



VOLUNTARY SECTOR SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK ON WEDNESDAY, 18TH SEPTEMBER 2013 AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

Mr. R. Cooke – Chair

Councillors:

D. Carter, C. Hawker, Mrs. J.A. Pritchard, Mrs. E. M. Aldworth, Mrs. P. Griffiths, R. Woodyatt,
K. James, R. W. Gough.

Together with:

Abbeyfield	-	Mr. P. Jones
Abertridwr Community Church	-	Mr. L. Clay
Age Cymru	-	Ms. S. Brown
Bargoed YMCA	-	Ms. J. Price
Caerphilly 50+ Forum	-	Mr. D. Morgan
Caerphilly Groundwork Trust	-	Mr. R. H. Cooke
Caerphilly Mind	-	Ms. J. Lawton
Caerphilly People First	-	Mr. C. Luke
Cruse Bereavement Care	-	Mrs. C. Williams
Disability Can Do Organisation	-	Mr. D. Evans
GAVO – Director	-	Mr. M. Featherstone
GAVO – Caerphilly	-	Mr. M. Bridgman
Homestart Caerphilly	-	Ms. M. Snowden
Hospital League Of Friends	-	Mr. N. Young
New CLURV	-	Mrs. J. Morgan
The Vanguard Centre	-	Mrs. M. Wade
Van Road United Reformed Church	-	Mr. J. Wade

Also present:

J. Dix (CCBC Policy & Research Manager), J. Elliott (CCBC Senior Research Officer), Geraint Jones, Gina Jones & Sandra Davies (GAVO), Mr. H. Llewellyn (Town & Community Council Representative), Mr. T. Sheehan (Caerphilly Business Forum Representative), Maggie James (CCBC – Passport Programme), Hayley Stevens & Lynda Williams (CCBC – Senior Community Support Worker, & Team Manager Adult Services), Ms. Kate Stevenson (Caerphilly Groundwork Trust - Observer)

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Mrs. P. Cooke, Mrs. J. Summers, S. Morgan, Ms. L. Ackerman, P. J. Bevan, J. Bevan, A. Lewis

Also from Ms. M. Jones (Caerphilly Borough Parents Network), Mrs. B. Helps (Caerphilly Parents & Carers Forum), Mrs. C. White (Cancercareline), Mr. M. Thorne (SYDIC), Mr. K. Viney (The Settlement), Mr. D. Brunton (Vice Chair Voluntary Sector Representatives), Mr. I. Racz (Graig Y Rhacca Communities Partnership), Ms. Sam Crane (ABUHB), Superintendent B. Williams, Inspector K. Childs & Sgt. R. Davies (Gwent Police), Ms. D. Crossman (South Wales Fire & Rescue), Mr. N. Taylor (Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Gwent), T. Sheehan & Natalie Whyatt (Caerphilly Business Forum)

2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None declared.

3. **MINUTES**

- 3.1 Ms. K. Stevenson said that she did attend the last meeting but this was not reflected in the minutes, for those attending.
- 3.2 SYDIC is now represented at this meeting by Mr. M. Thorne who replaces Mr. P. Mitchell. Representatives list now updated.
- 3.3 MB stated that the Voluntary Sector Awards evening on the 19th June at Penallta House was a great success and was very well supported. This included support from both Caerphilly Groundwork Trust and the Caerphilly Business Forum. The awards were presented by Cllr. Gerald Jones, who was also Master of Ceremonies, and undertook both roles well.
- 3.4 At the last meeting an informative presentation was given by Cancercareline. It was apparent at that time, that there may have been a possibility of a loss of funding for Cancercareline, but funding has now been secured for that charity.
- 3.5 CL said that he was happy with Julie Kendall's response, from the ABHB, regarding the provision of two Learning Disability Nurses. He has been in touch with JK and one of those nurses may attend a future Voluntary Sector Sub Committee meeting, to explain their role.
- 3.6 MF updated the Committee on the 'Welsh Government's Consultation – Refreshing the Relationship Between Welsh Government and the Third Sector'. He said that he had been in touch with the WCVA and can report that there had been 240 responses. Discussions regarding the third sector infrastructure, across Wales, have taken place, on how the proposed future structures could be based. They could, for example be based on specific population areas or areas of deprivation. It is expected that there will be regionalised collaboration across Welsh Local Authorities. With smaller CVC's it is expected that they will also consider greater collaboration, across boundaries. MF has invited Paul Dear from the

Welsh Government to speak at the GAVO AGM on the 16th October, along with the Police & Crime Commissioner for Gwent, Ian Johnston.

3.7 The minutes of the meeting on the 20th March 2013 were then recorded as a true record.

4. PRESENTATION TO MR. NOEL YOUNG MBE (HOSPITAL LEAGUE OF FRIENDS) ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THIS COMMITTEE

4.1 BC presented NY with an engraved plaque describing his involvement with this committee and his other voluntary work over the years. The plaque was inscribed with the following words:-

“Presented by Bob Cooke, Chair of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee, to Noel Young MBE for his Voluntary Service of 15 years to the Caerphilly Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee, and 60 years Voluntary Service to the Hospital League of Friends”.

