



VALE OF GLAMORGAN LOCAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING.

22nd August 2013.

Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, Barry.

Present:

Cllr Neil Moore – VoGC
Sian Davies – VoGC
Huw Isaac – VoGC
Helen Moses – VoGC
Francesca Howorth – VoGC
Dr. Sharon Hopkins – Cardiff and Vale UHB
Bob Tooby – Ambulance Trust
Rachel Connor – Vale Centre for Voluntary Services
Joe Ruddy – South Wales Police
Dr. Mark Picton – RWE Npower
Dr. Sabrina Cohen-Hatton – South Wales Fire and Rescue Service (agenda item 6)
Sean Maidment – VoGC (agenda item 5)
Rachel Burnham – BDO Consultancy (observing)

Apologies:

Anne Wei – Cardiff and Vale UHB
John Harrison – Natural Resources Wales
Peter Greenhill – Wales Probation Trust
Kay Martin – Cardiff and Vale College
Phil Pinches – South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Catherine Roberts – Abertawe Bro Morgannwg UHB
Alexandra Howells – Abertawe Bro Morgannwg UHB

	Action
1. <u>Welcome and apologies for absence</u>	
2. <u>Minutes of Local Service Board meeting of 27 June 2013</u> Agreed as an accurate record.	
3. <u>Minutes of Local Service Board Implementation Group meeting of 25 July 2013</u> Noted.	
4. <u>Matters Arising</u> There were no matters arising.	

5. Alcohol Strategy and Substance Misuse Update

Sean Maidment, Substance Misuse Coordinator for the Vale of Glamorgan, outlined the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Alcohol Working Group Action Plan 2013-2016. Sean explained that the document brings together three previous documents: the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2011, Alcohol Project Initiation Document and the Safer Vale Partnership Alcohol Strategy 2012-15. Sean highlighted that a specific alcohol action plan has been produced as it has been shown that alcohol abuse has the largest impact on communities and the misuse of alcohol outstrips that of drugs by approximately 4-1 in the Vale.

Sean advised that four indicators would be used to measure progress on the actions contained in the plan and gave an overview of these. The first indicator, “percentage of adults reporting drinking alcohol above the recommended guidelines on at least one day of the previous week” concerns public health and communities, and Sean advised that actions under this indicator include raising awareness around alcohol issues targeting specific groups, ensuring equity of access to substance misuse services for those in rural locations and lobbying Welsh and UK Government for action on issues such as restricting alcohol advertising, minimum pricing per unit, reducing the drink driving limit and including alcohol information on the syllabus of the Driving Theory Examination.

The actions regarding the second indicator, “the rate of alcohol specific hospital admissions per 100,000 population”, concern treatment and support services for adults, and Sean advised that a service on Holton Road, Barry providing a single point of engagement for adults to refer themselves into substance misuse services has been set up. This service is still developing.

The third indicator measures “the number of alcohol specific EU attendances by under 18 years and under 21 years” and actions to address the issue of alcohol misuse in children and young people include the new tier 2 service that has been set up across Cardiff and the Vale being run by Barnados and Inroads. Other actions include education and awareness raising programmes developed within the universal services package including training for practitioners working with children and young people to be able to identify alcohol as an issue and know where to refer young people.

The final indicator concerns “the rate of alcohol-related crimes”, and actions include increasing the visibility of uniformed police in licensed settings and encouraging the use of plastic glassware during major events. Joe advised that test purchasing failure rates went down to 4% last year from 14% previously.

The group discussed the action plan and a number of issues were raised. Bob highlighted the importance of prevention work and raised the point that people suffering with drink related issues in the Vale are often taken to the Alcohol Treatment Centre rather than University Hospital Wales and the ambulance service are therefore involved in the patient's journey. The ambulance service is keen to be involved in the prevention work also if there is an opportunity to do so.

