



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE - 17TH JUNE 2015

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

REPORT BY: GWENT ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

1. GAVO QUARTER 4 REPORT

1.1 Total Data for April 2014 – March 2015 Delivery

266 Volunteers placed
80,872 Website Visitor sessions
5615 enquiries received and responded to
3204 trustee enquiries received and responded to
299 funding advice enquiries received and responded to
13 trustee events held with 63 participants
11 funding events held with 102 participants
26 new organisations / services developed
33 Third Sector Networks / Forum meetings supported

2. OVERVIEW

- 2.1 GAVO's core delivery between January and March kept up with the pace set in previous quarters, overachieving on a number of targets including placement of volunteers and responding to general and trustee enquiries.
- 2.2 Following the restructuring of GAVO the volunteering team developed new methods of working to ensure that a visible presence is maintained within the communities in the borough. Working relationships have been enhanced and further developed in order to facilitate better remote working for the volunteering staff. This approach has maintained the levels of engagement of potential volunteers and consistent levels of referrals to our partner organisations. Engagement with the various organisations has also enhanced their ability to provide better managed opportunities by providing them with training in the effective use of the Volunteering Wales web site.
- 2.3 Community Development has been exceptionally busy with lots of enquiries for funding advice, requests for help with funding applications and project planning as the majority of larger applications now require a Business Plan. Several new groups have been set up this quarter.
- 2.4 Time has been spent planning the Voluntary Sector Achievement Awards and One Beat events which will be taking place across four areas this year. Disability Can Do have been supported with the Investors in Volunteers quality assurance process and their assessment is now underway. Caerphilly's Senior Development Officer attends the LSB Delivery Group, RDP and ABuHB Partnership Board meetings.

- 2.5 The Sunflower project has undergone a small expansion and now has 2 volunteers involved in a Parkinson's disease awareness scheme. This involves raising the profile of Parkinson's across the hospital wards and befriending those patients with the condition. The Big Lottery has agreed to fund a 15 hour post dedicated to succession planning and expansion of the Sunflower project.
- 2.6 Play Development Officer delivered, and assessed, accredited playwork training within GAVO and to Menter Iaith, the total number of learners - 25. Attendance at Play Sufficiency meetings, provision of updates and monitoring of Play Sufficiency Action Plan. Attendance at the CSSIW Childcare Regulations consultation with the Holiday Scheme Co-ordinator.
- 2.7 Holiday Scheme Co-ordinator continued to support voluntary sector youth provision and also worked with several groups to submit funding bids for summer provision. Information disseminated to the sector via a quarterly newsletter. Attended D of E taskforce meeting (Caerphilly) and also contributed to BERNIE (South Wales Fire and Rescue Service and Safer Caerphilly County Borough). Supported community activities during half term holidays.
- 2.8 Senior Play Officer has attended ISCAN (Integrated Services for Children with Additional Needs) panel meetings on a weekly basis. Following a successful presentation at the WASPI conference the SPO was asked to make a DVD of the presentation which will be shown at the Welsh Government conference in May. The play teams delivered 124 sessions for children and young people during the quarter and inclusive playworkers attended the sessions to provide 1:1 support for disabled children and young people to enable them to be active participants.

3. STRATEGIC WORKING

- 3.1 Representatives from GAVO's Senior Leadership Team meet with CCBC's Policy Unit on a quarterly basis and GAVO provides representation to the LSB, Leads Group, Delivery Group, and other thematic groupings.
- 3.2 GAVO's Community Planning Co-ordinator continues to work as part of the Policy Unit on the LSB / Single Plan / Citizen Engagement work and spends time weekly in Ty Penallta, attending policy unit meetings and other partnership meetings.

One Beat Roadshows 2015/16

- 3.3 'One Beat' symbolises the tremendous partnership that exists between the Council, Gwent Police, Aneurin Bevan Health Board, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service and the Voluntary Sector who all work together to improve our living environment. This year, 'One Beat' will hit the road as we take the popular event into the heart of the community for 4 exciting new 'One Beat Roadshows'.
- 3.4 Working In partnership, Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations and Caerphilly County Borough Council, agreed more could be done to engage the local community so that residents can find out more about the vibrant voluntary sector within the county borough. The roadshows are planned over the next 12 months at four locations in different parts of the county borough. These new events will replace the annual event previously held at Penallta House. Please see below for details:

Saturday 11th July 2015 - **BLACKWOOD** (Methodist Church, Blackwood)

Wednesday 7th October 2015 – **RHYMNEY** (St David's Community Centre, Rhymney)

February 2016 (date to be confirmed) – **CAERPHELLY** (Twyn Community Centre)

April 2016 (date to be confirmed) - **RISCA** (Moriah Baptist Church, Risca).

