

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee: 25th October 2017

Report of the Voluntary Sector

Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS) Annual Report

Purpose of the Report

To provide the Committee with information of the work of GVS throughout the year April 2016-March 2017

Recommendations

That the Committee receive the report for information

Reasons for the Recommendations

As required by the terms of the VOGC/GVS Deed of Grant

Background

2.1 Formed in 2015 from a merger between Vale Centre for Voluntary Services (VCVS) and Vale Volunteer Bureau (VVB), Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS) is a member organisation, the infrastructure organisation for voluntary and community organisations based in, or serving, the Vale of Glamorgan. GVS' membership rose from 676 for 2015/16 to 735 groups this year an increase of 8% over the year.

2.2 Our role is to support voluntary action in the Vale of Glamorgan, which we do in a variety of ways. Working to an Annual Work Programme based on the Welsh Assembly Government's Third Sector Partnership Agreement Minimum Standards, we aim to encourage and inspire standards of excellence through our support and development, training, volunteering, information, representation and joint working.

2.3 Whether representing the view of members nationally, or printing posters for a local group, we work to build the capacity of the voluntary sector in the Vale of Glamorgan and raise awareness about the work it does to the benefit of the community as a whole.

2.4 GVS is managed by a Board of Trustees nominated and elected by its membership. During 2016/17 GVS had a paid staff of 14 – 7 core staff and 7 project staff. As an organisation dedicated to delivering the highest possible quality of service to our stakeholders, in 2018 GVS will be undertaking external assessment of its quality assurance system - Practical Quality Assurance System for Small Voluntary Organisations (PQASSO) created by the Charities Evaluation Service. PQASSO is also the Welsh Government's preferred quality assurance system for Third Sector Organisations and the organisation has been operating within PQASSO since 2001 and its days as VCVS.

2.5 There are nineteen County Voluntary Councils (CVCs) throughout Wales all providing services to their local voluntary and community sector as laid down in the Welsh Assembly Government's Voluntary Sector Partnership Agreement.

Relevant Issues and Options

3. Achievements in year

GVS' main achievements during the year fall into the following areas:

3.1 IT

3.1.1 Website

The GVS website is a major asset to the organisation and the wider Third Sector here in the Vale of Glamorgan. The website session visits hit a remarkable 27,001 during the past year.

3.1.2 Social Media

GVS has made a commitment to ensure that Third Sector organisations operating in the Vale of Glamorgan have the opportunities to gain and build on their skills to make full use of 21st century communication mechanisms. A very comprehensive programme of training courses has been developed for groups and organisations operating in the Vale of Glamorgan. This, together with our own extensive use of social media provides an effective and useful tool to share news and information with our members and the wider sector.

3.2 Development and Advice Services

3.2.1 Our offices in Barry (Barry Community Enterprise Centre), complimented by outreach services in Cowbridge, Llantwit Major and Penarth, are open to members and potential members for advice and development work. We offer information and guidance to assist organisations to operate legally and efficiently e.g. by providing information on registering as a charity, how to put together a governing document and how to develop policies and procedures.

3.2.2 GVS has provided Third Sector organisations with a range of support to develop ideas and projects. Support has been offered in a variety of ways including face to face meetings, e-mail, telephone consultations and briefing sessions. Our new range of GVS branded Information Sheets have become popular and these have been invaluable in helping us deal with the more general day to day enquiries. We endeavour to make sure that all of our information is available on line via our website, enabling our members to

access appropriate development information and advice more effectively and at a time that suits them.

3.3 Information Service

3.3.1 We act as an information agency for and about our members, maintaining a comprehensive database and producing a directory of our members to publicise their services; its availability is advertised regularly. We have produced information leaflets on our services in Welsh. Our information service was accessed 2792 times with members receiving additional information via e-bulletins on a weekly basis.

3.3.2 “Vista”, the GVS quarterly magazine, is published in house four times a year and is distributed to 760 groups and individuals. “Vista” is available in CD format and is currently sent to three groups whose members have a visual impairment. “Vista” is supplemented by regular updates of newsletters on Health, Social Care and Well Being and Sustainable Funding News. Over the past year, 8 updates were produced.

3.3.3 Our comprehensive range of information sheets are available in both English and Welsh for voluntary organisations to access either by hard copy, e-mail or through our website. This service is free to voluntary organisations and continues to be a resounding success.

3.4 Practical Services

3.4.1 These are a real benefit to many small voluntary organisations with little or no spare income. Low cost, reliable printing, help with desktop publishing, the loan of display equipment for exhibitions and presentations – these are some of the services that GVS offers its member groups.

3.4.2 Our reprographic services were used 165 times this year with 100% evaluating them as “excellent”. With the help of booklet making, laminating, collating and folding machines, the use of our meeting room and equipment, a professional effect can be achieved by any of our member groups.

3.5 Networks and Fora

3.5.1 Our Networks and Fora continue to be a popular way for voluntary and community organisations to access and share information. Networks and Fora supported by GVS were:-

3.5.2 Trustee Network

The Network provides the opportunity to access free, up to the minute professional expertise on issues critical to good governance and management. The Network is the only local forum dedicated to responding specifically to the requirements Trustees encounter in undertaking their governance roles and responsibilities. In the past 12 months, the Network has received presentations covering changes to Charity Law and Minimising Risk. It also held a Trustee Recruitment event.

3.5.3 Vale Housing and Homelessness Forum

This Forum is the longest established of all our Networks and Fora. It has been operating ever since GVS came into existence. Its works to terms of reference and is made up of agencies (Third Sector and statutory) that have an interest in housing, homelessness and related problems and issues. The Forum now meets jointly with the Vale Supported People Housing Group. During 2016/17, the Forum met 4 times.

3.5.4 The Forum also links in with other strategic partnerships, networks and fora, e.g. Safer Vale Partnership, Health Social Care and Well Being Network and the Domestic Abuse Forum.

3.5.5 Vale Voluntary Action and Community Development Network

The Network meets quarterly in locations across the Vale of Glamorgan. A variety of informative and interesting presentations were arranged with GVS officers and guest speakers providing useful input at each meeting. The network is open to any organisation with an interest in volunteering or voluntary action.

3.6 Funding Service

3.6.1 GVS' funding and information service provided support to 172 groups throughout the year with a reported £823,764 of funding obtained as a direct result of the advice and information given by GVS. This is an increase of £365k or 69% on the previous year.

3.6.2 Four editions of the Sustainable Funding Newsletter were produced containing information on a range of funders along with other useful articles to assist groups in their search for vital funds. Updates are posted two or three times a week on the funding section of the website and regular weekly e-bulletins are sent to over 350 groups.

3.6.3 Seven Funding Surgeries were held with representatives from a range of major funders including the Big Lottery Fund and Heritage Lottery Fund giving valuable advice on a 1-2-1 basis with Third Sector organisations. 88 groups attended these sessions. Groups are finding this access to funders, ahead of submitting an application, of great use resulting in a higher success rate.

