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**VALE OF GLAMORGAN AND CARDIFF**

**REGIONAL COLLABORATIVE COMMITTEE**

**Minutes 5th September 2017**

**Present:**

Cllr Lynda Thorne – Cardiff (Chair)

Frances Beecher – Cymorth Rep (Vice Chair)

Mike Ingram – VGC

Jane Thomas- CCC Hedd Wyn John - VGC

Kate Hollinshead – RDC (minutes) Neil Sutcliffe – CCC

Yvonne Connolly – Cymorth Rep

Janice Bell – CHC Rep

**Apologies:**

Vicky Harris CRC

Mark Davies – PAG

Louise Bennet – PAG

Phil Richardson – CHC Rep.

Conrad Eydmann – C&V UHB

Cllr Andrew Parker - VGC

Pam Toms - VGC

Sarah Wills – Cymorth Rep

Helen Jones – VGC

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| **Agenda item** | **Action** |
| 1. **Welcome, introduction, apologies and declaration of interest**   FB welcomed everyone to the meeting.  Introductions were made around the table.  Declarations of interest were signed by members who hadn’t yet signed them.  The RCC noted their appreciation of the work Cllr Elsmore had undertaken as Chair of the Vale and Cardiff RCC and wish to pass on their thanks.  Cllr Thorne was proposed as Chair by FB. This was approved by all members.  FB advised that she felt it was time for her to step down as Vice Chair and proposed YC as Vice Chair to take over in the new year. This was approved. FB will work with YC to take over her position between now and the new year when YC will officially take over the position of Vice Chair.  FB handed over to LT to Chair the rest of the meeting. | Any members who have not signed declaration of interest to sign.  FB to work with YC to take over as vice chair in the new year. |
| 1. **Minutes of meeting, 2nd May 2017 and Matters Arising**   The minutes were agreed as a true record.  Matters arising  Benefit Cap summary – FB has requested that this is an excellent piece of work but would like the Vale to get the figures needed in order to make it truly regional so that it can be sent to WG/SPNAB.  The RCC would like WG chased over the Supported Housing Review paper. | The Vale to get the missing figures for the benefit cap work. KH to regionalise once received.  KH to chase WG for a date for the SAR paper. |
| 1. **RDC report to the RCC**   Paper circulated with agenda. The main points were:   1. The new SPPG and Outcomes Framework was sent out for consultation by WG on 15th May 2017. The closing date for consultation was 4th August 2017. 2. The Strategic Finance and Research group have circulated a policy paper for RCC responses by 30th June 2017. 3. WG are working closely with Cymorth and WLGA to ensure a more joined up approach between homelessness and supporting people to ensure that people receiving SP services are being assessed under S62 of the Homelessness Act 2015 if they are threatened with statutory homelessness, in order that statistical collections are accurate. 4. As a result of the local elections, the Vale are now under the control of the Conservative Party and Cardiff will remain Labour. The new Cllr for the Vale is Cllr Andrew Parker, and the new Cllr for Cardiff is Cllr Linda Thorne. 5. The Supported Accommodation Steering Group has held its first meeting to consider the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and the case for change. It is expecting to publish widely relevant information shortly. 6. WG are restructuring the Supporting People Team. It is hoped that the restructure will be completed by the end of August. Until that time Simon Protheroe will remain SP lead, when his role will be taken over by Paul Webb. Steve Lynch and Donna Lemin have both left the team. WG will inform LAs when they know who will be taking over their roles. 7. There is a SPNAB development session being held on 21st September which all Chairs, vice Chairs and RDCs have been invited to attend. |  |
| 1. **Vale LA update**   Paper tabled  HWJ - The SP Team has recently undergone a restructure; the historical structure of 3x Contract Monitoring Officers has been replaced by 1x Senior Contract Officer, 1x Contract Monitoring Officer and 1x Gateway Officer. The Senior Contract Officer and Contract Officer posts have been filled. The process for recruiting to the Gateway Officer is underway.  The plan is to set up a single point of entry Gateway for both floating and static support in the Vale of Glamorgan which will be overseen by the Gateway Officer once the post is filled. The views of current providers, partners and stakeholders in the Vale will be sought on what the Gateway should look like as part of the comprehensive consultation process which we intend to put in motion once the new Gateway Officer has started.  The SP Team has been working on collecting and analysing the Welsh Government Outcomes returns. All outcomes data has been collected and the returns completed and submitted to Welsh Government within the August 31st deadline.  The SP Team is currently in the process of collecting needs mapping data to feed into the Local Planning Group meeting which is due to meet on 28th September.  Pilot schemes update:  1. **PAG Pilot:** The Taff pilot working with the Poverty Action Groups and mapping interventions. This pilot is going well and we are finding very little in the way of duplication. Data is being collected for a final report.  2. **Tŷ Iolo Pilot:** Taff’s pilot of working with the families in the hostel and in our temporary accommodation has been successful and families are being supported through the temporary accommodation route. This new way of working is now incorporated into the contract with Taff.  3. **Drop-in Pilot:** Gwalia pilot of working with the Housing Solutions team is proving successful and people are having immediate support when presenting as homeless. This new way of working is now incorporated into the contract.  