



Bwrdd Partneriaeth
Rhanbarthol Gwent
Gwent Regional
Partnership Board



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Moli the cow who moo she was different – Book Launch

A children's story book that looks to capture young people's experiences and feelings of living with autism, has been launched to wide acclaim. The storybook was created by young people who live with autism from across the Gwent region, with support from the Gwent Regional Partnership Team and Petra Publishing.

The children wanted to share their own experiences and feelings through creative writing. It highlights the importance of embracing difference and how everyone has their own individual strengths.

The book was launched at the Serennu Centre in Newport on the 9th October, with a live reading of the book, narrated by creative storywriter Mike Church. Mike played an instrumental role in working with the children and parents to bring the story to life.

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Natasha Harris from the Gwent Regional Partnership Team also attended the Welsh Autism Show in Cardiff to promote the book and received excellent feedback.

Natasha said: "It's been a real privilege to take this project forward in Gwent as I'm hugely passionate about raising awareness of autism and tackling stigma.

"The young people were fantastic and shared their creative ideas and experiences of their autism to help tackle issues that were important to them.

"The project really gave the young people a voice and I feel very proud of the book they have created and can't wait to promote it throughout Gwent. The response to the book has been amazing!"

The book has been published by Petra Publishing who have previously worked with a parent group in Caerphilly to create '**the Elephant Who Forgot**'; a book that was developed to raise awareness of dementia for children.

Copies of the book will also be distributed to Primary Schools and libraries in Gwent and is available to purchase through Petra Publishing.

If you would like to know more about the project please contact Natasha Harris:

✉ Natasha.Harris@torfaen.gov.uk

If you would like to purchase a copy of 'Moli the Cow who moo she was different' please visit the Petra Publishing website:

www.petrapublishing.org

Magic Moments in Homecare Resource

Back in March 2019, the Wales School for Social Care Research and the Gwent Regional Partnership Team hosted an event that invited domiciliary carers from across the region to share kind, compassionate and heart-warming stories of the care and support that they provide.

These stories have now been collated into a booklet. This resource helps celebrate the commitment, compassion and skills of homecare staff across Gwent, the booklet can also be used as a training resource to inspire homecare providers to create their own magic moments and deliver personal outcome focused care.

If you would like a copy of 'Magic Moments in Homecare' booklet please contact Chris Hooper:

✉ Chris.Hooper@torfaen.gov.uk



Career College Consortium Recognition



Back in March 2019, the Wales School for Social Care Research and the Gwent Regional Partnership Team hosted an event that invited domiciliary carers from across the region to share kind, compassionate and heart-warming stories of the care and support that they provide.

The consortium work has recently been recognized by the Bevan Commission as an early innovation exemplar, this will provide the opportunity to engage with other innovators and the Bevan Academy to support the delivery of this unique approach to workforce development.

Through this work we have also been nominated for a Careers Wales 'Valued Partner Award' for our engagement with secondary school pupils across Gwent around roles and careers in the social care sector. The award ceremony will take place on November the 14th at Cardiff Bay so we ask all readers to please keep their fingers crossed!

Launch of Our Vision and Intentions for Adult Advocacy in Gwent

The official launch for the regional co-produced commissioning strategy for adult advocacy in Gwent took place on Friday October 25th at Pontypool Active Living Centre. Advocacy services are there to support citizens with a wide range of issues including participation in social services.

Advocacy ensures that individual's views, wishes and feelings are heard and taken into account giving them more voices, choice and control in decision making processes. Led by the Gwent Regional Partnership Board, with support from AgeCymru's Golden Thread Advocacy programme we have taken a co-productive approach to developing a Gwent adult advocacy strategy.



Local authority commissioners, advocacy providers and local citizen's work together to shape the strategy and this launch marks the first time that regional commissioning strategy has been developed in this way.



Grant funded through the integrated Care Fund, the Gwent access to advocacy (GATA) helpline has been developed alongside the strategy and will provide a single point of access to advocacy services for citizens and care professionals. Fully trained advisers can provide information, advice and support and make referrals to adult advocacy services across the region. The helpline is available 10:00am to 3:00pm Monday to Friday on 0808 801 0566.

Citizen Panel in Action

The Gwent regional citizen panel continues to meet on a regular five weekly basis, and having travelled around different venues in Gwent, has now decided to meet – at least for the next few months – in a central venue, at Cwmbran Library.

At their last meeting, in October, the panel were pleased to welcome the Future Generations Commissioner, Sophie Howe, and had a very fruitful discussion session – being very pleased to see the Commissioner making many notes!



The September meeting also had a short presentation on time credits – as this is something that the panel are keen to see put in place, to be an option for people to receive as a way of recognising their involvement.

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The citizen panel are just finalising their annual report for the year, and hope to have a copy available soon as a useful tool to encourage more citizens to get involved.

If you want to attend citizen panel meeting, or know of someone who may be interested, then please contact: [✉ CitizensPanel@torfaen.gov.uk](mailto:CitizensPanel@torfaen.gov.uk)

Regional Partnership Board – read all about it



The Regional Partnership Board in Gwent meets every other month, and its minutes are a matter of public record.

If you wish to see what is discussed, and to find out more, then minutes and RPB annual reports are posted on the regional partnership website at:

<http://www.gwentrbp.wales/home>

This is also the place where you can find annual reports, information about groups under the RPB, and population needs assessment information that informs the Area Plan for the RPB.

Note: This newsletter is prepared by the Regional Transformation Team, who are hosted by Torfaen County Borough Council, on behalf of the Gwent Regional Partnership Board.