

## Regional Housing Support Collaborative Group (RHSCG)

### Minutes of Meeting December 2020 – 2021 Q3 (Microsoft Teams)

#### Key Notes

- There is a lack of suitable accommodation available for the high number of clients that are presenting as being homeless. One of the key issues is the unavailability of suitable and affordable accommodation that meets the newly recognised standards of such provision.
- There is an identified need to purposely consider the recommendations made with the Health Needs Assessment; this report was commissioned by the Regional Collaborative Group.
- An evolving Cwm Taf Morgannwg (CTM) regional project is focused on providing a much needed crisis outreach service for Homeless Hotels and for Housing First housing schemes etc. Specialist workers will include those representing Health and Substance Misuse services.

		<b>RDC Notes and Minutes</b>												
1	Welcome & Declarations of Interest	<p>Cllr G Thomas welcomed those present.</p> <p><b>Apologies had been received from:</b> Dhanisha Patel, Louise Davies, Luke Takeuchi, Lynne Berry, Deborah Evans</p> <p>There were no declarations of Interest.</p>												
2	Minutes of Meeting	<p>The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as being a true record.</p> <p>All actions had been addressed.</p>												
3	RHSCG Membership & TOR	<p>There are a number of new members that have been added to the membership list.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"><b><u>New Members:</u></b></td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"><b><u>Representing</u></b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Melinda Miller</td> <td>Children and Community Grant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Claire Williams</td> <td>'The Service User's Voice'</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tim Thomas</td> <td>Private Rented Sector.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Angharad Metcalfe</td> <td>PCC office</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deb Evans</td> <td>VAWDASV</td> </tr> </table> <p>The Terms of Reference (TOR) document of the RHSCG had been circulated to all members. A request was made that members contact KF by email to accept the TOR.</p> <p><i>Cllr R Lewis (Chair) joined the meeting.</i></p>	<b><u>New Members:</u></b>	<b><u>Representing</u></b>	Melinda Miller	Children and Community Grant	Claire Williams	'The Service User's Voice'	Tim Thomas	Private Rented Sector.	Angharad Metcalfe	PCC office	Deb Evans	VAWDASV
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4	Homelessness updates:	<p>The Housing leads from Merthyr (SS), RCT (CE) and Bridgend gave a brief update of their regionally associated activities during this quarter.</p> <p>They covered the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homelessness –There is a lack of suitable accommodation available for the high number of clients that are presenting as being homeless. One of the key issues is the unavailability of suitable and affordable accommodation that meets the newly recognised standards of such provision.</li> <li>• Welsh Government provided the opportunity for local authorities to bid for funding' to provide appropriate accommodation for the homelessness. Each local authority outlined details of their Phase 2 funding bids.</li> </ul>												

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The recent WG announcement of an uplift to the funding of the Housing Support Grant (HSG) has been welcomed although this has provided the challenge of appropriately allocating this amount within a short time scale.</li> <li>• The increase in funding has afforded the HSG leads the opportunity to look at the potential for creating new regional projects.</li> <li>• New HSG Delivery Plans are currently being prepared by CTM housing teams along with a spend plan for 2021/22.</li> </ul> <p>Welsh Government are currently revising the HSG guidance document and this will be circulated to members of this group in due course.</p> <p>RL (Chair) acknowledged the valiant efforts of the homelessness teams and applauded the Housing Departments and their partners for their positive input, in these unprecedented times.</p>
5	Developing Regional Projects:	<p>There are currently two regional projects in the early stages of development:</p> <p><b>1. <u>Regional Complex Health Team. (Mental Health (MH) &amp; Substance Misuse (SM))</u></b></p> <p>A new MH &amp; SM Housing Outreach Service has been developed to provide a crisis outreach service for Homeless Hotels and for Housing First housing scheme. <i>The outreach service is regional across CTM and we are made up of the following components:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Substance Misuse Nurse</li> <li>• Mental Health Nurse</li> <li>• Substance Misuse Support worker</li> <li>• Mental Health support worker</li> <li>• Administrator.</li> <li>• 4 Therapists</li> </ul> <p>There is also a General Health Nurse that is employed by the UHB who will be integral to this service.</p> <p>The development of this project is progressing in partnership with Health and the Substance Misuse APB. The pay scale of the specialist nurses has been regraded and these roles are currently proceeding via the Health service recruitment processes.</p> <p><b>2. <u>National Lottery 'Helping End Homelessness' bid</u></b></p> <p>RJ - The National Lottery have launch a ten million pound pot of funding for Wales. CwmTafMorgannwg HSG leads have agreed to work regionally with the large group of stakeholders that have registered an interest in being part of this application for funding.</p> <p>'Cwm Taf Morgannwg Mind' on behalf of the partnership has recently put forward the Phase 1 expression of interest application, on behalf of the group. The result of this funding application will be announced the end of March 2021.</p>
6	Existing Regional Projects:	<p><b>Housing First</b> - continues to provide well needed long-term accommodation and support to potentially homeless clients throughout CwmTafMorgannwg. Overall, the projects are providing a comprehensive solution for those in the highest need of supported housing. These projects have now been running for a few years and they have assisted challenging individuals to become more settled. With Housing First being a long-term solution, it has the potential to take away housing from general needs stock.</p> <p>The increasing emphasis on the provision of 'Rapid Rehousing' has been a major challenge for housing teams during this period. There has been an evident lack of availability of: accommodation generally, adequate affordable housing and a lack of property that meets the expected standards of housing provision, that is required at this time.</p>

