



Y Gaerffili A GAREM THE Caerphilly WE WANT

Viewpoint Panel Meeting 11th July 2016

Background and purpose of the meeting

The Viewpoint Panel meeting marked the launch of a series of public engagement workshops framed around the 'Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, which became law in April.

Public Services must now think more about the long-term and how to work more effectively together and with local people and communities to help create a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future. The Act is intended to improve the well-being of the people of Wales and as a result involving residents in this work is critical to its success.

Method

Members of the Caerphilly County Borough Viewpoint Panel and Youth Forum were invited to attend a meeting at Penallta House on Monday 11th July 2016. In total 29 residents attended including 4 members of the Youth Forum.

Whilst residents and young people from right across the county borough attended the meeting, there was a reasonably equal split of males and females with those aged 50 plus being slightly over represented.

The key aim of the meeting was to capture residents vision for Caerphilly County Borough for the future and to prioritise what residents feel the Public Services Board should focus on to create the Caerphilly WE want.

On arrival, Cllr. Keith Reynolds, Leader, Caerphilly County Borough Council welcomed everyone and Kath Peters and Paul Cook set the context and outline the purpose and the plan for the evening.

Attendees were split up into 4 groups led by independent facilitators. The Chief Executive, Cabinet members, and members of the Corporate Policy team circulated between the groups to observe the discussion and clarify as required.

The group sessions started by allowing group members to introduce themselves and for the facilitator to ensure that participants were clear about what was to be discussed.

The discussion then turned to the main focus for the evening and was broken down into two sections. The aim of the first session was to capture what residents would like

Caerphilly County Borough to look like in 25 years' time with a focus on *why* and *how* these changes are important. Of the key changes identified, the second part of the discussion focussed on prioritising what the Public services boards should focus on to create the Caerphilly WE want.

Evaluation

In total, 27 completed feedback forms were returned. Feedback showed that those who had attended found the meeting, in particular, the discussion element, interesting although some noted that more time was needed for discussion.

Summary of Key Discussion Findings

A number of key themes ran through the discussion groups. The following were seen as key priorities:

Education

- A consistency of provision of good quality schools across the borough
- Recognition of the importance of key skills, including literacy and the need for early intervention
- Improving parenting skills and a focus on early years
- Wider curriculum and the teaching of life skills, not just a focus on academic attainment

Improved infrastructure

- Improved road and cycle networks
- A more reliable and wider public transport network (both trains and bus networks)

Economy

- Encouraging new businesses to locate across the County Borough providing more skilled jobs and apprenticeships for the next generation
- More people in work or contributing through volunteering

Healthier lifestyles

- Preventative action to keep people healthier

A cleaner environment

- Provision of green open spaces with links to healthier lifestyles

Discussion also highlighted the need to provide for an ageing population, in particular, appropriate accommodation. Strong communities, with libraries as multi-purpose local community hubs were also an aspiration

Next Steps

This meeting was the first of a series of consultation activities surrounding the Well-being of Future Generations Act. The outcomes of this meeting will be considered alongside related local public engagement events to influence the priorities of the Caerphilly Public Services Board and its member organisations.