

No.

VOLUNTARY SECTOR JOINT LIAISON COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Remote Meeting held on 3rd April, 2023.

The Committee agenda is available [here](#).

The Meeting recording is available [here](#).

Present: Councillor R.M. Birch (Chair); Councillors G. Bruce, A.M. Collins, C. Iannucci, J.M. Norman and N.J. Wood.

Representative of the Voluntary Sector: Councillor C. Hawkins (from Town and Community Councils) and L. Newton (Cardiff and Vale Action for Mental Health).

Also Present: Councillors A. Asbrey, W.A. Hennessy, G. John (Cabinet Member for Leisure, Sport and Wellbeing), Dr. I.J. Johnson, E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health) and M.R. Wilson (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Building Services).

883 ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of the business of the Committee, the Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer read the following statement: “May I remind everyone present that the meeting will be live streamed as well as recorded via the internet and this recording archived for future viewing.”

884 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillors S.C. Lloyd-Selby (Vice-Chair) and I. Buckley.

885 APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY VICE-CHAIR FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR –

In the absence of a number of representatives from the Voluntary Sector at the meeting, it was

AGREED – T H A T the appointment be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

Reason for decision

In the absence of the Voluntary Sector Representatives being present at the meeting.

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886 MINUTES –

AGREED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January, 2023 be approved as a correct record

887 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

888 GLAMORGAN VOLUNTARY SERVICES (GVS) ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22 (GVS) –

The report provided an overview of the areas of activities undertaken by Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS) for the year 2021/22. The report also advised that the overview also assisted with ensuring the aims, objectives and activities remained focused on the organisations stated objectives. The detail of the achievements in the year were referred to at paragraphs 2.2 to 2.23 of the report.

The Chair, in recognising that the representative from GVS was not present to present the report and following agreement with the Committee Members, agreed that with regard to the content of the report the matter be considered as is.

It was subsequently,

AGREED –

- (1) T H A T the Glamorgan Voluntary Services Annual Report 2021/22 be noted.
- (2) T H A T the report be referred to the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee for its consideration.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.
- (2) For consideration.

889 PRESENTATION: MENTAL HEALTH AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING – VOLUNTARY SECTOR INFORMATION AND PERSPECTIVES FROM CARDIFF AND VALE OF GLAMORGAN MENTAL HEALTH FORUM –

Linda Newton provided the Committee with a presentation and commenced by advising that the Mental Health Forum was a network of over 100 third sector voluntary organisations with an interest in mental health. The organisations shared information and good practice and took part in debates, etc. Interest groups included, for example, Vale Members, 30+, carers, older people, counselling services, BAME, Housing and Co-occurring.

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The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act plan for the role of the third sector was to increase the level of early intervention, prevention services and wellbeing to obtain better access to information, advice and community resources and to be a voice and to collaborate. For the development of the service it needed to be co-produced, person centred, connected, holistic and community focused. The future challenges were to provide a range of services with people at the heart of decision making and with prevention being key to avoid crisis. The cost of living was another aspect which impacted on individuals in a number of ways including their mental health and living arrangements as well as the need to ensure the availability of digital access. There were currently long waiting lists and backlogs for services whether statutory and / or voluntary. Referrals were increasing on a regular basis as was the nature of such referrals. Many services had also moved back to face to face provision on the basis that online services did not provide the degree of service required. Physical access to services was also an issue with clients with disabilities being increasingly unable to afford transport costs. The importance of partnership working and recognising the importance of the local community and peer led development in meeting unmet needs at a local level was seen to be key to support the services required..

The stresses, risk and wellbeing factors associated with Mental Health services also included the economic impact, the importance in referencing social determinants of health / culturally appropriate social interaction being seen crucial to wellbeing and the importance of social care. Underpinning all this was the need for information and access to information, whether these be via digital means or physical means e.g. leaflets, together with a need to map services. It was apparent that when additional layers were added on to an area it was not necessarily clear how they fitted together. Joint training opportunities were also considered essential in order to make all the connections and to inform service planning, etc.

Having considered the presentation, a Member raised the issue of building connections with local centres which had been undertaken prior to lockdown and it being recognised that this was needed going forward.

The Chair commented that the presentation raised a number of questions and in particular, enquired whether meeting face to face was having a significant impact on the service with the representative advising that more and more people seem to prefer going back to face to face meeting opportunities. With regard to addressing the issue of hard to reach clients it was suggested that one option would be to consider opportunities such as meeting in pubs with it being a social place which clients may find it more suitable for discussion. Having regard to the 70% increase in the use of CAMHS being a substantial increase the Chair also asked what could be done to support this. The presenter commented that it was recognised that Cube was one agency and that working together with organisations by linking, working and sharing information was key in this regard. The Chair also suggested that following the Social Care review the Committee receive a further presentation on the review when available. Councillor M. Wilson enquired as to what the Vale could do to support young people further with the representative advising that further opportunities with colleges and schools could assist here and just going out and talking to people, wherever they gather, in order to make connections. It was about

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putting time and effort into things and consider all types of ways that could be supported.

It was subsequently

AGREED –

(1) T H A T a copy of the presentation be forwarded to all Members of the Council for their information and consideration.

(2) T H A T a further presentation or report having regard to the Social Care Review (when available) and an update in respect of the CAMHS Service be provided to a future meeting of the Committee.

Reason for decisions

(1&2) Having regard to the contents of the presentation and discussions at the meeting.