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Date: 9th September 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee** will be held in the **Sirhowy Room, Penallta House, Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach** on **Wednesday, 16th September, 2015** at **10.30 am** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda. **The meeting will be concluded by 12.15 p.m.**

PLEASE NOTE

Arrangements have been made for a **pre-meeting of the County Borough Members only, at 10.00 a.m. in Core Meeting Room 1.3**, and **all Voluntary Sector Representatives at 10.00 a.m. in the Sirhowy 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 - 17th June 2015 (allow up to 10.35 am). 1 - 10
- 4 Standing Item: Welsh Government Options for Local Government Re-organisation - Cllr Keith Reynolds, Leader of the Council and Chris Burns, Interim Chief Executive (10.35 am to 11.00 am).
- 5 Communities Asset Transfer Presentation - Richard Davies, Community Asset Transfer Consultant, GAVO (11.00 am to 11.20 am).
- 6 Voluntary Sector Representatives Question: Budgets and Consultation with Voluntary Sector (11.20 am to 11.30 am). 11 - 12
- 7 Standing Item: Budgets - Interim Report Public Sector Cuts Across Gwent Local Authorities (verbal update) - Emily Forbes, Deputy Chief Executive, GAVO (11.30 am to 11.45 am).
- 8 Open discussion: What's happening in the Caerphilly Borough - an opportunity for all Compact Partners to raise key issues (11.45 am to 12 noon).
- 9 Items of interest concerning the Voluntary Sector from Compact Partners (note only one question permitted on each report) (allow up to 12.15 pm):- 13 - 32
- a) Update from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board;
 - b) Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations;
 - c) Digest of Caerphilly County Borough Council Committee Reports;
 - d) South Wales Fire and Rescue Service;
 - e) Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent.

To receive and note the following information items:-

- 10 Community Planning Quarterly Briefing July to September 2015. 33 - 50
- 11 Date of next meeting: 2nd December 2015 at 10.30 am in the Sirhowy Room, Penallta House.

Circulation:

Councillors L. Ackerman, Mrs E.M. Aldworth, J. Bevan, P.J. Bevan, D.G. Carter (Vice Chair), Mrs P. Cook, R.W. Gough, Mrs P. A. Griffiths, C. Hawker, K. James, 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
Mrs B. Helps, Caerphilly Parents and Carers Forum
Mr C. Luke, Caerphilly People First
Mr A. Read, Cancercareline
Mrs C. Williams, Cruse Bereavement Care
Mrs H. Williams, Disability CANDO Organisation
Mr R.H. Cooke, GAVO
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:

Superintendent M. Budden, Inspector C. Haire and Sergeant A. O'Keefe

The Office of the Gwent Police & Crime Commissioner:

Mrs M. Chapman and Mr N. Taylor

South Wales Fire & Rescue Services:

Ms D. Crossman

Caerphilly Business Forum:

Mrs D. Lovering

Town & Community Councils Representative:

H. Llewellyn

And Appropriate Officers

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VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN
ON WEDNESDAY 17TH JUNE 2015 AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

Mr. R. Cooke – Chair

Councillors:

Ms. L. Ackerman, Mrs. E. M. Aldworth, P. J. Bevan, D. G. Carter, Mrs. P. Cook, R. W. Gough,
C. Hawker, K. James, G. Johnston, A. Lewis, R. Woodyatt

Together with:

Abbeyfield	-	Mr. P. Jones
Bargoed YMCA	-	Ms. J. Price
Caerphilly 50+ Forum	-	Mr. D. Morgan
Caerphilly Groundwork Trust	-	Mr. B. Dando
Caerphilly MIND	-	Ms. J. Lawton
Caerphilly Parents & Carers Forum	-	Mrs. B. Helps
Caerphilly People First	-	Mr. C. Luke
Cancercaeline	-	Mr. A. Read
Disability Can Do Organisation	-	Mrs. H. Williams
GAVO – Assistant Chief Executive	-	Mrs. E. Forbes
SYDIC	-	Mr. M. Bridgman
The Parent Network	-	Ms. M. Jones
The Vanguard Centre	-	Mrs. M. Wade
Van Road United Reformed Church	-	Mr. J. Wade

Also present:

J. Dix (CCBC Policy & Research Manager), J. Elliott (CCBC Senior Research Officer),
S. Crane (ABUHB), H. Llewellyn (Town & Community Council Representative), Kelsey Pitt
(CCBC – Youth Worker), Ethan Davies (Youth Forum Representative)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. J. Bevan, Mrs. P Griffiths, J. A. Pritchard,
D.W.R. Preece.

Also from, Mr. L. Clay (Abertridwr Community Church), Ms. P. Jones (Caerphilly Care &
Repair), Mrs. C. Williams (CRUSE Bereavement Care), Mr. M. Featherstone (GAVO Chief
Executive) Mr. G. Mitchell (Graig-Y-Rhacca Communities Partnership), Ms. M. Snowden
(Homestart Caerphilly Borough), Mrs. J. Morgan (New CLURV), Mr. K. Viney (The
Settlement), Mr. D. Brunton (VOLUME), Sgt. A. O'Keefe (Gwent Police), Mrs. M. Chapman
(Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Gwent), Mrs. D. Crossman (South Wales Fire
& Rescue Service), Mrs. D. Lovering (Caerphilly Business Forum Representative),
Alison Palmer (CCBC/GAVO)

2. APPOINTMENT OF A CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

Nominations for the Chair of this Committee were requested from those present. Cllr. D. Carter was proposed and seconded. There were no other nominations.

Nominations for the Vice-Chair of this Committee were also requested from those present. Mr. R. Cooke was proposed and seconded. There were no other nominations.

Cllr. D. Carter then assumed the Chair for the meeting.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

4. MINUTES

Jackie Dix (Policy & Research Manager, CCBC) reminded the Committee that under the Compact Agreement, Compact Partners are required to provide written reports in advance to the Policy Unit, to go out with the committee papers. For this meeting there were only three reports from Compact Partners. It was noted that only brief reports are required on items of interest for the Voluntary Sector from the Compact Partner organisation.

The accuracy of the minutes of 18th March 2015 was agreed.

5. LAUNCH OF THE COMPACT ACTION PLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15, AND THE GRANT SCHEMES BOOKLET 2015-16 – CLLR KEITH REYNOLDS, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Leader said that he was delighted to be involved in the long-standing, vibrant and successful collaboration that has developed between all partners within the Compact since it was established back in 1999. The Compact is more than just a strategic document, it reflects the essence of what we are all trying to achieve. It is highly appropriate that the Action Plan is entitled 'DELIVERING TOGETHER', because it is clear that we are all working hard together for the benefit of everyone across our local communities.

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

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

I would also like to take this opportunity to announce the launch of our new Grant Schemes booklet for 2015/16. This useful little publication provides a wealth of information on the grants available to support community groups, individuals and business across the county borough. I'm sure that it will be put to good use and help to help draw down funding for many positive schemes and projects in the future.

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

The Chair thanked the Leader for his speech which highlighted the good work of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee and the Compact Partners.

At this point Cyril Luke (Caerphilly People First) said that he would like to state that he was pleased with the good way Caerphilly County Borough Council has engaged and worked with the voluntary sector. He said that he had major concerns about the outcome of local government reorganisation plans which have just been made public, and would not like to see voluntary sector and council co-operation diminished in the Caerphilly county borough area.

Peter Jones (Abbeyfield) said that he would be in favour of adding local government reorganisation to future agendas as a standing item. This was put to the Committee, and was agreed.

The Chair asked for the Leader and Chris Burns (Interim Chief Executive, CCBC) to attend the September committee meeting to discuss local government reorganisation.

6. INTRODUCING THE CAERPHILLY YOUTH FORUM AND WORK AROUND DOMESTIC ABUSE – CAERPHILLY YOUTH FORUM REPRESENTATIVE

Ethan Davies, the Youth Forum's Media Officer, gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee on their work around prevention of domestic abuse. Domestic abuse is the Forum's priority issue this year under the Health, Social Care & Well-Being theme. It was discovered by the Youth Forum that there are not enough services for the different age groups affected when it comes to domestic abuse.

Various members of the Forum made a pledge at the White Ribbon event. They have also designed a White Festival wrist band which promotes respectful relationships. On one side of the wrist band the logo states:- 'No Excuse For Abuse' and on the other side states:- 'Live Fear Free 0808 80 10 800'.

On a visit to Abernant Lake Hotel the project group worked on the priority issue, and came up with ideas for the publicity leaflets, films / animation, and the launch. They worked on the White Ribbon Campaign alongside Llamau, Wales's leading homelessness charity, which provides a wide range of services, in relation to domestic abuse, and is the largest provider of refuge accommodation in Wales. The Forum also supported Safer Caerphilly and entered the 'Tweet your feet,' campaign, to raise awareness of Domestic Abuse.

The Youth Forum has created a poster focusing on Healthy / Unhealthy Relationships. The Forum are holding a launch event which will run from 20th – 27th November, to ensure the message is widely broadcast. The Youth Forum intends to distribute the resources which they have created to various schools, colleges, youth clubs, libraries etc., throughout the county borough. The intention is to train young people around the county borough in: Freedom from Violence, Agored Cymru Level 1.

Follow us on twitter: @caerphillyYF

The Youth Forum has an attendance of about 80 – 100 when it meets on a weekly basis. The project group consists of about 20 people. Every November the Forum select a new annual priority.

The Chair asked the Committee if they had any questions for Ethan. The Committee asked when would the wrist bands be available? The reply was that they will be available on the day of the launch 20th November.

The Chair asked if the Youth Forum could attend the December committee to update on how the White Festival wrist band launch went, and on the wider White Ribbon Campaign. Other committee members also asked if the Youth Forum could be regularly represented on this Committee, which was agreed for Jackie Dix to follow through with Clare Jones (Youth Forum Co-ordinator, CCBC).

A comment was made from a committee member thanking the Youth Forum for their successful work in the past, in public parks on the issues of park safety, no smoking in parks, the issues related to dogs.

The Committee felt it would be useful for GAVO or CCBC members on the committee to meet with the Youth Forum to discuss work areas, and the Chair noted he would like to meet with the Youth Forum. Jackie Dix to action.

The Chair thanked Ethan for his informative presentation, and this was followed by applause of appreciation from the committee.

