

Merthyr Tydfil's Single Integrated Plan – Reviewed for 2015/2016

**Revised and approved by the Merthyr Tydfil Local Service Board
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Please note: To be presented to LSB partners' boards or equivalent for approval

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INTRODUCTION

On behalf of Merthyr Tydfil Local Service Board (LSB), we are pleased to present the revised Single Integrated Plan (SIP) for 2015-16.

Merthyr Tydfil LSB brings together senior officers from Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council; Cwm Taf University Health Board; South Wales Police; Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil; Welsh Government and Merthyr Tydfil's Youth Cabinet, along with other representatives from public sector organisations which support delivery of the SIP.

Since the SIP was introduced in 2013 there have been changes to the circumstances we find ourselves in. Communities including all LSB partners have had to respond to the austerity measures we all find ourselves under. Our citizens and businesses, like us, have to manage added pressures - across the partnership specifically; changes have had to be introduced including organisational restructure.

Working together has never been more important. Working collaboratively maximises the opportunities to achieve the vision as set down in the SIP. The LSB aims to deliver sustainable effective governance, provide dynamic decision making ensure and effective oversight is maintained. We can work smarter, using our resources more effectively to help improve outcomes for all our citizens. The LSB can also support this by revisiting and aligning the SIP with other key strategies and plans, by ensuring the SIP provides the necessary conditions to maintain and strengthen new and existing partnerships.

By reflecting on our experiences to date, the LSB can identify where it needs to look at how it can do things differently. By refocusing the Plan, it can gain clarity on how partners can work together collectively to meet the needs of the County Borough.

Our starting point was a thorough review of how the original SIP was constructed; the delivery process; performance reporting; partnership arrangements etc. This enabled the LSB to identify what worked and to understand what needed to be reconsidered. As a result, it has sought to strengthen existing partnership arrangements and opportunities for collaboration. An example of this happening is included later in this report on Page 10.

The LSB's focus has also been on the future, and the preparations we need to make to ensure that Merthyr LSB is positioned to respond positively to future requirements, for example Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2015. The LSB has looked to preserve the supporting principles of both Acts into our revised plan, to ensure it considers today the future generational challenges that we face in Wales in a more joined up way. The implementation of these Acts will provide both opportunities and challenges.

The broad focus of the Plan has provided challenges (e.g.) co-ordination of information across a wide range of activities has sometimes been more complicated than anticipated; not every organisation collects data/information in the same way and this has occasionally led to delays in verified data being made available.

To ensure the decisions the LSB makes take into account the impact they could have on people living in Wales both now and in the future, the following principles will be acknowledged in the work of the LSB:

**Long-term**

The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet need in the long term

**Prevention**

How to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives

**Integration**

Considering how the LSB's objectives impact on each other, on the objectives of partner organisations etc.

**Collaboration**

Acting in collaboration with any other person that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.

**Involvement**

The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving common goals and ensuring those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.

BACKGROUND

In the past, planning for public services has often been too responsive to demand rather than need. This has meant public services have provided services which treat problems after they have arisen, rather than preventing their occurrence in the first place. As a Local Service Board, we support the principle of early intervention and prevention and acknowledge the need to work differently in order to better serve the needs of our communities across the County Borough with a specific focus on those who are disadvantaged; vulnerable or at risk of becoming vulnerable.

A huge amount of preventative work has been done over many years with notable successes, however too many services still continue to treat problems after they have arisen. In order to break the cycles of dependency and the intergenerational transfer of poor outcomes, we must focus greater efforts and resources on services that deliver early intervention and prevention.

The majority of people in Merthyr Tydfil is surrounded by a network of family, friends and neighbours that influences their quality of life. They in turn contribute to the community in which they live. There is a need to complement these networks by supporting people to live fulfilled lives, and when they need it to tackle life problems. This is important not only for the individuals concerned but for the resilience, well-being and development of our community as a whole. To do this we need to make the right services available at the right time, and ensure they are efficient and well coordinated. This is about managing the needs of our community.



The Programme for Government emphasises the importance of all parts of Wales providing multi-agency support for families who need it, tailored to the particular issues they face, bringing together help from social services, health services, education, justice and voluntary services.

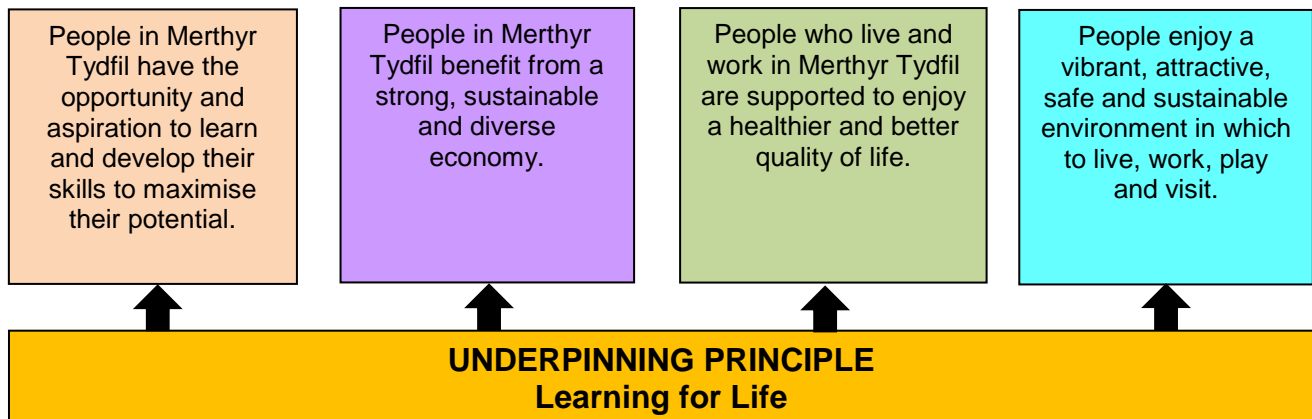
By improving our ability to respond quickly through prevention and early intervention, public services and partners aim to help more people to live fulfilled lives in the community, reducing the need for specialist services in the future.

As the key organisations having responsibility for delivering public services across the County Borough; Merthyr Tydfil LSB are committed to working together to improve the health and wellbeing of those who live, work and visit Merthyr Tydfil. Merthyr Tydfil LSB's vision is:

"To strengthen Merthyr Tydfil's position as the regional centre for the Heads of the Valleys and be a place to be proud of where:

- People learn and develop skills to fulfil their ambitions;
- People live, work have a safe, healthy and fulfilled life; and
- People visit, enjoy and return".

To support this vision, the LSB partnership has agreed to work on delivering 4 priority outcomes:



Welsh Government's 'Shared Purpose, Shared Delivery' guidance document set out the role of local government, through their LSBs, in helping to achieve these outcomes by bringing together public service leaders to plan, work, deliver and improve. We all agree that to make a difference partnership must mean working together not just talking together. Its focus must be on a shared agenda of better outcomes, placing the emphasis on priorities, pace and performance.

To deliver the outcomes laid down in Merthyr Tydfil's SIP, a number of actions have been agreed. ***These actions don't include everything we do; they focus on the areas where we can deliver the most impact over the next 2 years.*** To make sure the activities undertaken by the LSB are making a difference for communities a number of shared population measures have been identified to demonstrate the impact of partnership working. No one agency is responsible for these population measures; they can only be achieved through partnership working and the LSB will receive regular performance updates from colleagues leading on these areas.

It should be noted that delivering these actions has become increasingly challenging for a number of reasons including reducing budgets as a result of the ongoing UK government austerity measures; rising expectations of our communities; changes in demographic, social and environmental trends (e.g.) an increasingly aging population, climate change etc.

OUR NEEDS

Merthyr Tydfil LSB has worked hard to capture the needs of the **different** communities within Merthyr Tydfil. A detailed needs assessment of Merthyr Tydfil was undertaken when the LSB developed the Plan showing us what it is like to live in Merthyr Tydfil. You can access the Needs Assessment Summary by clicking on the icon below:



The SIP needs assessment utilises data, research evidence and information gathered via evaluation work (commissioned, locally, nationally and internationally) which can help us better understand the needs of the people in Merthyr Tydfil. It is the role of the LSB to use the local needs analysis to determine what will be the highest priorities for local action. Subsequent updates of the needs assessment confirm that the priorities agreed by Merthyr Tydfil LSB remain relevant today.

As part of the continuous improvement journey, the needs assessment process must reflect the future requirements of both the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and Social Services and Wellbeing Act. To this end there has been an agreement between the relevant organisations to work closer together in order to identify how best to take forward the job of completing a needs assessment that will enable the LSB to achieve the wellbeing objectives.

As part of the review of the Plan, Merthyr Tydfil LSB is also reviewing the needs and an updated needs summary document is currently under development and will be available in the Autumn 2015.

THE REVIEW PROCESS

Merthyr Tydfil's SIP has been scheduled to run from 2013-2017; this meant the Plan has reached its mid-term stage at the point of this annual review.

A decision was made to use this review not only to determine progress to date but to identify lessons learned during the first 2 years of delivery against the Plan. By doing this, it would enable the LSB to make the necessary adjustments to reflect these lessons learned and sustain and continue to develop the activities to meet identified need.

An interactive workshop was held in March 2015 where all Priority Leads along with other relevant officers could holistically review progress made to date. The workshop was very well attended with a high level of involvement by all participants.

The primary focus of the session was:

- To further develop measures which continue demonstrate impact on communities in Merthyr Tydfil against the agreed outcomes of the SIP;
- To streamline measures in the SIP to identify 'added value';
- To review SIP measures in line with requirements of new legislation (e.g.) Social Services & Wellbeing Act; the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act; and
- To develop more effective reporting linked to delivery of the SIP.

To make sure measures included in the SIP were fit for purpose and could demonstrate impact; a matrix was introduced by which measures could be assessed for suitability for inclusion. A copy of this matrix can be found in **Appendix 1** on Page 34.

Through discussion, a consensus was reached that measures included in Merthyr Tydfil's SIP would solely focus on demonstrating impact (Quadrant 3 or 4 of the Matrix). SIP Priority Leads were tasked to use the matrix to review their existing measures within the SIP and to consider in what way (if any) these needed updating/amending.

One to one meetings were held with all contributing partners to the SIP, to progress the work of streamlining and refocussing the measures, and ensuring greater accountability. These meetings resulted in a number of significant changes to the SIP, the details of which will follow later in this report.

OUTCOMES FROM THE ONE-TO-ONE MEETINGS

The SIP review process has led to direct positive impacts on delivery against priority outcomes.

The one-to-one meetings offered opportunities to explore existing and develop new partnership arrangements, which will strengthen collaborative performance against certain priority outcomes, while also supporting the LSB to respond to the future requirements of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. A case study offering an example of these new working relationships is outlined on the following page.

Through supporting developing partnerships, the LSB hopes to benefit from the added value achieved operationally to ensure it feeds in to enrich strategic knowledge and understanding.

CASE STUDY: NEW PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Whilst reviewing the 'Obesity & Physical Activity' element of the SIP with colleagues from Public Health, it was agreed that we should take this opportunity to look at how other partners not currently working within the SIP, could positively contribute to this area. The partnership team organised a meeting inviting officers from MTCBCs Biodiversity/Open Spaces and Sports Development Teams to meet with Public Health to explore what potential there was to align these different work strands so that we could improve delivery against this element of the SIP. It was agreed that there would be a new measure included in the SIP linked to sports development activity. It was also agreed an Officer from MTCBC's Recreation and Sport Team would have input to the Childhood Obesity Steering Group, supporting the group's work whilst also developing links with the Get Merthyr Active Plan.