Joe raised the point that issues such as minimum pricing and advertising of alcohol is one which cannot be dealt with by the Vale LSB but by Governments and Multi-National Companies. Sharon advised that part of the work programme involves lobbying for powers for the Welsh Government to be able to make decisions regarding issues such as minimum pricing. Sharon also advised that work is taking place with Welsh Government in regard to the factors considered by licensing bodies, who are being lobbied to consider the health impacts on communities when granting alcohol licenses in addition to issues such as noise and nuisance, as health impacts are not currently considered. Sean also advised that A&E departments are beginning to record where patients had their last drink to add to the case for this.

Another issue discussed by the group was the impact of alcohol on domestic violence, and Sean advised that a scoping exercise had recently taken place of domestic abuse and substance misuse services so that the links between alcohol abuse and domestic violence and the effects of these on both the victim and the perpetrator is recognised across both services.

Huw highlighted that the plan covers both Cardiff and the Vale and that there will be issues specific to the Vale and there are mechanisms already in place to support the implementation of this work through the Children and Young People's and Safer Vale partnerships. Sharon confirmed that the Area Planning Board ensures there is an over-arching, coordinated, single management structure to avoid duplication and that there is effective implementation locally through mechanisms such as partnerships is also taking place.

Sian highlighted the figure 3 graph contained in the report which shows that alcohol-specific admissions in the Vale of Glamorgan for males had risen considerably over recent years and asked why this continues to be the case. Sian questioned whether the actions contained in the plan are the right ones if they are not having the desired effect. Figures have actually risen in recent years and suggest services may not be working effectively. Sharon responded to the concerns raised and advised that it is for this reason that an action plan dealing specifically with alcohol was produced. Previously there had been a focus on other substances as these are

<p>recognised criminally whereas alcohol is legal.. There is an issue that people are more likely to recognise they need, and therefore access, support for drug related issues than alcohol. It is only within the last year that a strategic, co-ordinated approach to dealing specifically with alcohol has been taken. Sean suggested that in 6 - 12 months time the indicators would provide a better reflection of whether services are having a positive impact and bringing about the necessary changes as many are still in the early stages.</p> <p>In light of the concerns raised regarding the figures and the increase in alcohol related admissions for males, Neil suggested that an updated report should be brought to the LSB in 6 months time and the group agreed.</p>	SM/FH
<p>6. <u>Fire Services Review</u></p> <p>Dr. Sabrina Cohen-Hatton introduced the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service Fire Cover Review 2013. Sabrina explained that the first phase of the Fire Cover Review is out for public consultation and that there are three phases overall. The first phase deals with the fire stations based in the Vale of Glamorgan, Bridgend and Cardiff Local Authority areas. Feedback from the consultation will be presented to the Fire Authority who will then decide the outcome.</p> <p>Sabrina explained that the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service was amalgamated from 3 separate brigades in 1996. Since this time changes in population demographics, road networks and housing provision have taken place, although the fire stations have remained in the same locations. Sabrina advised that in this time the number of incidents the fire service attends has reduced by approximately 40% due to the success of fire prevention and education work. The equipment and skills within the organisation have also improved meaning that risks are now outweighed by assets. Against a backdrop of financial uncertainty and an anticipated gap in funding the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service's 2011/12 Risk Reduction Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan outlined nine initiatives to address this, one of which is the Fire Cover Review to ensure that assets match the level of risk.</p> <p>A computer modelling system has been used to assess the impact of changing the levels of cover in fire stations and what impact any changes would have on risk. The model considers factors such as incident call rates, Local Development Plans (in particular the expected changes to housing in the area) and demographic indicators such as census data and the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation, as a link exists between deprivation and risk of fire. The model also considers the location of places that need more protection such as hospitals and schools. In addition to the computer modelling system a team of specially trained and experienced fire officers consider the results of the model and use their professional</p>	

judgement to ensure the results are reliable.

Currently in the Vale of Glamorgan there are four fire stations, these are located in Barry, Penarth, Llantwit Major and Cowbridge. Various scenarios to change the level of cover provided in the Vale were measured using the computer modelling system and the two proposals which had the smallest impact on risk were;

- To change the 2nd appliance at Barry Fire Station to fully retained. At the present time Barry has 2 fire engines manned by full time crews. The first engine would remain this way but the second would be crewed by a team of retained fire fighters.
- To change Cowbridge to fully retained. Cowbridge is currently crewed by full time fire fighters in the day and is retained at night. The proposal would mean Cowbridge was fully retained at all times.

