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Date: 11th March 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee** will be held at **Penallta House, Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach** on **Wednesday, 18th March, 2015** at **10.30 am** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda. **The meeting will be concluded by 12.15 p.m.**

PLEASE NOTE

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

Yours faithfully,

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

Chris Burns
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A G E N D A

- | | Pages | |
|---|--|--|
| 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. | |

A greener place Man gwyrddach



To receive and consider the following minutes: -

- 3 Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee Minutes - 3rd December 2014 (allow up to 10.35 a.m.). 1 - 6
- 4 Voluntary Sector Representatives Questions - Chris Burns, Interim Chief Executive, CCBC (allow up to 11.00 a.m.):
- The Voluntary Sector Representatives are keen to support Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) solutions for service delivery:
- a) Could CCBC highlight some specific services which require third sector support?
 - b) What is CCBC's policy on asset transfer, particularly in relation to library and community services and the role the third sector could play?
- 5 Compact Presentation and Q&A: Deliberate Fires and Arson-Related Issues - Mark Williams, Station Manager, Fire Crime Unit South Wales Fire & Rescue Service (allow up to 11.15 a.m.)
- 6 Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee Membership Survey - Jackie Dix, Policy and Research Manager, CCBC (allow up to 11.20 a.m.). 7 - 14
- 7 Open Discussion: What's happening in the borough - an opportunity for all Compact Partners to raise key issues (allow up to 11.40 a.m.).
- 8 Standing Item: Budgets (allow up to 12 noon).
- 9 Items of interest concerning the Voluntary Sector from Compact Partners (note only one question permitted on each report) (allow up to 12.15 p.m.): 15 - 28
- a) Aneurin Bevan University Health Board;
 - b) GAVO;
 - c) Digest of Committee Reports from Caerphilly County Borough Council;
 - d) Caerphilly Business Forum;
 - e) South Wales Fire and Rescue Service;
 - f) Police & Crime Commissioner for Gwent;
 - g) Gwent Police.

To receive and note the following information items: -

- 10 Community Planning Quarterly Briefing - January to March 2015. 29 - 46
- 11 Date of next meeting: 17th June 2015 at 10.30 a.m. 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 (Vice Chair), 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:

Mr P. Jones, Abbeyfield (Caerphilly) Society Limited
Mr L. Clay, Abertridwr Community Church
Mrs S. Brown, Age Concern
Ms J. Price, Bargoed YMCA
Mr D. Morgan, Caerphilly 50+ Forum
Ms P. Jones, Caerphilly Care & Repair
Mr R.H. Cooke, Caerphilly Groundwork Trust
Ms J. Lawton, Caerphilly MIND
Mrs B. Helps, Caerphilly Parents and Carers Forum
Mr C. Luke, Caerphilly People First
Mr A. Read, Cancercareline
Mrs C. Williams, Cruse Bereavement Care
Mrs H. Williams, Disability CANDO Organisation
Mr M. Featherstone, GAVO
Mr G. Mitchell, Graig-Y-Rhacca Communities Partnership
Ms G. Jervis, Home Start Caerphilly Borough
Ms J. Morgan, New CLURV
Mr M. Bridgman, SYDIC
Ms M. Jones, The Parent Network
Mr K. Viney, The Settlement
Mr J. Wade, Van Road United Reformed Church
Mrs M. Wade, Vanguard Caerphilly
Mr D. Brunton, VOLUME

Aneurin Bevan Health Board:

Mrs B. Bolt and Ms S. Crane

Gwent Police:

Superintendent M. Budden, Inspector P. Morris and Sargent A. O'Keefe

The Office of the Gwent Police & Crime Commissioner:

Mrs M. Chapman and Mr N. Taylor

South Wales Fire & Rescue Services:

Ms D. Crossman

Caerphilly Business Forum:

Mrs D. Lovering

Town & Community Councils Representative:

H. Llewellyn

And Appropriate Officers

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VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN
ON WEDNESDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2014 AT 10.30 A.M.**

PRESENT:

Mr. R. Cooke – Chair

Councillors:

Ms. L. Ackerman, P. J. Bevan, C. Hawker, K. James, A. Lewis, Mrs. J.A. Pritchard, A. Rees, Mrs. J. Summers, R. Woodyatt

Together with:

Abbeyfield	-	Mr. P. Jones
Abertridwr Community Church	-	Mr. L. Clay
Age Cymru	-	Ms. S. Brown
Bargoed YMCA	-	Ms. J. Price
Caerphilly 50+ Forum	-	Mr. D. Morgan
Caerphilly Groundwork Trust	-	Mr. R. H. Cooke
Caerphilly People First	-	Mr. C. Luke
Disability Can Do Organisation	-	Mrs. H. Williams
GAVO – Chief Executive	-	Mr. M. Featherstone
GAVO – Assistant Chief Executive	-	Mrs. E. Forbes
The Parent Network	-	Ms. M. Jones

Also present:

J. Dix (CCBC Policy & Research Manager), J. Elliott (CCBC Senior Research Officer), A. Palmer (GAVO), Sgt. R. Davies (Gwent Police), C. Hunt (Regional Community Cohesion Officer – West Gwent), M. Chapman (Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Gwent)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Mrs. E. M. Aldworth, J. Bevan, D. G. Carter, Mrs. P. Cook, R. W. Gough, Mrs. P. Griffiths.

Also from, Ms. P. Jones (Caerphilly Care & Repair), Ms. J. Lawton (Caerphilly MIND), Mrs. B. Helps (Caerphilly Parents & Carers Forum), Mr. A. Read (Cancercareline), Mrs. C. Williams (Cruse Bereavement Care), Mr. G. Mitchell (Graig-Y-Rhacca Communities Partnership), Ms. G. Jervis (Homestart Caerphilly Borough), Mrs. J. Morgan (New CLURV), Mr. M. Thorne (SYDIC), Mr. K. Viney (The Settlement), Mrs. M. Wade (The Vanguard Centre), Mr. J. Wade (Van Road United Reformed Church), Mr. D. Brunton (Vice Chair Voluntary Sector Representatives), Ms. S. Crane (ABUHB), Mrs. D. Crossman (South Wales Fire & Rescue Service), Mr. H. Llewellyn (Town & Community Councils Representative), Mrs. D. Lovering (Caerphilly Business Forum Representative).

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None declared.

3. MINUTES

3.1 Disappointment was expressed at the lack of representation from the ABUHB, when questions were wished to be asked regarding the present situation at the Trinant Surgery. It was commented that the ABUHB had also not attended the Health Social Care and Wellbeing Committee on 2nd December 2014. It was requested that the Chair of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee send a letter to the ABUHB on the importance of attending the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee meetings.

3.2 The accuracy of the minutes of 17th September 2014 was agreed.

4. SAFEGUARDING PUBLIC SERVICES – WHAT ROLE CAN THE THIRD SECTOR PLAY?

4.1 Chris Burns (Interim Chief Executive, CCBC) introduced the open budget discussion with the Committee around what role can the third sector play in these times of public sector budget constraints. He informed that CCBC is facing a cut of 3.4% in the local government provisional settlement for 2015/16 and will need to make an estimated saving of £39m over the next three years. All CCBC services will be looking at a 20% reduction over the next 3-years. He noted CCBC is seeking an early engagement with services users, with the emphasis on protecting front line services, and looking at possibly reducing services rather than loosing services all together. Back office functions, such as administration, will be cut back as far as possible, and there will be streamlining of the CCBC's estate. The challenge for CCBC will be on how to provide services for the future, and focus on what matters most to local communities, in providing more imaginative and innovative ways of working with partners in service delivery. The good model of the voluntary sector working with partners was noted, with the CCBC's door open for suggestions in working together to provide services in local communities around the reduced budget.

4.2 Martin Featherstone (Chief Executive, Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO)) thanked CCBC for having an open door policy for hearing suggestions from the voluntary sector. He mentioned that GAVO was in the process of developing a voluntary sector leadership group, which will be looking at shared approaches to public sector delivery. He noted that it would be helpful in moving the discussion on around shared services for CCBC to be more specific about what it is looking for the voluntary sector to take on.

4.3 Cyril Luke (Caerphilly People First) and Michelle Jones (The Parent Network) discussed the partnership work they are doing with Social Services around day services for people with a learning disability. CCBC have calculated that half of its budget for day services is consumed by costs of transporting people to the day centres. The Parent Network helped with Caerphilly People First consultation with the parents of children and young people attending day services, and it has been found that alternative sources of transport can be sourced through parents and the voluntary sector in reducing costs. In addition Caerphilly People First have surveyed service users of learning disability services, and found 98% satisfaction with services received. A meeting is being held with Social Services in February 2015 to further consider the transport options. Cllr Woodyatt noted his support of the work being undertaken by Mr Luke and Ms Jones.

4.4 The beneficial experience of providing volunteering opportunities was described by Caerphilly People First. The organisation has taken on ten volunteers who have a learning disability, who are now running a range of good training courses on meeting the needs of people with learning disabilities. It was commented that some people with learning disabilities run Woodfield Services and Blackberry Catering which are working well, but would benefit through better marketing.