3.6.4 Funding is still a major issue for many groups as the economic situation becomes harsher for those groups that receive most of their funding from statutory bodies e.g. local authorities. More groups are seeking funding from other sources, e.g. Trusts and Foundations and this is creating a more competitive environment.

3.7 Training Service

3.7.1 During the year, 18 group training events were scheduled, all aimed at building the capacity of local organisations. Training opportunities offered included:-

Introduction to Social Media

Minute Taking

Being a Trustee

Grants – Fit for Funding

Tackling Twitter

Business and Strategic Planning

Chairing Skills
Introduction to Tendering
Writing Funding Bids
Introduction to UK Parliament

3.7.2 A total of 77 delegates attended the training courses with 100% rating the training as either good or excellent.

3.7.3. GVS provides IT and social media 1-2-1 training courses. GVS held 5 training sessions with all attendees rating the courses as good or excellent.

3.8 Partnership, Consultation and Joint Working

3.8.1. The Third Sector is seen as an important partner in supporting the work of statutory bodies in a wide range of areas, and GVS is committed to working in partnership to develop and improve local services.

3.8.2 GVS continues to facilitate Third Sector Representation in formal joint planning in accordance with the agreed Protocol between the Local Authority and the Third Sector, via the Health, Social Care and Well Being Network, or via the full GVS membership where appropriate.

3.8.3 GVS has continued to represent the sector on the Public Service Board, other strategic partnership and appropriate sub-groups, ensuring the voice of the sector and the wider community is heard at all levels. In addition, with the Reshaping of Services agenda, GVS has been heavily involved in consultations and discussions with service providers regarding the participation of the Third Sector in the shaping and delivery of future services. GVS and other Third Sector organisations have been working with the local authority to ensure that people and communities are engaged every step of the way.

3.8.4 Some of the key Strategic Partnerships on which GVS plays a key role include:-

Vale Public Service Board
Vale Business Intelligence Group
Cross Service Tackling Poverty Group
Vale Reshaping Services Board
Vale Reshaping Services Challenge Group
Children and Young People's Partnership
Families First Strategic Executive Group
Flying Start Strategic Executive Group
Creative Rural Communities Local Action Group
Safer Vale Partnership
Equalities Consultative Forum
Barry Regeneration Area Board
Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee
Town & Community Councils Joint Liaison Committee
TCC Project Team
Barry Communities First Cluster Partnership
Cardiff and Vale Integrated Health & Social Care Regional Programme Board
Cardiff and Vale Integrated Health & Social Care Strategic Leadership Group
SOFW Project Board

UHB Third Sector Strategic Alliance Steering Group

3.8.5 Joint Working Groups

Ageing Well Group
Area Adult Protection Committee
Cardiff and Vale Area Planning Board
Cardiff and Vale Communication Hub KPI Group
Cardiff & Vale Public Health Employees Network
Cardiff and Vale UHB Stakeholder Reference Group
Cardiff University School of Social Sciences Ethics Committee
CAVAMH Mental Health Forum
Care and Repair Strategic Business Planning Committee
Carers Measure Working Group
Carers Strategy and Planning Group
Carers Support and Information Network Group (CSING)
Change Plan – Change Co-ordination Group
CYP Emotional & Mental Health Improvement Group
Greenlinks Steering Group
Dementia Supportive Communities
Developing Information & Support Centres in UHB
Developing Volunteering in the UHB
Domestic Abuse Forum
Food and Physical Activity group
Health, Social Care and Well Being Business Planning Group
Social Care Workforce Development Partnership
South East Health and Social Care Facilitators group
Sport Lot Community Chest
Tobacco Free Cardiff and Vale
UHB Public Health Steering Group
UHB Volunteer Stakeholder Group
Vale Locality Engagement Group
VOGC Providers Forum
Vale 50+ Strategy Forum
Workforce Strategy Group
Cardiff and Vale Learning Disability Planning Group
Workforce Development Sub Group Meeting

3.8.6 National networks

Institute of Fundraising Cymru
Wales Association of County Voluntary Councils
Wales Council for Voluntary Action Assembly Liaison Group
Wales Council for Voluntary Action Equality and Human Rights Coalition
Wales Council for Voluntary Action Health and Social Care network
Wales Funders Forum

3.9 Health, Social Care and Well Being

3.9.1 The Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Network

This network provides an opportunity to bring together all voluntary organisations operating in the Vale of Glamorgan who have an interest in health and social care. It facilitates a strong, collective voice, supports the involvement of voluntary organisations in planning, development and delivery of health and social care services, influences health and social care policy to bring about change and improve services and facilitates communication between the voluntary and statutory and other sectors. The Network has increased in numbers over the year and currently has over 280 members.

3.9.2 Four Network meetings were held during the year which received a variety of presentations from various agencies. Over 80 organisations attended the Network Meetings during 2016-17.

3.9.3 The Network e-bulletins, due to popular demand, are now sent weekly rather than monthly. The e-bulletins include updates on health and social care services in the Vale of Glamorgan, updates from Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, the Vale of Glamorgan Council, from Third Sector organisations and general wellbeing information.

3.9.4 The main achievements of our Health, Social Care and Well Being work during 2016/17 are:-

Clinical Board engagement

- Regular meetings with UHB Equalities throughout year
- IMTP event
- Clinical diagnostics team meeting
- Medicine team meeting with Age Connects
- Involved in development of Home First service specification, and evaluation of tenders received, via links with PCIC, December to January
- Surgery, meeting with patient flow co-ordinator, January
- Procurement session and ongoing liaison with procurement staff and third sector organisations
- Diabetes workshops

Joint briefings with Cardiff Third Sector Council

- Update on Health Charity awards, for UHB
- Mapping of briefing for BIG2 funding strand
- Housing Associations
- Major trauma network engagement
- Third sector organisations supporting families with children with ADHD
- Volunteer stakeholder group briefing

Funding and funding bids

- Intermediate Care Fund (ICF) £30k.
- ICF £40k for continuation of Friendly AdvantAGE in Vale.

- 5 draft bids to ICF underspend, 1 funded for £6k and 1 funded for £10k
- 13 applications for health charity, £20k.
- Funding for carers forum feasibility and carers accreditation H&SCF worked with Age Connects, Wiltshire Farm Foods, Bethel Baptist Church, Vale 50+ Forum and others to set up a Christmas Day lunch in Llantwit Major for older people who might otherwise be on their own. Also, worked with Hafod to expand provision in Barry.
- Directory of voluntary sector services over Christmas and New Year produced and circulated widely.
- Record breaking attendance at H&SCF Network meetings and other events, including 30 attendees at Network meeting in November, demonstrating good engagement with and valuing of the Network.
- Funding obtained from Health Board and Local Authorities for reprint of Carers' Directory, update will be printed early next year.

