



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN ON THURSDAY 20TH JUNE 2019 AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs E.M. Aldworth (Vice-Chair)

Councillors:

A. Collis, K. Etheridge, A.G. Higgs, Mrs B.A. Jones (Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Governance), Mrs T. Parry, R. Whiting and L.G. Whittle.

Together with Representatives from:

Abertridwr Community Church (Mr. L. Clay), Cefn Hengoed Youth and Community Centre (Mrs J. Pritchard), Citizen's Advice Bureau (S. Ellington), GAVO (Mrs G. Jones and Mr S. Tiley), Homestart Caerphilly (Mrs M. Snowden), Menter Iaith (Mrs L. Jones), Oakdale Community Centre (Mr. R Evans), Town and Community Council Representative (Mr H. Llewellyn), Van Road United Reformed Church (Mr J. Wade) and the Vanguard Centre (Mrs. M. Wade).

Also present:

P. Cooke (Senior Policy Officer), A. Palmer (CCBC/GAVO), V. Doyle (Policy Officer), and A. Dredge (Committee Services Officer).

Also in attendance:

Mr David Llewellyn (Service Development Lead – Caerphilly) and Victoria Price (Community Engagement and Development Officer) - Integrated Wellbeing Networks.

Mrs Vera Jones and Mr Robert Jones (Crumlin Navigation Colliery).

1. TO APPOINT A CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

It was moved and seconded that Mrs M. Jones (Parent Network) be appointed as Chair and Councillor Mrs E. M. Aldworth be appointed as Vice-Chair for the ensuing year. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor's J. Bevan, S. Cook, J.E. Fussell, R.W. Gough, D. Harse, A. Whitcombe and W. Williams and Mrs M. Jones (Chair), K. Peters (Corporate Policy Manager), Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly Care and Repair (Mrs P. Jones) and Caerphilly People First (Mr. C. Luke).

In the absence of the Chair, it was moved and seconded that the Vice-Chair preside for the duration of the meeting. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

4. INTEGRATED WELLBEING NETWORKS (CAERPHILLY) - PRESENTATION

David Llewellyn (Service Development Lead – Caerphilly) and Victoria Price (Community Engagement and Development Officer) delivered a presentation that provided the Committee with an understanding of Integrated Wellbeing Networks (IWN's). The concept has been developed in line with the 'Healthier Wales' goal within the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015. In that "the long term future vision of a 'whole system approach to health and social care' focused on health and wellbeing, and on preventing illness." It was explained that IWN's is a place-based model of wellbeing, working together better in a more integrated way to support community well-being more effectively. The Welsh Government Transformation Fund has provided investment to the Gwent Regional Partnership Board, in addition to 5 transformation projects that include Integrated Wellbeing Networks and Compassionate Communities.

The Committee were advised of the key principles of why IWN's are needed and how they work in health and social care. These include:

- Ensuring people have a greater sense of control over what they need, making decisions about their support as an equal partner;
- Early intervention and preventing the escalation of need by ensuring that the right help is available at the right time, as close to home as possible;
- Organisations across sectors collaborate on a place basis to meet the needs of the communities they serve.

The key elements of connecting a community's strengths and assets so that people build relationships and find the things that matter to them were discussed. The Committee were referred to the www.wales.nhs.uk/IWNGwent website to view videos that show the benefits of place-based collaboration, connecting community-based 'Hubs', people who deliver services and support and how to easily access well-being Information. The early adopters of IWNs across the Region were summarised and the progress to date was discussed.

The Committee then discussed the challenges and opportunities associated with co-producing IWNs. These include:

- Verifying the localities and the roll out;
- Identifying and 'mapping' assets – not reinventing the wheel but connecting them;
- Connecting and supporting community 'hubs' that take a range of forms, which are key to supporting people within their communities;
- Fit with the developing Compassionate Communities initiative – opportunities to work with this effectively;
- Roles and requirements of key link workers such as Community Connectors/Wellbeing Champions and Social Prescribers;

- The best way of using and disseminating information through (developing) existing portals such as Dewis;
- How the team will continue to coordinate, support and sustain these networks in future;
- How the team will monitor and measure success.

The Committee were pleased to note that the voluntary sector has been recognised in the need for IWN's. A Member referenced the community hubs and questioned if there are plans in place for the voluntary sector and how this will be sustained. Members were referred to the Welsh Government Budget for 2019/20 and how the £16.3 billion has been allocated across the service areas in Wales. It was confirmed that a huge expense is going out and due to the funding that is available to Local Authorities (LA's) and Health Board's (HB's), there is a need to change the pattern of funding so that the LA's and HB's can further support the voluntary sector. Clarification was also sought regarding staffing/resource implications for the services and support being delivered by the community based 'Hubs'. It was explained that in terms of monitoring and evaluation a person will be allocated to oversee the process. The Committee noted that there are existing pressures in that the current contract is for one year, however, a Communications Officers will be put in place to put 'the message out there' emphasising the importance of engaging with Communities.

