

Cwm Taf Morgannwg
Regional Housing Support Collaborative Group
Regional Statement 2022/23
+ Regional Priorities for 23/24

April 2023

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Introduction:

The Cwm Taff Morgannwg (CTM) Regional Housing Support Collaborative Group (RHSCG) is a key mechanism for improving the regional delivery of the Housing Support Grant (HSG). The CTM region overarches three local authorities (Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taff & Bridgend), that work conjointly with their partners, to provide a forum for collaborative working.

There is recognition that the Regional Partnership Boards (RPB) provides the mechanism through which collaborative working between Health, Social Care and Housing can be further developed. The RHSCG intends to forge a close working relationship with the RPB and other identified boards, ensuring that services can be jointly commissioned, designed or focused to optimise the complementary purposes of supported Housing, Health and Social Care agendas. Partnership working is fundamental to the success of delivery of the HSG Programme and it is a priority of the RHSCG to ensure that the right partners are members of this group.

The HSG is primarily an early intervention programme that funds a wide range of housing related support and homelessness services for vulnerable people. It supports activity which prevents people from becoming homeless, stabilises their housing situation, or helps potentially homeless people to find and keep accommodation. The preventative nature of the programme supports local, regional and national policy objectives that help people to live independently in the community. Housing Support Grant services help prevent homelessness, social exclusion, isolation and institutionalisation. It also helps with the reduction of crime and disorder.

Local Authority teams currently have well established local and regional planning and commissioning frameworks that:

- Create a clear picture of the supply of services and identify housing related support needs across the localities and the region.
- Enable the planning of services to meet identified gaps in service provision.
- Develop and maintain quality services that are sustainable, strategically relevant and offer value for money.
- Ensure services are person-centred; putting the needs of service users first by conducting appropriate consultation and by providing opportunities to be involved in the planning, commissioning and review of Housing Support Grant funded services.

HSG Guidelines on Regional Working states that:

The Collaborative Groups belong to the Local Authorities who make them up and their accountability is to them as a collective. 'Regional working should provide a forum for local authorities to deliver those things which are best done regionally'.

These can be categorised as;

- ☐ (Cat) 1: Development of specialist services for which there is not a critical mass locally
- ☐ (Cat) 2: Development of regional services where justified by economies of scale
- ☐ (Cat) 3: Delivery of improvements to be achieved by collaboration.
- ☐ (Cat) 4: Collaboration with other public services



Progress against 2022-23 Priorities

Item:	Objective:	Progress 2022/23:
Development of specialist services for which there is not a critical mass locally.	Develop specialist services whilst working in unison with multi-agency partners, including stakeholders, frontline workers and the voice of the service user. E.g. To include a developmental workshop considering the requirements of potentially homeless clients with complex needs.	<p>We have continued to develop and expand the Specialist Health Outreach Team across the region, working with our most complex service users in temporary Accommodation and hostel accommodation who experience mental health and/or substance dependency co-occurring with homelessness.</p> <p>Development workshop with SU's who have multiple and complex needs will be deferred to next year's work plan due to no RDC being in post for a significant part of 22/23</p>
	<p>Data collation and analysis.</p> <p>- The production of Surveys and research data; (such as the 'Health Needs Assessment', Stakeholder and Service User surveys and HSG Housing Needs assessment data, that will subsequently highlight gaps in service provision and underpin the development of appropriate services. e.g. the housing needs assessment highlights a gap in provision related to LGBTQ+</p>	<p>We commissioned Llamau to undertake research into the needs of our LGBTQ+ service users. The information and data contained within the report will assist us with commissioning services which meet the specific needs of this service user group.</p> <p>This will roll on to the 23/24 work plan.</p> <p>A contracts mapping exercise will also be undertaken next year to allow LA's to bench-mark similar contracts and assist with commissioning services locally and potentially regionally</p>
	The collation of a regional 'Off the shelf register' of	Projects have been considered for strategic