7. COMPACT PRESENTATION AND QUESTIONS & ANSWERS: UPDATE ON NEIGHBOURHOOD CARE NETWORKS (NCN'S) – SAM CRANE, ANEURIN BEVAN UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD

Sam Crane delivered this PowerPoint presentation. There are three NCNs in Caerphilly: North, East and South, led by GPs and collaborating with partners on:

- Understanding local health needs and priorities;
- Developing NCN Action Plans linked to elements of individual GP Practice Development Plans;
- Working with partners to improve the co-ordination of care and integration of health and social care;
- Working with local communities and networks to reduce health inequalities.

There are common themes in most NCN Action Plans concerning improving communication with hospitals and transfer of care into Primary and Community Care, and to improve mental health services for adults and young people. There are also Public Health priorities for example; smoking cessation support, and to increase uptake of immunisations.

Future priorities include understanding the needs of the population served by the NCN and ensure the sustainability of GP Services. Other areas to concentrate upon are ensuring access arrangements meet the reasonable needs of local patients and to ensure that patient's needs are met through prudent care pathways, facilitating rapid, accurate, diagnosis and management and minimising waste and harm.

The NCN's will provide high quality, consistent care for patients who have urgent care needs and will support continuous development of services to improve patient experience, and will co-ordinate care. They will target the prevention and early detection of cancers, and improve the delivery of end of life care.

There is a commitment to NCN's with £6 million of Welsh Government funding for NCN's in Wales.

There are direct NCN Links with Local Service Boards and in the Single Integrated Plans.

The function and structure of the Healthy Theme and the refreshing of the Health Plan's priorities needs will be examined. This is especially so as the Plan needs to be refreshed as it is now 3 years old. There will be a need to concentrate on a few key priorities to ensure that they are achieved. This will ensure that actions will need to have clear outcome measures. Public Health Wales have reviewed Health related SIP Performance Indicators and have advised some changes.

At the conclusion of the presentation the Chair asked if there were any questions on NCN's.

One query was, when will the NCN on line directory be available? Sam replied that this work was being led by Susanne Maddax, who is the GAVO Health & Social Care Facilitator. The directory will cover a wide range of services across the third sector, and is progressing.

Another question was asked regarding the problem of recruitment of GP's. Sam answered by saying that this was a UK wide national problem and not just confined to South Wales.

A new initiative, locates a pharmacy within some practice surgeries. This reduces the workload on GP's when they provide prescriptions for patients. In the larger practices in Caerphilly county borough there are Practice Nurses with social work backgrounds, to identify and address some social care issues presented by patients.

It was pointed out that a particular notice, had been spotted on display in the surgery of at least one practice in the area which indicated 'One Appointment One Illness,' at which many patients took offence. They felt that this inhibited a thorough and accurate diagnosis from the G.P. Sam said that she would check on this and provide feedback.

The Committee agreed for Sam Crane to provide an update report on the operational framework of NCN's at the December meeting.

The Chair thanked Sam for her in depth presentation.

8. VOLUNTARY SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES QUESTION ON HOW THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR CAN GO ABOUT OFFERING THIRD SECTOR SOLUTIONS TO SUPPORT SERVICE DELIVERY WITH THE NEW LEISURE STRATEGY, AND TO ASSIST COMMUNITY CENTRES IN KEEPING COMMUNITY SERVICES RUNNING. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ON WRITTEN ANSWERS SUBMITTED

The Voluntary Sector Representatives on the committee felt that one comment in the officer's reply on community centres implied that the voluntary sector did not have the professional skills to manage community centres. Jackie Dix explained that the comment was not intended to be critical and that more third sector volunteers are needed to join the management committees of community centres, and that the contact details of the officer are provided for further discussion.

Councillors felt that maybe the Voluntary Sector Representatives had misinterpreted the officer's response. They pointed out that the officer was working to uphold statutory and professional duties, and requirements, so that appropriate standards could be maintained and that community centres could deliver a safe service to the public.

Jackie Dix further added that it was a difficult question for officers to answer as the Council is not currently going down the line of contracting out the management of community centres and leisure facilities. Mike Bridgman (SYDIC) suggested that the Voluntary Sector Representatives may wish to discuss a revised question on this subject.

9. STANDING ITEM: BUDGETS

Jackie Dix explained that the Council will be running a seminar for Councillors on budget setting, and to discuss possible savings options in July. The Chancellor of the Exchequer will also be giving his Budget to Parliament on 8 July, which will determine the amount given to the Welsh Government, which will affect the annual determination of funding to **local** government in Wales. Over the autumn, future savings options in setting the Council's budget will become more apparent, and these will be brought to the attention of this committee.

Some Voluntary Sector Representatives suggested that potential savings could be made by a reduction in back office staff within the local government re-organisation plans. The Chair

said that when re-organisation does take place, following the experience of the last re-organisation, more back office staff will be needed in the transition phase for at least three or four years afterwards.

It was agreed that the re-organisation plans, recently released by the Welsh Government, were going to take a long time to enact, and that until then it would be unrealistic to discuss what savings could be made on a local basis.

Cllr Gough requested that Chris Burns (Interim Chief Executive, CCBC) be invited to December meetings of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee to update on budgets. This was put to the Committee, and was agreed.

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

Cyril Luke (Caerphilly People First) said that he was aware that other Local Authorities working with people with learning disabilities, had put their work out to tender, encouraging bids from private sector organisations. He felt that the service provided from some private sector organisations was not good. However, he said that Caerphilly County Borough Council provides an excellent service, and is more than willing to work with the voluntary sector. He said that he would like GAVO to provide information on which other councils, in the Gwent area are contracting out services across the board, and budget cuts they are making. Emily Forbes (Deputy Chief Executive, GAVO) agreed to obtain this information and bring the results to the September meeting.

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

- a) **Aneurin Bevan University Health Board** - a written report was provided with the committee papers. There were no questions raised on this report.
- b) **GAVO** – a written report was provided with the committee papers. There were no questions raised on this report.
- c) **Digest of Committee Reports from Caerphilly County Borough Council** – a written report was provided with the committee papers. There were no questions raised on this report.

It came to the attention of the Secretariat following the meeting that the Office of the Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner had submitted a written report, with apologies made to the Office.

12. COMMUNITY PLANNING QUARTERLY BRIEFING – JANUARY – MARCH 2015

Item for information only. Jackie Dix updated the Committee on the One Beat event described within this report. The One Beat event will now be taken out into the community. The Roadshows will take place at four venues over the next twelve months. The dates, times and locations are listed on pages 32-33. Emily Forbes (Deputy Chief Executive, GAVO) agreed to send out more detailed information on the One Beat Roadshows to the Committee.

13. DECISION & ACTION SUMMARY

SUBJECT	DECISION	ACTION
1. Nominations for the Chair of Voluntary Sector Liaison	Cllr. D. Carter was proposed and seconded	Cllr. D. Carter to assume Chair of Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee until June

Committee		2016.
2. Nominations for the Vice Chair of Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee	Mr. R. Cooke was proposed and seconded	Mr. R. Cooke to assume Vice Chair of Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee until June 2016.
3. Written items of interest reports for the Voluntary Sector from Compact Partner organisations	The Committee were reminded that under the Compact Agreement, Compact Partners are required to provide written reports in advance to go out with the committee papers.	All Compact Partners to provide written reports to the Policy Unit three weeks in advance of the committee meeting.
4. Local Government Reorganisation	<p>Peter Jones (Abbeyfield) requested for local government reorganisation to become a standing item on the agenda, which was agreed by the Committee.</p> <p>The Chair asked for the Leader and Chris Burns (Interim Chief Executive, CCBC) to attend the September committee meeting to discuss local government reorganisation.</p>	<p>Local government reorganisation to become a standing item on the committee agenda.</p> <p>Interim Chief Executive, CCBC and Leader invited to address the September committee meeting on local government reorganisation.</p>
5. Youth Forum White Ribbon Campaign	<p>The Chair asked if the Youth Forum could attend the December committee meeting to update on the White Ribbon Campaign.</p> <p>Committee members also asked if the Youth Forum could be regularly represented on the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee.</p> <p>Chair requested to attend future Youth Forum meeting to discuss the work of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee.</p>	<p>Youth Forum invited to address the December committee meeting on the White Ribbon Campaign, and their new annual priority.</p> <p>Jackie Dix to discuss with Clare Jones (Youth Forum Co-ordinator, CCBC). Following the meeting it was felt this request would prove difficult with Youth Forum members school commitments, although members may be able to attend meetings falling in school holidays.</p> <p>Jackie Dix passed on request to Clare Jones (Youth Forum Co-ordinator, CCBC).</p>
6. Neighbourhood Care Networks (NCNs)	Committee agreed for Sam Crane (Aneurin Bevan Health Board) to provide an update report on the operational framework of NCN's	<p>Sam Crane to present on the operational framework of NCN's at the December committee meeting.</p> <p>Sam Crane to clarify when NCN on line directory will be available. Following meeting an update was circulated</p>

		<p>stating - <i>on a national scale, the Welsh Government are planning to implement a 111 information and advice service. Therefore the scoping of improving signposting between services remains a priority but timescales have been altered due to national events.</i></p> <p>Sam Crane to investigate why some GPs have put notices on their doors saying 'one illness one appointment' . Following meeting Sam Crane informed – <i>Historically, in order to manage time constraints, some practices displayed notices in their reception areas informing patients that only one problem can be discussed. The Health Board has been working with Practices across Aneurin Bevan University Health Board to improve access. All General Practitioners across Gwent have been contacted informing that clinically this is not considered to be good practice, as it could influence the assessment by the General Practitioner, and may be detrimental in ensuring timely diagnosis and treatment for patients.</i></p>
7. Budgets	Cllr. Gough requested that Chris Burns (Interim Chief Executive, CCBC) be invited to December meetings of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee to update on budgets	Chris Burns to speak to the December committee meeting on budgets.

8. Contracting out services and budget cuts across Gwent local authorities	Cyril Luke (Caerphilly People First) requested GAVO to provide information on which other councils, in the Gwent area are contracting out services across the board, and budget cuts they are making	Emily Forbes to provide update at the September committee meeting.
9. One Beat Roadshows	Emily Forbes agreed to send Committee detailed information on the One Beat Roadshows	Emily Forbes to disseminate information.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

16th September 2015 at 10.30am in the Sirhowy Room, Penallta House.

Meeting ended 12.15pm.

