



VALE OF GLAMORGAN LOCAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING

11th November 2014.

Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, Barry.

Present:

Cllr Neil Moore – Vale of Glamorgan Council (Chair)
Sian Davies - Vale of Glamorgan Council
Huw Isaac – Vale of Glamorgan Council
Helen Moses - Vale of Glamorgan Council
Chris Perkins - Vale of Glamorgan Council
Garry Davies – South Wales Fire & Rescue Service

Rachel Connor – Vale Centre for Voluntary Services
Anne Wei – Cardiff and Vale UHB
Kay Martin – Cardiff and Vale College
David Bebb -Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)
Paul James – South Wales Police
Hayley Selway - Vale of Glamorgan Council
Phil Evans - Vale of Glamorgan Council

Apologies:

Dr. Sharon Hopkins – Cardiff and Vale UHB
Glyn Cox – RWE nPower
John Harrison – Natural Resources Wales
Rob Thomas - Vale of Glamorgan Council
Miles Punter - Vale of Glamorgan Council
Jennifer Hill - Vale of Glamorgan Council

	Action
1. <u>Welcome and apologies for absence.</u>	
2. <u>Minutes of Local Service Board meeting held on 19 August 2014.</u> Agreed as an accurate record.	
3. <u>Matters arising.</u> Sian Davies gave further information on item 6 from the previous meeting, the Reforming Local Government White Paper. Sian informed the group that the Council will provide a submission to the Welsh Government proposing a voluntary merger between the Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend Councils. Meetings have been held and more are planned with relevant partners before the end of the month.	



There have been discussions with Bridgend Council and Cardiff Council regarding a merger and Cabinet will consider a report on the 17th November recommending that an expression of interest to merge with Bridgend Council is progressed. A copy of the Cabinet report was circulated and this sets out the rationale firstly for voluntary merger and secondly for merger with Bridgend Council.

Sian also advised the LSB of the timetable for taking this work forward and that the key dates are;

- 17th November 2014 – Vale of Glamorgan Cabinet to consider a report recommending that work should be undertaken regarding proposals to voluntarily merge with Bridgend Council in 2018.
- 28th November 2014 – Vale of Glamorgan Cabinet to consider the expression of interest regarding merger with Bridgend Council for submission to Welsh Government.
- 5th January 2015 – Minister for Public Services to make his decision regarding the expressions of interest for voluntary mergers.
- June 2015 – Full proposals to be submitted to Welsh Government regarding how the new council would be established and what it would look like.

Sian explained that a merger with Bridgend Council was considered to be the best option for the people of the Vale of Glamorgan. The proposal would outline a plan for a new council not simply a merged institution and that the council's current work around reshaping of services would feed directly into the proposal. The current view was that this is the best option for the Vale going forward given that mergers are now inevitable.

There are synergies with organisational arrangements for the Police and Fire Service and although it is recognised that there are issues around health boundaries these are not considered to be insurmountable. A large number of Vale residents receive health services from Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Health Board which also covers Bridgend.

Taking the decision to merge voluntarily and earlier will allow for greater planning of resource and delivery over the coming years. The merger should also provide savings and greater sustainability for current services in the future. The continued dialogue with partners was also emphasised and that the Council did not want to create an onerous or complex situation for partners.

The group also discussed some of the other possible mergers across Wales and the impacts these may have on both the proposal and the delivery of services going forward.



Sian made it clear that current agreements with other partners where they are working well will continue including the Joint LSB with Cardiff. The joint LSB will be useful as any new council will have to work closely with Cardiff and across the city region. Councillor Moore emphasised that the work regarding the integration of health and social care services across Cardiff and the Vale would also continue.

Councillor Moore and Sian explained that they have already had discussions with some partners regarding the proposed merger and have also had discussions with their counterparts in Cardiff Council. Cllr Moore, when asked, informed the group that the minister had given indications that he was happy with the proposal and that no barriers had been presented.

Kay Martin advised that the Cardiff and Vale College works across a wide area but that she would report back to her board the direction being taken by the Council.

