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Date: 9th March 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee** will be held in the **Penallta House, Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach** on **Wednesday, 16th March, 2016** at **10.30 am** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda. **The meeting will be concluded by 12.15 p.m.**

PLEASE NOTE

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

Yours faithfully,

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 held on the 2nd December 2015. 1 - 8
- 4 Presentation: Welfare Reform and Support for Residents - Dave Titley, Customer Services Manager.
- 5 Budgets - Voluntary Sector Representatives Question to Compact Partners for open discussion: The third sector would like to know what scrutiny processes are in place to ensure that budget decisions for all funding, including hypothecated funding, whether at office or organisational level are based on an evidenced business case and whether risk and equalities impact assessments are carried out.
- 6 Compact Review - Jackie Dix, Policy and Research Manager. 9 - 18
- 7 Open Discussion: What's happening in the Caerphilly Borough - an opportunity for all Compact Partners to raise key issues.
- 8 Items of interest concerning the Voluntary Sector from Compact Partners: - (note, only one question permitted on each report):
- a) Update from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board 19 - 20
 - b) GAVO. 21 - 26
 - c) Digest of Committee Reports from Caerphilly County Borough Council 27 - 32
 - d) South Wales Fire and Rescue Service 33 - 34
 - e) Police and Crime Commissioners for Gwent 35 - 40
 - f) Gwent Police 41 - 48

To receive and note the following information items: -

- 9 Caerphilly County Borough Council Response to the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill Welsh Government Consultation. 49 - 58
- 10 Community Planning Quarterly Briefing January to March 2016. 59 - 70
- 11 Dates of future meetings all commencing in the Sirhowy Room, Penallta House:
- 15th June 2016
 - 21st September 2016
 - 14th December 2016

Circulation:

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

Representatives of the Voluntary Sector:

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

Aneurin Bevan Health Board:

Mrs B. Bolt and Ms S. Crane

Gwent Police:

Chief Inspector N. McLain

The Office of the Gwent Police & Crime Commissioner:

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 2ND DECEMBER 2015 AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

Cllr. D. Carter – Chair

Councillors:

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

Together with:

Bargoed YMCA	-	Ms. J. Price
Caerphilly 50+ Forum	-	Mr. D. Morgan
Caerphilly Parents & Carers Forum	-	Mrs. B. Helps
Caerphilly People First	-	Mr. C. Luke
Disability Can Do Organisation	-	Mrs. H. Williams
GAVO – Assistant Chief Executive	-	Mrs. E. Forbes
GAVO (Vice-Chair)	-	Mr. R. H. Cooke
Groundwork Wales	-	Mr. B. Dando
Homestart Caerphilly Borough	-	Mrs. M. Snowden
Menter Iaith	-	Mrs. L. Jones
Right From The Start	-	Ms. C. Loring
The Parent Network	-	Ms. M. Jones
The Vanguard Centre	-	Mrs. M. Wade
Van Road United Reformed Church	-	Mr. J. Wade
VOLUME	-	Mr. D. Brunton

Also present:

J. Dix (CCBC Policy & Research Manager), J. Elliott (CCBC Senior Research Officer), A. Palmer (CCBC/GAVO), G. Jones (GAVO), C. Burns (Interim Chief Executive CCBC), C. Jones (Head of Performance & Property Services – CCBC), N. Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services and S 151), C/Insp. N. McLain (Gwent Police)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Ms. L. Ackerman, J. Bevan, P. J. Bevan, Mrs. P Griffiths, G. Johnston, A. Lewis, R. Woodyatt, Cllr Keith Reynolds (Leader of Caerphilly County Borough Council).

Also from, Mr. L. Clay (Abertridwr Community Church), Ms. P. Jones (Caerphilly Care & Repair, Mr. A. Read (Cancercareline), Mrs. K. Stevenson (Groundwork Wales) Mrs. M. Chapman (Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Gwent), Mr. H. Llewellyn (Town & Community Council Representative), Mrs. D. Lovering (Caerphilly Business Forum Representative), Ms. S. Crane & Ms. C. Gregory (ABUHB), Mr. H. Llewellyn (Town & Community Council Representative).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

3. MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 16th September 2015, and they were accepted as a true record.

4. CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL BUDGET SETTING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION UPDATE – CHRIS BURNS, INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Chris Burns (CB) updated the Committee on the budget setting process. At the moment the budget proposals for Caerphilly County Borough Council are out for public consultation, with colleagues to expand further following his update.

On Local Government Reorganisation, CB informed that the Welsh Government has published a Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill, which is out to consultation until 15th February 2016. There is an Executive Summary of the Bill, which makes for easier reading, given the detail of the Bill across a number of documents. There are proposals under the Bill, which will not be considered until after the National Assembly for Wales Elections in May. The nature of the Bill is wide ranging, for example including Community Councils *general power of competence*, different boundary configurations, local authority finances, the public participation duty as well as other matters.

The most publicised proposal is to reduce the present 22 local authorities to 8, with options for 2 or 3 Counties in North Wales. The proposal in this area is to create a 'Super Gwent' authority, which will combine Caerphilly, Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent, Monmouthshire and Newport creating the largest authority in Wales. There will be Local Government elections, as scheduled in 2017. In 2019 there will be new elections to form a Shadow Authority i.e. Greater Gwent representation, and in 2020 the new authority will be in place. There will then be Local Government Elections in 2023, and from that year onwards, the elections will be on a five year cycle.

Through reorganisation there will be complex issues to address, for example the wide variety of Council Tax levied, and the harmonisation of this, across other councils. It was noted that Blaenau Gwent Council's council tax is over 30% higher than the Caerphilly borough's.

Detail is provided in the Bill on Community Area Committees (also included under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act) in addressing local issues, with County Councils possibly being able to delegate functions to the Committees.

It was noted that Caerphilly County Borough Council led by the Leaders of the political groups will be submitting a response on the Draft Bill consultation to the Welsh Government.

CB introduced Nicole Scammell (NS) Acting Director of Corporate Services and S 151 Officer, to give an update on the financial situation and overall budget proposals for the Council. NS informed the Council is assuming a 4.3% reduction from the Welsh Government, and a continuing period of austerity. Budget setting for 2016/17 has been delayed by the later than usual date by the Government Spending Review not being until 25th November.

NS referred to the overall Council saving proposals set out in the 14th October 2015 Cabinet report, which had been circulated to the Committee Members in advance of this meeting. 70% of the proposed savings will be of nil public impact not affecting front line services. NS noted the requirement that Health and Schools budgets are protected within Local Authorities, and there is as yet an unknown increase in funding for Health.

NS explained that the Council's Cabinet have set out draft savings proposals after an extensive period of public consultation. It was noted that the Council's Scrutiny Committees are looking in detail at the budget saving proposals with all the papers for the committee in the public domain and readily available. The budget decisions will be ratified by Full Council on 24th February 2016.

NS passed to Colin Jones (CJ) Head of Performance and Property Services who talked through the previously circulated Special Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee report (7th December 2015) on the Medium Term Financial Plan 2016/17 for Property and Policy Services. The report proposes to – *reduce the Council's annual budget for supporting voluntary organisations in 2016/17 by £30k*. CJ noted that over the years the Council had done well in protecting the Voluntary Sector Budget, but given the extent of financial pressures facing the Council cuts now need to be considered with a 8% reduction proposed in the core funding provided through the budget to: Groundwork Wales, Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent Citizens Advice Bureau, and Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations, and reductions in the budget heading promoting the work of the Voluntary Sector, and the Community Plan. It is proposed that the officer costs for supporting the Voluntary Sector is retained, as *it contributes significantly to the special partnership relationship this council has developed with the voluntary sector over many years*.

CJ referred to the Wales Audit Office (WAO) *All Wales Local Government Improvement Study: Council funding of third sector services*, which has recently commenced and is considering whether councils' commission third sector services effectively (previously circulated to the Committee) and noted that the findings of the study will be reported back to the Committee.

CJ stated he would take comments on the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee report up to noon 7th December 2015, if they could be channelled through Jackie Dix (Policy & Research Manager).

The Chair thanked, Colin Jones, Nicole Scammell and Chris Burns for their presentations, and expressed his gratitude on behalf of the Voluntary Sector for keeping them well informed. He said that he would hope that the Council and the Voluntary Sector will continue to keep the successful relationship ongoing

The Vice Chair speaking on behalf of the Voluntary Sector Representatives sitting on the Committee endorsed the protection of officer costs for supporting the Voluntary Sector, which has contributed to the special relationship the Council has with the Voluntary Sector.

Emily Forbes (Deputy Chief Executive GAVO) noted the importance of CCBC's wider funding to the Voluntary Sector and the accumulative impact of these cuts on the Sector, and asked what was CCBC's total spend on funding the Voluntary Sector.

Chris Burns commented that this is a piece of work that is currently being considered by CCBC, and estimated that funding was in the region of £3-5m with a sizeable amount of funding attributed to the funding of Education and Social Services projects. Chris Burns referred to the current Wales Audit Office (WAO) study, and noted that although the Council is not one of the 6 in-depth local authority areas, that the Council is contributing to the data request from the WAO, and will keep the Committee informed of the outcomes of this study.

In response it was commented that the Voluntary Sector brings significant money into the Caerphilly borough through lottery and other sources of funding.

Although it was acknowledged that continuing cuts to budgets were inevitable in these times of economic restraint, it was noted that there is a potentially a bigger role for the Voluntary Sector to play in the borough.

The importance of the local Voluntary Sector pulling together was emphasised as it was felt that there was a danger that contracts could be lost to outside, national voluntary organisations.

5. UPDATE ON THE WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN AND JUNIOR AND YOUTH FORUM PRIORITIES FOR 2016 – CAERPHILLY YOUTH FORUM REPRESENTATIVE

A representative from the Caerphilly Youth Forum gave a PowerPoint presentation on the priority issue over the past year. Under the Health, Social Care & Well-Being theme –

Domestic Abuse – There are not enough services for different age groups affected.

The Youth Forum has worked alongside Llamau on the white Ribbon Campaign, and supported Safer Caerphilly in the *Tweet your feet Campaign*, to raise awareness on Domestic Abuse. The Forum has also created a film in association with the Welsh Government, on healthy relationships. In order to further publicise the White Ribbon campaign, the Youth Forum has created a radio advertisement to advertise *Our Launch*, and as part of the continuing campaign, another launch event was held at Blackwood Miners Institute which coincided with International Children's Rights Day on the 19th November 2015.

A poster was created focusing on the facts of Healthy / Unhealthy Relationships and a festival wrist band was designed and created to tie in with the White Ribbon Campaign. Examples of the bands, publicity posters and leaflets explaining the signs of domestic abuse and its consequences, were handed out to the Committee members, in the form of information packs.

The Junior Forum Priority for 2015 was *The Living Environment*. This concentrated on persuading the public to reduce litter, and fly tipping, and also to clean up dog mess.

The priority for the Youth Forum 2016 is *Education for Life*. It will assist in modernising the Youth Service so it fits into young people's lifestyles with Wi-Fi in all building – based locations, improving access to the service and increased awareness of the service through use of social media.

The priority for the Junior Forum is the Living Environment. This will encourage the public's need to respect the natural habitat of wildlife.

The Chair thanked the Youth Forum representative and the accompanying Youth worker, for an informative presentation and wished them well in their new projects for 2016.

6. COMPACT PRESENTATION AND Q & A: UPDATE ON OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORKS FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD CARE NETWORKS IN CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH – ANEURIN BEVAN UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD.

Unfortunately representatives from the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) were unable to attend this meeting to give the presentation. Following the meeting the PowerPoint was circulated, with the ABUHB offering to give the presentation at a later date to the Committee.

7. CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOPROUGH ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY – ROB HARTSHORN, HEAD OF PUBLIC PROTECTION & ANTI POVERTY OFFICER CHAMPION

Rob Hartshorn (RH) spoke on a paper about the Caerphilly borough Anti Poverty Strategy. In explaining *What is poverty?* - it means that for individuals, and in family situations, not being able to make ends meet. This may for example mean that fuel and other utility bills are not able to be paid, and the household may not be in the position on being online to take advantage of better deals.

A Caerphilly borough Anti-Poverty Board has been established with the following membership: the Member Anti-Poverty Champion Cllr Elaine Forehead and the Officer Anti-Poverty Champion the Head of Public Protection. Along with the Chief Housing Officer, the Chief Education Officer, the Head of Regeneration and Planning, and Public Health Wales. There is also a standing invitation to the Leader and Chief Executive of the Council to attend.

The Anti-Poverty Board held its first meeting on 27th July 15. The meeting chaired by the Interim Chief Executive agreed to meet quarterly. There are a number of existing groups contributing to tackling poverty in the borough. The Anti-Poverty Board has reviewed existing delivery arrangements and agreed to provide strategic lead to:

- The Welfare Reform Steering Group
- Poverty Programme Collaboration Group
- Training and Education Forum.

A complementary strand of work has been initiated in response to the 2014 release of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD), which ranks St James 3 (largely comprising of Lansbury Park) as the most deprived area in Wales. The Lansbury Park Board has been established to address the multifarious adverse factors in Lansbury Park in an attempt to turn the area around in making Lansbury Park once more a desirable place to live, and to build in stability to the community. Caerphilly County Borough Council is determined to tackle the causes of this poor ranking. Work will focus on:

- Tackling low household income levels and debt
- Improving employment opportunities and helping people to become work ready
- Fostering healthy life styles in supporting and empowering local people to make healthy choices
- Focus on initiatives promoting the mental health and well being of local people
- Improving education attainment and promoting lifelong learning
- Improving access to local services through better coordination and understanding of local need.

Cllr. D. Preece said that there should be a priority within the Anti-Poverty Strategy on the links with the causes of obesity, with particular reference to parents / carers of young children as they are growing up, and the potential unhealthy lifestyles.

RH replied that physical activity is addressed in the Anti-Poverty Strategy and the ABUHB has a strategy to cover obesity issues.

Cyril Luke referred to page 9 of the Anti-Poverty Strategy under Prevention point 2. He said that the understanding of Universal Credit etc., for people with learning disabilities, will be difficult and people will need support from Social Services. They may also not be IT literate so could there be any alternatives or assistance offered?

RH said that he would hope that Tenancy Support would be able to provide advice and deal with these issues. However he would look into this.

The Chair thanked Rob Hartshorn for his presentation on the Anti-Poverty Strategy.

8. VOLUNTARY SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES QUESTION: DISCUSSION ON COMMUNITY CENTRES AND HOW THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR CAN BE INVOLVED – STEVE HAWKINS, COMMUNITY CENTRES SERVICE MANAGER

Steve Hawkins was invited to this meeting to discuss comments and queries on Community Halls and Community Centres. Discussion centred around a possible confusion over questions raised on this subject from previous meetings. The question is how exactly can community based organisations support their centres and halls.

Community Centres and Halls are managed on a day to day basis by Management Committees (Trustees), all of which have charitable status. One of the main problems is actually recruiting and retaining committee members on these committees. Ideally there should be greater representation from the 18 to 21 age group, but these people are not interested in participating on management committees.

Management Committees (Trustees) are responsible for *managing* community centres and not for managing the activities that take place within them. There is a distinct shortfall in those willing to organise and run such activities on a voluntary basis.

Emily Forbes (EF) said that there are forty two community centres in the county borough which will require building insurance and caretakers insurance. Should this not be provided under the Health and Well Being, and Anti-Poverty Strategies as services to the people? When required Community Centre Forums are arranged for management committee members to attend, as a supportive measure, to update on new initiatives and resolve queries. SH to further discuss these issues with EF.

