

	<p>Partnerships.</p> <p>An external evaluation of the programme will be undertaken during 2010-11. There will be two independent elements to this: an outcome evaluation and a process evaluation. The aim of the outcome evaluation is to provide evidence on the extent to which the fundamental objectives for the programme have been achieved over the lifetime of the programme to date. The focus of the process evaluation will be on the current (2009-2012) phase of the programme and it will examine the suitability of the design, implementation and funding of the programme in enabling its aims and objectives to be met.</p>	<p>3. The Minister for Social Justice and Local Government will write to all Welsh Assembly Government Ministers requesting them to evidence how they will be supporting Communities First within their portfolio areas.</p> <p>4. Officials will identify 6 policy areas for programme bending (across the Communities First Vision Framework) within the Assembly Government and Assembly Government Sponsored Bodies. Projects will then be identified to promote programme bending with service deliverers in a way which will have beneficial outcomes for people in CF areas.</p> <p><i>Update: This work is underway and a project has already been established which places a Job Centre Plus advisor in integrated Children's Centres in 4 Communities First areas with the aim of getting those most marginalised in society back into work and training.</i></p> <p>5. A set of draft outcome indicators will be developed to show the contribution Communities First can make to improving outcomes for local people. This work will be piloted in a local authority area as part of this year's work planning process.</p> <p>6. As part of the outcome indicators work, officials will work with colleagues in the Statistical Unit to provide indicators at Communities First area level compared to all Wales.</p> <p>7. We will report on the findings of Communities First Evaluations that get underway shortly, in particular the "Outcomes Evaluation" which will consider what the</p>	<p>July 2010</p> <p>December 2010</p> <p>November 2010</p> <p>November 2010</p> <p>March 2011</p>
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		programme is achieving	
<p>b) The Assembly Government should increase the emphasis, in all future strategic guidance to service providers, that in planning and delivering services they need to prioritise Communities First areas. Where appropriate, in monitoring the performance of individual services, the Assembly Government should increase the focus on the extent to which services are reducing the gap between outcomes for Communities First areas and for the rest of the country.</p>	<p>The main Communities First Guidance is currently being revised, and the issue of targeting Communities First areas and working with Communities First partnerships will be reinforced. The target date for a full revision of the Guidance is the end of 2010, with the most urgent elements being revised by August. The Assembly Government already ensures that appropriate references are made to Communities First in wider policies, plans and guidance. This will be reinforced through the Policy Gateway process which has already been strengthened to require explicit consideration of Communities First as new policies are developed.</p> <p>The Assembly Government will explore the best means of drawing the attention of local authorities to the need to prioritise Communities First areas in the planning and delivery of their services. We will also look to reinforce the potential for local authorities and other service providers to work closely with Communities First Partnerships through the Communities First Outcomes Fund. The Fund is a key tool which has already substantially improved the extent to which local authorities and other agencies are engaging with the Communities First programme.</p> <p>Pilot work will be commissioned through the Communities First Training Service and the Welsh Local Government Association to engage directly with elected members and</p>	<p>8. The Minister for Social Justice and Local Government will write to all Local Authorities and other public service deliverers requesting them to show how Communities First will be given priority in their areas.</p> <p>9. An updated summary version of the Communities First Guidance will be produced this Summer. It will incorporate the most urgent revisions of the Guidance, highlight the key issues relating to the programme, and include an emphasis on the continued need to prioritise Communities First areas.</p> <p>10. As detailed in actions 5 and 6 above, work will be undertaken on developing a set of draft outcome indicators and also providing information at Communities First area level. This will inform the extent to which services are reducing the gap between CF areas and the rest of the country. As the future of the programme will be considered over the coming year, this work will be piloted in a local authority area as part of this year's work planning process.</p>	<p>July 2010</p> <p>August 2010</p> <p>November 2010</p>

