



## **VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN  
ON WEDNESDAY 15TH MARCH 2017 AT 10.30 A.M.**

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PRESENT:

Mrs M. Jones (Chair) Caerphilly Parent Network

Councillors:

Ms L. Ackerman, Mrs E.M. Aldworth, R.W. Gough, C. Hawker, A. Lewis, J.A. Pritchard

Together with Representatives from:

Abertridwr Community Church (Mr L. Clay), Bargoed YMCA (Ms J. Price), Caerphilly 50+ Forum (Mr P. Bryett), Caerphilly People First (Mr C. Luke), Cruse Bereavement Care (Mrs C. Williams), GAVO – Chief Executive (Mr M. Featherstone, GAVO CEO and Ms G. Jones – GAVO Caerphilly), Homestart Caerphilly Borough (Mrs M. Snowden), Menter Iaith (Mrs L. Jones), Scope (Mr M. Goldwin).

Also present:

P. Cooke (Senior Policy Officer), A. Palmer (Community Planning Co-Ordinator - GAVO/CCBC), A. Dredge (Committee Services Officer).

N. Taylor (Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent), H. Llewellyn (Town and Community Council Representative), J. Birch (Natural Resources Wales).

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Bevan, P.J. Bevan, D. Carter (Vice-Chair), Mrs. P. Cook, Mrs. P Griffiths, K. James, G. Johnston, D.W.R. Preece, R. Woodyatt, Groundwork Wales (Mrs K. Stevenson), Vanguard Centre (Mrs M Wade) Van Road United Reform Church ( Mr. J Wade) .

### **2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

### **3. MINUTES – 7TH DECEMBER 2016**

Subject to it being recorded that the attendance of Ms G. Jones (GAVO) had not been recorded, the minutes of the meeting held on the 7th December 2016 were approved as a correct record.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

### APOLOGIES Agenda Item 1

Concerns were expressed with the volume of apologies that had been recorded at the previous meeting. Members felt that the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee Meetings need to be promoted as the sector faces many changes ahead and that Members also need to be proactive in their roles. Reference was made to a recent WLGA report that stated these meetings are crucial in moving forward and provided a positive emphasis to partners and colleagues. The Chair thanked those representatives who attended this meeting.

### COMMUNITIES FIRST – DAMIAN OWEN, CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL Agenda Item 9 (ii)

An update was provided in relation to the Communities First Programme. Reference was made to the recent statement of Communities and Children Secretary, Carl Sargeant who has set out plans for a new approach to building resilient communities. It was explained that the Communities First Programme would be phased out by March 2018. Members expressed concerns in relation to this and the fact that the Programme has received a 30 per cent reduction in their allocated budget for 2017/18.

#### **4. POLICE AND CRIME PRIORITIES FOR GWENT - NEIL TAYLOR (GWENT POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE)**

The Chair gave permission for this item to be brought forward on the agenda.

Mr Neil Taylor delivered a presentation that set out the Police and Crime Priorities for Gwent for 2017 – 2021. He set out the role and responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner that include setting the strategic direction for policing, working with partners to prevent and tackle crime and re-offending and engaging with the public and communities. The role also involves being the voice of the public, the vulnerable and victims, holding the Chief Constable to account for local policing and setting the budget for Gwent Police and ensuring value for money. The Chief Constable will provide a detailed annual Delivery Plan of the activities proposed to achieve the outcomes required to meet the priorities from a policing perspective. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner will also produce a Business Plan which will detail its contribution towards delivering the Plan. The results of the progress against all activities will be reported each year in an Annual Report.

The Committee were advised that following the enactment of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, will be the start of a fundamental shift towards one Public Service. Mr Taylor confirmed that we are all responsible for making Gwent a place where people want to live and work.

An overview was provided in relation to each of the five Priorities. *Crime Prevention* will take action to prevent and reduce crime by working with partner organisations and communities to tackle crimes that present the greatest threat, harm and risk and especially those crimes committed against the most vulnerable. *Supporting Victims* will provide excellent support for all victims of crime with a particular focus on preventing further serious harm. *Community Cohesion* will ensure that the police with partners engage with communities to encourage, help and support them to work together to keep themselves safe. *Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour* will ensure the police work closely with partner organisations to tackle anti-social behaviour effectively. *Effective Service Delivery* will ensure that Gwent Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner are high performing organisations which value and invest in their staff to achieve value for money in delivering impressive services that meet the needs of all communities.

The Committee thanked Mr Taylor for his informative presentation and Members questions were welcomed.

Members queried the potential of local Police Station closures and the impact this may have on accessibility to the public. The committee were informed that the Police and Crime Commissioner is looking at co-locating services and should this be the case then a formal consultation will be undertaken with the public and partners.

Clarification was sought as to whether the plan setting out the priorities has been shared with schools. Mr Taylor advised that in terms of Comprehensive Schools, a Liaison Programme has been set up which is funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office and Welsh Government. This forms part of the school curriculum. There is also a Positive Futures Programme in place that aims at targeting anti-social behaviour where young people interact. Raising awareness in relation to sexual exploitation and cybercrime are also key areas.

