
TACKLING POVERTY, EQUALITY & PUBLIC HEALTH STATEMENT

PUBLIC HEALTH & EQUALITY

Pride Cymru 2023

I was delighted to march alongside members of the Council's LGBT+ Employee Network in the Pride Cymru parade from St Mary Street along Queen Street, up Park Place before finishing back on Castle Street. I also spent time on the Network's stall and was pleased to be part of such an important event, which celebrates diversity and inclusion in Cardiff and across the nation.

Windrush 75th Anniversary Celebrations

I was pleased to attend the national Windrush Day celebrations at the Senedd on 22 June 2023, supported by Race Council Cymry, the Windrush Cymru Elders and other organisations across Wales. The event also marked the 75th Anniversary of the HMT Empire Windrush's arrival at Tilbury Docks on 22 June 1948, which transported more than 800 passengers to the UK from the Caribbean. The event included a march by Windrush Elders to the Senedd wrapped in their national flags. The Council is also pleased to be supporting a lunchtime concert at City Hall to mark Windrush@75 and celebrate the city's Windrush generation, which is being held on 26 June 2023.

One Public Service Anti-Racism Summit

I joined officers in attending a Welsh Government event held in Cardiff on 17 May 2023, which was hosted by the Minister for Social Justice, Jane Hutt MS. This was an opportunity to hear first-hand on the need for focused actions on how we need to work together to deliver an Anti-racist Wales by 2030. The Council is committed to doing everything it can and is exploring ways in which we can support the delivery of the Welsh Government's [Anti-racist Wales Action Plan](#), with one example being through the approval and implementation of the Council's new Participation Strategy. This means giving everyone an opportunity to contribute whilst amplifying the voices of those who are currently less likely to get involved in the decision-making process.

FOR Cardiff Equality City Project

I also attended the launch of the FOR Cardiff Equality City project on 18 May 2023, which has been developed in partnership with Chwarae Teg. The project aims to foster inclusive cultures and equal opportunities by asking businesses to commit to a list of pledges. A recent survey by FOR Cardiff of businesses found that 47% are unsure about the existence of an equality strategy for their organisation, highlighting the need for greater visibility and implementation.

The Equality City project seeks to bridge this gap by implementing comprehensive policies that promote equal opportunities and foster inclusive cultures. The Council is supportive of the Equality City project and welcomes the pledge commitments made by local businesses to demonstrate their support for equality, diversity and inclusion, and to ensure that their workplaces are inclusive and diverse.

Community Cohesion Grant Scheme

A new grant scheme to help build cohesive and resilient communities was launched earlier this month. Community groups and third sector organisations are invited to apply for funding of up to £2,000 (in exceptional circumstances, up to £5,000) to support schemes and initiatives which highlight and celebrate the diversity of communities across the city. Funding can be used for a range of purposes, including holding events and activities, producing supportive literature, or building capacity within a community.

Applications must meet at least one of the following objectives:

- Celebrating diversity
- Hate crime awareness
- Countering harmful narratives
- Reducing community tensions
- Community capacity building
- Communities working together to support community cohesion
- Promoting equality across all protected characteristics within the Equality Act 2010
- Promoting community cohesion as outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 and the national Well-being Goal: *A Wales of cohesive communities* – Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities
- Celebrating a significant equality event

Interested organisations should email: cohesion@cardiff.gov.uk for further information or to request an application form. The deadline for applications is Friday 30 June and decisions will be made by Friday 14 July.

Ethnic Minority Welsh Women Achievement Association Awards 2023

I was pleased to attend the biannual Ethnic Minority Welsh Women Achievement Association Awards, which were presented at a ceremony held at Cardiff City Hall on 13 May 2023. The awards recognise and celebrate the significant contributions made by ethnic minority women to Wales and Welsh life, and how their achievements have helped to inspire others. The event was also attended by the Welsh Government First Minister, Minister for Social Justice and Deputy Minister for Social Services, as well as the previous Lord Mayor, Cllr Graham Hinchey. I was pleased to present the awards to the three winners in the Violence Against Women Agenda award category – Zaira Munsif, Helida Ramogi and Edna Sackeyfio from BAWSO – and I want to congratulate all the winners and finalists who should all be very proud of their achievements.

