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Date: 30th November 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee** will be held in the **Penallta House, Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach** on **Wednesday, 7th December, 2016** at **10.30 am** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda. **The meeting will be concluded by 12.15 p.m.**

PLEASE NOTE

Arrangements have been made for a **pre-meeting of the County Borough Members only, at 10.00 a.m. in Core Meeting Room 1.3, and all Voluntary Sector Representatives at 10.00 a.m. in the Sirhowy Room.** All other council officers and representatives of external organisations should assemble in the Reception Area for the main meeting at **10.30 a.m. in the Sirhowy Room.**

Yours faithfully,

Chris Burns
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A G E N D A

	Pages
1 To appoint a Chair for the remainder of the ensuing year - Jackie Dix, Caerphilly County Borough Council.	
2 To receive apologies for absence.	
3 Declarations of Interest.	

A greener place Man gwyrddach



Correspondence may be in any language or format | Gallwch ohebu mewn unrhyw iaith neu fformat

Councillors and Officers are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest (s) in respect of any item of business on this agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Officers.

To receive and consider the following minutes: -

- | | | |
|---|--|-------|
| 4 | Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee held on the 21st September 2016. | 1 - 6 |
| 5 | Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 assessing the well-being of people who need care and support across the Gwent Region - Philip Diamond, Gwent Transformational Theme Lead (Presentation). | |
| 6 | Voluntary Sector Representatives Questions. | 7 - 8 |
| | Welsh Government's draft Budget for 2017-18 – Nicole Scammell,
Caerphilly County Borough Council | |
| | Communities First – Damian Owen, Caerphilly County Borough
Council | |
| 7 | Open Discussion: What's Happening in the Caerphilly County Borough - an opportunity for all Compact Partners to raise key issues. | |

Items of interest concerning the Voluntary Sector from Compact Partners: -

- | | | |
|----|--|---------|
| 8 | Aneurin Bevan University Health Board. | 9 - 10 |
| 9 | Caerphilly County Borough Council. | 11 - 16 |
| 10 | Caerphilly County Borough Community and Town Councils. | |
| 11 | Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations. | 17 - 42 |
| 12 | Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Gwent. | 43 - 44 |

To receive and note the following information items: -

- | | | |
|----|--|---------|
| 13 | Community Planning Quarterly Briefing October to December 2016. | 45 - 60 |
| 14 | Dates of Future Meetings all commencing at 10:30am in the Sirhowy room:

15th March 2017
28th June 2017
20th September 2017
6th December 2017 | |

Circulation:

Councillors L. Ackerman, Mrs E.M. Aldworth, J. Bevan, P.J. Bevan, D.G. Carter (Chair), Mrs P. Cook, R.W. Gough, Mrs P. A. Griffiths, C. Hawker, K. James, G. Johnston, A. Lewis, D.W.R. Preece, J.A. Pritchard and R. Woodyatt,

Representatives of the Voluntary Sector:

Ms H. Billington, Abbeyfield (Caerphilly) Society Limited
Mr L. Clay, Abertridwr Community Church
Ms J. Price, Bargoed YMCA
Mr D. Morgan, Caerphilly 50+ Forum
Ms P. Jones, Caerphilly Care & Repair
Mr R.H. Cooke, GAVO (Vice Chair)
Mr C. Luke, Caerphilly People First
Mr A. Read, Cancercareline
Mrs C. Williams, Cruse Bereavement Care
Mr W. Morgan, County Hospital, Griffithstown, Pontypool
Mrs H. Williams, Disability CANDO Organisation
Mrs E. Forbes, GAVO
Ms K. Stevenson, Groundwork Wales
Ms A. Jones, Homestart Caerphilly
Ms L. Jones, Menter Iaith
Ms C. Loring, Right From The Start
Mr M. Bridgman, SYDIC
Ms M. Jones, The Parent Network
Mr J. Wade, Van Road United Reformed Church
Mrs M. Wade, Vanguard Caerphilly
Mr D. Brunton, VOLUME

Aneurin Bevan Health Board:

Mrs B. Bolt and Ms S. Crane

Gwent Police:

Chief Inspector N. McLain

The Office of the Gwent Police & Crime Commissioner:

Ms J. Tippins and Mr N. Taylor

South Wales Fire & Rescue Services:

Mr R. Hassett

Caerphilly Business Forum:

Mrs D. Lovering

Town & Community Councils Representative:

H. Llewellyn

Natural Resources Wales

Mr J. Goldsworthy (Natural Resources Wales)

And Appropriate Officers

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VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN
ON WEDNESDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

Mr. R. Cooke - (Chair)
Councillor D. Carter - (Vice-Chair)

Councillors:

Ms L. Ackerman, Mrs E.M. Aldworth, P.J. Bevan, Mrs. P. Cook, R.W. Gough, C. Hawker, K. James, A. Lewis, D.W.R. Preece, J.A. Pritchard.

Together with Representatives from:

Abbeyfield (Mr. H. Billington), Abertridwr Community Church (Mr. L. Clay), Caerphilly 50+ Forum (Mr. D. Morgan), Cando (Mr R. Evans), Cruse Bereavement Care (Mrs. C. Williams), Carers Trust South East Wales (Mr W. Morgan), GAVO – Assistant Chief Executive (Mrs. E. Forbes), GAVO - (Ms G. Jones) GAVO – (Ms. S. Maddox), Homestart Caerphilly (M. Snowden), The Parent Network (Ms. M. Jones), The Vanguard Centre (Mrs. M. Wade), Natural Resources Wales (Mr J. Goldsworthy).

Also present:

J. Dix (Policy Unit), A. Bolter (Group Manager (Strategy Funding and Support), A. Dredge (Committee Services Officer).

A. Palmer (CCBC/GAVO), L. McDonald (ABUHB), H. Llewellyn (Town and Community Council Representative).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: J. Bevan, Mrs. P Griffiths, G. Johnston and R. Woodyatt, Age Cymru (Ms. D. Johnston), Bargoed YMCA (Ms. J. Price), Caerphilly People First (Mr C. Luke), Cancercareline (Mr. A. Read), M. Featherstone (GAVO), Groundwork Wales (Mrs K. Stephenson), M. Williams (South Wales Fire and Rescue Service).

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

3. MINUTES – 15TH JUNE 2016

Subject to it being recorded that Councillor J.A. Pritchard's attendance had not been recorded, the minutes of the meeting held on the 15th June 2016 were approved as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

Compact Review – (Minute No. 4)

It was agreed at the previous meeting that the Compact Review be put on hold and this would be reconvened in May 2017 to coincide with work around developing the "Caerphilly County Borough Well-being Plan". In terms of the "Caerphilly County Borough Local Well-being Assessment" a residents questionnaire survey on "The Caerphilly We Want" is open to 30th September 2016, which committee members are urged to respond to. Ms Dix is currently drafting the "Caerphilly County Borough Local Well-being Assessment" with a view to completing the drafting by 31st October 2016. Following editing, the assessment will be considered by the Caerphilly Public Services Board in their meeting on 6th December 2016, and will be published in April 2017.

Compact Action Plan – (Minute No. 9)

Members of the Committee expressed their disappointment by a lack of commitment by some of the Compact Partners to the "Caerphilly County Borough Delivering Together Compact Agreement 2013-17" with organisations not meeting their full responsibilities as Compact Partners. Cllr. R. Gough moved for Martin Featherstone (CEO, GAVO) to raise again the responsibilities of organisations as signed up members of the Compact Agreement at the next meeting of Caerphilly Public Services Board.

At the previous meeting of the Committee it was requested that a copy of the Compact Action Plan Annual Report 2015-16 be sent to Mr Mark Drakeford, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government. Ms Dix read out a letter received in response from Mr Drakeford. Mr Drakeford noted of particular interest to him - *"is the way you are approaching the work of the compact...looking to embed the sustainable development principle, including the five ways of working...It is important that the strong relationship with the Third Sector in Caerphilly continues to grow...I am also pleased to see Natural Resources Wales now sits on all Public Services Boards...Therefore it makes sense for collaboration between the Liaison Committee and the PSB to include NRW, as they play an important statutory in ensuring the wellbeing of local areas is fully considered."*

4. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION ON VOLUNTARY SECTOR FUNDING - ANTONY BOLTER GROUP MANAGER (STRATEGY FUNDING AND SUPPORT) CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mr Bolter explained to the Committee that he was happy to express his views during the session and stated that these views were not necessarily those of the Council. In terms of current funding in Wales and the potential impact of Brexit, the following details were provided:

- In the first quarter of 2016, exports to the EU accounted for nearly 40% of Welsh exports.
- In addition to regulating trade across the single market, EU also negotiates external trade agreements on behalf of Member States and has trade agreements in place with over 50 Countries.
- Such agreements can take up to seven years to negotiate.
- It should be noted that any member of the World Trade Organisation can benefit from preferential trade agreements involving any other member.
- Wales currently receives gross funding of c. £600m p.a. from the EU, through sources managed by Welsh Government.

- EU directly managed funds also that benefit Wales.
- Important to note that EU funding was due to end in 2020 anyway, so this should not be blamed on Brexit.
- European Investment Bank has directly invested nearly £2bn during past decade.
- Estimated net benefit from EU for Wales in 2014 = £245m or £79 per head or 0.4% of Welsh GDP.

An overview was provided in terms of other issues to consider, including legislation – with EU regulations currently becoming law in the UK automatically. The laws will remain until the UK leaves but many existing laws will then need to be re-visited. In concluding, Mr Bolter advised that currently there are too many unknowns especially regarding UK and Welsh Government negotiations on future funding support for Wales.

Concerns were expressed in relation to grant funding ceasing in Wales in 2020. Members were advised that the award of EU funding is based on Gross Domestic Product (GDP). There will be issues with ongoing funding as the government will no longer be “paying in” to the EU. The Welsh Government will need to negotiate with the Government for support. A Member queried if a Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and was informed that Officers are trying to establish the position but it is evident at this stage that there will be a significant impact on funding. Reference was made to interest rates and a member suggested/queried if Welsh Government or Local Authorities could set up an investment fund in a way of keeping investment local.

The Chair thanked Mr Bolter for his informative update and responding to questions raised.

5. COMPACT WORKING WITH NATIONAL BODIES AND FUTURE STRATEGIC DIRECTION FOR COUNTY VOLUNTARY COUNCILS – MRS EMILY FORBES, GAVO

Mrs Forbes provided the Committee with an update from Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO) on their work with the Welsh Government around developing the third sector scheme following: “Continuity and Change - Refreshing the Relationship between Welsh Government and the Third Sector in Wales”, and around the infrastructure of County Voluntary Councils (CVS) with Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA). It was explained this work is fundamental to the workings of the Compact Agreement with the Voluntary and Community Sector in the Caerphilly County Borough. Currently there is a transitional phase as the Compact Agreement moves into alignment with the provisions of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 over the next two-years up to July 2018.

The Committee were advised that the Wales Council for Voluntary Action and Wales Association of County Voluntary Councils (WACVC) made up of 19 County Voluntary Councils (CVCs) across Wales, that are currently working on a joint bid for Welsh Government core funding from April 2017. This bid will be submitted in October 2016 and will outline a shared strategic framework for infrastructure provision across Wales. It will reflect recent increased collaboration between WCVA and the CVCs, under the emerging branding ambitions of - *Third Sector Support Wales*. Welsh Government infrastructure funding distributed through WCVA was subject to a 9% cut in 2015/16. It is clear that further funding reductions for 2017/18 will drive structural change, reference the WCVA and CVC architecture in Wales.

In concluding Mrs Forbes confirmed that initial conversations with Carl Sargeant, Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children have been positive, affirming and constructive. Priorities were confirmed around economic regeneration and well-being and the critical role the Third Sector has to play in these agendas. Issues and solutions linked to Adverse Childhood Experiences were also a real focus.

The Chair thanked Mrs Forbes for her informative report.

6. DISCUSSION WITH CAERPHILLY PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD ON COMPACT AGREEMENT AND COMPACT ACTION PLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16 - VERBAL UPDATE, GAVO

Mrs Forbes provided the Committee with a verbal update on behalf of Mr Featherstone (GAVO). She confirmed that Mr Featherstone took the Compact Action Plan Annual Report to the Public Services Board (PSB) and although there were no detailed discussions held in this regard, all parties signed up to the Compact.

7. COMPACT ACTION PLAN 2016-17 SUGGESTIONS - JACKIE DIX, CCBC

Ms Dix introduced the report and reminded the Committee that at the meetings in April and June 2016 it was suggested that all Compact Partners come up with actions of shared activity with the Voluntary Sector/Other Compact Partners for a brief transitional action plan for 2016-17. To date comments have been received by the Council, the Aneurin Bevan Health Board, and had been presented in Appendix 1 of the report as a – *Proposed Caerphilly and Community Sector Compact Action Plan April 2016 to March 2017*. The Committee endorsed this proposed Compact Action Plan for 2016-17.

8. OPEN DISCUSSION: WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE COUNTY BOROUGH (AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL COMPACT PARTNERS AND COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES TO RAISE KEY ISSUES)

Members referenced two recent incidents regarding potential scams within the Borough. A member informed the committee that a BT phone line at her organisation had been hacked and a bill had been received for the last quarter amounting to £6,000 and the Fraud Squad in London are currently investigating the matter. Another member advised that a bill had been received from British Gas at a local Community Centre for the sum of £5,000 that was also being investigated. The committee were advised to be vigilant in their homes as well as work places and that these incidents should be reported to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

9. ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR COMPACT PARTNERS

Compact Partner Reports had been received from GAVO and Natural Resources Wales with no comments made during the meeting. A report had been received from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Gwent and it was suggested that the incidents referred to under agenda item number 8 be referred to the PCC. It was actioned for Ms Dix to approach the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for a cyber-crime expert to attend the next committee meeting.

