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Date: 8th June 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee** will be held in the **Penallta House, Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach** on **Wednesday, 15th June, 2016** at **10.30 am** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda. **The meeting will be concluded by 12.15 p.m.**

PLEASE NOTE

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

Yours faithfully,

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

Chris Burns
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A G E N D A

	Pages
1 To receive apologies for absence.	
2 To elect a Chair and Vice Chair.	
3 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	

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both Councillors and Officers.

To receive and consider the following minutes: -

- 4 Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee meeting held on the 16th March 2016. 1 - 8
- 5 Launch of Compact Action Plan Annual Report 2015 - 16, and Grant Schemes Booklet 2016 - 17 - Councillor Ken James, Cabinet Member Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development.
- 6 Presentation: Communities First funded health projects/interventions - Bronwen John, Head of Partnerships, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board.
- 7 Voluntary Sector Representatives Questions:
- i) What is the role of the third sector in the implementation of the Future Generations Act? – response from the Council’s Future Generations Planning Group?
 - ii) Committee Debate: How can the Third Sector support the sustainability of community assets in the Caerphilly County Borough?
- 9 - 10
- 8 Compact Action Plan 2016 -17 proposals - Jackie Dix, Policy Unit. 11 - 14
- 9 Open Discussion: What's Happening in the Caerphilly Borough - an opportunity for all Compact Partners to raise key issues.
- 10 Items of interest concerning the Voluntary Sector from Compact Partners: -
- a) GAVO 15 - 20
 - b) Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent 21 - 24
 - c) Caerphilly County Borough Council 25 - 26

To receive and note the following information items: -

- 11 Community Planning Quarterly Briefing - April to June 2016. 27 - 40
- 12 Dates of future meetings all commencing 10:30am in the Sirhowy Room, Penallta House:
21st September 2016
7th December 2016

Circulation:

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

Representatives of the Voluntary Sector:

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

Aneurin Bevan Health Board:

Mrs B. Bolt and Ms S. Crane

Gwent Police:

Chief Inspector N. McLain

The Office of the Gwent Police & Crime Commissioner:

Mrs M. Chapman and Mr N. Taylor

South Wales Fire & Rescue Services:

Mr R. Hassett

Caerphilly Business Forum:

Mrs D. Lovering

Town & Community Councils Representative:

H. Llewellyn

Natural Resources Wales

Mr J. Goldsworthy (Natural Resources Wales)

And Appropriate Officers

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VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN
ON WEDNESDAY 16TH MARCH 2016 AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

Cllr. D. Carter – Chair

Councillors:

R. W. Gough, C. Hawker, A. Lewis, R. Woodyatt

Together with:

Abertridwr Community Church	-	Mr. L. Clay
Bargoed YMCA	-	Ms. J. Price
Caerphilly 50+ Forum	-	Mr. D. Morgan
Caerphilly Parents & Carers Forum	-	Mrs. B. Helps
Caerphilly People First	-	Mr. C. Luke
GAVO – Assistant Chief Executive	-	Mrs. E. Forbes
GAVO (Vice-Chair)	-	Mr. R. H. Cooke
Homestart Caerphilly Borough	-	Mrs. M. Snowden
Menter Iaith	-	Mrs. L. Jones
Right From The Start	-	Ms. C. Loring
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), A. Palmer (CCBC/GAVO), G. Jones (GAVO), M. Featherstone (CEO – GAVO), D. Tittley (Customer Services Manager), R. Hassett (South Wales Fire & Rescue Service)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Ms. L. Ackerman, Mrs P.A Griffiths, C. Hawker, D.W.R. Preece, and also from, Ms. P. Jones (Caerphilly Care & Repair, Mr. A. Read (Cancercareline), Ms. S. Crane & Ms. C. Gregory (Aneurin Bevan University Health Board), Chief Insp. N. McLain, Mr. H. Llewellyn (Town & Community Council Representative).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

3. MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2015, and they were accepted as a true record.

4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF WORK OF JOHN ELLIOTT

Cllr Carter the Committee Chair opened the meeting acknowledging all the good work of John Elliott (Research Officer) in supporting the Voluntary Sector since 1996 with the formation of Caerphilly Borough County Council, and noted that John had worked for Local Government for almost 45-years. Cllr Gough echoed the Chair's comments noting that John Elliott has been "a good friend to the Voluntary Sector, and had provided valuable information of funding sources through the grant funding booklets he produced annually." Bob Cooke the Committee Vice-Chair thanked John for all his help and guidance, and said his dedication and support to the Voluntary Sector had been much appreciated over the years. Cyril Luke (Caerphilly People First) also commented on the support his organisation had received and the excellent relationship they had with John. Cllr. Woodyatt noted that John had become a pillar of support, and acknowledged the commitment given to support the Voluntary Sector by both John Elliott, and Jackie Dix (Policy and Research Manager).

John expressed his thanks for the kind words and comment it had been "an honour and a privilege to work with the Voluntary Sector."

The Committee asked to be informed of the future contact officers for the Voluntary Sector once the Policy Unit restructuring has been finalised.

5. PRESENTATION: WELFARE REFORM AND SUPPORT FOR RESIDENTS – DAVE TITLEY, CUSTOMER SERVICES MANAGER

Dave Titley (DT) introduced the work of the Gwent Money Advice (GMAP) Project, which had been a two-year project looking at mitigating the impact of the welfare reforms on people in Gwent. A research project was undertaken as part of the project, with the research ending in November 2015, with the report currently being finalised for publication. DT explained that the research showed that "being poor is more expensive" with greater costs incurred through not having the necessary documents to open bank accounts, affecting the ability to reap the savings of paying for utilities by direct debit. Again not having access to the Internet will mean people miss out on financial saving deals. People on low incomes have to pay more for insurance cover. Credit charges may have higher levels of interest, particularly because people may be using illegal money lenders as a source of readily available income. Figures from the Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) suggest that some people may be in debt with several loans at any one time.

Caerphilly County Borough Council has the second highest number of people claiming benefits, with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council being the highest. The estimated loss in unclaimed benefit over the year was £119 million. The amount of debt within the population according to the CAB in the north-west of Gwent is now 33%, the Caerphilly borough and Blaenau Gwent areas.

Statistics indicate that correspondingly the same areas have a high rate of disabilities within the population. This in itself will have an effect on finances. Many people from the areas have trouble in paying Council Tax and are consequently in arrears, and may also have trouble paying essential bills such as gas, electricity and water.

DT noted poverty also affect working households, which is often unrecognised, with benefit support providing a much needed safety net. DT commented it is essential that any financial problems are addressed early on and before they reach crisis point. After this point is reached it becomes incredible harder to improve the situation.

The Gwent Money Advice Project has provided a coordinated approach to tackling poverty. DT noted that fuel poverty is now being addressed by the provision of good technical advice to encourage savings on bills such as improved house insulation. The Project has developed on line training on debt for Local Authorities, and a website has been developed on useful sources of information around debt management. DT emphasised that debt advice services must be registered with the Financial Conduct Authority to provide information. The Welsh Government is currently looking at advice services and considering rolling out the work of the project across Wales as part of this work.

DT agreed to pass the finalised report to Jackie Dix for circulation to the Committee.

The Chair thanked DT for his presentation.

6. BUDGETS – VOLUNTARY SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES QUESTION TO COMPACT PARTNERS: THE THIRD SECTOR WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT SCRUTINY PROCESSES ARE IN PLACE TO ENSURE THAT BUDGET DECISIONS FOR ALL FUNDING, INCLUDING HYPOTHECATED FUNDING, WHETHER AT OFFICER OR ORGANISATIONAL LEVEL ARE BASED ON AN EVIDENCED BUSINESS CASE AND WHETHER RISK AND EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENTS ARE CARRIED OUT

Martin Featherstone (CEO of GAVO) introduced the Voluntary Sector Representatives question, which is around the transparency of the evidence base from Compact Partners for making decisions on budgets and undertaking Equality Impact Assessments on decisions made. He noted that third sector organisations wanted to ensure that the scrutiny process around decision making on budgets was tackled fairly, and to ensure that there was sufficient accountability when decisions are made. Jackie Dix (JD) noted she had discussed the question with Nicole Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services and S 151) and was able to impart that the following reports in respect of budgets are presented to scrutiny committee meetings throughout the year, with these meetings open to the public, and the reports posted on the Authority's website. These reports typically cover:-

- Grant funding
- Budget monitoring
- Budgets by service area
- Anticipated Outturn position and issues re potential overspends
- Savings proposals

The above reports include an equalities paragraph, with savings proposals prior to consideration by Full Council including an Equality Impact Assessment.

