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Major events return!

A number of major events are set to return to the Caerphilly county borough this summer including the Tour of Britain bike race, BBC Proms in the Park, the Big Cheese and a number of other exciting events across the area.

We also have a new addition to the list this year - the first ever **Caerphilly 10k** run on **Sunday June 23rd** (see inside for more information).

The Big Cheese

comes to town on **27th** and **28th July** with the usual mix of events, activities, music, dance and funfair rides for all the family.

BBC Proms in the Park

will be returning to Owain Glyndwr Playing Fields, Caerphilly for the third time on **Saturday 7th September**. Wales will once again be part of the BBC Proms Last Night celebrations as the BBC National Orchestra of Wales brings the Proms in the Park to Caerphilly for an evening of spectacular performances in the open air, against the magnificent backdrop of Caerphilly Castle.

The Tour of Britain

takes place on **Thursday 19th September** when elite cyclists from around the world speed through the streets of the county borough before racing to the finishing line in Caerphilly.

Leader of Caerphilly County Borough Council, Cllr Harry Andrews said, "We are absolutely delighted to be welcoming these prestigious events back to Caerphilly this year, as well as our new attractions such as the 10k run.

These events benefit local people and help bring many visitors into the Caerphilly county borough to give the local economy a major boost," he added.

To keep up to date with event news including ticket details, please visit www.caerphilly.gov.uk



Caerphilly Homes - Investing in YOUR future



The council will spend over **£200m** improving local homes

In 2012, council tenants across the county borough voted in favour of the local authority retaining and managing its housing stock.

The council has developed a plan to deliver the Welsh Housing Quality Standards (WHQS) and will spend over £200 million improving local homes over the next few years.

Cllr Gerald Jones, Deputy leader of the council said "This massive investment will transform council homes, lives and communities and the service helping to deliver this ambitious programme of works is now called '**Caerphilly Homes**'. We want to involve tenants in what we are doing and we want to ensure they have a voice in the way we improve their homes in the future."

Last year (2012/13), the authority spent nearly £18m on the WHQS programme with £5m on energy efficiency, £3m on central heating, £2m on re-wiring, £3m on kitchens and bathrooms, £2m on roofing, £1m on adaptations, £1m on external improvements to Cornish homes and £1/2m on windows.

Over the next financial year (2013/14) we will spend more than £13m with 40 streets benefiting from improvement works in Panside, Abertridwr, Pwllpant, Senghenydd, Penyrheol and the Upper Rhymney Valley. In 2014/15 we will spend £30m when work on the external programme starts.

The type of works will include replacement kitchen and bathrooms as well as the upgrade of the electrical and heating installations. The council has also set up a Community Improvement Fund that will see £50,000 set aside each year over a period of 5 years to contribute towards individual community-based projects that help to improve the social and environmental fabric of communities. Bids for this funding will be considered for individual projects up to a value of £5,000.

For more information go to www.caerphilly.gov.uk/housing or call **01443 866493**.

Caerphilly Homes

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Your Newsline

"Newsline is produced by the council to bring you all the latest news and information from across the county borough. We are keen to hear your views about the publication and we welcome any feedback.

Please contact me if you have any queries about the information featured in Newsline and I will pass on your comments to the relevant department. Don't forget – Audio and large print versions of Newsline are also available on request."

Stephen Pugh - Editor e-mail: pughs@caerphilly.gov.uk

Post: Communications Unit, Penallta House, Tredomen Park, Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed, CF82 7PG.

2013 BRASS BANDS IN THE PARK

16th June Morgan Jones Park - St Albans Concert Band
Blackwood Showfield - Markham & District Colliery Band
Tiryberth Park - Blaenavon Town Band

7th July Waunfawr Park - Rogerstone Band
Bargoed Park - RAF St Athan Voluntary Band
Ystrad Mynach Park - Oakdale Silver Band
Tredegar Park - Pontypool Brass Band

18th August Waunfawr Park - Crosskeys Silver Band
Morgan Jones Park - BTM Band
Nelson Wern Park - Llwyd Coed Band

Community and Town Councils across the Caerphilly County Borough are sponsoring Bands in the Park to provide relaxing Sunday afternoons full of music.

