

Meeting of:	Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday, 28 April 2025
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	No Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Report Title:	Forthcoming Closure of CAVAMH - Cardiff and Vale Action for Mental Health
Purpose of Report:	To report to the Committee on the forthcoming closure of CAVAMH and the impact on support for local voluntary organisations with an interest in mental health
Report Owner:	Linda Newton
Responsible Officer:	Linda Newton
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	N/A
Policy Framework:	CAVAMH operates in the Vale of Glamorgan and is one of the third sector representatives on the VOGC Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee
Executive Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This paper aims to inform the Vale of Glamorgan Council about the forthcoming closure of CAVAMH and the implications for support of voluntary organisations with an interest in mental health in the Vale of Glamorgan and the local residents they support. 	

Recommendation

1. That the Committee receive the report for information.

Reason for Recommendation

1. To inform the Committee of the forthcoming closure of CAVAMH and the potential impact on support for voluntary organisations with an interest in mental health in the Vale of Glamorgan.

1. Background

- 1.1 CAVAMH funding from Cardiff and Vale University health Board has ceased as of 1st April 2025 and as a result CAVAMH will close in September 2025.
- 1.2 This report focuses on the implications arising for the voluntary organisations with an interest in mental health operating in the Vale of Glamorgan through the loss of this service, and the impact on people with lived mental health experience, family and friends.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 CAVAMH has been funded as one of several county mental health development services supporting the local voluntary sector with an interest in mental health and people with lived experience since 1993, initially as part of the local voluntary sector councils, SGVS and then VCVS, (forerunner of GVS) and then as an independent voluntary organisation from 2001. Funded initially through the Welsh Office (social care) funding for mental health development services and frontline mental health services and more recently, through local Health Board funding following the disaggregation and initial ringfencing of the scheme resource.
- 2.2 The service is a membership charity with over 130 organisation members and includes support through information and training, development, networking, voice and joint working. Our base lies in Cardiff and Vale Mental Health Forum and various Forum interest groups including the Vale members group, and others relating to mental health and diverse communities, substance use, housing, children and young people, older people and carers, and most recently nature and mental health initiatives.
- 2.3 We work together in partnership with all stakeholders, whether large agencies or small self-help groups, people with lived experience and with statutory partners to support organisations to have a voice in the development and delivery of services, and to ensure that services meet the needs of those who use them.

- 2.4** We believe in a person-centred, recovery focused, strengths-based approach, based on co-production and the Cardiff and Vale Charter for Mental Health, the latter's development co-ordinated by CAVAMH.
- 2.5** We have managed (in partnership), the Dementia Friendly Communities Small Grants Fund on behalf of the Regional Partnership Board, and over the years, a small grants fund supporting mental health lived experience initiatives, currently funding the 'Small Grants for Small Groups' Fund to support local and peer led initiatives supporting local mental health and wellbeing.
- 2.6** We are able to connect our members, through co-facilitation of Mental Health Action Wales, with Welsh Government and Wales wide statutory services - enabling voluntary organisations working at the local level to have a crucial voice at the Wales wide level and locally work closely with GVS and with local partnerships.
- 2.7** Over the last year, we have co-ordinated local collective responses and recommendations for example, to the new Suicide and Self Harm Prevention Strategy and local Action Plan, and also, together with GVS, responses to the new Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- 2.8** Most recently we have funded training in relation for example, to Suicide First Aid and Mental Health First Aid - a huge issue for the sector - continued the perennial 'Who does What Where in Mental Health' training and co-ordinated a local training programme provided by Bridgend Samaritans, Diverse Cymru (Adferiad) and other organisations.
- 2.9** We have maintained the now online local Mental Health Services Directory for Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan and 'Directions', the directory and handbook for older people, and carers in relation to dementia and mental health as well as regular e-bulletin updates to our mailing groups.
- 2.10** We have also been funded by Vale of Glamorgan Council and have been pleased to work closely with social work staff, in recent years in relation to peer led training in co-production and in peer led evaluation of people's experience of assessment under the Mental Health Act and the role of AMHP (approved Mental Health Professional) in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Impact: Vale of Glamorgan

- 2.11** We are concerned that the loss of resource will impact the opportunity for collective voice and partnerships, the sharing of learning and best practice, support for local and community-based organisations with an interest in mental health, and the development of new initiatives and services in the Vale of Glamorgan, at a time when local organisations are facing a tsunami in mental health and wellbeing needs arising from covid and other factors.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

3.1 CAVAMH aligns its work to the objectives of the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

4.1 None.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

5.1 None.

Employment

5.2 The closure affects employment and is a loss of service in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Legal (Including Equalities)

5.3 None.

6. Background Papers

CAVAMH service information.