Where appropriate business cases are produced for committee meetings such as on procurement of new services, and decisions to collaborate.

JD recalled the budget discussion at the December 2015 meeting of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee, with consultation undertaken with the committee by the Interim Chief Executive Officer, the Acting Director of Corporate Services and Head of Service Performance and Property before a report on proposed reductions to the Voluntary Sector budget was considered by the Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee. Subsequently the proposal to reduce the Voluntary Sector budget was rejected by Full Council.

JD also referred to work in hand at the Council to improve the effectiveness of scrutiny committee working, with a recent review being undertaken by Democratic Services, which has been followed by a training programme for committee members.

Cyril Luke (Caerphilly People First) noted how positive he found it representing the Voluntary Sector on the Health, Social Care and Well-being Scrutiny Committee. He said that these meetings had good open dialogue.

Cllr Woodyatt commended both Cyril Luke and Margaret Veater for their immense contributions to the Health, Social Care and Well-being Scrutiny Committee.

Cllr Gough commented that the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee he sits on requests that the Head of Service gives budget updates. Cllr Gough noted that there was no third sector representation on the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee but that all scrutiny committee meetings are open to the public.

Third Sector representatives made a number of statements on this agenda item. Most wished the point to be made that impacts on the third sector should be discussed at scrutiny committees with the lead officers concerned, and with the third sector in attendance. This would ensure that the representatives of the third sector would know what decisions have been made. It was also suggested that the third sector should be involved early on in discussions with Heads of Service, and Directors in making budget decisions.

Martin Featherstone thanked the Council for its response, and asked in the spirit of the question for a response from other Compact Partners, and in particular in relationship to hypothecated funding. He gave the example around officers' decisions on Communities First funding. It was noted however, that with Communities First funding the Welsh Government did not give much local determination.

7. COMPACT REVIEW – JACKIE DIX POLICY AND RESEARCH MANAGER CCBC

JD informed that the inaugural meeting of the Compact Review Group had gone well with both the Chair and Vice Chair attending, and nominated Voluntary Sector Representatives and a councillor representative, and a representative from the Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner Office. A detailed discussion had taken place around: the new Public Service Boards coming into being on 1st April 2016, the requirements of the Future Generations legislation, and the Local Government (Wales) Draft Bill and potential local government reorganisation, and the ongoing review of the Welsh Government's working group on the Third Sector Scheme on which the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of GAVO sits. The following recommendations were made by the review group:

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

All the recommendations were agreed by the Committee. JD noted her intention to take the Future Generations assessment of local well-being to the September 2016 meeting of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee.

JD was requested by the Chair to contact Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to nominate a representative to the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee.

8. OPEN DISCUSSION: WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE COUNTY BOROUGH

No issues were raised.

9. ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR COMPACT PARTNERS

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

A written report was provided with the committee papers. Some questions were asked on the report regarding Community First funded health projects/interventions, and the lack of representation at committee meetings from the ABUHB. JD agreed to contact the ABUHB over these issues.

b) Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

A written report was provided with the committee papers. MF explained the breadth of activities mentioned in the GAVO report, and the forthcoming change from Local Service Boards to the Public Service Boards and the Future Generations Well-being legislation. MF also noted that the Third Sector will continue to be represented by GAVO on the new Caerphilly borough Public Services Board coming into being in April 2016. Alison Palmer reminded the Committee that the Standing Conference being held on the 22nd March 16 at Llancaich Fawr Manor will focus on the Future Generations legislation.

c) Digest of Caerphilly County Borough Council Committee Reports

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

d) South Wales Fire & Rescue Service

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

e) Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Gwent

A written report was provided with the committee papers. Cllr Carter (Chair) noted that Ian Johnston has announced he will not be seeking re-election as the Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner. He requested a letter of thanks to be sent to Mr. Johnston from the Committee for being "a great friend of the Voluntary Sector", and for presenting to the Committee when initially setting up his Office on the police priorities for the area and establishing a crime plan. Bob Cooke (Vice Chair) also noted the valuable help and support that had been provided to the Third Sector by Mr. Johnston. He commented that a firm foundation had been established for his successor in working with the Third Sector.

f) Gwent Police

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

10. CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO THE WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON DRAFT LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) BILL

JD introduced this work as an information item of the Council's response to the Welsh Government's consultation contained in the committee papers. JD noted the Welsh Government has received a good response to the consultation on the draft Local Government (Wales) Bill. However, the reporting of outcomes from the consultation by the Welsh Government will not be made before the autumn post the National Assembly Elections in May.

11. COMMUNITY PLANNING QUARTERLY BRIEFING JANUARY TO MARCH 2016

To receive and note the following information items attached.

- a) At this point Cllr. Dave Carter as Chair of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee thanked the Committee for their support over the past year, and that as is the established procedure he would be standing down with the Council's AGM in May 2016 to allow a Voluntary Sector Representative to assume the Chair. Bob Cooke as Vice-Chair conveyed his appreciation to Cllr. Carter for his chairmanship of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee meetings over the past year.

12. DECISION & ACTION SUMMARY

SUBJECT	DECISION	ACTION
1. Gwent Money Advice Service Final Report	Dave Titley to pass finalised report to Jackie Dix	Jackie Dix to circulate to the committee
2. Voluntary Sector Representatives Budget Question to Compact Partners	Martin Featherstone thanked the Council for its response, and asked in the spirit of the question for a response from other Compact Partners to be made, and in particular in relationship to hypothecated funding	All Compact Partners contacted post meeting to pass their written comments to Jackie Dix for forwarding to Martin Featherstone
3. Compact Review	<p>Following recommendations agreed by Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compact review to be put on hold until September 2016 to enable clearer direction. 2. For the Compact Partners to shape the content of the interim Compact Action Plan 2016-17 by outlining their key activities with the Voluntary Sector, which will be shaped by the Policy Unit into a proposed Annual Compact Action Plan 2016-17 for the consideration of the Voluntary 	<p>Jackie Dix (JD) following the meeting has written to Compact Partners of the approval of recommendation by the Committee for their proposed activities of work with the Voluntary Sector to be submitted to JD for forming the content of the Annual Compact Action Plan 2016-17.</p> <p>Jackie Dix following the meeting has invited National Resources Wales to join the Committee as a Compact Partner</p> <p>Jackie Dix noted her intention to take the local assessment of local well-being to the September 2016</p>

	<p>Sector Liaison Committee Meeting on the 15th June 2016.</p> <p>3. Natural Resources Wales to be invited to become a Compact Partner.</p>	meeting of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee.
4. Matters Arising from written report by the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board	The Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee asked if a representative from the ABUHB could regularly attend their quarterly meetings. It was also asked by the Committee if the ABUHB could give an update at their next meeting on Communities First funded health projects/interventions.	Jackie Dix following the meeting contacted the ABUHB. Bronwen John, Head of Partnerships, will attend the 15th June committee meeting to give a presentation on Communities First funded health projects/interventions.
5. Cllr Carter (Chair) noted that Ian Johnston has announced he will not be seeking re-election as the Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner and requested a letter of thanks to be sent to Mr. Johnston from the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee		A letter has been sent by Cllr Carter to Ian Johnston
6. Cllr Carter to stand down as Committee Chair In May 2016		Voluntary Sector Representatives to nominate Chair for June 2016 meeting of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday 15th June 2016 at 10.30am in the Sirhowy Room, Penallta House.

Future dates:

Wednesday 21st September 2016

Wednesday 14th December 2016

Meeting ended 12.05 pm.

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VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 15TH JUNE 2016

SUBJECT: VOLUNTARY SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES QUESTIONS

1. Voluntary Sector Representatives Questions:

i) What is the role of the third sector in the implementation of the Future Generations Act?

The statutory guidance from the Welsh Government puts people and communities at the heart of the new legislation. This requires Public Services Boards to involve a diversity of the population in the decisions that affect them; and to work with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions. This puts individuals and the third sector in a pivotal position to help to ensure that communities organise, express collective concerns and give people the confidence and skills to challenge, and create change.

