



**Cwm Taf Morgannwg  
Regional Housing Support Collaborative Group (RHSCG)  
18<sup>th</sup> July 2023 – (Microsoft Teams)  
Minutes Q2**

| Attendees                   |     | Representing                     |
|-----------------------------|-----|----------------------------------|
| Cllr Geriant Thomas (Chair) | GT  | MTCBC                            |
| Suzanne Stephens            | SS  | Housing MTCBC                    |
| Hannah Mills                | HM  | Housing MTCBC                    |
| Susan Preece                | SP  | Housing RCTCBC                   |
| Ryan Jones                  | RJ  | Housing BCBC                     |
| Jessica Ware                | JW  | Housing BCBC                     |
| Kevin Reeves                | KR  | Youth Justice Rep (deputy)       |
| Rachel Honey-Jones          | RHJ | RPB Housing Rep                  |
| Emma Howells                | EH  | RPB Housing Rep (deputy)         |
| Gary Hortop                 | GH  | RPB Housing Rep                  |
| Emma Richards               | ER  | Probation Rep                    |
| Chrystelle Walters          | CW  | Youth Mental Health Rep          |
| Sarah O'Keeffe              | SOK | Social Housing Landlord Rep      |
| Lorraine Griffiths          | LG  | Support Provider Rep             |
| Mariam Elmirghani           | ME  | Support Provider Rep             |
| Deborah Evans               | DE  | VAWDASV RPB Rep                  |
| Kelly Francis               | KF  | Regional Development Coordinator |

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| <b>1</b> | <p><b><u>Welcome &amp; Declarations of Interest</u></b><br/>The Chair gave everyone the opportunity to introduce themselves.</p> <p><u>Apologies</u><br/>Cllr Michelle Symonds, Cllr Bob Harris, Cheryl Emery, Rachel Gronow and Christa Bonham-Griffiths.</p>   |
| <b>2</b> | <p><b><u>Minutes of previous meeting and actions.</u></b></p> <p><u>Minutes:</u> Previous minutes agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting. RHJ just wanted to clarify that Nicola Eynon was deputising for her at the last RHSCG.</p> <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. KF to see what progress has been made with the LGBTQ+ project.<br/><i>Update: The Chair confirmed this will be discussed at today's meeting as part of item 3, Paper B.</i></li> <li>2. KF and HM to consolidate the priorities on the Work Plan 23/24.<br/><i>Update: The Chair explained that the Work Plan and Summary were submitted to WG on 30<sup>th</sup> May and Papers E &amp; F have been provided today for information.</i></li> <li>3. Kelly Francis to enrol Rachel Thomas as a member and contact Chrystelle Walters.<br/><i>Update: HSG leads agreed to recruit Chrystelle as the mental health rep, who is here today.</i></li> <li>4. Lorraine Griffiths to look to recruit a suitable Service User Voice rep.<br/><i>Update: LG confirmed that she has raised it with the Regional Provider Forum and further consideration will be given at the next RPF on the 25<sup>th</sup> September.</i></li> </ol> |

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| <p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>3.1</b></p> | <p><b><u>CTM - Regional Project Updates:</u></b></p> <p><b>LGBTQ+ Supported Accommodation Work Plan</b></p> <p>RJ confirmed that following submission of the CTM Work Plan 23/24 to WG it has been agreed by the HSG Leads to focus on the following actions going forward:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Implementation of three of the LGBTQ+ recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All LA homelessness services to request and safely record data about the gender identity and sexual orientation of young people registering for support as standardised practice.</li> <li>• Cultural awareness and inclusion training should be mandatory for all staff working with young people in homelessness and other settings.</li> <li>• Each Local Authority should introduce a 'Right to Respect' commitment, and work with partners to co-produce a Respect Charter.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2) Initial regional study of the accommodation needs of homeless people with complex needs.</li> </ol> <p>Task and finish group to be set up and include one representative from each LA, KF asked for any volunteers to come forward as soon as possible so the group can be formed.</p>  |
| <p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>4.1</b></p> | <p><b><u>Housing/ Homelessness</u></b></p> <p>The Housing Support Grant leads gave a brief update on Cwm Taf Morgannwg Local Authority positions, as follows:</p> <p><b>BCBC – RJ:</b><br/>Temporary accommodation is under great pressure and is forever growing, this is also leading to more ad hoc B&amp;B bookings as more and more people are presenting. Looking to increase temporary accommodation models, as well as open a new long-term accommodation in October 2023, to include 5 units for clients with complex needs.</p> <p>More interest in the private sector and so looking to link into the national Private Rented Sector Leasing Scheme.</p> <p>GH mentioned within CTM there is now interest in closed residential care accommodation to see if any can come back into use.</p> <p>SOK asked if the holiday period would impact on block bookings and RJ confirmed bookings have already been made to cover the summer holidays but will probably have to book even more to keep up with current demand.</p> <p>SOK said about the possibility of modular homes and GH confirmed he is willing to provide any information he can obtain from his colleagues regarding the modular homes project in Hill Street, Newport.</p> <p>SP explained the Social Housing Grant is tied up for the next 2 to 4 years and there is a need for more support and outreach services as the demand is growing on a weekly basis.</p> <p><b>Action:</b><br/>SOK mentioned the 24-hour wrap around service and KF to get in touch with her for more information regarding this.</p> <p><b>Update:</b> <i>The scheme is referred to as a 'managed scheme', it's a block of 49 flats for people over 55 who are homeless and where there is a cross section of support needs from substance misuse, hostel accommodation, Mental Health and rough sleepers. The</i></p> |

