



VOLUNTARY SECTOR SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN
ON WEDNESDAY, 18TH JUNE 2014 AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

Mr. R. Cooke – Chair

Councillors:

D. Carter, C. Hawker, Mrs. J.A. Pritchard, R. Woodyatt, A. Lewis, A. Rees, P.J. Bevan, Mrs. E. M. Aldworth, R.W. Gough, Mrs. P. Griffiths, K. James, Mrs. J. Summers, Mrs. P. Cook, J. Bevan

Together with:

Abbeyfield	-	Mr. P. Jones
Abertridwr Community Church	-	Mr. L. Clay
Age Cymru	-	Ms. S. Brown
Bargoed YMCA	-	Ms. J. Price
Caerphilly 50+ Forum	-	Mr. D. Morgan
Caerphilly Care & Repair	-	Ms. P. Jones
Caerphilly Groundwork Trust	-	Mr. R. H. Cooke
Caerphilly Parents & Carers Forum	-	Mrs. B. Helps
Caerphilly People First	-	Mr. C. Luke
Cancercareline	-	Mr. A. Read
Cruse Bereavement Care	-	Mrs. C. Williams
GAVO – Assistant Chief Executive	-	Mrs. E. Forbes
Graig Y Rhacca Communities Partnership	-	Mr. G. Mitchell
Homestart Caerphilly Borough	-	Ms. G. Jervis
New CLURV	-	Mrs. J. Morgan
The Parent Network	-	Ms. M. Jones
The Vanguard Centre	-	Mrs. M. Wade
Van Road United Reformed Church	-	Mr. J. Wade
Vice Chair, Voluntary Sector Representatives	-	Mr. D. Brunton

Also present:

J. Dix (CCBC Policy & Research Manager), J. Elliott (CCBC Senior Research Officer), Alison Palmer & Geraint Jones (GAVO), Mr. D. Morgan (Town & Community Council Representative), Mrs. Alison Gough (ABUHB), Sgt. R. Davies (Gwent Police), Mrs. M. Chapman (Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Gwent), Mrs. D. Crossman (South Wales Fire & Rescue Service), Hayley Evans (CCBC – Principal Waste Management Officer), Ms. Ann Mathews & Lisa McLain (Caerphilly & Blaenau Gwent CAB).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Ms. L. Ackerman.

Also from Ms. J. Lawton (Caerphilly MIND), Mrs. H. Williams (Disability Can Do Organisation), Mr. M. Thorne (SYDIC), Mr. K. Viney (The Settlement), Mr. G. Mitchell (Graig-y-Rhacca Communities Partnership), Mr. M. Featherstone (Chief Executive - GAVO), Ms. S. Crane (ABUHB), Mr. H. Llewellyn (Town & Community Councils Representative)

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None declared.

3. MINUTES

3.1 Mrs. E. Forbes (Assistant Chief Executive – GAVO) stated that she did attend the meeting in March but was not included on the attendance list.

3.2 Accuracy of minutes of 19th March 2014 was agreed.

4. LAUNCH OF THE COMPACT ACTION PLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14

4.1 The Leader of the Council, Councillor Keith Reynolds launched the Compact Action Plan Annual Report, with the following words: “As the new Leader of Caerphilly county borough council, I am delighted to be involved in the long-standing, vibrant and successful collaboration that has developed between all partners within the Compact since it was established back in 1999.

4.2 The Compact is more than just a strategic document, it reflects the very essence of what we are all trying to achieve, working together for the benefit of everyone across our local communities.

4.3 As you know, the aspirations outlined in the Compact are delivered through an annual Action Plan. This key document provides a detailed programme of work involving all partners and it is encouraging to see that so much has been achieved over the past 12 months.

4.4 It is vitally important that we continually review and evaluate our work to ensure we are on track. That is why this Action Plan is such a key document which allows us to track progress and take any corrective measures if needed.

4.5 The ongoing financial constraints facing public services means that there are tough times ahead for us all, but I’m confident that we can overcome these challenges by continuing on our journey together and presenting a strong, united front.

4.6 I now look forward to the year ahead and I’m sure that we will see many more excellent examples of successful partnership working at its finest thanks to our innovative Compact agreement.”

5. **PRESENTATION: UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE CAERPHILLY & BLAENAU GWENT CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU BY ANN MATHEWS AND LISA MCLAIN (OPERATIONS MANAGERS)**

5.1 Ann Matthews said the CAB has been delivering Outreach Services for over 12 years, which was originally funded by the Coalfields Regeneration Fund and Big Lottery. Outreach advice is delivered throughout Caerphilly & Blaenau Gwent. Currently there are two projects which are funded by the Welsh Government, these are **Better Advice for Better Lives** and **Community First Shared Outcomes Project**.