The voluntary sector has a seat on the Public Services Board, with GAVO an “invited participant”. They are also represented on the various delivery groups of the existing Single Integrated Plan.

It is recognised that the third sector makes a huge contribution to the well-being of individuals and communities, and therefore will have a key role to play in developing the local well-being assessment (LWBA) and subsequent local well-being plan (LWBP). This process has already begun with workshops at the recent Voluntary Sector Forum providing excellent information on the data and evidence available.

There will be a series of engagement events over the summer being held in the following 5 identified community areas:

1. Upper Rhymney Valley – incorporating Bargoed
2. Mid Valleys West
3. Mid Valleys East
4. Lower Sirhowy Valley
5. Caerphilly Basin

Voluntary sector organisations will be involved in the development of these events and are likely to host some of them as well as being invited to attend and input into the local well-being assessments at these events.

Caerphilly County Borough Council has established working groups looking at the actions required to comply with the Act, and a further group looking at engagement and consultation. Alison Palmer, the Community Planning Co-ordinator GAVO/CCBC, sits on both groups, and can provide a link with Voluntary Sector Representatives.

The processes are being designed to ensure that the voice of individuals and the third sector is heard as part of the development of the local well-being plans, but voluntary sector organisations themselves must engage and contribute to dialogue to ensure that their priorities and concerns are recognised and included.

The third sector will then, of course, have a key role to play in delivering the actions and working in collaboration with other PSB partners to ensure that the objectives set out in the LWBP are achieved.

ii) Committee Debate: *How can the Third Sector support the sustainability of community assets in the Caerphilly county borough*

An opportunity for the whole Committee to debate the above question proposed by the Voluntary Sector Representatives.

Author: Kathryn Peters, Corporate Policy Manager



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 15TH JUNE 2016

SUBJECT: COMPACT ACTION PLAN 2016-17 PROPOSALS

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 At the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee 16th March 2016 committee members endorsed the proposals of the Compact Review Group for the Compact Annual Action Plan 2016-17 to be based on the proposed activities of Compact Partners with the Voluntary Sector as an interim measure pending the review of the Compact Annual Action Plan. Following the meeting all Compact Partners were contacted on their proposed activities of work with the Voluntary Sector for forming the content of the Annual Compact Action Plan 2016-17, with this report presenting the findings.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report presents suggestions received from Compact Partners for inclusion in a potential interim Annual Compact Action Plan for 2016-17, pending the full review of the Compact Annual Action Plan. Unfortunately few suggestions have been received, so the Committee is presented with three options to consider around forming a Compact Action Plan for 2016-17.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Compact is an agreement between organisations and the Voluntary Sector in the Caerphilly County Borough. The Compact recognises the mutual benefits that can be gained from close co-operation and sets out guidelines for how all parties should work together. The Compact is delivered and monitored through an annual Compact Action Plan, which provides a detailed programme of work for shared activities.
- 3.2 Under the review of the Compact Agreement and annual Compact Action Plan both will be aligned with the requirements under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The new Caerphilly Public Services Board is directing the partnership working around the legislative requirements of undertaking a local assessment of well-being and forming priorities for local action under the ensuing well-being plan.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 All Compact Partners have been invited (including Heads of Service at the Council) to shape the content of the interim Compact Action Plan for 2016-17 by outlining their key activities with the Voluntary Sector. The following are the suggestions received:

i) Caerphilly County Borough Council

Customer Services - engaging with Partner organisations in delivering the Customer Service Strategy. Links could also be made through Customer Services receiving payments for Credit Unions, and supporting the Caerphilly county borough anti-poverty agenda.

Property Services - exploring the potential impact of the Well-Being of Future Generations Act 2015 on the Council's Asset Management Strategy for Buildings.

ii) Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Gwent

Until the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) receives a policy steer from the incoming Police and Crime Commissioner, Jeff Cuthbert, the Office is not able to contribute anything concrete.

iii) GAVO

The difficulty is noted for Compact Partners to identify what activities to put in a Compact Action Plan without first seeing the kind of format / structure it would take. GAVO queries whether it is worth developing an interim Compact Action Plan using the well-being goals as a new structure to align partners' contributions under, as this could prove helpful in transitioning to new ways of working.

- 4.2 Unfortunately the level of response is not enough for the Policy Unit to shape a proposed Annual Compact Action Plan 2016-17 for the consideration of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee. The last Compact Action Plan for 2015-16 is too dated to be used again, as it does not reflect recent policy developments. For example, the Future Generations legislation ushers in 7 well-being goals for collaborative partnership working in improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of localities. This work will be directed by the new Caerphilly Public Services Board in undertaking a local assessment of well-being (by April 2017) and forming a well-being plan (by May 2018), which will need to align with both the Compact Agreement and Compact Action Plan.
- 4.3 In addition the Social Services and Well-being Act 2014 is the most fundamental piece of Social Services reform for over 60 years, transforming the way Social Services are delivered with the voluntary sector playing a key part in service delivery, which will need to be built into future annual compact action plans. *Population assessments* looking at the care and support needs of individuals, including support for carers and preventative services under the Social Services legislation are currently being undertaken, but local Caerphilly borough data will not be coming out to later in the year, with the Gwent population assessment not being published until April 2017. The priorities to be set under the Caerphilly well-being plan following the completion of the well-being assessment will be crucial to align with Compact action plans, but these priorities will not be known until at least summer 2017.
- 4.4 Given the high level of uncertainty there are three options for the Committee to consider:
- i) For no interim Compact Action Plan to be formed for 2016-17;
 - ii) For the Council's Policy Unit to work with GAVO in producing a streamlined interim Compact Action Plan for 2016-17, which will be run by Compact Partners for finalisation by July 2016;
 - iii) An alternative course of action to be followed.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None arising.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None arising.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 All Compact Partners have been invited to submit their suggestion for forming an interim Compact Action Plan for 2016-17.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 For the Committee to decide for:

- i) no interim Compact Action Plan to be formed for 2016-17;
- ii) the Council's Policy Unit to work with GAVO in producing a streamlined interim Compact Action Plan for 2016-17, which will be run by Compact Partners for finalisation by July 2016;
- iii) an alternative course of action to be followed.

10. STATUTORY POWER

10.1 Local Government Act 2000.

Author: Jackie Dix, Policy Officer, CCBC
Consultees: Emily Forbes, Deputy Chief Executive, GAVO
Alison Palmer, Community Planning Coordinator GAVO/CCBC
Paul Cooke, Senior Policy Officer, CCBC

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VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE - 15TH JUNE 2016

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

REPORT BY: UPDATE FROM GWENT ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

1. OVERVIEW

- 1.1 Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO's) membership has increased in the Caerphilly county borough to 71 third sector organisations in the six month period since refreshing the membership offer and requiring all third sector organisations to re-register as members; GAVO plans to double membership in the year ahead. Throughout the year, GAVO reviewed the structure and format of the third sector fora in the Caerphilly county borough which included a consultation event. This was followed up with online and paper surveys of member organisations to ensure that we listened to as many voices as possible. The data and responses have now been analysed and reported to the GAVO Local Committee and Caerphilly Voluntary Sector Representatives Committee. The results have shown a preference for:
- A county-wide forum
 - Quarterly, morning meetings
 - A central venue
 - A combination of speakers, presentations, workshops and networking opportunities.
- 1.2 The first meeting of the new Forum took place on 13th May 2016 at the Ebenezer Church, Riverside Terrace, Pengam. The focus of the meeting was the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and its implications and opportunities for the third sector. There was also a workshop session on how the sector can impact on the development of the Well-being Assessment and Well-being Plan for the county borough.
- 1.3 Caerphilly One Beat Roadshow was organised and delivered on 20th February 2016. Despite exceptionally poor weather 30 organisations attended between the Twyn Community Centre and Caerphilly Library and members of the public still ventured and the final event was held on the 27th April 2016 in Risca. The event demonstrated good partnership working with the local authority in the use of the neighbouring library for some of the stands, and a good reception from library staff. Customer First and Library staff would be happy to work with us again.