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VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 16TH SEPTEMBER 2015

SUBJECT: VOLUNTARY SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES QUESTION

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide a response from Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) to question proposed from Voluntary Sector Representatives sitting on the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report presents the CCBC response to a question received from the Voluntary Sector Representatives sitting on the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee on Council budgets and consultation with the Voluntary Sector.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Compact Partners are signed up to the Compact Agreement entitled *Delivering Together 2013-2017 Working with the Voluntary and Community Sector in the County Borough of Caerphilly*. The Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee brings together the Voluntary Sector with the Compact Partners in providing a means of working together recognising the complementary and distinct role the Voluntary Sector plays in meeting the needs of local communities.
- 3.2 The Compact Agreement is delivered and monitored through an annual Compact Action Plan, which provides a detailed programme of work for shared activities. The Compact Agreement and Compact Action Plan align with the five outcome priorities of *Caerphilly Delivers the Single Integrated Plan 2013-2017*, which are: Prosperous Caerphilly, Safer Caerphilly, Learning Caerphilly, Healthier Caerphilly and Greener Caerphilly.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The Voluntary Sector Representatives have held discussions around the Council's scrutiny process, the consultees list on reports to Scrutiny and Cabinet, and the issue of Voluntary Sector input at that level to lend expertise to the discussions.
- 4.2 In the above context the Voluntary Sector Representatives have proposed the following question to CCBC:

Given the recent overnight closure of Kids Company and the impact on both service beneficiaries and employees; and recognising our collective responsibility to deliver the best outcomes for the people of Caerphilly in an increasingly resource constrained environment;

how can the third sector be engaged in meaningful discussion and influence the decision making process reference the allocation of resources across the borough? The question is brought into sharper focus with the likely late delivery of the comprehensive spending review and therefore the impact on budget decisions for 16/17 at a devolved level.

4.3 Written Response from Nicole Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services)

The Authority intends presenting draft savings proposals for 2016/17 to Cabinet on the 14th October 2015. These proposals will go out to full consultation. There will be ample opportunity for the Voluntary Sector to comment on these savings. These comments will be included in any report prior to Council making a decision near the end of February 2016.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Equalities are fully embedded into the shared values and principles of the Compact Agreement. Promoting equalities and compliance with the equality legislation are shared activities areas in the annual Compact Action Plan.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None directly arising.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None directly arising.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 Not applicable as report is a response to question submitted to CCBC from the Voluntary Sector Representatives sitting on the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 To note the Council's response to question submitted from the Voluntary Sector Representatives sitting on the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Report is for information only.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Local Government Act 2000.

Author: Jackie Dix - Policy & Research Manager, CCBC
Consultees: Corporate Management Team, CCBC



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 16TH SEPTEMBER 2015

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

REPORT BY: UPDATE FROM ANEURIN BEVAN UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD

1. NCN PLANS FOR 2015/16

The 3 Caerphilly Neighbourhood Care Network Plans have been drafted and will be signed off by NCNs this month.

2. IMPROVING ACCESS AND QUALITY OF SERVICES

A lot of exciting developments are being put in place in Caerphilly as a result of NCNs receiving Welsh Government Primary Care funding for NCNs in Wales.

Projects that will be implementing using these monies focus on improving the planning of care locally, ensuring access is equitable, improving access and quality of services, and developing a skilled local workforce. They include:

Practice based Pharmacists who will work with the primary care team to improve prescribing and use of medication by patients. Their input and support will hopefully free up more GP time so that we can continue to improve access into our primary care services.

Health Care Support Workers will be joining the District Nursing Service to provide basic care including a phlebotomy service. The support of these workers will again, free up District Nursing time to take on the more specialist elements of their role.

Appointing Social Workers who will be based in Practices and help provide joint assessments with GPs on home visits. They will also hold clinics in the GP practices.

The Social Workers are based in Tonyfelin, Gelligaer and Risca Surgeries and NCNs are already receiving positive feedback on the difference that they are making in terms of patient care and collaborative working with primary care staff.

Caerphilly South NCN have set up a complex wound service whereby patients from all of the practices in the south can be referred to a Wound Care Specialist Nurse who is based in Nantgarw Road Medical Centre.

Communities First staff have been trained in Smoking Cessation techniques to help support people living in the most deprived areas of the borough and signposting those who want to quit into local services. Including our Enhanced Pharmacy Services which are currently being provided in Caerphilly.

Working with GAVO we will develop a Dementia Road Map within Caerphilly. This is a computer based application which provides local signposting information to help professionals and those diagnosed with dementia and their families navigate through services from diagnosis to end stage.

Various training programmes for primary care, community and the wider NCN membership are also being funded to enhance the services that can be provided within Caerphilly.

Author: Catherine Gregory (ABUHB – Planning)



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 16TH SEPTEMBER 2015

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

REPORT BY: GWENT ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

GAVO QUARTER 1 REPORT

1. KEY DATA FOR APRIL 2015 – JUNE 2015

82 Volunteers placed
18,399 Website Visitors
1,353 enquiries received and responded to
112 trustee enquiries received and responded to
42 funding advice enquiries received and responded to
£75,739 obtained for third sector organisations in Caerphilly
4 new organisations/services developed
6 Third Sector Networks/Forum meetings supported

2. OVERVIEW

- 2.1 At a national level, discussions are taking place on future plans for Welsh Infrastructure organisations (WCVA, CVCs and Volunteer Centres). Regional Delivery plans submitted last year (across Health Board footprints) are now being looked at in more detail, with a Welsh Government led Task and Finish Group identifying the best way forward for monitoring regional delivery. GAVO continues to work collaboratively with Torfaen Voluntary Alliance (TVA) to ensure regional service provision for third sector support across Gwent. At local levels, 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 exceeded some targets for the first quarter. Trustee and funding events planned for Quarter 2, will appear in the next reporting period.
- 2.2 Recruitment is underway for a new post of Business Development Officer to focus on GAVO's income generation activity and sustainability. GAVO is also recruiting to an ICT Officer and Administrator posts, following retirement and promotion of existing staff.
- 2.3 GAVO held a very successful corporate training day with 132 staff and trustees in June. Workshops included updates on legislative changes affecting the sector, space to think about new ways of working to solve everyday problems, increasing knowledge of the third sector and an opportunity for all staff and trustees to shape GAVO's future direction. Since, then, GAVO's Strategic Plan 2015-2018 has been approved in its draft form by Executive Committee. An annual operational Business Plan will be developed throughout this period and circulated to partners after its launch at GAVO's Annual General meeting on 12th November.

3. STRATEGIC WORKING AND ENGAGEMENT IN POLICY

- 3.1 Representation of third sector interests continues at strategic partnerships include Caerphilly LSB, Leads Group and Delivery Group, RDP LAG, Caerphilly Access Forum and Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Partnership. GAVO has a seat at the Greater Gwent Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Partnership at both Leadership group and Partnership Forum. The third sector is represented through membership of the Wellbeing Integration Network, the 3 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).
- 3.2 GAVO's Community Planning Co-ordinator continues to work as part of the Policy Unit on the LSB / Single Plan / Citizen Engagement work and spends time weekly in Ty Penallta, attending policy unit meetings and other partnership meetings.
- 3.3 Election processes for the Voluntary Sector Representatives has commenced and all organisations on GAVO mailing list have been circulated with nomination forms for the VSR Committee. Voting will take place for the three areas in Quarter 3 (Aug/Sep) if sufficient nominations are received.
- 3.4 Discussions are taking place with Liaison committee members on capturing wider voluntary action for inclusion in the Compact reporting process and ensuring that the third sector contribution across Caerphilly can be fed into the Single Integrated Plan. It is hoped that the current recruitment for Voluntary Sector representatives and consultation with Caerphilly forums will result in strengthened third sector engagement.
- 3.5 GAVO has organised a Community Asset Transfer consultation event taking place in Quarter 2 (on 12th Aug) as part of the Welsh Government Pilot project to raise awareness and inform organisations and partners and seek their views on the future of this policy agenda in Wales.
- 3.6 GAVO has organised a third sector consultation response to the ABUHB Mental Health Commissioning Strategy and is currently working with third sector advocacy providers to respond to the WG consultation on Part 10 SSWB Act on Advocacy Services. GAVO is part of the Choice of Accommodation Policy Communications Group, where a pilot will be delivered in YYF.

4. CAERPHILLY LSB STANDING CONFERENCE

- 4.1 A very successful conference took place at Llancaiach Fawr, Nelson on 12th June. The conference was themed 'Not standing still economic recovery in Caerphilly' and 76 people attended. A conference report will be circulated shortly.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO SIP

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

PROSPEROUS

Core Development work

GAVO's core Third Sector Support service continues to offer governance and funding advice and one to one support to third sector organisations to support a thriving and sustainable third sector. In the reporting period, 112 trustee enquiries were received and responded to and 29 individual groups worked with and 4 new groups established. During the period, £184,432 of funding was applied for with £75,739 having been awarded to date. GAVO's Third Sector Development Manager for Caerphilly completed the Community Development National Occupational Standards which provides further affirmation of the breadth of community

development skills and experience gained over the years.

Extensive work has been undertaken with Newbridge Tabernacle Baptist Church on their expansion programme; Blackwood Little Theatre on the renovation of their building; New Life Christian Centre, Abercarn on the development of a range of community services and renovation of building; numerous allotments/sports groups and community church groups. Support has been provided for Caerphilly Parent Network to investigate future structure.

GAVO's Membership offer has been developed through the Membership, Marketing and Communications Thematic group, task and finish groups and staff and trustee awayday sessions. This was recently ratified by GAVO's Executive Committee. GAVO's offer ensures targeted support for grass roots organisations. It is hoped that the newly defined membership offer will increase membership from Caerphilly organisations as well as from the wider GAVO footprint.

The newly formatted One Beat Roadshow programme has been developed and the first event held in conjunction with CCBC Communications Team in Blackwood on Saturday 11th July (Quarter 2). A good turnout from voluntary sector organisations (29 stalls booked) and a good response to date for the Rhymney, Caerphilly and Risca events to come.

"Are you on the Radar" Event has been planned for Quarter 2 (on 23rd July) for all Voluntary Sector Forum participants/members to provide networking, information and revitalise the Forum structure. Through a consultation workshop, GAVO is keen to ensure that the forum meets the needs of third sector organisations in the borough and encourages a more diverse range to get involved in providing representation to the Liaison committee and other engagement structures.