4. **Domestic Abuse Dispersed Pilot:** The dispersed refuge provision is going well with all properties being occupied. Atal Y Fro are working with Cardiff university to undertake an evaluation of this pilot.  5. **Young People Pilot:** The joint pilot with Social Services was unable to start in the previous financial year due to delays with the property. This year we are looking to fund the pilot with Social Services as previously requested and agreed. The pilot is due to be up and running by the end of the year.  **Tenders:** The planned retender alongside Social Services of the Supported Living Services in the Vale has been put on hold for the time being due to the Supported Housing Review. An independent review of the Housing Related Support that was taking place in Supported Living and Adult Placement was commissioned by Supporting People earlier this year and we are working with Social Services to identify budget savings as the amount and type of HRS doesn’t justify the cost of units.  The Community Mental Health Floating Support scheme was retendered in July; the service was reconfigured as part of the tender to reflect an increased demand for mental health. The contract was award to Gofal.  The following services are due to be retendered in 2018:  Dispersed Domestic Abuse Service  Older Persons Service (Warden & Extracare)  Emergency Alarm Service  Discussions and meetings have taken place with the Cardiff Supporting People Team about the regional commissioning of Domestic Abuse Services and Older Persons Services. A specific update on this has been prepared separately.  JT – are alarms supplied in house in the VOG?  HWJ – they are currently.  JB – Is the Ty Iolo pilot just supporting Ty Iolo residents?  HWJ – they are able to support people living in Ty Iolo hostel and the surrounding TA units. |  |
| 1. **Cardiff LA update**   Paper tabled.  NS - **Accommodation & Support Recommissioning**  **Generic Floating Support Services**   * New contract arrangements commenced from 1st April 2017. * Regular service monitoring and performance management undertaken. Regular meetings with the new providers continue to discuss issues and to develop additional tangible service outcomes for service users.   **Older Person’s Services**  **Alarms**   * Developed common (CCC & VofG) eligibility criteria for supporting people funding of community alarm services. * Shared with the RCC OP Task & Finish Group and responding to points raised. * Internal consultation taking place and planning consultation with landlords and their tenants. * Intention to introduce from April 2018 for new tenants/service users only.   **Support**   * Explored the feasibility of a regional service with the Vale of Glamorgan Council * Reviewed existing service provision and identifying possible demand.   **Gender Specific Services**   * Commissioning three service elements within one contract   + - One Stop shop     - Accommodation based support     - Community based support * Welsh Women’s Aid has assisted with development of a service specification and this has been further developed through working groups inclusive of all stakeholders looking at various areas of the specification such as Accommodation, IDVAs/Floating Support, victim support and perpetrator initiatives. * Service User involvement will continue during 2017 to include those who have expressed an interest in helping further with the consultation and tender evaluation. * Working closely with Legal services and Commissioning & Procurement Services to develop contracts and tender documents.   **Young Persons Services**   * Scope of commissioning currently under consideration * Working closely with Children’s Services, Education and Families First, Youth Services and Homelessness in service design and requirements. * Consultation to commence shortly with service users and potential providers   **Innovation Bids**   * With the savings realised from the Generic Floating Support commissioning and no reduction in our allocation we invited providers to submit proposals for projects that were to be delivered during 2017/18. These projects are time limited and aimed at helping to inform future service delivery in an increasingly challenging financial environment. 14 proposals were received * Following evaluation of the proposals 4 projects meeting the criteria were taken forward and awarded grant funding * The Wallich – Cardiff Solutions (Rough Sleeper) project * The Wallich/YMCA – Ty Tarian (Women at risk of sexual exploitation) * Salvation Army – Complex Needs Resettlement project * Salvation Army – Housing First project * We also developed some internal service provision; to address rough sleeping in the city and to support people placed in temporary accommodation move to the private rented sector.   Cardiff are considering a new outcomes process internally that will be more meaningful for them. |  |