	<p>proposed housing related services or projects. Taking advantage of ad hoc pots of money that become available through one off funding initiatives, or via slippage from existing projects.</p>	<p>relevance and regional viability by HSG Leads and at RHSCG</p> <p>The register of potential projects has allowed us to quickly commission services for which a need has been identified when funding opportunities become available.</p> <p>Three regional projects commissioned in 22/23 (DAPP, LGBTQI+ Research, BME specific research and support)</p>
<p>Development of regional services where justified by economies of scale.</p>	<p>RHSCG members to provide advice and support to the HSG leads in relation to the development of regionally based projects that are justified by economies of scale. Doing so whilst recognising that the regional HSG and Homelessness Leads are responsible for the planning, development and management of these projects.</p>	<p>During RHSCG Meetings opportunities for commissioning projects across the region are discussed.</p> <p>Proposals for new regional projects and pilot projects have been considered and approved by the RHSCG. In relation to all proposed projects HSG Leads receive advice and guidance from the group.</p> <p>Stakeholders and members of RHSCG advise HSG leads of gaps in services and the potential for partnership project development.</p> <p>Advice and guidance received within Strategic and operational partnership. These groups include members of Health, Substance Misuse and Housing.</p>
	<p>The RHSCG will consider the effectiveness and potential for extending current regional projects. E.g. Phase 2 funding released by WG during Covid-19 has been agreed for a CTM regional project, providing specialist support for homeless via mental health and substance misuse provision.</p>	<p>Funding was secured to expand the regional Health Outreach Team through the APB and WG Complex needs funding. The LHB has agreed to make the specialist health nurse linked to the scheme a permanent post which further stabilises the regional scheme.</p>
	<p>Analysing and reacting to regionally based surveys</p>	<p>Research projects (LGBTQI+ and BME were completed -</p>

	and needs assessment data that is evidencing common needs or gaps in provision. This intelligence provides the potential to consider projects that could fill gaps in current service provision. E.g. taking advantage of new funding or the reassignment of funds to provide specialist provision and support; such as a wet house, specialist disability related services, or the potential of gender affiliated projects.	these will now support us to make commissioning decisions for these small cohorts of people requiring support. As a result of stakeholder feedback, CTM regionally commissioned a programme of staff training to include; Statutory Homelessness Duties, The Private Rented Sector and Introduction to Homelessness, Suicide First Aid and IACT (Positive mental health & wellbeing). Training complete.
Delivery of improvements to be achieved by collaboration.	The RHSCG will ensure that there continues to be collaboration and partnership working at a regional level to deliver improvements to services. Doing so whilst working closely with colleagues in the RPB, PSB, APB, VAWDASV and other boards within the regional governance landscape. Sharing data and collaborating to ensure strategic alignment.	All regional projects at all stages are presented to the LA planning groups. The RPB housing reps are both members of the RHSCG as is the RHSCG Chair. We are well informed of the work of the RPB and potential opportunities to collaborate. We work very closely with the APB and VAWDASV steering board and have jointly commissioned services with them both (DAPP and BME research and support).
	HSG teams will continue to collaborate and work together with wider stakeholder, service users and frontline partners to consider improvements that can be made to the regional aspect of delivery in relation to the HSG programme both locally and regionally.	Service user and stakeholder engagement is crucial to the ongoing development of HSG services across the region. We consulted widely with stakeholders and service users to develop priorities and identify gaps in service. Consultation with Health and SM Strategic lead to an application being made to 'change4ever' - support to change systems which was successful.
	Taking advantage of partnership opportunity that enhance the effectiveness of housing	We jointly commissioned a piece of research in partnership with the VAWDASV Steering board

