



## Community Planning Quarterly Briefing July to September 2013

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 Delivers** - the Single Integrated Plan for delivering the Caerphilly borough Community Strategy came into being from April 2013. Community planning is now taking place under the follow themed outcomes and priorities:

### PROSPEROUS CAERPHILLY

- P1 Improve local employment opportunities including access to opportunities across a wider geographical area
- P2 Improve standards of housing and communities, giving appropriate access to services across the county borough
- P3 Provide support to enable local people to compete for all employment opportunities.

### SAFER CAERPHILLY

- S1 Reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour and reduce fear of becoming a victim of anti-social behaviour for residents
- S2 Reduce crime and the fear of crime for the residents of the county borough
- S3 Reduce the harm caused to communities through substance misuse
- S4 Ensure people are supported to live in their own homes and communities in safety.

### LEARNING CAERPHILLY

- L1 Improve the level of basic skills and the number of achieved qualifications (formal and non-formal) to improve the life opportunities for families
- L2 Develop a multi-agency approach to address the impact of poverty on pupil attainment



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

L3 Children, young people and families have the skills and resources to access job opportunities.

### **HEALTHIER CAERPHILLY**

- H1 Address the inequities in the rate of low birth weight babies across the county borough
- H2 Improve lifestyles of the population in the county borough so that people recognise the need to take responsibility for their own health and well-being, and make use of the opportunities and support available to them
- H3 Reduce the variation in healthy life expectancy in the county borough so that the health and well being of individuals experiencing disadvantage improves to the levels found among the advantaged
- H4 Improve the education, information, early intervention, prevention and harm reduction in relation to Substance Misuse in the county borough
- H5 Ensure people are supported to live in their own communities to lead safe, fulfilled and independent lives.

### **GREENER CAERPHILLY**

- G1 Improving local environmental quality
- G2 Reduce the causes of and adapt to the effects of climate change
- G3 Maximising the use of the environment for health benefits.

A performance management framework is currently being developed whereby each outcome and priority will populate a performance scorecard, detailing indicators, performance measures and progress against a baseline, evidencing how the action plans being delivered are making a difference in bringing about quality of life improvements in the borough.

For further information on the work of Caerphilly Local Service Board and community planning please visit the Caerphilly Local Service Board website:

<http://your.caerphilly.gov.uk/communityplanning/content/local-service-board-member-profiles>

**Prosperous Caerphilly (Antony Bolter)**

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### **Future European Funding 2014-2020**

Following the EU Funding 2014-20 consultation event in Penallta House in March, the Council submitted a response to Welsh Government . In the Ministerial statement in July, the Welsh Government response reflected a few changes, and it's infrastructure of internal and external groups continue to develop that detail. Similarly, the Minister announced that West Wales and the Valleys would receive approximately £1.67bn, representing a smaller cut than originally expected, and some 4% less than the corresponding 2007-2013 budget.

The Welsh Government is aiming to implement the Programme from 1st January

2014 but a number of issues such as budget distribution across priorities, projects delivery, match funding and integration with other programmes are far from complete. Welsh Government's backbone projects are still being developed, so there is an element of unknown and a consequent risk of regional duplication. There is also a lack of clarity on Welsh Government integration of City Regions and Enterprise Zones within the above.

However, it is clear that Member State Programmes will reflect the Commission's Europe 2020 Economic Strategy for Jobs and Growth. Consequently future EU Structural Fund Programmes will be framed towards National Government response and ultimately support Welsh Office Strategies. Consequently, the new programme proposes:

- **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Priorities:**
  - Research, technological development and innovation
  - Enterprise and Small Medium Enterprise (SME) competitiveness
  - Sustainable transport and Network infrastructure
  - Renewable energy and energy efficiency.
  
- **European Social Fund (ESF) Priorities**
  - Helping people into work (Employment for All)
  - Skills and lifelong Learning (Skills for all)
  - Early Years and Young People (Brighter Futures).

The aim for jobs and growth will inevitably dictate that future funding opportunities will need to reflect, and be shaped by the above. It is clear that there will be little opportunity for capital orientated projects such as Bargoed and Newbridge town centres regeneration. Apart from addressing skills and training, projects will need support businesses and create opportunities, link transport to employment, changing roles of towns, ITC development for wider use and attracting businesses.

