

AMBITIOUS

OPEN

TOGETHER

PROUD



Homes & Safe Scrutiny Committee Meeting 10th
November

Community Investment and Involvement update

Community Investment

The Community Investment Team was created in 2015

In 2016 we launched our Community Investment Strategy

Our aim to:

- ✓ help residents of the Vale increase their employment prospects to help them get jobs or move closer towards the labour market.
- ✓ Improve health and wellbeing,
- ✓ strengthen communities and
- ✓ promote financial and digital inclusion within communities.



Opportunity Knocks!

Who are the Partners

- Partnership between Vale Homes, Inspire to Work and Newydd
- Set up a number of years ago
- True partnership and pooled budget
- Works with anyone looking for employment, but also pre employment support
- Any Vale resident
- Referrals through the staff team

- “One small step. That's all it takes to make a big difference in your life. Be it joining a sports team, gaining a qualification, attending a workshop or just starting a conversation. We can help you take that step. We can help you to be the best you.”
- [\(37\) Be the best you - YouTube](#)

What we deliver



Quarterly timetables created alongside the community and job centre to fulfil gap in the employment market (e.g. at present HGV driving and care worker qualifications and courses would be looked at)



Job clubs to receive help with job search, writing CVs & interview skills



Work experience, placement and apprenticeships through community benefits with procured contracts – one to one support for our tenants



Accredited training sessions to learn new skills such as security, CSCS, First Aid, IT, food safety, PAT testing, customer, health and safety, protection of vulnerable adults and children



Informal training sessions on confidence building; overcoming anxiety; communication skills, public speaking, presentation skills and basic DIY



Try a Trade days to learn about construction skills with contractor support



Apprenticeship and work experience ring fenced opportunities through our new build development programme

Increasing employment prospects

Since then as part of our Employment and Skills Development support WE HAVE:



Launched 2018 the "Opportunity Knocks" employment and skills programme in partnership with Newydd Housing, Vale Homes and Inspire 2 Work



Supported **140** residents through our Vale Employability Road Shows



Supported **60** residents with CVs and Interview skills preparation through our pre employment training programme



Supported **30** residents via our residential employability boot camp

Increasing employment prospects



Created **7x6** weeks work placements within with Council Departments



Secured **369** weeks' worth of training through targeted recruitment and training clauses via our housing development programme



Helped **110** residents gain employment



Helped **961** residents gain accredited vocational qualifications



Helped **7** residents gain apprenticeships



Helped **7** people become self employed



Opportunity Knocks

- Young care leaver gains apprenticeship



Finances Skills and Futures

Finances, Skills and Futures (FSF)

Taking you on a journey of managing finances developing skills and training to securing future employment.



If you claim Universal Credit, you could be entitled to support with:

- ✓ Budgeting and money
- ✓ Confidence building
- ✓ Securing employment
- ✓ Universal Credit and benefits claims
- ✓ Housing
- ✓ Digital skills

1. support on managing their finances, claiming benefits and with matters relating to Universal Credit claims.
2. skills assessments and receive training and development opportunities, including confidence building and digital skills. Will also be guided to additional support services for things like mental health and drug or alcohol dependency.
3. the project will provide hands-on support to help participants gain secure employment opportunities and work experience placements. They'll also be able to gain accredited qualifications within their chosen career path.

Finances Skills and Futures

Finances, Skills and Futures.

When anxiety becomes a day to day barrier

Back in July the FSF coordinator was fortunate enough to meet a lovely lady called Jane.

Jane was very open about her struggles with anxiety and it became clear early on as to the day to day barriers she was faced with as a result.

The intention of the FSF project is to take people on a journey, supporting with finances, skills and ultimately their future which for most people relates to securing employment.

Jane's unique journey has shaped the way the FSF project is able to adapt to individual needs and circumstances.

As a result, it has become clear that application forms, CV's and the extra pressure of interviews are not the only route to securing employment. For some people a gentle 1-2-1 holistic approach is far more successful.

Breaking down those barriers and building confidence

Both the FSF project and Jane have developed during this journey.

With gentle encouragement and much support, Jane felt confident enough to attend a volunteering session. She could've backed out at any moment, but she wasn't going to let her demons rule her. The relationship that had been built gave Jane strength and provided her with a sense of security.

