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

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**PUBLIC HEALTH & EQUALITY**

**Autumn 2023 Covid-19 Booster Vaccination Programme**

Cardiff & Vale University Health Board (UHB) will be closing the Mass Vaccination Centre located at Maes-Y-Coed Road in the Heath this month.

The UHB will instead open two Mass Vaccination Centres at alternative locations in the city – at the Maelfa Wellbeing Hub in Llanedeyrn and at Rookwood Hospital on Fairwater Road in Llandaff. These alternative sites, together with the Mass Vaccination Centre at Barry Hospital, will be used from September 2023 to March 2024 to deliver the autumn Covid-19 booster vaccinations to citizens and staff within the Cardiff and Vale UHB area.

The autumn booster vaccination campaign serves to protect those at greatest risk from Covid-19 and its complications, as well as frontline health and social care workers. Eligible groups include:

- Adults aged 65 years and over
- Residents in a care home for older adults
- Persons aged 6 months to 64 years in a clinical risk group
- Persons aged 12 to 64 years who are household contacts of people with immunosuppression
- Persons aged 16 to 64 years who are carers and staff working in care homes for older adults
- Frontline health and social care workers

Further information is available on the Cardiff and Vale UHB website at: <https://cavuhb.nhs.wales/covid-19/cavuhb-covid-19-mass-vaccination-programme/>

**National Eye Health Week**

This year's National Eye Health Week takes place between 18 and 24 September, promoting the importance of good eye health and the need for regular eye tests for all. Throughout the week, drop-in events are being held in Hubs where members of the public can obtain useful information relating to eye health and local sight loss support services.

The Council's new Community Services Age Friendly Advice Officers work with a variety of partners to provide advice, information and guidance to support anyone with sight loss in Hubs across Cardiff. These include Sight Life (formerly the Cardiff Institute for the Blind) and Care and Repair's Managing Better service, a free home visiting service offering advice and practical help for people over the age of 50 who have sight loss, hearing loss, dementia, or have had a stroke.

### **Hub Health Screen Update**

I have been really pleased with the progress on the Hub Health Screen Project. The model is similar to that used by Public Health Wales for GP surgery waiting rooms. Flat screens have been placed in prominent positions within Hubs where visitors can view public health and other important public messages whilst they are in the buildings. Health engagement officers have been working with both internal and external partners, to provide quality content promoting public health campaigns and messaging which can help people to improve their health outcomes. Topics currently being promoted include:

- Dementia Friendly Cardiff website
- Bowel cancer screening videos in English, Welsh and various community languages
- Cardiff C-Card Scheme (sexual health)
- Chat Health
- Help Me Quit (smoking cessation)
- Childhood immunisations
- Stay Steady Clinics
- Cardiff Wellbeing Support Service

Work will continue to take place to identify preventative health programmes in partnership with Public Health Wales and keep content current and fresh with an emphasis on supporting key campaigns and seasonal topics (such as warm welcome spaces or carbon monoxide alarm testing).

### **Sustainable Production and Supply of Food Challenge**

The second round of the Sustainable Production and Supply of Food Challenge launched on 29 August. The Challenge is a partnership between the Cardiff Capital Region Challenge Fund, Cardiff Council, Monmouthshire County Council, Welsh Government, and the SBRI (Small Business Research Initiative) Centre of Excellence. The partnership is seeking innovative solutions around the themes of:

- Approaches to encourage and enhance knowledge within schools of the health benefits by sourcing from local food supply chains.
- Dynamic integrated tools that optimise the supply and distribution of local food supplies.
- Maximising renewable energy generation and local utilisation from farm (and growing) assets whilst maintaining agricultural yields.
- Innovative farming practices to reduce carbon emissions and increase yield.

Applications close on 9 October. Further information is available at: <https://sdi.click/sbrifoodchallenge>

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

### **Summer Activities**

Teams from across the Council and partners made sure that children and young people from every part of the city had a great summer this year.

The Butetown Pavilion Youth Hub Summer Camp 2023 was a huge success. The camp is part of the 'Fit and Fed' programme which helps keep children fit and active throughout the school holidays, while also alleviating the stress on families in disadvantaged areas by providing free breakfast and lunch for children on the day. Delivered in collaboration with Foundation 4 Sports Coaching (F4SC), over 180 children signed up for activities including sessions with Tennis Wales, the Welsh Rugby Union and local clubs such as Tiger Bay Boxing.

The Children's Play Service, including the Disability Play team, delivered a total of 140 play sessions. These play sessions were attended by a total of 3,981 children and young people from areas across Cardiff such as Butetown, Grangetown, Splott, Llanrumney, Creigiau, Riverside, Ely, Gabalfa and Danescourt. Sadly, National Playday was postponed due to storms, but work is now ongoing with partners to reschedule this for the October half term holiday period. With the help of Central Library Hub, the Children's Play Service will take over the whole building and provide a wonderful extravaganza of 'Play on a Shoestring!' for children and families.

Youth Services 'Summer with a DIFF'erence' programme offered an inclusive, fun-filled programme for 11–25-year-olds. Working with partners within and beyond the Council, the programme included day trips, taster sessions in music, arts, pottery, construction, beauty, outdoor activities, and a range of sports including a Cardiff Youth Services takeover of the Cardiff International White Water Centre. There will be lots more activities, clubs and opportunities taking place throughout the autumn.

