Minutes of a Meeting of the Events & Community Projects Committee of Cwmbran Community Council held on 12 January 2015

Present Councillor LJ Chaney (Chairman), Councillors S Brooks, D Daniels, M Johnston, R Jones, TA Matthews, J Rees, WJ Walker and PJ Williams

Also David Collins (Clerk to the Council) & Clare Rowles (Administration Officer)

ENT14/026 Apologies for Absence

None had been submitted.

Members noted Councillor Powell's absence due to maternity.

ENT14/027 Members' Declarations of Interest

Members were asked to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests that they may have and sign the Interests Sheet to give details of the nature of the interest. Councillors Daniels and Rees declared an interest in item ENT14/028 below.

ENT14/028 Summer Playschemes

Councillors Daniels and Rees declared an interest in this item.

Members considered a detailed report from the Clerk on the way forward for the Summer Playschemes. The report followed Inspections undertaken by the Care & Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW). The report described the way in which the Playschemes were delivered and highlighted issues arising from the CSSIW inspections.

The inspections had revealed a warm and caring atmosphere at each setting with examples of Best Practice. However some concerns had been raised about issues around staffing, use of volunteers, DBS checks and other matters, which needed to be addressed for 2015. Some of these concerns arose from a change in emphasis to the way in which the CSSIW now applied associated regulations and legislation.

The report highlighted some of the practical implications of implementing the CSSIW's recommendations about the concerns raised.

The Clerk explained that registration and inspection was only required in respect of settings which provided for children aged under 8. There was therefore scope to examine the nature of the existing provision by, for example, only providing for under 8s at two sites, which would mean that only those two sites would be need to be registered and inspected. He advised that this could offer a practical and cost effective response to the CSSIW

recommendations, though it was still not without its difficulties. The Clerk's report also included recommendations in relation to some of the concerns raised by the CSSIW.

Issues discussed by members included:

- concerns over the CSSIW's change in emphasis in inspecting the Playschemes, which had ran successfully for many years.

- whether registration and inspection by the CSSIW was required for the Playschemes at all, given that they were delivered within a school setting and could be said to be incidental to the provision of education. (Members noted that the CSSIW did not consider that this removed the need for registration and inspection, though this view was not necessarily shared by other expert stakeholders, such as Three Counties Community Play.)

- the need to re-examine the core values which underpinned the delivery of the Summer Playschemes.

- the potential for providing extra training for Playscheme staff.

- the difficulties of attracting enough staff with the qualifications and experience which the CSSIW was now calling for.

- the practicalities of obtaining references and DBS checks for all staff. (Members noted that support was available from Three Counties Play to assist with this.)

- options for retaining the use of volunteers. (The Clerk and Administrative Officer explained some of the difficulties of relying on volunteers and the additional administrative burden of obtaining additional references and DBS checks if a pool of volunteers was put in place.)

- options to commence administrative processes, such as recruitment & selection, earlier in the year. (The Clerk confirmed that some processes had already commenced for 2015.)

- options to work with schools to deliver required multi agency "Care Plans" for children who needed additional support.

- other options to assist with caring for children on site, such as a Behaviour Book linked to Care Plans.

- the implications of discontinuing specialist 1:1 support.

- whether the Playschemes should continue to cater for under 8s at all and other options for delivering the service to under 8s.

- the extent to which Playschemes should provide a service which was inclusive to all, including under 8s and children who needed extra support.

  (The Leader of the Majority Group emphasised that the Council's Playschemes were currently offered to all children in Cwmbran, via the

schools. It was important that all children continued to enjoy opportunities to play.)

- options to reconfigure the provision to target those in greatest need, including working in Communities First areas.

- the potential to work with Torfaen County Borough Council to ensure that the needs of hard to reach groups were met.

- the potential to run Playschemes at non-school sites, such as other community facilities, in order to reach a wider community. (The Clerk outlined some of the advantages of using of school premises.)

- the scope to signpost Torfaen County Borough Council to such non-school sites to deliver the Torfaen County Borough Council Playschemes.

- the potential to provide Playschemes only for children aged 8 and over and direct younger children to the Playschemes run by Torfaen County Borough Council.

- options to deliver Playschemes for children aged under 8 for only 2 hours a day at each site. This would not require registration and inspection by the CSSIW.

- potential public reaction to any changes to the way in which Playschemes were delivered.

- options to recruit staff from existing After Schools clubs.

- Welsh language provision, via Urdd Gobaith Cymru.

In conclusion, members identified the need for a clear understanding of the nature of the provision which already existed for under 8s in Cwmbran (for example, via Torfaen County Borough Council) in order to help determine future options.

It was **recommended** that

(1) a special meeting of this committee is arranged within the current committee cycle to discuss the above matters further, with particular reference to options for delivering the service to under 8s and children with additional health, medical, physical or emotional needs.

(2) individual members to provide the Clerk with any contact details in relation to After School staff, Communities First and the Urdd.

(3) the clerk liaises with Torfaen County Borough Council to gain a clearer understanding of the nature of the provision which already existed for under 8s in Cwmbran.

(4) in the meantime, administrative matters relating to the Playschemes should continue to be taken forward as far as possible.

(5) the following rates of pay are agreed for Playscheme staff for 2015:

POSITION	AMOUNT
Manager	8.49 per/hr
Assistant Manager	7.65 per/hr
Supervisor	*7.13 per/hr
Assistant Supervisor	*6.58 per/hr
Playleader 21+	*6.50 per/hr
Playleader 18 – 20	5.45 per/hr

*Increased by 19p to take into account minimum wage

Signed ……..

(Chair, Cwmbran Community Council)