



VOLUNTARY SECTOR SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN
ON WEDNESDAY, 19TH MARCH 2014 AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

Cllr. D. Carter – Vice Chair

Councillors:

C. Hawker, Mrs. J.A. Pritchard, R. Woodyatt, A. Lewis, S. Morgan, P.J. Bevan,
Mrs. E. M. Aldworth, R.W. Gough, Mrs. P. Griffiths, K. James

Together with:

Abbeyfield	-	Mr. P. Jones
Abertridwr Community Church	-	Mr. L. Clay
Bargoed YMCA	-	Ms. J. Price
Caerphilly Care & Repair	-	Ms. P. Jones
Caerphilly People First	-	Mr. C. Luke
Cruse Bereavement Care	-	Mrs. C. Williams
Disability Can Do Organisation	-	Mr. R. Bevan
Homestart Caerphilly Borough	-	Ms. G. Lewis
The Parent Network	-	Ms. M. Jones
The Vanguard Centre	-	Mrs. M. Wade
Van Road United Reformed Church	-	Mr. J. Wade
Vice Chair –		
Voluntary Sector Representatives	-	Mr. D. Brunton

Also present:

J. Dix (CCBC Policy & Research Manager), J. Elliott (CCBC Senior Research Officer), Gina Jones & Alison Palmer (GAVO), Mr. H. Llewellyn (Town & Community Council Representative), Ms. Alison Gough (ABUHB), Sgt. R. Davies (Gwent Police), Tony Sheehan (Caerphilly Business Forum), Rod Berry (Caerphilly People First), K. Stevenson & B. Dando (Groundwork Caerphilly)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. J. Bevan, Ms. L. Ackerman, Mrs. P. Cook, Mrs. J. Summers.

Also from Ms. S. Brown (Age Cymru), Mr. D. Morgan (Caerphilly 50+Forum), Mr. R. H. Cooke (Caerphilly Groundwork Trust), Ms. J. Lawton (Caerphilly MIND), Mrs. B. Helps (Caerphilly Parents & Carers Forum), Mr. A. Read (Cancercareline), Mr. M. Featherstone (Chief Executive – GAVO), Mrs. J. Morgan (New CLURV) Mr. M. Thorne (SYDIC), Mr. K. Viney (The

Settlement), Mr. I. Racz (Graig Y Rhacca Communities Partnership), Ms. D. Crossman (South Wales Fire & Rescue Service), Mrs. M. Chapman (Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Gwent)

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None declared.

3. MINUTES

3.1 Accuracy of minutes of 4th December 2013 was agreed.

3.2 With regard to item 3.1 in the minutes, about the Welsh Government's 'Continuity and Change – Refreshing the Relationship between Welsh Government and the Third Sector,' Ms. J. Dix gave a verbal update. The Welsh Government Third Sector Scheme was published in January 2014, and has been circulated to the Committee. The local Caerphilly borough Compact Agreement remains in alignment with the revised Welsh Government Scheme.

3.3 With regards to item 3.4 in the minutes referring to the Auditor General's comments which were critical of Caerphilly County Borough Council's public engagement work, Ms. J. Dix reported a letter had been received from the Wales Audit Office (6th January 2014) in response to the letter of concern sent by the Committee. The letter acknowledged the positive comments from the Committee on the public engagement work of the Council but stated -

In the annual improvement report for Caerphilly CBC our primary focus is to comment on whether the Council has delivered the actions and measures it has identified to achieve its improvement objectives, rather than commenting on the quality of the Council's services... We aim to report this in a fair and balanced way in our annual improvement reports...in the context of the improvement measures set. We will review our reports in light of your comments to see if there are opportunities to make this clearer in the future.

The full letter has been circulated to the Committee.

4. VOLUNTARY SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES QUESTIONS:-

4.1 QUESTION 1

(i) How can the Voluntary Sector input into the Caerphilly Delivers - The Single Integrated Plan 2013-2017?

Written response: Howard Rees (Programme Manager - Partnership Development & Collaborative Improvement, CCBC).

Mrs. A. Palmer (GAVO) updated the Committee. She said that GAVO are looking at the structure of the Single Integrated Plan (SIP) to ensure comprehensive coverage, within the Voluntary Sector. At this time both the Leads Group and the Delivery Group has met once. She added that it was still early days and the SIP will be discussed at the Standing Conference on the 13th June. Mr. D. Brunton was keen to ensure full representation from the Voluntary Sector within the SIP structure, rather than just through the Country Voluntary Council (CVC).

- (ii) Focusing specifically on the Healthier Caerphilly Outcome how can voluntary organisations be engaged in the design and delivery of health-based services in the Caerphilly County Borough?

