

Regional Housing Support Collaborative Group (RHSCG)

Minutes of Meeting 23rd September 2020 – Q2 (Microsoft Teams)

Attendees		
Cllr Rhys Lewis (Chair)	RL	RCTCBC
Ceri Ford	CF	APB Substance Misuse
Cllr Dhanisha Patel	DP	BCBC
Chris Long	CL	Housing MCTCBC
Cheryl Emery	CE	Housing RCTCBC Council
Ryan Jones	RJ	HSG BCBC
Hannah Mills	HM	HSG MCBC
Sue Preece	SP	HSG MCBC
Sarah O'Keefe	SOK	Landlord Rep
Lisa Voyle	LV	Landlord rep
Alyn Owen	AO	MCBC
Cllr Geraint Thomas	GT	MCBC
Cllr Chris Davies	CD	MCBC
Louise Davies	LD	PPS RCTCBC
Nichola Cowan	NC	Probation
Lorraine Griffiths	LG	Provider Rep
Claire Beynon	CB	Public Health Wales
Luke Takeuchi	LT	RPB Housing Rep
Heidi Jones	HJ	S.S MCBC
Lisa Curtis Jones	LCJ	S.S. MCBC
Lowri Morgan	LM	S.S. MCBC
Kim Flower	KF	Regional Development Coordinator (Minutes)
Apologies		
Gio Isingrini		S.S. RCBC
Eirian Evans		Probation
Rachel Honey- Jones		RPB Housing rep
Paul Mee		VAWDASV

Key message – Quarter 2.

The Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Housing Support Collaborative Group held a quarter 2 meeting on the 23rd September 20. This was the first meeting of this newly formed group.

The group considered their evolving work plan for the remainder of this financial year and were invited to put forward suggestions that would enhance the effectiveness of their collaborative partnership.

This group has prepared a Regional Statement that states the intent of the group for the remainder of 2020 – 21.

The members had an overview of the effects on homelessness and housing related services during the early stages of the Covid 19 pandemic. The group considered the challenges faced by Housing and its partner agencies to date and recognised the excellent partnership working and efforts evidenced during this time.

The membership of this group includes the partners recommended by Welsh Government and is further enhanced by a group of advisors that have been identified as being beneficial to the regional efforts of this partnership

		RDC Notes and Minutes
1	Welcome & Declarations of Interest	<p>Clr R Lewis welcomed those present. There were a number of new members as this was the first meeting of the Regional Housing Support Collaborative Group (RHSCG).</p> <p>A Declarations of Interest was made by RL during the meeting in relation to Agenda item 11 (P. Health)</p>
2	Minutes of final RCC Meeting	The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as being a true record.
3	RHSCG TOR & Membership	<p>The Terms of Reference (TOR) were circulated to members prior to the meeting. No comments were raised re this document and so were adopted.</p> <p>The Membership of this new group was considered. There are still a few gaps to include someone to represent Children and Community Grant (CCG), 'the Service user's voice' and Youth.</p>
4	Review of Regional Collaborative Committee (RCC) & Forward Planning Report RHSCG 20-2021	<p>The RCC/RHSCG are required by Welsh Government to produce a report for WG (by October 2020) to include the following elements:</p> <p>A review of the current regional strategic plan from 2019-20</p> <p>Identifying priorities and challenges that are still outstanding from the Regional Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Highlighting the main priorities for next year in line with the four main objectives of the RHSCG.</p> <p>KF the RDC gave a Brief overview of the paper, along with an outline of the purpose and determined priorities of the RHSCG group.</p> <p>There are four Priorities for the set within the Housing Support Guidance</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of specialist services for which there is not a critical mass locally. 2. Development of regional services where justified by economies of scale. 3. Delivery improvements to be achieved by collaboration. 4. Collaboration with other public services. <p>The chair invited comments from the attendees. - No comments were made.</p> <p>Action: The attendees were invited to forward any comments or recommended alterations related to this paper, to the RDC by 30th September 20</p>
5	RHSCG Regional Statement Sept 20 – April 21	<p>The CTM RHSCG are to produce a Regional statement for the remainder of 2020-2021</p> <p>KH (RDC) stated that Welsh Government directive to the RHSCG is as follows:</p> <p><i>'Whilst following guidelines set up a strategically appropriate forum that can enhance and grow the potential for regional working in all of its forms.'</i> Further direction on regional working can be found in the HSG Guidance document PG 21</p>

