








**Cwm Taf Morgannwg**  
**Regional Housing Support Collaborative Group (RHSCG)**  
**4<sup>th</sup> March 2025** – Marsh House, Merthyr Tydfil.  
**Minutes – Q4 2024/25**

<b>Attendees</b>		<b>Representing</b>
Cheryl Emery (Acting Chair)	CE	Housing RCTCBC
Susan Preece	SP	Housing RCTCBC
Ryan Jones	RJ	Housing BCBC
Jessica Ware	JW	Housing BCBC
Suzanne Stephens	SS	Housing MTCBC
Hannah Mills	HM	Housing MTCBC
Rachel Thomas	RT	Housing Outreach Service (HOS) Rep
Gary Hortop	GH	Regional Partnership Rep
Emma Howells	EH	Regional Partnership Rep
Lorraine Griffiths	LG	Support Provider Rep
Kristie Llewellyn	KL	Social Services Rep
Janine Hamed	JH	Probation Rep
Kelly Francis	KF	CTM Regional Development Co-ordinator
<b>Guests</b>		
Peter Rayner	PR	Housing Outreach Service (HOS) Co-ordinator
Tracy Evans	TE	Clinical Nurse Specialist (HOS)

<b>1</b>	<p><b><u>Welcome</u></b>  The Chair gave everyone the opportunity to introduce themselves. No declarations of interest raised.</p> <p><b><u>Apologies</u></b>  Alyson Jones, Christa Bonham-Griffiths, Chrystelle Walters, Clare Lagier, Cllr Bob Harris, Cllr Jamie Scrivens, Cllr Neelo Farr, Deborah Evans, Joanne Harris, Mariam Elmirghani, Melinda Powell, Sarah O'Keefe, Sian Bunston.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b><u>Minutes of previous meeting and Actions.</u></b></p> <p>Minutes accepted as an accurate account and no issues raised.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KF to include the Rented Homes (Wales) Act issues and actions within the regional work plan.  <b>Update:</b> Included within the Regional Priorities for 25/26 at Item 7.</li> <li>• KF to alternate the future RHSCG meetings between Tuesdays and Thursdays.  <b>Update:</b> To be discussed in Item 8.</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<p><b><u>LA – HSG / Homeless Updates (including 24/25 HSG uplift)</u></b></p>
<b>3.1</b>	<p><b>MTCBC – SS:</b>  Numbers in B&amp;B have reduced and from 1<sup>st</sup> April total spaces will be 20 or less. Working on an additional supported accommodation provision, which will be situated at the former Tregenna site and the support provision tender will be out in the next few months with a hopeful start date of June 2026. This will provide 19 units for those individuals with high end complex needs. Rough sleepers remain low at 2 or 3, but there are probably hidden homelessness when considering those sofa suffering.</p>

