



## **VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE - 15TH JUNE 2016**

**SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR**

**REPORT BY: UPDATE FROM GWENT ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS**

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### **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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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 Well0being 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

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