The Active Travel Act became law in Wales on the 4th November 2014. This put a requirement on local authorities to continuously improve facilities and routes for walkers and cyclists and to prepare maps identifying current and potential future routes for their use. It also requires new road schemes to consider the needs of pedestrians and cyclists at design stage.

Although no measure will appear in the SIP linked to this for 2015/16; a pilot project has been established with NHS; Sports Wales and MTCBC to target identified areas where low levels of physical activity had been identified. These areas included Tylorstown (Rhondda Cynon Taf) and the Communities First North cluster area (covering Dowlais, Gurnos and Penydarren) in Merthyr Tydfil.

The pilot project will initially cover the next three years and sets out six areas of cooperation which include:

- Working together to support the people of Wales to enjoy more active, more equal and healthier lives.
- Working to encourage people to look after their own health and thereby take care of the health of future generations
- Working to foster a co-productive relationship with the people of Wales.
- Working together to support the drive for a mass shift in public thinking about their health
- Exchanging information of mutual interest
- Seeking to develop joint areas of work that promote 'sport for all' and;
- Encourage participation across the life span.

The projected benefits:

- Place based mechanism model which builds on and maximises existing framework of services in deprived communities;
- Promotes co-production and adopts an asset-based approach to service design and delivery, meaning individuals can grow their capabilities and improve their own situation, and also contribute within wider (deprived) communities;
- A multi-agency approach can boost the resilience of organisations and communities in the identified deprived areas;
- Shared funding which equals a shared interest, allows multiple issues to be addressed across the agencies engaged;
- Uses physical activity as a vehicle to address poverty and health inequality at a community level;
- The proposed Physical Activity Care Pathway can be integrated as a solution with other public health initiatives and patient pathways such as CHD risk assessment and Obesity care pathway; and
- Targeted work designed to meet local need.

The Physical Activity Care Pathway Co-ordinator will be invited to attend LSB to offer updates on the progress of this pilot project.

The need to acknowledge that the SIP cannot be all things to everyone was a key message from the one to one meetings. There are many existing strategies which have common outcomes to the SIP that our partners are already contributing to. The SIP should be a plan that will support partners to achieve our agreed outcomes, rather than be an obstacle to progress. Key to this was the issue of SIP leads being required to report on the same issue across several fora, which often lead to duplication of time and effort, rather than focussing on delivery.

To address this whilst streamlining reporting, the decision was taken to propose that, where Leads were reporting on common outcomes (from which measures would fall) that were drawn from other strategic plans; the LSB agree these measures be removed from the SIP. However; to ensure linkages with these key areas were sustained, Priority Leads would be required to report directly to at least one LSB meeting (more frequently where necessary) providing a comprehensive evaluation of performance, including key trends, successes, issues/barriers or any other risks to progress. The LSB would jointly consider its position on how best to overcome/address these, whilst supporting sustained and positive partnerships. The following graphic lists a number of strategic plans which are currently being reported on at other fora. These plans also directly contribute to the measurable impact against the 4 priority outcomes in Merthyr Tydfil's SIP:



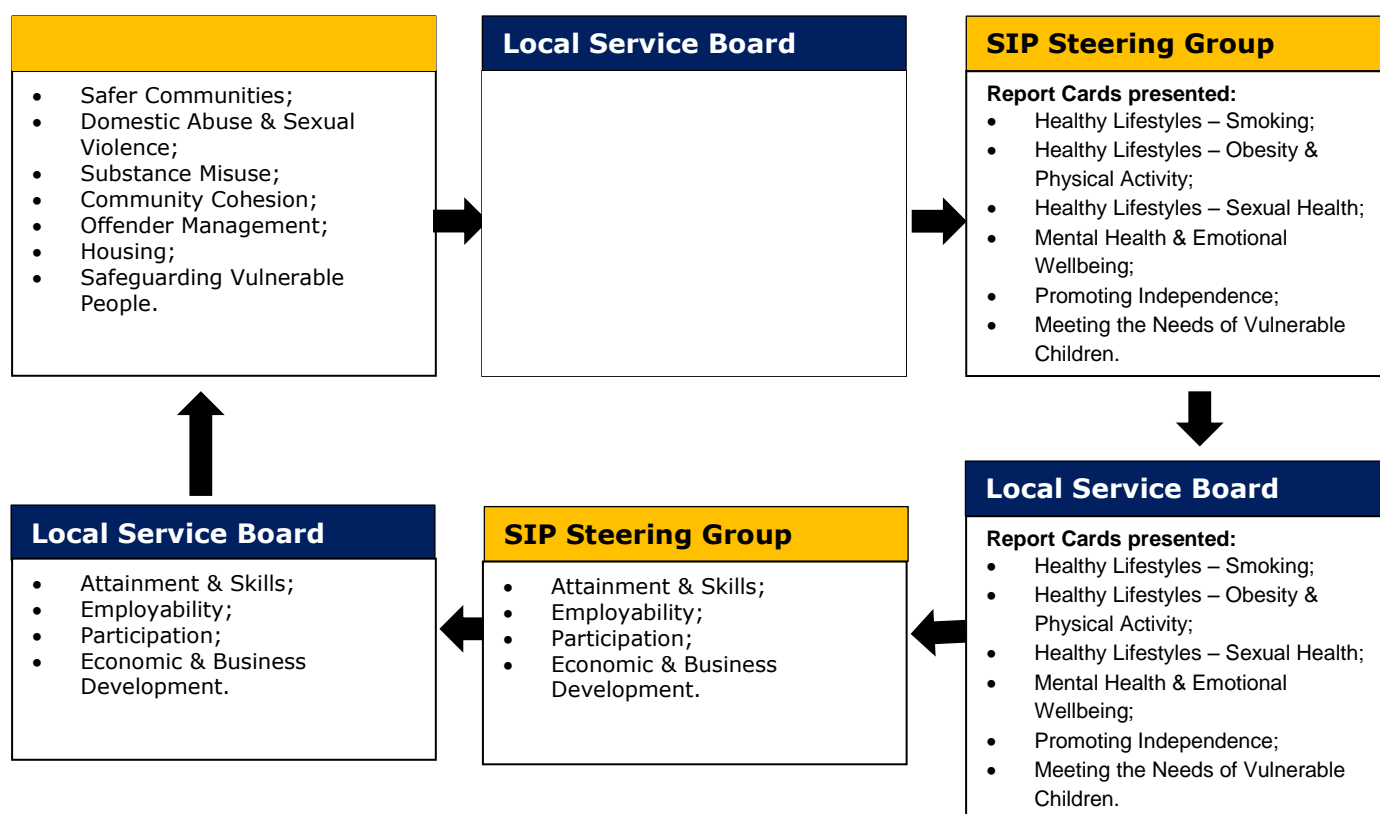
SIP PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT 2014-2015

Monitoring the progress of our Single Integrated Plan

The 4 priority Outcomes in the SIP are underpinned by priority areas. Within each of the priority areas the LSB has identified a number of key measures that it will monitor in order to demonstrate if actions are making a positive difference in the community.

Reporting templates have been developed (adopting a Results Based Accountability (RBA) approach) which enable Priority Leads to identify actions/projects being delivered and, more importantly, to highlight any impact these are actually having.

The scheduled cycle of reporting for 2014-15 was as follows:



The Local Service Board relies on the performance management support provided by Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council's Partnership Team. During 2014/15 the teams Research and Monitoring Officer has provided bespoke one-to-one support to Priority Leads around the data and measures included in the report cards, with other support needs being met by the LSB & Partnerships Manager and the LSB Support & Development Officer.

KEY SUCCESSES AND EXCEPTIONS NOTED DURING 2014-2015

A summary of key successes and exceptions/barriers which were raised by Priority Leads at LSB meetings throughout 2014/2015 appears below. This information has been presented in order of Priority Outcome for ease of reference.

PRIORITY OUTCOME 1:

People in Merthyr Tydfil have the opportunity and aspiration to learn and develop their skills to maximise their potential.

Key successes during 2014/2015

- Merthyr Tydfil has seen a greater rate of improvement in the percentage of 15-year-olds achieving 5 A* to C including English or Welsh as a first language, and Maths than the rate of improvement nationally. Performance increased by 10.2% compared with an average increase in Wales of 2.7%.
- Positive trends in performance have been noted across all key indicators at foundation phase, key stage 2, key stage 3 and key stage 4, and the rate of progress is faster than at a national level.
- Positive trend in key stage 2 performance for Reading, Writing and Mathematics (RWM) and Reading, Writing, Mathematics and Science (RWMS) in combination, where the difference from the national average is now 0.4 and 0.2 respectively and performance is ranked 15/22 and 17/22 when compared to other local authorities.
- Increase in the percentage of FSM pupils achieving the Level 2 threshold including English/Welsh and Mathematics from 12.3 in 2013 to 22.6 in 2014, an increase on 10.3 percentage points.
- Excellent progress is being made against the Merthyr Tydfil employability plan with 52% of the actions identified in the operational plan achieved within for the period April 14 – September 2014. Partners are contributing well.
- Progress of outputs against targets is going well with two areas exceeding their profile for this time of year with one having exceeded the annual target after six months.
- Working with Department of Work & Pensions (DWP) led to an opportunity for the Employability Partnership to draft/submit a number of bids; this led to the Partnership securing funding in the region of £185,000. DWP confirmed this partnership approach enabled them to award grants more effectively across Merthyr Tydfil County Borough.
- Through the successful approach adopted by all MTBWYF Youth Cabinet members, MTBWYF membership increased by 162% during 2014/15.
- MTBWYF Youth Cabinet successfully introduced themed meetings during 2014/15: these included meetings focusing on education; health; minority groups and safeguarding.
- Production and delivery of the 'Caught in Traffick' DVD and Learning Resource and the quality approval and endorsement received via Welsh Government and the Crown Prosecution Service.
- MTBWYF members met with representative from Welsh Government as part of a 'Shared Purpose, Shared Delivery' Monitoring Visit; the subsequent feedback received from Welsh Government highlighted a number of positive observations including the fact that Merthyr Tydfil Local Service Board was the only LSB with a young person's representative sitting on the Board as a full member.

Areas for Consideration/Improvement during 2014/2015

- Performance at Foundation Phase; Key Stage 2; Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 is below the national average.
- In 2014 Primary School attendance increased from 2013 figures by 0.6% to 93.9%. However, this was below the national average. When compared to other local authorities, MTCBC ranked 22 out of 22 compared to 2013 (17 out of 22).
- In 2014, Secondary School attendance decreased from 2013 by 0.4% to 92.9%. However, this was below the national average. When compared to other local authorities MTCBC is ranked 21 out of 22.
- The rate of exclusion from primary schools increased in 2014 as did the average length of exclusion from primary school.

Areas for Consideration/Improvement during 2014/2015 (continued)

- Welsh Government just awarded a contract to Children in Wales regarding the approaches they will take when adopting the Seven National Participation Standards and roll-out thereafter. This has created some difficulties around the National Children and Young People's Participation Kitemark for Wales during 2014.
- Ensure cross-representation of all young people from across the County Borough at future full MTBWYF Meetings – ensuring representation of minority groups.
- The need for more engagement and representation from schools.
- There are four MTBWYF Cabinet Positions up for election during 2015 – hence, continuity is needed vis. the business approaches and momentum adopted by the current Youth Cabinet with the loss of 4 experienced members.
- Bridges into Work ceased as of the 31st March 2015. The delivery team have remained in post month on month and have been granted an extension until August 2015. This is pending a decision from WEFO on the approval of Bridges into Work 2. This is now due in the summer of 2015. Signs are positive and the regional application is going through a final assessment. All of the 18 experienced staff remains on notice of compulsory redundancy.
- Failure to gain approval from WEFO and gain commitment from MTCBC to move forward with EU funded provision will leave a gap in learning and skills provision within Merthyr Tydfil and across the region.
- Public sector redundancies seeing a reduction in staffing capacity to deliver the Employability Agenda.

