

# GAVO Quarter 1 Report

CAERPHILLY PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD 6/9/16

EMILY FORBES, DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



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SUBJECT: GAVO Quarter 1 Report

## 1. Key data for first quarter delivery April – June 2016

Caerphilly	Yearly Target	Qtr 1
Volunteers Placed	200	161
Enquiries good practice in managing volunteers	80	94
Website visitors	62000	16019
Enquiries	2500	3067
Trustee Enquiries	150	71
Trustee Events	2	0*
Event participants	30	0*
Funding advice enquiries	150	82
Funding events	2	0*
Event participants	30	0*
Funding obtained by groups	£100,000	£33,831
New orgs/social enterprise developed	10	18
Strategic planning groups	20	28
Third Sector Networks / forums	4	5
Membership	100	74

\*Trustee and funding events will be held in future Quarters including a programme for Trustees week in November.

## 2. Highlights

### GAVO Strategic Plan

Trustees published GAVO's Strategic Plan which sets out five key strategic aims for the organisation as:

1. GAVO will provide strong leadership to voluntary and community organisations and communities to increase their resilience and develop a thriving third sector
2. GAVO will use the principles of co-production to build connectivity, engagement and participation, empowering people and communities
3. GAVO will strengthen third sector voice and influence at a national, regional and local level
4. GAVO will champion volunteering and increase quality opportunities for volunteers.
5. GAVO will continue to operate in a culture of collaboration as a pathway to sustainability  
The Plan will be officially launched at the Eisteddfod on 1 August 2016 and partners can request copies in English and Welsh.

## **GAVO Website**

Work has been underway on development of a new website which is accessible and easy to navigate. The website has been designed in house and staff and trustees have fed their ideas to its development at GAVO's Training Day held in June. The new website will be launched in line with the Eisteddfod being held in Abergavenny from 29 July to 6 Aug - see [www.gavowales.org.uk](http://www.gavowales.org.uk)

## **GAVO Membership**

Since October 2015 when GAVO introduced a new membership offer, 83 third sector organisations from the Caerphilly area have now become GAVO members. In the autumn, GAVO will be undertaking a Membership survey to ascertain the quality of its services delivered and to keep abreast of third sector members' issues across Gwent.

## **Caerphilly Forum**

The inaugural meeting of the refreshed single Borough wide Forum was held on 13 May 2016. The focus of the meeting was the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and its implications and opportunities for the third sector. A workshop session was held on collating the rich qualitative data held by the third sector and exploring how this can best support the development of the Wellbeing Assessment and Wellbeing Plan for the county borough. CCBC's Policy Unit attended to set the scene. The next meeting has been arranged for 6 October 2016.

## **Asset Transfer Workshop**

GAVO organised a workshop for Public Bodies in Gwent, held at Ty Penallta on 23 June 2016. This was an opportunity for a range of public service partners to receive an update on GAVO's successful pilot project and feed in their views as to what further support was needed in Gwent to take Community Asset Transfer forward. A report has been submitted to Welsh Government and future strategic direction is now awaited from Ministers. The pilot is currently funded until 30 September 2016.

## **Steps 2 Care Project**

GAVO is delivering a new Steps 2 Care Project in Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly through an ESF funded Active Inclusion Project. The Active Inclusion Fund is operated by the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) as an intermediate body for the Wales European Funding Office (WEFO) under Priority 1, Specific Objective 2 of the European Social Fund (ESF): 'to increase the employability of economically inactive and long-term unemployed people, who have complex barriers to employment'. Over 12 months, this project seeks to engage with 90 people in Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly from non-Communities First areas to develop their confidence, skills and abilities to move closer to or into employment. GAVO will provide accredited training, work relevant certificates and volunteering opportunities to support those engaged on the project. The project manager is Huw Lewis [huw.lewis@gavowales.org.uk](mailto:huw.lewis@gavowales.org.uk) who will manage two dedicated Steps 2 Care staff taking up posts on 1 September 2016. Staff will be based at Newtown Community Centre (BG) and Douglas House (Caer).