NY was also presented with a colourful, and ornately decorated, iced cake.

BC said that he had known NY for many years and of his work with the voluntary sector, in particular Barnardo's. Although NY is retiring from this committee, he will continue with the Hospital League of Friends. BC said that NY's dedication was notable, particularly for a number of years, playing the part of Father Christmas, and handing out presents on the Children's Ward at the RGH, on Christmas Day.

Lynda Williams – CCBC Team Manager Adult Services, also said a few words about her working with NY. She said that it was an honour and pleasure to work with NY, which began for her in 2002, at the Windy Ridge Project, this was set up with NY's support. The project provides gardening skills to adults, in a safe environment.

Hayley Stevens – CCBC Senior Community Support Worker said that she worked with NY, on a daily basis, and that he was always welcoming to visitors to Windy Ridge. She referred to the early days of happy Christmas parties for all those who worked at Windy Ridge and those who were receiving training, in an ice cold porta-cabin! How things have now changed with the construction of far better facilities, in the log cabin. She said that she had always enjoyed her time working with NY.

MB said that back in 2001 / 02, land for the Windy Ridge Project had been released by the council, and that Groundwork Caerphilly had used a mechanical digger to develop the land, on the site. This was assisted by a grant of £5,000. 46 people now access the Windy Ridge Project.

NY responded by saying that he had had a lot of pleasure working within the Voluntary Sector. He said that he had been brought up by Barnardo's with families who were caring. His working life began in a SPAR store and he eventually worked his way up to be area manager. As a result of his happy up bringing by Barnardo's, in later life he worked with youngsters, in the care of Barnardo's, on the principle of giving something back to that organisation. Lastly, he said that if we all work together as a family, we would have fewer problems in life.

Photographs of the plaque presentation were taken, as were photographs of the cake slicing and sharing ceremony.

5. COMPACT REPORTS:

5(a) PRESENTATION ON THE 'CAERPHILLY PASSPORT TO EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME' – Maggie James (CCBC – Passport Programme Manager)

The Passport to Employment is particularly aimed at 16 – 24 year olds, to help them find work, and to also fit in with the NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) agenda. The scheme aims to get 70% of people into jobs into jobs, and has close links with the Business Forum and Communities First.

CCBC were successful in a combined bid with Job Centre Plus to the Welsh Government for funding for this programme. The work places were for work within the authority, and the LSB.

Delivery Partnership

- CCBC Passport Team
- Communities First Team
- Educ8
- Job Centre Plus
- ABUHB (Now a University Health Board)
- Caerphilly Business Forum

There are six staff based in Penallta House who provide support for the Passport Scheme

Opportunities for employment have been created via the Welsh Housing Quality Standard, and also in Social Care. The scheme provides added value to Welsh Government initiatives e.g Jobs Growth Wales, Communities First, WHQS etc., and provides a pool of individuals 'Ready to Work'. There will be a reduction in youth unemployment and inactivity, which in turn achieves real outcomes in jobs and training.

MJ invited questions from the Committee Members. The question was asked – are the jobs advertised? The answer was no, but individuals make contact through the Career Wales website, or are sign posted through their particular areas of interest. The Passport Team will work with potential employer placements, to supply an accurate job description and assist with the interview process. MJ said that the placements must be for new jobs. GJ said that much of the detail from the presentation is unknown to a lot of potential employers, and the Passport to Employment Scheme needs to be more marketed.

Cllr DC stated that this council is committed to paying a living wage, does this apply to the Passport Scheme? MJ said that because the placements are on the job training, then only the minimum wages are paid, to the individuals.

5(b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUNDING SCHEME – Sandra Davies (GAVO Grants Co-ordinator)

The Technical Assistance Fund has been administered by GAVO since April 2013. There have been eight applications to date and two have been approved with an allocation of £8,500 from a total annual amount of £28,000. Invoices will be sent to CCBC for processing so no organisation will actually receive cash. The successful applicants so far are:- Deri RFC Community Hall, and Connections Community Hub, Bedwas.

The other applications received:-
Tabernacle Baptist Church
Pontlottyn Village Hall & Community Centre
Argoed Baptist Church
Watford Chapel
Blackwood Cricket Club
Markham Congregational Community Church

It was noted that the council's Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel will be on 25th November. Cllr RG mentioned that currently applications for grants from the Welsh Church Fund is undersubscribed. Funding is for Capital schemes only.

Please contact Gaynor Elliott on 01443 863105 or e-mail elliogm@caerphilly.gov.uk for the criteria, and application form, to apply to this fund.

**6. PRESENTATION ON THE WORK OF THE CAERPHILLY BOROUGH PARENT NETWORK
- MICHELLE JONES (PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR)**

Due to unforeseen circumstances MJ could not attend this meeting, therefore the presentation will be rescheduled, for the December Committee meeting.