PRIORITY OUTCOME 2:

People in Merthyr Tydfil benefit from a strong, sustainable and diverse economy.

Key successes during 2014/2015

- Completion of key elements of the Town Centre Physical Regeneration Programme including the River Taff Central Link and Penderyn Square.
- Treharris Square Completion as part of the Taff Bargoed Regeneration Programme.
- Successful delivery of Merthyr's first Destination Management Plan with the next phase of delivery under review.
- Live implementation of the VVP Programme.
- A shared delivery model has been developed for the VVP Programme with a number of partnerships formed to deliver key projects. A lot of the business support type provision delivered by Economic Development has now been taken in house into Welsh Government. This was a major risk for the department to lose contact with the business sector. As part of the VVP Programme, a project was developed to ensure that the connection with the private sector remained strong and funding was allocated to a local third sector organisation to develop an Enterprise centre for new and existing businesses to have a first point of contact and to then be signposted to the relevant agencies depending on their business needs. This creative approach has ensured that the sector still maintained a close working relationship with the local authority and the voluntary sector in Merthyr and for the business needs to be supported in a more holistic way.
- Existing partnerships have been enhanced through the VVP Programme for example with the Heritage Trust and new partnerships have been built with RSLs
- Year 1 spend allocation achieved (£3.6m).
- Return on Investment figures outlines how investment has been secured from a small allocation from the MTCBC Capital Programme.
- The development of Penderyn Square has enabled a number of events to be held including Merthyr's first Food Festival attracting over 5,000 people and the Chilli Fiesta attracting over 3,500 people.
- National Trust Special Places Campaign voted Cyfarthfa Castle & Park the second favourite special place in Wales to visit and the Castle remains the third most visited free attraction in Wales. Due to the investment made to date in the park, and the continued investment in the Park and Castle, the product is continuing to be developed and due to this fact footfall remains high.
- In Bike Park Wales footfall remains high in its second year of delivery, with over 100,000 people using the facility.

Areas for Consideration/Improvement during 2014/2015

- Co-ordinate an integrated partnership approach to accessing EU Funding.
- Translating strategic objectives of the Local Service Board into operational delivery equally shared by all partners.
- The shared delivery model through the VVP Programme will need to continue to improve in 2015/16.

PRIORITY OUTCOME 3:

People who live and work in Merthyr Tydfil are supported to enjoy a healthier and better quality of life.

Key successes during 2014/2015

- Welsh Health Survey results published September 2014 show a reduction in the number of adults smoking in each local authority area.
- Securing funding from Families First to expand and continue MAMSS and make it available to all pregnant women who smoke in Rhondda, Cynon and Taf Ely.
- Additional Community Pharmacy services planned x3 Merthyr Tydfil; x9 Rhondda Cynon Taf
- Plans for Smoke Free Merthyr Tydfil environments March 2015.
- Ahead of the launch of the maternal obesity service all midwives trained on how to raise the issue of weight with pregnant women.
- Social marketing project in Merthyr Tydfil provides community insight on how to encourage and enable a more breastfeeding friendly environment and community.
- A decline in conception rates for 15-17 year old females in Cwm Taf, equating to a 48% reduction in pregnancies in Cwm Taf over the last five years.
- Cwm Taf-wide SHAB conference was held in September, to provide an update on changes to local services for young people and engagement with stakeholders to inform the development of the SHAB action plan.
- The local partnership response to a reported increase in cases of infectious syphilis.
- The numbers of community pharmacies offering Emergency Hormonal Contraception has increased to 64 and there has been an increase in the number of women choosing the contraceptive injection (LARC).
- Tier '0' community-based **mindfulness and stress management** courses were piloted across Merthyr Tydfil. Delivered in community settings by the Local Primary Care Mental Health Support Service in partnership with Communities First (North and South Clusters) and Library Services; 6 courses were delivered with an average attendance of 30 people.
- The **PIP Advocacy Service** (funded by the Comic Relief Mental Health grant) was developed by Merthyr and the Valley MIND has worked specifically with people in Secondary Care Services through the transition from DLA to PIP. Every £1 spend (grant) generated £7 income (PIP) with forecasts showing over £600,000 PIP claims being generated and safeguarded for those with SMI and living in Cwm Taf.
- **'Prepare-to-Care'** (developed by Merthyr & the Valley MIND) has been delivered in partnership with Communities 1st in Merthyr Tydfil has provided learning opportunities for carers focused on Carers Rights to assessment and income. Grant funded via the Henry Smith Charity, 64 people engaged with the project and 100% accredited learning was achieved.
- The **ELSA project** focused on building capacity of schools to support the emotional needs of their pupils from within their own resources. The initiative was developed to provide more attention and care in order to enable children with temporary or long-term emotional needs to feel better about themselves and their time in school; ELSAs are Learning Support Assistants who have received five days additional training on aspects of emotional literacy including emotional awareness, self-esteem, anger management, social and friendship skills. The project is supported by educational psychologists, the scheme is now available throughout Merthyr Tydfil schools.
- A range of services are co-located in the Health Park including: Reablement Services; COTs; Mental Health and the Telecare House (aids / equipment demonstration facility). The co-location of services has meant that communication and the way we work together has improved.
- Sustainability of the PIP Advocacy project when Comic Relief Funding ends.
- Sustainability of the 'Prepare to Care' project in the Merthyr Tydfil area post June 2015.

Key successes during 2014/2015 (continued)

- The SAGE project has been development during 2014/15 is based on the Empowerment Model to support survivors of childhood sexual abuse. It is a joint project with professionals from the CMHT in Merthyr and Cynon working together on it. Staff have been trained in the principles of Trauma therapy. This work aims to support the work being undertaken as part of the Suicide and Self Harm prevention.
- Time To Change Campaign Wales (TTCW) is the first national campaign aimed at ending the stigma and discrimination faced by people with mental health problems. Cwm Taf UHB, Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC and Merthyr Tydfil CBC will work in partnership to deliver on the agreed objectives of the campaign. Each partner has identified a TTCW Champion (in Merthyr Tydfil, it is Councillor David Davies).
- Merthyr Tydfil held another successful World Mental Health Day event on the 9th October 2014; around 300 people attended and 75+ organisations showcased their services and work on the day. The event supported the early intervention and prevention agenda by making information accessible to the public as well as signposting individuals to the appropriate service / source of information.
- Implementation of the Intermediate Care Fund (£4.377m across Cwm Taf) delivering a range of projects through 4 work-streams: laying the foundations for the transformation of services; promoting wellbeing through the leadership of the Third Sector; significance of the physical environment and Commissioning.
- Progress has been achieved re: the implementation of guidance from Welsh Government on "integrated wellbeing, assessment, care support planning and review arrangements to support older people". A common local template to capture minimum core data set and referral form is in use across RCT, Merthyr Tydfil and Cwm Taf UHB. An Information Sharing Protocol agreed and Patient Information Leaflet produced.
Gellideg Family Centre continues to provide excellent support and services to the people we work with. During 2014/15; the Enhanced Child In Need Service has been managed there and worked with a number of families to assess their needs. The aim of the service was to meet the dual challenges of providing more specialist early intervention to prevent escalation of need alongside ensuring that only those children for whom there is no alternative become looked after by the authority.
- Work has progressed on the establishment of a Regional Adoption Collaboration Work to secure this in the future.
- Establishment of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).
- All comprehensive schools in Merthyr Tydfil now have Carers Champions who can help to identify and support young carers.
- The development of the Cwm Taf Carers A-Z Guide produced by Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf Councils and Cwm Taf University Health Board provides information about services and how to access them.
- The development of a Carers Network (involving both statutory and third sector bodies) has made excellent progress in increasing the number of carers identified and now receiving a service. The Network is in contact with and supports over 900 carers in our community.

PRIORITY OUTCOME 4:

People enjoy a vibrant, attractive, safe and sustainable environment in which to live, work, play and visit.

Key successes during 2014/2015

- A continued reduction in overall crime levels was noted during 2014/2015.
- Maintenance / Reduction in acquisitive crime was noted.
- A reduction in vehicle crime comparative to historic trends was noted during 2014/2015.
- Merthyr Tydfil Specialist Domestic Violence Court continued to achieve increasing levels of successful outcomes and is regarded as an area of best practice.
- An age appropriate Healthy Relationships Programme (to include Year 6 pupils) has been introduced in Primary Schools within the Borough (includes Welsh Medium education students at Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun).
- Good interagency links among the agencies at the Teulu MAC, the Police, and other statutory stakeholders.
- The number of people accessing the Children and Young People's Substance Misuse

Service.

- The number of people accessing the Alcohol Brief Intervention Service.
- Improvements have been made to the needle exchange.
- Drug and alcohol referral rates to Health have increased, which could be perceived as negative, however, this is a positive achievement as there is increased awareness across professionals in recognising the direct causes/links between ill health and alcohol/drug misuse.
- Fully integrated with Integrated Offender Intervention Service (ISOS), Police and Probation (CRC & NPS) which allows for a one-stop-shop approach to working with IOM offenders.
- The Vulcan Court (former Vulcan House) was successful in winning a UK Institute of Housing Award for best 'small development' in the UK.
- Maximisation of Social Housing Grant (SHG); additional grant from Welsh Government, resulting in our SHG programme being doubled for 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 and trebled for 2013/2014.
- New housing website and online bidding process for the Housing Choice Register, creating a bespoke, online 'one stop shop' for housing (delivered efficiencies and re-investment).
- Local Housing Panel approach has improved communication between the Council and local Housing Associations and housing support providers.
- The turnaround times for Disabled Facilities Grants consistently in the top quartile.
- Homelessness indicators continue to improve year on year, consistently above the Welsh average & some in top quartile.
- The Cwm Taf Sexual Violence and Domestic Abuse Forum have a business plan aimed at enhancing responses to domestic abuse and reducing domestic abuse. LSB member agencies will be aware of this via agency representation work is under way to enhance the strategic plan.
- The Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board produced a business plan 2012-15 that identifies the core business and priorities of the Board. This includes the objective of raising public awareness about their role in identifying and reporting concerns about children.
- The service has contributed to the uploading of information to the website that will be the mechanism by which we will raise awareness with the public and professionals.

Areas for Consideration/Improvement noted during 2014/2015

- Reduction in resources leading to less capacity for multi-agency operations and awareness-raising.
- Introduction of ASB, Police & Crime Act 2014.
- Relocation of SWP Community Safety & Licensing staff to Pontypridd.
- Annual funding for services inhibits longer term planning.
- Uncertainty surrounding WG regionalisation programme and possible impact on local service provision.
- Enhanced support to address the behaviours of perpetrators is unable to progress due to a lack of resources.
- Implementation of health-related referral pathways (GPs, A&E etc.) and obtaining reliable sources of data from A&E was showing signs of improving, but partnership working has recently declined. Further work is required; this will be aligned to the work the PCC's office is progressing.
- Potential reduction in substance-misuse funding.
- Lack of partnership cooperation in reconfiguring services.
- The WG move to procure services across Wales.
- LA representation within the structure could improve (i.e.) Housing and safeguarding representatives. Also voluntary sector organisations would benefit from working directly from scheme office to enhance supervision opportunities.
- Absence of a Community Cohesion budget.
- Absence of operational capacity to deliver outcomes.
- Limited SHG budget available to MTCBC; remained at £667,000 for the past 3 years and is likely to remain the same or decrease in forthcoming years.