Network meetings and speakers

- Promo Cymru, Shine and BIG 2
- Vale Council Scrutiny, Age Connects Broker, Atal y Fro.
- Public Health about PNA, Ovarian Cancer Action, Advocacy Support Cymru.

3.10 Volunteering

3.10.1 GVS's volunteering service offers a huge array of volunteering roles depending on the volunteers' interests and skills. Volunteers provide invaluable help in the work of 3rd Sector organisations and beyond, which often enhance the range of services offered by paid staff.

3.10.2 Volunteering offers valuable experience which could aid study, help someone decide if they are thinking about a change in career or simply give them the opportunity to put something back into their community.

3.10.3 Communities First - a 12 month project aimed at supporting residents who live within the Barry Communities First cluster area in to volunteering. The project was designed to help achieve the following Community First Employability Performance measures:-

- Regular Volunteering as a route to work
- Residents more Involved in the Community through regular volunteering
- Participating in a personal and social development opportunity
- People who participate in regular volunteering to learn
- Participating in a positive activity twice a week
- Engaged in more community activity

3.10.4 A volunteer coordinator was employed to help develop community volunteering opportunities within the cluster area as well as to provide advice and support on

volunteering. The coordinator was responsible for the recruitment, induction and training of volunteers, and of ensuring that individuals felt supported when becoming a volunteer with and for the BCF team.

3.10.5 Pave the Way - funded by the Big Lottery Fund to support people, with lived experience of mental ill health, into volunteering to achieve wellbeing.

Employing a full time Volunteer Coordinator, the project aims:

- To introduce people into volunteering and provide them with the support needed to succeed and improve their physical and mental wellbeing
- To provide information and support to Volunteer Involving Organisations (these can be businesses, voluntary sector or public sector) so that they are better prepared and more willing to support volunteers wellbeing needs. We also provide education and support around anti-stigma and anti-discrimination
- To recruit and train volunteer Buddies for the project to work with volunteers

3.10.6 Youth Led Grant – as well as our core volunteering service engaging with 96 young people, our ‘Dish out Dosh’ panel of young people, with funding from Gwirvol, helped local organisations provide more youth volunteering opportunities in the Vale of Glamorgan. We were pleased to present cheques to four successful youth projects:

- Barry Beavers Disabled Swimming Club
- Amelia Trust Farm
- Vale Parent/Child Homework Support Club
- Cadoxton Youth Project

3.10.7 Introduction of Internal Monitoring Systems – a more concise database that brought together 3 previous monitoring systems to better represent the work carried out by GVS’s volunteering team.

3.10.8 Relocation of Core Volunteering Service – the closure of the Holton Road premises, and relocation to our Skomer Road office, allowed a ‘whole team’ approach to the aims of the volunteering service across GVS.

3.10.9 Increase in Drop-In Services – GVS presence in Cowbridge, Llantwit Major, Penarth and Barry helped our service reach a greater audience than previously.

3.10.10 Barry Library – a permanent presence for GVS that brought our service directly into the heart of the commercial and administrative centre of the Vale of Glamorgan.

3.10.11 Big Volunteering Fayre – a huge success that helped widen the opportunities for volunteering to both organisations and to the general public. With 57 organisations attending with their stalls, 306 visitors, 1247 enquiries and 300 ‘sign ups’ on the day.

3.10.12 General Activity in volunteering - despite cuts in volunteering funding, our general activity has met with huge success. With 2,914 general enquiries; of which 476 are enquiries from young people with 33 young people supported into volunteering placements and 117 Good Practice Checks carried out – all far exceeding our agreed targets.

3.11 GVS' Environmental Impact

3.11.1 GVS is committed to the welfare of the environment and endeavours to have a positive environmental impact. GVS recycles its printer cartridges, paper, tins, bottles, cardboard, plastics and most office equipment. GVS strives to send more and more information by e-mail and is now sending its membership approval packs by e-mail and using electronic questionnaires and evaluation forms instead of hard copies.

3.12 Efficiency Savings

3.12.1 GVS is committed and determined to make the best use of funders' money so has made efficiency savings in a number of areas. GVS constantly aims to become more efficient in every area of its work. Some of the saving initiatives include: encouraging over all contacts to receive GVS' Vista magazine and supplements by e-mail; introducing an e-bulletin service; restricting telephone calls made to mobile phones; turning off electrical items when not in use; using a smaller GVS room for our training courses rather than paying for room hire and encouraging our staff to only print if required. This, together with constant vigilance and hard negotiation, continues to ensure that GVS is getting the best possible deals on contracts and services.

3.13 Projects

3.13.1 Two cross region (Cardiff & Vale) consortium projects that GVS is involved have worked extremely well.

3.13.2 Friendly AdvantAGE

GVS was the fund holder and consortium manager for Friendly AdvantAGE. This has been a successful project receiving positive independent evaluation. The project came to an end in April 2016. Several of the individual projects have, after strenuous lobbying and negotiation, received funding from the Integrated Care Fund (ICF) overseen by C&V UHB in 2016/17.

3.13.3 Co-Creating Healthy Change

GVS, in partnership with Cardiff Third Sector Council (C3SC) - who is the fund holder and consortium lead - together with a group of other organisations continues to deliver across both unitary authority areas. The project came to an end in March 2017.

3.13.4 Consortium Development

This project commenced in October 2014 thanks to a grant from the Vale of Glamorgan's Voluntary Action Scheme. The project aims to bring together Third Sector Organisations to work in consortia to develop joint funding bids and also be in a robust position to jointly tender for contracts. To the end of March 2017 the project has brought in to the Vale of Glamorgan over £252,000. We have been informed that GVS has been successful with an additional Big Lottery funded consortium project (to the sum of £259k) which will commence in September 2017.

3.14 Future Plans

3.14.1 Glamorgan Voluntary Services is well placed to serve and support the third sector and the communities of the Vale of Glamorgan and surrounding area.

3.14.2 The sector as a whole is operating within a constrained economic environment and GVS is no different. As funders and partners are hit by austerity the knock on to GVS is very likely to be a reduction in core funding which we have already experienced from both Welsh Government and Local Government and much greater competition for the funding that is available.

3.14.3 It will be important that GVS continues to make efficiency savings in the successful manner of the past year, but having implemented these progressively over a sustained period of time, the opportunity to make such savings continues to reduce year on year.

3.14.4 Different ways of working and delivering services to our membership are constantly being explored with focus on moving more services into digital delivery.

3.14.5 It will however be imperative that additional sources of funding continue to be secured in the way that we have managed throughout this past year. Above all opportunities to develop unrestricted income streams need to be pursued, whether through donations or standalone income generation as has been achieved in this past year.