| 1. **Regional Commissioning**   HWJ - The RCC have been tasked with ensuring the Supporting People projects in both of its regions have been jointly commissioned and that schemes cover both areas. Both the Vale and Cardiff have been meeting regularly to begin this process and to initially look at Domestic abuse schemes and the Older Peoples services.  We have held several meeting, looked at needs mapping in our areas, and looked at other regions schemes and contract specifications to see if they would fit what we required. Initially we reported to the RCC that we were able to commission two services on a regional basis: The domestic abuse dispersed scheme and the Older peoples scheme covering warden and Extra care complexes (Alyward compliance).  Unfortunately we now have to report that both regions have failed to come to an agreement on the services proposed for the older people. Cardiff have undertaken their needs mapping and report they have no need for this service as its covered under their generic floating support scheme. The Vale have undertaken a needs mapping exercise and held talking workshops with older people and wish to retender the current service and incorporate the findings of the workshops into a new service specification. The Vale is currently seeking approval to do this from the Planning group.  In regards to the Domestic abuse scheme the Vale initially began running a pilot in November 2016 of dispersed refuge provision to support people experiencing domestic abuse who couldn’t access conventional refuge, this included women, men and transgender people. Cardiff had already begun to tender their women only services which included all of their domestic abuse schemes. The Vale pilot is proving successful and has supported two male clients as well as several women. Cardiff have decided they did not want to have a gender neutral scheme due to their current tendering of women services and are exploring the possibility of having a wider male domestic abuse regional scheme which would cover not only Cardiff and the Vale but Bridgend, Swansea and the PCC areas as well. The Vale is willing to contribute to this scheme if there is a direct access refuge provision attached which victims from the Vale could access.  Both teams continue to work together to explore the possibility of other regional schemes and will keep the RCC updated.  NS – Cardiff are still considering the demand for OP specific services as most cases are being picked up under the generic contracts.  JB – I previously managed an OP service and lots of the support was similar to generic support.  JT – the wardens are no longer on site 24/7 and there has been no extra demand for support.  NS – the wardens are still carrying out their housing management function and this is covering a lot of people’s basic support needs. Some landlords have stopped providing a warden service and this has not led to an increase in referrals either.  MI – the lack of increase in demand demonstrates that a lot of the support that was going on in warden’d properties was actually housing management.  NS - We’ve agreed a regional alarms criteria with the Vale.  NS - Cardiff are considering a male service for DA cases rather than the gender neutral service that the Vale is piloting. The option for the Vale to contribute towards a regional male victims service.  MI - There is some regional work going on between the Cardiff and the Vale and the LHB re OP accommodation to see if it is being used to the maximum affect. We’re looking to align capital resources and may need an independent living manager. It is likely to be 12/18 months before any official recommendations.  JT – Cardiff are looking to employ a consultant to help us assess need and understand Sheltered accommodation to categorise it appropriately.  LT – we need to differentiate between sheltered and retirement accommodation. |  |
| 1. **LHA for Supported Housing**   JB – Paul Webb is carrying out some consultation events.  FB – there is not a lot happening at the moment with this. I can ask the Cymorth/WG group to provide a paper for the RCC.  YC – The Salvation Army has done a national report that I will circulate to the group. I could also ask the person who wrote it to speak to the RCC.  JT – Cardiff are looking at shared accommodation models for people under 35.  FB – Llamau have used shared accommodation previously. We can share the lessons learned.  YC – the Salvation Army also has a similar project. When things go wrong in shared accommodation they go very wrong. Some people’s expectations are unrealistic re their accommodation.  JT – we can’t afford to build lots of accommodation at £55 per week, and we don’t want to build it all together.  FB – you could consider the friendly landlord approach.  YC – matching is important but even then it is likely that one resident will move on before the other and it is difficult to find a second suitable match.  KH – The Vale have a project with Newydd called Rooms 4 you who may be useful to link with.  LT – can we set up a working group prior to the November RCC to look at some options and feed back? | FB to request paper from Cymorth/WG group to share with RCC  KH to set up working group prior to Nov RCC |
| 1. **General Election**   FB – some of the larger charities are positive about the central government’s policy on rough sleeping as there is more money for this under the new homeless legislation.  YC – prevention is important. How do providers inform people?  FB – there is a JR on the implications for 18-21 year olds under the Welfare Reform Act 2012. There is also a discussion going on between Ministers and the DWP, trying to turn things around so that people don’t have to prove their exemption. There are 20-25 3rd sector organisations taking it forward. |  |
| 1. **Links with Local Planning Groups**   KH and YC explained that the RPF had asked for more information about who sits on the LPGs in the region.  NS – Cardiff’s LPGs are split up to suit the commissioning that is going on. There are lots of members from the statutory and 3rd sectors.  FB – could we have a diagram to inform the RPF?  JT – every provider is invited to the planning groups but they are divided into different streams.  NS – the planning groups are attached to the working groups. We’ll draw up a map.  HWJ – the Vale have one LPG with representatives from health, housing, social services, criminal justice and providers. Sarah Wills is the provider rep for the Vale. When we’re consulting services we invite specific providers. The Vale will draw up a map too. | NS to draw up a map of the agencies involved in Cardiff’s LPGs  HJ to draw up a map of agencies involved in Vale’s LPGs |
