communication training programme extending and enhancing the quality of provision.
- Development of pre-school assessments for families with disabilities in local playgroups/nurseries working towards smooth transitions into mainstream services

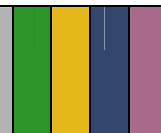
A mapping exercise of the services delivered to families on a ward basis within the Families First Programme has been undertaken. It was broken down by age ranges and numbers for November 2011 – March 2012. A similar exercise has also been undertaken to project their project delivery for the next year. The next steps are to include data in relation to Flying Start and Youth Support Services. The mapping exercises are collated and presented visually and will be used to monitor service delivery, identify need and aid future planning by the Children and Young People Partnership Board.

The Youth Support Services Steering Group (YSSSG) has had its remit extended to include the 0-25 age range. Regular INTERACT events will continue and expand to accommodate the wider age range. The group will report via POG 3 (children, young people are as healthy as possible).

An overarching Workforce Development Strategy (for children and young people's services) has been developed. A task & finish group has been set up in order to progress work on the Implementation Plan for the Strategy.

Caerphilly Safeguarding Children Board (Zarah Newman)

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Future Developments for Local Safeguarding Children Boards

A further meeting of the 5 Local Safeguarding Children Boards was held in July and the group decided that a Regional Business Unit will be developed to support a Regional Safeguarding Children Board from April 2013. Further work is now taking place to scope the structure of the Unit, identify the costs associated with establishing the Unit, develop a constitution for the new Board and establish a regional Engagement and Communication group.

The Engagement and Communication group will take responsibility for developing a Communications strategy and an Engagement strategy and developing mechanisms to ensure that the new Board is consulting with children and young people, parents and carers, professionals and members of the public.

Further discussion will take place about how the new Regional Board will ensure that there are strong links and good communication between the local and regional arrangements for safeguarding children.

Consulting with children and young people

The Board facilitated two consultation events with children and young people in June, one for primary age children and one for secondary age children. The event focused on how well children feel listened to by adults. At the beginning of the year children from across Caerphilly completed a survey on being listened to and the results from that were used to inform the consultation events. The outcomes from these events will be presented to the Board in September 2012 and following this it is hoped that a DVD that children have helped to develop will be available for partners on the website.

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.

Regional Safeguarding Children Training

All professionals and volunteers who are having contact with children and young people should have safeguarding children training. Level 1 training is a basic introduction to child abuse and neglect, level 2 develops this knowledge and also includes information about child protection processes and procedures and level 3 training is for professionals who are regularly involved in child protection processes and procedures.

The regional training plan for 2012-2013 is now available on the professionals section of our 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 then visit our website – www.caerphillysafeguarding.org.uk.