3.14.6 To this end we have undertaken a feasibility study, with funds from Welsh Government, to ascertain the viability of taking on one or more building via Community Asset Transfer (CAT) from the Local Authority. The study has shown that both buildings, with appropriate development and management, would provide the sort of additional income that would greatly assist GVS' financial wellbeing. We are in the process of submitting bids for two buildings under the CAT process and we are hopeful that at least one of these should come to fruition during the next twelve months

3.14.7 We also have several funding bids in process with Big Lottery and other funders that we hope will come to fruition over the next twelve months.

3.14.8 Whilst GVS is dedicated to ensuring that all of these plans are successful, the Board of Trustees is mindful that its plans must be financially robust and subject to due diligence whilst remaining flexible to meet the ever changing external environment.

Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)

4 GVS receives core funding from VOGC and employs 14 local people.

Sustainability and Climate Change Implications

5 GVS operates within an Environmental Policy.

Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)

6 Whilst there are no direct legal implications arising from this report, maintaining good relations with GVS will benefit the community in terms of improvement to human rights.

Crime and Disorder Implications

- 7 GVS' work with voluntary and community groups throughout the Vale of Glamorgan should assist in increasing social inclusion and reducing crime.

Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)

- 8 The Council's position on equality of opportunity is put into daily practice through the funding of GVS's work with the voluntary and community groups operating in the Vale of Glamorgan

Corporate/Service Objectives

- 9 Partnership working is a Core Value within the Council's Corporate Plan Policy Framework

Policy Framework and Budget

- 10 GVS represents the Third Sector on the VOGC Reshaping Services Board

Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)

- 11 N/A

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

- 12 All Scrutiny Committees

Background Papers

GVS Impact Report 2016-2017 **Appendix 1**

Contact Officer

Rachel Connor, Chief Executive, Glamorgan Voluntary Services

Officers Consulted

N/A

Responsible Officer:

Rachel Connor, Chief Executive, Glamorgan Voluntary Services



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a dark jacket over a grey top, is smiling and giving two thumbs up. She is positioned behind the text 'A DIFFERENCE'.

**IMPACT REPORT
2016 - 2017**



Empowering people. Inspiring excellence.
Strengthening communities.

Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS) is the County Voluntary Council (CVC) for the Vale of Glamorgan.

GVS is the umbrella body for the Vale of Glamorgan's Third or Voluntary Sector and our role is to support, develop and represent Third Sector organisations and promote volunteering in the Vale of Glamorgan. We have a flourishing membership of 735 community organisations active in the Vale of Glamorgan. We help to improve the quality of life of people and communities by supporting volunteers, volunteering opportunities and voluntary groups.

Thriving and cohesive communities require active engagement and involvement of local people. There is an increasing role for the Third Sector in the delivery of services and they have an invaluable role as partners and advocates for local communities. Our expert services help to provide a platform for a vibrant and robust Third Sector.



Our Vision is of a valued and respected Third Sector, in which GVS serves as a trusted leader, effective strategic partner and model of good practice for the Sector. Our Mission is that GVS aspires to empower people, inspire excellence and strengthen communities by stimulating and developing voluntary action. Our values determine what we do and the way we do it. GVS is committed to:

- Working collaboratively with others
- Being a learning and enabling organisation
- Conducting our business with integrity in an open, honest, transparent and accountable way
- Recognising and valuing staff and volunteers as our greatest resource and investing in them accordingly
- Voluntary and community action that is fundamental to the development of a democratic and socially inclusive society
- Diversity and equality of opportunity
- The value and roles of volunteers and volunteering
- Sustainable development
- Valuing its independence and working in mutually beneficial partnerships with others for the benefit of its citizens
- The achievement of quality standards and services



CHAIR'S FOREWORD

By Graham Benfield OBE



I am very proud to introduce this Impact Report which covers the second year of operation of Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS), formed last year from the merger of two organisations – Vale Volunteer Bureau and Vale Centre for Voluntary Services – which both had successful track records in supporting voluntary work in the Vale.

The aim of the merger was and is to build the best possible integrated service for our communities, and to develop an organisation with a strong shared vision and a clear mission which can be put into practice in ways which evidence its accountability, quality and impact. I believe this report demonstrates that we are beginning to achieve these hopes and aspirations in a number of complementary ways.

First and foremost is our role in representing the voluntary sector in the Vale and I am delighted that our membership has continued to increase to 735 organisations. This enhances our legitimacy and ensures our access to many decision makers and strategic discussions. This in turn helps many organisations to increase their own standing and influence within political and corporate circles, which in turn can give access to funds.

Second, we provide a wide range of practical services and events which support and strengthen volunteering and voluntary groups, and as this report shows we do this in a friendly, speedy, efficient, cost effective and reliable way in many different localities within the Vale.

Third, we excel in our provision of funding advice, training and information, and this year we nearly doubled the amount we helped members raise to £900,000 through our timely information, combined with one to one support and funding advice sessions.

Fourth, we like to work in collaboration with others and develop consortia where relevant. This has been particularly successful this year and provides much experience and a firm foundation for future service delivery.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow trustees for their enthusiasm and commitment and particularly Alan Higgins OBE and John Myall, who both retired from the board after many years of outstanding service, the kind and helpful staff who are “always willing to do the best for us” and the enduring support of our members and funders which we will never take for granted.

We look forward to next year with confidence and optimism as a strong, well-governed organisation with exciting and ambitious plans for the future.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

By Rachel Connor



For the past few years we have referred to the uncertainty that has faced GVS and the third sector here in the Vale of Glamorgan and how we and our voluntary and public sector partners have been challenged as public funding cuts continue to take effect.

Like many charitable organisations, we have continued to experience more reductions to our core funding and we have worked hard to guarantee that resources are maximised and targeted effectively to ensure that we deliver what the third sector here in the Vale needs as efficiently as possible.

During this time, GVS has remained committed to delivering a wide range of high quality support services to local voluntary and community groups and organisations, adapting our approach to meet the changing needs of our membership and the communities that they serve.

This Annual Impact Report reflects the hard work and determination that both Trustees and staff have contributed to ensure our work positively supports our local third sector. We know there is increasing pressure and demand on our sector and this is only going to increase as the third sector is pivotal in supporting the ambitions of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act and indeed, the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. It is our sector that is best placed to build resilient citizens and communities, providing localised support, volunteering opportunities and growing community networks.

Many third sector organisations are already noting increased referrals from statutory services that see them as being key partners in keeping people well, supported and independent in their own communities and preventing people from needing more formal services.

Strategic planning around all of this is crucial, as is investment to follow this demand and whilst discussions are not always easy, we are at least able to contribute to the dialogue as we demonstrate throughout the report.

We are extremely grateful to those partners and funders with whom we enjoy a well-established and mature relationship and who openly value, support and invest in the work of GVS and the third sector locally. Without them we would not be able to deliver the level of and diverse services we currently offer.