The Chair invited Compact Partners to come back to either Ms Dix, or Ms Palmer with any queries stemming from the reports.

10. COMMUNITY PLANNING QUARTERLY BRIEFING – JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2016

The above report was received and noted as an item of information.

11. ANOUNCEMENTS

The Committee were informed that Mrs E. Forbes is leaving GAVO at the end of September 2016 to take up a new post. The Chair expressed his personal thanks for the help and support received throughout from Mrs Forbes and offered his best wishes for the future, which was endorsed by the whole Committee.

The Chair confirmed that he would be standing down from his post as Vice Chairman of GAVO at the AGM on the 10th November 2016 and consequently would no longer be eligible to be the Chair of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee, and this is likely to be his last meeting he will be chairing. He expressed his appreciation for the support received over the years from the Committee and Jackie Dix and the Policy Unit. Councillor Carter (Vice-Chair) thanked Mr Cooke for his valued advice, support and guidance he had given to the Committee and Members individually over many years of service. He wished him every success and happiness for the future. Councillor R Gough noted that the close working relationship that Bob Cooke provided with the Voluntary Sector would be difficult to replace, and commented that he was a "true Figurehead - and always took his time to speak to GAVO staff." Cllr L Ackerman paid tribute to Mr Cooke's "immense contribution to the Voluntary Sector." Cllr J Prichard spoke of how much she had valued Mr Cooke's support and guidance when she became Chair of the Voluntary Sector Liaison committee in 1999. Councillor DWR Preece stated he had worked closely with Mr Cooke since their days spent at the former Islwyn Borough Council and thanked Mr Cooke for his enormous contribution. Finally Councillor K James stated that Mr Cooke – "had run the Committee rock steady, with first rate experience and knowledge, with his work to the community un-paralled and now deserved a well-earned rest."

12. DECISION AND ACTION SHEET

Councillor R.W. Gough requested that the Compact Action Plan Annual Report be taken back to PSB for a detailed discussion to be undertaken in terms of the importance of the Compact Agreement and the responsibilities of the organisational representatives on the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee. Ms Dix to contact Office of Police and Crime Commissioner to request an expert on cybercrime to speak to a committee meeting.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday 7th December 2016
Wednesday 15th March 2017
Wednesday 28th June 2017

The meeting ended at 11.40am.

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VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE - 7TH DECEMBER 2016

SUBJECT: VOLUNTARY SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES QUESTIONS

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The report provides the two questions that the Voluntary Sector Representatives have asked of Caerphilly County Borough Council regarding finances and funding.

2. THE REPORT

2.1 Question 1

Now that the Welsh Government has published its draft Budget for 2017-18 what are the implications for the Council's budget, and potential knock on effect for the Voluntary Sector?

- 2.2 A verbal response will be given at the committee meeting by Nicole Scammell, Acting Director of Corporate Services. The focus of the response will be on the draft 2017/18 budget proposals report being presented to Cabinet on the 30th November 2016, which will be emailed to the committee in advance of the Voluntary Sector Liaison committee meeting.

2.3 Question 2

The Voluntary Sector Representatives have concerns over the Communities Secretary Carl Sargeant announcement that he is minded to phase out the Communities First programme while establishing a new approach focusing on three priority areas of employment, early years and empowerment. What does the Council think the funding implications of this will be for both Council and Voluntary Sector staff funded through Communities First, and also on the ground community level engagement through the Communities First Programme?

2.4 Response

- 2.5 The Welsh Government have advised that their current position is that a final decision on the Communities First programme will not be made until wider engagement with communities, staff and strategic partners has been completed.
- 2.6 Whilst the changes being considered by Welsh Government have potential to impact upon many people in the Caerphilly county borough the Council is unable to confirm its view on the implications of the potential changes to the Communities First programme until the Welsh Government confirm their guidance and outcome targets for any Communities First programme that would be delivered beyond April 2017.
- 2.7 The Cabinet Secretary has highlighted that the Welsh Government's new approach will focus on three priority areas: Employability, Early Years and Empowerment. On 24th October 2016 the Welsh Government initiated their public engagement programme by calling on people all

across Wales to have their say in the development of building resilient communities through participation in an online survey. The Welsh Government are also seeking feedback from people who have experience of Communities First, particularly on how the programme can be focussed on employability and the way in which Lead Delivery Bodies may provide alternative ways of maintaining health and learning elements of Communities First.

- 2.8 The Welsh Government have developed two surveys; one for people who have personal experience of Communities First, and another for people who do not have any personal experience of the programme. Both of these surveys can be accessed online via the following links:-

Personal experience of Communities First:

<http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/communities/talk-communities/yes-i-have-personal-experience-of-cf/?lang=en>

No personal experience of Communities First:

<http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/communities/talk-communities/no-i-dont-have-any-personal-experience-of-cf/?lang=en>

- 2.9 The Council currently awaits details of the closing date on the consultation from Welsh Government but is actively encouraging all residents and organisations involved with the Communities First programme to participate in the consultation process to ensure their views are communicated to the Welsh Government.
- 2.10 2017 is currently expected to be a year of transition and change for the Communities First programme. The Welsh Government have indicated that budgets for the period beyond April 2017 will not be released until January 2017, accompanied by a further statement from the Cabinet Secretary; from which time it will be possible to begin planning delivery. The Welsh Government has indicated that a transitional Communities First programme will possibly run until December 2017.
- 2.11 The Welsh Government have confirmed that they are committed to the future of the associated Communities for Work and LIFT employment programmes; and the Welsh Government plan to work with Lead Delivery Bodies throughout the engagement period to identify options to build an infrastructure for delivery of LIFT and Communities for Work.

Dave Whetter, Principal Engineer, Communities



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE - 7TH DECEMBER 2016

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

REPORT BY: ANEURIN BEVAN UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Committee Members with an items of interest report to the Voluntary Sector from the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board.

2. THE REPORT

NEIGHBOURHOOD CARE NETWORKS (NCN) UPDATE REPORT

2.1 Communities First Support

Caerphilly NCNs continue to work with Communities First and the Third Sector to raise awareness of the excellent support services available, and simplify signposting for patients and carers. The NCN Action Plans have an objective of tackling the effects of obesity, and Communities First programmes, such as Foodwise are being delivered from health venues in Caerphilly. We await the outcome of the prospective closure of the Communities First programme following the phasing out of funding from Welsh Government.

The NCN supported X-POD Health & Prevention Programme for patients diagnosed as at risk of developing diabetes (with impaired glucose tolerance) continues to be delivered. The course is being delivered in all 3 NCN areas of Caerphilly.

2.2 Practice Based Social Workers

Following on from the success of last year's Practice Based Social Workers Pilot a further 8 WTE Social Workers have been recruited utilising joint funding from NCNs, Social Services and ICF. This takes the total to 11 Practice Based Social Workers working across Caerphilly. All GP practices across all 3 Caerphilly NCNs now have access to a Social Worker. The Social Workers provide a greater focus on achieving people's well-being outcomes through holistic integrated assessment and co-productive solutions:

- Increased capacity for GP's where people can access the right person, with the right skills and at the right time
- Development of professional relationships between GP's and Social Workers and avoidance of admissions to hospital through community support via Frailty
- Increased care at home

The multi-disciplinary nature of the social work role is not only demonstrated by the referral sources but also by the number of agencies and third sector organisations the social workers work with and refer to. For example the list below is a sample:

- Education – Literacy
- Community Mental Health Teams

- Primary Care Mental Health
- Reablement
- Police
- Victims Support
- Occupational Therapy
- Age Concern
- Independent sector domiciliary care providers
- Falls Service
- Pharmacy
- Health Visitors
- Independent legal providers
- Substance misuse services
- Homelessness
- Gofal

2.3 **Healthy At Home Scheme**

Following on from successful programmes run in two practices in Caerphilly South NCN last year, NCN funding has now been approved for 3 more 'Healthy at Home' programmes to run from a practice in each of the 3 Caerphilly NCNs.

The aim of the Healthy At Home Scheme is to provide a service that links in with GP surgeries to reach people who are socially inactive and/or isolated and to assist with hospital prevention and sustainable independent living. Links are also be made to the Rapid Response Adaptation Programme and any other available adaptation sources. The officer also signposts to other voluntary sector services including the Care & Repair casework service to provide assistance for any repairs needed to the home.

2.4 **Young Carers**

NCN funding has been approved to support NVQ Peer Mentoring training for Barnado's Caerphilly Young Carers. Eight young people aged between 14 – 18 years from across Caerphilly Borough will benefit directly from the training qualifications. It will also inspire others to aim for the Peer Mentoring roles should further opportunities for training arise.

2.5 **Smoking Cessation**

Promotion of Smoking Cessation has been circulated to the Third Sector along with information on all Pharmacies providing Level 3 Smoking Cessation services. ASH Wales information has also been widely distributed.

2.6 **Diabetes Self-Management**

NCNs have been made aware that Diabetic patients can be supported by the GAVO/NHS EPP Self-Management Programme. Courses include the course for Carers – 'Looking After Me'.

2.7 **Social Isolation**

Raising awareness across the NCNs of Third Sector agencies offering support to alleviate isolation and loneliness, avoiding hospital admission and re-admission from RVS, Red Cross, Age Cymru Gwent. All 3 Caerphilly NCNs have received presentations from the now established Community Connectors for Caerphilly.

2.8 **Immunisations**

Campaign materials to raise awareness of immunisations has been circulated to community groups and Third Sector organisations via NCN meetings and networks as a result of annual engagement with the Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme (VPDP) and Public Health Wales.

Author: Jonathan Lewis (ABUHB – Network Manager)



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE - 7TH DECEMBER 2016

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

REPORT BY: CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Committee Members with an items of interest report to the Voluntary Sector from Caerphilly County Borough Council as a Compact Partner.

2. THE REPORT

- 2.1 Below are brief extracts from Cabinet reports of items of potential interest to the Caerphilly county borough third sector:

2.2 Cabinet held on 21st September 2016

2.3 Fochriw Community Centre Youth Service Provision

The report seeks approval to provide an extension to the Fochriw Community Centre to enhance youth service provision on the site. The Fochriw Youth Club serves 133 members, most of whom attend on a weekly basis. A proposal has been developed to provide a smaller scale extension to the Community Centre comprising of an area of circa 55 square meters to include separate store and multi-use rooms. Cabinet are requested to endorse the £126,000 set aside in the Capital Programme to develop the youth service facilities on the site of Fochriw Community Centre.

2.4 Cabinet held on 5th October 2016

2.5 Proposals for the development of a combined Sensory and Communications Service made up of the Visual Impairment Service, Hearing Impairment Services and the Communication Intervention Team

The report sets out the proposal for the development of a combined Sensory and Communications Service made up of the Visual Impairment Service, the Hearing Impairment Service and the Communications Intervention Team, under a single employer and governance structure operated by Torfaen County Borough Council. This will involve the transfer of some staff from Caerphilly County Borough Council to Torfaen County Borough Council necessitating appropriate consultation following permission by Cabinet to proceed.

- 2.6 The three services are co-funded by the five local authorities in the South East Wales consortium area and provide a regional, highly specialist 0-19 training and interventions service to families, early years' settings and schools. In the academic year 2015-16 the services supported around 1700 children and young people. There has been a long held desire of all consortium members to see the teams amalgamated under the auspices of a single local authority for the development of a seamless, coordinated service that provides far more focused support to schools, families and settings through joined up advice and intervention.

- 2.7 The purpose of the report is to seek agreement from Cabinet to proceed with a consultation to transfer Gwent Visual Impairment Service, currently hosted by Caerphilly County Borough Council to Torfaen County Borough Council. Torfaen County Borough Council currently manages the Hearing Impairment Service and the Communication Intervention Teams on behalf of the South East Wales region. If permission is granted to proceed, a consultation with Sensory and Communications Service staff on 6th October 2016 with the proposal that all employees of Caerphilly County Borough Council who work in the Sensory and Communications Service transfer their employment to Torfaen County Borough Council as of 1st April 2017.
- 2.8 **Cabinet held on 19th October 2016**
- 2.9 **Corporate Asset Management Strategy**
Following being presented to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 14th October 2016, the Draft Corporate Asset Management Strategy is presented to Cabinet and thereafter to Council for approval. The Corporate Asset Management Strategy is an overarching document which aligns with the corporate aims of the Council. It identifies where the Council has appropriate individual service asset plans/strategies in place. Where such assets plans/strategies are not present, the challenge will be to determine whether those assets need supporting strategies, and if so, by when they can be delivered. The Strategy establishes a set of Principles, which are aligned to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, and has developed a number of Outcomes namely: Compliance, Condition, Suitability, Sufficiency, Accessibility and Sustainability. The expectation is that all individual council asset plans/strategies will reflect these Principles and Outcomes, and existing individual service assets plans/strategies will be reviewed and revised to align with these Principles and Outcomes.
- 2.10 **Cabinet held on 2nd October 2016**
- 2.11 **Former Risca Collieries Workmen's Institute**
The report seeks Cabinet approval to dispose of the former Risca Collieries Workmen's Institute by way of a Communities Asset Transfer. The Council acquired the asset in June 1996, for community education purposes, with the ground floor being occupied by Oxford House Industrial History Society. In 2014 Community Education determined that the asset was surplus to its operational purposes; officers engaged with the Oxford House Industrial History Society, which remained in occupation, to explore the possibility of a Communities Asset Transfer. It became apparent that the Oxford House Industrial History Society was not in a position to sustain a Communities Asset Transfer and officers engaged with Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations to explore whether a viable Communities Asset Transfer could be promoted.
- 2.12 After consultation with the Community, and Town Council, Newport and South Wales Railway Museum emerged as a suitable prospect forming the base for an expanding community facility in conjunction with the Oxford House Industrial History Society. It is proposed that local schools and colleges are approached for organised combined visits on the assumption that model railways attract an interest in budding electrical and mechanical engineers. It is suggested that the ground floor lecture room facility (with a digital projector and screen, and having a capacity of at least 60 people) could be made available to other groups in the local area needing a regular base.
- 2.13 **Some recent Caerphilly County Borough Council press releases:**
- 2.14 **Y Gwyndy's new 3G facility is now complete** (11th November 2016)
A £20 million development to create a new 3G facility at the Y Gwyndy school campus in Caerphilly has reached completion, following months of extensive works. The new 3G rugby and football pitch is securely fenced and flood lit for ease of use during the winter months. Adjacent to this are specialised areas for a number of sports including long jump and shot put, which have all been designed in-house by Caerphilly County Borough Council's Building

Consultancy Team. The development of the new 3G facility is phase 4 of the Y Gwyndy school campus development, which has previously seen the development of new school buildings for the pupils of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Caerffili and local pupils of Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni.