Grant Administration

GAVO continues to administer Caerphilly's Health Social Care and Wellbeing grant and Gwirvol Cash for you Grant, equally across the GAVO footprint.

Regional Community Asset Transfer Support

This new post commenced at the end of April, and is already making great progress in the first few months, supporting a number of third sector organisations engage in the asset transfer process. The role is proving critical in brokering relationships with local authorities across Gwent, to put in place best practice policies, procedure and process regarding community asset transfer. Demand for support is already significantly high, with support being provided to 17 groups. From Caerphilly's perspective, there are potentially 42 community centres and associated services which could provide significant opportunities for third sector organisations in the future. An early progress report has already been submitted to Welsh Government, with a further report due in September. The Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty (who is funding this regional pilot in Gwent for this year), will then be looking to make a decision as to whether this type of supportive regional role is rolled out across Wales in 16-17.

Active and Involved Citizens

All GAVO staff in Caerphilly are currently promoting the Volunteering Awards, arranged for 9th September 2015 (Quarter 3), through direct mailing, email, social media and at events, with much planning work underway.

Support has been given to a number of organisations in gaining their Investors in Volunteering Awards, with Disability Can Do recently receiving their award. GAVO is working towards the indicators of the IIV Award in its own third sector leadership role.

GAVO's Deputy CEO chaired the last national Volunteering Infrastructure meeting and GAVO staff regularly attend to feed in experiences and knowledge and share learning with the wider CVC network. Latest developments from this group include DWP guidance booklet on

Volunteering and a certificate scheme to recognise number of hours volunteering for adults (young people who already receive MV awards). Welsh Government's Volunteering policy will be launched on 5th August at the Eisteddfod.

All GAVO Volunteering staff have now completed ILM Level 3 in Volunteer Management as part of GAVO's workforce development programme, and results / certification should be received by early autumn.

Caerphilly Volunteering Team has continued to engage at a local level with various organisations, to maintain the visibility of Caerphilly Volunteering and increase the awareness of volunteering opportunities across the borough. This has been achieved by attending a number of groups including:

- Flexible Support groups, which are groups of individuals being actively supported in their search for employment, based in local libraries, and coming towards the end of their course. They are looking for opportunities that will enhance their personal wellbeing and employability.
- Moving On event - providing advice and guidance to individuals who have various disabilities who ordinarily believe that volunteering is not available to them.
- Job Clubs - supported by our CF teams, based at various community facilities throughout the borough, providing advice and guidance into volunteering. These clubs are attended on a regular basis.

In addition this quarter saw the inaugural meeting of GAVO's newly formed Gwent wide Volunteer Managers network, bringing together the organisations that provide opportunities across our communities in Caerphilly and greater Gwent, to support them in their management and recruitment of volunteers.

Caerphilly Youth Volunteering Officer has attended Crosskeys College Careers Fayre, together with providing independent presentations on volunteering and the Millennium Volunteering Programme to students at Crosskeys College, Get Caerphilly Online (CCBC), Girl Guides & Scouts (Senghenydd Group) and Ysgol Feithrin Abertridwr. GAVO's Deputy CEO has met with Crosskeys College Campus Director to forge stronger partnership links and has been invited to join their community partnership panel.

In the first quarter of 2015 Caerphilly Volunteering placed 53 adult volunteers and 30 young volunteers into opportunities across our communities.

Valley Voices Community Voice Portfolio

The Big Lottery national Community Voice programme was set up to provide people in communities with the opportunity to have their voices heard in the development and delivery of local services provided by statutory authorities.

GAVO employs 2 portfolio Officers to support the '**Valleys Voices**' Portfolio, made up of nine Community Voice Projects across Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent.

Portfolio specific aims:

- There will be more equity in the services for the people with learning disabilities across the counties of Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent
- More people in communities/communities of interest in Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent will have a way of expressing their opinions about the services they need and will be able to influence the service they receive
- People affected by mental health will feel more confident that their opinions and concerns are being listened to and acted upon

A consultant has been engaged to carry out a mid-term evaluation of the Valley Voices portfolio. The performance of the projects and GAVO's management of the portfolio will be evaluated and the report will be published in quarter 2.

Healthier

Sunflower Hospital Volunteering Project

Over the last quarter, 57 volunteers have delivered activities to patients in both Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan and Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr as part of this innovative project which continues to grow in strength and impact. In the last quarter, in YYF alone, a cohort of 30 volunteers per month delivered a remarkable 237 activities engaging with 1,810 patients. Training for volunteers has included 8 attending POVA, 14 attending Dementia Awareness and 8 attending Infection Control.

Health and Social Care Facilitator (HSCF)

Caerphilly Health and Social Care Alliance supports the facilitation of a thriving and sustainable third sector in Caerphilly with topics for discussion at the last meeting including:

- Fuel poverty and reducing energy bills (presentation NEST)
- Priorities in the Policing Plan and OPCC Plan (Presentation Third sector Development Officer OPCC)
- Dementia Friendly Communities (Alzheimers Society)
- SSWB Act updates and consultations
- Greater Gwent Provider Forum developments
- Neighbourhood Care Network updates
- Public Health Wales developments regarding the new Public Health Network Cymru website

GAVO has a seat at the Greater Gwent Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Partnership at both Leadership group and Partnership Forum and has been supporting the development of the Provider forum through the Greater Gwent SSWB Act Provider Steering group, formulating the Terms of Reference and consultation events with providers. Staff continue to provide information to support the development of the Information Advice and Assistance element of the Act and mapping on advocacy. GAVO is supporting the work of the All Wales Academic Social Care Collaborative and the research being developed in relation to section 16 promoting the development of Social Enterprise and cooperative models in health and social care. GAVO is currently working with third sector advocacy providers to respond to the WG consultation on Part 10 SSWB Act on Advocacy Services.

At GAVO's Corporate Training Day, all staff and trustees received an update on the legislation to raise awareness. This 'panel' discussion will be repeated at the Forum event later in July to increase awareness with the wider third sector.

In the spirit of the Act and to promote wellbeing, GAVO delivers Education Programme for Patients (EPP) health and wellbeing courses in Caerphilly. In June, the programme received the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board award, for "best overall patient experience". The award was received by the Volunteer tutors from the Caerphilly area.

Groups of 10-16 participants, with a variety of different conditions, meet over six weekly sessions of 2½ hours per week. They are led through a structured course by trained volunteer tutors. In Quarter 1, GAVO has run courses for GOFAL mental health, the community mental health team and supported the LEAP mental health team at Rhymney Integrated Health and Social care centre, also receiving referrals from social services and local GP's. A decrease in visits to GPs, Outpatients visits, A&E admissions and Hospital admissions has been reported.

Learning

Training Delivery

GAVO provides a range of training as part of its infrastructure support to the third sector. GAVO is a member of the POVA trainers network with the Workforce Development team and the Safeguarding Boards' Training Group's for both Children and Adults, as well as contributing to the content for delivery. In Quarter 1, 15 courses were delivered in Caerphilly with 121 participants.

Play Services

GAVO's *Play Development* Officer delivers an extensive range of informal and accredited training to the play sector across Caerphilly.

The *Adventure Play Team* (as part of the Family Engagement Project) ran 59 sessions in Quarter 1, engaging with 175 families and 264 individuals. *Adventure Play* funded via Communities First engaged with and referred 156 families which has nearly reached the annual target by quarter 1 alone.

Inclusive Play team (part of the Pathway to Inclusion Project) supported 11 families with 120 individual support sessions working with 18 individuals which exceeded quarterly targets.

National play day planning and preparations have been made throughout quarter 1 in readiness for this year's event on 5th August 2015 at Morgan Jones Park, Caerphilly. For more information contact GAVO *Creative Play* on 07483 128 090.

GAVO's Holiday Scheme Co-ordinator has produced a summer guide to opportunities which can be viewed <http://www.gavowales.org.uk/summer2015>

Safer

Third Sector Engagement with the OPCC

The Regional OPCC Third Sector Development Officer has had a busy first quarter, undertaking a large mapping exercise to identify third sector organisations across Gwent. This mapping seeks to ensure a full understanding of Third Sector service provision across Gwent and increased awareness of which organisations are delivering services that match the priorities of the Police and Crime Plan. The Development Officer attends meetings of the *Safer Caerphilly* Delivery group and GAVO and Torfaen Voluntary Alliance (TVA) are members of *Safer Gwent* meetings.

Future work will seek to develop a robust communication and engagement plan which supports the two way flow of information between the OPCC and Third Sector. Later in the year, the project will focus on supporting Third Sector organisations who are commissioning ready and capable of developing consortia or collaborative models of service delivery. As such, a Gwent wide provider Fair is being organised for the autumn, to bring together third sector organisations with statutory commissioners.

Armed Forces Community

GAVO supports Caerphilly's Armed Forces community and community covenant and is a member of the Caerphilly Armed Forces Forum (CAFF).

At the last meeting in May, presentations were received from 'Hire a Hero', a registered charity which helps Forces Veterans in transitioning from service life to civilian life. The organisation provides support for service leavers and businesses. Service Leavers are provided with employment support to provide job opportunities through the Hire a Hero employer network, which can supply work placement opportunities. This may also extend to

the provision of training programmes, and volunteering projects. Hire a Hero provides trained transition support and guidance, and also housing advice through First Choice Housing Association.

The meeting also received a briefing on the Veterans Welfare Service from 'Veterans UK' who assist in the provision of information on pensions and benefits for dependants. They work with individuals and assist in the completion of forms, and act as a signposting agency, and when necessary, they can refer individuals to other agencies. They also provide advice on the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme and the importance of claiming for benefits.

6. CONTACTS

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

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VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 16TH SEPTEMBER 2015

SUBJECT: DIGEST OF CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

2. SUMMARY

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

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

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

4. THE REPORT

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

RIVER RHYMNEY TASK GROUP 2ND MARCH 2015

Presentation - Healthy Rivers And Rivers Schools Projects

The Healthy Rivers - Project Officer, Groundwork Wales, advised that the Healthy Rivers and Rivers Schools Projects are partnership projects co-ordinated by Groundwork Caerphilly and involve the South East Wales Rivers Trust (SEWRT), Environmental Agency Wales (EAW) and local authorities. The aims and objectives of the original project were to achieve good ecological status for the River Sirhowy (according to Water Framework Directive legislation), increase populations of migratory fish, educate local people about the river ecosystem, promote angling and tackle invasive weeds.

