



**Cwm Taf Morgannwg**  
**Regional Housing Support Collaborative Group**  
**Regional Statement 2023 / 24 &**  
**Regional Priorities for 2024 / 25**

*April 2024*

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## Introduction:

The Cwm Taff Morgannwg (CTM) Regional Housing Support Collaborative Group (RHSCG) is a key mechanism for improving the regional delivery of the Housing Support Grant (HSG). The CTM region overarches three local authorities (Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taff & Bridgend), that work conjointly with their partners, to provide a forum for collaborative working.

There is recognition that the Regional Partnership Boards (RPB) provides the mechanism through which collaborative working between Health, Social Care and Housing can be further developed. The RHSCG intends to forge a close working relationship with the RPB and other identified boards, ensuring that services can be jointly commissioned, designed or focused to optimise the complementary purposes of supported Housing, Health and Social Care agendas. Partnership working is fundamental to the success of delivery of the HSG Programme and it is a priority of the RHSCG to ensure that the right partners are members of this group.

The HSG is primarily an early intervention programme that funds a wide range of housing related support and homelessness services for vulnerable people. It supports activity which prevents people from becoming homeless, stabilises their housing situation, or helps potentially homeless people to find and keep accommodation. The preventative nature of the programme supports local, regional and national policy objectives that help people to live independently in the community. Housing Support Grant services help prevent homelessness, social exclusion, isolation and institutionalisation. It also helps with the reduction of crime and disorder.

Local Authority teams currently have well established local and regional planning and commissioning frameworks that:

- Create a clear picture of the supply of services and identify housing related support needs across the localities and the region.
- Enable the planning of services to meet identified gaps in service provision.
- Develop and maintain quality services that are sustainable, strategically relevant and offer value for money.
- Ensure services are person-centred; putting the needs of service users first by conducting appropriate consultation and by providing opportunities to be involved in the planning, commissioning and review of Housing Support Grant funded services.

### **HSG Guidelines on Regional Working states that:**

The Collaborative Groups belong to the Local Authorities who make them up and their accountability is to them as a collective. Regional working should provide a forum for local authorities to deliver those things which are best done regionally. These can be categorised as;

- ☐ (Cat) 1: Development of specialist services for which there is not a critical mass locally
- ☐ (Cat) 2: Development of regional services where justified by economies of scale
- ☐ (Cat) 3: Delivery of improvements to be achieved by collaboration.
- ☐ (Cat) 4: Collaboration with other public services



*HSG Guidance Jan 24*

## Progress against 2023-24 Priorities

Item:	Objective:	Progress 2023/24:
Development of specialist services for which there is not a critical mass locally.	Develop specialist services whilst working in unison with multi-agency partners, including stakeholders, frontline workers and the voice of the service user. E.g. To include a developmental workshop considering the requirements of potentially homeless clients with complex needs.	<p>Specialist Mental Health and Substance Misuse Housing Outreach Service (HOS). This multi-agency project involves a partnership of Strategic Leads in Health, ASB &amp; Housing. Within this project's development there has been consultative involvement and direct working with: service users, service providers and housing related associated partners.</p> <p>A Research project carried out with Llamau to determine the need for a CTM regional LGBTQ+ project. Three of the six recommendations from the LGBTQ+ action plan have been implemented so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Data - CTM information is not compatible, further investigation is required.</li> <li>➤ Training - CTM LGBTQ+ Provider Training spreadsheet created. - Service providers informed training to be a standard clause in all future contracts.</li> <li>➤ Respect Charter - on hold as Llamau and WG currently working on an All Wales Charter.</li> </ul> <p>Development of a research / scoping project to determine the need for a BME project, specifically for those experiencing harmful cultural practices, alongside Housing related support needs.</p>
	Data collation and analysis. - The production of Surveys and research data; (such as the 'Health Needs Assessment', Stakeholder and Service User surveys and HSG Housing Needs assessment data, that will subsequently highlight gaps in service provision and underpin the development of appropriate services. e.g. the housing needs assessment highlights a gap in provision related to LGBTQ+	<p>During Q4 the RDC, with input from the Task and Finish Group, arranged and carried out various consultation with stakeholders and service users regarding the accommodation requirements of service users with complex needs. Please see 'Fact Sheet 2024 - Service User Questionnaire'.</p> <p>A contracts mapping exercise has been undertaken. The CTM Contract Register 23/24 allows LA's to bench-mark similar contracts and assist with commissioning services locally and potentially regionally.</p>
	The collation of a regional 'Off the shelf register' of proposed housing related services or projects. Taking advantage of ad hoc	<p>Projects have been considered for strategic relevance and regional viability by HSG Leads and at RHSCG.</p> <p>An 'off the shelf' register has been compiled and is being utilised for proposed housing related</p>