- Housing Wales Bill, which partly comes into force on the 1st April 2015, will have a significant impact on the way local Housing Authorities deliver their services and discharge their homelessness duties.
- Underdeveloped Private Rented Sector
- Availability of housing stock appropriate to local housing demand and the changing demographics of the County Borough – single persons, older persons, specialist accommodation.
- Lack of Temporary Housing/ Homelessness Provision; other than local Bed & Breakfast Provision, there are no other forms of temporary accommodation available in Merthyr Tydfil.
- The Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board is supported by the resources of a Board Coordinator and Administrator and is well embedded in terms of multi-agency commitment and priority. The work of the Business Plan is carried out by the sub groups of the Board. Whilst commitment is evident, capacity is finite and under stress in view of the efficiency requirements which can lead to some delay in achieving objectives.
- By contrast, the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Adult Board does not benefit from the resources of a coordinator or dedicated administrator. This is in the context of additional demands in light of the Cheshire Judgement, the new Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014, and Adult Practice Review requirement. Some support is available via local authority arrangements but ideally specific coordination is required.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2015/2016

Upon conclusion of the review process; the SIP has now been updated to reflect the content of discussions held. Updated measures going forward for 2015/2016 have been listed below (with a full note of all measures from the inception of the SIP being found as **Appendix 2** on Pages 26-29).

Final position statements which offer the rationale for other significant decisions which have been taken are also included.

PRIORITY OUTCOME 1: People in Merthyr Tydfil have the opportunity and aspiration to learn and develop their skills to maximise their potential.
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What does this mean?

Young people and adults living in Merthyr Tydfil will gain the qualifications and life skills to enable them to have successes in the world of education, employment and training. It also means individuals taking responsibility for their own learning and development. The negative impacts of unemployment will be reduced and there will be an increase in the extent to which young people will get involved in matters which affect their lives.
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- Percentage of pupils who achieve the expected level in the Foundation Phase indicator.
- Percentage of pupils eligible for free schools meals who achieve the Foundation Phase indicator.
- Percentage of pupils who achieve the Level 2 threshold including English; Welsh or Mathematics at the end of Key Stage 4.
- Percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals who achieve the Level 2 threshold including a GCSE A*-C in English/Welsh and Mathematics at the end of Key Stage 4.
- Percentage of pupils who achieve the Level 2 threshold including vocational equivalents.
- Outcomes from engaging with organisations that work with/for children and young people:
 - a) Number that have agreed/signed up to the Participation Promise;
 - b) Number accessing 'Young People Say' training; and
 - c) Number engaging children and young people in consultations.
- Percentage of MTBWYF members engaging in MTBWYF activities:
 - a) Cabinet meetings;
 - b) General Forum meetings/consultations;
 - c) Consultation outside scheduled Forum meetings.
- Number of young people trained to deliver 'Young People Say' training.
- Young people engaged and contributing to the Cymru Ifanc/Young Wales agenda.
- Number of recommendations from MTBWYF accepted and acted upon via any consultations.

For Information:

Giving All Children & Young People the Right to be Seen *and* Heard is something the Merthyr Tydfil Borough Wide Youth Forum (MTBWYF) Cabinet continues to drive forward as part of the wider strategic agenda. As part of the SIP Participation agenda, young people should be involved in the shaping of relevant activity across the County Borough, this allows the LSB to confirm its' commitment to not only promote the rights of Children and Young People but additionally recognises the relationship between rights and responsibilities.

The participation agenda in the SIP relates to the work of MTBWYF whose Cabinet are committed to promoting the voices of all young people; increasing the numbers and membership of the County Borough Youth Forum and the extent to which young people get involved in the matters that affect their lives.

PRIORITY OUTCOME 2: People in Merthyr Tydfil benefit from a strong, sustainable and diverse economy.

What does this mean?

We'll create and maintain an environment where adults, young people and families have access to a range of learning and employment opportunities relevant to their needs and the needs of the local economy. This will support an increase in the number of new employment opportunities generated; a reduction in the percentage of the population claiming Job Seekers Allowance and a reduction in the number of workless households in the locality.

- The total active business enterprises per 10,000 population.
- The percentage of the working age population who are claiming Jobseekers Allowance.
- The percentage of the working age population (excluding students) who are economically inactive.
- The percentage of the working age population educated to NVQ level 2 and above.
- The percentage of children living in families in receipt of out of work (means tested) benefits at 31 August.
- The percentage of year 11 pupils not in education, employment or training.
- The percentage of former looked after children in education, employment or training.

For Information:

The inter dependence between Employability and Economic Development has become more apparent over the last two years. As a result, looking forward to 2015/2016, these two SIP priority areas have been combined into a single report card. This will give greater flexibility to create bespoke interventions that support individuals to achieve their goals and partner organisations to deliver targeted solutions to local issues.

PRIORITY OUTCOME 3:

People who live and work in Merthyr Tydfil are supported to enjoy a healthier and better quality of life.

What does this mean?

- We will promote a positive and empowering approach to ageing well that helps older people live longer, healthier, more active and happier lives.
 - We want older people to live independently and safely in their own home for as long as possible, helping those who do become ill, frail or vulnerable to get the care and support they need, when they need it, in the way that they want it.
 - Families, particularly those in poverty, will be supported through early intervention and prevention programmes, designed to lift as many children as possible out of poverty. Inequalities will be reduced and outcomes improved for the poorest children by supporting families better.
 - We will reduce inequalities that exist in health, education and economic outcomes for children and families by improving the outcomes of the poorest – with a focus on supporting families to achieve better outcomes.
 - We will only look after those children and young people for whom there is no safe family or kinship alternative and when children and young people become looked after we will ensure that there is high quality practice in achieving permanence and positive outcomes.
- Percentage of adults in Merthyr Tydfil who reported being a current smoker (daily, occasional)
 - Percentage of pregnant women in Merthyr Tydfil who smoke, at initial assessment (usually 10 weeks gestation)
 - Percentage of pregnant women in Merthyr Tydfil who gave up smoking during pregnancy (measured at 36 weeks gestation)
 - Percentage of adults in Merthyr Tydfil reported as being overweight or obese.
 - Percentage of adults in Merthyr Tydfil reported as being obese (BMI 30+)
 - Percentage of pregnant women in Merthyr Tydfil with a BMI of 30+ at initial assessment (usually 10 weeks gestation)
 - Percentage of pregnant women in Merthyr Tydfil with a BMI of 30+ who gain the recommended weight during pregnancy (5-9kg, measured at 36 weeks gestation)
 - Percentage of adults in Merthyr Tydfil reported meeting the physical activity guidelines of 5 x 30 minutes in the past week
 - Percentage of adults in Merthyr Tydfil who reported a zero physical activity in the past week
 - Percentage of pupils in Merthyr Tydfil "hooked on sport"
 - Percentage of children in Merthyr Tydfil aged 4-5 years who are overweight or obese
 - Percentage of children in Merthyr Tydfil aged 4-5 years who are obese
 - Percentage of adults who drink above recommended guidelines.
 - Percentage of adults who report as binge drinking the previous week.
 - Rate of low birth weight babies at full term (37+ weeks gestation)
 - Conception rate under 18 per 100,000 females
 - The percentage of children in their Flying Start settings who reach their development milestones at 3 years of age.
 - The percentage of families reporting a successful intervention from the Families First programme at the point of closure.
 - The percentage of care leavers in education, training or employment.
 - Percentage of young people formerly looked after with whom the authority is in contact, who are known to be in suitable, non-emergency accommodation at the age of 19.
 - Percentage of people who can live independently
 - Delayed transfers of care per 1,000 population age 75 or over
 - Percentage of adult protection referrals when the risk has been managed.

For Information:

While life expectancy in Merthyr is increasing, as it is across Wales, this benefit is not experienced equally across our community. There are gaps between the most deprived and least deprived areas in life expectancy, healthy life expectancy and disability-free life expectancy. These inequities are unjust and unfair, and Merthyr LSB is committed to reducing these inequities by providing the encouragement and support to people that will see them flourish and avoid poor health.

There is significant evidence to show that adopting five healthy behaviours can lead to improvements in life expectancy and quality of life. These five healthy behaviours are one of the key priorities for Merthyr LSB in helping to tackle health inequalities and promote wellbeing. These are

- Physical activity e.g. half hour walk per day
- Non-smoking
- Maintaining a healthy weight (BMI 18-25)
- Eating a plant based diet – five or more portions of fruit and vegetables daily
- Low alcohol consumption i.e. within guidelines.

Tackling health inequalities must begin at the start of life. Evidence shows that there is a strong association between low birth weight babies and socio-economic deprivation. Rates of low birth weight in Merthyr Tydfil have increased in recent years to 7.2% of babies compared with 5.1% for Wales. Locally we know that smoking in pregnancy and obesity are the biggest risk factors.

Another factor in inequalities is teenage conceptions. Young people often drop out of school and babies are born into poverty and twice as likely to become teenage parents themselves. Breaking this cycle is key to young people achieving their potential.

Merthyr Tydfil's SIP focuses on 4 priority outcomes and under each outcome, a partnership has set out activities that will seek to ensure these are met. Some of these activities are planned and will be delivered through existing strategies/programmes of work. This is the case for Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing.

This priority outcome area will now be fully discharged via the Together for Mental Health Strategy (<http://gov.wales/docs/dhss/publications/121031tmhfinalen.pdf>). To ensure the LSB remains fully informed of developments in this area; the Together for Mental Health Partnership will be invited to provide updates to LSB members.

This SIP Priority linked to 'Promoting Independence' recognises the importance of people being able to participate fully in life and remain as active and independent for as long as possible. However, if people do become ill or vulnerable, they must be supported and their needs met effectively.

In the past, health and social services may have inadvertently developed a culture of dependency and over reliance on services. Too often, services respond to crisis rather than proactively preventing the crisis in the first place. We should be focusing on what people of all ages can do, giving them more control over their lives by promoting and supporting their independence.

During 2015/16, we will be doing this in particular by prioritising the work needed to meet the requirements of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act (SSWB). As part of the implementation of the SSWB (Wales) Act; there is a regional work-stream that is focussing on the outcome framework and the corresponding measures contain within it. This work is ongoing and when the quantitative and qualitative measures are confirmed they will replace the current ones as appropriate.

The Act will help to promote independence by its focus on:

- **People** – putting an individual and their needs at the centre of their care, giving them a voice and control over reaching outcomes the individual wants;
- **Wellbeing**- supporting people to achieve their own wellbeing with better access to information, advice and assistance, in a way they can use to help them make good choices about their own way to wellbeing;
- **Earlier intervention** – increasing preventative services and maximising each person's independence, connecting them to their communities in order to reduce or delay their reliance on more specialist social care and health interventions;
- **Building on the strengths and capacity each person brings to maximise their independence.** The role of statutory services being to complement the individual and family's to care and the community's ability to support but also ensuring that a person gets the additional support they need, where they cannot otherwise achieve their wellbeing outcomes;
- **Integration** - more effective and better integrated models of care and support which provide a more responsive range of services. Where someone does require additional support, avoiding duplicate assessment processes, so the right support is given the first time;
- **Collaboration** – strengthening duties of collaboration between social services and the NHS as well as strong partnership working with other agencies including the Third Sector; and
- **Workforce** - a better qualified workforce with skills that enable people to work across organisational boundaries.