We hope to build on existing relationships and to develop new ones in the coming year to help shape the transformational changes that are needed to develop sustainable services here in the Vale of Glamorgan.



MEET THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Graham Benfield OBE
Chair



Conway Hawkins
Deputy Chair



Lynda Wallis
Deputy Chair



Sian Davies
Treasurer &
Trustee



Steve Cox
Trustee



Mari Major MBE
Trustee



Katherine Davies
Trustee



Pat Finch
Trustee



Gill Munro
Trustee



Michael Edwards
Trustee (from
Oct 2016)



John Porter
Trustee



John Myall
Trustee (until Oct
2016)



Penny Limer
Trustee (until
Oct 2016)



Tina Butler
Trustee (until
Aug 2016)



Alan Higgins OBE
Trustee (until
Oct 2016)



MEET THE STAFF & VOLUNTEERS



Rachel Connor

Chief Executive
Officer



Clive Curtis

Operational
Manager



Paul Warren

Operational
Manager



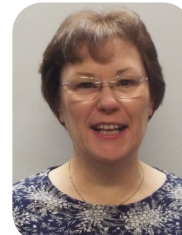
Dave Edwards

Development
Officer



**Janine
Richardson**

Development
Officer



Rhian Thomas

Consortium
Development
Officer



Linda Pritchard

Health & Social
Care Facilitator



Ceri Venners

Administration
Officer



Mark Stillman

Marketing &
Membership
Officer



Sang-Jin Park

Finance Officer



Jenny Booth

Finance &
Administration
Assistant



Kris Rees

Development
Officer



Julie Kitchen

Volunteer



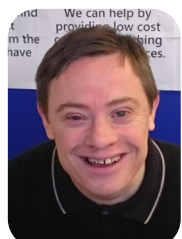
Stewart Ward

Volunteer



Angela Hart

Volunteer
Co-ordinator Barry
Communities First
(until Mar 2017)



Martin Vick

Volunteer (until
Dec 2016)



Ada Flinn

Volunteer (until
Aug 2016)



Clare Humphreys

Volunteer
Co-ordinator Barry
Communities First
(until Nov 2016)
and Pave the Way
Volunteer Officer
in the Vale (from
Nov 2016)



Sandra Roberts

Friendly
AdvantAGE
Project Manager
(until May 2016)



Cath Haines

Friendly
AdvantAGE
Project Assistant
(until May 2016)



FUNDING SERVICES

GVS' funding and information service provided support to 172 groups throughout the year with a reported £896,806 of funding obtained as a direct result of the advice and information issued by GVS.

Four editions of the Sustainable Funding Newsletter were produced containing information on a range of funders, along with other useful articles, to assist groups in their search for vital funds. Updates are posted weekly on the funding section of the website and regular weekly e-bulletins are sent to over 600 groups.

Five funding surgeries were held with representatives from a range of major funders giving valuable advice on a 1-2-1 basis to Third Sector organisations, with 37 groups attending these invaluable sessions.



Julie Hughes, Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), giving advice about an HLF application at GVS' funding surgery with Sarah and Kate from With Music in Mind CIC.

68% INCREASE

An impressive £896,806 was obtained through advice and information given by GVS.



IMPACT

"I just wanted to inform GVS that I have been successful in getting a £5,000 grant from the Big Lottery Fund. I wanted to say thank you to GVS for giving us the opportunity to present our proposal to the Lottery Fund at one of your funding surgeries. You do a wonderful job and I wish continued success to your organisation." Lynnette Knight, Cadoxton Conservation Group.

IMPACT

After attending a BBC Children in Need Funding Surgery, Touch Trust received £84,930 (over 3 years) in October 2016 to enable them to increase the services and activities they provide for their beneficiaries. "The funding will cover the cost of all our staff hours for after school clubs and weekends. Thanks for your help with this and for being a referee." Adele Gilmour, Touch Trust.

IMPACT

With Music in Mind CIC received £1,994 from the Postcode Community Trust to set up a pilot group to provide singing and social networking opportunities for people at risk of social isolation or loneliness. "Thank you once again for your suggestions and help." Dr Sarah Miles, Managing Director, With Music in Mind CIC.

PRACTICAL SERVICES

GVS' Practical Services cover a wide variety of free and low cost services suited to the needs of community groups. Groups accessing the services have been extremely satisfied. We offer free publicity, free equipment loan, low cost meeting room hire, post franking, printing, design and presentation services.

GVS' printing services were extensively used during 2016/2017 and the high quality printer certainly got full use. The service was used 165 times which is hugely impressive. Print jobs can vary from one to 5,000 copies. This was an increase of 22% on last year. We continue to add to our free equipment loan service and this now includes digital projectors, projector screens, laptops, tablet devices, display boards, cameras, sandwich boards and flipchart easels.

22% INCREASE

Our printing service was used 165 times.



IMPACT

"GVS always responds helpfully and efficiently to requests for printing newsletters etc, with excellent results which are admired by all our members." Val Caple, Craig & Penllyn Residents Association and four other member groups.

IMPACT

"We are very pleased that you can provide the projector, film screen lending service. The equipment enables us to use multiple venues where film screen facilities do not exist, and to invite speakers to give illustrative lectures. We are also pleased with the services you provide in the production of our quarterly Newsletter. You are always helpful, reliable and produce a high quality publication, often with limited available time. The Penarth Civic Society is happy to recommend the services of GVS." James T. Long, Chair, Penarth Civic Society.

IMPACT

"Excellent service, found it to be helpful, kind and polite, always willing to do the best for us." Heulwen Cooper, Barry Amateur Swimming Club.

IMPACT

"Your service is impeccable. Always a friendly welcome and a speedy return of the printing. GVS is certainly our first port of call if we need anything printed. As a charity, we are always looking for ways to keep to budget; GVS help us to achieve this by keeping their charges to an extremely reasonable rate. Don't stop!!!" Sheila Vaquerizo, Barry Community Choir.

ALL STARS CRICKET

Big moments

All Stars Cricket gives children the chance to play, learn great skills and meet new friends!

Barry Athletic CC
11 Chapel Road, Barry, CF62 9TD
Phone: 01495 240011 or 01495 240012

Starting from May 2017
For children aged 5 to 14
Register at allstarscricket.co.uk

Includes Personalised Kit!

Easter COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 15th April
10.30 - 1 pm
Lesser Hall,
Cowbridge Town Hall

Come along for coffee, cake and friendly faces
Age Connects - Helping older people

age connects
cardiff & the vale

The Friendship Tree Festival

Looking for Artists & Craftspeople!

July 24th 1pm - 7pm
The Knap Lake, Gardens & Local Cafes

Looking for Arts and Crafts Individuals / Companies to exhibit. It's FREE!