Caerphilly LSB Standing Conference

- 3.5 Planning is underway for the next Standing Conference on 12th June. The conference is taking place at Llancaiach Fawr, Nelson and will follow the poverty theme with a focus on investment, employment and growth. Speakers and workshops are being planned at present. The report of the previous Standing Conference in January 2015 and presentations can be found at:

<http://your.caerphilly.gov.uk/communityplanning/content/standing-conference>

LSB Support – Making the Connections (MtC) Officer

- 3.6 Quarter 4 saw the project closure stage of this project, for which European funding ceased on 31st March 2015.
- 3.7 A national evaluation of the programme can be found here: <http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/independent-evaluation-wales-council-voluntary-actions-making-connections-project/?lang=en>
- 3.8 Final newsletters and closure reports from WCVA can be found here: <http://www.wcva.org.uk/what-we-do/policy-latest/2015/03/collaborative-working-project-comes-to-a-close>
- 3.9 The Community Planning Co-ordinator will pick up some of the functions of the MtC post including attending the Anti-Poverty Network and will maintain support to the LSB.

4. GOVERNANCE

- 4.1 A number of GAVO meetings were held in the period supporting GAVO's Governance Framework including:
- GAVO wide Team Meeting
 - 4 x Local Team meetings
 - 4 x Local Committees
 - Executive Committee
 - Finance and Personnel Sub- Committee
 - 4 x Thematic groups taking forward Business plan objectives including
 - Volunteering
 - Marketing
 - Health, Social Care and Wellbeing
 - Business Development and Income Generation

5. CONTRIBUTION TO SIP

- 5.1 GAVO undertakes a range of core and project work which contributes to the outcomes of Caerphilly's Single Integrated Plan as reported below under each theme:

Prosperous

Regional Community Asset Transfer Support

- 5.2 GAVO has recently received funding directly from the Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty to pilot a new and unique regional post in Wales. Richard Davies has been appointed to support Third Sector organisations and public bodies who are, or wish to be, engaged in the Community Asset Transfer Process,

- nationally, through representation at National Assets Working Group (NAWG) and Third Sector Reference Group on Community Assets;
- regionally, through developing relationships with public and third sector organisations across the regional Greater Gwent footprint;
- locally, by scoping the needs of clients at a local level, and delivering tailored support to assist the Community Asset Transfer process

Core Development work

- 5.3 GAVO's Senior Development Officer supported 36 groups throughout the reporting period which included offering funding advice and supporting applications, mediation, governance and trustee issues amongst others. This has resulted in submitting 7 funding applications in quarter 4. Many governance enquiries have been generated, including increased requests for support with policies and procedures and arranging safeguarding, first aid and food hygiene training.
- 5.4 Funding continues to be limited and many groups are requiring much more dedicated support due to the increased amount of supporting documents required by funders.

Volunteering

- 5.5 Good quality placements for volunteers enhance their employability considerably. It provides individuals with a sense of pride and achievement, whilst enhancing their access to support such as training and references. In order to increase the understanding of the benefits of volunteering a working practice has been developed where Volunteering staff regularly attend Job centres and are available all day to provide assistance and guidance, not only to potential volunteers but also to work advisors. This has increased the understanding of the benefits of volunteering and also ensured that those that are referred to organisations are better placed to have a greater understanding of what is expected of them and their potential gains. Similarly regular contact is made with schools and colleges throughout the borough to promote and develop the understanding and benefits of volunteering.
- 5.6 This approach has also been targeted at managers of organisations where opportunities may potentially exist but have not been realised or developed. The objective is to raise the understanding of volunteering at a more strategic level, which will then be cascaded throughout organisations, reducing the fear of staff believing that volunteers are used to replace paid roles.

Community Voice Programme

- 5.7 The Community Voice Portfolio projects continue to work with strategic partners to develop engagement processes which include minority and disadvantaged groups (listed in previous reports). The programme has provided support and guidance to projects facing challenges within the portfolio in Caerphilly such as guidance and assistance with the recruitment and induction of new project officers.
- 5.8 All of the Community Voices Portfolio projects (Valley Voices) have been established in Caerphilly. However, a few have had to re-recruit officers which has affected the delivery momentum – the new officers are working hard to cover lost ground. There has been progress made towards the strategic engagement of beneficiaries with statutory partners, including the Local Authority, which needs to be strengthened and developed.
- 5.9 An independent mid-term evaluation of the programme has been commissioned and should be available at the end of July.

Communities First

- 5.10 Development Officers continue to work within the local community, promoting all CF projects on a regular basis when meeting with community groups and at local functions.