- Better Advice for Better Lives aims to maximise income for those people living in deprived areas, and is delivered primarily at GP surgeries / Health Centres.
- Community First Shared Outcomes Project is working in partnership with Community First Cluster Managers, to provide advice in community settings. Clients have help within their local communities, so there is no need to travel.

5.2 Lisa McLain introduced this part of the presentation on CAB Specialist Services. The services provided are:-

- The Physical Contact Centre which is staffed by 29 volunteers contributing to the national Citizens Adviceline Service.
- Proof of Concept. Only 35% of calls to Adviceline are answered, so there are plans to make this service more accessible, and achieve a rate of 70,000 answered calls per year.
- Quality Coaches. This covers monitoring the quality and consistency of Adviceline Cymru.
- Three full time bi-lingual Quality Coaches are employed.
- Face-to-Face Debt Advice. There are three FTE specialist debt advisors across Caerphilly & Blaenau Gwent.
- CCBC Rents Project. Working with tenants with a view to reducing rent and council tax arrears, whilst also addressing other debts.
- Supporting People Project. This is a debt casework project for clients receiving assistance through the Supporting People network.
- Integrated Digital Money Advice. This is a six-month pilot, delivering debt advice via web chat and online enquiry (email).

Contact details:- Ann Matthews 01443 878051, Lisa McLain 01443 878067

Various questions were asked of the two managers:-

1. It does seem that debt problems are now an increasing trend with the CAB client base. It was agreed that these are now where crisis is becoming the norm.
2. Isn't there an overlap between other services, which are provided from other organisations, in the voluntary sector? The CAB has regular meetings with a number of voluntary organisations, but if there are more organisations with whom we could discuss issues, we would be keen to know of them.
3. For communities in poverty, travelling costs are a problem. The CAB are aware of this and the outreach services are designed to eliminate or minimise travel costs within communities.

4. Formal debt remedies are applied with clients.
5. The CAB is working well with other organisations including Credit Unions.
6. Are drop in centres open at times which would maximise their use by clients who work during the day? A drop in centre has been provided for Thursday evenings.
7. Is advice on debt issues for youngsters covered by the CAB, as some youngsters have to pay off student loans? There are no age barriers for debt advice. The CAB works with 'The Basement' in Blackwood to engage with young people.
8. Cllr. C. Hawker praised the recent BBC television programme which covered the good work of the CAB, for providing financial advice to people, in various circumstances in the county borough.

6. VOLUNTARY SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES QUESTION: A QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION AROUND WASTE COLLECTION / DISPOSAL CHARGES FACING THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR (HAYLEY EVANS – PRINCIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT OFFICER CCBC)

- 6.1 Bargoed YMCA raised a point as to whether it was permissible for voluntary organisations that are sharing premises, to share waste bins. The response was that it is permissible, however, one of the voluntary organisations would have to sign the waste certificate (as it can only be placed in one name) and take responsibility for the duty of the care for the certificate.
- 6.2 If a voluntary organisation decides to have a small waste bin to reduce charges, the Council needs to be assured that the organisation is able to dispose of all of its waste responsibly.
- 6.3 A voluntary organisation mentioned that it was developing an environmental green policy, including recycling and reducing waste, and the Officer commented that the Council would be happy to help with this.
- 6.4 The Officer advised that orange recycling bags should be put out on the normal recycling day, for the area. However, these bags may be placed out for collection on any day, within town centres, for collection. The comment was made that the Council was removing bins from organisations that had decided not to pay the charges, and sign a waste contract with the Authority.

7. VOLUNTARY SECTOR EVENTS: VERBAL UPDATE FROM JACKIE DIX (CCBC – POLICY & RESEARCH MANAGER)

Voluntary Sector Achievement Awards

This event will be held on the 2nd July, at Penallta House, from 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.

One Beat

This event will also be held in Penallta House, on the 25th October, from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. The guest speaker will be David Roberts, CBE a Paralympic Swimmer who trained in the Caerphilly borough, and is now a professional disabled swimmer representing Caerphilly County Swim. Invitations will be sent out from the Council in August regarding voluntary organisations having a display at the event. Last year there were over 90 voluntary sector stands on display.

Compact Partners Awareness Event for Middle Managers

At the request of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee, it was felt that although the Compact was well received by Directors and Senior Managers across the Compact Partner organisations, middle managers tended to be unaware of the Compact and its requirements. To address this a Compact awareness event will be held targeting middle managers across the Compact organisations at Penallta House in late autumn. Compact Partners were asked to send names to Jackie Dix, of appropriate staff members, to attend the event.