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## **3. Strategic working and engagement in policy**

Representation of third sector interests at strategic partnerships include Caerphilly PSB, Leads Group and Delivery Group, RDP LAG, Armed Forces Forum, Caerphilly Access Forum, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Partnership, and Greater Gwent Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Partnership. The third sector is also represented through membership of the

Wellbeing Integration Network, the three 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).

### **Third Sector Shape Your Future events**

Third Sector Support Wales is a network made up of WCVA and the 19 County Voluntary Councils (including GAVO) across Wales. Third Sector Support Wales' joint strategic review is underway to help create a new common vision and set of priorities for our work over the coming 5 years.

A key challenge facing third sector groups is to build our resilience and to make ourselves fit for the future. WCVA hosted a futures exercise that's designed to help address questions including:

- What will drive the changes that matter most to the third sector in Wales?
- What future do we want, or want to avoid and why is this important to our work today?

The futures exercise was designed to help organisations:

- Prepare for the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act
- Learn more about tools and techniques to support long term thinking
- Plan ahead in the face of greater uncertainty and complexity
- Understand the drivers of change that are likely to impact on their work
- Actively shape a positive future for individual groups and the third sector overall
- Rethink current activity, based on a better understanding of the future

WCVA organised two workshop sessions which sought to:

- Identify the key drivers for change for the third sector in Wales over the coming 10 years
- Explore potential futures and what we can all do to shape a positive future

WCVA also ran a series of online polls through mid-June to mid-July which will support and feed into the two futures events.

Outcomes of these exercises and the Third Sector Support Wales Strategic Review will be fed back to PSB members.

### **Public Services Board Support**

GAVO's Community Planning Co-ordinator provides support to CCBC's Policy Unit and the PSB. During Quarter 1 reporting period, there has been a lot of activity surrounding the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

The officer provides administrative support to the PSB which held its first meeting in June, and supports the delivery mechanisms through the leads and delivery group. Much of the focus this quarter has been on the wellbeing assessment for the FG Act and the development of and support for citizen and community engagement opportunities throughout the Summer.

## **5. Contribution to SIP**

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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**

GAVO's core Third Sector Support service continues to offer governance and funding advice and one to one support to third sector organisations. The level of general enquiries remains high and continue to be varied and complex. 207 enquiries were dealt with this quarter from 35 groups and organisations including 9 new projects/groups. Funding applications were submitted amounting to £563,874 and groups were successful in obtaining a total of £27,400.

The final One Beat Roadshow took place on 27th April at the Moriah Baptist Church, Risca. The weather was very mixed but the event was well attended by organisations and members of the community. We are in the process of evaluating all four events from the new Roadshow approach this year in order to plan the way forward.

GAVO's Third Sector Development Manager visited CAB in Bargoed with the Investors in Volunteers Assessor to discuss the renewal of their IIV award.

New Life Christian Church, Abercarn continue to serve the local community and provide many services otherwise not available. They are refurbishing the building and submitted a stage two application to Communities Facilities Programme. They have now received notification that the Welsh Government team would like to have a meeting with them and visit the project. This is hopefully a positive step in the right direction.

The Preloved Furniture project has now registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and were awarded £13,400 from Community Regeneration Grant towards the running of their project and premises in Blackwood High Street.

The Crumlin Navigation Project has been developed to restore and regenerate the grade two listed buildings and surrounds of the historic Welsh colliery site. They have several structures within the project including a constituted Friends of The Navigation group, a registered charity Glofa Navigation Cyf, Crumlin Community Enterprises CIC and Crumlin Hydro CBC all working in partnership with the site owners, South Wales Building Preservation Trust which is also a registered charity. They have worked hard to clean up the site and rectify some of the water and gas issues left by the coal board. They will be fundraising and applying for grants to restore the buildings for commercial and community use, create a community space and install green energy generation.

Side by Side is a new group set up in Caerphilly to help all those who have been touched by Autism to come together and enjoy life through the medium of music.