Glamorgan Federation of Women's Institutes Centenary Year

I was pleased to join other Cardiff Councillors in attending an event that was held at the Senedd on 8 June 2023 to mark the Centenary celebrations of the Glamorgan Federation of Women's Institutes (WI) in 2023. The Glamorgan Federation has been campaigning on many issues for 100 years and all of its 94 Women's Institutes have worked together to produce patchwork quilts, containing six-inch squares of material that included a symbol of a green heart and various messages, as part of the Climate Coalition's annual 'Show the Love' campaign. The event enabled Federation members to display their quilts at the Senedd, before taking them on tour. It was also a great opportunity for the Federation, including WI members from Cardiff, to show Welsh politicians, including Senedd Members and Councillors, that they really care about where they live and the need for much bolder action on climate change.

Tŷ Krishna Cymru Ground-breaking Ceremony

I was pleased to attend the ground-breaking ceremony, or Bhumi Puja, for the Tŷ Krishna Cymru wellness community project on 21 May 2023, which is currently being built in Cardiff Bay. Tŷ Krishna Cymru will be a world-class community and wellness hub, including yoga studios, a rooftop garden, guest accommodation and a restaurant. The ground-breaking ceremony marked the setting of the foundations for the three-storey glass extension to the back of the Grade II Listed 4 Dock Chambers building on Bute Street, which is due to be completed later this year.

Diversification of Supply Chains and Workforces

I attended an event on 12 June 2023, entitled 'Connecting the Dots to Achieve Supply Chain Diversity', which was hosted by NatWest in partnership with Cardiff and Vale College and Business in the Community (BITC) Cymru. The event, which was held at the College on Dumballs Road, aimed to bring different industry representatives, influencers, decision-makers and support organisations together with the aim of sharing best practice to inspire decision-makers in large organisations to work towards achieving more diverse and inclusive workforces, supply chains and procurement procedures. It also provided an opportunity for attendees to learn more about the successes of various companies and organisations in diversifying their supply chains, and to share ideas and best practice.

Refugee Week 2023

This year, Refugee Week takes place between 19 and 25 June and this year's theme is compassion. Events are taking place across the city, including in Splott, for example, where the week culminates in the Great Splott Get Together on 24 June. In addition, Central Library Hub is hosting an event to mark Refugee Week in partnership with the Welsh Refugee Council on 23 June, which will include activities such as multicultural music and dance, a national costume show, storytelling and poetry, art and mindfulness workshops, children's story time and crafts.

On 21 June, I attended St Mary the Virgin Primary School in Butetown which held a 'red carpet event' for the premier of a film based on a poem written by pupils last year called "A Sanctuary Alphabet – Zig Zag Journey". The school made the film in and around Butetown, starting at the Betty Campbell statue in Central Square and ending at the Mahatma Gandhi statue close to the Wales Millennium Centre.

I will also be attending an event hosted by two of the Council's Employee Equality Networks on 23 June, together with my Cabinet colleague, Cllr Ash Lister. The Council's LGBT+ and Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Employee Networks joined forces to celebrate Refugee Week by organising an event to raise awareness of personal stories, as well as what support the Council offers to refugees in the city. Speakers included representatives from Oasis Cardiff and Glitter Cymru. I have been delighted to attend several events already to mark Refugee Week and, on 24 June, I will also be attending a get-together for Ukraine Hosts at Rhiwbina Hub.