	support provision (whilst avoiding duplication of effort by housing and partner groups. i.e. Collaboratively identifying housing related priorities across other work streams and creating task and finish groups to reduce duplication of effort.	which met the needs of both groups whilst ensuring no duplication of service and maximising the impact for service users now and in the future.
Collaboration with other public services.	Formalising links and lines of communication related to regional working, for HSG: such as the continuation of cell meetings. e.g. Make better connections with: Police and probation / possibly pooling funding or joint commissioning. Co-locating services, as we have with health. Exploring opportunities with ex-offenders and how we support them.	Cell meetings are less relevant post-pandemic, however, the links and partnerships forged during the pandemic continue to support the delivery of HSG services across the region.
	Ensuring that the multi-agency membership of the RHSCG is fit for purpose and includes relevant officers from other public service areas will be a priority for the RHSCG.	The membership of the group is relevant with a good turnout across all three LA areas. Membership is reviewed and updated regularly and includes most WG recommended members, as per WG guidance. (2 x vacancies at time of writing this doc - in process of appointing to these roles)
	Enhancing partnership relationships and improving bridges that link housing with its partners. The Housing Minister (March 21) suggests partnerships are to consider how they work together in their area. They are to review their own arrangements and alignments and to put in place the arrangement that make most sense in local circumstances.	In CTM there are excellent relationships between housing and partners. The relationship between housing and health particularly has become much stronger over the last 12 months with the expansions of the specialist health and housing team. Although there is no longer a requirement for elected members to be involved in RHSCG's; within the CTM region our elected members bring a vital contribution to the progress of regional working and have been

		heavily involved in the progress made over the last 12 months. 2 x new elected members to join the RHSCG in May 23 (RCT and BCBC).
	Housing Ministerial recommendation: all partnerships make available online basic information outlining your terms of reference, your vision, your membership, progress and how citizens or communities can get involved.	All information can be found online via: Cwm Taf Regional Collaborative Committee (RCC) Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council This includes; TOR of the group, annual service user and stakeholder surveys, minutes of meetings and key messages along with stakeholder publications.
Other considerations.	Reconfiguring, reviewing and assessing current service provision - Consideration and discussion to ensure sustainability of any new services developed during this period at a regional level.	Updates on regional projects are provided during RHSCG Meetings. Discussions take place regarding the potential development of new services.
	Reports to Welsh Government - RHSCG to submit an annual regional statement by end of April each year setting out the collaborative working that has been achieved and the key opportunities and challenges that will be the group's priorities through the next year.	The RHSCG members have had sight of this regional statement (in April 23) and have approved it.
	Submission of a six monthly position update setting out how the RHSCG is progressing in delivering against their priorities in their region.	These have been submitted as requested - RDC post vacant for the majority of 22/23
	Attendance at Housing Support Network - RDC to attend Housing Support Network meetings to be able to share good practice and have an understanding of emerging issues and any lessons learnt for local authorities which may impact on regional working.	The HSG leads and RDCV are disappointed that the Housing Network has ceased. This provided a vital means of communication and information sharing for the sector and LA's across Wales.

Cwm Taf Morgannwg RHSCG Priorities 2023 – 2024

1: Development of specialist services for which there is not a critical mass locally.

- Developing specialist services whilst working in unison with multi-agency partners, including stakeholders, frontline workers and the voice of the service user.
- Discussion and consideration of the scoping project which was undertaken in 21/22 relating to LGBTQ+ and BME specific housing support services to inform a commissioning decision for the future.
- To continue the monitoring and development of the Specialist Health Outreach Team, to build on progress already achieved with potential expansion to support additional numbers of service users.
- The collation of a regional 'On the shelf register' of proposed housing related services or projects. Taking advantage of ad hoc pots of money that become available through one off funding initiatives, or via slippage from existing projects.
- The creation of a regional 'Contracts Register' to capture what is being commissioned regionally and the cost.

2: Development of regional services where justified by economies of scale

- RHSCG members to provide advice and support to the HSG leads in relation to the development of regionally based projects that are justified by economies of scale. Doing so whilst recognising that the regional HSG and Homelessness Leads are responsible for the planning, development and management of these projects
- The RHSCG will consider the effectiveness and potential for extending current regional projects. E.g. further expansion of specialist support for homeless via specialist mental health and substance misuse provision.
- Analysing and reacting to regionally based survey and needs assessment data that is evidencing common needs or gaps in provision. This intelligence provides the potential to consider projects that could fill gaps in current service provision.

3: Delivery of improvements to be achieved by collaboration

- The RHSCG will ensure that there continues to be collaboration and partnership working at a regional level to deliver improvements to services. Doing so whilst working closely with colleagues in the RPB, PSB, APB, VAWDASV and other boards within the regional governance landscape.

