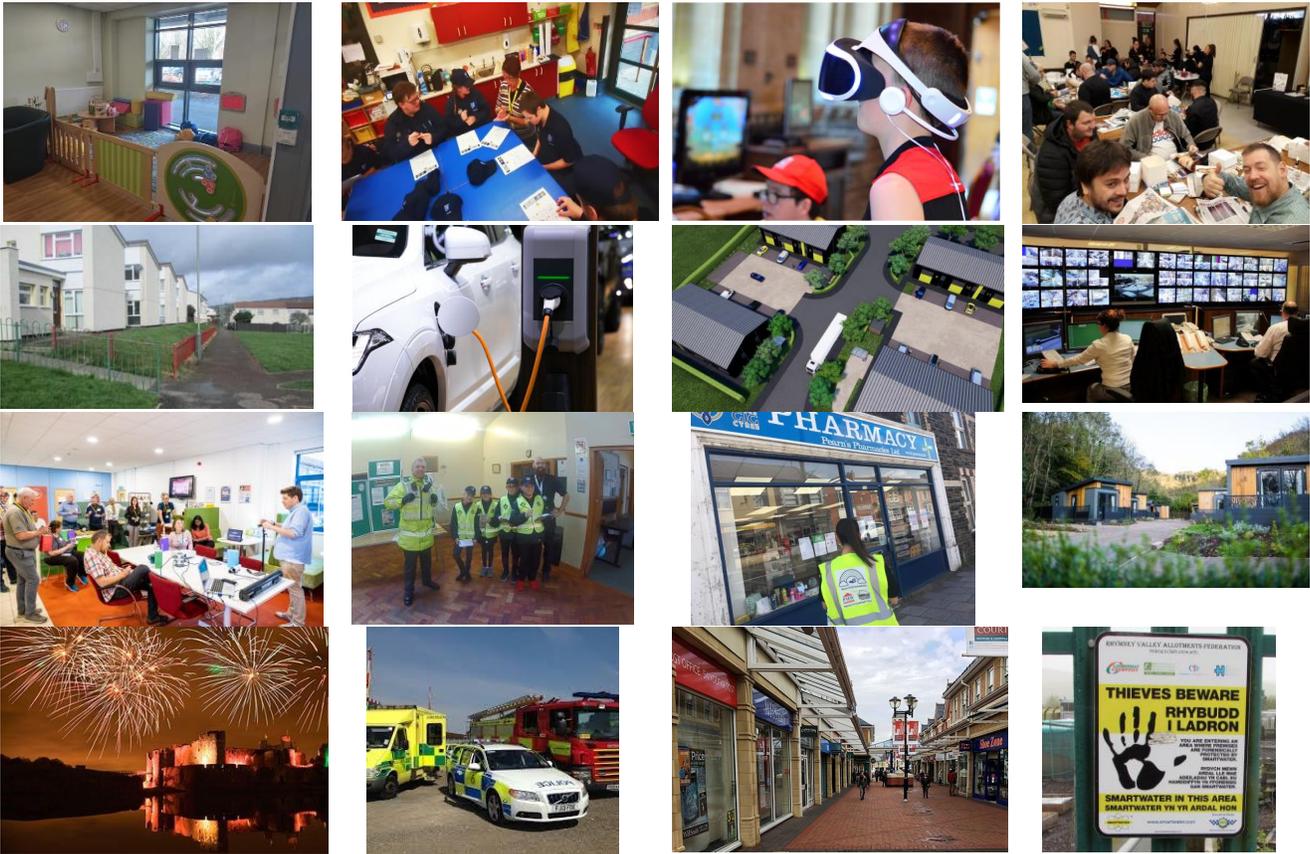


Caerphilly Public Services Board Annual Report 2019-20



Introduction and context

Welcome to the Annual Report of the Caerphilly Public Services Board (PSB) for 2019/20, highlighting progress made against the 'Caerphilly We Want 2018-2023' Well-being Plan. This year's report covers a longer 16-month period, as all partners have inevitably been involved in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic. Taking a longer timeframe has allowed us to showcase some of the amazing public and community sector response to supporting communities through this public health crisis.

Our video story is structured around the 4 Well-being Objectives the PSB has set itself - Positive Change, Positive Start, Positive People and Positive Places. We hope you have time to view some of the exceptional partnership working that has been happening by clicking on the links below. Our objectives are underpinned by our Action Areas, with progress on each

discussed throughout this Sway report. You will also find hyperlinks to more detailed information should you wish to delve a little further.

The past 6 months have been an unprecedented time for public services and local communities. The Caerphilly PSB has responded to these challenges by building on its already strong partnership working for community well-being. If you would like to contact the PSB, please do so using the links on the [PSB website](#).

In line with this publication, we were able to move from the crucial establishment of groups and structures phase, into delivering significant change and real improvements for our residents - and to four key objectives as set out in Caerphilly PSB's well-being plan. Progress and the content of this video is structured around these objectives:

Yn unol âi gyhoeddi, roedden ni'n gallu symud o'r cynnod sefydlu grwpiau a strwythurau hanfodol, i gyflawni newid sylweddol a gwelliannau gwirioneddol i'n trigolion o dan bedwar amcan allweddol fel y'u nodwyd yng Nghyrrllun Lles y Bwrdd.



Integration
The Delivery Plan that will support the delivery of the Well-being Plan does not sit directly under the individual Well-being Objectives. Instead, it identifies a series of outcome-oriented actions and activities to respond to the issues facing the county borough. The detailed actions have been supported by action-planning with partners and communities.
As areas of work are delivered in collaboration, and across the aims and objectives of contributing partners, so they integrate across the Well-being Objectives of each public body and contribute to the National Well-being Goals for Wales. The chosen actions and activities are those which the Board considers will collectively maximise their contribution towards the National Well-being Goals.



Collaboration
Throughout the development of the Assessment of Well-being and the Well-being Plan, partners have been involved in all aspects, from the identification and prioritisation of the issues to be addressed, through to the development of the Well-being Objectives and the Delivery Plan.
The Board recognises its collective responsibility to ensure the well-being of our future generations, and the necessity of working collaboratively to secure the best outcomes for local people across public sector delivery in the area. Board members will strengthen their ability to affect change by making delivery against the Well-being Plan central to core activity of their own organisations, and sharing accountability for its success.