Menopause Support

I believe that the menopause is an important public health and equality issue for women. It is a natural part of ageing that usually occurs between 45 and 55 years of age. Symptoms can include anxiety, low mood, depression and mood swings. The symptoms are different for everyone and for a quarter of women they can be severely debilitating. It is important that women should feel supported and have access to the help they need. I am so pleased about the introduction of new support groups in the community that are taking place in our Community Hubs in Cardiff.

The Council has recently launched a new menopause support group, Menochat, at St Mellons Hub. At the first session, attendees discussed symptoms including brain fog, anxiety, weight gain, depression, hot flushes and other 'frustrations'. They chatted about how they could find solutions to help each other. There were also open discussions around menopause in the workplace and having time out to help them cope. They were then challenged to express themselves through drawings. They considered relaxation techniques and took part in a tai chi session to help slow their breathing and focus on themselves, with exercises to help control anxiety. The attendees reported that, following the session, they all slept better that night than they had since starting the menopause.

In addition, at Rhiwbina Hub, a 10-week series of sessions, called 'Menopause Makers', is being provided, which focus on the exploration of people's experiences and feelings around the menopause. The session is open to all – those who are menopausal, peri-menopausal and those who want to understand more about the menopause and how it affects people. The session uses various forms of art and expression (such as collaging, journaling and painting) as an outlet for the attendees to express their feelings and experiences around the menopause. As well as creative expression, the session is a space where people can ask questions or find information about the menopause, socialise with others and seek peer support to prevent social isolation and stigma around menopause and peri-menopause symptoms. Participants can also learn various tools to help them manage menopausal and peri-menopausal symptoms (such as mindfulness).

The Community Inclusion Officer who runs the session has been working collaboratively with other organisations who run menopause support groups locally, including Home Instead, to be able to signpost attendees to the full range of support that is out there for them. Anyone who is interested in taking part in either group can contact the Wellbeing Team at: Wellbeingteam@cardiff.gov.uk or phone 029 2087 1071.

Bowel Cancer Awareness

Bowel Cancer UK (BCUK) have begun holding a series of awareness-raising sessions in Hubs and have provided materials for use on toilet doors to promote awareness. In April the Council's Community Volunteer Team handed out leaflets at a jobs fair in Capitol Shopping Centre with information about bowel cancer and the symptoms to look out for. 1,100 people attended the fair. On 2 June the Council staged a talk from BCUK to 150 men at a mosque in Grangetown and literature was provided afterwards for them to take away. There is a low take-up of bowel cancer tests in Grangetown, especially among men from a minority ethnic background. The experience of arranging the event and the contacts made will now be used to inform future events in similar venue.

TACKLING POVERTY & SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE

Youth Services in Ely & Caerau

Cardiff Youth Service continues to play a full and active role in supporting the young people of Ely & Caerau following the tragic death of Harvey Evans and Kyrees Sullivan in Ely last month and the disorder that followed. Since then, the Youth Service has kept the North Ely Youth Club open, deployed an extended street-based youth work service with the Stay Safe Team and supported young people to attend community vigils. The Youth Service has also brought together over 25 community partners through the existing Youth Action Group to consider how an enhanced programme of support for young people can be developed and sustained.

During the Whitsun half-term school holiday week, the Youth Service and Child Friendly Cardiff Teams co-ordinated a week of fun activities with local partners involving hundreds of children, including Play Services, Ely & Caerau Hub, Western Leisure Centre and local sports organisations. Many organisations expressed the desire to expand their reach or capacity as we proceed, underscoring the importance of these services in engaging young people during the holiday periods. The Council intends to deliver a similar summer programme in the area to help children and young people to engage in positive activities and experiences.

The short-, medium- and long-term youth work offer in the local community will be a vital component of the new Community Plan for Ely & Caerau and will be fully supported by the Council.

Keeping Young People Safe

Cardiff Council is delivering two ground-breaking initiatives aimed at protecting children and young people from being drawn into gang culture, crime, and violence. Designed to engage and educate young individuals, the projects have been established through multi-agency partnership working and are being delivered using cutting-edge technology and interactive theatrical experiences to promote informed decision-making, empower and safeguard young people.

