



## Community Planning Quarterly January to March 2015

Welcome to this quarterly community planning briefing designed to give everyone involved with *Caerphilly Delivers - The Single Integrated Plan 2013-2017* an overview of progress on delivering the priorities of the five outcomes: Prosperous Caerphilly; Safer Caerphilly; Learning Caerphilly; Healthier Caerphilly and Greener Caerphilly. Information has been supplied by the officers coordinating delivery on the outcomes, so please feel free to get in touch directly with the named officers for further information.

**Community Planning (Jackie Dix, Alison Palmer & Howard Rees)**  
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**Devolution, Democracy and Delivery White Paper *Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People*** - this White Paper presents a new model for Local Government in Wales focusing on place shaping and closer working with communities. The White Paper sets out the Welsh Government's ambitions for:

- Activist councils, engaged in delivering modern, accessible, high quality public services with their local communities
- A more limited number of national priorities for local government with councils setting the bulk of priorities
- More diverse membership of local authorities and cabinets
- Reducing the cost of politics and management in local government
- Councils committed to looking outwards building community capacity and resilience
- Councils open to new ways of delivering services based on Wales's traditions of cooperative and mutual services
- Empowering local people to be more closely involved in decision-taking.

The breadth of the White Paper consultation questions is extensive covering local democracy, the roles and remuneration of Elected Members and senior officers, community governance and Community Councils, community rights, corporate improvement, service performance, scrutiny, audit, inspection and regulation, and finance.

Please contact the relevant co-ordinator if you require further information on any of the above or Community Planning, Penallta House Tredomen Park, Ystrad Mynach CF82 7PG



In legislating for change the White Paper notes there will be two pieces of legislation:

1. Local Government (Wales) Bill to allow for preparatory work to enable a programme of Local Government mergers and reform.
2. Second Draft Bill to be published for consultation autumn 2015 and introduced into the Assembly in 2016, after Assembly elections. The Bill will be based on the proposals in White Paper, and complete the programme of Local Authority mergers, establish a statutory Public Services Staff Commission, and contain a new and reformed legislative framework for Local Authority democracy, accountability, performance and finance.

The Welsh Government has published 3 versions of the White Paper (titles are clickable links):

- [Full version](#)
- [Everyday \(summary\) version](#)
- [Young people version](#)

For a full-list of proposals/options see the Welsh Government's 30 page consultation form: <http://wales.gov.uk/docs/dsjlg/consultation/150203-power-to-local-people-response-en.docx>:

The White Paper is out to consultation until 28<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

### ***The Wales We Want Report Launched 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015***

The Report distils the National Conversation on *The Wales We Want* involving 7,000 people in identifying environmental, social and economic issues which will impact on Wales' future generations. The Wales We Want conversation was initiated as a pilot exercise by Welsh Government for developing the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill and has mirrored the UN *World We Want* process. The Conversation has contributed to the shaping of the Bill and provides lessons for implementing the proposed legislation. The Report sets out the following seven foundations for the wellbeing of future generations:

1. Children need to be given the best start in life from very early years
2. Future generations need thriving communities built on a strong sense of place
3. Living within global environmental limits, managing our resources efficiently and valuing our environment is critical
4. Investing in growing our local economy is essential for the well-being of future generations
5. Well-being of all depends on reducing inequality and a greater value on diversity
6. Greater engagement in the democratic process, a stronger citizen voice and active participation in decision making is fundamental for the well-being of future generations

- Celebrating success, valuing our heritage, culture and language will strengthen our identity for future generations

The report also sets out recommendations for the planned statutory Public Service Boards (replacing Local Service Boards) to ensure decisions are joined-up, focussed on the long term, and better aligned with the priorities, and for carrying forward the Conversation as a platform for the new Future Generations Commissioner.