Long-term
The Board recognises that many of the issues identified in the Assessment of Well-being are due to the historical legacy of the area and entrenched problems that cannot be addressed in the short-term. Therefore, these will need to be tackled over the longer term, with incremental change and creative solutions needed. While this plan sets actions and activities for the first five years it is written with an eye on long-term sustainable change.

1 - Introduction from the Chair of the PSB

<https://youtu.be/M9ItAzOD9rl>



2 - Positive Change video

<https://youtu.be/wUOzkMyIXal>



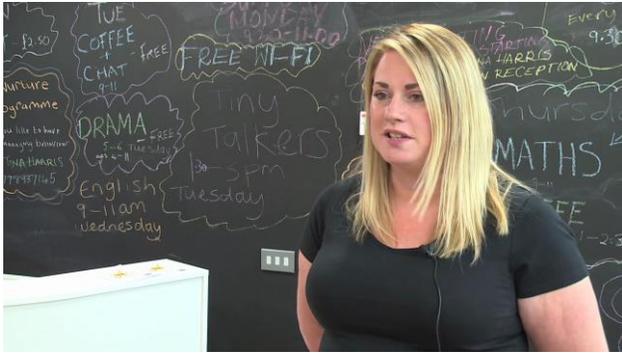
3 - Positive People video

<https://youtu.be/OTOWpTSAobg>



4 - Positive Places video

<https://youtu.be/B7sDpe42P7M>



5 - Positive Start video

https://youtu.be/5G2Dnt_sSDQ

Best start in life

The last 16 months have been both challenging and rewarding, and during 2019 we made significant progress within this Action Area. However, in 2020 our focus changed to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic and now it is returning to re-energise the progress made last year and incorporate the lessons learnt during the pandemic period.

This recent fast paced and exhausting period has created many positive opportunities. We have successfully redesigned and delivered our services in a very short amount of time and significantly developed our IT and virtual connections, and what has been achieved is outstanding. Our collaborative team working has enhanced beyond (what were previously) blockages in the system. Communication amongst staff teams and families has strengthened, and communities have pulled together to form strong bonds and support networks that did not previously exist, and we want to support all of this to continue.

The test now is to find a way forward that is right for future generations within whatever becomes the new normal. We need to learn from the past 16 months and harness both successes and failures to inform system change, to ensure our service delivery is focused on the needs of the family and child, and not stopped by traditional organisational or professional structures.

Central to this is the intense work ongoing within the Welsh Government's Early Years Integrated Transformation Programme. Working regionally with Blaenau Gwent, Newport, Aneurin Bevan Health Board and Public Health Wales Gwent, we are developing joined up and responsive Early Years services. During 2019, senior leadership, managers and front-line staff started a journey that challenges assumptions, identifies what matters to families and respects innovation and integration. In the Autumn, (the impact of Covid-19 delayed the original planned start from March) we will be running pilot teams across the region in communities identified of high need, where all staff work to the same principles and values. These were developed in 2019 using the Vanguard Systems Thinking method and will focus service delivery on 'What Matters' to the family/child, bringing together Flying Start, Families First, Supporting People, core services and wider partners in integrated delivery. Through a place-based focus, we will address the holistic needs of the family/child and ensure that individuals have local accessible support when they need it.

The learning prior to implementation of the pilot has been extended through the recent pandemic as teams piloted new ways to reach families, enhancing the support offer available as we move to implementation of the pilot. This included virtual groups, social media daily activities and updates, individual contacts by phone, WhatsApp or Attend Anywhere, online parenting programmes, doorstep drops and contacts, and development of 'clean rooms' in shared partner buildings to enable one-to-one appointments, especially for worried parents of new babies. Planned evaluation in 2021 will show what works, what failed and how we can make this model sustainable moving forward, to realign core delivery and improve outcomes for children and families, staff and organisations across the county borough and region.

All staff within the local Early Years system, in both public sector and private settings, have been trained on Adverse Childhood Experiences. This knowledge has been interwoven into the Vanguard process, as well as informing the new model of delivery, which focuses strongly on community support and early intervention.

Since the Future Generations Commissioner Sophie Howe visited Lansbury Park last year, the community group 'Bridging Together – for a brighter future' have gone from strength to strength. They are now constituted and have raised funds to bring in and run the projects that they would like locally.

They held two hugely successful Christmas Parties with over 50 children and their parents – some parents said they could never afford to take their children to see Santa, so this was amazing. They also developed skills such as organising a large event, handling money and bookings, budgeting, decorating, being creative and improving self-esteem. So that the community didn't miss out due to Covid-19, at Easter they organised for one of their group to dress as the Easter bunny and give out socially distanced chocolate eggs with the local Police team.

Funding has been granted to the Parent Network for a Community Co-ordinator and Receptionist to support them to redesign and take on the duties of welcoming the community into the Integrated Children's Centre (ICC). The work placement Receptionist role has now been extended as a post to be reviewed in March 2021. The Receptionist has replaced the furniture, created a new usable space for play and undertakes duties including engaging with parents and children, and organising bookings for the rooms. The ICC is now a community hub with the community running groups and free Wi-Fi is available for informal learning.

The feeling in the ICC is very different now. Parents are talking to each other to develop what they need in the ICC or the area. Groups are running in Maths, English, parenting, playwork, craft, and speech and drama, which are well attended and having positive impacts.

The concept of Children First was working with the community to enable them to identify and support their own needs. The ICC shows how successful a community can be in supporting everyone, creating a cohesive community, working in partnership with staff if they are needed, and reducing the reliance on professionals by breaking down barriers to engagement.