	<p>service managers in local authorities on the issues highlighted in this recommendation. Using models such as the Social Inclusion Learning Programme (SILP), training and support will be provided to encourage closer working with community partnerships and residents.</p> <p>The external evaluation of the programme will consider the extent to which service providers are addressing improved outcomes in Communities First areas.</p> <p>Work is also underway to develop a small set of indicators which would be appropriate for the programme. In the first instance, existing models which have been developed in some local authority areas are being considered as the possible basis for a national framework. We will look into whether an indicator on “reducing the gap” can be developed as a key measure of success for services and programmes.</p>		
<p>c) The Assembly Government should work with individual AGSBs to agree their contribution to the programme, relative to their potential to contribute to the programme’s objectives, and subsequently monitor performance against what has been agreed.</p>	<p>We will ensure that the role of AGSBs in relation to Communities First is reflected in their remit letters and operational plans. Discussions will take place this calendar year with the relevant sponsor divisions to ensure that the appropriate monitoring takes place.</p>	<p>11. Officials will work with all AGSBs (and their appropriate Sponsor Divisions) to agree their contribution to the programme. This will be completed by the end of the financial year. In some instances, it will link to work taken forward under action 5.</p> <p><i>Update: Since the Assembly Government’s response was laid, discussions have taken place with the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales and the WAG Sponsor Division. Initial discussions have also been held with the Arts Council Sponsor Team and a meeting will shortly be held with the Arts Council for</i></p>	<p>March 2011</p>

		<i>Wales. Officials are in the process of arranging meetings with other AGSBs.</i>	
d) The Assembly Government should consider whether there are opportunities, for example through reform of the Wales Programme for Improvement, for it to better encourage local authorities to improve their service delivery focus on Communities First areas.	<p>The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 already requires local authorities to seek to reduce disadvantages in service provision and accessibility – whether in Communities First areas or elsewhere. We will shortly issue revised Wales Programme for Improvement guidance, which reflects the Measure.</p>	<p>12. The Wales Programme for Improvement has already been revised. Officials in the Communities First Unit will look with the Local Government Policy team at the potential for appropriate Communities First references to be provided in other relevant material.</p> <p><i>Update: Discussion between officials has taken place. The Welsh Assembly Government is in the process of concluding Outcome Agreements with all local authorities, to align local priorities with national objectives. These are non-statutory, and it is for local authorities themselves to devise initial proposals. But in drawing up their agreements, we will strongly encourage local authorities to focus on areas of particular need, including Communities First areas and/or Strategic Regeneration Areas. Although it is early in the process, several local authorities have already indicated a strong willingness to do so.</i></p>	September 2010
e) Local Service Boards should work more closely with the Communities First partnerships in their areas, in order to improve outcomes for people living in Communities First areas. The Assembly Government’s guidance to Local Service Boards should make it clearer that, as far as is	<p>A one-day workshop will be held in May 2010 which will bring together LSB representatives and Communities First programme managers. The workshop will map existing practice and develop proposals for strengthening links between community partnerships and LSBs.</p> <p>The Assembly Government will consider what more needs to be done to ensure that the work of Local Service Boards, and the statutory partnerships, is linked more effectively to</p>	<p>13. We will hold a one day workshop on the links between Communities First Partnerships, Local Service Boards (and the Wales Spatial Plan). From this, a short Guidance note will be developed by officials in the Communities First Unit and the LSB team which will reinforce the importance of closer working and alignment of priorities.</p> <p><i>Update: The Workshop was held and officials will develop a short Guidance note on the links between</i></p>	September 2010

