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For all enquiries relating to this agenda please contact John Elliott
(Tel: 01443 864415 Email: ellioj@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Date: 10th September 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee** will be held in the **Sirhowy Room, Penallta House, Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach** on **Wednesday, 17th September, 2014** at **10.30 am** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda.

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 Rhymney 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 Rhymney Room.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Chris Burns'.

Chris Burns
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A G E N D A

- 1 To receive apologies for absence.
- 2 Declarations of interest.
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: -

A greener place Man gwyrddach



- 3 Voluntary Sector Sub-Committee Minutes 18 June 2014
- 4 Voluntary Sector Representative Question on learning Disability Services- response Jo Williams, Assistant Director of Adult Services

Compact Partners Presentations: -

- 5 The work of Groundwork in the Caerphilly Borough- Katy Stevenson and Mark Evans from Groundwork;
- 6 The work of GAVO in the Caerphilly Borough- Martin Featherstone and Emily Forbes from GAVO

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

- 7 Aneurin Bevan University Health Board- presentation Neighbourhood Care Networks by Sam Crane from ANUHB
- 8 Digest of Committee Reports from Caerphilly County Borough Council;
- 9 Caerphilly Business Forum;
- 10 Caerphilly Community and Town Councils;
- 11 South Wales Fire and Rescue Service;
- 12 Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent;
- 13 Gwent Police.
- 14 Voluntary Sector Events- Jackie Dix, Policy and Research Manager CCBC: -
 - § Postponed Compact Partners Event 4th November 2014;
 - § One Beat – 25th October 2014.

To receive and note the following information items: -

- 15 Community Planning Quarterly Briefing - July to September 2014.
- 16 Date of the next meeting: 3rd December 2014 at 10.30am in the Ebbw and Sirhowy combined rooms, Penallta House.

Circulation:

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

Representatives of the Voluntary Sector:

Mrs S. Brown, Age Concern
Mr L. Clay, Abertridwr Community Church
Mr R.H. Cooke, Caerphilly Groundwork Trust
Mrs B. Helps, Caerphilly Parents and Carers Forum
Ms M. Jones, Caerphilly Parents Network
Mr P. Jones, Abbeyfield (Caerphilly) Society Limited
Ms J. Lawton, Caerphilly MIND
Mr C. Luke, Caerphilly People First
Ms J. Price, Bargoed YMCA

Ms M. Snowden, Homestart Caerphilly
Mrs C. White, Cancercareline
Mrs C. Williams, Cruse Bereavement Care
Mr D. Brunton, Volunatry Sector Representatives
Mr M. Featherstone, GAVO
Mr I. Racz, Graig-y-Rhacca Communities Partnership
Mrs H. Williams, Disability CANDO Organisation
Mrs M. Wade, Vanguard Caerphilly
Mr J. Wade, Van Road United Reform Church
Mr P. Mitchell, SYDIC
Mr K. Viney, The Settlement
Ms J. Morgan, New CLURV
Mr N. Young, Hospital League of Friends

Aneurin Bevan Health Board:

Mrs B. Bolt and Ms S. Crane

Gwent Police:

Inspector K. Childs and Superintendent B. Williams

The Office of the Gwent Police & Crime Commissioner:

Mr N. Taylor

South Wales Fire & Rescue Services:

Ms D. Crossman

Caerphilly Business Forum:

Mr T. Sheehan

Town & Community Councils Representative:

H. Llewellyn

And Appropriate Officers

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VOLUNTARY SECTOR SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN
ON WEDNESDAY, 18TH JUNE 2014 AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

Mr. R. Cooke – Chair

Councillors:

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

Together with:

Abbeyfield	-	Mr. P. Jones
Abertridwr Community Church	-	Mr. L. Clay
Age Cymru	-	Ms. S. Brown
Bargoed YMCA	-	Ms. J. Price
Caerphilly 50+ Forum	-	Mr. D. Morgan
Caerphilly Care & Repair	-	Ms. P. Jones
Caerphilly Groundwork Trust	-	Mr. R. H. Cooke
Caerphilly Parents & Carers Forum	-	Mrs. B. Helps
Caerphilly People First	-	Mr. C. Luke
Cancercareline	-	Mr. A. Read
Cruse Bereavement Care	-	Mrs. C. Williams
GAVO – Assistant Chief Executive	-	Mrs. E. Forbes
Graig Y Rhacca Communities Partnership	-	Mr. G. Mitchell
Homestart Caerphilly Borough	-	Ms. G. Jervis
New CLURV	-	Mrs. J. Morgan
The Parent Network	-	Ms. M. Jones
The Vanguard Centre	-	Mrs. M. Wade
Van Road United Reformed Church	-	Mr. J. Wade
Vice Chair, Voluntary Sector Representatives	-	Mr. D. Brunton

Also present:

J. Dix (CCBC Policy & Research Manager), J. Elliott (CCBC Senior Research Officer), Alison Palmer & Geraint Jones (GAVO), Mr. D. Morgan (Town & Community Council Representative), Mrs. Alison Gough (ABUHB), Sgt. R. Davies (Gwent Police), Mrs. M. Chapman (Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Gwent), Mrs. D. Crossman (South Wales Fire & Rescue Service), Hayley Evans (CCBC – Principal Waste Management Officer), Ms. Ann Mathews & Lisa McLain (Caerphilly & Blaenau Gwent CAB).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Ms. L. Ackerman.

Also from Ms. J. Lawton (Caerphilly MIND), Mrs. H. Williams (Disability Can Do Organisation), Mr. M. Thorne (SYDIC), Mr. K. Viney (The Settlement), Mr. G. Mitchell (Graig-y-Rhacca Communities Partnership), Mr. M. Featherstone (Chief Executive - GAVO), Ms. S. Crane (ABUHB), Mr. H. Llewellyn (Town & Community Councils Representative)

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None declared.

3. MINUTES

3.1 Mrs. E. Forbes (Assistant Chief Executive – GAVO) stated that she did attend the meeting in March but was not included on the attendance list.

3.2 Accuracy of minutes of 19th March 2014 was agreed.

4. LAUNCH OF THE COMPACT ACTION PLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14

4.1 The Leader of the Council, Councillor Keith Reynolds launched the Compact Action Plan Annual Report, with the following words: "As the new Leader of Caerphilly county borough council, I am delighted to be involved in the long-standing, vibrant and successful collaboration that has developed between all partners within the Compact since it was established back in 1999.

4.2 The Compact is more than just a strategic document, it reflects the very essence of what we are all trying to achieve, working together for the benefit of everyone across our local communities.

4.3 As you know, the aspirations outlined in the Compact are delivered through an annual Action Plan. This key document provides a detailed programme of work involving all partners and it is encouraging to see that so much has been achieved over the past 12 months.

4.4 It is vitally important that we continually review and evaluate our work to ensure we are on track. That is why this Action Plan is such a key document which allows us to track progress and take any corrective measures if needed.

4.5 The ongoing financial constraints facing public services means that there are tough times ahead for us all, but I'm confident that we can overcome these challenges by continuing on our journey together and presenting a strong, united front.

4.6 I now look forward to the year ahead and I'm sure that we will see many more excellent examples of successful partnership working at its finest thanks to our innovative Compact agreement."

5. PRESENTATION: UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE CAERPHILLY & BLAENAU GWENT CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU BY ANN MATHEWS AND LISA MCLAIN (OPERATIONS MANAGERS)

5.1 Ann Matthews said the CAB has been delivering Outreach Services for over 12 years, which was originally funded by the Coalfields Regeneration Fund and Big Lottery. Outreach advice is delivered throughout Caerphilly & Blaenau Gwent. Currently there are two projects which are funded by the Welsh Government, these are **Better Advice for Better Lives** and **Community First Shared Outcomes Project**.

- Better Advice for Better Lives aims to maximise income for those people living in deprived areas, and is delivered primarily at GP surgeries / Health Centres.
- Community First Shared Outcomes Project is working in partnership with Community First Cluster Managers, to provide advice in community settings. Clients have help within their local communities, so there is no need to travel.

5.2 Lisa McLain introduced this part of the presentation on CAB Specialist Services. The services provided are:-

- The Physical Contact Centre which is staffed by 29 volunteers contributing to the national Citizens Adviceline Service.
- Proof of Concept. Only 35% of calls to Adviceline are answered, so there are plans to make this service more accessible, and achieve a rate of 70,000 answered calls per year.
- Quality Coaches. This covers monitoring the quality and consistency of Adviceline Cymru.
- Three full time bi-lingual Quality Coaches are employed.
- Face-to-Face Debt Advice. There are three FTE specialist debt advisors across Caerphilly & Blaenau Gwent.
- CCBC Rents Project. Working with tenants with a view to reducing rent and council tax arrears, whilst also addressing other debts.
- Supporting People Project. This is a debt casework project for clients receiving assistance through the Supporting People network.
- Integrated Digital Money Advice. This is a six-month pilot, delivering debt advice via web chat and online enquiry (email).

Contact details:- Ann Matthews 01443 878051, Lisa McLain 01443 878067

Various questions were asked of the two managers:-

1. It does seem that debt problems are now an increasing trend with the CAB client base. It was agreed that these are now where crisis is becoming the norm.
2. Isn't there an overlap between other services, which are provided from other organisations, in the voluntary sector? The CAB has regular meetings with a number of voluntary organisations, but if there are more organisations with whom we could discuss issues, we would be keen to know of them.
3. For communities in poverty, travelling costs are a problem. The CAB are aware of this and the outreach services are designed to eliminate or minimise travel costs within communities.
4. Formal debt remedies are applied with clients.

5. The CAB is working well with other organisations including Credit Unions.
6. Are drop in centres open at times which would maximise their use by clients who work during the day? A drop in centre has been provided for Thursday evenings.
7. Is advice on debt issues for youngsters covered by the CAB, as some youngsters have to pay off student loans? There are no age barriers for debt advice. The CAB works with 'The Basement' in Blackwood to engage with young people.
8. Cllr. C. Hawker praised the recent BBC television programme which covered the good work of the CAB, for providing financial advice to people, in various circumstances in the county borough.