The Parent Network is a peer support project enabling families, parents and carers to have a voice in the development of the services that affect them, their wider family and the community as a whole. By facilitating peer-led groups, individuals are encouraged to become group volunteers. This progresses into the group gaining confidence and knowledge, giving them an informed voice in their community and enabling the group to become independent

'when it's ready'. The groups are able to develop their own bespoke training programmes, take part in community events, be involved in consultations and help to shape their own community, with 'do things with us not to us' the mantra of Network members. Prior to Covid-19 there were 25 groups running across the county borough, with a combination of constituted, independent and volunteer led groups, along with some newer groups who have yet to find their feet and who currently receive support from one of a team of support workers. As a result of lockdown, and in contradiction to what could have been, 21 of the groups became online virtual groups. This meant that we were able to 'keep a caring eye on our communities', whilst myth busting and giving out important information, along with supporting signposting and referrals. More than that, however, we were there at any time 24/7 if someone wanted a chat, either via text, phone or video call. This was vital contact for some families in the first few weeks of lockdown.

As we came to terms with the new way of living, we started doorstep drops - delivering crafting materials kindly donated by Head 4 Arts, to enable our families to join together in groups and share a crafting activity, which also gave us and the families valuable eye-to-eye contact and the chance for a chat.

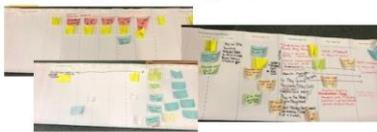
During lockdown the project also gained new members, as those that hadn't previously been able to join us physically now had time to engage virtually. We also gained 20 Parent Champions, all of which are going through online training sessions with our Participation Officer and are supported by the whole team. PETRA Publishing even wrote a book online via Facebook Messenger with approximately 60 participants, which was no mean feat. The book will be printed very soon and contains a lockdown message. PETRA has written three additional books during lockdown that they plan to launch as soon as restrictions are lifted enough to bring everyone together. Two of the books were written in partnership with the Police and one was written with Head 4 Arts. This brings the total book count for PETRA to 72, which is amazing. It is believed that PETRA is now the largest publisher of children's books in Wales.

Our Journey...
Early Years Mapping Event 14th May 2019



6 - Early Years mapping workshop
14th May 2019

Our Journey...
Early Years Mapping Event 14th May 2019



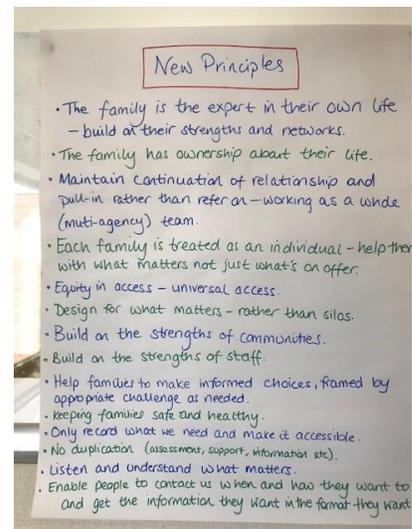
7 - Early Years mapping workshop 14th
May 2019



9 - Bridging Together logo



10 - St James ICC new reception area



8 - Vanguard process flipcharts

- New Principles**
- The family is the expert in their own life
- build on their strengths and networks.
 - The family has ownership about their life.
 - Maintain continuation of relationship and pull-in rather than referal - working as a whole (multi-agency) team.
 - Each family is treated as an individual - help them with what matters not just what's on offer.
 - Equity in access - universal access.
 - Design for what matters - rather than silos.
 - Build on the strengths of communities.
 - Build on the strengths of staff.
 - Help families to make informed choices, framed by appropriate challenge as needed.
 - Keeping families safe and healthy.
 - Only record what we need and make it accessible.
 - No duplication (assessments, support, information etc).
 - Listen and understand what matters.
 - Enable people to contact us when and how they want to and get the information they want in the format they want.



11 - St James Christmas Party decorations



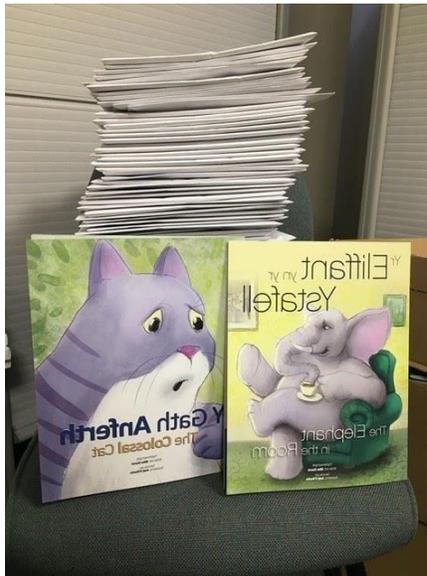
12 - St James Christmas Party decorations



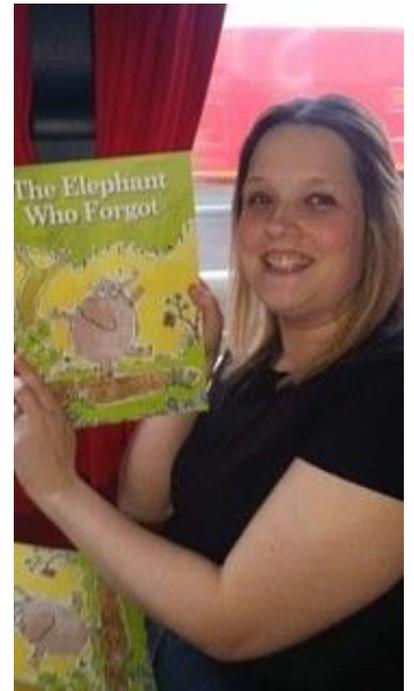
13 - Easter bunny and helper handing out Easter eggs



14 - Doorstep deliveries during Covid



15 - The Elephant in the Room and the Colossal Cat books



16 - Trip to London for The Elephant in the Room book



17 - St James ICC new reception area



18 - Jayne Bryant MS talking about Moli, The Cow Who Moo She Was Different book at the Senedd



19 - The Colossal Cat book launch at Panside Primary



20 - Launch of My Monster and the Magic Glasses book

Apprenticeships

It has been a successful year in terms of employment support within the local authority area. The Communities for Work and Communities for Work Plus programmes together engaged over 575 people from the county borough; of whom more than 300 secured employment as a result of intensive mentoring and training to address a range of barriers to employment such as lack of qualifications, poor digital literacy, low confidence and childcare issues. The employment support offer within the county borough is centred around a triage process, which ensures that any incoming referrals are supported to access the appropriate programme based upon their eligibility, thus creating a simple single point of contact for customers into all Council employment programmes. The recruitment of a dedicated Business Liaison Officer (funded via the Communities for Work Plus programme) at the start of the financial year has also enabled us to significantly expand our reach in terms of our relationships with local employers, which has yielded extremely positive results in terms of placements and sustainable employment opportunities across all employment programmes. The Business Liaison Officer is able to maintain regular dialogue with employers, which allows us to respond to their labour needs promptly and effectively; throughout the year we have seen many examples of employers returning to us for subsequent recruitment drives due to the ongoing success of these partnerships.