<p>possible, their plans and performance targets and measures should be consistent with those of the local partnerships.</p>	<p>the Communities First programme.</p>	<p><i>LSBs and Communities First Partnerships.</i></p>	
<p>f) The Assembly Government should develop and roll-out a programme of training and awareness-raising for Assembly Government officials and other service providers. This capacity building should draw on the lessons learnt from the Social Inclusion Learning Project in Conwy.</p>	<p>Discussions have taken place with both the Welsh Local Government Association and Third Sector organisations on how models such as the Social Inclusion Learning Programme (SILP) can be developed and rolled out for service providers and Assembly Government officials. We will be seeking the commitment of all parties to the wider rollout of a larger programme than SILP; this will draw on the experience gained from this programme in particular.</p> <p>Within the core training programme, managed by the Wales Council for Voluntary Action under contract from the Assembly Government, a pilot training course is being undertaken which raises awareness of Communities First and promotes the links between local authority officers and elected members, service managers and Communities First workers. A key feature of the course is about bringing service managers into direct contact with those working in the community. We are working closely with the WLGA and WCVA on this and drawing on lessons from the SILP</p>	<p>14. Officials will discuss with the WLGA and WCVA how a model based on SILP can be piloted in some local authority areas. This work will be undertaken under the existing Communities First Training Contract managed by the WCVA.</p> <p><i>Update: Initial discussions have taken place with the WLGA and WCVA and this was discussed at the Communities First Overarching Co-ordinators meeting in May. It has been agreed that a proposal, including costings, will be submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government by the WLGA and WCVA.</i></p>	<p>October 2010</p>

	programme which is being piloted in Rhondda Cynon Taf.		
<p>g) The Assembly Government should provide additional support as appropriate, such as in developing skills in writing bids, to those partnerships that are likely to find it more difficult to access the Outcomes Fund.</p>	<p>Work is already being undertaken on this under both the Training, and Advice and Supports contracts that are managed by the WCVA on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government. Under the Training contract a core element is training on the Outcomes Fund. The Advice and Support Contract service responds to queries potential applicants may have as they are developing their Outcomes Fund bids. The WCVA will also provide general advice on bid-writing as part of this process.</p> <p>The Assembly Government works closely with the WCVA in ensuring that the contracts are appropriate to the needs of partnerships. Support is also offered to all partnerships by the Communities First Unit in developing and strengthening bids to the Outcomes Fund. Expressions of Interest to the Fund are rarely rejected outright; instead, advice and support is provided by our Regional Implementation Teams to assist partnerships to address weaknesses. This iterative process is designed to ensure that all areas have an equal chance of achieving success through the Outcomes Fund.</p> <p>The take-up of the Outcomes Fund is being monitored including consideration of which partnerships are accessing the Fund and the regional and national distribution of funding.</p>	<p>15. We will update the Committee on the number of training courses and the advice provided to Communities First Partnerships on writing Outcomes Fund applications.</p> <p><i>Update: To date, 16 Outcomes Fund training courses have been provided across Wales under the Core Communities First Training Programme provided by the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA). The WCVA has assisted the development of 20 bids to the Outcomes Fund through their Communities First Advice & Support Contract. General advice has also been provided on the principles of the Outcomes Fund.</i></p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

<p>h) The Assembly Government, in all of its guidance that relates to Communities First, should make clear that the primary responsibility for achieving programme bending lies with service providers, and that the primary purpose of partnerships is to provide a mechanism to help ensure that services delivered locally meet the needs of the local community.</p>	<p>The Communities First Guidance is currently being revised and it will make clear that the primary responsibility for achieving programme bending will lie with service providers, with the primary purpose of partnerships being to help ensure that services are delivered to meet local need. One of the keys to achieving programme bending will be to ensure that strong relationships are built between partnerships and service providers. Partnerships will need to outline their priorities to service providers, with the Assembly Government's role being to promote programme bending at all levels.</p>	<p>16. As detailed in action 8 , this clarity will be provided in the revised summary Communities First Guidance.</p>	<p>August 2010</p>
<p>i) The Assembly Government should:</p> <p>a) make clear that partnerships should work with local stakeholders and the community to identify outcomes, but that partnerships should identify how they can best contribute to those outcomes, and measure and report progress against their planned contribution; and</p> <p>b) identify and disseminate good practice examples of where service</p>	<p>a. We see scope for partnerships to work with a range of local stakeholders and the community to identify how they can best contribute to identified outcomes. This will potentially also support closer working at the local level. [see also responses to recommendations j&k below].</p> <p>The Welsh Assembly Government will initiate a series of meetings with local authorities this calendar year to review the current position on what processes are in place for agreeing how Partnerships can contribute to identified outcomes.</p> <p>b. The Assembly Government fully recognises the need to promote programme-bending (service providers working closely with Partnerships) examples. The Assembly</p>	<p>17. Officials will, through the Annual Monitoring visits, discuss the processes each Partnership has in place for agreeing how best they can contribute to identified outcomes.</p> <p>18. Work on developing good practice case studies is already in hand. We will now identify examples of programme bending and disseminate appropriately. We will aim to identify 18 examples to cover all themes of the Communities First Vision Framework.</p> <p>19. In addition to action 18 above, an assessment of the impact of the Communities First Outcomes Fund Demonstration projects will be undertaken. An analysis of the impact of these will be supplemented by case studies on each.</p>	<p>December 2010</p> <p>December 2010</p> <p>October 2010</p>