All events run 2.30pm-5pm and are free for all the family.

Parks Services - **01495 235463**
Email - parks@caerphilly.gov.uk
Website - www.caerphilly.gov.uk/parklife



Recycle Right!

Thanks to your help, Caerphilly is leading the way in Wales with its recycling efforts.

In December it was revealed that Caerphilly was 2nd in the Welsh recycling league table, recycling an impressive 59.9% of waste in our county borough! Our award-winning efforts are made possible thanks to the ongoing support and co-operation of residents across the area.

It is important that you only dispose of recyclable material in your recycling bin to avoid cross-contamination. The most common issue we face is food waste being incorrectly placed in the recycling bin. Food waste must only be placed in your food waste caddy for collection.

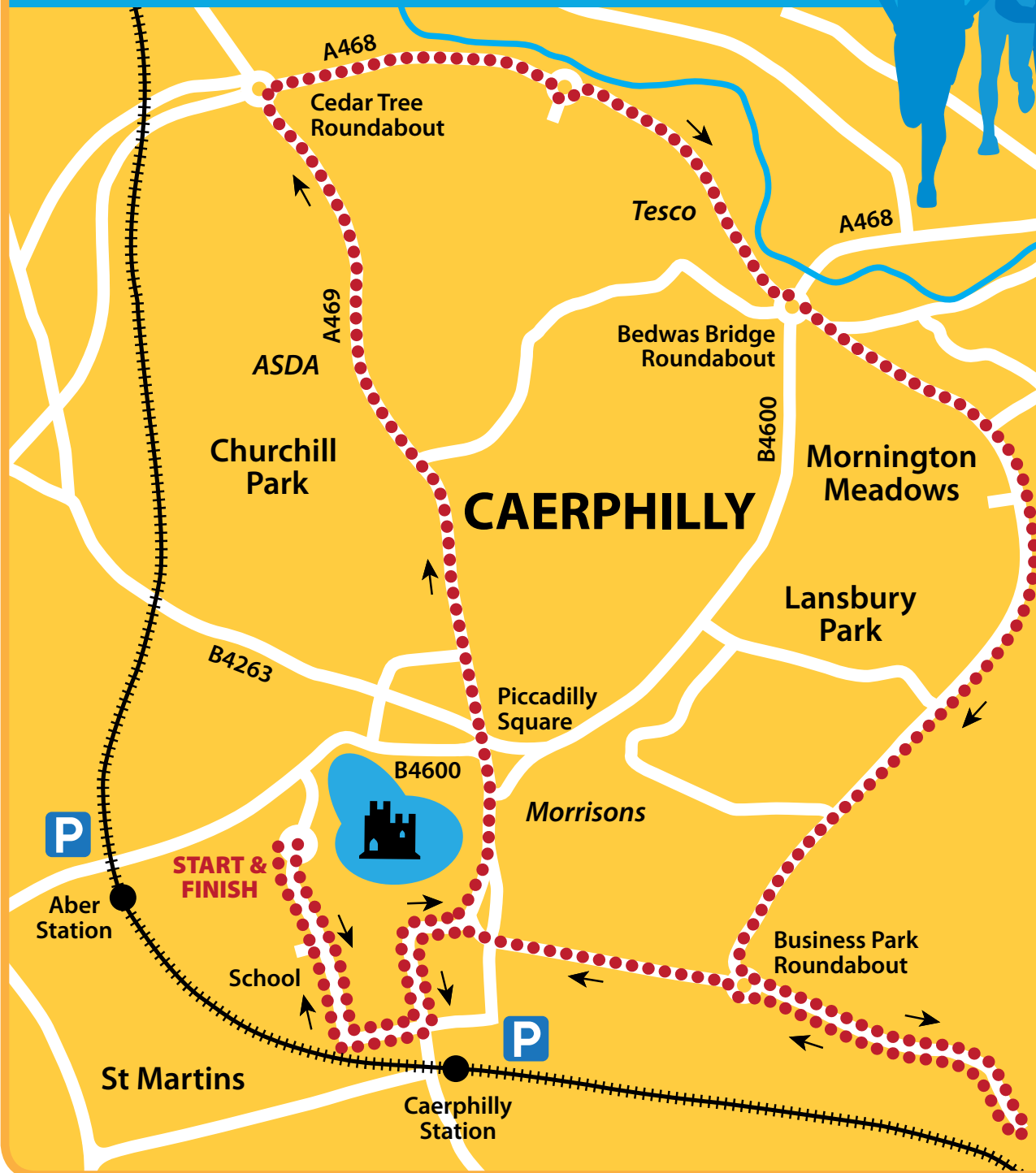
If any items in your brown recycling bin are not able to be recycled, a leaflet will be provided detailing which items need to be removed before it can be collected on the next collection day.

