



## Community Planning Quarterly Briefing October to December 2010

This is a quarterly briefing designed to give everyone involved in the community planning process across the Caerphilly County Borough, as well as wider audiences, an overview of progress on the Community Strategy. Information has been supplied by each of the co-ordinators leading on different themes of the Community Strategy please get in touch directly with the co-ordinators for further information.

**Community Planning (Jackie Dix & Alison Palmer)**

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**The Autumn Community Strategy Standing Conference** - was held on Reducing Health Inequities in Partnership with a special focus on mental health and wellbeing. The conference received presentations on the 2010 Caerphilly Health Needs Assessment and Public Health Wales priorities for promoting positive mental health. The new Health, Social Care and Well being Strategy 2011-14 was discussed, which is currently out to public consultation until 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011, with the delegates invited to respond. A guest speaker gave the narrative of his personal experiences of developing mental health issues, and how he has coped, and become involved with policy makers in ensuring better services for people with mental health issues. Workshop sessions were held on tackling stigma, plugging the gaps, the road to recovery, and information sharing. The findings of the workshops will be feeding directly into the delivery action plan of the new Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Strategy. For further details contact Lianne Dallimore, Health, Social Care and Well-Being Coordinator by telephone on 01443 864679, or email [dallil@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:dallil@caerphilly.gov.uk)

**Caerphilly Local Service Board** – has held two meetings in this period. Discussion topics have included the Welsh Assembly Government Efficiency & Innovation Programme, and how it relates to work at local levels, partnership working in support of the Community Strategy and the Caerphilly Citizen Engagement Standards, which have been endorsed by the Board.

The Standards are signed up to by all the key organisations in the Borough who have come together in working on citizen engagement. The Standards set out

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



what the public can expect from the organisations in improving services when seeking the views of the public. The Standards cover information, respect, opportunities to influence, taking views into account and feeding back following citizen engagement. The database which contains details of past and current public consultations can be accessed at <http://www.caerphillyasks.org.uk> For further information on the Standards and the work of the Citizen Engagement working group, which is a project of the Local Service Board, contact Liz Sharma by telephone on 01443 864354 or by email [sharme@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:sharme@caerphilly.gov.uk)

**Caerphilly Community Strategy Website** – a reminder that latest community planning news, including this briefing, will be posted on this website –

[www.caerphilly.gov.uk/communityplanning](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/communityplanning)

**Living Environment (Paul Cooke & Natalie Davies)**

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

The Living Environment Partnership is delighted to be able to promote a Community Action Eco-Guidance pack for Communities First areas in Caerphilly. The pack has been produced by the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA), working in partnership with a broad range of voluntary and statutory sector environmental organisations. This user-friendly information and support package will help community groups set up a range of environmental or sustainability projects in local neighbourhoods. The Eco-Guidance pack is available on the Community Planning Website:

<http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/communityplanning/en/enviroment/index.html>

The **Caerphilly Environment Quality Working Group** (CEQ) allocated its £25,000 funding to four innovative projects for this year, intended to bring about a number of environmental enhancements in the county borough.

The first project, Dig for Environmental Quality, aims to provide a "bank" of trees - a supply of native hardwood trees, which will be available for community groups, partnerships and schools to tap into in order to set up their own tree planting schemes with their members. The project will also provide support and guidance on tree planting for those who are unfamiliar with the practicalities.

The second, Blooming Lovely! will build on the great environmental and community work already going on in Phillipstown, New Tredegar, and will see an allotments-based project set up to engage local people in gardening and horticulture as a way of stimulating the development of new skills and qualities. The main drivers are to provide meaningful recreational and voluntary activities to engage particularly young people in their local community and help to reduce anti-social behaviour. This project is led by Phillipstown Residents and Community

Association but involves a wide range of partners across many sectors. Participants will be rewarded through the Time Bank scheme.

Next, the Community Environmental Officer project, is a continuation of last year's support to non-Communities First partnerships. The Officer, who will be working out of Groundwork Caerphilly, will provide environmental expertise and support to non-Community First areas, and undertake practical projects in accordance with the communities' priorities.

Finally, the Energizers project, a partnership between United Welsh Housing Association, Charter Housing Association and Caerphilly Council public sector housing, is intended to train a team of volunteer energy champion from the social housing sector. These energy champions will seek to promote energy efficiency amongst their neighbours and help raise awareness of how to reduce the risks of fuel poverty. Participants will be rewarded through the Time Bank scheme.