6. VOLUNTARY SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES QUESTION: A QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION AROUND WASTE COLLECTION / DISPOSAL CHARGES FACING THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR (HAYLEY EVANS – PRINCIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT OFFICER CCBC)

- 6.1 Bargoed YMCA raised a point as to whether it was permissible for voluntary organisations that are sharing premises, to share waste bins. The response was that it is permissible, however, one of the voluntary organisations would have to sign the waste certificate (as it can only be placed in one name) and take responsibility for the duty of the care for the certificate.
- 6.2 If a voluntary organisation decides to have a small waste bin to reduce charges, the Council needs to be assured that the organisation is able to dispose of all of its waste responsibly.
- 6.3 A voluntary organisation mentioned that it was developing an environmental green policy, including recycling and reducing waste, and the Officer commented that the Council would be happy to help with this.
- 6.4 The Officer advised that orange recycling bags should be put out on the normal recycling day, for the area. However, these bags may be placed out for collection on any day, within town centres, for collection. The comment was made that the Council was removing bins from organisations that had decided not to pay the charges, and sign a waste contract with the Authority.

7. VOLUNTARY SECTOR EVENTS: VERBAL UPDATE FROM JACKIE DIX (CCBC – POLICY & RESEARCH MANAGER)

Voluntary Sector Achievement Awards

This event will be held on the 2nd July, at Penallta House, from 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.

One Beat

This event will also be held in Penallta House, on the 25th October, from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. The guest speaker will be David Roberts, CBE a Paralympic Swimmer who trained in the Caerphilly borough, and is now a professional disabled swimmer representing Caerphilly County Swim. Invitations will be sent out from the Council in August regarding voluntary organisations having a display at the event. Last year there were over 90 voluntary sector stands on display.

Compact Partners Awareness Event for Middle Managers

At the request of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee, it was felt that although the Compact was well received by Directors and Senior Managers across the Compact Partner organisations, middle managers tended to be unaware of the Compact and its requirements. To address this a Compact awareness event will be held targeting middle managers across the Compact organisations at Penallta House in late autumn. Compact Partners were asked to send names to Jackie Dix, of appropriate staff members, to attend the event.

8. ITEMS OF INTEREST CONCERNING THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR FROM COMPACT PARTNERS

Agenda Item No. 8(a) - Digest of Committee reports from Caerphilly County Borough Council

With regard to the Caerphilly Youth Service Strategy consultation 2014 – 2019, Dave Brunton said he was consulting with children and young people, and voluntary organisations and would be submitting a response on the CCBC Youth Strategy Consultation. However, the response would be submitted close to the consultation deadline. He commented that the Strategy needs to have more ‘meat on the bones around partnership working,’ and on the role of the Voluntary Sector.

Agenda Item No. 8(b) - Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Emily Forbes (Assistant Chief Executive – GAVO) talked through the GAVO written update, and commented that the Committee will be provided with more information on the work of GAVO as a Compact Partner, representing the Voluntary and Community Sector in the Caerphilly county borough.

Cllr. J. Pritchard noted that Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry Community Council (DWRCC) attracted some funding from the Valleys Voices – Active Engagement Portfolio, and was this not unusual for a community council, to attract funding in this way?

Alison Palmer (Community Planning Co-ordinator, GAVO) replied that the successful funding came from the Big Lottery Community Voice programme. Under the GAVO portfolio programme was ‘Citizen’s Engagement’, which was designed to support LSB’s across Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent, Newport and Monmouthshire councils. The total was for £3 million over 5 years. This was undertaken by engaging with the DWRCC to host this part of the project.

Agenda Item No. 8(c) - Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

Cyril Luke (Caerphilly People First) said that he could not see any reference by the ABUHB on the Pan Gwent Learning Strategy, which does need to be mentioned, under the Gwent Mental Health and Learning Disability Partnership update.

Cllr. Andrew Lewis said that he was concerned about the situation regarding the closure of the surgery in Trinant. In reply, Alison Gough (Partnership Manager, ABUHB) said that a colleague, Sarah Congreve, would be able to update Cllr. Lewis on this matter. She will ask Sarah to get in touch with Cllr. Lewis.

Agenda Item No. 8(d) – Caerphilly Business Forum

No update available.

Agenda Item No. 8(e) – Caerphilly Community and Town Councils

No update available.

Agenda Item No. 8(f) - Gwent Police

Cllr. Dave Carter gave an update on some policing matters, which he had obtained from a recent council conference. A major event which is planned for Newport, the NATO Summit, will be held on the 4th and 5th September and will be based in the Celtic Manor Hotel. There

are expected to be 150 high profile world leaders, representing their countries, both within the NATO Alliance, and outside the alliance. They will have approximately 10,000 support staff, and 10,000 to 20,000 demonstrators are expected. There will also be 10,000 police, protection officers. It is expected that on occasions delegates will travel from Newport to the Cardiff area and return so Gwent Police are warning of considerable traffic delays, at times, to and from those locations over those two days. Police recommendations suggest varying degrees of disruption to travel, two weeks before the dates above, and also one week later.

Cllr. John Bevan said that it was good to see that some police station front counters had re-opened, but unfortunately that was not the case in Rhymney. Sgt. Robert Davies said that he would take those comments back to his Inspector.

The Chair thanked Sgt. Davies for his report and wished all local police personnel who are retiring, well and hoped that they had a long and happy retirement.

Agenda Item No. 8(g) - South Wales Fire & Rescue Service

Contained within the report, which caused members of the committee some concern, were the figures showing an increase in car fires, and the question was asked "were these fires as a result of increasing malicious damage, or as a result of accidents / electrical / fuel faults?" Donna Crossman (Partner Agency Manager, SWFRS) said she would check on the figures and provide an update for the next meeting.

Agenda Item No. 8(h) - Police & Crime Commissioner for Gwent

Maria Chapman updated the committee with her attached report. The Commissioner has held twelve public surgeries across Gwent, three of which were in Caerphilly County Borough. Funding has been provided by the Commissioner for a Co-ordinator post to enhance the operation of the OWL scheme.

A committee member asked about the future of PACT meetings? There is work in progress to retain PACT meetings where there are substantial members of the public regularly attending but in areas where the PACT meetings are poorly attended, it was felt that police attendance was not an efficient use of police resources. Therefore PACT meetings in areas of poor attendance may not continue.

Maria Chapman also gave some information to the committee, with reference to the Gwent Police Report, on the re-opening of front desks at certain police stations. She said that should a community wish to see this facility opened at their local police station then the written request must have evidence of the degree of usage, by the public. This may take the form of a diary to indicate the number of issues, where the public would have wanted face-to-face access, to the police.

9. TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ITEM

9(a) Community Planning Quarterly Briefing April to June 2014

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS:- 17TH SEPTEMBER AND 3RD DECEMBER 2014

Next meeting on the 17th September, will be held at 10.30 a.m. in the Sirhowy / Ebbw Rooms on the 1st floor, at Penallta House. The meeting on the 3rd December will be held at 10.30 a.m. in the Council Chamber at Penallta House.

Meeting ended 11.50 a.m.



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 17TH SEPTEMBER 2014

SUBJECT: LEARNING DISABILITY SERVICES

REPORT BY: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ADULT SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To respond to the questions raised by the Voluntary Sector Representatives on the Council's learning disability services

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Voluntary Sector Representatives have submitted a series of questions to the Council on learning disability services. This report provides the Council's response to the queries raised.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Learning Disabilities Services come under the Healthier Outcome of the Single Integrated Plan.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 **We hear that the Council are making cuts across services for people with learning disabilities if this happens what is the outcome for service users? - where do they go? and what about their parents and carers - will they get the help they need?**

As part of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) all directorates of the Council have to put forward proposals to make the identified savings following the reduced settlement from Welsh Government. Proposal impact on all residents of the borough and are not targeted a specific client group. At a series of special scrutiny committee all directorates were asked to provide reports on their discretionary services, these are services the Council currently chooses to provide but does not legally have to. One of these proposals covered day services for adults, the preference of members of the Health Social Care and Well-Being committee members was to request officers do further work on two options:-

1. Rationalise the number of buildings that day service is currently provided from. This would look to provide service on regional basis with reduction in the number of satellite centers.
2. Provide a targeted day services for people who meet critical and substantial need, which is the eligibility criteria that is likely to be introduced across Wales in accordance with the Well-Being Act.

Officers are currently working on these proposals and a further report will be taken to scrutiny in October. It must be stressed that these are still proposals and decisions will be made by cabinet and full council next year.

If these proposals are progressed individual and carers will be reviewed individually to determine eligibility and how their needs are met. It is important to note that people may still have needs, however, they will not be met by the Council in the same way as they are currently. Alternative community solutions that are not commissioned need to be developed with individuals being more in control of meeting their own needs and outcomes.

4.2 Who are day services intended for? For example people with a learning disability, older people with learning disabilities, parents and carers for respite?

Day services are provided for adults over the age of 18. Provision could be to meet need of social isolation and or to enable a carer/family to continue in their caring role.

4.3 What are statutory duties relating to learning disability services? - and what are discretionary?

Services are not designated statutory or discretionary based on client groups. Discretionary services for social services include, day services, shopping, meals on wheels and transport which impact on all people over the age of 18.

4.4 Can you give examples of criteria for 'moderate', 'substantial' and 'critical'?

It is not possible to give examples as it depends on individual assessments, which could include a carer's assessment where applicable.

4.5 Transport costs – how much are they? – and who is eligible for transport?

In the 2013/14 financial year the integrated transport unit held a budget for adult social care transport of £1.023m. However, projected spend for the year currently amounts to £1.178m.

At present there is no eligibility criteria for transport, and virtually everyone who attends day centers accessing the local authority transport. The introduction of an eligibility criteria would look to promote individuals independence by provision of travel training, and getting people to use either their mobility vehicles or mobility allowance.

4.6 What will be the redundancy costs for staff? – and impact on budget?

At this stage it is not possible to say if there will be any redundancies but the first option would be redeployment of staff to other service areas.

4.7 Would the Council be happy to receive some Third Sector solutions/ideas?

The Council would be happy to receive any suggestions/ideas that would save money.

