

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE EQUALITIES

7 OCTOBER 2020

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING
EQUALITIES WORK SUPPORTED BY THE WELLBEING SERVICE INCLUDING THE
GIRLS NETWORK, DEMENTIA FRIENDLY SWIMMING AND OLYMPAGE GAMES

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide information on the programmes of work of the prevention and wellbeing service and the related contribution to the BCBC strategic equalities plan.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives/other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective/objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:-**

1. **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
2. **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council’s well-being objectives.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Prevention and Wellbeing service was established as a new provision within the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate in 2017 and is responsible for a diverse range of services that have grown over the three year period.

- 3.2 The services and activities include:-

- Healthy Living Partnership management with Halo Leisure;
- Cultural services partnership management with Awen including libraries, theatres, community venues;
- Active Bridgend services including the Active Young People’s team and community wellbeing programmes;

- Play and early years development with a specific focus on children and young people with additional needs;
- Operation of dual use sports facilities supporting community access to school based assets;
- Ageing Well plan for Bridgend and developing age friendly communities as part of the older persons strategy;
- Local community coordination and community support programmes;
- Partnership working with BAVO and the third sector as part of the 'Building Resilient Communities' approach;
- Carers support and development of carer wellbeing opportunities;
- Community Centres and support for voluntary management committees.

3.3 There has been a unique opportunity for the management of a range of community assets within the directorate which has provided a focus on developing programmes with partners that can :

- Meet health and wellbeing needs in a community setting;
- Engage those with a protected characteristic;
- Support those most vulnerable people in our communities.

The positioning of these services recognises the importance of connecting 'place based' services and 'person centred' services together where achievable and beneficial.

4. Current situation / proposal

4.1 The Prevention and Wellbeing service has conducted an internal review of progress made during 2019-20 and collated the information in a format that can increase awareness of what is being achieved within the Directorate and broader Council, with a number of areas of work being cross cutting.

4.2 A series of extracts from the larger report are included as appendices to further illustrate some of the work that has taken place during the year. There are 6 appendices providing examples of the work that is taking place within the service included as supporting information.

4.3 This report includes headline information on programmes and services that are contributing to the public sector equalities duty and the strategic equalities objectives and action plan. The service holds additional performance information beyond this headline data on what individual programmes have achieved and progress to date. The service aims to capture learning and insight on new programmes and developments to further develop the prevention and wellbeing agenda. The following paragraphs provide examples of the work that the prevention and wellbeing service is developing.

4.4 The 'Our Voice' programme was developed to capture the views of young people on wellbeing and to work in partnership with schools and communities to develop action plans. For example, at one school, investment was secured to develop a 2 year

gender equality project linked to issues identified by young people. This programme, called 'Champions of Wales', has seen pupils selected via peer nomination to provide leadership on understanding girls' rights and gender equality. The programme has upskilled the young people who will further research and campaign for the rights of young people and change within communities.

- 4.5 The "Girls Network" is operating in partnership with six secondary schools with a focus on improving health and wellbeing. The groups conduct research and analyse needs prior to developing supportive opportunities. An evidence file approach was introduced in February 2020 including tools to measure and evidence impact of the network. Over the next year there are plans to move the Girls Network onto a digital platform. The network is supported by an Education and Girls strategic group that meets at 6 monthly intervals to review and evaluate development plans and progress. Further information can be found on this programme in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.6 The service works in partnership with primary and secondary schools to use extra-curricular activity to develop active and healthy lifestyles. Primary schools across Bridgend provided 1,950 opportunities engaging 2,895 boys and 2,568 girls (of those, 809 were eligible for free school meals, 357 have additional learning needs and 98 young people are 'looked after'). At secondary school there were 2,812 opportunities engaging 1,220 boys and 1,508 girls (438 were eligible for free school meals, 384 had additional learning needs and 138 young people are looked after). There are other programmes that indicate a growing focus on looked after children and young carers also within the annual report. During the year, 19 school delegates were supported to attend a Teacher Disability Inclusive Training (DIT) course. The service supports schools to develop their wellbeing plans and further information can be found in **Appendix 2**.
- 4.7 The service supports a partnership with the Urdd to ensure welsh medium opportunities are available via a development officer and apprenticeship role. There were 549 children and young people participating weekly and 57% of weekly attendances are female. The Urdd reported 12 new and developed clubs for females.
- 4.8 The Prevention and Wellbeing service coordinates an extensive leadership pathway aimed at building skills, knowledge and employability. An alternative pathway has been developed to support more vulnerable young people and 24 young people are engaged in this. There is also an ambassador programme who look at tackling issues within their own schools. At one school, the Oasis project is supporting extra-curricular opportunities for pupils with special educational needs.
- 4.9 The service leads on the Ageing Well plan for Bridgend and the development of 'age friendly' communities and where there are appropriate intergenerational opportunities. The Ageing Well Plan for Bridgend has focused on falls prevention, dementia supportive communities, combatting loneliness and isolation and skills/employability. An Ageing Well web platform is operated and 4,000 Ageing Well calendars were produced in January 2020. New themes emerging via the Older Persons Commissioner include ending ageism (including discrimination) and

improving access to services, stopping abuse of older people and enabling everyone to age well.

