

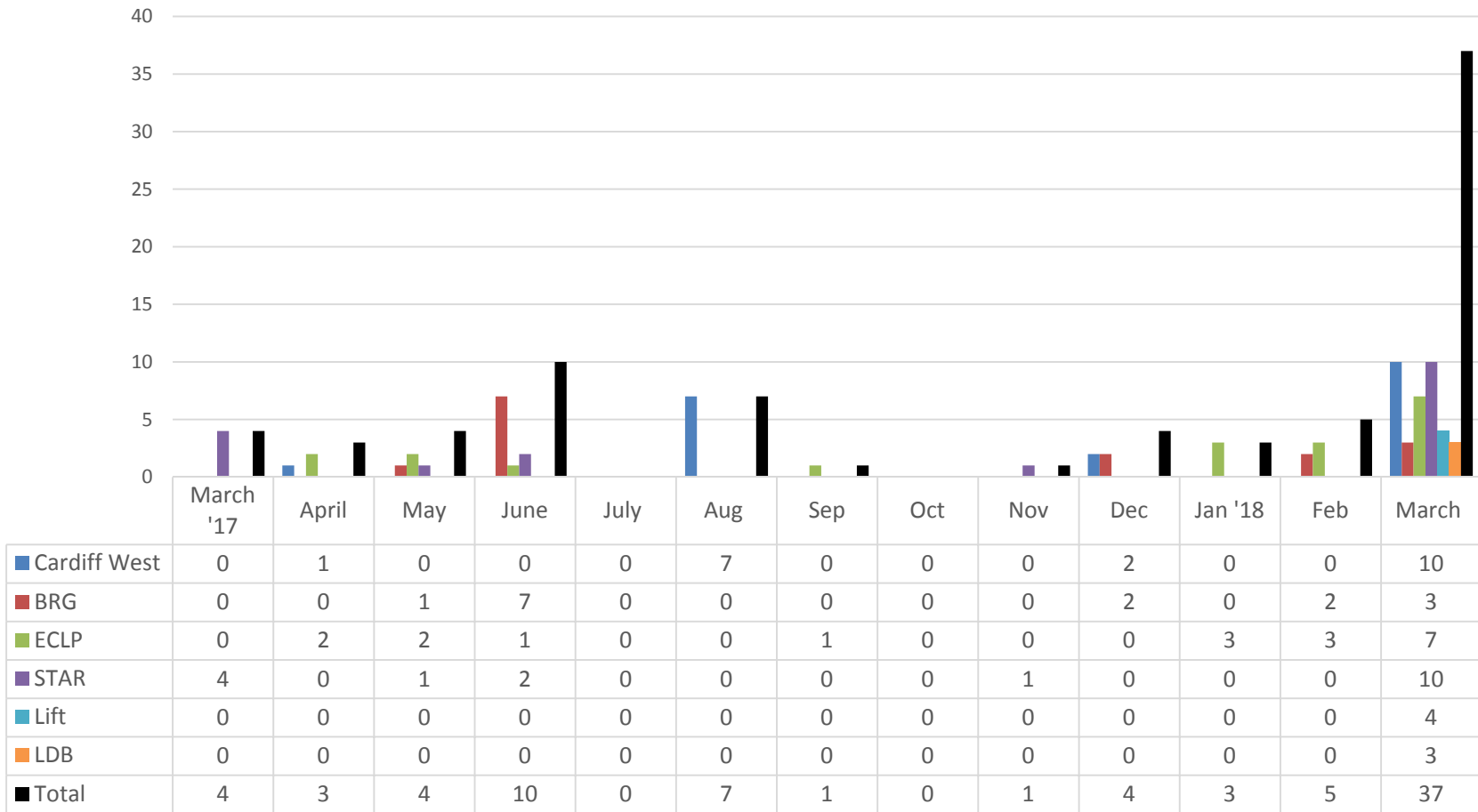
# Communities First – The Closure

- On 14<sup>th</sup> February Carl Sargeant, Cabinet Secretary of Communities and Children confirmed that **Communities First (CF)** will be phased out by March 2018 and outlined a number of new funding sources to help mitigate this change.
- The current spend on **Communities First and Lift** nationally is over £31 million per annum and Cardiff received just over £3 million last year to deliver both programmes.
