
HOUSING & COMMUNITIES STATEMENT

New Build Housing Update

I am pleased to confirm that the shipping containers have been delivered to the Bute Street site as work progresses on our innovative housing scheme for homeless families in Cardiff. 13 flats are being constructed using shipping containers to create safe, warm and comfortable homes that will be available to homeless residents in the short term whilst a long term housing solution is found. The scheme has been awarded Welsh Government Innovative Housing Programme funding and is our first scheme using innovative construction methods.

Work has also started on our first PassivHaus scheme at the Highfields site in Heath. The scheme is being delivered through the Cardiff Living programme and will deliver 32 homes for market sale and 10 for council rental. The enabling works include the diversion of services running through the site to enable the main contract works to take place.

I am pleased to announce that the Cardiff Living programme won the Integration & Collaborative Working Award at the annual Constructing Excellence Wales (CEW) Awards that were held on 7th June 2019. The award was for Cardiff Living's Willowbrook scheme in St Mellons and recognised the approach taken to collaborate in developing difficult sites and delivering quality, sustainable affordable homes.

Homeless Multi-Disciplinary Outreach Team

A multi-disciplinary team is working as part of the Council's Outreach Service to assertively target service users who are caught in the 'revolving door' of homelessness and prolonged periods of rough sleeping. The team includes a dedicated substance misuse worker, which is a necessity as 80% of rough sleepers in 2018-19 displayed a lead need of substance misuse. The team also includes a dedicated Mental Health Social Worker and additional Social Services representation; an additional Homeless Nurse from Primary Health; a Counsellor and Therapeutic Outreach Worker from Pobl; the Council's Outreach team and manager, as well as a diversionary activities project officer, Peer mentors and coordinator from Wallich. The Salvation Army also provides a Homeless Advocacy Programme, and Dyfodol provides fast track prescribing and support to help those not involved in the criminal justice system, which is available evenings and weekends. The team meet weekly and work from a number of locations, including street based working, the breakfast run, the weekly Wallich Welfare Vehicle, as well as the Huggard and Ty Tresillian, Litchfield Court and Emergency Overnight Stay spaces.

Community Inclusion Officers

Four Community Inclusion Officers are now settled into their new posts and are based within the Community Hubs. They have all been working with community groups on garden projects within each district highlighting educational awareness in understanding wildlife, various plants and the benefits of growing produce, along with encouraging communities to become socially active.

STAR Hub community garden has an environmental partnership with the local bowls club where the club donates their grass cuttings, which then go into the Hub's compost bin to assist with growing produce. The opening of the community garden is planned for 18th July 2019 and will be supported by the RSPB, with the aim of the garden becoming an Urban Buzz Zone. In addition, work is currently underway to design and create a Dementia Friendly garden at Llanrumney Hub.

Community Inclusion Officers across the city are planning summer events to engage local communities, including fun days, encouraging and setting up more Knit n Knatter groups building on the success of the inter-generational group in Radyr. Goldies sessions are also being rolled out to more Hubs, as well as local history sessions, Dementia cafes and music sessions.

The Community Inclusion Officer in the north of the city has been busy setting up community litter pick groups and this has already been successful in Radyr with over 45 volunteers joining. Llanishen had their first community litter pick in the first week of July, which attracted over 30 volunteers.

The Community Inclusion Officer in the west of the city has been busy organising events to celebrate the Ely & Caerau Hub's 5th Birthday and arranging a range of activities for all ages to try throughout July, including a Health & Wellbeing Day on 26th July 2019 with over 21 partners in attendance.

Councillor Lynda Thorne
Cabinet Member for Housing & Communities
12 July 2019