

**Cwm Taf Morgannwg
Regional Housing Support Collaborative Group (RHSCG)
9th June 2021– 2022 (Microsoft Teams) Q1**

Minutes

Item No											
1	<p>Welcome & Declarations of Interest</p> <p>Apologies:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Jennifer Ellis</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Paul Mee</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Julie McCarthy</td> <td>Rachel Honey Jones</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Louise Davies</td> <td>Sarah O'Keefe</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Luke Takeuchi</td> <td>Suzanne Lewis-Abbott</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Natalie Morgan Thomas</td> <td>Tim Thomas</td> </tr> </table>	Jennifer Ellis	Paul Mee	Julie McCarthy	Rachel Honey Jones	Louise Davies	Sarah O'Keefe	Luke Takeuchi	Suzanne Lewis-Abbott	Natalie Morgan Thomas	Tim Thomas
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2	<p>Minutes of previous meeting and actions. The minutes were accepted as being a true and accurate record of the previous meeting.</p> <p>Actions: Review of RHSCG Annual Statement (KF) RHSCG members returned their comments on the regional statement to KF.</p>										
3	<p>RHSCG report and Work Plan:</p> <p>WG report re 2020 to 2021 Kim Flower – (RDC) Regional Development Coordinator forwarded a short report to the Welsh Government outlining the achievements of this partnership for 2020/21.</p> <p>CTM RHSCG Annual Statement 2021 to 22 The CTM RHSCG Regional Annual Statement for 2021 to 2022 has now been submitted to WG</p> <p>Work Plan - A work-plan for 201/2022 has been drafted and is available for comment.</p>										
4	<p>Developing Regional Projects:</p> <p>The HSG presented an update on new regional projects and proposed projects:</p> <p>4.1 New - Regional Complex Health Team. (MH & SM) An update was given on the progression of this project that was originally funded via Phase 2 of the Covid 19 pandemic. The operational team has now been established to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A General nurse practitioner funded by CTM Health Board • Two specialist Nurses – Mental Health and Substance Misuse. • It is managed by a Steering group and its associated operational group. There is also a Separate task and finish group that is gathering data. <p>RL (Chair) thanked the on behalf of the RHSCG for their hard work and efforts in developing this partnership team.</p> <p>4.2 Potential of developing a new regional project 21/22. – Training. The HSG leads are considering the provision of a series of 'best practice' training elements for front line and support staff. This project is in the early stages of discussion and the HSG leads regionally are considering the viability and strategic relevance of providing such a project.</p>										

	<p>Suggestions were made by members of the RHSCG re topics that could be considered for this training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing legislation and homelessness policy - including the Housing Wales Act. • Trauma • Mental Health and Substance Misuse • Health and Wellbeing <p>A consultative survey is collating the views of support providers and the results of this exercise will influence a final decision.</p> <p>4.3 Progression of the ‘Off the Shelf’ projects</p> <p>1. BAME Scoping & Development pilot</p> <p>A Short term pilot project has been agreed, it is being carried out regionally, across Cwm Taf Morgannwg. It is to continue until the end of march 2022. BAWSO has been contracted for this project that will identify the specialist needs of the BME population, as well as considering the impact of harmful cultural practices. As part of this project, housing related support will be provided to BME victims who are threatened by or at risk of: Domestic abuse, Forced Marriages, Honour Based Violence’ FGM. It will provide support to BME victims for the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety planning (victim and family) • Housing, access to benefits, • immigration -right to reside /habitual residence test • debt/arrears • access to legal support • language support <p>The results of this pilot will inform future procurement decisions. The project includes funding of just over £10.500 provided through CTM VAWDASV. BAWSO are also required to prepare a report of their scoping exercise and data, quarterly to the RHSCG.</p> <p>2. LGBGTQ+ Scoping & Development project</p> <p>The HSG leads are considering the potential of contracting a short term research project that will identify the demands for services and the specific needs of LGBGTQ+ housing clients, within CTM region. Llamau currently manage a mirror project in North Wales and a report of the current provision of this project was provided to the RHSCG group. . A draft job description is being formulated and this outline of the project will inform the details of the potential contract. Counsellor Lewis (Chair) asked that this project be part of the future agenda of this group and gave consent to take this suggestion forward.</p>
5	<p>Housing/ Homelessness</p> <p>A key issue for Housing at this time is the availability of suitable accommodation in relation to there being a large increase in homelessness presentations; this lack of availability of suitable housing, to meet a growing need, is being identified across the region. All local authorities are in the process of developing their new Housing and Homelessness strategies and these will be published by April 2022.</p> <p>5.1 Bridgend RJ</p> <p>They are currently dealing with large numbers presenting as homeless and there are a high number of existing service users that are being housed in temporary accommodation. During the period of 24 April to 20 May there were 38 homeless presentations. As of 30th May they are accommodating 193 units of temporary accommodation and they are supporting nearly 300 people. The availability of housing is limited and as the tourism sector gets back to normal, this change in use of these premises reduces the availability of additional accommodation. Bridgend is having some success in relation to rapid rehousing and putting people into private rented properties but unfortunately the availability of accommodation is not growing as fast as the homelessness presentations. There are however a few phase two, new housing projects coming on board in the next couple of months that will provide some additional properties.</p>

