

**Supporting People Liaison Group Meeting**  
**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

**Attendees:**

Pam Toms, VOGC Strategy and Supporting People Manager  
Donna Clitheroe, VOGC Contracts Monitoring Officer  
Karen Berry, Taff Housing  
Janice Bell, Taff Housing  
Richard Cox Innovate Trust  
Lynda Wallis, VOG Older Peoples Strategy Forum  
John Porter, Older Peoples Strategy Co-ordinator  
Katie Evans, VOGC Flying Start  
Katie Jones, Atal Y Fro  
Paul Baker, Gwalia Care and Support  
Yvette Stallard, Gwalia Care and Support  
Gareth Newberry, Solas  
Bruce Diggins, The Wallich  
Lisa Doe, VOGC Homelessness and Advice Manager  
David Morris, VOGC Flying Start  
Sarah O'Keeffe, Wales and West Housing Association  
Jane Lewis, Hafod Care

**Apologies:**

Chris Rutson, United Welsh Housing Association  
Victoria Miller, United Welsh Housing Association  
Collette Limbrick, CYPIS  
Glen John, VOGC Adult Services  
Dawn Sullivan, Reach

**Minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting (13<sup>th</sup> December 2011) were read and agreed.

**Presentation – Community Wellbeing Coaches**

Unfortunately nobody attended the scheduled presentation. As this is the second time, no further invitation will be extended.

**Presentation – By Natalie Turnbull, Dollywood Foundation Imagination Library. (Please see attached presentation slides)**

Natalie explained that the Dollywood Foundation was launched by Dolly Parton in 1996 to benefit the children of her home county in East Tennessee. Having come from a large family, in a community where literacy levels were poor, she wanted children to be excited at the magic that books can create. She consulted with Educators in the community and was informed that early intervention was the key to better life skills. Statistics prove that children who read for pleasure have better life chances than those who don't. Statistics also show that 1 in 3 children do not own a book in the uk. The early years programme has been set up to enable children from 0-5 to receive one book per month for five years. The books are age appropriate and are sent via the post every month and are personalised with the child's name.

Receiving the books will inspire a life long love of reading and improve literacy skills.

There are three countries currently participating in The Dollywood Foundation, USA, Canada and the UK. The foundation was launched in the UK in Rotherham, South Yorkshire in December 2007. There are now 25 participating communities across the UK and there are over 18 thousand books delivered each month.

Natalie explained that any community can sponsor the Imagination Library, it must be in a geographically identifiable area, such as an estate, small neighbourhood, post code etc. The scheme is not means tested and therefore any family regardless of income can receive the books.

The cost of the books are £2 per book including postage and packaging, that is £24 per child per year and over five years just £120 for a child to have their own library.

Natalie informed the group that Local Partnerships would need to be formed, such as Local Authorities, Children Centres, private companies etc in raising money to pay for the books and postage.

For more information about the Dollywood Foundation UK, please visit the website [www.imaginationlibrary.com](http://www.imaginationlibrary.com) or e-mail Natalie Turnbull [nturnbull@imaginationlibrary.co.uk](mailto:nturnbull@imaginationlibrary.co.uk) mobile: 07984 316592

### **Supporting People Regional Collaborative Committee**

- PT gave an update on the RCC. She explained that we still don't know what region the Vale will be working with. The regions are either, The Vale, RCT and Merthyr or Cardiff and the Vale. We are not in a position to make any decisions it is at political level and not Officer level. PT explained that we are unable to confirm CHC, Provider membership at this time but Cymorth confirmed they will support any Provider as an RCC whether a member or not.
- PT informed the group that there will not be any changes to payments until after 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012. JB commented that she heard there would be a further delay.
- JP asked why the delay? PT explained that it is a governance issue and talks are ongoing between WLGA and Welsh Government to resolve. The RCC should determine any regional service priorities but the Local Authority Members sign off local priorities which could differ from those at regional level. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 regions should have been decided but still no decision has been made which region we will work in.
- WG drafted Terms of Reference for the RCC but WLGA still have concerns over the governance issues.
- JB (Taff) asked if Outcomes should be used from April. PT confirmed that this is mandatory and Providers must start to collect information from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012.
- SO (WWHA) commented that she was told there are some errors on the spreadsheet. PT confirmed there are some errors and once

resolved a new spreadsheet will be sent out. Providers must continue to collate information.

### **Training Opportunities or Feedback**

- KB (Taff) – staff are booked onto DASH training. If anyone is interested attending the course and wishes to go on the list, please contact Karen Berry at Taff Housing: [k.berry@taffhousing.co.uk](mailto:k.berry@taffhousing.co.uk)
- PT recommended the training and informed the group that it was an excellent course.
- LW (Older Peoples Forum) – Lynda volunteered to attend the Domestic Abuse awareness training and gave feedback to the group.
- JB (Taff Housing) – attended Mental Capacity Training which was tailored around Floating Support. If anyone is interested in attending the course, contact Simon Herbert, Frontline Training Group - 01332 362222, his email address is [info@mentalcapacityact.org](mailto:info@mentalcapacityact.org)
- DM (Flying Start) – Recently accessed training through a company called Train on the Tracks. The training touches on Welfare reform/benefit changes, rights and responsibilities etc. There is a charge for all courses but DM recommended them.
- JP(Older Persons Co-ordinator) – attended Mental Health first aid training and assisted suicide training.
- JL (Hafod) – informed the group that Hafod Housing Association deliver in-house mental health first aid training. It is course is over two days and can be delivered in English and Welsh.
- PT informed the group that Natalie Hobbs, Housing Benefit Liaison Officer will be doing a presentation at the next SPLG in June. Natalie will update the group on the changes to welfare benefits and her role in assisting those people affected.
- JP(older Persons Co-ordinator) suggested that a representative from the Older Persons Forum do a presentation at a SPLG meeting. JP to confirm a presentation will be given at the Supporting People Liaison Group Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2012. This was welcomed by the group as it would be useful for the OPF to link up with Providers.
- PB (Gwalia) gave an update on Street Football. The league is made up of team members aged 16 and above and facing social exclusion through homelessness, substance misuse, mental ill health or cultural issues.

Some team members may have been long term unemployed or involved in the criminal justice system but all are facing daily barriers to be part of the society and communities they live in, caused by the ever present stigma attached to their situations.

Street Football Wales is there for people when they have reached their lowest ebb. It offers people the opportunity to become involved with a team where they will not be judged or stigmatised. The league starts 28/03/12 and the person managing the team will be happy to do a presentation at SPLG.

***Action: Paul Baker to arrange a presentation on Street Football at a SPLG meeting. PB to confirm a presentation will be given at a Supporting People Liaison Group Meeting on 6th September 2012, Civic Offices, Committee Room 2.***

**Questions**

None.

**Suggestions for future meetings**

None.

**AOB**

- Lisa Doe told everyone that she had taken over responsibility from Dave Sanders (who has retired from the Trading Standards Office) for putting together an Anti-poverty/Financial Inclusion Strategy for the Vale. She has arranged a meeting at 10am on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2012 in the Civic Offices that she would like everyone to attend. If they were unable to make it - could they email her details of the work that they already do in their organisations and what they would like to see included in the strategy
- John Porter – Older Person's Co-ordinator advised that their website is currently being updated but prior to this they were getting approximately 400 hits per week, so if anyone had any information or links that they would like to see included – they should be emailed to him. PT agreed to send him a copy of our Directory of SP Services (actioned 29/03/12).
- John Porter agreed to chair the next meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> June

**Next Meeting**

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2012 @ 2.30pm, Civic Offices, Committee Room 2, Barry.