2. STRATEGIC WORKING AND ENGAGEMENT IN POLICY

- 2.1 Representation of third sector interests at strategic partnerships include Caerphilly Local Service Board, Leads Group and Delivery Group, Rural Development Programme Local Action Group, Armed Forces Forum, Caerphilly Access Forum, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Partnership, and Greater Gwent Health, Social Care and Well-being Partnership. The third sector is also represented through membership of the Well-being Integration Network, the three Neighbourhood Care Networks and the Social Care Workforce Joint Caerphilly county borough and Blaenau Gwent Partnership Board (where third sector providers are well represented through the open forum).

- 2.2 The last meeting of Caerphilly Local Service Board was held before its transition to a statutory Public Services Board. Work has begun on the new Public Services Board website supported by the Community Planning Co-ordinator employed by GAVO. The need for third sector involvement in the well-being assessment and the development of the Well-being Plans under the Future Generations Act is being promoted with statutory partners and third sector organisations.
- 2.3 Caerphilly Local Service Board Standing Conference was held with 70+ in attendance including good representation from the third sector. Speakers were from the Future Generations Commissioner's Office, the Welsh Local Government Association and workshop sessions led by Alan Netherwood, Sustainable Futures on "The Caerphilly We Want" as a starting point to the development of the well-being assessment for Caerphilly county borough under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.
- 2.4 GAVO facilitated the quarterly meeting of Voluntary Sector Representatives and supported planning of the Liaison Committee agenda. GAVO also contributed to the Compact Review paper and Compact Action plan annual report.
- 2.5 GAVO Community Voices Team has commenced legacy meetings with Community Voice projects coming to an end this year. Completion of the executive summaries for both CV portfolios and translation into Welsh for circulation to stakeholders and funders.

3. CONTRIBUTION TO CAERPHILLY DELIVERS THE SINGLE INTEGRATED PLAN 2013-17

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

Prosperous

GAVO's core Third Sector Support service continues to offer governance and funding advice and one to one support to third sector organisations. General enquiries are still on the increase and continue to be varied and complex with many dealing with new organisational structures. 290 new enquiries were dealt with this quarter from 46 groups and organisations including 10 new projects/groups. Funding applications were submitted amounting to £124,655 and of these groups were successful in obtaining a total of £87,857.

Capacity continues to be an issue as enquiries continue to rise. Trustee enquiries are lower than the target set for the year which has been due to a significant number of complex and time consuming issues which are absorbing much resource. The new governance structure (community interest company (CIC's) and charitable incorporated organisation (CIO's)) are complex to explain to groups and are causing them confusion, as well as some confusion with funders.

The Tabernacle Baptist Church, Newbridge project is now underway. The work will cover the main part of phase 2 of the renovation and redevelopment scheme involving the ground floor rear schoolroom and the first floor, but not phase 3, the fitting out of the second (top) floor, until further finance becomes available. The first part of phase 2 – to replace the window, has been carried out under a separate contract. Phase 1 involved the installation of new windows to the main building. The construction work, costing approx. £377,000 (excluding professional fees) will take 26 weeks to complete. The team will concentrate initially on replacing the roof and repairing and re-cementing external walls. Short official visits will be arranged monthly for members, friends and sponsors to see how the work is progressing.

New Life Christian Church, Abercarn continue to serve the local community and provide many services otherwise not available. They are refurbishing the building and are working on a full application to Communities Facilities Programme but were pleased to be awarded a Community Regeneration Grant to upgrade the heating system to be able to continue their project.

Fleur-de-Lys Institute have a new committee who have worked hard to raise the profile and community involvement in the resurgence of the building. They were awarded a Technical Assistance grant to help with the plans and costs for the future.

Risca Friends of the Heart have bought the first 2 bikes with their lottery grant. Marjorie was one of the people they had in mind when they asked for recumbent bikes. She is 97 and didn't feel safe on their upright bikes. These new ones are much more stable to sit on. They have 3 more items to purchase, 2 upright bikes for their more active members, and a rowing machine, which everybody likes. They are now looking at a possible new project, £25,000 from Our Heritage Lottery.

Active and Involved Citizens

During the 2015-16 reporting period Caerphilly Volunteering registered 595 individuals making enquiries into volunteering, compared with 550 individuals in the previous year. As per information at the outset of the report, the key performance indicators show a significant increase in the placement of volunteers across the county borough.

During Quarter 4 the Caerphilly Volunteering Team has been adopting a refreshed approach to working with organisations. During this quarter sixty-five separate organisations based within the Caerphilly county borough have been visited. This has resulted in a raised profile of GAVO, the services we offer and most importantly an increase in more quality placements being made available and developed for our communities. This piece of work is ongoing and will become an integrated part of the daily function of Caerphilly Volunteering.

In September 2015 the Volunteer Recognition Award Scheme was launched. This has assisted in raising the profile of both GAVO and Volunteering as a whole and is one of the assisting factors in increasing the number of placed volunteers.

Grant Administration

Negotiations took place with local solar energy companies to look at possibilities of distributing money they have for community benefit. GAVO will now be administering two community grants for specified areas of the county borough.

Healthier

Partnership working continues with the Neighbourhood Care Networks members increasing awareness signposting and referrals to the third Sector. Third sector information is now starting to be hosted on GP websites and on media in waiting areas. Third sector engagement via the Caerphilly Health and Social Care Alliance with developments in the context of implementing the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, and assisting with their positioning to take advantage of emerging opportunities. This includes engaging the third sector with the developments around the Dewis Cymru portal for the Information Advice and Assistance requirements in the Act; continuing to support the development of two new initiatives: Dementia Friendly Communities and Living well Living Longer.

GAVO continues to support third sector engagement under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and has:

- Circulated information from the Welsh Government workshops to inform the sector of key developments.
- Contributed to policy and legislation events in the context of Well-being, Social Enterprise and Information Advice and Assistance.
- Non Contracted third sector organisations are now able to access training via the Workforce development partnerships, including awareness raising training on the Act. Ring fenced funding to the partnerships available for training on the Act.

- Promoted and supported feedback to the Training Needs Analysis survey as a member of the Caerphilly Workforce Development Partnership.
- Responded to the Caerphilly County Borough Council's Social Care Workforce Training Department Consultation for the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy.

Caerphilly Health and Social Care Alliance quarterly meeting was held in February 2016 and discussed topics of: Digital Communities Wales; the Welsh Government consultation on 'Together for Health Delivery Plan'; Wales Audit Office Survey 'Council funding to the Third Sector'; representation opportunities on the Greater Gwent Regional Partnership, and Dementia Roadmap. An up to date Funding Briefing was prepared for members. GAVO's Health Social Care Facilitator continues to inform the third sector on developments in relation to population needs assessments for Wellbeing plans. Evidence has been gathered from the third sector to support contribution to the Healthier theme of the Single Integrated Plan via new third sector template. Other key areas of work included:

- Promoting third sector services via monthly service news bulletins. GP practices referring into the sector and signposting information on GP practice websites.
- Contributed to Aneurin Bevan University Health Board User event and workshops for people with Diabetes at the Christchurch Centre.
- Promoted representation and engagement opportunities available for the Gwent Citizen Panel.
- Raising awareness with the Neighbourhood Care Networks' (NCNs') about the engagement opportunities and support available for service users with the GAVO Gwent Mental Health Service User Forum.
- Contributed to workshops at the Caerphilly Standing Conference on the Well-being of Future Generations Act and engaged members of the Caerphilly Health and Social Care Alliance.

The Sunflower Project completed its second year report which was signed off by the Lottery and all targets were met or exceeded. It was agreed that the under spend could be carried forward to extend the project for two months into 2017 and to allow the Succession Planning and Expansion Officer extra hours. The stage one application was successful and stage two will be submitted by June 2016 which, if successful, will allow expansion to other sites and succession of the existing project for another two years. The existing project is also piloting a Meal Time Companion Scheme and accompanying Social Service clients who attend the hospital for treatments.

Learning

During quarter 4 GAVO's Training Team delivered 9 courses and had 105 participants in attendance. Of these nine courses two were accredited and all participants attending these training events achieved the accredited qualification. During this period the training received was Education for Patients Programme (6 week 1 day per week accredited course), Child Protection Awareness x 2 courses, Working with Volunteers/Volunteer Management, Basic First Aid, Adult Mental Health First Aid, Introduction & General Functions of the Social Services & Wellbeing Act, POVA Awareness and CIEH Level 2 Food Safety.

This brings the total number of courses being delivered in the period 2015/16 to: 45 courses with 439 participants in attendance.