## **Active and Involved Citizens**

In the first quarter of 2016 Caerphilly Volunteer Centre registered 185 individuals who wished to engage in volunteering. To date 62 of these individuals have been placed into volunteering. In addition 45 individuals from Q4 2015-16 have now also engaged in volunteering. This is a marked increase in 2015-16. This increase is the second year in a row that the number of individuals placed into volunteering has increased across the Borough.

The Volunteer Recognition scheme continues to be a success. In line with the under 25's age group, volunteers register for recognition of their hours, with certificates being awarded for 50,

100, 200 and 1000 hours. In this reporting year to date, eighteen 50 hour certificates, twelve 100 hour certificates and three 200 hour certificates have been awarded. A number of volunteers are well on their way to 1000 hour certificates.

The policy of engagement and working with Organisations providing opportunities across the Caerphilly Borough continues to be supported and implemented. It was agreed within the team that those organisations actually based within the Borough would be visited first, rolling the programme out to those outside at a later date. Of the 107 organisations based within the Borough 95 of them have been visited in the last four months.

This engagement programme has further enhanced the working relationships between GAVO and the organisations and also raised the visibility across the Borough of the Volunteering Centre and GAVO as a whole.

The third Gwent Wide Third Sector Volunteer Managers Network was held on 8 June 2016. Again this meeting was very well attended with in the region on 80-90 separate organisations being represented from across the whole of Gwent. This forum is increasing in reputation and it is envisaged that it will continue to grow. The forum enables organisations of all sizes to come together and share information on improving the volunteering experience for all involved.

The use of technology continues to increase. Electronic systems are utilised to capture data from all aspects of the Caerphilly Volunteering Centre and the use of paper has been reduced by approximately 95%, being virtually paper free. Included in this is the use of Social Media to promote not only GAVO but also assisting our partner organisations in promoting events and recruiting volunteers for specific projects.

The number of referrals made from the JCP's has continued to decline. However, those that are referred tend to be more likely to engage in volunteering. This reduction in referrals is possibly linked to the drop in unemployed people and also the changes in reporting structures within DWP.

In June 2016 Keri Williams retired from her Volunteering Officer role at GAVO after over 10 years with the organisation. We wish Keri well for the future. Her role has been absorbed by Andrew Cullen via increased hours. Close monitoring will be made to ensure that the role can be fully maintained. It is anticipated that there will be no noticeable impact in the change of staff.

Closer working has been made with the DWP 10000 project. This project offers the services of DWP staff to assist in group activities. Several projects have been supported or are due to be supported in the coming months. An example of the impact that this liaison has had is in respect of the Taraggan Project, a community allotment scheme in Bargoed. The project secured funding to expand the site by 100%. With the assistance of DWP staff the deadline for the official opening of the developed site has been achieved.

In respect of Best Practice, a meeting was recently held at Hafod Deg, Rhymney involving representatives from Caerphilly CBC, DWP, Communities First Upper Rhymney Valley, Growing Spaces and the Volunteering Centre. The discussions were in respect of the Growing Spaces Project. The Project supports individuals with mild or moderate mental health issues with a view to the individual regaining their confidence and ultimately gaining employment. At present the participants have no structures in place for them to move on once they are ready. This discussion group developed a simple plan that will result in referral to the likes of DWP for work experience or Volunteering for new challenges at the appropriate stage of the individual's development. Growing Spaces are also developing new projects in other areas in the borough,

where these new principles will be adopted. Ultimately the objective is to improve employability and reduce the impact of mental health issues across the communities.

### *Youth Volunteering*

During the reporting period Caerphilly Youth Volunteering registered 94 individuals making enquiries into volunteering and interviewed 60 young people. In 2016-17 a total of 35 individuals were placed, together with 27 of those registering on the Millennium Volunteering Programme.

GAVO's officer continues to work closely with local schools and colleges in promoting youth volunteering and the Millennium Volunteering Programme and partnership working with schools is starting to grow.

Drop in days at Careers Wales (Caerphilly Office) continues. Regular visits to Crosskeys College will commence again from September.