From 26 June 2023, the 'Choice of a Lifetime' programme, which is an interactive theatrical play that confronts the realities and consequences of violent crime, knife crime, gangs, and drug culture, will be staged in Cardiff and is expected to reach over

4,000 children and young people. Developed through collaborative work with the South Wales Police & Crime Commissioner, South Wales Police, the Cardiff Commitment, Cardiff Youth Service, Welsh Rugby Union and the NSPCC, the programme will offer a thought-provoking and immersive experience for young people aged 12 to 15 years.

Children and young people will attend the play at a number of stadium venues, where youth workers and partners will be on hand to offer support, advice and guidance. This will lead to the longer-term development of a sustainable curriculum offer with the Council's SAFE Partnership.

A ground-breaking virtual reality (VR) initiative is also being rolled out by Cardiff Youth Service, which allows young people to navigate a series of challenging situations and make critical decisions in a safe and controlled virtual environment. This hands-on approach to exploring topics such as gangs, grooming, peer pressure, and substance misuse, equips participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to make informed choices in real-life scenarios. Positive feedback has already been received from secondary schools across the city, has highlighted the effectiveness of the projects with young people expressing a high level of enjoyment and an increased ability to identify safeguarding risks.

Youth Work Week

Youth Work Week in Wales is taking place this month (23-30 June 2023) and provides an opportunity to showcase and celebrate the impact and diversity of youth work across Wales and promote a wider understanding of and support for youth work. Cardiff Youth Service will be providing a range of activities during the week, which can be accessed at: <https://www.cardiffyouthservices.wales/index.php/en/events>, and will also be participating in the national Youth Work Week event being held at the Wales Millennium Centre on 27 June 2023. A week-long communications campaign showcasing youth work will run during Youth Work Week and people can join in the conversation on social media using the hashtags #YouthWorkWeek2023 and #WythosGwaithleuenctid2023.

Summer Transition and Engagement Events for Young People

As the 2022/23 academic year draws to an end, Cardiff Youth Service will be working with Cardiff secondary schools, EOTAS providers, Careers Wales, the Into Work Advice Service, and the wider Cardiff Commitment network to support young people as they move from pre-16 education to post-16 education, employment or training. The figure for the number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Cardiff, as of October 2022, was 2% (72 young people), which was slightly lower than the all-Wales figure of 2.1%. Cardiff Youth Mentors will be available throughout the summer, and into the autumn school term, to identify and support any young people requiring advice and guidance, and to help maintain the low numbers of young people not in education, employment or training that we have achieved in Cardiff over recent years.

The Into Work Service's Youth Employment Team is getting ready to host a programme of engagement events during the summer transition period for young people leaving school and college. Throughout the summer, the team will host and participate in events across the city, ranging from community open days, job fairs and

training days to support young people following A-Level and GCSE results days. Youth Employment Mentors will be based across Community Hubs, Butetown Youth Pavilion and the Atrium at St David's Hall to engage with young people and provide them with employment, volunteering, work experience and training advice.

Last month, a successful pilot scheme took place in Salvation Army temporary accommodation where young people were given extra help towards their move to independence with workshops delivered by the Into Work Advice Service's Adult Learning. Young people receiving support from Into Work Advice Service's MILES project were offered the opportunity to take part in workshops to help them prepare for independent living. The workshops included cooking, budgeting, DIY skills and how to do basic measuring accurately. The group learnt how to cook on a budget using an air fryer, with all young people who took part were given a £50 food voucher by the Money Advice Team and an air fryer by the Adult Learning Team to keep developing their new cooking skills. The young people demonstrated excellent use of some numeracy skills throughout the programme, which they can build on to achieve a full numeracy qualification with the Adult Learning Team. Following the success of the scheme, a series of employment, education and training events are being planned to support young people living in hostels. Events will take place in Northlands, Ty Ephraim and Ty Seren.

