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## **TACKLING POVERTY, EQUALITY & PUBLIC HEALTH STATEMENT**

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### **Visit to Cardiff Foodbank**

We were both pleased to visit Cardiff Foodbank's new offices and warehouse in Splott recently. Cardiff Foodbank is a member of the city-wide Food Cardiff partnership of which Cardiff Council is a founding member. The warehouse now distributes food to eight centres across Cardiff and is part of the Trussell Trust, which supports over 1,200 foodbank centres across the UK. We heard how the need for emergency food provision has increased considerably due to the cost-of-living crisis and saw how the operation worked, relying on an impressive number of volunteers. The Council has recently provided direct support to Cardiff Foodbank by grant funding £46,000 via the Household Support Fund to purchase food stocks. This has assisted at a time where an increase in demand has corresponded with an overall reduction in donations. The Council's Food Strategy contains a key action area of tackling food inequalities across the city, and we were happy to be able to help in this context.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH & EQUALITY**

#### **Covid-19 Autumn Booster Vaccination Programme**

As I outlined in my Council Statement last month, the Autumn 2022 Covid-19 booster programme is underway. Covid-19 vaccinations are being delivered in GP practices, community pharmacies and at the two Mass Vaccination Centres (MVC) operated by Cardiff & Vale University Health Board (UHB) – Woodland House in Cardiff and Holm View in Barry, Vale of Glamorgan. There is no walk-in provision for booster vaccinations; however, a person can still walk into a MVC for their first or second doses and first booster jab if they haven't yet received it and are eligible.

The Cardiff MVC at Woodland House on Maes-y-Coed Road in the Heath Ward is open seven days a week from 10am to 7pm for vaccination by appointment only, for which those who are eligible will receive an invitation by post. There is no need for citizens to contact the Health Board or their GP Practice. If a person is unable to attend their appointment, they can contact Cardiff & Vale UHB by:

- E-mailing [cvuhb.massimms@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:cvuhb.massimms@wales.nhs.uk) with the details of the appointment they would like to reschedule/cancel, including their name, address and date of birth.
- Completing this [online form](#)
- Calling the booking centre on 029 2184 1234; however, there may be a wait to get through on the phone line so people are encouraged to e-mail first or use the online form.

I circulated a briefing to all members on the Covid-19 booster and winter flu vaccination programme on 20 October. Further information about the Covid-19 booster vaccination programme is also available on the Cardiff & Vale UHB website at: <https://cavuhb.nhs.wales/covid-19/cavuhb-covid-19-mass-vaccination-programme/>

### **'Dragon Play to Learn' Scheme**

As part of the Amplifying Prevention agenda, Cardiff's Hubs and Libraries are working with Sport Cardiff to encourage children and young people to be more active and move more. Sport Cardiff will be training the Hub staff through the 'Dragon Play to Learn' Scheme. This scheme is designed to add movements to story times with specially selected stories that young people can engage with including moving and dancing to the stories. There are also specially created resources available that Hub staff will be introducing into Story and Rhyme Time. Sport Cardiff and Cardiff Hubs and Libraries have already teamed up to offer an additional fantastic initiative aimed at getting children in Cardiff moving and active by encouraging them to take part in sports activities. Free sports equipment, for sports such as table tennis, boccia, athletics, badminton and cricket, is available for children and young people to borrow using their library card at participating Hubs which are Fairwater, Ely & Caerau, Grangetown, STAR, Llanrumney, Powerhouse, Rumney and St Mellons.

### **TACKLING POVERTY & SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE**

#### **Launch of the Winter Fuel Scheme**

September saw the launch of the Welsh Government Winter Fuel Scheme, which supports eligible people with a one-off payment to help with fuel costs. On the second day of the scheme, a record number of calls were taken by the Adviceline in just four hours, 600 of these calls were regarding the Winter Fuel Scheme. To date, over 26,500 applications have been received, with 15,432 applications approved and paid by the benefits team. It is anticipated that around 40,000 applications will be made, and officers are working to ensure that everyone who is eligible makes a claim. This is an excellent achievement from staff who are working exceptionally hard to ensure that funds are allocated to those that need it as quickly as possible.

#### **Cost of Living Support for Schools and Parents**

At the recent Headteacher's Conference, which was held at Cardiff City Stadium on 30 September 2022, presentations were given on the services within the Housing & Communities directorate, including Housing and Homelessness, Money Advice, Into Work Advice, and Community Hubs. A Cost-of-Living Crisis presentation was also delivered to the headteachers, setting out the schemes, funding and support available to parents and staff who are struggling financially. Since the conference, 12 schools have been in contact to arrange for the Money Advice Team to visit and speak to parents about the help available; the team will be hosting coffee mornings and will hold stands at upcoming Parents Evenings.

#### **Visit to Citizens Advice**

This month I had the pleasure of visiting Cardiff & Vale Citizens Advice to see the great work they are doing to support our communities. The close working relationship between the Council's Advice Services and Citizens Advice has been enhanced in

recent years. The teams make referrals to each other using each other's areas of expertise to ensure the best use of resources across the city. I discussed with the teams the increase in demand on the services and how the organisations are dealing with this. It was interesting to hear how, following the pandemic, so many people now access support over the phone rather than face to face. However, it was clear that to support our most vulnerable, face-to-face provision is vital and the use of our Community Hubs can provide this interaction.