- 4.5 It was noted that a trigger in developing a solution to the transport costs of getting people to day services, was having the specifics of the situation. It was suggested that it would be helpful to know the specifics of what CCBC would like the voluntary sector to take on.
- 4.6 Peter Jones, Abbeyfield Wales Society Ltd described how Abbeyfield in Wales provides a range of care services for older people including people with dementia. In Caerphilly, Abbeyfield provides two supported care homes. He noted the growing problem of loneliness among the older population. He commented that Abbeyfield would welcome an early dialogue with CCBC over what Abbeyfield can do in providing innovative care. He also noted that there are funds available to the voluntary sector, which are unavailable to local authorities. Mr Jones asked for budget discussions to become a standing item on the agenda.
- 4.7 Cllr P.J. Bevan observed how this agenda item was just the start of an important conversation around shared services with the voluntary sector. He stressed the importance of voluntary organisations being aware of the complexity in taking on council services, such as libraries and community facilities, and the need to understand the full financial undertaking. He noted that there were possibilities for town and community councils to take on services through a small rise in precepts, if required, and agreed by the residents affected.
- 4.8 Cllr Pritchard suggested that the voluntary sector should familiarise themselves with the budget reports being considered at CCBC scrutiny committees, which contain lots of detail on specific information. Cllr Pritchard also alerted to the technological advances, which were resulting in savings, and gave the example of low energy street lighting being introduced, which as well as reducing costs, were contributing to carbon reductions.
- 4.9 Cllr Woodyatt noted the importance of shaping services with people who use services. He highlighted the budget consultation which features in the current edition of the Council's *Newsline*, and the drop in consultation events being held in local communities, which are dealing with the specifics of the current budget situation.
- 4.10 Chris Burns said while he understood comments about the voluntary sector requiring a list of services that they could potentially take over, this was not possible at this stage. It was noted that at the moment CCBC was trying to keep budget reductions fairly modest in comparison to some other South Wales councils. However, once the budget for 2015-16 is set, councillors will need to look at budgets over the next two years, and so by the Spring CCBC may be able to give a better steer. The importance of two way discussion between CCBC and the voluntary sector was highlighted, with the Council being receptive to ideas.
- 4.11 Cllr P.J Bevan commented that there are two years for continuing discussions with the voluntary sector over this, and it is important for community and town councils to become involved. Cllr Bevan in support of Mr Jones suggestion on budget discussions put forward the recommendation for budget discussions to become a standing item on the agenda, which was passed.

5. MAINSTREAMING COMMUNITY COHESION – VERBAL REPORT BY CHRIS HUNT REGIONAL COMMUNITY COHESION CO-ORDINATOR (WEST GWENT)

- 5.1 Chris Hunt noted committee report is for raising awareness of the community cohesion agenda and promoting the need to embed cohesion within both the statutory and voluntary sector. He described the background to the development of the community cohesion agenda as residing in lessons learned from the 2001 civil disturbances in Northern England - Bradford, Burnley and Oldham and in Wales 2003 - Wrexham. In the aftermath of these public disturbances the government took two approaches regarding community cohesion: targeted community interventions and mainstreaming. The first refers to projects specifically relating to community cohesion i.e. that aim at directly bringing people together and on creating a sense of belonging. The second refers to introducing the principles of community cohesion to all the work undertaken by government at local, regional and national levels.

- 5.2 *Why mainstream community cohesion?* This is because we are living in increasingly diverse communities which can often present challenges in the way people get on together; immigration, deprivation, prosperity can all impact the way communities integrate with each other and on rare occasions these factors can create community tensions which can disrupt cohesion. Recognising local cohesion priorities (such as the growing influence of far right extremism or the intolerance of some communities towards diversity or difference) and strategically embedding cohesion in the way we provide services and support communities, can encourage communities to become more cohesive, particularly with regards to tackling intolerance, and to develop greater community resilience to violent extremism.
- 5.3 The Welsh Assembly Government launched *Getting on Together* the national community cohesion strategy for Wales along with the first of its funding streams in 2009, as part of the Welsh Assembly Government's One Wales commitment to achieve a 'fair and just society, a place where all citizens are empowered to determine their own lives and shape the communities in which they live'.
<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/dsjlg/publications/commsafety/091130ccstratenv1.pdf>

Easy read version
<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/dsjlg/publications/commsafety/100706gotreaden.pdf>
- 5.4 *What is Mainstreaming?* The following is taken from the *Mainstreaming Community Cohesion Guidance for Local Authorities (Sheffield Hallam University)* Local Authority Mainstreaming Community Cohesion Guidance

'Mainstreaming involves infusing the principles and priorities of the community cohesion agenda into the collective consciousness of a local authority or partnership so that responsibility for building cohesion is embedded within the everyday duties and functions of all departments and partners'.
- 5.5 The potential role of the voluntary sector in developing community cohesion is seen in its role with communities. Whilst the public sector has the potential to influence policy-making and service delivery, especially on issues such as housing and policing, the role of the third sector (in relation to the cohesion agenda) can be seen more in terms of liaising directly with communities, especially those defined as 'hard-to reach' communities and communities of interest.
- 5.6 Mr Hunt was asked if Communities First would be an important link to develop with communities and the voluntary sector around community cohesion. He said that he was working with Communities First in several areas of the county borough, to involve them with the principles of Community Cohesion in local action plans.
- 6. THE COMPACT AGREEMENT AND ANNUAL ACTION PLAN – JACKIE DIX (CCBC POLICY & RESEARCH MANAGER)**
- 6.1 Jackie Dix as requested by the Voluntary Sector Representatives sitting on the Committee gave the background to the Compact Agreement and Annual Compact Action Plan. Following the recent consultation on the Compact Action Plan 2015-16 the Committee were asked to endorse the new Compact Annual Action Plan, which was approved by the Committee.
- 7. COMMUNITY PLANNING QUARTERLY BRIEFING – OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2014**
- 7.1 This is an information only item.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 18TH MARCH 2015 AT 10.30AM IN THE SIRHOWY AND EBBW COMBINED ROOMS

Next meeting on the 18th March 2015, will be held at 10.30am in the Sirhowy and Ebbw combined rooms.

The Chair wished everyone a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

Meeting ended 12.05pm.

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VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 18TH MARCH 2015

SUBJECT: VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the results of the Membership Survey of the Committee, and steps to be taken in responding to the feedback.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The full results of the Membership Survey are presented in Appendix 1 of the report, with the report outlining steps to be taken in improving committee meetings in light of the survey findings.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Voluntary Sector makes an important contribution to public service provision across the County Borough and is brought together with key organisations in the borough through *Delivering Together Compact Agreement 2013-17*. The Compact Agreement forms the basis of the workings of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee, and the Committee's Annual Compact Action Plan in galvanising partnership working.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 A survey has been undertaken of the Membership of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee seeking views on the content of the committee meetings and on how to improve the organisation/administration of meetings. Disappointingly only 11 members out of the committee membership of 46 submitted a response, despite 3 reminders being sent. However, although the response rate is low, comments gained are helpful in seeking to improve how meetings of the Voluntary Sector Liaison are organised, and the content of meetings (see Appendix 1 for full analysis of the survey findings).
- 4.2 A meeting has taken place between the Chair and Vice Chair of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee with CCBC and GAVO staff who support the work of the Committee, to discuss the findings, with the following actions to be taken in improving committee meetings:
- Meetings to be conducted within two hours, with strict timings to be given on the agenda. The aim is to finish meetings by 12:15pm, but with the Chair having the discretion to run up to 12:30pm.
 - To have just one presentation per meeting. The topic for the presentation is to be selected by the Voluntary Sector Representatives of an activity area from the Compact Action Plan. The presentation is to be up to a maximum of 10 minutes, followed by a further 5 minutes of any questions from committee members.

- For the 8 Compact Partners reports to remain as items of interest on the agenda, but with the Committee being able to ask each Compact Partner one question on their report. Presently, although these reports were originally meant for items of interest only, lengthy discussions are ensuing on some of the Compact Partner reports.
- For the Community Planning Quarterly Briefing to be retained as an item formally presented into the committee meeting, and remain as an agenda item of interest only.
- Budgets are to become a standing item on the agenda.
- Open discussion to be a new slot on the agenda for Compact Partners to raise any issues of concern on matters pertaining to the Caerphilly borough.
- Consideration to be given to holding committee special meetings throughout the year on areas of specific interest to Members such as health. Attendance to these meetings to be opened up to non committee members with an interest in the subject.
- To note no issues of concern were raised over the administration of the committee, which was rated as either *excellent* or *good* by members.

4.3 Additional views on committee meetings are welcome to be raised by Members during this meeting, as it is recognised that the traditional questionnaire survey might not be the best way of eliciting Members views.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Promoting equalities is integral to the Compact Agreement and a fundamental part of the partnership working of Compact Partners.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no financial implications.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Policy and Research Manager, and Research Officer, CCBC together with the Deputy Chief Executive, GAVO play a fundamental part in the servicing and content of meetings of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 All Members of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee were asked to participate in the Committee Membership Survey

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 For Members to note the steps to be taken in improving meetings following the Committee Membership Survey, and to air any further suggestions during the committee meeting.

10. STATUTORY POWER

10.1 Local Government Act 2000.

Author: Jackie Dix, Policy and Research Manager, CCBC
 Consultees: Bob Cooke, Chair of Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee
 Cllr. Carter, Vice Chair of Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee
 Emily Forbes, Deputy Chief Executive, GAVO
 John Elliott, Research Officer, CCBC

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee Membership Survey Analysis

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Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee Customer Survey Analysis

Overview

Only 11 out of a committee membership of 46 submitted a response to the Voluntary Sector Liaison Customer Survey despite 3 reminders being sent. Responses were received from a mixture of Compact Partners and Voluntary Sector Representatives sitting on the Committee, and by email and post. Even though the response rate is low, comments are informative and helpful in seeking to improve how meetings of the Voluntary Sector Liaison are organised, and the content of meetings.

The Results

1. A lot of the committee time is spent on receiving formal presentations please *tick if you feel*:

Happy with receiving any number of presentations at committee meetings

[1]

Find the presentations useful, but that they should be restricted to **1** presentation for each meeting [6]

Find the presentations useful, but that they should be restricted to **2** presentation for each meeting [3]

Presentations should be the exception, where there is a topic particularly important to impart [1]

Think the time best spent in committee meetings is for discussion on written reports, and not in receiving presentations []

Any other views

Presentations where relevant to the business being discussed or to inform the committee of new or improved services relevant to the liaison Committee.

