

<b>Meeting of:</b>	<b>SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>10 JULY 2023</b>
<b>Report Title:</b>	<b>PREVENTION AND WELLBEING, LEISURE (HALO) AND CULTURAL (AWEN) TRUSTS AND FURTHER INTEGRATION OF WORK WITH BRIDGEND ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS (BAVO)</b>
<b>Report Owner / Corporate Director:</b>	<b>CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>ANDREW THOMAS GROUP MANAGER, PREVENTION AND WELLBEING</b>
<b>Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:</b>	<b>There is no effect upon the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules</b>
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	<p><b>This report provides the Committee with information on a range of prevention and wellbeing services including the Council's own service area within the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate. It also provides details of the progress being made in regard to the Healthy Living Partnership with Halo Leisure and the cultural partnership with Awen. The Council has recognised the potential for cross sector working to support delivery of community-based wellbeing outcomes and the report includes detail of continued partnership working with BAVO. This report builds upon the previous report presented to the Committee 2 in February 2022 when pandemic restrictions were beginning to ease and services were facing the challenge of rebuilding.</b></p> <p><b>The report describes how the levels of engagement and participation at venues and services is progressing and how this is supporting the wellbeing of residents and communities. The pandemic has been seen to be significantly challenging for many of our more vulnerable people and the report describes many of the collaborative approaches being taken to offer support. It also highlights the importance and opportunities to work with people with lived experience to help shape, develop and improve services and opportunities that meet needs. Fundamentally, the report provides information as to how a commitment to develop prevention focused support can de-escalate needs for statutory provision and better connect people within communities. The Council has developed innovative ways of working with key partnerships including leisure, culture and third sector.</b></p>

## **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with information on how services and opportunities that are being delivered in partnership with Halo Leisure and Awen are supporting individual and community wellbeing and contributing to the Council's wellbeing objectives.
- 1.2 In addition, to provide information on the partnership working being developed with BAVO and the broader third sector to support people within their communities and to develop healthy and happy communities.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 This report builds on the previous report that was presented to the Committee 2 on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022. The Prevention and Wellbeing Service was established within the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate in 2017 in response to the focus on both prevention and well-being as identified within the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.
- 2.2 The subsequent Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 has provided focus for the related services and an aim of promoting independence and developing community resilience.
- 2.3 The Healthy Living Partnership with Halo Leisure was established for a 15 year period in 2012 and is co-ordinated by the Prevention and Wellbeing Service including eight leisure venues. This partnership has a framework based on developing healthier communities, children and young people, stronger communities, sustainable facilities and cost-effective delivery.
- 2.4 The development of an in-house trust approach to operate the Council's library service, theatres, community buildings, Bryngarw Country Park and B-Leaf/Wood B training services was progressed leading to the establishment of the Awen Cultural Trust in 2015. Awen Cultural Trust are a registered charity. Since 2018, partnership working with Awen has also been co-ordinated by the Prevention and Wellbeing Service creating an oversight of both larger scale place-based partnerships. The partnership agreement with Awen is long term and runs until 2035.
- 2.5 The Building Resilient and Coordinated Communities programme has been founded on cross sector working with Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) and the broader third sector to support individual and community well-being. This partnership approach has secured regional programme board investment to address areas such as loneliness and isolation, connecting people to non-statutory support within communities, developing carer well-being and building community networks of common purpose (e.g., disability, older adults).
- 2.6 The Healthy Living and Active Young People service areas have been supporting children, young people and their households to live active and healthy lives. This involves extensive working with partners, co-producing resources and providing training to support sustainability. The services operate partnership working with

schools and community groups including focused support for children and young people such as young carers, children and young people with additional needs or disabilities and care experienced children. There is specific support for children and young people to build physical and emotional well-being and skills and confidence.

- 2.7 The Connected Communities programmes support the development of an 'age friendly' Bridgend and are connected to the ageing well priorities for Wales. Areas of focus include falls prevention, dementia supportive communities, community opportunities, community walking programmes and supporting the volunteer management arrangements at community centres. More recently the Council has been engaging with the World Health Organisation's Age Friendly Community Network.
- 2.8 The Council's play development service is based within the Prevention and Wellbeing Service with a range of responsibilities that include the statutory play sufficiency assessment and action planning, targeted support for children and young people with additional needs, engaging with children and young people to support planning and also the development of holiday opportunities.
- 2.9 More recently, the Prevention and Wellbeing Service has taken additional responsibility for carer well-being support and including carers, young adult carers and adult carers. This includes the use of commissioned partners, investment of external funding into community resilience approaches and engagement with carers and community groups who are closely connected to them.
- 2.10 The Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate is in a unique position whereby the most vulnerable individuals or groups can be considered in relation to increasing their usage of community venues that are also connected to the responsibilities and priorities of the Directorate. In this sense, the Council is able to help develop place-based opportunities that are supportive and relevant to the more vulnerable.