These positive outcomes have also been boosted by additional support from the Council's WHQS Barriers Fund, which has enabled Council tenants to access further funding for training, travel, clothing and hygiene packs to support them in finding employment. During the 19/20 delivery year, 22 Council tenants were directly supported via this funding, of whom 16 have secured sustainable employment (to date). This funding has also been utilised to support wider-scale initiatives, such as a Jobs Fair in Lansbury Park and the Suits You project in Rhymney, which aims to provide affordable workwear for those seeking employment.

The onset of the pandemic towards the latter part of the financial year has of course presented unprecedented challenges in terms of the economy, with significant implications in terms of employment support. We are anticipating a significant spike in redundancies in the coming year, alongside additional challenges such as a shortage of opportunities and an increase in the personal barriers faced by people due to the ongoing impacts of the pandemic. In response to this, we are continuing to work closely with local employers and

with partners including Welsh Government and the Department of Work and Pensions. In addition to this, we are also working closely with the Council's Business Enterprise Renewal Team to develop a multi-agency redundancy response group to respond to large scale redundancies as and when they happen.

Video case studies: <https://youtu.be/FeFGCCu7SLg> <https://youtu.be/K8kp1GmBijE>

At the start of the 2019/20 financial year we also commenced planning for an ambitious project to provide a single gateway into work placements and apprenticeships within the local authority (and hopefully via external employers too), as a route to sustainable employment. Extensive work was carried out to consult senior managers and departments, and to secure opportunities for placements and apprenticeships, alongside logistical preparations such as the development of structures and monitoring processes and creation of staff roles to support project delivery.

We have also been working with partners including Remploy, to ensure that access to opportunities is maximised for participants with a disability or work limiting health condition. We had planned for the "Caerphilly Academy – Gateway to Employment" to launch in April 2020, however this has now been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Given current strains upon the labour market, as well as the numerous restrictions placed upon normal working practices as a result of the pandemic, there is understandably a reduced appetite for hosting additional placements at present, and indeed our partners have confirmed that this is reflective of the wider labour market situation. As a team we have maintained relationships with senior managers and continued planning (for example, by preparing for the recruitment of relevant supporting roles) so that we are in a position to react promptly as opportunities become available.



21- Reception area at Construction Event 14-01-20



22 - Speakers at Construction Event 14-01-20



23 - Stallholder at Construction Event 14-01-20



24 - Stallholder at Construction Event 14-01-20



25 - Stallholder at Construction Event 14-01-20

Volunteering

Volunteering within Caerphilly county borough remains a key focus in our aim to build the ambitions, aspirations, well-being and resilience of individuals and communities, whilst being a fundamental part of each of the four Well-being Objectives:

- Positive Place – focusing on the communities that we live in and the groups and volunteers that drive the services in these communities
- Positive People – the positive impacts of volunteering on the well-being of our residents
- Positive Change – a sector that can change and evolve to meet the demands of our communities
- Positive Start – supporting the sectors' parenting and early years focus

The drive towards the positive promotion of volunteering continues to be underpinned by generic benefits:

- Gaining new skills and knowledge
- Boosting job and career prospects
- Enjoying a sense of achievement and fulfilment
- Personal development and boosting self esteem
- Enjoying better physical and mental health
- Connecting to their communities

2019 going into 2020 has been eventful, as prior to COVID-19 the Volunteering Action Area had progressed in its requirement to produce a Volunteering Charter, and increased the support for a Caerphilly PSB Volunteering Policy, through collaboration and integration between PSB partners. The Action Area had also linked with a number of other Action Areas, predominantly with the Local Natural Environment and its work around active travel, whilst continuing its strong links with the Apprenticeship Action Area.

The negative impacts on our communities linked to flooding and COVID-19 have been met by an incredible show of community resilience and an increase in volunteering by said communities and partners, through Corporate Social Responsibility programmes. This collaboration has been positively instrumental in supporting the people of the county borough through these difficult times.

Through 2020/21, the focus will be on continuing the volunteering movement following COVID-19 and adapting and changing to the demands of the residents of the county borough, our partners and Third Sector organisations. We will assess the impacts of events in 2020 through our objectives, build on what we have learnt and be confident in our methods to build on the positivity demonstrated in Caerphilly county borough over the past few months.



26- Argoed Baptist Church night shelter volunteers



27- Argoed Baptist Church night shelter preparation



28 - Argoed Baptist Church night shelter preparation



29 - Argoed Baptist Church night shelter meal



30 - Menter Iaith Welsh language gaming club



31- Menter Iaith Welsh language gaming club



10 - Menter Iaith Welsh language gaming club



33 - Menter Iaith Welsh language gaming club



34 - Blackwood Action on Litter group



35 - Caerphilly Volunteer Awards 2019



36 - Volunteer of the Year 2019 - Jamie Howell



37 - Volunteering Week 2019



38 - Risca Covid-19 pharmacy deliveries



39 - Covid-19 foodbank deliveries



40 - Covid-19 foodbank deliveries



41 - Covid-19 buddy scheme visit by the Chair of the PSB



42 - Covid-19 buddy scheme volunteers



43 - GAVO Volunteering Team Covid-19 thank you

Good health and well-being

Over the past 15 months, we have continued to progress the Good Health and Well-being Action Area, despite the difficulties posed by the recent pandemic.

