



Caerphilly Public Services Board Well-being Plan Performance Report

6 monthly report 1st May 22 – 31st October 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

12/12/2022

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. All opportunities to advertise, recruit and support volunteers have been offered to partners and volunteers alike to carry out community activity. This has included supporting Caerphilly Cares to identify Caerphilly based volunteering suitable for staff volunteers.
Priority 2: Develop a PSB approach to Employer Supported Volunteering (corporate social responsibility) to enable staff of PSB organisations to volunteer	<p>GAVO support continued through to the end of the initial Caerphilly Buddy Scheme when the worker transferred to a permanent post, and into the re-focussed Employer Supported Volunteering scheme.</p> <p>GAVO has been consulting with WCVA and other CVCs to lead Gwent wide development of employer supported volunteering opportunities, working in direct partnership with businesses. GAVO is also currently working closely with Business in the Community to provide business expertise through employer supported volunteering with third sector, community voluntary organisations. Additionally, GAVO volunteering officers are providing key support for the PSB Green Spaces volunteering scheme, by providing volunteers for the tree planting scheme.</p>

<p>Priority 3: Recognise and utilise volunteering as a first step to the employment market</p>	<p>Volunteering is still seen as a key stepping stone into employment. To this end, GAVO volunteering officers organise regular meetings with Bargoed, Blackwood, Caerphilly JCPs to promote the value of volunteering to Jobcentre staff and claimants as a valid progression route into employment by providing employability skills and opportunities for training. For example, working closely with Cefn Fforest Miners Welfare Institute CIC to provide young-people with construction skills training.</p>
<p>Priority 4: Provide volunteering opportunities that are appropriate for all ages and sectors of the community</p>	<p>This continues to be the focus of GAVO Caerphilly Volunteering Team. The Team continues to have the highest numbers of Volunteers placed and supported into opportunities across the four boroughs where we work. This is exemplified where GAVO volunteering officers attend a wide range of places and events, such as Fresher’s Fairs at both Crosskeys and Ystrad Mynach colleges, where they are able to reach young-people, Local Jobcentres, C4W outreach venues and community events for example. December 2022 saw the return of the GAVO Caerphilly One Beat third sector networking and showcase event, held at Blackwood Methodist Church. Twenty-eight organisations were represented, providing GAVO volunteering officers with opportunities for liaising with a diverse number of community voluntary organisations to offer volunteering support.</p>

Key Tasks


Ref	Task	Progress
2A.1.2	Mapping/capturing current volunteering opportunities across PSB Partners	<p>GAVO continues to promote opportunities for volunteering with partners and has worked with CCBC and ABUHB to support volunteering opportunities in well-being activities, projects and services.</p> <p>Looking toward 2023 there are potential opportunities to support volunteering through volunteering to employment schemes via ABUHB and the NHS, where people from</p>

		<p>communities high on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation will have a chance to volunteer in a health, social care and well-being role that may lead on to meaningful employment within the NHS.</p> <p>This is consistent with a Community Wealth Building and Well-being Economics approach and GAVO volunteering officers can play a key role in facilitating progression routes from volunteering into employment.</p>
<p>2A.1.3 & 2A.4.2</p>	<p>Research current volunteering policies & 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 continues to liaise with Welsh Government and WCVA on any policy changes impacting on Volunteering. Where these have been updated, they have been communicated and publicised.</p> <p>The Restart Volunteer Support Programme which helped volunteer run groups with risk assessments to re-open facilities came to an end in March 2022 with 40 community venues assessed and advised.</p> <p>As organisations restarted their services volunteering opportunities have been encouraged and promoted, including work with White Rose Centre during their Wellbeing Event week where GAVO supported their events to promote opportunities. Working closely with organisations such as the Integrated Wellbeing Networks has identified opportunities for volunteers with additional support needs such as opportunities with People First at Tarragan Educational Gardens, celebrating their 13th Anniversary, as well as other voluntary organisations.</p>
2A.1.5	<p>Promote volunteer recognition scheme as a PSB i.e. Annual Volunteering Awards and volunteering recognition certificates</p>	<p>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, with many organisations requesting volunteer recognition certificates.</p>


GAVO was pleased to work in conjunction with CCBC Communications and Policy to bring back the face to face Volunteering Awards this year in October to celebrate volunteering with recognition of volunteering efforts over a number of new categories and with the incorporation of the Mayor's Civic Awards and High Sheriff's Award for the first time.