- 2.15 The new facilities will be available to the community, as well as school pupils. Cllr Derek Havard, Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning said: "I am delighted that the new 3G facility at the Y Gwyndy campus is now complete. The pitch and other facilities are fantastic resources that can be used by both the school pupils and the community for a range of sporting activities. The 3G pitch will also provide a consistent surface suitable for use in most weathers".
- 2.16 The new 3G pitch forms part of the 21st Century Schools programme and is jointly funded by Caerphilly County Borough Council and Welsh Government.
- 2.17 **Spotlight on Safeguarding (14th November 2016)**
The Mayor of Caerphilly County Borough Council is keen to remind staff, social care professionals and the wider general public that we all have a responsibility to safeguard the most vulnerable people in our communities. This week (14th – 18th November) is National Safeguarding Week and the Mayor, Cllr Dianne Price is helping to highlight the fact that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
- 2.18 National Safeguarding Week aims to deliver awareness-raising events for the general public and professionals to reinforce key messages around safeguarding. Events and activities are taking place across Wales throughout the week and Caerphilly County Borough Council is keen to help raise awareness about this important issue.
- 2.19 The Gwent-Wide Adult Safeguarding Board, South East Wales Safeguarding Children's Board and the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Board are holding a combined conference on Wednesday 16th November at the Christ Church Centre in Newport. Various keynote speakers will address the conference, which brings together adult safeguarding, child safeguarding and the domestic abuse agenda. The key message for the day is 'safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.'
- 2.20 Cllr Dianne Price said, "We all have a duty to be the 'eyes and ears' of our community to ensure that the most vulnerable people in society are protected from abuse and neglect. National Safeguarding Week helps to raise awareness about this important issue so that we all know the role we must play in safeguarding vulnerable children and adults who may be at risk."
- 2.21 Cllr Robin Woodyatt, Caerphilly's Cabinet Member for Social Services added, "Caerphilly council is committed to ensuring that everyone is aware of the importance of safeguarding. Our 9,000 employees also play a vital role, so we are undertaking a widespread training programme to ensure that staff at all levels across the organisation are aware of their responsibilities."
- 2.22 A thought-provoking video will also be launched at the conference to bring into sharp focus how easy it can be for people to miss the signs of abuse. The video can be found on the Gwent-Wide Adult Safeguarding Board website - www.gwasb.org.uk
- 2.23 Break the Suffering; Break the Silence is a short digital clip providing information on abuse and neglect of children which can be found at the South East Wales Safeguarding Children Board website - www.sewsc.org.uk
- 2.24 If you have any concerns about a child or an adult at risk in the Caerphilly county borough please contact:

Information Advice and Assistance Service (Adults) - telephone 0808 100 2500 or email asdit@caerphilly.gov.uk

Information Advice and Assistance Service (Children's) – telephone 0808 100 1727 or email contactandreferral@caerphilly.gov.uk

- 2.25 **Pupils celebrate library makeover (15th November 2016)**
Pupils from three local schools have joined visitors to celebrate Ystrad Mynach Library's recent internal makeover. Young people from Ystrad Mynach Primary School, Ysgol Bro Allta and Ysgol Penalltau joined the Mayor Cllr Dianne Price and other guests for the library's 're-launch' after it underwent an impressive £48,000 internal makeover recently.
- 2.26 Pupils took part in interactive workshop sessions with scriptwriter and short story writer Dan Anthony while admiring the surroundings of the facility, which includes new internal furniture, shelving and staff desk, as well as new carpeting and internal decoration throughout.
- 2.27 In addition, £30,000 of new book stock has also been provided for adults, children and young people and a new wi-fi area has been installed to enable customers to use their own laptops and tablets.
- 2.28 Cllr Derek Havard, Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning said, "It was wonderful that so many of our young people were able to join us for this 're-launch'. Libraries really are the hub of our communities and in Caerphilly county borough they continue to be as well-used as ever. In fact, last year alone over 884,000 visitors were welcomed to the county borough's libraries – above the Welsh average. It just goes to show that our libraries continue to be extremely popular places for people of all ages to visit. These works will help ensure this important town centre facility is able to offer modern and attractive facilities for years to come".
- 2.29 Ystrad Mynach Library also offers a wide range of regular activities for people of all ages to enjoy – including sessions for under-fives, knit n' natter, toddler time/baby rhyme, reading group and homework clubs.
- 2.30 For more information on these activities and other library facilities, please visit the [libraries section](#) or call 01443 864068
- 2.31 **Caerphilly Youth Forum Member takes part in UK Youth Parliament debate (16th November 2016)**
A member of Caerphilly's Youth Forum attended the UK Youth Parliament debate on 11th November at the House of Commons. Daniel Rodrick, 18 from Blackwood represented Caerphilly during the UK Youth Parliament debate at the House of Commons. Issues discussed during the debate included education, racism and religious discrimination, public transport, votes at 16 and the health service, following a nationwide ballot of 978,216 young people.
- 2.32 The UK Youth Parliament's sitting will mark the seventh year that the Youth Parliament has debated on the green benches in the House of Commons. The sitting heralds the start of UK Parliament Week (14-20 November); an annual festival of events intended to connect communities across the UK with their democracy.
- 2.33 Cllr Derek Havard, Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning said: "The UK Youth Parliament debate provides young people with the opportunity to debate key issues which affect both themselves and the wider population within the UK. I am delighted that Daniel Rodrick represented Caerphilly's Youth Forum, as he presented the opinions of Caerphilly's young people to their peers from throughout the UK".
- 2.34 Cllr Mike Prew, Young People's Champion said: "Well done to Daniel for representing Caerphilly's Youth Forum during such an important event at the House of Commons".

- 2.35 **Planting Project visits Riverside Park** (18th November 2016)
Pupils from Tyn Y Wern Primary School took part in an environmental project at Riverside Park in Trethomas during which hundreds of native bluebells and snowdrops were planted in the woodland and daffodils at the park entrance to enhance the area. The pupils were supported by Sophie Gibbs from DS Smith Recycling, Tim Wort and Andy Kind from Keep Wales Tidy, local resident Billy Hughes and members of Caerphilly County Borough Council's Countryside and Cleansing Teams.
- 2.36 Cllr Nigel George, Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services said: "I would like to thank the pupils from Plas Y Felin Primary School, the students from Coleg Y Cymoedd and Caerphilly County Borough Council's Tidy Team and Countryside Team. They should be all very proud of their efforts in helping to improve the quality of the local environment. Caerphilly County Borough Council will be continuing this environmental improvement work throughout the winter and will help us meet the objectives of Welsh Government's Wellbeing of Future Generations Act".
- 2.37 **Cabinet Secretary for Education unveils new facility at Trinity Fields School** (16th November 2016)
Kirsty Williams AM, Cabinet Secretary for Education visited Trinity Fields School to unveil their new rebound therapy room. The new room contains a sunken trampoline which will be used to provide therapeutic exercise and recreation for pupils with a wide range of disabilities at the school. The therapy room will also be used by pupils with mild to severe disabilities, including dual sensory impairment and autistic spectrum disorder.
- 2.38 Rebound therapy is used to facilitate movement, promote balance, promote and increase or decrease in muscle tone, promote relaxation, promote sensory integration, improve fitness and exercise tolerance, as well as improving communication skills.
- 2.39 Mr Ian Elliott MBE, Head Teacher at Trinity Fields School said: "On behalf of the pupils, staff and governors at Trinity Fields School, I would like to thank Caerphilly County Borough Council for supporting this very exciting development. The new rebound therapy facility will provide fantastic opportunities for the pupils to experience enhanced movement patterns, therapeutic positioning, exercise and recreation while at the school. Each child will have a specific programme development for them by the rebound instructor and will work with the instructor to develop the skills required to complete their targeted goals. I am also very grateful to the ongoing support from parents, staff and Governors for their ongoing support".
- 2.40 Cllr Derek Havard, Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning said: "I am delighted that through funding provided by Caerphilly County Borough Council, Trinity Fields School now have a fantastic new rebound therapy room. The new facility will provide pupils with a resource which can improve fitness and exercise tolerance, promote relaxation and sensory integration and also facilitate movement".
- 2.41 The new rebound therapy facility was made possible through a joint venture between Trinity Fields School and Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- 2.42 **Young people front community clean-up** (22 November 2016)
A community clean up took place in Energlyn. 15 young people took part in the clean-up, where footpaths along the old railway sidings were made clean and tidy. Bulbs were then planted including daffodils, bluebells, tulips and snow drop in and around the local park and ride. Cllr Nigel George, Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services said: "I would like to thank the pupils from Plas Y Felin School, the students from Coleg Y Cymoedd and Caerphilly County Borough Council's Tidy Team and Countryside Team. They should all be very proud of their efforts in helping to improve the quality of the local environment."

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VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE - 7TH DECEMBER 2016

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

REPORT BY: GWENT ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Committee Member with an items of interest report to the Voluntary Sector from Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO). Appendix 1 contains a report made by GAVO to the Caerphilly Public Services Board at their meeting held on 6th December 2016.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 GAVO Quarter 1 and 2 Report

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GAVO Quarter 1 & 2 Report

CAERPHILLY PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD 6/12/16
MARTIN FEATHERSTONE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Registered Charity No.1113558
Company Limited by Guarantee 5590517

SUBJECT: GAVO Quarter 1/2 Report

1. Key data for first & second quarter delivery July – September 2016

Caerphilly	Yearly Target	Qtr 1	Qtr 2
Volunteers Placed	200	161	186
Enquiries good practice in managing volunteers	80	94	100
Website visitors	62000	16019	
Enquiries	2500	3067	3878
Trustee Enquiries	150	71	56
Trustee Events	2	0*	2
Event participants	30	0*	180
Funding advice enquiries	150	82	81
Funding events	2	0*	1
Event participants	30	0*	30
Funding obtained by groups	£100,000	£33,831	£103,100
New orgs/social enterprise developed	10	18	16
Strategic planning groups	20	28	20
Third Sector Networks / forums	4	5	6
Membership	100	74	86

*Trustee and funding events will be held in future quarters including a programme for Trustees week in November.

2. Highlights

GAVO Strategic Plan

Trustees published GAVO's Strategic Plan which sets out five key strategic aims for the organisation as:

1. GAVO will provide strong leadership to voluntary and community organisations and communities to increase their resilience and develop a thriving third sector
2. GAVO will use the principles of co-production to build connectivity, engagement and participation, empowering people and communities
3. GAVO will strengthen third sector voice and influence at a national, regional and local level
4. GAVO will champion volunteering and increase quality opportunities for volunteers.
5. GAVO will continue to operate in a culture of collaboration as a pathway to sustainability

The Plan was officially launched at the Eisteddfod in Abergavenny on 1 August 2016. Copies were available in English and Welsh. GAVO shared an exhibition space with the National Body, WCVA at the Eisteddfod which supported the development of further links and collaboration between the two organisations.

GAVO Website

Work has progressed on the development of a new GAVO website which is accessible and easy to navigate and a platform for publicising the work of other Third Sector Organisations. The feedback from GAVO Staff and Trustees obtained at GAVO's Corporate Training Day held in June 2016 has further informed the development of the GAVO website. The new website was launched at the National Eisteddfod held in Abergavenny from 29 July to 6 Aug 2016 - see www.gavowales.org.uk

GAVO Membership

Since October 2015 when GAVO introduced a new membership offer, 160 third sector organisations from the Caerphilly area have now become GAVO members. In the autumn, GAVO will be undertaking a Membership survey to ascertain the quality of its services delivered and to keep abreast of third sector members' issues across Gwent. Like last year, the Membership Survey will take place at the GAVO AGM and Conference which is scheduled to take place on the 10th November 2016. The Survey will provide an indication of the issues that are presenting challenges and opportunities to the Third Sector.

Caerphilly Forum

The next meeting of the Caerphilly County Borough, Third Sector Area Forum has been arranged for 6th October 2016. The October meeting will be held at the Fleur De Lys Institute and Speakers have been sourced from Caerphilly County Borough Council to provide an update on the Well Being Assessment linked to Well Being of Future Generations Act, GAVO, Umbrella Gwent and the SE Wales Carers Trust. The Caerphilly Forum has been well received and the Forum will continue to be held in a central location in the Borough and on a quarterly basis. The following meeting will be taking place at the end of January 2017.

Caerphilly Children and Young Peoples Forum

This Forum is at a development stage and will be complementary to the Caerphilly Third Sector Forum. This initiative is a response to discussions with representatives of Third Sector Organisations in Caerphilly who see the benefit in strengthening the connectivity and collaboration in the Children and Young Peoples part of the Third Sector in Caerphilly. GAVO has responded pro-actively to this request and a number of pre meetings with key stakeholders are planned for November with a workshop session for interested groups scheduled for the 5th December.

