



Cwm Taf Morgannwg
Regional Housing Support Collaborative Group
Regional Statement 2024 / 25 and
Regional Priorities 2025 / 26

April 2025

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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 (Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil & Rhondda Cynon Taf), that work conjointly with their partners, to provide a forum for collaborative working.

There is recognition that the Regional Partnership (formerly known as the Regional Partnership Board or 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 Regional Partnership (RP) 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 2024-25 Priorities

Item:	Objective:	Progress 2024/25:
1. Development of specialist services for which there is not a critical mass locally.	To develop specialist services whilst working in unison with multi-agency entities. To include stakeholders, partners and frontline workers within the processes related to specialist project development.	<p>The Specialist Mental Health and Substance Misuse Housing Outreach Service (HOS) is a multi-agency regional project involving a partnership of Strategic Leads in Health, APB and Housing. Throughout the past 12 months there has been consultative involvement and direct working with service providers, service users and housing related associated partners.</p> <p>HOS 'Working Together' sessions arranged by the RDC have been successful across CTM and are now regularly being delivered to service providers on an individual basis where smaller numbers allow for greater collaborative input.</p>
	Take advantage of the collaborative opportunity to engage and consult stakeholders and partners in considering the issues and requirements of clients with high level complex needs.	<p>The RDC together with input from the Task and Finish Group, arranged and carried out various consultation with stakeholders regarding DWP backdated payments, ensuring report attached:</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  CTM Report - DWP Backdated Payments.c </div>
	To inform RHSCG members of relevant specialist projects which have links to housing.	<p>Debra Mitchell presented at the RHSCG Q2 and provided an overview of the CTM Neurodiversity Regional Transformation programme and how it links into housing.</p> <p>Housing and accommodation members have since been asked to complete a short online survey designed to collect information about housing services for neurodivergent adults across CTM. In turn this will help support the Regional Partnership's ND improvement work and further improve collaborative links.</p>
	To review the Housing Support Programme (HSP) Strategy and Needs Assessment in respect of HSG, providing regional overview for planning purposes.	LAs to commence work on their HSP Strategies in Q3/Q4 and developments will be reported in due course.
	To compile and utilise a register of potential housing related services and/or projects.	An 'off the shelf' register has been compiled and is being utilised for proposed housing related projects. When funding becomes available the register allows the RHSCG and HSG Leads to quickly commission services.

2. Development of regional services where justified by economies of scale.	To develop a contract register so HSG Leads can easily compare service contracts across CTM.	A contracts mapping exercise has been undertaken. The CTM Contract Register 24/25 allows LAs to bench-mark similar contracts and assist with commissioning services locally and potentially regionally.
	The RHSCG will consider the effectiveness of and potential for extending current regional projects.	HOS team members invited to present at the RHSCG in May 2024 and March 2025, in order evidence the effectiveness of this successful regional project.
	RHSCG members to provide advice and support to the HSG leads in relation to the development of regionally based projects where justified by economies of scale.	<p>During RHSCG meetings opportunities for commissioning projects across the region have been considered but are always dependent upon the availability of funding.</p> <p>Stakeholders and members of RHSCG advise HSG leads of gaps in services and the potential for partnership project development.</p> <p>Stakeholder consultation is currently underway to determine the gap in service provision with regards to hoarding.</p>
3. Delivery of improvements to be achieved by collaboration.	To work closely with colleagues in the RP, APB, VAWDASV, other boards and key stakeholders within the regional governance landscape, to ensure strategic alignment and the sharing of information.	<p>RHSCG members have received regular updates from the RP Reps with regards to the RP's priorities. Over the past 6 months the RDC has established close links with the RP and now sits on the RP's Adult Services Programme Board, as well as the Cross Partnership Working Group and provides a Highlight Report on behalf of the RHSCG.</p> <p>In addition, the HSG Leads and RP Reps have met outside of the RHSCG, where it was agreed that a regular key message would be provided to the RP Reps via email prior to each RP meeting. The RDC was invited to present at the RP meeting on Thursday 3rd April to discuss the regional priorities of the RHSCG.</p> <p>The RDC has attended individual LA planning group meetings, as and when necessary. As well as the local and regional service provider forums, to provide regional updates and feedback as relevant.</p> <p>The RDC has regularly met with the other RDCs (Hayley Parker for Gwent, Lesley Thomas for North and Sarah Walters for West Glam) throughout Wales to share data, best practice, processes and priorities. Collaborative working across Wales helps deliver improvements to HSG services as a whole.</p>