	<p>5.2 Merthyr SS They currently have 160 in temporary accommodation and a further 110 in B&B – of this number 90% are single people. There is also a high number of offender presentations at this time. There is a struggle to accommodate all new presentations and to find adequate Move On and therefore there is a waiting list. There is good support being received off of RSL's and they are being given priority on all properties. A project that was granted WG Phase 2 funding will bring about a few available spaces. Additional staff have been employed in order to cover this period and there is a current emphasis on the development of a new Housing and Homelessness Strategy for the County.</p> <p>5.3 RCT CE There are 144 placements in B&B in RCT. Female homeless has increased There is some Move On in various housing options. Private landlords are supporting the efforts to house homeless. Some evictions from PRS are taking place as restrictions are removed. There is a concern regarding the potential marked increase in this area and the projection of there being higher numbers of cases presenting as homeless going forward. The system is being stretched and many cases for concern are related to clients with complex needs.</p> <p>Cllr GT acknowledged the concerns of housing and mentioned that there is effort being made to strategically plan and support the current efforts to help end homelessness. Focus is being given to social housing provision for the future and the development of appropriate homes for complex people.</p> <p>Other points of interest raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are challenges and difficulty in buying locally. Many houses are being bought at a high price by investors as they enter the market. • There has been an increase in funding in relation to the 'Social Housing Grant' • Much of the housing stock is deemed to be not fit for the future and therefore adjustments or replacements will be required. • Relationships with key partners are the key to successfully orienteering through this issue of appropriately housing all homeless and providing them with the support that is required.
6	<p>Partner & Stakeholder Updates</p> <p>6.1 Provider Update LG Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Partnership Forum had an increased number of attendees this quarter. LG outlined points raised at this housing support provider meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cymorth is looking to enhance the success of recruitment to the housing sector. There is a consideration on how to professionalise the roles of this sector and make it a professional career path. • There is a recognition that many potential employees have transferrable skills. • A discussion took place at the RPF in relation to the recent Benefits uplift that was given to support staff by local authorities. Some providers had found the eligibility criteria difficult to accept and recognised there was not a not consistent approach across Wales when issuing this benefit. • Cold weather provision is still going to be required in some form and providers expressed their concern in relation to their ability to appropriately house all homeless during next winter. Cymorth will take this point back to Welsh Government. • Members of the RPF asked for a presentation on the new Housing, Mental Health and substance Misuse specialist project at their next quarterly meeting. <p>6.2 Landlord Update - There was no report and no landlord attendance at this meeting.</p> <p>6.3 RSL update TT - gave his apologies and was not in attendance. <i>There were no forthcoming comments from partner agencies: Mental Health, Substance Misuse, VAWDASV, Probation, Police, OPCC, service user's voice, etc.)</i></p>

7	<p>RHSCG Regional Development 21/22 <i>'How can agencies better work together in order to assist potentially homeless clients that are in crisis?'</i></p> <p>The group considered the development of a regional, multi-agency workshop for 2021/22 that is made up of interested RHSCG members. The results of this task and finish event are to feed into the enhancement and development of future HSG funded projects.</p> <p>A discussion by the group led to the following suggestions: The focus of the workshop. 'How to assist the most complex clients'</p> <p>Consideration to be made on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case studies of clients that have proven to be the most difficult to serve in relation to housing and wellbeing. • The suggestions and views on their position by those that are struggling to fit the current system. E.g. 'what does a good result look like to you?' • The unmet needs of those people that have failed to find a satisfactory solution under the existing system. • Consideration of what else can be offered? • What else could they offer? <p>There is a potential to explore creative solutions such as :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More diverse housing options • Multi-agency solutions. • A fundamental shift including new ideas and new approaches <p>The following data can be used to inform the discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Rapid Health Needs Assessment of people that are homeless within the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board footprint' • The reports related to the 2020 HSG Service User and stakeholder surveys. <p>Actions: The date of this event is yet to be agreed. (Autumn 2021) The chair suggested that a representative of Welsh Government is to be invited to attend</p>
8	<p>AOB A request was made for an invite to be sent to Welsh Government so they can continue to have an active involvement with the group. There has been no presence since the group became the RHSCG.</p>
9	<p>Meeting Dates: Q3 Wednesday 1st December 2021 Q4 Wednesday 2nd March 2021</p>

A Welsh translation is available on request

9th June 2021

Attendees		Representing
Cllr Rhys Lewis (Chair)	RL	RCTCBC
Bosley, Kelly	KB	Probation
Ceri Ford	CF	APB Substance Misuse
Cheryl Emery	CE	Housing RCTCBC
Cllr Dhanisha Patel	DP	BCBC
Cllr Geraint Thomas	GT	MCBC
Deborah Evans	DE	VAWDASV
Flower Kim	KF	Regional Development Coordinator (Minutes)
Hannah Mills	HM	HSG MCBC
Jessica Ware	JW	HSG BCBC
Lorraine Griffiths	LG	Provider Rep
Morgan, Lowri	LM	Principle manager for accommodation. MCBC
Preece Sue	SP	HSG MCBC
Ryan Jones	RJ	HSG BCBC
Suzanne Stephens	SS	Housing MCBC
Apologies		
Claire Beynon	CB	Public Health Wales
Davies Louise	LD	SS RCT
Elis Jennifer	JE	RHA (deputy to LT)
Evans, Eirian	EE	Probation
Gronow Rachel	RG	RCTCBC
Julie McCarthy	JMC	Housing rep RPB
Louise Davies	LD	RCTCBC
Luke Takeuchi	LT	RPB Housing Rep
Lynne Berry	LB	BCBC
Melinda Miller	MM	CCG
Natalie Morgan Thomas	NT	CTM LHB <
Paul Mee	PM	SS RCTCBC
Rachel Honey Jones	RHJ	Housing rep RPB
Sarah O'Keefe	SO'K	Landlord Rep
Suzanne Lewis-Abbott	SLA	MCBC
Tim Thomas	TT	Private rented sector