<p><b>3.2</b></p>	<p>Submitted the HSG spend plan to WG yesterday with the addition of 2 homelessness posts. Unable to look at any new provision because even with the uplift funding is tight for Merthyr. Given an uplift of 7% across the board to floating support providers and for supported accommodation providers it is on a full cost recovery basis.</p> <p>Zoe Thomas has recently been appointed the new head of service at MTCBC.</p> <p><b>BCBC - RJ:</b> Overall household numbers in temporary accommodation remain very high at about 260 households and starting to see a significant increase in the percentage of those households being single person, which has risen from 60% to about 80%. BCBC are continuing to look at purchasing properties for temporary accommodation to reduce costs and scale up HMOs, which will be managed by the authority.</p> <p>A significant amount of the HSG uplift will cover the NI increases and RLW. The spend plan will be submitted to WG tomorrow and looking to support the internal housing solutions team to acknowledge the fact that they deal with a lot of support needs and ever-increasing complexities. The remaining amount will probably be earmarked towards provision for high complex needs individuals and being able to accommodate them on a long-term basis.</p> <p>BCBC's social housing allocation policy is currently being reviewed with the intention of a new one being in place by the end of the calendar year.</p> <p><b>3.3 RCTCBC – SP:</b> Numbers have slightly reduced with 131 currently in temporary accommodation and 86% of those are single people. There has been a rise in families, but the children are not going into TA as they are being rehoused temporarily. 27% are aged 25-34 and 15% are assessed by the HAST team as having high+ needs that require more long-term accommodation, where they are too low for adult social care but too low for HSG services. There is a ragging system for support needs, and this is a continual assessment so individuals can change.</p> <p>The HSG spend plan has been submitted to WG and an uplift has been included to cover NI and RLW, the surplus will be used to uplift current projects between 8-9%, as well as looking at a long-term managed accommodation comprising of 6 units with 24/7 support for the high+ complex needs individuals.</p>
<p><b>4.1</b></p>	<p><b><u>Partner/Stakeholder/Representative Updates</u></b></p> <p><b>Housing Support Provider Update - LG:</b> Complexities and risk assessment conversations are ongoing at a local level and at the last RPF there were signs of positivity in this regard. Discussion around RLW and NI increases being raised with WG. Workforce T&amp;F group looking at a minimum benchmark of £28,000 for the average support salary. Cymorth Cymru are looking to issue a Reflective Practice Toolkit and discussed the need to incorporate the cost of trauma informed services for staff into tenders.</p> <p>LG attended the Crisis Summit in London where prevention was discussed a lot, but nothing new that providers in Wales are not already doing.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> HSG Leads to contact their provider and landlord reps who work across CTM and encourage them to become an RHSCG member.</p>

<p><b>4.2</b></p>	<p><b>Community Housing Landlord Update</b> No representative available to attend today. KF has been trying to recruit another Landlord Rep via the RPF and CHC, but no expressions of interests received.</p>
<p><b>4.3</b></p>	<p><b>RP Housing Rep Update – GH &amp; EH:</b> GH shared with the group a couple of useful presentations delivered at the last RP meeting, one regarding the Fast Track Initiative supporting people with HIV and the other from Public Health regarding mental health and mental well-being across CTM:</p> <div data-bbox="331 414 384 474"></div> <div data-bbox="552 414 604 474"></div> <p>FINAL_RPB Fast Track      5.I - RPB - Public CTM Presentation_13. Mental Health_RPB pr</p> <p>Within the latter presentation are interesting statistics, but a further meeting is required to discuss improving access to mental health services and difficulties around increasing the workforce needed to improve access to these services. There was an update on the Integrated Community Care System and a discussion about the importance to not only fund Health but also Social Care, as a lot of preventative work is done before people access primary care services.</p> <p>Feedback from the RHSCG will now become a standard item on the RP agenda, this will involve an update and overview of the main priorities of the regional group. KF further added that she has been invited to deliver a presentation about the RHSCG at the RP's next meeting.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> HSG leads to consider the RHSCG message to be presented to the RP on 3<sup>rd</sup> April.</p>
<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>5.1</b></p>	<p><b><u>CTM - Regional Project Update</u></b></p> <p><b>Specialist Mental Health &amp; Substance Misuse Housing Outreach Service (HOS) – Annual Presented Update</b></p> <p>HOS presentation delivered by Peter, with valued input from Rachel and Tracy:</p> <div data-bbox="331 1370 384 1431"></div> <p>RHSCG Presentation 4th March 2025.pptx</p> <p>Due to time restraints the team didn't get the chance to read out the prepared case studies, but these are attached below:</p> <div data-bbox="331 1641 384 1702"></div> <div data-bbox="533 1641 585 1702"></div> <div data-bbox="740 1641 793 1702"></div> <div data-bbox="948 1641 1000 1702"></div> <p>05 Case Study SW - Mark 11.12.24 -- GL.d      Case study HOS q3 24.docx      Case Study L.docx      JS case study Oct 24.docx</p> <p>Since the service began 4 years ago it has received over 1700 referrals and the team now stands at 15. HOS is a multi-disciplinary interim service and just under half of all referrals received are re-referrals. The Chair explained there is the growing need to highlight the 'so what' differences the service makes and the importance of drawing out the positive outcomes of the interventions. LG confirmed from a provider perspective they could not fully support service users without the HOS Team.</p>