**Key links:**

Press release of report launch at SWALEC Stadium, Cardiff - [news story](#)  
*The Wales We Want* Report - [download the report](#)

**Caerphilly Local Service Board Standing Conference  
*Caerphilly Without Poverty* 30<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

The conference continued the discussions begun at the previous Standing Conference in June 2014 to look at partnership actions to tackle poverty within communities. There was an excellent turnout with over 90 people present from the Local Service Board and community planning partners. The keynote speech was given by Steve Fothergill from Sheffield Hallam University, author of the report *The Impact of Welfare Reform on the Valleys*, following the welcome by Cllr Gerald Jones, Deputy Leader of Caerphilly County Borough Council and Anti Poverty champion, and an introduction by Wayne David, MP for Caerphilly. Rhymney Comprehensive School Council gave a presentation on their innovative *Cloud 9* digital inclusion project. Members were briefed on the development of an Anti Poverty Strategy for the Caerphilly County Borough by Rob Hartshorn, Anti Poverty Champion (Lead Officer) before breaking out into four workshops focussing on the “four P’s” – **Pockets** (Sustaining tenancies, support available to households); **Prospects** (Petra the Penguin, celebrating the achievements of the family learning literacy project); **Prevention** (Gwent Money Advice Project), and **Places** (Lansbury Park Multi-Agency Working Group).

A date for your Diary – the next Caerphilly Local Service Board Standing Conference will take place on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June at Llancaiach Fawr, Nelson.

Below is the draft Caerphilly County Borough Council Anti Poverty Strategy, which is out to consultation until 27<sup>th</sup> March 2015.



12100 Anti Poverty  
Strategy.pdf

Link to Caerphilly Local Service Board website -

<http://your.caerphilly.gov.uk/communityplanning/content/caerphilly-local-service-board>

***Priority 1 – Improve local employment opportunities including access to opportunities across a wider geographical area***

**Urdd National Eisteddfod** - Caerphilly County Borough Council is gearing up for the National Urdd Eisteddfod that is scheduled to be held at Llancaiach Fawr Manor House in May 2015. The event is one of Europe's largest cultural youth festivals and regularly attracts over 100,000 people over a period of six days. 15,000 children and young people compete at the event, having competed with a further 30,000 competitors at regional Eisteddfodau prior to the Urdd. The event includes evening competitions and concerts, over 200 trade stands, catering concessions, a bar, live music, funfair, sporting and craft activities, with the main competitions taking place in a temporary indoor pavilion seating 1,800 people.

**Current Convergence Programme** - closes next year, and once all projects have been completed, Caerphilly County Borough Council will have secured £40m of European grant. With match funding included, this has totalled over £70m of investment.

**New European Funding** - in November, the Welsh Operational Programmes for European Social Fund (ESF) and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) were approved. This enabled the Welsh Government to progress their implementation plans for those programmes and the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) are now working with partners to develop business plans (proposals). Following their guidance, most proposals are either national or regional and colleagues across the Council are working with their counterparts in other local authorities and in the Welsh Government.

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) Business Plan 2 has just finished, bringing over £3m into the county borough. The next round of RDP funding should be announced by the Welsh Government shortly, and details will be made available in due course.

***Priority 2 – Improve standards of housing and communities giving appropriate access to services across the County Borough.***

Caerphilly County Borough Council Housing Department has continued to provide significant support to local people, including:

- On the 21<sup>st</sup> January Cabinet approval of the final stage report for the development of a Leased Model. The model will deliver a wide range of housing in partnership with United Welsh Housing Association (UWHA) and the Seren Group, whilst at the same time delivering a revenue income for

the local authority. The model will be delivered on the Watford Road site in Caerphilly and Windsor Colliery, Abertridwr. The project has the potential to deliver over 200 homes which will consist of market sales, intermediate rented housing, social housing and low cost home ownership.