In 2014 Healthy Rivers received funding to improve the ecological status for the Rhymney, Nant Bargoed, Rhondda Fawr and Rhondda Fach, the removal/modification of 7 barriers to fish migration to increase populations of migratory fish, educate local people about the river

ecosystem and deal with litter and waste. Members were pleased to note that with regards to education, and as part of the Salmon in Classrooms Project, Healthy Rivers has a live display of salmon eggs/young salmon to take to local primary schools and will teach children about the life cycle of the salmon and about issues affecting their survival in local rivers and encourage them to better understand and appreciate the river environment. The River School Project enables children to visit the river to take kick samples and to measure its width, depth and flow rate.

The Officer advised that a further 2 years funding had been granted by Natural Resources Wales to continue work on South East Wales Rivers with emphasis on working with young people. He referred to proposals to work with NRW to carry out walk over surveys, undertake further works on the Nant yr Aber (including the clearance of the tree blockage at its confluence with the river Rhymney), to investigating the major litter issue at Caerphilly Retail Estate and to continue to work with schools.

REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 19TH MAY 2015

Monmouthshire And Brecon Canal Action Plan

The Head of Regeneration and Planning, together with the Group Manager, Strategy, Funding and Support, presented the final draft version of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal – Crumlin Arm Action Plan.

This Action Plan was drafted following a request from Members of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal Crumlin Arm Working Group, so that the future direction of investment and activities relating to the Canal could be considered. The draft Action Plan was considered and endorsed by Member of the Canal Group at their meeting on 26th February 2015 and was subsequently considered and endorsed by the Corporate Management Team in March 2015.

The Action Plan sets out the history of investment, maintenance and development of the Canal as a local asset, and also describes a list of potential actions and activities that could develop it further over the years ahead. It was explained that the actions were not prioritised but can be used flexibly depending on the availability of funding. For example, the Canal forms part of ongoing work to develop a regional European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) proposal based on tourism and urban priorities.

POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2ND JUNE 2015

Anti Poverty Strategy

The Head of Public Protection, presented the report, which outlined the proposed Caerphilly County Borough Council's Anti Poverty Strategy. The report sought the views of the Scrutiny Committee prior to its presentation to Cabinet and Council. Members were informed that the Council delivers a significant programme of work that contributes to tackling poverty, such as Welsh Government-funded programmes (Communities First, Families First, Flying Start and Supporting People) as well as the Welsh Housing Quality Standard investment and a range of other services and activities. Caerphilly Council has a significant track record in regeneration and was the first in Wales to become a Living Wage employer. However, there are still individuals and households within the county borough living in poverty and an Anti Poverty Strategy has therefore been developed to set out the Council's position and bring together that activity at a high level.

The draft Strategy has been the subject of consultation, and a final draft version, together with consultation comments, was appended to the report for views and approval. The draft Anti Poverty Strategy sets out the Council's position and aims, actions and measures in relation to tackling poverty. It is intended that the Strategy will be reviewed annually and progress reported. It is also proposed that an Anti Poverty Board be established to provide oversight of the Strategy, which would include the new Member Anti Poverty Champion, Councillor Elaine Forehead.

Discretionary Housing Payments Policy

The Acting Director of Corporate Services and Section 151 Officer, together with the Acting Benefits Manager, presented the report, which sought the views of the Scrutiny Committee on a new Discretionary Housing Payments Policy, prior to its consideration by Cabinet.

Members were informed that Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) are additional short term payments made towards rent. They are only paid to customers already receiving Housing Benefit who need more help with their housing costs over and above their benefit award. Officers explained that to help Local Authorities mitigate the impact of Welfare Reform, funding for DHPs has increased in recent years. However, it is important that the limited funding available is targeted at those most in need. With this in mind, the Discretionary Housing Payments has been drafted and was attached to the report as an appendix. The Policy complies with the Department for Work and Pensions Discretionary Housing Payments Guidance Manual (April 2014) and the Pan-Wales Discretionary Housing Payment Policy Framework. Officers reiterated that DHPs are principally short-term financial support towards long-term sustainable solutions and payments cannot be made indefinitely, and for this reason it should not be viewed as an additional welfare benefit.

REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 30TH JUNE 2015

Secondary School Rugby Provision Within Caerphilly County Borough

This report outlines details of the current secondary school provision for rugby and the future plans for the development of rugby in partnership with the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) through collaborative working.

A Rugby development plan is in place between CCBC and the WRU and this collaborative approach ensures that the offer of school rugby is joined up and avoids duplication. Partnership meetings are held with the WRU on a monthly basis. Managers and Development officers review performance and evaluate progress against outcomes. The WRU have a Schools/Club programme which is an initial three year programme. The programme commenced its roll-out across secondary schools in Wales in 2014. CCBC currently has 2 schools in Cohort 1 with further schools identified for the Cohort 2 September 2015 roll-out. The appendix to this report outlines the WRU School Club Hub Programme/Regional Plan 2014-2016, Newport Gwent Dragons Region.

Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel on Wednesday, 15th July, 2015

An update was given on the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy which had been presented to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee in January 2015 for consideration and then recommended to Cabinet on the 4th February 2015. The Officer confirmed that the only change to the policy presented to the Panel on the 26th November 2014 was to Top-Up Discretionary Relief. Cabinet had resolved that this be removed where an organisation occupies one or more rating assessments properties within the Authority's area, which cumulatively amount to a total rateable value exceeding £100,000. It was noted that two organisations, Ystrad Mynach College and Coleg Gwent, would be affected and both had been informed of the change. The Panel were informed that this would generate £90,000 of savings for financial year 2016/17.

The updated forecast for Discretionary Rate Relief for 2014-15 was estimated as £223,095.00. This left a projected budget allocation of £32,125.00 for Grants to the Voluntary Sector, which combined with the carry forward from previous years of £83,258.00 gave a total allocation of £155,383.00. To date, grant awards for 2014/15 total £15,035.00 with a budget of £100,348.00 remaining for allocation.

With regard to the Welsh Church Fund Act Fund, the Officer confirmed that written confirmation had now been received from Monmouthshire County Council. The 2014/15

budget allocation will be £40,084.00 and that underspends from previous years of £132,720.00 can be carried forward, resulting in a total available budget for the current year of £172,804.00. Confirmation had also been received that the provisional allocation for 2015-16 will be £49,334.00 which is an increase of 9,286.00 on this year's allocation and the carry forward of unspent allocations will be allowed.

The Panel noted the amounts awarded and discussed how to raise awareness of the grants to encourage a greater number of applications. The Officer confirmed that the grants administration could be looked at and although there was no flexibility for change in the award process, there would be for the award amounts. Officer's agreed to look at the award process in other authorities and provide feedback to Members.

Noted that the Grant Schemes Booklet is available from the council in hardcopy and it is also available on the council's website.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None arising.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 Not applicable.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

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

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government Act 2000.

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



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 16TH SEPTEMBER 2015

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

REPORT BY: SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

This is a snapshot of the work carried out by SWFRS Community Safety & Partnerships Dept in the Caerphilly County Borough area between 1 Apr 15 – 1 Sep 15:

Home Safety Department:

229 High Risk / Vulnerable Home Fire Safety Checks delivered through existing services of Third Sector, Voluntary, Charitable partners.

3 specific Fire Safety in the Home Talks to Third Sector / Voluntary / Charitable Groups – Total Audience of over 50 high risk individuals.

Road Safety Department:

Cruise Car Attendance at Bedwas Rock Festival – Audience of over 50 people.

7 x Domino Deliveries to schools within Caerphilly Borough Area.

4 x Megadrive Visits to Ystrad Mynach College.

1 x Biker Down Course for members of the public run at Caerphilly Fire Station.

Crimes and Consequences Team:

Attendance at Bedwas Rock Festival – engagement with over 40 people.

Involvement in Caerphilly Street Game Project.

Delivery at Trinant Community Café.

Interventions with schools and Youth Offending Services – Total Audience of over 150 young people.

Firesetter Intervention Scheme:

6 interventions with young people (regular 1 x hour sessions or individual family visits).

Fire Crime Unit:

12 x Arson Vulnerability Assessments throughout the Caerphilly Borough Area.

Regular joint patrols with Gwent Police, Forestry Commission, Community Volunteers and Caerphilly CBC following deliberate fires.

4 x Bernie Patrols throughout the Easter period.

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 SEPTEMBER 2015

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

REPORT BY: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR GWENT

Police and Crime Plan Annual Report

Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Commissioner is required to produce, for each financial year, an Annual Report that highlights how the he has been carrying out his role and the progress that has been made in meeting the objectives as set out within the Police and Crime Plan for Gwent.

The Annual Report can be accessed by the link: <http://bit.ly/1NkKx7N>

Victim Satisfaction on the Up in Gwent

Gwent show a significant improvement in satisfaction amongst victims of crime in the region. Figures for the 12 months ending June 2015 which show a 3.1% increase in the 'overall satisfaction' of crime victims in the service they receive in comparison with the previous year (from 78.0% to 81.2%). Gwent Police's own internal figures also show that public confidence in the Force has increased by 4% in the last year.

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) was one of the first PCCs in the UK to launch a Victims Charter in 2013 which has been adopted by the Force and outlines the minimum standard of service victims in the criminal justice process in Gwent can expect.

The PCC launched Connect Gwent, a brand new multi-agency service which aims to provide positive and lasting support to victims of crime. He supported and endorsed the launch of Gwent Police's CARES service standard. CARES aims to ensure officers identify the level of support required by a victim of crime to ensure that the support provided meets the victims' needs and keeps them informed of progress.

The PCC also introduced the Community Remedy in October 2014 which is designed to give victims of low-level crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) more of a say in the punishment of offenders out of court. This has positively impacted on the satisfaction of victims.

Another likely contributing factor is the PCC and Chief Constable's drive to improve crime data integrity and ensure crime is recorded ethically and accurately.

