

Cwm Taf Regional Collaborative Committee Annual Review June 2016



1. Executive Summary



Chair – Councillor Keiron Montague



Vice Chair – Shelagh Iles

As Chair and Vice Chair of the Cwm Taf RCC we feel that we have made significant progress since the last Annual reporting period. The RCC has moved from strength to strength in establishing a clear direction for the Supporting People Programme and implementing a cross authority approach to support the effective delivery of the supporting people programme and it is clearly visible that members are committed to this process.

Operations

We have developed a number of shared practices to ensure efficiencies and value for money to deliver quality and effective services across Cwm Taf. Specific sub-groups have been established to influence and make informed decisions on future provision. As an RCC we foresee there will be an increased role played by our Service User Involvement Group who will be instrumental in ensuring the views and experiences of those individuals who have accessed our services are at the heart of the decisions we make.

Future Strategic Aims

We will pro-actively link Supporting People services to the challenges and opportunities of the implementation of the Social Services and Well-being Act, Future Generations Act and will be proactive in the greater alignment of the Welsh Government's preventative agendas for tackling poverty and Domestic Abuse to the supporting people programme to ensure the best possible outcomes for the residents of Cwm Taf.

The current financial climate of austerity will challenge all partners however, through greater collaboration and innovation the Cwm Taf RCC are committed to respond to this challenge positively.

To meet the needs of residents in the future will not only mean working in different ways, but will need entirely new approaches and innovation to respond to the challenges communities and individuals will face. The Cwm Taf RCC are aware of the challenges which face us and we are positive that through collaboration and determination we can meet these challenges head on for the benefit of those in need.

2. Introduction

The Supporting People Programme Grant (SPPG) - Guidance (June 2013) states that Regional Collaborative Committees (RCCs) across Wales are required to submit annual / regular reports to the Supporting People National Advisory Board (SPNAB), to advise the Minister on progress of each RCC. The RCC forms part of the overall governance structure for the SPPG, the current structure is available on the Welsh Government website: <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/housing-and-regeneration/services-and-support/supporting-people/programme-structure/?lang=en>

This Annual Review will cover the period from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016. It will provide the SPNAB with an update on developments and an honest assessment of what's worked well and areas that still need to be progressed in the Cwm Taf RCC. This report is a reflection of all Cwm Taf RCC attendees; each member, deputy member, co-opted member and advisor has been given the opportunity to input their views and recommendations on the Cwm Taf RCC.

The SPPG – Guidance (June 2013) identifies a number of areas of responsibility for the RCCs across Wales and the High level principles. These are listed below.

The areas of responsibility where the RCC is expected to report to SPNAB:

1. Advise
2. Recommend
3. Planning
4. Priority Setting
5. Membership and Attendance.

The high level principles for the RCC:

1. Improving services and outcomes to the end user
2. Ensuring probity, accountability, transparency and scrutiny
3. Operating on the basis of equality, collaboration and co-production
4. Providing strategic oversight and direction in line with national, regional and local strategy and SP Commissioning plans.
5. Being underpinned by and comply with robust and enforceable grant conditions.

Cwm Taf comprises of two local authority areas: Merthyr Tydfil (Lead authority) and Rhondda Cynon Taf. It is covered by the Cwm Taf University Health Board and the South Wales Police.

3. Case studies

Example 1: Cwm Taf Supporting people strategic relevance reviews

Strategic relevance reviews were a priority for the RCC to ensure that the current services we were delivering through the supporting people programme were value for money services and meeting the needs for our service users.

The RCC suggested commissioning the same consultant used to complete the strategic relevance reviews for Merthyr Tydfil across the region for consistency for service providers, service users and reporting framework to report to the RCC.

This was commissioned and the strategic relevance reviews in RCT commenced in 2015.

WHAT WORKED WELL

We have one regional project across the region and there are many providers who deliver services across the region. Therefore by commissioning the same consultant to complete all reviews this has provided consistency for the review process for service providers and service users.