'Meeting the Needs of Vulnerable Children' has been reviewed and the collective decision taken to re-classify this to become 'Protecting Vulnerable People'. Looked After Children are seen as an integral part of the Protecting Vulnerable People agenda though no measures have been included in the SIP, as it was felt that the LSBs understanding of this important issue would be better served by working more closely with the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board. To this end, a separate update report to the LSB will be presented annually by the Chair of the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board and MTCBC's director of Social Services.

PRIORITY OUTCOME 4:

People enjoy a vibrant, attractive, safe and sustainable environment in which to live, work, play and visit.

What does this mean?

- We will create an environment where communities of Merthyr Tydfil feel safe and perception of crime and fear of crime is reduced.
- We will provide good quality, energy efficient affordable housing within a safe secure environment with strong links to local community services.
- We will develop and design environments that enhance local communities and secure local ownership.
- People are kept safe and protected from abuse and neglect
- Percentage of people who feel safe walking in their local area after dark.
- Reduce people's perception of anti-social behaviour as a problem in their area.
- Reduce the level of anti-social behaviour.
- Percentage of beneficiaries* reporting an improvement in quality of life/wellbeing.
- Percentage of beneficiaries* reporting feeling safer
- Percentage of successful outcomes in the Specialist Domestic Violence Courts.
- People who feel they belong to the local area.
- People in the local area from different backgrounds get on well together.
- People in the local area treat each other with respect and consideration.
- Overall crime levels
- The number of additional affordable housing units provided during the year as a percentage of all additional housing units provided during the year.
- Percentage of all potentially homeless households for whom homelessness was prevented for at least 6 months.
- Percentage of young people offending for the first time with a substantive outcome aged 10 – 17 inclusive.
- Percentage of young people re-offending with a substantive outcome aged 10 – 17 inclusive.

* Beneficiaries = people in receipt of specialist domestic abuse support.

For Information:

As previously highlighted, Merthyr Tydfil's SIP focuses on 4 priority outcomes and under each outcome a partnership has set out activities that will seek to ensure these are met. Some of these activities are planned and will be delivered through existing strategies/programmes of work. This is the case for Substance Misuse and Safeguarding Vulnerable People and Domestic Abuse.

Substance Misuse will now be fully discharged via the Area Planning Board Strategy. To ensure the LSB remains fully informed of developments in this area; a representative from the Cwm Taf Area Planning Board will be invited to provide updates to LSB members. The overarching Welsh Government Substance Misuse strategy can be found here: <http://gov.wales/dsjlg/publications/communitysafety/strategy/strategye.pdf?lang=en>

The member organisations of the Local Service Board (LSB) agree that working closely together to safeguard children and adults at risk is an utmost priority.

The Social Services and Wellbeing Act will have a significant impact upon how we work together to support individuals and prevent harm, but it also strengthens our duty to act to protect children and adults at risk.

Performance in relation to safeguarding children and adults at risk is reported to Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board (CTSCB) and the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Adult Board (CTSAB) whose duty it is to hold partner agencies to account in relation to safeguarding.

Future performance reporting will draw upon the work of the Boards in achieving its outcome of ensuring children and adults at risk in Merthyr Tydfil are protected from harm. This will include any outcomes that can be drawn from the data that is emerging from the Cwm Taf Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub which has been commissioned and developed by both Safeguarding Boards.

It has been identified many Local Service Board Members are also Safeguarding Board members, and in future reporting the LSB aims to achieve enhanced reporting against outcomes that diminishes duplication but also highlights the key information that the LSB requires in order to make effective decisions to resolve difficulties or make improvements.

Measures linked to Safeguarding Vulnerable Children which were previously included in the SIP will now be fully discharged via the Safeguarding Boards (Children and Adults). To ensure the LSB remains fully informed of developments in this area; the Chair of the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards will be invited to provide updates to LSB members.

Domestic abuse is one of the key areas of need in Merthyr Tydfil, and has an impact on all 4 priority outcomes in the SIP. Furthermore the 'Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015' firmly puts Welsh Government's commitment to tackling this issue at the forefront. To ensure members of Merthyr Tydfil LSB remain fully informed of developments and the scope of the work being done to address this issue; a representative of the Cwm Taf Sexual Violence and Domestic Abuse Forum (SVDAF) Executive Board will be invited to present an update on progress made against the SVDAF delivery plan.

To further develop the LSB's knowledge and understanding of the work of the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC); a representative from the PCC's Office will also be invited to attend a meeting of Merthyr Tydfil LSB to offer an annual update on the work of the PCC and his team in the delivery of their strategic plan.

Legislation

Since the inception of the SIP, two new pieces of legislation linked to Priority Outcome 4 have been passed:

- The Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 <http://gov.wales/legislation/programme/assemblybills/domestic-abuse/?lang=en> ; and
- The Housing (Wales) Act <http://gov.wales/legislation/programme/assemblybills/housing/?lang=en>

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

The Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 became law in Wales on 29 April 2015. The purpose of the Act is to improve:

- a) arrangements for the prevention of gender based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence;
- b) arrangements for the protection of victims of gender based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence; and
- c) support for people affected by gender based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence.

The Act will improve the public sector response in Wales to violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence. It provides a strategic focus and ensures consistent

consideration of preventive, protective and supportive mechanisms in the delivery of services.

The benefits of providing preventative interventions and support to break the cycle of abuse for current and future generations are multi-faceted. Having a safe living environment is a basic human need which underpins our ability to live healthy, productive lives.

Housing

Welsh Government has laid out their vision for the future of housing in Wales. The ultimate goal is a future where everyone has a home they can afford and where homelessness does not exist. Homes will be in good condition and meet relevant standards for safety, design, quality, and energy efficiency.

Sustainable development is the central organising principle of the Welsh Government, and housing plays a crucial role in putting this principle into practice.

Wales' first ever housing act aims to improve the supply, quality and standards of housing in Wales, and will deliver legislation to:

- (i) Improve the private rented sector;
- (ii) Prevent homelessness from happening in the first place and improve the help available for those who do become homeless; and
- (iii) End family homelessness by 2019.

The benefits of investing in homes and related services extend well beyond putting a roof over someone's head. A decent home that people can afford is essential to their ability to live healthy, productive lives in safe, strong, inclusive and fair communities. It provides children with the best possible start to their lives and the chance to realise their full potential. Good homes can also reduce carbon dioxide emissions, which can help to tackle climate change, exemplifying sustainable development in practice

Homes that people can afford are fundamental to the goals of reducing poverty and greater equality.

**** NEW - DEVELOPMENT AREAS ****

Biodiversity

During 2015/16; Merthyr Tydfil LSB will undertake to further explore Biodiversity and how it links with the outcomes agreed in the SIP. Though not explicitly included in the SIP when it was initially drafted in 2013, through the SIP review process, the role for Biodiversity in delivering positive impacts to the community became very apparent, as did the opportunity for significantly greater partnership working in this area.

Currently the use and improvement of the local natural environment is at a low baseline. Greater collaborative working with SIP partners would help to improve this low baseline, whilst also helping to accelerate the rate of improvement activity needed to achieve the outcomes in the SIP (e.g.)

	Supporting	Area in SIP
Biodiversity	Looked After Children	Protecting Vulnerable People
	Anti-Social Behaviour	Safer, Integrated & Cohesive Communities
	Physical Activity	Healthy Lifestyles/Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing

Colleagues in Biodiversity use GIS spatial mapping technology to inform the MTCBC Open Spaces Strategy. In the future this technology could be used to help the LSB prioritise resources to areas/communities in greatest need by layering evidence on a map to build up a comprehensive picture of need. This evidence can include partnership data (e.g. health, community safety, fire, open spaces) along with demographic data (e.g. population, poverty) and will provide the LSB with the necessary tools to turn evidence into useful information which will be the springboard for effective action.

Several pilot and taster projects delivered locally have focussed on using the environment to improve social, health, education and community needs support national and international projects evidenced to impact upon these fields in a cost effective manner. These include projects with:

- Adult Social Services
- Youth Inclusion
- Waste Services
- Probation Services
- Barnardos Young Carers
- Environmental Health
- Housing
- Schools and Colleges
- Communities First
- Children Social Services
- Mental Health charities
-

Biodiversity & Sustainable Development

The environment is one of the three 'pillars' of Sustainable Development (the underpinning principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act); and one of the three factors of health along with social/economy and personal characteristics (as defined by the World Health Organisation).

Biodiversity & Wellbeing of Future Generations Act

Several legislative Acts require all public bodies and all services delivered to consider the environment directly and indirectly; the most recent are the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Bill. Welsh Government has stated 'Natural resource management is about managing our natural environment in a joined up way that delivers real outcomes for the environment, people, the economy and our communities'.

Biodiversity & Health

The use of the natural environment is evidenced as having a positive impact upon both physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing; whilst the greatest effects are generally preventative there are also evidenced contributory impacts upon reducing symptoms and causes of more critical and acute health issues.

The Welsh Government 'Cynefin' (Habitat) Project in Merthyr Tydfil County Borough with Public Health Wales/Cwm Taf UHB is currently targeting one GP area as a pilot to support and evaluate referrals to increase the use of the local environment for health benefits, using data from the Open Spaces Strategy.

In Merthyr Tydfil County Borough, the natural environment has had an historic general lack of consideration/focus as regards health impacts upon the local population and more generically in terms of non-economic value and use by local communities. The natural environment is free to access by residents, has the capacity to meet significant increases in use and has less risk of social stigma and other psychological barriers than many formal leisure activities (leisure centres, sports clubs etc.). Early research shows evidence clearly demonstrates that proximity of access to open/natural spaces is critical in terms of levels of use (i.e.) the further the access to open/natural spaces the more significant and rapid the lack of use increases.

Integrated Services and Joint Commissioning

Welsh Government has a clear expectation that we develop a model of sustainable integrated health and social care services that maintain and increase people's wellbeing and independence.

During 2015/2016, we will be taking forward an important element of this work with the development of a Joint Commissioning Statement for Older People's Services. This has been produced in collaboration between Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council; RCT County Borough Council, Cwm Taf University Health Board and the third sector to replace the separate strategies and approaches to each of the public sector agencies.

This work demonstrates our commitment to delivering a proactive, responsive and seamless service to our older population and those that support and care for them. Our intention is to align the existing separate commissioning activities undertaken by different partners into a more co-ordinated and integrated approach. Robust contracts/service level agreements/grant agreements will ensure we specify and procure services for the local population which deliver the best possible health and wellbeing outcomes and provide high quality services, making best use of available resources.

We also need to ensure that our commissioning model is consistent with a community-based citizen approach and explore the different ways in which we can undertake our commissioning function together more effectively including the use of formal partnerships and pooled budgets.

Cwm Taf Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

The Cwm Taf Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) has been developed by the member agencies of the regional safeguarding boards.

It has been commissioned as a result of safeguarding boards' ambition to enhance the quality and effectiveness of information sharing to ensure that we are able to act

promptly to protect those at risk, and that we are equipped with high quality information to prevent risk via early intervention.

The MASH was brought about through close collaboration between local authorities; health board; police; probation and the Community Rehabilitation Company whose managers and practitioners overcame the challenges involved making the strategic objective an operational reality.

It is early days, but the initial performance information shows evidence of more effective working and the unintended benefits of co-location of organisations' point of entry for safeguarding. For example, there are cases where partners have been able to make an early decision that protective action is not required due to better information sharing, and also examples where partners have been able to act promptly to protect.

As we develop the initiative opportunities to learn are being taken, this is leading to adjustment of our processes as a result and it is anticipated that the innovation will influence practice outside the region.