There is always an interest in the training being offered and provided in the Caerphilly area with positive outcomes. The training team continue to work closely with partner organisations, attend network events, the Caerphilly Learner Festival Group meeting and regularly attend the Education & Training Forum meetings and the work shop sessions. PQASSO training days have been carried out with the organisations that are working towards the Quality Award. The training manager has also been commissioned to deliver the new Social Services Act training with the Gwent Regional Social Services Workforce team.

The team continues to work closely with the Health & Wellbeing Officer and the Communities First Team. In particular, with the Communities First Health Officers as they roll out the Community Health Champions programme. The Training team co-ordinate and manage this programme on behalf of Public Health Wales' Aneurin Bevan University Health Board locality team. The team were involved with other stakeholders in organising the Community Health Champions Annual Conference which was held in Llancaiach Fawr at the beginning of March 2016.

GAVO's Third Sector Development Officer (funded via the Gwent Office Police Crime Commissioner) organised a range of training courses on 'what is consortia', co-delivered with the Wales Cooperative Centre. These were held in each of the five local authority areas in Gwent. 12 people attended in Caerphilly.

Key data for the year April 2015 – March 2016

Caerphilly	Yearly Target	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	ANNUAL TOTAL
Volunteers Placed	250	82	81	178	113	454
Enquiries good practice in managing volunteers	40	32	37	151	142	632
Website visitors	62000	18399	18379	13954	17426	68158
Enquiries	4000	1353	1964	3437	2930	9684
Trustee Enquiries	500	112	71	59	55	297
Trustee Events	5	0	0	4	1	5
Event participants	120	0	0	177	224	401
Funding advice enquiries	300	42	72	79	80	273
Funding events	7	0	4	5	1	10
Event participants	70	0	16	66	6	88
Funding obtained by groups	£250,000	£76,314	£925,680	£81,250	£87,856	£1,083,244
New orgs/social enterprise developed	30	4	8	10	12	32
Strategic planning groups	35	10	18	10	7	45
Third Sector Networks / forums	10	6	5	16	6	33
Membership	370	370	350	62	71	71

Author: Emily Forbes, Deputy CEO, GAVO emily.forbes@gavowales.org.uk

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VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE - 15TH JUNE 2016

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

REPORT BY: OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR GWENT

Election of New Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent Force Area

Welsh Labour's Jeff Cuthbert has been elected as the new Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Gwent and has vowed to ensure that the principles of social justice and fairness become the cornerstone of policing practice in the region.

After the poll went to a second round of votes, Mr Cuthbert secured a total of 96,030 votes overall, over 36,000 more than his closest rival. In only the second ever PCC election, voter turnout in Gwent increased to 42% compared to 12.97% overall in the first PCC elections in 2012. Louise Brown who was running as a candidate for the Welsh Conservatives came second with 59,931 votes and Plaid Cymru's Darren Jones was in third place with 37,916 votes.

Former Welsh Government Minister, Jeff Cuthbert, has stood down as the Assembly Member for Caerphilly, a position he has held since 2003. His term of office as Commissioner will last four years and he will be responsible for representing the people of Gwent and making sure the service provided by the police is efficient and effective.

The Commissioner's priorities for policing in Gwent will include:

- Providing more of a visible police presence on our streets and in our communities;
- Ensuring that crimes such as domestic abuse, hate crime, child exploitation, and modern slavery are given the attention that they deserve;
- Developing and maintaining good community cohesion;
- Working with the Voluntary Sector to inform on-going policies and practices;
- Working with the Chief Constable so that the principles of social justice become the cornerstone of police practice;
- Working with the Welsh Government and the devolved public services on practical issues of support such as the provision of the additional Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) for Gwent.

Mr Cuthbert swore an oath of office in order to set out publicly his commitment to tackling his new role with integrity and impartiality. The Commissioner aims to be a "visible" and "inclusive" PCC and has vowed to ensure that the principles of social justice and fairness become the cornerstone of policing practice in the region.

Victims Champion Co-ordinator

Johanna Robinson has been appointed as the new Coordinator for the Connect Gwent victim's hub - the first ever multi-agency service of its kind in Wales which provides positive and lasting support to victims of crime, helping them to cope and recover. Based in Blackwood, the Connect Gwent hub was launched by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Gwent, Ian Johnston, in May 2015. The service has brought together a range of agencies and organisations under one roof to provide enhanced support for victims of crime.

Johanna's role is designed to ensure victims are supported inside and outside the criminal justice process and that they receive the support, information and guidance they need to cope with their victimisation and recover from it. Johanna has more than 20 years of experience working in support services for vulnerable people and aims to make a positive difference to the lives of victims of crime in Gwent. The role will include ensuring the hub runs smoothly, provides a quality service to all victims of crime and fully complies with the victims' code of practice.

Tackling Mate Crime

In support of national Mental Health Awareness Week (16-22 May 2016), Gwent PCC Jeff Cuthbert and the Chief Constable of Gwent Police, Jeff Farrar visited the Connect Gwent victims' hub in Blackwood. They met with a number of victims of crime with mental health requirements to find out how the hub is making a positive difference to their lives. The Hub has a Specialist Mental Health Practitioner from the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) based at Connect Gwent. Since April 2015, 243 victims have been referred to the Hub for psychiatric help.

One of the victims the PCC and the Chief met during their visit was 52 year old from Cwmbran. The person was a victim of 'mate crime' - a form of hate crime in which a vulnerable person is manipulated or abused by someone they believed to be their friend. Mate crime is often difficult for police to investigate due to its sometimes sensitive nature and campaigners believe the problem is far more widespread than is currently reported.

The victim, who has both physical and mental health requirements, had been expressing concern that items were going missing from his home and he didn't understand why. It was subsequently discovered that people were stealing from him. The crime had a dramatic impact on the victim's confidence and trust in people. The ABUHB Specialist Practitioner provided appropriate support and the victim has been able to cope and recover from their ordeal. Connect Gwent aims to support one of the most vulnerable groups of people in the community - people with mental health conditions who are victims of crime.

Protecting Our Elderly

Whether it's through the post, on the doorstep, via the internet or over the telephone, unscrupulous scammers have found a way to invade and destroy every aspect of the lives of older and vulnerable people by duping them out of their precious assets and savings.

The Facts: Scams Against Older People

- Only 5% of these crimes are reported;
- The average age of a scam victim is 74, showing that criminals tend to prey on older and often more vulnerable members of society;
- Studies have proven that vulnerable adults defrauded in their own home lose confidence and are 2.4 times more likely to either die or go into residential care;
- Scams cost the UK economy between £5-10 Billion a year;
- The stress and pain of victimisation often results in depression, withdrawal and isolation from family and friends and the deterioration of physical and mental health;
- In some cases victims have been known to either consider, attempt or commit suicide.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for Gwent and Gwent Police hosted in April a '*Protecting Our Elderly Together*' seminar in conjunction with Age Cymru Gwent. The Older People's Commissioner for Wales, Sarah Rochira attended the event to promote the Wales Against Scams Partnership (WASP) and to develop partnership working to protect older people against scams and swindles. The aim is to work with partners in the community to raise awareness of things people can do to protect themselves and their properties and provide reassurance to the elderly and those who are most vulnerable.

The OPCC and Gwent Police developed a regional action plan and worked closely with Trading Standards to build a list of more than 1,100 people in Gwent who are prone to scams. The list has

been circulated to each local authority in Gwent. Specialist agencies based at the Connect Gwent victims' hub in Blackwood are also contacting some of the most at risk people to help provide specialist advice.

New Stalking Awareness Campaign

In March 2016, Gwent PCC Ian Johnston officially launched a new national campaign and film aimed at highlighting the danger posed by men who stalk their ex-partners. The PCC funded and supported #TroubleWithAnEx which is being run by the Network for Surviving Stalking charity.

The campaign includes a 20 minute educational film under the same title which features the story of 44 year old Rachel Williams who was shot by her estranged husband Darren at her hairdressing salon in Newport just six weeks after they split up. Rachel shared her experiences at the launch of the campaign and the first screening of the film which was attended by representatives from a range of organisations that provide support to victims of crime and vulnerable people.

The #TroubleWithAnEx film has been produced by Jane Harvey from the Network for Surviving Stalking charity and highlights the warning signs often missed by women who have left an abusive relationship. The film aims to educate potential victims and their families so that they can identify obsessive stalking behaviour as soon as possible and seek appropriate help. The campaign is accompanied by downloadable and printable information leaflets.

