



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN
ON WEDNESDAY 15TH JUNE 2016 AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

Mr R.H Cooke – Chair

Councillors:

J. Bevan, P.J. Bevan, P. Cook, R.W. Gough, P. Griffiths, K. James, A. Lewis, D.W.R Preece, R. Woodyatt

Together with:

Abertridwr Community Church	-	Mr. L. Clay
Age Concern Gwent	-	Ms. D. Johnston
Caerphilly 50+ Forum	-	Mr. D. Morgan
Caerphilly Parents & Carers Forum	-	Mrs. B. Helps
Cancer Careline	-	Mr. A. Read
GAVO	-	Mr R.H Cooke
Groundwork Wales	-	Ms. K. Stevenson
Homestart Caerphilly Borough	-	Mrs. M. Snowden
The Parent Network	-	Ms. M. Jones
The Vanguard Centre	-	Mrs. M. Wade
Van Road United Reformed Church	-	Mr. J. Wade
VOLUME	-	Mr. D. Brunton

Also present:

J. Dix (CCBC), P. Cooke (CCBC), K. Peters (CCBC), A. Dredge (CCBC), A. Palmer (CCBC/GAVO), Bronwen John (Aneurin Bevan University Board), R. Hassett (South Wales Fire & Rescue Service), Mr J Goldsworthy (Natural Resources Wales) and Mr. M. Featherstone (GAVO)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. E.M Aldworth, D.G Carter, C Hawker, and also from, H. Billington (Abbeyfield Caerphilly Society Ltd), J. Price (Bargoed YMCA), P. Jones (Caerphilly Care and Repair), C. Luke (Caerphilly People First), E. Forbes (GAVO) L. Jones (Menter Iaith), C. Loring (Right from the Start), S. Jones (Scope), S. Crane & C. Gregory (Aneurin Bevan University Health Board), Chief Inspector N. McLain (Gwent Police), Mr. H. Llewellyn (Town & Community Council Representative), M Chapman and J Reed (Office of the Gwent Police & Crime Commissioner for Gwent).

2. TO ELECT A CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

In the absence of the Chair - Cllr D. Carter, the meeting was open by the Vice Chair – R.H Cooke. The Committee moved for Bob Cooke to be appointed as Chair, and Cllr Carter as Vice Chair of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee. Bob Cooke paid tribute to Cllr Carter as Chair of the Committee for the previous year's term.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations received at the beginning or during the course of the meeting.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 2016 were accepted as a true record. There were the following matters arising:

Policy Unit restructure - Jackie Dix (JD) updated on the restructure noting that Kathryn Peters (in attendance) was the new Corporate Policy Manager and Paul Cooke (in attendance) the new Senior Policy Officer. JD informed that she was still the key liaison person for the committee, and around the workings of the Compact Agreement. JD introduced Amy Dredge (Legal Assistant) to the committee, who from September 2016 will be providing committee support.

Compact Review – JD noted that the next two meetings of the Compact Review Group will be taking place on 11th August at 2pm, and 11th October at 10am both in Penallta House. JD encouraged more members of the committee to participate in the Compact Review Group.

Welsh Government's working group on the third sector scheme – an update from GAVO who sit on the group was requested to inform the work of the Compact Review Group, and to be reported to the September meeting of the committee.

Natural Resources Wales representation – Jon Goldsworthy was welcome to his first meeting of the committee representing Natural Resources Wales, who have been invited by the committee to become a Compact Partner. It was noted that Natural Resources Wales now sits on all the Public Services Boards in Wales (formerly Local Service Boards).

Caerphilly County Borough Assessment of Local Well-being – JD updated that she was working with Alison Palmer to hold a special event on this assessment for members of the committee to impart their views.

Local Government re-organisation – JD updated that Mark Drakeford, the new Minister for Finance and Local Government has confirmed he is looking to explore a new way forward regarding local government reform, not based on the current map in the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill. He has stressed his intent to develop strong relationships built on trust with local government and the WLGA. He intends to visit all councils by early autumn, having already visited authorities in North Wales, enabling him to listen to local government leaders before considering the long-term approach.