Previously, Jane would need encouragement to leave the house and believe in herself, but now she has settled into her volunteering role and has grown in so many ways - her self esteem, confidence, motivation, enthusiasm and mostly, her smile!

Jane talks positively about the future and the opportunities her volunteering role may bring. She has made such a positive impact with her fellow colleagues, that conversations around potential future employment have already taken place!

*If you would like to find out more about the FSF project and how it may help you, then please get in touch,
E-mail lyoung@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or call 07522710254*

Improving Health and Wellbeing



In partnership with Oakfield and Colcot Primary schools
LAUNCHED AFTER SCHOOL NURTURE CLUB

Supported **34** children



In partnership with Fitness Force
PROVIDED FITNESS TRAINING

120 residents supported with fitness sessions



In partnership with the Council Sports and Play department Vale Homes offered Couch to **5K PROGRAMME TO RESIDENTS**

21 residents supported to participate in this



Launched the **BIKE CLUB** for children between 4 to 16-year olds

Engaged with **493** young people

Provided **32** free training sessions

Improving Health and Wellbeing

As part of improving health and wellbeing,
WE HAVE



Timebanking PSB expansion project

Time Grow and Gain



Time Grow Gain has built on the legacy of the Vale Homes Timebanking Scheme to bring time credits to all residents of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Working in partnership with internal and external partners, the scheme offers a range of voluntary opportunities for residents to take advantage of, including:

- Road Safety
- Healthy Living for over 60s
- Bentyg (Library of Things)

Give your Time to Grow skills and Gain through rewarding volunteering opportunities

Timebanking PSB expansion project Time Grow and Gain



Case Study

"I would just like to say a huge thank you again for this absolute gem of an opportunity in the most beautiful of surroundings with such a brilliant person to work with. It really is the perfect opportunity for me to make a difference and put something back into an area of the vale which really has a special place in my heart."

Give your Time to Grow skills and Gain through rewarding volunteering opportunities

Clean Slate

Food Poverty Local Area Investment Work

Cleaner, Greener, Connected, and Healthier Neighbourhood Programme

2 year programme of local area based investment

Helping neighbourhoods become:

- Better Connected, by helping people get online
- Cleaner by providing better waste storage and recycling advice and support
- Greener by working with you to grow food and plant locally
- Become Healthier by offering health and wellbeing initiatives including access to nutritious food, employment & training advice, volunteering
- Keep Wales Tidy will be working with CI over the next year as a result of accessing their funded Biodiversity Development Package.

Clean Slate

Food Poverty Local Area Investment Work

10k community budget awarded

27k WG for new food pod

Keep Wales Tidy Grant awarded

5k local housing budget on new bins/storage

Food pod launch



Clean Slate

Food Poverty Local Area Investment Work

The Penarth Food Pod was launched in August 2021

Our aims are to:

- ✓ Give tenants and residents access to healthy, affordable food
- ✓ Improve health and wellbeing by working with local partners to improve nutrition and preparing food (Hapi project, Flying Start)
- ✓ The Food Pod is open Monday and Friday from 2pm – 4pm with room for expanding these times as a result of recruiting a Kickstart project assistant
- ✓ Over 450 visits have been made to the Food Pod since its opening
- ✓ 28 families from the St Luke's and St Paul's estate have benefited as a result of accessing the Food Pod
- ✓ Partnership working with Asda, Salvation Army, Victoria Primary school, Morrisons and Hebron Hall Christian Centre who have all donated food items

The new Food Pod will be launched in 2022 as a result of accessing £26,635 of funding from the Welsh Government's Food Poverty Grant programme



FOODPOD

The Penarth Food Pod is a local food outlet that will initially be open twice a week.

The Food Pod offers low cost food (tinned, perishable/non-perishable) to local residents operating on a pay as you can afford basis.

The Food Pod is located in St Luke's estate and the project is supported by Vale Homes, Helping Hands and the Star Resident's Association

LAUNCHING 5TH AUGUST 2021



Vale Homes
Safe in our hands



CLEAN SLATE. CONNECTED. CLEANER. GREENER & HEALTHIER.

Vale Homes

Safe in our hands



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Development of New CI & Environmental Strategy

- New strategy under development
- Internal SWOT being undertaken with housing staff
- Internal wider departmental awareness plan and external awareness plan in place
- Draft strategy developed by April 2022