The 10 Local Authorities in the South East Wales region continue to collaborate to develop a regional Strategy and develop new proposals for EU Funding from 2014 through the ten Task and Finish Groups established and reporting to the South East Wales Directors of Environment and Regeneration Board.

### **Future Rural Development Programme 2014 - 2020**

Development of the Rural Programme after 2013 is running behind the other programmes, and there are the following uncertainties:

- **Timing** - implementation of the Rural Development Plan for Wales is not likely before January 2015. Extension of the current programme will not fill the gap.
  
- **Budget** - the total amount of European funding for Wales over 2014-2020 is not yet known. It is clear is that there will be significantly less money over the coming 7 year period for Rural Wales compared to the current programming

period. It is hoped that this will all be known by October. Furthermore, the programme in Wales is part-funded by the Welsh Government and co-financing for the next Rural Development Plan has yet to be agreed.

- **Eligible areas** - are still to be defined. It is expected that there will not be much change, though some areas could be added. It is still to be decided whether structures will align with Local Authority boundaries or possibly be based on wider more regional areas.
- **Delivery Structure** – the current structure of Partnerships and Local Action Groups can create some duplication and confusion. These distinctions will be removed, and it is expected that there will be just one Partnership/Group to cover an area. A process may be introduced shortly to select these. It is possible that the Welsh Government will be looking for a reduction in the number of lead bodies.
- **Community Led Local Development (CLLD)** – the European Commission is promoting a new approach that removes the distinctions between the different funding streams. This will impact on the Convergence and Rural funding along with the other programmes. There is still a lot of detail to be resolved before this integration is achieved, particularly for the Rural Programme.

## **GWENT ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS**

### **Star Volunteers Shine for a Night**

Caerphilly's *Star Studded* Volunteers were celebrated and honoured during this year's eagerly awaited awards ceremony, held at the Council's headquarters in Penallta House, on 19th June 2013. The evening held host to the wonderful people who give up their time to help others within the Caerphilly County Borough. The *Star* volunteers shared the evening with invited guests and award sponsors.

Councillor Michael Gray, Mayor of Caerphilly County Borough Council, opened the ceremony, and assisted with presenting the award winners, together with Bob Cooke, Chair of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee, Cllr Harry Andrews, Leader Caerphilly County Borough Council, Maria Williams, News Editor, *Campaign* Newspaper, Katy Stephenson, Executive Director, Groundwork Caerphilly and Simon Jefferies, Chief Inspector, Gwent Police. The compere for the evening was Gerald Jones, Deputy Leader Caerphilly County Borough Council, keeping the proceedings going with both an excellent and warm delivery.



The special guest for the evening was Mr Simon Boyle, Lord Lieutenant of Gwent, and President of Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations. Mr Boyle gave the closing address before awarding the Supreme Award Winner, Rita Evans in celebration of her endless volunteering support for various voluntary organisations across the Caerphilly Borough.



Rita is actively volunteering within organisations such as Abercarn & Newbridge Inner Wheel Club, Welsh Blood Service and the Newbridge Memo Restoration Project. She has been volunteering for over 30 years despite receiving major lung surgery at the age of 16 of which a significant part of her lung was removed.

## Celebrating children's play in Caerphilly

GAVO Caerphilly held their second National Play Day event at Morgan Jones Park on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August. National Play Day highlights the importance of play and celebrates that *Every CHILD has the RIGHT to Play*.



National Play offered a wide variety of play opportunities for children, young people and their families to engage with, many of which encouraged the use of the natural environment. Play opportunities included tree nets to climb, den building, using cardboard boxes, waterslides, tree swings and hay bales. Using inexpensive resources highlighted that fairground rides and gadgets are not the

only way to have fun. The use of cardboard boxes and ropes also encouraged children to use their imagination to play.

In addition, families were able to try new and exciting challenges like; the climbing wall provided by the Caerphilly Adventure Group, a Welsh Rugby Union timed assault course, a water slide, an inflatable football pitch and a foam pit. All play opportunities and activities on the day were free and accessible for families. GAVO Caerphilly were pleased to see over 6,000 people coming into Morgan Jones Park to celebrate and embrace the importance of play, not only children and young people but also for families and communities.



Cllr Michael Gray, the Mayor for Caerphilly County Borough, along with his wife Ruth joined GAVO Caerphilly for the fun and festivities. They were happy to give up their time to observe the fun, speak with families and even take part in a few magic tricks!

