**Cwm Taf**

The Cwm Taf Pioneer is based in the Gurnos Estate in Merthyr Tydfil and Ferndale in Rhondda Cynon Taff. “Community Zones” have been set up in both communities which provide a range of citizen based services by the public and voluntary sector. These facilities will support a preventative approach that enables individuals and families to access support as early as possible to prevent problems from escalating. At the heart of Cwm Taf PSB’s approach is tackling adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), building resilience to achieve sustainable change.

Through a partnership approach a central facility within the community has identified and been set up in **the Gurnos Estate,** and via a commissioned approach with a third sector provider a community development and information and advice officer have been employed. A range of services are already co-located at the facility such as Flying Start, Families First, parenting and youth support and employment projects.

Drop in services have been developed offering the following a range of services and support i.e. Smoking Cessation, Barod, Llamau and Platform offering family support, drug and alcohol support, tenancy support, careers advice, community services such as Dogs and Cats Trust, and volunteer opportunities via Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil

Peer support groups are being developed such as 50 plus Reconnect, targeted men’s support groups, Parent Support and Dementia carers group, IT support and basic skills group via adult community learning providers. Discussion are ongoing with the community and a range of partners regarding future use and provision of services to the facility.

Activities include:

* Mapping of services and provision and community profile, and developing a Hub and Spoke model.
* ICF funding secured to renovate Hub and community room facility.
* The youth group designed and chose the furniture for the Hub, they made art work, along with coordinating the consultation process in the re-naming of the Hub.
* A renaming and formal launch of the Hub- Calon Las Community Hub has taken place.
* A Community Development Officer in post who coordinates community consultation events under the banner of ‘Our Gurnos Matters’ and the new Coffee Shop development, and setting up the Neighbourhood Network group.
* A Facebook page has been set up, engaging the community and partners.
* Hub staff have taken part in Dementia Awareness training, rolled out awareness training to other staff and have a key goal to develop the Hub as a Dementia Friendly Space.
* IAA Officer in post to develop information and advice services.
* An environmental stakeholder group has been set up and is well established. A £15k investment from Natural Resource Wales to develop and implement environmental projects resulting in four areas benefiting from extensive tree planting aligned to their street names, cherry trees in Cherry Grove, and a natural play area has been created on an identified open space as set out in the Open Space Strategy, along with the plans to renovate the small community allotment- ‘Poppy Garden’.
* Capital investment via the 21st Century School, to develop a community coffee shop at the Hub and further develop an arts and media facility.
* Discussion and planning progressing to create an integrated approach - Early Help Hub and the Early Action Together model.

The former Ferndale Infants School became the Community Hub for **Rhondda Fach** in Rhondda Cynon Taff.

As a Council Community Asset Transfer, significant support has been provided, in particular to the management of the Capital works, with positive partnerships established leading to the development of a cica £1m initial Capital investment in the area.

Developments include:

* A Rhonda Fach Community Hub has been developed – **Hwb.** Signage agreed has been produced to be accessible and easy read.
* A Community Co-ordinator for the Rhondda Fach area is well established, employed by a third sector organisation - Fern Partnership, who deliver Childcare and Nursery services (Little Ferns) from the Community Hub.
* From January 2020, Little Ferns will be a registered education provider. The setting will offer 15 hours of childcare for children of school age.
* A significant increase in the number of children and families registered for Bookstart, an early years reading initiative and, accessing the library facilities and services. October 2019 saw the highest Library visitor figures since 2015.
* A Neighbourhood Network has been set up to identify local needs, meet strategic aims and objectives and develop services and support in partnership.
* A mapping exercise which led to a detailed directory of available services and groups in the Rhondda Fach Neighbourhood has been completed.
* A Natural Resource Wales grant award has been secured to improve green spaces in the Neighbourhood Network area, and work has commenced with volunteers to plant the areas around the Hwb. Outside spaces have been developed with further plans to provide living walls. A bespoke external classroom has recently completed which will enhance the outdoor learning opportunities for the whole community.
* Team training for the whole Community Hub team, Library, Employment Support Services and Fern Partnership has been delivered which included ACES and MECC Level 1 & 2.
* The Community Co-ordinator has facilitated Community Engagement events with a timetable of events created covering the following themes: Employability and Education, Health and Wellbeing, Early Years and Parenting and Children and Young people.
* A multi-sensory room has been developed which can be accessed by community members, including children, families, carers and adults with care needs/disabilities.
* A local Small, Micro, Medium Enterprise (SME) has established an office base within the Hwb and seeking to expand business locally.
* More information on Community Hub development in RCT can be found at:
* [*https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/GetInvolved/CommunityHubs/CommunityHubs.aspx*](https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/GetInvolved/CommunityHubs/CommunityHubs.aspx)