The Minister wants to explore how local government is taking forward innovation through the new regional partnerships around the Cardiff City Region Deal, Swansea Bay City Region, the North Wales Economic Ambition Board, Mersey Dee Alliance and Growing Mid Wales Partnership (being the Welsh Government Minister with oversight of City Deals). These are based on local councils coming together at the regional level. The developments have been locally led, are maturing quickly and have the potential to offer benefits to local communities

without the costs of major local government re-organisation. The Minister stressed the vital importance of the new regional arrangements in the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act in this respect. The Minister is also responsible for the Future Generations Act.

In discussion with the WLGA the Minister has noted there are elements of the Draft Bill that he would like to press ahead with if an agreement could be found such as the new improvement framework for councils, and power of general competence. He felt that the Draft Bill was lacking, however, in terms of emphasis upon citizen responsibility and the role of communities in service models.

5. LAUNCH OF COMPACT ACTION PLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16, AND GRANT SCHEMES BOOKLET 2016-17

Cllr Ken James (Cabinet Member Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development welcomed members to this special meeting of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee, which was seeing the launch of the Compact Action Plan Annual Report. Cllr James noted it was good to see representatives from so many key agencies present, because the success of the Compact is dependent on effective partnership working to deliver benefits for the local community. Cllr James stated I am sure that all are proud to be associated with the Compact Annual Report and the impressive list of achievements it contains. He noted that the Annual Report is full of positive case studies and examples of how residents are benefitting in so many different ways thanks to the collaborative approach. He commented that I would like to thank you all for your contribution, and would ask you to convey this appreciation to everyone in your organisation who has played a part in this success.

He noted that in looking forward, work is underway to update the Compact Agreement for the next four years, taking into account the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act. The new Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales and replaces Local Service Boards with Public Services Boards. The new Caerphilly Public Services Board will be required to oversee an assessment of local well-being, which must be published by April 2017. From this, a local well-being plan will be formed, setting key priorities for partnership working in the future. He stressed to succeed in this, the close partnership work of the Compact Partners will be essential, and this will be the focus of the work of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee over the next four years.

Cllr James then proceeded to announce the launch of the new Grant Schemes Booklet for 2016/17. He noted that this useful publication provides a wealth of information on the grants available to support community groups, individuals and business across the county borough, and was sure that it will be put to good use in helping draw down funding for many positive schemes and projects.

In closing, Cllr James noted he would again like to thank all Compact Partners for the success of the partnership working, noting he will look forward to working again with Compact Partners in strengthening this bond even further in the future.

The Chair, Bob Cooke (BC) thanked Cllr James for launching the Compact Annual Report and Grant Schemes Booklet. He noted that right from the beginning of the authority in 1996 the work between the Voluntary Sector and the Council had been exemplary, with the compact working acknowledged as good practice by the Welsh Government, Wales Council for Voluntary Action and the Welsh Local Government Association. BC urged more committee members to get involved with the Compact Review Group.

Cllr R. Gough requested that Mark Drakeford, the new Minister for Finance and Local Government, is sent a copy of the Compact Agreement and Compact Action Plan Annual Report.

6. COMMUNITIES FIRST FUNDED HEALTH PROJECTS

Bronwen John (BJ) Head of Partnerships, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) explained that the Communities First Health Projects were directly linked to the Healthier Caerphilly outcome of *Caerphilly Delivers the Single Integrated Plan 2013-2017*. BJ stated that the main form of delivery is through the General Practitioner cluster of Neighbourhood Networks (NCNs) in Caerphilly. There are three NCNs in the borough covering the north, east and south of the borough. Communities First are in attendance at these cluster meetings, which helps aid GP awareness of services provided by Communities First such as: X-Per Prevention of diabetes (diabetes prevention/management project), Foodwise (a weight management programme). The ABUHB provided *kit funding* for such projects, which provides equipment such as projectors.

Cllr P.J Bevan raised concerns with lack of dialysis for the treatment of kidney disease, and asked if kit funding could be provided for this. BJ responded that this was not possible, as the ABUHB only had £100,000 a year for NCNs to deliver Single Integrated Plan priorities.

Cllr D.W.R Preece noted that diabetes could commence in young age, and queried how much intervention was going into schools to teach children correct eating habits. BJ responded that kids with diabetes type 1 were provided with the support of the school's nurse.