### **3. Current situation / proposal**

- 3.1 The report provides information on how the related areas of service and partnership working have been rebuilding and developing preventative support within our communities.
- 3.2 The Healthy Living Partnership with Halo Leisure has seen 1,109,134 visits to the 8 related venues of which 987,764 visits were for physical activity purposes. There is a growth in usage for broader group activity relating to mental wellbeing or social connections.
- 3.3 There have been a number of investments at leisure sites during 2022-2023 to increase accessibility and attract more visits. In particular there have been larger scale improvement schemes at Pyle Swimming Pool and also at Maesteg Sports Centre to rebuild usage following its repurposing as a Covid-19 vaccination centre.
- 3.4 There have been 323,433 more visits than the previous year including 42,815 visits to swimming pools, 48,022 at fitness suites and 65,079 relating to activity courses.

- 3.5 Halo have also invested £200,000 into energy management systems at 7 sites during this period to help manage consumption.
- 3.6 Halo have connected a range of national healthy living campaigns into their approach to engage participants. These have included World Autism Week, National Carers Week, Stress Awareness Week and more. The 10 year celebration of the Healthy Living Partnership was reached and related offers supported 1,294 new local people to make use of facilities.
- 3.7 The Feel Good for Life programme supporting people living with dementia or cognitive impairment has seen growth and also offered support to unpaid carers. A 5-year National Lottery award of £381,000 has been secured and will support activity at three locations in addition to weekly streamed support sessions.
- 3.8 A new Carer Wellbeing Support programme has been developed as a six-week course including physical activity, nutrition, mental wellbeing and information sharing. Feedback has indicated that 100% of participants have felt more confident in managing their wellbeing.
- 3.9 Halo have been developing a range of opportunities for young people with additional needs and supporting programmes that have also been led by the Council. A dedicated autism friendly swimming offer was run 4 times during the year and 200 young people have now received support. This is a high demand area.
- 3.10 The Free-Swimming programme has supported 20 weekly over 60 sessions in addition to a range of universal and targeted support for children and young people. There have been 32,681 'free swims' equating to 14.7% of all swims at local pools. There have been 4,311 children supported to learn to swim within the swimming lesson programme.
- 3.11 Halo have also supported the Welsh Government's swimming scheme for armed forces personnel and veterans with 1,434 visits recorded.
- 3.12 The National Exercise Referral Scheme received 1,519 referrals from local surgeries. This scheme is also high demand and resulted in 19,130 visits. The programme has continued to offer 3 streamed sessions per week for lung conditions and also a general circuits class. A new joint care programme has been supported by Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTMUHB and pulmonary rehabilitation programmes have been supported.
- 3.13 The Healthy Living Partnership has maintained controls over a number of pricing categories to support access for our more vulnerable and also the Access to Leisure Scheme for society's more disadvantaged which had 1,746 members.
- 3.14 The partnership with Awen Cultural Trust has also served to support prevention and wellbeing approaches particularly via the library service which is a statutory provision delivered on behalf of the Council.
- 3.15 During 2022-23 local libraries issued 347,613 resources including 55,543 digitally accessed resources and this is a trend that has continued to see growth post pandemic. The libraries also host events to bring groups and communities together

and support national literacy campaigns such as the Summer Reading Challenge. The Summer Reading Challenge issued 35,500 children's resources in 2022.

