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DEVELOPING NHS GARDENS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE THIRD SECTOR, LOCAL BUSINESSES AND BRIDGEND MILITARY ACADEMY

BACKGROUND

Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTMUHB) has over 30 courtyard spaces across the patch. Due to pressures on Estates and Gardening services, many of these spaces are unable to be maintained to a high standard.

Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB public engagement plan - CTM 2030: Our Health Our Future - The CTMUHB 2030 vision invites communities, staff, partners and stakeholders to 'build healthier communities together'.

The RIC Hub in partnership with CTMUHB Arts and Health were tasked with identifying and engaging appropriate key partners supportive of the vision and practice of maintenance of specified exemplar garden spaces.

THE PROJECTS

CTMUHB Arts and Health Coordinator outlined the initial task. Three Covid Memorial Gardens sited at each District General Hospital had been designed previously by artists in conjunction with community consultation. These heart shaped willow structures are lined with Welsh slate, and enclose engraved slate plaques. Yellow planting compliments the spaces, with the aim of enhancing patient, staff and visitors' wellbeing.

ENGAGEMENT, PLANNING AND ACTION

Through established networks, the CTM RIC Hub Innovation and Engagement Officer contacted Volunteer Coordinators in the Local Authority Community Voluntary Councils (CVCs) across Merthyr Tydfil (VAMT), Rhondda Cynon Taf (Interlink) and Bridgend (BAVO).

A wide range of organisations and businesses were proposed, and through the process of elimination, support was identified. Organisations involved:

Prince Charles: EE Mobile, Tilbury Douglas, Gurnos Men's Project

Royal Glamorgan Hospital: Pontyclun Men's Sheds

Princess of Wales: Knight's Brown, Bridgend Military Training Academy.

LESSONS LEARNED

Due to current financial and staffing constraints, Estates upkeep of garden areas is necessarily limited. Initiation of future garden spaces should include subsequent maintenance plans.

Current CTMUHB volunteers are involved in Y Bwthyn, POW. This opportunity could be extended across the Health Board to other sites.

Financial support needs to be outsourced through donations, charitable organisations or business community funds.

FURTHER WORK

The involvement of CTMUHB Arts and Health Coordinator and the CTM RIC Hub in the Covid Memorial Gardens has initiated a series of requests for garden support from across the Health Board. Support has been provided with staff led projects in Y Bwthyn POW; Y Bwthyn RGH, YCC and Dewi Sant.

Leverage through Patient Experience supports ongoing work across the Health Board.



The People's Experience Team, Arts and Health and CTM RIC Hub are excited to work in partnership with third-sector organisations, local businesses and Bridgend Military Academy to develop gardens across CTMUHB. These will enable patients, families, friends and staff to have access to spaces created to provide a calming environment, enhancing mental and physical wellbeing.

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