In terms of the early developing model of engagement and involvement, it was explained that not all layers are complete. Assurances were given in that all the layers such as NCN Hubs and Social Services are being listened to. The ambition is to create a professional network in moving forward. It was also noted that there are currently vibrant third sector partners that exist and this should be considered prior to developing new layers in this regard. In relation to looking at the 'bigger picture' the team will look at assets to look at what can be offered and utilised through engagement. A Member referred to the sum of £13 million allocated in funding and it was explained that although this is not broken down in to elements, this covers the whole of the Gwent Region for future care etc. The Committee were advised that details of the 5 Transformation Projects are available on the Regional Partnership Board website.

The Vice-Chair thanked Mr Llewellyn and Ms Price for attending the meeting, delivering their detailed presentation and for responding to the Committee's questions.

5. MINUTES – 14TH MARCH 2019

In relation to matters of accuracy concerning the minutes of the meeting of the 14th March 2019, Committee Members felt that due to the level of debate that had taken place regarding Agenda Item 5 - Review of Caerphilly County Borough Regeneration Grants that not enough detail had been reflected in the minutes and requested the following be included:

'A lengthy discussion was had regarding the benefits of the CRF to a range of voluntary organisations. Concerns were raised regarding the proposed focus of a new fund in terms of prioritising applications which would create employment opportunities. Judith Pritchard noted that several organisations had been able to demonstrate their ability to create employment opportunities through the current CRF. Lowri Jones noted her agreement and referred to her own organisation, Menter Caerffili, which had been successful with a CRF application in the past which had led to Menter Caerffili establishing a successful Welsh medium childcare service which currently employs 70 members of staff. Lowri Jones also noted concerns that the proposed new fund would exclude those organisations which do not have a focus on employment but provide a valuable service to communities. Lowri Jones also emphasised that the volunteering opportunities provided by these organisations

often support individuals to progress and move on to employment. Lowri Jones noted any new proposal should consider carefully the impact of changes on the ability of some voluntary organisations to continue to develop services for the local communities',

Subject to the inclusion of the above, the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th March 2019 were approved as a correct record.

6. GLOFA NAVIGATION TRUST - PRESENTATION

Mrs Vera Jones and Mr Robert Jones delivered a presentation in relation to Crumlin Navigation Colliery. The Navigation in Crumlin, Gwent, is an historic Welsh Colliery site. The sinking of the mine shafts began in 1907 by Partridge Jones and Company Ltd and the mine was in full production by 1911. The National Coal Board took over the Navigation at the time of Nationalisation in 1947 and the mine continued to produce coal until 1967. Currently the site is being maintained and managed by "The Friends of The Navigation", a team of dedicated volunteers, with the aim of restoring the site and buildings and bringing them back into use for the community.

The mission of the Team is to:

- raise the economy of the area;
- support the policies of Welsh Assembly Government and Caerphilly CBC;
- save the grade 2 star listed buildings;
- provide Education and Training;
- provide jobs and volunteering opportunities;
- be innovative and sustainable;
- be honest, open and inclusive.

It was explained that Crumlin Hydro CBC is a private limited and community interest Company that was incorporated on the 17th December 2015. The company assists in the restoration, preservation and maintenance of the historic complex of buildings and land comprising the Navigation Colliery. The object of this Company is to reuse the buildings and site and to install and operate a combined renewable heat and electrical power system for the benefit of the navigation site and the community at large.

In addition to this project, reference was made to the Metro System proposed as part of the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) City Deal. The benefits of having a proposed train station located at the site, was discussed. It was explained that this could provide a cross Valley Multimode Link, creating an inter-link for the whole of the valleys. This will require working with Natural Resources Wales, Network Rail and Caerphilly CBC. It was noted that this project could create opportunities, reduce the carbon footprint, provide electrical charging points (from the sustainable source) and provide a large parking area. Emphasis was placed on maintaining resilient Communities and a Heritage Building Academy to utilise buildings that provides opportunities for up-skilling, volunteering, curriculum planning, jobs, accreditation and a goal to provide a campus for apprenticeships. Members were encouraged to visit the Colliery and to access the website at www.crumlinnavigation.org for further information. Membership is available at £12 per person and it was explained that in terms of raising money, the Company have to pay £2,500 annual liability insurance to protect the voluntary workers. Mr and Mrs Jones set up a display board showing historical and current photographs and other items of interest for the Committee's perusal.

