
TACKLING POVERTY, EQUALITY & PUBLIC HEALTH STATEMENT

PUBLIC HEALTH & EQUALITY

Vaccinations

Although we are only halfway through the year, it is important to prepare ourselves for the months ahead. Covid-19 and flu are expected to be circulating at the same time this winter, so it's really important for people at greater health risk within our communities to get protected to reduce the risk of being admitted to hospital due to these infections and passing the infection on to those at higher risk of severe illness.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has advised that plans should be made for those at higher risk of severe Covid-19 to be offered a booster vaccination in autumn 2023. This offer will also include any unpaid carers of those at higher risk of severe Covid-19. Further details on eligibility are due to be released shortly and any updates can be found on the Public Health Wales website (see link below).

Covid-19 and flu vaccines will be available for all eligible individuals from September 2023. Covid-19 vaccinations are available from the Cardiff & Vale University Health Board Mass Vaccination Centre at Woodlands House on Maes-Y-Coed Road in Heath. Registration for vaccinations can be made by contacting the call centre on 029 2184 1234 (Monday-Sunday, 9am–5pm) or by completing the [online vaccination form](#).

The flu vaccine will be available at GP surgeries and at some community pharmacies. Eligible individuals should contact their GP or pharmacist for an appointment. Anyone who looks after someone by helping them with their daily activities and needs (unpaid carer) is also eligible for annual flu vaccinations.

Further information on vaccines offered in Wales is available on the Public Health Wales website at: <https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/immunisation-and-vaccines/>

Participation Strategy

The Cabinet approved the draft Participation Strategy 2023-27 for public consultation on 13 July. The new strategy is a requirement of the Local Government & Elections Wales Act 2021 and aims to amplify the voices of people who are currently less likely to get involved in the decision-making process with a focus on improving engagement with seldom heard voices. As part of the development of the strategy, the Council engaged with stakeholders including local ward councillors in areas of low response, community organisations, representative bodies and Council Employee Networks to understand barriers to engagement and develop proposals for improvement.

The public consultation will run for six weeks from 24 July until 4 September. The consultation will be available in Welsh, Arabic, Bengali and Polish as well as English. Hard copies will be printed and made publicly available as part of the consultation process in addition to the online version. Targeted engagement will also be undertaken with the stakeholder groups identified in the strategy as being under-represented within consultation and engagement work; they are older people (+75 years old); children and young people; Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities; and people who identify as disabled. Following the public consultation, a further report on the Participation Strategy 2023-27 will be considered for final approval by the Cabinet in Autumn 2023.

The online consultation will be available on the [Consultation page](#) of the Council's website from Monday 24 July.

Everywoman Festival

I am pleased to note that the inaugural Everywoman Festival held on 24 June at Insole Court was a great success. Founded by a consultant surgeon working in Cardiff & Vale University Health Board, the event included speakers such as Eluned Morgan MS, Minister for Health, workshops, and information stands covering a range of women's health issues from periods to menopause, mental health to sexual wellbeing. The Council's Wellbeing Support Service attended and were able to promote menopause workshops, accessible exercise sessions and the Wellbeing Mentor Service to partners in health, as well as the many attendees throughout the day. One of our Inclusion Officers also delivered a Tai Chi taster session in the gardens which was thoroughly enjoyed by the participants.

Sustainable and Healthy Food

Phase 1 of the £2.1 million Cardiff Capital Region Production and Supply of Sustainable Food Challenge is finishing. Three applicants have progressed through the feasibility stage – two are controlled environment agriculture projects (one is a hydroponics system and the other is an aeroponics system) and the third is a surplus food redistribution project. The demonstrator stage is due to commence this month following evaluation of applications from phase 1 participants. In addition, the Council has engaged consultants to assist with developing a framework for the provision of healthy and low carbon food in Cardiff schools. This work is due to commence this month and will involve staff from the Council's Sustainability and Education Catering teams.

TACKLING POVERTY & SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE

Employment Support

Cardiff Works continues to prioritise making Council jobs more accessible to all the city's communities and ensuring that the Council workforce is representative of the community that we serve. The agency has reviewed its processes over the past 12 months to ensure a better experience for both the candidate and the recruiting service within the Council. Improvements include digitalisation, streamlining processes, greater accessibility and greater visibility in the community.

As a result, the average time taken for a candidate to be accepted into the Cardiff Works pool has improved from 40 days to 48 hours; the percentage of Black and Minority Ethnic applicants applying and successfully entering the Cardiff Works pool has seen a significant increase from 7% in June 2021 to 37% in March 2023; and overall, there has been a 12% increase in the placements provided via Cardiff Works.

Cardiff Works is closely aligned with the Council's Into Work Advice Service and Adult Learning to ensure suitable candidates for roles are identified and, where required, upskilled as quickly as possible. These teams did a tremendous job last year, helping 135 people secure a care worker role, either with the Council or contracted care providers via the Cardiff Cares Academy.

The Cardiff Works Community Engagement Officer has been linking in with community groups, schools, parents and toddler groups, places of worship and local businesses, mainly in the southern arc of the city, to raise awareness of the job opportunities available through Cardiff Works. The aim is to connect with communities who are under-represented in the Council's current workforce.

