

Cwm Taf Morgannwg
Regional Housing Support Collaborative Group (RHSCG)
7th May 2024 – Microsoft Teams
Minutes – Quarter 1 2024/25

Attendees		Representing
Cllr Michelle Symonds (Chair)	MS	MTCBC
Erin Nicklin	ET	Housing MTCBC
Hannah Mills	HM	Housing MTCBC
Cllr Bob Harris	BH	RCTCBC
Susan Preece	SP	Housing RCTCBC
Cheryl Emery	CE	Housing RCTCBC
Ryan Jones	RJ	Housing BCBC
Jessica Ware	JW	Housing BCBC
Lukasz Kuziow	LK	Housing BCBC
Rachel Thomas	RT	Housing Outreach Service Rep
Emma Howells	EH	RPB Housing Rep
Lorraine Griffiths	LG	Support Provider Rep
Mariam Elmirghani	ME	Support Provider Rep
Bethan Underwood	BU	Health, Housing & Innovation Rep
Kelly Francis	KF	CTM Regional Development Co-ordinator
Guest		
Peter Rayner	PR	Housing Outreach Service (HOS) Co-ordinator

1	<p><u>Welcome</u> The Chair gave everyone the opportunity to introduce themselves. No declarations of interest raised.</p> <p><u>Apologies</u> Susanne Stephens, Deborah Evans, Sarah O’Keeffe, Rachel Gronow, Gary Hortop, Alyson Jones, Clare Lagier.</p>
2	<p><u>Minutes of previous meeting and Actions.</u></p> <p>Minutes accepted as an accurate account and no issues raised.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. KF to collate a list of all the provider contracts and RAG rate them according to the risk of them being decommissioned. HSG leads to consider if those at risk of being decommissioned could be delivered regionally instead. Update: The CTM Contract Register 23/24 is currently in the process of being updated, it will be effective from 1st April 2024 and include a new column for ‘risk of decommission’. 2. KF to arrange a separate Task & Finish group to include LA Reps and Service Provider Reps to further explore working together (also consider including RSLs, Probation and Health Reps). Update: To be further discussed during item 5.1 in today’s meeting.

3	<p><u>CTM - Regional Project Update</u></p>
3.1	<p>Specialist Mental Health & Substance Misuse Housing Outreach Service (HOS)</p> <p>Please see attached presentation delivered by RT and Peter Rayner from the Housing Outreach Service (HOS).</p> <p>Over the past year HOS has become more well known throughout CTM.</p> <p>HOS are working closely with Case UK to support those into suitable employment or training.</p> <p>The Chair queried whether the team is looking to expand further in the future, PR confirmed no immediate plans.</p> <p>CE confirmed in the future the strategic group will be looking at the 'so what' element in more detail, in order to highlight all the good work via data, impact on services and outcomes.</p> <p>HOS is very good at building trust and developing relationships.</p>
3.2	<p>Complex Needs - Task & Finish group</p> <p>In order to build on the excellent collaborative input during the February developmental workshop, KF asked the group which of the 12 priority actions the T&F group should concentrate on first and if the group can suggest ways to take them forward.</p> <p>EN - early intervention and prevention, right service at the right time, multi-agency working, partnership, more suitable housing first.</p> <p>EH – to find the regional solutions to some of these priorities.</p> <p>HM – for point 10 we can link in with Cymorth Cymru or DWP to highlight the issues created when service users receive large sums in back payments.</p> <p>RJ – could look to see if it is appropriate to have an education rep on the RHSCG to further promote early intervention and prevention.</p> <p>CE – consider a model suitable for those that require forever support which is different to housing first.</p>
4	<p><u>Housing / Homelessness Updates (including 24/25 HSG uplift)</u></p> <p>BCBC - RJ:</p> <p>Temporary accommodation is still the biggest priority in terms of people presenting and cost but this seems to be plateauing and even reducing since the beginning of the year. Looking at alternative models including HMOs and previously unused buildings being utilised for temporary accommodation. The Leasing Scheme Wales is now up and running.</p> <p>HSG uplift proposals being looked at are ensuring no contracts in the borough are in deficit and considerations around the real living wage, but these have yet to go through cabinet so no definite decisions made.</p>