Author: Jo Williams, Assistant Director of Adult Services



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 17TH SEPTEMBER 2014

SUBJECT: THE WORK OF GROUNDWORK IN THE CAERPHILLY BOROUGH

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER GROUNDWORK CAERPHILLY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This is a background report for Committee Members on the work of Groundwork in the Caerphilly borough to accompany the presentation to be given to the Committee by Katy Stevenson and Mark Evans from Groundwork.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report documents Groundwork Caerphilly current work programmes.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The work of Groundwork links to the Greener outcome of *Caerphilly Delivers The Single Integrated Plan 2013-14*. Katy Stevenson is the Lead for the Greener Outcome sitting on the Leads Group for the Single Integrated Plan.

4. THE REPORT

4.1 Groundwork Communities First Projects

This suite of projects takes place within the Communities First cluster areas in the borough funded by the Communities First Programme.

- **Active in the Outdoors**

The main purpose of the project is to encourage community members to become more physically active, and improve their health. The Environmental Participation Officers engage and encourage community members to participate in physical activity within their local natural environment. The key purpose of this project is to increase the mental and physical health of participants and assist with gaining new skills and to help people who are disengaged in society to participate in a positive programme.

- **Foodwise**

This project involves the Communities First Health and Wellbeing Officer and the Environmental Participation Officer working with a variety of community members, covering a wide demographic range, to raise awareness of healthy eating and practical cooking skills. The project is two fold:-

- a structured 8-week weight management programme
- practical cooking sessions to provide participants the opportunity to practically reinforce the messages provided through Foodwise.

Sessions are delivered in an interactive, adaptable manner to suit the needs of the attendees and predominantly focused on integrating healthy eating messages into participants' lives in order to improve their nutritional intake.

- **Green Doctor**

This project engages community members who are in fuel poverty or at risk of fuel poverty, leading to problems relating to household debt. Through workshops and home visits community members are given specialist impartial advice on energy saving measures and review the community's current energy providers. By providing encouragement and advice to community members to undertake and implement energy saving measures and explore cheaper tariffs, people start feeling confident in managing their energy bills. Partners play a key role in this project as a joined up approach is necessary to support these customers, as the fuel poverty element may only be one part of the customer's debt problems.

- **Outdoor Action**

The project engages and trains people in an outdoor setting in the implementation of small-scale environmental projects identified by the community and partners. The environment is used to help people into long-term employment through programmes that build their social and personal skills, whilst providing accreditation and opening up potential career options. The project provides environmental project work to those who are unemployed with the aim of providing skills and experience which can be used to enhance employment prospects.

In 2013 Groundwork supported Communities First Areas of Caerphilly through a **Healthy Homes Project** and received 120 referrals in just 2 months. During the life of this project the following installations were made:-

Internal Door Brushes	Shower Timer	Freestanding Clothes Airier	Window Foam Trim	Energy Efficient Light Bulbs	Reflective Radiator Panels	Bath 2 Shower Adapter	Flush Saver	Thermo meters	Letter Box Cover
100	4	29	70	233	115	7	65	9	2

Case studies were drafted on the beneficiaries of this initiative; here is just one example -

Cefn Forest

The tenants of this property are a middle-aged couple at the lower end of the economic range and were in severe fuel poverty. The tenant discussed that she cannot afford to heat her home using the conventional method of gas and was instead using a high energy consumption electric heater as this provided instant relief from the cold. The gas was only used for cooking and was not used to warm the home at all. The lights were off in the property and the house felt cold and draughty. It was soon identified that there was a real need for energy saving measures to be installed including hippo bag, draught excluders, energy saving light bulbs and investigation into shower adapters as the tenant was only able to bath at the property which would obviously use a considerable level of water and gas to heat the water. Groundwork referred the tenant for additional support via Citizens Advice Bureau and Caerphilly County Borough Council Mental Health Team. The tenant had made contact with the council and was awaiting further information with regards to downgrading the property in order to be able to heat the home and buy food. Groundwork staff followed up with the council housing department on behalf of the tenant.

4.2 Healthy Rivers Programme

The South East Wales Rivers Trust (SEWRT) and Natural Resource Wales (NRW) have undertaken walkover surveys that have identified issues that are impacting on fish populations and other aspects of the ecology on the Sirhowy River. The objective of Healthy Rivers is to work in partnership with South East Wales Rivers Trust and Natural Resources Wales to co-ordinate the removal or modification of barriers of fish migration, The other objective of

Healthy Rivers is to promote the river to the local communities and groups, whilst also improving the local environment around the water way. The Healthy Rivers Programme has:-

- worked with a range of partners including Caerphilly County Borough Council, SEWRT and NRW, and other organisations to co-ordinate and facilitate the removal of barriers that restrict fish migration along the Sirhowy River
- maintained a steering group of interested parties
- researched and identified landowners on which the barriers are present, and sourced permissions from land owners to in order to remove these barriers
- co-ordinated the removal of barriers, conserved, and restored the water environment and associated habitats of the River Sirhowy
- promoted and educated the River Sirhowy and Fishing to local communities, groups and schools.

The following is a case study example from the initiative:-

Case Study: Penmaen Weir

Penmaen weir was a medium sized concrete weir across the river channel. It was a barrier to fish migration particularly in low flow conditions. To overcome the barrier Healthy Rivers coordinated the modification of the weir. A block stone pre barrage was built downstream of the weir to raise the water level below the weir. This has created 2 small jumps for migratory fish instead of 1 large jump. Salmon have been able to successfully jump over and swim past the weir this winter to lay their eggs.

4.3 Rural Green Doctors Programme

Groundwork Caerphilly's Rural Green Doctors helps sustain community venues, reduces carbon emissions, offers free energy advice to householders and community venues and helps them save money. Rural Green Doctors are qualified energy advisers who provide free and comprehensive energy advice to people who run community buildings in designated rural wards of the Caerphilly county borough. The programme began in January 2012 and is part-funded by the Rural Development Plan (RDP) to improve services in rural areas. This is done by visiting a community building, assessing where energy is used and wasted, comparing fuel suppliers and producing a full report recommending cost saving measures. Community buildings can then improve their energy efficiency, reduce their carbon footprint and reduce their energy bills. The Rural Green Doctors support the people who run the venues to implement changes. Most community venues are run by unpaid volunteers, who often lack the skills or confidence to increase the energy efficiency of the venue or negotiate with energy firms.

The following is a case study example from the initiative:-

Case Study – Ebenezer Baptist Church, Llanbradach

In 2012, the Rural Green Doctors carried out a free comprehensive energy assessment of the building and the way it is used by groups. They surveyed the Hall and sat down with the Church committee to discuss the use of the building and when it needed to be heated. The Rural Green Doctors then produced a report with recommendations for improvement and helped the Church look for funding. The energy assessment of the building found that only 50% of the building had double-glazing, the existing gas boiler was old and ineffective and the heating controls were inadequate. Groundwork Caerphilly obtained quotes for improvement work and the Church acquired funding from the Community Regeneration Fund to make the changes. The new energy efficient boiler allowed heating to be zoned to the ground and first floors separately over different time periods.

Before the Rural Green Doctors visited the Hall the Committee had difficulty heating the building. Now the 70 people who use the Hall every week can enjoy an old building that's a warm and inviting community space.

Ron Walton, Secretary of Ebenezer Baptist Church Hall, said - *I was pleased to be contacted by the Rural Green Doctors team. They gave professional advice on how our Church Hall could be made more energy efficient and carbon emissions reduced. I was pleasantly pleased with the report, which, following consideration by the Church Committee we were happy to implement. Our 'Mother and Toddler' group and 'Knitting Circle' have said the building is a much cosier place since the improvements were made.*

4.4 Healthy Villages Programme

Healthy Villages carries out physical, economic or social benefit projects in designated rural wards of the Caerphilly county borough. It supports groups and individuals to carry out projects, attract funding and make residents feel that their communities are a better place to live. The programme began in March 2011 and is part-funded by the Rural Development Plan (RDP) to make communities healthier. The term 'healthy' can be interpreted in various ways; in the past Healthy Villages have set up walking groups, secured funding for projects, supported community groups get online and have carried out physical improvement projects to encourage community cohesion.

The following is a case study example from the initiative:

Case Study – Aber Valley Cycle Path, Wildlife Interpretation Board

The Aber Valley Community Council felt that an existing cycle route joining the Penyrheol community with the Aber Valley had little information or signs and wanted to contribute an information board as a community. They chose to display information on local wildlife. The group contacted the Healthy Villages team and, working in partnership, applied for funding from the People's Postcode Trust that could be used to make improvements to the area. The group wanted to stamp their mark on what they felt was an uninspiring cycle route. They hoped that it would bring more people onto the route and so improve tourism in the local area. Crucially, the group wanted to implement a project that could pave the way for more community projects such as art and poetry walks along the route. The Community Council would like to see people using the cycle and learning about the local area as it has a rich heritage as a former mining town. Healthy Villages liaised with the Council to attain permissions for the installation of a wildlife interpretation board, forwarded community member's ideas to the board manufacturer and arranged work days to install the board. Members of the Community Council and the local primary school attended the work days that were arranged by experienced Healthy Villages' staff. Local people took an interest in the work that was carried out and expressed satisfaction with what the community group members achieved. During one of the work days, some children commented that digging the holes was the best part of their summer holiday!

4.5 Routes 2 Life Programme

Routes 2 Life is a skills development project that upskills groups individuals and engages them in a mentoring scheme. It offers formal and informal training from a horticulture site in Cwmfelinfach and a carpentry workshop in Aberbargoed. Two beneficiaries returned to work as a result of the support they received from Routes 2 Life. It is part-funded by the Rural Development Plan (RDP) to develop the skills of people living in designated rural wards of the Caerphilly county borough. The programme offers horticultural, agricultural and traditional skills training for individuals hoping to develop their employment prospects, self-esteem and general well-being whilst promoting the benefits of the natural environment and horticulture activities as a means of physical and mental recovery from a range of health problems. Training is tailored to individual needs and can deliver formal qualifications to individuals.