This process has also allowed reports, updates and recommendations to be presented to the RCC for further scrutiny and decision making.

WHAT WAS ACHIEVED

Merthyr Tydfil strategic review was completed in 2014 and the local planning group were working through the recommendations for 2015.

Rhondda Cynon Taf strategic review was underway and a timetable was set and is due to be completed in July 2016. Reports are submitted following each review.

It was agreed that once each client group review is complete in RCT the recommendations across the region be shared and this will be available for the RCC scrutiny panel to identify possible efficiencies and regional projects. The 2 first client groups were identified as:

- Domestic Abuse
- Mental Health

This work has and would then influence future commissioning, decommissioning and reconfiguration decisions for 2016 and 2017.

LESSONS LEARNT

With the ever decreasing budgets and changing demand it is essential that services provided are strategically relevant. This also provides an opportunity to re configure services and to pilot new services that may impact in the early intervention and preventative agenda.

Example 2: Cwm Taf RCC & Making links with Tackling Poverty

In 2014 the then Deputy Minister for Poverty led on a piece of work to look at developing a common outcomes framework across the main 3 tackling poverty programmes to;

- Identify common outcomes and measures which would focus the tackling poverty agenda and support alignment of programmes.
- Support and enable better collaborative working to achieve effective delivery and improved outcomes for those most in need.

In line with this and the New Minister of Communities and Tackling Poverty directive to integrate the poverty programmes, the Cwm Taf RCC held a Tackling Poverty planning session and representatives were invited from the tackling poverty programmes across the region.

The main focus of the session was:

- The common outcomes framework and making the connections with the Supporting People programme

WHAT WORKED WELL

Presentations were delivered on:

- Closer Working – Communities and Tackling Poverty
- Tackling Poverty – Transforming delivery across RCT
- Common Outcomes Framework

Discussion points were had on closer working across the programmes and the following valuable points made:

- It is evident that the pressure around closer working between tackling poverty programmes has grown
- We need a mechanism for sharing of data on strategic objectives and outcomes across the board
- There needs to be a more streamlined approach
- Difficulties in joining up programmes due to the different timelines of funding – Could this be more streamlined in Welsh Government?
- Difficulties in joining up plans as each plan has different set headings
- Difficulties in drafting plans when funding has not been agreed as this could cause duplication between programmes as planning at different times
- Welsh Government issue guidance for each programme separately – Is there a way of joining these up or referencing other relevant programmes in the guidance?
- Why can't the Regional Commissioning plan be linked to the wellbeing plan for the Single Integrated Plan
- Local needs are so important so when joining up programmes all needs to be assessed to ensure we have the right services

- Could there be one overarching strategic plan? With the operational plans sitting below
- Joint Commissioning – This is already happening in Caerphilly and Torfaen
- Are there restrictions for piloting new schemes across programmes or would this be flexible?

WHAT WAS ACHIEVED

As the shared outcome framework was a new way of reporting for the tackling poverty programmes, this was an opportunity to look at linking in some of the supporting people outcomes. An outcomes framework was developed that would monitor the shared outcomes across these four tackling poverty programmes.

Shared Outcomes	Supporting People	Communities First	Families First	Flying Start
1. Achieve good educational outcomes.	Engage in education and learning	Learning Communities	Outcome 2 Children, young people and families, in or at risk of poverty, achieve their potential	Outcome 3 FS Children are Reaching potential
2. Realise sufficient income and obtain work that pays.	Manage money Engage in employment or voluntary work	Prosperous Communities	Outcome 1 Working age people in low income families gain, and progress within, employment	
3. Achieve a thriving and healthy future.	Feeling safe Physically healthy Lead a healthy and active lifestyle Mentally healthy	Healthier Communities	Outcome 3 Children, young people and families are healthy and enjoy well-being Outcome 4 Families are confident, nurturing resilient and safe	Outcome 1 FS Children are Healthy and Thriving Outcome 2 FS Families are Capable and coping
4. Live in a safe and secure environment.	Manage relationships Contribute to the safety and well being of themselves and others			
Engagement framework	Feel part of the community			