9. REVIEW OF COMPACT AGREEMENT AND ANNUAL COMPACT ACTION PLAN: JACKIE DIX, POLICY AND RESEARCH MANAGER

Jackie Dix (JD) said that a review of the Compact Agreement and Annual Compact Action Plan needs to be undertaken for next year. The review of the Compact Agreement will need to incorporate new policy directions ushered in by the Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 . A Task and Finish Group will need to be formed to work on the Compact Agreement 2017 – 2021, and to review the design of the Annual Compact Action Plan, which will be convened by the Council's Policy Unit. This Group will comprise of Compact Partners, and nominated Councillor and Voluntary Sector Representatives and some staff members from GAVO. The Chair asked if there are any volunteers to sit on this Group that they should get in touch with JD.

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

No issues raised.

11. ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR COMPACT PARTNERS (ONE QUESTION ONLY FOR EACH REPORT – UP TO 15 MINS)

a) Update from the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB)

A written report was provided with the committee papers. There were no questions raised on this report.

b) Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

A written report was provided with the committee papers. There were no questions raised on this report.

c) Digest of Caerphilly County Borough Council Committee Reports

A written report was provided with the committee papers. There were no questions raised on this report.

d) South Wales Fire & Rescue Service

A written report was provided with the committee papers. There were no questions raised on this report.

e) Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Gwent

A written report was provided with the committee papers. There were no questions raised on this report.

12. COMMUNITY PLANNING QUARTERLY BRIEFING:– SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2015

To receive and note the information items attached.

13. DECISION & ACTION SUMMARY

SUBJECT	DECISION	ACTION
1. Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee Report 07/12/15	Comments on the budget report to be channelled through Jackie Dix in collating for Colin Jones	All
2. Wales Audit Office (WAO) <i>All Wales Local Government Improvement Study: Council funding of third sector services</i>	Committee to receive further updates on the study	Jackie Dix
3. Anti-Poverty Strategy under Prevention point 2 raised that the understanding of Universal Credit etc., for people with learning disabilities, will be difficult and people will need support from Social Services. They may also not be IT literate so could there be any alternatives or assistance offered?	RH said that he would hope that Tenancy Support would be able to provide advice and deal with these issues. However he would look into this.	Rob Hartshorn
4. Members sought for task and finish group of Compact Agreement and Annual Compact Action Plan	Compact Partners to contact Jackie Dix direct. Nominations required for Councillor and Voluntary Sector Representatives	GAVO – and Jackie Dix

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday 16th March 2016 at 10.30am in the Sirhowy Room, Penallta House.

Meeting ended 12.10 pm.

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VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 16TH MARCH 2016

SUBJECT: COMPACT REVIEW

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Committee Members of the proposals made to the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee following the meeting of the Compact Review task and finish group in agreeing a way forward for the review of the Caerphilly borough Compact Agreement and Annual Compact Action Plan.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 A way forward for reviewing the Caerphilly borough Compact Agreement, and Compact Annual Action Plan was agreed at the December 2015 meeting of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee. Following the inaugural meeting of the Compact group this report presents the proposals from this group for the consideration of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Compact is an agreement between organisations and the Voluntary Sector in the Caerphilly County Borough. The Compact recognises the mutual benefits that can be gained from close co-operation and sets out guidelines for how all parties should work together. The Compact is delivered and monitored through an annual Compact Action Plan, which provides a detailed programme of work for shared activities.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 At the last meeting of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee (2.12.2015) a process of reviewing the Compact Agreement and Annual Compact Action Plan was agreed through a task and finish group of Compact Partners. The inaugural meeting of the Compact Review Group was held on 23rd February 2016, with the meeting attended by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee, the nominated Voluntary Sector Representatives, and Councillor Member on the review group, and the Compact Partner representative from the Office of the Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner. The other Compact Partners gave their apologies. A discussion paper (contained in Appendix I) was the focus for the meeting looking at the new policy issues which will impact on Compact working.
- 4.2 A detailed discussion took place around: the new Public Service Boards coming into being on 1st April 2016, the requirements of the Future Generations legislation, and the Local Government (Wales) Draft Bill and potential local government reorganisation, and the ongoing review of the Welsh Government's working group on the Third Sector Scheme on which the

Deputy Chief Executive Officer of GAVO sits. The following recommendations were made by the review group for the discussion of the Committee in agreeing a way forward:

- (1) Suggested Compact review to be put on hold until September 2016 to enable clearer direction following:
 - (i) National Assembly for Wales elections – Welsh Government senior civil servants working around the implementation of Public Service Boards, and the future Generations legislation have indicated a steer will come in autumn 2016 on the Local Government (Wales) Draft Bill, with the consultation comments, currently being analysed, used in the future shaping of legislative content.
 - (ii) It is envisaged that the current Caerphilly local well being assessment currently being drafted, will be available for the wide engagement of partners in looking at what the data is telling us, and the identification of possible areas for tackling through partnership work.
 - (iii) A better steer will be available through the Welsh Government's working group on the Third Sector Scheme.
- (2) It is proposed that the Compact Partners shape the content of the interim Compact Action Plan for 2016-17 by outlining their key activities with the Voluntary Sector, which will be shaped by the Policy Unit into a proposed Annual Compact Action Plan 2016-17 for the consideration of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee Meeting on the 15th June 2016.
- (3) It is recommended that National Resources Wales is invited to become a Compact Partner.

4.2 In concluding the meeting it was agreed that the Policy Unit would keep the Committee updated with progress on developing the Caerphilly borough assessment of local well-being. The Policy Unit will also keep the Committee informed of outcomes from the Wales Audit Office *All Wales Local Government Improvement Study: Council funding of third sector services*, which is considering whether councils commission third sector services effectively (previously circulated to the Committee).

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Promoting equalities is a fundamental part of the work of Compact Partners and features prominently in the Compact Agreement, and Annual Compact Action Plan.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None arising.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None arising.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 The 3 proposals outlined in this paper were agreed unanimously by all attending this first meeting of the Compact Review Group.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 For the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee to consider the following three proposals in determining the future course of action in reviewing the Compact Agreement and Compact Annual Action Plan:

1. Compact review to be put on hold until September 2016 to enable clearer direction.
2. For the Compact Partners to shape the content of the interim Compact Action Plan 2016-17 by outlining their key activities with the Voluntary Sector, which will be shaped by the Policy Unit into a proposed Annual Compact Action Plan 2016-17 for the consideration of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee Meeting on the 15th June 2016.
3. National Resources Wales to be invited to become a Compact Partner.

10. STATUTORY POWER

10.1 Local Government Act 2000.

Author: Jackie Dix, Policy and Research Manager, CCBC
Consultees: Cllr. Carter, Chair of Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee
Bob Cooke, Vice Chair of Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee
Cllr. Ackerman
Kath Peters, Corporate Policy Manager
Rob Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection, CCBC
Martin Featherstone, Chief Executive, GAVO
Emily Forbes, Deputy Chief Executive, GAVO
Alison Palmer, Community Planning Coordinator GAVO/CCBC
John Elliott, Research Officer, CCBC
Maria Chapman, Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner Office
Ian Bartholomew, Nicholas McLain and Andrew O'Keefe Gwent Police
Sam Crane, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
Cath Gregory, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
Donna Crossman, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Cllr. Howard Llewellyn, Caerphilly borough Community/Town Councils
Denise Lovering, Caerphilly Business Forum

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Discussion Paper: Shaping the Content for the Compact Agreement

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Appendix 1 Shaping the Content for the Compact Agreement working with the Voluntary and Community Sector in the County Borough of Caerphilly April 2017 to March 2021

NEW POLICY DIRECTIONS

The following are new policy directions which will impact on Compact working, and will need to be reflected in the revised Compact Agreement April 2017 to March 2021, and in choosing joint areas of work activities for Compact Partners under the Annual Compact Action Plan. The Compact Agreement could be shaped radically differently, or just simply use the existing structure in incorporating the new policy directions.

1 KEY LEGISLATION

i) Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

This Act is about improving the **social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales**. It comes into implementation for public sector bodies from April 2016, replacing Local Service Boards with Public Service Boards, and introducing the following 7 wellbeing goals:

1. A more prosperous Wales
2. A resilient Wales
3. A healthier Wales
4. A more equal Wales
5. A Wales of cohesive communities
6. A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
7. A globally responsible Wales.

The new Caerphilly Public Service Board will need to oversee an **assessment of local well-being** to be published by April 2017, and to set well-being objectives to meet local priorities in alignment with the 7 national wellbeing goals, and in accordance with the **Sustainable Development Principle**.

The Sustainable Development Principle is defined as acting *in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*. There are five ways of working that Caerphilly Public Service Board (and Public Bodies subject to the Act) will need to apply in showing they have taken into account the Sustainable Development Principle:

Long term – the importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to meet long-term needs.

Prevention – how acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.

Integration – considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.

Collaboration – acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.

Involvement – the importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.

Source: Extract from **Welsh Government (2015) Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 The Essentials**)

Link: <http://thewaleswewant.co.uk/sites/default/files/Guide%20to%20the%20WFGAct.pdf>

Caerphilly Public Service Board will need to agree and publish a **Local Well-being Plan** by April 2018, which will set out:

Why the Board feels the objectives will contribute within the Caerphilly borough to achieving the 7 well-being goals, and how the Board has had regard to the local assessment of well-being in setting its objectives and steps to take. The Board will be required to carry out an annual review of the Well-being Plan, showing progress.

ii) **Social Services and Well-being Act 2014**

This is the most fundamental piece of Social Services reform for over 60 years. The Act brings together local authorities' duties and functions in relation to improving the well-being of people who need care and support and carers who need support. The Act will transform the way Social Services are delivered, through promoting people's independence and giving people a stronger voice and more control. The Act will promote equality, improve the quality of services and the provision of information people receive, as well as ensuring the right incentives for commissioners to achieve a shared focus on prevention and early intervention.

Under the Act local authorities are required to assess the needs in their areas for care and support, support for carers and preventative services and to provide or arrange for the provision of preventative services. The Act requires the promotion by local authorities of social enterprises, co-operatives, user led services and the third sector in the provision in their areas of care and support and support for carers. The Act requires the provision by local authorities of a service providing information and advice relating to care and support and support for carers and assistance in accessing it.

iii) **The Environment (Wales) Bill**

The Bill is aimed at planning and managing Wales' natural resources in a more sustainable and joined-up way and has been passed by the National Assembly for Wales. When law, it will put in place a stronger approach to tackle climate change with at least an 80% emission reduction target by 2050, and will help build resilience to climate impacts such as extreme temperatures and flooding.

iv) **Time table for transitional arrangements for Local Government Re-organisation Under Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill**

It is important to bear in mind the following proposed timetable for local government re-organisation, as it could well impact on compact delivery:

4th May 2017 Council Elections – Councillors to serve 3-year term until 1st April 2020.

May 2019 First Elections to New County Councils – New County Councils exist in shadow form until Vesting Day on 1st April 2020 (when existing Authorities will be abolished). The Shadow Authorities will exercise only preparatory functions. The newly elected Councillors to serve a 4-year term, and will have 3-years from 1st April 2020 to consolidate the new arrangements following re-organisation.

May 2023 Council Elections – Councillors to serve a 5 year term until May 2028.

2 POLICY DIRECTIONS

i) **Written Statement - Welsh Government's Principles Lesley Griffiths AM, Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty**

The Welsh Government has set out the principles which, it believes, should be the basis of working with communities, and will be the approach it will use when working with communities. The Principles acknowledge that traditional models, along with same levels of service, will not be possible in the future. They recognise Welsh Government's powers and limitations, and the need to empower communities and develop new relationships, particularly in contributing to the seven well-being goals in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Welsh Government sets the following Principles for Working with Communities:

- the involvement of communities, service users and organisations in defining problems and in the identification, design, delivery and evaluation of new approaches,
- recognition of shared responsibility to improve public services focused on outcomes and people's needs,
- mutual respect for the contributions of different partners in the process of designing and delivering services and improving outcomes, recognising roles will vary,
- valuing diversity and promoting equality,
- processes designed to recognise there are resources, capabilities and assets not just within public services but in communities too and ways should be found to release these and realise their potential to increase wellbeing,
- readiness to adopt and invest in new ways of working in policy and delivery
- transparency regarding how and by whom decisions will be taken.

The Welsh Government will advocate for other bodies working with communities to adopt these Principles. The Welsh Government will use various means to promote the Principles, including Ministerial Statements and Guidance, legislation, procurement of goods and services and the development of structures such as community forums, citizen panels and working groups. The Principles link to the five key ways of working that public bodies are required to take into account in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. This includes the importance of involving people and acting in collaboration with any other person.

Link:

<http://gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2015/workingcommunities/?lang=en>

II) **Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) response to the Welsh Government's consultation on Alternative delivery models in public service delivery**

The WCVA response raises pointers from the Voluntary Sector perspective, which will be useful to look at during the review of the Compact Agreement and Annual Compact Action Plan as follows:

- WCVA supports a variety of methods for funding the Voluntary Sector such as procured services, grant funding and social investment
- WCVA note - *A fundamental principle of any new alternative delivery model established is to ensure that the benefits generated are produced and retained locally*
- The role of county voluntary councils should be acknowledged in regard to their crucial function in providing generic information and advice on setting up and developing organisations as well as their important role in facilitating community engagement
- WCVA contends that the principles of the proposed action plan should correlate to the key elements that WCVA believes are necessary to realise the vision for local government in establishing a new relationship with local communities as set out in the Local Government (Wales) Act 2015 which are:
 - Real engagement
 - Asset mapping
 - Asset / service transfer
 - Community-based funding
 - Brokerage
 - Third sector readiness
 - Collation and dissemination of learning
 - New competencies
 - An enabling strategic environment.

Link to WCVA response:

http://www.wcva.org.uk/media/2850100/alternative_delivery_models_in_public_service_delivery_wcva_eng.pdf

Link to Welsh Government (October 2015) Alternative Delivery Models in Public Service Delivery: An Action Plan for consultation:

<http://gov.wales/consultations/improving/alternative-delivery-models-public-service-delivery/?lang=en>

iii) **Welsh Government Updated Third Sector Scheme (February 2014)**

The statutory document outlines how the Welsh Government will work with the Voluntary Sector in Wales and includes an updated code of practice on funding. The Scheme takes into account the responses to the 2013 consultation - **Continuity and Change – Refreshing the Relationship between Welsh Government and the Third Sector.**

This updated Scheme has been reported to the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee, and tallies closely with the current Caerphilly borough Compact Agreement.

iv) **Welsh Government Third Sector Scheme Draft Guidance Workshop 5th February 2016**

Emily Forbes (Deputy Chief Executive Officer GAVO) sits on the Welsh Government's working group on the Third Sector Scheme, and has the following feedback from the recently held workshop, and perspective of being on the group:

*Welsh Government is developing a **Guide to Local Third Sector Schemes** which has recently been consulted on in draft format. The guidelines seek to support vibrant and healthy communities and to help all parts of society to work together with the overall intent of supporting an environment where civil society and public services thrive together.*

*The **Legislative context** is a particularly important backdrop at the moment. The Social Services and Wellbeing Act at a service level, and the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act at a macro level are both influencing and redefining public services. Also, we need to bear in mind the Local Government Reform white paper and ensuing legislation which will impact on the relationships locally.*

*The Third Sector has a **distinctive contribution to public service delivery** and local Compacts / Schemes need to be developed to offer a minimum standard for engagement between sectors and to establish a shared communications framework / 2 way conversations. Given the recent consultation on Alternative models of public service delivery (and WCVA response), do we need to feed some of these themes into a new Scheme to get some traction?*

Outcomes – *the Scheme needs to identify what outcomes will be delivered. Assume we will need to link to the new Wellbeing Plan here and ensure that outcomes are aligned. Outcomes need to be specific – what can be achieved by all parts of society working together rather than what organisations are delivering outside of the partnership.*

VSLC – *In Caerphilly, this is the mechanism for driving forward the Compact and delivering its commitments – do we therefore need to look at representation?*

Partners – *no definitive list suggested by WG but for local interpretation. The group needs to think about new PSB members, and if / how they will be included in the local Third Sector Scheme. Also, to bear in mind the reshaping of Caerphilly Forum – this will mean reshaping Voluntary Sector Representation in the future – should this be on a thematic basis to match up with Wellbeing plan themes?*

A helpful contents list for a revised Compact / local Third Sector Schemes should include:

- o Information on who local partners are*
- o Principles which underpin the relationship*
- o The demographics of the community*
- o How the WG Working with Communities principles and Principles for Public Engagement will be applied*
- o How the Scheme will be shared / discussed with the wider sector*

- o *What outcomes will be achieved by working together*
- o *How progress will be monitored*
- o *Links to the national Third Sector Scheme and 17 principles of the national Code of Practice for Funding the Third Sector*

3 CONSIDERATION OF COMPACT PARTNERS COMMENTS

In consulting with Compact Partners on the review of the Compact Agreement the following comments were made and incorporated into the report on the Compact Review, which went to the 3rd December 2015 meeting of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee:

- **Gwent Police & Crime Commissioner** - the review will also need to consider the impact of cuts on all organisations and each organisations capacity to deliver and attend meetings. There is a need to make meetings meaningful and outcome focussed rather than meeting for the sake of meeting.
- **South Wales Fire and Rescue Service** - the only issue will be the number of meetings required, with the Service covering all 10 Unitary Authorities.
- **GAVO:**
 - It would be helpful to reflect the wider legislative framework that sets the strategic context at the moment in addition to the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, **Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014** and Public Service Reform;
 - The Welsh Government's new Principles for Working with Communities will need to be taken into account
 - The Welsh Government is currently drafting guidance likely to advocate a shift in language from local Compacts to local Third Sector Schemes. GAVO sits on the national working group preparing for this new guidance and would be able to advise of the need to reflect any changes locally in the Caerphilly borough. In the same vein, we may wish to consider language of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee itself and test whether this fits the new policy framework;
 - Membership may need to be reviewed to reflect new members of Public Service Boards (such as NRW);
 - A discussion on additionality and added value of partnership working would be useful and
 - it would be helpful to scope Third Sector Engagement in the existing Single Integrated Plan and in the transition to Wellbeing Plans.