Assembly Member Vaughan Gething, the Deputy Minister for Tackling Poverty, also attended, which highlighted his commitment to every child's right to play.

Don't just take our word for it here is what some of the children, young people and families said about the day:-

"Thanks for putting this all together for us"

"Best day of my life thanks for the fun"

"Fi wedi cael hwyl"

"Great day can't wait till next year"

"I love the park"

"Had an awesome day thank you"

"It was cool"

"Great day today playing football"

"Today was brilliant"

The event was the product of months of planning and organising within the GAVO team. This was all made easier by the multitude of partners who came forward to be involved and support the day. Without this support National Play Day would not have been the success that it was. GAVO Caerphilly would like to thank the Parent Network, Flying Start, Communities First, Tri County Play Association, Homestart, Countryside, CCBC Parks Department, Sport Development, Welsh Rugby Union, Libraries, Menter Iaith, Arriva Trains, Scouts, Groundwork, Senghenydd Youth Drop In Centre, RSPB, Swalec, Tesco, Asda, HAGS SMP and Francis Walters.



GAVO Play Service believes that play is essential to the development of happy and healthy children. The GAVO Play Service is funded through Families First to offer children, young people and families the opportunities to engage in free play experiences within their local communities after school and within the holiday periods. This makes provision local, bespoke and

accessible for families and gives them ownership of local space, encouraging opportunities for outdoor play. Flying Start also fund the GAVO Play Service to offer Pop in and Play groups across the borough where children 0-3years and their parents can come together in their community areas and engage in singing, stories, activities, healthy snacks and free play together.

### **GAVO's Lottery Success**

Following the success of the pilot for the Sunflower Hospital Volunteer Project at both Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan and Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr GAVO were successful in their application to the Big Lottery for a three-year project amounting to £455, 927. The project will develop a volunteering and befriending service within the 100% single room hospitals that will give new opportunities to volunteers while supporting patients, carers and staff. Martin Featherstone, Director of Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO) said:

*"GAVO are thrilled to be awarded the Big Lottery three year funding for the Sunflower Hospital Volunteer Project. The funding will allow us to work in partnership with Aneurin Bevan Health Board to grow and strengthen the key role of the volunteers who have massively reduced the isolation experienced by vulnerable adults in hospital settings."*

Gina Jones, one of GAVO's Senior Officers involved in the pilot project commented:

*The pilot project received numerous positive comments from staff, patients and their families proving that volunteers were vital in helping to improve the patients experience, health and well being.*

**Safer Caerphilly (Kathryn Peters & Natalie Kenny)**

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### **Partnership Performance**

The Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership (SCCSP) continues to work in partnership to reduce crime and disorder in the Caerphilly county borough. The figures below were recorded on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2013:

- Drug Offences reduced by 26%
- Dwelling Burglary reduced by 17.8%
- Sexual Offences reduced by 39%.

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 54%



reduction in anti-social behaviour across the county borough over the last three years.

### **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 2012 – March 2013, there have been 327 referrals made to the service. The victim's Champion has supported over 1000 victims and witnesses of anti-social behaviour since she has been in post from 2010. The *Victims Champion* (Lana Harrison) can be contacted on 01495 235441.

### **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 234 individuals from groups such as Neighbourhood Watch, Crime Prevention Panels, Community Groups and Partnerships, Street Pastors and Tenants and Residents Associations. Recent sessions have included a variety of presentations and workshops where residents had the opportunity to discuss any crime and disorder issues in their area. The next event will take place on 16<sup>th</sup> September and if you would like to attend or receive further information on the Volunteer Network please contact the SCCSP office on 01495 235350.

### **Partnership Communications**

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

Members of the public were invited to enter the SCCSP quiz where they would have to engage with each agency stand to obtain the answers. For the younger person there was also a Community Safety Colouring competition. This worked extremely well with over 500 people taking part over the weekend.

In addition to the above, 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 and the Wales Probation Trust, 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/>

**Learning Caerphilly (Lynne Bosanko Williams)**

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### **Families First Programme**

In July 2013 Families First commissioned 5 new projects, these include the following 3 extensions to current projects and 2 pilot projects:

- The Family Engagement Project has received funding, which will allow the project to have a specific team based in the Upper Rhymney Valley.
- Integrated Family Learning will now be able to provide individual basic skills support for older children and parents in the home.
- Parenting Programme and Individual Family Support will be able to look at impact made as well as providing refresher sessions for parents.
- The Raising Aspirations Project is being piloted this year, which will provide homework clubs through community focused schools to improve school attainment.
- The Supporting Family Change Project will commence its pilot from September 2013 and will work intensively with families who have more than one challenge in their lives. The project will help these families become stronger on their own, and get through difficult challenges without needing on-going support from lots of services.