	<p>HSG teams to collaborate and work together with wider stakeholders, service users and frontline partners to consider improvements that can be made to the regional aspect of delivery both on a local and regional level.</p>	<p>DWP consultation and report completed to highlight the consequences of vulnerable individuals receiving large sums by way of backdated payments. Following member approval, the report was shared with all Service Providers, DWP and WG.</p> <p>To determine the need for a regional hoarding project, stakeholder consultation is underway to gather data and case studies which highlights the need for this type of provision throughout CTM.</p> <p>Additional case studies are being gathered so collectively the group can understand what the current challenges are in CTM with regards to a small cohort of clients who do not meet the Adult Social Care threshold so are getting trapped in the homelessness system.</p> <p>One document now provides the referral processes for all 3 LAs comparing the different referral routes for temporary/supported accommodation throughout CTM.</p>
	<p>To take advantage of partnership opportunity that enhances the effectiveness of housing support provision.</p>	<p>The RDC has carried out a review of the regional Trauma Informed Counselling service and facilitated discussions with CTM Mind and the HSG Leads in readiness for the re-tender.</p> <p>The regional HOS team are continually monitored and developments discussed during the Strategic meetings attended by the HSG and APB Leads.</p>
<p>4. Collaboration with other public services.</p>	<p>To formalise links and lines of communication related to regional working. In particular improving connections with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key stakeholders - Partnerships - Service users - Support staff 	<p>Pooling funding and joint commissioning. - HOS Project.</p> <p>Co-locating services as per health and APB partnership.</p> <p>The RDC is now part of a Cross Partnership Working group set up by the RP, which involves Health, APB, PSB and RSB. On a quarterly basis the regional partners come together to share information on priorities and discuss cross cutting themes.</p> <p>The RDC has also regularly attended various regional groups including the RP's Adult Services Programme Board, CTM's Regional Provider Forum and CTM's Health & Well-being Forum to ensure strategic alignment and the sharing of information.</p>
	<p>To ensure the multi-agency membership of the RHSCG is fit for purpose and includes</p>	<p>RHSCG membership has been reviewed and updated regularly throughout the past 12 months. It includes all WG recommend members, as per housing guidance.</p>

	relevant officers from other public service areas.	<p>New RHSCG members recruited in 24/25: Cabinet Member MTCBC - Cllr Jamie Scriven Cabinet Member RCT - Cllr Neelo Farr RP Rep - Gary Hortop RP Rep - Emma Howells APB Rep - Sian Bunston RCT Housing - Joanne Harris</p> <p>Discussions are currently taking place with key stakeholders to try and recruit a new Landlord Rep and Service User Voice.</p>
	To enhance partnership relationships and improve bridges that link housing with its partners.	<p>In CTM there are positive relationships between housing and various partners. In particular, the relationship between housing and health continues to go from strength to strength with the collaborative connections of the HOS team.</p> <p>Further progressive relationships have been developed due to ongoing discussions with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RP, APB, PSB and RSB members. • Members of RHSCG. • HSG Leads.
	The CTM RHSCG external website to be updated and maintained to allow the general public the opportunity to access key regional information and updates.	<p>All up-to-date information can be found online via: https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/council/partnership-working/cwm-taf-regional-collaborative-committee/</p> <p>Publications include Terms of Reference, minutes of meetings, annual service user engagement, stakeholder publications, etc.</p>
5. Other considerations.	To reconfigure, review and assess current service provision.	<p>During both the 6-weekly HSG Leads meetings and quarterly RHSCG meetings opportunities for commissioning projects across the region have been discussed.</p> <p>HSG Leads meet 6-weekly (proposed future dates for 2025/26: 19th Jun, 31st Jul, 11th Sept, 23rd Oct, 4th Dec, 15th Jan, 26th Feb).</p> <p>Due to the immense pressure on housing, as well as other sectors, members have agreed to slightly change the format of the RHSCG's going forward, there will now be 2 electronic updates and 2 in-person meetings per year, as follows:</p> <p>Q1 Thursday 5th June 2025 - Electronic update Q2 Thursday 4th September 2025 - In Person Q3 Thursday 4th December 2025 - Electronic update Q4 Thursday 5th March 2026 - In Person</p>

