

**VOLUNTARY ACTION MERTHYR TYDFIL
HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FORUM**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8th APRIL 2009

Present:

Ann Lewis (Chair)	Merthyr Care & Repair
Keith Howells (KH)	SNAP Cymru
Leanne Davies (LD)	SNAP Cymru
Pat Ramm (PR)	Merthyr People First
Steven Stone (StS)	Merthyr People First
Jan Richards (JR)	Shaw Trust
Shan Davies (SD)	Hafal
Debra Roberts (DR)	Merthyr & the Valleys MIND
Jayne Komor (JK)	Merthyr Tydfil LHB
Paul Beckerton (PB)	The Stroke Association
Helen Abberley (HA)	The Alzheimer's Society
Joy Garfitt (JG)	MTCBC
Sian Thomas (ST)	Mental Health Development Officer MTCBC
Ryan Stokes (RS)	Mentro Allan Co-ordinator MTCBC
Margaret Williams (MW)	Stay Young at Heart
Hannah Mills (HM)	Communities First, Central Team MTCBC
Louise Saunders (LS)	Communities First – Trefechan
Julie McDonald (JMc)	National Public Health Team
David Morgan (DM)	Wales & West Housing Association
Nicola Mahoney (NM)	Safer Merthyr Tydfil
Ellen Jones (EJ)	People Together Club
Thelma Jones (TJ)	Friends of Quakers View
Lehane Ryland (LR)	Cwm Taf NHS Trust
Carol Evans (CE)	Engagement Gateway Liaison Officer, VAMT
Shari Smith (SS)	Substance Misuse Development Manager, LHB
Ann O'Connell (AO'C)	Drugaid
Sarah Morgan-Jones (SMJ)	Cwm Taf NHS Trust, Patient Services
Anna Hughes (AH)	Cancer Aid
Ceri Thomas (CT)	Merthyr Tydfil Local Service Board
Sonia Lloyd-Williams (SLW)	Carers' Development Officer, VAMT
Alison Harris (AH)	Partnership Development Officer, VAMT
Julie Rees (JR)	Gofal, Cymru
Jenny Ludlow (JL)	Alzheimer's Society
Yvonne Parfitt (YP)	Crossroads Caring for Carers
Cerys Rogers (CR)	Gellideg Healthy Living Network
Kay Maybank (KM)	Let's Walk Cymru Co-ordinator
Tony Chaplin (TC)	Merthyr Initiative Group
Gerald Jones (GJ)	Health & Social Care Facilitator, GAVO Newport
Eric Leslie (EL)	Osteoporosis Support Group, Merthyr & District
Ann Gibbs (AG)	Osteoporosis Support Group, Merthyr & District

Sharon Richards (SR) Health & Social Care Facilitator / VAMT

1. Welcome/Introductions

The meeting opened with a welcome to guest speakers and a round of introductions followed.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Chair congratulated both Crossroads, Caring for Carers, and Cancer Aid on their success via the People's Millions programme.

2. Apologies

Cllr Jeff Edwards, Ian Davy, Sue Cousins, Kaye Emberlin, Jason Tynan, Sam Clarke, Steve Woods, Geraint Price, Marcelle Mackay, Craig Thomas, Rebecca Woolley, Lynda Coombes, Nia Davies, Leanne Hawker, John Meredith, Olive Bedford, Rachel Roberts, Philip Walker.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th March 2009

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th March 2009 were accepted as an accurate record. Proposed by DR and seconded by MW.

4. Matters Arising

- 4.1 (7.13 refers) SR encouraged people to respond to the WAG Consultation on the future of the CHCs in Wales. SR also confirmed that the local CHC has agreed to share their consultation response with the Forum as it becomes available.

5. Local Health Board Update

JL gave an update on LHB activity including:

- Confirmation that Dr Chris Jones has been appointed as Chair of the LHB.
- Primary care developments.
- Condom Card Scheme
- The recently implemented MEND programme.

Full information can be found in Appendix A.

6. WCVA Engagement Gateway Project and Local Support

The Chair welcomed Carol Evans, Engagement Gateway Liaison Officer to the Forum.

CE gave an introduction and overview to the Engagement Gateway Project, which is being led by WCVA and which is looking for innovative projects which will bring people closer to the labour market. Confirmation of how people can become involved in the process was given, with additional information of the support available by CE. A copy of the full presentation is featured as Appendix B.

A range of questions were generated by the Forum, which were agreed to be captured to form the basis of a Frequently Asked Questions sheet, which could be used to assist others in finding out information about the project.

7. Substance Misuse – A Strategic Overview

The Chair welcomed guest speakers: Shari Smith, Lehane Ryland and Ann O’Connell to the Forum.

- 7.1 SS gave an overview of the main strategic drivers associated with substance misuse, and confirmed the local structure, featuring the Substance Misuse Action Team (SMAT) vision and how this carries through National strategy and a local implementation plan. Appendix C refers.
- 7.2 LR gave a detailed presentation on the role of the Community Drug and Alcohol Team (CDAT) within the Trust’s Mental Health Directorate, and the range of services that the Team provides. Appendix D refers.
- 7.3 AO’C gave specific information on the role of Drugaid locally, and the provision of its services. The Forum were also able to view the recently launched new website for Drugaid (www.drugaidcymru.com) which incorporates a 24/7 response to questions posed by users of the site. AO’C confirmed that as from 1st July Drugaid will be moving to the first floor of Oldway House. Appendix E refers.

8. Homes for Life

Joy Garfitt was welcomed to the Forum. JG gave a detailed presentation on the Homes for Life Strategy, and information on the review of the Authority’s directly managed accommodation in the Borough. JG advised the Forum that responses to the Consultation would be collated and then presented to Council. A copy of the presentation is found as Appendix F.

A copy of the Consultation Response made on behalf of The Forum is featured as Appendix G.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 10th April 2009. 10:00am -12:00 Noon
Voluntary Action Centre, Merthyr Tydfil

The meeting will feature the strategic priority of “Healthy Lifestyle”.