HSG teams will continue to collaborate and work together with wider stakeholder, service users and frontline partners to consider improvements that can be made to the regional aspect of delivery in relation to the HSG programme both locally and regionally.

- Taking advantage of partnership opportunity that enhance the effectiveness of housing support provision (whilst avoiding duplication of effort by housing and partner groups. i.e. Collaboratively identifying housing related priorities across other work streams and creating task and finish groups to reduce duplication of effort. Emphasis on provision for those with extreme complex needs.

4: Collaboration with other public services.

- Formalising links and lines of communication related to regional working, for HSG e.g. making better connections with:
 - Police and probation / possibly pooling funding or joint commissioning services, as we have with Health and Substance Misuse.
 - Exploring opportunities with ex-offenders and how we support them.
- Ensuring that the multi-agency membership of the RHSCG is fit for purpose and includes relevant officers from other public service areas will be a priority for the RHSCG.
- Enhancing partnership relationships and improving bridges that link housing with its partners. (The Housing Minister (March 21) suggests partnerships review their own arrangements and alignments and put in place the arrangement that make most sense in local circumstances).
- Satisfying the Housing Ministerial recommendation: - All partnerships make available online basic information outlining your terms of reference, your vision, your membership, progress and how citizens or communities can get involved.

Other considerations:

- **Reconfiguring, reviewing and assessing current service provision** - Consideration and discussion to ensure sustainability of any new services developed during this period at a regional level.
- A regional supply map of services is to be collated along with a regional spend plan so that oversight at a regional level can be undertaken by the RHSCG.
- **Reports to Welsh Government** – RHSCG to submit an annual regional statement by end of April each year setting out the collaborative working that has been achieved and the key opportunities and challenges that will be the group's priorities through the next year.
- Submission of a six monthly position update setting out how the RHSCG is progressing in delivering against their priorities in their region.

The Cwm Taf Morgannwg RHSCG has shown a long-standing commitment to regional working and collaboration. The RHSCG has been central to the development of regionally commissioned supported accommodations and floating support schemes. It has worked in partnership with the Local Health Board to support the establishment of a multi-disciplinary team in order to support some of the most vulnerable service users across the region and has supported the culture of collaborative working in the three local authority areas, resulting in the alignment of policies and procedures. The RHSCG members are

committed to continuing to progress this work during the next twelve months, and to supporting the three LA's to develop services that meet the needs of our communities.