The following is a case study example from the initiative:-

Paul B (*started August 2013 continues to volunteer on a weekly basis 2-3x per week*). Paul had been unemployed for an excess of 12 months and wanted to gain practical skills. He has been informally trained at both the horticulture site and the carpentry workshop. He was one of the beneficiaries who helped built and create a garden at the RHS in Cardiff this year.

During his time with Routes 2 Life, Paul has undertaken Carpentry OCN modules, LANTRA Brushcutting qualifications and has a CSCS registration. Paul says - "*there has been a lot of new skills and techniques to be learned working at groundwork's workshop facility, with an excellent tutor with a lot of experience. It's given me a thirst for more woodworking opportunities.*"

4.6 Community Environment Network

The aim of the network is to promote and support the development and delivery of community environmental and maintenance projects, and facilitating opportunities for local people and organisations to play a central part in environmental, social and economic regeneration within the Caerphilly borough, and Torfaen borough designated SRA's (Strategic Regeneration Areas).

4.7 Future Steps – January 2014 to March 2015 (Job Centre Plus Flexible Support)

The Future Steps project provides a platform for young people aged 18 - 24 to engage in training and practical opportunities to enhance chances of employability across the Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent and Merthyr Tydfil boroughs. The programme provides young people with a work placement for enhancing skills, CV development and job search techniques. Trainees are provided with opportunities for a placement which include Countryside Management, Horticulture and at the social enterprise Furniture Revival. Training opportunities support interpersonal skills and development to improve gaining employment. In addition to work experience trainees are offered Agored Cymru accreditation in Working with Others Level 1 and a First Aid Qualification. Throughout the project participants are encouraged to Job search on a daily basis using the computers available and twice a month undertake Job search techniques i.e. CV writing and attending interviews. Ten participants have found employment during or just after finishing on the project. Jobs found have included working for a screening company, carpentry workshop assistant and plumbers mate.

The following is a case study example from the initiative:-

Case Study - James Davies

I started on the Future Steps programme in March. I was a little bit nervous starting meeting new people and also I didn't know what to expect. The programme was different to what I expected with different things going on, to keep it interesting. I enjoyed working on a Welsh dresser that needed total revamp including sanding, painting and varnishing. I left the programme with work experience, qualifications and knowledge of furniture revamp. I currently work at a Filling Station in Tredegar as a Cashier. I used my recent work experience, training and up to date references, to secure the post.

We have achieved a 79% completion rate.

4.8 Greencare

Greencare runs to a social enterprise and ILM model as a project within Groundwork Caerphilly, offering grounds maintenance services and installations. Greencare employs a core staff team and offers placement activity to those seeking employment skills.

4.9 Sustainable Play

Sustainable Play is an all Wales programme which will commence in October 2014. The Caerphilly borough will benefit from a team consisting of one senior play worker, three play workers and two apprentice play workers who will offer outdoor play sessions to children, young people and their families, and offering training to parents, young people and partner organisations in engagement with Children and Young People with Special Education Needs and Disabilities. The programme will run for three years to October 2017.

4.10 Go Green for Health

Go Green for Health will commence in November 2014 which will operate in the Mid Valleys West area, and offer, through partnership with GPs, a prescription for health using the outdoors and which offers innovative, technology based methods of tracking progress and demonstrating savings to the NHS.

4.11 Ty Mynyddislwyn Environment Centre

Ty Mynyddislwyn is our base, and a community facility available to groups and organisations within the borough to access modern office space, demo kitchen and IT training rooms and classroom for all suitable activities.

4.12 Key Groundwork Caerphilly Performance Data for 2013-2014

No. of Projects Actively Involving Schools	123
No. of Projects Actively Involving Partners	371
No. of businesses Supported	29
No. of Community Organisations Supported	150
Green Doctor Visits Delivered	56
No. of Spaces improved	738
Area of land improved	110,476 m2
Area of land maintained	1,430,805 m2
No. of Trees planted	637
No. of Adult Volunteering Days	5,534
No. of Young Person Volunteering Days	2,874
No. of Qualifications Community members have gained	51
Domestic CO2 emissions avoided/saved	559 tonnes

4.13 Key Groundwork Caerphilly Performance Data for April 2014 – June 2014

No. of Projects Actively Involving Schools	41
No. of Projects Actively Involving Partners	117
No. of businesses Supported	13
No. of Community Organisations Supported	40
Green Doctor Visits Delivered	6
No. of Spaces improved	251
Area of land improved	3,225 m2
Area of land maintained	328,074 m2
No. of Trees planted	3
No. of Adult Volunteering Days	1,169
No. of Young Person Volunteering Days	7,74
No. of Qualifications Community members have gained	6
Domestic CO2 emissions avoided/saved	45 tonnes

Author: Katy Stevenson, Chief Executive Officer, Groundwork Caerphilly



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 17TH SEPTEMBER 2014

SUBJECT: DIGEST OF CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report from Caerphilly CBC contains a digest of committee reports containing items of interest for the voluntary sector. If there are reports of particular interest Members can request the committee report author to attend a future meeting of the Voluntary Sector Committee to prepare a further report/take questions.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 A quarterly summary of Caerphilly CBC committee reports selected as they contain areas of interest for the voluntary sector.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 All Caerphilly CBC reports relate to aspects of the Caerphilly County Borough Community Strategy.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The following reports have been selected as having particular interest on voluntary sector issues (note Members can request a full hard copy of any of the reports included):-

POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 3RD JUNE 2014

Corporate Website Re-Design

The IT Development Manager, presented the report, which informed Members of the background, plan and estimated costs related to the redesign of the Authority's corporate website and the progress made to date. This report was prepared following a Member request for such information at the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 4th March 2014. The existing corporate website has been in place since September 2008, and since that time, technologies available and the expectations of users have become more sophisticated. A redesign of the facility was deemed to be required and a project initiated to deliver an enhanced solution during 2014.

End Of Year Update on Improvement Objective 6 (2013/14) – Improve the Availability of Private and Public Sector Housing to Reduce the Number of Residents Who May Become Homeless

The Principal Private Sector Housing Officer presented the end of year progress report against the Improvement Objective relating to improving the availability of public and private sector housing to reduce the number of residents who may become homeless. Members were informed that good progress was made throughout the year against the actions contained within the Improvement Objectives. Nine risks were identified and assessed, with eight risks closed and one remaining open. Of the twenty actions identified, nineteen have been successfully completed. Eight performance indicators were identified in total, with 6 performing above expectation, one below, and data for the remaining indicator not yet available, and full details were appended to the report.

Equalities and Welsh Language Annual Reports

The Senior Policy Officer - Equalities and Welsh Language, presented the report, which informed Members of the progress made during the financial year 2013/2014 against targets in the Council's current Strategic Equality Plan and Welsh Language Scheme. This report will be presented to Cabinet for approval for submission to the relevant Commissions and publication online, before the deadline date of 30th June 2014.

CABINET - 16TH JULY 2014

Introduction of Car Parking Charges at Country Parks

The report sought approval to proceed with the introduction of car parking charges at five country parks following the advertising of the Caerphilly County Borough Council Traffic Regulation Order. Car parking charges at country parks were agreed indicative proposals as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). They have now been advertised as required by regulations and the report outlines the responses received to the consultation. Given the level of public response it had been decided that the matter should be reported to Cabinet to decide whether or not the charges should be confirmed. The proposals have been advertised and the public consultation has been completed. On the advice of Legal Services the consultation period was extended by a week to allow for the Easter holidays and to ensure the public had adequate time to respond. Consultation ran between 3rd April and 2nd May 2014. The advertised charges for each of the parks is £1.00 for up to 2 hours or £3.00 for the day. Blue badge holders are allowed up to 3 hours for £1.00, this being in accordance with the concession previously approved by the Council. Season tickets will be available at a cost of £50.00 for 1 year (or £25.00 for 6 months).

Extension of Bedlinog Line/Dowlais Park and Ride

The report, which was presented to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 1st July 2014, informed members of the potential to extend the current freight line between Ystrad Mynach and Cwmbargoed to Dowlais Top to facilitate the potential future reinstatement of a passenger service. Members' views were sought on the proposal to develop and promote the scheme (in conjunction with Merthyr CBC) and ensure it receives due consideration amongst the other rail priorities identified and being developed in South East Wales.

REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 30TH JULY 2014

Community and Leisure Services Division Medium Term Financial Plan 2015/16 & 2016/17 – Items for Consideration

To consider the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) contributions from the Community and Leisure Services Division in accordance with the Cabinet Report of 16th April 2014 ("Next stages of the MTFP – 2015/16 & 2016/17").

This report asks the Scrutiny Committee to consider the Community and Leisure Services Division's contribution to assisting the Authority to meet its obligations in respect of the 2014/17 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), taking due note that:-

- (i) The Councils MTFP requires estimated savings of £6.5m for the 2015/16 financial year and £6.9m for 2016/17.
- (ii) Discretionary services are reviewed in full, including those areas of statutory provision where delivery exceeds the minimum required levels, with a view to identifying savings proposals totalling over £8m across the Authority.
- (iii) Further proposals for members to consider in respect of up to 3% efficiency savings. These efficiency savings targets to be applied to those statutory and essential services that the Authority has to deliver, either directly or via a third party organisation.

In both cases the savings identified for potential consideration should be presented to Special Scrutiny Committees between April and October 2014.

The Division operates a mix of statutory (e.g. waste services) and discretionary services (e.g. Sport and Leisure, Parks) with some other services (e.g. street cleansing) having a statutory basis with discretion over service delivery.

The report has therefore been subdivided into the 5 distinct services that make up the Community and Leisure Services Division with implication notes for each suggested saving being included as appendices.

The Scrutiny Committee is then asked to consider the suggested potential savings.

POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 5TH AUGUST 2014

Fairtrade Products

The purpose of this report is to advise the Scrutiny Committee on the council's current commitments to the purchasing of Fairtrade products. The report identifies what Fairtrade products are currently purchased and other methods used within the council for supporting Fairtrade and other ethical schemes.

A request was received from Cllr. Reynolds to ascertain the council's current position with regard to the purchasing of Fairtrade products. The report takes into account the purchase of food items that are approved as Fairtrade or form part of other ethical schemes and also seeks to establish if the council has any Fairtrade schools and what, if any, benefits they have experienced in gaining this accreditation.

Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. The Fairtrade Foundation provides a certification and a Trade Mark which can be used on products which meet international Fairtrade standards. As well as Fairtrade there are also other ethical schemes that are offered including, for example, the Rain Forest Alliance and the council also considers these other means of ethical consumerism alongside Fairtrade during the procurement process.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Equalities implications have been taken into account for a number of reports submitted to Cabinet and other committees.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None, this is an information paper only on the contents of Caerphilly CBC reports which contains items of interest for the Voluntary Sector Committee.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None arising.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 Not applicable.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Members are invited (if they feel appropriate) to select any report for further consideration by the committee by requesting the report author to attend a future meeting of the Voluntary Sector Committee to take questions/prepare another report.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 To ensure Members are fully briefed on items of interest for the Voluntary Sector.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Local Government Act 2000.

Author: John Elliott, Senior Research Officer
Consultees: Jackie Dix, Policy & Research Manager



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 17TH SEPTEMBER 2014

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

REPORT BY: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR GWENT

Community Remedy Consultation

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent (OPCC) ran a consultation exercise during July 2014 which asked the public to identify the key interventions suitable to be included in the Commissioner's Community Remedy Document. The Community Remedy document is designed to give victims more say in the punishment of anti-social behaviour incidents out of court. It is a list of options presented to a victim to indicate a preference for how an offender can be dealt with when they commit a minor crime or anti-social behaviour. The Community Remedy will be rolled out nationally in October 2014.

PCC Opens New Police Desk at Caerphilly Library

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Gwent officially opened a brand new Police Customer Service Desk at Caerphilly town centre's Library as part of a partnership forged with Caerphilly County Borough Council. The new Police Customer Service Desk is now open every Monday between 12 noon and 2.00 p.m. and every Thursday between 3.30 p.m. and 5.30 p.m.

The new customer service desk does not have the same functions as a police station but is a place where information is provided to the public on policing, crime prevention, etc. The public can also access information concerning low-level matters such as parking enforcement and information about local neighbourhood policing teams and informally chat to officers regarding local matters.

PCC Funds Wings to Fly

The Commissioner has recently made the decision to again fund the 'Wings to Fly' youth play for another year to raise young people's awareness of substance misuse.

Show Racism the Card

On 30th July the Commissioner answered questions from the anti-racism educational charity, Show Racism the Red Card Wales Newsletter, about racism in society, hate crime incidents and what can be done to help those affected by racism.

The Commissioner stated that his aim was that Gwent Police reflects the minority communities it serves and that he supports the Gwent Police Ethnic Minority Association (GEMA). The Commissioner highlighted the range of victims that come under the definition of hate crime and that he supports the Welsh Government's new 'Tackling Hate Crimes and Incidents' action framework. Both SEWREC and Victim Support can aid victims of hate crime across the Gwent area.

Funding to Tackle Rural Crime

The Home Office announced an investment of £39,200 to establish the National Rural Crime Network (NRCN). The Commissioner is one of 28 Commissioners throughout England and Wales who has signed up to participate in and back up the scheme. Based online, the NRCN will provide information and support for rural communities by encouraging direct interaction between businesses, organisations and the police.

The appointment of a dedicated and award-winning Gwent Police Farm Watch Co-ordinator last year has helped increase Farm Watch membership on OWL from 300 to nearly 800 members in just five months. And by using Farm Watch to connect with farmers and by increasing face-to-face engagement with them, rural related crime in Gwent has been significantly reduced by 66% in one year (when comparing June 2014 with June 2013).

Innovation Fund Award

The Commissioner has welcomed news that Gwent Police will share a slice of more than £2.2 million from a total of £50 million awarded by the Home Office for projects aimed at transforming policing through innovation and collaboration.

The Force will benefit from funding for the following projects:-

- a mobile data project to enable frontline officers to transmit and access information in remote and challenging terrains;
- enable officers to access intelligence at the point of need when attending incidents enabling them to be better prepared and informed before they arrive at the call - reducing the risk to officers and providing a better service to repeat and vulnerable victims;
- to divert women who have been arrested away from criminality and provide them with a new 'restorative' approach to their rehabilitation.

Stop and Search Dip Sampling

The Commissioner requested a dip sampling exercise during July for stop and search activity by police officers in the Gwent force area. This involved setting up a working group representing different aspects of communities in Gwent and included a young person representative. The group queried the use of intelligence to effective targeting of stop and search activity. However, it did identify a significant number of stops where the officer had not issued a receipt which highlighted the need for greater scrutiny of officer's recording mechanisms.

Police and Crime Panel

The Police and Crime Panel met on 11th August 2014 in Newport to examine the actions and decisions of Commissioner. The Panel makes sure information is available for you so that you can assess whether they are holding the Commissioner to account.

The Panel focuses on important strategic actions and decisions made by the Commissioner. The main focus of the meeting was the Commissioner's financial planning and covered:-

- 2013/14 Year End Financial Report
- Medium Term Financial Projections up to 2018/19
- Commissioning Update

Papers of this meeting can be accessed via the link:-

<http://www.gwentpcp.org.uk/content/meetings-gwent-police-and-crime-panel>

Author: Maria Chapman, for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE - 17TH SEPTEMBER 2014

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR - GWENT POLICE

REPORT BY: GWENT POLICE

Cadets

Currently there are 16 Cadets in the Caerphilly Local Policing Unit. The Cadets have undertaken many useful activities during the summer.

Amongst those activities were:-

- Public Community Engagement events held at - Ystrad Mynach Police Station, taking the form of a 'Fun Day'. Risca Police Station with the theme of pet safety, and at Bedwas Police Station with a BBQ and cowboy themed event.
- Attendance at the Big Cheese and the Bedwellty Show promoting Gwent Police Cadets.
- The Cadets attended a demonstration from the Gwent Police Dog Handling Section at Penallta Park.
- Seven Cadets went to the Mounted Section of South Wales Police for a day's insight into the many areas of policing, using police horses.
- Cadets completed work tidying a communal garden, at Greenacres in Bedwas.
- Cadets assisted in raising public awareness of issues regarding shed break-ins and metal theft in the Blackwood area.
- At the above event, Cadets signed up 74 members of the public to join the OWL Scheme.

Specials

Each year the Lord Ferrers Awards recognise outstanding contributions to volunteering in policing. The Home Office requirements for the nominations should, as in previous years, demonstrate:-

- particularly skilled policing or support for policing;
- a sustained involvement with a successful community initiative, and
- the application of personal skills to resolve an identified problem.

Special Inspector Christine Smith of Gwent Police was presented with the Ferrers Special Constabulary – Individual Award at the House of Commons, for her work with children in the community to help reduce anti-social behaviour.

Ms. Smith launched and runs the 'Making a Difference Project'. The scheme has improved confidence of 'at risk' children in the community, and she will be rolling out the project across the Gwent force area.



Crime Prevention Panels

The Crime Prevention Panels in Blackwood, Caerphilly and Risca continue to be involved in sterling work. Some areas of expertise relates to the provision of ASB (Anti-Social Behaviour) Cameras. These are loaned to businesses affected by ASB to either prevent, and or, to capture video and sound evidence of offenders who are victimising them.

Author: Sergeant R. Davies, Partnership Sergeant for Caerphilly LPU, Gwent Police



VOLUNTARY SECTOR COMMITTEE – 17TH SEPTEMBER 2014

**SUBJECT: COMMUNITY PLANNING QUARTERLY BRIEFING - JULY TO
SEPTEMBER 2014**

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Committee Members for information the Community Strategy Quarterly Briefing July to September 2014.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The briefing reports the activities of delivering the outcome areas of **Caerphilly Delivers** the Single Integrated Plan for community planning between July to September 2014.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Community Strategy is the pre-eminent partnership document for the county borough, which sets out a 15-year plan for improving quality of life for local people and communities. **Caerphilly Delivers** is the Single Integrated plan for delivery the Community Strategy, which came into being on 1st April 2013. 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.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Appendix 1 contains the Community Planning Briefing for July to September 2014. This is a quarterly briefing designed to give everyone involved in the community planning process across the Caerphilly county borough, as well as wider audiences, an overview of progress on delivering on the Community Strategy and implementing the Single Integrated Plan *Caerphilly Delivers*.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Promoting equalities is a fundamental part of community planning, and is an integral part of **Caerphilly Delivers** the Single Integrated Plan for delivering the Community Strategy.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Council is a major contributor in both financial and human resources to the community planning process.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None arising.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 The report is for information and not consultation.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The report is for information only.

10. STATUTORY POWER

- 10.1 Local Government Act 2000.

Author: Jackie Dix - Policy & Research Manager, CCBC
Consultees: The information provided in the briefing is supplied by officers for the *Caerphilly Delivers* outcome areas

Appendices:
Appendix 1 Community Strategy Quarterly Briefing July to September 2014

Appendix 1 - Community Planning Quarterly Briefing July to September 2014

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 & Howard Rees)
communityplanning@caerphilly.gov.uk

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales Bill)

The Well-being Bill was laid before the National Assembly for Wales on 7th July 2014, and is intended to make public bodies look at what they do in the long term as part of their decision making processes. The bill introduces a local well-being plan (replacing existing community planning Single Integrated Plans) to be produced by Public Service Boards (replacing the current Local Service Boards), which will now be statutory requirements.

Key to the Bill is an understanding of what people want. The Bill will establish an independent statutory Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, who will produce a report in relation to the better safeguarding of future generations' needs, informed by engaging citizens through periodic conversations. The Bill is intended to change the law to provide stronger governance for achieving a prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal Wales. The Act sets out 6 well-being goals against which all public bodies must set and publish well-being objectives that are designed to maximise its contribution to the achievement of these well-being goals:

1. **A prosperous Wales** - an innovative and productive, low carbon emission, economy that makes more efficient and proportionate use of resources; and which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities for a skilled and well-educated population.
2. **A resilient Wales** – a bio diverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change.