The **Great Outdoors Working Group / Beacon** is now consulting internally on the report into the health impacts of physical inactivity. The principle aim of the Great Outdoors Group is to encourage people to live healthier lives by using their local green spaces for recreation and exercise - walking (with or without a dog or children!), jogging, cycling, horse-riding, etc. The group has explored the costs of inactive lifestyles make to long-term health and well being, and the National Health Service in treating the health problems that occur. Further consultation is taking place on this study prior to publication.

The pilot of the Come Outside! approach in Greater Bargoed moved forward during the quarter. Come Outside! aims to join community development workers with countryside management workers to promote an area's open green spaces to its residents, as a way of improving their health, well being and quality of life. Come Outside! team members attended the meeting of the Greater Bargoed Partnership in September and helped to raise awareness of the project and also gathered the community's views on their local green spaces and associated accessibility requirements. The team will be meeting shortly to develop an action plan, which will lead to the launch of Come Outside! within Greater Bargoed in Summer 2011. It is hoped that the launch will coincide with the reclassification of Aberbargoed Grasslands Special Area of Conservation (SAC) as a National Nature Reserve.

The **Climate Change Working Group** has been refining the Caerphilly Climate Change Pledge following feedback from the One Beat Voluntary Sector Event on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2010. There are three different types of pledges - one for businesses, one for organisations, and one for individuals - they are designed to get everyone thinking about what they can do to help combat climate change. They are not all *challenging* pledges - many of them are simple, everyday things - small steps that all add up to huge strides forward in the battle against climate change. The Pledge will be launched in early 2011 with the planting of a "climate change woodland" - so everyone who signs up will be given a tree to plant in a

dedicated parcel of land. For more information on how to sign a pledge and get involved in the climate change woodland, please contact Victoria Tomlin at: [tomliv@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:tomliv@caerphilly.gov.uk)

The Climate Change Group has a couple of ongoing projects, one looking at how extreme weather has affected the county borough in the past and how to prepared for, and adapt to future extreme weather events; another project is looking at what the impacts of climate change might be on wildlife with a view to protecting treasured local species.

**Regeneration (Antony Bolter)**

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

**Heads of Valley Retail Business Grant** – this new retail business grant is available to independent retail businesses in the Heads of the Valleys (HOV) area of Caerphilly County Borough. It is the first time that eligible retail businesses in the HOV area of the county borough will benefit directly from financial support through the Welsh Assembly Governments HOV Programme. Grants of up to 50% of eligible costs to a maximum of £2,000 are available. It complements the range of support that is already available to businesses and start-ups in the Heads of the Valleys area. Businesses in the Caerphilly County Borough area of the Heads of the Valleys should contact the Advisory Services Team on 01443 866222 or email [business@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:business@caerphilly.gov.uk)

**Local Investment Fund increased to £10,000** - the Local Investment Fund (LIF), which is administered by local authorities in North West Wales, South West Wales and the Valleys areas, will now be able to offer funding of up to £10,000 to meet up to 40% of the cost of capital investments such as buying new equipment or extending business premises. The previous limit on most funding applications was £5,000. The LIF is a package of flexible financial support to assist new and existing eligible businesses by offering capital grants. The business must be a Small Medium Enterprise (under 250 employees) in the manufacturing, service to manufacturing, business-to-business service sector (minimum 75% business to business) or tourism. In certain circumstances other businesses may qualify so please if in any doubt please contact Advisory Services to discuss 01443 866222 or email [business@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:business@caerphilly.gov.uk)

**Community Economic Development Programme** - £1.6 million has been made available across the Caerphilly County Borough over the next 5 years to help community voluntary organisations, local charities and social enterprises. The programme aims to encourage community organisations to become less dependent on grants and more self-reliant. The multi million pound programme is part funded through the European Regional Development Fund and a local launch is planned for the New Year. For more information about this scheme contact Vicki Doyle, at the Council's Policy Unit on 01443 864403.

**Blackwood Dickensian Market (4<sup>th</sup> December and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December)** - with a variety of craft & food stalls located along the High Street, and traditional entertainment including a Christmas Grotto, Dickensian toys and games, crafters and characters from this renowned period.

**Bargoed Christmas Market 2010 (8<sup>th</sup> December)** - Bargoed will host a traditional on-street Christmas Market with local craft, charity and seasonal food stalls. The event will include various street entertainers, children's entertainment & Santa's Grotto. New to the event this year is an outdoor ice rink, a first in Bargoed. The Bargoed Lantern Parade will follow the market and will leave Bargoed High Street and finish at Hanbury Road car park with a fireworks display to finish. Music, street entertainers and the public will be invited to follow the parade. For more information contact Advisory Services on 01443 866228.

