

TeamCaerphilly

BETTER TOGETHER

Issue 5 - FEBRUARY 2021

As we enter 2021, our Covid response continues with earnest. We are successfully balancing the ongoing delivery of our 800+ key services each and every day, alongside our covid response additional services.

Our 'plan on the page' recently shared with you, shows our current priorities as well as the areas where staff have been redeployed.



It is clear that the pandemic will be with us for some time yet but the vaccination programme, which is proceeding at pace, offers us all a beacon of hope and a return to a new norm.

We are playing a pivotal role, working alongside our partners, in Health. In true 'Team Caerphilly' style, Penallta House was transformed into a vaccination centre in the early part of January, ensuring hundreds of residents were able to receive their vaccination locally. This venue has now been replaced with Newbridge Leisure Centre, as it offers even more capacity, for our colleagues at Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, to offer even more vaccines- approximately 1,000 each day.

I am acutely aware that the ongoing pandemic has impacted on our person wellbeing in all sorts of ways. The first Digital Cwtch of 2021, was focussed upon wellbeing and through our guest speaker, we were provided with some helpful advice. If you missed it the recording can be found here -

<https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Covid-19,Care-first-coping-with-Covid-19/Caerphilly-Cwtch-and-Newsletter>

As we mourn the loss of Sir Captain Tom, - a true inspiration to us all, I continue to be both inspired and humbled by your continued dedication and energy, in ensuring our people and place continue to be protected throughout the pandemic. As we look into 2021, yes, the pandemic will remain with us, but through our 'Team Caerphilly' Transformation programme we have some really exciting plans too, watch this space for exciting updates as we make even bigger steps to a brighter future together.

Christina Harrhy - Chief Executive



Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg, ac mewn ieithoedd a fformatau eraill ar gais.
This document is available in Welsh, and in other languages and formats on request.

Incredible kindness

In what was a really challenging year for everyone, it seems that the spirit of giving and helping each other was certainly not lost as our festive charity appeals reached new heights.

The Operation Santa Appeal, co-ordinated by a small group of staff from the Communications Team, saw donations come flooding in from residents, schools and businesses. Over 1,000 gift vouchers were donated for over 500 children and supported young people, aged from newborn babies to 18 years old who are leaving care, across the county borough who have been nominated by their social workers to be at risk of not receiving a gift this Christmas.

We also received over 1,500 gift donations from a number of businesses which were provided to five local charities; Gofal, Homestart, Llamau, Action for Children and Ty'r Fesen homeless centre. A large contribution was also made by our Cabinet Members who donated £1,070 towards vouchers and selection boxes.

A staggering £9,000 was donated to our annual foodbank appeal! The appeal that once saw tins distributed to offices and boxes sorted and delivered was transformed into an online appeal, kind hearted residents and schools made donations alongside the highly generous contractors and suppliers who contributed in line with their community benefit contractual offerings.

Donations have this month been shared between the 4 local foodbanks to support those in need.

The Manufacturing Branch (South East Wales) of trade union Unite also donated £1,000 to the appeal; as part of a series of donations made to Gwent local authorities to support those in need over the festive period.



COVID-19 Vaccination update

We are supporting Aneurin Bevan Health Board with the roll out of its COVID-19 vaccination programme.

This included opening the doors of Penallta House, in early January, as the first community vaccination centre in the county borough.

Operating days were reviewed on a weekly basis, depending on supplies and resources; vaccinations are being delivered on an appointment only basis and residents will receive an invitation for their vaccine directly from the Health Board.

Mr and Mrs Rutter, from Oakdale, received their first COVID-19 vaccination at Penallta House during its first week of operation.

Mr Rutter said:

"We are so grateful to receive our jabs and really impressed with the whole operation from start to finish."



For more information about COVID-19 vaccinations, visit the **Public Health Wales website**: COVID-19 vaccination information - Public Health Wales (NHS.Wales)

Care Home vaccines

We are delighted to be able to say that almost all of our most vulnerable Care Home residents and staff have now received their first Coronavirus vaccination.



Staff have worked tirelessly to support these residents, when families weren't able to visit they organised themed days and did all they could to make special memories. They have had to continuously change and adapt their processes to ensure resident and staff safety, which included regular testing. They even had a special mention on the Owen Money Radio Show recognising their outstanding efforts. This is a huge leap forward for our community, and their smiling faces really says it all!

Meet our Contact Tracers - Some familiar Team Caerphilly Faces

As a Council we have adapted and changed our services to meet the changing needs of the community to respond to the global pandemic.

Staff from across the organisation have been redeployed to deal with Team Caerphilly's Covid response, such as the Contact Tracing team. The experience they bring to the role of a Contact Tracer has played a vital role in helping to stop the spread and save lives.

Here's what they said;

Heather Richardson:

"It has been a challenging year for everyone, and it will continue to be challenging for some time to come. Working for the TTP team has given me purpose through uncertain times; knowing that the work we are doing is helping our community's response to the pandemic is a source of pride; and, working in such a supportive and collaborative environment has been a joy – even if I have no idea what anyone looks like!"



Andrew Cheeseman: "It's been emotional in so many ways, highs and lows, it has been an incredible honour and privilege to be able to do my bit to help in the battle against this relentless virus. With the knowledge that each person contacted and asked to isolate could help save many lives and lessen the burden and stress being put on our healthcare and keyworkers. None of this would be possible without working alongside an amazing group of people who have been there to support each other during the high and lows."

FREE school meals service goes viral!

News of our hugely successful free school meals delivery service went viral recently; with positive coverage across social media and in both local and national press.

The service, coordinated by our Catering Team and delivered by staff redeployed from across the Council, sees eligible families receive a nutritionally balanced meal box delivered to their home address each fortnight, whilst schools are closed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The impressive meal boxes are filled to the brim with frozen meals and staple items, including fresh produce such as bread, milk and vegetables.