Simply bring everything you need and be set up by 1pm.
See you there!

Check in, share & tag your photos #FriendFest
FREE ENTRY. Donations kindly made go to Art4u

BARRY MALE VOICE NEEDS YOU.

YES YOU MR SHOWER CROONER!

JOIN BARRY MALE VOICE CHOIR FOR A FREE TASTER EVENING AND A PINT.

You don't have to be a trained singer. If you can sing in the shower, you can sing in a choir. So come to our taster evening on Monday 7th November between 8.15 and 9.15. Barry Male Voice Choir 7.30pm with singing from 8.15pm, followed by a buffet. No embarrassing auditions. We promise to sing up, and have a good time. You can expect a warm welcome and free food... See you there!

TASTER EVENING: MONDAY 7TH NOVEMBER, 7.30PM AT THE WEST END CLUB, BARRY
FOR MORE DETAILS CALL: 07790552565 | www.barrymalevoicechoir.co.uk



DEVELOPMENT & ADVICE SERVICES

In these challenging times of dwindling public trust and austerity, good governance is of paramount importance for our Sector. We are proud to support local groups and charities with a range of governance related matters – from choosing the right legal structure, to support with developing a robust constitution. We are here to help give trustees the guidance and confidence they need in order to run their organisations legally and efficiently.

GVS continues to support new and existing groups and charities that exist to improve the lives of Vale of Glamorgan residents.

29,966

An impressive 29,966 information sheets were downloaded from GVS' website, which have been invaluable in helping us deal with the more general day to day enquiries.

IMPACT

"15 months in the planning, Woody's Lodge, a fledgling charity, working to support armed forces veterans and officers from the emergency services, would not have developed this far without the support, advice and encouragement from GVS. Membership of GVS has enabled Woody's Lodge's standing and support within political and corporate circles to grow, which in turn has given us access to significant grant income going forward." Dr David Trotman CEO, Woody's Lodge.

IMPACT

"We wanted to register our Council as a Charity and were encountering some difficulties as some of our objects in our constitution were not charitable. Kris and Clive from Glamorgan Voluntary Services helped me with the application and spent so much time behind our application. In fact I went to see them three times and all the time they willingly helped me sort out my concerns. We, Executive Members of Hindu Council of Wales are very grateful to Kris and Clive for their kind support." Vimla Patel, Hindu Council of Wales.

IMPACT

"Meeting with Kris from GVS' Development Services has been an absolute lifeline for me and the other volunteers. We now are more knowledgeable and feel safeguarded - and feel we have made 'lifelong friends'." Teresa McGuire, Friends of Llantwit Major Dementia Café (pictured below with Kris Rees, GVS).





VOLUNTEERING SERVICES

GVS' volunteering service offers a one-stop resource for information, advice and guidance on all aspects of volunteering for both volunteers and recruiting organisations. We aim to link the skills, experiences, time and enthusiasm of local people looking to volunteer, with organisations seeking to develop their services. This service is delivered at a number of venues across the Vale of Glamorgan, as well as at our main office in Barry, to ensure that we are able to reach those across the county.

With the new organisational structure of GVS, the volunteering service has been able to further meet the needs and requirements of recruiting organisations and volunteers and to work more effectively with partner organisations at Barry Library, Penarth Library, Llantwit Library and at Cowbridge College. For Volunteers Week in 2016, we held a number of events to publicly recognise the difference made by volunteers, to raise the profile of volunteering as well as encouraging others to get involved. We organised a Community Fun Day held on Kings Square in Barry.

Our Big Volunteer Fayre in January 2017 was a success that exceeded our expectations. A huge thank you must go out to all staff and volunteers who contributed to making the event not only a fantastic showcase for GVS, but also helped widen the opportunities for volunteering to both organisations and to the general public.



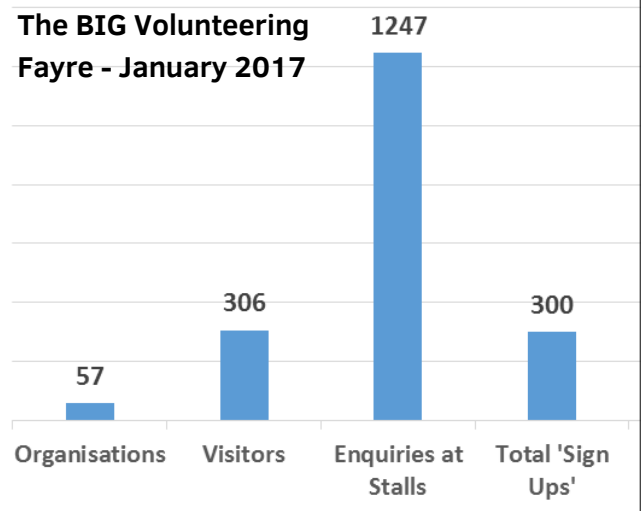
"Today's been very very helpful and all the ladies and gentlemen on the stands have given me lots of information. Janine from GVS was particularly helpful and hopefully it will lead to volunteer work." (Attendee at GVS' BIG Volunteering Fayre, January 2017).

2,914

Our Volunteering Service received and dealt with 2,914 volunteering enquiries.



The BIG Volunteering Fayre - January 2017



VOLUNTEERING SERVICES

Our Youth Work in 2016/17 engaged with 96 young people. Our 'Dish out Dosh' panel of young people worked together in 2016, with money from Gwirvol, to help local organisations provide more youth volunteering opportunities in the Vale of Glamorgan. We were pleased to present cheques to four successful youth projects: Barry Beavers Disabled Swimming Club, Amelia Trust Farm, Vale Parent/Child Homework Support Club and Cadoxton Youth Project.

INCREASED

Our Volunteering Service supported 96 young people into volunteering.

Our Pave the Way project is funded by the Big Lottery Fund to support people with lived experience of mental ill health into volunteering to achieve wellbeing. It started in October 2016, operates throughout Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan. It is led by Cardiff and Vale Action for Mental Health (cavamh) in partnership with GVS and Voluntary Community Services (VCS). This has ensured that the project is delivered in your community, led by the organisation which understands your area and the volunteering opportunities available.



Through funding from Barry Communities First (BCF), we embarked upon a 12 month project aimed at supporting residents who live within the BCF cluster area into volunteering. A Volunteer Co-ordinator was employed to help develop community volunteering opportunities within the cluster area, as well as to provide advice and support on volunteering.

53% ABOVE TARGET

GVS had 476 volunteering enquiries for the year which far exceeded the target of 310.