TIMESCALES

16th March 2016 – Report to Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee on proposal for reporting on Compact activities for 2016-17

February 2016 to July 2016 - Compact review meetings on drafting of the revised Compact Agreement

August to September 2016 – Policy Unit drafting text of revised Compact Agreement, and proposed Annual Action Plan

21st September 2016 – Update report to Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee

October 2016 – Review Group considers draft Compact Agreement, and proposed Annual Action Plan, with final revisions made by the Policy Unit

7th December 2017 – Proposed Compact Agreement April 2017 to March 2021, and Compact Action Plan April 2017 to March 2018 for approval of Committee

January 2017 - Caerphilly Public Service Board, and Caerphilly Council Cabinet approval and endorsement of Compact Agreement April 2017 to March 2021, and similar structures of ratification by the Compact Partner organisations.

April 2017 - Publication and launch event of new Compact Agreement



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE - 16TH MARCH 2016

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

REPORT BY: UPDATE FROM ANEURIN BEVAN UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD

NCN UPDATE REPORT:

1. COMMUNITIES FIRST SUPPORT

Caerphilly NCNs are working with Communities First and the Third Sector to raise awareness of the excellent support services available, and simplify signposting for patients and carers. Communities First programmes such as Foodwise are being delivered from health venues in Caerphilly.

The Caerphilly NCNs have also supported Communities First with funding towards additional kit for the X-POD Health & Prevention Programme for patients diagnosed as at risk of developing diabetes (with impaired glucose tolerance). The course is being delivered in all 3 NCN areas of Caerphilly.

2. LEAP PROGRAMME (Listen, Engage, Act, Participate)

A multi-agency Mental Health and Wellbeing Team consisting of health and social care professionals has now been established at The Lawn and Meddygfa Cwm Rhymni surgeries, serving a total population of 18,600. The team are helping and supporting people with mental health issues and referring and signposting them into community based support, building excellent working relationships and network with these services.

3. PRACTICE BASED SOCIAL WORKERS

3 Practice-based Social Workers have been appointed at Risca Surgery; Gelligaer Surgery and Tonyfelin Medical Centre, as part of an initial 1 year NCN funded pilot. The Social Workers provide a greater focus on achieving people's well-being outcomes through holistic integrated assessment and co-productive solutions:

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

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

- Education – Literacy
- Community Mental Health Teams
- Primary Care Mental Health

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

4. HEALTHY AT HOME SCHEME

The Village Surgery and Lansbury Surgery have been working with Care and Repair to identify elderly patients who may benefit from adaptations to their accommodation to improve safety. The NCN funded short-term project is proactive, offering a home visit by a Care and Repair Officer to all patients over 75 who are aligned with the practices, to identify current and anticipate future needs and intervene early with advice and services.

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

Author: Jonathan Lewis (ABUHB – Network Manager)



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 16TH MARCH 2016

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

REPORT BY: GWENT ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

GAVO QUARTER 3 REPORT

1. KEY DATA FOR APRIL 2015 – DECEMBER 2015

Caerphilly	Yearly Target	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3
Volunteers Placed	250	82	81	178
Enquiries good practice in managing volunteers	40	32	37	151
Website visitors	62000	18399	18379	13954
Enquiries	4000	1353	1964	3437
Trustee Enquiries	500	112	71	59
Trustee Events	5	0	0	4
Event participants	120	0	0	117
Funding advice enquiries	300	42	72	79
Funding events	7	0	4	5
Event participants	70	0	16	66
Funding obtained by groups	£250,000	£76,314	£925,680	£81,250
New orgs/social enterprise developed	30	4	8	10
Strategic planning groups	35	10	18	10
Third Sector Networks / forums	10	6	5	16
Membership	370	370	350	62

2. OVERVIEW

GAVO's AGM and Funding Conference was held in November and new trustees elected by the membership.

Elected Voluntary Sector Organisation (1)	Bob Cooke	Groundwork Wales
Elected Voluntary Sector Organisation (2)	Laurence Clay	Abertridwr Church
Elected Voluntary Sector Organisation (3)	Dave Brunton	SYDIC
Elected Voluntary Sector Organisation (4)	Louise Evans	Gofal
Elected Voluntary Sector Organisation (5)	Andrew Lewis	Hafodyrynys Village Hall
Elected Voluntary Sector Organisation (6)	Christine Williams	Cruse Gwent

Elected Voluntary Sector Organisation (7)	Mair Wade	Van Guard Community Centre
Elected Voluntary Sector Organisation (8)	Cyril Luke	Caerphilly People First
Elected Voluntary Sector Organisation (9)	Doiran Jones OBE JP	Melin Homes
Elected Voluntary Sector Organisation (10)	Vacancy	Nomination received for co-option
Local Authority Rep - Officer	Jackie Dix	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Local Authority Rep - Elected Member	Cllr Chris Hawker	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Local Health Board Representative	Bronwen John	Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

GAVO's newly defined Membership offer went live on 1 October 2015 when all existing membership ceased; work is progressing and to date 62 organisations in Caerphilly have signed up as GAVO members.

GAVO continues to deliver excellent services for the third sector and is on track with its key performance indicators for Core Delivery in Caerphilly, having already exceeded some annual targets in the third quarter as per data above.

Following on from the consultation exercise in July, an online survey has been taking place to support the review of the Voluntary Sector Forum structure and delivery in Caerphilly CB. The survey closed at the end of December and the results will be analysed and added to the first report for consideration.

GAVO's core Third Sector Support service continues to offer governance and funding advice and one to one support to third sector organisations. General enquiries continue to increase as well as an increase in enquiries for Third Sector Support and Development - 212 of these were received from 40 different groups, of which 52 were relating to funding; this included 8 new projects/groups. Development activity during Qtr 3 included:

- 13 funding applications made for 10 groups amounting to £81,154.
- 8 successful applications awarded to 6 groups amounting to £49,400.

The second One Beat Road Show was held on 7th October in Rhymney and 38 voluntary organisations were booked to attend. This allowed a broad spectrum of services to be showcased to the local community members and was an excellent networking opportunity. 30+ members of the public also attended and children's activities were provided. Now planning for Caerphilly event in Qtr 4 - February 2016.

Development Manager also attended:

- The official dedication and opening of the memorial plaque for the Cwmfelinfach Mining Disaster after a long period of obtaining the funds.
- The IIV Award presentation to Disability Can Do (as their Advisor).
- BSL training and registered for ILM 5 Management Programme.

Libanus Lifestyles is the first Caerphilly organisation that GAVO has set up as a Registered Community Interest Company (CIC) to provide services for the community of Blackwood and surrounding area from the refurbished Libanus Chapel. The services will be developed over time according to identified need and by working in partnership with other voluntary and statutory organisations for the benefit of the community. These will include fitness and exercise sessions, lunch club, day services including respite, community café, social activities, and community events. The centre also wishes to provide drop in services for help and advice via various organisations, particularly for adults with disabilities, elderly people and the disadvantaged.

Wales International Documentary Film Festival Group has completed set up as a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). Their aim is to conduct year-round training and engagement activities within communities primarily in Caerphilly County Borough and surrounding areas raising levels of digital literacy and improving understanding in digital media skills. Also the promotion of film as an art form and an educational tool and provide volunteering opportunities to local communities, improving employability of participants. This will culminate in founding and managing an internationally recognized documentary film festival in Wales.

3. STRATEGIC WORKING AND ENGAGEMENT IN POLICY

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.

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

Work is progressing on the move from Local Service Boards to Public Service Boards and the continued involvement of the third sector. The need for third sector involvement in the wellbeing assessment and the development of the Wellbeing Plans under the Future Generations Act is being promoted with statutory partners and third sector organisations.

Voluntary Sector Representatives/Liaison Committee took part in the budget consultation by CCBC, along with voluntary organisations. GAVO Community Voices Team is raising awareness of and promoting a series of engagement events called 'Caerphilly's Budget Challenge', consulting citizens on the proposals regarding the council budget setting process over the next two years.

Partnership working continues with the NCN members increasing awareness signposting and referrals to the third Sector. Third sector information is now starting to be hosted on GP websites.

A consultation is being undertaken for the Play Sufficiency Audit which will inform the CCBC Play Sufficiency Action Plan. So far the consultation has been carried out with 350 children and young people through schools, youth centres, play sites and Caerphilly Children's Centre. The consultation is also online with Family Information Service, CCBC website and Youth4U.

Third Sector representations continue to be made to offer support to the local authority, particularly looking for new solutions to third sector delivery of public services. A meeting has now been arranged with CCBC officer responsible for Community Centres to follow up on VSLC discussions re: third sector support.

GAVO's Deputy Chief Executive sits at the Welsh Government led External Advisory Group on Asset Transfer which has now met twice. There is a recognition nationally that there is a gap in 1:1 support for local groups wishing to take on community assets. GAVO's Regional Community Asset Transfer Support Officer (CATSO), (pilot project funded by WG) continues to work with representatives of the local authority, particularly on the adoption of best practice policy, procedure and process for Community Asset Transfer, which is being taken forward for ratification through internal processes. This post is funded until 31 March 2016 and an evaluation of the pilot is being commissioned via Welsh Government.

GAVO's Third Sector Development Officer (funded via the OPCC) has been recently working with Newport City Council on a consortia model for third sector delivery of social services in Newport; learning / best practice from this will be shared with CCBC officers to inform future thinking and models for commissioning.

4. CONTRIBUTION TO SIP

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

Prosperous

Active and Involved Citizens

The second Volunteers Managers Networking meeting was held on 4th November 2015 at Pontypool Leisure Centre. The event was attended by 85 individuals from over 80 organisations. Presentations were made by representatives from Welsh Government on the new Volunteering Policy, WCVA in respect of IT support and GAVO staff in respect of the Volunteering Wales website, DBS and the Volunteering Recognition scheme. The discussions and subsequent networking were very well received and good constructive feedback was provided, that will assist in the development of future meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for May 2016.

The Volunteering Recognition scheme, where volunteers over the age of 25 are presented with certificates for achieving 50, 100, 200 and 1000hrs volunteering commenced on 1st September 2015. To date there have been seventy seven registrations resulting in the issue of 14 50hr, six 100hrs and one 200hrs certificates.

There has been an increase in the number of organisations that have requested assistance from a group of volunteers to complete varying tasks. One such success was at the Markham Community Centre, Markham. The premises are a former council owned sports centre, now in the control of the local community. Assistance was requested to paint the walls of the sports hall, in readiness for their Christmas festivities. Assistance was provided by DWP staff that completed the task in November, well ahead of schedule. Such was the impact on both sides that the team from DWP have offered to return to the centre to do further decorating in other areas.

There has been an increase in the number of volunteers being placed via the Caerphilly Volunteering Centre. In Q3 95 individuals (over 25's) were placed. This in part has been as a direct result of the increase in requests for group assistance from organisations and also the introduction of the recognition scheme, where volunteers are more likely to notify the centre of their placement in order to be presented with certificates. It is anticipated that this spike will however drop out over the coming year.

Continued engagement with colleagues in the CF areas to attend and support their various drop in centres and support groups has been extended. New groups attended include the Phillipstown Residents Brunch Club, Tir Y Berth drop in / job club and St Gwladys Church Hall drop in. This approach has ensured that the Caerphilly Volunteer Centre is more visible in the community.

GAVO's Youth Volunteering Officer has placed 45 volunteers during the 3rd Qtr as well as the following key highlights:

- Drop in Days established at Cross Keys College with support from Careers Wales representative at the college.
- Links have been forged with Careers Wales and Drop in Days arranged for 4th Qtr at their Caerphilly Office.
- Students interviewed at St Martins Comprehensive School and referrals made.
- Presented Millennium Volunteering Certificates at the Caerphilly Youth Service Awards Evening.
- Support and advice given to Network Rail/British Transport Police in setting up the Rail Ambassadors Project. Should be up and running by end of Qtr 4.
- Millennium Volunteering Certificates issues include:
 - 4 x 50hr
 - 1 x 100hr
 - 1 x 200hr

Healthier

The Sunflower Project held a successful presentation for stakeholders on the 18 month interim evaluation where the Lottery sent representation. The chair of ABuHB Trustees paid a visit to the Ystrad Mynach site to spend an afternoon with the volunteers and was extremely impressed. A stage one application has been submitted to the lottery for succession and expansion of the project.

Caerphilly Health and Social Care Facilitator is engaging the third sector and the Caerphilly Health and Social Care Alliance with developments in the context of implementing the SSWB Act and assisting with their positioning to take advantage of emerging opportunities. Support has also been provided towards the development of two new initiatives; Dementia Friendly Communities, Living well Living Longer.

The ABUHB Living Well Living Longer Health Check, for people 40-64 years of age is now being piloted in the North Caerphilly NCN area (also in Blaenau Gwent). Many clients/ service users/ patients in the area will be invited to attend the programme. A launch was held in Rhymney at St David's Community Centre, where partners were invited to workshops to identify how they could contribute to the success and delivery of the Initiative. The Health and Social Care Coordinator gathered service information from the third sector to assist with populating the database to be used by front line staff to make referrals and signpost to community services for the benefit of members of the public accessing the Health Check. In due course a further pilot is planned for the Caerphilly basin area.

Learning

This period, GAVO's Training team have delivered 11 courses and had 105 participants in attendance.

A total of 33 courses with 304 participants have attended training courses provided by GAVO in the Caerphilly area since April 2015.

POVA training delivered during Trustee week in November was well received by a local group in the Ynysddu area with very positive comments with regards to the content and the knowledge gained. Other sessions offered throughout Trustee Week had low take up which will be explored further through Development Team meetings.