- Working closely with UWHA on the refurbishment and extension of young persons' accommodation at Garth Owen, Llanbradach. The facility has provided eight 1-bedroom self contained apartments, which have been delivered to temporary accommodation standards. The project also includes an apartment that has been specifically designed for disabled young persons. The project was funded by UWHA with a total project cost of £332,000 and the scheme is run by Llamau, a leading Homelessness Charity for the vulnerable young people and women in Wales.
- Continuing to work in partnership with the Seren Group on the redevelopment of the former Manor Inn public house in Ty Sign, Risca. The scheme has delivered five 2-bed homes and three 3-bed homes. The total project cost was £1,427,000 with a contribution of £828,000 of Social housing Grant. The scheme has helped to regenerate the site that was a source of anti-social behaviour as well as providing well-designed, energy efficient homes for local people.
- Continuing to work in collaboration with Welsh Government and UWHA on the provision of 18 single persons' temporary accommodation at Maes Y Derwen, Nelson. The total investment by UWHA on this development is £900,000, which includes a contribution of £500,000 under the Social Housing Grant Programme.
- Working in partnership with UWHA on the submission of a planning application for the redevelopment of the Bargoed Fire Station. The scheme will deliver eight single person supported accommodation apartments for people with mental health issues, as well as the development of eight 2-bed houses and six 1-bedroom apartments social rented homes. A bid was submitted under the Smaller Properties Programme for the general needs homes on this development. The Housing Strategy department secured £868,829 of grant funding for the development of smaller units of accommodation that will be targeted at households within the County Borough needing to downsize due to the implications of the spare room subsidy.
- Housing Strategy has worked in partnership with UWHA, Welsh Government and Welsh Health Estates on the redevelopment of the former Aberbargoed Hospital site. The site was transferred to UWHA under the Welsh Government's Land Release Protocol. The development has delivered twenty-three affordable homes consisting of six 1-bed apartments and eight 2-bed houses and nine 3-bed houses and have been built to Welsh Government's Design Quality Requirement standards. The total scheme cost was £2,760,231 with just over £1,579,000 of Social Housing Grant being granted for the scheme.

### ***Priority 3 – Provide support to enable local people to compete for all employment opportunities***

**LIFT Family Employment Mentors** continue to help people from workless households into training or employment opportunities. From April 2015, LIFT will be extended into the Upper Rhymney Valley. An additional Senior LIFT Officer has been recruited, and the two existing officers will have one area each, one in the Caerphilly Basin and one in the Upper Rhymney Valley. Family Employment Mentors provide one to one support to help individuals improve confidence, access training and work placements towards employment. An innovative project to improve confidence has been held with South Wales Fire and Rescue Service and mentors are supporting individuals to progress to employment including sourcing police check information, supporting with voluntary placements. Work placement opportunities have been secured with the NHS, SPS Envirowall, Melin Homes, and ESA Installations.

**Youth Hubs** continue in youth unemployment hotspots in Senghenydd, Abercarn, Crumlin and Rhymney in partnership with Job Centre Plus, Careers Wales and Communities First. Young people are able to drop in to get employment advice and support on issues such as adult education, gaining work experience, creating a CV and applying for Jobs Growth Wales (JGW) placements. The youth employment officers have supported 57 young people into employment since April, 93 have secured JGW placements and 103 have completed an employment related qualification. To find out more please contact Greg or Lynsey on telephone: 01443 864139.

**Mid Valleys East** is currently running the final Route to Work Environment programme in February and early March. Six weeks of training including gaining qualifications in Brushcutter/Strimming and Risk Assessment, First Aid, Manual Handling as well as employability workshops including interview skills and CV presentation. The course will culminate in on site experience at St Peters Church in Panside, where participants will be carrying out improvement works to the Church grounds.

**Caerphilly Basin** started their Working in Care project on 26<sup>th</sup> January, and at the conclusion of the six week programme each client will have the tools that are required to successfully job search, be more focused in their pursuit of work and prepared for the working environment.

The Caerphilly Basin Communities First team, along with partners at Bedwas Adult Education Centre, are also running a Working on the Rail programme. The six day course includes the Personal Track Safety training that is the entry level qualification for those looking to work in the rail industry. Training will also include Emergency First Aid (Level 2), Health and Safety in the Workplace (Level 2) and more.

**Work clubs** continue to provide weekly drop in opportunities across the borough providing one to one support, advice and guidance. Drop-in sessions are held each Friday morning from 10am until 12pm at Caerphilly Library. Mid Valleys East have weekly outreach work clubs in Cefn Fforest Community Centre and St Peter's Church in Panside.