<p>providers have worked with partnerships towards the outcomes set out in partnerships' action plans.</p>	<p>Government is working closely with Empower as part of the Communities First National Support contract in order to increase the dissemination of good practice examples. This will include examples of where service providers have worked closely with partnerships, for example on delivering their outcomes.</p>	<p><i>Update: An assessment by officials of the impact of the Demonstration projects will start shortly. Discussions have taken place with Empower, who manage the Information Service Contract on Communities First, and they will develop the Case Studies to supplement this work.</i></p>	
<p>j) The Assembly Government should work with Communities First partnerships to develop a small set of common indicators of the extent to which the programme is contributing to the improvements in outcomes for people living in Communities First areas. The Assembly Government should use these indicators to inform its assessment of the programme's value for money.</p>	<p>The Assembly Government will review the process of setting the outcomes of Communities First partnerships. Work is underway involving officials and Communities First co-ordinators to develop a small set of indicators which would be appropriate for the programme. In the first instance, existing models which have been developed in some local authorities are being considered as the possible basis for a national framework.</p> <p>Linked to this, Communities First officials will work closely with the Assembly Government's Analytical Services Team to ensure that the development of appropriate indicators can inform an assessment of value for money.</p>	<p>20. As highlighted in actions 5 and 6 above, work will be undertaken on developing set of outcome indicators to show the contribution Communities First can make to improving outcomes for local people. This work will be piloted in a local authority areas as part of this year's work plan. As part of the outcome indicators work, officials will work with colleagues in the Statistical Unit to provide indicators at Communities First area level compared to all Wales</p>	<p>November 2010</p>
<p>k) Through the annual monitoring visits, the Assembly Government should ensure that each</p>	<p>The Assembly Government does, and will continue to, monitor how targets relate to the Community Action Plan for the area. We will also ensure how the proposed targets</p>	<p>21. This will be done as part of this year's Annual Monitoring process. During the visits, officials will ask how Partnerships' annual targets help improve</p>	<p>December 2010</p>

<p>partnership’s annual targets clearly relate to the Community Action Plan for the area, and clearly demonstrate how the proposed targets support the key actions that the partnership must do to help improve outcomes for local people.</p>	<p>support the key actions that the Partnership must undertake in order to help improve outcomes for local people.</p>	<p>outcomes for local people.</p>	
<p><i>Recommendation 2. In addressing the Auditor General’s recommendations, we recommend that the Welsh Government incorporates explicit consideration of Communities First into its policy gateway process with immediate effect. It should also develop a mechanism to reassess existing policies to ensure that, wherever possible, they take account of Communities First. In reviewing its policies, the Welsh Government should be mindful of the opportunity this presents to refocus its staff on the Communities First objectives and to encourage a more joined-up approach. We ask that the Welsh Government provides us with a progress report within the next 12 months.</i></p>	<p>The Assembly Government’s “Policy Gateway” process now incorporates explicit consideration of Communities First. New policies will have to show how they are targeting Communities First areas and linking with Communities First Partnerships.</p> <p>Officials will also work with other policy divisions to ensure that existing policies are focused on Communities First areas. An update report will be provided in 12 months.</p>	<p>22. As detailed in actions 1 and 2, Communities First will be included in the Policy Gateway process and, as part of this, a Policy Integration tool will be developed in close collaboration with the Child Poverty Unit. This will ensure that all future policies and programmes will have to show the impact they have on alleviating poverty.</p> <p>23. Existing policies will be assessed to look at their prioritisation of Communities First. A list of those policies and programmes with specific reference to Communities First will be provided.</p> <p><i>Update: A full update will be provided in March 2011. A recent example of an area that recognised the importance of engaging with Communities First (Partnerships) was the publication of the draft Child Poverty Strategy. As part of the consultation period on the Strategy, officials are running specific events for Communities First staff and Partnership members.</i></p> <p><i>Another example of an area that prioritises</i></p>	<p>March 2010 for Policy Gateway and December 2010 for the Policy Integration Tool.</p> <p>March 2011</p>