In April 2019 over 50 organisations joined together to identify local and national challenges and opportunities to improve residents' health and well-being. Our PSB Action Plan was discussed and scrutinised. The priority actions were agreed again with no changes and 14 areas of possible development were identified, including information sharing, digital inclusion, learning from others, joint training, bring back community led initiatives and governance/information sharing barriers.

Alongside this, stakeholders took part in a regional involvement programme looking at the Director of Public Health's Annual Report 'Building a Healthier Gwent'. 50 face to face engagement events were held across Gwent, and also a survey and conference. This identified 5 emerging themes: Good mental health and well-being; preventing cancer, physical activity and healthy diet; sustainable transport and active travel; mental and emotional well-being of children and young people; and making every contact count. The challenge, both

nationally and locally, is to move beyond paper-based exercises towards a long-term proactive approach to staying well and prevention.

This year the PSB has championed important projects including:

- Flu communication resource packs
- HPV Immunisation roll out to boys
- Enhancing access to the great outdoors (Tir-y-berth)
- Compassionate Communities integrated teams/open access drop-in sessions at the Rhymney Integrated North Resource Centre giving residents access to the Police, Citizen's Advice, employment services, housing and tenancy support as well as support groups

The Integrated Well-being Networks (IWN) seek to connect, coordinate, and develop the well-being assets in an area, to support and strengthen community well-being and help reduce pressures on primary care. Commencing in late spring 2019, the IWN work focused on the Neighbourhood Care Network North area, especially the Upper Rhymney Valley. Through extensive collaboration with partners across all sectors, three well-being collectives were established in the Rhymney, New Tredegar and Bargoed areas by early 2020, with each beginning to develop a well-being action plan focused on agreed shared priorities. This was augmented by the development of Community Well-being Champions and a training programme and the establishment of talking cafes in Rhymney, as well as initiating workplace well-being initiatives and planning creative well-being festivals to progress on the ground coordination and development of the networks.

With the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, this work was put on hold in March 2020 and the focus of IWN switched to support community information and mobilisation in response to the outbreak. In addition to establishment of a pan-Gwent IWN Covid-19 community support Facebook page (with now over 3000 members) to provide focused, verified information to communities. Specific support was given to emerging community mutual aid groups across the Caerphilly county borough area, whilst the Well-being Champions programme provided valuable support through weekly Covid-19 newsletters, virtual coffee mornings, as well as dedicated consultation activities to gauge and bolster community engagement. Throughout June and early July, the IWN Lead worked to support the development of the 'Test Trace Protect' programme with the Health Board Public Health Team, liaising with the Caerphilly Locality Contact Tracing Team.

This work (coupled with the core IWN development up to early 2020) has provided the basis for collaboration with partners, to enable post Covid-19 well-being recovery in communities across the county borough. Virtual meetings are happening in Risca, New Tredegar, Bargoed and Caerphilly. In addition, a series of workplace well-being webinars is about to commence and a (largely virtual) arts and well-being festival is scheduled for late August. These will support and strengthen community well-being as well as resilience in the face of the challenges posed by the continuing Covid-19 pandemic.

Since March 2020, many of our core services have had to adapt to very different ways of working, taking into account the safety of residents in relation to social distancing. An

example of this is that GPs now have the ability to use Attend Anywhere, where they can have a face to face consultation with the patient.

Hundreds of staff have operated in a very different way, and have been redeployed to plan, co-ordinate and deliver the Council's Covid-19 'Buddy Scheme', providing residents with support around shopping, prescriptions, befriending and well-being calls. At its peak, the Buddy Scheme was supporting over 1,560 people who otherwise would have had no other support, made possible thanks to over 590 members of Council staff who willingly stepped forward to support the initiative, the majority of those in a purely voluntary capacity. Work is ongoing with community groups to ensure those who still need support continue to receive it.

To boost this support even further, our Caerphilly Neighbourhood Care Networks (NCN'S) are in discussions with Age Cymru to provide additional support around hospital discharge for those patients who are 50+. This service will, where possible, undertake face-to-face visits with individuals to ascertain their level of need. As a result of Covid-19, we have seen an increase in demand for residents requiring low-level mental health support. Caerphilly NCN's are working with Mind to provide a much needed counselling service, along with active monitoring. Sadly, not only have we seen an increase in our low-level mental health demand, we have also seen an increase in domestic abuse. As NCN's we are again looking at commissioning additional capacity from Llamau for those who have and are experiencing domestic abuse.

As a result of Covid-19, Caerphilly South opened its first Covid Assessment Centre at Trethomas Health Centre, where local GP's provided support for those patients who were symptomatic with Covid-19 symptoms. This has now finished, and we are in the process of offering front-line staff antigen testing. The future for Trethomas Health Centre is exciting - this will not only become our escalation hub if and when we do have another spike in Covid-19 cases, it will also become one of our integrated hubs in the south of Caerphilly and will include teams such as; Flying Start, generic health visiting, Physiotherapy, Podiatry, Caerphilly Management Team and Primary Infant Mental Health Services. We are also looking at how we can accommodate other services such as Respiratory and Diabetes.



44 - Building a Healthier Gwent Annual Report 2019



45 - Integrated Well-being Networks infographic



46 - Integrated Well-being Network meeting



47 - Integrated Well-being Network meeting



48 - Risca Covid-19 group



49 - Risca Covid-19 group



50 - Talking Cafe in Rhymney

Safer communities

Over the last year Community Safety partners have worked together to maintain existing approaches and develop new initiatives to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour within the Caerphilly county borough area. Throughout the recent Covid-19 pandemic, partners have excelled in adapting to new ways of working in a rapidly changing environment, whilst ensuring that our communities continue to be supported throughout these unprecedented times.

In 2019, partners were co-located in the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Hub to enhance the way partners work together and share information. This year we carried out a survey with all partners to seek their views on how effective the Hub is. The consensus is that the Hub is working extremely well and has improved partnership working so it is now more concise and efficient.

Through the Safer Caerphilly Serious Organised Crime Group partners have worked together and carried out a considerable amount of proactive work in tackling serious organised criminality, with good success. Over the last nine months approximately 30 investigations have or are ongoing, involving those individuals causing the most harm in the Caerphilly county borough area. The investigations have been conducted by both local, regional and Border Force officers.