An outline of all projects can be found at the CCBC Families First website:

[<http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/familiesfirst/>](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/familiesfirst/)

A Families First art competition was held at the GAVO Play Day (features under the Prosperous Caerphilly section). Around 150 children and young people entered the competition, which involved drawing a picture of *My Family*. The top 3 winners were decided by Keith Towler, Children's Commissioner for Wales, after being narrowed down to 12 by parents from The Parent Network. Prizes were kindly donated by: Leisure Services; Llanciach Fawr; Library Services; Tower Print and Sennett's Show Company. The final 12 pictures will feature in a Families First calendar 2014.

An independent evaluation of the Caerphilly Families First Programme has been finalised. A parent friendly and practitioner version has been produced. Further details can be obtained from the Central Support Team email:

[cypp@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:cypp@caerphilly.gov.uk).

## **Joint Assessment Family Framework (JAFF)**

The JAFF is a single shared assessment approach to working with families, and enables more effective coordination and use of services to support the family and their needs. The 6 components of the JAFF were agreed by the Children and Young People's Partnership Board. These comprise of:

- Common Referral Form
- Toolbox of best practice
- Evidence based assessment tools
- Transferable personal information
- Integrated databases
- Overarching Single Front Door.

## **INTERACT**

This is the regular Children and Young People Partnership engagement and participation event aimed at all organisations who work with children, young people and families. The last INTERACT event was held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2013 and was attended by around 50 practitioners from projects across all sectors. The event launched the consultation of a Common Referral Form (see above JAFF section) and was the first event based on a Learning Set approach, which will now continue to feature.

The next event is scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> October 2013. At the event The Parent Participation Toolkit will be launched, with workshops held on making good referrals and the National Participation Standards (Youth Forum led).

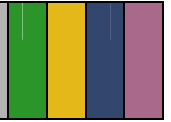
INTERACT continues to be positively regarded for its opportunities to network with a diverse range of practitioners and agencies from different sectors.

Further details can be obtained from the Central Support Team email: [cyp@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:cyp@caerphilly.gov.uk).

## **Self Evaluation and Recognition Award (SERA)**

The SERA was successfully piloted between May and June 2013, with most partners submitting a quality application. Following the pilot, changes were made to the SERA, and the document is due to be electronically launched in the first week of September 2013.

The SERA gives the opportunity for partners to evaluate and reflect on their setting and delivery, as well as providing a platform for them to be recognised and celebrated for their achievements. All organisations that work with children, young people and families will gain the opportunity to be recognised for the work they do, and show how they are contributing to the principles of the Families First Programme.



### **Nutrition Education sessions (Eatwell plate, Portion sizes)**

Two *Me- sized portions* session have been held with families attending the Family Engagement Project in Penllwyn. Five families attended these sessions, and all reported that they now better understand what constitutes a portion size, and will find it easier to provide appropriately portioned meals to their families.

Additionally, the families reported satisfaction with the resources provided to help provide a diet more in line with the Eatwell Plate such as: adult and child sized portion plates, magnetic shopping lists and shopping bags. They were also provided with water bottles to stay hydrated during the recent period of warm weather. Furthermore, two individuals received a brief intervention for smoking and were provided with information for Stop Smoking Wales.

A further three *Me-Sized Portions* sessions are planned for September in Penllwyn, Trinant and Ty Sign.

### **Foodwise**

The first cycle of this 8-week weight management programme finished on 15th August in Trinant Community Centre. The programme has been well attended, with an average of 4-5 individuals attending each session. A number of outcomes have been achieved with this group including:

- Reports of increased consumption of fruit and vegetables
- Less consumption of energy drinks
- 2 participants swapping large plates for smaller plates,
- 1 confirmed referral to the National Exercise Referral Scheme (NERS)
- 2 participants actively seeking to speak to their GP about NERS
- 3 referrals to the Health Inclusion Project for Smoking Cessation
- 2 participants accessing the local C-Card Scheme

### **Healthy Cooking on a Budget**

Practical cookery sessions are currently being held in conjunction with Solas to provide young people aged 16-24 living in supported housing with the basic skills to enable them to cook healthy meals on a budget. Seven individuals have so far engaged with the intention to run further cooking sessions later on in the year.