Communities First staff have a weekly presence in Blackwood Job Centre and Bargoed Job Centre. Job Coaches are able to direct claimants to support from Communities First Employment Officers on site. Joint visits to local businesses are also being held with Communities First and Job Centre Plus staff to promote the Job Centre Plus services and incentives along with Communities First support.

Since April, 95 people have gained employment related qualifications and 104 people have gained employment.

**The Get Caerphilly Online project** as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 is 100% funded through the Communities First programme. This has allowed the project to be extended until 31st March 2016 in line with the rest of the Communities First team. A second Digital Inclusion Officer has now been appointed, bringing the team back up to full capacity. The officers are now delivering basic IT classes across all 4 Communities First clusters.

Get Caerphilly online has helped over 5,000 people to get online since the start of the project, with over 1,000 people benefiting from the Digital Fridays drop in sessions alone. A lot of work this quarter is taking place in Sheltered Housing schemes across the borough with sessions currently taking place in Wattsville, Ynysddu, Rhymney and Bedwas.

**Green Doctors Programme** focuses on engaging with community members who are in fuel poverty or at risk of fuel poverty, and are struggling with balancing their household debt. Through workshops and home visits community members are given specialist impartial advice on energy saving measures. The key purpose of this project is to increase participants' confidence in managing their fuel bills, reducing their level of household fuel poverty and subsequently contributing to reduced household debt and improved mental health.

**Caerphilly and Blaenau Citizen Advice Bureau (CAB)** provide outreach advice surgeries for residents to drop in to gain information on a number of social welfare topics including managing debt, housing, employment and accessing benefits. Since April, 1124 people have accessed the outreach service. 286 of these have reduced/managed their money and 551 have accessed benefits they are entitled to. Details of CAB outreach advice surgeries are provided below -

<b>Outreach Venues and Opening Times</b>		
<b>Venue</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>
Community First Cefn Fforest Community Centre	Mondays	9.00 – 11.30
Community First office Lansbury Park	Wednesday afternoons	1:30-4pm
Community First Trecenydd Community Centre	Mondays closed until the 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	9:30-11:30
Community First Cefn Hengoed Youth Centre	Wednesdays	9.15 – 11.30
Graig YRhacca Resource Centre	Suspended at present	
Bedwas Council Chambers	Alternate Wednesday from 29/1/2014	9:30-12.00
Newbridge Tabernacle Church	Thursdays	9.30 - 12.00
Senghenydd Community Centre	Thursdays	9:30-12.00
Rhymney Day Centre	Fridays (except last Fri of Month)	9:30 -12:00
Customer first Pontlottyn Customer first Office	Last Friday in Month	9:30-11.00
Rhymney Valley Food bank St Dingat's Church, Church Terrace	Thursdays	10:30-12:30

**ASB Victim Services Manager** - the Victims Services Manager continues to attend all multi-agency groups to tackle anti-social behaviour, liaise closely with all departments within the local authority and outside agencies whilst supporting victims in the community and through the court process. During the third quarter (October 2014 – December 2014) a total of 79 referrals have been made and contacted. The victim's Service Manager has supported over 1000 victims and witnesses of anti-social behaviour since she has been in post from 2010. The Victims Services Manager (Lana Harrison) can be contacted on 01495 235441 or e-mail: [harril5@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:harril5@caerphilly.gov.uk)

**After Dark Initiative** - the Safer Caerphilly After Dark initiative has been developed to address night-time economy (NTE) issues. Organisations who have signed up to the scheme include numerous departments within Caerphilly County Borough Council, Gwent Police, and volunteer agencies including the Street Pastor Scheme. The three agreed aims of the scheme are to:

- To reduce NTE related crime (specifically violence, damage, and hate crime).
- Improve communication with NTE agencies and coordinate action.
- Make Caerphilly and Blackwood town centres safer.

Since the project launched the initiative is continuing with Townsafe operations in Blackwood and Caerphilly town centres. Engagement with partners working in the night-time economy is ongoing through Street Pastors, Community Safety Wardens, Door staff etc.