Gwent police collaborated on the production of the film and a specific training version for police officers and staff, including first responders and call handlers who provide support for victims, has been produced. The film is being piloted within Gwent Police and will be distributed to all UK forces.

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

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VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE - 15TH JUNE 2016

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

REPORT BY: UPDATE FROM CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

AGM Update

Cllr Dianne Price (Bargoed ward) was elected as the new Mayor for 2016/17 at the council's AGM 12th May 2016. Cllr John Bevan (Moriah ward) was elected as the Deputy Mayor.

Outgoing Mayor Cllr Leon Gardiner thanked everyone for helping to raise £17,200 for his charity appeal (Macmillan Cancer Support and Ty Hafan).

The Leader also announced his Cabinet, with one change being the addition of Cllr Derek Havard as the new Cabinet Member for Education.

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VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE - 15TH JUNE 2016

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY PLANNING QUARTERLY BRIEFING APRIL TO JUNE 2016

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

2. SUMMARY

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

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

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

4. THE REPORT

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

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Promoting equalities is a fundamental part of community planning, and is an integral part of *Caerphilly Delivers the Single Integrated Plan 2013-2017*.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None arising.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 The report is for information and not consultation.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 The report is for information only.

10. STATUTORY POWER

10.1 Local Government Act 2000.

Author: Jackie Dix - Policy Officer, 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 April to June 2016

Appendix 1 Community Planning Quarterly Briefing April to June 2016

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

Community Planning (Paul Cooke & Alison Palmer)

communityplanning@caerphilly.gov.uk

Caerphilly Local Service Board – the final meeting of the Board took place on 8th March 2016. Members received presentations on: the Learning Caerphilly Outcome of *Caerphilly Delivers the Single Integrated Plan*, featuring the Lansbury Park Education Initiative, and also a presentation on the Local Service Board sponsored Information Sharing Project.

The Caerphilly Local Service Board Standing Conference on 22nd March 2016 entitled *The Caerphilly We Want* focussed on informing the wider partnership about the aims of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the wider responsibilities for working in a more sustainable way to achieve the seven well-being goals the Act sets out: A Prosperous Wales, A Resilient Wales, A Healthier Wales, A More Equal Wales, A Wales of Cohesive Communities, A Wales of Vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language, and A Globally Responsible Wales. Speakers from the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner and Welsh Local Government Association were followed by a presentation and workshop by Dr Alan Netherwood for helping participants consider planning for the future up to 2040.

Introducing Caerphilly Public Services Board - from the 1st April 2016, as a result of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act coming into force, the Local Service Board became the *Public Services Board* and a statutory body. The membership has also changed, with four statutory members:

- Caerphilly County Borough Council, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Natural Resources Wales and South Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

There is also a second tier of *invited* participants:

- Gwent Police, Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner, Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations, Community Rehabilitation Company, National Probation Service.

The Public Services Board (PSB) at its first meeting on 7th June 2016 will confirm its new terms of reference, and the full membership of the Board, consider a new PSB website to replace the Local Service Board website, and receive an update report on work underway around the Caerphilly borough local assessment of well-being.

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 29

Future Generations Champion – Cllr Ken James, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development, has been appointed as the Council's Future Generations Champion.

Re-launch of Caerphilly Voluntary Sector Forum - this took place on the 13th May 2016 in Pengam. After extensive consultation and review of the previous forum structure during 2015 the membership decided to go for a single, centrally place forum meeting held quarterly instead of the three regional meetings that had been held three or four times a year in each area.

The meeting received an update on voluntary sector activity across the Caerphilly county borough and the Gwent area and a presentation introducing the Future Generations Act from Paul Cooke, Senior Policy Officer, Caerphilly County Borough Council, before a workshop session was undertaken exploring what information third sector organisations might be able to provide to support the local well-being assessment required under the Future Generations legislation.

Prosperous Caerphilly (Antony Bolter)

regeneration@caerphilly.gov.uk

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

Business Support and Funding - local businesses can apply for a *Business Development Grant* of up to £2,000 or a *Business Start Up Grant* of up to £500 to help set up or expand. Small Medium Enterprises (under 250 employees) or business start ups in most business sectors can be considered. The business must be established in the Caerphilly county borough, or the individual a resident of Caerphilly County Borough and setting up a business in the borough.

For more details about the grant, or for a discussion on how to apply, please contact the Council's Business Support and Funding Team on 01443 866222 or email business@caerphilly.gov.uk

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

What is Rent Smart Wales?

Rent Smart Wales is a newly created service within Cardiff Council. The Welsh Ministers designated Cardiff Council as the Licensing Authority for Wales. In its role as Licensing Authority under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, the Rent Smart Wales service processes the compulsory landlord registrations, and grant licences to landlords and agents.

The reason the Welsh Government chose one Council to act as administrator for the whole of Wales is to make the service easier for landlords, agents and tenants to access. The central register means that landlords only have to complete one registration and if they self manage only apply for one licence. The same applies to agents, who need only apply for one licence.

The Licensing Authority will work with Local Authorities in Wales to carry out their functions under the Act. In some cases the local authority will lead enforcement action against those landlords and agents not complying with their legal obligations on behalf of the Licensing Authority.

For further information please see the Rent Smart Wales leaflet -

https://www.rentsmart.gov.wales/Uploads/Downloads/00/00/00/17/DownloadFileEN_FILE/26777_RSW-A5-leaflet_WEB-E-.pdf

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

Two Communities First case studies are given below illustrating how tailored support is being provided to help local people back into paid work:

Communities First Case Study 1

Patricia Griffiths is 50 years old and lives in Abercarn. She left school with 5 CSE's and is in good health. For over 27 years, Patricia worked as a mobile cleaner for the Royal Mail before taking voluntary redundancy. Patricia was not sure what to do next in terms of work, but was adamant that she wanted to do something different from cleaning. She was, however, open minded to a variety of possibilities.

Patricia's first step was visiting the Blackwood Miners Job Fair, which was set up by Bridges into Work 2, where she met Communities First Employment Officer, Deb Whitty. After enrolling with Communities First, she completed a number of courses including:

- Food hygiene
- First aid at work
- Manual handling
- Fire safety
- Health and safety.

Patricia was also supported in improving her curriculum vitae and had the opportunity to brush up on her interview skills, which was especially important to her as she had been with one employer for such a long period of time, and was out of practice with interview techniques. Patricia's IT skills were also improved by working on accredited level 2 IT courses with Communities First Digital Inclusion officer, Cerian Thomas.

Patricia enjoyed doing the courses and explained:

I enjoyed doing the courses as they gave me a great sense of achievement, an opportunity to meet new people and have broadened my skills set. This was particularly important to me as I was not sure what areas of work I would like to go into. I was delighted to pass all of the exams and found the whole course content to be informative and well organised. The most enjoyable part of the courses was the practical side including using fire extinguishers.

The next step was for Patricia to be enrolled with local recruitment consultants at Staff 24/7. Patricia undertook two mock interviews, which followed feedback on her performance, and concluded that she was enthusiastic, presentable and had done research into areas of work she was interested in. Following the main interview, Patricia was offered a job with Mollertech, who specialises in the manufacturing of car parts. Patricia's main expectation was to be offered a placement. However, she was delighted to be offered a full time position with the firm. The role has given Patricia the opportunity to learn main aspects of car manufacturing and assembly.

Commenting on the role, Patricia added:

I am happy working in this role and have enjoyed my time back in work. After a period of time out of work, it feels great to go back to normality and to have the added incentive of meeting new people, learning new skills and being able to buy nice things.

Deb Whitty, Employment Support Officer, commented:

Patricia has been extremely committed and has always been willing to give things a go even if they were new to her. She has learnt lots of new skills and has worked extremely hard since engaging with Communities First.

Patricia is enjoying the job so much that ideally she would like to stay there until she retires. She has recommended Communities First to her friends and family and believes that Deb's support has been helpful and supportive to her needs.

Communities First Case Study 2

Kristian Osborne is 18 years old and lives in Abertysswg. After leaving school at 16, Kristian left Rhymney Comprehensive with a number of GCSEs and BTEC qualifications. He then went on to Ystrad Mynach College where he completed a two year carpentry course. However, since leaving college he had found looking for work difficult. Since engaging on the LIFT programme (which supports people who have spent more than six months out of work and who face the greatest barriers to becoming employed). Kristian has continued his interest in carpentry and was delighted to have been given a trainee carpentry opportunity at Contract Services in Caerphilly.