For a full list of items that can be recycled visit www.caerphilly.gov.uk/recycling



CAERPHELLY 10K

10am, SUNDAY 23rd JUNE 2013



Hundreds of runners will gather in Caerphilly on Sunday 23rd June for the first ever Caerphilly 10k run.

The 6.2 mile course will lead participants in and around the town centre, with the start and finishing line located on Crescent Road, in the shadow of Caerphilly Castle. Residents are urged to go along and support the runners. A number of road closures and traffic restrictions will need to be put in place between 7.00am and 1.00pm in order to allow the event to run safely. Every effort will be made to re-open roads as soon as it is safe to do so, but it is inevitable that there will be some disruption in the town centre. The map shows the full route and the areas affected by the road closures. Residents are urged to take note and motorists planning to travel through the area on the morning of Sunday 23rd June should use alternative means.

To sign up, it's easy! Simply go to www.caerphilly.gov.uk/10k to book a place on the run.

Surface Dressing coming to a road near you

We have all felt the effects of the cold winter months this year, with the county borough's roads bearing no exception.

Running from May to June, Caerphilly County Borough Council will be operating a road resurfacing programme on carriageways throughout the county borough, using a technique known as "surface dressing."

Surface dressing firstly seals the existing road surface with a waterproof layer of bitumen that is well known for its waterproofing properties. By keeping the rain and frost out of the road construction, the life of the road can be extended by preventing the formation of potholes and cracks.

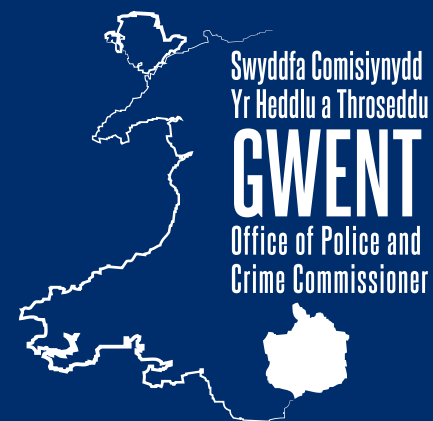
Stone chippings are then applied to provide the road surface with suitable skid resistance to reduce the possibility of road traffic accidents.

The good news is that surface dressing is a very quick method of resurfacing our roads so disruption is minimal. Up to a mile of road can be surface dressed in just one day and can last between seven and fifteen years. Not bad for a days work!!

Cllr Tom Williams, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transportation and Engineering, said, "The council has over 1100 km of maintainable highway, essential for travel and business, which may require maintenance treatment at any time. The Highways Team constantly work to ensure this network of roads do not become vulnerable to winter weather such as flooding, snow and ice, which can cause severe deterioration of the road surface."



Listening to and working for YOU...



Dear Resident,
I've visited many communities in Gwent during my first six months as your Police and Crime Commissioner.

I've listened to your concerns – about not seeing officers as often as you would like, not being sure about which police stations you can visit and finding someone to help, and your fears about becoming a victim of crime.

I've now produced my first police and crime plan for Gwent and I want to ensure you are confident in the service Gwent Police provides.

