

**Befriending Network**  
**Jamboard discussion groups**  
**November 30<sup>th</sup> 2021**

**Gaps in provision**

Volunteering

- Volunteer recruitment is difficult
- Recruited volunteers but they are not actually volunteering
- Need links to volunteering services
- Cynon area – difficult to recruit volunteers
- Funding needed for volunteer expenses
- How do we motivate volunteers in such a difficult time
- There's a volunteering lull after the initial covid 19
- We need joint volunteering open days to attract volunteers.

Children & Young People

- Lack of counselling services for young people outside of School
- Children's services – no equal spread across localities

Lack of services

- Support for carers of people living with dementia
- Dementia friendly communities
- Social interaction – next step for support
- Short Term funding
- Losing connections due to projects shut down
- Available community venues large enough to deliver services and the cost of these services

### **What opportunities are there?**

- Volunteering and support
- TSO to take on community transport
- Connect RCT
- Mapping
- Mainstreaming projects for sustainability
- Bringing Young People into projects to tackle anti-social behaviour and involve them.
- Well-being assessment – demonstrate needs and what's working
- More collaborative funding bids – more sustainable
- ICF -5 years funding as opposed to annual funding
- More community kitchens/gardens as a way of volunteering, learning skills and intergenerational activities
- Minibuses for communities and resources to support them

### **What can we do to improve services?**

- Listening to communities with meaningful and real consultation
- Partnership working not tokenistic
- More collaborative working – public and voluntary sector
- Peer to peer mutual support for learning and sharing best practice
- Training via CVC's to allow groups to meet identified needs

#### Funding –

1. keep Covid simplicity of accessing grants
2. Earlier identification of underspends/slippage to ensure better use of resources
3. Mentoring people to apply for grants, steer through the form filling

### **How can we work together & develop consortium/partnership bids going forward?**

- Peer to peer support for grant applications
- Link to community partnership and practitioner networks
- Identify key organisations to come together on a common aim
- Organisations sharing their expertise and resources to avoid duplication
- Discussions before hand so that work is complimentary and not overlapping. Organisations working to their strengths.
- Empower and support small organisations to be lead organisations to allow inclusivity
- Keeping the benefits of lockdown working – virtual meetings bring people together easier
- Less precious about the work and greater willingness to share – community over project

### **Any thing else?**

Issue over short term funding and tight deadlines to spend money by, which is a barrier to consultation.