



Vale School Governors' Association Cymdeithas Llywodraethwyr Ysgolion y Fro and Governor Support Unit **Newsletter**

Note from the Chair

I recently unexpectedly met what was claimed to be the oldest iguana in the world. It was found abandoned in a snow-covered valleys town thirty years ago, and certified as being about four years old by a vet. Apparently, Iguanas in the wild live about 15 years. I was being shown round a Small Animal Centre at a College of Further Education. Students learn about handling animals, correct feeding and caring for them, as preparation for moving on to be veterinary assistants in future careers. Somehow, I had imagined rabbits, cats, and guinea pigs, but not an iguana, chameleons, a python and other more exotic creatures.

Talking of rare species, I recently gave a talk to a group of aspiring school leaders. These are teachers who are putting themselves forward as potential Headteachers and Deputy Headteachers of the future. They are being mentored by exiting Heads and going through a formal process of formation in an innovative programme funded by the Central

South Consortium. I was talking about how they can present themselves better though the application process and interviews, and what Governors are looking for when they appoint a new Headteacher.

If you have tried to recruit a senior leader recently, you will have discovered how difficult this is. The Western Mail reported recently that one West Wales Local Authority has 23 Acting Headteachers at the moment. More than 20 per cent of its schools are without permanent leadership..

Governors have an important role in encouraging promising staff at their school - middle managers and younger teachers - to consider putting themselves forward for leadership roles. We have the talent, but we need to nurture it if the crisis in recruitment is not to get even worse in the future.

Dr Martin Price

Chair of VSGA and Vice-Chair of Governors, St Richard Gwyn Roman Catholic High School, Barry

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Special points of interest:

- AVAGO was formed in 1996 and re-launched in 2006 as Vale School Governors' Association (VSGA)
- The Management Committee is made up of 15 elected governors together with 2 elected parent governor representatives

VSGA was set up to:

- Promote best practice in governance in schools within the Vale of Glamorgan LEA
- To promote partnership amongst schools and between schools and the LEA
- To work with stakeholders to ensure adequate resources for schools within the LEA
- To represent the Association's views on issues relating to school governance and the management and resourcing of schools to relevant authorities and organisations

In association with the
Vale of Glamorgan Council's
Governor Support Unit

Contact Details:

John Sparks

Head of Governor Support

Tel: 01446 709106 Fax: 01446 701820

Email: JSparks@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Janine Hoare

Governor Support

Administrator

Tel: 01446 709107 Fax: 01446 701820

Email: JHoare@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk



VSGA has an email address that you may contact us on. It's VSGA@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

alternatively you can contact VSGA by post at:

VSGA
Governor Support Unit
Learning & Development Dept.
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Provincial House, Kendrick Road
Barry CF62 8BF

For the Attention of Chairs / Governors / Headteachers / Clerks / LA-RC-Diocesan Officers

This term's update from Governors Wales provides the latest educational news and summary information of recent and future publications and events.

We hope you will find it useful to assist you in your role.

Please follow updates as they happen on our Twitter and Facebook pages.

You can view this term's newsletter by clicking the link below

Governors Wales E-Bulletin – March 2017

Don't forget to sign up to our new mailing list via the following link:

<http://eepurl.com/bz3m4T>



360 Degree Safe Cymru Online Safety Tool

360 Degree Safe Cymru, the tool for schools in Wales to review and improve their online safety policies and practice, has recently been updated with revised content.

The world of technology is continually changing and evolving which causes changes in online behaviours. To reflect this, in consultation with users, the 360 Degree Safe Cymru content has been updated and is now live. Two new policies have also been updated to support you with Social Media and Mobile Technologies.

Whilst many changes have been minor, the following aspects have been subject to larger changes:

- Acceptable use
- Governors
- Social Media
- Mobile Technologies
- Technical Security
- Password Security
- Data Protection
- Critical Thinking and Ethics

It is highly recommended that you take a look through all 28 aspects and review your online safety against the new content.

Please click [here](#) to read a more detailed overview of the changes to the 360 degree safe Cymru tool.

If you have any concerns or would like further information please contact us at: 360safe@swgfl.org.uk

Who are Young Carers? - An update

Young carers were featured in the Autumn 2015 (issue 34) edition of The Vale School Governors' Newsletter. This article provides an update on the exciting work that is taking place for young carers across the Vale.

Young Carers are children and young people aged from 7 to 18 years, who help care for a family member due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction. Not every child or young person in this situation will be a young carer but, if they are, they will often take on practical and/or emotional caring responsibilities that would normally be expected of an adult.