Written response: Sam Crane (Aneurin Bevan University Health Board)

Oral response by Alison Gough (Aneurin Bevan University Health Board)

Ms. A. Gough commented that Healthier Caerphilly would be delivered through the Neighbourhood Care (NCN) Cluster Network, which is currently being restructured across Gwent to ensure the right people are around the table, which will include Voluntary Sector representation. Ms. M. Jones said that The Parents Network has over 500 members and would like to be included in the NCN structure, and in the delivery of the Healthier Caerphilly outcome theme. Ms Gough stated she would take this back for consideration by the ABUHB.

4.2 QUESTION 2

- (i) How under the new GAVO structure can the strong Caerphilly locality presence remain?

Written response: Martin Featherstone (Chief Executive, GAVO).

Mrs. A. Palmer introduced Emily Forbes Assistant Chief Executive Officer, who has just been appointed to GAVO and she is the second of two deputy Chief Executives. GAVO are now building up their Management Team.

Mr. C. Luke said that his point was that he did not want to lose the conduit between the good work of the Voluntary Sector, and that of GAVO and the Council.

4.3 QUESTION 3

- (i) The one year funding for the part time post of VOLUME Co-ordinator finishes at the end of March 2014. How can the Network be supported to continue as a forum for voluntary organisations working with children and young people through the Single Integrated Planning Process?

Written response: Sandra Aspinall (Acting Deputy Chief Executive).

Mr. D. Brunton stated that the 'Volume' network, had wide coverage and the network could field an officer to work between the Voluntary Sector and Families First. Ms. J. Dix informed the Committee that there was no funding available for this suggestion as the funding from the Council towards the appointment of a Volume Coordinator was only for 2013-14 as reflected in the response by Mrs Aspinall. However, it was resolved for Mr. M. Featherstone (Chief Executive of GAVO) to be asked to speak on this matter to Mrs Aspinall.

5. COMPACT ACTION PLAN 2014-15 (JACKIE DIX - POLICY AND RESEARCH MANAGER, CCBC)

Ms. J. Dix informed the Committee that the Compact Action Plan 2014-15 had been out for extensive formal consultation for 12 weeks, which included being posted on the 'Caerphilly Asks, Caerphilly Listens' consultation database. However, following the initial pre consultation comments from Compact Partners, no further comments had been received, so it was proposed that the Compact Action Plan 2014-15 given in the Committee papers, was endorsed by the Committee, which was accepted.

Ms Dix informed the committee that she is currently compiling the Compact Action Annual Report for 2013-14, and asked members of the committee to provide updates, and any case stories highlighting the achievements of working in partnership. Ms. Dix requested for all replies to be sent in to her by the 4th April.

Mr. C. Luke commented that while the Compact Agreement was adhered to by Directors and Senior Managers, the message is not cascading down to middle managers in the Compact Partner organisations. Ms Dix said she would look to holding a compact awareness event for middle managers based around the Compact Annual Report for 2013-14.

6. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUND SCHEME UPDATE (JACKIE DIX - POLICY AND RESEARCH MANAGER, CCBC)

Ms. J. Dix gave an overall description of the scheme. Since 2003 the Technical Assistance Fund has attracted over £8million of investment, for a variety of Voluntary Sector / Community Groups, schemes and projects, across the whole of the county borough. The total amount available to the fund per year is £28,000.

The Technical Assistance Fund was administered by GAVO for 2013-14 but as of the 1st April 2014 it will be administered by the Council's Policy Unit. The officer concerned will be John Elliott.

In preparation for the new funding round minor updating has been done on the technical assistance fund application form, which was presented to members in the committee papers. For the first time ever a 'Terms of Reference' has been drafted for the technical assistance fund to ensure good governance, which was again presented in the committee papers.

The Committee were informed that there used to be the facility to carry over under spends (by arrangement), but this is no longer the case, so any Technical Assistance Funding awarded will need to be spent appropriately, as soon as possible after the funding is offered. The funding offered to a group, if successful, will be UP TO £4,800 inc. VAT @ 20%.

Cllr. R. Gough felt that two funding rounds per year, could cause voluntary groups problems, as if they missed the first deadline there was a long period of time before they could try again. This may affect those groups to attract funding from major funding sources. He suggested that three rounds per year would be better. Ms. Dix said that she would clarify this suggestion, after consulting with GAVO.

Following the meeting in discussions with GAVO it was agreed to hold three funding rounds for the Technical Assistance Fund: Spring round (deadline for applications 30th April), Summer round (deadline for applications 30th June) and an Autumn round (deadline for applications 30th September).