By implementing this shared outcome framework the expectations across the programmes would be;

- Duplication is avoided and strengthen alignment between the tackling poverty programmes;
- Easier to identify gaps in provision and fill the gaps
- Complementary delivery of interventions and sustaining success

LESSONS LEARNT

- RCC to get involved with Tackling poverty agendas across Cwm Taf
- All Needs assessments to be shared with the RCC for future planning
- Invite a Tackling Poverty Lead to future RCC meetings to ensure links are being made
- Look at ways we could shift resources to align these programmes

4. How people who access services are involved

Since the Cwm Taf Service User engagement framework was implemented the RCC felt strongly about service user engagement and ensuring that service users are involved in planning and making decisions on services that will be accessed and may affect them.

The RCC commissioned a piece of work with 'Housemark' across the region to find out **what really matters to service users in support services** and ensure that service users are fully involved in future service planning for supporting people services. Support providers already involve service users well, so we wanted to harness that, to consult people as widely as possible.

Housemark engaged with 400 users of services, from 53 different services and 18 providers across Cwm Taf.

WHAT WORKED WELL

We knew users would feel more at ease speaking to their support staff rather than an outside researcher. To hear from as many people as possible, local consultation events run by providers was the most practical approach. However, we were flexible how providers carried out the consultation, providing they covered the set questions. This again aimed to engage as many people as possible using different types of consultation to best engage that specific client groups.

- We developed draft guidance for providers, a collection form and summary for users. We wanted to support organisations in carrying out the consultations, with enough flexibility to work for their users but also with enough structure to ensure we could collate and compare responses.
- We then ran a pilot focus group ourselves with a selection of users from Gofal's services. Following that, we refined our tools, ensuring that providers were clear what they had to do and what questions they had to ask users.

- As this was going to be an extensive consultation exercise with lots of providers, services and users, we supported providers throughout the process. We also met a number of organisations at the Regional Provider Forum.
- Having received significant responses we then analysed them, particularly by client group but also picking out recurring themes by type of service or provider.

WHAT WAS ACHIEVED

We oversaw an extensive consultation exercise with some 400 users of supporting people services from 53 different services and 18 providers across cwm Taf.

Having received significant responses, we then analysed them, particularly by client group but also picking out recurring themes by type of service or provider. Responses generally came from service level, though we also had to summarise responses from individual users within some schemes.

This work built upon the service user involvement networks that exist amongst the providers to feed views and opinions into strategic planners and commissioners. This has led to the priorities from service users being included in the service specifications / contracts across the region.

LESSONS LEARNT

Engaging with service providers and taking into account their views and the potential impact that future funding cuts to the supporting people programme could have on the delivery of services provided through this funding stream.

The importance of consultation with service providers, stakeholders and service users when developing, planning and reconfiguring services to ensure that we are delivering the right services at the right level to meet the overall need of the service users.

5. Service Development

As part of the Annual Review, and to meet the reporting requirements of Welsh Government we are required to provide additional detail about the following:

- 1. How have decisions been shaped by spend plan, needs analysis, outcomes and other sources of data? What changes have resulted?**

Both Supporting People Teams have implemented a central referral pathway and system. This system collates all referrals for the supporting people programme and tracks the necessary data to identify current needs and the change in demand for needs.

This data can then be collated from the Supporting people teams and presented in a consistent format to the RCC when making decisions for strategic planning.

The RDC and the Supporting People Leads regularly present spend plan information, relevant data, outcome analysis and summarised provider review information and recommendations to the RCC that will inform and assist with any decision making for future service provision for the supporting people programme.

As part of the RCC planning for the Regional commissioning plan for 2016/2017 an RCC planning day was held where the main focus was on:

Funding Cuts:

Our focus as an RCC will be how we manage future funding cuts to the programme, how we plan for the worst and how we engage other regional boards and service providers.