Initial investigation outcomes have seen charges and remands brought for Class A and B Drug Supply, possession of criminal property, possession of drugs, prohibited weapons and breach of serious crime prevention orders. A substantial amount of drugs including heroin, amphetamine, cocaine and cannabis have also been recovered. Cash has been seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act, and stolen vehicles have also been recovered. Within the last two months, a dedicated Proactive Serious Organised Crime Team has been formed in

the West of Gwent. They have already amassed drug seizures to the street value of £551,111 and recovered cash to the amount of £61,065. This is in addition to the above county borough specific activity.

In recent months partners have worked together to address anti-social behaviour with off-road bikes under Operation Harley. This has included the following areas of work:

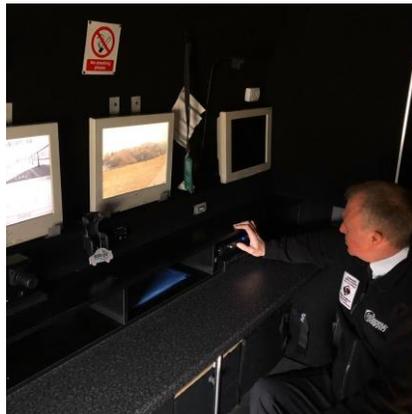
- Major enforcement operations run in the Mynydd Machen/Machen area, Mynydd Maen/Pantside/Cwmcarn Forest/Cwmcarn Scenic Drive and Manmoel, Rudry and Rhymney areas. These have involved the use of drones, large numbers of officers and CCTV vans.
- A media launch appealing for intelligence, with posters and flyers at key locations. Local Police and partners Twitter accounts have also been utilised to publicise the campaign.
- Hub Tasking used to gain participation from partners, such as Registered Social Landlords, to share intelligence on who is involved in this activity and where bikes are stored.
- Disruption at garages and other sites where bikes fuel and wash-down.

It is hoped that all of this work will help to alleviate the anti-social behaviour problems experienced in our communities.

We continue to engage with our young people in the county borough and have now opened a cadet unit within Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre in Ystrad Mynach. This school caters to the needs of children with learning and physical disabilities. Officers within Gwent Police attend the school on a fortnightly basis and work with the children to help them understand what the Police do, and to provide guidance and information to ensure that they remain safe within their communities. It also helps to build trust and confidence.



51 - Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Hub



52 - Partnership working



53 - Serious and organised crime



54 - Car crime



55 - CCTV crime monitoring



56 - Tasking meetings



57 - Cadets at Trinity Fields School



58 - Cadets at Trinity Fields School



59 - Cadets at Trinity Fields School



60 - Mini Police

Resilient Communities

The place in which we live has a huge part to play in individual personal perceptions of well-being. Having attractive, well-used and connected communities with easy access to the natural environment, affordable and sustainable housing, local job opportunities and low crime levels will help to support community resilience.

Housing

The Council are working with Pobl to redevelop the former Civic Offices in Pontllanfraith to provide much needed local homes for local people. The scheme is proposed to be an exemplar garden suburb development incorporating: sound placemaking features (including best practice for sustainable drainage systems), integrated well designed open space and formal children's play, comprehensive landscaping, active travel and high-quality housing within a parkland setting. The development will provide up to 125 new homes with a mixed tenure.

The Council are also working with Pobl and United Welsh to redevelop the former Windsor Colliery Site in Abertridwr, whilst Caerphilly Homes are currently in the process of identifying publicly owned land for future housing development throughout the county borough, and a number of sites are in the process of being assessed to determine their suitability.

Coalition for Change

The Coalition for Change Board has continued to make progress with mapping service provisions relating to Lansbury Park and a full document has been collated as a starting point for more wider and in-depth discussion. The last meeting was held on 27th February, where the way forward was discussed in depth.

It is the intention to run several area specific related workshops for key stakeholders and delivery officers. The first of these (Health & Social Care) was scheduled to take place in mid-April but had to be postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. As soon as it is safe and appropriate to do so, a new date will be set for these workshops inclusive of both Employment & Skills and Education & Training agendas. It is hopeful that existing provisions can be tailored to acutely meet the needs of the residents and (where appropriate) avoid duplication of providers.

Town centres

Town centres throughout the UK are facing a series of significant challenges to their economic viability post Covid-19. Caerphilly is in an advantageous position to react to these challenges. The town has a world class heritage asset and is well connected to Cardiff and the wider Capital City Region. These attributes provide the foundation from which the town can overcome economic challenges and transform into a diverse and thriving town centre.

The Caerphilly Placemaking Plan illustrates the scale of opportunity that exists in the town and the opportunities that are available to transform the area into a thriving town once again. With the assistance of Welsh Government funding the Council is working with a number of property owners throughout the town to bring premises back into beneficial use.

Tourism

Work is ongoing with partners to develop the three regional significant Valleys Regional Park Discovery Gateways at Caerphilly Castle, Cwmcarn and Parc Penallta. The aim of the Valleys Regional Park is to unlock and maximise the potential of the natural and associated cultural heritage of the Valleys to generate social, economic and environmental benefits.

The investment in the Valleys Regional Park Discovery Gateways is crucial in ensuring these sites have the capacity to provide safe and welcoming spaces that can be enjoyed by the local community, as well as visitors from further afield. To this end, close collaboration is ongoing with Cadw in respect of its £5m Caerphilly Castle Investment Programme – transforming the monument into a world class Tier 1 heritage attraction.

Employment

Land at Tŷ Du, Nelson is largely under the ownership of Welsh Ministers, and extends to approximately 19.2 hectares. It is identified as one of three prioritised sites under Welsh Government's 'Strategic Employment Sites' programme. In 2017, outline planning permission was granted to Welsh Ministers for an ambitious mixed-use Masterplan, comprising residential provision of up to 200 dwellings (including approximately 50 affordable homes) and the development of 3.8ha (approx. 6,300 square metres) of B1 employment units, plus associated enabling highways infrastructure. A scheme to construct the enabling primary highways infrastructure for the site has recently been completed.