**Cefn Fforest Christmas lantern parade (9<sup>th</sup> December)** - the parade will take place from Cefn Fforest Primary School, along Central Avenue, down Penybryn Avenue, across Waun Borfa Road and up Derwendeg Avenue to Cefn Fforest Community Centre. Funding of £1800 secured from Awards For All for the event.

**Caerphilly Medieval Christmas Fayre (11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December)** - with Christmas fun and activities from a food and craft fayre, farmers market, continental market, street entertainers, music, cookery demonstrations, children's workshops and funfair rides provide a mixture of entertainment for the young and old. The Caerphilly Medieval Fayre has a variety of festive entertainment with many of the activities being free of charge. For more information contact Advisory Services on 01443 866390.

**Special Offer Voucher Booklets** - retailers are embracing the trading opportunity presented by the programme of Christmas Events by participating in a Special Offers Voucher booklet. Participating retailers will be offering a discount for the duration of their town's Christmas Market. Voucher booklets will be available on the day from event stewards and also from the [Christmas 2010 website](#). For more information contact Advisory Services on 01443 866390.

**Come Surf With Me** - has recruited a digital inclusion officer to be based in Markham Community House until March 2012. Her name is Louise Kingdom and she will be tasked to deliver informal sessions and drop in's around digital technology, to reduce troubleshooting problems, increase skills and capacity for beginners and experts, and improve employment prospects for people living in the Argoed ward. Louise will also be responsible for developing volunteer cluster groups to support residents in the community to be more digitally engaged.



## Have Your Say - Health, Social Care & Well-being Strategy Consultation

Your views are requested to help the Caerphilly county borough Health, Social Care & Well-being Partnership in developing the third Health, Social Care & Well-being Strategy for 2011-2014. Your thoughts on the outcomes and priority areas for work that has been proposed by the Partnership are requested. It is important that as many views as possible are captured in order to ensure a balance between national requirements and local need. Your views are sought on:

- What you think about the proposed outcomes
- What you think about the proposed priority areas for work; and
- If you think there are priority areas for work missing.

## Responding to the Consultation

You are invited to respond as an individual or organisation. The consultation document and questionnaire can be found at -

[www.caerphilly.gov.uk/communityplanning](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/communityplanning)

All comments will be acknowledged and considered. To share your thoughts please complete the online questionnaire. Alternatively the consultation document and questionnaire can be downloaded for completion and returned by post to:

Lianne Dallimore  
Health, Social Care & Well-being Partnership Coordinator  
Penallta House  
Tredomen Park  
Ystrad Mynach  
Hengoed CF82 7PG

If you would like a copy of this survey in another format or language, please contact 01443 864679 or email [HSCWB@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:HSCWB@caerphilly.gov.uk).

Copies of the consultation document and questionnaire will be available to view at the following locations across the county borough:

- |                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| ▪ Libraries            | ▪ Dentists    |
| ▪ Main Council offices | ▪ Opticians   |
| ▪ Doctors Surgeries    | ▪ Pharmacists |
| ▪ Leisure Centres      |               |

The consultation period will run from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2010 to Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011. All responses will require to be received by close of business on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

## **Supporting People**

Caerphilly Supporting people team have recently commissioned a number of new services due to commence in the autumn of 2010, these include:

- A 2-unit young mothers project based in Aberbargoed, that will provide young mothers support in developing parenting and independent living skills prior to them commencing a permanent tenancy.
- A floating support scheme for people with sensory impairments
- A floating support scheme for young people with links to leaving care, move on support, support in all forms of temporary and permanent accommodation and a crisis response element
- A floating support service for older people that supports older people in the community and closely links into health, social care, telecare, care & repair and sheltered and extra care services.

For more information on any of the schemes listed above or further information about the Supporting People programme please contact the Supporting People team on: t 01443 864545 ,e [toppim@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:toppim@caerphilly.gov.uk) or view <http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/supportingpeople>

## **The Protection of Vulnerable Adults (POVA)**

The Caerphilly Area Adult Protection Committee (AAPC) has completed its annual report for 2009/10, which may be viewed on the CCBC Internet and the Social Services Improvement Agency POVA web page.

The AAPC subgroup 'POVA Practice Improvement Forum' continues to hold a monthly meeting, topics considered during this period include: non criminal investigations and the role of the investigating officer; the role of the Deaf Advocate Officer; and an evaluation of the role of the Aneurin Bevan Health Board Practice Development Nurse and a presentation from the Crown Prosecution Service on hate crime.