The Committee discussed the current status of the open shafts at the Colliery and were advised these have not been used for 52 years. Water has remained in the Colliery and the coal has diminished. Drawings have been completed and the Coal Authority has confirmed that the process of capping the shafts will be undertaken during July 2019. This will involve removing the debris from the top level and the policy is to employ local people

to undertake the work. This links with the innovation and sustainability with reference to the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015.

The Vice-Chair thanked Mr and Mrs Jones for attending the meeting and presenting such a detailed and passionate presentation.

7. ITEMS OF INTEREST CONCERNING THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR FROM COMPACT PARTNERS (VERBAL UPDATES)

Mrs J. Pritchard (Cefn Hengoed Youth and Community Centre) thanked Gina Jones at GAVO for assisting with their application for grant funding for the Youth Centre in Cefn Hengoed. They were successful in achieving a community regeneration grant and this was match funded by the Community Council. She was also pleased to inform the Committee that she has been involved in a project for the redistribution of food for those people in the community who need it. The Company who provide the service is 'Fare Share' and are based in Cardiff. They redistribute surplus food from supermarkets to charities and turn this into meals. This is an extremely useful and inspiring project and will increase the numbers of people benefitting from this service. In addition, there is no eligibility criteria associated and this process is slightly different to food banks. The Link Worker from Fare Share is Kate Hadfield and she recently delivered a presentation to the Third Sector Forum setting out what the Company offers and how they operate and are keen to work in the Caerphilly Borough. The recent first delivery was well received within the local community, and this provided meals for approximately 17 to 18 families at a delivery cost of £15. The Committee were urged to visit the website at www.fareshare.org.uk as this project prevents waste and makes fantastic savings to families. The Committee supported Kate Hadfield attending a future Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee Meeting to deliver a presentation on the service they provide.

Mr H. Llewellyn (Town and Community Councillor Representative) advised the Committee that discussions are ongoing with the Community Councils regarding the closure of public toilets across the borough and the potential for taking over the running of this service.

Mrs Wade (Vanguard Caerphilly) informed the Committee of recent and upcoming events within the Vanguard Centre. These include Dementia Friends Training for Residents and daily music and theatre concerts. One recent concert held raised £617 for the Alzheimer's Society. She referred to a concert scheduled for the 20th July 2019 that would welcome Cor Tadau Trisant Choir in support of the David Hawthorn Memorial Fund. The Committee were encouraged to attend this and future events at the Centre.

Mr P. Cooke (Senior Policy Officer) provided an update in respect of the Wellbeing Plan. It is a legal requirement that an annual report is produced. He advised that with the use of Microsoft Sway the annual report has been produced in a digital and interactive format that will contain hyper-links. PDF hard copies are also available. The Annual Public Services Board Partnership Conference is to be held on the 5th July 2019 at Llancaiach Fawr. It is intended that the Compact Agreement will be launched at the meeting and the Wellbeing Assessment online resource will also be launched.

Ms A. Palmer (CCBC/GAVO) updated the Committee in relation to the Compact Agreement and confirmed that the previous Compact ended in 2018. Officers want to ensure the new Compact is high profile and as such this will be launched at the PSB Annual Conference on 5th July. This will be incorporated into the Wellbeing Plan and the Future Generations principles and the 'Caerphilly We Want'. Partners will sign the Compact on the day and this will then be distributed to Officers and organisations emphasising the importance of transparency and working together.

Mr S. Tiley (GAVO) thanked representatives of the Committee for attending the showcase

“One Beat” public event that was held on Thursday 13th June 2019 at St Gwladys Church Hall in Bargoed. The event was free to attend with free tea and coffee also available. The event was an opportunity for residents to see the work of voluntary and community organisations in the Caerphilly County Borough and to find out what support, advice and information is available. The GAVO AGM 2019 will be held on 7th November (9:30 - 12:30) at Llancaiach Fawr Manor. The Committee were advised of a new community Environmental Award Scheme ‘Be Proud of Your Community Gwent Awards’ and the deadline is the 31st July 2019 including a photography competition for children/young people aged between 11 and 23 years “My Favourite Place”. Details are available on the GAVO website. In terms of the Wellbeing Plan, GAVO has been updating their strategic plan that will contain the work to be undertaken in the borough up until 2022. This is progressing well and will be delivered shortly and a further workshop will be set up in moving forward.

Mrs J. Pritchard asked if the Community Asset Working Group had met since the last Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee meeting. Mr Cooke confirmed that he would contact the Lead Officers within the group ensuring that Mrs Pritchard and Mr R. Evans names are on the invite list to attend future meetings.

The meeting ended at 12.15pm.

Approved as a correct record and subject to amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 26th September 2019, they were signed by the Chair.

CHAIR