

## VOLUNTARY SECTOR JOINT LIAISON COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting held on 13th September, 2006.

Present: Councillor Miss. J. Cole (Chairman); Councillors A.J. Readman and Mrs. M.R. Wilkinson.

Representatives of the Voluntary Sector: Ms. A. Steere (Vale Volunteer Bureau); Mr. Bin Sufyan (Muslim Welfare Association), Ms. H. Powney (Vale of Glamorgan Victim Support) and Margaret Reed (Vale Centre for Voluntary Services), Mrs. G. Reed (Vale CAB).

### 303 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE -

These were received from Councillors Ms. L. Burnett, G.A. Cox, Mrs. V.M. Hartrey, H.J.W. James and Ms. R. Connor (Vale Council for Voluntary Services) and P. Clarke (MIND).

### 304 MINUTES -

AGREED - T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 10th May, 2006 be accepted.

The Committee was reminded that grant applications under the Voluntary Action Scheme had to be received by Friday, 15th September, 2006 and these would be considered by the Joint Working Group as in previous years. A report would be presented to the Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee for information and approval of the priorities given to each scheme.

The minutes had also referred to further reports on a volunteering policy, future of the Carers' Development Project and feedback from the Volunteering Partnership Group and it was confirmed that these items would be ready for the next meeting of the Committee.

### 305 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST -

No declarations were received.

### 306 PRESENTATION - COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE SERVICE -

Sandra Davies, Community Enterprise Access Officer presented a report on the Community Enterprise Service, which aimed to support and encourage people across the Vale to become more skilled, confident and enterprising for the benefit of themselves or their community. The service operated four programmes

- Steps to employment
- Steps to self-employment
- Community enterprise development
- Barry Community Enterprise Centre.

The Women on the Move initiative had aimed to provide learning opportunities for women wanting to enter employment and as part of the project it was intended to

- break down barriers
- one to one engagement with women
- progression to employment.

The Women on the Move Project had exceeded its original targets and had now closed. 22 of the women had progressed onto further learning, 22 into employment and 10 onto volunteering opportunities within their community.

The Moving On Project, launched in September 2006, had replaced this and would help both men and women to increase their skills so that they are able to plan for future work, community involvement or further learning. A flexible rolling programme existed across the Vale, which comprised a range of credited and non-accredited learning. Learners were supported to develop individual action plans.

The Community Development programme had increased the skills for members of grass root community projects and facilitated a training programme in ICT and Community Development. Specific training was available to individual groups and the Vale Community Development Network was facilitated by Community Enterprise.

- there had been 780 enrolments for learning
- 30 venues had been used across the Vale
- 48 small business start-ups had been achieved
- 38 new jobs started
- 70 community projects had been supported
- successful partnership working and regular events had been held to celebrate and promote learning across the Vale.

The Community Enterprise Service was a very successful service and provided individual support for all people using the service. Many positive outcomes had been achieved and this had only been possible through effective partnership working.

AGREED - T H A T Sandra Davies be thanked for her interesting and informative presentation and the congratulations of the Committee be extended for the success of the Community Enterprise Service.

### 307 VOLUNTARY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT: ACTION PLAN REVIEW (DFICTP) -

Within the current compact there was a requirement to undertake an annual review of the Action Plan. On 10th May Committee resolved that a Working Group be established to consider a revised Action Plan (Minute No. 1108). As had been the practice in previous years the review had been considered by a Joint Working Group to agree a draft Action Plan for further consideration by this Committee. The revised Action Plan sought to make further progress in line with the current partnership agreement as endorsed by the Committee and agreed by Cabinet in May 2004.

AGREED - T H A T the revised Action Plan be endorsed.

### 308 REPORT ON A COMPACT BETWEEN THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL, THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN LOCAL HEALTH BOARD, CARDIFF AND THE VALE NHS TRUST AND THE VALE CENTRE FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICES (REF) -

Cabinet had considered the above report at its meeting on 5th July, 2006 and referred it to the Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee and the Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee for consultation. Cabinet had been asked to give approval to the establishment of a compact between the Vale Centre for Voluntary Services and

- (a) The Vale of Glamorgan Council
- (b) The Vale of Glamorgan Local Health Board
- (c) Cardiff and the Vale NHS Trust.

In the past there had been two editions of the compact between the Vale of Glamorgan Council and the Vale Centre for Voluntary Services representing the Voluntary Sector in the Vale of Glamorgan. The second edition came into being following a review of the original edition which was launched in July 2000. The first compact recognised the enormous contribution made to local communities, and the community as a whole, through partnership working. It set out clear definitions of the responsibilities and expectations of both the Council and the Voluntary Sector in working together. In view of the success of the first compact a second compact had now been drafted to include other partners. This new compact provided a framework for ongoing collaboration within the broader context of community planning. It was an agreement built on the principles of integrity, trust and mutual respect. The compact focussed on the core principles, which underpinned the relationship and aimed to strengthen the commitment to agreeing and reviewing targets, principally through an annual Action Plan. After consideration of the new compact, Members and representatives of the Committee were concerned that there appeared to be a strong focus on health issues whereas the original compact had been more general and applied to all service areas provided by the Council and its partners. It was suggested that a report be prepared for the next meeting to clarify whether it was better for the Committee to adopt the

new compact with its more focussed vision and shared values or whether the original compact should be further changed to encompass other services in more detail.

AGREED - T H A T James Crinion be requested to make a presentation on the above matter to the next meeting of the Committee.