Asset Transfer Workshop

A report has been submitted to Welsh Government, capturing the achievements of the GAVO Community Asset Transfer Pilot. The report is being reviewed by Welsh Government and an announcement is expected shortly, reference the future strategic direction for Community Asset Transfer. The concept of Community Asset Transfer is highlighted in the Programme for Government 2016-21. The pilot was funded until 30 September 2016.

Steps 2 Care Project

GAVO is delivering a new Steps 2 Care Project in Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly through an ESF funded Active Inclusion Project. The Active Inclusion Fund is operated by the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) as an intermediate body for the Wales European Funding Office (WEFO) under Priority 1, Specific Objective 2 of the European Social Fund (ESF): 'to increase the employability of economically inactive and long-term unemployed people, who have complex barriers to employment'. Over 12 months, this project seeks to engage with 90 people in Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly from non-Communities First areas to develop their confidence, skills and abilities to move closer to or into employment. GAVO will provide

accredited training, work relevant certificates and volunteering opportunities to support those engaged on the project. The project manager is Huw Lewis huw.lewis@gavowales.org.uk who will manage two dedicated Steps 2 Care staff taking up posts on 1 September 2016. Staff will be based at Newtown Community Centre (BG) and Douglas House (Caer). The post that is operational in Caerphilly will be recruited to as soon as possible and the project activity in Caerphilly will be prioritised.

GAVO: Third Sector Support

GAVO's Third Sector Development Manager in Caerphilly continues to work with third sector organisations across the borough on a wide range of topics. From 2017 she will be identifying community venues to run regular outreach sessions to support engagement of Third Sector Groups with this Core role in GAVO and will be issuing 3 month work schedules, highlighting the dates, times and locations.

GAVO AGM and Conference

The GAVO 2016 AGM and conference, scheduled for the 10th November, is themed around 'Leadership for Future Generations' with speakers sourced from the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner and WCVA. The conference, coinciding with Trustees week also includes workshops on a number of topics for trustees of third sector organisations.

3. Strategic working and engagement in policy

Representation of third sector interests at strategic partnerships include Caerphilly PSB, Leads Group and Delivery Group, RDP LAG, Armed Forces Forum, Caerphilly Access Forum, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Partnership, and Greater Gwent Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Partnership. The third sector is also represented through membership of the Wellbeing Integration Network, the three Neighbourhood Care Networks and the Social Care Workforce Joint CCB and BG Partnership Board (where third sector providers are well represented through the open forum).

Third Sector Shape Your Future events

Third Sector Support Wales is a network made up of WCVA and the 19 County Voluntary Councils (including GAVO) across Wales. Third Sector Support Wales' joint strategic review is underway to help create a new common vision and set of priorities for our work over the coming 5 years.

A key challenge facing third sector groups is to build our resilience and to make ourselves fit for the future. WCVA hosted a futures exercise that's designed to help address questions including:

- What will drive the changes that matter most to the third sector in Wales?
- What future do we want, or want to avoid and why is this important to our work today?

The futures exercise was designed to help organisations:

- Prepare for the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act
- Learn more about tools and techniques to support long term thinking
- Plan ahead in the face of greater uncertainty and complexity
- Understand the drivers of change that are likely to impact on their work

- Actively shape a positive future for individual groups and the third sector overall
- Rethink current activity, based on a better understanding of the future

WCVA organised two workshop sessions which sought to:

- Identify the key drivers for change for the third sector in Wales over the coming 10 years
- Explore potential futures and what we can all do to shape a positive future

WCVA also ran a series of online polls through mid-June to mid-July which will support and feed into the two futures events.

Outcomes of these exercises and the Third Sector Support Wales Strategic Review will be fed back to PSB members.

Public Services Board Support

GAVO's Community Planning Co-ordinator provides support to CCBC's Policy Unit and the PSB. During the Quarter 2 reporting period, there has been increased activity surrounding the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act including a series of public engagement events.

The officer provides administrative support to the PSB which held its first meeting in June, and was addressed by the Future Generations Commissioner at its second meeting in September. The officer supports the delivery mechanisms through the leads and delivery group and future generations planning group working within the Corporate Policy unit. Much of the focus this quarter has been on the wellbeing assessment for the FG Act and the development of and support for citizen and community engagement opportunities throughout the Summer. The officer has also been involved in the planning and organisation of the Standing Conference taking place on 14th October 2017.

5. Contribution to SIP

GAVO undertakes a range of core and project work which contributes to the outcomes of Caerphilly's Single Integrated Plan as reported below under each theme:

Prosperous

Caerphilly Development:

The level of general enquiries remains high and continue to be varied and complex. 427 enquiries were dealt with from April to September from 35 groups and organisations including 16 new projects/groups. Funding applications were submitted amounting to £563,874 and groups were successful in obtaining a total of £103,100.

All four One Beat Roadshows were completed in April and the evaluation is now complete. This has resulted in the future format to comprise of two per year in March and June. They will be held in venues in the east and west of the borough.

The new Caerphilly County Borough wide forum will take place four times a year and attendees will decide the topics they wish to discuss and the particular format of the day. The next one will be held in October 2016.

The Sunflower Project application to Lottery for expansion and succession was submitted in July and the outcome should be known by December. The end of project external evaluation

has been commissioned and will be completed by November. The need for the project has been recognised by all stakeholders and further applications for elements of the project are being developed. The teams continue to meet their targets. Requests and suggestions have been made by various health board departments and project staff for the progression of the service which are being developed. The team attended the ABuHB Volunteer Recognition Event on 9th June and the project was runner up in one of the categories. Allison and Donna attended a course and are now Dementia Champions.

The first of the Caerphilly borough wide forums was held on 13th May at the Ebenezer Church, Pengam. It was well attended and presentations and workshops on the Well Being of Future Generations Act were part of the event. These events will be held quarterly the second one being held in October in Fleur de Lys Institute.

The merger of Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent Care and Repairs is progressing well although quite slowly due to the complexity of the pension issues. The staff structure has been agreed depending on funding levels and the new organisation should be registered by the end of the financial year. It has been very time consuming but a good learning experience for possible future organisational mergers.

Attended the GAVO/TVA Volunteer Network on 8th June at Pontypool Leisure Centre.

Attended the PSB Delivery Group and the RDP Partnership on behalf of the voluntary sector and GAVO.

Third Sector Development Officer visited Citizen Advice Bureau in Bargoed with the Investors in Volunteers Assessor to discuss the renewal of their Investors In Volunteering award which has now been achieved. A number of other organisations are currently being supported to work towards IIV.

Capacity continues to remain an issue as enquires remain high and more complex. Many groups are taking the option of registering as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) as their level of income is not considered and they can register immediately after signing their governing document but this can be very time consuming. Organisations' committees in the borough are not engaging in training or funding surgeries in any number, possibly due to the high level of meetings they have been asked to attend.

Many organisations are experiencing difficulties with appointing trustees possibly due to the fear of the level of commitment and the responsibilities involved.

Active and Involved Citizens

Community Voice Projects:

GAVO is funded by the Big Lottery to manage the Valley Voices Portfolio. The Portfolio consists of 9 projects and covers Blaenau Gwent and **Caerphilly**. The aim is to provide opportunities for Welsh communities to get their voice heard by connecting them with local and national decision makers.

Valley Voices projects continue to work with service users to inform and empower them to speak out about the services they receive.

Case Study:

See it My Way at Caerphilly Library

Sight Cymru's project works to support people with visual impairment have their voice heard in relation to the services they receive. There was a recent issue in Caerphilly Library which presented a barrier to sight impaired people accessing this service.

"If it hadn't been for the See it My Way project I wouldn't have known who to speak to, nor would I have been able to meet with library officers. I am really happy with the outcome, more than grateful, and have had no trouble renewing my talking books since. It has been brilliant." Sight Impaired beneficiary

GAVO
is

continuing to work as a partner in the 'Caerphilly You Want' future generations engagement initiative, led by Caerphilly Borough Council. The current focus of the group is to support the consultation of citizens in order develop the new well-being assessment.

Valley Voices Portfolio – Draethen, Waterloo & Rudry Community Rural Road Safety Project. This project aims to bring the three villages of Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry together with one voice to tackle the rural road safety problems and in so doing rekindle community spirit.

The project members worked with statutory agencies on the road safety concerns, which included a 20 mph limit around Rudry School. In the spirit of true partnership, a joint action plan was agreed with the Leader and Deputy Leader of Caerphilly Council, Highways Cabinet Member and Officers, Gwent Police and Staff and Pupils of Rhydri Primary School.



Thanks to the joint effort and collective working the 20 mph limit around Rudry School has been agreed.

Volunteering

135 young people made an enquiry for volunteering and 81 young people were interviewed. A total of 36 individuals were placed, together with 30 of those registering on the Millennium Volunteering Programme.

School presentations have been carried out at Blackwood Comprehensive School, Rhymney Comprehensive School, Ysgol Cwm Rhymni and Cross Keys College.

○ Voice Projects:

Officer attended a Freshers Fayre at Cross Keys College. Meetings have taken place with teachers supporting potential NEETS at Heolddu Comprehensive School, Oakdale School, Rhymney Comprehensive and Ysgol Cwm Rhymni. The officer is in the process of securing volunteering opportunities for the students at these schools.

The Officer continues to regularly attend the Youth Progression and Engagement Panel meetings, hosted by the CCBC. This has proven to be a fruitful partnership with the local authority, training and employment support organisations, Careers Wales, local youth workers in schools and colleges and other voluntary organisations providing youth support.

Together with the Caerphilly Volunteering Team the Youth Volunteering Officer has been visiting the organisations based in Caerphilly borough, we have been aware of the number of organisations not registered on the GAVO Membership list so we have been able to provide them with information and signpost them to the GAVO Web Site and/or Admin Team for inclusion so increasing the GAVO Membership. This is now taking place at organisations based outside our borough, but who provide their services within the borough.

Attendance at the National Eisteddfod helping to man the GAVO stand, enabled the team to make good contacts with other organisations – especially the Circuit of Wales who will be happy to work together with regards volunteers for the venue.

Attended Fresher's Fayre in Learning Zone to promote volunteering with students

Caerphilly Over 25's Volunteering Officer:

In the first two quarters of 2016 Caerphilly Volunteer Centre continued to register individuals who wished to engage in volunteering. To date 266 of these individuals have been placed into volunteering. In addition 45 individuals from Q4 2015-16 have now also engaged in volunteering. This is a marked increase in 2015-16. This increase is the second year in a row that the number of individuals placed into volunteering has increased across the Borough.

The Volunteer Recognition scheme continues to be a success. In line with the under 25's age group, volunteers register for recognition of their hours, with certificates being awarded for 50, 100, 200 and 1000 hours. In this reporting year to date, eighteen 50 hour certificates, twelve 100 hour certificates and three 200 hour certificates have been awarded. A number of volunteers are well on their way to 1000 hour certificates.

The policy of engagement and working with Organisations providing opportunities across the Caerphilly Borough continues to be supported and implemented. It was agreed within the team that those organisations actually based within the Borough would be visited first, rolling the programme out to those outside at a later date. Of the 107 registered organisations based within the Borough 95 of them have been visited in the last four months.

- Caerphilly Highlights:

Over 25's Volunteering:

This engagement programme has further enhanced the working relationships between GAVO and the organisations and also raised the visibility across the Borough of the Volunteering Centre and GAVO as a whole.

The third Gwent Wide Third Sector Networking meeting was held on 8th June 2016. Again this meeting was very well attended with in the region on 80-90 separate organisations being represented from across the whole of Gwent. This forum is increasing in reputation and it is envisaged that it will continue to grow. The forum enables organisations of all sizes to come together and share information on improving the volunteering experience for all involved.

The use of technology continues to increase. Electronic systems are utilized to capture data from all aspects of the Caerphilly Volunteering Centre and the use of paper has been reduced by approximately 95%, being virtually paper free. Included in this is the use of Social Media to promote not only GAVO but also assisting our partner organisations in promoting events and recruiting volunteers for specific projects.

The number of referrals made from the JCP's has continued to decline. However, those that are referred, tend to be more likely to engage in volunteering. This reduction in referrals is possibly linked to the drop in the unemployed and also the changes in reporting structures within DWP.

Closer working has been made with the DWP 10000 project. This project offers the services of DWP staff to assist in group activities. Several projects have been supported or are due to be supported in the coming months. An example of the impact that this liaison has had is in respect of the Taraggan Project, a community allotment scheme in Bargoed. The project secured funding to expand the site by 100%. With the assistance of DWP staff the deadline for the official opening of the developed site has been achieved.

An example of best practice:

A meeting was recently held at Hafod Deg, Rhymney involving representatives from Caerphilly County Borough Council, Department for Work and Pensions, Communities First Upper Rhymney Valley, Growing Spaces and the Volunteering Centre. The discussions were in respect of the Growing Spaces Project.

The Project supports individuals with mild or moderate mental health issues with a view to the individual regaining their confidence and ultimately gaining employment. At present the participants have no structures in place for them to move on once they are ready. This discussion group developed a simple plan that will result in referral to the likes of Department for Work and Pensions for work experience or Volunteering for new challenges at the appropriate stage of the individual's development.

- Caerphilly Highlights:

Over 25's Volunteering:

Growing Spaces are also developing new projects in other areas in the borough, where these new principles will be adopted. Ultimately the objective is to improve employability and reduce the impact of mental health issues across the communities.

- Caerphilly Highlights:

CF Activity

GAVO Communities First Activity

Caerphilly Communities First:

Mid Valleys West:

CF and CAB team-building session: we led a very positive session with our delivery partners in the Citizens' Advice Bureau alongside Mid Valleys East officers. The afternoon comprised of a number of presentations of each of the projects we offer followed by an overview of CAB services and support. There was widespread agreement that we are largely working with the same client base under the same principles and so our cross-referral rate has the potential to be high. The afternoon was considered a great success by all that attended and we will look to hold similar such sessions with other delivery partners e.g. Flying Start.