		<p>The format of the electronic update will be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda and papers will be circulated as normal, members will be asked to consider them and respond with any queries/feedback within a week. • Members will also be asked to send me their updates within the same timeframe. • Any papers requiring approval - will be done electronically, and if no significant objections, the proposal will proceed. • A follow-up electronic update will be sent within 2-weeks of the papers being circulated.
	<p>RHSCG must submit:</p> <p>1) An annual regional statement setting out the collaborative working that has been achieved and the key opportunities and challenges that will be the groups priorities for the next year.</p> <p>2) A bi-annual position update setting out how they are progressing in delivering against their priorities in the region.</p>	<p>The following regional statements have been submitted to WG:</p> <p>1) The RHSCG members have had the opportunity to review the regional statement for 2024/25, together with the Regional Priorities for 2025/26, in the RHSCG Q4 meeting (March 2025).</p> <p>2) 6 Monthly progress report was approved by the RHSCG members and submitted to WG in October 2024.</p>

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

- To continue the monitoring and development of the regional Specialist Mental Health and Housing Outreach Service (HOS), and to ensure the work undertaken is captured within HSG outcomes, case studies, digital stories, research and data analysis.
- Create a tailored questionnaire for completion by LGBTQ+ service users across CTM. Collate and analyse the information then report on the findings.
- Carry out consultation with a small group of service users who left temporary / supported accommodation over 6 months ago. Produce a report on the extent to which supported accommodation has enabled independent living.
- Continue to build on the investigative work of the Task & Finish group in relation to complex needs.
- The RDC to work around research, evidence gathering, and contributing to reports that HSG Leads need to develop for the Housing Support Programme (HSP) from a regional planning perspective.
- Continue to manage the 'off the shelf' register of potential regional projects. Following stakeholder consultation regarding the requirements needs of certain groups, create draft regional service specifications for inclusion in the 'off the shelf' register e.g. LGBTQ+ and Hoarding.

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

- Update the CTM Contract Register to include all live contracts for 25/26.
- The RDC to assist with the retendering of the Trauma Informed Counselling contract (due for renewal in July 2025) and ongoing regional monitoring.
- The HOS team to provide an annual presentation for RHSCG members, including statistical information.
- HSG referral forms to align across the CTM region with regards to equalities / LGBTQ+ data to enable future comparison. LA HSG teams to carry out a further review in due course.

3: Delivery of improvements to be achieved by collaboration

- Ensure the RP Housing Reps are supported to engage in the RHSCG process and feed in and out of RHSCG meetings.
- The RDC to attend individual LA planning group meetings, as and when necessary. As well as the local and regional service provider forums, to provide regional updates and feedback as relevant.
- The RDC to regularly meet and collaborate with the other RDC's throughout Wales, sharing documents and examples of best practice related to regional working.

- To carry out a piece of work so collectively we can understand what the current challenges are with complex needs clients who do not meet the ASC threshold.
- The T&F group to consult with Support Providers in order to bring together case study examples of the issues and unintended consequences generated by the Rented Homes (Wales) Act (RHA).
- Service user consultation to be carried out by the RDC and report produced to help identify gaps in services and support the HSG leads with strategic planning.
- Design a review of Housing First across CTM.
- Facilitate discussions on how mediation (Llamau) is being delivered across RCT and Bridgend.

4: Collaboration with other public services.

- The RDC to regularly meet and collaborate with regional colleagues from other public services and boards, sharing information and examples of best practice related to regional working.
- The RDC to link with the HOS Coordinator and APB Lead Officer to consider a service specification to identify the framework in which HOS operates.
- Continue to review the RHSCG membership list on a regular basis.
- Continue to achieve regional collaborative working via discussions with key stakeholders, members of RHSCG, HSG Leads, Partners, Service users and Support staff.