### **Cancer Awareness**

A pamper evening to promote the importance of attending Cancer Screening is being held in September. This event will allow attendees to speak to trained screening advisors whereby the benefits of attending regular screening and the risks of non-attendance can be discussed in a relaxed and informal environment. It is also envisaged that some wellbeing/ relaxation workshops will be held as part of this event that could lead to further support from the mental health officer in the future.

## **Relax Kids**

Relax Kids is a unique method of introducing children to relaxation which helps support the participants to improve their wellbeing and become more positive, happy, productive and focussed.

The first cycle of this project will run in September in conjunction with Ty Sign Primary School. As part of this project sessions will be held with teachers, pupils and parents so that the methods and messages can be cascaded to a wider audience.

## **Nutrition project**

A bid has been submitted to the People's Health Trust for the TLC Café in Ty Sign to fund a nutrition project in the area. If the bid were to be successful the funding would be used to initiate an after-school family cooking club, provide healthy cooking on a budget sessions for parents and up skill local volunteers with Level 1 and 2 Agored Cymru nutrition qualifications so that the project could become sustainable in the long term.

## **Community Antenatal Project**

This project continues to be developed in conjunction with the Aneurin Bevan Health Board, Midwifery, Flying Start and local breastfeeding volunteers.

## **X-Pert Patient**

Health Officers are currently attending the Diabetes X-Pert Patient sessions in order to have a better understanding of the condition and the standardised health messages given to Diabetics to learn how to give the correct information and provide a better support mechanism on the ground.

## **Smoking at school gates? No way young lungs play!**

Two-thirds of the schools in the Caerphilly County Borough have furthered their commitment to being Smoke Free Zones. The move comes after Caerphilly County Borough Council became the first council in Wales to ban smoking in all children's playgrounds following a campaign by Caerphilly Youth Forum last year.

The participating schools now display the smoke free *Young Lungs at Play* signage at entrance gates and other areas of the school such as playing fields.

It is hoped the new signage will encourage parents and visitors to the schools to think twice before lighting up.

For more information go to [www.healthchallengecaerphilly.org.uk](http://www.healthchallengecaerphilly.org.uk)

## **Stirring A Healthy Mix at the *Big Cheese***

Health Challenge Caerphilly celebrated at the Big Cheese Festival this year by serving up fruity and refreshing mocktails. Alcohol free cocktails were served in style by the expert flare mixologist giving individuals the opportunity to enjoy the flavours without the units.

Over 1000 people visited the tent and received support and advice on healthy living from Change4Life, Tenovus, Breast Cancer Care, Stop Smoking Services, Screening Services and Macmillan.

Don't let drink sneak up on you – visit [www.healthchallengecaerphilly.org.uk](http://www.healthchallengecaerphilly.org.uk) for more info.

**Stoptober comes to Wales - Do you want to give up smoking? Would you like to receive support and encouragement to help you along the way?**

People joining the campaign are able to receive support from a Stoptober pack, an online and smartphone app and a 28-day text support service. Research shows those who stop smoking for 28 days are 5 times more likely to stay smokefree. Stoptober will lend a hand to help smokers achieve this goal.

More than a quarter of a million people pledged to stub out their last cigarette during last year's campaign in England.

Look out for more information on Stoptober from the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2013 onwards.



## Community Health Champions Network

200 champions have now been trained since the launch of this initiative in 2011.

*Would you like to:*

- improve your health ?
- find out about health services in your area ?
- share information with your friends, family and neighbours ?

Then join the Network to receive regular information bulletins, free training in local venues, an accredited qualification and support to make a difference.

For further details email Sian Wolfe: [wolfes@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:wolfes@caerphilly.gov.uk) or telephone Sian on 01495 235401. The new programme starts September 2013.

## School Sport Survey

For the second time ever, schools from across Wales undertook School Sport Survey, the biggest survey of children, young people and sport in Wales. Sport Caerphilly have worked in partnership with 73 primary and secondary schools to successfully achieve enough respondents to gain personalised reports for schools and Local Authority specific reports. By obtaining this information / data, this will help make evidence-based decisions and improvements to shape the future of Physical Education, School and Community Sport. Importantly, Estyn have also

stated that they will recognise the survey as an effective tool for evidencing well-being in their self-evaluation guidance for schools.