- There are 4 Communities First areas or “Clusters as they are called” in Cardiff; and each cluster area is managed by a third sector organisation.
- Lift operates in one area ECLP (East Cardiff Llanederyn and Pentwyn)
- Cardiff also has a European Funded project operating in the 4 Cluster areas and delivered through the Communities First infrastructure called **Communities for Work (CfW)**

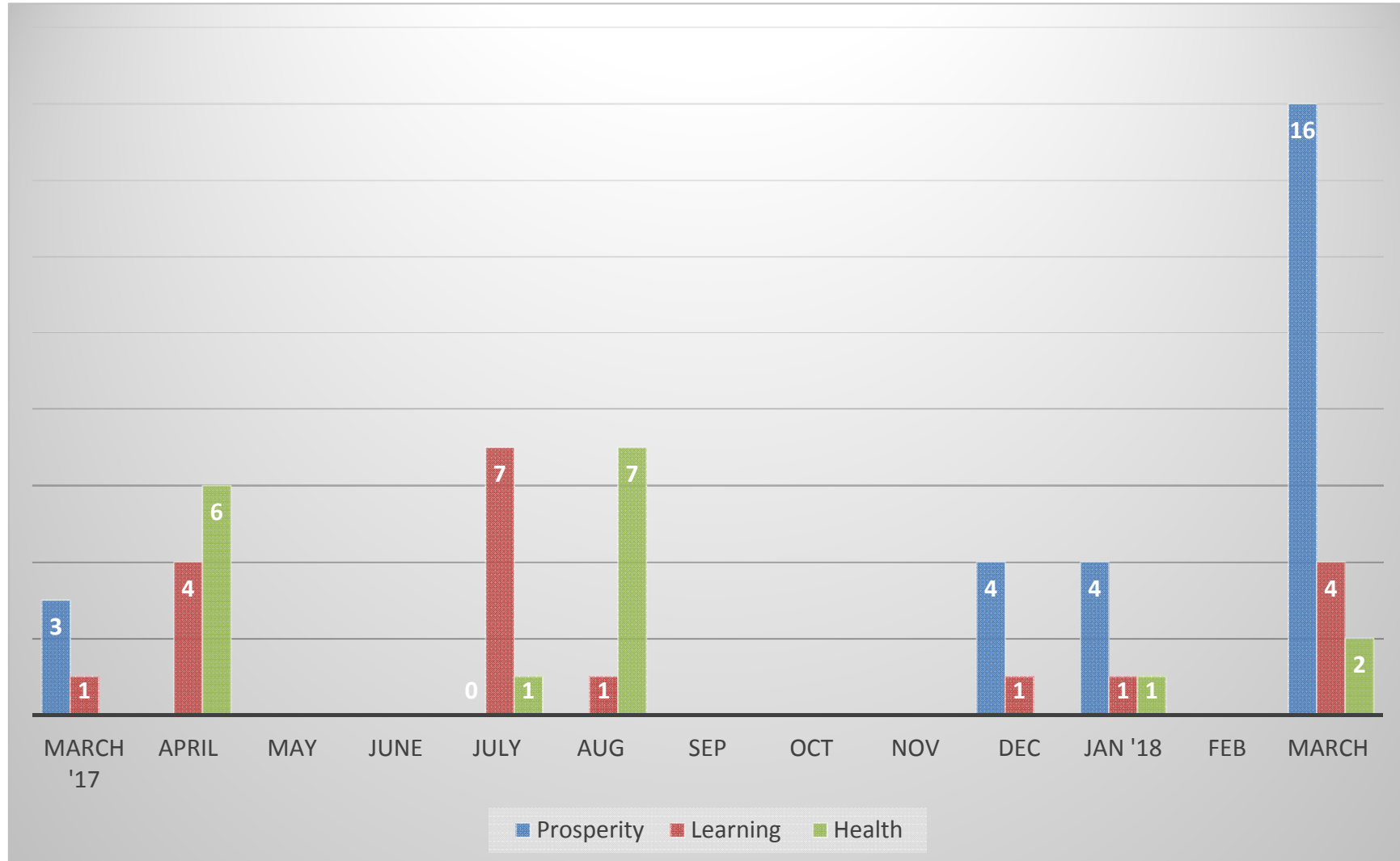
## Practicalities of closing Communities First

