



## **VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN,  
ON WEDNESDAY 28TH JUNE 2017 AT 10.30 A.M.**

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### **PRESENT:**

Mrs M. Jones (Vice Chair - Presiding) - Caerphilly Parent Network

### **Councillors:**

A. Collis, S. Cook, K. Etheridge, R. Whiting, L.G. Whittle, W. Williams

### **Voluntary Sector Representatives:**

Bargoed YMCA (Ms J. Price), Caerphilly People First (Mr C. Luke), Charter Housing (Ms S. Howells), Groundwork Wales (Mrs K. Stevenson), Homestart Caerphilly (Ms R. Evans), Menter Iaith (Mrs L. Jones), Right from the Start (Ms C. Loring), Scope (Mr M. Goldwyn), Van Road United Reformed Church (Mr J. Wade), Vanguard Caerphilly (Mrs M. Wade), VOLUME (Mr D. Brunton)

### **Compact Partners:**

S. Lane, S. Warden and Mark Maybery (Gwent Police), Mr S. Tiley (GAVO - Assistant Chief Executive), Ms G. Jones (GAVO Caerphilly), Mr J. Birch (Natural Resources Wales), Mr H. Llewellyn (Town and Community Council Representative)

### **Also present:**

K. Peters (Corporate Policy Manager), P. Cooke (Senior Policy Officer), A. Dredge (Committee Services Officer)

## **1. TO ELECT A CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

It was agreed that consideration would be given to the appointment of Chair at a later date.

It was moved and seconded that Mrs M. Jones (Parent Network Co-ordinator) be appointed as Vice Chair of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee, and by a show of hands this was unanimously agreed. In the absence of an elected Chair, Mrs Jones therefore took the Chair for the meeting.

## **2. RETIREMENT**

The Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee were advised that Mr David Carter had recently retired as a county councillor. Members placed on record their thanks to Mr Carter for his valued contributions to the work of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee, and wished him a long and happy retirement.

## **3. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillors Mrs E.M. Aldworth, J. Bevan, J.E. Fussell, R.W. Gough, A.G. Higgs, V. James, Mrs B.A. Jones, Mrs T. Parry and A. Whitcombe.

Voluntary Sector Representatives - Abbeyfield (Caerphilly) Society Ltd (Mr H. Billington), Abertridwr Community Church (Mr L. Clay), Caerphilly Care & Repair (Ms P. Jones), Citizen's Advice Bureau - Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent (Ms J. Channing), Cruse Bereavement Care (Mrs C. Williams), County Hospital - Griffithstown, Pontypool (Mr W. Morgan), Disability CANDO Organisation (Mr J. Miles), Drugaid Young Persons Service (Ms L. Tibbs).

Compact Partners - Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (Ms S. Millar), Caerphilly Business Forum (Mrs D. Lovering), GAVO (Mr M. Featherstone - Chief Executive), Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (Ms J. Tippins), South Wales Fire and Rescue (Mr R. Hassett).

Officers - A. Palmer (Community Planning Co-Ordinator - GAVO/CCBC)

## **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

## **5. MINUTES – 15TH MARCH 2017**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th March 2017 were approved as a correct record.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

### **6. Presentation on Cybercrime by Mark Pope from Gwent Police (Minute No. 5)**

It was confirmed that Mr Pope would be attending the meeting in September to deliver a presentation in relation to Cybercrime.

### **7. Items of Interest from Compact Partners – Natural Resources Wales (Minute No. 7)**

It was noted that an update in relation to the tree felling project at Cwmcarn Forest Drive had been requested for the June meeting. It was confirmed that this item would be placed on the agenda for a future meeting.

## **8. REVIEW OF THE COMPACT AGREEMENT, COMPACT ACTION PLAN AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Kathryn Peters (Corporate Policy Manager) presented the report, which provided an update on the review of the “Delivering Together” Compact Agreement, and asked the Committee to consider the alignment of the replacement Compact Action Plan with the forthcoming Public

Services Board Well-being Plan. It also notified Members of a proposed review of the Terms of Reference for the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee.

It was explained that the current "Delivering Together" Compact Agreement ran for a term from April 2013 to April 2017, and associated delivery plans have run for 12-month terms. The agreement and action plan process were considered for review in 2016-2017. However the development of the Well-being Plan will not be complete until May 2018 and there is an opportunity to align the two complementary planning and delivery arrangements.

Members were advised that bringing together the Compact Action Plan process and the Well-being Plan will strengthen and formalise the role of the voluntary sector in delivering together with the public and private sectors. The current action plan follows the Public Services Board's delivery arrangements but there is a disconnect in this process as the two are separate documents. Partners are feeding into both sets of delivery plans and the third sector is sitting outside of the main partnership plan for the county borough. It has therefore been proposed that 2017-2018 be regarded as a transition year, after which time the third sector agreement delivery plan will be part of the Well-being Plan for the area.