Young Carers Awareness Day

26 January 2017 was a national day of recognition for the UK's estimated 700,000 young carers. The day, facilitated by Carers Trust, raised awareness of the demands placed on some young people across England and Wales, who have to care for loved ones (disabled siblings and/or adults) while also juggling school and personal commitments.

Young Carers Report



The City of Cardiff Council, Vale of Glamorgan Council, University Health Board and Cardiff YMCA have been working with a group of young carers to improve the information and support available to help young carers in their role.

As a result of this, a short survey, designed by young carers, ran in February 2016.

This information, as well as Workshops held at the Young Carers Speak Out! Event on 31 March 2016 has been used to produce a Young Carers Report.

Some of the things young carers said they wanted:

- everyone to understand what they do – this could be done through assemblies or lessons
- more time off or funded breaks from caring
- support from a counsellor or someone from mental health service straight away
- more support so they could have more control over their lives
- schools and colleges to have guidelines (rules) about homework, time off, phoning home and other things to support young carers

The full report as well as a child and young person friendly version is available to view and download from the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Young Carers pages via

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/living/social_care/adult_services/Carers/Young-Carers.aspx

From the findings of the report and feedback from young carers, a Young Carers Action Plan is in development to address some of the issues raised. In addition it was identified that engaging with school settings was an ideal place to begin to tackle some of the concerns that young carers had, such as awareness raising and supporting young carers with information and signposting to relevant services. With this in mind the Young Carers in Schools Award project was commissioned, for Secondary Schools initially.

The Young Carers in Schools Award consists of five standards, which schools will need to achieve and evidence in order to gain the award.

The January 2017 edition of Caring Times also features articles about young carers, including the main findings of the report and can be viewed/downloaded via

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/carers.

'Time 4 Me' Young Carers Project

This is a youth project run by Cardiff YMCA which supports Young Carers within Cardiff and the Vale.

'Time 4 Me' offers Young Carers a chance to have a break from the caring role by experiencing new opportunities, meeting other young carers, accessing support and advice and having fun!

Carys Jenkins, the Vale's full-time Young Carers Project Worker, is based in Barry YMCA and can be contacted on 07966 834506 or carys.jenkins@cardiffymca.co.uk Access to the Young Carers Project is via referral, and this can be through:- professionals, young person or their parent/family member.

Is there any information about Young Carers?

Further information about young carers can be found on the following websites:

Vale

http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/living/social_care/adult_services/Carers/Young-Carers.aspx

YMCA

<http://www.cardiffymca.co.uk/young-carers>

ReFit Needs you, and you need ReFit!

In 2016 the Welsh Government launched ReFit Cymru.

ReFit Cymru is a scheme to improve the energy efficiency (and reduce running costs) of our buildings, including schools. It is designed to give guaranteed savings. It provides immediate savings for schools once measures are installed. These savings increase significantly once the interest free loan used to fund the work is repaid.

A whole list of improvements are potentially available under refit (62 measures in total including just about any improvement that can be done to a building).

For the Vale of Glamorgan Council, ReFit Cymru will only happen if enough school commit to it.

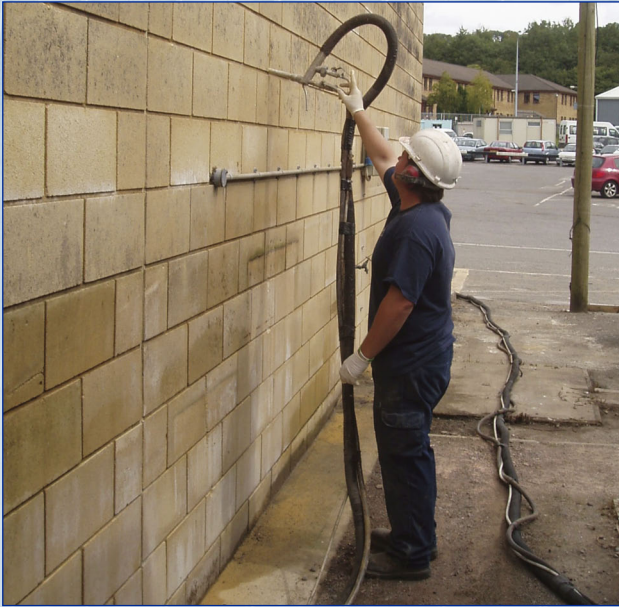
A benchmarking exercise carried out in 2016 identified 52 education buildings suitable for works.

For ReFit to proceed at least 45 of these schools need to commit to ReFit.

ReFit would run over a three year period treating about 20 buildings each year, hence as 15 corporate buildings may be eligible the rest (45) would have to be made up by schools.