New CCTV signs have been purchased for the Blackwood and Caerphilly areas using the Safer Caerphilly After Dark logo informing members of the public that the area is monitored by CCTV and have now been strategically placed in Blackwood and Caerphilly Town Centres.

Further promotion of the scheme took place throughout December 2014 with the Safer Caerphilly After Dark logo being beamed onto the side of Caerphilly Castle in the week leading up to *Bleak Friday* and a Twitter competition to win an iPad mini, with the winner announced on 22<sup>nd</sup> December. As a result of the two promotions traffic to the Safer Caerphilly website increased substantially.

**The Safer Caerphilly Volunteer Network** - incorporates the diverse range of individuals who are actively involved in their communities and have an interest in working alongside other partner agencies to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. The Volunteer Network is made up of 229 individuals from groups such

as Neighbourhood Watch, Crime Prevention Panels, Community Groups and Partnerships, Street Pastors and Tenants and Residents Associations.

The meetings are held every six months with a newsletter sent to members in December. If you would like to attend the next meeting or would like further information on the Volunteer Network please contact the Community Safety office on 01495 235350.

**Domestic Abuse Awareness Raising** - during the month of February and March 2015 a Twitter campaign has been launched to raise awareness of domestic abuse. The campaign focuses on social media using the following tag line:

*Tweet your feet & show your support #caerphillystandingtogether against domestic abuse*

The campaign asks members of the public and other organisations to tweet a picture of their feet to show support and raise awareness of domestic abuse.

Caerphilly domestic abuse support services will also be tweeting throughout the campaign using the same hashtag to promote services which are available to those experiencing domestic abuse and their families.

For more information regarding the campaign or domestic abuse please contact the Community Safety Team on: 01495 235350



**Join our campaign and tweet your feet to say**

**#caerphillystandingtogether**



**against domestic violence**

@safercaerphilly



<http://your.caerphilly.gov.uk/saferccb>



## FAMILIES FIRST PROJECTS

**Peer Mentors** - Inclusion and Support has recently received a grant to enable eight Young Carers to become Peer Mentors via the Agored Cymru Mentoring Skills course. The course aims to benefit Young Carers by supporting them through training and *education, improving their confidence and self-esteem to achieve, and developing* their work based skills for future employment. Additionally, the training will benefit the wider community through increasing diversity in volunteering population.

Through mentoring their peers, the Young Carers will not only provide advice and guidance, but also become positive role models. Through the process of becoming Peer Mentors they will:

- Increase their leadership and public speaking skills
- Learn all aspects of planning and group delivery
- Contribute directly to service delivery
- Receive and benefit from supervision and gain a better understanding of safeguarding practices
- Accrue volunteer hours and employment references

Barnardo's Caerphilly, who are facilitating the programme, will also train three members of staff to become assessors, enabling more Young Carers in the future to become Peer Mentors

**Integrated Family Learning** – has continued to impact on the literacy and numeracy skills of families across the Caerphilly county borough. Programmes run in both school and community settings, including outdoor education sessions. In the last quarter:

- 41 families have engaged in basic skills community programmes
- 30 parents and young people have become volunteers
- 22 young people have engaged in further education as a result of support from the programme
- 819 speech and language sessions have been run in schools across the borough
- 63 individuals have achieved accreditation directly through the project.

Of the above accreditations, 23 children aged between 6- 11 achieved the Children's University Outdoor Education Module and 16 students achieved the Youth University Outdoor Education Module. In addition, there has been one family achiever of the Millennium Volunteers Project, participating in over 200 hours of volunteering.

The project is continuing to ensure that children, young people and families have the skills and resources to access job opportunities and improve their family lifestyle.

**Gorilla and the Mouse** - following the huge success of *Petra the Penguin*, the project run by The Parent Network are nearing completion on the second storybook in their series. The storybook has been funded by Communities First, Families First and Flying Start, with support from Head 4 Arts and The National Literacy Trust.

The Gorilla and the Mouse tells the story of two unlikely friends and was created by members of the Park Primary forum. Storyteller Mike Church and illustrator Rachael Tudor-Best have helped the parents to bring their story to life.