From a personal point of view I would find one presentation per meeting adequate as the meeting can become long and unmanageable, however if as part of an issue to be discussed it would be enhanced by a short presentation then this should be encouraged.

We think there should be one presentation per meeting – preferably a short presentation of around 15 minutes.

Two presentations 15 minutes each.

Presentations are always informative but I would be a restriction on their number per meeting. I think we have now reached the stage when our time can be more profitably spent.

Too many presentations seem like you're being talked at a lot rather than actually contributing to change and development and achieving something more substantial.

2. Currently each Compact Partner provides an item of interest report for the Voluntary Sector – is it you preference (*please tick*):

For the practice of written items of interest reports **presented orally** to the committee to continue [3]

For each quarterly meeting to continue to receive written items of interest reports but for **just two Compact Partners to present orally** rotating between meetings for each of the Compact Partners to present [3]

For written items of interest reports to be continued, but as **items for information only** with no presentations from the Compact Partners [5]

To discontinue with these reports []

Any other views

This is the only forum that allows voluntary sector discussion around current issues or topics curtailing this discussion would limit the Committees understanding – often the passion that optimises the sector cannot be conveyed in any other way. This practice allows topics that are new or up-to-date, waiting may reduce the committees effectiveness.

*As a result of the report it may be decided that more information is required and that would be decided at the meeting with a presentation then being requested at the next meeting.
We hope the Compact representatives turn up with reports to share.*

I would suggest that items of interest continue but are for information only and do not need an oral presentation every meeting. However, there may be an issue, consultation or important matter that Compact partners may wish to cover in the meeting. Would it be possible that items of interest are left but Compact partners can request to be agenda'd if they feel there is something they specifically wish to raise?

3. Currently a Community Planning Quarterly Briefing is produced for each meeting as an information report - is it your preference (*please tick*):

For the briefing to be continued to be produced [10]

For the document to be discontinued for reporting into the committee []

Any other views

The Committee needs to be kept up-to-date and questions can be forthcoming.

Can we have the community planning report twice a year? 6 months seems a more reasonable time level for community development to have an impact.

4. Are there any standing items not currently included that you would like to see on the agenda of these quarterly committee meetings?

No [8]

Yes [3] *please specify*

- Local Service Board and related information and decisions
- Health and Social Care Scrutiny Meeting
- Update on budget proposals

5. Some of the committee meetings have been rather long – do you feel (*please tick*):

• Committee meetings should not exceed 1.5 hours []

• Committee meetings should not exceed 2 hours [9]

• Committee meetings should not exceed 2.5 hours [1]

• Committee meetings should not exceed 3 hours [1]

Any other views

There could be an informal meeting of 1 hour to discuss try to clarify – avoid misunderstanding. Followed by a formal meeting.

This would require the chair to be more proactive in its management of the meeting to ensure speakers and agenda items are kept to time. Using a timed agenda would also facilitate this. Restricting presentations to one per meeting with a specified time, plus any agenda items that need a presentation to enable members to have the required amount of information to make measured and considered decisions would also need to be timed. This does not seem unreasonable and would allow partners to arrive for specific agenda items without sitting through the whole meeting.

At a recent meeting the agenda was particularly long, yet the meeting room was booked out for something else which meant that we were under pressure to get through the agenda in double quick time. With three or four presentations included in the agenda, this meeting felt that we weren't able to discuss issues fully due to time constraints. This situation should not be allowed to be repeated.

The Chair should be more strict on times and stick to the Agenda.

A meeting 'takes as long as it takes' but within a maximum of 3 hours.

6. Please feel free to make any suggestions for how the **content** of the committee meetings can be improved, for example more written reports for discussion, more open discussions on key issues concerning the Voluntary Sector etc

Written reports and items of interest sent out in advance; access to Chair or Admin to discuss prior to meetings; virtual network

Voluntary organisations I'm sure would appreciate regular mention of funding/contract opportunities as sustainability and collaborative working are at the forefront of every organisation's agenda.

Middle management in both adult and children's services are still not adhering to the Compact.

*More written reports for discussion on key issues i.e. changes to LSB, budget, reforms.
More open discussions on key issues.*

More open discussions on key issues concerning the Voluntary Sector and maybe themed workshops to help voluntary sector partners identify similarities / areas they could work together such as cohort bids etc.

7. How would you rate the **administrative servicing** of the committee? (please tick)

Excellent	Good	Average	Below average	Poor
5	6			

8. Please feel free to make any comments on how the administrative servicing of the committee can be improved.

Using ICT and virtual networks to encourage discussion; the possibility of Conference Calls or Video Networking.

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VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 18TH MARCH 2015

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

REPORT BY: GWENT ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

1. GAVO QUARTER 3 REPORT

Headline Data for Quarter 3 cumulative reporting (April - December 2014)

219 Volunteers placed
59,309 Website Visitor sessions
3124 enquiries received and responded to
1012 trustee enquiries received and responded to
251 funding advice enquiries received and responded to
13 trustee events held with 63 participants
8 funding events held with 90 participants
21 new organisations / services developed
33 Third Sector Networks / Forum meetings supported

2. OVERVIEW

- 2.1 Quarter 3 proved to be another busy and exciting period, including a number of GAVO teams being relocated as part of GAVO's programme of change as well as a number of key events. Core teams are now based at Ty Derwen, as their main base, and are able to work in an agile way at other outreach and satellite offices.
- 2.2 Local delivery continued to be a priority, and by the end of quarter 3, GAVO's *annual* target for volunteers placed has very nearly been reached - a testament to the outreach work of the Caerphilly Volunteering team at libraries, schools and local venues across the Borough.
- 2.3 Projects including Communities First, Play and Sunflower Teams are based in local community venues. GAVO is continuing to explore other options for satellite office spaces, or community / voluntary sector premises that could be shared. Ideas are being explored for an additional easily accessible location in Caerphilly for Volunteering /Development Teams to become more visible and closer to communities than in previous premises on Duffryn Business Park.

3. STRATEGIC WORKING

- 3.1 Representatives from GAVO's Senior Leadership Team meet with CCBC's Policy Unit on a quarterly basis and GAVO provides representation to the LSB, Leads Group Delivery Group, and other thematic groupings.

- 3.2 GAVO's Community Planning Co-ordinator continues to work as part of the Policy Unit on the LSB / Single Plan / Citizen Engagement work and spends time weekly in Ty Penallta, attending policy unit meetings and other partnership meetings.
- 3.3 Caerphilly Voluntary Sector Representatives continue to meet quarterly, led by GAVO's Vice Chair and Senior Leadership Team.
- 3.4 In the last quarter, a key focus for GAVO's Leadership Team has been engaging the sector in local authority and other public bodies' efficiency programmes, as discussed at the last VSLC meeting in December. Voluntary Sector Representatives feel that in order to develop and test new models of service delivery, they first need to know which areas would be relevant. Once a clearer idea of the type of services where third sector solutions can be explored, GAVO can support third sector organisations to develop solutions. In the meantime, proposals to support service transformation will be developed with individual service managers.

Compact awareness

GAVO's CEO and Deputy CEO made a presentation to CCBC Management Network in December to raise awareness of the Compact, which was well received by attendees. This model can be used to visit other partner organisations to continue to raise awareness of the Compact and its principles.

Caerphilly LSB Standing Conference

During this quarter, planning was underway for the LSB Standing Conference entitled 'Caerphilly without Poverty' which took place on 30th January 2015. The agenda for the day included an introduction by Wayne David MP and

- Keynote speech by Professor Steve Fothergill of Sheffield Hallam University who will present the report on "The Impact of Welfare Reform on the Valleys".
- A presentation by Rhymney Comprehensive School Council on their "Cloud 9" digital inclusion project.
- A choice of four Workshop Sessions focussing on different aspects of work being delivered in the County borough that contributes to tackling disadvantage.
- A collection point for Foodbank donations on the day.

LSB Support – Making the Connections (MtC) Officer

The work of the last quarter has been impacted upon because the project is now in its "winding down" phase. As a result it is difficult to take on new initiatives so continuity and closure have been and will be the key areas of work.

Over the last quarter the MtC Officer has supported the Enterprising Communities Officer in the delivery of a series of workshops addressing some of the central issues that face groups wishing to set up social enterprises, or become involved in procurement to deliver public services. The MtC Officer has represented the third sector on the Anti-Poverty action group a sub-group of the LSB which has been developing the agenda and content of the January Caerphilly Standing Conference and Caerphilly's draft Anti-Poverty strategy.

Recent work has now been recognised by Welsh Government with the MtC Officer being asked to write case studies on "GAVO Connections" and "Cloud9" projects reported on previously.

The MtC Officer continues to work with the Caerphilly Credit Unions and has recently helped to write a business plan and support the movement of the credit union service into Blaenau Gwent. Smart money Credit union has agreed to become a tenant of Aneurin Bevan House and is committed to deliver the credit union service from there. Smart Money Cymru has also appointed a dedicated Officer for the area. The MtC Officer recently delivered a presentation

to Ystrad Ysbyty Fawr Heads of Department, who have committed themselves to advancing the CU within the hospital as a major employee benefit. This will become an example for Gwent.

The MtC Officer has also supported third sector organisations to adopt and develop policies to establish EMS and Diversity and Engagement systems. The MtC Officer has recently worked with a group to adopt a robust be-spoke legal structure and governance document which will allow the group to tender to deliver service.

