

Recovery – Community

‘Research and intelligence identifying community need or inequality of outcome for key population groups impacted by COVID-19 is used to inform strategic recovery and shapes service delivery’

Community Theme	Links to the Recovery Planning
Mental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions to support the mental health and wellbeing of pupils, staff and families are identified with the Education Recovery and Renewal Plan. • Continuing to build workforce resilience forms a key part of our Recovery Action Plan through the delivery of initiatives such as a new operating model, staff survey, Care First and well-being initiatives as well as Mental Health Training for Managers. • Economy theme is working closely with JCP and Employment Support programmes as well as the Entrepreneurship programmes. • Work being undertaken at community resources, Community Hubs and Blaina ICC including programmes under the CCG (Flying start, Families First, Child care and Play, Promoting Positive Engagement for YP, Legacy, Communities for work, St David’s Day Fund)
Digital divide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools continue to be supported with digital devices to ensure all learners can access blended learning • An Agile Working Policy and Digital Roadmap has been designed to support and navigate the organisation through a successful digitalisation programme. • Working with businesses including those in town centres to maximise opportunities to embrace digital skills – this could run alongside work to support residents in improving their digital skills. • In Social Services Hybrid meeting structures will be established in practice.
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education continues to meet with key stakeholders monthly to share relevant information re Covid and the Education Recovery and Renewal Plan. Meetings are also held more frequently when there is a need, i.e., when there has been a change to School’s Operational Guidance. • Staff Communications include regular MD message, Staff Facebook Group and Well-being Wednesday.
Holistic view of support (customers falling through service gaps)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education to work closely with social services, the early years’ team, health, and Public Health Wales to ensure the needs of all learners are met • Social Services is currently developing an Implementation Plan for the Impact Assessment in collaboration with partners including ABUHB, Care Providers, people who use our services and the Third Sector. • A strategic approach will be taken in relation to recovery and this work will be overseen by the Happy Healthy Blaenau Gwent Integrated Partnership Board • Preventative services in place in Social Services.
Greater emphasis on community risk factors and vulnerabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education works with schools to provide messages for families, and with categories of learners e.g. those that are electively home educated. • Period Equity Project continues to off period products to pupils, families and the wider community. • Community Hubs have been established as a model for providing accessible in-person and digital services locally across the Borough. • Local businesses play a key role in sustaining the local economy and wider community through employment and income to support the economy. • Care Management process in place for: assessments; achieving outcomes; and safeguarding the most vulnerable
Sustainability of volunteering and community services critical to recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Hubs as a central place where people can access Council as well as wider community services at the right time. • During lockdown periods schools, and different community members, were instrumental in delivering food packages to learners. If schools were to enter a further period of lockdown, direct payments have been set up to be able to transfer money for food to families directly. • Restarting community groups in response to need • Respite services

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Social Services

To reach a position whereby capacity is at pre pandemic levels and staff are able undertake our preferred method of contact and engagement with adults, young people, families, wider communities and fellow professionals with unrestricted access to support services



Merged Adult and Children SS Recover

Education

All schools, education providers and support services are fully operational, with children and young people able to access a full range of provision and services both school and community based, in order to meet their: Educational; Social; Emotional; Behavioural; and Other relevant needs.

Blaenau Gwent children and young people are able to effectively transition from one stage of their education to another, with wellbeing as a primary focus, supporting them to achieve their potential.



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Economy

To provide a framework for the Council and its partners to work collaboratively, to deliver and support activities and interventions that help create the conditions for Blaenau Gwent to recover, prosper and develop sustainably in a post-pandemic economy. As a minimum, this will include reducing the unemployment rate to the Wales national average, returning footfall levels in each of our towns to pre-pandemic levels and increasing the gross weekly pay to that of the Welsh national average.



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Workforce

The Council experiences a reduced absence rate, including absence from COVID and self-isolation, and agile working hubs are fully operational



Workforce Recovery Plan One Page Over