- 3.16 Awen Libraries supported the Council's Warm Welcome scheme with an additional 71 library-based activities that attracted 744 adults and 501 children. This boosted library attendances during quarter 4 which were 80% higher than the previous year demonstrating a bounce back from pandemic related operations.
- 3.17 Awen also operate the 'Books on Wheels' mobile library service that ensures the housebound or more vulnerable can access services. The Books on Wheels service issued 48,840 resources in 2022-23.
- 3.18 The libraries also offer Council information point support for local people and digital connectivity. As an example, during quarter 4 the libraries supported over 300 people including 121 with housing benefit queries, 95 relating to bus passes and 48 applying for blue badges.
- 3.19 Awen also operate the B-leaf and Wood-B supported training programmes for adults with learning disabilities. This has supported 47 trainees during the year with 11 undertaking accredited training and 8 undertaking work placements. Attendance numbers have increased by 33% and 41% respectively as the pandemic has eased with 789 attendances recorded.
- 3.20 During the year Awen secured over £200,000 of investment to enhance Pencoed Library by improving the internal space and also improving the sustainability of the venue with energy efficiency investments. A new children's area and a meeting space was created to enhance community use.
- 3.21 The Council and Awen were also successful in securing larger scale investment via the UK Government Levelling Up Fund to secure a long term future for the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl. This will preserve the heritage and provide new fit-for-purpose cultural facilities making the venue a regional arts centre of significance. This was founded on the extensive feasibility work that had taken place to support the application.
- 3.22 During quarter 4, the Grand Pavilion saw a 34% increase in overall attendances linked to a series of successful community events and the warm welcome programme. Similar developments have been progressed at Blaengarw Workmen's Hall including 'Free Music Friday' opportunities and Warm Welcome Cinema.
- 3.23 The use of National access support programmes such as HYNT (providing free access for unpaid carers) and 'Gig Buddies' that pairs volunteers with adults with learning disabilities is supported. Awen are growing their use of volunteer support and report 106 volunteers who are generally supporting their activities with 340 volunteer hours recorded.
- 3.24 Awen have continued to progress a range of creative wellbeing programmes in partnership with the Council. These have included connections to care homes including the successful 'Inside Outside' virtual reality project that transports residents to a time or place that brings them joy or comfort. There have been over 600 beneficiaries of the creative wellbeing programmes during the year.

- 3.25 The current approach to partnership working with BAVO commenced at the beginning of the pandemic with collaborative work to develop more resilient and coordinated communities. This supported almost 5,000 people to be connected to community-based support and local organisations helping to reduce the need for formal service provision.
- 3.26 This approach has recognised that the third sector can effectively meet the needs of many people closer to home and as a more sustainable way of maintaining or developing independence.
- 3.27 The partnership has continued to secure external investment via the regional investment fund that has supported a team of community navigators and additional roles to help coordinate preventative approaches, build community networks and connect the social services common access point to the third sector.
- 3.28 During the year the community navigation team dealt with an additional 1,959 information, advice and assistance queries.
- 3.29 They also supported 677 new referrals in regard to preventative working including 482 new clients.
- 3.30 The approach taken has seen 89% of referred people being able to be supported and have a broad range of their needs met within the community. Only 6% of those supported have required statutory support. Overall, BAVO have recorded 5,579 occasions where people have been referred and signposted to support.
- 3.31 BAVO were also able to support Winter pressures via work conducted in partnership with Warm Wales Citizens Advice, Foodbank and Baobab Bach pantries.
- 3.32 There have been 213 organisations worked with to develop or deliver preventative opportunities and 28 prevention and wellbeing network meetings held.
- 3.33 The evaluations conducted with beneficiaries have identified people feeling improved social connections, improvements in mental health and wellbeing and increased knowledge of support available to them.
- 3.34 The Council has continued to support BAVO to provide services and support to the third sector via a service level agreement as the County Voluntary Council (CVC). There were 423 organisations who were members of BAVO during 2022-23.
- 3.35 BAVO have recorded direct advice and support provided to 262 third sector organisations and over £365,000 of investment distributed or secured by third sector groups following support.
- 3.36 BAVO have also helped to train and deploy 176 volunteers during this period to support community resilience.
- 3.37 The Prevention and Wellbeing service area contains a broad range of services that support children, young people and adults to manage and improve their wellbeing. The Carers Wellbeing service supported 561 referrals and conducted 410 “what matters” conversations as the lower-level end of our carer assessment pathway. Of this number there were 194 carers that were passed to the Common Access Point

for full assessment. Many people were able to be connected within communities and 294 external referrals were made.