Intelligence and data gathering

The “GAVO Connections” project set out to create a robust conditional database of third sector organisations and to identify organisations ready to deliver public services and those that need targeted training and support. GAVO’s Making the Connections Officer worked jointly with Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) to appoint an additional short-term Data Entry Officer. Following a presentation by the MtC Officer to CCBC Policy and Research Manager the council identified the impact that the tool could have. In particular in identifying organisations that could be engaged with, to deliver, procure public services. CCBC Policy Unit helpfully offered an additional £2,000 to extend this project and ensure robust data is captured across the Borough. GAVO has appointed to the short term post which will provide intensive data cleansing and capture for 8 weeks.

The MtC Officer has also written a “draft” case study on the “GavoConnections” data base project which will be used to support and illustrate the impact of the MtC project and has supported and attended national MtC meetings to establish if it would be possible to develop a Wales wide data-base of organisations that are capable of delivering public services and their needs; It is hoped that this will become a legacy project.

4. GOVERNANCE

4.1 GAVO held its AGM in November; GAVO’s Governance timetable for the year was set in January to include:

- Local Committee meetings
- Executive Committee meetings
- Sub- Committees of the Board (such as Health & Safety / Finance & personnel)
- Thematic groups – to take forward elements of GAVO’s Business Plan with staff and trustees (such as Health, Social Care and Wellbeing; Volunteering; Business Development and Income Generation).

5. CONTRIBUTION TO SIP

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

6. PROSPEROUS

6.1 **Building Capacity for future delivery and working with CCBC Procurement**

As reported previously, on the direction of the CCBC Corporate Management Team, work has been undertaken by the Council’s Policy Unit to support GAVO to develop the capacity of the local third sector, and gain a clearer picture of the capacity of the sector to take on large scale projects. From November to December GAVO organised a number of bitesize seminars on social enterprise and procurement support for third sector organisations in the borough covering:

1. What are Social Enterprises
2. How to develop a business plan for Social Enterprise start up
3. How to manage risk with Social Enterprise
4. Legal Structures for Social Enterprises with the Community Interest Company (CIC) answering questions relating to CIC's
5. VAT Matters
6. Tendering with CCBC
7. Difference between grants/contracts/service level agreements.

30 individuals representing 17 organisations attended and an Evaluation report has been compiled to inform the planning of future events.

Planning is now underway for a larger culmination event – a *Third Sector Provider Fair* to be held at Ty Penallta on 23rd March 2015. The aim of the Provider fair will be to bring CCBC / Aneurin Bevan University Health Board/ oPCC commissioners and procurement leads, together with local third sector organisations to look at how the third sector can support the delivery of public services and specific outcomes, once budgets and key service areas for commissioning are known. A meeting was held with CCBC Procurement officers to explore how opportunities for third sector organisations to deliver services can be defined and communicated.

6.2 Enterprising Communities

GAVO's Community Economic Development Officer is now in project closure stage, due to European funding ending on 31.03.15. In the last quarter a range of meetings have been held to:

- organise Bitesize seminars
- develop a South East Wales Social Enterprise Directory
- Participate in a very successful Enterprising Communities Audit
- Plan the Third Sector Providers fair

Organisations Supported throughout the period include:

Trinant Café: with trustees and CCBC to discuss setting up a private company limited by guarantee.

Churches in Action: to discuss what social enterprises are and the organisations ideas for developing one.

Simply Volunteering: to discuss social enterprise idea and discuss legal structures for his venture.

Everyone can be Einstein: to discuss a social enterprise idea. Also discussed legal structures, governance and possible sources of finance and help were given to develop a constitution suited toward the needs of her enterprise.

Gaynor Oliver: Numerous telephone conversations supporting Gaynor and trustees identify a Feasibility Study for their proposed Social Enterprise Community Centre.

Sugar Academy: to discuss ideas for developing a social enterprise gym within New Tredegar area. Discussed the business plan and signposted onto Caerphilly based business advisors.

Simply Do: to discuss ideas for developing a social enterprise focused around developing entrepreneurs wishing to start up their own businesses. Discussed the business idea and signposted to GAVO's Grant Finder and GAVO's Bitesize seminar around VAT Matters.

Bedwellty and New Tredegar Parish: discussed ideas for a social enterprise co-operative, within the New Tredegar area.

Core Development work

GAVO's Senior Development Officer supported 33 groups throughout the reporting period which included funding advice and applications, mediation, governance and trustee issues amongst others.

A key highlight was the completion of the CFAP application and Business Plan for Newbridge

Tabernacle Church which amounts to £500,000.

The last quarter has proved to be challenging and enquiries have become complex as funding streams have diminished. Most funders require a business or project plan which causes organisations (particularly the smaller ones) difficulty and they require extra help. Charity applications are also causing groups difficulty due to the "on line only" process.

Community Voice Programme

The Community Voice Portfolio projects continue to work with strategic partners to develop engagement processes which include minority and disadvantaged groups (listed in previous reports). The programme has provided support and guidance to projects facing challenges within the portfolio in Caerphilly such as guidance and assistance with the recruitment and induction of new project officers.

Communities First

Development Officers continue to work within the local community, promoting all CF projects on a regular basis when meeting with community groups and at local functions.

The Mid Valleys West officers have relocated their main base from Duffryn Business Park to Bargoed Library which is central to the Cluster area. They continue to be located at our other centres, including Neaudd St Catwg Church Hall in Gelligaer and the Youth Centre in Cefn Hengoed. It is anticipated that an office will be acquired in the new Tir y Berth Community Centre when it is opened in Spring 2015.

A variety of events took place in the last quarter including:

- Lewis School, Pengam engagement event, 23 October '14
- Pumpkin carving workshop, Gilfach Fargod Community Centre, 29 October '14
- Craft event, Gilfach Fargod Primary School, 10 November '14
- Bargoed Christmas market, Bargoed, 29 November '14
- Petra Book Launch, 12 December '14 (see below)

Work with emerging and existing community groups continues as well as support for partnerships. 15 groups have been assisted with varying needs, be it with funding, constitutional advice, forward-planning, community engagement or linking with Communities First projects.

Cascade Methodist Church was helped in their funding application to the Coalfields Regeneration Trust for a new heating system and were awarded £5,800. *Bargoed Gardening Club* was assisted in their application to Awards for All (National Lottery) and were successful in securing £4,800. *Cefn Hengoed Youth Centre's* committee is currently reviewing options on their existing building; we have helped enlist the support of a local developer and surveyor to assist in the decision-making process. Their options include a revamp of the current building or potentially a complete re-build. We are advising on how best to engage with the community in order that the Committee can secure grant funding for which ever option they pursue.

Caerphilly Basin Communities First Development officers have continued to support the Communities First Partnerships by attending their monthly meetings and supporting them with their community events. A community engagement event took place in Graig Y Rhacca. Despite the bad weather this was very well attended by 64 people including adults, young people and children. From this event some people were referred onto Communities First Projects.

Development officers have continued to work towards the volunteering targets in partnership with the Communities First Employment Officers with regards to volunteering opportunities; 5 people were referred onto GAVO in this quarter.

Development Officers worked with local groups, in helping them to identify funding and training including Graig Y Rhacca Resource, Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation (CISWO) and Van Camera Club.

In this quarter development officers attended the multi-agency Lansbury Park Multi Agency Working Group. At the meetings the group are provided with information on what services/projects and activities take place within Lansbury Park. It was also discussed with the group the setting up of a Lansbury Facebook page. Development officers have identified a volunteer who lives in Lansbury, who is willing to manage the page once they have completed training, which will take place in January 2015.

6.3 Healthier

Sunflower Hospital Volunteering Project

Following on from the recent success of the project winning an award at ABuHB's Nursing and Midwifery Conference, the project has now been nominated for an NHS award.

From October to December, the project at Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr has had 30 active volunteers and there are a further 24 on a waiting list with the next recruitment drive planned for January. A few of the volunteers were accepted to take up places at University for courses within Health and Social Care – directly as a result of their volunteering experience with the project. 3 volunteers have been placed onto a Parkinson's Awareness scheme at the hospital – they have been involved in assisting with collating information packs which will be distributed across the wards in the New Year. During the quarter, there were 1320 instances of patients being befriended by the Sunflower volunteers with 282 of these receiving pampering and 265 involved in group activities. The project was praised at a Benefits Realisation workshop held in November and it is becoming even clearer that the project is having a very positive impact on patients.

Health and Social Care Facilitator (HSCF)

In this quarter, the HSCF Assisted the Health Board's Carer Coordinator to organise the conference for carers and professional to raise awareness of carers issues under the Carers Measure. This included designing the conference materials and information packs with members of Newport Carers Forum and facilitating workshops at the conference on life after caring. Contributed to the report to the Carers board through the evaluation and feedback.

A number of consultations have been contributed to and promoted:-

- Gwent Money Advice Project survey of how people access advice
- Gwent Police and Crime Commissioners consultation 'Getting it Right' on policing priorities and resource allocation
- ABUHB listening events
- Gofal's survey on users experiences with primary care services
- WG survey of the take up of flu vaccinations by third sector
- Supporting the Gwent data collection for the Social Services and Wellbeing Act in relation to information advice and assistance
- Caerphilly County Borough Council's recent public consultation on proposed budget cuts.
- The third sector advocacy organisations contributed to a Gwent Advocacy Directory and a local Caerphilly advocacy guide. This was circulated during the ABUHB Carers Conference and sent on request to the ABUHB Director Lead for 'Putting Things Right' Complaints and concerns.

Further work has been undertaken to ensure that Third sector personnel have the knowledge and skills to operate sustainably fairly, legally including:

- Designed and delivered an e procurement seminar for the third sector to promote an understanding of e procurement and the software systems used by Caerphilly County Borough Council;
- Attended an Information Sharing Protocol WASPI event organised by Caerphilly County Borough Council. Arranging the ISP lead to present at the Caerphilly Health and Social Care Alliance;
- Continued to contribute to the social care workforce joint partnership between Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent councils and represent the third sector in Caerphilly on the Executive Management Board. Third sector organisations are able to access the forum and training through the partnership. Recent training days for forum members include updates to supporting and working with people with Dementia and engagement with the information days on the Social Care and Wellbeing Act delivered by the regional SE Wales Partnership in partnership with Cardiff University.
- Brokered access to commissioners regarding tenancy support pilots where funding was successfully secured for 4 tenancy support officers. Indications from commissioners are that this funding is likely to be extended because of the successful delivery of the pilots for at least a further year.