8. ITEMS OF INTEREST CONCERNING THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR FROM COMPACT PARTNERS

Agenda Item No. 8(a) - Digest of Committee reports from Caerphilly County Borough Council

With regard to the Caerphilly Youth Service Strategy consultation 2014 – 2019, Dave Brunton said he was consulting with children and young people, and voluntary organisations and would be submitting a response on the CCBC Youth Strategy Consultation. However, the response would be submitted close to the consultation deadline. He commented that the Strategy needs to have more 'meat on the bones around partnership working,' and on the role of the Voluntary Sector.

Agenda Item No. 8(b) - Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Emily Forbes (Assistant Chief Executive – GAVO) talked through the GAVO written update, and commented that the Committee will be provided with more information on the work of GAVO as a Compact Partner, representing the Voluntary and Community Sector in the Caerphilly county borough.

Cllr. J. Pritchard noted that Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry Community Council (DWRCC) attracted some funding from the Valleys Voices – Active Engagement Portfolio, and was this not unusual for a community council, to attract funding in this way?

Alison Palmer (Community Planning Co-ordinator, GAVO) replied that the successful funding came from the Big Lottery Community Voice programme. Under the GAVO portfolio programme was 'Citizen's Engagement', which was designed to support LSB's across Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent, Newport and Monmouthshire councils. The total was for £3 million over 5 years. This was undertaken by engaging with the DWRCC to host this part of the project.

Agenda Item No. 8(c) - Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

Cyril Luke (Caerphilly People First) said that he could not see any reference by the ABUHB on the Pan Gwent Learning Strategy, which does need to be mentioned, under the Gwent Mental Health and Learning Disability Partnership update.

Cllr. Andrew Lewis said that he was concerned about the situation regarding the closure of the surgery in Trinant. In reply, Alison Gough (Partnership Manager, ABUHB) said that a colleague, Sarah Congreve, would be able to update Cllr. Lewis on this matter. She will ask Sarah to get in touch with Cllr. Lewis.

Agenda Item No. 8(d) – Caerphilly Business Forum

No update available.

Agenda Item No. 8(e) – Caerphilly Community and Town Councils

No update available.

Agenda Item No. 8(f) - Gwent Police

Cllr. Dave Carter gave an update on some policing matters, which he had obtained from a recent council conference. A major event which is planned for Newport, the NATO Summit, will be held on the 4th and 5th September and will be based in the Celtic Manor Hotel. There

are expected to be 150 high profile world leaders, representing their countries, both within the NATO Alliance, and outside the alliance. They will have approximately 10,000 support staff, and 10,000 to 20,000 demonstrators are expected. There will also be 10,000 police, protection officers. It is expected that on occasions delegates will travel from Newport to the Cardiff area and return so Gwent Police are warning of considerable traffic delays, at times, to and from those locations over those two days. Police recommendations suggest varying degrees of disruption to travel, two weeks before the dates above, and also one week later.

Cllr. John Bevan said that it was good to see that some police station front counters had re-opened, but unfortunately that was not the case in Rhymney. Sgt. Robert Davies said that he would take those comments back to his Inspector.

The Chair thanked Sgt. Davies for his report and wished all local police personnel who are retiring, well and hoped that they had a long and happy retirement.

Agenda Item No. 8(g) - South Wales Fire & Rescue Service

Contained within the report, which caused members of the committee some concern, were the figures showing an increase in car fires, and the question was asked "were these fires as a result of increasing malicious damage, or as a result of accidents / electrical / fuel faults?" Donna Crossman (Partner Agency Manager, SWFRS) said she would check on the figures and provide an update for the next meeting.

Agenda Item No. 8(h) - Police & Crime Commissioner for Gwent

Maria Chapman updated the committee with her attached report. The Commissioner has held twelve public surgeries across Gwent, three of which were in Caerphilly County Borough. Funding has been provided by the Commissioner for a Co-ordinator post to enhance the operation of the OWL scheme.

A committee member asked about the future of PACT meetings? There is work in progress to retain PACT meetings where there are substantial members of the public regularly attending but in areas where the PACT meetings are poorly attended, it was felt that police attendance was not an efficient use of police resources. Therefore PACT meetings in areas of poor attendance may not continue.

Maria Chapman also gave some information to the committee, with reference to the Gwent Police Report, on the re-opening of front desks at certain police stations. She said that should a community wish to see this facility opened at their local police station then the written request must have evidence of the degree of usage, by the public. This may take the form of a diary to indicate the number of issues, where the public would have wanted face-to-face access, to the police.

9. TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ITEM

9(a) Community Planning Quarterly Briefing April to June 2014

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS:- 17TH SEPTEMBER AND 3RD DECEMBER 2014

Next meeting on the 17th September, will be held at 10.30 a.m. in the Sirhowy / Ebbw Rooms on the 1st floor, at Penallta House. The meeting on the 3rd December will be held at 10.30 a.m. in the Council Chamber at Penallta House.

Meeting ended 11.50 a.m.