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

- (a) Items of interest from Caerphilly County Borough Council - Digest of Committee Reports

One of the items contained within the reports regarded kerbside recycling. Ms. J. Price asked a question regarding the future charge for Voluntary organisations for council commercial waste collection, which was formally free of charge, for charities.

Cllr. J. Pritchard said that the original concept was that this was a concession rather than an entitlement, and the charges were reviewed under the Medium Term Financial Plan. Ms. Dix said that she would attempt to clarify the situation with the Waste Strategy and Operations Manager.

Following the meeting Ms Dix was informed by the Waste Strategy and Operations Manager it was on the list of savings considered by Scrutiny and approved by Cabinet and Council. Previously some charities, churches and other establishments received free waste collections whilst others were charged. Recent changes to legislation have confirmed that charges (collection and disposal) can be made to charities (not places of worship) for all their waste collected with charges for collection, and the Council is in the process of writing to all organisations confirming these changes.

At the request of the Vice Chair a letter from the Committee has been sent to Cllr Tudor Davies, in his capacity as Chair of the Regeneration Scrutiny Committee stating:-

The feeling of the meeting was that a charge could cause many charities financial hardship, and it was noted the Voluntary Sector had not been consulted on these charges. The Committee is requesting if a review of the charges could go before the Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

(b) Items of interest from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

Mr. C. Luke explained that he was upset that no one from the voluntary sector was invited to the official opening ceremony of the Rhymney Integrated Health and Social Care Centre. The feeling was particularly heightened as the voluntary sector agreed, some years ago to the release of £40,000 of Wanless funding, which had been used to contribute to the cost of funding this project.

Ms. A. Gough replied that because Prince Edward had been invited to officially open the centre, Buckingham Palace representatives needed to agree to all of those on an invitations list.

Cllr. R. Woodyatt said that he had been invited along with the Director of Social Services. Also invited was the Leader of the Council, Cllr. H. Andrews, and the Mayor, Cllr. M. Gray.

(c) Items of interest from Caerphilly Business Forum

Verbal update from the Chair of Caerphilly Business Forum Mr. T. Sheehan. He said that although there were no specific items of interest, the Business Forum is represented on a number of Committees and Fora. The Business Forum is supportive of the Passport to Employment Programme and undertakes interview training for young unemployed people.

(d) Items of interest from Caerphilly Community and Town Councils

A written update was attached to these minutes. Mr. H. Llewellyn also said that a letter had been sent to the Welsh Government, regarding the lack of reference to Town & Community Councils, in the Commission on Public Service and Delivery in Wales. He is awaiting a reply.

(e) Items of interest from Gwent Police

Verbal up date from Sgt. R. Davies. He said that, again this year, the 'Wings To Fly' and 'Crucial Crew' initiative was well attended. The Crime Prevention Panel is now in its 18th year. The Street Pastors Scheme continues to ensure care of late night revellers, in Caerphilly, Blackwood and Risca. There are seven Police Cadets 15/16 years old, who are working towards a BTEC in volunteering. Continued promotion of Project Bernie with young people, which is an education programme to prevent deliberately set, countryside fires. It will be launched on the 28th March at Morrisons in Bargoed by the Countryside Wardens, who will explain the traumatic effect to the countryside, and to wildlife, which fires can cause.

The Youth Offending Service (YOS) continues to deal with offending behaviour. The OWL initiative (Online Watch Link) continues to be well used with more people signing up to the scheme, to reduce crime and disorder in their area.

When asked about the re-opening of front desks at police stations for use by members of the public, in the county borough, Sgt. Davies said he was unaware of where these stations would be, and advised the public to look online for news on this subject, either on the Gwent Police website or on the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent website.

Mr. D. Brunton said that they had received a small amount of money from the Police & Crime Commissioner (From the Proceeds of Crime Fund) for work with the PCSO's to better engage with young people in the community. This small scheme had been well received especially by one young person who wishes to consider a career in becoming a PCSO in the future.

Ms. J. Dix said that maybe this could be used as an example of good Compact working for the Compact Annual Report.

(f) Items of interest from the South Wales Fire & Rescue Service

No report available.

(g) Items of interest from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent

Written statement provided by Mrs. M. Chapman.

8. TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ITEMS:-

(a) Community Planning Quarterly Briefing January to March 2014.

Briefing received and noted.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS ALL AT 10.30 A.M. IN THE RHYMNEY ROOM

Wednesday 18th June 2014,
Wednesday 17th September 2014,
Wednesday 3rd December 2014.

Meeting ended at 11.35hrs.