The group had a number of discussions regarding the proposals. Neil asked why the proposals would make changes to the station in Barry rather than Penarth, which is also staffed by full time fire crews, given that Barry is a larger area. Sabrina explained that the increase to risk was larger to make changes to the way Penarth is crewed and Penarth also provides back-up cover for stations in Cardiff due to its location.

Bob advised that the Ambulance Service have met with the Chief Fire Officer to discuss the possibility for co-location of services in communities and that a meeting with the RAF at St Athan, who have ambulance and fire staff, will also be held to discuss piloting joint working in the Vale.

Sharon highlighted that from a health perspective, assurances would be sought that the preventative agenda would continue in light of any changes made. Sabrina advised that the 40% reduction in incidents attended would not have occurred without the focus on education and prevention and the level of this work taking place would not decrease.

Joe sought assurances that sufficient retained staff would be in place before any changes happened. Sabrina advised that retained crews would be recruited and fully trained before any changes took place and that this would also create jobs for local people as they would have to live within close proximity to the station. Sabrina also highlighted that South Wales Fire and Rescue Service deviate from national guidelines with regard to retained staff as they are paid a salary rather than a retainer, making the opportunity more attractive. Bob added that residents in the Vale are keen to be involved in protecting the community and highlighted that there are more volunteers as community first responders in the Vale than anywhere

<p>else in Wales.</p> <p>Neil asked if consideration had been given to the number of chemical factories located in the Vale and Sabrina advised that the model has taken the potential for responding to a fire at these factories into account when calculating potential impact any changes would have on risk. The factories have also been contacted regarding the proposals and will be submitting a response. There have also been discussions with the Airport.</p> <p>Sabrina summarised that the proposals would not reduce the level of cover provided in the Vale and there will be the same number of stations and fire engines but they will be crewed differently. Sabrina requested that the LSB submit a response to the consultation.</p> <p>Partners agreed to delegate the drafting of an LSB response on the proposals to the Council. Helen to draft a response.</p>	<p>HM</p>
<p><u>7. Anti-Poverty Event Report</u></p> <p>Helen presented the group with a report that has been produced following the Anti-Poverty Event that was held in July. The event was organised through the LSB as a partnership event between the Vale Children and Young People’s Partnership and Save the Children, and was attended by over seventy delegates. Helen advised that the event consisted of a number of presentations regarding health and education inequalities followed by a series of workshops. The report details a number of the key findings from the workshops including the need for an integrated approach to tackling child poverty through the LSB, that more clarity is needed on the structures of LSB partnerships and the linkages that exist between them, the need for an early intervention approach, and the issue that child poverty in the Vale is often overlooked as the area is generally perceived as affluent.</p> <p>Helen advised that the report will go to the Children and Young People’s Partnership and that the findings from the event will be used to inform the next phase of the delivery plan.</p> <p>The group discussed the report. It was agreed that actions to tackle child poverty in the Vale need to form a prominent part of the Single Integrated Plan due to the cross cutting nature of the issue rather than be the subject of a separate plan.</p> <p>Sian felt that although it is important to ensure services are provided to support people in difficult circumstances, actions need to focus on getting people out of such circumstances, or prevent them from falling in to them to begin with. Sharon supported this view and felt that the key drivers to change are about education and employment in the Vale. Mark added that Welsh Government can play a pivotal</p>	