5: Other considerations:

- Annual update of the RHSCG Terms of Reference to be undertaken.
- Update the RHSCG Induction Pack as and when necessary.
- Update the RHSCG Conflict of Interest Policy & Form when required.
- Consideration to be given to ensure sustainability of current provision and suitability of any new services at a regional level.
- Matters arising will be included on the RHSCG agenda as and when they occur.
- Prepare and 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 LAs to develop services that meet the needs of our communities.

Annex 1: RHSCG Membership list - March 2025

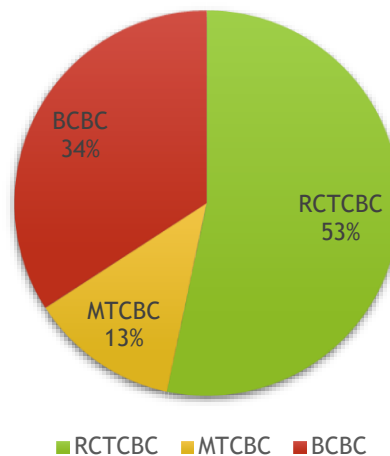
CTM RHSCG Membership	Organisation /Service	LA	Representatives
Local Authorities - HSG Strategic Leads and nominated representatives	Housing & Homelessness	M	Suzanne Stephens Hannah Mills
	Housing & Homelessness	R	Cheryl Emery Susan Preece Joanne Harris
	Housing & Homelessness	B	Lynne Berry Ryan Jones Jessica Ware
	Cabinet Member MTCBC	M	Cllr Jamie Scrivens
	Cabinet Member BCBC	B	Cllr Neelo Farr
	Cabinet Member RCTCBC	R	Cllr Bob Harris
	Social Services	M	Lisa Curtis Jones Kristie Llewellyn (deputy)
Regional Partners	Probation		Emma Richards Kelly Bosley (deputy) Janine Hamed (deputy)
	Youth Justice		Christa Bonham-Griffiths
	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner		TBC
	Substance Misuse APB		Sian Bunston
	VAWDASV		Deborah Evans
	Children and Communities Grant		Melinda Powell
Health	Public Health Board - CTM Community Mental Health Rep CAMHS (under 18s only) HOS Mental Health Reps		Bethan Underwood 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 RP		Gary Hortop Emma Howells Natalie Taylor (deputy)

Annex 2: Regional HSG Funding Allocations

The Housing Support Grant is allocated to all LAs 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	£9,598,676.28
Rhondda Cynon Taf C.B.C	£14,993,979.94
Merthyr Tydfil C.B.C	£3,520,734.40
Total Allocation:	£28,113,390.60

HSG Allocation by Area:



Cwm Taf Morgannwg Work Plan Summary 2025 - 26

During 25/26, the RHSCG will continue to work on the priorities started in the 24/25 work plan (Page 4 – 8) and the priorities agreed for 25/26 (Page 9 – 11).

1. Development of specialist services for which there is not a critical mass locally
 - Continue to monitor and develop the regional Housing Outreach Service (HOS).
 - Carry out consultation with service users and stakeholders to help shape future HSG services and draft regional service specifications.
 - Continue to build on the investigative work in relation to complex needs.
2. Development of regional services where justified by economies of scale
 - Update the CTM Contract Register to include all live contracts for 25/26.
 - Retender of the regional Trauma service and ongoing regional monitoring.
 - HSG referral forms to align across CTM with regards to equalities / LGBTQ+ data
3. Delivery of improvements to be achieved by collaboration.
 - Further improving our links with the RP and other public bodies.
 - The RDC to attend relevant meetings to provide regional updates and feedback.
 - Service user and stakeholder consultation to be carried out by the RDC to help identify gaps in services and support the HSG leads with strategic planning e.g. hoarding, RHA.
4. Collaboration with other public services
 - The RDC to regularly meet and collaborate with regional colleagues
 - Further improve links with Health and APB building on the success of HOS.
- 5: Other considerations
 - Administrative duties linked with the RHSCG

Acronyms

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

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