



## Community Planning Quarterly Briefing July to September 2015

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

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

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### **Caerphilly Local Service Board Standing Conference *Not Standing***

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



LSB 31st Standing  
Conference Report 12

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

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

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

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



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

**Prosperous Caerphilly (Antony Bolter)**

[regeneration@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:regeneration@caerphilly.gov.uk)

## TOURISM

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

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

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

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

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

## UPPER RHYMNEY VALLEY PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## CAERPHILLY BASIN PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES

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

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

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

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

The following training programmes were also delivered:

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

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

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

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

#### **Short Courses:**

**Food Safety Level 2:** 9<sup>th</sup> October, Caerphilly Library

**Health & Safety in the Workplace Level 2:** 21<sup>st</sup> October, Caerphilly Library

**Emergency First Aid in the workplace Level 2:** 26<sup>th</sup> October, Caerphilly Library

**HACCP Level 2:** 28<sup>th</sup> October, Caerphilly Library.

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

#### **MID VALLEYS EAST COMMUNITIES FIRST TEAM**

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

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

## **GET CAERPHILLY ONLINE**

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

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

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

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

## **CAERPHILLY AND BLAENAU GWENT CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU**

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

## CAB Outreach Venues and Opening Times

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

**Safer Caerphilly (Kathryn Peters & Natalie Kenny)**

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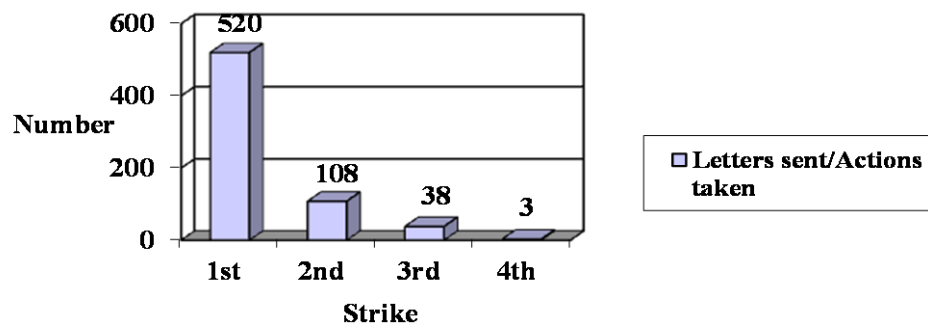


### Safer Caerphilly Anti-Social Behaviour 4 Strike Process

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 commenced on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014. This legislation introduced a range of new tools and powers to address anti-social behaviour. The well established Safer Caerphilly Anti-Social Behaviour 4 Strike Process used at Caerphilly County Borough Council remains relatively unchanged but has incorporated the changes brought about by the new Act. This is a multi agency process which seeks to address perpetrators of anti-

social behaviour (ASB) whilst also providing support to victims and witnesses. Throughout 2014/15 the following number of interventions to address ASB took place:

#### 4 Strike Figures 2014-2015



These figures illustrate the success of the first 3 strikes of the process (which include letters to the perpetrator, acceptable behavior contracts, mentoring programmes and support from various agencies including Housing, Social Services, Education, Youth Services and Positive Futures) in deterring future ASB. Under the previous legislation more than 90 full Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) were granted across Caerphilly county borough as a last resort in addressing this type of behaviour. The new legislation replaces ASBOs with a Civil Injunction which will be utilised at the Strike 4 stage of the process if necessary.

#### Public Space Protection Order's

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 also brought in a new power called Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) for local authorities to deal with ASB problems in geographical areas. By imposing conditions on the use of an area the aim is to ensure that the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces, safe from ASB.

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

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



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

### **ASB Victim Services Manager**

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

### **After Dark Initiative**

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

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

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

### **Safer Caerphilly Twitter**

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

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

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

## EXAM SUCCESS

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

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

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

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

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

## WELSH GROUP LEARNERS OF THE YEAR AWARD

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

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

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

## **INTEGRATED FAMILY LEARNING**

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

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

## **PROGRAMME COLLABORATION GROUP**

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

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

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

The key responsibilities of the Group are to:

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

## COMMON OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

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

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

Further details can be obtained from the Families First team email: [familiesfirst@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:familiesfirst@caerphilly.gov.uk)

## GWENT ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

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

## YOUTH ENGAGEMENT & PROGRESSION OF NEETS

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

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

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

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

**Healthier Caerphilly (Catherine Gregory)**

[HSCWB@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:HSCWB@caerphilly.gov.uk)

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

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

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

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

**Greener Caerphilly (Paul Cooke)**

[sustainabledevelopment@caerphilly.org.uk](mailto:sustainabledevelopment@caerphilly.org.uk)

### **Greener Outcome G1 – *Improving local environmental quality***

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

Events took place at the following locations:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **50+ Positive Action (Mandy Sprague)**

[50plus@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:50plus@caerphilly.gov.uk)

#### **Dignity, Respect and Age Equality**

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

#### **Caerphilly County Borough 50+ Forum**

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

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

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

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