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Croesawn alwadau yn y Gymraeg
We welcome calls in Welsh

Croesawn ohebu yn Gymraeg a fydd gohebu yn y Gymraeg ddim yn arwain at oedi.
Rhowch wybod inni beth yw'ch dewis iaith e.e Cymraeg neu'n ddwyieithog
We welcome correspondence in Welsh and corresponding with us in Welsh will not lead to a delay.
Let us know your language choice if Welsh or bilingual.

Mike Hedges AM
Chair of Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dyddiad/Date: 23rd May 2017

Ein Cyf./Our Ref.: CE/GC/CH/HJ
Eich Cyf./Your Ref.:

Gofynnwch am/Please ask for: Chris Hole
Llinell Uniongyrchol/Direct Line: 01685 724601
e-bost/email: chris.hole@merthyr.gov.uk

Dear Mr Hedges

FORSYTHIA YOUTH CLUB - 3G'S DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the concerns about the future of Forsythia Youth Centre in the current Communities First North Cluster of Merthyr Tydfil. Within Merthyr Tydfil the Communities First programme is delivered by third sector organisations who have worked in partnership with the Local Authority as the nominated Lead Delivery Body. In the case of the North Cluster and the Forsythia Youth Centre this would be the 3G's Development Trust.

As I am sure you will be aware the current Communities First programme is facing a significant period of change and uncertainty since the decision to end the programme was announced by Welsh Government. As the Lead Delivery Body and in line with the Welsh Government guidance we have been supporting our third sector colleagues to plan for and undertake this transition year, building towards the full closure of the Communities First programme.

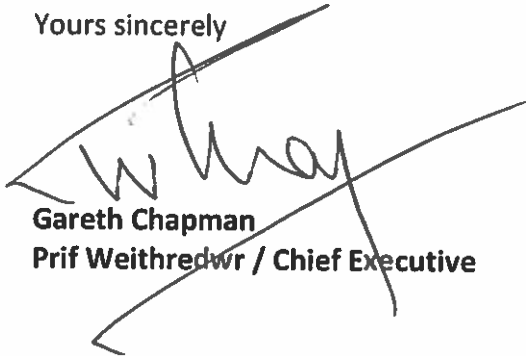
In order to provide organisations including the 3G's Development Trust with the time to both plan the way forward and manage their Human Resource responsibilities, a full programme has been maintained through April – June. This will then mean however a significant reduction in Community First services across the North cluster area from July onwards before a full closure at the end of the financial year. It is unavoidable however that there is going to be concern across the communities as organisations have to undertake consultation and go through redundancy processes with their entire workforce.

Gareth Chapman CSTJ., DL., LL.M., MBA., CMgr., DipLG., CCMI., Solicitor
Chief Executive/Prif Weithredwr

In line with the Welsh Government guidance the 3G's Development Trust has agreed draft priorities for funding for the July – April period with the local authority and these are focused on maintaining services to children and young people. These priorities will continue to meet the needs of the community and ensure an effective element of preventative work at a universal level remains in the community throughout the financial year of 2017/18. These services will contribute to the Local Authority's Wellbeing priorities and provide an important part of the Local Authority's approach to mitigating the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) as outlined in the Young People's section in the Welsh Government guidance on Families First.

If we can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact Chris Hole our Head of Community Wellbeing on the telephone number outlined above.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Chapman
Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive