



VALE OF GLAMORGAN LOCAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING

14th July 2015.

Committee Room 2, Civic Offices, Barry.

Present:

Cllr Neil Moore – Vale of Glamorgan Council (Chair)
Rob Thomas - Vale of Glamorgan Council
Huw Isaac – Vale of Glamorgan Council
Chris Perkins - Vale of Glamorgan Council
Rachel Connor – Vale Centre for Voluntary Services
Anne Wei – Cardiff and Vale UHB
Stuart Parfitt – South Wales Police
Hayley Selway - Vale of Glamorgan Council

Darren Panniers – Welsh Ambulance Service Trust
Nadia De Longhi – Natural Resources Wales
Kay Martin – Cardiff and Vale College
Graeme Smith – Llanmaes Community Council
Victoria Harris – Community Rehabilitation Company
Colin Davies – Vale of Glamorgan Council
Andrew Stephens – Data Unit Wales
James Gardiner – Data Unit Wales

Apologies:

Phil Evans - Vale of Glamorgan Council
David Bebb -Community Rehabilitation Company
Dr. Sharon Hopkins – Cardiff and Vale UHB

Jennifer Hill - Vale of Glamorgan Council
Peter Greenhill – National Probation Service
Marcella Maxwell – Welsh Government

	Action
<p>1. <u>Welcome and apologies for absence.</u></p> <p>Apologies were given and introductions were made.</p>	
<p>2. <u>Minutes of Local Service Board meeting held on 16 April 2015.</u></p> <p>Agreed as an accurate record.</p>	
<p>3. <u>Matters arising.</u></p> <p>Cllr Neil Moore (NM) made the board aware of the recent statement from the Minister for Public Services regarding local government reorganisation. Although the Minister had presented his proposals for reorganisation it was still unclear whether the changes were viable and would save money in the long term. The WLGA is</p>	



<p>continuing to investigate the proposals and the impacts they will have on Wales and a working group has been established. More information will be brought to the board as it is made available.</p> <p>Graeme Smith (GS) has been appointed to the board as the Town and Community Council representative following the proposal at the last meeting.</p>	
<p><u>4. Minutes of the Cardiff and Vale Joint Local Service Board held on the 5th May 2015</u></p> <p>NM introduced the minutes of the last meeting of the Joint Cardiff and Vale LSB. The minutes are for information and provide an update on the progress of the joint working arrangements with Cardiff.</p>	
<p><u>5. Tackling Poverty Analysis</u></p> <p>James Gardiner (JG) and Andrew Stephens (AS) presented a report that details the levels of relative poverty across the Vale. The report, commissioned by the LSB, was undertaken to increase the evidence base for the Community Strategy Delivery Plan and provide an analysis of the variation and causes of poverty in different areas through the Vale. JG highlighted some of the key figures included in the analysis, reminding the group that the overall Local Authority figures mask some areas of acute deprivation and that there is often significant variation between neighbouring areas. It was added that the report will also provide a key starting point for the forthcoming statutory well-being assessments and that as far as the Data Unit are aware this is the first report of its type in Wales.</p> <p>Kay Martin (KM) highlighted the education data in the report and the clear disparity in the attainment of pupils who are eligible for free school meals and those who aren't. AS agreed and commented that a whole report could have been focussed on education and deprivation can largely be predicted into the future due to the correlations that exist. Colin Davies (CD) highlighted that in some schools in the Vale 70% of pupils were eligible for free school meals and new schools and new staff have been targeted in those areas. It was vital that the pupil deprivation grant was used to assist pupils in need, wherever they live across the Vale, and that due to wider budget cuts this was not presently the case. Hayley Selway (HS) said that the report was a useful marker for strategic policy and as Anti-Poverty Champion she was keen to push the agenda forward. Work is currently underway to draft a Financial Inclusion Strategy to assist those most in need.</p> <p>Rob Thomas (RT) agreed with the group that educational attainment is essential to reduce deprivation and that data is available to target areas of most need. Aligning initiatives from different departments</p>	