Planned training across the county has received interest from community groups and organisations within the area. GAVO's Training team were targeted with delivering a mixture of accredited and non-accredited training. Of the training mentioned above, there were:

- 7 x accredited courses
- 63 participants attended these 7 courses

These courses have included CIEH food safety level 2, CIEH paediatric first aid Level 3, Emergency First Aid level 2, range of health courses Agored levels 1&2. The Caerphilly area has always seen good attendance at the National Framework training events (these include basic accounts, roles & responsibilities of trustees, minute taking etc).

This success is due to the close working arrangements with the development team in GAVO and that the training officers attend network events and forums within the Caerphilly County area. The team also attend on a regular basis the Education & Training Forum which involves other agencies and organisations across the training sector.

Both members of the Training team attend the POVA Trainers Network event that has been developed by the Caerphilly Workforce Development Officers and represent GAVO at the Social Services Training network events.

Both Training staff are now PQASSO Mentors and have attended a follow up training day in December to ensure that their knowledge and skills are up to date before working with groups across the Gwent area in the new year.

Students from Ystrad Mynach College, who are enrolled on the CACHE II in Playwork course, have been given placements on Adventure Play sessions. GAVO's Play Development Officer has delivered two training workshops at the College on Risky Play and Introduction to Playwork.

Adventure Play Teams delivered 105 sessions to 368 individual children - Senior Play Officer and her Team. Inclusive Play Team received 4 referrals which are in addition to those other children receiving this support.

Play Sufficiency and Local Participation Action Plan meetings attended by Play Development Officer and Senior Play Officer.

5. CONTACTS

For further information or to discuss any of this information in more detail please contact:

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CEO
Deputy CEO
Third Sector Development Manager Caerphilly
Community Planning Co-ordinator
Health & Social Care Coordinator
Volunteering Team



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 16TH MARCH 2016

**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):-

CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE 16TH NOVEMBER 2015 INSURANCE CLAIMS – PRESENTATION

SR (Risk and Insurance Manager) provided Members with the Authority's Claims Analysis for 2014-15.

Members noted that 356 claims had been received in total, relating to motor vehicle, employers' liability and public liability cases. The total cost of claims amounted to £923,714.47 and the average per claim was £2594.70.

Comparison figures were provided in relation to cases taken to court and it was noted that the Authority's success rate at trial is 83%.

Examples of claims were presented in respect of Parks, the Environment, Schools and Leisure Centres. Particular reference was made to a recent court case, where the claimant (a Badminton player) slipped on water/sliver of paper at a leisure centre within the Borough. The

Authority lost the case and the claimant was awarded £6,500 damages. Their claimants costs amounted to £44k and the Council's costs are likely to be in the region of £8k. The total cost of claim before costs.

In terms of risk management SR confirmed the Authority has excellent processes and policies in place. Claims are low in comparison to other Authority's in Wales, which are reflected in the current insurance premiums.

Members queried the figures in relation to claims made against refuse vehicles and it was confirmed that claims have decreased since the introduction of 360 degree cameras being installed within the vehicles.

**HEALTH SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
9TH FEBRUARY 2016
PROPOSAL TO UNDERTAKE INFORMAL PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE MAKING OF
A PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER RELATING TO DOG CONTROL**

To inform and seek members views on the proposal to replace Dog Control Orders and the current enforcement provisions under the Dogs Fouling of Land Act 1996, with Public Space Protection Orders under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime & Policing Act 2014, and the implications for dog control in the county borough.

Also, to seek authorisation to undertake an informal public consultation exercise on the proposed provisions of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) relating to dog control in accordance with the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 brought in a new power for local authorities to deal with anti-social behaviour problems in a geographical area by imposing conditions on the use of an area. The aim is to ensure that the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces, safe from anti-social behaviour.

PSPOs replace a number of existing legal provisions including Designated Public Place Orders, Gating Orders and Dog Control Orders. Existing Orders made under previous legislation subsist for a period of 3 years from October 2014; at this point they will be treated as PSPOs. In order to simplify the enforcement landscape, Councils need not wait for this to happen and could decide to review the need for their current orders ahead of that transition.

A PSPO can identify a particular public place and either prohibit specified things being done or require specified things to be done. These can be similar restrictions and requirements to those that could be created under dog control orders and are designed to make public spaces more welcoming to the majority.

The report considers the need to introduce a PSPO in accordance with powers contained within the Act to include requirements relating to dog control.

It is proposed to consider creating offences of:

- Failing to remove dog faeces (covering the whole County Borough).
- Not keeping a dog on a lead in specified places.
- Not putting and keeping a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer (covering the whole County Borough).
- Permitting a dog to enter specified land from which dogs are excluded.
- Dog walkers not carrying an appropriate receptacle (poop bag) or other means for clearing up after their dog.
- Excluding dogs from specified sports/playing pitches.
- Require dogs to be kept on leads in enclosed memorial gardens.

It is proposed that initial informal public consultation on the proposed provisions of a PSPO is undertaken. A further report will be presented to this Committee, with the outcome of the consultation together with recommendations on the proposed controls to be included in a draft Order. The Committee's recommendations will then be referred to Cabinet for consideration.

CAERPHILLY HOMES TASK GROUP – 18TH FEBRUARY 2016 REVIEW OF COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FUNDS

Report to outline a proposal to absorb the WHQS Community Improvement Fund and Community Safety Fund into the Environmental Programme budget. The report is seeking the views of Caerphilly Homes Task Group (CHTG) prior to its presentation to Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.

Following the ballot in February 2012, the Council agreed that it would deliver the promises made in its Offer Document to tenants and deliver WHQS by 2019/2020. It also gave a commitment to delivering numerous additional benefits which were also outlined in the Offer Document, which would add value to the WHQS programme and help deliver the Council's ambition of using the £200 million WHQS investment as a catalyst to Transform Homes, Lives and Communities.

These additional benefits included the creation of a Community Improvement Fund and Community Safety Fund. The Council also created a Local Employment Fund.

The Local Employment Fund has been relatively successful and will be subject shortly to a separate report. £50,000 is allocated to each fund annually.

The Community Improvement Fund and Community Safety Fund have not met the original expectations and it is advocated these are now incorporated as part of the Environmental Programme budget.

The Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) is intended to ensure that all local authority and housing association homes are improved and maintained to specified standards. The Council is committed to ensuring that the WHQS investment transforms not only homes but also lives, and communities.

The Council's Local Housing Strategy "People, Property, and Places" has the following aim:

"To provide good quality, well managed houses in communities where people want to live, and offer people housing choices which meet their needs and aspirations."

The delivery of the WHQS environmental programme is coterminous with the aims of the Council's Single Integrated Plan 2013-2017 which aims to 'improve standards of housing and communities, giving appropriate access to services across the county borough' and the recently approved, Caerphilly Poverty Strategy 2015.

The Community Improvement Fund was designed specifically to foster community development and cohesion by enabling community groups to bid for funding to support local initiatives and projects that would help improve the immediate environment.

The Community Safety Fund was created to support community safety initiatives and interventions that would directly and indirectly benefit Council tenants including creating safer communities, tackling anti-social behaviour, reducing crime and the fear of crime, supporting victims of anti-social behaviour and domestic violence.

Potential applicants to the Community Improvement Fund apply for funding via a two stage process that complies with the Council's standing orders and requires evidence of community support, synergy with Communities First outcomes, and an indication of the benefits that will be delivered. Applications to the Community Safety Fund have been via internal departments. Proposals under both funds are subject to consultation with the CHTG and decisions are then made by the Head of Service under delegated powers.

Since 2013/14 a total of only £18,604 has been approved from the Community Improvement Fund to support the following organisations (although not all monies have been claimed):

- Rhymney Allotments Society
- Oaklands Hall Allotments Association
- Pen Y Dre Tenants and Residents Association
- Tarragon Educational Gardens

Further applications have been approved for Britannia Community House, Graig Y Rhacca Resource Centre and Neuadd St Catwg and not claimed. Since 2013/14, a total of £43,350 has been approved from the Community Safety Fund out of a potential £150,000.

Each year there is a significant underspend in the funds allocated to the Community Improvement Fund and Community Safety Fund. Meetings have been held with relevant individuals and partnerships to promote the availability of funds and marketing literature produced and circulated. The funds have also been promoted via social media and support made available to those organisations seeking assistance to complete the required paperwork.

Despite these efforts, the number and diversity of organisations requesting funding has been minimal. The Community Improvement Fund has, in the main, been accessed predominantly by Allotment Associations located throughout the borough to increase access to facilities for members and interested parties within local communities.

The Community Safety Fund has supported the purchase and installation of CCTV cameras in areas of the borough exhibiting high levels of anti-social behaviour and to support the work of the Community Safety Partnership in relation to target hardening measures to help protect victims of domestic violence and anti-social behaviour.

Whilst many of the projects supported have been worthy, the Community Improvement Fund and Community Safety Fund have not delivered the original expectations. They were both designed to increase community cohesion and address local priorities.

It is therefore proposed that both the Community Improvement Fund and the Community Safety Fund are absorbed into the Environmental Programme budget. It should be noted that they were top sliced from this budget originally.

The WHQS Environmental Programme is currently under development. If any projects emerge that would previously have been candidates for the two funds they will, if appropriate, be incorporated within proposals for specific estates and be subject to the consultation arrangements that will inform the decision making as to which project proposals can be supported.

CABINET – 2ND MARCH 2016 OUTDOOR BOWLS CLUBS

To advise members of the progress made in relation to the potential self-management of bowling greens across the county borough.

The Authority currently operates twenty-one bowling greens, which is a discretionary service and costs circa £500K per annum. This equates to 27% of the Parks budget (excluding HQ and staffing).

Members will be aware in July 2014, a report was considered by the Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) proposals for Community & Leisure Services. One recommendation was the closure of six out of the twenty-one bowling greens managed by the Authority to achieve £100K financial savings (£50K in 2015/16 and £50K in 2016/17).

Members resolved that all clubs should be consulted and given the option to take up self-management. Officers and the Cabinet Member met with all clubs on the 17th October 2014 to set out the various proposals. It was resolved that officers would meet clubs on an individual basis, thereafter to discuss self-management.

On the 14th October 2015 Cabinet considered and approved a range of MTFP budget proposals including the rationalisation of bowling greens. This report outlines an option (after learning from other Local authorities) which will achieve more ownership of the facilities by bowls clubs and equal and fair treatment of all clubs within the county borough.

CABINET – 2ND MARCH 2016 THE REGISTRATION OF PUPILS WHO ARE EDUCATED OTHER THAN AT SCHOOL (EOTAS)

Report to agree the process of registration for EOTAS.

The majority of pupils settle successfully in schools and make progress. However, a relatively small number of pupils across the authority have needs that cannot be met within a school setting. Some of these pupils are too vulnerable to cope with a school environment, whilst others present behaviours that are too challenging for a mainstream school.

The Local Authority (LA) has identified alternative provision for these pupils and organises and funds this. The pupils have remained on the roll of the main school but they have no interaction with it, so their registration becomes academic. It would be more reasonable for the pupils attending full time provisions to be registered at the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) which is the hub of the LA's EOTAS provision. A number of these pupils could return to education at school.

Glossary of terms:- Not in Employment, Education and Training Strategy (NEETs), Educated Other Than at School Strategy (EOTAS), Single Integrated Plan (SIP)

174 pupils currently access education outside the school in a full-time capacity. 16 of these pupils attend INNOVATE which is a provision for vulnerable pupils, based in Rhymney. These pupils have no interaction with their mainstream school.

36 pupils attend Bridge/Include provision which caters for pupils who have the most significant and complex behavioural, social, emotional, learning and mental health needs. These pupils have no interaction with their mainstream school.

56 pupils attend Community/Home/Young Parents Project Tuition (32 Community; 19 Home; 5 Young Parents project). Some of these pupils are in this setting for a very short time and will definitely return to a school. It is appropriate that they remain on the school roll during the interruption to their school life. However, some of these pupils are in tuition while they access alternative provision or the PRU.

The Chief Education Officer is currently in discussion with headteachers to identify ways in which schools can collaborate to design bespoke packages for pupils who require an alternative curriculum so they can remain part of the school community.

It is proposed that where pupils are educated off-site in full-time provision independent of the school, they will be registered at the PRU. This is because they have no meaningful contact with the school and often will never have done so. Where pupils in need of an alternative curriculum are educated through collaborative arrangements between schools, they should remain on their respective school roll.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Equalities implications have been taken into account for the vast majority 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 – 16TH MARCH 2016

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

REPORT BY: SOUTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

The South Wales Fire and Rescue Service has carried out the following work of interest within the Caerphilly County Borough area since the last Voluntary Sector Committee Meeting held on 2nd December 2015.

Participation in Bernie

- 2 days of Firefighter for a Day at Aberbargoed Fire Station (dates to be confirmed)
- Bernie Launch – Friday 18th March – Morrison's Caerphilly – Fire Crime will be in attendance as well as the fire engine from Aberbargoed Fire Station. Fire Crime Unit will be providing stickers and pull ups. Life size Bernie will also be in attendance.
- Patrols will officially begin on Saturday 26th March until Sunday 10th April. The patrols to begin at 16:00hrs (until 21:00hrs approx). Patrols to be reactive to what is happening either in South or North Caerphilly
- Fire Crime Unit will be attending all comprehensive schools in the Caerphilly area with Schools Liaison Officer's where possible to deliver the Bernie message via a presentation during assembly.
- Our Firesetter Intervention Team will also be based out in the locality with the ability to react immediately to provide intervention with young people.

Emergency Services day planned for 1st April 2016 at the Hanger, Aberbargoed, confirmed fire service attendance are, Fire Crime Unit, Aberbargoed Fire Engine, Road Safety Team, Crimes & Consequences, Bernie Information Trailer.

In addition to Bernie, we also delivered the following:

Key Stage 1 & 2 delivery (Tanni and Bedroom Fire) to 17 primary schools within Caerphilly Borough

Continued delivery of Home Fire Safety Checks, to high risk / vulnerable individuals within the area.

Author: Donna Crossman, Partner Agency Manager, Home Fire Safety Support Team,
South Wales Fire & Rescue Service

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VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 16TH MARCH 2016

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

REPORT BY: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR GWENT

Improved Police Technology

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent sanctioned the rollout of brand new technology for police officers in Gwent which replaced traditional pocket notebooks with state-of-the-art mobile devices.

To get more officers out of stations and maximise the time they spend in the community, Gwent PCC Ian Johnston supported a bid and secured nearly £1.5 million from the Home Office's Police Innovation Fund over two years so that Gwent Police, in collaboration with South Wales Police, could develop a new specialist policing 'app' and associated technology which can be used on smart phone and tablet devices.

The technology has been developed, trialled and meticulously tested over the last year to ensure it meets all police officer requirements. The two key features are the Electronic Pocket Notebook and the I-Patrol mobile 'app' which enables officers at crime scenes to immediately capture audio and visual accounts from victims, witnesses and offenders and to upload these files and information obtained directly into a shared computer system without the need to return to stations.

Through their new devices, officers can access intelligence at the point of need when attending incidents, enabling them to be better prepared and informed before they arrive at the call. This reduces the risk to officers and provides a better service to repeat and vulnerable victims. The devices can even send through 'push notification' messages with vital information to officers on route to an incident.

The quality of information and evidence obtained at crime scenes is enhanced, plus it allows Forces to share cross-border data quickly and have rapid access to key information which saves both time and money.

Office for National Statistics (ONS) Crime Figures – January 2016

The Office for National Statistics have released the latest Crime figures for England and Wales which look at the 12 months to September 2015 as compared to the 12 months to September 2014. The figures show that a total of 37,306 crimes were recorded in the Gwent Force area during the latest period which is an increase of just over 1400 crimes.

