

**Cwm Taf Morgannwg
Regional Housing Support Collaborative Group (RHSCG)
1 September 2021 – (Microsoft Teams)**

Minutes Q2

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
Jennifer Elis	JE	RHA (deputy to LT)
Kelly Bosley	KB	
Kevin O' Neill	KO'N	MCBC
Lorraine Griffiths	LG	Provider Rep
Lowri Morgan	LM	MCBC
Melinda Powell	MP	Children's and Community Grant
Rachel Honey Jones	RHJ	Housing rep RPB
Ryan Jones	RJ	HSG BCBC
Sarah O'Keefe	SO'K	Landlord Rep
Suzanne Stephens	SS	Housing MCBC
Guests		
Bill Rowlands	BR	Ending Youth Homelessness Manager
Emma Evans	EE	Ty Pride Manager

No	
1	<p>Welcome & Declarations of Interest</p> <p><u>Apologies:</u> Luke Takeuchi, Paul Mee, Sarah Bonwick, Sue Preece, Suzanne Lewis Abbott</p> <p><u>Declarations of Interest:</u> There were no declarations of interest.</p> <p><u>Group Membership:</u> Thanks was extended to Cllr Geraint Thomas for his commitment to regional working within CTM and previously for his support to the Regional Collaborative Committee. RL the Chair, welcomed Cllr Kevin O'Neill whom is a new member to this group.</p>
2	<p>Minutes of previous meeting and actions.</p> <p><u>Minutes</u> The minutes were agreed as being a true record of the meeting.</p> <p><u>Actions from previous meeting:</u> The chair had requested an invite was to be extended to Welsh Government (WG) for a representative to attend this meeting. - Sarah Bonwick, the Regional Relationship Manager sends her apologies and a further invite is to be extended to WG representatives for the December 2021 or March 2022 meeting.</p>

3 **Developing Regional Projects:**

3.1 **A Presentation related to Ty Pride**, a LGBGTQ+ Housing provision. Guest Speakers: Bill Rowlands, 'End Youth Homelessness Cymru' Project Manager and Emma Evans, manager at Ty Pride.

The 'End Youth Homelessness Cymru coalition' has commissioned a number of pieces of research to inform the development of evidence-based solutions, including research into the true extent of youth homelessness in Wales.

Ty Pride is a 'first of its kind project' that provides bespoke support for LGBGTQ+ and young people who are at risk of homelessness. This project has been running in Denbighshire for the past 18 months and it is offering intensive, individual support specifically designed for LGBGTQ+ young people, aged between 16 - 25. The support available centres around a number of protected characteristics including age, sexuality, gender and disability (mental health). It helps to remove barriers for LGBGTQ+ young people accessing safe and supportive accommodation. The support aims to help guide them through their respective challenges whilst living in a comfortable, accepting environment, where they can be or become their true selves. In addition to the support the young people receive individual counselling from a specialist Psychotherapist.

Ty Pride services are oversubscribed and they have had referrals coming in from all corners of Wales but they cannot help everyone and therefore they are encouraging other local authorities to open projects which offer tailored support and a safe space specifically for LGBTQ+ young people."

Cwm Taf Morgannwg Scoping Project LGBGTQ+

Ryan Jones outlined a proposed scoping project related to LGBGTQ+ that would be commissioned by CWM regionally and funded via the Housing Support Grant (HSG). The purpose of this pilot project is to determine the local need and the viability of building a regional LGBGTQ+ project within CTM. Its findings and final report will be presented to the RHSCG in March 2022 and it will inform future strategic planning.

The RHSCG Chair RL opened the floor to members for them to put forward their views on this scoping exercise. The RHSCG membership agreed in principle to the implementation of the project.

3.2 **Specialist Mental Health & Substance Misuse Housing Outreach Service.**

A presentation by Ceri Ford outlined the development and progress to date, of this regional service that is being offered to individuals with complex needs who reside in homelessness hostels, B&B's and Housing First Projects. This multi-agency outreach service spans across Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and RCT Local Authorities. The project is managed by Housing, in partnership with Health and the APB (Substance Misuse and Housing providers).



HSG Board Meeting -
Specialist Health Hou

The attached Power point presentation (linked above) outlines the key points that were raised in relation to what is proving to be a highly successful partnership, aiming to support homeless individuals that are in greatest need.

The following slides outline the recent stats related to this project.

Number currently open on scheme	35
Open to substance misuse support worker	15
Open to mental health support worker	13
Individuals joint working with nurses / support workers	6
Pending allocation	1

Ford, Ceri

Total no. of referrals	48
No. of referrals accepted	37
No. of referrals declined as deemed inappropriate for service	11
No. closed	2
Reason for closure	No. of cases
Referred on to generic substance misuse service (e.g. Barod)	1
SU Declined further support	1

Total no. of referrals	48
No. of referrals from RCT	18
No. of referrals from Merthyr Tydfil	9
No. of referrals from Bridgend	21

Reason for Referral	Number of Referrals (%)
Mental Health & Substance Misuse issues overlapping	36 (75%)
Difficulty engaging in generic services / disengaged with generic services for Mental Health and/or Substance Misuse	26 (54.2%)
High Risk individual with severe mental health / heavy substance misuse / high risk due to substance misuse & medication	25 (52.1%)
Only mental health support requested	12 (25%)

Ford, Ceri

It is envisaged that further commitment will be made in order to develop and grow this project that is producing positive outcomes from the clients that have participated in the various services offered. It is already having a significant impact on current services and the ability to appropriately support those with a chaotic lifestyle.