Agreed Actions:

- As an RCC we need to be far more defined/prescriptive on what HRS is and what services we are delivering
- As an RCC we need to develop our own meaningful outcomes
- A survey to be drafted to circulate to SP teams and service providers

Outcomes to date:

- The RCT supporting Planning group have been doing some work on developing and implementing a Supporting People Allowable Activities document based on the Gwent document. Merthyr Tydfil supporting people planning group are happy to adopt this process so this can now be developed as a regional document.

Regional Priorities for the Regional Commissioning Plan:

As an RCC we need to identify and agree what our priorities will be for the next 3 years for the RCP.

Agreed priorities for the Regional Commissioning Plan

The supporting People data analysis across Cwm Taf is highlighting the following client groups as priority areas and the highest recording Lead Need:

- **Mental Health.**
- **Homelessness.**
- **Domestic Abuse.**
- **Criminal Offending History**

The Cwm Taf RCC priorities for 2016/2017 were identified in the RCC planning session held in September 2015 and are outlined below:

- Form closer working relationship with the Tackling Poverty programmes and monitor the implementation of the SS&WB Act to identify ways of streamlining services and possible joint working.

- To explore options regarding the shared outcomes framework and how supporting people fit into this.
- To implement the cost calculator across the region
- To develop a strategic plan for identifying savings for any future budget cuts
- Consider options for regional commissioning of SP services
- Improve outcomes monitoring across the region to ensure services are able to effectively evidence quality services and the impact our services have on the service users
- To explore options regarding the regionalisation of the SP teams

The RCC are also seeking to implement hourly contracting rather than units, value for money assessments and more scrutiny to ensure funding is being spent on Housing Related support services.

2. What Regional and Sub regional (for RCCs with more than 2 local authorities) work is commissioned and how have services improved since the last Annual Report up to March 2015?

Regional Projects

Floating Support

The first Cwm Taf Regional project was agreed and commissioned in 2014. This project was introduced as a pilot for 6 months and due to the success and ongoing need was commissioned as a regional project in 2015. The project has also been commissioned for 2016 however, due to the strategic relevance review the funding was reduced (For MT) with no impact to support delivery and service.

Supported Housing

A proposal was presented to the RCC in 2015 for a new supported housing project in Rhondda Cynon Taf. The RCC agreed this project in principle and suggested that this newly commissioned project should be considered as a regional project. The service specification was shared and presented to the Merthyr Tydfil SPPG who also agreed in principle to commission as a regional project.

Off the shelf Register

As part of the continued work to develop projects across the region the RCC Commissioning planning group have welcomed project proposals to be considered for the Cwm Taf 'Off the shelf register'. This has proved successful for local projects if slippage arises throughout the year and a possible Regional Mental Health project was also considered in 2015

Barriers/challenges

Floating Support

The project has also been commissioned for 2016 however, due to the strategic relevance review and the findings a recommendation was made to reduce the funding for this project as it was not proving to be a value for money service. This was agreed by MTSPPG and the RCC and the funding was reduced (For MT) with no impact to support delivery and service.

Supported Housing

The RCC agreed to commission a joint supported housing project. However when the MTSPPG consulted on the new project with service providers and service users it was highlighted that the need was not high enough for such a project so the RCC felt it was not feasible to commission jointly at this time.

How did we overcome these?

Floating support

The funding was reduced however there was no impact to service delivery for our service users.

Supported Housing

The RCC agreed that the projects would not be commissioned across Cwm Taf. However, the need was evident for the project in RCT so this was commissioned as an RCT project for 2016/2017.

3. **How can you demonstrate a more early intervention and preventative approach to homelessness is being delivered, e.g. has the fixed site / floating support ratio changed in the last 12 months?**

The implementation of the Housing Act (Wales) has enforced the reform of homelessness law, including placing a stronger duty on local authorities to prevent homelessness and allowing them to use suitable accommodation in the private sector. This has allowed a more streamlined gateway system with homelessness referrals for those with a duty to ensure they are receiving a service.

