

## **REPORT FROM POWYS COUNTY COUNCILLOR HEULWEN D HULME**

**JULY 2019**

### **ECO 3 SCHEME**

The Economy and Environment Director has provided vigorous assurances that the next round of the Ecoflex Scheme, Eco 3 will not go ahead until the authority is completely satisfied that suitable controls are in place to prevent any potential mis use of the funding. The future round of grant funding has great potential to assist with the easing of fuel poverty and we need to make sure that our residents are able to access these grants. We do also though have to ensure that the scheme is not open to abuse and makes maximum use of local contractors i.e. the Powys £.

### **POWYS COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL**

PCHC – is an independent advocacy service that offers confidential support, advice and guidance for those wishing to make a complaint against the NHS care and treatment. If you feel they could help please contact: 01874 610646.

### **FUTURE FIT**

Telford & Wrekin Council have sent a 60 page document to the review panel querying why we are not using Bronglais or Wrexham Maelor. The panel have met with various stakeholders and this has now been referred to the Health Secretary. No deadline has been set for a decision.

### **SILVERCLOUD**

Is a digital on line health platform with access to 30+ programmes to improve mental and chronic health conditions. All Powys residents have access to this service via google: [silvercloudhealth.com](https://silvercloudhealth.com)

### **DEMENTIA**

I attended a presentation at the PCHC meeting on 9 July. It was about raising awareness and understanding and working with other stakeholders, PAVO, PCC and PTHB. A lot of work has been done with local schools and community support groups. Also expediting access to timely diagnosis via GP's and how patients gain the correct level of support. In 2018 there were 1055 Powys residents who had been diagnosed with dementia. This is set to double by 2040 and the need to work with PCC to ensure appropriate care facilities commence now.

### **CHILDRENS SERVICES**

Children's Services Performance against the five key performance indicators remains steady, much improved on performance a year ago, but there is recognition that there is still scope for further improvement. The board expects further significant progress in the immediate future as the new staffing structure is finalised.

The board was pleased to see significant progress in appointing permanent staff to the agreed structure and a clear process in place to allocate cases to staff in a safe manner.

The service remains dependent on a significant number of agency personnel although the figure has reduced from previous levels. The board recognises the valuable contribution made by agency staff to service delivery but supports the aim to reduce their use with greater emphasis on permanent staff. The establishment of a permanent, competent and supported workforce remains the number one priority.

### **ADULTS SERVICES**

Adult Services Head of Adult Services presented the first draft of the service's transformation plans. The plan seeks to establish clear aspirations for the service taking into account factors such as demographics, demand and workforce issues and shape future service delivery accordingly. Board members noted that the proposals were influenced by accredited research with clear ambitions to achieve best practice for service delivery. Not surprisingly, given the presentation featured the first draft, board members provided considerable feedback to help strengthen the approach and will look forward to an updated version being presented to them in July for approval.

### **PROPERTIES AVAILABLE TO RENT**

PCC now have a web page to list "Properties available to rent" as well as on the Housing facebook page. These are properties that the Housing Service has no on the waiting list for, and so far it has been successful in finding new tenants. Here is the link: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/6805/Properties-available-to-rent>

## **NEW SCAMS ACTION SERVICE LAUNCHED**

With funding from the Martin Lewis Foundation, Citizens Advice have launched their new Scam Action service on the 16th July. The new service gives advice and information about online scams. You can get help if: So you think you might have found an online scam o you've been scammed online o you're acting on behalf of someone who's been scammed online.

To talk to a Scams Action adviser call 0300 330 3003 or paste this link below into your browser

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/get-help-with-online-scams/>

## **CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU**

The first 6 months CAB have helped over 3000 residents and the last 3 months to 1 July over 1200 new residents have contacted them – topping 100 per week. The main areas of concern are welfare benefits and debt problems. Biggest areas of enquiry are Personal Independent Payments and Employment support Allowance. To 1 July residents have seen £1.4m in financial gain which has a positive impact on residents lives and general wellbeing. To date 12 residents from Rhiwcyon have sought assistance from CAB.

## **CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL CARD UPDATE**

PCC is working with Transport for Wales and Welsh Government to roll out the new-style Concessionary Travel Cards across the authority by the end of December 2019. The cards will be introduced across Wales in phases over the following weeks. Existing card holders will be asked to apply for new cards later in the autumn. A public information campaign, managed by Transport for Wales, will be launched in the autumn. Questions and Answers are available on the TfW website to ensure you're well informed to answer any questions that you may receive from your constituents.

The new-style cards will offer the same free travel rights and benefits as the current cards. The process of issuing the new cards also remains the same until the wider national replacement commences in the autumn.

## **ABERHAFESP PLANNING**

19/0533/FUL Erection of a dwelling, single garage, Lynwood, Aberhafesp SY16 3HN

19/0797/FUL – Installation of ground mounted panels, Woodview, Aberhafesp SY16 3HL

## **DWYRIW PLANNING**

18/0499/FUL – 6K Egg Production unit at Llawnt Uchaf, New Mills SY16 3NP

19/0995/OUT – Agricultural dwelling, garage and assoc. works, Argae Fields, New Mills, SY16 3NG

## **MANAFON PLANNING**

No planning in the system

## **TREGYNON PLANNING**

P/2018/0580 – 76K Poultry Rearing Shed, Red House, Tregynon

18/0144/FUL – Retrospective planning for installation of 2 compressor units Post Office Tregynon - decision expected w/e 5.8.19

19/0814/RES – Reserve matters 5 dwellings, Tyn Y Ddol, Tregynon SY16 3PL

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## **ABBREVIATIONS:**

CAB – Citizen Advice Bureau

PAVO – Powys Advocacy Voluntary Organisation

PCC – Powys County Council

PCHC – Powys Community Health Council

PTHB – Powys Teaching Health Board

TfW – Transport for Wales