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

3. **A healthier Wales** – a society in which people’s physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.
4. **A more equal Wales** – a society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances.
5. **A Wales of cohesive communities** – attractive, viable, safe and well connected.
6. **A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language** – a society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.

The Bill seeks to end the practice of public bodies only working independently of one another instead requiring collaborative solutions. It requires planning to deal with challenges before they arise grasping all available opportunities in future planning.

The statutory members of each Public Services Board will consist of the main public services in an area:

- Local Authority, who will be responsible for convening the Public Services Board, facilitating its work and secretariat functions;
- Local Health Board for the area;
- Fire and Rescue Authority for the area; and
- Natural Resources Wales

The Board will also have powers to invite other individuals or bodies to participate in its activities as it deems appropriate, so long as they exercise functions of a public nature.

Hyper links to Bill, and accompanying Memorandum –

[PRI-LD9831 - Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Bill](#)

[PRI-LD9831-EM - Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Bill - EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM](#)

Caerphilly Local Service Board – met on 20th August 2014. Key topics for discussion were:

- Tackling the Impact of Poverty – a priority project for the Local Service Board
- Gwent Substance Misuse Area Planning Board presentation, delivered by Chief Superintendent Julian Knight (Co-Chair of GSMAPB & Gwent Police)
- Healthier Caerphilly Outcome presentation, delivered by Sam Crane (Lead Officer for Healthier Outcome & Head of Partnerships/Networks, ABUHB)

- Voluntary Sector & GAVO update, a report from Martin Featherstone (Chief Executive, GAVO)

Caerphilly Local Service Board Standing Conference met on 12th June 2014 at Llancaiach Fawr Manor, and focused on - *Tackling the Impact of Poverty*. The Conference workshop sessions developed helpful information on how poverty can be better tackled in the borough, which is being considered by Caerphilly Local Service Board. A follow-up Standing Conference is taking place on 2nd December 2014 at Llancaiach Fawr Manor and will be taking a more in-depth look at tackling poverty in the borough using the information already collated.

For further information on *Caerphilly Delivers The Single Integrated Plan 2013-2017* and the work of Caerphilly Local Service Board, and for a report of the last Standing Conference please visit –

www.caerphilly.gov.uk/communityplanning

Prosperous Caerphilly (Antony Bolter)

regeneration@caerphilly.gov.uk

Priority 1 Improve local employment opportunities including access to opportunities across a wider geographical area

The Training & Education Forum is holding a series of sector specific workshops to identify skills gaps and opportunities in the Caerphilly borough. One has been held on the Energy and Utilities Sector, with workshops planned for later in the year on hospitality/ retail and construction.

The Local Investment Fund (LIF) project has recently had an extension request approved and can now provide an additional £200k worth of grants for local businesses with a new job creation target of 40 jobs by June 2015. Efforts are ongoing to secure EU funding to run the programme again up to 2020.

Council industrial premises occupancy stands at nearly 98%. This is an exceptionally high figure, bearing in mind the weak local economic growth. The property portfolio supports 220 businesses that employ nearly 1,500 local people.

Local tourism events continue to be successful and make an important contribution to the economy. During 2014 the following events have been held:

- The second Caerphilly 10k event on 22nd June, which was a resounding success with an increase in participant numbers of over 30% compared to the first event held in 2013.
- The Blackwood Beach Party held 28th June to 29th June which, despite the mixed weather, attracted a healthy crowd to the town centre for the themed activities that included an urban beach, hula hoop demonstrations, Punch and Judy and a Surf simulator.
- To celebrate all things American, a community Hoe Down and Showdown event was held in Risca Park on 12th July that included a Wild West show, Pulled Pork and Hot Dogs, Rodeo rides and more.
- Finishing off a packed summer programme was the Big Cheese weekend 25th -27th July, celebrating its 18th year, and hosting a clue for BBC Radio Wales' Saturday afternoon summer show, 'Clueless'.

In terms of visitor numbers to local tourist attractions the borough received nearly 160,000 visitors to: Llancaiach Fawr; Cwmcarn Visitor Centre; the Winding House Museum and Heritage Centre, and Visit Caerphilly (April to June 2014). This is 30% above target.

Priority 2 Improve standards of housing and communities giving appropriate access to services across the County Borough

Caerphilly County Borough Council Housing Department has continued to provide significant support to local people, including:

- The return of Ty Croeso as a homelessness facility for single persons which improves access to housing support services.
- Changing the way people apply for social housing in the borough by developing a common housing register and common allocation policy.
- Working closely with United Welsh Housing Association on the provision of additional temporary accommodation at Maes y Derwen, Nelson.
- Considering establishing a social lettings agency to improve access for people to the private rented sector.
- Increasing the number of empty properties brought back into beneficial use – including a successful enforced sale of a private property in Caerphilly empty for at least 14 years. The property is now being prepared as private rental. Another long-term empty property in Blackwood was also brought back into (rental) occupation. An Order of Sale on this one was conducted, and again the property had been empty for 14 years.
- The formal adoption of a revised Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy by Cabinet on 30th April 2014.

Priority 3 Provide support to enable local people to compete for all employment opportunities

Communities First has continued to develop its support for unemployed people, including:

- The establishment of Self Help Groups and a Working Towards Well-being programme (designed to increase self-esteem, confidence and general well-being).
- In Caerphilly Basin, the Leadership Integrated for Tomorrow (Lift) Project commenced in June 2014, aiming to engage with residents in workless households who have multiple barriers to work.
- Routes to Work, which is an eight week programme of sector specific accredited training. Courses commenced during the first quarter of 2014-15 have focused on catering and outdoor work, with a carpentry route commencing in July. Other sector specific activities included:
 - Construction That Works has been run in Caerphilly Basin, with 14 participants.
 - Art That Works has been run in the Upper Rhymney Valley with 8 participants.
- A one to one triage system has been set up in Mid Valleys West, with 66 sessions, supporting 31 people in the quarter.
- Voluntary work placements are being organised in partnership with GAVO.
- Support for the Passport Programme, with Communities First supporting 57 young people.
- Youth Employment Advisors have also supported 55 young people who are either Not in Education, Employment, Training (NEET) or are at risk of becoming NEET.
- Work Clubs in each of the clusters are ongoing with a total of over 400 people supported during the quarter.
- Outreach provision on financial literacy – this project is delivered by Citizens Advice Bureau and 15 sessions have been run in Cefn Fforest to date.
- Significant levels of support on digital inclusion, to improve computer literacy levels, including:
 - Basic ICT courses
 - Drop in advice sessions
 - Web for Work EssentialsDigital Fridays (drop in sessions in local libraries).

In terms of the transport related priority action:

- Rhymney Park & Ride was completed in June 2014. An official opening ceremony is being planned.

- Work is ongoing on Ystrad Mynach rail station access for all and station improvements scheme.
- The Crumlin junction tender exercise has been completed and a start on site in August/September 2014 is expected (subject to funding from the Welsh Government being confirmed).
- Pwll-y-pant roundabout: detailed design commenced with a view to a construction start in early 2015 (again subject to securing Welsh Government funding).
- Work on preparing the Local Transport Plan is ongoing. Welsh Government has given local authorities an extra month to complete this, i.e., by January 2015.

Safer Caerphilly (Kathryn Peters & Natalie Kenny)

safercbc@caerphilly.gov.uk

Anti-Social Behaviour Victim Services Manager - continues to attend all multi-agency groups to tackle anti-social behaviour, liaise closely with all departments within the local authority and outside agencies whilst supporting victims in the community and throughout the court process. During the first quarter (April 2014 to June 2014) a total of 51 referrals were received and contacted. The Victim Service Manager has supported over 1000 victims and witnesses of anti-social behaviour since she has been in post from 2010. The Victims Services Manager - Lana Harrison can be contacted on telephone: 01495 235441 or e-mail: harril5@caerphilly.gov.uk

Safer Caerphilly Criminal Damage Campaign – has now been delivered to comprehensive school pupils across the borough. The campaign involved Police Officers attending schools during a lunch hour and engaging and educating pupils on the costs of criminal damage. At each event the children were encouraged to complete a questionnaire in order to be entered into a prize draw. This encouraged young people to think about the true cost of criminal damage. The winners of the campaign were girls from Lewis Girls School and Rhymney Comprehensive who each won an X-Box funded via the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Safer Caerphilly After Dark Initiative - has been developed to address night-time economy (NTE) issues. Organisations who have signed up to the scheme include Caerphilly County Borough Council, Gwent Police, and volunteer agencies including the Street Pastor Scheme. The three aims of the scheme are to:

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

Since the project launched the initiative is continuing with Townsafe operations in Blackwood and Caerphilly town centres. Engagement with partners working in the NTE is ongoing for example with Street Pastors, Community Safety Wardens, Door staff etc. Further promotional work was also conducted around the Six Nations campaign and Football World cup.

The initiative has also been temporarily extended to include the Bargoed area due to recent problems surrounding Cleopatra's Nightclub. Street pastors are looking into the possibility of splitting their time between Blackwood and Bargoed.

Consideration is being made for a Taxi workers forum to be set up to facilitate dialogue between drivers and the night time economy staff.

Safer Caerphilly Volunteer Network - incorporates the diverse range of individuals who are actively involved in their communities and have an interest in working alongside other partner agencies to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. The Volunteer Network is made up of 236 individuals from groups such as Neighbourhood Watch, Crime Prevention Panels, Community Groups and Partnerships, Street Pastors and Tenants and Residents Associations.

At the last session in February the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent attended to give an overview of his role and take questions. The meetings are now held every six months with a newsletter being sent to members in between meetings. If you would like to attend the next meeting or would like further information on the Volunteer Network please contact the Safer Caerphilly office on 01495 235350.

Safer Caerphilly Twitter - Safer Caerphilly now has its own twitter account @SaferCaerphilly. This will be used to provide community safety messages and updates by all partners whilst also promoting the Safer Caerphilly brand. The following is an example of a recent tweet that has gone out - *1 in 4 women will be affected by domestic abuse. If you need help please call our multi-agency centre on 01443 819317.*

If you have any information you would like to tweet under Safer Caerphilly please e-mail Nadine Hudson-Featherstone on: Hudson@caerphilly.gov.uk or telephone: 01495 235357.