My plan is straightforward and transparent. On your behalf, not only will I hold the Chief Constable to account, I intend to:

- Put victims at the heart of everything we do
- Ensure that people in Gwent are less affected by crime and anti-social behaviour
- Protect you from serious harm
- Provide you with a police service that is value for money

View a copy of the plan on our website:
www.gwent.pcc.police.uk/plan

You can contact me at:
commissioner@gwent.pnn.police.uk
or telephone: (01633) 64 22 00

or write to me at:
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Police Headquarters
Croesyceiliog
Cwmbrân
Gwent
NP44 2XJ.

Ian Johnston QPM
Police & Crime Commissioner for Gwent



Have your say on priorities

Each year the council has a duty to choose a set of priorities for improvement over the forthcoming year. These are called 'Improvement Objectives' and we are currently in the process of setting our Improvement Objectives for 2013-14.

Finding out what you think about our possible choices is a very important part of this process.

We would like your views on the following areas that we have identified as Improvement Objectives for 2013/14. We want you to tell us what you think about them by completing our online survey, which can be found at www.caerphilly.gov.uk. We will use your feedback to set our new Improvement Objectives and will publish them with the results of our consultation in July.

A hard copy of the survey can also be obtained from Libraries. Alternatively, the survey can be obtained by contacting Ros Roberts, Performance Manager on 01443 864238 or email: roberr@Caerphilly.gov.uk



Our Improvement Objectives for 2013/14 are:

- We are committed to ensuring children and young people who are looked after by Caerphilly County Borough Council are supported to achieve their full potential in a joined up way.
- We will improve job opportunities in our County Borough by implementing the Council's Passport Scheme to create employment and training opportunities for young people.
- We will develop an effective and accessible Youth Service that supports the personal and social development of young people.
- We will improve awareness, access, variety and use of leisure, community and sporting facilities in our borough.
- We will transform Council homes, lives and communities through our investment in the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS).
- We will improve the quality and management of private sector housing for vulnerable people and work to prevent the number of residents who may become homeless.

Dignity in Care - Making it happen!

Everyone can agree that being treated with Dignity and Respect is a basic human right.

The 50+ Positive Action Partnership working together with Age Cymru and the Caerphilly County Borough 50+ Forum recently ran a workshop which discussed how to promote and improve dignity and respect in both Private and Local Authority residential care homes across the borough.

Over 50 people attended representing those working and living in residential care including residential home managers, home residents, their relatives and Caerphilly County Borough 50+ Forum members.

The next workshop will focus on developing practical solutions and again we want to ensure as many 50+ residents across the borough have a chance to get involved, so the Caerphilly County Borough 50+ forum are running a public event on the 6 June at the New Cottage Dance Centre from 10.00 to discuss ways they can help 'Make it Happen'!

Councillor Robin Woodyatt Cabinet Member for Social Services said "Treating everyone with dignity should be a core principle for all our services and this type of excellent proactive work ensures that residents and managers have the chance to work together to improve the services we provide."

If you would like to attend the 50+ forum public event, are interested in getting involved or simply would like to find out what the priorities for action are, please contact Mandy Sprague on 01443 864277 or email her on spragm@caerphilly.gov.uk



The newly re-furbished Aberbargoed Library is set to open its doors to the public on Monday 20th May 2013.

The much loved community facility is back by popular demand and is set to host a range of new fixtures including a range of audio books and DVD's, public Internet PC's and photocopying facilities. The library will also be home to Flying Start Health Visitors who will manage the new play area to the rear of the building.

Revised opening times for the facility are detailed below:

DAY	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning	10:30am - 1pm	10:30am - 1pm	10:30am - 1pm	10:30am - 1pm	10:30am - 1pm
Afternoon / Evening	Closed	2pm - 6pm	2pm - 5pm	2pm - 5pm	2pm - 4:30pm

Closed for lunch between 1pm and 2pm

Cllr. Keith Reynolds Deputy Leader said, "I along with my fellow ward member Cllr. Alan Higgs am delighted that the Library will once again open its doors to the residents of Aberbargoed. The impressive refurbishment will ensure the facility will remain a popular venue for members of the community to socialise and enjoy all the library has to offer."

For further information about all the Library service has to offer please visit www.caerphilly.gov.uk alternatively contact headquarters on **01443 864068**.