		<p><i>Communities First is the Community Food Co-operative Programme which aims to establish and provide continued support to community food co-operatives in Wales. Part of Assembly Government's agreement on this project (with the Rural Regeneration Unit) is that the geographical coverage of Food Co-operatives across Wales must be increased - with a minimum of 75% of them being in Communities First areas. Close links have also been developed with Communities First Partnerships.</i></p> <p><i>Officials are also working closely with colleagues in the Department for the Economy and Transport to ensure that links are made between the Strategic Regeneration Areas (SRAs) and the priorities of Communities First Partnerships. For example, a Seminar was held which brought together officials managing the development of the Western Valleys SRA with Staff and Chairs of Communities First Partnerships in the area.</i></p>	
<p>Recommendation 3. <i>We recommend that, in meeting the Auditor General's recommendation that the Welsh Government needs to better encourage local authorities and other public service providers to improve their service delivery focus on Communities First areas, the Welsh Government should consider the potential to encourage programme bending both through incentivisation and direction - a carrot and stick approach.</i></p>	<p>We are exploring the best means, through incentivisation and direction, of drawing the attention of local authorities and other service providers to the need to prioritise Communities First areas in the planning and delivery of their services. The potential for them working closely with Communities First Partnerships through the Communities First Outcomes Fund will also be emphasised.</p>	<p>24. As detailed in action 8 above, the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government will write to all Local Authorities and other public service deliverers requesting them to show how Communities First will be given a priority in their areas.</p>	<p>July 2010</p>

<p>Recommendation 4. <i>We recommend that, in meeting the Auditor General's recommendations, the Welsh Government clearly outlines how the monitoring of the Communities First programme will be improved and the measures that will be used to demonstrate achievement of the programmes objectives.</i></p>	<p>The monitoring will be improved by reviewing how we identify the outcomes of Communities First partnerships. Work is underway involving officials and Communities First co-ordinators to develop a small set of indicators which would be appropriate for the programme. See also response to recommendation (j).</p> <p>The external evaluation of the programme, which will be undertaken during 2010-11, will include an assessment of the comparative outcomes between Communities First areas and other parts of Wales.</p>	<p>25. As highlighted in earlier actions, this will be undertaken through the development of a small set of indicators and also the information gathered at Communities First area level.</p>	<p>November 2010</p>
<p>Recommendation 5. <i>We recommend that the Welsh Government closely monitors the Outcomes Fund, and that it ensures that it is able to demonstrate hard outcomes for this investment of public money that demonstrate progress towards the Communities First objectives. We ask that the Welsh Government provides us with a progress report, and details of programme-level movement towards achieving objectives within the next 12 months.</i></p>	<p>The Assembly Government is closely monitoring the Outcomes Fund. Each application that is approved has to demonstrate clear outcomes as to how the work will benefit the community. Once an application is approved, its implementation is monitored closely by the Welsh Assembly Government.</p> <p>A progress report on the Outcomes Fund will be provided within the next 12 months.</p>	<p>26. As detailed in action 19, an assessment of the impact of the Communities First Outcomes Fund Demonstration projects will be undertaken. An analysis of the impact of these will be supplemented by case studies on each, and these will be disseminated.</p> <p>27. A full report on progress against the Public Accounts Committee's recommendations will be submitted by March 2011. Attached at Annex A are some examples of Outcomes Fund Projects that have been approved to date.</p>	<p>October 2010</p> <p>March 2011</p>