- 3.38 The service has also worked with 'Cwmpas' (formerly Wales Co-operative Centre) to support carers within the Connecting Carers Programme. This has included developing digital approaches to supporting wellbeing including online exercise opportunities, anxiety management and more. 154 carers have been supported with 63 people signposted to additional / relevant services. *"I will definitely be thinking about the breathing aspects and other tips received"* (Online carers anxiety management participant).
- 3.39 The dementia wellbeing service saw 18 opportunities supported for people living with dementia or cognitive impairment. These include our partnership working with Halo, Awen and BAVO. There were 25 people supported to become 'dementia friends' and 5 organisations supported. There have been 126 people supported via group opportunities with participants expressing improved wellbeing and social networks.
- 3.40 The Super Agers activity programme has provided targeted weekly support to 120 adults. Of these, 38% had one or more health conditions, 10% identified as clinically vulnerable and 10% had caring responsibilities. The programme has been a Bevan Exemplar project and identifies as delivering a social return of £3.80 for every pound invested. Participants have particularly valued building community bonds and peer led support. *"It has helped me getting out of the house since Covid. Also helped with my depression. Staff are excellent"* (Super-Agers participant).
- 3.41 The service has supported 3 local community coordinator roles who are professionally qualified and able to support vulnerable people to build confidence, connect to community and improve lives. Generally, these roles have supported 150 people at any given time. Social Services and Wellbeing will shortly be adding 3 more roles to provide broader support in more locations utilising core social care budgets to support reductions in demand and preventing needs from escalating.
- 3.42 The service has recently appointed an Age Friendly Communities Coordinator to develop a partnership approach to Bridgend becoming a member of the World Health Organisation's Global Network of Age Friendly Communities. This approach aims to bring communities together and includes inter-generational approaches.
- 3.43 The service also leads the 'Love to Walk' programme including 'led' walks by community volunteers and the annual Walking Festival which has seen 1,552 participants in 2022-2023.
- 3.44 The Active Young People and Healthy Living areas of the service have been supporting young people and families to live healthier and more active lives. The National School Sport Survey found 44.6% of Bridgend's school-age population to be active on 3 or more occasions per week compared to a Wales average of 39.5%. The service has worked in partnership with Sport Wales, Disability Sport Wales, the Urdd, Menter Bro Ogwr and schools and community organisations.
- 3.45 There is a 'Sport and Physical Activity Young Leaders' pathway that has supported 126 young people with an additional 36 leaders on a new wellbeing leadership pathway. A specific leadership "plus" pathway has supported 16 vulnerable young people to complete year one of the programme.

- 3.46 There have been specific programmes to support early years and families including 5 weeks 'Active Together for Mothers and Babies', termly parent and baby sessions attracted 181 families and a 'Made for Mams' programme has offered getting active after birth opportunities.
- 3.47 The Ascent programme providing targeted support with Schools and has seen 6 programmes support 53 young people and 25 specifically with primary schools. New resources and a training package have been developed and piloted in 2 secondary schools and 24 teachers have been upskilled to deliver sessions. This has been delivered to 448 pupils completing three modules during curriculum.
- 3.48 The service directly delivers the National Standards School Cycling programme to support road safety and encourage active travel. During the year 625 pupils completed level 1 at primary school sites whilst a further 291 completed the level 2 'on road' module.
- 3.49 The Family Active Zone (FAZ) programme has supported 200 households with equipment to support family activity with a range of 'FAZ at home' videos and QR codes to update ideas for households to consider. This is helping to build fundamental skills and encouraging families to be more active together.
- 3.50 The service has also been working with vulnerable children, young people and their households to live active and healthy lives whilst gaining the skills and confidence to manage their wellbeing. This targeted work aims to engage with families and households who are known to children services and early help and family support which are referred into prevention and wellbeing. They may be isolated or 'at risk' and have challenging circumstances which may impact on their health and wellbeing. The service is currently working with 53 children and their families from a range of core services with the Council.
- 3.51 713 individual HALO Leisure memberships for vulnerable individuals have been supported utilising a range of funding across vulnerable families, providing respite to carers and health and wellbeing opportunities for 'cared for'.
- 3.52 The Young Carers network has also been created and provides a platform for young carers and young adult carers to have their voice heard and acted on. The network has helped young carers to have a collective voice and to make decisions, in particular regarding having a life beyond their caring responsibilities. The network has also been supportive of whole household opportunities including broader families and those cared for and siblings. There are 11 young carers ambassadors who drive the network evidencing a sustainable approach is being progressed whereby people with 'lived experience' are helping to shape their support and wellbeing needs. The last 12 months has seen 239 young carers visits to network and 'we are valued' events and 302 Young Carers ID Cards have been distributed across Bridgend County. *"I am particularly looking forward to going to the gym as this is something I haven't been able to do for some time"* (Young Carer Ambassador).
- 3.53 The service area has led the play sufficiency assessment and action plan production on behalf of the broader Council and has also supported children and young people with additional needs. The after school and holiday-based discovery programmes

support circa 30 households with more complex needs to have access to opportunities and offer short breaks and respite.

- 3.54 The Healthy Living service has helped develop and worked closely with Bridgend Inclusive Network Group (BING) to develop opportunities for children and young people with diverse needs and their families. This has included provision of inclusive activities, delivering training and community networking. Over the last 12 months, BING have supported 31 charities and worked with 80 families.

