



VALE OF GLAMORGAN LOCAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING

19th August 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
Chief Superintendent Liane James – South Wales Police
Garry Davies – South Wales Fire & Rescue Service

Rachel Connor – Vale Centre for Voluntary Services
John Harrison – Natural Resources Wales
Dr. Sharon Hopkins – Cardiff and Vale UHB
Anne Parkin – Cardiff and Vale College
Francesca Howorth - Vale of Glamorgan Council
Sian Harrop-Griffiths – Cardiff and Vale UHB (agenda item 8)

Apologies:

Bob Tooby – Welsh Ambulance Service
Anne Wei – Cardiff and Vale UHB
Glyn Cox – RWE nPower
Kay Martin – Cardiff and Vale College

	Action
1. <u>Welcome and apologies for absence.</u>	
2. <u>Minutes of Local Service Board meeting – 29th April 2014.</u> Agreed as an accurate record.	
3. <u>Minutes of Local Service Board Implementation Group meeting – 22nd May 2014.</u> Noted.	
4. <u>Matters arising.</u> None.	
5. <u>Cardiff and Vale joint LSB minutes.</u> A copy of the minutes from the first meeting of the joint LSB was provided for information.	



<p>Huw drew attention to the proposed three areas that the joint LSB will focus on: information sharing, co-production and opportunities for savings.</p> <p>Huw said that work is already under way in respect of these three areas. A number of the projects set up under the Regional Collaboration Fund such as the regulatory services project are providing opportunities for savings and there are proposals for a joint training event on co-production. It was also advised that Helen is carrying out a piece of work on information sharing to examine any successes or barriers identified to date and this will help inform how the joint LSB may wish to progress work on information sharing.</p> <p>Sharon suggested that information sharing in relation to co-production should also be looked at as the involvement of other organisations and citizens in the delivery of services may highlight information sharing issues. This is particularly relevant in light of the Council's Reshaping Services Strategy (to be discussed later), and Sian Davies advised that the proposed use of community volunteers in libraries has raised issues over volunteers being able to access personal information.</p> <p>There was a discussion on various scenarios where partners have faced barriers to information sharing and examples given where the ability to share information would improve services. It was suggested that some scenarios could be developed as examples for the joint LSB to look at.</p> <p>It was noted that the LSB had previously conducted a piece of work on the Information Sharing Protocols that exist between partners in response to a request by the PSLG. Helen said she has recently contacted Welsh Government for feedback and advised them that the joint LSB are interested in this topic. Sian will raise with Huw Jakeway, who was the PSLG lead on this work.</p> <p>Huw advised he will discuss the joint training on co-production further with colleagues in Cardiff Council, and details will be circulated when finalised.</p>	<p>HM</p> <p>SD/HM</p> <p>HI/HM</p>
<p>6. <u>Reforming Local Government White Paper.</u></p> <p>Sian Davies introduced the White Paper, which sets out Welsh Government's response to the Williams Commission report. The White Paper endorses the report's proposed mergers of local authorities, including that of the Vale of Glamorgan Council with Cardiff Council.</p>	



Welsh Government has requested responses to the White Paper by 1st October. There was a discussion about the merits of the LSB responding to the consultation in addition to submissions from individual organisations.

Sharon advised that the UHB may be able to support a Vale LSB response that outlines issues which could arise from local government reorganisation, but the response would need to be consistent with the UHB response

It was recognised that collaboration between the two authorities is working well across a number of services and that reorganisation could distract from the good work already taking place. The ability to understand the needs of different localities and to be able to respond to local needs was highlighted as a key issue. John raised the point that merging into larger local authorities may be contrary to the intentions of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Bill, which focuses on communities' and citizens' sense of place.

Sian advised that savings could be made through mergers if services are standardised; however, if following a merger there is a need to set up complex local arrangements to respond to the differing needs of communities, then any savings would effectively be lost.

Concerns were also expressed about the time involved in planning and preparing for a merger which will detract from focusing on service delivery.

It was accepted that collaboration must take place in order to make savings and for services to be sustainable, but that this could be achieved without the need to merge. It would be better to focus on the areas of service delivery which would work more effectively through collaboration. It was also highlighted that other area structures such as city regions do not fit with the proposed local government reorganisation.

