

COUNCIL: 28 MARCH 2019

CULTURE & LEISURE STATEMENT

Cardiff Story Museum

For the past two years, the Cardiff Story Museum has been leading the Welsh Government's Fusion programme in Cardiff, which aims to tackle poverty and create opportunities through heritage, culture and the arts. The museum has brought together a network of over 30 different cultural and community partner organisations, who work mainly in former 'Communities First' areas and Cardiff's Southern Arc, via projects and activities, which together have achieved the following:

- 5,114 early years & family learning participants engaged
- 177 qualifications gained
- 248 volunteer opportunities created
- 47 work placements offered
- 200 people improving their digital skills
- 3,146 people demonstrating an "improved attitude to learning"
- 931 people improving their health & wellbeing

I am delighted to confirm that the funding for Fusion has been extended for a further year. I would like to thank all the team at Cardiff Story for their hard work. The fact that the funding has been extended demonstrates the excellent partnership work that has been undertaken.

In addition, the Cardiff Story Museum has been awarded a Gold Award by Visit Wales for "*delivering an outstanding and memorable experience for visitors in all aspects of the attraction*". My congratulations to all involved.

Children's Literature Festival

The Cardiff Children's Literature Festival will return for its seventh year from 30th March to 7th April 2019. The Festival is curated and produced by the Council's events team in partnership with Literature Wales, Cardiff University and National Museum of Wales. It will run across two weekends and host over 50 events in English and Welsh at iconic venues across the city centre, including Cardiff Castle, City Hall and Central Library. The festival seeks to enthuse children about books and create lifelong readers, and celebrated authors and illustrators will, once again, bring a cast of colourful characters and amazing tales to inspire and entertain book lovers. The festival includes free mid-week school events; writing workshops; book readings; craft activities; quizzes; games and the occasional appearance of a character or two.

Sports Turf Traineeship

I am pleased to report that the recruitment exercise to recruit to the newly created Sport Turf Traineeship role has been completed with Morgan Ellery taking up the role on 4th March 2019. This newly created traineeship is for a 4-year term with a programme of practical experience being supplemented by a course of study at Pencoed College leading to the attainment of a Level 2 Diploma in Horticulture and Sports Turf. The creation of this post contributes to the Cardiff Commitment and the service's workforce planning to ensure that a skills base is maintained.

Mount Stuart Exchange Programme

An Apprenticeship Exchange Programme has also been developed with The Mount Stuart Trust that will see work experience opportunities being provided for apprentices employed by both organisations. The Mount Stuart Gardens are located on the Isle of Bute in Scotland and the programme will build on the historical links between Cardiff and the Bute family who developed landmarks in the city, including the Docks, Cardiff Castle and Castell Coch. Mount Stuart is the Bute family historical home and a world-renowned stately home and garden. Both sets of apprentices will derive benefits from the scheme, which will contribute to their learning and development.

Play Sufficiency Consultation

Last month, the Children's Play Service held a consultation event for children to have their say on the actions for the next Play Sufficiency Assessment (2019-22) and corresponding Action Plans. The 'Shout Out About Play' event was held in order to gain valuable information regarding play opportunities across Cardiff from the viewpoint of the child. Twenty Primary Schools from across Cardiff attended and were represented by five children of all ages from each school. The day consisted of workshops and play sessions, using a variety of techniques for gathering data through play. The event provided detailed information that will not only influence the Play Sufficiency Assessment, but will also feed directly into the schools' action plans.

National Exercise Referral Scheme

I am pleased to report that the National Exercise Referral Scheme continues to grow and develop throughout Cardiff. The scheme works closely with all NHS medical surgeries and hospitals in Cardiff and offers a wide variety of daily exercise classes across leisure facilities at a subsidised rate for 16 weeks; the emphasis is very much on health improvement and increasing physical activity levels. Conditions range from high blood pressure within primary care to muscular skeletal conditions in secondary care. This year, to date, a total of 737 generic clients were referred and have shown improvements in a range of areas, including overall physical activity levels, decreased blood pressure and weight and decreased BMI (Body Mass Index).

Canal Park

A Stage Two application, in partnership with Cardiff and Vale College, has been submitted to the Welsh Government for a £1.9M grant to develop a 3G facility with associated facilities at Canal Park in Butetown. The bid has the potential to provide much needed facilities for the area, ensuring daytime use by students and community club access after school hours and for league fixtures. The facility would also serve as a training centre to develop local community volunteers to become sports coaches, mentors and leaders.

Welsh Rugby Team – Grand Slam Victory

Last, but not least, I am sure that Members will wish to join me in congratulating the Welsh Rugby Team in winning the Six Nations Championship and Triple Crown on Saturday 16th March 2019 and, above all, achieving their third Grand Slam victory under Warren Gatland. It was certainly a momentous weekend for the city and I would like to take this opportunity to also recognise the outstanding performance of 'Team Cardiff' – all of the council officers and our partners across the city who work together to ensure that our visitors have the very best experience; leading up to and during their visit, whilst also cleaning up after the party and keeping the city moving. I am all too aware of the focus that goes into ensuring that events in our city work seamlessly, but the extent of this work is seldom visible and rarely appreciated, so thank you to all involved.

Councillor Peter Bradbury
Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure
22 March 2019