St Gwladys' Church Hall Volunteer Evening: we were delighted to be invited to represent GAVO and Communities First at the Volunteer Evening held on 6 June. This was a fantastic opportunity to engage with local residents as well as showcasing GAVO's Volunteer Recognition scheme. Ross was compere for the evening.

Men's Sheds: this is a project that we hope will be a great success in the coming months. An initial opening event was held at Aberbargoed Grasslands Centre to gauge interest in officially setting up a Men's Shed group (the first in Caerphilly County). We will look to work closely with those who have expressed an interest in a variety of activities with a view to providing them with a governance framework and on-going support.

CATWG: we have begun delivering our first CATWG project of the new financial year at Tir y Berth Village Hall with the eager participation of the local Parent Network group. This particular project will focus on horticulture and will provide the Hall with a number of external hanging baskets. There are small areas of the car park that will also be improved with children's play equipment made from recycled tyres.

Parent Network (PETRA) book-writing: we continue with our strong relationship with PETRA, and are currently working on two books. At TARAGGAN, families have linked closely with the Committee to base a book on a hedgehog with the subliminal message focusing on environmental sustainability and encouraging an interesting in the

allotments. We secured £2K from internal regeneration budgets to fund the publishing and printing costs. At Tir y Berth Primary School, members of staff and stakeholders undertook training in gender identity to help underpin the ethos of their book – equality. The first couple of sessions with families were well attended and well-received.

Gilfach Fargoed Community Centre: the Technical Assistance grant that was awarded has been carried through by external contractors, with a specification for the kitchen now drawn up, ready to go out to tender. We are hopeful of a refit in the coming quarter and are in the process of building a relationship with the Authority's WHQS contractor, with a view to enlisting their support via their 'community benefit' packages and possibly providing significant assistance in the refit as a good will gesture.

Communities First Caerphilly Basin:

Lansbury Matters: we have continued in supporting Lansbury Matters in delivering their projects and helping them to identify funding and training.

Parent Network: We are working in partnership with the Parent Network we supported St James Parent Network with the book launch (Dream Upon A Rainbow) which took place on Saturday 11th June at Caerphilly Library, this was very well attended. We have also supported the groups in credited training.

GDAS: Drug and Alcohol Support are now doing a drop in session on a weekly basis in the Communities First office.

Gwent Police: Gwent Police have continued to carry out their monthly surgery within the Communities First Office. We have been working in partnership with the PCSO's to promote their surgeries.

Families and School Together (FAST) Cwm Ifor Primary School FASTWORKS is still continuing to meet up on a monthly basis to carry out activities with families within their local school. In May the group organised the Dinosaur Educational workshop, this gave the children the opportunity to meet Ronnie the Dinosaur and learn all about his background. In 2015 they did a taster session in Roller Skating, Two members of the group are keen to set this up as a social enterprise project, to run regular roller skating sessions across the borough, discussions are currently taking place on how to move this project forward.

Cwm Ifor Primary School PTA: We have continued to support the PTA in helping out with their events and helping them to identify training.

Us Girls Project: This project is a sports charity offering sports and volunteering opportunities to young people in disadvantaged communities, with the support from Communities First the Us Girls will be running weekly session in Plas Y Felin Primary School. We have identified two volunteers from Lansbury Park who will help out with these sessions. The Van Centre in Lansbury Park also hold a weekly session that is well attended

Little Stars: Little Stars is a physical activity group that takes place in St James School on a weekly basis, aged 5-10yrs. Up to 20 to 30 children attend on a regular basis. Two volunteers from Lansbury Park deliver these sessions, we are working closely with the volunteers ensuring that they receive training and have the relevant paper work in place such as policies and procedures,

St James Primary School / St Martins School: A successful planning day took place in St Martins School. The planning day was all about family learning we are going to be providing family learning opportunities to year 6 and year 7s.

Communities First Mid Valleys East:

Together project : This project was originally due to start last Thursday 9th June with families from Britannia however due to a lack of families and our largest family drop out we have decided to pull this project from running in this area and source additional families from a new area which will now start on June 23. This project is based loosely around a FAST model but will take place in our horticultural site in Pontllanfraith and will address family skills and confidence.

Family history project : This project is due to start Wednesday 15th June at Markham primary school linking with the centenary project in a build up to the launch of their website as a route into engagement with local families .

Waunfawr park mini play day: Plans are underway for the mini play day at Waunfawr park in partnership with a number of organisations, at this point we are looking at providing a range of activities at the event such as den building, giant jenga, water tubes and health based activities .

Adult Education project : Adult education project is progressing well with Q1 targets being met, accreditation ranges from OCN in horticulture through to food hygiene and first aid. As well as the accredited courses we are currently offering child protection and POVA as a recommended course that participants attend.

Argoed Baptist Church : Official acceptance letter from CFAP has now been signed with in excess of £500,000 of grant funding being awarded for Phase 3 of the building project and also the night shelter project. The works should start in August and last for 8 months.

Group support : Support continues for a number of community groups in the cluster with support ranging from governance advice through to funding and development of larger projects. We have been involved with Panside PART and the P.T.A. to support the delivery of their activities and allow us further engagement opportunities.

Communities First Upper Rhymney Valley:

Broadening Horizons: For our third Broadening Horizons project we had 4 participants from Phillipstown and one volunteer (who had previously been a participant). The project had good outcomes- all participants noticed an improvement in their positivity and mental wellbeing, all commented on how the experience had improved their confidence, and 2 participants have now taken regular local volunteering opportunities. We also carried out our first community asset mapping exercise with the group (see attached case study). The Fourth Broadening Horizons project commenced in June with 4 participants from Rhymney and Pontlottyn. 2 of the participants are male. Discussions have taken place with Abertysswg Flying Start to possibly roll out Broadening Horizons within their setting in September.

New Streetgames in Phillipstown: After a group of community members approached us about setting up a new activity for children we were able to connect them with the Streetgames team. We had several positive discussions and were able to arrange Safeguarding Training for 10 volunteers. 2 very successful taster sessions were advertised and run with over 40 local children attending. Streetgames now runs every Friday from the community centre with a pool

of volunteers. We are working with the Community Centre Committee to put in for a Community Chest grant for some new sports equipment.

Walking Group: We now have 2 successful walking groups running from Rhymney and New Tredegar once a week. The walks are used as a way of engaging with community members and helping signpost/refer them onto new services or organisations as a result of relationship and conversation. Positive outcomes include: a new foodbank volunteer, a new Broadening Horizons participant, a referral onto the physical activity officer, and a meeting with a walking group member and RDP to discuss a potential new business idea.

Fochriw Allotment Project: After an initial setback on this project because of the site being vandalised, we are now working in partnership with Groundwork for a 6 week family gardening project. One of the parents has taken the initiative to organise a community collection for plants for the school playground, and after discussion with her and the headteacher, she has taken on the role of volunteer project assistant. After the initial 6 week planting project we will work with her to gather a local group of parents to keep the maintenance of the garden going and continue the project.

The 'Making Space' Project: We are giving heavy support to St Dingats 'Making Space' Project in way of Community Engagement advice and Grant Support. The project has raised funds already of over £500,000. Continuing support given in way of grants research and supporting the team.

Things not working so well:

Welsh language translation (All clusters): this has been a considerable barrier of late, as each piece of marketing for Communities First requires full translation. There has been a back-log internally in the local authority, although this is improving.

Brunch Club URV: although there have been some good referrals made from Brunch Club (eg employment, mental health team, green doctor, health officer etc) we are finding that it is the same 10-15 people who come each week, and some are just coming for their brunch!

Therefore we are in discussion with our mental health officer about making a new connection and putting on a new service joining Brunch club in regards to the poor mental health in Phillipstown.

Case Study Natasha Evans:

Natasha is 33 years of age and has two children, she lives in the Lansbury Park area of Caerphilly. When Natasha had her children she came out of employment, to look after her children full time. About 12 months ago, Natasha joined a local community group and was volunteering with helping to organise community events with the support of Communities First. When the Communities First development officers first met Natasha, Communities First discussed with her what they could do to help her, to further her opportunities in work experience. In 2015 an Us Girls project started in Lansbury Park, this project encourages the participation of young women to take part in sports activities. Natasha showed a great interest in volunteering within this project, she started working alongside the facilitator and helped to organise the weekly sessions by booking rooms, taking registers and facilitating sessions.

While Natasha was volunteering, Communities First identified training for her in Child Protection Level 1, First Aid level 2, Committee Skills and Dance Leadership level 1.

Since this training has been completed, Natasha has decided to develop her own group called little stars, which is for children between the age of 6 to 11 and can be used as part of a stepping stone to be referred onto Us Girls if they so wish. She delivers two sessions a week in St James Primary School, where 20 to 30 children attend and take part in physical activity sessions. Natasha is continuing to receive support from Communities First Development workers and will soon be going on a Sports Development training programme in level 2, which will broaden her teaching skills.

Feedback from Natasha:

"I would just like to say a massive thank you to Communities First as they have funded all of my training and helped me with childcare. Without their support and encouragement I would

have not got this far in the last 12 months. This has given me all my confidence back and given me the encouragement to continue to create a portfolio on my development and achievements. This will allow me to continue to look for employment. I would very much like to pursue a career working with young people, this is an area of work which I have so much passion for”.

‘Community Asset Mapping’ Exercise- A Case Study
By URV Community Development Team

The aim of the session was to support a group of community members to identify a community event that would have a positive impact on their local community, Phillipstown, by exploring the current views of Phillipstown residents.

The session was an exciting departure from typical community engagement practice; instead of a professional consultation, we supported the Broadening Horizons participants to run a mini consultation exercise themselves.

The thinking being that, even in this short exercise, local residents would bring a higher degree of trust when encountering their own peers, opening- up more readily about the realities of life in the community and identifying assets to be protected and concerns to be tackled. When local residents have the role of the engagement workers it also gives an inspiring example of the community’s ability to discover its own assets.

The session initially started by us explaining to the group that next week they would be in charge of running a small community event/project that would benefit their local community in some way.

Part One - Community Mapping Exercise

As all the participants were residents of Phillipstown we decided to focus on their area. After printing a large OS map of the area we asked the participants to write their name on their home- this gave them a frame of reference. We then used 3 different colour post it notes:

Green - on these we asked the group to write positive things about Phillipstown- its assets and strengths- and put them on the map. This could be buildings, organisations, provisions or community groups. We also discussed how people themselves are assets- for example, someone who is a good community organiser, someone who can fix cars, a next door neighbour who is particularly good gardener. After giving a few examples we let the group write their positives down- here are a few of many they came up with : Sports Day, Volunteers at the Community House, great teachers at the school, someone who is handy for odds and ends, someone who is good at organising trips and holidays, Santa rounds, street parties, positive memories, a local MP.

Pink- on pink post-its we asked them to write down things that worried or concerned them about their community. This could be a lack of services, buildings in disrepair, rubbish, noisy neighbours or anti-social behaviour. Interestingly these are a few things they came up with: road needs streetlights, nothing for men, lack of children’s activities, old people moaning, school needs brightening up, fish shop has closed down, no fresh fruit or veg available, the shops are too expensive, community conflict between different families and streets.

Yellow- finally on these we asked them to write ideas for positive change in Phillipstown. This could be celebrating the positives and focusing on assets or strengths, or it could relate to the pink post it notes, about having a positive change on something that worries them. They came

up with several ideas- here are some: revamp the community centre, get a fruit and veg van, new children's activities, craft clubs, phone box, village sports teams, village café.

The group all really engaged with this exercise- proving that people do care about their own area and like giving their opinion when asked! By starting with the positives it meant that the group enjoyed sharing what they like about their community, but also gave space to voice their concerns. By ending with the ideas for positive change, this encouraged positive discussions over do-able and realistic things that they realised people in the community (like themselves) could do to improve the area.

Part Two - Gathering other opinions

We then discussed as a group how the opinions from part one were their own opinions and how other people in Phillipstown might have different opinions. The group decided it would be important to ask other people in Phillipstown these 3 simply questions:

- 1) What do you love most about Phillipstown?
- 2) What concerns you most about Phillipstown?
- 3) Do you have any ideas for positive change?

We split the group into 2 teams and gave them 45 minutes to talk to as many people as possible. All participants fully engaged in the activity and were very keen to get out and gather peoples opinion. They didn't need encouraging at all! One of the quieter group members decided that she would immediately put up a Facebook post asking people for their opinion. Others in the group who had seemed a little shy, ran straight off to the post office and Flying Start buildings, stopping community members with enthusiasm and asking questions. The positivity and keenness for the exercise was infectious and all of the participants engaged fully in the exercise and between the 4 of them in 45 minutes gathered the views of over 60 people!!

Part Three - Discussion

After all the running around we gathered back together and sat down to discuss the exercise and how the participants had found it- the feedback was that they really enjoyed it! Each of the participants collated the responses and had the role of writing them out again on big bits of paper. They then all fed back to the group on the responses they got from community members and how those responses compared to their own. This was a big moment as two of the group members did not like speaking in front of the group, but with this task they both grew in confidence in feeding back the responses.

Part Four - Planning and Organising a Community Event

We then reminded the group that the sessions next week have been put aside for them to run a community event/project of their choosing. As facilitators we tried to step back as much as possible and just see how the conversation developed. Initially there were lots of ideas- suggestions from the community for change, positives in the community that could be celebrated, or concerns that could start to be tackled. They then narrowed them down to things they could realistically achieve in a couple of days, and events that they would enjoy running themselves. From their own opinions and the opinions gathered from the community the group came up with 3 options of events that would have a positive impact on their community. For this they encompassed not only their opinions but also those gathered from the community,

taking into account what different people thought. The options were: putting on a healthy day with some healthy cooking and organising for a local fruit and veg van to come up; putting on a craft day for both older and younger people to bring people together; running a pilot for a messy playgroup. They decided to go for option 2- running a craft day. This is because many people in the community had commented on the lack of activities for younger children during the day, and also the concerning tensions between older and younger people in the community. They therefore decided to try and put on a craft event for children and for adults- with activities for both- to try and encourage the community to come together and create something positive.