The POVA team participated in a project with the Local Government Data Unit, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales in reviewing the type of data and the methodology used for the collection of data that is required every financial year for monitoring purposes.

The Aneurin Bevan Health Board safeguarding structure has been finalised at corporate and locality level. Whilst key Aneurin Bevan Health Board staff already work closely with the POVA Team, this now brings further opportunities for future collaboration regarding practice consistency, data collection and sharing and multi agency training.

The Wales POVA policy has been completed and the POVA Team are awaiting information about dates for launch and implementation.

For more information contact the POVA Team on: t 01443 864563, email [povateam@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:povateam@caerphilly.gov.uk) or view [www.caerphilly.gov.uk/pova](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/pova)



Following a successful Community Cohesion Fund bid, a project is now underway extending the existing Caerphilly County Borough Council's equalities training programme to the 30 community partnerships within the borough. Given that the training structure already exists, the Partnerships have immediate access to the courses listed below and therefore benefit from not having to allocate resources to set up, administer and monitor equalities training systems.

- Conversational Welsh classes (ranging from 2 day courses to full 30 week qualifications, up to 'A' level)
- Conversational British Sign Language courses (from half day taster courses to 10 week Introduction level, up to the different NVQ level year courses)
- Bespoke courses, tailored to the needs of the individual partnerships
- Deaf Awareness
- General Equalities Awareness sessions
- Typetalk Awareness
- Maximising Income for the 50+
- Understanding Sight Loss
- Disability Awareness
- Basic Skills Awareness
- Involving Older People
- Equality in Policy Development
- Age Awareness
- lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Awareness
- Religious Awareness
- Dyslexia Awareness
- Race Equality
- ILM Level 2 Equalities Module (Accredited)
- Deafblind Awareness

While the training programme is co-ordinated and hosted centrally by the Council, it is delivered by a number of internal and external trainers, and the external trainers are often from local or regional voluntary groups or charities working in specific areas of equality.

**Justice Seen, Justice Done** - the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership (SCCSP) continues to progress the Home Office Justice Seen/Justice Done initiative, however notification has been received from the Home Office that the funding will cease after 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011. Work is still being carried out under three of the four strands:

- 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 individuals from groups such as Neighbourhood Watch, Crime Prevention Panels, Community Groups and Partnerships, Street Pastors and Tenants and Residents Associations. Three borough wide networking events have taken place between September to November. These sessions have included a variety of presentations regarding services available (e.g. Fire Safety Checks, Community Payback) and information sessions (e.g. Local Crime, Community Sentence) alongside workshop sessions to encourage partnership working.
- The **Community Payback** strand of the initiative continues to develop. Offenders work under the supervision of Wales Probation Trust undertake work such as clearing overgrown sites/locations, litter picking, graffiti removal and painting railings/community centres. In the last financial year (2009-2010) nearly 29, 000 hours of work were undertaken within Caerphilly County Borough by offenders serving community sentences, as part of the initiative. For the first two quarters of this financial year (2010-2011) 15,086 hours have been spent undertaking work throughout Caerphilly County Borough. Any person wishing to nominate any location/project please contact either the Wales Probation Trust on 01633 822007 or for further details please the SCCSP on 01495 235350.
- The final strand of the initiative focuses on providing support to victims and witnesses of anti-social behaviour (ASB). To support this priority the Home Office provided funding to employ an ASB Victim/Witness Champion. Since the appointment of the Victims' Champion, Lana Harrison, over 185 referrals have been received for support. Lana can be contacted on 01495 235441.

### Partnership Events

- The SCCSP regularly have a presence at community events throughout the county borough. One such event was on the 21st October where the SCCSP held an information evening at the Deaf Club in Caerphilly. The evening was well attended and members of the Deaf Club are now interested in joining the Safer Caerphilly Volunteer Network and forming stronger links with the SCCSP.

- The SCCSP also supported the 50+ Partnership to organise an event at the Senedd to officially launch the 'Age Is Just a Number' photographic exhibition. The project was funded through the Reassurance for Older People Welsh Assembly Government grant that was administered by the SCCSP. The project has been a big success and the event widely attended with Gwenda Thomas the Deputy Minister for Social Services complimenting Caerphilly for its innovative work.