Kristian was on the LIFT project for 8 months, during which time he completed the following courses:

- Construction Skills course
- Asbestos Awareness
- Manual Handling
- Health and safety including completing CSCS card
- Practical sessions including plastering.

In order to improve Kristian's opportunities and experience, he was placed on a 5 week employability course with the Fire Service at Aberbargoed Fire Station, which has given him the opportunity to participate in physical work through fire drills, work on his fitness as well as improve on skills such as interview skills.

The employability course, has given Kristian an opportunity to work in a disciplined environment, where physical work is commonplace. This has not only boosted his curriculum vitae, but has broadened his experience and has set a foundation for the type of work he is seeking.

Following Kristian's hard work and the support he had been given, he was delighted to have secured a Jobs Growth Wales vacancy with Contract Services, who work in partnership with Caerphilly County Borough Council's Housing Services in supporting the Welsh Housing Quality

Standard. Kristian attended an interview, which he said went well and was grateful for some of the hints and tips he had learnt from the LIFT employment mentor, Shelia Lillywhite. Kristian demonstrated that the mock interviews he had attended had been helpful.

The opportunity with Contract Services, which was made possible with partnership working with Job Centre Plus, has broadened Kristian's experiences. He has had the opportunity to assist in fitting kitchens, toilets and bathrooms as well as using new carpentry skills.

Kristian comments:

I am enjoying my time at Contract Services and it has given me the opportunity to work as part of a team. My parents are also really pleased that I have found a new job and I have learnt new carpentry skills such as putting in doors and fitting kitchens. Since leaving college, I am enjoying putting what I learnt into practice.

Kristian has made friends at work in Contract Services, and has joined the work football team. Kristian now believes he has a more positive future ahead of him. His next plan is to put money aside and learn to drive, which will open even more opportunities to him. In the meantime, he is particularly enthusiastic about getting on site which will follow after his trainee period.

Healthier Caerphilly (Tracey Deacon, Public Health Wales)

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1. **Living Well Living Longer Programme** - this programme invites residents aged 40-64 years (who are not currently on a chronic disease register), and live in the most deprived areas in the Caerphilly county borough, to receive a cardiovascular risk assessment – a midlife MOT. It started in Caerphilly in December 2015, targeting GP Practices in the north of the borough: Rhymney, New Tredegar, Bargoed, Gelligaer, Markham, Nelson, Ystrad Mynach, Pengam, Fleur De Lys. The programme is also to be delivered in Lansbury Park. To date in the Caerphilly county borough 700 patients have received a health check in a community based clinic, and where appropriate they have been referred back to their GP, or signposted to other services, such as the adult weight management service.
2. **Tobacco control**
 - **Prevention:** 6 schools within the Caerphilly county borough have been identified to participate in a national *Just B* initiative to reduce uptake of smoking in young people. There are three elements:
 - i) Whole School approach to tobacco control with links to the Welsh Network of Healthy Schools;
 - ii) Peer influence model;
 - iii) Young people become aware of the tactics the tobacco industry uses to recruit smokers.
 - **Smoking Cessation**
 - **Stop Smoking Champions Initiative:** 21 GP practices in the Caerphilly county borough have nominated a Stop Smoking Champion to develop a systematic patient referral system to Stop Smoking Wales;
 - **Community Pharmacy Level 3 Enhanced Service:** trained and accredited Community Pharmacists and technicians are now offering specialist advice and behavioural support on a one to one basis. 17 pharmacies are now delivering the scheme in Caerphilly, compared with 4 in 2015/16;
 - **Help 2 Quit Campaign:** ran between January to March 2016, with the Aneurin Bevan Gwent Public Health Team running a campaign using a variety of mediums including

social media, radio adverts and popup shops. The theme of the campaign reinforced stopping smoking and saving money, to be able to afford aspirational items, such as a holiday. It was aimed at the general public and designed to raise awareness of smoking cessation services available, including groups, telephone support and on-line support provided by Stop Smoking Wales, and the 1 to 1 service provided by participating pharmacies.

- **Smoke Free Environments**

- Caerphilly County Borough Council continues to implement test sales to young people, but no sales have been recorded in this period, which is positive. Test purchases now need to be intelligence led – a low number of intelligence leads indicates a smaller problem restricted to a core number of premises;
- Illegal Tobacco Campaign *Cheap tobacco get kids hooked* continues to run throughout the Caerphilly county borough. In 2015-16 there were 22 intelligence reports, 11 of which were actionable.

3. Large Scale Change Programme - this 3 year programme, which commenced in September 2015, is targeting inactive women aged 14-40 years, and resident in communities of high multiple deprivation (centred on Communities First clusters) in the Gwent Heads of the Valleys, for example, Rhymney and Bargoed. The aims include inactive women becoming active every day, and achieving active, healthy, connected people in vibrant communities fit for future generations. The following progress has been made so far:

- **Programme Board and Working Group established:** partners include the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Public Health Wales, Caerphilly County Borough Council, Communities First, GAVO, Gwent Education Achievement Service and Natural Resources Wales;
- **The LSC Academy established:** with nearly 100 new *leaders* attending. Participants have identified key actions and are developing action plans to achieve change;
- **Community Hub set up in Caerphilly North:** hubs are populated by local people who have a stake in ensuring a fitter, more active, healthier and better connected community. They believe in the benefits of being active, are passionate about making it happen and can reach and mobilise their communities;
- **Social Insight Research conducted:** to understand the barriers and motivations for physical activity. A brand will now be created that will engage women and girls, and which will develop accurate and targeted messaging to make being physical activity the social norm;
- **Evaluation:** Street Games have been commissioned to provide an evaluation baseline and develop an evaluation protocol.

Learning Caerphilly (Sarah Mutch)

familiesfirst@caerphilly.gov.uk

Families First, Communities First, Supporting People and Flying Start - have continued to work together with their partner organisations to offer diverse opportunities for children, young people, adults and families. In the summer there will be four family play days with the fifth big event held in Morgan Jones Park on 3rd August for National Play Day.

Communities First continues to work successfully with Street Games to offer accredited sports courses supporting volunteers locally in their communities.

The Parent Network has been funded to work with parents across the Caerphilly county borough to create their own series of fun reading books for children, sharing them with local schools, libraries and families.

The Flying Start programme has increased to cover more areas reaching more than 2,500 children aged 0-3 and their families. Families First projects support families living outside of the Flying Start areas, for example, Parenting and Family Support, or the Assisted Places scheme that helps vulnerable children with development delays to access childcare for a short period of time before they go to Nursery.

Supporting Family Change project works with families to help them manage the support from different organisations and not feel overwhelmed. They have had good success and engagement rates.

The Family Workers in Flying Start, St James Primary School and St Martins Comprehensive are working together with the Lansbury community to support the children and young people to feel more engaged and settled in school so they are able to take up all the learning opportunities that are offered.

The Youth Service has a range of funding streams enabling them to offer a wide range of services for young people including the universal Youth Centres, to more specific support for young people who are less engaged in their communities, or young parents supporting them to access vocational courses and then begin to access more local community based provision. Funded projects have been launched, to help adults towards employment through training and support programmes including, Bridges into Work 2, Communities 4 work, and Lift. Low skilled working adults are being supported through Working Skills for Adults 2.

Adult Education - has continued to support 813 adults by delivering vocational courses in the community, with 95% of participants successfully completing them. The service has also delivered Essential Skills courses, with 325 learners gaining qualifications. Recently the new European Social Fund and Welsh Government funded projects have been launched, to help adults towards employment through training and support programmes including, Bridges into Work 2, Communities 4 work, and Lift. Low skilled working adults are being supported through Working Skills for Adults 2.