There was enthusiastic support from the community and Employer Supported Volunteers for the tree planting initiative at Ynys Hywel farm with over 100 volunteers taking part. GAVO Volunteering Officers are involved in the ongoing discussions to widen the project and the potential to encourage a social enterprise development at Ynys Hywel to raise saplings, providing a ready supply of trees for further planting projects in communities. Other community sites are being identified for planting in March 2023.

		
2A.1.6	Develop a Volunteering Strategy for Caerphilly integral to which are the Caerphilly PSB Partners	Work will progress in Q4 with support from CCBC SPF grant to develop a Volunteering Strategy utilising GAVO and external expertise to develop policy documents for the PSB, in conjunction with a Third Sector Partnership Agreement which has been drafted and is in process of approval.
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. The system has been under review during 2022 and a new version, which is intended to be more user friendly for statutory sector partners is due for launch in Q4.</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>
2A.2.3 & 2A.2.4	<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>Following several months of planning and consultation with employees and key partners, the CCBC Employee Volunteering Scheme was fully endorsed by CMT and finally launched digitally in October 2021 with all the supporting documents and information posted on the employee Intranet site.</p> <p>The main challenges have been delays or restrictions in engagement both with employees and community organisations due to Covid, either practically or due to high levels of the virus in the community. This prompted the digital approach to promotion taken during</p>

		<p>the initial stages prior to and following the launch, which facilitated communication with large numbers of staff but perhaps not the impact achievable with the preferred, personal approach.</p> <p>There were some initial teething issues with registering employees on Volunteering Wales, as the IT security filtering system was blocking or delaying the registration process, leading to confusion and frustration among employees. Working with the WCVA, Team Kinetic (providers of the system) and our corporate IT team these issues were eventually resolved however the team continue to monitor this as/when new employees are engaged.</p> <p>The main objective for team going forward will be to grow the Employee Volunteering Scheme ensuring quality volunteering opportunities that benefit the volunteer & the community. Developing skills in the use of Volunteering Wales platform and including this as a tool for managing all CCBC opportunities; linking with WCVA and GAVO volunteering team to support training and learning for those staff managing volunteers/opportunities who aren't familiar with the system</p> <p>The next phase in the development of the scheme will expand on some areas of work identified during the last year, including but not limited to: development of an overarching volunteering policy & strategy, engaging the private sector (particularly large scale contractors) in volunteering for community benefits, establishing an internal network of providers and standardising our procedures/policies so there is a universal offer and quality experience for volunteers.</p> <p>This work will be done in partnership with GAVO to offer technical advice/support to our team and other CCBC departments as part of the network, particularly in relation to policy development.</p>
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<p>2A.3.3</p>	<p>Recognise and celebrate volunteering achievements and the personal journey of Volunteers and inspire participation through positive publicity and the celebration of and achievement of Volunteers.</p>	<p>As outlined in 2A 1.5, Volunteers week has been an important event to During Q1 to celebrate volunteering achievements and the personal journey of Volunteers to inspire participation, as was the Volunteering Awards, back face to face this year. Sponsorship from the Caerphilly Observer included publicity in the newspaper as well as on CCBC, partners' social media and our own monthly Caerphilly Third Sector Bulletin. All nominated volunteers were presented with a certificate of recognition for their contribution to their community and the voluntary sector.</p> <p>This year, twenty-eight organisations were represented at One Beat, once again providing evidence for the value of the event to the county borough and the third sector, and demonstrating that One Beat is the premier voluntary sector networking and showcase event in the Caerphilly county borough.</p> 
<p>2A.4.3</p>	<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 GAVO team in Caerphilly has worked consistently and increasingly across the period with a diverse range of voluntary organisations as they re-open to reinvigorate services and activities. The team have provided more in depth support to a number of groups with business planning, management reviews and governance review workshops, to support volunteer trustees and encourage more diversity in volunteer trustees coming forward. New Chatty Cafés have been supported to set up across the borough in Rhymney and</p>

		Lansbury Park and there has been a particular focus on activities for wellbeing.
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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.