The Rhondda Intervention Project has been remodelled after reviewing a pilot arrangement with the Housing Advice Centre which provided early support to individuals who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

The new service aims to provide early intervention to anyone at risk of losing their home which includes

- Support which is focused on ensuring all the necessary steps and actions are undertaken at an early to help people access and remain in their own homes

- To co –work effectively with the Housing Solutions Officers, Housing Officers and key partners to achieve positive outcomes for service users.
- To liaise effectively with other agencies and groups such as the Department of Work and Pensions, Discretionary Assistance Fund, Housing Benefit Section, CAB,
- Whenever possible to achieve financial inclusion for service users in partnership with relevant agencies. i.e Communities First.
- Ensure clients are assisted with help to set their new tenancies.
- Provide a housing related support service to persons living in shared housing.
- Provide a support service for persons placed in Bed and breakfast accommodation and leased accommodation.

The support offered will be for up to a 12 week period and will be focused at helping clients deal with immediate and presenting issues to avoid loss of accommodation.

There is flexibility to extend support where there is need to do so although this project is not intended to provide long term housing related support. It is envisaged the support worker will work closely with Housing Officers to ensure effective communication to meet the long term needs of the client.

The Step by Step project is a joint partnership with RCTCBC, Merthyr and the Valleys Mind with funding made available via the Oak Foundation over a three year period.

The new project will assist single person households to whom the local authority has a duty to assist under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014

- *Section 66 – Duty to prevent an applicant from becoming homeless.*
- *Section 73-Duty to help secure accommodation for homeless applicants.*

Preventing homelessness can help avoid the significant negative impact homelessness can have for example on a person's health, education, employment opportunities and wellbeing. Early intervention is therefore beneficial to those threatened with homelessness and can result in direct savings for local authorities and other public services.

The main aim of the project is to work with single person household who are threatened with homelessness to provide help and support **with their reasonable steps** to secure alternative accommodation or to prevent loss of their current accommodation.

The project is being evaluated by the University of South Wales which will include understanding the impact on the wider health needs of the individuals including their wellbeing and mental health at the start and end of support.

Floating support units have increased across the region and there are ongoing discussions regarding provider and housing options collaboration within Merthyr Tydfil to support crisis intervention.

Barriers/challenges

- Some providers are precious and protective of own services and funding
- The ongoing culture of service users to get earlier support and to accept that they need support
- Silo mentality
- Mis – information

How did we overcome these?

- Word of mouth
- Trying to explain what a service does can raise barriers

Comments

We need to broadcast services more widely and in the right places.

4. What links does the RCC have with Social Services and Health Services in the region? Have there been any joint service commissioning or pooled resources? If so, can you give details of the projects.

The Cwm Taf RCC has strategic representatives from Health & Social Services as members of the RCC and the Supporting People local planning groups. The members for all boards are the same representatives which is complementary for consistency and the planning processes.

A Cwm Taf joint commissioning statement for Older People has been developed which describes a strong and shared commitment by Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) County Borough Council, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, and Cwm Taf University Health Board (UHB) to ensure seamless and integrated health and social care services for our older population. We recognise the invaluable role of Third Sector organisations and have developed our commissioning statement with this extended sense of partnership in mind.

We have jointly commissioned an independent consultant to complete reviews of current services across Cwm Taf. This will establish if funding is being used appropriately and for housing related support services and eligible activity. We are planning to develop a joint allowable activities document across the region to assist this process and will be sharing the Gwent document as good practice.

Barriers/Challenges?

- Historical arrangement for many years
- Budgets are announced yearly with uncertainty of budgets until last hour
- Lack of clarity of local government reconfiguration and collaboration
- Uncertainty re welfare reform

How did we overcome these?

- Plan accordingly as best we can with no budget allocations
- Coordinated complimentary commissioning and communication between stakeholders
- Plan for changes and implications for welfare reform

5. What links have been made with other regional strategic / planning groups, and what preparations have been made for joint working with the Regional Partnership Board and Public Service Board for the Social Services and Wellbeing Act?

