



## Caerphilly Public Services Board Well-being Plan Performance Report

7 monthly report Oct 21 – April 2022

### Action Area AA2A

## Volunteering

**Positive Change**— Developing a recognition of value and benefit of volunteering for well-being and encouraging involvement in the enablers

**Positive Start**— Embedding and supporting volunteering with children and families to develop citizenship

**Positive People**— Providing opportunities to develop a culture of sharing skills, supporting each other and promoting active citizenship.

**Positive Places**— Supporting resilient and cohesive communities by bringing people together for community action.

**Stephen Tiley**

20/05/2022

## Performance Levels

Performance measures where identifiable	Is there a risk this will not be achieved?
Number of PSB partner volunteering opportunities promoted and filled	No
PSB staff take-up of volunteering opportunities	No
Number of volunteers moving into apprenticeships, employment	No

Quantifiable measures	Is there a risk this will not be achieved?
Volunteering journey case studies	No

## Evidence

Priority	Comment
Priority 1: Develop a coordinated approach to volunteering to enable all PSB partners to promote volunteering for wellbeing effectively	Continued use and promotion of the Volunteering Wales platform. There has been opportunities to advertise, recruit and support has been offered to partners and Volunteers alike to carry out specific and vital community activity.
Priority 2: Develop a PSB approach to Employer Supported Volunteering (corporate social responsibility) to enable staff of PSB organisations to volunteer	Support has continued through the Caerphilly Cares Scheme and the Caerphilly Buddy Scheme worker to support Employer Supported Volunteering, with many opportunities provided for staff of CCBC. Conversations will continue with all PSB partners on how this can be reviewed for maximum impact moving forward through a Volunteering workshop.
Priority 3: Recognise and utilise volunteering as a first step to the employment market	Volunteering is still seen as a key stepping stone into employment. The COVID 19 pandemic will mean that this is more important than ever, with future link in to apprenticeships a key priority.
Priority 4: Provide volunteering opportunities that are appropriate for all ages and sectors of the community	This continues to be the focus of GAVO but the COVID 19 pandemic has hindered this, in particular at the earlier stages of the pandemic. Caerphilly has the highest numbers of Volunteers placed and supported into opportunities across the 4 boroughs we work which shows recovery from COVID is in play.

## Key Tasks

Ref	Task	Progress
2A.1.2	Mapping/capturing current volunteering opportunities across PSB Partners	GAVO has been in discussion over the last 6 months with all Public Service Partners, with Volunteering opportunities being put forward when needed.
2A.1.3 & 2A.4.2	<p>Research current volunteering policies &amp; strategies, good practice in volunteering, and corporate volunteering policies with PSB partners and wider network including regional, national and UK models</p> <p>To work with PSB partners to make reasonable adjustments to volunteering opportunities to enable the involvement of people with additional support needs, in line with the auspices of the Equality Act and the Corporate Values Statements of PSB Partners. Apply Equality Impact Assessment methodology</p>	<p>GAVO has been key in liaising with Welsh Government and WCVA on any policy changes in line with Volunteering. Where these have been updated, they have been communicated and publicised.</p> <p>As part of the Welsh Government guidance and changes to policy towards the health and safety of Organisations during COVID, GAVO has been in receipt of money from Welsh Government and has been utilising this to develop the Restart programme. This was Volunteering in Wales Recovery fund money aimed at aiding community venues to carry out Health and Safety assessments to enable them to have the confidence to reopen.</p> <p>The Volunteering Team has attended the Aneurin Bevan area Wellbeing meetings (Bargoed, Rhymney, Risca, Caerphilly areas) this has been an opportunity to engage with local groups and learn more regarding their activities and how we can work in Partnership to improve, raise awareness and address local issues, stimulate growth and plan a route forward post COVID. Current plans include a Risca Wellbeing Half Term event with a calendar of activities covering the entire week utilising several local centres and church floor space. GAVO is to advertise via Social Media the value of volunteering to all age groups, together with the advertising of Info Engine to source local area activities post event.</p>
2A.1.5	Promote volunteer recognition scheme as a PSB i.e. Annual Volunteering Awards and volunteering recognition certificates	For Volunteering, much of Q1 was communicating with organisations to prepare for Volunteers' Week which was from 1st-7th June. Volunteers week gave GAVO the opportunity to engage locally, for example, with