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent (PCC) campaigned to improve force practice to ensure that recording data was accurate, believing that reliable and accurate data is extremely important to better direct limited resources. The Chief Constable has shown strong leadership in placing the quality of service the public receive before the need to meet numerical targets. As a result of continuous improvement in recording practices nationwide, 32 of the 43 Forces in England and Wales are now showing an increase in recorded crime.

There is some really good news for Gwent, especially in respect of the significant reduction in the number of dwelling burglaries (-11%). This reduction is nearly double the national average and shows that the Force's operation to target and prosecute burglars is working. There was also a reduction in the number of incidents of criminal damage in comparison with an upward trend nationally.

Recorded sexual offences both nationally and in Gwent have increased and this reflects the public's increased confidence in reporting these crimes. Six out of ten of the serious sexual offences against children recorded in Gwent are of an historical nature. There has also been an increase in the overall satisfaction of crime victims in the service they receive from Gwent Police and this direction of travel is continuing.

The increases in some crime categories are likely to be down to a combination of factors; including more consistent crime recording, and greater confidence and willingness of victims to engage with police and partner agencies to report such incidents knowing that they will be listened to and their reports acted upon.

The statistics don't include work around speeding, drink and drug driving and other offences that police have a duty to investigate.

HMIC PEEL Inspection of Gwent Police – Effectiveness

As part of the 2015 PEEL (police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy) inspection, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) looked at all police forces in England Wales in June and July this year to see how effective they are at protecting those who are vulnerable from harm and supporting victims. This included an in-depth consideration of the service offered to victims of domestic abuse.

The inspection looked at 4 areas of force performance:

- How well does the force identify those who are vulnerable and assess their level of risk and need?
- How well does the force respond to vulnerable victims?
- How well does the subsequent police action and work with partners keep victims safe?
- How well does the force respond to and safeguard specific vulnerable groups, and how well prepared is it to tackle child sexual exploitation?

Gwent Police achieved 'Good' ratings in each, with HMIC highlighting that it was 'clear that vulnerability is a high priority the Force' and that the Force is 'effective at supporting victims and protecting from harm those who are vulnerable.'

HMIC found that the Force has made improvements since the last domestic abuse inspection and that positive outcomes are apparent, such as the Force now having a prosecution rate for domestic abuse which is greater than the national average.

The report also highlighted the role that the Connect Gwent victims' hub, launched by PCC Ian Johnston earlier this year, has played in addressing the needs of victims of crime. HMIC findings demonstrated an increase in public confidence in Gwent Police and the 'overall satisfaction' of crime victims in the service they receive.

Key areas of success for Gwent Police highlighted in the report:

- Gwent Police makes good use of information sharing with partner organisations
- That it was clear that staff are victim-focused and understand the importance of identifying vulnerability;
- The Force is good at identifying repeat and vulnerable victims, and has clear processes in place for assessing risk;
- That staff consider carefully the appropriate level of police response and its officers work well with partners to manage the risk to victims;
- The Force's operational procedures to protect the vulnerable and support victims are

- considered to be good;
- Gwent Police has worked hard to develop a culture where vulnerability is considered at all points of contact with the public;
- The Force is influential in the development of policy and operational practice in the county's children and adult safeguarding boards.

HMIC PEEL Inspection of Gwent Police Force – Legitimacy

The latest inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) specifically looked at how legitimate Gwent Police is at keeping people safe and reducing crime.

Throughout 2015, HMIC's PEEL Legitimacy inspection programme assessed the culture within Gwent Police, and how this is reflected in the force's public engagement, use of Taser and compliance with the Best Use of Stop and Search scheme. This is the first time HMIC has graded forces in England and Wales on their legitimacy.

The inspection looked at three areas:

- To what extent does practice and behaviour reinforce the wellbeing of staff and an ethical culture?
- How well does the force understand, engage with and treat fairly the people it serves to maintain and improve its legitimacy?
- To what extent are decisions taken on the use of stop and search and Taser fair and appropriate?

Gwent Police received an overall rating of 'good' but was found to be 'outstanding' in the way it engaged with local communities and the way it uses a range of methods to understand the needs of its local communities. The report highlighted:

- Gwent Police is making clear efforts to develop and maintain an ethical working environment across the Force;
- The Force has a good understanding of the communities it serves and uses a range of methods to engage with people in its local neighbourhoods, seek their views and keep them informed;
- Gwent Police complies with the Best Use of Stop and Search scheme, and use of Taser is fair and appropriate;
- And that complaints and misconduct cases are dealt with in a fair and consistent manner.

Last year, the PCC praised the Force for receiving good ratings across the board from HMIC in both the 'Valuing the Police' report and the 'Vulnerability' report.

The PCC has been very pleased with the good HMIC reports in the last couple of months and praised the Chief Constable and his team for the strong leadership they have shown. The PCC commented "that it was even more remarkable when you consider the financial challenges the Force has faced and the position Gwent Police was in eighteen months ago when it was deemed as requiring improvement across the board by inspectors. To receive three good reports in a row in the last year is a remarkable turnaround to say the least and is a clear indication that the Force is heading in the right direction. This should reassure the public that their Force is in good health moving forward."

For further information and to access the full report visit.

www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk

Precept Consultation January 2016

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent (PCC) has a duty to ensure that all the people who live in Gwent have an efficient and effective police service and has a legal requirement to set the police budget. With this in mind, the PCC launched an online 'Have Your Say' consultation on setting the precept level for 2016/17.

As a result of cuts to policing, between the period 2008/09 to 2020/21, Gwent Police would potentially face a deficit of £64 million. To date, the policing service in Gwent had delivered over £37 million of efficiency savings to address the gap. However, the efficiency savings identified in the budget report for 2016/17 would not fully close the funding gap.

For example, the average band D household in Gwent paid £211.62 per year in 2015/16 or £4.07 per week. A 0% increase to the precept next year would mean that Gwent Police would suffer a funding shortfall of over £1.8 million. However, an increase of 3.99% in the precept (£8.44 per year per band D household) would mean that Gwent Police retained the current budget.

Considering the short timescale, the number of respondents who completed the questionnaire was very good at 526 respondents.

The results were clearly in favour of paying the higher percentage increases of 3.99% and 5%, with 3.99% having 168 votes and 5% increase achieving 161 votes.

The Police and Crime Panel, who are responsible for supporting and challenging the Commissioner's decisions, accepted his recommendation to set the Council Tax Precept at 3.99% for 2016/17. This means that the average Gwent household (Band D) will pay an additional 16 pence a week for their policing and related services during 2016/17.

Police Recruitment

Gwent Police has seen an overall reduction of nearly 300 police officers since 2010/11 as a result of austerity. Gwent Police will recruit up to 100 frontline officers over the next three years to replace those who have retired or have left the Force already. This marks the end of an austerity-driven freeze on the external recruitment of police constables at Gwent Police which has been in place since August 2013.

The recruitment and training process will be rolled out progressively over the next three years and it is envisaged that up to 60 new constables will be recruited in 2016 in order to maintain levels of operational policing. The recruitment and training of another 40 police constables will be spread out over the remainder of the two years and the new officers will be deployed on the beat throughout the region.

With the aim of attracting applicants from a broad cross-section of society and to ensure that the recruitment process reflects the diverse nature of Gwent communities, the Force is hosting special awareness raising sessions with black and minority ethnic communities throughout the region as part of the recruitment drive.

The funding of the Force and the provision of policing services form part of the PCC's statutory duties and it is his responsibility to ensure that Gwent has appropriate levels of policing to meet the requirements of communities whilst making the necessary savings.

Independent Custody Visiting Scheme

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent have appointed 8 new independent custody visitors (ICV). These are responsible for ensuring the fair treatment of people in police custody. The ICVs have been fully vetted by Gwent Police and attended rigorous training courses before commencing their work.

ICVs are specially trained volunteers who make unannounced visits to police custody units to check on the welfare of detainees and the facilities they are held in. They will play a vital role in ensuring that the wellbeing of people who have been arrested is monitored and that issues relating to individuals or the custody environment are addressed appropriately.

Police cells in Ystrad Mynach and Newport are visited at least once a week by the custody visitors. They can also access police stations at any time of the day or night, without prior warning, to speak to people who have been arrested and look at the condition of the facilities.

People in custody have certain rights including access to free legal advice, having someone told where they are, to be fed and have their medical needs looked after. Custody visitors also check that appropriate adults have been requested for vulnerable detainees and ensure that cultural and religious beliefs are met with and that translators are provided when requested. The custody visitors ensure these rights are upheld and they can speak with police officers and interview as many detainees as they see fit. They can never know the detainee's name so as to ensure they treat everybody the same. They also look at food preparation areas, blanket stores and the medical room and anything not up to scratch is recorded and flagged up with custody staff immediately.

Low level issues, such as a detainee complaining they are cold, can be referred immediately to the Custody Sergeant who can deal with it instantly. If a problem cannot be fixed then it is reported to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner which has responsibility for monitoring the independent custody scheme in Gwent. Each visit is concluded with a report which is sent to the PCC and any issues arising are discussed during specific quarterly meetings with the Police Force.

Mental Health Concordant

The new Wales Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat is a joint agreement between the Welsh Government and 28 key organisations and partners throughout Wales which highlights how they will work together to help people going through a mental health crisis. It aims to help reduce the number of people detained inappropriately in police cells and drive out the variation in standards across Wales.

The Concordat sets out the standards of care people should expect if they experience a mental health crisis and details how the emergency services should respond. The voices of those who have suffered mental health crisis also helped shape the document.

Some of the key points of collective commitment by all the partners include:

- To cease to use police custody suites as a place of safety, except in exceptional circumstances and never for a child/young person under the age of 18
- To ensure there is access to mental health professional advice at the point of crisis, available 24 hours each day and every day;
- Police vehicles will rarely be used to convey people in crisis save for the most violent of individuals and only exceptionally to transport people between NHS facilities;
- Partners and the third sector should be supported to widen their ambition in developing 'new' places of safety and providing alternatives to in-patient care at all stages e.g. sanctuary houses, drug and alcohol support.

By working effectively in partnership and adopting a unified approach, standards have already improved in Gwent and it is envisaged that the new agreement will help to make further progress. In 2012/13 an average of 25 people per month were detained by Gwent Police under the Mental Health Act and 58% of them were taken to police custody for assessment rather than a health facility. In 2014/15 however, an average of 30 people a month were detained by the Force under the Mental Health Act, with 60% being taken to a health facility for assessment which is deemed an appropriate place of safety.

The Concordant recognises that people in mental health crisis are some of the most vulnerable members of our community and they need specialist care and attention. As opposed to being detained in police custody, especially as many have not committed a crime.

The Mental Health Crisis Care Concordant can be accessed via the link:

<http://gov.wales/docs/dhss/publications/151210reporten.pdf>

PCC's Funding of a Third Sector Development Officer

The PCC in partnership with Torfaen Voluntary Alliance and Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO) agreed to fund a Third Sector Development Officer for 12 months to map the third sector that provide services aligned to the PCC's police and crime priorities. The initial focus would concentrate on the larger organisations which would be in a position to tender for public service provision and the next tier of services who would like to be involved.

The Third Sector Development Officer arranged 5 Consortia training events across the Force area, with one in each Local Authority. These were held in February and March. The aim has been to encourage and inform third sector organisations (and Local Authorities) of the benefits of working together in consortia to be able to bid for the provision of public sector services.

AUTHOR: MARIA CHAPMAN (FOR THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR GWENT)



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 16TH MARCH 2016

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

REPORT BY: CAERPHILLY LOCAL SERVICE BOARD

SAFER CAERPHILLY

A Safer Caerphilly is one in which all residents:

- Are safe and feel safe inside their homes and out in the community.
- Are reassured, listened to by community safety agencies and encouraged to report any crime and disorder issues they may have.
- Need to feel safe and independent and when they need additional support, or where they have additional need, they should be able to access support from community safety and safeguarding agencies.

Through the analysis of partnership data and consultation, four priorities have been formed from key issues, which will be addressed over the next five years to allay the dominant concerns of the residents of the county borough:

- S1 Reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour and reduce fear of becoming a victim of anti-social behaviour for residents.
- S2 Reduce crime and the fear of crime for the residents of the county borough.
- S3 Reduce the harm caused to communities through substance misuse.
- S4 Support domestic abuse victims and their families and raise awareness of domestic abuse, violence against women and sexual violence.
- S5 Improve the education, information, early intervention, prevention and harm reduction in relation to substance misuse in the County Borough (Prev. H4).

Priority S1: Reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour and reduce fear of becoming a victim of anti-social behaviour for residents

Period	Title	Comment	Overall Status	Progress Status	% Complete
Q3 15/16	Continue to provide support to victims of anti-social behaviour through the Independent Victims Champion Service including mediation support as necessary.	The Victims Services Manager received a total of 78 referrals during quarter three, 100% of these were contacted within 48 hours of the referral being received. Mediation services are now available.	In Progress	On Track	80
Q3 15/16	Continue to work with partners to provide diversionary activities and interventions to deter young people from committing ASB. Work with Positive Futures and Street Games to deliver activity in ASB hotspot locations	Diversionary activities were supported in this quarter in the Penyrheol area and also at Abercarn where low level street based youth annoyance was identified through the Partnership Tasking process as areas that would benefit from the intervention of the Positive Futures project. Positive Futures is currently delivering at a number of hotspot locations across the borough. As issues at each location dissipate plans are made to transfer any ongoing provision to local community groups. For the Halloween and Bonfire night period events and activities were funded at Bedwas, Risca, Bargoed & Rhymney.	In Progress	On Track	90
Q3 15/16	Make use of powers under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 to consider with partners the use of Public Space Protection Orders, Community Protection Notices and Closure Orders (New 15/16)	Enforcement using the provisions of the legislation continues with the first Anti-social Behaviour Injunctions under the Act issued in the third quarter. One was an emergency order granted with power of arrest attached as it related to threats and intimidation perpetrated against neighbours living in a set of isolated cottages. Unfortunately we received the first application for review of the way in which agencies had dealt with an ASB case. A formal review was conducted and the lessons learned have been agreed by agencies involved. Work will begin in the coming quarter to review the current Designated Public Place (alcohol control) areas across the borough.	In Progress	On Track	75
Q3 15/16	Promote and raise awareness of the ASB 4 Strike Process to ensure that perpetrators are being dealt with accordingly.	The ASB process continues to be promoted among partners. The team delivered training alongside Gwent Police officers to the staff working at Gwent Connect, the Victims Hub, based at Blackwood Police Station. The staff here are a combination of Victim Support staff and other specialist providers who are now commissioned to provide telephone support to ASB victims. It was important for them to have the background in the partnership case management process that deal with perpetrators. Training is being planned for Neighbourhood Policing Team Officers in the coming quarter.	In Progress	On Track	90
Q3 15/16	Roll-out social media harassment campaign to educational settings and promote messages to parents and guardians	Posters have been developed for dissemination to local schools and colleges. We are awaiting feedback from the Youth Forum on final content. They will be promoted as part of Internet Safety day on the 9th of February.	In Progress	On Track	50

Priority S2: Reduce crime and the fear of crime for the residents of the county borough