Annex A

Examples of Communities First Outcomes Fund Projects

1. Anglesey Environmental Demonstration Project

The Anglesey environmental project builds on the work undertaken by 'environmental workers' in the previous phase of the Communities First Programme. The project seeks to:

- Improve the landscape of Communities First areas
- Contribute to the wider regeneration of Anglesey
- Consistent approach to environmental regeneration across Anglesey
- Developing the project as a social enterprise, through securing contracts
- Develop the environmental skills of people living in Anglesey

2. Bridgend – Family Employment Initiative Demonstration Project

The Family Employment Initiative is a partnership between Communities First, BTCV, V2C and Bridgend CBC. It provides specialist engagement techniques to create supported pathways to employment and tailored training programmes for families delivered via local environmental projects. Its key objectives are –

- To increase the number of people in work
- To provide opportunities to families and individuals to participate in a range of community environmental opportunities
- To provide a pathway to enhanced skills, entrepreneurship, the development of self employment , co-operatives, community businesses and the establishment of social enterprises

To date approximately 250 people have engaged in the programmes, as a result 19 have progressed into further skills programmes and community members have also developed a business plan to initiate a recycling enterprise.

3. Caerphilly – Rhymney Minibytes

The project creates a social networking forum for the community, which in turn will reduce levels of social exclusion via digital inclusion. The project provides access to online job searches linked with Working Links. The sessions are specifically aimed at young adults, as well as with 'silver surfers'. The key outcomes include higher levels of esteem amongst users and older people feeling more included in modern technology.

4. Carmarthenshire – Debt and Advice Demonstration Project

Glanymor and Tyisha Communities First lead on a project training volunteers from the area under the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and Debt and Benefit (DAB) training package in partnership with CAB to offer outreach debt and benefit advice. CAB is funded to provide debt and benefit advice to the public but the demonstration project aims to provide an initial outreach support mechanism to residents in the community and will help with applying for benefit, housing grants and dealing with debt.

The objectives are:

- To train 15 volunteers per year via the local CAB office on tailored training programmes.
- Estimated that on average 3 debt and benefit outreach sessions will be held per week per ward with two volunteers attending each session
- Estimated that the project will assist 150 within 5 wards in year one, dealing with over £1,385,500 worth of debt
- When meeting with clients, more than three meetings will be held to assist with issues and could take up to ten meetings per client depending on the individual clients

In addition to this the staff employed by the debt and benefits project will also have the remit of assisting with general volunteering within the 5 Communities First wards. There are high levels of economic inactivity and the staff will be involved in recruiting new volunteers, offering regular 1:1 supervision and training needs assessments, organising volunteer placements and sign posting them onto relevant schemes to assist people back into employment. This involves linking into existing schemes such as Action for Employment, Job Centre Plus etc This project has proved very successful and the Local Authority are considering ways of rolling it out across the County.

5. Merthyr Tydfil - Transition to Employment

The Transition into Employment programme seeks to engage the hardest to reach young people in a comprehensive package of personal support and vocational training focusing on both the pre and post 16 age groups. The project will focus on those 16 -19 who have already become disaffected / disengaged from either education or employment, through a comprehensive NEET's programme. There will also be a clear focus on prevention of disaffection within the education process to reduce the number of young people 14-16 from leaving school without appropriate qualifications. This will be achieved through the further development of vocational training opportunities for young people at risk of disengagement, in partnership with the 14-19 Learning Network. These programmes will also include support for young people in the mapping of their next steps through transitional support as they leave school to enter the appropriate educational programmes, or employment in line with their needs.

6. Neath Port Talbot - Youth Demonstration Project

Communities First Partnerships in Neath Port Talbot identified the need for additional support for the future development of young people in their areas. A cross partnerships funding application was developed with the involvement of the Local Authorities Youth Service, Want to Work, NPT CVS, local CF representation and the NPT Central Support team to provide additional youth work support to all of the CF areas.