LSB Information Strategy

"A Single Integrated Plan should include an Information Strategy setting out how partners will best make use of those resources available in order to provide the LSB with the right information at the right time to inform its work. The information available to partners should be a shared local resource for ongoing needs analysis, intervention design and impact evaluation across the whole Single Integrated Plan".

Shared Purpose, Shared Delivery Welsh Government - 2012

In response to the requirement laid down in Welsh Government's guidance note 'Shared Purpose, Shared Delivery'; a draft Information Strategy was prepared. Research was undertaken consisting of a literature review, scoping of guidance and research literature regarding LSBs, partnership working and information strategies.

Our draft Information Strategy was produced with regular input from officers across the partnership by the LSB Support Team. This document offers an explanation of why the Information Strategy was needed whilst outlining how information could be used by Merthyr Tydfil LSB to select priorities. It clarifies the role of LSB partners in information management and re-enforces the collaborative approach.

The input received from colleagues within Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, Cwm Taf University Health Board; South Wales Police; Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil and Welsh Government ensures all partners have opportunity to contribute to its content and offer amendments/additions to reflect their requirements of their own organisations. Advice and guidance was also sought from Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, Information Security department.

The final draft of the LSB Information Strategy was presented at the LSB meeting held on 27th March 2014 and given final approval. The Information can be found here: ([http://www.merthyr.gov.uk/English/CommunityAndLiving/CommunityAdvice/Documents/LSB%20Information%20Strategy%20\(approved%2027.03.14\).pdf](http://www.merthyr.gov.uk/English/CommunityAndLiving/CommunityAdvice/Documents/LSB%20Information%20Strategy%20(approved%2027.03.14).pdf)).

The LSB Information Strategy is currently under review and will shortly be circulated to SIP Priority Leads and LSB members for comments. The proposed updated Strategy will bring forward the details we have learned regarding the Social Service and Wellbeing (Wales) Act and the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act; noting where previously agreed arrangements will have to be updated/amended going forward.

Scrutiny of Merthyr Tydfil Local Service Board

Scrutiny should be used as a means to improve performance through evidence-based challenge. The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 placed a requirement on local authority scrutiny committees to scrutinise designated public service providers. Wider public service scrutiny will provide the necessary 'teeth' for elected members to hold both their own Council and the LSB partners to account for their contribution towards the delivery of the Single Integrated Plan.

It is important to point out that scrutiny focuses on the LSB's performance as a whole rather than concentrating on individual LSB member organisations. It focuses on the added value brought about by collaborative working and how this translates to partnership performance and population outcomes.

During 2013/14 a task and finish group was established to progress the development of appropriate scrutiny arrangements for Merthyr Tydfil LSB.

An options paper was prepared; this this was considered by LSB before progressing to Full Council and it was agreed that:

- The scrutiny of the Merthyr Tydfil Local Service Board be the responsibility of the Chief Executive's Scrutiny Committee;
- Should there be occasion when the Chief Executive's Scrutiny Committee deems that subject matter would be best dealt with by one of the other Scrutiny Committees, the matter will be referred to the appropriate Scrutiny Committee;
- When an issue relating to the Merthyr Tydfil Local Service Board could be best dealt with by two or more Scrutiny Committees, the option of Joint Scrutiny Committees is available;
- Delegated authority was granted to the Monitoring Officer to make any necessary amendments to the Constitution in respect of Scrutiny of Merthyr Tydfil Local Service Board and the setting up of Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Following agreement being secured; 4 elements of the LSB's work programme were presented to the Chief Executive's Scrutiny Committee during 2014/15:

- Performance management arrangements supporting the development of Merthyr Tydfil's Single Integrated Plan;
- Cwm Taf Joint Engagement Strategy;
- LSB Information Strategy;
- SIP Review Process & Annual Report.

Reports were prepared and submitted to the Scrutiny Committee ahead of the scrutiny session. A Merthyr Tydfil LSB representative attended these sessions to provide an update. The Scrutiny Committee then had an opportunity to seek further information and ask questions which the LSB's representative responded to offering clarification where required. No recommendations were drawn up by Scrutiny Committee members in response to the 4 updates provided on LSB partnership activity during 2014-15.

MTCBC Scrutiny Structure has been changed for 2015. This means some minor changes to the formally agreed principles will take place. The primary change being that LSB will now be scrutinised by **Governance, Performance, Business Change and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee**. Going forward, the LSB will request any key activity which is in the development/planning stage be recommended to be taken before the Scrutiny Committee to secure their views/suggestions as an aid to development (this would of course be subject to the LSB securing a scrutiny slot on the relevant Committee's work plan).

The role of scrutiny is to scrutinise the partnership as a whole. Scrutiny can take a variety of different approaches to issues.

- **Policy development** - scrutiny committees may carry out in-depth scrutiny reviews focused on a specific topic relevant locally. Often this is done by means of a task and finish group, which will examine evidence from a wide variety of sources before producing a report and recommendations, to which partners and/or the council's executive will have to respond. These pieces of work arguably have the most impact on local policy making, and we will provide you with some examples of them below.
- **Contribution to the development of strategies** - if the LSB Partners are putting together a strategy, plan, or policy, it may be useful to build in a process for scrutiny at draft stage. Councillors can provide valuable evidence to support the drafting process – especially intelligence from the local community.
- **Holding to account at formal hearings** - bringing in representatives of the partnership and questioning them about their roles, responsibilities, and activities.

This is the simplest method for scrutiny to “hold the partnership to account”, though this has limitations in terms of constructive outcomes and should be a small part of interaction between scrutiny and the partnership.

- **Performance management** - examination of the performance of the partnership, often using high-level scorecards or, where appropriate, more detailed data. The best scrutiny functions will use this as an opportunity to look at performance “by exception” (which will highlight both particularly good, and particularly poor, performance). This could involve the committee looking at particularly good performance, to see what lessons can be learned, thus sharing good practice across all public and third sector organisations operating in the local area.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Merthyr Tydfil Local Development Plan (LDP) sets out the Council’s priorities for the development and use of land in the County Borough and policies to implement them over the 15-year period between 2006 and 2021. The Single Integrated Plan (SIP) and the LDP are complementary, with the latter expressing in appropriate land use terms, those elements of the SIP that relate to the development and use of land. The priorities of the SIP are also reflected, where appropriate, in the LDP. For example, a number of the LDP’s strategic objectives currently reflect the supporting principles and priority outcomes of the Single Integrated Plan (SIP). The linkages are demonstrated in **Table 1** below.

Table 1

Single Integrated Plan	Local Development Plan
<p>Vision: To strengthen Merthyr Tydfil’s position as the regional centre for the Heads of the Valleys, and be a place to be proud of where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People learn and develop skills to fulfil their ambitions • People live, work, have a safe, healthy and fulfilled life • People visit, enjoy and return 	<p>Vision: Between 2006 and 2021, the LDP will ensure that the development and use of land in Merthyr Tydfil is undertaken in a sensitive manner following a holistic approach with the concept of sustainability as its core. In this way, the ambition of the Plan is to reflect the expectations of the community to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facilitate sustained growth • promote social inclusion • safeguard the environment; and, • provide an excellent quality of life for all <p>Strategic Objective 1: To capitalise on Merthyr’s strategic position, further developing its role as the main commercial, service and employment centre in the Heads of the Valleys area by focussing development within the main town of Merthyr Tydfil.</p>
<p>Underpinning principle: Learning for life.</p>	<p>Primary aim To facilitate a reduction in current levels of out migration from the County Borough so that population levels stabilise by 2011 and a 10-year period of enhanced growth is achieved thereafter.</p>
Priority Outcomes	Strategic objectives (SO)
<p>Opportunity and aspiration to learn and develop their skills and maximise their potential.</p>	<p>SO8: To promote social inclusion and ensure equality of opportunity through reducing the need to travel and providing better access by sustainable means to employment opportunities, community facilities and services.</p>

Priority Outcomes	Strategic objectives (SO)
Benefit from a strong, sustainable and diverse economy.	SO7: To improve and diversify the economy, safeguarding existing jobs and creating a range of new job opportunities in a sustainable manner.
Supported to enjoy a healthier and better quality of life.	SO9: To promote health and wellbeing by providing accessible and varied opportunities for leisure and recreational activities.
Enjoy a vibrant, attractive, safe and sustainable environment in which to live, work, play and visit.	SO10: To ensure good quality design of new development and the creation of safer communities. SO6: To provide a range of dwelling sizes and types, including affordable and special needs housing, which support the needs of the local community, attract new inhabitants to the area and create mixed and socially inclusive communities. SO8: To promote social inclusion and ensure equality of opportunity through reducing the need to travel and providing better access by sustainable means to employment opportunities, community facilities and services.

The provisions of the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mean it is essential for future revisions of the SIP (Local Well-being plans) and the LDP to be developed from a common evidence base, be informed by common assessment processes and be targeted at delivering common objectives.

To achieve greater integration, the Group Leader of Policy & Implementation will report to LSB and SIP Steering Group on the areas of commonality between the SIP and the LDP, as identified in the Table 2 (found under **Appendix 3**). Furthermore, consideration should be given to improving the integration of the LDP and SIP monitoring frameworks in order to develop robust performance indicators and avoid unnecessary duplication. Potential shared measures based on the existing LSP monitoring framework are also included in **Appendix 3** (Table 2).

Appendix 1

	QUANTITY	QUALITY
EFFORT	Quadrant 1 (least important for the SIP) How much service did we deliver? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of clients/customers served; • Number of activities/types of activity; • Increasing access. 	Quadrant 2 How well did we deliver? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of clients serviced well (<i>percentage of satisfied customers; average waiting times</i>); • Percentage of activities/functions performed well (<i>attendance in school, fixed term exclusions; LAC who are in employment, education or training aged 19</i>)
EFFECT	Quadrant 3 How well did we do? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number – skills; • Number – attitude; • Number – behaviour; • Number – circumstance. 	Quadrant 4 (most important for the SIP) Is anyone better off? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage – skills (e.g.) <i>percentage of Flying Start children aged 3 reaching their developmental milestones' percentage of free schools meals achieving Level 2 threshold inclusive</i> • Percentage – behaviour (e.g.) <i>percentage of 45 years + drinking alcohol</i>

APPENDIX 2

The table below demonstrates the change in measures included in the SIP since it was rolled out in 2013.