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| <p>4.2</p> <p>4.3</p> | <p><i>Housing Management service is available 24 hours a day on site, which is managed by the LA, this is down to them recognising people housed will need ongoing support to prevent their tenancy failing. In addition, the LA are able to access and bring in specialist wrap around services as required to meet resident's support needs.</i></p> <p><b>MTCBC – SS:</b><br/>Very reliant on B&amp;B accommodation with every room full at present, but on a positive note two new HMOs.</p> <p>Issues with the Rented Homes Act, in particular being unable to end contracts quickly, even if someone is recalled to prison.</p> <p><b>Action:</b><br/>RJ explained Bridgend have commissioned a piece of work to obtain clear guidance on licence extensions, etc. and is happy to share once finally agreed within the next couple of months. HSG Leads welcomed the sharing of this document.</p> <p>Staff are struggling with how long people have to wait in temporary accommodation, but the modular homes which have been in development since 2020 as come up against many obstacles.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed planning can be frustrating when looking at modular homes in Merthyr, plus there is the inability to build any new homes in the town centre due to the Tan15 Regulations and the risk of flooding.</p> <p><b>RCTCBC – SP:</b><br/>Demand on service is high and temporary accommodation is all full so using B&amp;Bs not previously used before.</p> <p>Lots of people are presenting with complex needs and so need to consider a different model for these specifically.</p> <p>Looking at two suitable buildings at the moment and need to ensure revenue is there because without staff and ongoing support they will not succeed. GH agreed that revenue is as important as capital.</p> |
| <p>5</p>              | <p><b><u>Partner &amp; Stakeholder Updates</u></b></p> <p><b>CTM Regional Provider Forum (RPF) update - LG:</b><br/>During the most recent RPF in May the following matters were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More information was requested as to why the BME pilot is being put on hold. HM has provided a written explanation, which will be taken to the next meeting.</li> <li>- Equity of pay within the sector is an ongoing issue together with it not being as competitive as other sectors.</li> <li>- Cost of recruiting new staff is high and then can lose good quality staff to better paid jobs.</li> <li>- Recruitment and retention of staff continue to be the main issue.</li> </ul> <p>The next RPF will take place in September.</p> <p>GH confirmed they have lost staff to NHS jobs after training them up and the Rebalancing Care &amp; Support Consultation may not do what it needs to in terms of pay and progression frameworks.</p> <p>SP explained that LAs are losing staff on the ground to Housing Associations, which in turn puts even more pressure on the service. Ideally LAs will receive an uplift of funding to be able to offer more competitive salaries.</p>  |