		<p>https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-02/housing-support-grant-practice-guidance.pdf</p> <p>All regions throughout Wales are shaping their RHSCG in slightly different formats taking into consideration their regionally based needs.</p> <p>An executive report on the CTM Regional Collaborative Committee (RCC) stated that Cym Taf Morgannwg have historically created a strong and successful forum. The RHSCG is confident that they have in existence regionally based projects and plans that can adequately satisfy the subscribed requirements of the WG.</p> <p>The RHSCG annual statement outlines the intentions for the next 6 months and demonstrates how the group aim to deliver against the four key priorities laid down in the HSG Guidance document. (Listed in Agenda item 4). There is an additional agreement added, which is 'to Prioritise consultation and needs assessment on a regional basis to reduce duplication for LA's and stakeholders.'</p> <p>The chair invited comments and suggestions related to this paper. - No comments were made.</p> <p>Action: The attendees were invited to forward any comments or recommended alterations related to this paper, to the RDC by 30th September 20.</p>
6	<p>Housing Support Group (HSG) Leads Updates :</p>	<p>The three Housing Support Grant (HSG) leads from RCT, Merthyr and Bridgend each presented a brief report of their journey to date through the Covid 19 pandemic.</p> <p>There were some reoccurring themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a high demand for the provision of emergency accommodation. • A Higher than average number of people have been seeking emergency accommodation. • There has been an increase in the number of single people presenting as homeless • There has been a marked increase in the collaborative nature and effectiveness of partnership working. <p>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.</p> <p>RL (on behalf of the group) 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>
6b	<p>New Regional Project MH & SM</p>	<p>C.F. outlined details of the newly evolving, regional project that provides a medically appropriate response for Substance Misuse and Mental Health provision for vulnerable clients. The model of provision is based on the Service that is currently provided in Cardiff. Professional support is provided directly to individuals in hostels and supported living accommodation.</p> <p>The specialist provision is for service users with high needs that find it difficult to access traditional services. The outreach service associated with this project will be regional, across CTM and includes the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance Misuse Nurse • Mental Health Nurse

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance Misuse Support worker • Mental Health Support worker • An Administrator.
6	National Lottery 'Helping End Homelessness'. - potential bid	<p>The National Lottery are about to launch a ten million pound pot of funding for Wales.</p> <p>The members considered a brief verbal summary by HM on the potential of creating a CTM regional project supporting LGBGT service users. This proposal could fill an identified gap in provision for a specific client group that is not adequately being represented at this time. There was a short debate on the need and suitability of the proposed project. CB PWH stated that the proposed project is one of the issues highlighted within the newly published 'Health Needs Assessment for Homeless People in Cwm Taf Morgannwg'.</p> <p>ACTION: HM was asked to put together a draft outline of the proposal that can be further considered by the group.</p>
7	Housing First Updates	<p>CE and HM gave brief updates regarding the progress of their Trailblazer-funded Housing First schemes (RCT & Merthyr.)</p> <p>(RJ): - A Bridgend scheme is funded through Housing Support Grant rather than Trailblazer fund. This project accommodates 5 adults.</p> <p>Also in Bridgend, there is a cohort of 8 – 10 people being worked with by the Housing First staff. 4 of these have very seriously complex needs and this project is funded by the Youth homeless innovation fund. It was recognised that there is the potential to consider a regional project in order to enhance this service.</p>
8	Regional Hostel Update	<p>Two years ago, the RCC looked at projects that could be managed regionally. Merthyr and RCT commissioned a 20-space hostel provision. With the assistance of consultants a report re this provision was presented to the RCC; the report recommended that this project be recommissioned. – Subsequently It was retendered to POBL at the beginning of the Covid pandemic. It was noted that this project was currently running smoothly and being well managed.</p> <p>LG from Pobl stated that the initial set up had been very challenging. They had taken over 4 hostels, had been recruiting new staff and improving processes.</p>
9	Landlord and provider Reps	<p>Provider feedback</p> <p>LG – The Chair of the Regional Partnership Forum (RPF) informed the group of the support provider's experiences of providing support during the Covid pandemic.</p> <p>Cymorth Cymru led the last meeting of the RPF, during which they carried out a survey and the group considered: How well the local authorities had performed during Covid phase 1 & 2. The consensus of opinion from the providers was that they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ were happy with the support that they received from LA's, ○ felt included, ○ were pleased that there was a transparent agenda going on ○ Had experienced a flexibility when they required leniency on contracts obligations.

		<p>The HSG leads wished thanked the providers for their supportive stance and efforts during this challenging period.</p> <p>Landlords</p> <p>There was no update at this time</p>
9	Partner & Stakeholder Updates / Comments	<p>Target Hardening:</p> <p>There is an identified need to take a closer look at Target Hardening provision and there is the potential of this aspect of VAWDASV provision to being considered on a regional basis. 'Demands for the provision of Target Harding is high.</p> <p>Public Health Wales – Vaccine Provision : CB</p> <p>CB Updated the group on vaccination planning and the current processes of dealing with cases. The Covid vaccination planning team is currently working closely with the three local authorities including looking for venues for mass vaccination sites.</p>
10	RHSCG Work plan 20/21 & 21/22 RCG planning meeting -Jan 21	<p>Following this meeting, a draft work plan (for 20/21) outlining the focus of the RHSCG is to be formulated. This document will form part of the discussion at meetings.</p>
	AOB	Date of the next meeting TBC.

A Welsh translation is available on request