PRIORITY OUTCOME 1:		
2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
Attainment & Skills	Attainment & Skills	Attainment & Skills
Foundation Phase indicator Key stage 2 and 3.	Percentage of pupil attendance in primary and secondary schools.	Percentage of pupils who achieve the expected level in the Foundation Phase indicator.
Core subject indicator, Key Stage 4, Level 2 including English; Welsh and Mathematics.	Percentage of pupils who achieve the Level 2 threshold including English; Welsh and Mathematics.	Percentage of pupils eligible for free schools meals who achieve the Foundation Phase indicator.
Percentage of pupil attendance in primary and secondary schools.	Percentage of pupils who achieve the Level 2 thresholds including vocational equivalents.	Percentage of pupils who achieve the Level 2 threshold including English; Welsh or Mathematics at the end of Key Stage 4.
Percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals who achieve the Foundation Phase Indicator (in teacher assessment) compared to pupils who are not eligible for free school meals.	Percentage of pupils achieving the Core Subject Indicator (Level 4 or above in English and Welsh; Mathematics and Science) at the end of Key Stage 2.	Percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals who achieve the Level 2 threshold including a GCSE A*-C in English/Welsh and Mathematics at the end of Key Stage 4.
Percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals who achieved a Level 2 threshold including a GCSE A*-C in English/Welsh and Mathematics at the end of Key Stage 4 compared to pupils who are not eligible for free school meals.	Percentage of pupils who achieve the expected level in the Foundation Phase indicator.	Percentage of pupils who achieve the Level 2 threshold including vocational equivalents.
Percentage of pupils who leave education (school) without a formal qualification.	Percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals who achieve the Foundation Phase Indicator (in teacher assessment) compared to pupils who are not eligible for free school meals.	
Percentage of school days lost to fixed-term exclusions.	Percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals who achieved a Level 2 threshold including a GCSE A*-C in English/Welsh and Mathematics at the end of Key Stage 4 compared to pupils who are not eligible for free school meals.	
Percentage of 16-18 year olds not in education, training or employment.	Percentage of pupils who leave compulsory education without an approved external qualification.	
Employability	Employability	
Percentage of working age adults who are economically active.	Percentage of working age population who are qualified at NVQ Level 2 or above.	The Employability Report Card has now merged with the Economic & Business Development Report Card and can be found under Priority Outcome 2: Community Regeneration Report Card.
Increase in working age population with qualifications.	Percentage of former looked after children in education, employment or training at age 19.	
Percentage of children under 16 living in working-age households with no-one in employment.	The number of individuals supported by the Council who go on to gain employment.	
Percentage of Year 11 leavers not in education, training or employment.	The number of adults (aged 16 or over) supported by the Council who gain a qualification at NVQ Level 2.	
Percentage of Year 13 leavers not in education, training or employment.	Percentage of the working age population with no qualifications.	
Percentage of 16-24 year olds who are claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)	Percentage of children under 16 living in working age households with no-one in employment.	
Percentage of workless households across Merthyr Tydfil.		
Participation	Participation	Participation
Number of schools/organisations that have agreed and signed up to the Participation Promise.	Number of schools/organisations that have agreed and signed up to the Participation Promise	Outcomes from engaging with organisations that work with/for children and young people: 1) Number that have agreed/signed up to the Participation Promise; 2) Number accessing 'Young People Say' training; 3) Number engaging children and young people in consultations.
Percentage of young people engaging in Merthyr Tydfil Borough Wide Youth Forum (MTBWYF).	Percentage of young people engaging in the Merthyr Tydfil Borough Wide Youth Forum (MTBWYF).	Percentage of MTBWYF members engaging in MTBWYF activities: 1) Cabinet meetings; 2) General Forum meetings/consultations; 3) Consultation outside scheduled Forum meetings.
Number of panels, boards and initiatives with young people representation.	Number of panels, boards and initiatives with young people representation.	Number of young people trained to deliver 'Young People Say' training.
Number of organisations achieving/accessing the Participation Kitemark Award/Young People Say training.	Number of organisations achieving/accessing the Participation Kitemark Award/Young People Say training.	Young people engaged and contributing to the Cymru Ifanc/Young Wales agenda.
Number of young people sitting on the Youth Assembly in Wales.	Number of young people trained to deliver the Participation Kitemark Award/Young People Say training.	Number of recommendations from MTBWYF accepted and acted upon via any consultations.
	Number of young people sitting on the Youth Assembly.	

PRIORITY OUTCOME 2:		
2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
Economic & Business Development	Economic & Business Development	Community Regeneration
The number of small to medium employers (SMEs) and larger companies.	The workplace based Gross Value Added per head of working population.	The total active business enterprises per 10,000 population.
Sustain business growth and inward investment	The median annual pay (gross) of full-time workers.	The percentage of the working age population who are claiming Jobseekers Allowance.
The number of jobs created.	The number of new business births in the area.	The percentage of the working age population (excluding students) who are economically inactive.
The Gross Value Added.	The 3 year survivability of newly born enterprises.	The percentage of the working age population educated to NVQ level 2 and above.
The percentage of working age population engaged in economic activity.	The supply of housing land.	The percentage of children living in families in receipt of out of work (means tested) benefits at 31 August.
Income level.	Total jobs created by Vibrant and Viable Places.	The percentage of year 11 pupils not in education, employment or training.
	Total jobs accommodated by the Vibrant and Viable Places.	The percentage of former looked after children in education, employment or training.
	Supply of business land.	
	Percentage of the working population claiming Job Seekers Allowance.	
	The total annual vacant floor-space in the Town Centre.	
PRIORITY OUTCOME 3:		
2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
Healthy Lifestyles - Smoking	Healthy Lifestyles – Smoking	Healthy Lifestyles
Adult smoking prevalence rates.	Adult smoking prevalence rates.	Percentage of adults in Merthyr Tydfil who reported being a current smoker (daily, occasional).
Percentage of 15 year olds smoking weekly.	Percentage of 15 year olds smoking weekly.	Percentage of pregnant women in Merthyr Tydfil who smoke, at initial assessment (usually at 10 weeks gestation).
Percentage of women smoking during pregnancy.	Percentage of women smoking during pregnancy.	Percentage of pregnant women in Merthyr Tydfil who gave up smoking during pregnancy (measured at 36 weeks gestation).
Healthy Lifestyles – Obesity & Physical Activity	Healthy Lifestyles – Obesity & Physical Activity	
Percentage of adults reported meeting the physical activity guidelines of 5 x 30 minutes in the past week.	Percentage of adults reported meeting the physical activity guidelines of 5 x 30 minutes in the past week.	Percentage of adults in Merthyr Tydfil reported as being overweight or obese.
Percentage of adults reported eating 5 or more portions of fruit/vegetables the previous day.	Percentage of adults reported eating 5 or more portions of fruit/vegetables the previous day.	Percentage of adults in Merthyr Tydfil reported as being obese (BMI 30+).
Percentage of children and young people meeting weekly physical activity recommendations for 60 minutes of moderate intensity.	Percentage of children and young people meeting weekly physical activity recommendations for 60 minutes of moderate intensity.	Percentage of pregnant women in Merthyr Tydfil with a BMI of 30+ at initial assessment (usually 10 weeks gestation).
Physical activity on 5 or more days a week.	Physical activity on 5 or more days a week.	Percentage of pregnant women in Merthyr Tydfil with a BMI of 30+ who gain the recommended weight during pregnancy (5-9kg at 36 weeks gestation).
Percentage of adults reported as being overweight or obese in Merthyr Tydfil.	Percentage of adults reported as being overweight or obese in Merthyr Tydfil.	Percentage of adults in Merthyr Tydfil reported meeting the physical activity guidelines of 5 x 30 minutes in the past week.
Percentage of children aged 4-5 years who are overweight or obese.	Percentage of children aged 4-5 years who are overweight or obese.	Percentage of adults in Merthyr Tydfil who reported zero physical activity in the past week.
		Percentage of pupils in Merthyr Tydfil “hooked on sport”.
		Percentage of children in Merthyr Tydfil aged 4-5 years who are overweight or obese.
Healthy Lifestyles – Sexual Health	Healthy Lifestyles – Sexual Health	Percentage of children in Merthyr Tydfil aged 4-5 years who are obese.
Prescribing the Long Acting and Reversible Contraception (LARC).	Prescribing the Long Acting and Reversible Contraception (LARC).	Percentage of adults who drink above recommended guidelines.
Uptake of condoms through the Condom Card Scheme.	Uptake of condoms through the Condom Card Scheme.	Percentage of adults who report as binge drinking the previous week.
Teenage conception rates	Teenage conception rates	Rate of low birth weight babies at full term (37+ weeks gestation).
Sexually transmitted infections.	Sexually transmitted infections.	Conception rate under 18 per 100,000 females.
Rate of low birth weight babies.	Rate of low birth weight babies.	
Rate of pre-term babies.	Rate of pre-term babies.	

PRIORITY OUTCOME 3:		
2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing (continued)	Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing (continued)	
Percentage of young people scoring 6 or higher in terms of life satisfaction in the Health Behaviour in Schools-Aged Children survey.	Percentage of young people scoring 6 or higher in terms of life satisfaction in the Health Behaviour in Schools-Aged Children survey.	<i>This priority outcome area will now be fully discharged via the Together for Mental Health Strategy with updates being provided to Merthyr Tydfil LSB provided by the Together for Mental Health Partnership.</i>
Percentage of adults (aged 16+) self-reported mental health and wellbeing.	Percentage of adults (aged 16+) self-reported mental health and wellbeing.	
Percentage of people who respond to the Viewpoint survey reporting they feel happy or hopeful.	Percentage of people who respond to the Viewpoint survey reporting they feel happy or hopeful.	
Number of GP practices that are able to provide specialist assessment and a stepped range of interventions to support patients experiencing 'mild to moderate' mental illness.	Number of GP practices that are able to provide specialist assessment and a stepped range of interventions to support patients experiencing 'mild to moderate' mental illness.	
Percentage of adults involved in developing their care and treatment plan.	Percentage of adults involved in developing their care and treatment plan.	
Percentage of adults (aged 16+) reporting being treated for a mental illness.		
Promoting Independence	Promoting Independence	Promoting Independence
Number of people supported to remain in their own home.	Number of people offered/taking up Direct Payments.	Percentage of people who can live independently.
Number of people offered/taking up Direct Payments.	Percentage of the adult population who can live independently without the need for a formal package of social care arranged or provided by the Local Authority.	Delayed transfers of care per 1,000 population aged 75 or over.
The rate of older people (aged 65+) supported in the community per 1,000 population.	Percentage of carers of adults offered an assessment in their own right during the year.	Percentage of adult protection referrals when risk has been managed.
Percentage of clients aged 1-64 supported in the community during the year.	Number of telecare assessments offered / undertaken.	
Percentage of adults involved in developing their care and treatment plan.	Percentage of the adult population who cannot live independently.	
Percentage of people reporting limiting long-term illness (all ages and 65+).	The average number of calendar days taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant.	
Number of re-admissions to hospital for those aged 65+.	The rate of delayed transfers of care for social reasons per 1,000 population aged 75 or over.	
Reduction in the number of admissions directly from hospital to nursing or residential care.	The number of emergency hospital admissions.	
Reduction in the number of admissions to residential/nursing care.	Percentage of people reporting limiting long-term illness (all ages and 65+).	
The rate of delayed transfers of care for social reasons per 1,000 population.	Number of readmissions to hospital for those aged 65+.	
	Reduction in the number of admissions directly from hospital to nursing or residential care.	
	Reduction in the number of admissions to residential/nursing care.	
Meeting the Needs of Vulnerable Children	Meeting the Needs of Vulnerable Children	Protecting Vulnerable People (formerly Meeting the Needs of Vulnerable Children)
The proportion of contacts to children's service progressing to referral.	The percentage of the child population (aged 0-3) who are in receipt of a Flying Start service.	The percentage of children in their Flying Start settings who reach their development milestones at 3 years of age.
The proportion of children receiving children's social services as 'Children in Need'.	The percentage of children in their Flying Start settings who reach their development milestones at 3 years of age.	The percentage of families reporting a successful intervention from the Families First programme at the point of closure.
Numbers of referrals to the Intensive Family Support Team (IFST).	Number of children benefiting from the Flying Start nursery provision.	The percentage of care leavers in education, training or employment.
Number of families reporting positive outcomes from the Families First programme and Children in Need services.	Numbers of referrals to the Intensive Family Support Team (to the level of Merthyr Tydfil's proportion of the service).	Percentage of young people formerly looked after with whom the authority is in contact, who are known to be in suitable, non-emergency accommodation at the age of 19.
Number of children in need reviews completed within the guidelines.	The proportion of children receiving children's social services as 'Children in Need'.	<i>Looked After Children are seen as an integral part of the Protecting Vulnerable People agenda; however, a separate update report will be brought twice yearly to ensure continuity of communication of key elements of Safeguarding and LAC to Merthyr Tydfil LSB.</i>
Percentage of referrals to children's services that are re-referrals within 12 months.	Number of families reporting positive outcomes from the Families First programme.	
The number and percentage of repeat child protection registrations within 2 years.	Proportion of children and families reporting positive outcomes from the service they receive from social services.	
Overall number of contacts to children's services.	The levels of care leavers in education, training or employment.	
	The percentage of the population (aged under 18) who are Children in Need and worked with by social services.	
	The rate of looked after children per head of population.	
	The number and percentage of repeat child protection registrations within 2 years.	
	Overall number of contacts to children's services.	