Universal Basic Income Pilot

The Money Advice Team has continued to provide support to care experienced young people who are eligible for the Universal Basic Income pilot, which will shortly be drawing to a close. The Young Person's Money Advisor has provided bespoke benefit health checks and income maximisation, whilst looking at each young person's individual circumstances, to make sure they would not be any worse off or at risk of homelessness should they sign up for the pilot. To date, the team has supported over 50 young people.

Llanover Hall Arts Centre

Llanover Hall opened its doors during the Whitsun half-term school holiday week for a children's scheme, which ran for three full days and attracted over 150 children. A variety of activity sessions ran each day, including Little Artists, Clay Club, Little Potters, Make Your Own Dreamcatchers, Mindful Movement, Fingerprint Doodle Fun and Drama. The Let's Act Presents Drama Group also ran for three full days, with the theme based on Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes. The young performers had so much fun rehearsing scenes, developing characters and using Roald Dahl's work to inspire a new stage play. The amazing play was performed in the Llanover Hall theatre on the last day and parents, grandparents and carers came along to proudly watch. The events were a great success and positive feedback was received from both parents and children in attendance.

Volunteer Week

This year's Volunteer Week, which took place from 1-7 June 2023, provided a great opportunity to celebrate and recognise the fantastic contribution that volunteers make to local communities across Cardiff. In 2022/23, Volunteer Cardiff, which is part of the Council's Into Work Advice Service, supported 71 volunteers who contributed 10,799

hours, including providing support to Job Clubs, Hubs and Libraries, Adult Learning, Digital Support, Hostels, Befriending and Care Homes.

To thank volunteers for their efforts, the Volunteer Cardiff Team hosted an event at Central Library Hub on 2 June 2023 where volunteers shared experiences and received 'Certificates of Recognition' of all their hard work. I want to join with officers from the Into Work Advice Service in thanking all our volunteers for the time, dedication and support they have given to council services and customers within their local communities.

My Cabinet colleague, Cllr Sangani, was also pleased to attend an award ceremony celebrating the contribution of volunteers, which was held at Butetown Community Centre on 6 June 2023. The event took place during Volunteers Week 2023 and was organised by The Mentor Ring in partnership with Cardiff Third Sector Council, Butetown Community Centre and Women Connect First to say thank you to all their volunteers. She was pleased to congratulate and present certificates to the volunteers in recognition of their contribution, which helps make a real difference to local communities in Cardiff.

BBC Young Reporter Competition 2023

In its fifth year, the annual BBC Young Reporter Competition gives young people across the UK the chance to produce their own stories about issues relevant to them and their lives, working with BBC programme-makers, producers and journalists. The competition engages with thousands of 11-18-year-olds across the UK every year and works in partnership with schools, colleges and youth organisations.

This year's competition saw the judges choose [20 winners from across the UK](#) whose stories were judged on editorial merit, based on the strength of the idea and originality, and also reflected a range of diverse stories from across the UK.

I am delighted that both regional winners for Wales were from Cardiff – Nevaeh (aged 17) and Hari (aged 13). Nevaeh made a story about her personal journey to becoming a youth worker and the judges were fascinated to hear about how Nevaeh has become so committed to youth work since benefiting from it herself when she was younger, as well as the positive and significant impact that youth clubs and mentors like her can have. Hari's story was the winning Welsh language entry and involved him talking about his own unique Jewish-Welsh heritage.

The winners will now work with a BBC Cymru Wales producer to further develop their report ideas and to record their story for broadcast on the BBC, as well as online and on social media platforms, by the end of the year. I want to congratulate both Nevaeh and Hari on their personal stories and for their outstanding achievements in becoming BBC Young Reporters for Wales.

Councillors Julie Sangani & Peter Bradbury
Cabinet Members for Tackling Poverty, Equality & Public Health (Job Share)
23 June 2023