	pots of money that become available through one off funding initiatives, or via slippage from existing projects.	projects. When funding becomes available the register allows the RHSCG and HSG Leads to quickly commission services.
<b>Development of regional services where justified by economies of scale.</b>	RHSCG members to provide advice and support to the HSG leads in relation to the development of regionally based projects that are justified by economies of scale. Doing so whilst recognising that the regional HSG and Homelessness Leads are responsible for the planning, development and management of these projects.	<p>During RHSCG Meetings opportunities for commissioning projects across the region are discussed.</p> <p>Proposals for new regional projects and pilot projects have been considered and approved by the RHSCG. In relation to all proposed projects HSG Leads receive advice and guidance from the group.</p> <p>Stakeholders and members of RHSCG advise HSG leads of gaps in services and the potential for partnership project development.</p> <p>Advice and guidance received within Strategic and operational partnership. These groups include members of Health, Substance Misuse and Housing.</p>
	The RHSCG will consider the effectiveness and potential for extending current regional projects.	<p><u>Regional Projects</u>: HOS and Trauma Service.</p> <p><u>Sub-regional projects (MT and RCT)</u>: Target Hardening, Dementia Service, Hostels.</p> <p><u>Sub-regional projects (RCT and BCBC)</u>: Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme (DAPP)</p> <p>Invited speakers to the RHSCG in May 2023 to provide an update on HOS and data was shared in relation to the effectiveness of the project - evidenced on minutes of the RHSCG meeting.</p>
	Analysing and reacting to regionally based surveys and needs assessment data that is evidencing common needs or gaps in provision. This intelligence provides the potential to consider projects that could fill gaps in current service provision. E.g. taking advantage of new funding or the reassignment of funds to provide specialist provision and support; such as a wet house,	As mentioned above a research project carried out with Llamau was commissioned to inform strategic planning. Data considered and discussed at the T&F group, as well as during HSG Leads and RHSCG meetings.

	specialist disability related services, or the potential of gender affiliated projects.	
<b>Delivery of improvements to be achieved by collaboration.</b>	The RHSCG will ensure that there continues to be collaboration and partnership working at a regional level to deliver improvements to services. Doing so whilst working closely with colleagues in the RPB, PSB, APB, VAWDASV and other boards within the regional governance landscape. Sharing data and collaborating to ensure strategic alignment.	<p>Sharing data and collaborating with monitoring officers of affiliated groups.</p> <p>All regional projects at all stages are presented to the LA planning groups.</p> <p>The two Housing representatives that sit on the RPB also sit on the RHSCG.</p>
	HSG teams will continue to collaborate and work together with wider stakeholder, service users and frontline partners to consider improvements that can be made to the regional aspect of delivery in relation to the HSG programme both locally and regionally.	<p>Stakeholder and Service user consultations identified improvements that could be made.</p> <p>RHSCG meeting provides a platform to discuss the potential for improvement.</p> <p>HSG Leads meetings - take place every 6 weeks.</p> <p>Regional RHSCG developmental workshop.</p>
<b>Collaboration with other public services.</b>	Formalising links and lines of communication related to regional working, for HSG: such as the continuation of cell meetings. e.g. Make better connections with: Police and probation / possibly pooling funding or joint commissioning. Co-locating services, as we have with health. Exploring opportunities with ex-offenders and how we support them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pooling funding and joint commissioning. - HOS Project.</li> <li>• Co-locating services as per health and APB partnership.</li> <li>• RHSCG work closely with the Housing Outreach Service (HOS) across the region, which has expanded and now has over 1000 service user referrals. HOS works with our most complex service users who are experiencing mental health and/or substance dependency co-occurring with homelessness.</li> </ul>
	Ensuring that the multi-agency membership of the RHSCG is fit for purpose and includes relevant officers from other public service areas will be a priority for the RHSCG.	<p>RHSCG membership has been reviewed and updated regularly throughout the past 12 months. Includes all WG recommend members, as per housing guidance.</p> <p>New RHSCG members recruited in 23/24 include: Cabinet Member MTCBC - Cllr Michelle Symonds - RHSCG Chair</p>