<p>and organisations was key to maximise the effectiveness of spend in the current climate. Welsh Government funding does not always allow for this to occur due to the rigid structure often imposed on grant funding. RT also asked for greater clarity in the report regarding Job Seekers Allowance claimants to ensure that the data could not be misinterpreted.</p> <p>AS added that even at the lower level of data that this report uses, there are still pockets of poverty in every area and at a personal level poverty is spread throughout the Vale. Huw Isaac (HI) reiterated that the document was a key starting point for future work and will be instrumental in underpinning the well-being assessment and the setting of objectives in relation to the Well Being of Future Generations Act and encouraged partners to make use of it.</p> <p>All partners agreed it was a very useful document and they would use it internally as a key piece of evidence. Chris Perkins (CP) will circulate the final copy, following amendments, to the group when complete. The report will also be made available on InfoBase Vale.</p>	<p>CP</p>
<p>6. <u>Core Indicators Report</u></p> <p>HI presented the latest report of progress against the Community Strategy. Whilst the Delivery Plan focuses on tackling poverty it is essential that the wider goals of the Community Strategy are also monitored and this report provides the first light touch overview of progress against the set of core indicators agreed by the LSB last year. This report will, alongside the annual report due to be published later in the year, monitor progress of the Community Strategy as a whole.</p> <p>The report, showing clear progress since the Unified Needs Assessment, is largely a good news story showing clear improvement, and highlights the ongoing work that is taking place across the Vale. The previous report from the Data Unit shows that while we still have to make further improvements, this report shows that in most areas the direction of travel is positive.</p> <p>The report highlights some small areas of concern such as the increased level of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). Stuart Parfitt (SP) commented that there was a big attempt to tackle the issue, however, some of the figures are misleadingly high due to new recording methods. HS thanked SP for the ongoing work to tackle the issue and added that new indicators were due from Welsh Government on a number of community safety areas. Further to this a paper was being taken to the next meeting of the Joint LSB regarding ASB to increase awareness of the issue.</p> <p>KM added that there were a number of success stories in the Vale such as Adult Community Learning, which is the most improved in</p>	



<p>Wales and the good practice has been shared with Cardiff.</p> <p>Anne Wei (AW) suggested that although the high level light touch approach was necessary it may be useful for each individual group to give an annual update to the LSB on progress and issues arising.</p> <p>NM asked if more comparison data could be added to report as it is useful to measure against the Wales average where possible. HI agreed and added that the core indicators would be reviewed in light of the publication of the National Indicators relating to the Well Being of Future Generations Act to ensure alignment.</p>	
<p>7. <u>Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme</u></p> <p>HS and colleagues from the UHB recently attended a meeting with the Home Office to discuss two relocation schemes.</p> <p>The first scheme is for Afghans who have supported the forces in the conflict. They are largely interpreters, who speak English, and their families. There is a package of support for 4 months with the aim to gain employment for the individuals.</p> <p>The second scheme involves refugees from the Syrian conflict. These people are likely to be more vulnerable and bring significant issues involving integration, mental health and education. There is 12 months of support for the Authority but no additional health funding from Welsh Government. In England the additional costs have been met by the Treasury.</p> <p>NM added that the WLGA have been asked to raise the issue with WG and coordinate a regional response.</p> <p>HS proposed that the process be managed through the existing Community Cohesion Officer. As the post is joint funded with Cardiff further discussions would have to take place.</p> <p>AW stated that the UHB supported the project in principle but needed clarification of the support available from Welsh Government.</p> <p>NM recommended that the issue be added to the agenda for the upcoming Joint LSB with Cardiff. This would allow for further discussion and a regional approach.</p>	<p>CP/HI</p>
<p>8. <u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>CP added that the LSB Asset Management group had been reformed and had met on the 8th July. All partners have representation on the group and it is hoped that it will facilitate a combined approach to asset management across the authority. It</p>	



<p>was suggested that the membership of the group be circulated to the LSB to ensure effectiveness.</p> <p>CP highlighted that Vale Viewpoint, the Council's Citizens' Panel, had not been used by the LSB this year due to a lack of suggested topics. The process is available for partners to engage with the public and CP agreed to circulate further information to the board as a reminder.</p> <p>Nadia De Longhi (ND) reminded the board that an action from a previous meeting was to look at possible private sector attendance at the meetings to add to the effectiveness of the group. ND has put together a possible list and this can be discussed at a future meeting.</p> <p>KM informed the group that the college was setting up a Cardiff and Vale Community Board, and representation from a wide range of partners would be welcomed.</p>	<p>CP</p> <p>CP</p>
<p>9. <u>Dates of future meetings</u></p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for the 20th August; it was agreed that CP would contact members to confirm attendance. If attendance is low due to the Summer holidays the meeting will be cancelled, with the next meeting scheduled for the 22nd October.</p>	<p>CP</p>