Learning Caerphilly (Lynne Bosanko Williams)

cyp@caerphilly.gov.uk

There have been several developments which are benefitting children, young and families in the Caerphilly borough:

- **Joint working between Education and partners** - there have been a number of initiatives and agencies working together to improve the attendance in schools. Welfare Officers, Community Police Officers and Schools Liaison Officers have been working together to tackle truancies. The focus has been through schools, communities, and homes. In the last briefing it was reported that attendance had improved in Bedwas, St Martin's & St Cenydd schools. Ongoing joint working with a wide range of agencies and initiatives over the last year has had an impact on improving school attendances. In relation to the secondary schools, the most improved school was Oakdale followed by Heolddu and Rhymney. If 2 or more services are needed to support a family attending school, coordination is provided through Team Around the Family.
- **Youth Service Strategy**
During the spring of this year the Youth Service wrote a draft Strategy and Operational Plan for 2014-19. This includes a vision and priorities for the development of a 21st Century Youth Service for Caerphilly. A rigorous consultation process with young people, parents, staff, partners and Elected Members was conducted between April and June with a view to publishing the document in September. An electronic copy can be secured from Paula Lewis on telephone: 01443 864105 or by email: lewysp2@caerphilly.gov.uk
- **Pupil Deprivation Grant Project**
Each of the 4 pilot schools: Lewis Pengam Boys, Pontllanfraith, Rhymney and St Martin's Comprehensive Schools, have refurbished a classroom and developed an informal learning environment to welcome and encourage children and family members to engage in informal learning opportunities. The four youth and family workers were appointed in June and will commence delivery of support for children, young people and their families in September.
- **A focus on family learning**
The results of having a dedicated project focusing on whole family learning is impacting on the attendance and learning of children and young people as well as the parents. The Integrated Family Learning project in the Families First Programme targets parents particularly where there are literacy and numeracy needs. In some communities in the borough over half of the working population have no formal qualifications, and high numbers lack the literacy or numeracy skills to achieve qualifications. Over the last year the project has engaged with 18 schools and ran numeracy and literacy programmes involving parents. A number of parents have undergone accreditation this year, and 15 parents are now attending Basic Skills courses. In total, 223 adult and children have successfully completed a Family Learning programme this year (110 adults and 113 children). Programmes have taken place in both schools and community settings with

a good balance of 12 schools and 8 community settings. This year the project also ran Language and Play programmes have reached a total of 357 individuals.

- **Families First Working with Flying Start**

Good practice in Flying Start has been extended to non-Flying Start areas and together the Programmes have jointly commissioned two projects. One is an Health Outreach Service which enhances the Health Visiting and work delivered by Nursery Nurses focusing on obesity and dental health. The projects provides: Ante natal exercise groups, Baby massage, antenatal assessments and home safety visits, speech and language support, Nutrition programmes and Health Visiting support. The second one is called Extending Family Provision, which coordinates accessible parenting programmes and individual support, and also includes creche and transport facilities.

For further information on the Families First Programme and the projects which have been commissioned to deliver services for children, young people and families, please visit the Families First website -

www.caerphilly.gov.uk/FamiliesFirst

Healthier Caerphilly (Lianne Dallimore)

HSCWB@caerphilly.gov.uk

SOCIAL SERVICES

Annual Directors Report on the Effectiveness of Social Care Services

2013/14 - each year a statutory requirement is placed on Directors of Social Services to produce a report on the effectiveness of the Social Care Services delivered in their area. This will be the fifth report for the Caerphilly borough, which has seen many positive developments in the Directorate, some of which include:

- Undertaking a range of collaborate ventures. For example:
 - The Rhymney Integrated Health and Social Care Centre which opened in March 2014
 - Participation in the Gwent Wide Adult Safeguarding Board
 - Participation in the establishment of the Regional South East Wales Adoption Service which became fully operational on 1st April 2014
 - A series of successful bids to the Intermediate Care Fund.
- The development of a range of new services such as:
 - The refurbishment of Ty Croeso to accommodate single people

- Ty Osborne a new supported housing project for people with mental health issues
- Ty Ni a new Residential Children's Home that opened in October 2013
- The establishment of the 16plus Team.

The Directorate of Social Services has a strong track record of managing expenditure within its budget. This has continued during the 2013/14 financial year with the Directorate reporting an under-spend. This under-spend is largely due to a number of savings being delivered in advance of the 2014/15 financial year to address budget cuts arising from reductions in Welsh Government funding. The financial outlook is challenging with savings of just over £2m already approved for financial year 2014/15. Budget reductions for future years will also impact on the Directorate and work is already underway to develop a range of proposals to meet anticipated savings targets.

For 2014/15 the Directorate has set itself a number of priorities all of which are driven by the imminent implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act. Meeting the requirements of the Act over the coming year will be a key priority for the Directorate.

Within the Adult Services division the focus for 2014/15 remains unchanged and clear priorities have been set around safeguarding vulnerable adults, supporting carers, developing new ways of working and commissioning the right services to meet identified need.

In the Children's Services division work will continue to ensure that children and young people receive a quality and timely assessment of their needs, and that they actively participate in the development of support plans. The division is also preparing to make a number of improvements to its services in 2014/15, such as:

- Reconfiguring the Team Around the Family and Supporting Family Change projects into one team;
- Re-tendering of its Family Support Services, and
- Permanently establishing the Immediate Response Team.

The full Annual Directors Report is available to read on the Caerphilly County Borough Council website at - www.caerphilly.gov.uk/socialservicesacrf

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Caerphilly County Borough Centre for Sporting Excellence - is now officially open and in use. The new flagship facility is providing the Newport Gwent Dragons with a first class training venue helping develop their strength and skills using the commanding conditioning suite and the two international standard 3G pitches.

Cardiff City FC and the Welsh Rugby Union regional development academies and age grade teams also plan to utilise the grounds. In the new school term students from Coleg y Cymoedd will also have access to the facilities and community clubs have been benefiting from pre season training sessions on the 3G pitches.

The development of the Caerphilly County Borough Centre for Sporting Excellence has been supported by Sport Wales, Welsh Government, the Welsh Rugby Union and the Welsh Football Trust.

Caerphilly 10k - thousands of people descended on Caerphilly Town Centre on 22nd June for the second annual 10k road race organised by Sport and Leisure and the Council's Events Team. On what was arguably the hottest day of the year, runners and spectators crowded around Caerphilly Castle with nearly 200 children taking part in a Junior 2k around the castle before the main event kicked off giving youngsters a chance to get active.

Residents lined the streets of the 10k route, which led the runners in a loop around the town centre before finishing back in the shadow of Caerphilly Castle.

Elite and competitive runners completed the 10 kilometre course in incredible times with Owain Jones from Bristol and West Athletics Club beating the previous winner's time by almost an entire minute. He breezed across the line in 31 minutes and 22 seconds. He was followed shortly after by the first female to cross the line, Emma Wookey from Lliswerry Running Club, with a time of 36 minutes and 33 seconds.

This year there was also one participant who took on the undulating route in her wheelchair. Sian Hughes finished the course in an impressive 1 hour and 11 minutes.

In addition to the elite runners, nearly 2000 amateurs took on the challenge. Spectators and families were also able to take part in fun sporting activities in the Sport and Leisure Commonwealth Park.

Summer Sport Schemes - Caerphilly, Risca, Newbridge and Heolddu Leisure Centres all played host to Sport Caerphilly Summer Sport Schemes. The Sport Caerphilly team linked up with community partnerships in Llanbradach and Rhymney to offer FREE sporting opportunities to children from these areas. The Sport Schemes featured activities to suit all, with football, cricket, tennis and athletics to name just a few.

There was also a Disability Summer of Sport for disabled children and their siblings/friends. This included opportunities to try indoor sport, and trips to take part in outdoor activities such as climbing, canoeing, surfing and orienteering.

Over the summer young people were also been able to access FREE public swim sessions at all Caerphilly county borough swimming pools, and FREE aquatic activities at Leisure Centres, including water polo, rookie lifeguard, water walkers and canoeing.

New swimming lessons - swimming instructors are now using a poolside portable device to keep class registers and to record each child's progress during a lesson. This enables parents to view their child's progress on a specially designed website. This site also provides more freedom for parents, allowing them to move their child on to the next class online for a smoother re-enrolment process. This innovative new scheme teaches children this vital life skill from an early age, giving them the chance to develop their competence and confidence in the water and their understanding of water safety. Parents are also able to spread the cost of lessons with monthly Direct Debit payments instead of paying an upfront fee at the start of a course.

Thousands enjoy Play Day at Caerphilly's Morgan Jones Park - an estimated 5,000 people attended a family play day at Morgan Jones Park in Caerphilly. A host of free activities were available to families throughout the day, and the good weather also played its part. The event was organised by GAVO and supported by Caerphilly County Borough Council, the Welsh Government and Families First.

Lisa Williams, of GAVO said: *It's really about celebrating play for children, young people and families, and celebrating the importance of play but also their right to play as well. There's lots of cuts at the moment and everyone is being squeezed that little bit more, but we do have a lot of flexibility in the voluntary sector to try and go for extra grants and to really make these things happen.*





The Health Improvement Team together with Communities First and Groundwork Caerphilly provided families at Playday with the opportunity to try some new tastes. Great fun was had trying new foods in Bushtucker Trials as well as making new flavour drinks on the Smoothie Bike. Families then signed up to the national initiative Change4Life. For more information about Change4Life visit: www.healthchallengecaerphilly.org.uk

Community allotment in Senghenydd celebrates 10 years of growing success - by holding an open day for the community to come along and find out what they do. The Aber Valley community allotment welcomed guests along for a tour of the facility and to sample treats made from produce grown there. Carrot cake, fruit crumble and iced mint tea were on offer for visitors to try.



Aber Valley community allotment first started in 2004 as a lifestyle, healthy living and environmental initiative by the community partnership supported by Caerphilly County Borough Council and its Health Improvement Team, Groundwork Caerphilly, Barclays Bank, SYDIC, GAVO and B&Q.

Most allotments are set up to enable people to eat their own healthy produce - but the project in Senghenydd was opened purposely to educate local people about a healthy lifestyle and healthy eating.