Cllr Moore highlighted to partners an error in the original version of the paper which had been published referring to an estimate of the cost of local government reorganisation equating to roughly 0.5% of annual local government expenditure. This should have read 5% as a minimum. Although the paper has since been amended online, Cllr Moore urged partners to draw attention to this across various forums.

It was agreed that a response focusing on the issues raised which were commonly agreed would be drafted and circulated to partners. If all partners are happy to support the response it will be submitted to Welsh Government from the LSB.

HM/AII



<p>7. <u>Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Bill.</u></p> <p>Huw introduced the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Bill and drew attention to the fact that LSBs now feature prominently in the Bill.</p> <p>There are six wellbeing goals against which all public bodies must set and publish wellbeing objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A prosperous Wales • A resilient Wales • A healthier Wales • A more equal Wales • A Wales of cohesive communities • A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language <p>Huw drew attention to what will be required of public bodies once the Bill is implemented, including a Public Service Board and Local Wellbeing Plan for each authority in Wales. Each Public Service Board will also be required to produce a needs assessment, wellbeing plan and annual progress reports. Huw said that versions of these mechanisms are already in place in the Vale through the existing Local Service Board, Community Strategy and Annual Report.</p> <p>He advised that the Vale of Glamorgan Council will be “early adopters” of the Bill as part of a project being supported by the Welsh Local Government Association. This will help in preparing for the legislation and influencing some of the forthcoming guidance.</p> <p>Huw will bring updates to future meetings of the LSB as necessary.</p>	<p>HI</p>
<p>8. <u>UHB Integrated Medium Term Financial Plan (2014-2017).</u></p> <p>Sian Harrop-Griffiths introduced Cardiff and Vale UHB’s Integrated Medium Term Financial Plan. Sian advised that she has previously attended the Implementation Group to discuss the plan, the detailed version of which can be found on the UHB website:</p> <p>http://www.cardiffandvaleuhb.wales.nhs.uk/pendoc/238332</p> <p>This is the first business plan to be produced by the UHB, covering a three year period (2014-2017), and was submitted to Welsh Government in March. The plan has now been approved.</p> <p>Sian drew attention to the UHB’s priorities for improvement which are set out in the plan under the five key headings of Improved Health and Wellbeing, Improved Service Integration, Improved Access to Services, Improved Patient Safety and Experience, and Enabling Change. It was emphasised that partnership working will</p>	



<p>be a key enabler to achieving these improvements, particularly with regard to the actions under the Enabling Change heading.</p> <p>Sian described how the UHB plans to make almost £50million of savings over the course of the three year period, leading to the current deficit being cleared and a surplus created for reinvestment.</p> <p>She advised that the UHB is currently considering its commissioning intentions for 2015/16 and will share these with LSB partners in the Autumn. Sian Davies highlighted that as part of the integrated health and social care programme there should be detailed budgetary discussions regarding alignment of budgets and the impact of integrating teams.</p> <p>Cllr Moore asked whether the financial aspects of the plan are based on final figures and Sharon advised that the figures are based on current estimates. There could potentially be additional small pots of money available. Sharon said that the capital pressures facing the UHB are greater than revenue pressures and the UHB has recently submitted a ten year capital plan to Welsh Government. This could be another area where LSB partners need to work together, namely to consider what capital assets exist that could be shared.</p> <p>Sharon informed the LSB that the UHB is conducting a piece of work on a “population narrative” to submit to Welsh Government. This will take into account the Vale’s unified needs assessment and Cardiff’s equivalent and will be used to demonstrate that the numbers of people living in deprivation across Cardiff and the Vale are numerically the highest in Wales. It has been shown that people living in deprivation often have poorer health than those who are not, and funding per head of population for Cardiff and Vale UHB is the lowest in Wales. Population projections show the number of people served by the UHB is set to significantly increase, as is the number of people living in deprivation, meaning it is unrealistic for the UHB to continue to provide the current level of service. The population of other parts of Wales is diminishing although the funding provided is not, which will lead to inequity of services. Sian Davies felt this is a useful piece of work and that other LSB partners should make the same representations to Welsh Government on this issue.</p> <p>The LSB noted the plan.</p>	<p>SD/SH</p>
<p><u>9. Reshaping Services Strategy – Vale of Glamorgan Council.</u></p> <p>Sian Davies introduced a report on how the Council is developing a Reshaping Services strategy to implement new and innovative methods of delivering its services.</p>	



Sian advised that due to budget cuts, the Council will have to save an estimated £32 million over the next three years. Approximately £21 million of savings has already been made over the last few years, and making these further savings presents a difficult challenge. Moreover, it is envisaged that the need to make savings will continue beyond this period.