We then supported them to plan the day, what they would need, who would be involved and what would need doing. The participants divided up the roles, booked out a community venue, decided what craft activities would need buying, designed a poster and distributed it throughout the area.

Part Five- Reflections

As a Community Development Team this was a really interesting exercise to pilot with the Broadening Horizons participants. We were all hugely encouraged at how all the participants fully engaged with positivity and enthusiasm. Also for those who were quieter and withdrawn, a project focusing on their local community gave them increased confidence at interviewing community members and feeding back to the group.

It helped cement the fact that the best and most effective consultation work in the community is conducted by the community members themselves. As Community Development Officers I doubt we could get 60 honest answers from community members in under an hour! This comes with the trust of being a peer, and we saw this in this exercise. It also reinforced the point that the communities are the experts themselves- they are the ones that know their community best and are the best ones to implement positive community development. As a team it was difficult at times to step back and let the participants lead the project and event, and we recognised the importance of the facilitative/trainer role.

As usual for a Broadening Horizons session we took positivity and wellbeing scores at the start and end of the sessions, and witness an increase in the participants' average wellbeing. All of the participants fed back that they enjoyed the exercise, felt more empowered and that their aspirations were raised. Through opening up conversation about assets that already exist in their community and realistic changes that could be made they all felt more optimistic, and confident enough to plan a community event which would impact their local community in a positive way.

Healthier

Engaged 3rd Sector organisations with the CCBC consultation process on implementing the Future Generations and Wellbeing Wales Act, including local workshops and promoting the use of an online survey. Briefings on the Act provided to organisations participating in the Caerphilly Health and Social Care Alliance Network.

Working in partnership with the local authority, Health Board and 3rd sector organisations to make Caerphilly Borough a Dementia Friendly Borough examples: arranging an opportunity for Alzheimers Society to promote being Dementia aware at a parents events at Derwendeg Primary School Hengoed; working with the Museum Wales and Cardiff University researchers to engage people with Dementia and their Carers with an initiative to make the Oakdale

Institute (moved to St Fagans) a dementia friendly environment. A visit is planned before the Christmas period.

Collaborating with the ABUHB lead to plan and deliver the Bevan Commission's Bevan Advocates initiative .

Sunflower project

Sunflower Project (Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr) Quarterly Report, July to September 2016

General Information

From July to September, 9 people were interviewed for volunteering opportunities and there were up to 25 active volunteers. For the same period, there were 1835 instances of patient befriending with 139 receiving pampering and 446 involved in activities.

Some former volunteers have been undertaking placements for their University nursing courses on the wards at Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr.

What is going well

The mobile hairdresser visits the hospital twice a week and the service is proving very popular. As well as assisting with a weekly physiotherapy class with patients, project staff and volunteers have undertaken Communication (Speech Therapy) training and are signposted to patients to help them communicate.

The project team has negotiated more free performances from Music in Hospitals. The project was runner up for the 'Enhancing Patient Experience' category at the ABUHB Volunteering Recognition Awards.

There was a re-launch of the Parkinson's Awareness scheme after having revised and simplified the procedure with the Parkinson's Nurse – the new process now only involves patients on the Elderly Frailty Unit and has involved 18 patients.

Project staff undertook Dementia Champions training and have consequently delivered Dementia Friends training to 13 volunteers.

What is not going so well

None of the current volunteers have the capacity to assist with mealtime support so this is being undertaken by project staff each week.

There has been a lull in volunteer recruitment over the summer months, which is anticipated to improve in the autumn.

There have been some issues with volunteer retention and commitment but measures have been put in place to improve these.

Learning

GAVO's training programme for the Spring/Summer period was produced and distributed for circulation in February.

This period, GAVO delivered 10 courses to 93 learners. The target for the 2016/17 period is 20 courses and 200 learners. Forecast for the delivery to meet targets is likely to be more for the year end. Planned training across the county has received interest from community groups and organisations within the area. The relationship with the CF teams in Caerphilly is really good with much interest in the delivery of training for the July to August period. We were targeted with delivering a mixture of accredited and non-accredited training. Of the training mentioned above, there were 3 x accredited courses with 34 participants attending.

These courses have included CIEH paediatric first aid Level 3 and 2 EPP Agored registered courses. Other courses delivered in Caerphilly have included committee skills, several Child Protection Awareness courses, basic first aid and POVA Awareness. This success is due to the close working arrangements with the development team in GAVO and that the training officers attend network events and forums within the Caerphilly County area. The team also attend on a regular basis the Education & Training Forum which involves other agencies and organisations across the training sector and are now involved in the ESF Strategic Steering Group.

GAVO's Training Team attend the POVA Trainers Network event that has been developed by the Caerphilly Workforce Development Officers. Both members of the Training Team are PQASSO Mentors and have attended a follow up trainers meeting in North Wales to work through some of the issues faced with the allocated groups during the training days with these groups.

The training team represent GAVO at the Social Services Training network events and are members of the SEWCSB and GWASB training sub-groups. All training content for delivery has recently been reviewed and both DH and JB are had input to ensure that the training content is also relevant to Third Sector organisations. Recently, the team have met with other training providers with the purpose of joint and collaborative work in readiness for future tenders. It is hoped that the team will be successful in bids for work and that they will then take the lead and sub-contract work out as and when the need arises.

Play Team 0-3's

Caerphilly Play Team:

Play Delivery Officer posts are undertaking an ILM level 5 in leadership and management which is enhancing their practices within the Creative Play team and throughout the GAVO organisation offering standardised middle management.

Within this first quarter three volunteers have been through the induction process to volunteer within the Pop in and Play groups and are due to start once their references and DBS checks are in place.

Staff within Creative Play completed a speech and language course over an 8 week period which has had a huge impact on their work practices. They have applied their learning into their communication with children in their settings and have advised parents and even used their new skills and confidence to make referrals where needed for additional support.

What has not worked so well:

Some of the Pop in and Play group numbers have decreased over the past few months for a number of reasons. Some of the communities who are hard to engage have been a challenge and at one point no one was attending. Staff have been given mini projects within their role to increase the capacity and participation in particular community areas. Their roles will be to ensure we are offering our services in the right place and time, what other services are available in the area and to contact parents directly to break down barriers and build up trust. We have already seen a rise in numbers at some of the setting and will be acting on the research results from staff by Oct 2016.

In all of the groups we have noticed that the children's speech and language has developed since the introduction of a Tap Tap box while singing. A lot of the parents have also commented that they have made a Tap Tap box at home for their child because they love it so much. This shows the impact of the group for children at home.

Comments from parents:-

"C loves coming to group, it is developing her social skills"

"O is very sociable in PIAP but not when she is in other places. She loves coming to the group"

"P is loving the group and so am I, we both love the interaction"

"We have made our own tap tap box at home because they kept saying tap tap on table at home"

"We now sing the hello song to the whole family when we are together"

Case Studies

- M has been attending the group for about a year and a half. We have noticed such a difference in him recently. He would be so clingy, shy and would cry if anyone new would talk to him. Now he is a very confident little boy. He talks and plays with everyone and even tells jokes to the staff. We have witnessed a big change in his personality and speech and language skills.
- In our barged group we have been keeping an eye on a particular child who is very quiet and we feel has a bit of speech delay. After learning the owling technique in our recent learning language and loving it training, we have been implementing this with the child and have seen a difference in her responding to us. She is now at the stage where she will respond and follow instruction and we feel happy with her progress.
- In our Pontllynn group we have been speaking to parents about our learning from our training in learning, language and loving. From our discussions, two parents have approached us with concerns about their child's speech which we are referring to the speech and language team.

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In all of the groups we have noticed that the children's speech and language has developed since the introduction of a Tap Tap box while singing. A lot of the parents have also commented that they have made a Tap Tap box at home for their child because they love it so much. This shows the impact of the group for children at home.

Senior Play Officer and Teams:

Adventure Play team delivered 62 sessions to 640 individual children. The Inclusive Play team received 7 referrals and have worked with 45 individuals (family members). Each family/referral has received a home visit to determine whether our service is appropriate to meet their needs before support can begin. The team have provided 188 support sessions for disabled children throughout the quarter.

Twenty additional play sessions were delivered during the summer holidays for the Lower Sirhowy Partnership. This was a combined effort between the Holiday Scheme Co-ordinator, Senior Play Office and playworkers. During the five week period, 167 registered with the playscheme.

Play Team:

- This years, National Play day proved to be a great success despite the wet weather. Over 3000 children and families attended and took part in the many activities on offer from over 30 partners and organisations from around Caerphilly Borough.
- This year we held 4 new play in the parks summers sessions throughout Caerphilly leading up to our National Play Day event. These were run in partnership with the 4 poverty programmes Flying Start, Communities first, Families First and Supporting People these were a great success and saw over 500 parents and children engage in these sessions
- We have 8 Volunteers currently volunteering within our pop in and play sessions.



Concerns:

The team were hoping to re tender for both the families first and flying start aspects of the project. On release of the tenders the Flying Start tender provided an opportunity for Pop in and Play to re-render, unfortunately there were no opportunities with Families First for either Adventure Play or Inclusive Play. Officers are looking for other funding but there is a possibility these projects will finish in March 2017.

Case Study:

A Parent who had recently moved to the area from Russia started to attend our pop in and play group with her 1-year child. She spoke very limited English, was very shy and lacking in confidence and felt very isolated not knowing anyone in the area.

The staff have worked with mum and her child to build a relationship with them, encouraging them to keep coming to the group and take part in the activities. They have translated key phrases that are relevant to the running of the session so that this parent knows what is coming next etc. and feels included within the sessions and have also given mum copies of the nurse rhymes so that she can use them at home with her child.

Over time Mum is now much more confident within the group and has made friends with some others parents from the area who also attend. Her English has improved greatly and she fully participates in the singing, activities and story time. The staff have also seen her using more English within the group when interacting with her child and her child's speech has improved greatly.

Mum often says to the staff how this group has had such an impact on her and her child. She felt very isolated before not leaving the house, having no friends and how it was important to her that she could



Speak to her child in English etc. Now she happily goes out into the community feeling much more comfortable. She has also commented that from attending the group she is able to communicate in English to her child singing songs, simple stories etc. and this was something she desperately wanted to be able to do.

Holiday Scheme Co-ordinator

Three family engagement events, one in partnership with Communities First and supported by United Welsh and the Us Girls Project in Lansbury Park with 90 attending and two events with Bargoed Town Council. One was on Gilfach Estate with approx. 80 children attending, this was supported by Sport Caerphilly, Gilfach Community Centre and Tarragon. The second was held in Bargoed town centre and was supported by Caerphilly Adventure Group.

Funding allocated from HSC budget to five organisations in order to run activities for children and young people during holiday periods. Funding also allocated to the National Play Day event and support given to the mini play events that were held throughout Caerphilly.

On-going support to local youth and play organisations

Lack of communication and response from Police and Fire Departments. Due to funding cuts and contracted hours there is a lack of staff who are able to support events. This could have an impact on income generation.

Changes in CSSIW regulations, and qualification criteria, in order to deliver playschemes has prevented some from running this year.

GAVO's Play Development Officer, was made redundant at the end of September. This will have a massive impact on the Play Service as a whole not only because of the wealth of knowledge and expertise that Rachel had, but also because of the quality training she delivered. This will also have implications on any income generation plans for the future.

6. Contacts

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Caerphilly Volunteering Team

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VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE - 7TH DECEMBER 2016

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

REPORT BY: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (PCC) FOR GWENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Committee Members with a recent written statement made by Jeff Cuthbert, Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Gwent as an item of interest report for the Voluntary Sector.

2. THE REPORT

Written Statement

"I would like to start by condemning the unacceptable scenes we experienced on the streets of Aberbargoed during a night of disturbance and disorder over the bonfire weekend.

This type of behaviour will not be tolerated and the only relief is that no one was injured. I would like to thank Gwent Police, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service and the other services which supported us for their swift and professional response.

A group of strategic leaders, including representation from my office, met in early November to look at the cause and effect of this incident. The Public Services Boards will now work with our community safety partners and take coordinated action to identify, develop and implement appropriate interventions.

I have said from the outset that I want to be a visible and an inclusive Police and Crime Commissioner and I am determined to ensure that people understand the real value of this post. My team and I have attended over 266 engagement events since I came into office and I have visited all of our key partners and the town and community councils and local business leaders in the area. Many issues have been raised with me and it is all about us now building trust for the future and sharing information to find solutions to some of the challenges we face.

I intend to maintain that level of engagement and, from this month, I will be rolling out a range of monthly public surgeries which will provide residents with a golden opportunity to come and talk to me about any police and crime issues they may have. The first surgery was held on Saturday, 19th November and proved a very promising start.

Confronted with shrinking budgets in an evolving crime environment, we have to decide where to prioritise our resources. I hope that cuts to the policing service are not continued by the current Chancellor and I await his Autumn statement with great interest. With this in mind, it's my responsibility to ensure that all the people who live in Gwent have an efficient and effective police service and I have a legal duty to set the police and crime priorities for the Force. The three month long consultation on my proposed priorities concluded on the 24th October and my office will now be collating and analysing your responses. These priorities will form the backbone of my police and crime plan which will provide the direction for crime and policing

services in the region over the next four years. The plan, which will be finalised in the Spring of 2017, will take into account how we maintain and protect frontline policing in Gwent within financial constraints.

To finish on a positive, I am very happy to announce that £236,758.98 has been allocated to a range of successful groups and organisations throughout Gwent. This money is funded from cash seized from criminals and from the sale of unclaimed found property.”