**5. PRESENTATION - CYBERCRIME - MARK POPE (LEAD ON CYBERCRIME, GWENT POLICE)**

Unfortunately, Mr Pope was unable to attend the meeting to deliver his presentation and Mr Taylor confirmed he would report back to Mr Pope asking him to attend the June meeting to provide Members with information in relation to Cybercrime.

**6. VOLUNTARY SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES QUESTIONS**

Open Discussion: What's happening in the Caerphilly County Borough - An opportunity for all Compact Partners to raise key issues.

The Committee were advised that questions had been sent to the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) following December's meeting. A response had been received however this did not relate to the questions raised. Ms Palmer confirmed she would pursue a detailed response for the meeting scheduled for June. A Member suggested contacting Judith Pagett (Chief Executive – ABUHB) directly if a response is not received and it was confirmed that a complaints procedure is also available.

Ms Palmer referred to the Care Closer to Home Strategy from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and their vision of working together. This will enable people to be empowered to manage their care needs or to be supported in accessing necessary care at or closer to home. It is intended that this will be achieved by developing local systems of care that bring together general practice, community health and social care, the voluntary sector, supported by specialist advice, to proactively and comprehensively manage the local population's health.

**7. ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR COMPACT PARTNERS (ONE QUESTION ONLY FOR EACH REPORT – UP TO 15 MINS)**

It was explained that no reports had been received from ABUHB, Caerphilly Business Forum, Caerphilly County Borough Council, Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, Gwent Police and South Wales Fire and Rescue Service. Verbal updates were provided in respect of the following:

Caerphilly County Borough Community and Town Councils

Mr Howard Llewellyn confirmed that the Community and Town Councillors are unique to the Committee; they are all volunteers and are elected by the public. All Members are currently focusing on the upcoming elections in May 2017.

## Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Members noted the contents of the GAVO Third Sector Report - Quarter 3 October – December 2016.

Mr Featherstone advised the Committee that GAVO with Mr P. Cooke are working together in relation to the Wellbeing Assessment. He referred to a recent Public Services Board (PSB) meeting that they attended where the issues that had been identified within the borough were discussed. Mr Cooke gave an overview of the 7 Wellbeing Goals (as set out within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015) and explained the 6 identified priorities, as follows:

- Providing training, support, apprenticeships, employment and volunteering opportunities that are appropriate for all ages and sectors of the community.
- Identifying and breaking the cycle of Adverse Childhood Experiences.
- Ensuring people feel safe in their community, by reducing crime and anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime.
- Developing suitable, sustainable housing to meet the variety of people's needs, including affordable housing.
- Facilitating a shift from treatment of mental and physical ill health to a society that enables people to adopt healthy behaviours, to reduce the inequality gap in life expectancy and healthy life expectancy between the most and least deprived populations in the county borough.
- Improving the provision of, access to and promotion of community outdoor spaces, green spaces and the wider countryside. Reducing low level environmental issues by fostering respect, responsibility and ownership of local areas.

He then set out the timetable in terms of the Wellbeing Assessment between March and June 2017 and advised that an update including information from other partners of the PSB can be provided at a future meeting.

Members were disappointed to note the application for lottery funding has been unsuccessful in terms of the Sunflower Hospital Volunteering Project. This is a hospital befriending scheme at 3 hospitals namely Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr in Ystrad Mynach, Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan in Ebbw Vale and the Rhymney Integrated Health and Social Care Resource Centre. Project staff recruit and manage a team of volunteers to help with alleviating the feelings of isolation, boredom and loneliness that are experienced by some patients. They offer a one-to-one befriending service and the opportunity for patients to join in with activities. Competition is high in relation to Big Lottery funding.

## Natural Resources Wales

Mr Birch set out the role of NRW and confirmed that grant funding is allocated across Authorities in Wales to enable project delivery. He gave examples of projects across Caerphilly and also confirmed that NRW also manage projects partially funded by others, such as the European Union and Big Lottery Fund (BIG).

Members requested an update in relation to the Tree Felling Project at Cwmcarn Forrest Drive for the next meeting.

## **8. COMMUNITY PLANNING QUARTERLY BRIEFING OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2016**

Unfortunately, the report was unavailable as information was awaited from partners. The information item will be presented at the meeting in June 2017.

## **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr Luke on behalf of Caerphilly People First offered all Members, staff and families the opportunity to attend a Safeguarding Course hosted by Caerphilly People First.

Ms G. Jones on behalf of GAVO reminded the Committee that the One Beat Roadshow would be attending Caerphilly Library on Saturday 18th March. The event offers an opportunity for voluntary sector organisations to join together and showcase the valuable work they carry out within Caerphilly County Borough. All Members were encouraged to attend.

The Chair advised the Committee that a Penguin Party will be held at Parc Penallta on Saturday 25th March from 6:30pm onwards to celebrate Earth Hour. Head4Arts will be delivering free family friendly arts activities in partnership with Caerphilly County Borough Council, the Parent Network/Petra Project and Communities First.

Mr Luke wished all elected Members good luck for the County Borough Elections in May and thanked all for their partnership, support and assistance over the years. In turn the elected Members thanked the voluntary sector representatives for their continued support and the contribution they make within the community.

## **10. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS:**

28th June 2017  
20th September 2017  
6th December 2017

The meeting ended at 12:05 pm.