Provision of a Women's Pathfinder Pan Wales Triage (Diversion Scheme)

In 2014 the Commissioner successfully submitted a bid to the Home Office Innovation Grant Fund for funding to support a pilot on behalf of the four Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) in Wales and National Offender Management Service (NOMS) in Wales. The Services required are to undertake a project to pilot the Diversion Scheme. The Project will include the Diversion Scheme at one triage pilot site in each of the Police Force areas at the following four Premises across Wales:

- Newport (Gwent)
- Merthyr Tydfil (South Wales)

- St Asaph (North Wales)
- Haverfordwest (Dyfed-Powys)

The Women's Pathfinder provides a whole system approach including support for women as an alternative to charging, during bail and pre-sentence and during resettlement from custody. Additional to this, women can self-refer to the Pathfinder if they have previously been involved with the Criminal Justice Service (CJS) or identify themselves as being at risk of committing offences. The majority of CJS involvement with female service users is related to violent and/or acquisitive offending behaviour, whilst prevailing presenting problems are deficits in thinking and behaviour, lifestyle and associates, substance misuse, accommodation, mental health issues and victimisation issues, these latter two most often not being directly related to offences but significant as responsibility issues when engaging females with services.

Demand Reduction Project

Gwent (lead force), South Wales, Dyfed Powys and North Wales Police forces have a requirement to initiate a demand project to determine how to reduce end-user demand on police forces. The aim of this project is to learn more about the nature of the demand on the police service in Gwent and then to design an initiative to reduce it, taking into account service users perspectives and insights from behavioural sciences. This project has been primarily funded by the Home Office Innovation Fund.

The project will review the current situation, police processes, consider new designs and processes (policing model) to inform efficient and effective policing. An evaluation of the changes and their outcomes will be completed.

Positive Futures

Newport Positive Futures began in May 2002 and works with hard to reach young people aged 10-19 years old. It is a diversionary activity based social inclusion programme. It works with partner agencies to give young people a positive focus in life. It provides outreach programmes, volunteer opportunities, and opportunities to gain qualifications, mentoring and intervention.

The PCC provides funding to the programme and has invested additional funding of £100,000 to enable to programme to be expanded across Gwent. Many of the outcomes from the Positive Future's programme link to the PCC's priorities, especially in supporting hard to engage young people by facilitating opportunities for youth intervention in support of other partners, such as education, Youth Offending Services, to prevent offending and to reduce reoffending. This initiative has been embraced by Caerphilly CBC.

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.

Other activities would look to raise third sector awareness around the emerging commissioning landscape as existing grant funds are diminishing. With this in mind a OPCC Provider's Fair will be hosted in Christchurch Centre, Malpas, Newport on 13th October. Many organisations have been invited that provide services that can influence the PCC's Police and Crime priorities, as stated in his Police and Crime Plan - <http://www.gwent.pcc.police.uk/plan/>

Partnership Fund

A total of 51 projects have been awarded a slice of the £153,085 awarded by Gwent PCC Ian Johnston from his Partnership Fund. The Partnership Fund grant scheme is funded by the proceeds of crime awarded to the police and from the sale of unclaimed found property. This includes money seized from organised crime and convicted drug dealers who have been ordered to pay back some of their ill-gotten gains.

One recipient, the Lylac Ridge Centre established in 2008, provides animal assisted therapy and alternative education and wellbeing programmes for children, young adults, adults with learning difficulties, offenders and those excluded from schools.

The £7,988 awarded from the Gwent PCC Ian Johnston's Partnership Fund in September 2014 has been spent on working with volunteers and ex-offenders referred to the project as part of their community rehabilitation. The project also supported those not in training, education or employment and helped them to develop a range of transferable skills. The project provided a green area for use by all of the community.

With their award of £7,280 Changing Gearz employed a specialist tutor/mechanic for six months who will train and qualify six young people to become accredited trainers themselves. The project targets young people who have become disengaged from school or training and aims to improve their confidence, skills, education and employability by providing a range of accredited training in bike maintenance and repair, mountain bike leadership, cycle proficiency, administration, marketing and web development.

Once repaired, the bikes donated to or purchased by the project are sold in the community and any profits are pumped back into the social enterprise to provide more staff, apprentices and training opportunities. It is planned that the newly trained individuals will then teach other young people who are disengaged from education or training to undertake cycling training in schools and to educate children in the safe use of cycles.

The PCC believes that the Partnership fund is all about taking money from criminals and putting it to good use in our communities and is about putting resources back into the hands of the law-abiding majority. This year's funding adds to more than £300,000 retrieved from criminals under the Proceeds of Crime Act which has been put back into over 100 local community projects in Gwent over the last two years through via the Partnership Fund.

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

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VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 16TH SEPTEMBER 2015

**SUBJECT: COMMUNITY PLANNING QUARTERLY BRIEFING JULY TO
SEPTEMBER 2015**

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Committee Members with the Community Strategy Quarterly Briefing July to September 2015 for information.

2. SUMMARY

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

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Community Strategy is the pre-eminent partnership document for the county borough, which sets out a 15-year plan for improving quality of life for local people and communities. **Caerphilly Delivers** is the Single Integrated plan for delivery the Community Strategy, which came into being on 1st April 2013. The Single Integrated Plan focuses on five outcome areas: Prosperous Caerphilly, Safer Caerphilly, Healthier Caerphilly, Learning Caerphilly and Greener Caerphilly. A wide range of public, private, voluntary and community organisations are engaged in the community planning process.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Appendix 1 contains the Community Planning Briefing for July to September 2015. This is a quarterly briefing designed to give everyone involved in the community planning process across the Caerphilly county borough, as well as wider audiences, an overview of progress on delivering on the Community Strategy.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None arising.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 The report is for information and not consultation.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The report is for information only.

10. STATUTORY POWER

- 10.1 Local Government Act 2000.

Author: Jackie Dix - Policy & Research Manager, CCBC

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

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Community Strategy Quarterly Briefing July to September 2015



Community Planning Quarterly Briefing July to September 2015

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

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

communityplanning@caerphilly.gov.uk

Caerphilly Local Service Board Standing Conference *Not Standing*

Still...Economic Recovery in Caerphilly - the conference which took place on 12th June 2015 at Llancaiach Fawr built on the two previous Standing Conferences, which had looked at poverty, and focused on measures to support business development and employment opportunities in the borough. Peter Slater, the Director of the Industrial Communities Alliance in Wales gave a keynote presentation on *Closing the Prosperity Gap: Key Policy Areas* followed by presentations from Rhian Kyte, Team Leader, Strategic and Development Planning, Caerphilly County Borough Council - *Using the Local Development Plan for Growth*; Denise Lovering, Chair, Caerphilly Business Forum - *Supporting Business*; and Gareth Jones, Chief Executive, Welsh Innovation Centre for Enterprise - *What are we looking forward to?* Workshop sessions gave an opportunity to discuss the challenges and opportunities in more depth. Below is the conference report:



LSB 31st Standing
Conference Report 12

For up to date information on the work of Caerphilly Local Service Board please visit –

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

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 35

One Beat Voluntary Sector Showcase Roadshows - in a change from the annual *One Beat* event, the first of a series of One Beat Roadshows touring the borough took place on 11th July 2015 in Blackwood and saw 30 organisations displaying their activities to the public. The event, in Blackwood Methodist church was opened by Caerphilly County Borough Mayor Cllr Leon Gardiner.



The next in the series will take place in Rhymney in the St Davids Community Centre, Rhymney High Street on 7th October 2015 from 10 am until 2.00 pm. Further details are available from Gina Jones, GAVO Community Development Manager for Caerphilly at gina.jones@gavowales.org.uk telephone 01633 241550. Further events are scheduled for February and April 2016 in Caerphilly and Risca.

Prosperous Caerphilly (Antony Bolter)

regeneration@caerphilly.gov.uk

TOURISM

Tourism and visitor numbers are 9% above the target set under *Caerphilly Delivers the Single Integrated Plan 2013-17*. April to June 2015 saw an additional 102,000 visitors to Llancaiach Fawr as a result of the Urdd Eisteddfod in May held there. The Urdd Eisteddfod had a huge economic impact on local businesses with tourism and hospitality businesses reporting a considerable rise in income and occupancy.

Another May event was the Caerphilly Food Festival, which attracted over 10,000 visitors, an increase of over 15% on the previous year.

The inaugural Velothon Wales took place in June 2015 and has been hailed as a high profile successful event for cycling. Other June 2015 events were:

- Caerphilly 10k with over 2,000 runners taking part on a Sunday, and seeing a 53% increase on normal Sunday trading in Caerphilly town centre.
- Blackwood Beach Party, a huge success, with thousands of visitors attending and footfall increasing for Blackwood Town Centre over the weekend festivities.

Staying visitors to the Caerphilly borough have risen by 6% between 2013 and 2014 with 380,000 overnight visitors using local visitor accommodation or staying with friends and relatives. Day visitors to the borough have increased by 1.6% from 2013 to 2014 with 1.33 million day visitors in 2014. The total economic impact of tourism in the borough has increased by 6% from 2013 to 2014 with £113 million spent in the borough.

UPPER RHYMNEY VALLEY PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES

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

Youth Hubs continue in youth unemployment hotspots in Senghenydd, Abercarn, Crumlin and Rhymney in partnership with Job Centre Plus, Careers Wales and Communities First. Young people are able to drop in to get employment advice and support on issues such as adult education, gaining work experience, creating a CV and applying for Jobs Growth Wales placements. To find out more contact Greg or Lynsey on telephone: 01443 864139.

Communities First have developed a number of *That Works* programmes providing individuals with the skills and training needed for a career in a specific sector of work. Routes into catering, outdoor skills and call centres have been delivered. Within the Upper Rhymney Valley Cluster, *Construction that Works* sessions have been completed and it is proposed that *Retail that Works* sessions will start to coincide with Christmas seasonal employment.

Work clubs continue to provide weekly drop in opportunities across the borough to offer one to one support, advice and guidance.

The Employment Support Officers now offer **1-2-1 appointments** for customers wanting more depth support, perhaps to create a CV or complete an application form. Please email commfirst@caerphilly.gov.uk to find out more.

Literacy and numeracy classes are held in the Whiterose Resource and Information Centre on a Monday 6-8pm, and a Thursday 10.30-12.30pm.

Communities First has a trained **Steps to Excellence** facilitator delivering courses in the community to help improve confidence, self esteem and goal setting.

CAERPHILLY BASIN PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES

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

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

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

Through the Employment Support 25+ project 33 sessions were delivered between April to June 2015, exceeding the quarterly target of 20 sessions. This included weekly 1-2-1 work surgeries, which are hosted in the Communities First office in Lansbury Park, the Trecenydd Community Centre, Graig Y Rhacca Resource Centre and Sengenydd Community centre.