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|   | <p>RJ pointed out any changes will need to be led by Welsh Government and LAs directed to change all terms and conditions within the Housing sector.</p> <p>Parity of pay in the Housing sector needs to remain at the top of the agenda for all.</p> <p><b>Community Housing Landlord update – SOK:</b><br/>The sector is at crisis point because people just trying to rent with no extra needs are finding it difficult and too costly.</p> <p>Training staff doesn't always pay off as staff will leave for more money in a different sector.</p> <p>Houses cannot be built fast enough at the moment but no Wales &amp; West developments in the CTM region currently.</p> <p><b>Regional Partnership Board update – GH:</b><br/>SP to contact GH for further updates on the extra care scheme in Porth which is going through a retender.</p> <p><b>VAWDASV Regional Partnership Board update – DE:</b><br/>A whole new governance structure is being developed with a new blue print. Capital grant for dispersed accommodation is fine but not the revenue support funds. Struggling to recruit and retain staff.</p> <p><b>Mental Health Rep update – CW:</b><br/>CW clarified she that she only represents service for those under 18 years old within the Cwm Taf area.<br/>There is well-being and emotional support for patients with complex needs and generally who have difficulty accessing support.</p> <p><b>Probation update – ER:</b><br/>Feeling the impact of those in temporary accommodation and trying to work together with partners.<br/>CAS 1,2, and 3 is free funding if the group requires a presentation can be provided at the next meeting to highlight the differences between them.<br/>SP asked if ER can email her regarding any specific issues in relation to RCT so the LA can deal with this and support if there are gaps.<br/>Probation services for Merthyr Tydfil are still being delivered from Pontypridd until a suitable venue is found.<br/>ER asked if anyone can let her know about any shared spaces which are available and the Chair also said he will raise the matter at Council.</p> |
| 6 | <p><b><u>Regional priorities 2023/24</u></b></p> <p><b>Membership list - June 2023:</b></p> <p>KF thanked the Chair for all of his support and input to the RHSCG meetings. This will be GT last meeting and he will be very much missed as a valued member.</p> <p><b>Terms of Reference - CTM RHSCG:</b></p> <p>All agreed they can be signed off for 2023/24.</p> <p><b>CTM Work Plan for 23/24 and Work Plan Summary:</b></p> <p>Task and finish group to include SP for RCT, HM for Merthyr and JW for Bridgend.</p> <p><b>Action:</b><br/>KF to arrange Task &amp; Finish group meetings, in order to discuss and explore the main priorities of the following two actions:</p>   |

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|                   | <p>1) Implementation of three of the LGBTQ+ recommendations.<br/> 2) Initial regional study of the accommodation needs of homeless people with complex needs.</p> <p><b>Update:</b> First meeting arranged for 8<sup>th</sup> August then monthly thereafter.</p>  |                   |                                |                   |                       |                   |                          |                   |                                     |
| 7                 | <p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p> <p>GH explained Linc Cymru have been successful in securing funding for Housing and Social Care to come together and will be working in partnership with the USW Psychology department. Dr Gareth Morgan will be coming on board and will be happy attend the next RHSCG if that would be helpful.</p> <p>RJ pointed out that HOS is a really good example of Health Boards and Local Authries working together and will be a good starting point for research.</p>   |                   |                                |                   |                       |                   |                          |                   |                                     |
| 8                 | <p><b><u>Meeting dates 2023 / 2024:</u></b></p> <table data-bbox="727 645 1198 779"> <tr> <td><b>Q1 Tuesday</b></td> <td><b>2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Q2 Tuesday</b></td> <td><b>18th July 2023</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Q3 Tuesday</b></td> <td><b>7th November 2023</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Q4 Tuesday</b></td> <td><b>6<sup>th</sup> February 2024</b></td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. SOK mentioned the 24-hour wrap around service and KF to get in touch with her for more information regarding this.<br/> <b>Update:</b> The scheme is referred to as a 'managed scheme', it's a block of 49 flats for people over 55 who are homeless and where there is a cross section of support needs from substance misuse, hostel accommodation, Mental Health and rough sleepers. The Housing Management service is available 24 hours a day on site, which is managed by the LA, this is down to them recognising people housed will need ongoing support to prevent their tenancy failing. In addition, the LA are able to access and bring in specialist wrap around services as required to meet resident's support needs.</li> <li>2. Bridgend have commissioned a piece of work to obtain clear guidance on licence extensions, RJ is happy to share once agreed within the next couple of months.</li> <li>3. KF to arrange Task &amp; Finish group meetings.<br/> <b>Update:</b> First meeting arranged for 8<sup>th</sup> August then monthly thereafter.</li> </ol> | <b>Q1 Tuesday</b> | <b>2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023</b> | <b>Q2 Tuesday</b> | <b>18th July 2023</b> | <b>Q3 Tuesday</b> | <b>7th November 2023</b> | <b>Q4 Tuesday</b> | <b>6<sup>th</sup> February 2024</b> |
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