Cllr D.W.R Preece further queried around school based interventions for children with a high Body Mass Index (BMI), and asked what was happening. BJ responded that this has been subject to much work by Public Health Wales who had been talking to all Public Services Boards around developing childhood obesity plans, and had published *10 Steps to a Health Weight* to tackle this in schools. The Aneurin Bevan University Health Board has also published a Gwent Childhood Obesity Strategy - *Fit for future Generations Obesity Strategy for Gwent Childhood to 2015*. Martin Featherstone (MF) commented that a presentation had been given to Caerphilly Public Services Board on this strategy. BJ also noted that NCNs will adopt obesity as one of their key themes for this year.

Following the committee meeting this additional update was given by Catherine Gregory, ABUHB:

NCNs in Caerphilly will continue to work closely with Communities First in strengthening links with their projects and making referrals/signposting into them. Communities First and GAVO representation will continue on the NCN membership across Caerphilly with all relevant information on the services and initiatives disseminated and circulated to all practices and partners. A meeting is to take place in August with Susanne Maddax (Health and Social Care Facilitator, GAVO) which is set specifically to discuss and agree future working with the Voluntary Sector and for NCN presentations linked to the NCN agenda, making it more meaningful. Feedback from this meeting will be provided to the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee.

7. WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE THIRD SECTOR IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

Kathryn Peters (KP) Corporate Policy Manager responded to this question from the Voluntary Sector Representatives. She informed that the Future Generations Act came into effect from 1st April 2016, with a set of statutory guidance produce in making sense of the requirements. She emphasised that people and communities are at the heart of this legislation, which is looking at both generational and collaborative change. KP stated that the Voluntary Sector, was at the heart of communities, with key linkages to the diversity of groups making up communities. KP referred to Martin Featherstone (Chief Executive Officer, GAVO) as sitting on Caerphilly Public Services Board, representing the Voluntary Sector, and Alison Palmer (Community Planning Co-ordinator) working jointly for GAVO, and the Council's Policy Unit.

KP explained that just how the *Caerphilly Delivers Single Integrated Plan* structure was reflected in the Compact Agreement and Compact Action Plan, so it would fit with the requirements of the Future Generations Act. KP referred to the local well-being assessment now being directed by Caerphilly Public Services Board that the Voluntary Sector had a key role with in providing qualitative data on what people are telling us about the borough. KP referred to a series of engagement events being held in the five community areas in the borough: Upper Rhymney Valley (incorporating Bargoed), Mid Valleys West, Mid Valleys East, Lower Sirhowy Valley and Caerphilly Basin, over the summer, which voluntary sector organisations will be invited to. She thanked the Voluntary Sector Forum for the qualitative data provided in May 2016 to feed into the local well-being assessment.

KP explained how the local assessment of well-being is required to be published by April 2017, and would feed through into the development of the local well-being plan by April 2018. KP noted that the well-being assessment and plan will be framed around the 7 well-being goals of the Future Generations legislation:

1. A more prosperous Wales
2. A resilient Wales
3. A healthier Wales
4. A more equal Wales
5. A Wales of cohesive communities
6. A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
7. A globally responsible Wales.

At the moment the Single Integrated Plan focuses on five outcomes:

1. Learning Caerphilly
2. Greener Caerphilly
3. Healthier Caerphilly
4. Safer Caerphilly
5. Prosperous Caerphilly.

KP stated the committee will start to see changes as work begins to mirror the 7 well-being goals in both the revised Compact Agreement, and new Compact Action Plans.

Adrian Read (AR) Cancer Careline asked how was this going to work without shared definitions of *well-being* noting this was a potential huge agenda to cover. He noted that Cancer Careline provides support around *well-being*, but notes the difficulties in costing services around this concept given its open-endedness. KP noted there are different definitions of *well-being* stemming from different legislation, but contended that what is important about the Future Generations legislation is that it enshrines being mindful of well-being both now and in the future. Preventative services need to be there right from the start in ensuring future well-being, such as around childhood obesity. KP stressed that the well-being assessment was looking at assets within communities in preventing need further down the line.

Katy Stevenson (KS) Groundwork Wales observed that each voluntary sector organisation in the room would contribute to all 7 well-being goals. KS asserted the importance to come out of silos in look at this – and push up to the Council what the Voluntary Sector is doing around the goals through illustrative case studies.

Dave Brunton (DB) Volume Network noted that young people have two issues: what this generation will leave them, and what say they have in this. DB noted that young people will often have varying needs for support across the board. DB would like to get young people involved out of schools about what they think about the 7 well-being goals in being part of the process.

