



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

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