| 1. **Links with regional partnership boards (RPBs)**   LT and AP sit on the RPB.  FB requested that the RPB reps do a presentation for the RCC in a few months to see how the groups link together, where the RPB are at present, what their priorities are etc. | LT and AP to present information about the RPB to the RCC in a few months’ time. |
| 1. **LA strategies for potential budget reduction in the SP budget for 2018/19**   HWJ – LD schemes could save approximately £150k for the Vale. This is in keeping with the WAO report pushing for LD costs to be reduced.  MI – there is flexibility within the existing contracts if there are significant cuts. We won’t be looking to tinker with services. Difficult decisions will have to be made about whether SP services are providing what they should.  HWJ – we will want to protect front line services as much as possible.  MI – redistribution needs to be looked at again. Outcomes have been an issue for the Vale and Cardiff.  FB – WG hadn’t taken complexities of schemes into account when they gave cost prices to the WAO. They’re not comparing like for like.  NS – the WAO are pushing for 3 year indicative budgets but indicative can change so commissioners can’t rely on the figures. Having to supply spend plans prior to final allocation is more problematic.  FB – SP didn’t get cut last year because of the political landscape. It’s unlikely that we will be saved this year. We still need to lobby and write as an RCC to politicians and back benchers.  NS – Cardiff reduced the cost of generic floating support. The pilot schemes may need to be cut if we have big cuts.  JT – the pilots are focussed on rough sleeping so we’d rather not cut them as it’s such a big issue. They would equate to 5% so if we get cuts of 10% we would need to look elsewhere.  NS – we’re paying less for units so can’t save much there even with LD schemes.  FB – there comes a point where you can’t cut anymore. Some organisations will have to go if we have a severe cut.  NS – we may need to look at 24 hour staffed projects but that won’t save us a lot.  FB – I’ll draft a letter on behalf of RCC. | RCC to write to politicians to support SP  FB to draft letter re potential cuts |
| 1. **Wales Audit Office (WAO) Report**   FB – the WAO report is looking at the governance rather than the support that is being delivered. Llamau have responded to the report. WG should have looked at education’s model of distance travelled as everyone starts from a different point and therefore progress to one person will look different to progress for someone else.  JT – this is the problem with trying to assess a funding stream. How can you compare the different services.  FB – the Vale and Cardiff have been hammered for their outcomes because of the way they were counting them.  RCC agreed that a group should be put together to write to WAO. FB, NS, YC, HJ and KH will be the group.  FB – the report has been out for 9/10 months. WG were trying to do some damage control prior to it being published.  MI – I’m worried that this report will be the catalyst for SP to be pushed the same way as other poverty programmes.  FB – Carl Sargeant is quite supportive of the programme but Carwyn Jones and Mark Drakeford need to make savings. Wales is a UK exemplar model of support. | KH to pull group together to write to WAO |
| 1. **SP campaign**   FB – there is a thunder clap from Cymorth today so everyone needs to get on the Cymorth website. We need to push for the backbenchers to support SP too. LLamau are holding an event on 26th September. We won’t be lobbying but bringing the voice of the people we support. We need AMs to realise the importance of the SPP. |  |
| 1. **RCC key messages**   KH explained that it was now a requirement for RCCs to release a key message, similar to the way SPNAB do following their meetings, within 4 weeks of the RCC meeting. The key messages from this meeting will be:   * **The RCC will be writing to Welsh Government regarding potential cuts to the budget for the next financial year.** * **The RCC is producing a piece of work regarding the benefit cap, highlighting the effect this is having on the people and economy of the region.** * **The RCC has formed a working group to examine the impact of the changes to Local Housing Allowance under the Welfare Reform Act 2012. This group will feed back to the RCC in November 2017.** * **The RCC is unhappy that the Wales Audit Office report did not highlight the efficiency of the Supporting People Programme, and we call on Welsh Government to address the governance issues highlighted by the report.** |  |
| 1. **AOB**   FB – the Ending Youth Homelessness campaign is holding its first steering group meeting on 19th September. We are looking at early prevention as teachers etc. can identify approximately 45%-50% of young people who are likely to need prevention work from the age of 13/14/15. We’re trying to change the systems to concentrate more on prevention. This is not about Llamau but ending youth homelessness by working with young people at a much earlier age. Cardiff Cabinet have signed the petition.  LT – I have met with the cabinet member for education and they would like to meet with FB too. |  |

**Date of Next Meeting**

2pm, Tuesday 7th November 2017

Venue to be agreed