#### **4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)**

- 4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-Economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language has been considered in the preparation of the report. As a public body in Wales, the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. This is an information report, therefore it is not necessary to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment in the production of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.
- 4.2 Within both the leisure and cultural partnership agreements there is a focus on delivering social outcomes, including people with a protected characteristic and also reducing price as a barrier to accessing services and opportunities.
- 4.3 The prevention and wellbeing service works in partnership with both the Urdd and Menter Bro Ogwr to develop local opportunities.
- 4.4 Equalities Impact Assessments were conducted when the leisure and cultural partnerships were being established.

#### **5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives**

- 5.1 The well-being goals identified within the Well-being of Future Generations Wales Act 2015 have been considered in the preparation of this report in addition to the Council's own wellbeing objectives.

Long Term	The report recognises the issues that people and communities may encounter and how preventative approaches can contribute to improved population wellbeing in the longer term.
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Prevention	The report identifies a range of population groups who may be vulnerable and whose needs may escalate over time without appropriate support or intervention. This supports the Council's wellbeing objective to become a County Borough where we support our most vulnerable.
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Integration	The report recognises the importance of a 'One Council' approach working across directorates to support community resilience.
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Collaboration	The report identifies the value of partnership working including with health and public health and recognises the importance of a more collaborative working approach with the third sector. This supports the Council's wellbeing objective to be a County Borough where we support people to be healthy and happy.
Involvement	The report identifies the importance of engaging people to support the design and co-production of services and opportunities and making best use of the lived experience and knowledge of local people. This supports the Council's wellbeing objective to be a County Borough where people feel valued, heard and part of their community.

## **6. Climate Change Implications**

- 6.1 In regard to use of utilities both Halo Leisure and Awen access the Council's procured energy supply services and consumption and carbon data is captured by Council.
- 6.2 The partners have invested in energy reducing measures across the related facilities including LED lighting, energy efficient boilers, solar array and building energy management systems (BEMS).
- 6.3 Both partners work with the Council regarding the solutions to improve baseline positions in regard to utilities.
- 6.4 In regard to the third sector, BAVO are able to connect local organisations to national and regional opportunities and information to support the climate change agenda.

## **7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications**

- 7.1 The core prevention and wellbeing service is a part of the social services and wellbeing directorate and subject to related safeguarding procedures.
- 7.2 The prevention and wellbeing service is part of the corporate parenting steering group and related staff are part of the workstreams that respond to the priorities established by care experienced children and young people.
- 7.3 Both Halo Leisure and Awen support the corporate parenting strategy and have safeguarding procedures in place within the respective organisations.
- 7.4 BAVO have their own organisational safeguarding policies and procedures but also support their member organisations to operate appropriately and effectively.

## **8. Financial Implications**

- 8.1 The prevention and wellbeing services referenced in this report are supported by a combination of core funding, use of external investments, grant funding and income generations.

- 8.2 Halo Leisure are provided with an annual management fee and inflationary support for utilities by the Council. They also receive funding to operate the National Exercise Referral Scheme and the National Free-Swimming Initiative. As part of the healthy living partnership agreement a full repairing lease for buildings is in place. Due to budget pressures and the curtailment of Welsh Government's hardship fund, a payment of £190,000 was made to Halo Leisure to contribute to the impact of running the leisure facilities and services in 2022-23 due to Covid 19. This was funded from the Council wide Covid 19 budget that was approved for 2022-23 specifically to meet ongoing budget pressures as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic.
- 8.3 Awen Cultural Trust are provided with an annual management fee and this is aligned to the operation of our library service, cultural venues, community venues and Bryngarw Park. The charity generates additional income to support re-investment and attraction of external funding.
- 8.4 The Council has a service level agreement with BAVO to support its role as the County Voluntary Council (CVC) providing assistance to member organisations and broader third sector. In addition, Regional Investment Fund support has been used to develop resilient communities and to support a team of community navigators.
- 8.5 The Council's Prevention and Wellbeing Service area has some core funding to support leadership roles and has been successful in securing prevention focused external investment, examples of which would include Age Friendly Communities (£50,000), Loneliness and Isolation (£23,000), Connected Communities (£180,000), Connecting Carers (£33,000), Volunteer Development (£40,000), and Dementia Wellbeing (£40,000).

## **9. Recommendation**

- 9.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the content of the report and provide feedback.

## **Background documents**

None