The HSCF also contributes to effective engagement in Policy such as:

- Aneurin Bevan Stakeholder Reference Group continue to represent the third sector in Caerphilly borough and the Caerphilly Health and Social Care Alliance. Recently participated and contributed to the development of the ABUHB's 3 Year Plan, Annual Report and the recruitment and interview process for the new Chief Executive Officer.
- Developed in partnership with the Health Improvement Lead Caerphilly Borough a 5 Ways to Wellbeing Training Module delivered by a local third sector organisation, Caerphilly Borough Mind. The pilot was presented at a showcase event held by the Gwent Public Health Team and well received. Organisations are in discussions with Caerphilly Borough Mind on collaborations to deliver the module for their respective client groups.
- Contributed through workshop sessions to the South East Wales Social Care Partnerships action plan with regard to preparing the workforce delivering social care to fully understand the implications to practice of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act.
- Organising third sector data collection in relation to the Information, advice and assistance section of the Social Care and Wellbeing Act in cooperation with the thematic leads for the Gwent partnership. The mapping of level and range of service will support the report to Welsh Government.

A key part of the HSCF is to ensure that the sector is seen as a vital route to participation and engagement including with minority and disadvantaged groups, achieved through:

- Connecting with the ABUHB Primary Mental Health team to engage the third sector with the Mental Health Measure. The chair of the south NCN cluster is interested in joining the discussions to understand what the third sector has to offer in terms of range and level of service at Tier 1 and 2. Further meetings arranged in the next quarter.
- Continue to promote third sector support available in the community through the 3 Neighbourhood Care Networks attended by the GP's, practice managers, district nursing and allied professional. Caerphilly Third sector Health and Social Care Alliance continues to provide representation in planning e.g. Caerphilly Voluntary Sector Liaison Group/Compact group.

6.4 Learning

GAVO's Training Team delivered the following courses during the quarter to a total of 44 participants:

- Monitoring & Evaluation
- Community Health Champions – Train the Trainer
- Roles & Responsibilities of Committee Members/Trustees
- POVA Awareness
- Mental Health First Aid (Adult)

Pop in and Play

A number of volunteers have been inducted and positive DBS achieved. One volunteer used to be a parent within the project and now wants to access training and gain experience through the project.

Creative Play were successful with a Big Lottery Awards for a bid to purchase books and home packs for families within Families First Pop in and Play groups as well as being successful in securing additional Families First funding to purchase resources for groups and publicity materials to promote groups.

The role of Pop in and Play has adapted to develop a smooth transition for children moving onto childcare in Flying Start. A pilot project started, based in Graig y Rhacca with seven families having attended.

Intergenerational work has been discussed with the Winding House this quarter through how the older generation used to play and how we can involve more children 0-3years into the museum. This will be taken forward in Quarter 4. Playday planning for 2015 has also started this month with the initial meeting of the steering group.

Feedback from Communities First surveys carried out on National Play Day (August 2014) suggested that a bespoke Parent & Child First Aid session was needed which will be delivered in Quarter 4 by the Communities First team.

Communities First

Cartref Luncheon Club have asked for support in training their volunteers in food safety; we anticipate a training date in Quarter 4.

Fourteen GAVO Family Play sessions have taken place over the last quarter. On average, with 34 families and 44 children attending. We continue to investigate ways in which we can better engage with the parents in order to increase participation in these sessions and bring about awareness of CF projects in the area.

Over the quarter, 24 Communities First work surgeries were held in Gelligaer and Bargoed have been supported. We continue to actively promote our volunteering scheme and assist the Employment Officers wherever needed. We have also supported one-to-one employment referrals.

The Work Club has now moved to the Caerphilly Library and since the move, numbers have increased. We continue to help clients with job search, completing applications and updating their C.Vs. From the work club 3 people were referred onto GAVO for volunteering opportunities.

Communities First Development Officers delivered the FAST programme for 8 weeks in Cwm Ifor Primary School. This is an award-winning early-intervention programme which supports children's learning at home, to help them fulfill their potential at school by asking parents and children to take part in activities together. Following on from the 8 week programme, the

parents will continue with FASTWORKS, a continuation stage of the FAST programme, which is led by the parents following FAST graduation and can continue for two years or more. In this component, FAST families will gather monthly for activities chosen by the parents. During November 57 attended and in December, 52 attended which included adults and children.

Mid Valleys East Communities First has recently met with the new Head of Markham Primary to discuss the potential of joint working to develop CF projects in 2015. This was a very positive meeting and the team were invited to attend Christmas concerts to engage with parents; links were made and we will continue to attend the school during key times to promote CF projects.

Communities First staff continue to support the Employment officers to develop and deliver routes into employment programmes the next project is being delivered around a hygiene and cleaning theme. There has also been discussions to start an environmental project with the team in the Panside area where clients will be trained in brush cutting, first aid, manual handling and health and safety. Work clubs continue to be held in Cefn Fforest, Trinant, Panside and Ty-Sign, Risca with some people have found both full and part time employment.

6.5 Greener

The CATWG Project (Community Activities Together within Gardens), which began in Quarter 2, ended in October. A presentation event was held on 23 October to celebrate the re-launch of the garden and to recognise the achievement of the eight volunteers who participated. Four of the volunteers progressed to a brush-cutting course with a recognised qualification. In this quarter, 48 volunteer hours were used in this project.

TARAGGAN allotment group are reviewing their options for expansion. CF Officers have brokered a meeting with the relevant officers in the local authority to discuss their expansion plans and their needs going forward, including identifying the most suitable land nearest their existing plot. The local authority is expected to make a decision (and potentially an offer of land) early in 2015.

Communities First Development officers have continued to work in partnership with the Community Regeneration Coordinator to improve Lansbury Stretch. A Graffiti workshop / consultation took place on Friday 3rd October 2014. 72 adults and children attended the event. This was to give the residents the opportunity to put their ideas forward on how they would like to see the new shop fronts to look

Ongoing Development support is still continuing for Trethomas Allotment. In this quarter the group were supported in completing their paperwork for the grant they received from the Renewal & Development Key Fund.

Risca Play and Learn group have continued to meet and discuss the development of the land in Ty-Sign. They have had discussions over the development of a multi-use games area on the site of the kickwall and improvements to the skateboard site and the play park. CF Team has assisted them with the Technical Assistance Fund grant, sources of funding and fundraising advice.

Argoed Baptist Church is continuing to make progress on the findings from the building condition survey which highlights that a large amount of work is needed on the Grade 2 listed building; the group recently submitted an expression of interest form to CFAP for £200,000 and have now been invited to submit a full application to this fund. The group have also been supported by Communities First Team to submit a CRF application which will allow them to address the removal of the pews and installation of a new heating system.

6.6 Safer

During this quarter, proposals have been developed with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for a Third Sector Engagement post, to maximise the contribution of the sector to the Police and Crime Plan for Gwent. This is a joint proposal between GAVO and TVA (Torfaen Voluntary Alliance) to develop a closer relationship with between the oPCC and third sector service delivery and to develop GAVO's broker role in setting up consortia or other delivery models.

Gwent Police conduct a monthly surgery within the Lansbury office. Since the Caerphilly Basin Communities First Development Officers have moved into Lansbury office, officers will be attending twice a week for an hour. This is to encourage a closer working relationship with the community and will help to address the Anti-Social Behaviour.

Mid Valleys East Communities First Officers have been involved with the Risca Crime Prevention Panel, showing a drug awareness film to primary school parents. Having been funded with £1000 from the Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner they intend to show this film early in 2015. This is intended to be a pilot project which may be able to be rolled out throughout Gwent depending on local success.

GAVO's Deputy CEO will be attending the Safer Delivery Group in Quarter 4.

Contacts

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VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 18TH MARCH 2015

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 of 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) :-

EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 13TH JANUARY 2015 DISCRIMINATORY INCIDENTS IN SCHOOLS REPORT 2014

To update Members on the monitoring and reporting of discriminatory incidents in schools. This report is an update to Education for Life Scrutiny of the report presented in January 2014 and covers the full range of work undertaken by CCBC and partner organisations on Equalities issues, both within the Directorate of Education and in schools and governing bodies, with particular focus on discriminatory bullying.

Members may recall that since the Spring Term in the 2011-2012 academic year, termly reporting of discriminatory bullying incidents to the Directorate of Education has been a mandatory requirement, as part of wider bullying and equalities monitoring.

The positive work being undertaken by this Council is receiving publicity across the country, with a short article in Fyne Times reflecting the last few years' work. Fyne Times is a national publication covering LGBT issues but its most recent edition was specifically around homophobic bullying in Education.

GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL - 26TH NOVEMBER 2014 APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

To present the Panel with the applications for financial assistance received to date for the current financial year.

The report advises Panel members of the budget allocations for both the Voluntary Sector budget and the "Welsh Church Fund" and provides details of applications received.
Assistance To Voluntary Sector Budget

The Panel's budget for 2014/2015 is as follows:

- Budget 2014-15 £255,220.00
- Less Discretionary Rate Relief (Estimated) £234,925.00
- Remaining Budget £20,295.00
- Carry forward balance from 2013-14 £83,258.00
- Total Budget 2014-15 £103,553.00
- Total Grants awarded to date £7,215.00
- Balance Remaining £96,338.00

The Discretionary Rate Relief for 2014-15 is now forecast to be £234,925; this is an increase from the last panel meeting projections of some £12,959. This now leaves a projected budget allocation of £20,295. Together with the carry forward from previous years of £83,258.00 this gives a total budget allocation of £103,553.00. To date grant awards total £7,215.00. Budget remaining for allocation is £96,338.00.

HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 10TH FEBRUARY 2015

WALES AUDIT OFFICE REVIEW OF LOCAL AUTHORITY ARRANGEMENTS TO SUPPORT SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN

To inform Scrutiny Committee Members of the findings of the Wales Audit Office (WAO) Review into the local authority arrangements to support the safeguarding of children and the actions being undertaken within the Council as a result.

In the period March to May 2014 the WAO completed a review of Caerphilly County Borough Council's (the Council) assurance and accountability arrangements for ensuring that safeguarding policies and procedures are in place and are being adhered to. The findings of the Review were published in October 2014. The Review was reported to Cabinet on 10th December 2014 where it was agreed that a cross Directorate group of key Officers would be established to implement the recommendations made by WAO. This report summarises the conclusions and recommendations of the Review and serves to update Members on the proposals to implement the required actions on behalf of the Council.

The WAO Review focused on: Does the Council's governance and management arrangements provide assurance that children are safeguarded?

The main questions that the review sought to answer were:

- Are there clear governance, accountability and management arrangements for overseeing whether the Council is meeting its safeguarding responsibilities to children?
- Is the Council monitoring and evaluating appropriate information, which provides assurance that it is meeting its safeguarding responsibilities to children?
- Are assurance systems operating effectively?

The report concluded that:

- The governance, accountability and management arrangements for overseeing whether the Council is meeting its safeguarding responsibilities to children have some weaknesses which the Council is addressing.
- The Council's arrangements for monitoring and evaluating its safeguarding responsibilities to children have some weaknesses which the Council must address.
- The Council's approach to identifying and acting on improvements in its safeguarding arrangements has some weaknesses which the Council is addressing.

It is important for Members to note that the Review does not identify any weaknesses in the operational, day to day safeguarding arrangements for children and young people in Caerphilly. The recommendations relate to the corporate governance of those arrangements.

Following on from the conclusions referred to above, the Review makes five proposals for improvement. These are:

- Develop a Corporate Safeguarding Policy that clearly specifies roles, responsibilities and procedures for safeguarding.
- The Council should clarify who designated officers with responsibility for safeguarding are.
- Improve the range, quality and coverage of safeguarding performance reporting to Members to provide adequate assurance that corporate arrangements are working effectively.
- Ensure all Elected Members and staff who come into contact with children on a regular basis receive training on safeguarding and child protection issues and the Council's corporate policy on safeguarding. This should also include volunteers.
- Identify and agree an appropriate internal audit programme of work for safeguarding.

**LICENSING COMMITTEE – 16TH FEBRUARY 2015
INTRODUCTION OF FITNESS/KNOWLEDGE TEST FOR ALL NEW HACKNEY
CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S APPLICATIONS**

To inform members of a proposal to introduce a fitness test as a means to assist in the assessment of whether or not a person can be considered as a fit and proper person to be granted a hackney carriage / private hire driver's licence.

This report aims to inform members of recent concerns over the general suitability of applicants for taxi driver licences within the county borough. Increasing numbers of applications are being submitted from persons whose fitness to hold a taxi drivers licence is questionable due to lack of local knowledge, poor communication skills and low levels of literacy and numeracy. The report therefore recommends the introduction of a pre application fitness test as a means of assessing their suitability to hold such a licence.

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 – 18TH MARCH 2015

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY PLANNING QUARTERLY BRIEFING JANUARY TO MARCH 2015

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Committee Member with the Community Strategy Quarterly Briefing January to March 2015 for information.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The briefing reports the activities of delivering the outcome areas for the Community Strategy through **Caerphilly Delivers** the Single Integrated Plan for community planning between January to March 2015.

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 January to March 2015. 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.

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 January to March 2015

Community Planning Quarterly January to March 2015

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)

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Devolution, Democracy and Delivery White Paper *Reforming Local*

Government: Power to Local People - this White Paper presents a new model for Local Government in Wales focusing on place shaping and closer working with communities. The White Paper sets out the Welsh Government's ambitions for:

- Activist councils, engaged in delivering modern, accessible, high quality public services with their local communities
- A more limited number of national priorities for local government with councils setting the bulk of priorities
- More diverse membership of local authorities and cabinets
- Reducing the cost of politics and management in local government
- Councils committed to looking outwards building community capacity and resilience
- Councils open to new ways of delivering services based on Wales's traditions of cooperative and mutual services
- Empowering local people to be more closely involved in decision-taking.

The breadth of the White Paper consultation questions is extensive covering local democracy, the roles and remuneration of Elected Members and senior officers, community governance and Community Councils, community rights, corporate improvement, service performance, scrutiny, audit, inspection and regulation, and finance.

Please contact the relevant co-ordinator if you require further information on any of the above or Community Planning, Penallta House Tredomen Park, Ystrad Mynach CF82 7PG **Page 31**

In legislating for change the White Paper notes there will be two pieces of legislation:

1. Local Government (Wales) Bill to allow for preparatory work to enable a programme of Local Government mergers and reform.
2. Second Draft Bill to be published for consultation autumn 2015 and introduced into the Assembly in 2016, after Assembly elections. The Bill will be based on the proposals in White Paper, and complete the programme of Local Authority mergers, establish a statutory Public Services Staff Commission, and contain a new and reformed legislative framework for Local Authority democracy, accountability, performance and finance.

The Welsh Government has published 3 versions of the White Paper (titles are clickable links):

- [Full version](#)
- [Everyday \(summary\) version](#)
- [Young people version](#)

For a full-list of proposals/options see the Welsh Government's 30 page consultation form: <http://wales.gov.uk/docs/dsjlg/consultation/150203-power-to-local-people-response-en.docx>:

The White Paper is out to consultation until 28th April 2015.

The Wales We Want Report Launched 2nd March 2015

The Report distils the National Conversation on *The Wales We Want* involving 7,000 people in identifying environmental, social and economic issues which will impact on Wales' future generations. The Wales We Want conversation was initiated as a pilot exercise by Welsh Government for developing the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill and has mirrored the UN *World We Want* process. The Conversation has contributed to the shaping of the Bill and provides lessons for implementing the proposed legislation. The Report sets out the following seven foundations for the wellbeing of future generations:

1. Children need to be given the best start in life from very early years
2. Future generations need thriving communities built on a strong sense of place
3. Living within global environmental limits, managing our resources efficiently and valuing our environment is critical
4. Investing in growing our local economy is essential for the well-being of future generations
5. Well-being of all depends on reducing inequality and a greater value on diversity
6. Greater engagement in the democratic process, a stronger citizen voice and active participation in decision making is fundamental for the well-being of future generations

7. Celebrating success, valuing our heritage, culture and language will strengthen our identity for future generations

The report also sets out recommendations for the planned statutory Public Service Boards (replacing Local Service Boards) to ensure decisions are joined-up, focussed on the long term, and better aligned with the priorities, and for carrying forward the Conversation as a platform for the new Future Generations Commissioner.

Key links:

Press release of report launch at SWALEC Stadium, Cardiff - [news story](#)
The Wales We Want Report - [download the report](#)

**Caerphilly Local Service Board Standing Conference
Caerphilly Without Poverty 30th January 2015**

The conference continued the discussions begun at the previous Standing Conference in June 2014 to look at partnership actions to tackle poverty within communities. There was an excellent turnout with over 90 people present from the Local Service Board and community planning partners. The keynote speech was given by Steve Fothergill from Sheffield Hallam University, author of the report *The Impact of Welfare Reform on the Valleys*, following the welcome by Cllr Gerald Jones, Deputy Leader of Caerphilly County Borough Council and Anti Poverty champion, and an introduction by Wayne David, MP for Caerphilly. Rhymney Comprehensive School Council gave a presentation on their innovative *Cloud 9* digital inclusion project. Members were briefed on the development of an Anti Poverty Strategy for the Caerphilly County Borough by Rob Hartshorn, Anti Poverty Champion (Lead Officer) before breaking out into four workshops focussing on the “four P’s” – **Pockets** (Sustaining tenancies, support available to households); **Prospects** (Petra the Penguin, celebrating the achievements of the family learning literacy project); **Prevention** (Gwent Money Advice Project), and **Places** (Lansbury Park Multi-Agency Working Group).

A date for your Diary – the next Caerphilly Local Service Board Standing Conference will take place on Friday 12th June at Llancaiach Fawr, Nelson.

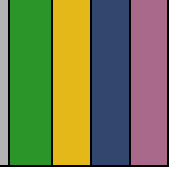
Below is the draft Caerphilly County Borough Council Anti Poverty Strategy, which is out to consultation until 27th March 2015.



12100 Anti Poverty
Strategy.pdf

Link to Caerphilly Local Service Board website -

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



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

Urdd National Eisteddfod - Caerphilly County Borough Council is gearing up for the National Urdd Eisteddfod that is scheduled to be held at Llancaiach Fawr Manor House in May 2015. The event is one of Europe's largest cultural youth festivals and regularly attracts over 100,000 people over a period of six days. 15,000 children and young people compete at the event, having competed with a further 30,000 competitors at regional Eisteddfodau prior to the Urdd. The event includes evening competitions and concerts, over 200 trade stands, catering concessions, a bar, live music, funfair, sporting and craft activities, with the main competitions taking place in a temporary indoor pavilion seating 1,800 people.

Current Convergence Programme - closes next year, and once all projects have been completed, Caerphilly County Borough Council will have secured £40m of European grant. With match funding included, this has totalled over £70m of investment.