Library development reaches new heights!

Works to construct Caerphilly town centre's new state-of-the-art Library and Customer Service Centre has reached new heights - with the developers for the scheme having recently reached the building's highest point.

The installation of the roof at the site warranted a trademark 'topping out' ceremony, with developers Carter Lauren Construction Limited inviting Cabinet Members to see the progress to date.

It is anticipated that the building will be open to members of the public late December/early January.

Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr



Popular choice for women giving birth

The stand alone Midwifery-Led Birth Unit in Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr is growing in popularity with many women opting for a midwifery led environment.

"We had 3 births last night which is a fairly busy night for us" says Lead Midwife, Jackie George. "This area has had a very successful midwifery-led service since 2002, amongst our team of 26 staff there is a great deal of knowledge and experience. We welcome low risk women to birth at the unit, however, we also provide antenatal care for women with higher risk pregnancies that then have their baby at Obstetric Lead Units.

On average 30 babies are born on the unit every month and there are 2 water birthing pools, breast feeding support, baby massage classes, and parent education is also available. There is a Day Assessment Unit where midwives can arrange an appointment for women to be seen if there are any concerns, this reduces the need for women to travel to other hospitals.

"We are always happy to discuss with women if the unit in Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr would be the right choice for them. We are passionate about our work and women and their families are at the centre of care. The environment in the unit is outstanding with large rooms and double beds available, this is very popular with families, and our facilities are 24 hours. The services and facilities at Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr are second to none and we welcome all enquiries from women and families who are considering having their antenatal care and baby born here."

Great strides for centre of excellence

Consultant orthopaedic surgeon Kartik Hariharan believes he and colleagues are well on the way to creating a centre of excellence in all-round treatment and care for foot and ankle problems at Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr.

The centre is developing a one-stopshop philosophy, with outpatient and treatment appointments at the one unit, and with as much as possible of the assessment, diagnostics and pre-treatment preparation done in one visit.

In addition to orthopaedic surgery new equipment is available including a machine for dynamic pedo-barography, which allows specialists to assess the weight bearing characteristics of a patient. The unit has also successfully made a bid for funding for an extra corporeal shockwave treatment machine.

"This helps with problems like heel pain. We have a large volume of patients with Achilles' tendon problems and heel pain, and there is recent evidence to confirm shockwave treatment can really help with this," said Mr Hariharan.

Another development being tried out is a 'virtual' clinic, with patients telephoned at home to discuss scan results, after working hours.



Medicines at the tip of a finger

A new safer and efficient way of dispensing ward medicines has been introduced in Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr in Ystrad Mynach.

A single supply unit, similar to a vending machine, is able to issue medicines on two wards and in the Local Emergency Centre of the hospital.

The unit uses secure finger print recognition technology so that only identified staff can access medication. Once the medicines have been issued the machine automatically orders additional stocks electronically.

"The new units have provided a secure and efficient system for the supply of medicines" says Pharmacy Manager, Jane Barnes, "it means that ward staff can get immediate access to vital medicines at any time of the day and out of hours."



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd
Aneurin Bevan
Health Board



Caring for older patients

Nanita is a Healthcare Support Worker on Annwylfan Ward and is part of a team caring for older adult patients with mental health problems.

"I always try and promote patient dignity and respect as this is really important, everyone is a unique person and I treat everyone the same way I would wish to be treated myself. We have all single rooms and en-suite bathrooms so that really helps us to provide a high standard of care." Nanita said. "During the summer we can use the garden outside the ward where the patients really enjoy looking after the tomatoes and beans that we grow. Although it's often very challenging I do love my job and grow very fond of some of the patients."

Helpful Numbers

Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr: 01443 802200

NHS Direct: 0845 46 47

GP Out of Hours: 0845 600 131

Dental Helpline: 01633 488389

Aneurin Bevan Health Board is the operational name of Aneurin Bevan Local Health Board

Grab a Grant in the BIG competition!

The council has teamed up with the Big Lottery Fund to dish out up to £25,000 worth of grants to community groups in the area.