Period	Title	Comment	Overall Status	Progress Status	% Complete
Q3 15/16	Continue to support SWFRS and partners to address deliberate grass fires incidents and arson.	The number of Deliberate Fires is still higher than the same period last year, but this is due to the spike that we suffered in April 2015. SWFRS Fire Crime Unit has continued working with Partners to reduce fires across the Borough area. In the Autumn a joint services patrol was carried out in the Pontllanfraith area. Police and Fire Officers engaged with approx 40 young persons in the parks and car parks that had recently suffered wheelie bin fires and ASB. Arson boards were set up in the area, and SWFRS Schools Liaison Team were provided with Schools Contacts for the area.	In Progress	On Track	65
Q3 15/16	Ensure the PREVENT duty and CHANNEL duty introduced through the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 are met among partners	WRAP (Workshop to raise awareness of PREVENT) training continues to be offered to key services. During this quarter we entered into an agreement with the Home Office to receive £10k funding to deliver enhanced PREVENT and CHANNEL training. This will be partly used to deliver a Gwent wide conference in the 4th quarter. The remainder of the allocation will be used to provide more in depth training on specific issues e.g. Far Right Ideological Extremism and Islamist Extremism. (60%)	In Progress	On Track	75
Q3 15/16	Ensure the success of Your Voice through shared partnership commitment to the engagement process (New 15/16)	The third cycle of the Your Voice process is underway. Community Engagement in the process remains at a high level. There were 12,000 surveys across Gwent for the last cycle.	In Progress	On Track	20
Q3 15/16	Focus on the problematic crime areas highlighted in the 1516 Safer Gwent Strategic Assessment and notified by partners	Police hold daily tasking at both local and Force level to address overnight crime and any emerging crime patterns. Information from these meetings is shared with local partners when appropriate. In addition to this Police CADRO's utilise OWL and other forms of Social Media to raise public awareness to incidents and to deliver protective measures and advice on target hardening. Weekly Police Tasking incorporates the findings of a weekly Tactical Assessment where officers from various departments discuss areas of activity and persons to be targeted. The Criminal Damage Plan has been revised to reflect local needs. Initiatives such as the criminal damage 'Price Tag' competition run in Comprehensive Schools have all been designed to address problematic crime. This scheme has been identified as best practice and is currently being replicated in Blaenau Gwent. Initiatives targeted at addressing fuel thefts on industrial estates has revealed some success. Gwent Police continue to work with Partners from CCTV, Safer Caerphilly, and Street Pastors to deliver a night time service to our targeted town centres. The Safer Caerphilly After Dark initiative continues to progress with a development meeting held in September.	In Progress	On Track	60

Period	Title	Comment	Overall Status	Progress Status	% Complete
Q3 15/16	Hold monthly partnership tasking meetings to address new and emerging crime patterns.	Monthly tasking meetings have resumed with a focus on those agencies able to intervene to tackle crime and ASB hotspots and perpetrators with YOS, Youth Services, Fire Service, CSWs, Community Safety Partnership, After Dark PC, CADROs and Tenancy Enforcement. The meeting is Chaired by the local Chief Inspector, supported by the Partnership Inspector and Detective Inspector. The LPU Tactical Assessment is discussed at the meeting and agencies tasked to address the issues identified.	In Progress	On Track	80
Q3 15/16	Prioritise the needs of repeat domestic abuse victims	Daily conference calls are held to ensure victims in need are identified and provided the necessary assistance from the right organisations. A number of Gwent Police Supervisors have received 'Learning The Lessons' training input which better prepares them to supervise and monitor DV. Close local supervision of DASH forms ensures that risks are identified early and that positive action is taken. Gwent Police Officers have now received training regarding a change in legislation, which allows for DV Protection Orders to be imposed on offenders for the protection of victims including those reluctant to pursue to Court. A training update has also been provided regarding the offences of Stalking and Harassment. Rebecca Haycock (Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator) is in post and continues to drive awareness and initiatives throughout the Borough. She is leading the White Ribbon working group and is currently co-ordinating the 16 days of related activity leading up to National White Ribbon Day on the 25th of November. CCBC has been awarded White Ribbon status for their dedication and support to addressing violence against women. Gwent Police are already acknowledged as a White Ribbon organisation.	In Progress	On Track	55
Q3 15/16	Strengthen working links between specialist services and local officers investigating domestic abuse	Gwent Police have a central Domestic Abuse Unit to oversee the more serious allegations. They work alongside various partner agencies and participate in the daily DAC conference call where incidents are discussed and managed. Llamau have now taken over the role of DA services coordinator based at the Multi Agency Centre in Ystrad Mynach. The Police and partnership approach to dealing with DV through the support and encouragement we have shown to victims aims to encourage victims to report incidents. Close local supervision of DASH forms ensures that risks are identified early and that positive action is taken. Gwent Police Officers are currently undergoing training as a result of a change in legislation, which allows for DV Protection Orders to be imposed on offenders for the protection of victims including those reluctant to pursue to Court.	In Progress	On Track	75

Period	Title	Comment	Overall Status	Progress Status	% Complete
Q3 15/16	Utilise public facing communications channels to raise public awareness of crime and anti- social behaviour issues and partnership activities to tackle them.	<p>Gwent Police - The Safer Caerphilly Partnership now has its own Twitter account @SaferCaerphilly. This will be used to provide community safety messages and updates by all partners whilst also promoting the Safer Caerphilly brand. Police Crime And Disorder Reduction Officers utilise OWL and other forms of Social Media to raise public awareness to incidents and to deliver protective measures and advice on target hardening. Local NPT across the Borough provide a similar service. NPT's currently run Owl recruitment days. There are currently 12729 people signed up to OWL in the Caerphilly Borough. This represents 15.99% of the Boroughs population (1 in 6 households).</p> <p>Media opportunities and public awareness has been maintained this quarter. CCBC - A number of Facebook messages on domestic abuse have been used in addition to Twitter messages. A Twitter competition was run around the Big Cheese. Ongoing website updates continue. The 10 year anniversary of the Community Safety Warden Service was promoted in September, including a Newsline article. The service has a new direct public contact number that has also been promoted.</p>	In Progress	On Track	70

Priority S3: Reduce the harm caused to communities through substance misuse

Period	Title	Comment	Overall Status	Progress Status	% Complete
Q3 15/16	Draw together the work of community safety agencies to tackle the night-time economy issues via the Safer Caerphilly After Dark initiative.	Of note this quarter was a multi agency Triage that was run by Police , Ambulance, Health and Street Pastors during key dates over the Xmas period. This resulted in many people who were ill or injured in the NTE being treated at a Triage at Newbridge, rather than being transported to A and E.	In Progress	On Track	85
Q3 15/16	Enforce Public Space Protection Orders (DPPO) with alcohol controls to restrict on street drinking by adults and those under 18 years of age.	DPPOs continue to be enforced. However, under the updated legislation they should be reviewed and if necessary converted to Public Space Protection Orders within 3 years from October 2014. We aim to do this before the end of the financial year.	In Progress	On Track	80
Q3 15/16	Ensure Licensed Premises act responsibly and in compliance with their licensing conditions	All On Licensed premises are currently engaging well with Licensing teams, which is indicative of responsible attitudes throughout the Borough.	In Progress	On Track	75
Q3 15/16	Support the work of the Gwent Substance Misuse Area Planning Board in tackling substance misuse issues that affect communities.	Work is ongoing. There are no new updates for this quarter.	In Progress	On Track	90

Priority S4: Support domestic abuse victims and their families and raise awareness of domestic abuse, violence against women and sexual violence

Period	Title	Comment	Overall Status	Progress Status	% Complete
Q3 15/16	Monitor the success of the Youth Respect Project within the Youth Offending Service and Supporting Family Change Project	The person responsible for the Youth Respect Project has been appointed but is yet to take up the post while the post is finalised.	Not Yet Started	Late	0
Q3 15/16	Support the Gwent Regional Domestic Abuse Advisory Team in delivering public awareness raising activities and messages for domestic abuse	In November, the regional VAWDASV team held and supported a number of White Ribbon activities. A regional awareness event was held at Newport City Campus and walk a mile in her shoes took place at Caerphilly Castle.	In Progress	On Track	15
Q3 15/16	Work with the Regional Domestic Abuse Advisory Team to meet the aims and statutory duties of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse, and Sexual Violence Act 2015 (New 15/16)	CCBC form part of the Regional partnership and are involved in the main work streams of the VAWDASV team. These include pieces of work on Education, Training/Ask&Act, Target Hardening. The national Adviser for VAWDASV has developed an Annual plan and this document is currently with the Minister. A national strategy will be released for consultation in spring/summer 2016 and will be published in November 2016. The development of a regional strategy will take place and be aligned with the national strategy. Local Strategies will be published in May 2017.	In Progress	On Track	40
Q3 15/16	Work within the Gwent Violence Against Women, Sexual Violence and Domestic Abuse Board to develop a regional IDVA (Independent Domestic Victim Advocate) Service	The Regional IDVA research is now complete and it was decided at the Board that the fully funded model would be perused in order to ensure the safety of high risk victims. Funding applications have been made for an IDVA manager/coordinator to sit within NCC.	In Progress	On Track	20

Priority S5: Improve the education, information, early intervention, prevention and harm reduction in relation to substance misuse in the County Borough. (Previously part of H4)

Period	Title	Comment	Overall Status	Progress Status	% Complete
Q3 15/16	Develop a service for working with people who have issues with their illicit or prescribed use of benzodiazepine.	This protocol has been developed and will be incorporated into the new service which went live on the 1st May 2015	Complete	On Track	100
Q3 15/16	Develop a substance misuse resource centre in the north of the county borough.	A base has been identified Hafod Deg) and refurbishment works have been finalised. Services are now fully operating from this base.	Complete	On Track	100
Q3 15/16	Provide support for significant others whose loved ones are misusing alcohol or drugs. This will include family parenting support for young people who misuse substances	There has been 44 referrals this qtr. This is mostly the partner or son of the substance misuser. The main substance being misused by the client is alcohol followed by cannabis. These loved ones are still accessing services. The strengthening families service had 9 referrals this qtr. 5 of these were suitable for the programme and 3 completed successfully. Hidden harm had 19 referrals this qtr, namely females. There were 10 parents misusing alcohol and 9 drugs. All completed the programme successfully.	In Progress	On Track	55
Q3 15/16	To implement and monitor a rigorous returns policy in needle exchange outlets across Caerphilly in order to minimise the incidence of discarded needles, syringes and paraphernalia	GDAS has 69 new clients this qtr and 313 active clients. There has been 404 transactions. The majority are steroid users followed by opiate users. The main age group is age 25-29. The returns rate is 84%. The main postcode area is Caerphilly town. The majority of users in full time employment using this service are steroid users. The rest are unemployed.	In Progress	On Track	60
Q3 15/16	To provide access to vaccinations for Hepatitis A,B and C to at risk groups via targeted tier 1 services, tier 2 Open access services and all treatment providers	8 clients have been screened and vaccinated against BBV this qtr. 7 of these were negative tests.	In Progress	On Track	60
Q3 15/16	To support and develop the Day After Alcohol Project providing initial support and engagement into intensive services the day after an alcohol related incident has occurred.	CRI are commissioned to provide Health Inclusion project (HIP). During Q3 there has been 55 referrals. * of these are safeguarding cases. 12 of the families being worked with have alcohol related issues. 119 home visits were carried out. There are currently 59 families active with this service.	In Progress	On Track	60
Q3 15/16	Work with the Gwent Substance Misuse Area Planning Board to provide services across the whole of the borough to treat and prevent the effects of substance misuse.	A commissioning exercise took place in 2014 whereby a new service was commissioned GDAS. This service was launched on the 1st May 2015 and is made up of a consortium of Kaleidoscope, Drugaid and G4S. The service provides a service to drug and alcohol users, their families and concerned others. It also incorporates the criminal justice service.	In Progress	On Track	70



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 16TH MARCH 2016

SUBJECT: CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO THE DRAFT LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) BILL WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 For information only the Caerphilly County Borough Council response to the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill Welsh Government.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Full Council (26th January 2016) endorsed this Caerphilly County Borough Council response to the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill, which is strongly based on the premise that the best outcome for our local communities is that Caerphilly County Borough Council remains as a stand-alone Authority.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill is the Minister for Public Services' vision for Local Government in Wales and is *based on activist Councils, engaged in delivering modern, accessible, high quality public services with their local communities*. The Bill closely aligns with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011, and the performance management framework for Local Government in Wales.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The objective of the Draft Bill is to complete the programme of Local Authority mergers and set out a new and reformed legislative framework for Local Authority democracy, accountability, performance, some elements of finance, and establish a statutory Public Services Staff Commission. A round table discussion was held with the political leaders on drafting the Caerphilly County Borough Council response to the consultation. It was emphasised that the starting basis of the response is that Caerphilly County Borough Council wishes to retain its position as a stand-alone Authority (Appendix 1 contains the response submitted to the Welsh Government).
- 4.2 The Welsh Government is currently analysing responses to this consultation with the Welsh Government response anticipated autumn 2016.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 A thorough consideration to equality issues is contained within the Draft Bill. There is an accompanying Equality Impact Assessment to the consultation document, and Welsh Language Impact Assessment. The Draft Bill closely relates to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, which has A More Equal Wales as one of its 7 national well-being goals.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 If the Draft Bill is implemented there will be significant financial implications. Appendix B to the Bill contains a Regulatory Impact Assessment: Costs and Benefits Calculations.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 If the Draft Bill is implemented there will be significant personnel implications with the move to mergers with other Local Authorities in Gwent.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 This response endorsed by Full Council reflected the discussion held with the political leaders, and the Council's Management Network was also consulted for their views.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 For information only.

10. STATUTORY POWER

- 10.1 Local Government Act 2000.

Author: Jackie Dix, Policy and Research Manager, CCBC

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Caerphilly County Borough Council Response to the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill Welsh Government Consultation

Appendix 1 Caerphilly County Borough Council Response to the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill Welsh Government Consultation

Following endorsement by Full Council (26th January 2016) this is the Caerphilly County Borough Council response to the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill, which is strongly based on the premise that the best outcome for our local communities is that Caerphilly County Borough Council remains as a stand-alone Authority.

Consultation questions

PART 1

Question 1.1: Do you have any comments on any of the provisions in Part 1 of the Draft Bill?

Caerphilly County Borough Council retains its position that a stand-alone Authority is the best outcome for our communities, although the close collaborative work as documented in the Welsh Government consultation paper being undertaken across the Gwent region is noted and valued by the Council.

Question 1.2: What are your views on the options for 2 or 3 Counties in North Wales, as set out in Schedule 1 to the Draft Bill?

It is felt inappropriate for a South East Wales Council to respond to this question on reconfiguration of Local Authorities in North Wales.

Question 1.3: What are your views on the proposed configuration of Local Government areas in Wales?

We recognise that it is appropriate to review the configuration of Local Government in Wales. However, whilst Local Government is well placed to offer a view on the appropriate configuration going forward, we can see little evidence of those views being taken into account.

The proposed Gwent Unitary Authority would be the largest in Wales in terms of population, cover a large geographical area, and, more importantly, encompass communities with a diverse socio-economic profile and different needs and priorities. These multiple challenges present a risk which we believe can be mitigated if Welsh Government were to move away from the proposal of a single Authority in Gwent.

This consultation does not clearly demonstrate how local government re-organisation will be a cheaper option than retaining the current system, while encouraging greater collaboration. It is surprising that the consultation is stating - *Ministers have agreed that there "should be a moratorium on the establishment of any new collaborations and partnerships prior to finalising the map"* (p12) given the drive by Welsh Government for greater and better collaboration over the years. Appropriate collaboration can lead to greater efficiency of public services, and without the extensive costs of wholesale local government re-organisation.

Question 1.4: Do the Welsh Ministers need to seek any further powers to support the integration of Powys Teaching Health Board and Powys County Council?

No specific comment to make.

Question 1.5: What are your views on the procedure for naming the new Counties?

It is reiterated that Caerphilly County Borough Council wishes to remain as a stand-alone Authority.

Question 1.6: What are your views on the proposed changes to the Local Government election timetable?

It is reiterated that Caerphilly County Borough Council wishes to remain as a stand-alone Authority.

Question 1.7: Do you have any general comments on the provisions in section 16 and Schedule 3 of the Draft Bill relating to Local Government finance?