The "Rail Life Ambassadors" volunteering programme was launched in April 2016. Four volunteers joined the programme and all have been signed up to the Millennium Volunteering Programme. This is a rail safety awareness project, recruiting up to 5 volunteers at a time and training them on all aspects of rail safety and the dangers of trespassing and vandalism on the rail network. The volunteers will be recruited as Rail Ambassadors and provide information and advice to the young people within the Caerphilly Borough at events, through youth clubs and schools.

GAVO's officer regularly attends the Youth Progression and Engagement Panel meetings, hosted by the CCBC. This has proven to be a fruitful partnership with the local authority, training and employment support organisations, Careers Wales, local youth workers in schools and colleges and other voluntary organisations providing youth support.

Student presentations have been delivered to St Martin's Comprehensive Year 10 group, Rhymney Comprehensive Year 10 (Potential NEET) students. Presentations are also planned in September for Blackwood Comprehensive School and Cwm Rhymni School.

The Millennium Volunteering Programme is continuing to be a successful tool in recruiting young volunteers and providing them with meaningful volunteering activities to become involved within.

Relationships are being forged with local schools and regular meetings are taking place with the Youth Engagement and Progression group. This is providing a great opportunity to showcase our services and provide good practice advice to other organisations.

## **GAVO Communities First Activity**

### *1. Communities First – Mid Valleys West*

CF and CAB team-building session: we led a very positive session with our delivery partners in the Citizens' Advice Bureau alongside Mid Valleys East officers. The afternoon comprised of a number of presentations of each of the projects we offer followed by an overview of CAB services and support. There was widespread agreement that we are largely working with the same client base under the same principles and so our cross-referral rate has the potential to be high. The afternoon was considered a great success by all that attended and we will look to hold similar such sessions with other delivery partners e.g. Flying Start.

St Gwladys' Church Hall Volunteer Evening: we were delighted to be invited to represent GAVO and Communities First at the Volunteer Evening held on 6 June. This was a fantastic opportunity to engage with local residents as well as showcasing GAVO's Volunteer Recognition scheme. Ross was compere for the evening.

Men's Sheds: this is a project that we hope will be a great success in the coming months. An initial opening event was held at Aberbargoed Grasslands Centre to gauge interest in officially setting up a Men's Shed group (the first in Caerphilly County). We will look to work closely with those who have expressed an interest in a variety of activities with a view to providing them with a governance framework and on-going support.

CATWG: we have begun delivering our first CATWG project of the new financial year at Tir y Berth Village Hall with the eager participation of the local Parent Network group. This particular project will focus on horticulture and will provide the Hall with a number of external hanging baskets. There are small areas of the car park that will also be improved with children's play equipment made from recycled tyres.

Parent Network (PETRA) book-writing: we continue with our strong relationship with PETRA, and are currently working on two books. At TARAGGAN, families have linked closely with the Committee to base a book on a hedgehog with the subliminal message focusing on environmental sustainability and encouraging an interesting in the allotments. We secured £2K from internal regeneration budgets to fund the publishing and printing costs. At Tir y Berth Primary School, members of staff and stakeholders undertook training in gender identity to help underpin the ethos of their book – equality. The first couple of sessions with families were well attended and well-received.

Gilfach Fargoed Community Centre: the Technical Assistance grant that was awarded has been carried through by external contractors, with a specification for the kitchen now drawn up, ready to go out to tender. We are hopeful of a refit in the coming quarter and are in the process of building a relationship with the Authority's WHQS contractor, with a view to enlisting their support via their 'community benefit' packages and possibly providing significant assistance in the refit as a good will gesture.

## *2. Communities First Caerphilly Basin*

Lansbury Matters: we have continued in supporting Lansbury Matters in delivering their projects and helping them to identify funding and training.

Parent Network: We are working in partnership with the Parent Network we supported St James Parent Network with the book launch (Dream Upon A Rainbow) which took place on Saturday 11th June at Caerphilly Library, this was very well attended. We have also supported the groups in credited training.