The Cwm Taf RCC has made significant links with Cwm Taf SS&WB Partnership Board that was established and is responsible for the implementation of the SS&WB Act. The Regional officer leading on the implementation of the Act was invited to the RCC meeting to present the plans in the early stages of implementation.

The Chair of the Cwm Taf RCC is a member of this board along with both Directors for Social Services for Merthyr Tydfil & RCT. Therefore we had regular updates at our RCC meeting of the implementation plan and the progress being made as this was made a standing agenda item as the RCC felt that this was an important link to have moving forward with a focus on the preventative agenda.

The RCC Health representative is currently leading on a piece of work as part of the Regional Implementation Plan for the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act. The Act requires Local Authorities and Local Health Boards to jointly undertake a population need assessment of care and support needs for adults, children and carers. There will also be a joint needs assessment in relation to the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act as part of this process. The SP Lead for Merthyr Tydfil represents Supporting People and Older People on the Engagement Sub

Group for the duties from both Acts. There will be a need to align this with needs assessments required for Supporting People and the work of the RCC to avoid duplication but ensure appropriate information and evidence is available to inform planning and commissioning decisions moving forward. The RCC and local planning groups are actively involved and are feeding into this assessment.

The RCT SP Lead represents Supporting People on the development of the Information Advice & Assistance for the SS&WB Act and the RDC represents Supporting People on Priority 2 of the SS&WB Act to increase our local community capacity and resilience and help people meet their wellbeing needs through less formal service arrangements. A strategy will be developed, linked to the population needs analysis, to nurture and support an effective network of third sector and social enterprise activity.

Both SP Leads are members of the Cwm Taf Sexual Violence & Domestic Abuse Executive Board and the RDC is also a member of the Cwm Taf Sexual violence & Domestic Abuse operational group.

Work has been ongoing to better align the tackling poverty programmes and supporting people programmes in line with the Minister of Communities and Tackling Poverty directive to integrate the poverty programmes. The Cwm Taf RCC held a Tackling Poverty planning session and representatives were invited from the tackling poverty programmes across the region. Tackling poverty representatives are now co-opted members of the RCC.

With the existing arrangements of the Cwm Taf Regional Collaboration Board and the Local Service Boards, links are made and updates given through the current reporting structure where the RDC produces regular RCC updates and reports that are presented at these meetings.

One Cwm Taf Public Services Board has been established as a requirement of the Well Being Future Generations Act, the RCC will be proactive in ensuring the links are made with the Cwm Taf Public Services board, Strategic Partnership board and the Public Engagement group. The new Cwm Taf RCC Chair will sit on the newly established Cwm Taf Public Services board as her capacity as chair of the SS&WB partnership board which will enable feedback mechanisms for the RCC.

- 6. Following the Aylward recommendations what proportion of spend on services for older people tenure is neutral i.e. equally available to home owners, PRS and social landlord tenants? If not, what plans do the RCC have in place to deliver tenure neutral services and within what timescales?**

Across Cwm Taf we undertook a whole scale review of all of our older people's services to ensure that housing related support was being delivered and to assess progress towards meeting the Aylward recommendation however, these were completed at different times.

In Merthyr Tydfil we have two tenure neutral schemes, one provider who will not be receiving funding for their services from 2017 onwards and one provider who is reconfiguring all of their provision to create a tenure neutral service (who will be bringing plans to SPPG for revised funding). The two older people's services which had no immediate plans during the review to meet Aylward have been asked to present their proposals to SPPG by September. SPPG have agreed that if they do not have plans in place to meet the recommendations then their funding will cease.

In RCT following the outcome of the review, RCT Homes have been commissioned to provide a tenure neutral service across the borough to support up to 500 people. This service will also provide housing related support to the 40 residents who will be residing in the new Extra care scheme to be opened later in the year.

Barriers/Challenges?

Merthyr Tydfil has not experienced any barriers as providers have generally reconfigured themselves. They are in the process of assessing what will happen to those providers who cannot reconfigure themselves and the level of funding we wish to allocate to anyone who has reconfigured based on the need for tenure neutral services for older people.

