



AUDIT COMMITTEE – 11TH MARCH 2015

SUBJECT: CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS UPDATE

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES & SECTION 151 OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members on work being undertaken around Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) Collaboration and Partnership Protocol and Action Plan for Delivery between December 2014 to February 2015.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Since last reporting to the Audit Committee on 10 December 2014 the first quarterly review has been undertaken of the CCBC partnership and collaboration list following its initial completion in 2014. The number of CCBC formal partnerships has increased by 4 and now totals at 39 partnerships, and collaborations have increased by 3 and now totals at 28 collaborations. CCBC now leads in 9 of the collaborations (previously 8). CCBC has been identified as hosting the Gwent Visually Impaired Service Collaboration (a newly identified collaboration), and as a lead for Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent Youth Offending Service (not previously stated) but is no longer the scrutiny lead for Prosiect Gwyrdd.
- 2.2 Partnership governance checks have been conducted for: the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee, Monmouthshire Farm School Collaboration, Missing Children Collaboration, Welsh Rugby Unit Partnership, with a check to be undertaken with the Local Investment Fund Collaboration on 17th March 2015.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Compliance with recommendations of the Wales Audit Office under the Council's Improvement Plan, and requirements of the Annual Governance Review Panel on partnerships and collaborative working of the Council.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The first quarterly review has been undertaken of the list of CCBC's partnerships and collaborations through Heads of Service between January and mid February 2015. The following Service Areas have confirmed there were no changes to the list of partnerships/collaborations to report:
- Social Services – Adult Services and Childrens Services
 - Engineering Services
 - Legal and Democratic Services
 - Learning, Education and Inclusion

- 4.2 Additional partnerships and collaborations were noted in the following Service Areas, with detailed information now collated:
- **Education Achievement Service** - with the following collaborations noted for inclusion in the list: Gwent Visually Impaired Service (hosted by CCBC), and Hearing & Language Impaired Communication Intervention Team (hosted by Torfaen Council)
 - **Community Education** – with the following partnerships added: Adult Community Learning 5 County Partnership, Caerphilly Adult Community Learning Partnership, Working Skills for Adults ESF Partnership and Bridges into Work ESF partnership
 - **Public Protection** – with the following collaboration added to the list: Gwent Substance Misuse Area Planning Board
- 4.3 Changes were noted in the details for the following partnership and collaboration:
- **Cwm a Mynydd Partnership** - the current programme has now ended and CCBC and is in the final close down process. The Cwm a Mynydd Partnership as it stands will be replaced by a Local Action Group for the new programme from April 2015. The membership is likely to be similar, but not identical to the previous partnership, as the partnership will now cover two wards in Blaenau Gwent. There will be no rebranding so Cwm a Mynydd will remain as the name for the partnership. The Lead Officer has changed to: Principal Planner.
 - **Prosiect Gwyrdd** - CCBC is no longer the scrutiny lead for this collaboration.
- 4.4 The updated CCBC partnership/collaboration table and index of partners will be placed on CCBC's intranet site for continued staff reference.

Appendix 1 contains information on the newly added partnerships and collaborations.

- 4.5 Four governance audits have been undertaken, with the following observations:
- **Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee** - the main issues of concern is that this partnership receives intensive support from the Policy and Research Manager, and there are risks if this support is tapered back, or indeed lost through potential Local Government Re-organisation.
 - **Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment** – there is a possible risk in securing applicants to the funding scheme through the centralisation of the administration of education grants into the Welsh Government. Currently administration is done through the Education Grants Administrator at Monmouthshire County Council who is aware of grant applications coming through for agricultural related studies. To help ameliorate this CCBC has agreed to advertise the grants schemes in the Policy Unit's annual grants publication.
 - **Gwent Missing Children Collaboration** – this is a unique project and has received lots of interest across England and Wales. However, the project funding is only for 3-years, and may not be renewed as the Welsh Government is considering a new approach to this type of work through establishing Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH). These are to be based on a regional basis covering adult, young people and children safeguarding issue, and could be expanded to include missing people.
 - **Welsh Rugby Union** - there is a level of risk around the annual funding of this partnership received through the Welsh Government, which causes staff continuity problems. In undertaking the audit it became apparent that the other CCBC sports partnerships have similar arrangements in place (Football Association of Wales Trust, Hockey Wales, Sport Wales and Welsh Netball).

Background papers on the governance audit write ups are available from the report's author.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council's partnerships and collaborative working take into consideration the Equalities Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011, and the Welsh Language (Wales)

Measure 2011.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The background reports available for Members contain details of funding arrangements in place for partnership and collaborative working by the Council.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Significant staff time is invested in partnership and collaborative working by the Council and is met within existing resources.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 All of the write ups of the partnership/collaborations and audit governance checks have been verified with the officers supplying the details.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 For the Audit Committee to note the contents of this report and progress made with implementing the 12-month Partnership Protocol 12-month action plan for delivery up to June 2015.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The work on CCBC partnerships is regularly reported to the Audit Committee to show compliance with the Wales Audit Office two proposals for partnership working by the Council.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government Act 2000, and the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (Part 2) Community Strategies

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Background Papers:

Updated CCBC Table and Index of Partnerships and Collaborations
Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee Governance Check 17th December 2014
Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Governance Check 13th January 2015
Gwent Missing Children Governance Check 14th January 2015
Welsh Rugby Union Governance Check 15th January 2015

Appendices:

Appendix 1 New Partnerships and Collaborations identified from January 2015 Review