

## Overview

By working together in new ways, public services will re-energise their collective purpose to function as an unstoppable force for public good. This change will not be achieved overnight but the benefits of adopting co-productive practices are immense. It was mutualism, a previous form of co-production in the South Wales Valleys that built better tomorrows. On this new collective journey we will learn to walk in the footsteps of giants

# WELL BEING

## TIME TOGETHER GORSEINON

IS ABOUT MAKING NEW CONNECTIONS  
SO THAT THROUGH COLLABORATIVE  
EFFORT CITIZENS AND COMMUNITIES  
BECOME STRONGER AND HEALTHIER

CONCEPT PAPER



# Challenging Times



## Challenging Times

Public services are faced with years of tougher funding settlements as a result of the indebtedness of the UK Government. They will have less money but will be asked to do more in response to seemingly intractable problems. "Better Outcomes for Tougher Times" (WAG) recognises that the scale of the challenge is such that "we need a radical transformation in the way public services are planned and delivered". It goes on to say that "we are committed to meeting the needs of citizens through collaboration rather than competition", and this can be used to spur powerful new ways to re-engineer the design and delivery of public services to yield better outcomes.

### Time Together Gorseinon

Time Together Gorseinon aims to bring citizens, professionals, agencies and community groups together to maximise the well-being of people living in the Gorseinon area. The City and County of Swansea Social Services has started this process in partnership with the Gorseinon Development Trust, Time Banking Wales, Community Lives Consortium and Swansea Council for Voluntary Service.

Time Together Gorseinon is about creating value for new times through a conversation about citizenship based on contribution, participation, relationship, and a commitment to the common good. Central to this conversation is the conviction that welcoming the presence and participation of citizens who have been labelled as marginalised will revitalise and strengthen the Gorseinon community.

*"We need to be heard in the community. We have a lot of knowledge and we can teach the rest of society" (43 year old Gorseinon citizen with learning disabilities).*

Time Together Gorseinon will prioritise working with citizens to rebuild the architecture of civic life, recognising that the virtues of democratic life – trust, community safety, well-being, social inclusion - are not commodities that can be delivered. Rather, they are nurtured in co-productive relationships between service providers and citizens; a two-way conversation that can become a win-win option in improving service planning and delivery, building bridges and developing community.

'The Consultation on a new Development Scheme for Wales, One Wales: One Planet' advocates the mass engagement of citizens in communities as the hidden engine of change that will transform social reality. Its key themes promote "a fair and just Wales in which citizens of all ages are empowered to determine their own lives, shape their communities, and achieve their full potential".

Time Together Gorseinon will establish itself as a collaborative structure to promote the well-being of all who live in Gorseinon.

### **The Well-being Alliance (a community of service providers )**

The Alliance will be an ever growing group of public service providers, commissioners and third sector organisations with an interest in the well-being and support of all citizens in Gorseinon. The Alliance will explore the best use of their common resources in supporting the citizens they serve, and will revitalise the involvement of citizens by providing new methods of engagement to promote active citizenship. By focusing on an asset based perspective, the Well-being Alliance will ensure citizens are the start of the solution, not the start of the problem.

### **The Well-being Network (a citizen membership based organisation)**

The Alliance will refer citizens to become members of the Well-being Network. The Network will be membership based, focusing on what people can do, utilising the skills, talents and energy of Gorseinon citizens. Citizens will be invited to join and take part in the Network on the basis that everyone, irrespective of disability, gender, race, religion, has a contribution to make which is valuable to their community.

The Well-being Network will work on the egalitarian principle that for each hour that a person gives to rebuilding civil society they receive one time credit. Time credits will be used to access events, educational and cultural experiences on a quid pro quo hourly basis. The Network will create a space where citizens can share, learn, grow, work and celebrate together.