The main aim of this demonstration project is to contribute to the reduction of child poverty in all Communities First areas in Neath Port Talbot focussing on Young People (YP) between the ages of 11-25. It will reach the most disengaged YP, empowering them to access and

influence services. This will then enable them to become active citizens to participate in the regeneration of their community and ultimately reduce child poverty in Communities First areas.

The key Outcomes and Measures are:

- Improved key skills and employment opportunities for young people to increase employment, lifelong learning and personal development opportunities
- To improve the health and well-being of young people, reducing health inequalities and promoting positive lifestyle choices.
Measures:
- Strengthen volunteer capacity to support sustainable youth provision
Measures:

The outcomes will be delivered at an operational level by three Youth and Community Workers. These workers will network with a diverse range of providers and services that support the needs of YP. The project will complement the Neath Port Talbot Zonal Model¹ for Youth Service delivery and will be monitored using structured work programmes that reflect the objectives set by the CF Partnerships. Overall responsibility for delivering the outcomes and targets will be with a strategic and performance management team comprising of voluntary and statutory organisations.

7. Newport – Employment and Skills Preparation Programme

This Outcomes Fund project (recently approved) aims to provide a Employment and Skills Preparation Programme linked to the Future Jobs Fund (FJF) programme. The project aims to improve the career prospects, and help into employment, 18-24 year olds from Communities First areas that have been on job seekers allowance (JSA) for 10-12 months. The outcomes are to:

¹ The Zonal Model for delivering youth services in NPT. The borough is divided into three geographic clusters, with each cluster comprising of 12 zones.

- Increase the number of those living in CF areas obtaining vocational qualifications.
- Increase the number of CF beneficiaries obtaining and sustaining employment through the FJF posts.
- Increase the number of CF beneficiaries who obtain a positive career option (positive outcome) after their FJF placement.

8. Rhondda-Cynon-Taf - School Focused Communities Demonstration Project

School Focused Communities is an outcomes fund demonstration project that began in April 2010 and operates in two school cluster areas that covers seven Communities First areas in Rhondda Cynon Taf. The aim of the project is to reduce child poverty through engaging with hard to reach families in the most deprived communities, its key objectives are:

- Improving family involvement in learning
- Improved school attendance
- Improving education achievement

Since the inception of the project it has been successful in running two Family Learning courses, these have demonstrated a 25% increase in numbers of parents participating in school activities and have also resulted in improving school attendance by over 20%.

Through encouraging hard to reach families to engage in school culture it is hoped that over the duration of the project that not only will the young people become involved in school life and improve educational attainment, but hard to reach parents will be encouraged and signposted back into employment.

9. Swansea – Supporting Families Project

This project (recently approved) will provide funding for a dedicated Third Sector resource (CF CYP Service Project Manager) to work with Communities First Partnerships, Community Groups and Voluntary Organisations in order to support their ability to provide services for Children and Young People in the CF areas of Townhill, Penlan and Blaenymaes/ Portmead/Penplas. An existing post will be developed to focus more of Communities First areas, with increased hours. The bid has been developed in consultation with the Lead Director for Children and Young People and will provide a Third Sector component for Early Intervention and Prevention, influencing the delivery of services to complement mainstream provision to address the Communities First Child Poverty Agenda and the Children and Young People Plan.

10. DWP/Job Centre Plus - Child Poverty Project

This pilot provides for a dedicated Jobcentre Plus Personal Adviser in each of children's centres in four Communities First Areas. The long-term vision is for the adviser to be seen as part of the children's centre and Communities First staff team. Each pilot will offer a common key set of services, consistent across the four areas but with modifications to meet specific local need. This will be supplemented by services or delivery mechanisms designed to support local parents into the labour market. Key services include outreach to those not using the centre, but in contact with Communities First projects and those using the centre but not using Jobcentre Plus services, providing lone parent adviser services such as New Deal for Lone Parents (NDLP), and offering services to those outside the traditional Jobcentre Plus contact group, such as potential second earners. An important part of the role is awareness raising, via seminars, events and training for centre users and centre staff, and the development of partnership working arrangements. Communities First Partnerships will contribute to this aim by offering their local knowledge and networks to break down barriers to access for parents.