The Parent Network is extremely proud of their members, who have worked incredibly hard to produce a book for their own children and generations to come. The process has enabled parents to raise their own aspirations and in turn raise those of their children.

**Free School Meals Briefing 13<sup>th</sup> March 2015** - for practitioners who work with children and families to highlight the recent decline in Caerphilly families who are claiming Free School Meals (decreasing by 527 pupils from 2013 to 2014). There are many families in the Caerphilly borough who do not claim Free School Meals, which may be because they do not know they are eligible or how to claim.

For further information on the Families First Programme and the projects which have been commissioned to deliver services for children, young people and families, please visit the Families First website - [www.caerphilly.gov.uk/FamiliesFirst](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/FamiliesFirst)

## **COMMUNITY EDUCATION EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND PROJECTS**

### **Bridges into Work and Working Skills for Adults**

In 2009 Bridges into Work began as a collaborative project between Caerphilly County Borough Council, and Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taff, and Bridgend county borough councils. In early 2010 Working Skills for Adults began operations as a collaboration between Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly Councils and Ystrad Mynach, Merthyr Tydfil and Bridgend further education colleges. The projects are based together in the Bargoed Institute. This location provides easy public transport access for participants, a fully equipped training room and on site Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) registered crèche facilities.

The project teams provide one to one mentoring, advice and guidance through a team of specialist Learning Advisors. This support is delivered in the Caerphilly borough through a network of Libraries and Adult Community Education centres.

These facilities have been a key part to the project's success in breaking down the barriers of disengaged adults by providing easily accessible, informal and welcoming learning environments.

In close partnership with the Adult Community Education team a wide programme of courses are delivered including essential skills, vocational qualifications, ICT, employability skills and the Pacific Institute STEPS programme. The crèche allows participants with child care responsibilities to access support and attend training whilst having their children cared for within the same facility, breaking down a significant barrier for some local residents.

Significant success has been achieved through the collaborative working with the projects targets met or exceeded. Businesses cases are currently being written and submitted to the Welsh European Funding Office for new projects to be approved for the next round of ESF funding 2014-2020.

**Healthier Caerphilly (Lianne Dallimore)**

[HSCWB@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:HSCWB@caerphilly.gov.uk)

## **HEALTHY COMMUNITIES**

### **X Pod**

Six weekly programmes are available for people who are diagnosed with pre-diabetes (impaired glucose tolerance), or want to reduce their risk of developing type 2 diabetes. X Pod can help people improve blood glucose levels, aid weight loss and raise understanding of healthy foods.

### **Foodwise**

Weight management programmes are available to help people manage their weight the healthy way. Sessions last one hour a week for eight weeks and include reading food labels, portion sizes and healthy balanced diet.

### **Community Cooking**

Practical cooking sessions take place in community venues to show people how fun and easy healthy eating can be. Residents can also gain an Agored accreditation as recognition for what they have learnt.

### **Living Life To The Full**

This free course has been designed to tackle the everyday problems that everyone faces from time to time. It teaches key life skills that will help people feel better, happier and more in control of life. Also called *12 hours that can change your life*, the course uses Cognitive Behavioural Techniques (CBT) to help people with mild to moderate depression or anxiety.

## **Self Help Groups**

Community mental health officers provide self help sessions for individuals over 18 years of age with an aim of improving mental well being, self help strategies and recovery. Sessions take place weekly in community venues.

## **StreetGames**

Street Game sites are available across the borough for young people to access physical activity opportunities on their doorstep. Activities are held weekly and range from football, rugby, street golf, and many more. Young people can also volunteer with Street Games and gain free accredited training.

## **Physical Activity Programme**

From April, Communities First is developing a new partnership with the National Exercise Referral Scheme (NERS). Four Community First Physical Activity Workers will be employed to work with NERS to run programmes and consultations for level 3 participants to improve physical activity and reduce risk factors.

## **Living Well, Living Longer**

The Upper Rhymney Valleys Communities First Cluster, working in partnership with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board's inverse care law Living Well, Living Longer, is due to start a new project to reduce the number of premature deaths from cardiovascular disease and cancer in March.