KP responded that the Act provides for the Public Services Board to include in its analysis the well-being of particular categories of persons, including people who are considered vulnerable or disadvantaged. This would include children and young people with needs. KP noted that in asking young people about what is good and bad in the borough linkages will be made with DB.

Cllr. D.W.R Preece informed that the Youth Forum had recently presented at the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee. He praised their *forward thinking* and commented the Youth Forum was *second to none*.

The Chair emphasised that Compact Partners will all work together around contributing to the local well-being assessment.

8. COMMITTEE DEBATE: HOW CAN THE THIRD SECTOR SUPPORT THE SUSTAINABILITY OF COMMUNITY ASSETS IN THE CAERPHILLY BOROUGH

The Chair invited Richard Davies (RD) Regional Community Asset Transfer Support Officer, GAVO to open the debate. RD briefly gave his background of working with Blaenau Gwent Council in developing a Good Practice Guide for Asset Transfer, which was subsequently adopted by the Welsh Government. In April 2015, GAVO received funding from the Welsh Government to undertake a Gwent region pilot project on Community Asset Transfer Support covering Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Newport, Monmouthshire and Torfaen, which RD is leading. The project has involved: RD talking to local authorities in Gwent; helping organisations develop a sound business plan that includes adequate due diligence before presenting to the local authority; acting as a conduit and independent broker between voluntary sector organisations and local authorities, and ascertaining level of support needed in areas in rolling out RD's role across Wales, with RD submitting a report on this to the Welsh Government by 31st August 2016.

In opening up for debate it was queried if there were any examples of success with asset transfer. RD noted the Good Practice Guide he produced was based on a proven track record on procedure and policy, but it was for local authorities to determine their own policies on asset transfer.

The transfer of the Ty Mynyddislwyn building was raised as a good example of asset transfer from Caerphilly County Borough Council to Groundwork. Katy Stevenson (KS) said Groundwork was one of the first 8 voluntary organisations in Wales to receive a grant from the Big Lottery to develop a robust business plan. In year 5 Groundwork is now realising its business planning in generating its own income to keep the asset transfer sustainable.

It was asked why GAVO and Communities First cannot provide support around asset transfer. RD responded he will be recommending to the Minister Carl Sergeant the level of support he feels is needed gained from his direct observations over the last three years. He said support could come from Communities First and County Voluntary Councils (CVCs) but that was a matter for the Minister.

Martin Featherstone (MF) said it was an opportunity for GAVO to respond to the request from Welsh Government to run a pilot, noting this was a specialist area requiring expertise. MF commented it was not about duplicating what is out there, but about adding value to what is there already, and making best use of resources within the borough.

The Chair invited Colin Jones (CJ) to comment as asset transfer fell within his service area as Head of Property Services. CJ said speaking personally the Welsh Government seemed to think there is a whole range of bodies there to take on community assets, and was not convinced that the whole principle of asset transfer was as solid as what the Welsh Government makes out. In moving forward CJ observed that hybrid solutions could be developed through closer collaboration between councils and community organisations where

a community asset transfer was supported by a robust business case with input from a public service. A public service level of support would need to be balanced to the extent that it plugged any potential capacity gaps whilst still allowing a community organisation to develop and grow with some independence.

Cllr. D.W.R Preece observed that CJ had *hit it on the head* with suggesting hybrid solutions, as they are different degrees as to what the move to shared services could involve. He noted that it was sometimes impossible for services to be profitable, with the bottom line having to be providing for the needs of residents.

Dave Brunton (DB) commented that it was important to stress *the independence of the broker role* between local authorities and voluntary sector organisations in the model being developed.

RD noted he has met with Colin Jones and Steve Hawkins at the Council in developing interest around a hybrid approach. He noted that having the support of local authorities was crucial, as it avoided all the strain being putting on voluntary sector organisations and community groups. Relating back to his experiences with Blaenau Gwent, RD did not initially think they were enough community groups to take on sports and leisure services, but groups did eventually come forward.

Cllr. R. Woodyatt noted how positive the experience of the Council's Ty Mynyddislwyn building asset transfer to Groundwork had been. He emphasised the importance of being realistic on how much money can be raised for long term sustainability of the asset transfer, as while short term grant funding could be obtained, often grants get pulled. RD agreed noting that while grants were important in supporting a service, there was the need for the organisation to secure their own revenue for the day to day running. While pump priming was fine for first 12 months, more solid funding was needed for the long term viability of the asset transfer.