		<p>the Volunteers at Bargoed Taraggan Educational Gardens. Interviews were undertaken with those volunteering from various age groups and backgrounds and have been used for promotion and marketing. There has also been promotion of the work by The Parish Trust, Caerphilly Miners Centre and St Gwladys, all of whom have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic.</p> <p>Political leads such as Gerald Jones, Dawn Bowden, Councillor Carol Andrews, Jeff Cuthbert, the Police Commissioner, The Lord Lieutenant said thank you to all those community volunteers who have dedicated their time and passion to support others.</p>
2A.1.6	Develop a Volunteering Strategy for Caerphilly integral to which are the Caerphilly PSB Partners	There have been many new Volunteering initiatives created during Q1 and Q2 but this has been due to the landscape that COVID has placed us in and remains at present. This evolution of Volunteering needs to form a formalised strategy during Q3 and Q4.
2A.1.8	Apply technology to support the promotion of and participation in Volunteering – Volunteering Wales digital platform	<p>GAVO continues to promote the use of Volunteering Wales as the system to promote, recruit and manage Volunteers and opportunities.</p> <p>The work to drive and promote Volunteering Wales has been such a success that for the financial year 2020-21, the GAVO region had the most Volunteers recruited through Volunteering Wales and the most providers signed up across the whole of Wales. Coupled with this, the GAVO region has had the highest percentage of views across Wales to the Volunteering Wales website. This information has been provided and circulated via WCVA to Welsh Government.</p> <p>Facebook and Social media is also being used more for Volunteer recruitment, by GAVO, Organisations and the Caerphilly Buddy scheme, with the latter also having online sign up.</p>

		<p>Risca Community HACK (Channel View Community Centre) brought together groups and organisations in collaboration with a focus around the creation of activities locally supporting the enhancement of wellbeing post COVID lock down. The Wales Co-op formulated the day looking at areas around funding, buildings, advertising and engagement. GAVO Caerphilly Volunteering offered their third sector support around it's Recognition Awards Scheme, Volunteering advertising via the Gwent Volunteering in Wales Platform, Info-Engine advertising mechanism and personal participation within one of the individual group settings/activity.</p>
<p>2A.2.3 &amp; 2A.2.4</p>	<p>Understand and define the benefits of Employer Supported Volunteering programmes, and the Corporate challenges around implementation and work through the challenges</p> <p>Develop Caerphilly as a lead and exemplar for Employer Supported Volunteering (corporate social responsibility)</p>	<p>The Caerphilly Cares Scheme and Buddy scheme have been active over the last 6 months in supporting our Communities within Caerphilly. Our Volunteering Officer left us during Q1 and as a partnership, Caragh Porter has since been appointed to this role.</p> <p>There have been many successes with this project and within the last 6 months and before, with much learning available for other partners to utilise to benefit their own Employer Supported Volunteer Programmes.</p> <p>The Caerphilly Buddy Scheme currently has 56 active volunteers. There is an online recruitment post being planned for this month to be shared on the Council's Facebook page.</p> <p>The Buddy Scheme will play a large part in the Council's Employer Supported Volunteering Scheme which is due to launch this October. With an agreed upon amount of hours undertaken in a volunteering placement, the employee's will be eligible for extra days of annual leave.</p> <p>There are currently 575 hours logged by the volunteers on the Volunteering Wales</p>
2A.3.3	Recognise and celebrate volunteering achievements	As outlined in 2A 1.5, Volunteers week has been an important event to During Q1 to

	<p>and the personal journey of Volunteers and inspire participation through positive publicity and the celebration of and achievement of Volunteers.</p>	<p>celebrate volunteering achievements and the personal journey of Volunteers to inspire participation.</p> <p>This was again held online but has been a positive opportunity to thank all volunteers for their contributions.</p> <p>Over the past 6 months, GAVO has also distributed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Five thousand hour certificates</li> <li>• 1 Three thousand hour certificate</li> <li>• 1 Two thousand hour certificate</li> <li>• 1 One thousand hour certificate (all signed by the Lord Lieutenant)</li> <li>• 4 Two hundred hour certificates</li> <li>• 13 One hundred hour certificates</li> <li>• 6 Fifty hour certificates.</li> </ul>
2A.4.3	<p>To work with Third Sector Organisations, community groups and other partners to maximise participation in Volunteering from different ages and sectors of the community and implement promotion and communication strategies where there are gaps in participation from certain ages and community sectors.</p>	<p>The past 6 months have seen the return of the Voluntary Sector Representatives and the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committees which have given opportunity again re engage Third Sector Organisations into the Well Being agenda as COVID has restricted this towards the end of 2020 and beginning of 2021.</p> <p>GAVO has also received COVID recovery grants from Welsh Government which have been distributed to aid Third Sector Organisations with recovery.</p> <p>The Buddy Scheme has enabled many genuine connections and friendships to develop, those who have committed to the scheme have expressed they feel accomplished and really benefit from their volunteering. The support that the vulnerable people have been receiving has been vital and graciously received. The Buddy Scheme has aims to strengthen community relationships and encourage involvement in attending groups and events. Buddies are matched with people with similar interests and locations in order to make this possible.</p>



## Conclusion

Contribution to the 7 Well-being Goals: A prosperous Wales, A resilient Wales, A healthier Wales, A more equal Wales, A Wales of cohesive communities, A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language, A globally responsible Wales.