Annex 1: RHSCG Membership list - April 2023

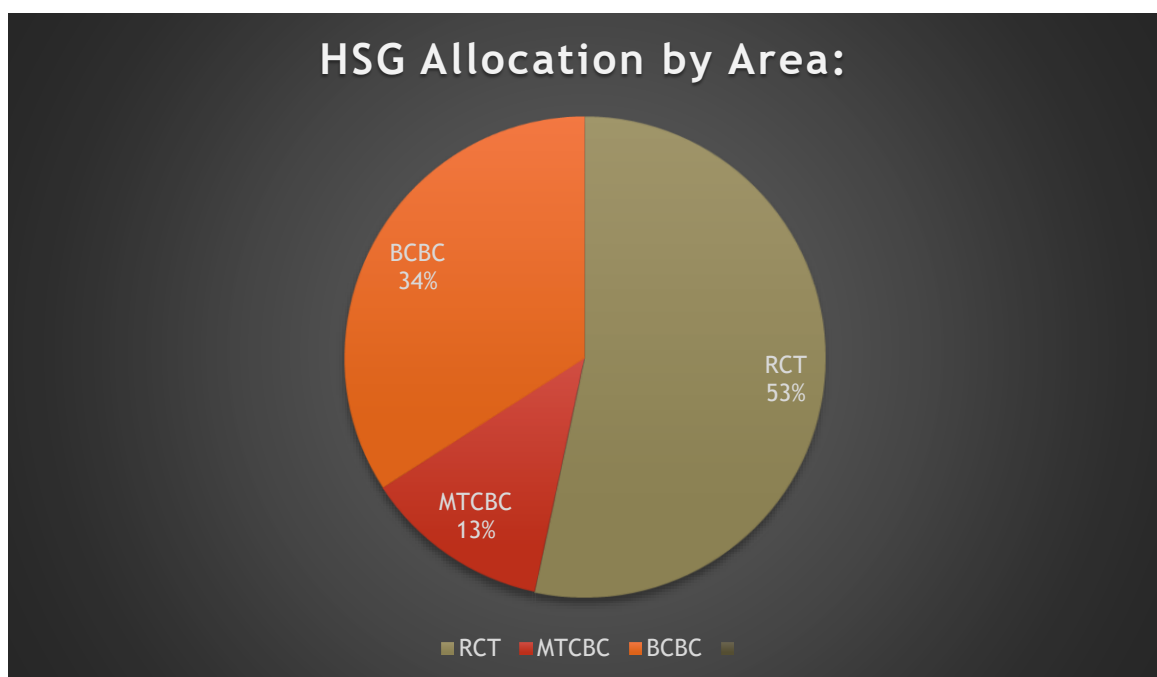
RHSCG Membership	Organisation /Service	*	Representatives
Local Authorities - HSG Strategic Leads and nominated representatives	Housing & Homelessness	M	Suzanne Stephens Hannah Mills
	Housing & Homelessness	R	Cheryl Emery Susan Preece Rachel Gronow
	Housing & Homelessness	B	Lynne Berry Ryan Jones Jessica Ware Zoe Leonard
	Cabinet Member MTCBC	M	Cllr Geraint Thomas
	Cabinet Member BCBC	R	Cllr Bob Harris
	Cabinet Member RCTCBC	B	Cllr Rhys Goode
	Service Director, Public Protection Services	R	Louise Davies
	Social Services	M	Lisa Curtis Jones Kristie Williams (deputy)
Regional Partners	Probation		Emma Richards Kelly Bosley
	Youth Justice		Christa Bonham-Griffiths
	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner OPCC		Angharad Metcalf
	Substance Misuse APB		Ceri Ford
	VAWDASV Regional Partnership Board		Deborah Evans
	Children and Communities Grant		Melinda Powell
	Public Health Board CTM		Claire Beynon
	Mental Health		TBC
Third Sector Support provider and Landlords	Support Providers Rep		Lorraine Griffiths (POBL)
	Social Housing Landlords Reps		Julie McCarthy (MVH) Sarah O'Keefe (WWHA)
	Private Rental Sector		Tim Thomas
	Regional Development Coordinator		Kelly Francis
Others	Service users' voice		TBC
	Housing reps from RPB		Rachel Honey Jones

		Emma Howells (deputy) Luke Takeuchi Jennifer Elis (deputy)
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Annex 2: Regional HSG Funding Allocations

The Housing Support Grant is allocated to all LA's across wales. The Cwm Taff Morgannwg Local Authorities receive the following grant awards in order to deliver Housing Support on a local level and to contribute towards regional priorities for Cwm Taff Morgannwg.

Authority:	LA HSG Award:
Bridgend C.B.C	£7,833,509.33
Rhondda Cynon Taf C.B.C	£12,236,632.90
Merthyr Tydfil C.B.C	£2,873,282.13
Total Allocation:	£22,943,424.40



The Cwm Taf Morgannwg 2023 - 2024 Work-Plan

During 23/24, the RHSCG will continue to work on the priorities identified in the 22/23 work plan (Page 4 – 8) and the priorities agreed for 23/24 (Page 9 – 10)

- Development of specialist services for which there is not a critical mass locally
- Development of regional services where justified by economies of scale
- Delivery of improvements to be achieved by collaboration.
- Collaboration with other public services

Acronyms

APB	Area Planning Board
CTM	Cwm Taf Morgannwg
HSG	Housing Support Grant
LA	Local Authority
LCP	Local Commissioning Plan
PSB	Public Services Board
RCC	Regional Collaborative Committee
RHSCG	Regional Housing Support Collaborative Group
RPB	Regional Partnership Board
RPF	Regional Partnership Forum
RSP	Regional Strategic Plan
SP	Supporting People
VAWDASV	Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse Sexual Violence
WG	Welsh Government

Regional Development Co-ordinator
Cydlunydd Datblygu Rhanbarthol

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