**Greener Caerphilly (Paul Cooke)**

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### **Caerphilly Environmental Quality small grants fund**

The Living Environment Partnership has approved three projects for 2013/14 through its Community Assets funded, Caerphilly Environmental Quality small grants fund. This fund is aimed at maximising the benefits of joint working on environmental projects in the county borough.

- **Pride in your pitch**

Dog fouling and litter on the sports pitches in the borough has been identified as a major issue, affecting the health of those participating in sport, and preventing others from taking part in sport. This project will engage with local sports clubs to encourage and enable them to take greater ownership of the condition of their own pitches. This will include sending information, guidance etc. to every club, to raise awareness of the health and environmental issues. Packs will be provided containing litter pickers, gloves, bags, poop scoopers etc to allow clubs to clean their pitches effectively and safely.

- **River Schools**

The objective of the River Schools Project is to promote 'rivers' to the local communities and groups, whilst also improving the local environment around the waterway. Groundwork Caerphilly has been operating a Healthy Rivers programme which works in partnership with South East Wales Rivers Trust Natural Resource Wales and Caerphilly County Borough Council to co-ordinate the removal or modification of barriers to fish migration. The funding will allow the provision of environmental education/promotion workshops, classes and events the programme will educate the local communities on the function and health of the river, including the impact it has on the ecology.

- **Go Wild**

Funding was provided to support the Local Biodiversity Partnership event, *Go Wild*, which has been taking place biennially between Pontllanfraith (Caerphilly) and Tredegar (Blaenau Gwent) for 10 years. Over 100 partners, including organisations, groups and individuals, participate in the event, such as the Wildlife Trusts, Hedgehog Helpline, bird and butterfly clubs. The event regularly attracts approximately 4,000 visitors and is one of the biggest and most well established biodiversity events in South Wales. It is also a flagship Wales Biodiversity Week event. The aim of the event is to raise awareness of local wildlife and what can be done to help conserve and enhance biodiversity, as well as the importance of green spaces and sustainable living.

## **Climate Change Commitment**

At events throughout the borough, local residents are encouraged to sign a climate change commitment to change their behaviour to reduce their contribution to climate change. Actions include planting a tree, using bags for life or changing to energy efficient light bulbs. In 2012/13, 1,580 local people made a climate change pledge. This brings the total number of residents that have signed a commitment to combat climate change to 5,635.

## **Climate Change Woodlands**

The Climate Change Woodlands concept was developed as a public engagement tool. It links with the Climate Change Commitment scheme, and enables signatories - whether individuals, families, organisations, businesses or schools - to make a pledge to plant a tree as a long-lasting and publicly visible sign of that commitment. Eight Climate Change Woodlands have now been planted across the county borough since the initiative began in 2010:

## **Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGC)**

### **• Eco Schools**

The Eco Schools programme is a child friendly environmental management system for schools. It enables schools to promote environmental awareness in a way that links to the curriculum as well as the management of the school. It is a holistic process involving the whole school - pupils, teachers, parents, non-teaching staff and governors.

In the Caerphilly borough 100% participation in schools was gained by March 2009 with 91 schools actively working towards the Eco Schools Programme. By 31st March 2013, all 91 schools had achieved an Eco School award.

To date, out of the 91 schools with an award, 8 have bronze awards, 25 silver awards and 59 green flag awards (including 20 second green flag awards, 19 third green flag awards and 6 platinum awards). To date an amazing 65% of our schools hold the Eco School green flag award.

Six schools in the county borough have achieved the prestigious Eco School Platinum award to date. These are St Gwladys Bargoed School, Llanfabon Infants School, Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Caerffili, Cwrt Rawlin Primary School, Bedwas High School and Gilfach Fargoed Primary School. This is a huge achievement with only 73 schools in Wales achieving the award.

### **• ESDGC Youth Award Scheme**

Work is ongoing to support the youth service to raise awareness and understanding of ESDGC and provide guidance to incorporate ESDGC into the youth work curriculum. Five youth groups have been working towards the ESDGC Youth Award Scheme, which will be rolled out within the Caerphilly county borough in September 2013.



- **Eco Early Years conference**

An Eco Early Years conference was held in March 2013 in partnership with the Early Years Team to support early years settings incorporating ESDGC into their curriculum and management. The aim of the conference was to show the attendees how settings could be managed sustainably, to provide ideas to incorporate ESDGC into curriculum activities with the children and to promote the sustainability message to the parents and wider community.