Author: Jeff Cuthbert, Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Gwent



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE - 7TH DECEMBER 2016

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY PLANNING QUARTERLY BRIEFING OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2016

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Committee Members with the Community Planning Quarterly Briefing October to December 2016 for information.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The briefing reports the activities of delivering the outcome areas for *Caerphilly Delivers the Single Integrated Plan 2013-2017* for community planning between October to December 2016.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- a. *Caerphilly Delivers the Single Integrated Plan 2013-2017* is the pre-eminent partnership document for the Caerphilly county borough, which sets out a plan for improving quality of life for local people and communities. The Single Integrated Plan focuses on five outcome areas: Prosperous Caerphilly, Safer Caerphilly, Healthier Caerphilly, Learning Caerphilly and Greener Caerphilly. A wide range of public, private, voluntary and community organisations are engaged in the community planning process.
- b. Under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 the Single Integrated Plan is being superseded by a Local Well-being Plan to be in place by May 2018. Currently there is a transitional period between the two plans, with a Caerphilly County Borough Assessment of Local Well-being underway to inform the ensuing Caerphilly County Borough Local Well-being Plan.
- c. This Community Planning Briefing covers work underway in moving to a well-being plan, and alignment with the seven well-being goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015; placed within the local context of the Caerphilly county borough:
- A Prosperous Caerphilly
 - A Resilient Caerphilly
 - A Healthier Caerphilly
 - A More Equal Caerphilly
 - A Caerphilly Borough of Cohesive Communities
 - A Caerphilly of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language
 - A Globally Responsible Caerphilly

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Appendix 1 contains the Community Planning Briefing for October to December 2016. 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 with implementing *Caerphilly Delivers the Single Integrated Plan 2013-2017* and the move towards developing the Caerphilly County Borough Local Well-being Plan.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 This briefing contributes to the well-being goals as set out in the - Links to Strategy Section (paragraph 3). It is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act in that it *involves* organisations and community groups working in *collaboration* in *integration* looking to the *long-term* and *prevention* to improve services and to bring about quality of life improvements for local people today and for future generations.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Promoting equalities is a fundamental part of community planning, and is an integral part of *Caerphilly Delivers the Single Integrated Plan 2013-2017*, and will continue to be a fundamental element to incorporate in moving to the Caerphilly County Borough Local Well-being Plan. The draft Caerphilly County Borough Assessment of Local Well-being has considered equality issues in-depth under *A More Equal Caerphilly* Section.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Council is a major contributor in both financial and human resources to the community planning process and for all work being undertaken around the partnership working set out the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 for meeting the needs for local people today and for future generations.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no personnel implications arising from the report.

9. CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 The report is a briefing for information only, and has not been subject to consultation.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The report is for information only.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 There are no recommendations as the report is for information only.

12. STATUTORY POWER

12.1 Local Government Act 2000.

Author: Jackie Dix, Policy Unit dixj1@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: The information provided in the briefing is supplied by officers for the *Caerphilly Delivers* outcome areas.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Community Strategy Quarterly Briefing October to December 2016

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Appendix 1 Community Planning Quarterly Briefing October to December 2016

Welcome to this quarterly community planning briefing designed to give everyone involved with *Caerphilly Delivers - The Single Integrated Plan 2013-2017* an overview of progress on delivering the priorities of the five outcomes: Prosperous Caerphilly; Safer Caerphilly; Learning Caerphilly; Healthier Caerphilly and Greener Caerphilly. Information has been supplied by the officers coordinating delivery on the outcomes, so please feel free to get in touch directly with the named officers for further information.

Community Planning (Jackie Dix, Alison Palmer & Paul Cooke)

communityplanning@caerphilly.gov.uk

Caerphilly County Borough Assessment of Local Well-being – we were delighted to have almost 1,000 people contributing their views to inform our Local Assessment of Well-being. The draft assessment is currently with an editorial panel consisting of representatives from each organisation that sits on the Caerphilly Public Services Board. Following editing, the Assessment will be considered by Caerphilly Public Services Board at its meeting on 6th December 2016, and thereafter issued for targeted consultation, with a view to publishing in April 2017.

A wealth of material has been presented in the Caerphilly County Borough Assessment of Local Well-being in providing a situational analysis of the county borough for informing the Caerphilly Public Services Board decision making around a response analysis, which is the next stage in developing the local well-being plan. The overall purpose of the well-being assessment has been to provide the foundation for making the best well-being plan possible for collectively addressing the key issues in the county borough.

Discussions to inform the assessment of local well-being commenced at Caerphilly Public Services Board Standing Conference held 22nd March 2016 with our partner organisations in considering long term planning for future generations thinking about place and legacy. At the follow up Standing Conference held on 14th October 2016 we looked at the situational analysis under the 7 well-being goals and began to consider priority areas for focusing on through a more in-depth response analysis. This discussion will be on going with our partners as we enter the next phase of developing the local well-being plan informed by the evidence base presented in the assessment of local well-being.

Have your say on new approach to building resilient communities

Communities Secretary Carl Sargeant has announced he is minded to phase out the Communities First programme while establishing a new approach focusing on three priority areas of employment, early years and empowerment. The Welsh Government has launched the following alternative online questionnaire on the subject depending on whether or not you have personal experience on Communities First:

- [I have personal experience of Communities First](#)
- [I don't have any personal experience of Communities First](#)

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 Page 49

The online questionnaire is the first step in a more comprehensive Welsh Government engagement process, which will also include public events, meetings with communities groups and work with those delivering services.

Further information on the consultation is included in the following two Welsh Government press releases:

“New approach needed to build resilient communities” – Carl Sargeant

Source: Welsh Government Press Release 11 October 2016

Have your say on new approach to building resilient communities

Source: Welsh Government Press Release 24 October 2016

Prosperous Caerphilly (Antony Bolter)

regeneration@caerphilly.gov.uk

Business Support and Funding

From the beginning of the year to 31st October 2016, 8 Business Start Up Grants have been paid out and 12 Business Development Grants have been offered to businesses in the Caerphilly county borough, which have supported the creation of 68 new jobs and safeguarded a further 167 jobs. The Business Support and Funding Team would be pleased to hear from existing businesses and potential start-ups. Please contact the team on either 01443 866220 or business@caerphilly.gov.uk to find out whether you might be eligible for grant support.

Caerphilly Basin Prosperous Communities

There are broadly 3 main employment projects delivered by Communities First in the Caerphilly Basin:

1. Employment Support 25+, which is targeted at people aged 25+ and unemployed;
2. Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) support which targets those who are aged 16-24 and,
3. LIFT, which targets those in workless households.

The projects are not mutually exclusive, so if a programme being run aimed at those 25+ is suitable for a NEET they are able to attend that programme. For example the construction course which was run under the Employment Support 25+ project was attended by a number of LIFT and NEET participants.

Through the Employment Support 25+ project 33 sessions were delivered in the Quarter 1 period, exceeding the quarterly target of 20 sessions. This included weekly 1-2-1 work surgeries, which were hosted in the Communities First office in Lansbury Park, the Trecenydd Community Centre, Graig Y Rhacca Resource Centre and Sengenydd Community Centre.

The following training programmes were also delivered:

- Fire Awareness, which had 11 attendees in total all of whom completed the course and received the accreditation;
- Lifting and Carrying of inanimate Objects, which had 11 attendees in total all of whom completed the course and received the accreditation;
- Customer Service, which had 8 attendees, all of whom completed the course and received the accreditation;

- Emergency First Aid at Work Level 2, which had 4 attendees, all of whom completed the course and received the accreditation;
- Security Guarding Level 2, which had 9 attendees, 5 of whom completed the course and received the accreditation;
- Food Safety in Catering Level 2, which had 6 attendees, all of whom completed the course and received the accreditation;
- Working in Construction CSCS Training, which had 12 attendees, 10 of whom completed the course and received a CSCS card, with 11 of attendees also receiving an additional level 2 accreditation;
- Protection of Vulnerable Adults (POVA) Level 2, which had 7 attendees, all of whom completed the course and received the accreditation;
- British Institute of Cleaning Science course, which had 4 attendees (the course can only run with a maximum of 4 people), all of whom completed the course and received the accreditation;
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Level 2, which had 8 attendees, 6 of whom completed the course and received the accreditation; and
- Emergency Paediatric First Aid Level 3, which had 7 attendees, all of whom completed the course and received the accreditation.

In terms of NEETS, one targeted training programme on Health and Social care was run at St James' Integrated Children's Centre with 9 participants attending from across the Caerphilly county borough.

Mid Valleys East Prosperous Communities

During October 2016 Communities First ran two employability programmes, one focussed on the retail sector the other on the manufacturing sector. The course participants completed a series of accredited training including Emergency First Aid, Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH), Manual Handling, Customer Service and Food Safety. They also received employability workshops on CV support, interview skills and techniques and each took part in a mock interview to prepare for future opportunities.

From links with local recruitment agencies we were aware that there were several local vacancies for forklift drivers, as such we included opportunities for participants to gain their forklift license as part of the manufacturing course. Due to the nature of the forklift driving license test, numbers were limited to 3 participants per training cycle. We were able to offer two training cycles, with 6 participants, 5 of whom passed and gained their licenses. 3 of the 6 participants have since gained employment and a further 2 are waiting to be signed up with an agency.

Communities First have also been supporting the Communities For Work European Social Fund project and events to increase their engagement numbers. We have found that many customers fall outside of the eligibility criteria for the project and as such the main part of referrals are falling to the Communities First Employment Mentor, whose caseload is currently to capacity.

The two outreach sessions delivered by the Citizens Advice Bureau in the Cluster (Cefn Fforest and Newbridge) continue to be well used by the community and are two of the busiest outreaches in the Caerphilly county borough.

Communities for Work (16-24 years)

Joint working with partner organisations has proved successful offering both accredited and non-accredited training through employability projects. This has included *Get into work* projects and Development Award Funding through the Princes Trust, *A Kick into Employment* through Street Games and *Broadening Horizons* through Communities First. These courses offer

additional support/training that may not be possible through Communities for Work due to lack of funding.

The Youth Mentor target group is for people aged between 16 and 24 year olds who are *Not in Education, Employment or Training* (NEET). This is not as straight forward as it may seem. A major barrier to employment for many young people is lack of literacy/numeracy so it is a responsibility of the Youth Mentors to support young people to essential skills classes or to resit GCSEs. Unfortunately, this makes the young person no longer NEET as these courses are run through the local colleges. If a young person is supported into a GCSE class the Youth Mentors are expected to exit them from the programme, although the young person still requires the support with finding work.

Communities First Employment Officer 25+

Following the bedding in of the Communities for Work project alongside Communities First, Quarter 2 has provided more opportunities for the referrals into Communities First to gain qualifications, with 15 people gaining them this quarter. The triage process, whereby referrals are distributed to the different projects: LIFT, Communities First and Communities for Work, has gone up to a full complement of 4 officers, and they are able to promote the projects and filter the referrals as needed.

Referrals into the Communities First project have been lower than in previous years, with referrals now being split across the 4 additional Communities for Work officers, alongside the Communities First Employment project and the LIFT project. The challenge at the moment is trying to ensure that participants are referred onto the correct project, through the triage process, so that they can engage with the officer most able to support them.

A main barrier at the moment is attempting to engage with people that are not currently engaged with the programme, but are economically inactive and are looking for support, with the number and quality of referrals to Communities First low. Two information events are planned for Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 aimed at engaging with participants and offering a wide range of different support services and opportunities to help people, including agencies such as the local food bank, Citizens Advice Bureau, and local colleges. This will allow officers to engage with the participants that attend, with a view to trying to support with their circumstances and promote appropriate projects where relevant. This will improve the visibility of Communities First within the community and will hopefully produce a further avenue of referrals, with people in the local community more aware of the opportunities that Communities First can provide.

Communities for Work (25 years+)

Work has been undertake together with Communities First to deliver training that would benefit Communities for Work participants such as level 2 courses in Emergency First Aid, Food Hygiene, Customer Service, Conflict Management and Manual Handling of Objects. These courses offer training quickly and simply for people who may need these courses for a job offer.

The *To Work or Not To Work* programme that is delivered in the Upper Rhymney Valley area has been revamped to include more up-to-date statistics and address issues that are current themes now, but were not 9 months ago, such as lack of awareness of the importance of digital skills. The referrals to this programme has resulted in referrals to triage and in boosting the confidence and knowledge of those people attempting to enter the world of work.

LIFT Family Employment Mentors continue to help people from workless households into training or employment opportunities in the Upper Rhymney Valley and Caerphilly Basin areas. People living in households where no one has worked for more than 6 months and are not on the work programme should get in touch to see how they can benefit.



Welsh Health Survey Analysis for Caerphilly county borough - recently released data shows positively a steady decrease in the percentage of adults who smoke. However, negatively:

- diets and physical activity levels are amongst the unhealthiest in Wales;
- there has been a decrease in adult physical activity levels;
- a decrease in the proportion eating 5 or more fruit and vegetables per day; with
- the percentage of adults overweight or obese remaining one of the highest in Wales.

Improvements in life expectancy and health inequalities – a recent Public Health Wales report *Measuring inequalities 2016* has shown that life expectancy and healthy life expectancy for males and females living within Caerphilly county borough has increased between 2005-09 and 2010-14.

In 2010-14:

- average male life expectancy in the Caerphilly county borough was 77.7 years, an increase of 1.5 years since 2005-09;
- average female life expectancy in the Caerphilly county borough was 81.4, and increase of 0.6 years since 2005-09.

Over the same period, the gap in years in the life expectancy and healthy life expectancy at birth of males between the most and least deprived in Caerphilly county borough has reduced. The healthy life expectancy gap in males reduced from 18.6 years to 13 years. For females, whilst the gap in overall life expectancy has increased by 0.2 years, the gap in years for healthy life expectancy has reduced by 1.6 years.