Anne Wei highlighted the impact on the UHB but that health boundaries are becoming more blurred across Wales. Anne advised that the Cardiff and Vale UHB also works across a wider area and reference was made to changes to health services proposed under the South Wales Programme. Councillor Moore confirmed that he was due to meet Adam Cairns and Maria Battle from the UHB the following day to discuss the proposed merger but that he had already had an initial conversation with Maria Battle. There have also been discussions with Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Health Board.

Paul James stated that from a police perspective this proposal would allow for the planning and deployment of resources within current structures.

Rachel Connor advised that she has already spoken to her counterpart in Bridgend and also raised the issue that a number of grants are awarded on a regional basis, for example she is currently working on a regional delivery plan with Cardiff Third Sector Council linked to Welsh Government funding. Sian advised that work has already begun to identify the extent of regional funding for services to help determine potential issues regarding merging with Bridgend Council.

It was highlighted that there are also a number of projects across a wider regional area including the Joint Education Consortium and the Capital City Region. Councillor Moore advised that as Bridgend is also part of the Capital City Region and work undertaken across South East Wales then this strengthened the argument for a merger between the Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend.



<p>Partners were assured that the Council would continue to have dialogue with them through individual meetings and the LSB and that the proposals regarding merger with Bridgend were viewed as a reasonable way forward.</p> <p>No other matters were raised.</p>	
<p><u>4. Cardiff and Vale joint Local Service Board Meeting held on 28 October 2014.</u></p> <p>The minutes for the last meeting were unavailable for the meeting.</p> <p>Huw gave an update on the items of note from the meeting.</p> <p>The Wellbeing of Future Generations Bill was discussed and the Council's roles as early adopters. The WLGA are leading on the early adopters' programme which is for National Parks and Local Authorities. Other members of the board are affected by the Bill and the Welsh Government has advised they are looking at different means of support to assist them.</p> <p>Helen went into more detail highlighting that the Vale of Glamorgan Council had completed a diagnostic questionnaire and that a workshop is to be held on the 28th November in which the WLGA will feedback their findings. The Council will keep partners informed and consider opportunities for joint working.</p> <p>Paul asked where the Local Safeguarding Children Board fits in with the joint LSB arrangements and whether it could be a mechanism for dealing with issues if they need to be escalated, this would also make senior members aware of any major issues.</p>	
<p><u>5. Budgets 2015/16 – Sian Davies</u></p> <p>Sian gave an update on the budget consultation that has just taken place. It was agreed that it had been a useful exercise and the findings were very informative and were more useful as the questions were focused on services that respondents used themselves.</p> <p>The report highlighted the current difficulty of reducing services as none were deemed to be unimportant and the majority were seen as very important overall.</p> <p>The report will be taken to cabinet on the 17th November for debate and the budget itself passed through in February.</p> <p>Anne Wei asked for further information on the budget proposals,</p>	



<p>particularly around the integrated social care plan. Sian will send the report through to the UHB and raise at the next meeting of the Strategic Leadership Team for the Integrated Health and Social Care programme (IHSCP). The UHB on behalf of the IHSCP have commissioned a piece of work on pooled budgets.</p> <p>Phil suggested that there would be an increased need for wider engagement of a range of organisations in terms of impacts on service delivery and this should be reflected in the budget plan.</p>	<p>SD</p>
<p>6. <u>Reshaping Services – Sian Davies.</u></p> <p>Sian Davies presented the 3rd November cabinet report on Reshaping Services to the group. It was highlighted that although any merger would affect the plan the two Councils should be able to dovetail their approach as they are both facing similar issues.</p> <p>Cllr Moore advised that the reshaping of services was essential due to the current and long term budget pressures that existed and that new ways of delivering services had to be considered wherever possible.</p> <p>Phil highlighted that new legislation was likely to affect Social Services and that the preventative agenda was now key. It was noted that Bridgend is in a similar position and is already part of the South East Wales Improvement Group alongside the Vale.</p> <p>Rachel asked if more time could be given to a review of the current grants and schemes to see where there was crossover and where the third sector could be more involved. Huw Isaac will be the point of contact for the Third Sector as the strategy develops. Sian confirmed that work is underway to review grants to the voluntary sector to ensure alignment to the current priorities.</p> <p>It was also discussed that community groups could be given more responsibility to take over some aspects of the public services so that they could be maintained. Sian highlighted that there was no universal solution to this issue, as some communities may not have the infrastructure and capacity to maintain services whereas other areas may be in a better position to get involved. However, it was agreed that community groups where possible need to be involved in the running of some services where reductions were inevitable.</p>	<p>HI</p>
<p>7. <u>Local Service Forum – Huw Isaac</u></p> <p>Huw reminded the group of the upcoming Local Service Forum on the 9th December 2014. The agenda was agreed subject to minor changes, however, it was felt that the expected outcomes of the day need to be clear to all those attending.</p>	