- 4.10 Local Community Coordination has taken place in the North of Bridgend supported by Legacy Funding with 150 people supported through information and advice, food banks, transport, dealing with loneliness, mental health, caring responsibilities, disability and cognitive impairment. There is strong working with BAVO and the third sector linked to the Transformation agenda and the Integrated Care investment through collaborative working with community navigators.
- 4.11 There is a growing focus on digital exclusion and those impacted. Work has commenced with Wales Cooperative Centre on developing a 'care to cooperate' programme that targets support for 200 vulnerable people and carers to build skills and connections. Aligned to this, the service is developing a "community information champions" programme with organisations and volunteers to support information sharing with those who are not digitally connected.
- 4.12 Developing dementia supportive communities is a strategic objective of the Ageing Well Plan for Wales. The service coordinated a series of training programmes with over 150 attendees including 'Re-Live' experiential training, dementia awareness and first steps in dementia for activity providers. The earlier work on creating 'dementia friendly swimming' has evolved into the 'Feel Good for Life' programme with partners including Halo leisure, Awen, BAVO and Alzheimers Society. During 2019 -20 there were 87 individuals and carers supported through this programme that received a national award from UK Active. Further information on the Feel Good for Life programme is included as **Appendix 3**.
- 4.13 There has been a growth in social prescribing work using cultural activities with Awen that have supported older adults, young people with disabilities and carers. Examples would include the 'Same As' advocacy project with parent carers, the 'Off Duty' carers choir programme, 'Cultural Olympage' programmes focused on reminiscence and the 'creative at home' resources and digital communication platform 'Stronger Together Bridgend'. Further information is provided as **Appendix 4**.
- 4.14 The Olympage programme was launched in Bridgend in 2017 to support older adults to have more socialisation opportunities and to live active and healthy lives. The model developed has seen group activity and local or county events established with partners including care homes, community centres and leisure centres. In 2019 the Prevention and Wellbeing service was successful in securing 400k of investment via the Healthy and Active Fund to develop a regional approach across the Healthy Board footprint.
- 4.15 The subsequent 'Super Agers' programme has been established across Bridgend, RCT and Merthyr. The programme has been identified as a Bevan exemplar. A review of the programme and approach will be required based on regulations during 2020/21. Further information can be found at **Appendix 5**.

- 4.16 Super Agers has the potential to become an early intervention programme prior to the National Exercise Referral Scheme for older adults, people with disabilities and those living with chronic conditions (e.g. cardiac, falls, stroke, cancer). There have been over 2,000 referrals to the scheme during 2019-20.
- 4.17 The approach of working with community owned networks goes beyond the Girls Network identified earlier in the report. During 2019-20 an additional network, Bridgend Inclusive Network Group (BING), has been co-produced and also 'Together for Young People in Bridgend' as a network for youth organisations.
- 4.18 The service leads on the play sufficiency duty for BCBC including assessment and action planning for the range of statutory matters. The assessment framework identifies a range of targeted population groups needing specific consideration. An example of the play and activity pods project is included as **Appendix 6**.
- 4.19 The Council has supported 39 children with disabilities with after school club play opportunities and circa 50 children with school holiday opportunities for young people referred by social workers.
- 4.20 A total of 7,670 visits were recorded to Active for Life programmes in Summer 2019 with inclusive opportunities and 309 children were engaged on what was important to them in their communities.

5. Effect upon policy framework& procedure rules

- 5.1 The report has no direct effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules but it enables us to effectively contribute to the Council's statutory duties in relation to equalities and human rights.

6. Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.1 The report provides the Committee with information that positively assists in the delivery of the Authority's equality duties.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

- 7.1 The implementation of the duties and responsibilities under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWBA) supports the promotion of two of the seven goals of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 within the County Borough of Bridgend. By promoting an environment that maximises people's physical and mental wellbeing and by supporting children, young people, adults and their carers and families to fulfil their potential no matter what their circumstances, the wellbeing goals of a healthier and more equal Bridgend and Wales are supported.
- 7.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with five ways of working to guide how the Authority should work to deliver wellbeing outcomes for people. The following is a summary to show how the five ways of working to achieve the wellbeing goals have been considered in this report:

- Long Term - the programmes recognise short term needs but focus on developing longer term resilience in people and communities;
- Prevention – the programmes focus on positive physical and mental wellbeing intervention as a prerequisite to good health. The focus is on tackling issues early and supporting people to identify what a good life looks like for them;
- Integration – working with people, organisations and communities to support wellbeing and prevent needs escalating impacts on health, public health, education and social care;
- Collaboration – the programmes are cross cutting within the Council and reliant on stakeholder engagement and collaborative working particularly cross sector;
- Involvement – the programmes are based on co-production and asset based community development to create community ownership of opportunities created.

8. Financial implications

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from the report. A large number of the programmes referenced are supported by external funding, including Welsh Government, Sport Wales, and Disability Sport Wales grants. The list of external funding during the period 2019/20 can be found at **Appendix 7**. There is an ongoing challenge of embedding programmes that are effective within core approaches and developing sustainable models with partners for the medium to longer term.

9. Recommendation.

9.1 That the Cabinet Committee Equalities receives and considers this report.

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Background documents

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