		<p><b>CT Regional Hostel provision</b> - The transition to a regionally commissioning hostel accommodation across cwm Taf has been successful. There are no major issues. The owner of Chaplains Hotel, (which is one of the hostels) has agreed to the provision of rooms for another 12 months.</p>
7	Provider Reps update	<p><b>LG - Regional Partnership Forum.(RPF)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing support providers have felt well supported by the local authorities during the preceding months. The changes in emphasis that had been made to services during crisis period have however been challenging. It is worthy to note that there are many reports being received form service user of good practice and examples of dedication that had been demonstrated by front line support staff.</li> <li>• The RPF meeting provides a regional voice to providers although due to low attendance, it is becoming evident that there is a need to promote the value of the forum to all housing support providers.</li> <li>• The Local authority Cell Meetings held during the last few months (that includes the local authority and key strategic partners with an interest in homelessness) have been a welcomed by providers. There is a hope that these can continue.</li> <li>• An issue raised at the RPF has been the strain and subsequent stress evidenced by frontline staff during the Covid Pandemic. Staff and service user wellbeing has been the key focus of all providers during these challenging time.</li> </ul> <p><b>Landlord update</b> - S O’K and J McC fed back to the group on behalf of registered social landlords (RSL). RSL’s have attended steering group meetings during Covid RCT and this partnership working proved to be highly beneficial.</p> <p>RSL partners have been involved in rapid rehousing and cell, meetings that has enable them to collectively deal with wider issues.</p> <p><b>Private Rented Sector</b> - TT reported on the Welsh Government social leasing scheme, where landlords can opt to have properties managed by local authorities; thereby guaranteeing the Registered Social Landlord (RSL) rental income on their properties.</p> <p>This scheme has provided an opportunity for vulnerable people to be housed within the private sector. This scheme has been piloted in Cardiff, Carmarthen, Cynon, Caerphilly and it has been more recently extended to RCT.</p> <p>RCT has set up a social letting agency RCT that is currently creating interest from Private Landlords.</p>
8	Health	<p>CB queried if any action had been taken as a result of the Health Needs Assessment that was commissioned by the Regional Collaborative Group.</p> <p>It was recognised that this report can be of significant value to partners when planning the strategic direction of CwmTafMorgannwg Homelessness agenda.</p>
9	RHSCG Forward planning:	<p><b>Regional Development Session – RHSCG 21/22 CE</b></p> <p>Welsh Government expect the RHSCG to hold at least one development session per year. Due to the current high level of demands on the HSG services, it was agreed that an ideal time for this event to take place would be in the late Spring or early Summer 2021. This is an identified as being an opportunity to carry out a significant piece of work underpinned by the CwmTafMorgannwg Health Needs Assessment.</p>
10		AOB – None.
11		Date of next meeting: 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2021

A Welsh translation is available on request

Attendees		Representing
Cllr Rhys Lewis (Chair)	RL	RCTCBC
Ceri Ford	CF	APB Substance Misuse
Cheryl Emery	CE	Housing RCTCBC Council
Chris Long	CL	Housing MCTCBC
Claire Beynon	CB	Public Health Wales
Cllr Geraint Thomas	GT	MCBC
Hannah Mills	HM	HSG MCBC
Hannah Kinsella	HK	OPCC rep for AM
Kelly Bosley	KB	Probation rep for EE
Kim Flower	KF	Regional Development Coordinator (Minutes)
Lorraine Griffiths	LG	Provider Rep
Lowri Morgan	LM	S.S. MCBC
Melinda Miller	MM	CCG
Rachel Honey Jones	RHJ	Housing rep RPB
Ryan Jones	RJ	HSG BCBC
Sarah O'Keefe	SOK	Landlord Rep
Sue Preece	SP	HSG MCBC
Suzanne Stephens	SS	Housing MCBC
Julie McCarthy	JMC	Housing rep RPB
Jennifer Ellis	JE	Representing LT Housing rep RPB
Tim Thomas	TT	Private rented sector
<b>Apologies</b>		
Dhanisha Patel		BCBC
Luke Takeuchi		RPB Housing Rep
Louise Davies		SS RCT
Paul Mee		SS RCTCBC
Lynne Berry		BCBC
Deborah Evans		VAWDASV