In Wales, there is a significant difference in rates of avoidable mortality between the least and most deprived socioeconomic groups. Living Well, Living Longer has identified cardiovascular disease and cancer as the major causes of premature mortality in the local area as they place a disproportionate burden on communities with the greatest socioeconomic deprivation. Cardiovascular disease and cancer share many factors, such as poor diet, little exercise, smoking and excess alcohol intake.

In the first phase of the Living Well, Living Longer project targeted support will be provided by identifying those at the greatest risk of developing cardiovascular disease, through health checks, if found to be at risk, information is then passed to GP's for signing onto local schemes to address people's needs. As well as advice about diet and exercise, referrals to exercise and support schemes will be offered through Communities First, as will medical treatment for high blood pressure and raised cholesterol, where needed.

## **Consultation on Commissioning Mental Health Services in Gwent**

The five Local authorities across Gwent and the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board would like to hear your views on the proposals for the commissioning of third sector mental health services in Gwent. The consultation suggests a mental health service model for Gwent, identifies some commissioning priorities and proposes a method of allocating resources across the area to better support the needs of communities.

The consultation document can be accessed via the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Website at: <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/866/news/36359>

The consultation closes on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

**Greener Caerphilly (Paul Cooke)**

[sustainabledevelopment@caerphilly.org.uk](mailto:sustainabledevelopment@caerphilly.org.uk)

### ***Outcome G1 – Improving local environmental quality***

Each year Caerphilly County Borough Council has provided funding, from its Community Schemes budget, to the Greener Caerphilly Partnership to be managed as a small grants fund to facilitate and stimulate partnership working. The Schemes criteria is to involve at least 2 partnership organisations, and provide at least £1 for £1 match funding. The Greener Caerphilly Leadership Group has received £14,200 for projects in 2014/15.

For 2014/15 a total of 8 projects were awarded grants, all of which contribute to at least one of the priorities. One project supported was the *Rural Skills* project. The project has provided training courses on dry stone walling and hedge laying. A total of 12 one day courses were held.

Traditional skills such as dry stone walling, hedge laying and woodland coppicing have played an important role in the distinctive and unique landscape that we see around us today. Unfortunately, the change in land management practices over the past century has resulted in many of these features being left neglected and falling into disrepair. It is hoped that by gaining these skills through the taster sessions the farming community will be encouraged to maintain, restore and upgrade the rural heritage. Several attendees indicated that the course could assist their farming businesses with the possibility of diversifying into contract work.

### ***Outcome G2 – Reducing the causes of, and adapting to the effects of Climate Change***

The Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Officer for Caerphilly County Borough Council has worked with the All Wales Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGC) Local Authority Officer group to map ESDGC against the new National Literacy and Numeracy Framework (LNF), to identify how the areas can be taught using ESDGC.

ESDGC has been mapped against the LNF for years 2, 6 and 9, with suggested activities, website links and resources for each of the elements within the framework. These documents will help schools embed the requirements of the new National Literacy and Numeracy Framework within their curriculum planning, and include ESDGC as a theme for classroom teaching. Within the Caerphilly

county borough, every school has received a printed copy of the relevant version, plus they have received all versions by email.

***Outcome G3 - Maximising the use of the environment for health benefits***

With the support of partners Groundwork has been successful in securing £800,000 from the BIG Lottery for its Go Green for Health (GG4H) programme. The programme is a *community prescription* of activity in the outdoors designed to prevent ill health and improve the management of chronic conditions. The GG4H programme combines using the natural environment with innovative technology and approaches to increasing a community's active levels. Although open to all community members, the programme is keen to support individuals with chronic conditions and assist them with techniques to manage these conditions and getting more active.

The GG4H programme will be piloted in the Mid Valleys West Communities First Cluster area in the Caerphilly borough, encouraging people from Greater Bargoed, Gilfach, Cefn Hengoed, and surrounding areas to become more active their local green spaces. The programme will have three distinct elements, which include:

- One to one support for individuals with barriers to being active,
- Technology to get all residents active in their local areas,
- Volunteer led activity encouraging sustainability of the programme's message.