		<p>Cabinet Member RCT - Cllr Bob Harris</p> <p>Youth Justice Rep - Christa Bonham-Griffiths</p> <p>Health, Housing &amp; Innovation Rep - Beth Underwood</p> <p>Community Mental Health Rep - Alyson Jones</p> <p>CAMHS (under 18) - Chrystelle Walters</p> <p>HOS Reps - Rachel Thomas / Clare Lagier</p> <p>Support Providers' Rep - Mariam Elmirghani</p>
	<p>Enhancing partnership relationships and improving bridges that link housing with its partners. The Housing Minister (March 21) suggests partnerships are to consider how they work together in their area. They are to review their own arrangements and alignments and to put in place the arrangement that make most sense in local circumstances.</p>	<p>In CTM there are excellent relationships between housing and partners. The relationship between housing and health particularly has become much stronger over the last 12 months with the expansions of HOS.</p> <p>Although there is no requirement for elected members to be involved in RHSCGs; within the CTM region our elected members bring a vital contribution to the progress of regional working and have been greatly involved in the progress made over the last 12 months.</p> <p>Complete via discussions with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key boards within region</li> <li>• Principle Leads and members of RHSCG</li> <li>• HSG Leads</li> </ul> <p>‘Current format to remain as it is, at present.’</p>
	<p>Housing Ministerial recommendation: all partnerships make available online basic information outlining your terms of reference, your vision, your membership, progress and how citizens or communities can get involved.</p>	<p>All up-to-date information can be found online via:  <a href="https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/council/partnership-working/cwm-taf-regional-collaborative-committee/">https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/council/partnership-working/cwm-taf-regional-collaborative-committee/</a></p> <p>Publication includes; TOR, minutes of meetings, annual service user engagement, stakeholder publications, etc.</p>
<b>Other considerations.</b>	<p>Reconfiguring, reviewing and assessing current service provision - Consideration and discussion to ensure sustainability of any new services developed during this period at a regional level.</p>	<p>During the HSG Leads meetings and RHSCG meetings opportunities for commissioning projects across the region are discussed.</p> <p>HSG Leads meet 6-weekly (proposed future dates: 19<sup>th</sup> Mar, 25<sup>th</sup> Apr, 6<sup>th</sup> Jun, 18<sup>th</sup> Jul, 29<sup>th</sup> Aug, 10<sup>th</sup> Oct, 21<sup>st</sup> Nov 2024).</p> <p>RHSCG members meet quarterly (proposed future dates: Q1 - 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024, Q2 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2024, Q3 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2024, Q4 - 4<sup>th</sup> Mar 2025).</p>
	<p>Reports to Welsh Government - RHSCG to submit an annual regional statement by</p>	<p>The following regional statements have been submitted to WG:</p>

	<p>end of April each year setting out the collaborative working that has been achieved and the key opportunities and challenges that will be the group's priorities through the next year.</p> <p>Submission of a six monthly position update setting out how the RHSCG is progressing in delivering against their priorities in their region.</p>	<p>1) The RHSCG members had sight of the regional statement for 2022/23, together with the Regional Priorities for 2023/24. All approved in April 2023.</p> <p>2) 6 Monthly progress report approved by the RHSCG members and submitted to WG in October 2023.</p>
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## Cwm Taf Morgannwg RHSCG Priorities 2024 – 25

