

Gwent Third Sector Forum



Overview

On the 7th May 2025, Llais facilitated the Gwent Third Sector Forum, engaging with 60 people from organisations delivering Health and Social Care services.

We heard from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board about their new strategy and third sector engagement.

Llais shared insights from people and communities across Gwent, highlighting the importance of putting people at the heart of services.

GAVO & TVA, led an insightful round table discussion on early intervention and prevention, discussing how to evidence and report impact. Many important questions were raised about reaching those who need Health and Social Care Services the most.

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board '10 year Strategy'

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board presented their new strategy, highlighting collaboration with third-sector organisations.

They confirmed engagement with diverse community groups, including the Gypsy Traveller community and older adults requiring 24-hour care. To ensure accessibility, simplified versions of the strategy, such as easy-read formats, are available. To reach socially isolated individuals, the Health Board worked with trusted community groups and offered both online and paper surveys to maximise participation.

Key Challenges in the Voluntary Sector

Strategy & Commissioning

Demand is increasing for Third Sector to meet need in community spaces 'being where people are'. Challenges are:

- Equity across Gwent.
- Reduced resources and stability for third sector groups.
- Risk of sector shrinkage over the next decade.

Resource Strain

- Increased referrals (e.g., social prescribing) without matching resources.
- Growing waiting lists for mental health services, worsening conditions.
- Inadequate support for people in temporary accommodation.

Training & Workforce

- No universal training framework for Housing Support Grant (HSG) staff.
- Inconsistent training across 22 local authorities.
- Recruitment and retention challenges affecting service delivery.

Operational Barriers

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Funding Issues

- Short-term funding cycles.
- High reporting burdens on small grants.
- No coverage for central costs or inflation adjustments.
- Competitive tendering drives down costs and service quality.

Systematic Fragmentation

- Poor coordination across regional boards and networks.
- Lack of integrated conversations and planning.
- Short-term funding limits long-term strategic focus.

Access & Outreach

- Limited access to rigid appointment systems.
- Lack of localised outreach services like "mini" surgeries for hard-to-reach clients.



Third Sector Early Intervention & Prevention

What is it?

- Proactive support to prevent crises before they escalate.
- Focus on mental health, domestic violence (DV), youth support, and trauma recovery.
- Delivered through schools, GP surgeries, open-access services, and community outreach.



How can it be reported?

- Multiple formats:
 - Digital platforms.
 - Case studies and narrative reports.
 - Feedback loops and regular reporting cycles.
- Key elements:
 - Frequency of reporting.
 - Use of both qualitative and quantitative evidence.
 - Highlighting long-term impact and recovery outcomes.



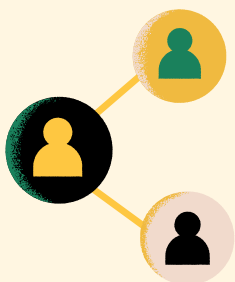
How can it be evidenced?

- Quantitative data:
 - Statistics, outcomes from DV programmes, service usage rates.
 - Focus groups, semi-structured interviews.
 - Case studies and service user stories.
 - Feedback from service user panels (S.U.J).
- Mixed methods: Combining stats with lived experience for a fuller picture.



Future Key Themes

- Safeguarding: Stronger networking of services for policy and support.
- (CYP) Youth Engagement: School-based work on emotions, identity, and safety.
- Access: "One front door" model for easier service entry.
- Trauma-informed: Therapeutic approaches and peer support.
- Capacity Building: Investing in long-term prevention, not just crisis response.



Thankyou for attending the forum. Please could take a few moments to complete a short survey on how you felt the forum went: [Click Here](#)