

# **Carmarthenshire Volunteer Organisers Network – CVON**

## **Minutes**

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 via Zoom**

Present –

1. Nevil Williams	<b>Radio BGM Llanelli</b>	
2. Jane Hemmings	<b>CAVS</b>	<a href="mailto:jane.hemmings@cavs.org.uk">jane.hemmings@cavs.org.uk</a>
3. Alud Owen Jones	<b>CAVS</b>	<a href="mailto:alud.jones@cavs.org.uk">alud.jones@cavs.org.uk</a>
4. Jackie Dorrian	<b>CAVS</b>	<a href="mailto:Jackie.dorrian@cavs.org.uk">Jackie.dorrian@cavs.org.uk</a>
5. Jamie Horton	<b>CAVS</b>	<a href="mailto:jamie.horton@cavs.org.uk">jamie.horton@cavs.org.uk</a>
6. Melanie Cameron	<b>UWTSD</b>	
7. Andrea Edwards	<b>WWAMH</b>	
8. Sally Richards	<b>MIND Llanelli</b>	
9. Amber Daniels	<b>CCC</b>	
10. Natasha James	<b>D-DAS</b>	
11. Sharan Condon	<b>Ty Enfys Family centre</b>	
12. Meinir Evans	<b>Menter Gorllewin Sir Gar</b>	
13. Liz Bickerton	<b>Consultant</b>	

### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

Jane welcomed everybody to the meeting.

### **2. Apologies**

Marissa (Cwmaman T.C.); Andrea (JCP); Kate Evans (Wool Museum); Judith Collins (Carmarthenshire Counselling); Helen Gough (Scouts Wales); Alison (Age Cymru); Marg (See Around Britain)

### **• Minutes of Previous Meeting**

These were proposed correct and accepted as such.

### **• Matters Arising**

None

### **• Presentation – Liz Bickerton**

Jane introduced Liz who has been engaged by CAVS to undertake consultation work towards a Volunteering Strategy for Carmarthenshire. This is part of a bigger piece of work that has been funded by Welsh Government. More on this later under item 6

Please see enclosed presentation.

Liz led a discussion based around experiences during Covid. She will include knowledge, experiences and skills shared during this discussion in her report on Volunteering moving forward.

- Sharan, Ty Enfys Family Centre: They have no budget to support volunteering, so their volunteers are mostly made up of their existing beneficiaries. There has been a reluctance to attend during Covid, leading to a decline in volunteering. More recently, confidence in volunteering has grown slightly, but still no real improvement. They appreciate advice from networks such as CVON but also Family Centre networks.
- Sally, MIND: There was an initial surge of additional volunteers, but this has declined, particularly during subsequent lockdowns, so on average they are near original volunteer numbers.
- Natasha D-DAS: They had really good volunteers pre-Covid, but when they had to practically close the office it became harder to keep volunteers since the activities could not continue. The kind of work they do is not at “attractive” to volunteers to do online.
- Sue Smith, Carms Therapy Dogs: All activities have stopped because it was all face-to-face. Some volunteers were recruited and ready to go a year ago but could not start due to Covid. They are not promoting any roles until face-to-face is possible again.
- Andrea, WWAMH: Most volunteers are not able to be active, but they are undertaking activities to keep their volunteers engaged – creative writing etc, online.
- Neville, Radio BGM: They need to resume fundraising and volunteering – when will it be appropriate??

- Amber, CCC: It has been difficult to carry on with engagement. They need to start getting their service users back into action. Possibly a need to change people's mindset – there is a need to work online, and this is likely to continue. Some people still don't have the necessary skills or equipment. We need to try to find a workable combination of "live" and remote meetings.

- **CAVS and Volunteer Centre News**

- **Welsh Government Coronavirus Recovery Grant for Volunteering**

With a very quick turn around the money, CAVS working along with the Local Authority, Hywel Dda Health Board and the Public service Board have received under this grant is being used to fund consultancy work from Liz Bickerton and Richard Newton Consultancy, with a view to creating a comprehensive Volunteering Strategy for Carmarthenshire.

A separate strand of the work is to develop a purpose-built on-line portal consisting of a main information and engagement area alongside a digital learning portal. This will replace CAVS existing website and will have enhanced functionality.

The digital learning portal will host CAVS' existing training courses for Volunteer Managers, volunteers and individuals wishing to develop skills before embarking on volunteering.

A reminder that there are various funding opportunities available – please see our visit the website for details.

- **Comfort Break**

- **Carwen Davies**

Unfortunately Carwen, who was planning to give us a presentation on Tempo TimeBanking is having problems with her IT and is unable to attend. She sends apologies and will attend a future meeting.

- **Presentations- Jamie Horton.**

Jamie gave a presentation on Connect Carmarthenshire platform. This is a way of bringing the community together, through offering or requesting activities.

There is a TimeBanking element (person-to-person) but this is optional – a system of "rewarding" volunteering actions.

Connect to Kindness campaign. This is not telling people to be kind, but rather educating people of the science behind kindness, and the associated benefits.

There is a "micro-site" and an e-module that supports awareness sessions that are delivered by Sue Smith, and last approx. 45 minutes. The information gained from the sessions can then be cascaded to colleagues, employees, volunteers and so on.

Date & Time of next meeting: 08. 06. 2021, 10.30am – 12.30pm