### **Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee**

- The first meeting of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee took place on 16<sup>th</sup> September and included presentations on the work of the SCCSP and workshops with various scenarios. Since this meeting members of the Committee have also had the opportunity to attend a training course, which looked at the issues of scrutinising crime and disorder. The committee will also have the responsibility to consider 'Councillor Calls for Action' (CCfA). A CCfA will give Councillors the right to raise matters of local concern with the crime and disorder scrutiny committee when all other attempts to work with others to resolve a problem has failed. Prior to a CCfA being brought before the committee Councillors must ensure that the issue is the responsibility of one of the partner organisations represented on the SCCSP. The next Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee will take place in March 2011.

### **Crime Statistics**

- The SCCSP continues to work in partnership to reduce crime and disorder in Caerphilly county borough. As at 8<sup>th</sup> November there was an overall reduction of 14.4% in BCS crime compared to the same time last year. Other crime categories have also seen impressive reductions over the last year with a 10.4% reduction in Violent Crime, a 17.9% reduction in Robbery, a 15.1% reduction in Criminal Damage and a 22.8% reduction in Vehicle Crime.
- The SCCSP has continued to make progress via its three action teams dealing with the reduction of anti-social behaviour and improvement of the street scene, the reduction of harm caused by alcohol, and the broadening of Partnership delivery. Updated action plans can be viewed at the SCCSP website at: <http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/saferccb/>

In addition to the above, the SCCSP and its constituent *responsible authorities* of Gwent Police, Caerphilly County Borough Council, Aneurin Bevan Health Trust, the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Wales Probation Trust and the Gwent Police Authority, together with other public and voluntary sector colleagues, continue to deliver core activity and services, striving to reduce and prevent crime, disorder, the impact of substance misuse, domestic violence and in doing so make Caerphilly county borough a *safer place to live, work and visit*.

For more information visit the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership website at - <http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/saferccb/>

## 50+ Positive Action (Mandy Sprague)

[50plus@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:50plus@caerphilly.gov.uk)

The primary piece of work this quarter has been the long term intergenerational *Age is Just A Number Campaign*, which features pictures of local people from different generations. These pictures are designed to challenge perceptions about age, replace the negative ones, and break down some of the negative stereotypes people have. This quarter has seen a number of key aspects of this campaign take off:

- The formal launch of the *Age is Just A Number* stereotypes questionnaire by Ruth Marks, the Commissioner for Older people in Wales, at the 50+ *My Life My Way* event at Heolddu Leisure centre. The questionnaire looks at the impact of stereotypes on older and younger people. The Commissioner encouraged as many people as possible to complete the questionnaire to enable the Caerphilly 50+ Positive Action partnership to gather enough evidence to persuade the media and other organisations to use more positive images. The Commissioner also had high praise for the Youth Forum's film *Bluff Stuf*, which also tackles the issue of stereotypes.
- A Collaboration between the 50+ Positive Action, the Welsh Local Government Association and Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership enabled a week long exhibition of the pictures at the Senedd culminating with a celebration lunch hosted by the Deputy Minister for Social Services Gwenda Thomas for over 40 Caerphilly residents.
- Cllr Lindsay Whittle launched the *Age Is Just A Number* webpage, which gives details on the campaign and how people can access and use these excellent photographs. In October alone these pages had over 1000 hits.
- In October and November the images were displayed on buses across the Caerphilly borough.
- Over 12,500 *Age Is Just A Number* 2011 Calendars have been distributed.

You can complete the stereotypes questionnaire (which is available until the 31<sup>st</sup> December) or access the photographs via the following link –

[http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/communityplanning/en/cross\\_themes/50plus\\_ageisjustanumber.htm](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/communityplanning/en/cross_themes/50plus_ageisjustanumber.htm)

## Children and Young People (Lynne Bosanko Williams)

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The Caerphilly Children and Young People's Partnership is currently developing the new Caerphilly Children and Young People's Plan for 2011 – 2014. The Plan is the defining statement of strategic planning intent and identifies the priorities for all children and young people's services in the borough over the next 3 years.

The Plan will reflect the guidance issued recently by the Welsh Assembly Government. The new duties in relation to the eradication of poverty as prescribed

in the Children and Families (Wales) Measure will therefore be incorporated and local needs and priorities identified and planned for.

The Plan will be available for public consultation for 12 weeks during December 2010 – February 2011. A series of interactive workshops to consult on the content of the Plan will take place during January and February 2011. These events will be for partners, the public, and children and young people.

A copy of the draft Caerphilly Children and Young People's Plan will be published on the Community Strategy website in December. The final version will be available after 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011.

<http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/communityplanning/en/index.html>