



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.

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