

**Cwm Taf Morgannwg
Regional Housing Support Collaborative Group (RHSCG)
7th November 2023 – (Microsoft Teams)
Minutes Q3**

Attendees		Representing
Cllr Michelle Symonds (Chair)	MS	MTCBC
Cllr Bob Harris	BH	RCTCBC
Suzanne Stephens	SS	Housing MTCBC
Hannah Mills	HM	Housing MTCBC
Cheryl Emery	CE	Housing RCTCBC
Susan Preece	SP	Housing RCTCBC
Jessica Ware	JW	Housing BCBC
Lukasz Kuziow	LK	Housing BCBC
Deborah Evans	DE	VAWDASV RPB Rep
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
Rachel Thomas	RT	Housing Outreach Service Rep
Claire Lagier	CL	Housing Outreach Service Rep
Kristie Williams	KW	Social Services Rep
Lorraine Griffiths	LG	Support Provider Rep
Mariam Elmirghani	ME	Support Provider Rep
Kelly Francis	KF	Regional Development Coordinator
Guest		
Dr Gareth Morgan	GM	Hywel Dda Health Board

1	<p><u>Welcome & Declarations of Interest</u> The Chair gave everyone the opportunity to introduce themselves.</p> <p><u>Apologies</u> Phillip Daniels, Alyson Jones, Ceri Ford, Sarah O’Keeffe, Jennifer Ellis, Rachel Gronow and Ryan Jones</p>
2	<p><u>Minutes of previous meeting and actions.</u></p> <p><u>Minutes:</u> No issues raised or comments made.</p> <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> SOK mentioned the 24-hour wrap around service and KF to get in touch with her for more information regarding this. Update: The scheme is referred to as a ‘managed scheme’, it is a block of 49 flats for people over 55 who are homeless and where there is a cross section of support needs. 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. 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. Update: Due to long delays Bridgend have dis-instructed the firm they were dealing with and recently appointed a new firm to take it forward. Ryan is still happy to share once received.

	<p>3. KF to arrange Task & Finish group meetings. Update: First meeting arranged for 8th August then monthly thereafter.</p>
<p>3</p> <p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p>	<p><u>CTM - Regional Project Updates:</u></p> <p>Bevan Exemplar Project</p> <p>Dr Gareth Morgan (Hywel Dda Health Board - Strategic Partnerships Manager) delivered an engaging presentation touching upon how housing issues can impact health and well-being. The Bevan Exemplar project is just the starting point and it is hoped the Good Practice Guide can be rolled out throughout Wales to help benefit Housing, Health and Social Care.</p> <p>Action: KF to provide a copy of the presentation and Dr Gareth Morgan's contact details. Update: <i>Presentation attached with minutes. If you wish to contact Dr Gareth Morgan please do so: Gareth.P.Morgan@wales.nhs.uk.</i></p> <p>The Chair declared an interest and advised the group that she is the Community Engagement Manager for Nest.</p> <p>CE highlighted there are a lot of components to consider and it can be difficult to find a starting point. Need to engage with partners within Housing, Health and Social Care and build more enablers and referral pathways.</p> <p>JW explained Bridgend have a dedicated Hospital Discharge Worker but nothing in relation to Hoarding and a regional project would be beneficial.</p> <p>GH will provide feedback to the group over the next year regarding the RSL partnership with the University of South Wales to create a Health and Housing hub.</p> <p>EH explained RSLs have a large stock of older homes and it is important to discuss how to afford and fund the Optimised RetroFit Programme.</p> <p>Cheryl asked GM if he would like to attend the next RCT HSG Board meeting, he confirmed he would. CE to contact GM directly and will also extend the invitation to other RSLs in the CTM region.</p> <p>2023/24 Task & Finish Group Update:</p> <p>HM provided an update and explained that since the beginning of August the group has been progressing the following actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Implementation of three of the LGBTQ+ recommendations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 - It has been discovered that the LGBTQ+ data currently being collected is not comparable between the 3 LAs. This highlights the need for the data to be standardised which will be reviewed in the future. • Cultural awareness and inclusion training should be mandatory for all staff working with young people in homelessness and other settings - Training resources have been provided to CTM Service Providers and going forward LGBTQ+ training will be specified in future service specifications. • Each Local Authority should introduce a 'Right to Respect' commitment, and work with partners to co-produce a Respect Charter - There is not currently an All Wales Respect Charter so discussing with Llamau what progress is being made regarding this.