The Council has formally entered into a Joint Venture Partnership Agreement with Welsh Government to develop the 3.8ha Tŷ Du 'Commercial Area' for B1 employment use. Development of the designated Commercial Area for quality light industrial/office hybrid units will be undertaken in a phased manner, and the first phase is due to commence on site in the summer of 2020.

On site works are also now underway at an exciting new business development - the Lawns Industrial Estate in Rhymney, located just 2 miles south of the A465 Heads of the Valleys road, with excellent links to the M4 and just an hour's drive from the M50. Rhymney Railway Station links directly to Cardiff Central with a journey time of one hour.

The site (which currently hosts a number of existing units) will welcome three new buildings of 15 individual units. Units will be available to lease from the Council and will consist of eight 50 square metre units, four 75 square metre units and three 98 square metre units. It is anticipated that the units will be available for occupation by the end of 2020.

Welsh construction and civil engineering company EnCon Construction Ltd have been commissioned to extend the current land in Rhymney into high quality, light industrial factory units as part of the investment in infrastructure in the South East Wales region. This project has been made possible with funding from the Council and the European Regional Development Fund through Welsh Government. The £2.9 million project is a much welcomed boost to the local economy and will improve the prospects of employment for local people.



61- Artist's impression of new housing at the former Pontllanfraith Civic Offices site



62 - Lansbury Park Draft Environmental Enhancement Plan



63 - WHQS external improvements



64 - WHQS internal improvements



65 - WHQS environmental works



66 - WHQS external improvements at Lansbury Park



67 - Caerphilly Castle



68 - Caerphilly town centre



69 - Caerphilly town centre market



70 - Placemaking - visitor attractions



71 - New road network at Tŷ Du mixed use site, Nelson



72 - Artist's impression of new light industrial/office units at Tŷ Du, Nelson



73 - Artist's impression of new light industrial/office units at Tŷ Du, Nelson



74 - Works at the Lawn Industrial Estate, Rhymney



75 - Works at the Lawn Industrial Estate, Rhymney

Protecting and enhancing the local natural environment

As well as providing us with a wonderful and varied landscape, our natural environment helps to keep us happy, healthy and supports our economy. However, much of the richness - the biodiversity and ecosystems - within our natural environment are in decline. There is a need to find more sustainable ways to manage, protect and enhance these natural assets so that we, and future generations, can continue to enjoy the important benefits provided. That is the aim of the 'Protect and Enhance the Local Natural Environment' Action Area.

Cwmcarn Forest Drive

Cwmcarn Forest Drive is a popular visitor destination located within South East Wales. Steeped in history, with stunning views of the surrounding countryside and overlooking the Severn estuary, Cwmcarn Forest Drive is a place that is treasured by local people and tourists alike.

Unfortunately, in 2014 the Forest Drive was closed to public vehicles to enable the extensive felling of infected larch trees, the largest operation of its kind in Wales. Now that the felling works are complete, and following extensive community engagement, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) are in the process of redeveloping the drive ready for its reopening to the public.

Accessible paths, play areas, storytelling areas, and picnic areas will be some of the key features of the Forest Drive when it reopens to the public. Through implementing plans developed through extensive engagement with the local community and visitors, NRW are endeavouring to ensure that the Forest Drive is a place that will be treasured by generations to come and enables local people to enjoy the countryside on their doorstep once more.

Climate Ready Gwent

Climate Ready Gwent is a collaborative approach to develop a shared vision for the region in relation to climate change adaptation/decarbonisation. This vision relates not just to delivering existing services but also how a more joined-up public sector can actually deliver differently, by working together to shape a more sustainable future for Gwent.

There have been a number of key achievements this year:

- the five local authorities in Gwent have been awarded a share of £422,000 by the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) to install a total of 65 fast charge points across up to 34 sites in the region.
- a report has been considered by G10 (the group of Leaders and Chief Executive's of the five local authorities plus the Chairs and/or Chief Officers of the five other major public services in Gwent) setting out the key issues, opportunities and benefits to public bodies in creating a low carbon and sustainable 'pathway' for public sector fleets in Gwent. A regional implementation plan is being developed to take this work forward. The Council have used the results of the fleet review to develop their own implementation programme and have created an 'Invest to Save' Fleet Review post to take this work forward.
- to ensure that the Gwent area has a complete overview of hydrogen opportunities a regional study was completed, building on work undertaken by Monmouthshire County Council. This explored the potential for hydrogen powered vehicles and infrastructure across the region, with a focus on PSB fleets.

The second Annual Report for Climate Ready Gwent can be accessed [here](#).

Linking Our Landscapes

Linking Our Landscapes is about identifying local opportunities for our protected sites, natural and built environments to contribute towards the resilience of wider priority habitat networks in the region. These opportunities for improving ecosystem resilience should support ecological connectivity between sites, across boundaries and at a landscape scale.

Collaborative activity in Gwent continues to focus on adding value to local delivery. Through a number of different workstreams, various delivery partners have been able to contribute towards the regional vision, integrate activity and deliver specific outputs together:

delivery partners have worked closely together to reach a consensus around what can be done collectively to address the 'nature emergency' in Gwent. This included looking at Gwent as a collection of distinctive and interconnected geographical landscapes, and from this a series of Landscape Profiles were produced.

the five local authorities in Gwent were awarded £1.3 million of Welsh Government funding to develop a Resilient Greater Gwent regional project. The project is being led by Blaenau Gwent on behalf of the other local authorities and partners. One of the main outcomes is that the Greater Gwent State of Nature report is being produced following focused data analysis from sources including the Landscape Profiles. The report will form part of the Area Statement evidence base and aims to produce a usable analysis of species and habitats that tell stories and can direct conservation action in South East Wales.

the Gwent Green Grid Partnership is designed to facilitate regional collaboration which makes the most of Gwent's natural assets and the wide-ranging benefits they provide to communities. The Partnership have recently submitted a combined Enabling Natural Resources and Wellbeing (ENRaW) grant application to Welsh Government for a collaborative GGGP project, with a total value of £2.7 million, which if approved will fund a number of individual project streams.

