

No.

VOLUNTARY SECTOR JOINT LIAISON COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Remote meeting held on 30th November, 2021.

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

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

Present: Councillor R.M. Birch (Chair), Councillor J.M. Norman (Vice-Chair);
Councillors C.A. Cave, R. Crowley, O. Griffiths and L.O. Rowlands.

Representatives of the Voluntary Sector: R. Connor (Glamorgan Voluntary Services)
and H. Smith (Barnardos).

595 ANNOUNCEMENT –

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

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

AGREED – T H A T that the item be deferred until the next Committee meeting.

597 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE –

This was received from Councillor A.M. Collins.

598 MINUTES –

AGREED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 18th October, 2021 be approved as a correct record

599 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations were received.

600 GLAMORGAN VOLUNTARY SERVICES (GVS) ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21 (GVS) –

The Representative for Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS) presented the report, which advised Committee of GVS's work throughout the year 2020/21. It was a statutory requirement of GVS to inform the Local Authority of its progress as a result of funding received by the Local Authority and the report, in providing a review of the preceding year, also helped GVS to ensure that their aims and outcomes remained focused on their stated objectives.

The Representative set out GVS's activities and the outcomes of their work for the period April 2020 to March 2021 and highlighted their performance and achievements in a number of areas. The report also provided information regarding GVS's future plans, highlighting that these needed to be financially robust and subject to due diligence whilst remaining flexible in order to meet the ever-changing external environment.

Following the presentation of the report, the Representative for Barnardos expressed that the organisation would be interested in possibly using CF61 in Llantwit Major to facilitate their new school-based counselling scheme as a base in Western Vale was needed, and the Representative for GVS replied that GVS would be happy to accommodate this and the matter would be picked up following the meeting.

In response to queries raised by Councillor Cave, the Representative for GVS advised the following:

- The biggest piece of learning for GVS as a result of the pandemic had been how willing the general public were to support their neighbours and communities, however the organisation now faced a massive challenge in terms of how to maintain this momentum and interest. Many new volunteers at the beginning of the pandemic had been furloughed or not working, however with volunteers returning to work and many opportunities being in the daytime on weekdays, sectors such as domiciliary care were now crying out for additional voluntary support.
- The most recent developments regarding COVID-19 also posed a challenge, with issues around safeguarding and risk assessment needing to be taken into consideration if volunteers were entering service users' homes.
- The Local Authority had received funding to carry out research regarding attrition to the number of volunteers after the initial uptake due to COVID, and that research could be brought to Committee for their information at a future meeting.
- Having approached the Local Authority's Managing Director, the Representative had ensured there were signs placed on roundabouts in the Vale during the first lockdown which expressed thanks to volunteers alongside key workers. GVS also did as much as possible to show appreciation and thanks to volunteers during Volunteers' Week.
- GVS and the Council had previously hosted an awards evening specifically for recognising the work of volunteers in the Vale of Glamorgan, however this stopped due to financial implications. The Representative from GVS had been in contact with Council Officers to discuss whether it would be possible

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- as part of staff awards to also recognise those who did voluntary work in the hope this would encourage more people to take up volunteering opportunities.
- Many of the volunteers who had come forward initially during the pandemic had created informal groups, however the majority did not wish to do adopt a formal structure despite there being possible funding available to facilitate this.

Councillor Cave emphasised that when individuals stepped forward to provide support, as so many had as a result of the pandemic, it was important to thank and appreciate those volunteers in order to make clear the value of their work and hopefully encourage more people to take up volunteering opportunities. Following further discussion Members agreed with Councillor Cave's suggestion that a volunteers' awards evening be established in order that volunteers could receive formal thanks and acknowledgment for their efforts.

With Members having fully considered the report, it was subsequently

AGREED –

(1) T H A T the contents of Glamorgan Voluntary Services' Annual Report 2020/21 be noted.

(2) T H A T Committee's comments regarding the suggestion of establishing a volunteers' awards evening in order to formally acknowledge and highlight voluntary work in the Vale of Glamorgan be forwarded to Cabinet for their consideration.

Reasons for decisions

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

(2) To ensure that Cabinet are aware of Committee's views regarding the importance of formally thanking volunteers and acknowledging their hard work, and that the suggestion of establishing an awards evening is put forward for consideration.