Bring care closer to the patient's home - a multi-agency Caerphilly county borough *Care Closer to Home* workshop has been held to explore how patient care can be delivered more efficiently and effectively in Neighbourhood Care Networks. The workshop considered the principles of local service integration to initiate the development of a local action plan.

Living Well Living Longer Health Check - to date, 3,560 eligible residents in the Caerphilly North Neighbourhood Cluster Network have attended a Living Well Living Longer Health Check across 23 community venues:

- 78 (2%) of patients were identified as high risk of cardiovascular disease;
- 479 (14%) were identified as having an increased risk;
- 170 individuals were referred to Stop Smoking Wales for smoking cessation support, and 67 categorised as obese referred to the Adult Weight Management Service.

Where appropriate, referrals have also been made to other services including exercise referral and drug and alcohol services. Training has also been provided to GP practice staff on ambulatory blood pressure monitoring.

To date, 193 Lansbury Park residents have attended for a health check in the Courthouse or Lansbury Park practices, or in the St James Integrated Children's Centre.

Ty Isaf Infants and Nursery School in Risca achieves National Quality Award



Ty Isaf Infants and Nursery School in Risca has achieved the National Quality Award, the Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes highest accolade, for its work to ensure good health and well-being for its pupils and staff. To achieve the award, Ty Isaf had to demonstrate the highest standard in indicators across seven health topics, including mental and emotional health, well-being and relationships, environment, and safety. Ty Isaf is the 7th school within Caerphilly county borough to achieve the National Quality Award.

Foodwise - is delivered by Communities First and is an 8 week programme set up to help participants manage their weight the healthy way. The course includes looking at portion sizes, dealing with hunger and craving, physical activity and using food labels effectively.

Feedback from participants has shown improvements in both their physical and mental health. Their physical activity levels have increased, often through simple changes like using the stairs rather than the lift at work. One participant noted that increasing her physical activity has helped to make a significant improvement to her health, as previously she had to use sticks to aid her to walk, and she had also lost 3 stone in weight. Participants also improved their knowledge, enabling them to make informed choices about the food they ate.

Learning Caerphilly (Sarah Mutch)

familiesfirst@caerphilly.gov.uk

Engagement of families in their children's learning - The Parent Network continues to support the development of PETRA Publishing (Parents engaging to raise aspirations) which is a book writing literacy project aimed at parents and children. To date the project has produced 10 story books, including one which has been written with a group of parents and children in Tir y Berth Primary school. The development of the books has led to an increase in parents' confidence with their own reading skills and an added dedication to reading and sharing a love of books with their own children. Some parents have gone on to train as story tellers themselves and have visited local primary schools to read their book.

School attendance - we focus on attendance as a way to improve children and young people increasing their achievements in school. Secondary schools and primary schools have recorded improved attendance figures increasing the local authority average attendance figure nationally:

- 11 of the 14 secondary schools record improved attendance with only one school exceeding their set target and 3 schools exceeding the Local Authority target of 93.8%;

- 40 out of our 75 primary schools record improved attendance for 2015/16, 32 of which met or exceeded their set target;
- 26 primary schools met or exceeded the Local Authority target of 95.1%.

Employment support - the triage process for employment support is now working well as a means of generating and coordinating referrals for employability programmes (mainly from Jobcentre Plus but also through other engagement activities); and then ensuring that these referrals are channelled through to the most appropriate programme/officer (including Communities First, Communities for Work, Bridges 2 – and in future to include PACE, Inspire to Work). This has enabled customers to receive a holistic employment support package as well as a simplified process for the referring organisation so they do not need to worry about knowing the eligibility for the different programmes, where this process is handled by the triage worker. Following an initial period of setup, the Communities for Work programme is now starting to see some real success, both in terms of people entering employment and also more personal achievements for those customers experiencing some of the most complex barriers to work.

A case study of a Bridges into Work Participant

LB joined the Bridges into Work Project in January, following being long term unemployed (over 20 years) as a result of an accident. She later supported her husband in an administrative capacity to run a business, and raised two children, but due to a change in circumstances is looking to return to the workforce

Before joining Bridges into Work LB successfully passed the information technology ECDL qualification to back up existing skills, and secured voluntary work with the Citizens Advice Bureau in Pontypridd. LB has since attended and successfully passed Emergency First Aid and Health and Safety through Bridges into Work and working to further enhance her CV and employment prospects.

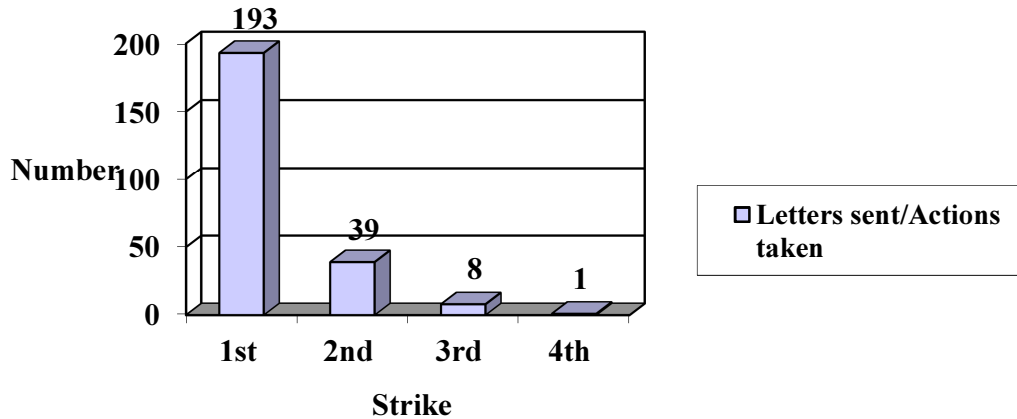
LB was initially concerned about selling herself to employers and explaining any gaps in her employment history, but with every course and additional experience that LB gains, her self-confidence and momentum to secure employment increases. She has achieved so much, in such a short space of time.

LB has completed a voluntary placement in administration within Community Education and is currently considering different options with regards to employment, which she is guaranteed to achieve with her positive can-do attitude. LB has decided to continue with her work placement despite having completed the mandatory hours for the project and her confidence continues to grow.



Safer Caerphilly Anti-Social Behaviour 4 Strike Process Safer Caerphilly runs a 4 strike process to address anti-social behaviour. This involves sending letters to individuals to warn them about their behaviour, parenting and mentoring support and seeking civil injunctions in court. Throughout April to September 2016 there were 193 referrals into the process which

ASB 4 Strike Figures April - September 2016



resulted in one civil injunction at the 4th stage of the process.

The chart above shows the overall intervention figures for each stage within the process for both adults and young people. During April – September 2016 82% of Strike 1 referrals into the process were for young people under the age of 18. Please see below for a breakdown at each stage.

	Juvenile	Adult
Strike 1	82%	18%
Strike 2	72%	28%
Strike 3	100%	0%
Strike 4	0%	100%

The information provided below is based on three projects that the Safer Caerphilly partners are currently working on:

Project Bernie 2017 - the Safer Caerphilly Fire Safety Action Team has now started the planning process for Project Bernie 2017. Project Bernie is based on a social marketing concept, which aims to reduce deliberate grass fires by addressing behaviours and attitudes within the community. The project has run in the last five years in the Barged area with great success. In 2017 the project will continue to run in Bargoed but at a reduced capacity as the amount of incidents in this area have greatly reduced since the project was initially set up. In 2017 the project will also look to have some elements run in the south of the borough which is an emerging hot spot area for deliberate fires. The project will involve a multi-agency response to the problem and includes an advertising and marketing campaign, patrols of the areas and numerous youth activities, which will focus on addressing the problem of deliberate grass fires.

After Dark Initiative - the Safer Caerphilly After Dark initiative looks to address night time economy issues in town centres. Organisations signing up to the scheme include numerous departments within Caerphilly County Borough Council, Gwent Police, and volunteer agencies including the Street Pastor Scheme. The three agreed aims of the scheme are to:

- reduce night time economy related crime (specifically violence, damage, and hate crime).
- improve communication with night time economy agencies and coordinate action.
- making Caerphilly and Blackwood town centres safer.

This year partners are working on a December social media campaign leading up to the Christmas period. A series of open letters by night time economy staff will be written and regularly released in the build up to the holiday season, which will capture a typical shift for one of the workers. It is hoped that these letters will be completed by a variety of workers including a Police Officer, Community Safety Warden, taxi driver, take away staff, bar staff, Street Pastor etc., Throughout the project staff that run the towns pubs and clubs will be engaged to ensure the agencies and businesses work together to reduce crime and disorder in the problematic areas.

White Ribbon Day - is the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and falls each year on the 25th November. The White Ribbon Campaign aims to prevent Violence Against Women and Girls and promote respectful relationships. Caerphilly County Borough Council was successful in obtaining White Ribbon Status in July 2014. The White Ribbon Campaign Town Award is for Councils demonstrating their commitment to the aims of the White Ribbon Campaign:

- in particular involving men and boys in prevention activities. By mobilising men the anti-violence message increases in effectiveness and reach;
- addressing and altering social norms that leads to violent behaviour against women;
- increasing awareness on the issue and providing services aimed at reducing the incidence of domestic violence; and
- mobilise the entire community under the goal of ending violence against women and girls.

This year in the lead up to White Ribbon Day residents, groups and organisations were encouraged to join forces in *standing together* against domestic violence in the Caerphilly county borough as part of a social media awareness raising campaign.

The #caerphillystandingtogether campaign - was initially developed in March 2015 and was highly successful with over 90 people/organisations sharing pictures of their feet, and in excess of 250,000 people were reached throughout the month. This was promoted again in November to continue to raise awareness of domestic violence and the support services available in Caerphilly county borough, and to ultimately empower anyone who is experiencing domestic violence to seek support. People were asked to *tweet their feet* and upload a photo of their feet to Twitter with the hashtag **#caerphillystandingtogether** to show they believe violence in all forms is wrong.



Join our campaign and tweet your feet to say

#caerphillystandingtogether



against domestic violence

@safercaerphilly



<http://your.caerphilly.gov.uk/saferccb>



For more information regarding the above projects please contact the Community Safety Team on: 01495 235350.

Greener Caerphilly (Paul Cooke)

sustainabledevelopment@caerphilly.org.uk

The Greener Caerphilly Leadership Group - has reviewed the Greener Caerphilly Action Plan and proposed changes so that the focus of the work will be on ensuring that:

- the partnership and partners are fully engaged in the completion of the Local Well-Being Assessment and the development of the Local Well-Being Plan projects.
- the Leadership Group manages and monitors it's partnership projects and added value activities.

Outcome G1 – Improving local environmental quality

- **A Landscape Crime Toolkit** - has been developed and launched. The multi-agency initiative covering 3 local authority areas has been designed to safeguard the environment from illegal and anti-social use. Particular initial targets are fly-tipping, off-road motor cycling and arson. The project is funded through the Welsh Government's Nature Fund, which aims to improve the resilience of nature and support the needs of society by promoting joined-up, collaborative and area based actions.

An action - *to initiate the use of the Landscape Crime Toolkit* has been added to the Greener Caerphilly Action Plan for 2016/17.

Outcome G2 – Reducing the causes of, and adapting to the effects of Climate Change

- **Education for Sustainable Development**

An exercise has been undertaken to map the 7 well-being goals against Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship, the Literacy and Numeracy Framework, Eco Schools and Healthy Schools to identify what schools are currently doing and what they could do, to incorporate greener issues into the curriculum. This document will be shared with schools to raise awareness of the Well-being of Future Generations Act and Greener Issues. This work is also being used as part of the Local Well-Being Assessment, in particular in assessing the Globally Responsible Goal.

Equalities (Anwen Rees)

equalities@caerphilly.gov.uk

Welsh Language Standards – extensive work at Caerphilly County Borough Council is being undertaken around the Welsh Language Standards including:

- a response submitted to the Welsh Government consultation on their Draft Welsh Language Strategy, which aims to create a million Welsh speakers by 2050 and includes the following 6 strategic areas of development: language planning and policy; normalisation; education; people; support and rights;
- work with Human Resources on assessing new and vacant posts as Welsh essential or Welsh desirable. Completing a Welsh language assessment as part of a business case for new or vacant posts at the Council has been in place since 1st October 2016; and
- ensuring the Welsh Language Standards are being implemented consistently across the Council and dealing with departmental enquiries.

Draft 5 Year Welsh Language Strategy - Caerphilly County Borough Council has a long-standing tradition of developing and implementing Welsh Language Schemes, from the first that was published in November 1998 to its most recent, which ended in March 2016. Changes in legislation now mean that Welsh Language Schemes are no longer required and so for the period 2017-2022 the Council has embedded Welsh Language issues into its second Strategic Equality Plan, both directly in its **Strategic Equality Objective (SEO) 6 - Compliance with the Welsh Language Standards**, but also indirectly under other SEOs in terms of communications access, staff training and monitoring and dealing with complaints.

The new Welsh Language Standards however, specifically Standard 145 under the first set of Welsh Language Regulations, places the following new requirement on the Council:

You must produce, and publish on your website, a 5-year strategy that sets out how you propose to promote the Welsh language and to facilitate the use of the Welsh language more widely in your area; and the strategy must include (amongst other matters) (a) a target (in terms of the percentage of speakers in your area) for increasing or maintaining the number of Welsh speakers in your area by the end of the 5 year period concerned, and (b) a statement setting out how you intend to reach that target; and you must review the strategy and publish a revised version on your website within 5 years of publishing a strategy (or of publishing a revised strategy).

The draft strategy has been consulted on internally and will be out for public consultation shortly. For further information contact: equalities@caerphilly.gov.uk

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