New European Funding - in November, the Welsh Operational Programmes for European Social Fund (ESF) and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) were approved. This enabled the Welsh Government to progress their implementation plans for those programmes and the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) are now working with partners to develop business plans (proposals). Following their guidance, most proposals are either national or regional and colleagues across the Council are working with their counterparts in other local authorities and in the Welsh Government.

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) Business Plan 2 has just finished, bringing over £3m into the county borough. The next round of RDP funding should be announced by the Welsh Government shortly, and details will be made available in due course.

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:

- On the 21st January Cabinet approval of the final stage report for the development of a Leased Model. The model will deliver a wide range of housing in partnership with United Welsh Housing Association (UWHA) and the Seren Group, whilst at the same time delivering a revenue income for

the local authority. The model will be delivered on the Watford Road site in Caerphilly and Windsor Colliery, Abertridwr. The project has the potential to deliver over 200 homes which will consist of market sales, intermediate rented housing, social housing and low cost home ownership.

- Working closely with UWHA on the refurbishment and extension of young persons' accommodation at Garth Owen, Llanbradach. The facility has provided eight 1-bedroom self contained apartments, which have been delivered to temporary accommodation standards. The project also includes an apartment that has been specifically designed for disabled young persons. The project was funded by UWHA with a total project cost of £332,000 and the scheme is run by Llamau, a leading Homelessness Charity for the vulnerable young people and women in Wales.
- Continuing to work in partnership with the Seren Group on the redevelopment of the former Manor Inn public house in Ty Sign, Risca. The scheme has delivered five 2-bed homes and three 3-bed homes. The total project cost was £1,427,000 with a contribution of £828,000 of Social housing Grant. The scheme has helped to regenerate the site that was a source of anti-social behaviour as well as providing well-designed, energy efficient homes for local people.
- Continuing to work in collaboration with Welsh Government and UWHA on the provision of 18 single persons' temporary accommodation at Maes Y Derwen, Nelson. The total investment by UWHA on this development is £900,000, which includes a contribution of £500,000 under the Social Housing Grant Programme.
- Working in partnership with UWHA on the submission of a planning application for the redevelopment of the Bargoed Fire Station. The scheme will deliver eight single person supported accommodation apartments for people with mental health issues, as well as the development of eight 2-bed houses and six 1-bedroom apartments social rented homes. A bid was submitted under the Smaller Properties Programme for the general needs homes on this development. The Housing Strategy department secured £868,829 of grant funding for the development of smaller units of accommodation that will be targeted at households within the County Borough needing to downsize due to the implications of the spare room subsidy.
- Housing Strategy has worked in partnership with UWHA, Welsh Government and Welsh Health Estates on the redevelopment of the former Aberbargoed Hospital site. The site was transferred to UWHA under the Welsh Government's Land Release Protocol. The development has delivered twenty-three affordable homes consisting of six 1-bed apartments and eight 2-bed houses and nine 3-bed houses and have been built to Welsh Government's Design Quality Requirement standards. The total scheme cost was £2,760,231 with just over £1,579,000 of Social Housing Grant being granted for the scheme.

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

LIFT Family Employment Mentors continue to help people from workless households into training or employment opportunities. From April 2015, LIFT will be extended into the Upper Rhymney Valley. An additional Senior LIFT Officer has been recruited, and the two existing officers will have one area each, one in the Caerphilly Basin and one in the Upper Rhymney Valley. Family Employment Mentors provide one to one support to help individuals improve confidence, access training and work placements towards employment. An innovative project to improve confidence has been held with South Wales Fire and Rescue Service and mentors are supporting individuals to progress to employment including sourcing police check information, supporting with voluntary placements. Work placement opportunities have been secured with the NHS, SPS Envirowall, Melin Homes, and ESA Installations.

Youth Hubs continue in youth unemployment hotspots in Senghenydd, Abercarn, Crumlin and Rhymney in partnership with Job Centre Plus, Careers Wales and Communities First. Young people are able to drop in to get employment advice and support on issues such as adult education, gaining work experience, creating a CV and applying for Jobs Growth Wales (JGW) placements. The youth employment officers have supported 57 young people into employment since April, 93 have secured JGW placements and 103 have completed an employment related qualification. To find out more please contact Greg or Lynsey on telephone: 01443 864139.

Mid Valleys East is currently running the final Route to Work Environment programme in February and early March. Six weeks of training including gaining qualifications in Brushcutter/Strimming and Risk Assessment, First Aid, Manual Handling as well as employability workshops including interview skills and CV presentation. The course will culminate in on site experience at St Peters Church in Panside, where participants will be carrying out improvement works to the Church grounds.

Caerphilly Basin started their Working in Care project on 26th January, and at the conclusion of the six week programme each client will have the tools that are required to successfully job search, be more focused in their pursuit of work and prepared for the working environment.

The Caerphilly Basin Communities First team, along with partners at Bedwas Adult Education Centre, are also running a Working on the Rail programme. The six day course includes the Personal Track Safety training that is the entry level qualification for those looking to work in the rail industry. Training will also include Emergency First Aid (Level 2), Health and Safety in the Workplace (Level 2) and more.

Work clubs continue to provide weekly drop in opportunities across the borough providing one to one support, advice and guidance. Drop-in sessions are held each Friday morning from 10am until 12pm at Caerphilly Library. Mid Valleys East have weekly outreach work clubs in Cefn Fforest Community Centre and St Peter's Church in Panside.

Communities First staff have a weekly presence in Blackwood Job Centre and Bargoed Job Centre. Job Coaches are able to direct claimants to support from Communities First Employment Officers on site. Joint visits to local businesses are also being held with Communities First and Job Centre Plus staff to promote the Job Centre Plus services and incentives along with Communities First support.

Since April, 95 people have gained employment related qualifications and 104 people have gained employment.

The Get Caerphilly Online project as of 1st January 2015 is 100% funded through the Communities First programme. This has allowed the project to be extended until 31st March 2016 in line with the rest of the Communities First team. A second Digital Inclusion Officer has now been appointed, bringing the team back up to full capacity. The officers are now delivering basic IT classes across all 4 Communities First clusters.

Get Caerphilly online has helped over 5,000 people to get online since the start of the project, with over 1,000 people benefiting from the Digital Fridays drop in sessions alone. A lot of work this quarter is taking place in Sheltered Housing schemes across the borough with sessions currently taking place in Wattsville, Ynysddu, Rhymney and Bedwas.

Green Doctors Programme 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 are given specialist impartial advice on energy saving measures. The key purpose of this project is to increase participants' confidence in managing their fuel bills, reducing their level of household fuel poverty and subsequently contributing to reduced household debt and improved mental health.

Caerphilly and Blaenau Citizen Advice Bureau (CAB) provide outreach advice surgeries for residents to drop in to gain information on a number of social welfare topics including managing debt, housing, employment and accessing benefits. Since April, 1124 people have accessed the outreach service. 286 of these have reduced/managed their money and 551 have accessed benefits they are entitled to. Details of CAB outreach advice surgeries are provided below -

Outreach Venues and Opening Times		
Venue	Day	Time
Community First Cefn Fforest Community Centre	Mondays	9.00 – 11.30
Community First office Lansbury Park	Wednesday afternoons	1:30-4pm
Community First Trecenydd Community Centre	Mondays closed until the 2 nd June	9:30-11:30
Community First Cefn Hengoed Youth Centre	Wednesdays	9.15 – 11.30
Graig YRhacca Resource Centre	Suspended at present	
Bedwas Council Chambers	Alternate Wednesday from 29/1/2014	9:30-12.00
Newbridge Tabernacle Church	Thursdays	9.30 - 12.00
Senghenydd Community Centre	Thursdays	9:30-12.00
Rhymney Day Centre	Fridays (except last Fri of Month)	9:30 -12:00
Customer first Pontlottyn Customer first Office	Last Friday in Month	9:30-11.00
Rhymney Valley Food bank St Dingat's Church, Church Terrace	Thursdays	10:30-12:30

ASB Victim Services Manager - the Victims 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 through the court process. During the third quarter (October 2014 – December 2014) a total of 79 referrals have been made and contacted. The victim's 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 01495 235441 or e-mail: harril5@caerphilly.gov.uk

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

- 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 night-time economy is ongoing through Street Pastors, Community Safety Wardens, Door staff etc.

New CCTV signs have been purchased for the Blackwood and Caerphilly areas using the Safer Caerphilly After Dark logo informing members of the public that the area is monitored by CCTV and have now been strategically placed in Blackwood and Caerphilly Town Centres.

Further promotion of the scheme took place throughout December 2014 with the Safer Caerphilly After Dark logo being beamed onto the side of Caerphilly Castle in the week leading up to *Bleak Friday* and a Twitter competition to win an iPad mini, with the winner announced on 22nd December. As a result of the two promotions traffic to the Safer Caerphilly website increased substantially.

The Safer Caerphilly Volunteer Network - incorporates the diverse range of individuals who are actively involved in their communities and have an interest in working alongside other partner agencies to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. The Volunteer Network is made up of 229 individuals from groups such

as Neighbourhood Watch, Crime Prevention Panels, Community Groups and Partnerships, Street Pastors and Tenants and Residents Associations.

The meetings are held every six months with a newsletter sent to members in December. If you would like to attend the next meeting or would like further information on the Volunteer Network please contact the Community Safety office on 01495 235350.

Domestic Abuse Awareness Raising - during the month of February and March 2015 a Twitter campaign has been launched to raise awareness of domestic abuse. The campaign focuses on social media using the following tag line:

Tweet your feet & show your support #caerphillystandingtogether against domestic abuse

The campaign asks members of the public and other organisations to tweet a picture of their feet to show support and raise awareness of domestic abuse.

Caerphilly domestic abuse support services will also be tweeting throughout the campaign using the same hashtag to promote services which are available to those experiencing domestic abuse and their families.