A new initiative, 'Cardiff Works for You', offers work placements to young people and people from under-represented communities, who may struggle to secure employment due to little or no work experience. I am delighted to see that positive steps are being taken to deliver the Council's commitment of making our workforce more representative and look forward to seeing the progress that the initiative makes.

Such is the success of Cardiff Works that several other local authorities have either sought advice from the team about setting up an in-house agency or enquired about using Cardiff Works as their agency provider, which is testament to the progress that the team has made over recent years.

Money Advice During School Holidays

The Money Advice team has been busy refreshing publicity materials and promoting support available to parents and families in readiness for the school holidays. The team experiences an increase in demand leading up to school holidays from people who are concerned about feeding their families during the summer break.

The Money Advice team has put together information packs on low-cost or free food available to those on qualifying benefits, together with information on local initiatives such as Food & Fun programmes, local food pantries, community fridges and food co-ops. This information will be made available online via the Money Advice team's website (www.cardiffmoneyadvice.co.uk) and hard copies of the information will be available in all Community Hubs.

I would urge anyone who is struggling or worrying about their financial situation to seek advice, either by phoning the Advice Line on 029 2087 1071 or in person at a Community Hub.

Youth Work Week

At the end of June, Cardiff Youth Service marked Youth Work Week in Wales (23-30 June 2023) with a showcase of open, honest, and often heart-warming accounts into what the day of a youth worker in Cardiff looks like. I used to attend North Ely Youth Centre myself when I was younger, so I am very aware of the invaluable provision, support and help that the Youth Service provides. Our city-wide provision welcomes hundreds of young people, providing a lifeline for many young people in the local area, giving them a place to go, someone to talk to and an opportunity to take part in informal education based on their needs. Stories from Cardiff Youth Workers can be found on the Council's social media channels or viewed at: [Day In The Life Of A Youth Worker - Diwrnod Mewn Bywyd Gweithiwr Ieuenctid \(padlet.com\)](#)

We are always seeking enthusiastic new recruits into the Youth Service and I would encourage anyone who is interested in starting a career in youth work to find out more and join this invaluable and important team that helps and supports so many. The Youth Service has also made a film featuring young people, speaking in their own words about the impact the provision has made on them, which can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b9LyzANDmyQ>

Youth Work Celebration Event

On 7 July, I was fortunate to attend a presentation event at Eastmoors Youth Centre, which was attended by over 50 young people. The event was organised by the Post-16, Powerhouse and Eastmoors Youth Work teams to recognise and celebrate the success and contributions of young people to the youth service and their local communities. Young people were awarded with certificates for projects, courses and community engagement, with 84 awards being given out in total under the following categories:

- Certificates of Accreditation
- Certificates of Participation
- Certificates for Contribution to Cardiff Youth Service
- Certificates for Contribution to the Community

During the event there were performances, presentations and videos by young people and it was a chance for youth service members from centres across the city to get together and share ideas and make new connections. In the year ahead, we will be aiming to continue to showcase the achievements of young people supported by the Youth Service.

Summer with a DIFF'ERENCE

Cardiff Youth Service has launched 'Summer with a DIFF'ERENCE', a city-wide activity and event programme aimed at young people aged 11-25 years. Delivered through youth clubs, street-based youth provision, online and targeted projects across Cardiff, the line-up includes a range of activity such as day trips, taster sessions in creative arts, construction, music and beauty, E-sports programme and a Cardiff Youth Service takeover of the Aqua Park and Cardiff International White Water Centre.

As well as a range of sports, wellbeing groups and creative activity, Cardiff Content Creators are offering a unique opportunity for young people aged 11-17 to take part in a digital summer camp and Storey Arms Outdoor Education Centre will be providing a series of outdoor experiences.

Cardiff Youth Service is also hosting two youth exchange groups this summer – one group is from California and the other group is from Stuttgart. Throughout the duration of their visit, the young people will spend time with groups of young people in the city, experience Cardiff and be immersed in Welsh culture. These opportunities will be life changing for young people in this city and one which will enable them to develop friendships with people in Europe and America.

Youth clubs will be open across the service offering a safe space and support for young people to take part in a range of activities such as cooking, arts and crafts, gaming and sport.

A host of events to help young people decide on their next steps following exams will also take place, in partnership with the Into Work Advice Service and Cardiff Commitment team, as well as mentoring sessions providing support into employment, education, training, volunteering.

The Summer with a DIFF'ERENCE programme will be updated regularly online. Further information can be found at: [Upcoming events \(cardiffyouthservices.wales\)](https://cardiffyouthservices.wales)

In addition to this, I welcome the Welsh Government's funding and commitment to working with local residents and other partners to develop a grassroots-led Community Plan for Ely and Caerau, helping to meet the needs and aspirations of local people with a strong focus on supporting children and young people. A programme of activities will commence at the end of the school term, aiming to offer positive experiences and opportunities for children and young people aged 0-25 years, delivered by the Youth Service, Play Services, Leisure and a variety of community organisations. This work will help to inform wider sustainable engagement programmes across Cardiff and the rest of Wales.

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