GDAS: Drug and Alcohol Support are now doing a drop in session on a weekly basis in the Communities First office.

Gwent Police: Gwent Police have continued to carry out their monthly surgery within the Communities First Office. We have been working in partnership with the PCSO's to promote their surgeries.

Families and School Together (FAST) Cwm Ifor Primary School FASTWORKS is still continuing to meet up on a monthly basis to carry out activities with families within their local



school. In May the group organised the Dinosaur Educational workshop, this gave the children the opportunity to meet Ronnie the Dinosaur and learn all about his background. In 2015 they did a taster session in Roller Skating, Two members of the group are keen to set this up as a social enterprise project, to run regular roller skating sessions across the borough, discussions are currently taking place on how to move this project forward.

Cwm Ifor Primary School PTA: We have continued to support the PTA in helping out with their events and helping them to identify training.

Us Girls Project: This project is a sports charity offering sports and volunteering opportunities to young people in disadvantaged communities, with the support from Communities First the Us Girls will be running weekly session in Plas Y Felin Primary School. We have identified two volunteers from Lansbury Park who will help out with these sessions. The Van Centre in Lansbury Park also hold a weekly session that is well attended

Little Stars: Little Stars is a physical activity group that takes place in St James School on a weekly basis, aged 5-10yrs. Up to 20 to 30 children attend on a regular basis. Two volunteers from Lansbury Park deliver these sessions, we are working closely with the volunteers ensuring that they receive training and have the relevant paper work in place such as policies and procedures,

St James Primary School / St Martins School: A successful planning day took place in St Martins School. The planning day was all about family learning we are going to be providing family learning opportunities to year 6 and year 7s.

### *3. Communities First – Mid Valleys East*

Together project: This project is based loosely around a FAST model but will take place in our horticultural site in Pontllanfraith and will address family skills and confidence.

Family history project: This project at Markham primary school linking with the centenary project in a build up to the launch of their website as a route into engagement with local families.

Waunfawr park mini play day: Plans are underway for the mini play day at Waunfawr park in partnership with a number of organisations, at this point we are looking at providing a range of activities at the event such as den building, giant jenga, water tubes and health based activities.

Adult Education project: Adult education project is progressing well with Q1 targets being met, accreditation ranges from OCN in horticulture through to food hygiene and first aid. As well as the accredited courses we are currently offering child protection and POVA as a recommended course that participants attend.

Argoed Baptist Church: Official acceptance letter from CFAP has now been signed with in excess of £500,000 of grant funding being awarded for Phase 3 of the building project and also the night shelter project. The works should start in August and last for 8 months.

Group support: Support continues for a number of community groups in the cluster with support ranging from governance advice through to funding and development of larger projects. We have been involved with Panside PART and the P.T.A. to support the delivery of their activities and allow us further engagement opportunities.

#### 4. Communities First Upper Rhymney Valley

Broadening Horizons: For our third Broadening Horizons project we had 4 participants from Phillipstown and one volunteer (who had previously been a participant). The project had good outcomes- all participants noticed an improvement in their positivity and mental wellbeing, all commented on how the experience had improved their confidence, and 2 participants have now taken regular local volunteering opportunities. We also carried out our first community asset mapping exercise with the group (see attached case study). The Fourth Broadening Horizons project commenced in June with 4 participants from Rhymney and Pontlottyn. 2 of the participants are male. Discussions have taken place with Abertysswg Flying Start to possibly roll out Broadening Horizons within their setting in September.

New Streetgames in Phillipstown: After a group of community members approached us about setting up a new activity for children we were able to connect them with the Streetgames team. We had several positive discussions and were able to arrange Safeguarding Training for 10 volunteers. 2 very successful taster sessions were advertised and run with over 40 local children attending. Streetgames now runs every Friday from the community centre with a pool of volunteers. We are working with the Community Centre Committee to put in for a Community Chest grant for some new sports equipment.