For more information regarding the campaign or domestic abuse please contact the Community Safety Team on: 01495 235350



Join our campaign and tweet your feet to say
#caerphillystandingtogether



against domestic violence

@safercaerphilly



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



FAMILIES FIRST PROJECTS

Peer Mentors - Inclusion and Support has recently received a grant to enable eight Young Carers to become Peer Mentors via the Agored Cymru Mentoring Skills course. The course aims to benefit Young Carers by supporting them through training and *education, improving their confidence and self-esteem to achieve, and developing* their work based skills for future employment. Additionally, the training will benefit the wider community through increasing diversity in volunteering population.

Through mentoring their peers, the Young Carers will not only provide advice and guidance, but also become positive role models. Through the process of becoming Peer Mentors they will:

- Increase their leadership and public speaking skills
- Learn all aspects of planning and group delivery
- Contribute directly to service delivery
- Receive and benefit from supervision and gain a better understanding of safeguarding practices
- Accrue volunteer hours and employment references

Barnardo's Caerphilly, who are facilitating the programme, will also train three members of staff to become assessors, enabling more Young Carers in the future to become Peer Mentors

Integrated Family Learning – has continued to impact on the literacy and numeracy skills of families across the Caerphilly county borough. Programmes run in both school and community settings, including outdoor education sessions. In the last quarter:

- 41 families have engaged in basic skills community programmes
- 30 parents and young people have become volunteers
- 22 young people have engaged in further education as a result of support from the programme
- 819 speech and language sessions have been run in schools across the borough
- 63 individuals have achieved accreditation directly through the project.

Of the above accreditations, 23 children aged between 6- 11 achieved the Children's University Outdoor Education Module and 16 students achieved the Youth University Outdoor Education Module. In addition, there has been one family achiever of the Millennium Volunteers Project, participating in over 200 hours of volunteering.

The project is continuing to ensure that children, young people and families have the skills and resources to access job opportunities and improve their family lifestyle.

Gorilla and the Mouse - following the huge success of *Petra the Penguin*, the project run by The Parent Network are nearing completion on the second storybook in their series. The storybook has been funded by Communities First, Families First and Flying Start, with support from Head 4 Arts and The National Literacy Trust.

The Gorilla and the Mouse tells the story of two unlikely friends and was created by members of the Park Primary forum. Storyteller Mike Church and illustrator Rachael Tudor-Best have helped the parents to bring their story to life.

The Parent Network is extremely proud of their members, who have worked incredibly hard to produce a book for their own children and generations to come. The process has enabled parents to raise their own aspirations and in turn raise those of their children.

Free School Meals Briefing 13th March 2015 - for practitioners who work with children and families to highlight the recent decline in Caerphilly families who are claiming Free School Meals (decreasing by 527 pupils from 2013 to 2014). There are many families in the Caerphilly borough who do not claim Free School Meals, which may be because they do not know they are eligible or how to claim.

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

COMMUNITY EDUCATION EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND PROJECTS

Bridges into Work and Working Skills for Adults

In 2009 Bridges into Work began as a collaborative project between Caerphilly County Borough Council, and Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taff, and Bridgend county borough councils. In early 2010 Working Skills for Adults began operations as a collaboration between Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly Councils and Ystrad Mynach, Merthyr Tydfil and Bridgend further education colleges. The projects are based together in the Bargoed Institute. This location provides easy public transport access for participants, a fully equipped training room and on site Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) registered crèche facilities.

The project teams provide one to one mentoring, advice and guidance through a team of specialist Learning Advisors. This support is delivered in the Caerphilly borough through a network of Libraries and Adult Community Education centres.

These facilities have been a key part to the project's success in breaking down the barriers of disengaged adults by providing easily accessible, informal and welcoming learning environments.

In close partnership with the Adult Community Education team a wide programme of courses are delivered including essential skills, vocational qualifications, ICT, employability skills and the Pacific Institute STEPS programme. The crèche allows participants with child care responsibilities to access support and attend training whilst having their children cared for within the same facility, breaking down a significant barrier for some local residents.

Significant success has been achieved through the collaborative working with the projects targets met or exceeded. Businesses cases are currently being written and submitted to the Welsh European Funding Office for new projects to be approved for the next round of ESF funding 2014-2020.

Healthier Caerphilly (Lianne Dallimore)

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HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

X Pod

Six weekly programmes are available for people who are diagnosed with pre-diabetes (impaired glucose tolerance), or want to reduce their risk of developing type 2 diabetes. X Pod can help people improve blood glucose levels, aid weight loss and raise understanding of healthy foods.

Foodwise

Weight management programmes are available to help people manage their weight the healthy way. Sessions last one hour a week for eight weeks and include reading food labels, portion sizes and healthy balanced diet.

Community Cooking

Practical cooking sessions take place in community venues to show people how fun and easy healthy eating can be. Residents can also gain an Agored accreditation as recognition for what they have learnt.

Living Life To The Full

This free course has been designed to tackle the everyday problems that everyone faces from time to time. It teaches key life skills that will help people feel better, happier and more in control of life. Also called *12 hours that can change your life*, the course uses Cognitive Behavioural Techniques (CBT) to help people with mild to moderate depression or anxiety.

Self Help Groups

Community mental health officers provide self help sessions for individuals over 18 years of age with an aim of improving mental well being, self help strategies and recovery. Sessions take place weekly in community venues.

StreetGames

Street Game sites are available across the borough for young people to access physical activity opportunities on their doorstep. Activities are held weekly and range from football, rugby, street golf, and many more. Young people can also volunteer with Street Games and gain free accredited training.

Physical Activity Programme

From April, Communities First is developing a new partnership with the National Exercise Referral Scheme (NERS). Four Community First Physical Activity Workers will be employed to work with NERS to run programmes and consultations for level 3 participants to improve physical activity and reduce risk factors.

Living Well, Living Longer

The Upper Rhymney Valleys Communities First Cluster, working in partnership with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board's inverse care law Living Well, Living Longer, is due to start a new project to reduce the number of premature deaths from cardiovascular disease and cancer in March.

In Wales, there is a significant difference in rates of avoidable mortality between the least and most deprived socioeconomic groups. Living Well, Living Longer has identified cardiovascular disease and cancer as the major causes of premature mortality in the local area as they place a disproportionate burden on communities with the greatest socioeconomic deprivation. Cardiovascular disease and cancer share many factors, such as poor diet, little exercise, smoking and excess alcohol intake.

In the first phase of the Living Well, Living Longer project targeted support will be provided by identifying those at the greatest risk of developing cardiovascular disease, through health checks, if found to be at risk, information is then passed to GP's for signing onto local schemes to address people's needs. As well as advice about diet and exercise, referrals to exercise and support schemes will be offered through Communities First, as will medical treatment for high blood pressure and raised cholesterol, where needed.

Consultation on Commissioning Mental Health Services in Gwent

The five Local authorities across Gwent and the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board would like to hear your views on the proposals for the commissioning of third sector mental health services in Gwent. The consultation suggests a mental health service model for Gwent, identifies some commissioning priorities and proposes a method of allocating resources across the area to better support the needs of communities.

The consultation document can be accessed via the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Website at: <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/866/news/36359>

The consultation closes on 30th April 2015.

Greener Caerphilly (Paul Cooke)

sustainabledevelopment@caerphilly.org.uk

Outcome G1 – Improving local environmental quality

Each year Caerphilly County Borough Council has provided funding, from its Community Schemes budget, to the Greener Caerphilly Partnership to be managed as a small grants fund to facilitate and stimulate partnership working. The Schemes criteria is to involve at least 2 partnership organisations, and provide at least £1 for £1 match funding. The Greener Caerphilly Leadership Group has received £14,200 for projects in 2014/15.

For 2014/15 a total of 8 projects were awarded grants, all of which contribute to at least one of the priorities. One project supported was the *Rural Skills* project. The project has provided training courses on dry stone walling and hedge laying. A total of 12 one day courses were held.

Traditional skills such as dry stone walling, hedge laying and woodland coppicing have played an important role in the distinctive and unique landscape that we see around us today. Unfortunately, the change in land management practices over the past century has resulted in many of these features being left neglected and falling into disrepair. It is hoped that by gaining these skills through the taster sessions the farming community will be encouraged to maintain, restore and upgrade the rural heritage. Several attendees indicated that the course could assist their farming businesses with the possibility of diversifying into contract work.

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

The Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Officer for Caerphilly County Borough Council has worked with the All Wales Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGC) Local Authority Officer group to map ESDGC against the new National Literacy and Numeracy Framework (LNF), to identify how the areas can be taught using ESDGC.

ESDGC has been mapped against the LNF for years 2, 6 and 9, with suggested activities, website links and resources for each of the elements within the framework. These documents will help schools embed the requirements of the new National Literacy and Numeracy Framework within their curriculum planning, and include ESDGC as a theme for classroom teaching. Within the Caerphilly

county borough, every school has received a printed copy of the relevant version, plus they have received all versions by email.

Outcome G3 - Maximising the use of the environment for health benefits

With the support of partners Groundwork has been successful in securing £800,000 from the BIG Lottery for its Go Green for Health (GG4H) programme. The programme is a *community prescription* of activity in the outdoors designed to prevent ill health and improve the management of chronic conditions. The GG4H programme combines using the natural environment with innovative technology and approaches to increasing a community's active levels. Although open to all community members, the programme is keen to support individuals with chronic conditions and assist them with techniques to manage these conditions and getting more active.

The GG4H programme will be piloted in the Mid Valleys West Communities First Cluster area in the Caerphilly borough, encouraging people from Greater Bargoed, Gilfach, Cefn Hengoed, and surrounding areas to become more active their local green spaces. The programme will have three distinct elements, which include:

- One 2 one support for individuals with barriers to being active,
- Technology to get all residents active in their local areas,
- Volunteer led activity encouraging sustainability of the programme's message.