PRIORITY OUTCOME 4:		
2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
Anti-Social Behaviour & Crime and Disorder	Safer Communities	Safer, Integrated & Cohesive Communities
Number of people who feel safe in Merthyr Tydfil.	Number of people who feel safe in Merthyr Tydfil.	Percentage of people who feel safe walking in their local area after dark.
Anti-social behaviour rates.	Anti-social behaviour rates.	Reduce people's perception of anti-social behaviour as a problem in their area.
Overall crime rates.	Overall crime rates.	Reduce the level of anti-social behaviour.
Acquisitive crime rates.	Acquisitive crime rates.	Percentage of beneficiaries reporting an improvement in quality of life.
Violence rates.	Violence rates.	Percentage of beneficiaries reporting feeling safer.
		Percentage of successful outcomes in the Specialist Domestic Violence Courts.
Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence	Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence	People who feel they belong to the local area.
Number of successful outcomes to Merthyr Tydfil Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC).	Number of successful outcomes to Merthyr Tydfil Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC).	People in the local area from different backgrounds get on well together.
Number of perpetrators accessing and receiving effective services.	Number of Teulu and MARAC referrals.	People in the local area treat each other with respect and consideration.
Number of Teulu and MARAC referrals.	Number of children at risk of domestic abuse.	Overall crime levels.
	Number of repeat incidents of domestic abuse.	Percentage of young people offending for the first time with a substantive outcome aged 10 – 17 inclusive.
	Number of families accepted as homeless due to domestic abuse.	Percentage of young people re-offending with a substantive outcome aged 10 – 17 inclusive.
Substance Misuse	Substance Misuse	Substance Misuse
Percentage of adults who drink above the recommended guidelines.	Percentage of adults who drink above the recommended guidelines.	<i>This priority outcome area will now be fully discharged via the Area Planning Board Strategy; updates will be provided to Merthyr Tydfil LSB by the Area Planning Board Chair.</i>
Percentage of adults who report as binge drinking in the preceding week.	Percentage of adults who report as binge drinking in the preceding week.	
Percentage of alcohol/drug attributable deaths.	Percentage of alcohol/drug attributable deaths.	
Percentage of alcohol/drug related hospital admissions.	Percentage of alcohol/drug related hospital admissions.	
	Percentage of young people who offended with alcohol as a contributory factor.	
Community Cohesion	Community Cohesion	
Amount of reported hate crime occurrences.	Amount of reported hate crime.	
Number of schools engaged annually in 'Show Racism the Red Card'.	Improved public perceptions of communities.	
Number of people receiving equalities training.	Number of participants of equalities and community cohesion-related training and workshops.	
Number of individuals attending cohesion events.	Number of minority groups and individuals consulted by organisation.	
	Utilisation of Merthyr Tydfil's Community Cohesion website.	
Offender Management	Offender Management	
Re-offending rates (adults).	Re-offending rates (adults).	
Re-offending rates (youths).	Re-offending rates (youths).	
Housing	Housing	Housing
Number of housing and affordable housing completions per annum.	Number of housing and affordable housing completions per annum.	The number of additional affordable housing units provided during the year as a percentage of all additional housing units provided during the year.
Households prevented from becoming homeless for at least 6 months.	Households prevented from becoming homeless for at least 6 months.	Percentage of all potentially homeless households for whom homelessness was prevented for at least 6 months.
Waiting times for housing-related support services.	Waiting times for housing-related support services.	
Number of households accepted as homeless.	Number of households accepted as homeless.	
Empty properties as a percentage of total housing stock.	Empty properties as a percentage of total housing stock.	
Safeguarding Vulnerable People	Safeguarding Vulnerable People	Safeguarding Vulnerable People
Percentage of initial conferences held within 15 days of the strategy discussion increases.	Maintain the percentage of initial conferences held within 15 working days of the strategy discussion.	<i>This priority outcome area will now be fully discharged via the Cwm Taf Local Safeguarding Boards (Children & Adults) with updates being provided to Merthyr Tydfil LSB by the Safeguarding Board Manager.</i>
Percentage of Child Protection Reviews carried out within statutory timescales increases.	Maintain the percentage of Child Protection Reviews carried out within statutory timescales increases.	
Percentage of looked after children reviews carried out within statutory timescales during the year increases.	Percentage of Adult Protection referrals completed where the risk has been managed increases.	
Percentage of Adult Protection referrals completed where the risk has been managed increases.	Number of frontline staff trained in safeguarding awareness.	
Number of frontline staff trained in safeguarding awareness.	Percentage of re-registrations of children on the Child Protection Register	

Table 2

SIP - What do we want to achieve?	How will we measure success? Additional indicators from Potential LDP targets.
Attainment & Skills Children, young people and adults in Merthyr Tydfil reach their academic potential and have the necessary skills to contribute as responsible citizens to their own development and that of the wider community.	To protect 100% of viable community facilities from development proposals proposing their loss. Measure No. protected annually.
Participation	No suggested measure.
Community Regeneration A growing and sustainable economy for Merthyr Tydfil, delivering a diverse range of quality job opportunities.	To facilitate the provision of 3560 ^{sqm} net B1 (light industrial) floorspace annually to 2021. To facilitate the provision of 3770 ^{sqm} net B2/B8 (industrial, storage and distribution) floorspace annually to 2021. To facilitate the provision of 300 net additional jobs annually to 2021. To protect Rhydyar Business Park and the Car Park at the Hoover Factory for B1 use and appropriate ancillary uses until 2021. To protect the Pengarnddu, Pant Industrial Estate, Goatmill Road, Willows/Dragon Park, Triangle Business Park, Merthyr Tydfil Industrial Park and land at Ffos-y-Fran for B1, B2 or B8 uses, appropriate ancillary or acceptable commercial services until 2021.
Healthy Lifestyles Active and maintain a healthy weight.	To protect 100% of 'needed' open space from development proposals proposing its loss. Measure Ha. protected annually. 'Need' evidenced by the 'Open space assessment'. To protect 100% of viable community facilities from development proposals proposing their loss. Measure No. protected annually.
Mental Health and Emotional Well-being Enjoy good mental health and wellbeing.	Measure: No. of development proposals for sensitive development permitted in C1 and C2 floodplain unless it meeting all TAN 15 tests (paragraph 6.2 i-v).
Promoting Independence Are able to lead independent and fulfilled lives.	Please see 'Housing' measure.
Safe integrated and cohesive communities	That 100% of major applications (as defined by the GDPO 1995) incorporate secured by design principles annually.
Housing A community where residents live in good quality, suitable and affordable housing.	To facilitate the net provision of 200 new residential units in the town of Merthyr Tydfil annually until 2021. To facilitate the net provision of 36 new residential units in the area of Treharris, Trelewis, Edwardsville and Quakers Yard annually until 2021. To facilitate the net provision of 16 new residential units in the area of Troedyrhiw, Aberfan, Merthyr Vale and Bedlinog annually until 2021. To maintain a 5 year supply of genuinely available land for housing development. To facilitate the net provision of 23 affordable houses annually until 2021.
Protecting Vulnerable People	No suggested measures.

WEB DOCUMENT INDEX

1	Merthyr Tydfil Local Development Plan	http://www.merthyr.gov.uk/English/EnvironmentAndPlanning/Planning/Documents/LDP%20AMR%202014.pdf
2	Draft ACRF Report 2014-15	http://www.merthyr.gov.uk/English/CouncilAndDemocracy/Performance/Documents/Draft%20Annual%20Report%20on%20Social%20Services%202014-2015.pdf
3	MTCBC Corporate Plan 2013-17 (reviewed 2014-15)	http://www.merthyr.gov.uk/English/CouncilAndDemocracy/Performance/Documents/Corporate%20Plan%202013%20-%202017%20(updated%202014-15).pdf
4	Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2015/2/contents/enacted
5	Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2014/4/pdfs/anaw_20140004_en.pdf
6	Police & Crime Reduction Plan 2015-2018	http://pcclivewww.blob.core.windows.net/wordpress-uploads/Print-Ref-2053-SWPCC-Police-and-Crime-Reduction-Plan-English.pdf
7	Together for Mental Health Strategy	http://gov.wales/docs/dhss/publications/121031tmhfinalen.pdf
8	Working Together to Reduce Harm - Substance Misuse Strategy	http://gov.wales/dsjlg/publications/communitysafety/strategy/strategye.pdf?lang=en
9	Housing Act 2014	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2014/7/contents/enacted
10	All Wales Youth Offending Strategy	http://gov.wales/dsjlg/publications/communitysafety/youthoffendingstrategy/strategye?lang=en
11	UNCRC Lets Get It Right	www.uncrcletsgetitright.co.uk
12	The Strategy for Older People in Wales	http://gov.wales/docs/dhss/publications/130521olderpeoplesstrategyen.pdf
13	Cwm Taf UHB Three Year Integrated Plan 2015-2018	http://www.cwmtafuhb.wales.nhs.uk/opendoc/268389

CLOSING STATEMENTS

Having reflected over the first 2 years of the Single Integrated Plan and undertaken a comprehensive review; Merthyr Tydfil Local Service Board has used the lessons learned from the past to inform how it moves forward to meet the goals and challenges it faces in the future.

By streamlining the SIP; the LSB has made required information easier to access as well as making the areas where partnerships are developing more explicit. The reduction of the number of priority outcome areas offers greater opportunities for LSB members to receive updates on matters not previously brought before them. This will support the LSB to establish a wider watching brief and further develop knowledge and understanding of partnership/collaborative activity across the County Borough.

The review has led to changes being made to the reporting mechanisms used; this will make data/information clearer for LSB members, thus supporting quicker, more informed decision making. By changing the focus and structure of the LSB's reporting process it aims to create an objective platform of shared understanding of performance against the outcomes laid down in the SIP. This will be a catalyst for discussion and challenge which focuses on critical factors impacting on delivery of the SIP whilst further developing joint accountability across SIP partners and interested stakeholders.

By updating its working practices and ensuring effective communication is sustained at all levels, it aims to identify and capitalise upon opportunities for collaboration and integration. A practical example of this would be the LSB's agreement to the proposal that an approach be adopted to combine the work needed to fulfil the requirements of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act population assessment and the requirements of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act assessment of wellbeing. This will involve the production of one combined assessment for the Cwm Taf region to address the needs of both pieces of legislation.

Moving forward, by adopting a 'leaner' approach to how the Plan is reported on; the LSB can anticipate and plan more effectively for the required changes which will have to be made as it completes the transition from LSB to a Public Services Board (PSB); and the requirements of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act to which PSBs will have to respond. By introducing this 'step change' earlier, it will be able to collectively focus more on the steps to prepare an assessment of wellbeing for the County Borough and the subsequent Wellbeing Plan to meet identified need when the time arises.

Finally, by streamlining the processes the LSB undertakes, not only will it make the process-led elements more manageable but, more importantly, it can free up time to focus more on the projects/activities which aim to deliver positive impacts on the communities across Merthyr Tydfil County Borough. This impact will be clearly demonstrated through the preparation of case studies which will be more widely published as we move forward.