<p><b>5.2</b></p>	<p><b>Task &amp; Finish Group Update – KF:</b></p> <p>DWP consultation and report completed to highlight the consequences of vulnerable individuals receiving large sums by way of backdated payments. The report will be shared with CTM Service Providers, DWP and WG within the next week so if members have any comments, please send them to KF by Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March. Please see attached report:</p> <div data-bbox="331 407 386 465" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>CTM Report - DWP Backdated Payments.c</p> <p>One document now provides the referral processes for all 3 LAs, comparing the different referral routes for temporary and supported accommodation across the region. The below document has been prepared following the comments made by providers around allocation and managing risk, which has since been further addressed by LG meeting separately with each LA to discuss the issues at a local level.</p> <div data-bbox="331 772 386 831" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>CTM - Referral Processes for TA and '</p> <p>Review of the regional Trauma Informed Counselling service delivered by CTM Mind which is in the process of being re-tendered.</p> <p>Stakeholder consultation is underway to gather data and information to help determine the need for specialist hoarding services across CTM.</p> <p>A new piece of work is due to commence imminently, which will involve consulting with Support Providers, Cymorth Cymru and LA Gateway officers, to bring together case study examples of the unintended consequences of the Rented Homes (Wales) Act. LG mentioned the maintenance and compliance requirements, such as EICR, all increase costs and delay freeing up rooms. GH added that providers and RSLs are operating various approaches, as there is little caselaw and legal advisors are interpreting the legislation differently.</p>
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b><u>Mini Workshop Discussion</u></b></p> <p>GH mentioned two Housing LIN case studies, the Tile House model (permanent and temporary accommodation for people with a range of mental health and housing support needs) and the Brighton Case Study (personalised model of care and support for young people with physical and learning disabilities), these can be found using the following links:</p> <p><a href="https://www.housinglin.org.uk/Topics/type/Integration-that-works-An-evaluation-of-Tile-House/">https://www.housinglin.org.uk/Topics/type/Integration-that-works-An-evaluation-of-Tile-House/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.housinglin.org.uk/Topics/type/Delivering-Personalised-Care-and-Support-Services-in-Extra-Care-Housing-at-Vernon-Gardens-Brighton/">https://www.housinglin.org.uk/Topics/type/Delivering-Personalised-Care-and-Support-Services-in-Extra-Care-Housing-at-Vernon-Gardens-Brighton/</a></p> <p>The group agreed there is a requirement for long-term supported accommodation models in CTM as there will always be a certain cohort of people that require support for life, but this is different to needing permanent full-time care. It might just be a case of considering</p>

	<p>the different types of models already out there that can be changed and adapted to suit the needs of individuals within CTM.</p> <p>The starting point is to know your cohort and then consider the accommodation model that is required to meet individual's needs. This is to be linked back to housing support, so firstly look at our complex needs data and then at the accommodation provision already in place throughout CTM for complex needs clients e.g. Ty Ireland in Bridgend.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Review complex needs data for CTM and the long-term accommodation models already in place.</p>
<b>7</b>	<p><b><u>Regional Priorities 2025/26</u></b></p> <p>KF explained since last April the original work plan has expanded and undergone several changes, which has developed because of discussions at RHSCG that have then been progressed as part of the HSG Leads meetings and/or the Task &amp; Finish group meetings. All this collaborative working is reflected in the regional priorities for 25/26.</p> <p>If anyone has any queries or comments regarding the regional statement, please contact KF by Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March.</p>
<b>8</b>	<p><b><u>Future meeting options 2025/26</u></b></p> <p>The group agreed to go with option 1 but to have two in-person meetings per year instead of one, so going forward the RHSCG format will be:</p> <p>Q1 Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2025 – <b>Electronic update</b>  Q2 Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025 – <b>In Person</b>  Q3 Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2025 - <b>Electronic update</b>  Q4 Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – <b>In Person</b></p>
	<p><b>Actions arising from this meeting:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. HSG Leads to contact their provider and landlord reps who work across CTM and encourage them to become an RHSCG member.</li> <li>2. HSG leads to consider the RHSCG message to be presented to the RP on 3<sup>rd</sup> April.</li> <li>3. Review complex needs data for CTM and the long-term supported accommodation models already in place.</li> </ol>