- **Communities First Funding** will continue at 70% of its current funding for 2017/18, this equates to **£2,088,866** for Cardiff.
- All activities and spend on **Communities First and the Lift Programme must cease by 31st March 2018.**
- As well as the closure of Communities First and Lift this year. The service level agreement (SLA's) Cardiff has in place with 3 of the providers for the **Communities for Work Programme** will end on the 31st March 2018.
- Considerable action is being taken to mitigate any negative impact from the closure of Communities First.
- Recognising that there are both challenges and opportunities to consider Cardiff has also offered additional support to the four third sector organisations affected by the exiting of Communities First.

# Exiting of Communities First staff by month (March 17' – March 2018)



# Timeline for Closing Projects by Month



- The third sector organisations we work with are actively seeking alternative funding opportunities.
- Phasing out of the programme over 12 months with 70% of the funding has allowed time for the current providers to try and secure other sources of funding for projects and activities.
- Welsh Government has acknowledged the potential impact to third sector organisations affected by the closure of CF and Lift, particularly that they could be faced with large redundancy costs.
- Staff employed through the third sector will be eligible for statutory redundancy costs from the Communities First funding allocation for 2017-18. Each delivery organisation has factored the costs into this year's budget.
- However, these costs will be subject to change throughout the year as staff may take up other employment opportunities.

## **Stakeholder Engagement**

### **What has worked well in Communities First:**

- *Anchored locally, the programme got 'under the skin' of the community and got people engaged and involved.*
- *Good engagement of people considered the furthest away or most difficult to reach.*
- *Not a time limited programme so relationships could be built and nurtured over time with people .*

### **What didn't work so well:**

- *Overlap with other programmes and services.*
- *Data collection the identification, matching and tracking of individuals is an ongoing issue.*
- *To many different providers, inconsistent governance arrangements and delivery methods meant Services, Activities and Community Involvement Projects varied by Cluster area and Organisation.*
- *Focused on geographical areas rather than on need - Data from WIMD and the Families First projects demonstrate that there are families that need support in all areas of Cardiff. Some areas in the top 10-30% of WIMD have never had Communities First intervention.*

### **What are the gaps that will be left by Communities First?**

## What Learning will we take from the Programme?

- The focus should be on building good Community Involvement and Participation mechanisms - Facilitating and encouraging community involvement in the design, delivery and monitoring of local services.
- Genuine community participation is not always achieved or is not being facilitated in a way that is of real benefit to local communities – This is an opportunity to focus work and align it as a response to the Wellbeing Assessments currently being undertaken and embed it into the Area Plans.
- The other important factor is the Councils commitment to locality working through its Neighbourhood Partnership approach. This approach seeks to align delivery within local communities through local partnership working.
- By demonstrating a whole system approach to community involvement we will ensure the best use of all resources in a local area through joint approaches between communities, public, voluntary and private sectors.
- What funding will be available to help achieve this?

## **Legacy Fund, from 1st April 2018 up until 2020**

- **Funding of £563,361** per year will be available to maintain the most effective and valuable community approaches and interventions, these should be linked to the Public Service Board Wellbeing objectives and the local Area Plans.
- This is an opportunity to further build on the locality working model Cardiff has in place and develop strong community resilience through its established infrastructures i.e. Community Hubs and Neighbourhood Partnerships.