5.11 Key activities and events delivered in the last quarter including:

- Volunteering Celebration Event MVE
- Successful Delivery of Catwg Project MVW
- Development of Local Community Action Group URV
- Development of resources at the Lansbury Office, Credit Union & Drug Aid CB
- FAST Works Groups in Cwm Ifor and St James CB
- Referral strategy in place with Play - Four Cluster areas.

Healthier

Sunflower Hospital Volunteering Project

5.12 Following on from the recent success of the project winning an award at ABuHB's Nursing and Midwifery Conference, the project was nominated for an NHS award but was not successful. Instead the Health Board has nominated the project for the Betsi Cadwaladr Scholarship Award and the Wales Volunteer of the Year Awards.

5.13 From Jan to March, the project at Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr had:

- 27 active volunteers
- 1706 befriending
- 338 activities

5.14 The project continues to receive praise from key health board staff, patients and their relatives and the team is looking to organise further activities for the patients over the summer months.

Health and Social Care Facilitator (HSCF)

5.15 Quarterly meeting on the third sector Caerphilly Health and Social Care Alliance was held on the 6th February. Guest speakers included;

- The ISP Lead CCBC to inform and engage the providers with information sharing protocols and the training and support available
- A representative from the Greater Gwent Transformation Partnership implementation team (Thematic Lead) to give an update on progress on the programme of work and the citizen engagement and provider forum developments.
- The HSC Facilitator supported the thematic lead with mapping and scoping of the third sector across Gwent to provide the service and support information in relation to availability of Information assistance and advice agencies (SSWB ACT)

NCN's

5.16 The HSC Facilitator contributes to the 3 Neighbourhood Care Networks North, South and East providing third sector service information and updates.

- A presentation was given to the membership on the third sector and this resulted in more awareness of third sector activity, increased referrals and signposting particularly in relation to dementia, befriending and advocacy support.
- The HSC Facilitator also consulted with the third sector HSC organisations to identify priorities to inform the NCN's review process.
- A rolling presentation on advocacy and third sector advocacy services in the borough was designed for a South NCN practice to be shown in the patients waiting area.

Commissioning and Procurement

- 5.17 Members of the Caerphilly Health and Social Care Alliance we effectively engaged with the Provider Fair held at Ty Penallta providing an opportunity for members to interact with the public sector commissioners.
- 5.18 Designed and delivered two seminars to third sector organisations on:
- E procurement
 - Contracts Service Level agreements, competitive grants

SSWB Wales Act

- 5.19 The HSC Facilitator is a member of the steering group established to develop a provider forum for Gwent. A consultation day with third sector provider was held in March which was well attended by organisations in Caerphilly. The Facilitator is informing the development of terms of reference for the Gwent Provider Forum.

Consultations

- 5.20 The HSC Facilitator and Caerphilly Health and Social Care member contributed to the following consultations;
- Social Services and Wellbeing Wales Act 2014 Regulations and Codes of Practice
 - Welsh Government White Paper 'The Future of Regulation and Inspection in Wales'
 - A consultation paper prepared by the CEO SCVS (on behalf of a WG reference group) on the proposed National Institute for Care and Support
 - The Health and Social Care Facilitator also worked with the Wales Audit Office to engage third sector organisations with the consultation on older people and support to live independently.
 - Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Mental Health Commissioning Strategy

Other

- Worked with the lead for Continuing Healthcare WG to engage third sector advocates with the CHC Foundation Level national training pilot
- Actively involved with the Dementia Friendly Communities steering group and just completed Dementia Awareness Training. A 'Dementia Friendly Communities' lead will be presenting to the Caerphilly Health and Social Care Alliance meeting in May.

Learning

- 5.21 GAVO's Play Service provided a variety of user friendly workshops at the Caerphilly Early Years and Childcare conference. The workshops were based on using elemental play with children and young people. Over 150 delegates attended the conference and feedback to GAVO on the workshops was excellent.

Safer

- 5.22 During this quarter, the Police and Crime Commissioner agreed funding for a Third Sector Development Officer to maximise the contribution of the sector to the Police and Crime Plan for Gwent. This is a joint post between GAVO and TVA (Torfaen Voluntary Alliance), covering the Greater Gwent footprint. Janine Reed has been appointed in GAVO to this post, to develop a closer relationship between the oPCC and third sector service delivery and to develop GAVO's broker role in setting up consortia or other delivery models.
- 5.23 GAVO's Deputy CEO attended the Safer Caerphilly Delivery group in Qtr 4, which will be attended in the future by Janine in her new role outlined above.

6. CONTACTS

6.1 For further information or to discuss any of this information in more detail please contact:

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