"I developed epilepsy from a motorcycle accident while living abroad and was hidden away from the community as it's not an accepted medical condition. I lost my confidence for going out and meeting people, had no social life, was not able to work, and developed serious anxiety and depression. I moved back to the UK two years ago for the advanced medical system which has finally controlled my condition. I began searching for jobs but I couldn't find any paid work due to my epilepsy, so considered volunteering. I contacted GVS who helped me select what type of work I'd be interested in. When I started volunteering it slowly started to rebuild my confidence, gave me a social life, and I found it very rewarding to help people with tasks they might find difficult. Finding volunteering has helped me to have a life like a normal person. And I'm feeling confident about the future." Male, 31 years old - Digital Inclusion Volunteer.

HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE & WELL BEING

GVS ran two small grant programmes during this year. Cardiff and Vale Health Charity awarded £20,000 for a small grant programme managed by GVS, (in liaison with Cardiff 3rd Sector Council-C3SC). Seven projects were funded and the results show the value of grant schemes in enabling the Third Sector to undertake small scale pieces of work.

£20,000

GVS ran a grant programme totalling £20,000 awarded from Cardiff and Vale Health Charity with seven projects funded.

IMPACT

"Singing for Lung Health Cardiff provides an invaluable service to those who attend and we are focused on promoting the group further so that higher numbers of people with lung disease are able to access the benefits. We are dependent upon funding grants and the Cardiff and Vale Health Charity 'Make It Better' Third Sector small grants fund has given us an extremely helpful start."

We also worked with the Vale of Glamorgan Council to develop an Integrated Care Fund (ICF) older people's services Third Sector small grant scheme for the Vale of Glamorgan. £27,000 was made available and eight organisations were awarded funding. Services included lunch clubs, art classes, meals on wheels, home adaptations, iPads to use with older people in hospital and an exercise and wellbeing programme.

IMPACT

"The fact that I know my lunch is coming and I will see and speak to the driver, is what one beneficiary valued most about the service."

IMPACT

"These classes have introduced a new energy – giving joy to the people who come here and ideas to the staff to use. They bring people back to life and to see their obvious pride and happiness is heart-warming."

We were also fortunate to secure funding for a continuation of the Friendly AdvantAGE befriending service in the Vale of Glamorgan and some further funding via an ICF underspend. Over 20 new volunteers were recruited for the befriending services, supported by the ICF.

IMPACT

"When we first started going out I used to cower in the back seat of the car, now I enjoy the trips, I'm like a different person. J (the volunteer) has made such a difference."



This has meant that almost £100,000 in total has been made available to the Third Sector through the provision of small grants.

The Health and Social Care Facilitator attended six team meetings with health and social care staff with the aim of increasing their awareness of Third Sector services.

IMPACT

"Dear Linda, thank you so much for your session this morning. I know those who attended were really interested and found the information very useful and that it would hugely support their own practice within the community."



HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE & WELL BEING

The Carers Support and Information Network Group (CSING) is chaired by the GVS Health and Social Care Facilitator and meets four times a year. CSING now has 39 members representing carers services provided across all sectors.

The Cardiff and Vale Population Needs Assessment (PNA) has been completed. The Health and Social Care Facilitator provided a summary of 13 previously held Third Sector engagement events to ensure that the themes and issues raised in these events were included in the PNA.

GVS and C3SC Health and Social Care Facilitators attend Health Board staff induction sessions every month. This year we have spoken to approximately 1,200 new members of staff and they now have a greater understanding of the Third Sector.

GVS' Health and Social Care Facilitator had meetings with 25 Third Sector organisations during the year, finding out more about what they do and providing information about partnership working, funding and service development.

We also try to influence policy and strategy and put forward a Third Sector point of view. All the responses we produce reference Third Sector services in them and their contribution to health and social care.



"Thanks ever so much for this response. It is helpful feedback. I have noted the points being raised."

We continue to update the Directory of Services for Carers and the Directory of Services for Older People as we receive excellent feedback about them.



"Just to say this is a fantastic directory and your work and time is much appreciated."

During a public engagement event held in Cardiff County Hall a carer came over to speak to the Patient Experience Support Advisor, as she wanted to express her gratitude for the Carers Directory.



"The Carer had been given the directory at a previous event and had found it very useful, especially as the carer had been in the armed forces and was unaware of the type of help that British Legion provided. Since receiving the directory she had been able to utilise the handy man service that the British Legion provided, and said that the directory was the most useful document she had received to date."

1,200

We have attended monthly Health Board staff induction sessions and have spoken to approximately 1,200 new members of staff.





MEMBERSHIP

GVS' membership is made up of full and associate members who serve the Vale of Glamorgan.

The second year of GVS membership has reached a remarkable 735 members for 2016-2017.

Our members' details can be found via our searchable database feature at www.gvs.wales/support-for-groups/information-services/gvs-directory-of-members



INCREASED BY 8% TO 735

The second year of GVS in operation has reached a remarkable 735 groups as members, compared to 676 in 2015 - 2016.



INFORMATION SERVICES

We provide a wide-ranging information service which helps enable communication between our members, statutory bodies and the general public.

Our website and information leaflets are available in both English and Welsh. Our information service was accessed 2,792 times with members receiving additional information via weekly e-bulletins.

"Vista", the GVS quarterly magazine, along with Sustainable Funding News, is published in-house four times a year and is distributed to 760 groups and individuals.



INCREASED TO 2,792

Our Information Service was used 2,792 times.





TRAINING SERVICES

GVS continues to offer and provide a comprehensive training programme. During the year, 19 group training events were scheduled, all aimed at building the capacity of local organisations. Training opportunities offered included:

- Introduction to Social Media (twice)
- Making Every Contact Count
- Governing Your Organisation
- First Aid
- Negotiating and Influencing
- Taking Minutes
- Tackling Twitter
- Legal Structures
- Basic First Aid
- Community Asset Transfer
- Business Planning
- Sustainable Fundraising
- Governing Your Organisation
- Grants – Fit for Funding
- Chairing Skills
- Introduction to UK Parliament
- Introduction to Tendering
- Blogging using WordPress



A total of 77 delegates attended the training courses, with 100% rating the training as either good or excellent. GVS also provides 1-2-1 IT training courses.

IMPACT

“The aspect I found most useful from the training was gaining a sound initial overview of various social media tools. I had limited knowledge of some apps/social media tools. I can take away what I have learnt today and put this into practice both in the workplace and for personal use.” (Social Media for Beginners, May 2016).

IMPACT

“The aspect I found most useful was the case studies, thinking about issues that could come up and source information. Excellent, the perfect course to begin.” (Grants - Fit for Funding, November 2016).

IMPACT

“The aspect I found most useful was information that I can apply at a practical level as a Chair.” (Chairing Skills course, Nov 2016).

IMPACT

“Great value, good course, Dave was great!” (Planning and Writing Funding Bids, December 2016).

IMPACT

“Fantastic overview.” (Get Ready to Tender, February 2017).



