



**VOLUNTARY ACTION
MERTHYR TYDFIL
GWEITHREDU GWIRFODDOL
MERTHYR TUDFUL**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

TACKLING LONELINESS & ISOLATION - DEVELOPMENT OFFICER POST

Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil (VAMT) is the County Voluntary Council (CVC) for the area and has been in existence since 1997. VAMT's main role is the support, development and representation of third sector organisations and the promotion of volunteering. VAMT has a membership of over 280 voluntary organisations.

As part of VAMT's involvement in the Cwm Taf Public Service Board (PSB), the Chief Officer of VAMT is the lead officer for the "tackling loneliness and isolation" objective in the Cwm Taf Wellbeing Plan.

As well as the PSB, the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Partnership Board (RPB) also recognises the importance of tackling loneliness and isolation as part of a preventative strategy. This post has been funded by the Integrated Care Fund which is administered by the RPB. The project is currently funded until March 2021.

There is considerable evidence to suggest that loneliness and isolation can have a significant impact on physical and mental health. Reducing the number of people who experience these issues should therefore help to reduce demand for health and social services.

It is a new post and the Development Officer's role will be to;

- Work in partnership with community groups, community hubs and other third sector services to develop initiatives that address loneliness and isolation in priority communities
- Develop new initiatives in priority communities co-productively with citizens
- Support community group members to develop skills and knowledge to enhance the groups sustainability
- Connect commissioned befriending services and their clients to other initiatives across Cwm Taf that address loneliness and isolation
- Support community groups / third sector organisations to make proposals that tackle loneliness and isolation and assist in the implementation of projects
- Support the development of public sector volunteering by encouraging public sector employees to volunteer in their communities, support the development of employer supported volunteering schemes and assist in promotion of volunteering at pre-retirement events.