To date, the savings made have had a fairly low impact on communities but the Council will now need to consider how it delivers its services in order to meet these savings targets and is seeking Cabinet endorsement of a Reshaping Services strategy.

Sian said that the clear preference before cutting any services is to look differently at how they are delivered, and the report examines a number of different models of delivery. There would be a huge learning curve for the Council to understand what the alternative delivery models will mean in practice and to deliver them effectively.

In addition to examining alternative delivery models, other means of achieving savings will still be applicable, including more targeted spending, charging for services and changing Council policies.

Sian also recognised that there will be significant workforce implications in implementing a Reshaping Services strategy, and a detailed process for consultation and engagement with staff will be devised in consultation with Trade Unions over the next few weeks and a further report submitted to Cabinet in the Autumn.

The report also contained a section on engagement with stakeholders, and Sian recognised the Council will have to ensure it is mindful of the impact any changes to how services are delivered will have on partners. It is equally important any changes made by partner organisations take the Reshaping Services strategy into account. It was agreed the LSB needs to ensure all partners are engaged in discussions and work together.

Sian also said that action must be taken now in order to make the required savings, and that any potential merger with Cardiff Council in line with the Williams report should not delay changes to be made.

Sian gave an overview of the timescales involved in developing the strategy. A preliminary high level assessment of all services will take place to decide which services will be included in the first tranche prior to more detailed analysis into how services could be delivered differently.

Sian advised that the LSB will be updated on progress regularly and welcomed any comments partners may have. Both Sian and Cllr



<p>Moore also indicated that they are happy to meet with partners individually and discuss in more detail.</p> <p>The LSB welcomed the opportunity to have these more detailed discussions, and it was agreed that it is critical for open and honest discussions to take place to ensure that all partners consider the impact any budget cuts or changes in services have on others.</p> <p>It was accepted that it is a difficult time financially for all partners, and there was agreement that there has to be a collective view on what the best choices are for communities. It is important that partners support each other so communities understand that difficult decisions have been made collectively. It is also important the public understand what impact changes in services from one organisation have on the services provided by another.</p> <p>It was agreed in conclusion that this was a topic that would feature in all future LSB meetings. Discussions on progress would be held in LSB meetings and between individual partners as appropriate; in due course, it may be opportune to invite an external speaker to an LSB meeting to address a related topic of particular interest.</p>	
<p><u>10. Community Strategy Annual Report.</u></p> <p>Huw presented the 2013/14 Community Strategy Annual Report.</p> <p>The report contains sections on each of the Community Strategy priority outcomes and provides an overview of achievements made to deliver the priority outcome, the regional work taking place, the challenges faced and the next steps.</p> <p>The report has been drafted with input from partnership coordinators and other relevant colleagues within partner organisations. The report demonstrates how partnership working has matured in the Vale over the course of the three year Community Strategy Delivery Plan 2011-14 and also contains a number of case studies to demonstrate how successful partnership working has improved life for residents in the Vale.</p> <p>The LSB endorsed the report, which will be published and circulated widely following translation.</p>	<p>FH</p>
<p><u>11. Partnership Review.</u></p> <p>Huw introduced a report proposing changes to partnership structures following a review of current arrangements. In light of the joint LSB being established, the unified needs assessment findings and a new Delivery Plan, it was timely to review existing partnership structures to ensure they are fit for purpose and for delivering the next stage of the Community Strategy.</p>	



Huw gave a summary of the proposals set out in the report:

- The existing Implementation Group is deleted and Council Directors join the Vale LSB
- The existing Welfare Reform Stakeholder Group is given a higher profile in light of the new Delivery Plan to focus on tackling poverty
- The existing Learning and Skills and Regeneration partnerships are deleted and a new Improving Opportunities Board is established specifically to address gaps which have been recognised in linking training and skills with employment opportunities
- The existing Children and Young People's partnership and Board are merged and become the Children and Young People Board
- The Public Health and Wellbeing Board is potentially merged with the Cardiff equivalent if approved by the joint LSB
- Existing arrangements continue with regard to the Safer Vale partnership and Integrated Health and Social Care Programme

Sian Davies said that the proposed membership of the Vale LSB including Council Directors, although large, would continue to be manageable as it is envisaged Directors would only attend meetings where items on the agenda are of particular relevance to their service area.

The LSB approved the proposals.

12. Public Health and Wellbeing Board report on joint workshop with Cardiff Healthy Living Programme Board.

Sharon introduced a report drafted by Dr. Sian Griffiths regarding a proposal to bring together the Vale Public Health and Wellbeing Board and the Cardiff Healthy Living Programme Board.

A workshop was held in July with members from both boards to discuss a merged group in light of the joint LSB being established. It was identified that there would be a number of advantages to bringing the boards together; however, it was also recognised that a joint group would need to ensure the needs of the different communities it would serve are met. One suggestion made to address this would be a member of the group taking on an advocacy role to ensure the needs of the Vale of Glamorgan are adequately represented.

Following these initial discussions at the workshop, it was agreed a small working group will be convened to draft a more detailed proposal on the purpose, membership and remit of a joint Public



Health Board. This will be presented to the joint LSB in October.	SH
<p><u>13. Drafting the Delivery Plan 2014-18.</u></p> <p>Helen presented an initial draft of the Community Strategy Delivery Plan 2014-18 and explained that this has been produced following previous discussions with the LSB, Implementation Group and key partnerships.</p> <p>As agreed by the LSB in April, as a large amount of work is already taking place through the various partnerships, the new Delivery Plan will focus on tackling poverty. This approach was agreed as it provides a more specific focus to activity and reports to the LSB and will address a number of the unified needs assessment findings.</p> <p>There are three poverty themes in the Delivery Plan: Preventing Poverty, Helping People into Work and Mitigating Poverty. These themes are aligned to the Welsh Government's Anti-Poverty strategy, and Helen gave an overview of some the potential actions to be undertaken under each workstream.</p> <p>Helen also highlighted the list of Community Strategy 'core indicators' that has been developed following previous discussions. These indicators will be reported to the LSB in addition to reports on the poverty workstreams and will allow the LSB to continue to monitor the Community Strategy as a whole. They will also be used to inform the Annual Report.</p> <p>Helen asked the LSB to approve this approach and for further work to take place on scoping the actions under each of the workstreams. Discussions will take place with partnership coordinators and partners and a final version of the Delivery Plan 2014-18 will be presented to the LSB in October/November.</p> <p>The LSB agreed this approach.</p> <p>Cllr Moore highlighted that it will be important that the work undertaken through the partnerships to deliver the whole Community Strategy continues to be monitored and that any issues identified are raised at the LSB.</p> <p>There was a discussion regarding the core indicators and it was requested that the core indicators be accompanied by a narrative to explain the story behind the data when reported to the LSB. Sharon suggested that when the Reshaping Services Strategy is developed, the impact any changes may have on the core indicators is considered.</p> <p>There was also a discussion regarding the proposed Senior Reporting Officers. It was highlighted that the proposed names are</p>	



<p>all Council officers but that LSB partners would also be welcome as SROs. Sharon said that regardless of which organisation the Senior Reporting Officer represents, they should be held to account by the LSB and have the ability to access the information they need from colleagues across LSB organisations.</p> <p>Anne advised that the College would be keen to be involved in the Improving Opportunities Board.</p> <p>It was agreed that SROs should be identified by the relevant groups for endorsement by the LSB.</p>	
<p>14. <u>Dates of future meetings.</u></p> <p>Helen advised that dates of future Vale LSB meetings will be arranged in accordance with the joint LSB meeting dates. The next Vale LSB meeting will also need to be arranged based on the date of the Local Service Forum and details will be circulated in due course.</p>	<p>HM/FH</p>
<p>15. <u>Any Other Business.</u></p> <p>Helen informed the LSB that consultation on the Local Housing Strategy will begin in September and information will be circulated shortly. She advised that Hayley Selway, the Council's Head of Housing and Building Services, is happy to meet and discuss the strategy.</p>	