Walking Group: We now have 2 successful walking groups running from Rhymney and New Tredegar once a week. The walks are used as a way of engaging with community members and helping signpost/refer them onto new services or organisations as a result of relationship and conversation. Positive outcomes include: a new foodbank volunteer, a new Broadening Horizons participant, a referral onto the physical activity officer, and a meeting with a walking group member and RDP to discuss a potential new business idea.

Fochriw Allotment Project: After an initial setback on this project because of the site being vandalised, we are now working in partnership with Groundwork for a 6 week family gardening project. One of the parents has taken the initiative to organise a community collection for plants for the school playground, and after discussion with her and the headteacher, she has taken on the role of volunteer project assistant. After the initial 6 week planting project we will work with her to gather a local group of parents to keep the maintenance of the garden going and continue the project.

The 'Making Space' Project: We are giving heavy support to St Dingats 'Making Space' Project in way of Community Engagement advice and Grant Support. The project has raised funds already of over £500,000. Continuing support given in way of grants research and supporting the team

To note: Although now improving, there has been a significant barrier recently in Welsh language translation as each piece of marketing for Communities First requires full translation. There has been a back-log internally in the local authority which is now beginning to clear.

### Healthier

GAVO's Health and Social Care Co-ordinator supported a coproduction event in partnership with Aneurin Bevan Health Board at Derwendeg Primary School, Hengoed, engaging third sector organisations and GAVO Volunteer Bureau. This was an event to engage parents with the wider community. Feedback from the HB suggests it was a successful event. A workshop hosted by the Bevan Commission was attended with regard to developing a new patient engagement model across Wales-Bevan Advocates. Shared current activity in the Gwent areas including ongoing work with the Gwent Public Health Team to inform the way forward.

Promoted and contributed to a number of user focus groups and consultations including;

- Social Care and Cancer
- Tier 1 Foundation Mental Health Services
- Care to Cooperate Workshops with a focus on self-directed care/direct payments and user led support services.

GAVO's Co-ordinator organised Caerphilly Health and Social Care Quarterly meeting in May. Topics included the Dewis Cymru portal (presentation), briefings on SSWB Act developments and training and resources available through Caerphilly Workforce Development and the Care Council for Wales Hub, consultation focus group to support the development of Tier 1 Foundation Mental Health Services and the HB's CARE Closer to Home initiative. Providers contributed case studies to contribute to the report from the Healthier theme e.g. Care and Repair, Tyfu Café and Alzheimer's Dementia Friendly Communities Initiative.

Effecting engagement with the Gwent Provider Forum as a member of the Provider Forum Steering Group, providers recently attending a Gwent Commissioning event 8th July. Currently organising 2 workshops on behalf of the Provider Forum with one scheduled for CCBC at the New Cottage dance Centre in September.

Sharing best practice with regards to citizen centred care, meetings held with CCB to scope out the potential for adapting the Cardiff and Vale Shared Well initiative. Conference call held with the PHW lead in Cardiff to arrange a visit to explore further. It is likely third sector providers will be invited to look at the feasibility of delivery in the Borough probably for older people.

Third sector is engaged and contributing to populating the Dewis Cymru online Directory. HSC Coordinator is the third sector representative on the Gwent Dewis regional group, the National User Group and the third sector editor for Caerphilly Borough. The HSC Coordinator has established a CVC editors group developed an action plan and invited TVA editors to join the group to coordinate and oversee the third sector element of Dewis resources. This will support feedback on progress to the National User Group.

Third sector contributes service information to support the 3 NCNs in Caerphilly borough via the HSC Coordinator and also presenting service information to NCN meetings. The HSC Coordinator is also coordinating information to be displayed in different media for GP practices in the 3 NCN clusters. A meeting is scheduled in August with the Clinical lead for the South to discuss further engagement with the third sector in relation to the NCN priorities. The third sector is contributing to influencing the priorities for Social Care Wales (new body replacing the Care Council and CSSIW via a focus group).

## **Sunflower project**

The Sunflower team attended the ABuHB Volunteer Recognition Event on 9th June and the project was runner up in one of the categories. Sunflower staff attended a course and are now Dementia Champions.

