
HOUSING & COMMUNITIES STATEMENT

Butetown Jobs Fair

Last month, the Into Work Service hosted the Butetown Pavilion Jobs Fair in partnership with Cardiff Youth Service, which was attended by over 80 young people from Butetown and the surrounding areas. Fifteen employers held stands at the event offering a wide variety of employment opportunities across a range of sectors, which included the Army, Finsbury Food Group, Network Rail, and Cadwyn Housing Association. The event was also attended by partner organisations including Council Apprenticeships, Into Work Advice Services, Prince's Trust and Cardiff City Foundation. The event received really positive feedback, with young people finding the event very helpful and interesting, and partners pleased with the level of organisation at the event. So far, there have been 10 confirmed employment outcomes as a result of the event.

Central Library Hub Veterans Event

On 1st November 2018, the Council's Veterans Advice team, which is funded through the Armed Forces Community Covenant, hosted an event in partnership with the Royal British Legion. The team has been supporting veterans since August 2017 at the Central Library Hub. The initial project was so well received that it was extended for a further two years and an additional two advisors were recruited to expand the services to outreach locations. To date, the team has supported 173 clients with their enquiries, which include housing, debt, employment and benefits, with over £200,000 identified in previously unclaimed benefits.

The event was arranged to give thanks for the sacrifice of all those who served in World War 1 and to celebrate the 100 years that have elapsed since the ending of the First World War. The event brought together in partnership Armed Forces charities and different services from across the Council as part of 21 stalls to support veterans of more recent conflicts and their families. The event was a success allowing the Armed Forces community to access help they needed. Stallholders spoke to veterans and their families and organisations were also able to network with one another. The Veterans Advice team also sold poppies to staff and customers and held a raffle, which helped to raise money for the Royal British Legion.

The Veterans Advice team coordinated the event successfully, and it was great to see how many veterans attended and to see so many organisations and services working together with one common aim – to help and support those veterans and their families so they know that they are not alone back on 'civvy street'.

Street Football Award

The football team at Ty Tresillian has been running for two years and has a really positive impact on the residents, as well as working to creating a sense of community within the hostel, reducing feelings of isolation and providing the opportunity to build relationships. At the end of the season, the Ty Tresillian Tigers were awarded the Fair Play Award, which is a special recognition award for determination, dedication, sportsmanship and all round attitude of the team. The award was presented by the Chairman of Street Football Wales. I am very pleased to see the amazing recognition for the team. I am also pleased to announce that we have recently heard that the Street Football World Cup will be held in Cardiff next year. Officers will be working to see how the Council can be involved in this event.

Multi-Agency Team for Homelessness and Rough Sleepers

I am pleased to announce that the Welsh Government has provided additional funding to pilot a multi-agency approach to homelessness as part of our Rough Sleepers Strategy 2017-2020. The approach will bring together and enhance existing services by providing a more intensive level of support for those who need it on a 'right help, right time' basis. The new service aims to support individuals with complex needs, providing a clear pathway into services, helping build resilience and avoiding the need for longer term support. The approach includes collaborative working with Mental Health Services, Substance Misuse Services, Third Sector, Social Services, Police and Probation. The service aims to reduce the levels of homeless service users repeatedly experiencing the revolving door of eviction, abandonment and placement breakdown.

Private Sector High Rise Cladding

I would like to advise Members about the status of the high rise buildings in the city. Members may have seen some of the recent coverage in the media concerning Prospect Place in Cardiff Bay. Earlier this year, our officers began to work with Welsh Government officials and the South Wales Fire & Rescue Service to determine the number of private sector high rise buildings in the city. That work identified 12 buildings that had an external facade consisting of Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) cladding similar to that used at Grenfell Tower. I am now pleased to report that, through the work of our officers and partner agencies, the developers associated with those buildings have agreed to remove the cladding and replace it with a safer material. That work has begun on some of the buildings and work on one other will commence next year. In the meantime, officers have agreed additional fire protection measures with the owners of the buildings. I can also advise Members that the Welsh Government Minister for Housing and Regeneration has commissioned an expert panel to look at building safety in a much wider context and the Council is represented on that group. I envisage that the Minister will make an announcement on building safety in Wales early next year.

Councillor Lynda Thorne
Cabinet Member for Housing & Communities
23 November 2018