The following training programmes were also delivered:

- Fire Awareness, which had 11 attendees in total all of whom completed the course and received the accreditation.
- Lifting and Carrying of inanimate Objects, which had 11 attendees in total all of whom completed the course and received the accreditation.
- Customer Service, which had 8 attendees, all of whom completed the course and received the accreditation.
- Emergency First Aid at Work Level 2, which had 4 attendees, all of whom completed the course and received the accreditation.
- Security Guarding Level 2, which had 9 attendees, 5 of whom completed the course and received the accreditation.
- Food Safety in Catering Level 2, which had 6 attendees, all of whom completed the course and received the accreditation.
- Working in Construction CSCS Training, which had 12 attendees, 10 of whom completed the course and received a CSCS card, with 11 of attendees also receiving an additional Level 2 accreditation.
- Protection of Vulnerable Adults (POVA) Level 2, which had 7 attendees, all of whom completed the course and received the accreditation.
- British Institute of Cleaning Science (BICS) course, which had 4 attendees all of whom completed the course and received the accreditation.
- COSHH Level 2, which had 8 attendees, 6 of whom completed the course and received the accreditation.
- Emergency Paediatric First Aid Level 3, which had 7 attendees, all of whom completed the course and received the accreditation.

In terms of NEETS, one targeted training programme on Health and Social care was run in St James Integrated Childrens Centre with 9 participants coming from across the borough.

Upcoming Employment projects - there is a busy schedule of delivery upcoming in terms of the employment projects:

- **Door Supervision Level 2** (Bedwas Adult Education Centre) commencing 24th August 2015
- **Working in Customer Service** (Caerphilly Library) commencing 7th September 2015
- **Working in Construction** (Construction Training Skills) commencing 5th October 2015, with the following opening days for recruitment:
 - Monday 21st September 10am at Trecenydd Community Centre
 - Monday 21st September 2pm at Graig-y-Rhacca Resource Centre
 - Tuesday 22nd September 10am at Caerphilly Library
 - Thursday 24th September 10am at Senghenydd Community Centre
 - Thursday 24th September 2pm at Lansbury Park Communities First Office
- **Calling into Work** a 6 day course for October (dates to be confirmed) in Interserve Pontygwindy

Short Courses:

Food Safety Level 2: 9th October, Caerphilly Library

Health & Safety in the Workplace Level 2: 21st October, Caerphilly Library

Emergency First Aid in the workplace Level 2: 26th October, Caerphilly Library

HACCP Level 2: 28th October, Caerphilly Library.

There are also ongoing essential skills courses starting in September, with a numeracy class taking place on Wednesdays 9.15am to 11.15am in St James Integrated Childrens Centre, and a literacy class on Tuesdays 9.15am to 11.15am in Van Community Centre.

MID VALLEYS EAST COMMUNITIES FIRST TEAM

- Work Club continues to run every Wednesday morning out of Groundwork Wales Office, Bryn Road, Pontllanfraith, Blackwood
- Communities First Employment Support team continue to offer 1-2-1 appointments to support individuals with gaining employment
- Retail Route to Work course ran during July in conjunction with ASDA Blackwood
- Construction Route to Work course will be running 7-11th September 2015.

Further information is available from Mid Valleys East Communities First Office (based Groundwork Wales Office) on telephone: 01495 222605.

GET CAERPHILLY ONLINE

April to June 2015 has been another productive quarter for Get Caerphilly Online. During June and July 2015, the project has delivered in new areas with *First Click* courses being held for clients of Gofal Mental Health charity and Reach Supported Living. It is hoped that further sessions will be run for these organisations in coming months, including First Click courses for Disability Cando clients, along with five more sheltered housing schemes.

The project has been successful in recruiting two more volunteers over the last month and it is anticipated that Digital Fridays sessions will be able to restart soon.

In conjunction with the Mid Valleys East Communities First team, an open day was held in Trinant Primary School during July 2015 to advertise the Cloud 9 project. This was extremely positive and many parents have expressed an interest in learning more about Internet Safety and Saving Money Online. These sessions will be arranged for the autumn.

Following on from the successful 50+ Forum event in Bargoed Library, a further event has been arranged for September in Risca library. Get Caerphilly Online will once again be there to deliver internet safety, social media and tablet session to those in attendance.

CAERPHILLY AND BLAENAU GWENT CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent Citizen Advice Bureau (CAB) provide outreach advice surgeries for residents to drop in to gain information on a number of social welfare topics including managing debt, housing, employment and accessing benefits. Since April 2015, 1124 people have accessed the outreach service. 286 of these have reduced/managed their money and 551 have accessed benefits they are entitled to. Below are details of the CAB outreach sessions:

CAB Outreach Venues and Opening Times

Community First Cefn Fforest Community Centre	Mondays	9.00 – 11.30
Community First office Lansbury Park	Wednesday afternoons	1:30-4pm
Community First Trecenydd Community Centre	Mondays closed until the 2 nd June	9:30-11:30
Community First Cefn Hengoed Youth Centre	Wednesdays	9.15 – 11.30
Graig Y Rhacca Resource Centre	Suspended at present	
Bedwas Council Chambers	Alternate Wednesday from 29/1/2014	9:30-12.00
Newbridge Tabernacle Church	Thursdays	9.30 - 12.00
Senghenydd Community Centre	Thursdays	9:30-12.00
Rhymney – Hafod deg	Fridays	9:30 -12:00
Customer First Pontlottyn Customer First Office	Last Friday in Month	9:30-11.00
Rhymney Valley Food bank & CAB at Hafod deg	Tuesday	10:30-12:30

Safer Caerphilly (Kathryn Peters & Natalie Kenny)

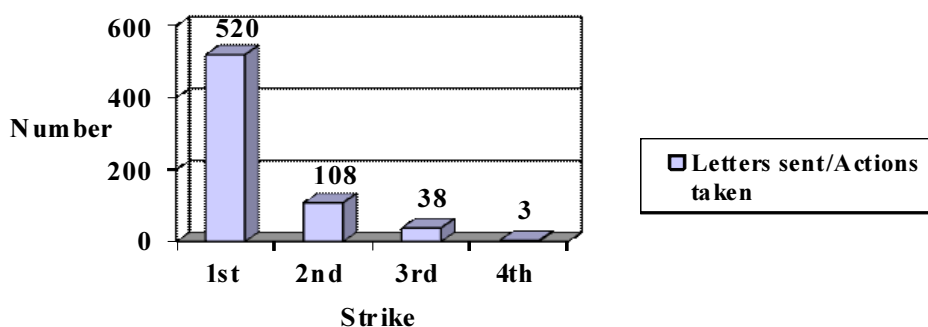
safercbc@caerphilly.gov.uk

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 at Caerphilly County Borough Council 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 (ASB) whilst also providing support to victims and witnesses. Throughout 2014/15 the following number of interventions to address ASB took place:

4 Strike Figures 2014-2015



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 ASB. Under the previous legislation more than 90 full Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) were granted across Caerphilly county borough as a last resort in addressing this type of behaviour. The new legislation replaces ASBOs with a Civil Injunction which will be utilised at the Strike 4 stage of the process if necessary.

Public Space Protection Order's

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 also brought in a new power called Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) for local authorities to deal with ASB problems in geographical areas. 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 ASB.

PSPO's replace a number of existing legal provisions including Designated Public Place Orders, Gating Orders and Dog Control Orders. They can prohibit a wider range of behaviours than previous legislation. Section 50 of the Act allows a local authority to make a PSPO relating to the activities carried out or likely to be carried out, in a public place if it is satisfied on reasonable grounds that two conditions are met:

1. Activities are having a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or it is likely that they will do;
2. The activities are of a persistent or continuing nature, are unreasonable and justify the restrictions imposed by the order.

The Safer Caerphilly Partnership, in discussions between Gwent Police and the Local Authority Community Safety Unit, Integrated Transport Unit and the Town Centre Development Manager have determined that PSPO's at the four local authority bus stations and selected bus shelters are needed to alleviate problems being experienced by members of the public. A report was presented to Cabinet and agreed by members on 29th July 2015.

ASB Victim Services Manager

The Victims Services Manager continues to attend all multi-agency groups to tackle anti-social behaviour, liaise closely with all departments within the local authority and outside agencies whilst supporting victims in the community and throughout the court process. From April 2015 to June 2015 a total of 77 referrals have been received and contacted. The Victims Services Manager (Lana Harrison) can be contacted on 01495 235441 or e-mail: harril5@caerphilly.gov.uk

After Dark Initiative

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

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

Since the project launched the initiative is continuing with Townsafe operations in Blackwood and Caerphilly town centres. Engagement with partners working in the NTE is ongoing for example with Street Pastors, Community Safety Wardens, Door staff. Work is now on-going to further develop the Initiative for Christmas 2015.

Safer Caerphilly Twitter

The Safer Caerphilly Twitter feed now has nearly 500 followers and the membership continues to grow. From April 2015 to June 2015 the Tweets that went out had a total of 37,400 impressions, averaging 411 impressions per day. The most popular Tweet during this period was a factual message about the number of CCTV cameras that are in Caerphilly county borough. The team continue to put Tweets out with general community safety messages and topics of interest to inform and engage members of the public.

Planning is underway for a social media campaign regarding social media safety, this will be launched in schools across the borough with information available for both parents and pupils.

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

EXAM SUCCESS

Students across Caerphilly county borough celebrated their A Level and GCSE achievements in August. The overall provisional pass rate for students in schools for WJEC A Levels was 97.1% (A*-E). The provisional result for WJEC A Level grades A*- A was 15.5%, and 69.6% of grades were at C or above. The number of A Level entries increased substantially in 2015 with 1,093 entries – up 128 from 965 entries in 2014. Those achieving A* grades also increased slightly this year.

Provisional WJEC examination results show that the GCSE pass rate (grades A*-G) is 98.6%. Provisional results for WJEC exams also show the A*-C pass rate is 62.4%, and the pass rate at grades A*-A is 16.3%.

Cllr Rhianon Passmore, Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning is Keen to recognise the achievements of the students and their teachers. She said,

These results have been achieved as a result of a lot of hard work and dedication by our students, together with the commitment and professional support of their teachers in helping the students to realise their potential. On behalf of all at Caerphilly County Borough Council – I wish our students every success in their future endeavours, and well done to you all.

Working closely with governors, school communities and the Education Achievement Service for South East Wales has improved the outcomes for children and young people across Caerphilly county borough.