### **1: Development of specialist services for which there is not a critical mass locally.**

- To continue the monitoring and development of the Housing Outreach Service (HOS) regionally, and to ensure the work undertaken is captured within HSG outcomes, case studies, digital stories, etc.
- Undertake any appropriate actions from the HOS Steering Group e.g. research and data analysis.
- To develop the remaining three recommendations highlighted in the LGBTQ+ work plan.
- Continue to build on the investigative work of the Task & Finish group in relation to complex needs, together with the positive collaborative input during February's RHSCG developmental workshop.
- Work around research, evidence gathering, and contributing to reports that HSG Leads need to develop on a regional basis for the Housing Support Programme Strategy and Planning across the region.
- The RDC will continue to manage the 'off the shelf' register of potential projects.

### **2: Development of regional services where justified by economies of scale**

- Update the CTM Contract Register 23/24, effective from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024, and include a 'risk of decommission' column.
- The below regional and sub-regional contracts are due to end during 2025, so the retender process to begin towards the end of 2024:
  - Trauma Service
  - Hostels
  - DAPP
- Annual HOS presentation for RHSCG members.

### **3: Delivery of improvements to be achieved by collaboration**

- Ensure that Housing Reps (RPB) are supported to engage in the RHSCG process and feed in and out of RHSCG – RPB. Papers shared etc. Will look to strengthen the links and communication between the RPB Reps and RHSCG members.
- RDC to attend local planning groups and give regional updates and feedback.
- RDC to attend regional provider forums and feedback as relevant.

### **4: Collaboration with other public services.**

- HSG Leads and the RDC will continue to attend the monthly HOS Steering Group meetings, where statistical data is now being provided. The RDC also attends the Operational Group meetings.
- Continue to review the RHSCG membership list on a regular basis.

- Annual update of RHSCG TOR to be undertaken.
- Update the RHSCG Induction Pack.
- Update the RHSCG Conflict of Interest Policy & Form.

## **5: Other considerations:**

- **Reconfiguring, reviewing and assessing current service provision** - Consideration and discussion to ensure sustainability of any new services developed during this period at a regional level.
- **Reports to Welsh Government – RHSCG** to submit an annual regional statement by end of April each year setting out the collaborative working that has been achieved and the key opportunities and challenges that will be the group's priorities through the next year.
- Submission of a six monthly position update setting out how the RHSCG is progressing in delivering against the set priorities for the region.

The Cwm Taf Morgannwg RHSCG has shown a long-standing commitment to regional working and collaboration. The RHSCG has been central to the development of regionally commissioned supported accommodations and floating support schemes. It has worked in partnership with the Local Health Board to support the establishment of a multi-disciplinary team in order to support some of the most vulnerable service users across the region and has supported the culture of collaborative working in the three local authority areas, resulting in the alignment of policies and procedures. The RHSCG members are committed to continuing to progress this work during the next twelve months, and to supporting the three LA's to develop services that meet the needs of our communities.