Cardiff Youth Services also offered six weeks of free health and exercise classes for children and young people through the ION StrongKidz Summer Initiative. The initiative aims to make exercise accessible for all by removing the financial barrier that can restrict children from participating in holiday activities. 930 young people aged 7-18 accessed 54 hours of free exercise at ION Llanishen and ION@Space2B in Splott. Cardiff Youth Services were able to do this thanks to amazing sponsors and partners who are committed to helping provide a service that keeps the next generation fit and healthy, both physically and mentally. Youth Services aim to build on the success of this initiative over the coming year and will also encourage and support staff wellbeing through a joined-up approach with this programme.

Cardiff Youth Services Youth Action Group are continuing to work together to support the Ministerial Community Reference Group in Ely and Caerau, to ensure youth work continues to play a full and meaningful role in supporting the young people of the community. A specific community-led programme of summer activities proved very successful, and the team will follow this with further activities during the autumn period with the support of South Wales Police and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in the area. The team is also supporting the Community Safety Team, South Wales Fire & Rescue Service, and South Wales Police to help build relationships with young people and break down barriers to engagement.

## **Youth Employment Support**

August is an important milestone for many young people; pupils in Year 11 receive their GCSE results while those in Year 13 hear about their A-Levels. For some of those young people, results day was a time for celebration, but for others, the day brought uncertainty over their next steps. Into Work Youth Mentors were available in Hubs across the city for both results days to provide support and guidance, and additional Into Work teams such as Adult Learning and Cardiff Works were on site to provide further training and employment opportunity support. Following the results days last month, the Into Work Youth Team and Post-16 Youth Service Team hosted a summer youth event, 'Explore Your Future', aimed at making young people aware of their employment, education and training options. Over 60 young people attended to speak with over 30 providers, with 37 young people registering for more information and nine completing new self-referrals for youth mentor support.

## **Riverside Festival**

The Into Work Advice Service, in partnership with South Riverside Development Centre, hosted a community open day in Despenser Gardens at the end of August. Over 400 local residents enjoyed a range of fun activities, including face painting, a parade, live music and a range of food stalls. The Engagement Team were on hand to provide employability advice to attendees on the day. The festival is part of the increased delivery from the Into Work Advice Service in the Riverside area including a weekly job club, weekly digital support service, Adult Learning courses and dedicated employment sessions delivered by Cardiff Cares Academy and Cardiff Works.

## **Family Disability Benefit Support Team**

The Family Disability Benefit Support Team, part of the Money Advice Team, help families who have a child or children living with a disability, providing benefit advice and support up to and including representation support at appeal tribunals. The team have helped 21 families since April and have identified £118,300 in weekly benefits and £21,088.72 in one-off payments. The team have also expanded to provide a surgery in the University Hospital of Wales concourse to raise awareness of the support available.

## **Cost of Living & Winter Pressures Action Plan**

A Cost of Living & Winter Pressures Action Plan has been created to ensure that support is in place for households throughout the city who may struggle during the colder months. Plans are in place to reopen warm and welcome spaces in Hubs and libraries across the city. A new 'Fuel Champion' has been appointed as part of the Money Advice Team who will act as an advocate for customers when dealing with utility companies.

The focus remains on ensuring that citizens are aware of the help available to them. Updated information leaflets will be available in all Hubs, translated into community languages. The Cardiff Money Advice website has also been refreshed with up-to-date information, it can be found at: <http://www.cardiffmoneyadvice.co.uk/>. A wide-ranging publicity campaign is to be launched which will include local newspapers, radio and social media. Teams will also be promoting the help available in different engagement

and outreach events across the city, including parents' evenings, jobs fairs and coffee mornings.

As part of the action plan, the Money Advice Team alongside the Welfare Liaison Team will contact those who received assistance through the Cost-of-Living Discretionary Fund last year, offering further support and conducting benefit health checks, providing advice on grants and discounts available, and making referrals for serious debt.

The Council will keep the action plan under constant review to ensure there are adequate resources to support all residents who need help and will continue to bid for external funding as it becomes available.

### **Youth Exchanges**

Cardiff Youth Services hosted two youth exchanges this summer with young people from Stuttgart and Carlsbad in America. 12 young people from Cardiff's twin city of Stuttgart and seven regular youth club attendees from Ely and Caerau attended a residential placement in the Gower together and visited historical landmarks in and around Cardiff. The focus of the exchange was to increase young people's wellbeing: one young person commented, "It has been the best experience I have been involved in, I have built confidence and made friends for life."

The exchange with American young people focused on film making and content creation. Seven young people from Carlsbad, California met with 10 young people involved with the Digital Youth Work Team. The Carlsbad students volunteered to run Cardiff Content Creators alongside Youth Services, giving the attendees opportunities for peer-led work around filmmaking. The students from Carlsbad also visited London, Bannau Brycheiniog and Barry Island.

The Welsh Rugby Union kindly donated tickets for both groups to watch the Wales v England rugby match at the Principality Stadium in August.

Cardiff Youth Services will continue to work with young people to seek opportunities and shape plans for further youth exchanges in the future.

### **Sky Digital**

As part of the Council's new groundbreaking three-year partnership with Sky Digital, four youth centres (Eastmoors, Grassroots, North Ely and Gabalfa) have had fibre optic broadband fitted for free, which will enable young people to safely access the worldwide web and social media. The partnership will also see a new digital space being created at Eastmoors, where a digital room will have a 3D printer, MacBooks, workstations for podcast equipment as well as a range of software provided for staff and young people. Sky will also seek to improve the digital skills of young people with training and a range of workshops to address digital literacy.

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