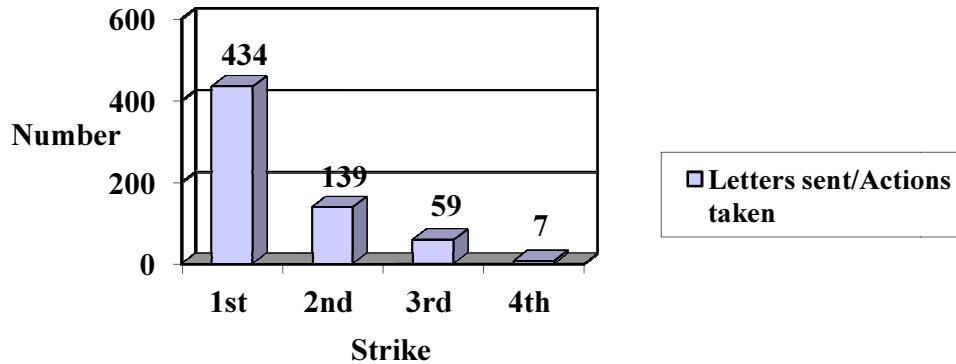
Safer Caerphilly (Natalie Kenny)

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Safer Caerphilly Anti-Social Behaviour 4 Strike Process

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 commenced on 20th October 2014. This legislation introduced a range of new tools and powers to address anti-social behaviour. The well established Safer Caerphilly Anti-Social Behaviour 4 Strike Process used in the Caerphilly county borough remains relatively unchanged, but has incorporated the changes brought about by the new Act. This is a multi agency process which seeks to address perpetrators of anti-social behaviour (ASB) whilst also providing support to victims and witnesses. Throughout April 2015 to March 2016 the following number of interventions to address ASB took place:

4 Strike Figures April 2015 - March 2016



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 the Anti-Social Behaviour Order was utilised at the Strike 4 stage. However, under the new legislation the Civil Injunction is now used by Safer Caerphilly for individuals who fail to engage with the process or to moderate their behaviour. During April 2015 to March 2016 the partnership were successful in obtaining seven Injunctions.

Partnership Communications

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

- **Project Bernie**

The Safer Caerphilly Fire Safety Action Team has now implemented *Project Bernie 2016*. Project Bernie is based on a social marketing concept, which aims to reduce deliberate grass fires by addressing behaviours and attitudes within the community. The project was officially launched at the Morrison's store in Bargoed on 18th March and was attended by all partners. Over 350 shoppers supported the scheme and signed up to the Bernie pledge.

The project ran for the two weeks of the Easter holiday period in the Bargoed area. The project included patrols of the area and numerous youth activities including an Emergency Services day held at the Hanger in Aberbargoed. All of the activities focused on addressing the problem of deliberate grass fires and the consequences.

- **Junior Community Safety Warden Scheme**

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



Community Safety Warden Smith & Pearson visiting Twyn Primary School

If you would like more information on this scheme or would like to see a video of one of the sessions please visit the website at: <https://your.caerphilly.gov.uk/saferccb/junior-wardens/junior-wardens>

- **Safer Caerphilly Twitter**

The Safer Caerphilly Partnership Twitter account [@SaferCaerphilly](https://twitter.com/SaferCaerphilly) continues to gain followers and provide community safety messages and updates whilst also promoting the Safer Caerphilly brand.

The following is an example of a recent tweet:

Community Safety Wardens confiscated 75 items of alcohol from underage drinkers last night in Newbridge & Crosskeys



This tweet received over 1,800 impressions

The account currently has 641 followers and received 141.1k impressions between April 2015 to March 2016

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

- **Prevent Training**

In July 2015 the Government introduced new legislation to address terrorism. The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places specific duties on local authorities and other agencies to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. The Prevent duty guidance for specified

authorities in England and Wales sets out duties for each of the authorities. For local authorities the guidance states that in fulfilling the new duty, local authorities should be carrying out activity in certain areas including the following:

- Ensure appropriate frontline staff, including contractors, have a good understanding of Prevent, and are trained to recognise vulnerability to being drawn into terrorism, and are aware of available programmes to deal with this issue.

The Home Office recently made available £10,000 grants to local authorities to assist with the implementation of the new duties. The grant has been used in the Caerphilly county borough to buy in specialist training which covered the ideology of far right and Islamist extremism. The full day training sessions were offered to key front line staff of Social Services, Education, Housing, Youth Services and Community Safety and nearly 100 staff attended the sessions. A training session has also been held for 100 Head Teachers in April 2016. Approximately 400 Caerphilly County Borough Council staff have now received training. Training sessions will continue to be arranged for staff throughout the year to work towards meeting the legislative duties.

If you require any further information regarding Prevent, please contact Natalie Kenny, Community Safety Officer on kennyn@caerphilly.gov.uk or 01495 235442.

50+ Positive Action (Mandy Sprague)

50plus@caerphilly.gov.uk

Dignity, Respect and Age Equality

- To mark World Elder Abuse awareness day on the 15th June 2016 the online access to 5 Keeping Safe films was launched. You can watch them via the Caerphilly Over 50 forum website <http://caerphillyover50.co.uk/what-is-abuse-and-who-can-help/> Please share this link as widely as you can. If you would like a hard copy of the DVD with all 5 films please contact Mandy Sprague on telephone: 01443 864277

Caerphilly County Borough 50+ forum

- The Forum has produced their spring *Natter That Matters* newsletter, which is available from a range of locations around the Caerphilly county borough if you would like copies please contact Mandy Sprague on telephone: 01443 864277
- The *Simon Says* cartoon social media campaigns are being launched monthly on different topics. The April Pension Credit cartoon had over 20,000 views. The June campaign is timed for Carers week and is trying to raise awareness that Attendance Allowance is not means tested, and encourages people to find out more. Please share these via Facebook & Twitter
- The Forum is linking up with the Rhondda Cynon Taff 50+ Forum to explore their 50+ discount scheme to see if it might be possible to implement a similar scheme in the Caerphilly county borough.
- The Forum is looking for a people who would like to be more actively involved to ensure their work can progress. There are opportunities to get involved in a range of capacities both formal and informal - if you are interested please contact Mandy Sprague on telephone: 01443 864277

Living Longer Ageing Well

- In June an evaluation of the 50+ Positive action information board pilot in GP surgeries will be completed, and circulated to key stakeholders.
- For those of you who care for someone or are living with dementia you might like to visit the Reminiscence pods, in the 1970's living room in the Winding House, New Tredegar and the Vintage Pub in Caerphilly Library where they are accessible to the public.

- The Chair of the Caerphilly 50+ Forum has been invited to join the Older people's Champions on a quarterly basis to review work around Living Longer Ageing Well.

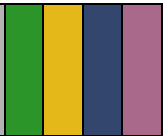
For more information please contact Mandy Sprague on telephone: 01443 864277 or email spragm@caerphilly.gov.uk



ARE YOU ONE OF THE 94,000 PENSIONERS NOT CLAIMING YOUR £34 PENSION CREDIT?



Greener Caerphilly (Paul Cooke)
sustainabledevelopment@caerphilly.org.uk



Greener Caerphilly Outcome G1: Improving local environmental quality

Invasive Species

Caerphilly County Borough Council's Countryside Services and Park Services organised work on the Crumlin Arm of the Monmouth to Brecon Canal to clear invasive species. The main invasive species removed were Parrot's Feather and Water Hyacinth. Parrot's Feather was introduced into Wales in the 20th century as an ornamental pond plant, however, it spreads easily and has escaped from gardens into lakes and rivers. It is a particular problem in canals where it forms a dense mat on the surface and eventually clogs the entire watercourse. Water Hyacinth is also an escapee from gardens and is one of the fastest growing plants known. It also forms a floating mass and clogs waterways. In total the project cleared 1.6 kilometres of canal between Darren Road, Risca, in the north to just beyond Thistle Way, Ty Sign in the south.

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

Sirhowy Valley Honey BEES (Bees Educating Eco Schools) - with support from the Greener Caerphilly Small grants Fund, a partnership project has installed an interactive viewable bee hive classroom at Ynysddu Primary School. The classroom has a viewing area and a separate

hive area containing 3 hives and bee colonies. A target of 45 school workshops for 1,200 pupils, and 30 community workshops has been set for the project for 2016/17

Greener Caerphilly Outcome G3: Maximising the use of the environment for health benefits

Support and promote water related activities

Natural Resources Wales have stocked the pond at Cwmcarn Forest Drive with coarse fish, including Carp, Rudd and Roach. This has enabled the local fishing club to hold regular Saturday morning drop in sessions for taster angling sessions to increase the number of people participating in the sport. Natural Resource Wales have also stocked Pen y Fan Pond with brown trout from their hatchery at Cynrig.