It is recognised with growing devolution that - *the Welsh Government has to consult on proposals including separate legislation dedicated to the mechanisms for distributing, raising, managing and accounting for the funding of Local Government...to design a system which takes account of wider changes to the powers and fiscal responsibilities of the Assembly, and devolves greater financial independence and responsibility to Local Authorities* (p14). However, the issue of considerable variation of council tax levels across the Gwent region remains a key issue for Caerphilly County Borough Council residents, particularly as Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council's council tax is more than 30% higher than Caerphilly's.

Question 1.8: How could the Welsh Government measure the current level of avoidance of Non-Domestic Rates?

No specific comment to make.

Question 1.9: Do you have any comments or suggestions on how future legislation could help to reduce instances of avoidance of Non-Domestic Rates?

No specific comment to make.

Question 1.10: In what other ways could the Welsh Government enable Local Government to reduce the level of avoidance and fraud within the Non-Domestic Rates system?

No specific comment to make.

Question 1.11: Do you agree that the preserved counties be abolished and that consequential amendments are made so that the appointments of Lord-Lieutenants and High Sheriffs are made in respect of the counties in existence after 1 April 2020?

No specific comment to make.

Question 1.12: Are there other matters of a technical nature which should be considered?

Caerphilly County Borough Council would like to keep its *County Borough* status, if *mechanisms to preserve historic ceremonial rights, including city and borough status* (p19) could be made.

PART 2

Question 2.1: Do you have any comments on any of the provisions in Part 2 of the Draft Bill?

While the call for a general power of competence is welcomed, the Council notes that as drafted, it is severely constrained by legal provisions which local authority lawyers would have to carefully consider before the power could be used.

Question 2.2: Do you have any comments on our proposals relating to Community Councils with competence?

We do not oppose Community Councils determining for themselves if they wish to have the *general power of competence*. We note, however, that there is no power of withdrawal until a subsequent election.

PART 3

Question 3.1: Do you have any comments on any of the provisions in Part 3 of the Draft Bill?

The proposal to strengthen Community Councils and introduce Area Committees is, in part at least a response to the scale of the proposed new unitary authorities. However, the need to strengthen and introduce these additional tiers of local government supports our view that in areas, such as Gwent, for example, the proposed Authorities are too large, and it would be better for Caerphilly County Borough Council to remain as a stand-alone Authority.

Promoting access and public participation in Local Government is welcomed. Caerphilly County Borough Council through its community planning processes has in the past established community area forums for ensuring that community interests

and priorities are taken into account by the Council. These area forums were actively used as a means of engagement by the Council. The potential is there to develop this aspect further in the light of the Bill and the requirements of the Future Generations legislation.

We note the suggestion within the Draft Bill that Area Committees may be based on Upper Super Output Areas which may not be sufficiently representative particularly for less populous areas. Clearly, if they are smaller, they become more numerous and therefore more costly.

Question 3.2: Do you have any comments on the proposed public participation duty and the requirement to consult on the annual budget?

The proposed public participation duty and the requirement to consult on the annual budget are supported. The Council is currently actively engaged with local people and the Voluntary and Community Sector on its budget setting. However, we question the need for local authorities to produce a strategy and suggest that a duty to encourage and promote participation would be sufficient.

It's not clear to us why councils should have such duties and responsibilities over other autonomous *connected authorities* in producing a *statutory public participation strategy*. This not only has resource implications on councils but also clouds accountability and responsibility for delivering on public participation duties.

Question 3.3: How should community representatives to sit on community area committees be sought and selected?

Caerphilly Council would do this through open consultation and engagement with the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee in the borough, and through the Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO) our local County Voluntary Council.

Question 3.4: Do you agree County Councils should be able to delegate functions to a community area committee? If yes, are there any functions that should or should not be capable of being delegated?

Notwithstanding our earlier comments, in a scenario where the substantive elements of the Draft Bill are introduced the principle of Councils delegating functions to a community area committee is supported. However, we have the following concerns:

- The proposals as drafted remain complex and could be construed as creating another tier of governance.
- Should council functions be devolved, there are issues in terms of clouding executive/scrutiny roles and accountability.
- Would community/public body *co-optees* be subject to the member code of conduct and proposed new *performance duties* on councillors?
- There is a risk that strengthening the role of unelected *co-optees* will undermine the electoral process and with it the role of elected members; we would be interested to learn how this risk will be mitigated.
- Community Area Committees will place an additional burden on authorities in terms of administration as well as in translation and electronic broadcasting requirements.
- There is a concern about the apparent lack of scrutiny in relation to the proposed Community Area Committees and how functions would be exercised and call in etc.
- There is potential overlap of role with Town and Community Councils and the proposed Community Area Committees.

Question 3.5: Do you have any views on whether transitional arrangements need to be put in place for existing area committees, or is a good lead-in time sufficient?

What appears to be additionally required through the Draft Bill in setting up Area

Committees is onerous and would require transitional arrangements.

Question 3.6: Do you have any comments on the revised provisions for 'improvement requests' or on the interaction between these provisions and those relating to the public participation duty (Part 3, Chapter 2) and community area committees (Part 3, Chapter 3)?

On improvement requests the consultation notes that - *The Draft Bill includes provisions which oblige Local Authorities to enter into a dialogue with community bodies about how an outcome can be improved on receiving a request from a community body... The definition of community bodies is widely drawn. The procedure sets out that at the end of a period of dialogue, the Local Authority will publish on its website a summary of the discussions and the actions that have been agreed. We will expect both Local Authorities and community bodies to hold to the matters they have agreed publicly* (pp23-24) – while the thrust of this is supported we have the following concerns:

- Councils already initiate and respond to *improvement requests* thus the *improvement requests* proposal as drafted risks over-formalising the process and creating a significant amount of bureaucracy which could impact on the speed of decision-making.
- With the definition of community bodies widely drawn there is a risk of multiple requests, perhaps regarding the same issue, adding to potential bureaucracy particularly where conflicting requests are made.

Question 3.7: Do you have any comments on any of our further proposals relating to access to meetings?

Caerphilly County Borough Council already has in place two of these proposals:

- Electronic publication of notices of meetings.
- Meetings of the Executive keep and maintain minutes.

There is no objection to:

- Electronic summons
- Removal of the restriction for Community Councils on having meetings in licensed premises on the assumption that alcohol is not available during the meeting.

However, a duty to broadcast *all* public council meetings (including the proposed Community Area Committees will create an additional administrative burden on councils and require additional resources. We would question whether viewing figures of council meetings actually justify the extra expense.

Question 3.8: Do you have any comments on our proposals to enhance participation by children and young people through the public participation duty?

The proposal to enhance participation by children and young people through the public participation duty is both welcomed and fully supported.

PART 4

Question 4.1: Do you have any comments on any of the provisions in Part 4 of the Draft Bill?

The provisions for setting out *performance duties for councillors* are rejected. The proposals are inconsistent with expectations on Assembly Members where no such *performance duties*, standards or right to recall are in place. For example whilst councillors would have 14 days to respond to correspondence, according to the Welsh Government website, Ministers have 17 working days to respond to correspondence. Unlike councillors Welsh Government Ministers will also have substantially more resources at their disposal in making responses.

It is also not clear why any failure to adhere to the proposed performance duties could be deemed consistent as a breach of the sanctions to be imposed by the Standards Committee. The proposals as drafted risks the generation of vexatious complaints, which will affect the reputation of councillors and councils and create

additional workload for Monitoring Officers and Standards Committees.

Question 4.2: Do you have any comments on the proposed duty on leaders of political groups or the monitoring and reporting roles of the Standards Committee?

The duty placed on leaders of political groups to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by the members of the group is supported. However, it is difficult to see how this would be monitored by leaders of political groups, and how training could be made appropriate to this proposed duty. There are also concerns that what is expected from the Standards Committee is becoming more and more onerous.

Question 4.3: Do you have any comments on our proposals in relation to the delegation of functions by Local Authorities?

No specific comment to make.

Question 4.4: Do you have any comments on our proposal to give the Welsh Ministers a power to direct the IRPW to have regard to guidance when reviewing the remuneration framework for Councillors?

The proposal to give Welsh Government Ministers a power to direct the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) is not supported as it would undermine the independence of the Review Panel.

Question 4.5: Do you agree the provisions relating to remote attendance in the 2011 Measure should be made more flexible?

This is only supported under exceptional circumstances.

Question 4.6: Do you have any comments on our proposal that Shadow Authorities should be required to appoint interim Returning Officers?

It is noted that *The Welsh Government is seeking further legislative opportunity to provide - that the Returning Officer role in each Principal Authority should form an intrinsic duty of the Chief Executive, for which no additional personal fee would be payable...Whilst there is no provision in the Draft Bill, we propose that the Shadow Authorities be given powers in the Bill for introduction to appoint Returning Officers to serve until such time as it was convenient* (p30) – and this is supported.

Question 4.7: Do you have any comments on the desirability of giving Councils the power to dismiss the Chief Executive, the Chief Finance Officer, the Monitoring Officer and the Head of Democratic Services through a vote?

The power of giving councils the power to dismiss the Chief Executive, the Chief Finance Officer, the Monitoring Officer and the Head of Democratic Services through a vote by Full Council is supported, as long as safeguards around claims against unfair dismissal can be built in.

Question 4.8: Do you have any comments on our proposal to change the framework within which Councils and their Executive determine how their functions are to be allocated?

It is agreed that the functions of Local Government provided for in regulations made under the Local Government Act 2000 are prescriptive and liable to becoming out dated. Thus the Welsh Government proposal to simplify the system and give greater flexibility to new Authorities following mergers with the repeal of section 13 of the 2000 Act *by a more liberal provision* is welcome.

Question 4.9: Do you have any comments on our proposals in relation to the disposal and transfer of Local Authority assets?

The disposal and transfer of Local Authority assets is supported where appropriate.

PART 5

Question 5.1: Do you have any comments on any of the provisions in Part 5 of the Draft Bill?

In broad terms we support the proposed changes to Local Authority performance and planning framework and the Amendment of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009. However, there are similar, but not identical requirements in other legislation, most notably the Well-being of Future Generations Act. There is an opportunity to streamline local government planning and performance reporting as well as reinforcing our Well-being Duty as our organising principal by making it clear that Local Authorities can bring these together into a single planning and reporting framework. The importance of different departments across the Welsh Government having a common understanding of the requirements spanning legislation needs to be stressed. Further guidance will be required regarding the criteria for selecting and appointing lay members to the proposed corporate governance and audit committee, particularly the role of Chair.

Question 5.2: Do you have any comments on our proposal to subject Local Authorities to a governance arrangements duty?

No specific comment to make.

Question 5.3: Do you have any comments on the model approach to peer assessment set out in Annex A?

The model approach to peer assessment is a helpful guide but is rather detailed which could hinder a flexible approach. Turning the current successful voluntary models of peer assessment into a prescriptive statutory assessment and regulatory regime is opposed.

Question 5.4: Do you have any comments on the proposed role for the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee in relation to the Local Authority's response to the self assessment, peer assessment, combined assessment and governance review?

No specific comment to make.

Question 5.5: Do you have any comments on our proposal to reject local public accounts committees?

No specific comment to make.

Question 5.6: Are Public Services Boards the right bodies to examine the policy choices facing local public services?

No specific comment to make.

Question 5.7: If so, would they benefit from additional legal powers?

No specific comment to make.

Question 5.8: What legislative measures could be considered to enable Local Government to take a public sector-wide shared services role?

No specific comment to make.

PART 6

Question 6.1: Do you have any comments on any of the provisions in Part 6 of the Draft Bill?

The provisions relating to Community and Town Councils requiring the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales to undertake a review of Community Council arrangements are supported. The requirement for Community Councillors to complete training on matters specified by the Principal Council is also welcome, especially in the light of Community Councils being given on choosing the power of competency. Although stress must be made in making the training of specific relevance to Community and Town Councils.

Question 6.2: Should the Boundary Commission be required to submit their draft reports to Shadow Authorities from May 2019?

No specific comment to make.

Question 6.3: Should the new County Councils implement the Boundary Commission's recommendations or should this be a responsibility of the Boundary Commission itself?

No specific comment to make.

Question 6.4: Do you have any comments on our proposals relating to compulsory training for Community Councillors?

Compulsory training for Community Councillors is welcomed in ensuring the highest possible standards in meeting the needs of their local communities, but it is stressed that training needs to be relevant to Community Councillors.

Question 6.5: Do you have any comments on our proposal to extend the term of Community Councillors elected in 2017 to six years?

No specific comment to make.

Question 6.6: Do you have any comments on our proposal that Community Councils should be required to consider and plan for the training needs of their own members and employees?

No specific comment to make.

Question 6.7: Do you have any comments in relation to the setting of objectives for a Community Council clerk?

No specific comment to make.

Question 6.8: Do you have any comments on our proposal to repeal the legislation relating to community polls and to require instead that Local Authorities should implement a system of e-petitions?

It is agreed that this proposal would - enable communities (of place or interest) to express their views on matters which concern them, without the restrictions and costs which currently apply to community polls (p45) - and is fully supported.

PART 7

Question 7.1: Do you have any comments on any of the provisions in Part 7 of the Draft Bill?

The powers for Ministers to issue guidance which councils must have regard to over such matters of management and staffing is unacceptable, as it effectively gives Ministers more influence over a council's staffing structure.

Question 7.2: Do you have any views on whether it would still be desirable to establish a statutory Public Services Staff Commission if it would be more constrained in the matters on which it could issue guidance than a non-statutory Commission?

No specific comment to make.

PART 8

Question 8.1: Do you have any comments on any of the provisions in Part 8 of the Draft Bill or on any of the Schedules?

No specific comment to make.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Question 9.1: Are you aware of any consequential amendments to legislation that will need to be made?

No specific comment to make.

Question 9.2: Please provide feedback you think would be useful in relation to the supporting documents published alongside the Draft Bill i.e. Draft Explanatory Memorandum (including the Regulatory Impact Assessment) and specific Impact Assessments.

No specific comment to make.

Question 9.3: We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addresses, please use this space to comment.

An overall key concern with implementing the Draft Bill is about the resource implications in terms of staff and finance given that the timetable requires shadow authorities.



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIASION COMMITTEE – 16TH MARCH 2016

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY PLANNING QUARTERLY BRIEFING JANUARY TO MARCH 2016

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Committee Member with the Community Strategy Quarterly Briefing January to March 2016 for information.

2. SUMMARY

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

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 *Caerphilly Delivers the Single Integrated Plan 2013-2017* is the pre-eminent partnership document for the Caerphilly county borough, which sets out a plan for improving quality of life for local people and communities. The Single Integrated Plan focuses on five outcome areas: Prosperous Caerphilly, Safer Caerphilly, Healthier Caerphilly, Learning Caerphilly and Greener Caerphilly. A wide range of public, private, voluntary and community organisations are engaged in the community planning process.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Appendix 1 contains the Community Planning Briefing for January to March 2016. This is a quarterly briefing designed to give everyone involved in the community planning process across the Caerphilly county borough, as well as wider audiences, an overview of progress with implementing *Caerphilly Delivers the Single Integrated Plan 2013-2017*.

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 2013-2017*.

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 2016

Appendix 1 Community Planning Quarterly Briefing January to March 2016

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

Community Planning (Jackie Dix, Alison Palmer & Howard Rees)

communityplanning@caerphilly.gov.uk

New Futures Generations Commissioner for Wales – Sophie Howe took up the helm on 1st February 2016 saying:

For me, it's a uniquely exciting, and slightly daunting, opportunity. For Wales, and for the people and organisations who campaigned for legislation, it's another step towards creating a sustainable nation. This is a Wales in which we have a shared purpose to achieve a better and lasting quality of life for us all – the Wales we want. It's a Wales where we work completely differently so we all make better decisions, transform services, tackle root problems and use scarce public money to maximum effect. We have to do things differently because we cannot carry on the way we currently live and work. The impact on public services of a growing older population, the pressures of climate change as seen most recently with flooding in parts of Wales, and the ongoing austerity agenda are just three of many reasons for doing things differently.