NETWORKS

Our Networks continue to be a popular way for voluntary and community organisations to access and share information. Networks supported by GVS were:

The Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Network

The Network continues to meet four times a year, membership increased by 15% and now totals 410 people from a range of sectors and organisations. There were presentations this year by Shine Cymru, the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Democratic and Scrutiny Services, Age Connects Third Sector Broker in the Vale of Glamorgan, the Health Board's Perfect Locality initiative, Advocacy Support Cymru and the local Public Health Team who spoke about the Population Needs Assessment.



14% INCREASE

The Health, Social Care and Well Being Network's membership has increased from 360 last year to 410 members this year.



"The Vale Health, Social Care and Wellbeing meeting was a very informative meeting so thank you!"



"I have to say a big thank you to the Team for all the work you all do. I have special praise for your work because of the contacts I've built up through your Health and Social Care Network Meetings and the chance to share the work we do with others."

Trustee Network

The Network provides the opportunity to access free, up to the minute professional expertise on issues critical to good governance and management. The Network is the only local forum dedicated to responding specifically to the requirements Trustees encounter in undertaking their governance roles and responsibilities. In the past 12 months, the Network has received presentations covering changes to Charity Law and Charity Accounting.



"A great opportunity to get expert advice and information from the experts at the Trustee Network."



"The Trustee Network gives me the chance to speak with other trustees, share knowledge and learn from one another."



NETWORKS

Vale Voluntary Action and Community Development Network (VVACDN)

The Network meets three times a year and a variety of informative and interesting presentations were arranged, with GVS officers and guest speakers providing useful input at each meeting. The Network is open to any organisation with an interest in volunteering or voluntary action. Phil Southard, (pictured right), Vale of Glamorgan Council's Culture and Community Learning Manager spoke at the July 2016 meeting.



"Great meeting this morning, some valuable contacts made, in terms of funding going forward, communications and developing our profile locally." Dr David Trotman, Woody's Lodge.



"I've only been able to attend a few of the Network meetings but they have given me the opportunity to make many new contacts, to spread the good word about the help available to the RAF Veterans out in the Community, that there is help for them, if the need arises. My sincere thanks to GVS staff for the valuable support they have provided to take my work forward." Geoff Horton, Hon. Welfare Officer, Barry RAF Association.

15% INCREASE

The Vale Voluntary Action and Community Development Network's membership has increased from 128 to 147 in the last year.



DEWIS CYMRU

GVS worked in partnership with the Dewis Cymru project to assist in the promotion and development of the online directory for health and wellbeing related services. Kris Rees, a development officer at GVS, contacted appropriate services across Cardiff and the Vale which led to 345 Third Sector organisations being registered. While Kris' direct involvement on the project came to end in September 2016, GVS continues to promote and support the aims of Dewis Cymru.

More information about Dewis Cymru can be viewed on their website: www.dewis.wales



CONSORTIUM DEVELOPMENT

2016/2017 has been a very busy and productive year with funding secured for new and deserving projects.

In March 2017, GVS was successful in gaining £259,202 from the Big Lottery Fund to run the Connected Carers project. GVS will lead the project and work in partnership with Cardiff & Vale Parents' Federation and Touch Trust. Connected Carers will work with family carers of people with life-long and/or life-limiting conditions in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan. It will provide advice and information surgeries, training and self-development and social networking activities for the project beneficiaries.

The Consortium Development Officer contributed to the Pave the Way project which secured £249,701 from the Big Lottery Fund to support people with mental ill health into volunteering and organisations to provide appropriate volunteering opportunities for them.

The Fireflies Consortium was developed by GVS with Newydd and Hafod Housing Associations and The Vale of Glamorgan Environment and Housing Department. Fireflies supports GVS members and users and Housing Association tenants to familiarise themselves with, and participate in, volunteering opportunities and pathways into employment.

GVS was the lead organisation in a consortium bid to the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioners Fund for £3,000. Other partners were the Vale of Glamorgan Council (Youth Services) and Cadoxton Youth Project. The funding was to engage young people in the Communities First area of Barry to assist in the regeneration of open spaces.

Over the course of the last 30 months of the Consortium Development project, over 150 meetings, events and seminars have been attended; 12 consortia have been developed, four of which have been successful and three of these have attracted external funding. A support pack has been produced to assist organisations with information on consortia development and dealing with major funders.

IMPACT

"Working in a consortium is a great way of pooling resources and skills to achieve shared goals. We need to work together in these days of austerity to deliver the best services for people in our communities." Adele Gilmour, Former Connected Carers consortium member (pictured far right).

IMPACT

"It has been a rewarding experience to work alongside partners that not only understand our goals but share them. Communication between all parties has been excellent and succinct despite an incredibly complicated and drawn out process."

John Cushen, Cardiff & the Vale Parents' Federation (pictured on the left with Rhian Thomas, GVS Consortium Development Officer, centre).

£259,202

GVS was successful in March 2017 in gaining £259,202 from the Big Lottery Fund to run the Connected Carers project.

£249,701

The Officer supported the development of the Pave the Way project which secured £249,701 from the Big Lottery Fund.





PARTNERSHIP, CONSULTATION AND JOINT WORKING

The Third Sector is seen as an important partner in supporting the work of statutory bodies in a wide range of areas, and GVS is committed to working in partnership to develop and improve local services.

GVS continues to facilitate Third Sector representation in formal joint planning in accordance with the agreed protocol between the Local Authority and the Third Sector, via the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Network, or via the full GVS membership where appropriate.



GVS has continued to represent the Sector on the Local Service Board, other strategic partnerships and appropriate sub-groups, ensuring the voice of the Sector and the wider community is heard at all levels. In addition, with the Reshaping Services Agenda, GVS has been heavily involved in consultations and discussions with service providers regarding the participation of the Third Sector in the shaping and delivery of future services. In addition, GVS represents the Third Sector on a number of key strategic partnerships ensuring the voice of the Sector is articulated at the highest level. GVS is represented on almost 60 strategic partnerships and joint working groups.

60

GVS is represented on 60 strategic partnerships and joint working groups.



"Working with GVS has enabled the voice of our service users to be heard at the highest possible level – this has given us confidence in the planning and decision making process which affects and impacts upon those who use our services."



MARTIN VICK, GVS VOLUNTEER

Martin Vick, GVS Volunteer, sadly passed away in December 2016. Martin was full of life and joy which was hugely infectious to the team. He had a wonderful zest for life and he was almost certainly born with a smile on his face. He volunteered at GVS once a week, finding time amongst all his other commitments to put in an efficient and effective shift whilst bringing happiness to the office for that day each week. He loved music and entertained us with his singing and knowledge of music. He had a passion for football and talked with enthusiasm about what his squad would be if he was manager.

Martin was a true gentleman who will surely be missed by everyone who was fortunate enough to meet him. Thank you Martin from the GVS team for enriching our lives.





Empowering people.

Inspiring excellence.

Strengthening communities.

Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS)

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Social Media: @GVolServices

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