The team has worked with local suppliers to develop the meal boxes and tailored menus to cater for a range of dietary requirements. The army of staff were overwhelmed to reach the 1 millionth delivery before Christmas and the Booton family were presented with a gift basket.



The service continues to go from strength to strength and families have been overwhelmed by the support they have received.



BE A PART OF THE CHANGE!

As part of the council's transformation programme **'Team Caerphilly - Better Together'**, we are embarking upon ten 'Corporate Reviews' which will look to accelerate the speed and scale of change of opportunities that the COVID-19 pandemic brought about in the way we operate as a Council and how we deliver some of our services in future. Nobody knows our council services better than our staff, so we're very keen for you to get involved - your ideas and input into how these reviews are shaped.

If you'd like to become involved in the corporate review process, please email: teamcaerphilly@caerphilly.gov.uk to request a form.



This gives you a flavour of the changes we are talking about . . .

The Catering team were one of the departments that took part in a pilot 'service review' before last year's lockdown. This review saw some exciting opportunities emerge, particularly around the Meals Direct (Meals on Wheels) offer, cashless catering in primary schools, the catering offer within Penallta House linked to the potential reconfiguration of the ground floor, and also some opportunities to streamline some of the most laborious processes. It was excellent to receive an update on where the team are at - and where things are heading next. More updates to follow on this.

Wellbeing

Wellbeing has been a hot topic over the past few years, but has become a sharp focus for the Nation since the start of lockdown measures, when things we did as part of our routine were no longer permitted, when loved ones become ill or sadly passed, when families were isolating and children began home education, this is something that has affected everyone in some way!

We wanted to highlight the services we have available to staff to support positive mental health and wellbeing; Care First has a whole host of support available for issues you are facing in work or at home, it is also a great tool for managers with help and guidance for supporting staff, there is something for everyone and can be used **FREE** by **EVERY** employee.

www.carefirst-lifestyle.co.uk/
Username: ccb001 Password: ncil1234

We have also created a page that can be accessed by all staff as it is hosted on the website, this link can be circulated in whats app groups and other forms of communication to be shared with staff who are not on the email system.

www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Covid-19/Care-first-coping-with-Covid-19

Calling all parents, will your 16 year old make history?

Do you know a 16 year old that could make history this year by becoming the first of those aged 16 and 17 to take part in the Senedd elections?

In 2020 the Senedd passed a significant new law, known as the Senedd and Elections (Wales) Act. One of the most important changes in the new law was to allow young people in Wales the right to register to vote and take part in the Senedd elections. This is a big change to our democracy in Wales and provides thousands of new voters the opportunity to have their say and make their voice heard.



Time is running out and those wishing to take part in the May elections should register before March.

How to Register

To find out more, or to register to vote, go to:

www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

It usually takes about 5 minutes. You'll be asked for your National Insurance Number (But you can still register if you do not have one).

There's snow stopping us!

We experienced our first snow fall of the year and the Highways Team were ready for action!

While many were enjoying the snow, key services were still operating, Meals Direct, Care staff, Household Waste Recycling Centres and other frontline services.

The Highways team played a vital part in ensuring we were able to operate business and ensure that residents were able to safely access essential services.



- * **Vaccine Centres**
- * **Doctors surgery access roads**
- * **Schools** – To ensure key worker provision was operational
- * **Dialysis patients, homes**
- * **Strategic networks and bus routes.**

OUR PLAN TO 'PROTECT OUR PEOPLE AND PLACE'

Protecting YOUR services during lockdown

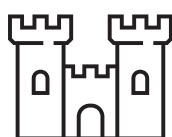


Coronavirus continues to have a significant impact on all our lives as we respond to the pressures of the global pandemic. CCBC is no different and we need to continue to refocus and reprioritise our services to meet the needs of our community.

Services on hold



Leisure Centres



Tourism Venues



Libraries



Adult Education



Sports Development



Staff from the services that are currently on hold have been redeployed to support other key areas such as...

- FREE SCHOOL MEALS DELIVERY
- SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE RESIDENTS
- TESTING AND VACCINATION SUPPORT FOR HEALTH SERVICE
- SUPPORT IN OUR RESIDENTIAL HOMES
- LOCAL AREA CLEANSING
- SUPPORT FOR CCBC CONTACT CENTRE

Critical services



Social Services

Residential care, safeguarding, fostering, mental health services, home care, telecare monitoring, etc.



Education

Schools, Free School Meals, Youth Service, childcare for key workers, etc.



Housing

Homelessness, allocations, emergency repairs, tenancy support, rent collection, etc.



Public protection & Communities

CCTV Services, Trading Standards, Environmental Health, Registrars, cemeteries, etc.



Highways

Inspection and repairs, gritting, public transport, etc.



Green services

Refuse and recycling collections, household waste recycling centres, cleansing and litter, etc.



Regeneration & Planning

Building control, business support, land charges, development control, community regeneration, etc.

Please visit our website for more information:
www.caerphilly.gov.uk/coronavirus

Paul's Story

Paul Stenner wanted to say a huge thank you to his Team Caerphilly colleagues as he recovers from his second kidney transplant.

Paul has worked for the authority for 20 years and has continued to work in between dialysis appointments to support the team to deliver PPE. He has expressed huge gratitude to his colleagues for ensuring his time in work was safe and secure given his vulnerability. He is on the road to recovery and continues to smile through everything!



Christina HARRY said, "I received an email from Paul's wife who is also a CCBC employee who I went to school with, his story of positivity and dedication really moved me and I felt it was so uplifting I wanted to share it with everyone, I am sure everyone who reads this will join me in wishing Paul a speedy recovery!"

Team Caerphilly
Better Together



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