The well-being duty placed on the Welsh Government, local authorities, NHS organisations, fire and rescue authorities, national parks and other all Wales public bodies comes into force on 1st April 2016.

<http://www.thewaleswewant.co.uk/blog/wales-we-want/wales%E2%80%99-first-future-generations-commissioner-takes-post>

Source: *The Wales we Want* Press Release 1st February 2016

Shared Purpose: Shared Future - the final statutory guidance under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 has been published. The statutory guidance is designed to be a tool for public bodies subject to the well-being duty in

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 61

the Act and collective duty via membership of the new public services boards. The package of guidance is split into 4 parts:

- 1 **Core Guidance** - containing guidance to public bodies and public service boards on key definitions, how to carry out sustainable development, understanding the well-being goals and applying the sustainable development principle
- 2 **Guidance on the individual role public bodies have** – helping public bodies set well-being objectives, publish a well-being statement, review well-being objectives and report on progress
- 3 **Guidance on the collective role through public services boards** - guidance for public services boards about the exercise of their functions, including preparation of an assessment of local well-being and a local well-being plan.
- 4 **Guidance for community councils on taking reasonable steps to contribute to the local well-being plan**

Link to guidance -

<http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/future-generations-act/statutory-guidance/?lang=en>

The new **Caerphilly Public Service Board** will be meeting for the first time on 7th June 2016. For further information on the new Board please contact Alison Palmer (Community Planning Coordinator) on telephone: 01443 864409 or email: palmea@caerphilly.gov.uk

Prosperous Caerphilly (Antony Bolter)

regeneration@caerphilly.gov.uk

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

Tourism - between April 2015 and December 2015 the number of tourists visiting the Council's Tourism Venues were nearly 9% above target with over half a million visitors being welcomed to Llancaiach Fawr, Cwmcarn Visitor Centre, Visit Caerphilly Centre and the Winding House Museum and Heritage Centre.

Supporting local business - between April 2015 and December 2015, Business Enterprise Support have offered 46 grants to local companies and financially supported 16 new business start up. The offers of financial assistance has help create 64 new jobs and safeguarded 308 jobs.

Prosperous Caerphilly Priority 2 Improve standards of housing and communities giving appropriate access to services across the County Borough & Priority 3 Provide support to enable local people to compete for all employment opportunities

Welfare Reforms Housing Response - the rules relating to housing benefit and size of household changed on the 1st April 2013 through the UK Government's spare room subsidy. Since this time, the Caerphilly borough has seen increased demand for smaller, one and two-bedroom properties. In 2013 and 2014, the Welsh Government made available £40 million additional Social Housing Grant under a scheme called the Smaller Properties Programme. This programme was aimed specifically at helping to alleviate the impact of the benefit changes. The Housing Strategy team submitted bids for funding under this programme, with the following resulting:

Phase 1 funding of £1,583,095 approved - for the delivery of 28, 1 and 2 bed homes on two sites in Trethomas and Cefn Fforest.

Phase 2 funding of £1,565,828 secured - for the delivery of a further 26, 1 and 2 bedroom homes in Central Caerphilly and Bargoed. The developments are delivered by partner housing associations - United Welsh and the Seren Group, with the allocation of the homes prioritised locally by Caerphilly County Borough Council's Housing Allocations and Advice team.

The housing developments are providing employment opportunities including apprenticeships, with Cabinet Member for Housing, Cllr Poole commenting:

Caerphilly is committed to working in partnership with local housing associations to develop affordable, good quality housing for people within the county borough. I am particularly pleased to see the Associations commitment to local employment and training that is helping to create jobs for local people.





Caerphilly Churches Night Shelter - is again operational within the Caerphilly borough opening for the winter months until 31 March 2016. In partnership with 11 churches across the borough, rough sleepers are offered a safe place to stay, with warm food and a friendly environment, with extensive support offered to those engaging in the scheme. All referred cases will be monitored and assessed by the Housing Advice Team to minimise risk and to ensure a variety of support needs are offered.

Learning Caerphilly

familiesfirst@caerphilly.gov.uk

Learning Caerphilly Priority 1 - Improve the level of basic skills and the number of achieved qualifications (formal and informal) to improve the life opportunities for families; Improve the level of basic skills and the number of achieved qualifications (formal and informal) to improve the life opportunities for families – and Learning Caerphilly Priority 3 Children, young people and families have the skills and resources to access job opportunities

Families continue to benefit from a variety of language and literacy programmes funded by Families First, Communities First and Flying Start delivered through the Education and wider voluntary sector partnership/contracted teams. The new European Social Fund (ESF) funded projects are being coordinated across the Caerphilly borough by the Regeneration Employment Panel allowing access for individuals seeking support to train and gain employment. The greater synergy between Communities First, Families First and Flying Start programmes is demonstrating improved value for money and preventing duplication of provision.

During the last 6-months there has been a focus in Lansbury Park on educational matters, resulting in collaboration of funding to have Family Workers in: Flying Start, St James Primary School, and St Martins Comprehensive School - enabling intensive working with vulnerable families supporting the increase attendance and attainment of children and young people.

For Key Stage 2, data shows that in 2013 68.9% of Free School Meals (FSMs) pupils achieved the Core Subject Indicator (CSI), this increased to 71.4% in 2014. The achievement of non FSM pupils was 89.3% in 2013 and 90.4% in 2014. This highlights that Caerphilly narrowed the gap in performance by 1.4% over the period. For Key Stage 3, data shows that in 2013 52.1% of FSM pupils achieved the CSI, this increased to 57.9% in 2014. The achievement of non FSM pupils was 79.7% in 2013 and 82.3% in 2014. This highlights that Caerphilly narrowed the gap in performance by 3.2% over the period.

Flying Start is a child focussed, tackling poverty, intervention programme for 0-3 year olds delivered in 26 areas in 2015-16. The maximum number of 0-3 year olds targeted is 2,483 in 2015-16.

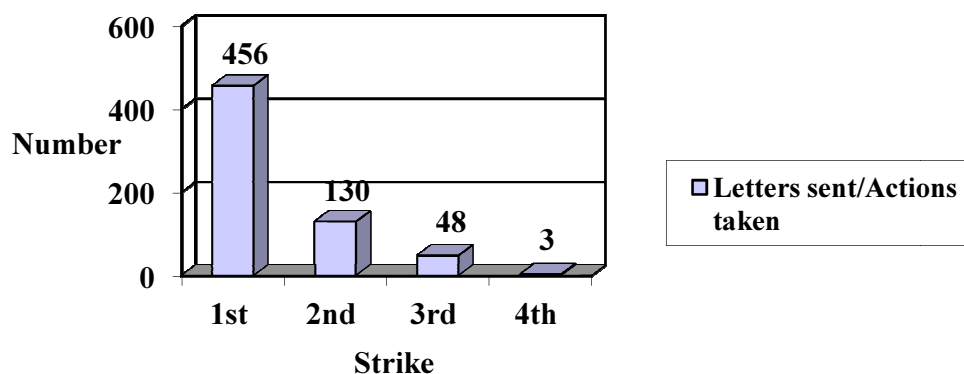
The Youth Engagement and Progression Coordinator is also working collaboratively with internal and external partners to assist young people who are at risk or currently Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET) to secure work based learning opportunities.

Safer Caerphilly (Natalie Kenny)

saferccbc@caerphilly.gov.uk

Safer Caerphilly Anti-Social Behaviour 4 Strike Process - the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 commenced on 20th October 2014. This legislation introduced a range of new tools and powers to address anti-social behaviour. The well established Safer Caerphilly Anti-Social Behaviour 4 Strike Process used in the Caerphilly borough remains relatively unchanged, but has incorporated the changes brought about by the new Act. This is a multi agency process which seeks to address perpetrators of anti-social behaviour whilst also providing support to victims and witnesses. Throughout 2015 the following number of interventions to address anti-social behaviour took place:

4 Strike Figures January - December 2015



These figures illustrate the success of the first 3 strikes of the process (which include letters to the perpetrator, acceptable behavior contracts, mentoring

programmes and support from various agencies including Housing, Social Services, Education, Youth Services and Positive Futures) in deterring future anti-social behaviour. Under the previous legislation the Anti-Social Behaviour Order was utilised at the Strike 4 stage. However, under the new legislation the Civil Injunction is now used by Safer Caerphilly for individuals who fail to engage with the process or to moderate their behaviour. During January – December 2015 the partnership were successful in obtaining three Injunctions.

Anti-Social Behaviour Victim Service - the Anti-Social Behaviour Victim Services Manager continues to attend all multi-agency groups to tackle anti-social behaviour, liaise closely with all departments within the local authority and outside agencies whilst supporting victims in the community and throughout the court process.

Due to changes in funding circumstances, namely a reduction to the Welsh Government Youth Crime Prevention Fund this service will unfortunately cease to operate from 1st April 2016. Victims will be able to contact the Victims Hub based at Blackwood Police Station for advice and support when experiencing anti-social behaviour.

Partnership Communications - the information provided below is on three current projects that the Safer Caerphilly partners are delivering on:

- **Project Bernie**

The Safer Caerphilly Fire Safety Action Team is preparing for *Project Bernie 2016*. Project Bernie is based on a social marketing concept, which aims to reduce deliberate grass fires by addressing behaviours and attitudes within the community. The project will be officially launched on 18th March 2016 at the Morrison's store in Bargoed. The project will then run throughout the Easter holiday period in the Bargoed area of the Caerphilly borough with additional patrols taking place in the Caerphilly area. The project will include a number of youth activities at the Hangar in Aberbargoed and Firefighter for a day sessions will run at Aberbargoed Fire Station. All of the activities will focus on addressing the problem of deliberate grass fires.

- **Junior Community Safety Warden Scheme**

The Community Safety Wardens continue to deliver Junior Community Safety Warden Scheme sessions to all primary schools across the Caerphilly borough. The Community Safety Wardens inform the young people about anti-social behaviour issues such as littering and graffiti and promote general community safety messages.

If you would like more information on this scheme or would like to see a video of one of the sessions please visit the website below:

<https://your.caerphilly.gov.uk/saferccb/junior-wardens/junior-wardens>

- **Think – Social Media Harassment Campaign**

The Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Project recently launched an online safety campaign to coincide with Safer Internet Day on the 9th February 2016. A poster was developed and delivered to Pastoral Leads within all comprehensive schools, Caerphilly Youth Service and Caerphilly Libraries within the borough. The poster was also used on social media and received over 2,000 impressions during the first day. An information leaflet for parents is currently in development informing of the potential consequences of social media harassment.



If you would like any further information on the work of Safer Caerphilly please contact the Community Safety Team on: 01495 235350

Greener Caerphilly (Paul Cooke)

sustainabledevelopment@caerphilly.org.uk

Greener Caerphilly Priority G1 Improving local environmental quality

Groundwork Wales Tesco Carrier Bag Fund

Groundwork Wales has entered a partnership with Tesco to administer the Tesco Local Community Scheme in Wales. The money raised from the 5-pence bag charge in Tesco stores in England, Wales and Scotland will be used to pay for a large number of local projects to improve green spaces in communities.

Projects that will receive the green light as a result of the funding will include building new pocket parks, sports facilities, woodland walks and community gardens. The first funding round of the programme opened in October. Seven bids were submitted in Caerphilly with 3 going forward to decide which receives the £12,000, £10,000 and £8,000 grants.

Two officers have been appointed by Groundwork Wales to facilitate the process. There will be two funding rounds per year over the next three years.

Greener Caerphilly Priority G2 Reducing the causes of, and adapting to the effects of Climate Change

Eco School Support

Schools in the Caerphilly borough have received support from the Education for Sustainable Development Officer in partnership with Keep Wales Tidy (Eco School), Natural Resources Wales, Healthy Schools and Fairtrade Wales to help them progress through the Eco School programme and embed ESDGC and Eco Schools into the curriculum.

Schools have received training sessions on the following:

- Eco School Green flag training – to support schools working towards their first Eco School Green flag award or to support schools renewing their Green Flag award
- Eco School Platinum training – to support schools working towards their Eco School Platinum award (the 4th Green flag award)
- Eco School Topic Training – to support schools working on the different Eco School topic areas, showing them how to implement different actions, achieve a whole school approach and embed the actions into the curriculum. The topic training has been split into four sessions, covering two topic areas during each session.

69 schools (77%) have achieved Eco School Green Flag status to date, with 54 schools successfully renewing their Eco School Green Flag award in the past two years.

The training has helped to ensure that schools in the Caerphilly borough have moved through the Eco School programme and renewed their Green Flag award, instead of losing Eco School Green Flag status to drop back to being a Silver award Eco School.

Greener Caerphilly Priority G3 Maximising the use of the environment for health benefits

Street Games is a national initiative that supports local partners to deliver door step sport opportunities to young people living in disadvantaged communities. In the Caerphilly borough 14 door step sport sites have been established in Communities First areas, which provide young people with opportunities to keep physically active in the outdoor environment.

The programme has been supported by a Greener Caerphilly Small Fund grant to provide equipment for 11 sites to increase the use of the outdoor space and provide a variety of activities for young people to participate in. It includes initiatives such as the Friday night football session in St Cenydd and dodgeball

and dance at Ael y Bryn. It has also included events such as the 5km sponsored walk in aid of the Us Girls campaign.

The Us Girls campaign is an ambitious and bold programme to address the barriers that prevent disadvantaged girls and young women from playing more sport. It is led by Communities First in partnership with Creazione Caerphilly who also coordinates an US Girl's project throughout the borough. The walk was also sponsored by Santander UK who collected money in their Caerphilly branch during week leading up to the event.

The 5km walk took place at 11:00am Saturday morning from Creazione and headed over the mountain via Lon y Llyn Road and back down Castell Road upon returning to Creazione via Nantgarw Road. 23 girls completed the walk on Saturday, who are all currently engaged in our Us Girls hubs throughout Caerphilly.

50+ Positive Action (Mandy Sprague)

50plus@caerphilly.gov.uk

Dignity, Respect and Age Equality - in promoting work around Protection of Vulnerable Adults (POVA) 22,000 Bilingual Keeping safe DVDs were distributed in February with the support of the Welsh Government. If you would like to distribute some copies to potentially vulnerable or isolated adults please contact Mandy Sprague on telephone 01443 864277

Caerphilly County Borough 50+ Forum - the Forum have been campaigning for improvements to the process for renewing disabled parking permits, and are now working in partnership with Caerphilly County Borough Council Customer First team to share their experiences. For further information visit the Forum's website at: www.caerphillyover50.co.uk

The Forum's Facebook page [Caerphilly Over 50 facebook page](#) is receiving a growing number of *likes* and regularly shares a range of posts both light hearted and useful.

The Forum's *Share A Smile* social event was a great success with the Forum getting a further 30 new members as a result.

The Forum are hosting the next Gwent 50+ Forums event where fora come together to share information and discuss which issues they can join forces on. The forum are actively supporting our new *Simon Says* cartoon campaigns through their Facebook page:

- The first campaign is designed to encourage pensioners to check if they are entitled to Pension Credit by Making the Call to the Pension Service and the
- Second campaign is on falls prevention, encouraging people to clear the clutter

The cartoons also feature on the Council's Bin trucks!

Living Longer Ageing Well – the phase 3 delivery plan is complete and has been endorsed by Caerphilly Local Service Board. The delivery plan includes the priority for the Caerphilly borough to become a Dementia Supportive Community: At the launch of the delivery plan the Winding House celebrated being the First Dementia Friendly Museum in Wales. The excellent children's dementia awareness book - *The Elephant who Forgot* written by the Parent Network was also launched. Copies can be bought by contacting the Parent Network .

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