**7. VOLUNTARY SECTOR QUESTION ON HOSPITAL EXPERIENCES:-
Is there a support network to advise parents when a child is going into hospital?**

SC has supplied a written answer to this question, and this is attached as Agenda Item 7 in the papers for this meeting.

**8. WRITTEN STATEMENT ON VOLUNTARY SECTOR FUNDING – STEPHEN HARRIS
(CCBC – ACTING HEAD OF CORPORATE FINANCE)**

SH has supplied a written answer to this question, and this is attached as Agenda Item 8 in the papers for this meeting.

MB informed that his position had been included following discussions with Nicole Scammel (Acting Director of Corporate Services). MF commented that the financial circumstances facing local authorities make for challenging questions to be raised, although there are no easy solutions. He asked for members to think about models of best practice in funding and requested that developing an innovative approach to funding should be a future agenda item.

**9. VERBAL UPDATE ON THE 'ONE BEAT' EVENT 19TH OCTOBER 2013 – MIKE
BRIDGMAN (ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – GAVO)**

- 9(a)** Many organisations have booked to attend, most with display stands to illustrate the type of work they are involved with. 70 stands are currently booked to attend but if there are others who wish to attend, please encourage them to call GAVO to make appropriate arrangements. Last year there were 93 stands in total, so it would be good to reach the 100 mark this year.

The theme of the event is 'Volunteering in a Hospital Setting'. This will highlight the 'Sunflower Project', which is operating in Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr. GAVO had £18,500 of funding from the CCBC Regeneration Fund, to set up a pilot scheme at the YYF Hospital. Recently £500,000 has been secured from Big Lottery Fund to extend the scheme over the next three years in the two hospitals:- Caerphilly (YYF) and Blaenau Gwent. The Sunflower Project started in September 2012 and is proving to be highly successful. As of April 2013 GAVO has enrolled 24 new volunteers working on six wards at YYF. The volunteers provide a befriending service and pampering sessions to all patients. A book lending service is provided and this also includes magazines, provided by well wishers, which are distributed to the patients. Working in partnership with Ystrad Mynach College Beauty and Hair department, these services are provided, free of charge, to patients.

The guest speaker for 'One Beat', is Mr. Andy McCann, who went from the youngest assistant head teacher in Caerphilly C B to being one of the most sought after speakers in the UK, in a few short years. He excelled at rugby – becoming Head of PE; Head of Year; Head of VI and Assistant Head.

It was while he was teaching that Andy suffered a serious stroke. He left teaching to focus on recovery – having re-learnt to walk and talk again.

Andy wrote a book about his road to recovery from the trauma and horrors of brain injury, in the highly acclaimed book 'Stroke Survivor – A Personal Guide to Recovery', which sells worldwide.

9(b) Extra Item Tabled by PJ.

PJ said that he was concerned about the BBC Wales TV news item recently, which featured the Wales Auditor General's report – 'Annual Improvement Report – Caerphilly County Borough Council, Sept 2013'.

The report was critical of the council's public engagement work.

PJ disagreed with the report. He felt that the facts relating to CCBC had been totally misrepresented. There were many voices of agreement with PJ's views, at this committee meeting. It was felt that a letter, strongly expressing the supportive views of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee, for CCBC and its public engagement, to be sent to the Auditor General's Office.

MB asked for Cllr KJ to feed back to Cabinet the positive views of this committee regarding the engagement work of the council.

10. ITEMS OF INTEREST CONCERNING THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR FROM COMPACT PARTNERS:-

10(a) Digest of Committee Reports. It was noted that this was the only report under this heading, and that there was poor representation yet again at this meeting. A communication should be sent to the other Compact Partners reminding them of their commitment to the Compact, to provide written quarterly items of interest reports and to attend the committee meetings.

11. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ITEMS:-

11(a) Welfare Reform Update – papers attached to the agenda for this meeting.

Cllr JP advised that several appeals, regarding the cuts to benefits, had been upheld in Scotland.

11(b) Core Funding for Voluntary Organisations 2013 – 14. For information, papers attached.

11(c) Community Planning Quarterly Briefing July to September 2013. For information, papers attached.

11(d) Extra Item:- MB reported on the National Play Day held at Morgan Jones Park in Caerphilly. Seven thousand people attended this event which was held in ideal sunny conditions, and was held up as the best in Wales. Children had a large number of activities to choose from. Dignitaries attending included the Mayor of Caerphilly CBC, and the Leader of Caerphilly CBC, together with Vaughan Gethin – Deputy Minister for Tackling Poverty – Welsh Government.

The Park attendants were complimented, in that they could not do enough to assist the event. Sixteen coaches were hired to bring people from the furthest corners of the county borough, free of charge, to this event.

Meeting ended 12.35pm.

12. DATE OF THE NEXT 2013 MEETING (AT 10.30AM, WITH THE PRE-MEETING OF THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR AT 10.00AM) IN THE RHYMNEY ROOM AT PENALLTA HOUSE:

4th December