	<p>MTCBC – HM and EN: HSG have commissioned generic floating support schemes and reduced some specialist floating support schemes. HSG uplift will be used in the long-term to partly fund some new support in complex needs accommodation and in the short term to provide some support in our temporary accommodation to help manage behaviour issues connected with complex needs. Also considered the real living wage situation, but this was taken into account prior to the uplift and so all contracts pay the real living wage or more.</p> <p>The homelessness team is very busy but numbers in B&B have reduced to below 100, partially to do with the opening of Marsh House and good support from RSLs. Looking to increase HMOs and looking at more avenues for temporary accommodation and moving away from B&B accommodation. Private Leasing Scheme starting to increase.</p> <p>RCTCBC – SP and CE: HSG uplift is still in progress and we are working with the providers looking at deficits and ensuring all providers are able to provide the real living wage. Proposals will need to go to the HSG Board for approval and revised spend plans will be submitted at the end of May. Retendered on the locality based floating support. Developing a young person's project with 24hrs support and looking at an HMO model for vulnerable women. Looking to develop longer-term models containing forever homes for service users with complex needs.</p> <p>Working with Crisis to look at the offender cohort, which is a multi-agency partnership looking at the housing and support element called Built for Zero.</p>
5	<p><u>Partner/Stakeholder/Representative Updates</u></p> <p>Housing Support Provider Update - LG: There has been no clear guidance on the allocation of the HSG uplift from WG and so it is difficult for providers who work across more than one LA area.</p> <p>Discussion around the Supported Housing Standards review and pushing the differences in how HSG is managed in England compared to Wales.</p> <p>In terms of referrals, risks and managing the issues we do appreciate that each provider has to deal with specific issues locally but we still feel there is a collective issue and that it would be good to have a consistent approach. We are wanting to work together, learn from each other, look at good practice and develop consistency. Also, providers would like to understand individual LA expectations in terms of managing risk so this may fit in well with the task and finish group.</p> <p>RPB Housing Rep Update - EH: From the housing perspective for CTM everyone is looking at the increased complex needs of service users and one of the reasons the RPB funded the Housing and Health Alliance. Housing providers are meeting to look at how to refocus front line services so it is optimised towards individuals with complex needs.</p> <p>BU explained within CTM there is now a neurodiversity/autism regional transformation programme and asked if it would be possible for Debra Mitchell from BCBC to speak at the next RHSCG and discuss how neurodiversity links to housing.</p> <p>Action: KF to liaise with BU and arrange for Debra Mitchell to speak at the next RHSCG.</p>

6	<p><u>Regional Priorities 2024/25</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted to WG - CTM RHSCG Regional Statement for 23/24 and Regional Priorities for 24/25 (information only). <p>The Chair confirmed the Regional Statement and Regional Priorities document has been submitted to WG in line with guidance.</p>						
7	<p><u>Admin / Governance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CTM RHSCG Induction Pack and Appendices. <p>KF asked if the group could review the Induction Pack and Appendices, if any comments or questions please send them within the next 3 weeks to Kelly.Francis@merthyr.gov.uk. After this time, they will be approved and distributed to all new members going forward.</p>						
	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>Meeting dates 2024/25:</p> <table data-bbox="587 808 1058 913"> <tr> <td>Q2 Tuesday</td><td>3rd September 2024</td></tr> <tr> <td>Q3 Tuesday</td><td>3rd December 2024</td></tr> <tr> <td>Q4 Tuesday</td><td>4th March 2025</td></tr> </table> <p>Action: KF to liaise with BU and arrange for Debra Mitchell to speak at the next RHSCG and discuss how neurodiversity links to housing.</p>	Q2 Tuesday	3rd September 2024	Q3 Tuesday	3rd December 2024	Q4 Tuesday	4th March 2025
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