<p>It was also recommended that the panel members for the question and answer session at the end of the forum should be of a sufficient standing so that answers can be given. It was also recommended that where possible the panel has some time beforehand to prepare their responses. Anne stated that the UHB were pro-actively seeking engagement and that this was a key opportunity to do so.</p> <p>The length of the discussion groups was also discussed and topics for discussion were suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing demand and expectations of public services • The removal of regulation across all sectors • How to engage the public with changes • Promote the preventative agenda • Awareness of the changes to local government • The role of local government and partners in the future <p>It was agreed that the facilitator of each group would provide a feedback note from each discussion after the event as well as proposing questions to the panel on the day. The groups will be given a topic to discuss with supplementary questions given to the facilitator to use if required.</p> <p>It was also agreed that giving key documents to attendees before the event would allow them time to prepare their responses and engage more.</p>	
<p>8. <u>Community Strategy Delivery Plan – Huw Isaac</u></p> <p>Huw highlighted the importance and scope of the plan which focuses on tackling poverty. It was also made clear that the plan will be reviewed and amended as necessary over the coming twelve months. The LSB approved the new delivery plan.</p> <p>Hayley informed the group, that as chair of the Welfare Reform group, she was proposing that the group widen its scope to financial inclusion as well as welfare and that this would be taken forward at the next meeting in January. This was agreed.</p> <p>David informed the group that the Wales Probation Service no longer exists. David will circulate the details of the change, the new logos and new contacts to the group. It was also agreed that the changes to the service would be an agenda item at the next board meeting.</p>	<p>HS</p> <p>DB</p>
<p>9. <u>Effective Services for Vulnerable Groups and Team Around the Family – Phil Evans.</u></p> <p>The ESGV group has been set up by Welsh Government under the Public Services Leadership Group and from time to time sends reports and details of best practice to LSBs for discussion. The</p>	



<p>ESVG had recently prepared a report on Team Around the Family (TAF) and asked all LSBs to discuss and respond by the 19th December. To assist with the discussion at the LSB a report on work being undertaken in the Vale had been produced. Phil highlighted the work of the FACT team in particular and the demand for services locally and emphasised that the principles of the TAF approach have been implemented in the Vale for some time.</p> <p>It was highlighted that the ESGV have undertaken some useful work but that it would have been beneficial if their report had also considered the issues around meeting increased demand for services and future funding.</p> <p>Cllr Moore informed the board that the chair of the ESGV had also written to LSBs outlining their work programme and asking for comments regarding whether there should be any additional items. The board agreed that focusing on the current agenda and legislation was the priority and that at this stage the remit of the group should not be expanded.</p> <p>The report was approved as a response to the ESGV and Helen will draft a letter to accompany it.</p>	<p>HM</p>
<p><u>10. Vale Viewpoint Summer 2014 Survey Results – Huw Isaac.</u></p> <p>Huw presented the latest Vale Viewpoint results and reminded the group that if they had any suggestions for questions or need to use the panel they were welcome to do so. The latest data focused on community safety and health. Anne informed the group that the information was very important to the health board and will help them to align their principles to the needs of the citizens when they are reviewed next year.</p> <p>For further information contact Chris Perkins.</p>	
<p><u>11. Regeneration Partnership Update Report.</u></p> <p>The Regeneration Partnership has now been disbanded. A final report prepared by Rob Thomas was presented to the group, for information, as a summary of the partnership’s final position and the work it had undertaken.</p>	
<p><u>12. Dates of future meetings.</u></p> <p>Dates of meetings for 2015 were agreed.</p>	
<p><u>13. Any other business.</u></p> <p>None.</p>	