In RCT overall there were very few barriers to remodelling the new service with many housing providers understanding the need to provide a tenure neutral service. RCT Homes had made a decision to remodel their sheltered housing service which helped provide a template for assisting other providers and enabled us to work together to take forward a new service model.

Withdrawal of funding was a problem for some small providers with concerns at the wider implication of loss of funding if other authorities adopted similar processes. There were also concerns in respect of the level of support that would be offered to existing tenants.

How did you overcome these?

Merthyr Tydfil will need to assess whether any issues arise as they move forward with their proposals.

In RCT as part of the introduction of the new service we provided transitional funding to all existing support providers to ensure they had sufficient time to adjust to the loss of funding and the implementation of the new service. It was also a requirement as part of the new service contract that all existing clients would be assessed and would continue to receive support until they were deemed ready to come off scheme. This was also undertaken in conjunction with TUPE arrangements and a need to ensure that clients continued to receive support where possible from their existing support worker.

RCT also encouraged all providers to consult and regularly meet with service users to ensure they were clear on the new arrangements and to reassure them they would continue to receive support from their support worker.

Some support providers also used this as an opportunity to review and remodel their services as part of an efficiency saving exercise.

7. In the RCC region what joint commissioning is undertaken between Supporting People and other key programmes e.g. Communities First, Families First, Flying Start, Community Safety/domestic violence? Please list the project, local authority and which funding streams are involved

There are currently no formal joint commissioning projects with other key tackling poverty programmes. However the RCC have been proactive in ensuring that key links are made with these programmes and are committed to closer alignment to avoid duplication with a more streamlined approach with better results for our service users.

Domestic Abuse

A meeting was held with Ceri Breeze, Supporting People and the Domestic abuse coordinators. Discussions were had on joint working across the programme and future joint commissioning for preventative domestic abuse projects.

Tackling Poverty Alignment

Work has been ongoing to better align the tackling poverty programmes and supporting people programmes in line with the Minister of Communities and Tackling Poverty directive to integrate the poverty programmes. The Cwm Taf RCC held a Tackling Poverty planning session and representatives were invited from the tackling poverty programmes across the region. The main focus of the session was:

- The common outcomes framework and making the connections with the Supporting People programme
- An overview of the strategic review on Tackling Poverty Programmes across RCT
- An overview of the needs assessments being planned for Merthyr Tydfil.

Barriers/challenges

Domestic Abuse

- Strict set criteria for eligibility and outcomes for supporting people funding which does not allow flexibility to currently joint fund with other programmes to address the preventative agenda.
- Historic arrangements with current providers

Tackling Poverty

- Issues Re: silo mentality across the programmes and communication

- The funding planning cycle is disjointed
- Difficulties in joining up programmes due to the different timelines of funding – Could this be more streamlined in Welsh Government?
- Difficulties in joining up plans as each plan has different set headings
- Difficulties in drafting plans when funding has not been agreed as this could cause duplication between programmes as planning at different times
- Large scale reconfiguration across the region – Will be looking for close links and ways of further joint working once completed.

How did we overcome these?

Domestic Abuse

- Raised awareness of barriers with Ceri Breeze and flexibility has now been agreed in the supporting people terms & conditions of the grant.

Tackling Poverty

- RCC to get involved with Tackling poverty agendas across Cwm Taf
- All Needs assessments to be shared with the RCC for future planning
- Invite a Tackling Poverty Lead to future RCC meetings to ensure links are being made
- Look at ways we could shift resources to align these programmes
- We will be working towards sharing Good practice to ensure better consistency and coverage
- We will be looking for close links and ways of further joint working once completed.

6. RCC Appraisal

All Members, Deputies, Co-opted Members and Advisors were asked to give their opinions on the Cwm Taf RCC. From the 17 individuals asked to respond, 10 responses were received. However 4 of the RCC members and one co-opted member who were representatives within this reporting period have either left the RCC or are currently inactive and are therefore unavailable to complete the questionnaire.