9. COMPACT ACTION PLAN 2016-7

JD alerted that following the Committee's decision at the March meeting the Compact Partners were contacted to outline their key activities with the Voluntary Sector to form the content of the Annual Compact Action Plan for 2016-17, in this the transitional period in paving the way for the Compact Agreement to align with the Caerphilly borough local assessment of well-being, and ensuing well-being plan. Unfortunately few suggestions were received by Compact Partners.

Cllr R. Gough commented that people pay lip service to the Compact Agreement but the new Caerphilly Public Services Board need to be informed of the importance of the Compact Agreement, and the responsibilities of their organisational representatives on the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee to meet their obligations under the Compact Agreement, in providing items of information reports to the committee, and responding to request such as around the content to shape the Compact Annual Report for 2016-17. Cllr R Gough called for a letter to be sent to the Caerphilly Public Services Board on the Compact Agreement, and responsibilities as signed up Compact Partner organisations. The Committee endorsed this action.

The Committee requested that JD contacted Compact Partners one more time for their outline key activities with the Voluntary Sector to form the content of the Annual Compact Action Plan for 2016-17, explaining the context of this transitional period in moving from an Compact Action Plan based on *Caerphilly Delivers the Single Integrated Plan* to meeting the well-being requirements under the Future Generations legislation.

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

Michelle Jones (MJ) The Parent Network informed of a Parent Network event on 30th September 2016, and enquired if Alison Palmer could give a presentation on Future Generations. MJ also informed she would be happy to join the Compact Review Group.

11. ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR COMPACT PARTNERS

The following Compact Partners Reports were received, with no comments made during the meeting: GAVO, Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent and Caerphilly County Borough Council. The Chair invited Compact Partners to come back to either Jackie Dix, or Alison Palmer with any queries stemming from the reports.

12. COMMUNITY PLANNING QUARTERLY BRIEFING JANUARY TO MARCH 2016

The above report was received and noted as an item of information.

13. DECISION & ACTION SUMMARY

SUBJECT	DECISION	ACTION
1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair	R.H Cooke was elected Chair and Cllr. D Carter as Vice Chair	Both R. H Cooke and Cllr. D Carter agreed to assume the roles of Chair and Vice Chair of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee.
2. Compact Review Group	R.H Cooke and Jackie Dix encouraged more Compact Partners to participate in the Compact Review Group	The next two meetings of the Compact Review Group will be taking place on 11 th August at 2pm, and 11 th October at 10am both in Penallta House. Michelle Jones, The Parent Network, agreed to join the group.
3. Welsh Government's working group on the third sector scheme	GAVO who sit on the group was requested to produce a report to inform the work of the Compact Review Group	GAVO to produce a written report for the 21 st September 2016 committee meeting.
4. Compact Agreement and Compact Action Plan Annual Report	Cllr R. Gough requested that Mark Drakeford, the new Minister for Finance and Local Government, is sent a copy of the Compact Agreement and Compact Action Plan Annual Report	Jackie Dix to send Compact Agreement and Compact Action Plan Annual Report to Minister for Finance and Local Government.
5. Compact Agreement	Cllr R. Gough requested for Caerphilly Public Services Board to be informed of the importance of the Compact Agreement, and the responsibilities of their organisational representatives on the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee to meet their obligations under the	Jackie Dix to liaise with Chair in drafting a letter to the Caerphilly Public Services Board on the Compact Agreement, and responsibilities as signed up Compact Partner organisations to the Compact Agreement.

	Compact Agreement	
6. Annual Compact Action Plan for 2016-17	The Committee requested Compact Partners to be contacted one more time for their outline key activities with the Voluntary Sector to form the content of the Annual Compact Action Plan for 2016-17	Jackie Dix to contact Compact Partners.
7. Parent Network event on 30 th September 2016	Michelle Jones, The Parent Network, enquired if Alison Palmer could give a presentation on Future Generations	Alison Palmer to liaise with Michelle Jones.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday 21st September 2016 at 10.30am in the Sirhowy Room, Penallta House.

Future dates:

Wednesday 7th December 2016

Wednesday 15th March 2017

Wednesday 28th June 2017

Meeting ended 12 pm.