### **Cost of Living Taskforce**

As mentioned in my statement last month, a new monthly Cost of Living Taskforce has recently been set up by the Council's Advice Service, bringing together a range of internal departments and key stakeholders including Citizens Advice, Cardiff Third Sector Council (C3SC), the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Welsh Government, Cardiff Foodbank and Registered Social Landlords to work together to ensure a joined-up approach to supporting communities across the city. The Taskforce will specifically focus on collaborative working, funding opportunities, sharing of resources and local intelligence.

The Taskforce aims to identify priorities for those affected by the cost-of-living crisis, secure the commitment of partners and funding opportunities, share good practice and success, including promotion and marketing, and develop ways to build upon and enhance work by Cardiff Council, the third sector and other public sector bodies to support residents most in need. The Taskforce will also keep an eye on any emerging issues so that they can be dealt with quickly and effectively.

### **Warm Places and Food for Young People**

A core part of open access youth work delivery is cooking sessions at youth centres and with young people cooking for each other. The service will be extending this to ensure that hot food and drink is available to any young people who need it through the autumn and winter months. There are seven centre-based provisions across the city which can provide this as part of their junior and senior weekly sessions. In addition, as part of our street-based engagement, these teams often deliver from pop-up tents in locations such as parks and provide hot drinks and snacks. This has been very successful and offers young people a chance to shelter and keep warm. Within existing resources, the team will now develop a coordinated approach where hot drinks and warm spaces will be provided as part of and/or alongside existing provision and well as looking to ensure hot food and drink is available to any young people through the autumn and winter months.

### **Digital Support and Cooking Courses at Supported Accommodation**

The MILES Youth Team has been working closely with the Adult Learning Team to deliver 'Cooking on a Budget' courses at supported accommodation venues. The course is aimed at equipping young people with the skills to cook healthy, nutritious meals on a limited income. The courses have been well received and will continue to be delivered in different young persons supported accommodation across the city. The MILES Adult & Youth Teams, along with the Digital Support and Adult Learning Teams, have started attending a new weekly drop-in session at Yr Hafan supported accommodation, to provide employment and wellbeing support to the families placed there. The drop-in sessions have started positively, and the teams are looking forward

to building relationships with the staff and supporting more families in the coming months. Families will receive one-to-one support and advisors will be available to help with tablet gifting, pre-employment support and accessing accredited training.

### **Jobs Fair**

The Cardiff Jobs & Wellbeing Event was held on 22 September 2022 at the Capitol Shopping Centre. The city-wide jobs fair consisted of 33 employers, including St David's Hotel, Cardiff Bus and Cardiff & Vale University Health Board. In addition, 21 support providers held a stall at the event including Cardiff & Vale College and Cardiff City Foundation. Over 450 jobs seekers attended the event, engaging with employers to access local employment opportunities. I am pleased to tell you that 107 job seekers were offered an interview on the day. Additional support was provided for those with Additional Learning Needs, disabilities, and low self-confidence due to mental health issues. A quiet area was provided, as well as personal tours of the event, with support from members of the Into Work Advice Service and Communities for Work project.

### **Shortlisting for National Awards**

I am pleased to announce that two Youth Service teams were shortlisted for recent national awards. The Digital Youth Club, an online youth worker-led secure forum for young people who cannot or do not want to attend a youth centre, has been shortlisted for the Youth Work Excellence Awards 2022 in Wales. The awards ceremony is due to take place on 1 December 2022 in Swansea. The Post-16 Team was also shortlisted in the 'Outstanding Impact in Education' category of the Mental Health & Wellbeing Wales Awards, which were held on 10 October 2022.

### **Youth Service Development**

To further strengthen the work around young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET), a new post has been developed to lead on the management of post-16 NEET data, with a focus on 16-18-year-olds, which is the tracking window that Careers Wales reports to Welsh Government on, and also a safeguarding element for young people aged 18 and under. Another aspect of the role will be to help coordinate the internal referrals which come in from the Youth Service and from other agencies and organisations (for 16-24-year-olds), which then get triaged and allocated to our post-16 Youth Mentors or/and supported onto specific suitable projects to try and engage with the young people to help them work towards their personal goals.

### **Youth Service Support for Learners Educated Other than at School (EOTAS)**

The Youth Service EOTAS mentor team continues to work closely with a number of education officers in relation to children who are looked after, and Additional Learning Needs (ALN) to monitor the destinations of all vulnerable learners at risk of becoming NEET. Fortnightly tracking meetings bring together these services to identify and support young people at this crucial time of the year as they transition from statutory school age to post-16 education, employment, or training.

**Councillors Julie Sangani & Peter Bradbury**  
**Cabinet Members for Tackling Poverty, Equality & Public Health (Job Share)**  
**21 October 2022**