RL the Chair of the RHSCG commended those involved in the growth and development of this project and reiterated the member's complimentary comments in relation to this scheme.

3.4 Research/ Scoping Project: BME scoping project in conjunction with BAWSO HM provided an update on a short term pilot project that is being carried out across Cwm Taf Morgannwg. It is a fixed term, regionally funded project that is directly related to BME clients that are experiencing cultural harmful practice. This project provides specialised support and signposting to BME victims who are threatened by or at risk of Domestic Abuse, forced marriages, honour based violence and FGM. The specialist staff (recently appointed), will gather analyse and present evidence which accurately reflects the needs of this specific community within Cwm Taf Morgannwg.

Desired Outcome: to provide regular update documents to; HSG leads and the Regional Housing Support Collaborative Group (RHSCG). A final report will Include recommendations for the potential development of an appropriate service designed to meet the needs of the specific client group. **Completion 31st March 2022**

Regional Training:

3.5 RJ provided an update on the developments in relation to the commissioning of regional training projects for Support Providers. Early stage discussion have taken place with the two providers and it has been agreed that they will cover the following topics.

CTM Mind

'Suicide First Aid'

'I Act' (Wellbeing and Mental Health)

	<p>Shelter Cymru ‘Housing and Homelessness’ This is a bespoke training package to equip learners with an understanding of relevant areas of Housing Law in Wales, enabling them to better support the people who use their services who are facing housing difficulties, loss of their home and homelessness.</p> <p>It was regionally agreed in principle to roll out these pilot projects until 31st March 22.</p>
<p>4</p> <p>4.1</p> <p>4.2</p> <p>4.3</p>	<p>Housing/ Homelessness - <i>Updates HSG Leads and Coordination Cell Leads</i> Key items being considered by all Local Authority Housing Teams In Cwm Taf Morgannwg:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A co-produced Draft Housing and Homelessness Strategy is to be presented to Welsh Government by each local authority in January 2022. • New guidance on the processes related to Rapid Rehousing is to be produced and circulated by Welsh Government this month. • Phase Two HSG funding has supported the development of many new projects. Associated Capital funding that is supporting building for future need is soon to expire and it. • Homeless presentations - Temporary guidance from Welsh Government determines that all those presenting as homeless should be eligible for housing and offered suitable accommodation. This president has ended the practice of people being accommodated according to priority need. • Eviction bans have eased which has impacted on the numbers of homelessness presentations and in some instances there has been a rise in the homeless presentations of families. <p>Bridgend (RJ)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a rise in demand for temporary accommodation (TA). - This increase is proving to be challenging. • There is an identified need to expand the TA Private Rented Leasing Scheme. • Some new housing development ‘Phase two projects’ are due to come on line and these will marginally increase the amount of new housing provision. • The Hardship Grant is a Welsh Government (WG) initiative for those who has accumulated rent arrears. • The WG Refuge relocation scheme has brought on line a few more properties. <p>Merthyr (SS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is experiencing a high numbers of homelessness presentations and over half of them are single people. • There is a struggle to provide properties. • There is a new early intervention project that may well ease the pressure on front line services. • Challenges - ASB in the town centre is causing issues. • Phase two funded projects may come on-board in October. • Adoption of the WG private leasing scheme. <p>Rhondda Cynon Taf (CE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High numbers of homeless are being accommodated in temporary accommodation. Half of those housed in B&B are single males.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experiencing high incidents of other homeless presentations such as homeless due to: Breakdown in relationships, Prison release and home repossession. There are currently more families presenting as homeless. • The Hardship Grant is designed to assist those in debt - the uptake of this grant is slow taking off. • 3 properties have been secured for refugees. <p>MCBC (Cllr KO'N) It is recognised that the Housing teams are doing a fantastic job in relation to partnership working. Demand for housing has become incredible. It is important for there to be an emphasis on partnership and joint working and for partners to have an appetite to jointly solve some of the presenting problems. – We need to want to work together and learn.</p> <p>Action: Chair RHSCG Cllr RL - Going forward this group will take an interest in the regional overview of the consultancy taking place in relation to the development of the Housing Strategies.</p>
<p>5</p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p> <p>5.3</p> <p>5.4</p>	<p>Partner & Stakeholder Updates</p> <p>Provider Update LG There was no feedback this quarter from the Regional Provider Forum</p> <p>Support Providers – LG brought forward Issues that they have raised within the last few months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providers are experiencing significant recruitment issues • There is currently a massive turnover of staff within the sector and this transition of staff is increasing. • Pobl has recently improve their offer to staff, to demonstrate their value to the organisation and encourage staff retention. • An issues has been raised by some providers – it was deemed that there was an unfairness in the allocation of social recognition payments that were paid in relation to Covid 19. It was reported that this disparity caused problems for providers. <p>Landlord Update SO'K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training has recently been produced in regards to Self-Neglect protocols • RSL's have been asked to provide further accommodation. <p>PRSL update No update.</p> <p>Partner updates: Rhondda Housing Association (RHA) are to provide properties for refugees. They are planning to support them in conjunction with other programmes. The support provision is to include; access to supportive networks, access to mental health support and financial inclusion.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>RHSCG Regional stakeholder event, linked to Strategic Planning This item will be considered for implementation in 2022. Next Meeting is Wednesday 1st December 2021</p>