The works are guaranteed. If the benefits can be measured directly, for example by measuring the power consumed by a lighting circuit before and after new energy efficient lighting is installed then the guarantee could be immediately satisfied. For other measures, such as improving the fabric insulation it may be necessary to monitor the heating system gas consumption over the years during the loan period. A monitoring





and verification report would be designed for each building so that the detail of the guarantee was understood ahead of the works. A shortfall in savings would be made up by the contractor throughout the loan payback period.

As some measures and buildings will respond well to the improvements others may not and therefore it is likely that buildings will be grouped together so that the benefits are shared across the portfolio, and so that a particular school where the measures do not perform well is protected. The system is designed for all ReFit schools to make savings.

The benchmarking exercise revealed that just over £2 million of work may result from ReFit.

The benchmarking exercise suggested a range of investment within each school ranging from £4,000 up to £170,000 with an average of approximately £22,000.

There are 16 framework contractors. They are large organizations who will probably only bid for work if there is enough on offer, hence the need to get schools signed up as soon as possible.

For this to happen then we have to have enough schools committed to ReFit. Following presentations to the Penarth and Rural Vale cluster group meetings over 70% of head teacher were very keen on being involved in ReFit.

The work in organising a tender, and then the contractor carrying out thorough surveys in order that detailed programmes of work can be established for each building is substantial and in order to ensure our on going commitment to ReFit the Welsh Government will penalise us up to

£20,000 if we were to pull out of ReFit (either as an authority or because several individual buildings were removed from the scheme).

Provided we get enough support from schools and a cabinet report at the end of April is approved then we would sign up to ReFit in early May 2017, carry out a partnership bids and then get investment grade proposals by the autumn of 2017. So please support your school in its commitment to ReFit

If you have any questions about ReFit you can find out more on these websites and you can contact:

The Vale of Glamorgan Energy Manager,

David Powell on 01446 709576

Email DPowell@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Welsh government web site [Link to Welsh Govt Re:Fit web page](#)

Local Partnerships, Re:Fit website <http://localpartnerships.org.uk/our-expertise/refit/>

Local Partnerships Case Studies <http://localpartnerships.org.uk/our-expertise/refit/>

Re:Fit in London <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/energy/energy-buildings/refit>

Bedford Borough Council – Experience of Re:Fit

http://www.bedford.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/sustainability/energy_and_carbon_management/refit.aspx

Management Committee Membership 2016-18

The Management Committee is comprised of elected governors plus the two Parent Governor Representatives (one each from the Primary and Secondary sectors).

No.	Title	Initial	Surname	School
1	Mr	R	Bailey	Peterston-Super-Ely C/W Primary
2	Mr	N	Craggs	Gwenfo C/W Primary
3	Mrs	H	Drew	Cowbridge Comp
4	Mrs	M	Gibbs	Llantwit Major Comp & Romilly Primary
5	Mr	W	Hennessey	Ysgol Sant Baruc
6	Mrs	K	Kemp	Llancarfan Primary
7	Mr	C	Laity	Cadoxton Primary
8	Mrs	A	Males	Cogan Primary & St Cyres Comp
9	Mrs	A	Malkin	Gladstone Primary
10	Mr	M	Mason	Llanilltud Fawr Prim & Ysgol Dewi Sant
11	Dr	M	Price	St Richard Gwyn R/C High
12	Mr	R	Simpson	Wick & Marcross C/W Primary
13	Mr	R	Smith	Wick & Marcross C/W Primary
14	Mr	D	Treharne	Llansannor C/W Primary & Ysgol Gwaun-y-nant
15	Mrs	S	Williams	All Saints C/W Primary
16	Cllr Mr	M	Wilson	Victoria Primary
PGR - Prim	Mrs	J	Lynch-Wilson	St Athan Primary
PGR - Sec	Dr	C	Brown	Llantwit Major Comprehensive

Information for Families in the Vale

The Vale Family Information Service (FIS) is a one stop shop for families of children age 0-19 years. We can provide families with free information on childcare, activities and services for children and young people and family support services in the Vale.

Parents and professionals can contact us directly or visit our web pages, where they can carry out an online search for childcare and activities close to where they live. We also have a **Parents' Zone** full of information supporting parents through their child's life. For example: having a baby, financial help as a parent, the school years, bullying, youth information, parenting groups and much more.

We work closely with other agencies, including the Families First Advice Line (FFAL), when parents may need more advice and support around their family circumstances.

We have put together an **Easter Holiday Activity Programme**, of everything going on in the Vale for children, young people and families.

