

VOLUNTARY SECTOR JOINT LIAISON COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Remote Meeting held on 27th January, 2025.

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

The recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Present: Councillor I.R. Buckley (Vice-Chair in the Chair); Councillors G. Bruce, L. Burnett, J.M. Norman and J. Protheroe.

Representatives of the Voluntary Sector: R. Connor (Glamorgan Voluntary Services), L. Newton (Cardiff and Vale Action for Mental Health) and Councillor C. Hawkins (Town and Community Councillor Representative)

Also present: Councillor E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health).

778 ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of the business of the Committee, the Chair 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”.

779 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillors R.M. Birch (Chair), A.M. Collins and N.J. Wood.

780 MINUTES –

AGREED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 14th October, 2024 be approved as a correct record.

781 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

782 RESHAPING PROGRAMME: STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES – A RESPONSE TO AUDIT WALES REPORTS ON TACKLING POVERTY AND THIRD SECTOR WORKING (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet of 28th November, 2024 as contained within the agenda was presented by the Operational Manager - Corporate Strategy and Insight.

R. Connor commented that throughout the Cwmpas report, there were references to differences between social enterprises and Third Sector organisations which was not always the case, as many Third Sector organisations were in fact social enterprises, although they did not have a social enterprises' governing document. It was therefore important to recognise that there was a crossover. R Connor also stated that any engagement with the Third Sector needed a clear policy and strategy in place, which was the key element in taking the work forward.

The Operational Manager - Corporate Strategy and Insight advised that there was an understanding of the cross over of the organisations, and a key element of the Council's work was to engagement with all relevant organisations in order to achieve better outcomes for communities across the Vale of Glamorgan.

Councillor L. Burnett commented that there was a move across Wales for more closer working with the Third Sector and voluntary organisations including social businesses. What came with Third Sector organisations was not making a private sector profit, with some organisations making a surplus that would be put back into the business model. Welsh Government was looking at ways to reduce private profit out of some public services such as social care. It was therefore understandable for Audit Wales to look that the involvement of the Third Sector.

Having considered the report, the Committee

AGREED – T H A T the findings and recommendations detailed in the Cwmpas reports attached at Appendices A and B to the report be noted.

Reason for decision

Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

783 GLAMORGAN VOLUNTARY SERVICES (GVS) ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24 (GVS) –

The report presented by R. Connor summarised all areas of GVS activity during 2023/24.

Councillor L. Burnett commented on how pleased she was with the work of St. Paul's in Penarth had been, as well as CF61 in Llantwit Major. Councillor Burnett offered thanks for the support provided during the Covid pandemic which had been crucial, has had the support through the cost-of-living crisis and with the assistance to deliver grants which had kept many organisations afloat.

The Vice-Chair (in the Chair) wanted to add that on top of all the social media and digital platform services provided by GVS, it was pleasing to see that there had been a 100% rating for training as either good or excellent. The Vice-Chair also referred to the positive impact to the 750 groups that received regular information from the GVS, and the 92 groups throughout the year which had reported to receive £650,250 of funding as a result of advice or information provided.

Having considered the report it was

AGREED – T H A T the contents of the Glamorgan Voluntary Services Annual Report 2023/24 be noted.

Reason for decision

Having regard to the contents of the report and the terms of the Deed of Grant between the Vale of Glamorgan Council and the Glamorgan Voluntary Services.

784 MATTER WHICH THE CHAIR HAD DECIDED WAS URGENT –

RESOLVED – T H A T the following matter which the Chair had decided was urgent for the reason given beneath the minute heading be considered.

785 CELT+ VOLUNTEERING PROJECT (GVS) –

(Matter which the Chair has decided was urgent by reason of the need to allow the Committee to consider the report in a timely manner)

The report informed Members of the progress of this Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) funded project and demonstrated the success of the partnership between the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS) in delivering the supported volunteering element of the Shared Prosperity funded CELT+ employment initiative.

The report also highlighted the successful volunteering placements and the numbers of individuals that had benefitted from this additional support approach.

The Vice-Chair (in the Chair) commented positively on the impact and value of volunteering which could have a real benefit to a person's wellbeing and quality of life. R. Connor advised that the volunteering element of CELT+ would be reduced by 50% for the year 2025-2026, so the impact of that project was why GVS was seeking alternative funding sources.

Subsequently it was

AGREED – T H A T the contents of the report and the work of the CELT+ Project (Connect Engage Learn Transform) be noted.

Reason for decision

Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.