Under the banner 'Grab a Grant', this exciting partnership will see the Big Lottery Fund awarding grants of up to £5,000 each to projects in the county borough which will help change and improve the lives of people in their local communities.

BIG is appealing for community groups to send in their applications before the Friday June 7th 2013 deadline. Shortlisted projects will then be showcased on the CCBC and Big Lottery Fund websites with people voting for their favourite online. The five projects receiving the most support will then be awarded grants.

Grab a Grant is open to any community groups in the Caerphilly county borough who have an idea for a project which meets at least one of the following: supports community activity, extends access and participation, increases skill and creativity or generally improves the quality of life of people in the area.

Mike Theodoulou, member of the Big Lottery Fund's Wales committee, said: "This is a unique opportunity to apply for grants which could make a difference to people's lives. I would encourage everyone to think about getting involved and apply today."

Clr Keith Reynolds, Deputy leader of Council added: "We are delighted to team up with the Big Lottery Fund to offer the chance for community groups in Caerphilly to benefit from lottery good cause funding."

To find out if your project or idea might qualify for the grant, register and to access the application forms, visit www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/grabagrant
Or phone **0300 123 0735**.



How to apply

- Visit www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/grabagrant to read the application process, check whether you are eligible and register.
- If you are eligible, fill in the electronic application form and send it to us.
- We recommend that you attend a briefing event. If you would like to book a place tick yes when you register and we will be in touch.
- Any questions or problems phone **0300 123 0735** or email: grabagrant@biglotteryfund.org.uk
- Remember the deadline for applications is Friday June 7, 2013.
- We'll then be in touch to tell you if you have been successful.
- People can then vote for their favourite project between Monday July 22 and Friday July 26, 2013 with five projects getting the most support sharing £25,000. For more information about funding available in Wales visit www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/wales



BIG awards National Lottery cash to support Welsh communities most in need.

Delivering Together

A special agreement aimed at strengthening links between organisations and the voluntary and community sector across Caerphilly county borough has been officially launched.

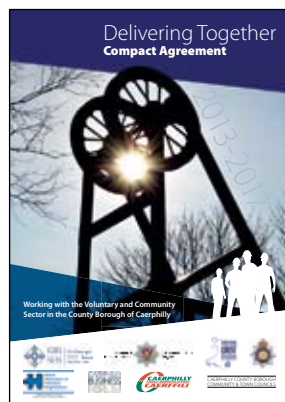
"Delivering Together" - the Compact agreement for 2013-17 recognises the mutual benefits that can be gained from close cooperation, and sets out guidelines for how all parties should work together.

First established in 1999, the current Compact partners include Caerphilly County Borough Council, Gwent Police, Aneurin Bevan Health Board, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service and Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO). These organisations have also, for the first time, been joined by Community and Town Councils and Caerphilly Business Forum.

The Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner Office has also entered into the agreement for the first time, having replaced the former Gwent Police Authority.

Clr Harry Andrews said, "Voluntary and Community Sector organisations make a vital contribution to our county borough. This important agreement will undoubtedly help continue to strengthen the links between key statutory organisations and the voluntary and community sector - we are all working towards achieving common goals with the overall aim of enriching the lives of everyone in Caerphilly county borough."

For further information on how local partners are working together to improve and enhance local communities, please visit www.caerphilly.gov.uk/communityplanning



Direct Payment Service

Caerphilly Social Services promote independence amongst service users, allowing them to remain in their own home through the Direct Payment Service.

This service enables service users to employ their own staff and manage their own care needs in a flexible manner. The roles they may be seeking could include assistance with their personal care, domestic tasks or accessing the community. In order to support service users recruiting their own staff a register of interested individuals is being set up.

Caring roles are subject to vetting and barring police checks and interested parties must be over 18. Opportunities are based across the county borough.

If you would like to be added to the register and informed of forthcoming vacancies please contact the Direct Payment Service by emailing: DIRECTPAYADVISORS@caerphilly.gov.uk or telephoning **01443 866937**.

Please note that this register is for potential employment with individual service users only, and not directly with Caerphilly County Borough Council.