WELSH GROUP LEARNERS OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Hengoed Parent Forum has won the *Welsh Group Learners of the Year Award* for the work they have achieved developing their *Petra the Penguin* story book and the learning associated with it. The project is joint funded by Families First, Flying Start and Communities First.

The process has enabled parents to raise their own aspirations and in turn raise those of their children. The storybooks have been an important way for The Parent Network to address poverty, by enabling families to educate themselves through the process of reading and writing.

They were presented with the award by Niace Cymru in the Swalec Stadium in Cardiff.

INTEGRATED FAMILY LEARNING

Schools Based Family Learning reached a total of 36 families from April to June 2015 involving 44 parents and 38 children. Five groups were focused on Foundation Phase and two groups were focused on Key Stage Two. In the Foundation Phase groups, the tutors delivered activities which promoted the importance of learning through play and encouraging parents to be *hands on* with their children.

Schools Based Family Learning Tutors have also taken part in an informal *Premier League Reading Scheme* training organised jointly with Community Family Learning and Caerphilly Sports Development. The Reading Programme has been designed to support reluctant readers, in particular boys. Sports Development was able to send two members of their staff who had previously played for Cardiff City Football Club to come and talk to the children about reading, which created a fun, positive session and allowed the children to ask lots of questions.

PROGRAMME COLLABORATION GROUP

The Programme Collaboration Group was established in January 2014 to improve and further develop joint working between the following 5 Programmes in the borough:

- Flying Start
- Families First
- Communities First
- Youth Service
- Supporting People.

All the Programmes work to maximise their services and projects reaching the most vulnerable and demonstrating measurable outcomes and making a difference to the lives of Caerphilly borough residents. Together they make a substantial contribution to tackling poverty.

The key responsibilities of the Group are to:

- Share good practice and identify improved ways of working together and, where appropriate, support or enhance the delivery of Programmes;
- Liaise closely on commissioning needs in order to develop and deliver services/projects in the borough;
- Identify and utilise joint commissioning opportunities based upon identified local need and where appropriate, pool resources;
- Agree leads on areas of work where there is crossover, to avoid duplication;
- Develop improved efficiency and effectiveness within individual and all Programmes;
- Identify opportunities across all Single Integrated Plan thematic areas for collaboration across the partnership landscape.

COMMON OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

Caerphilly County Borough Council is one of seven local authorities participating as an early adopter in the Welsh Government Common Outcomes Framework for Communities First, Families First and Flying Start. There are twenty-one population indicators that have been set out in the three domains covering *Prosperity and Employment, Health and wellbeing, Learning and Fulfilling Potential*. It is the Welsh Government's intention to roll out the final framework early next year.

The Leads for these three Programmes are working together to provide data and reports as required by the Welsh Government. The framework will be able to show how the Anti-Poverty Programmes are working together to improve the lives of residents in the Caerphilly borough.

Further details can be obtained from the Families First team email:
familiesfirst@caerphilly.gov.uk

GWENT ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

GAVO's Annual National Playday Event - took place in Morgan Jones Park Caerphilly on 5th August 2015. The event was visited by Caerphilly AM Jeff Cuthbert and Cllr Leon Gardiner, Mayor of Caerphilly County Borough. The threatened thunderstorms held off during the day with just a few showers. Over 3,000 people packed the park from across the borough to take part in activities put on by the GAVO play team and partners, including voluntary organisations, local authority departments, Gwent police, Families First, Communities First, and Flying Start Programmes. Activities included a waterslide, climbing wall, messy play, a well used foam pit, den building, pond dipping, a fire pit for cooking marshmallows. This annual event is an excellent example of partnership working across sectors.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT & PROGRESSION OF NEETS

This Welsh Government framework aims to reduce the number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) over a two-year period ensuring better outcomes for young people aged 11 to 24. To enable the Council to manage this area of work effectively, a coordinator and team of youth workers are in place who have the responsibility to deliver a plan of work geared to delivering the framework. There are six objectives linked to youth engagement and progression:

1. **Early identification** - to identify young people as early as possible who may require support.

2. **Brokerage** - to provide lead workers to young people who may find it difficult to move into further training or employment.
3. **Tracking** - to work with other organisations to track the achievements of young people.
4. **Provision** - to compile information on opportunities available for young people, to work with organisations and employers who may provide traineeships and to implement the Welsh Governments Youth Guarantee, which will help ensure that every young person has access to a suitable destination.
5. **Employment** - to work with various Council departments and Businesses to enhance young people's employment prospects.
6. **Accountability** - to assess and evaluate progress on the project plan that enables the Council to demonstrate progress on delivering the Welsh Government guidance.

For further advice or support on opportunities for young people, please contact John Poyner on telephone 01443 864970 or via e-mail at poynej@caerphilly.gov.uk

Healthier Caerphilly (Catherine Gregory)

HSCWB@caerphilly.gov.uk

The Caerphilly Well Being Improvement Network has now become the Caerphilly Well Being Delivery Group with responsibility for the oversight of Healthier Caerphilly. This will lead to improved communication between partners, joint targets and clearer, accountable reporting processes. Joint working is also taking place within Caerphilly Neighbourhood Cluster Network, primary care and Communities First to improve collaborative working and signposting to services. The following are some of the key partnership achievements from Healthier Caerphilly:

- Bedwas Junior School has achieved the National Quality Award (NQA), the highest award a school can obtain through the Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes. This brings the total number of schools within the Caerphilly borough to have achieved the NQA to 6 – the highest in Gwent.
- Five Caerphilly County Borough Council staff have now completed a Train The Trainer module to deliver the Community Health Champions programme within the Caerphilly borough. This will allowed the programme to reflect local need and be delivered more sustainably in the borough's most deprived areas.
- There have been a number of achievements around smoking cessation:
 - Caerphilly County Borough Council Illegal Tobacco campaign *Cheap tobacco gets kids hooked* has run throughout April to June 2015 with strong media and community publicity, including an interactive mobile unit

with Tobacco Detection Dogs at the Urdd Eisteddfod in partnership with the Illegal Tobacco Unit.

- Five Caerphilly County Borough Council staff have completed the Maudsley Smoking Cessation Training to add capacity into the support system helping residents to stop smoking.
- In light of partnership working across Gwent, the Gwent area now refers the highest number of people to Stop Smoking Wales

Greener Caerphilly (Paul Cooke)

sustainabledevelopment@caerphilly.org.uk

Greener Outcome G1 – *Improving local environmental quality*

Caerphilly's Big Spring Clean - partners took part in a *Caerphilly's Big Spring Clean* programme to encourage greater awareness of fly-tipping. Residents across the borough have helped to collect almost 40 tonnes of litter during the Big Spring Clean 2015. Individuals, schools and community groups teamed up with Caerphilly County Borough Council's Tidy Towns Team, Natural Resources Wales, Keep Wales Tidy and Groundwork Wales to help improve their local environment by collecting litter and fly tipping, cleaning graffiti and planting flowers to brighten up the borough.

Events took place at the following locations:

- Gateway Avenue, Bargoed with Morrisons
- The Stretch, Lansbury Park, Caerphilly
- Newbridge Park and Ride with Newbridge Comprehensive School
- Caerphilly Mountain with Heddlu Gwent Police
- Coronation Crescent, Risca with Ty Isaf Primary
- Rhymney Community and Youth Club
- Ystrad Mynach Park with Ystrad College, Ystrad Primary School and Gwent Dragons Rugby Team

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

A school's battery recycling competition was held across the borough. 67 primary schools took part, recycling a total of 1,605kgs of batteries. The winners were Crumlin High Level who collected an impressive 125 kg of batteries. The award was presented to Crumlin High Level pupils by Cllr. Leon Gardiner, Mayor of Caerphilly County Borough at a special ceremony at the Council's headquarters in Penallta House

The battery recycling initiative is delivered by Caerphilly County Borough Council in partnership with the European Recycling Platform (ERP), and local schools, and is now in its fourth year.

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

Caerphilly Walk Challenge Series 2015 - took place on 9th May 2015. It included a range of walks from 1 to 5 mile strolls along the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal and a 10 mile led walk up to a 15 mile self led walk and the monstrous 20 mile Twmbarlwm Trek. This allows new walkers to join the shorter walks and to build up year on year. Despite the wet conditions 550 people took part.

The walk was co-ordinated by Caerphilly County Borough Council's Countryside and Landscape Service, in conjunction with Caerphilly Adventure Group, Ramblers Cymru, Cross Keys College and other partners. This is the fourth year that the Caerphilly Challenge series has taken place

Further information and pictures of the event can be found at:

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

50+ Positive Action (Mandy Sprague)

50plus@caerphilly.gov.uk

Dignity, Respect and Age Equality

- **Protection of Vulnerable adults (POVA)** - the Keeping Safe Peer to Peer presentation filming of the Welsh version is complete, and the final version of the DVD will be launched in the autumn.
- **Dementia Friends training** - the Caerphilly 50+ Forum and Caerphilly borough Social Services have run three sessions of Dementia Friends training. Over 50 people have completed the training and have committed to being Dementia Friends. If you would like Dementia Friends training please contact Mandy Sprague on telephone: 01443 864277.

Caerphilly County Borough 50+ Forum

- The 50+ Forum supported the Trading Standards July Scams awareness month - *Don't be rushed don't be hushed* by putting a wide range of information on their website under the Keeping Safe section of - www.caerphillyover50.co.uk .
- The 50+ Forum's Facebook page [Caerphilly Over 50 facebook page](#) has proved a real success, with a number of warnings of scams in the area managing to reach 40,000 people in just a few days! If you are on facebook please *like* the page to get updates.
- Get Caerphilly Online working with the 50+ Forum run three workshops at the Forum's AGM to help people get the most from their Ipad/tablets, stay safe on line and how to get themselves started on face book and twitter. A

second session of the successful digital inclusion sessions has also been run at Risca Library.

- *Share A Smile* will be the Forum's first (and hopefully not the last) social event for those who are 50+ across the borough and will mark the 1st October International Day of Older Persons. The event will be held on 1st October in Lewis Boy's School, Pengam from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. There will be entertainment, information stands and a buffet. The event is free, and you do not need to be a member of the Forum to attend, so please encourage your 50+ friends and neighbours to come. However, you will need to book a place in advance, which you can do by emailing Carol Hemmings on hemmingsca@tiscali.co.uk or you can call her on: 07881938837.

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