The following is a summary of the responses received.

1) What do you feel we do well as an RCC?

The Cwm Taf RCC is working hard to fully embrace the regional structure. This is evidenced through the undertaking of extensive work on regionalising the Supporting People Teams. As far as we are aware we believe we are the only region that is seeking to pursue this. We have also committed to developing a regional data sharing protocol in response to the requirements within the grant terms and conditions. We have prioritised regional working and continue to meet as a regional sub group to progress this work.

The Cwm Taf RCC has evolved over the last 12 months into a strong group working together to ensure the right decisions are being made for the areas in which we operate. When the RCC's were first created I think as an RCC we were one of the groups where there was room for considerable improvement.

I feel the position we are in today is that we are now one of the leading RCC's and I think this can only be attributed to having a good committed chair in both Cllr Keiron Montague who was instrumental in the improvements made and in Cllr Linda Matthews who is now continuing this in her new role as chair . In addition we have had the consistency in terms of our RDC Susan Preece and it's clear the role she plays is key to the efficient working of the RCC and the involvement of colleagues from Health and Probation who are also committed to the group.

The RCC has met to collaboratively agree future strategic priorities and used sub groups, working groups to progress against these priorities and is proactively looking at ways to unite the SP teams with the aim of reducing duplication and managing out waste.

There is a clear joint integrated approach In the RCC region to the challenges presented between Supporting People and other key programmes e.g. Communities First, Families First, Flying Start, Community Safety/domestic violence

Good commitment and attendance from members across a range of partner organisations has enabled us to build more effective working relationships, have open and honest discussions and share experiences.

Background of members and their range of experience has helped us to see the bigger strategic picture and where SP needs to fit more effectively with other plans and initiatives, links with Communities First, SSWB Act, WBFG Act etc.

2) What do you feel our achievements have been over the last 12 months?

The planning days that the RCC undertake are worthwhile and useful. As a result of this work we have identified priority areas for work including service user involvement, regional working, older people, contract and commissioning and outcomes. As part of this work a project was commissioned to involve service users in the creation of outcomes that are important to them. This work built upon the service user involvement networks that exist amongst the providers to feed views and opinions into strategic planners and commissioners. This has led to the priorities from service users being included in the service specifications / contracts across the region.

We have made good progress on meeting Aylward recommendations in respect of older people. RCT has redesigned services and recommissioned to fully meet the requirements. Merthyr has completed a strategic review of older people services and is finalising their

future plan. RCC representatives have supported landlords affected by the change in services in RCT, and facilitated site visits for landlords in the Merthyr area.

We have agreed to provide guidance on allowable activities which will provide greater clarity for providers and service users.

We have produced a regional directory of services that is available.

Relationships within the RCC are strong and the RCC has sustained a change in chair and the long term absence of the vice chair without significant impact on the RCC.

A continued commitment from RCC partners to support delivery of Cwm Taf's Supporting People plan

We look at opportunities to join things up and share information e.g. using SP service user information to feed into SSWB Population assessment.

3) What could we do differently moving forward?

As an RCC we continue to pursue further regionalisation and we are in the process of developing a regional approach to definitions of housing related support. Moving forward we are seeking to develop a coordinated approach to management charges and contract and commissioning to enable regional commissioning to be further realised.

We need to continue along the pathway we are currently taking to ensure we move from strength to strength and build on successes to date to deliver a more cohesive service looking at more opportunities for joint commissioning of services across Cwm Taf and to continue in the journey of building closer links with the tackling poverty agenda and other service areas to ensure that we meet the needs of the people who use services within Cwm Taf and make the best use of resources from the Supporting People Programme.

We have yet to achieve joint commissioning; this is something we should actively look to achieve in the next 12 months. We will also seek to develop joint commissioning with other funding programmes.

Continue to review methods for capturing service user needs and outcomes and explore methods for greater engagement with providers linked to service user needs and desired outcomes.

8. RCC Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet for RCC meetings for 2015/2016 is attached as a separate document.