The Sunflower Project is in its final year and meetings are being held to discuss the final evaluation to be carried out. In the last year, we have appointed a succession planning and expansion officer to scope possibilities of project sustainability and expansion due to the success of the project. The Big Lottery invited us to apply for further funding, accepting a stage one proposal and then inviting a full detailed stage two project plan which has been developed.

The aim of this project proposal is to further develop Sunflower volunteer befriending services within Gwent. Offering specialist services and realising geographic expansion the project will offer a parity of opportunity across health care facilities in Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly and Monmouthshire, namely:

- Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan
- Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr
- Redwood Memorial Hospital
- Chepstow Community Hospital
- Monnow Vale Health & Social Care Centre.

This extension will be delivered in partnership with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB), Local Authority Social Services Workers and other third sector providers.

Consultation has taken place with a number of stakeholders in preparing the project plan which sustains the existing teams in Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly and as set out above expands delivery into Chepstow and Monnow Vale.

This has been circulated to all PSB members for consultation and comment and the stage two bid has now been submitted to the Big Lottery.

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## Learning

GAVO's training programme for the Spring/Summer period was produced and distributed for circulation in February.

This period, GAVO delivered 10 courses to 93 learners. The target for the 2016/17 period is 20 courses and 200 learners. Forecast for the delivery to meet targets is likely to be more for the year end. Planned training across the county has received interest from community groups and organisations within the area. The relationship with the CF teams in Caerphilly is really good with much interest in the delivery of training for the July to August period. We were targeted with delivering a mixture of accredited and non-accredited training. Of the training mentioned above, there were 3 x accredited courses with 34 participants attending.

These courses have included CIEH paediatric first aid Level 3 and 2 EPP Agored registered courses. Other courses delivered in Caerphilly have included committee skills, several Child Protection Awareness courses, basic first aid and POVA Awareness. This success is due to the close working arrangements with the development team in GAVO and that the training officers attend network events and forums within the Caerphilly County area. The team also attend on a regular basis the Education & Training Forum which involves other agencies and organisations across the training sector and are now involved in the ESF Strategic Steering Group.

GAVO's Training Team attend the POVA Trainers Network event that has been developed by the Caerphilly Workforce Development Officers. Both members of the Training Team are PQASSO Mentors and have attended a follow up trainers meeting in North Wales to work through some of the issues faced with the allocated groups during the training days with these groups.

The training team represent GAVO at the Social Services Training network events and are members of the SEWCSB and GWASB training sub-groups. All training content for delivery has recently been reviewed and both DH and JB are had input to ensure that the training content is also relevant to Third Sector organisations. Recently, the team have met with other training providers with the purpose of joint and collaborative work in readiness for future tenders. It is hoped that the team will be successful in bids for work and that they will then take the lead and sub-contract work out as and when the need arises.

## **Play Team 0-3's**

Play Delivery Officer posts are undertaking an ILM level 5 in leadership and management which is enhancing their practices within the Creative Play team and throughout the GAVO organisation offering standardised middle management.

Within this first quarter three volunteers have been through the induction process to volunteer within the Pop in and Play groups and are due to start once their references and DBS checks are in place.

Staff within Creative Play completed a speech and language course over an 8 week period which has had a huge impact on their work practices. They have applied their learning into their communication with children in their settings and have advised parents and even used their new skills and confidence to make referrals where needed for additional support.

Some of the Pop in and Play group numbers have decreased over the past few months for a number of reasons. Some of the communities who are hard to engage have been a challenge and at one point no one was attending. Staff have been given mini projects within their role to increase the capacity and participation in particular community areas. Their roles will be to ensure we are offering our services in the right place and time, what other services are available in the area and to contact parents directly to break down barriers and build up trust. We have already seen a rise in numbers at some of the setting and will be acting on the research results from staff by Oct 2016.

In all of the groups we have noticed that the children's speech and language has developed since the introduction of a Tap Tap box while singing. A lot of the parents have also commented that they have made a Tap Tap box at home for their child because they love it so much. This shows the impact of the group for children at home.

## **6. Contacts**

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