Visit: www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/fis Tel: 01446 704704 Facebook: ValeFIS

FIS School Certificate of Achievement

We have a FIS Certificate of Achievement that schools can work towards. Many schools have achieved Level 1 and a few have achieved Level 2. The aim is to ensure that parents and carers are aware of what's available to them and their children. It also contributes to the Investors in Families Award and Estyn inspections. If your school is interested, please contact FIS for more information.

The Index

The Index for Children with Disabilities or Additional Needs ensures that families receive information about services and support for them. It covers Cardiff and the Vale and is run by the Family Information Service. Parents can sign their child up to the Index and they will then receive a quarterly newsletter 'The Index' and regular e-bulletins, letting them know about new groups, activities and services local to them. For example the playscheme that takes place in Ysgol Y Deri, a support group for parents of children with ADHD, the Sense of Play Project and much more.

Children need to be age 0-18 years and have a diagnosed disability, going through the diagnosis process or have confirmed ongoing additional needs. Parents can sign up themselves and professionals can sign a child up, with the parent's consent. For more information and to complete a registration form, visit: www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/disabilityindex phone: 01446 704736.

The Index is funded by the Families First Grant.

Dewis Cymru – Have Choice and Take Control

You may have heard of the Dewis Cymru website. It is an online directory and THE place to go for information on services to support your well-being. It covers all ages and is available across Wales. All family support services across Cardiff and the Vale are now available on the site and the Cardiff and Vale Family Information Services use this to signpost parents and carers. Visit: www.dewis.wales



www.Dewis.Cymru
Cael dewis a chymryd rheolaeth



www.Dewis.Wales
Have choice and take control





Speaking up for carers and people with a learning disability

Do you know someone that deserves recognition?

Why not nominate them for the Understanding Disability Awards 2017?

The Understanding Disability Awards are held annually to celebrate examples of good practice whereby schools, volunteers, groups or organisations have made the effort to ensure the successful inclusion of people with a learning disability into ordinary daily life. This might be a workplace that has made itself more accommodating to an individual by putting in place extra support from colleagues, a school that has included disabled children into mainstream classes, volunteers that put themselves out to involve people with a learning disability or any other example whereby someone has 'gone the extra mile'.

Last year, Mrs Bozena Solska, of Maindee Primary School, Newport, was presented with the Teacher/Learning Support Assistant Award in the School/College Category.

Bozena, a Teaching Assistant at the School, has supported a 6 year old child who has Myotonic Dystrophy and Communication difficulties. Bozena ensured that the child was fully integrated into the school by adapting the curriculum and ensuring that he received the same opportunities and experiences as his peers. In her own time, she found out about the child's condition and learnt sign language so that she could communicate with him. She went beyond the 'call of duty' by liaising with health and social care professionals to ensure that the child received the best social care in school. Bozena also encouraged the child's friends and teachers to learn to sign so as to facilitate communication with each other.

Mrs Claire Wilson, Head of the Specialist Resource Base at Ysgol Glantaf, Llandaff North, Cardiff, was highly commended in the Teacher/Learning Support Assistant Category for supporting 13 year old, Spencer, at the Unit. Spencer has Aspergers and cannot tolerate loud noises, make eye contact and mix in groups. He has attended mainstream classes with support. Mrs Wilson has been very supportive when Spencer has had mood outbursts and has calmed him down. She has kept in contact with his grandmother who is Spencer's main carer.

Other award recipients were:

The Wave Project Cymru of Baglan, Port Talbot (Volunteer Category), Cardiff & Vale University Health Board, (Employer Category), Tracy Pallant, Into Film – See It Make It (Professional Category) and Newport People First Golden Oldies Group (Local Group/Organisation Category).

Nominations are invited for this year's awards (see attached form for details). The Awards will be presented at a high profile event to be held in the Autumn in Cardiff.

The six categories of Awards are:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| ■ Employer | ■ Volunteer |
| ■ Teacher /Learning Support Assistant (LSA) or School/College | ■ Local Group or Organisation |
| ■ Child or Group of Children / Young People | ■ Professional |

If you feel that your school has promoted inclusion and made a difference to the life/lives of a disabled child or children, please send your nomination to: **Hasina Kaderbhai, tel: 029 2056 5917, email hasina@parentsfed.org.**

The closing date for receipt of completed nomination forms is Friday, 26 May 2017.

Understanding Disability Group

C/o Cardiff & The Vale Parents Federation, Unit 14, Sbectrwm Community Centre

Bwlch Road, Fairwater, Cardiff CF5 3EF

Tel: 029 2056 5917

www.parentsfed.org

admin@parentsfed.org