### Annex 1: RHSCG Membership list - April 2024

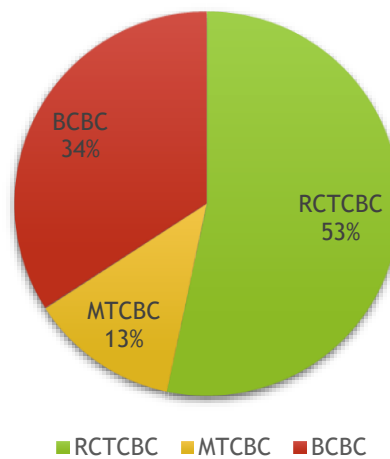
CTM RHSCG Membership	Organisation /Service	LA	Representatives
Local Authorities - HSG Strategic Leads and nominated representatives	Housing & Homelessness	M	Suzanne Stephens Hannah Mills
	Housing & Homelessness	R	Cheryl Emery Susan Preece Rachel Gronow
	Housing & Homelessness	B	Lynne Berry Ryan Jones Jessica Ware Lukasz Kuziow / Zoe Leonard
	Cabinet Member MTCBC	M	Cllr Michelle Symonds
	Cabinet Member BCBC	B	Cllr Rhys Goode
	Cabinet Member RCTCBC	R	Cllr Bob Harris
	Social Services	M	Lisa Curtis Jones Kristie Williams (deputy)
Regional Partners	Probation		Emma Richards Kelly Bosley
	Youth Justice		Christa Bonham-Griffiths
	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner		Angharad Metcalfe
	Substance Misuse APB		Sian Bunston
	VAWDASV Regional Partnership Board		Deborah Evans
	Children and Communities Grant		Melinda Powell
Health	Public Health Board – CTM Health, Housing & Innovation - CTM		Philip Daniels Bethan Underwood
	Community Mental Health Rep CAMHS (under 18s only) HOS Mental Health Reps		Alyson Jones Chrystelle Walters Rachel Thomas/Clare Lagier
Third Sector Support provider and Landlords	Support Providers' Reps		Lorraine Griffiths (POBL) Mariam Elmirghani (Llamau)
	Social Housing Landlords Rep		Sarah O'Keefe (WWHA)
	Private Rental Sector		TBC
	Regional Development Coordinator		Kelly Francis
Others	Service User Voice		TBC
	Housing Reps from RPB		Rachel Honey-Jones Nicola Eynon (deputy) Emma Howells (deputy) Gary Hortop Jennifer Elis (deputy)

## Annex 2: Regional HSG Funding Allocations

The Housing Support Grant is allocated to all LA's across wales. The Cwm Taff Morgannwg Local Authorities receive the following grant awards in order to deliver Housing Support on a local level and to contribute towards regional priorities for Cwm Taff Morgannwg.

Authority:	LA HSG Award:
Bridgend C.B.C	£8,572,183.86
Rhondda Cynon Taf C.B.C	£13,390,508.27
Merthyr Tydfil C.B.C	£3,144,223.83
Total Allocation:	£25,106,915.96

HSG Allocation by Area:



## Cwm Taf Morgannwg Work Plan Summary 2024 - 25

During 24/25, the RHSCG will continue to work on the priorities identified in the 23/24 work plan (Page 4 – 8) and the priorities agreed for 24/25 (Page 9 – 10).

1. Development of specialist services for which there is not a critical mass locally
  - To continue the monitoring and development of the Housing Outreach Service (HOS) regionally.
  - Continue to build on the investigative work of the Task & Finish group in relation to complex needs.
  - Work around research, evidence gathering, and contributing to reports that we need to develop on a regional basis for Housing Support Programme Strategy and Planning across the region.
2. Development of regional services where justified by economies of scale
  - Update the CTM Contract Register 23/24 effective from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 and include a 'risk of decommission' column.
  - Retender of specific regional and sub-regional contracts.
3. Delivery of improvements to be achieved by collaboration.
  - Further improving our links with the RPB via our Housing Reps.
4. Collaboration with other public services
  - Further improving our links with Health building on the success of HOS.

## Acronyms

<b>APB</b>	Area Planning Board
<b>COI</b>	Conflict of Interest
<b>CTM</b>	Cwm Taf Morgannwg
<b>DAPP</b>	Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme
<b>FGM</b>	Female Genital Mutilation
<b>HOS</b>	Health Outreach Service
<b>HSG</b>	Housing Support Grant
<b>LA</b>	Local Authority
<b>LCP</b>	Local Commissioning Plan
<b>MH&amp;SM</b>	Mental Health & Substance Misuse
<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>PSB</b>	Public Services Board
<b>RCC</b>	Regional Collaborative Committee
<b>RDC</b>	Regional Development Co-ordinator
<b>RHSCG</b>	Regional Housing Support Collaborative Group
<b>RPB</b>	Regional Partnership Board
<b>RPF</b>	Regional Partnership Forum
<b>RSP</b>	Regional Strategic Plan
<b>SP</b>	Supporting People
<b>TOR</b>	Terms of Reference
<b>VAWDASV</b>	Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse Sexual Violence
<b>WG</b>	Welsh Government

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