## **Community Facilities Programme (CFP) available from 2017-18**

- An additional £4 million in capital funding has been announced to help protect assets located in Communities First areas. This funding opportunity will be delivered by Welsh Government through a re-focused Community Facilities Programme.
- From 2017-18, WG will welcome well-worked bids into the refocused programme for capital resource. Bids will be considered that help protect valuable community assets where renovations, alterations and/or conversions can enable a sustainable future to be secured.



## **Next Steps - Developing a City Wide Employability Provision**

**What funding will be available from April 2018 to develop a more joined up Employability Service?**

- **The New Employability Grant – available from 1st April 2018 up until 2020**
- Cardiff's allocation hasn't been confirmed but outline information received from Welsh Government is that the employability grant will be prescriptive and focussed on mentoring support. It will also provide infrastructure for the current ESF funded CfW Programme.
- **Communities for Work (CfW) ESF Funded Programme**
- Funding of **£583,610 per year** for the Communities for Work Programme has been confirmed up until 2020
- CfW is a community based employment service co-delivered through DWP.

## **Next Steps - Developing a City Wide Employability Provision**

- For Cardiff, working with the mix of different organisations and funding streams has meant service delivery has been complex, and something of a postcode lottery for service access.
- Another concern is around the data collection, with different providers using unconnected data bases, identification and tracking of individuals across services or geographical areas has been an ongoing issue.
- This is an opportunity for a more consistent and coherent approach to delivery to be applied and proposals for a more joined up and cohesive Employability Support Service to be developed.
- Moving forward it will be important to ensure that there is no duplication of the work carried out under the other tackling poverty work streams and there is a single approach to tackling poverty in the city.
- We need to take into account better integration of activity and funding opportunities into a “Whole System” approach to tackling poverty.

## **Next Steps - Developing a City Wide Employability Provision**

- To achieve this, the various funding streams available for the employability services need to be completely aligned to avoid duplication, and crucially to ensure that individuals needing help are effectively supported through appropriate interventions, that are accessible across the city.
- Mapping! What's out there. Identify the Gaps and Duplication.....Just by recently mapping Employment and Training Services we identified over 30 other providers across the city. Are we using this provision appropriately?
- How do we join all this up to put the person at the centre of what we do going forward?
- It is proposed that a gateway approach to service access is developed to reduce complexity and improve effective service matching to individual needs.
- Proposals for the new ways of working will be developed by the Local Authority and the Cardiff Public Service Board (PSB) following consultation and further stakeholder engagement.

# Time Table

Activity	Date by
Submit the Outline Plan for phasing out Communities First (CF) to Welsh Government	31st March 2017
Outline Plan for phasing out CF discussed at the Tackling Poverty Board	15th May 2017
Outline Plan for phasing out CF discussed at the Senior Team Meeting (SMT)	16th May 2017
Outline Plan for phasing out CF discussed at the Executive Public Service Board (PSB)	7th June 2017
Submit Exit Plans for delivery and subsequent closure of Communities First to Welsh Government for approval	31st May 2017
Develop an option paper for the future delivery of the Employability Grant, Communities for Work (CfW) and Legacy Fund up until March 2020	30th June 2017
Undertake Stakeholder Engagement, including current Providers of CF, Lift and CfW	1st May – 31st July
Public Consultation Period	18th June – 31st July
Take option paper and results from Consultation to the Executive Public Service Board for consideration	29th September 2017
Produce Cabinet Report for decision on the way forward	September 2017
Notify current Providers of outcome of the Cabinet decision	September 2017
Update Public Service Board on Cabinet decision and way forward	w/c 9 October 2017 for full PSB
Expected start date for the, Employability Grant, Communities for Work and Legacy Funding to commence full delivery	1st April 2018