	<p>2) Initial regional study of the accommodation needs of homeless people with complex needs.</p> <p>The Task & Finish group are currently compiling a regional data set across all 3 LAs and categorising these into 4 groups, Low, Medium, High and Intensive. Once this data is collated the group will then look at how to progress and best support those with complex needs that fall under the Intensive category. This data will be presented at the next RHSCG engagement meeting, which will take place on the 6th February 2024.</p>
<p>4</p> <p>4.1</p> <p>4.2</p> <p>4.3</p>	<p><u>Housing/ Homelessness</u></p> <p>The Housing Support Grant leads gave a brief update on Cwm Taf Morgannwg Local Authority positions, as follows:</p> <p>BCBC – JW: The demand on Housing is intense with over 530 individuals requiring support. The department is doing all it can but there is a massive strain on temporary accommodation with all B&Bs full to capacity.</p> <p>The new “Wet House” provision is now open, this service is run by the Wallich and we are also working with the Rough Sleepers Intervention Team, which is currently looking to expand.</p> <p>MTCBC – SS: There has been a recent spike in homelessness presentations, particularly from single people. The high level of homelessness is concerning with about 160 people currently in temporary accommodation and the constant turn-over creating even more pressure, because as soon as someone moves-on even more people are presenting.</p> <p>Focusing on HMO’s to relieve B&Bs as well as Invest to Save.</p> <p>Providers are reporting that the Governments Cost of Living lump sum payments are leading to an increase in chaotic behaviour within temporary accommodation.</p> <p>HSG service providers within Merthyr have now gone through the retender process and the successful providers are due to commence on the 1st April 2024.</p> <p>The Town Centre Hub is due to open within the next 3 weeks and will provide access to early prevention involving Housing, Social Care and Employability.</p> <p>RCTCBC – SP: Within RCT there are about 200 people in temporary accommodation with 69% being single males over 25.</p> <p>Will need to start looking at retendering projects soon and on a positive note the Housing First Project is working really well.</p> <p>Recently seen an increase in the number of offenders so working closely with Crisis and looking to set up an Operational Group.</p> <p>The Chair queried whether the high number of people in temporary accommodation is normal for this time of year. The HSG leads confirmed since the Covid pandemic the high levels are normal due to the number of people LAs have a duty for. Numbers normally increase after Christmas and to make it worse, over the past year, an increasing number of private landlords have left the market.</p>

5	<p><u>Partner & Stakeholder Updates</u></p> <p>CTM Regional Provider Forum (RPF) update - LG:</p> <p>LG confirmed the Service User Voice Rep was discussed and Cymorth Cymru are in the process of establishing a recruitment pack and induction process to bring people with lived experience on board.</p> <p>Individuals with complex needs considered and how providers can deal with the increasing number. The RPF will look at the variations across the 3 LAs and bring together some cases before the next in-person meeting.</p> <p>DE mentioned she is not clear what the RHSCG needs to know so she will contact KF for further discussion.</p>
6	<p><u>Regional priorities 2023/24</u></p> <p>The CTM RHSCG 6-Monthly Update report was submitted to Welsh Government at the end of October and a copy has been provided to the Board for information only.</p>
7	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>CH - The Governments White Paper on ending homelessness in Wales is out and provides numerous recommendations, https://www.gov.wales/ending-homelessness-white-paper. Need for regional consultation as well as think about how we can work more closely with Health.</p> <p>LG explained that Pobl have recently reviewed their Child Practice Policy.</p>
8	<p><u>Remaining meeting date 23/2024:</u></p> <p>KF confirmed that the next RHSCG will be an in-person event at the Orbit Business Centre in Merthyr Tydfil on Tuesday 6th February 2024. This is likely to be a morning event of between 2 and 3 hours and include a developmental workshop considering the needs of clients with very high level complex needs.</p> <p>If there is an issue with any of the proposed meeting dates for 2024/25 please contact KF at Kelly.Francis@merthyr.gov.uk. These meetings will continue to take place at 1pm and the duration to be reduced to 1½ hours per meeting.</p> <p>Actions: None for this meeting.</p>