For more information about Community Allotments visit - www.healthchallengecaerphilly.org.uk

Bedwas Rocks



Promoting well being through healthy lifestyles and looking after your mental health was the theme for *Bedwas Rocks*. After enjoying a spectacular and vibrant Colour Run, the Health Improvement Team in partnership with Caerphilly Borough Mind was on hand to share guidance and support to the public.

For more information on Caerphilly Borough Mind visit -

<http://www.caerphillymind.co.uk>

Community Health Champions – the Caerphilly borough has 130 trained Champions who share information on health services and ways to improve health with friends, family and neighbours. Anyone interested in leading a healthier lifestyle over the age of 16 can become a Community Health Champion and join a growing network across Gwent to take part in training and awareness sessions on a number of lifestyle factors including healthy eating, alcohol consumption, smoking and managing long term health conditions.

Physical Activities Upper Rhymney Valley

Want to get fit or try something new? Why not try out some of the activities that are on offer:

- Dance Class - White Rose - New Tredegar (Mondays)
- Boxing Club - Rhymney Leisure Centre/Comp (Tuesdays & Thursdays)
- Women only aqua Swim - Heolddu Leisure Centre - Bargoed (Tuesdays)
- Parent & Toddler Swim - Cefn Forest Leisure Centre (Wednesdays)
- Disability Horseriding - Haylemma Riding School - Rhymney (Wednesdays)
- Low Level Exercise Class - White Rose - New Tredegar (Thursdays)
- Streetgames Sites - Abertysswg, Ael-y-Bryn, (Rhymney), Pontlottyn, Gelligaer, Cwmefelinfach. Markham, Wattsville, Bedwas, St Cenydd, Trecenydd.

Three Peaks Challenge 2014 in aid of Caerphilly Miners Project – taking place Sunday 14th September 2014 - covering Garth Mountain, Rockwood Mountain and Caerphilly Mountain. Total distance 13.25 KM. *Interested?* visit: <http://www.caerphillyminerscentre.org.uk/>



Brits could add 4,700 years to their lives and £34.5 million to their wallets - each October, smokers in the UK are invited to take up the Stoptober Challenge and give up smoking for 28 days from 1st to 28th of the month. Evidence shows that if a smoker can quit for 28 days they are five times more likely to stay smoke-free. Nearly a quarter of a million people in England and Wales turned their back on their cigarettes in October 2013 to reap the financial, social and health benefits from taking part in Stoptober.

Taking part in Stoptober saves money, saves time and extends life...

Will you take up the Stoptober Challenge?

www.stoptober.smokefree.nhs.uk

Stop Smoking Wales – Freephone 0800 085 2219

Caerphilly Health Improvement Team will be out and about throughout September to offer support and advice.



COMMUNITIES FIRST

Health & Wellbeing Work Upper Rhymney Valley - future work planned includes 4 cycles of Foodwise and Healthy Cooking from September through to the end of November in conjunction with Parent Network. Health Officers for Communities First will be attending X-Pod training in September and will be looking to put this into practice following completion of the course, in addition to this *healthy hearts* training will be provided within the community over the coming months.

New Street Games sites – have been established at Wattsville and Cwmfelinfach launched by the Communities First Mid Valleys East Cluster. Local volunteers have been identified to run the sites and will be supported by Sports Development Coaches during the first few months until they are fully established.

Working Towards Wellbeing programmes - have been run in the Mid Valleys East cluster and Mid Valleys West cluster. The programme aims to increase self esteem, confidence and general wellbeing with participants. There are currently 3 established Self Help Groups running in the Mid Valleys East Cluster on a weekly basis in Ty Sign, Panside (Older people focus) and Markham.

Bereavement and Loss group - has been established in Gelligaer. The aim of the group is to provide a mutually supportive peer group environment, positive activities and the teaching of specific skills, to enable people to reduce social isolation, improve coping mechanisms and boost well-being.

Environmental/energy saving/healthy homes healthy bodies - the *Green Doctors* project focuses on engaging with community members who are in fuel poverty or at risk of fuel poverty, and are struggling with balancing their household debt. Through workshops and home visits community members will be given specialist impartial advice on energy saving measures and review the community's current energy providers. The key purpose of this project is to increase participant's confidence in managing their fuel bills, reducing their level of household fuel poverty and subsequently contributing to reduced household debt and improved mental health.

SINGLE INTEGRATED PLAN

Caerphilly Delivers 2013-17 - the Healthier Outcome Scorecard has now been fully updated to show progress achieved within 2013-14. For further information please email Rhianon Urquhart on: urquhr@caerphilly.gov.uk or telephone: 01495 235401

Greener (Paul Cooke)

sustainabledevelopment@caerphilly.org.uk

Greener Caerphilly has produced an Annual Report for 2013/14, which includes case studies and further information on projects undertaken in partnership. The report includes a section on the contribution that the partnership work of the Greener Outcome is making towards the other Single Integrated Plan outcomes. For an electronic copy of the report contact Paul Cooke, Team Leader, Sustainable Development & Living Environment at: cookepa@caerphilly.gov.uk

Outcome G1 Improving local environmental quality

Each year Caerphilly County Borough Council has provided funding from its Community Schemes budget, to the partnership of the Greener Outcome, to be

managed as a small grants fund, to facilitate and stimulate partnership working. The criteria are that projects should be undertaken by at least two partnership organisations, and should provide at least £1 for £1 match funding. The Greener Caerphilly Leadership Group has received £14,200 for projects in 2014/15, and has approved 8 projects. This fund is aimed at maximising the benefits of joint working on environmental projects in the borough.

The following 4 projects will make a particular contribution to Priority G1 in 2014/15:

- Rural Skills Project
- Delivering Real Improvements in the Community via the Literacy and Numeracy Framework
- Managing Giant Hogweed
- River Schools.

Watch this space for reports on how these projects contribute to improving the local environmental quality in Caerphilly.

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

The Maes yr Onn off grid living project is a partnership project, which has created a farmhouse at Manmoel that is dependant on renewable energy. The remote location of the farmhouse means that it has no access to mains water, electricity, gas or sewerage service. It is one of the projects being led by Caerphilly's Rural Development Programme Sustainable Energy Team in partnership with the Building Research Establishment, Scottish and Southern Energy, Constructing Excellence Wales, Cardiff University and the Davies family whose home it is.

The project is being hailed as an exemplar in sustainable low carbon living, and has won several high profile accolades including the top prize at the Royal Town Planning Institute Wales awards. In June 2014 the project was visited by one of the most senior UK representatives in the European Union, when Shan Morgan, UK Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU visited the farmhouse. She was most impressed with the project and in particular was interested in how the technology could be replicated in properties both on and off the grid to encourage people to change their behaviour and use energy and water more sustainably.



G3 Maximising the use of the environment for health benefits

A considerable amount of work is ongoing across the borough, both as part of the Greener Outcome and the Healthier Outcome. There are strong links with the Well-Being Improvement Network, which leads on this within the Healthier Outcome.

John Griffiths, Minister for Natural Resources, Culture and Sport, visited Parc Penallta on 17th July to join in with an event to celebrate the achievements of a programme to help people get fit in the great outdoors. The Come Outside! Programme is a partnership initiative that has enabled community and youth officers to involve their groups in over 100 outdoor activity sessions, often engaging with people not previously participating in any outdoor activity. It works by linking up the expertise of local outdoor activity providers and community groups to promote and run outdoor activities such as mountain biking, gardening and star gazing events.

The Minister attended the Come Outside! Summer Celebration where people had the chance to try out exciting new activities such as geo-caching and learn bushcraft skills. To date, the programme has supported over 400 people from Communities First areas to get outside and exercise in their local woodland and other green spaces.

Equalities (David Thomas)

equalities@caerphilly.gov.uk

Landlord Guidance on Equalities

Working with Caerphilly County Borough Council Housing Department and the Landlord's Forum, the Equalities and Welsh Language Team have developed a guidance document for Landlords around equalities issues when dealing with tenants.

In addition there is good news for social and private landlords as the Team were successful in winning £5k in grant funding towards the project, which means that the range of Equalities and Welsh Language training the council offers its staff is now also free to access for landlords until March 2015.

50+ Positive Action (Mandy Sprague)

50plus@caerphilly.gov.uk

Maximising Income:

- Work is being undertaken a number of partners and Caerphilly County Borough Council's Customer First to display the **Don't Miss Out Find out!** information on the side of the new mobile unit, hopefully encouraging 50+ residents to check if they are getting everything they are entitled to.

Dignity, Respect and Age Equality (DRAE)

- **POVA DVD pilot:** 2000 DVD's have now been produced that have 5 short films on them to help those who are likely to be isolated to understand what is abuse and how to keep safe. Delivery is being staggered enable impact analysis through the feedback forms.
- The RVS Community Voice Project "**Care to listen... listen to Care**" held a 'Launch' tea with residents and family members at Beatrice Webb Care Home to introduce them to the project. The tea was well attended and those attending were supportive of the project idea.

Information and Empowerment

- **The world of Twitter has been joined!** Please follow [@50plus_AgeWell](https://twitter.com/50plus_AgeWell) and share the tweets with your followers - so helping us to keep people informed and connected.
- The possibility of working with Caerphilly Housing is being explored to develop a **Keeping Safe calendar** for 2015 that will go to out to tenants and more isolated 50+ residents across the borough.
- Extensive work has been undertaken on the new Caerphilly County Borough Council website, which will be launched in the autumn. The new site is designed to enable residents to help themselves and will make it much easier to find and *do* things on the Council's website - but more importantly it will also now provide access to information about services and support in the local community.
- Two workshops have been held to help identify what opportunities there are across the borough for **volunteering** and also how those organisations supporting volunteers can work together to develop a more joined up approach to recruitment and training.
- Work is progressing with Communities First and a range of other partners to explore options for a **Time banking** initiative across the borough.

- Work is also being undertaken with the **Caerphilly County Borough 50+ Forum** to redesign their website to meet the changing information needs of the forum.

For more information please contact Mandy Sprague on 01443 864277 or email spragm@caerphilly.gov.uk