- **ESDGC Governor Toolkit**

An ESDGC Governor Toolkit has been developed to provide guidance to governors to enable them to support their schools on ESDGC and to support the delivery of sustainable projects and work towards the various award schemes. The toolkit contains information on ESDGC, sustainable award schemes, activities to run with governors, teachers and pupils and guidance on the Estyn inspection framework and the evidence required for ESDGC.

**Equalities (David Thomas)**

[equalities@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Over the summer of 2013, the Council's equalities section of the Council's website was updated with additional guidance documents and annual reports - and for the first time ever, a new staff portal was created for Council employees. Together providing access to a wide range of information and support on equalities issues, training opportunities and translation facilities (staff see opening page of Intranet and equalities and Welsh language). For other readers please visit –

[www.caerphilly.gov.uk/equalities](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/equalities)

[www.caerffili.gov.uk/cydraddoldeb](http://www.caerffili.gov.uk/cydraddoldeb)

Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent Councils are now working together on delivering a common programme of training to staff and partners from both areas.

Conversational Welsh language courses are currently being advertised for September onwards, and new courses in the Equalities Training Programme from the autumn onwards include subjects such as Sexual Orientation Awareness and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness.

Caerphilly County Borough Council is the lead authority responsible for Welsh translation for the Gwent Education Achievement Service, providing translated Education materials for the 23 Welsh medium schools across the 5 councils in the Gwent area.

Since April 2013, a new Welsh Government strategy called *More Than Just Words* has been in place, aiming to increase the provision of Welsh language services in Health, Social Care and Social Services. The five Gwent councils and

Aneurin Bevan Health Board are working together on common targets in order to ensure that cost-efficiencies are achieved whilst delivering on the first year's targets by March 2014.

## 50+ Positive Action (Mandy Sprague)

[50plus@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:50plus@caerphilly.gov.uk)

This quarter has seen a change to the way 50+ Positive Action will be monitored and progressed in the coming few years. It has been agreed with the launch of the *Caerphilly Delivers* - Single Integrated Plan, and the good progress being made by the Partnership's operation sub groups, that there is no longer a need for the strategic partnership to meet. However, the input of the partnership's stakeholders will still be critical to identifying needs and therefore an annual 50+ Smarter Working key stakeholder event will take place.

### Maximising Income:

- This year's the **50+ Positive Action Smarter Working Key Stakeholders Workshop** will be held on the 2nd October as part of a week of events to mark UK Older people's day. The theme will be Poverty.
- Over a 1000 **How Many Ways to Save** leaflets have been circulated to targeted groups.

### Dignity, Respect and Age Equality (DRAE)

- **50+ Charter mark scheme** - has received the support of the Commissioner for Older People in Wales. A first meeting will be held in September with a range of partners to discuss how such a scheme would need to operate to enable all sectors and organisations to feel able to participate.
- **50+ Positive Action - Dignity In Care action plan** - work is progressing on the action plan with a number of work streams already underway including:
  - The development of a Dignity and Respect code of practice for residential homes
  - Improved linkages and opportunities for staff training
  - A successful pilot of Peer-to-Peer Protection of Vulnerable Adults awareness training.
- **Dignity in Care public meeting** - the Caerphilly County Borough 50+ Forum held a successful public meeting and AGM. The revitalised steering group and newly elected officers are developing an action plan, with targeted projects that include piloting pen pal and befriending projects to support and reconnect those in residential homes with their local communities. They are also looking to work in partnership with local residential homes to set up lunch clubs that are open to the 50+ in their local area. Anyone interested in volunteering or working in partnership with the Caerphilly County Borough 50+ Forum on these

projects should contact should Ralph Stevens the Chair on  
[stevrlph@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stevrlph@yahoo.co.uk)

### **Information and Empowerment**

The ***Empowering Communities*** work stream now has the support of the Caerphilly Local Service Board Communications and Engagement group, and the Corporate Management Team of the Council. A task and finish group has been formed to produce, by December, a proposal and business case for a *one stop* online resource that is designed to help local residents, councillors, volunteers and professionals to find out what support, services and community activities are available across the borough thereby helping residents *to help themselves*.

For more information please contact Mandy Sprague on 01443 864277 or email  
[spragm@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:spragm@caerphilly.gov.uk)