The third sector agreement, which is the replacement for the current Compact Agreement, will be reviewed over the coming months to align the roles of all the partners under the new planning arrangements and to incorporate the expected Welsh Government guidance (which is currently in development). An advisory letter from Welsh Government was appended to the report, which outlined the importance of joint working between Public Service Boards and third sector organisations.

Members were also informed that the Terms of Reference for the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee (which were appended to the report) were last reviewed in 2013, and should be reviewed on a 3-yearly basis. It was explained that given the advent of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and its required coproduction between the statutory, voluntary and private sectors in securing community well-being, there was a need for the Terms of Reference to be refreshed to take account of shared objectives.

It was therefore intended for a report to be presented at the next meeting which would propose revised Terms of Reference, having taken into account the views of the Committee and relevant consultees. Officers explained that the revised Terms of Reference would make future meetings more productive and enhance the function of the Committee, particularly in relation to partnership working.

Members spoke of the need to embrace change and of the importance of collaborative working between local authorities. The Committee were referred to the letter from WG, which highlighted the third sector potential to make a valuable contribution to their development and successful delivery. Members also expressed a need for the third sector to place a greater focus on mental health issues in adults and children. It was explained that this had also been raised by the Youth Forum and would be discussed later in the meeting.

Following consideration and discussion of the report, it was moved and seconded that the following recommendations be supported. By a show of hands, this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report: -

- (i) the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee treat the current financial year as a transition year with a view to allowing alignment between the Well-being Plan and the arrangements for delivery against the local third sector agreement, the Compact;
- (ii) the current Compact agreement be revised to take account of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, and expected Welsh Government guidance;

- (iii) the terms of reference for Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee be revised and a report be presented to the next meeting of the Committee for agreement.

## 9. **FACILITATED DISCUSSION: PROPOSED WELL-BEING OBJECTIVES FOR CAERPHILLY PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD – INVOLVEMENT OF THE THIRD SECTOR**

Paul Cooke (Senior Policy Officer) introduced the item, which sought Members' views on the proposed Well-being Objectives for Caerphilly Public Services Board and the involvement of the third sector. It was explained that Caerphilly Public Services Board (PSB) met on 6th June 2017 to consider the response analysis work undertaken by PSB partners (supported by the Policy Unit) following the development of the Well-being Assessment for the Caerphilly Well-being Plan.

The Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee were asked to split into three workshop groups (each comprising a mix of elected members and voluntary sector representatives). The workshop was based on the priorities approved by the PSB to go forward to form the Well-being Plan for Caerphilly County Borough. The facilitated workshop discussions covered the following areas:

- 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.
- Sustainable Communities
- 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.
- Reducing low level environmental issues by fostering respect, responsibility and ownership of local areas. Improving the provision of, access to and promotion of community outdoor spaces, green spaces and the wider countryside.

In the workshop, facilitators asked the following questions:

1. Working in partnership, what can you/your organisation contribute to this priority?
2. What key actions should we take together?
3. How can we link this to the other priorities?
4. What do we need to do differently/overcome?

The aim was to capture ideas for collaborative working to meet the objectives, how participants could support the objectives and what they think the first steps might be. For ease of reference, a summary of the notes from the workshop is appended to these minutes.

Following completion of the session, all participants were thanked for their contributions. Officers confirmed that a draft plan would be developed which will be taken to the next meeting of the Caerphilly Public Services Board. It was noted that the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee will have an opportunity to comment on the draft plan at its September meeting.

Members thanked the Officers for the helpful manner in which they had facilitated the workshop session.

#### **10. ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR COMPACT PARTNERS**

It was confirmed that there had been no reports received from any of the Compact Partners listed on the agenda.

#### **11. COMMUNITY PLANNING QUARTERLY BRIEFING APRIL TO JUNE 2017**

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

#### **12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Discussion took place regarding meeting attendance and a Member expressed disappointment at the lack of representation from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board at the meeting.

Reference was made to the Medium Term Financial Plan savings required by the Council over the next four years, which are expected to be in the region of £28m. Members expressed a need to work in partnership on these savings and discussion took place around the pooling of budgets between local authorities and health boards, which have been proposed as a result of the introduction of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act (SSWBA).

Members also discussed a recent Senedd debate which had referred to the statutory sector as “the maintained sector”. Some Members were of the view that this is not a true description of this area, in that it implies that the voluntary sector is not maintained.

#### **13. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

These have been arranged for 20th September 2017 and 6th December 2017.

The meeting closed at 12.15 p.m.

**Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee 28th June 2017****Summary of notes from the facilitated workshop discussion – Proposed Well-being Objectives for Caerphilly Public Services Board – Involvement of the third sector****1. Apprenticeships**

- Need to be better links between Youth Service and agencies such as Careers Wales, JobCentrePlus
- Young people need to see the need for qualifications linked to jobs and careers (end point) (not academic) – lack of life skills
- Need to increase awareness of wide range of jobs and careers that are available
- Need ability to think ‘outside the box’
- Need partnerships between schools and businesses

**2. Volunteering**

- Offer placements for volunteering and work experience for colleges/universities
- Black economy is still an issue
  - How can we encourage these people to be entrepreneurs
- Time and capacity to train volunteers is an issue

**3. ACEs**

- Need to also focus on teenage years not just early years
- Help families to manage process – work with partners – Ok Kids Project
- CP First – running courses delivered by people with learning disabilities to all regarding safeguarding
- Homestart – debt and housing issues. Community workers. Volunteers in the community – mental health issues prevent the ability to make improvements. Volunteers to support mental ill health
- More work in schools more focus on PSE
- Access to mental health support is key from young age onwards. Vicious circle
- Menter – parents asking for support through the Welsh language work as much as possible with young people e.g. healthy relationships

**4. Community Safety**

- Community Safety Wardens are absolutely brilliant. Police more absent
- Police resources stretched
- CSP resources are very stretched but they are there
- Need for intergenerational projects
- Demonisation of young people – opportunity to get over this – “communication”
- Not being able to get through to an actual person in the police. Too long on the phone
- Cuts to outreach young worker. Huge impact on young people and understanding
- Preventative work is the first to go in funding cuts
- YISP – and other multi-agency approaches
- Restorative justice and approaches to support

## 5. Health

- Get to parents via children – sport and art activities
- Make facilities free
- Veg box scheme (put into schools) – buy veg for £1
- Target entrenched behaviours
- Education
- Need better mental health support for children – primary schools
  - And other sections of community
- Better facilities for older people – buses, community venues
- Link to leisure centres – multi-agency approach
- Use of outdoor spaces
- Homestart – what has come to the fore is anxiety and depression. Linking up with other agencies support and knowing who to refer to
- Charter – youth work centred around health and wellbeing physical activity and getting them to take of their own health
- GAVO
  - Sport puts many people off. It's about “activity”
  - ABUHB not able to pass referrals direct to agencies – can only provide details of groups
- Girls put off physical activity. Sports Wales schools programme. Want a “bikini boot camp” – looking good – worrying mental health
- Use of the environment north of the borough – poor health but fantastic environment facilities
- Managing stress/anger management – Right From The Start
- University students working on counselling programme able and willing to work in the community. Additional resource and research

## 6. Environment

- Include on estates...green spaces
- Local people litter picking and organised by KWT, Groundwork
- Celebrate achievements – Newline.
- “Good Citizen Fund”
- Work with organisations like Groundwork
- Plant rhubarb, fruit bushes on estates
  - Recipes using produce
- Link with allotment holders
- Issues with quad bikes – need enforcement action
- Use young offenders and volunteers to clear paths etc
- Link with agencies that can help – e.g. Probation Service, PCC – looking for projects
- Links to other issues – mental health, employment, health
- Incentives
- Need to ‘sustain’ improvement – local people committed
- How do we get people there e.g. Parc Cwm Darren under used
- Homestart – Eco Camp – wildlife garden. Change young people opinions – creep crawly hints. Start at that level – foster respect – preventative
- KWT – cleaning moat and Caerphilly castle
- Allotments – involvement with schools – community involvement in allotments – intergenerational work
- Grass arson – SWFRS
- Homestart – community safety/St Johns etc/clubs and societies. Into speak to young people. Give them a voice
  - How do we engage with young people who aren't involved in organised groups

- Youth clubs being decimated – not able to run through the summer – building availability e.g. limited opening in the summer e.g. closed after Whitsun
- Where do they go when turfed out – Youth Outreach
- Menter – Parks programmes. Our staff to support to run the sessions in Welsh also. Fantastic programmes no ?? Teams and resources are fantastic but how well do they link to local communities
- Opportunities to link across LA and community organisations
- Excellent partnership working in this area
  - Good links to the 3rd sector
  - We need to support each other and that is recognised
  - The person the service gets not who is providing it
  - Break through the red tape
  - Preciousness over ESF funding

## 7. **Sustainable Communities**

- Needs relationships – someone on site
- Engagement most important
- Link via children/schools – Dad's engage
- Education
- Lansbury Park in walking distance of fantastic community facilities and public transport links
- Parent Network successful but engaging males is an issue – identify those to engage
- Need individual responsibility – challenge offenders
- Need community leaders
- Work on very local area e.g. one street/court
- May need to be tougher on offenders