The second Annual Report for Linking Our Landscapes can be accessed [here](#).



76 - Cwmcarn mountain biking



77 - Cwmcarn signposting



78 - Cwmcarn lake



79 - Cwmcarn adventure playground



80 - Electric vehicle charging



81 - Electric vehicle charging



82 - Chartist Bridge, Blackwood



83 - New Tredegar



85 - Caerphilly county borough landscape



84 - Caerphilly Castle

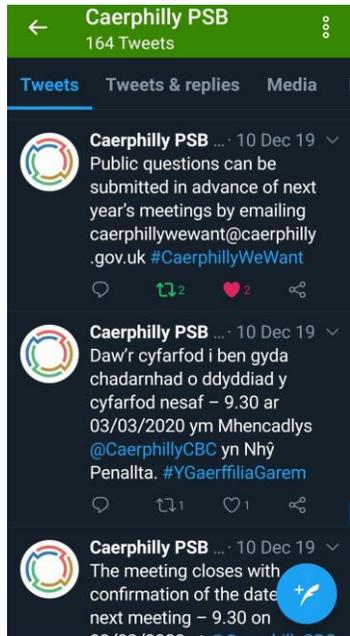
Communications and engagement

The Communications and Engagement Teams from the PSB member organisations have continued to work to raise the profile of the PSB's activity. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to run the annual 'Caerphilly We Want' event with partners and community groups this year due to the COVID-19 situation. Since early March many of the people involved have been diverted to COVID-19 advice and awareness activity for communities - this has been done in partnership with a huge amount of joint messaging from the Council and the Integrated Well-being Networks run by Public Health Wales, to help communities be more resilient to the challenges COVID-19 has created.

Prior to COVID-19, during 2019 and 2020 the PSB agreed to make its meetings open to the public, and the dates of meetings and agendas are publicised in advance with an offer for members of the public to attend and ask questions of the PSB, in person or in writing. Details of the meetings are published on the [PSB website](#) and via social media, and the PSB welcomes and encourages members of the public to get involved. Meetings are tweeted live on the PSB's Twitter feed (@CaerphillyPSB) and all papers are available on the PSB website.

Recently a new member has been added to the PSB, with representatives of Town and Community Councils within the county borough now part of the PSB membership.

Alongside this Sway document and the videos for each of the PSB's 4 Well-being Objectives we are also publishing a new website containing much of the data that underpins on our Local Assessment of Well-being. The data has been updated to include the latest available information and includes a number of dynamic charts and tables. To access the website please click [here](#). We would also be grateful for any feedback you may have on this website.



86 - Caerphilly PSB tweet 10-12-19



87 - Caerphilly PSB tweet 10-12-19



88 - Caerphilly PSB tweet 10-12-19



89 - Caerphilly PSB tweet 13-03-20



90 - Caerphilly PSB tweet 13-03-20



91 - Front page of the Caerphilly PSB Well-being Assessment website

Welsh language and culture

The PSB continues to be very keen to support and promote the use of Welsh within the county borough area. Menter Iaith Sir Caerffili has been a key partner in developing 'The Caerphilly We Want' Well-being Plan 2018-2023 and the Well-being Assessment, by facilitating the voice of Welsh speakers in their development. Menter Iaith also assists with the PSB's communications and engagement work, supports volunteering through the medium of Welsh, as well as supporting Welsh learners.

Third Sector Welsh language organisations assist PSB members in delivering the actions in the Council's 5 year Welsh Language Strategy, which aims to improve services for families, children, communities, the workplace and help improve infrastructure. By working with the voluntary sector, the PSB is assured that it has the best expertise and capacity to assist with the important task of making Welsh an everyday part of the culture of the area.

Menter Iaith coordinates the Welsh Language Forum for Caerphilly county borough which includes a range of Third Sector organisations, statutory partners and educational organisations. The Forum plays a key role in delivering the Welsh Language Strategy and during the past year its members have collaborated successfully on the development and publication of a new resource 'Bod yn Ddwylieithog – Becoming Bilingual'. This comprehensive booklet provides detailed information and advice on the Welsh language journey families can follow within the county borough. Local families can find information regarding parent and toddler groups, through to Welsh medium primary and secondary education, further educational opportunities and also opportunities for adults to learn Welsh. The booklet also includes a range of information relating to online support, useful television programmes and numerous Welsh language apps which support families to become bilingual.

The successful resource has been widely distributed to families across the county borough and continues to be available. As the Forum continues to contribute to the delivery of the Strategy, it is hoped that this resource can be developed as a digital resource and that further collaborative projects will be delivered. The Forum has identified several priorities for the coming year, including the delivery of a Careers Fair which supports local Welsh speaking young people to identify opportunities within the county borough and further afield to follow a career using their Welsh language skills.



92 - Becoming bilingual booklet



93 - Ffiliffest 2019 poster

Looking to the future

The 'Caerphilly We Want 2018-2023' Well-being Plan is at its halfway point and we hope that our Annual Reports have shown that, as partners working with communities, we have made significant progress towards the objectives in the Plan.

The Future Generations legislation is designed to bring about generational changes in well-being and therefore the PSB are always mindful of much longer horizons than five years. As we draw closer to the next iteration of the Well-being Plan, we will be working with partners to once again assess the well-being needs of our communities.

We have already realised that some of this work might be better done on a larger footprint - we already have good working relationships across the Gwent area and will build on these as we start to think about assessing well-being for the next five-year period. However, the focus must always be on the well-being of local communities and we will continue to assess needs and respond, as partners, within the Caerphilly county borough area.

Measuring our progress

Progress against our four Well-being Objectives (Positive Change, Positive Start, Positive People and Positive Places) is supported by the activity under the Action Areas discussed above.

A six-monthly report is provided to the PSB on the progress of each of the Action Areas and these are scrutinised by local Councillors who hold the PSB to account. If you would like to look at any of these performance reports you can find them on the [PSB website](#).

Contact us



If you have any comments to make regarding the contents of this Sway document, or in relation to the Caerphilly PSB more generally, please contact us as follows:

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