<p>role in preventing child poverty in the Vale and a joint approach to lobby Welsh Government should be taken. Local businesses need to be supported in order for them to support local people and provide employment.</p> <p>The group also discussed the issue that those in poverty in the Vale can often become masked due to a general perception of the Vale as affluent. It is important to remember that there are pockets of deprivation within the Vale and one of the areas picked up at the event was the number of children in Penarth who are in poverty.</p> <p>Rachel prompted a discussion regarding families in poverty who are not in social housing and how they tend to move around often. This often causes major disruption in a child's life, and the group discussed how the use of school registers could be used as a mechanism for tracking families who move often so that they can be targeted for support. Sharon also advised that the Health Board are beginning to track families as child immunisation rates are below targets. The group agreed that scoping work should take place to consider what can be done.</p> <p>Rachel felt the report should be circulated to all partnerships due to the cross cutting nature of the issue, and Helen advised that the report will be contained in the packs given to delegates at this year's LSB Forum event as there is a need to ensure the issue is picked up across all aspects of the next phase of the Delivery Plan. Copies of the report and the presentations given at the event are now available on the LSB website.</p> <p>http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/local_service_board/Anti-Poverty-Event.aspx</p> <p>It was agreed that poverty should be included on the agenda for a future meeting.</p>	<p>HM</p> <p>HM/FH</p>
<p>8. <u>Commission on Public Service Governance and Delivery</u></p> <p>Huw advised that at the last LSB meeting in June it was agreed that partners would want to submit their own response to the commission's call for evidence, but the LSB would also seek to submit its own response. A draft response had been circulated to the LSB for discussion.</p> <p>Discussion focused on the Commission's questions surrounding organisational scale and structures. The consensus was that structural reorganisation was not something the LSB would support.</p> <p>Sharon felt that structural change would not be beneficial and the important thing is for organisations to have a joint purpose. Organisations act as vehicles to deliver functions and through</p>	

<p>partnership working teams are already delivering services jointly. Sian agreed and felt that organisational change will not reduce complexity; the most important thing is to allow for flexibility between organisations on issues such as data sharing to improve service delivery to the public. If reorganisation were to come into effect for the purpose of saving money, structural change takes such a long time to implement that by the time any change had happened, budget cuts would long ago have taken place. There is also a danger that a focus on reorganisation would distract providers from service delivery.</p> <p>Neil raised the danger of creating organisations that are too large, and said that it is important to remember that local government deals with local issues. Residents should feel a part of a local community not a huge organisation.</p> <p>Joe agreed that structural change is not the answer and said that the Police already work in areas where it makes sense to rather than where boundaries dictate.</p> <p>Mark drew comparison to the private sector and said that if it aided efficiency then structural change may have to be considered. A number of partners said in response that there have already been significant changes in recent years leading to successful collaboration across the public sector within the Vale and the region. They also emphasised that in their experience structural change in the public sector is usually complex, time consuming and takes the focus away from service delivery. Local government reorganisation could take up to six years due to the legislative timetable. Joe emphasised that the Police need to make savings now, and that reorganisation would not assist in this respect.</p> <p>Sian suggested that the LSB response needs to reflect these opinions on issues such as organisational change but should also include a rationale and evidence for those opinions. The group agreed for Helen to amend the draft LSB response to reflect the opinions of the group in terms of what works well currently and what the LSB wouldn't want to lose. Helen will circulate the amended response to the group before it is submitted to the Commission.</p> <p>Huw also stated that it would be interesting to see partners' individual responses. Sharon said she will send Huw the NHS Confederation response for circulation.</p>	<p>HM</p> <p>SH</p>
<p>9. <u>Community Strategy Annual Report 2012/13</u></p> <p>Huw provided an overview of this year's Annual Report and advised that the report had been circulated amongst the partnerships and</p>	

<p>had been discussed at July's Implementation Group meeting. All feedback and comments received have now been incorporated.</p> <p>Huw advised that the report provides an overview of key achievements made in delivering each Priority Outcome contained within the Community Strategy, along with details of regional work taking place, any challenges faced and any key actions which will take place in 2013/14. The report includes performance graphs to demonstrate progress on key actions over recent years and to support the information in the report. This year's report also contains an evaluative section to provide a holistic picture of how work is progressing to achieve the priority outcomes and evaluate areas where partners are working well and areas where work needs to improve.</p> <p>Sian asked whether any graphs regarding population demographics in the Vale on the age of the population would be included and Huw advised that this information is being picked up in the refresh of the Unified Needs Assessment.</p> <p>The group endorsed the document for publication.</p>	<p>HM/FH</p>
<p>10. <u>Promoting Sustainability</u></p> <p>Helen presented the group with a report that was discussed at July's Implementation Group meeting regarding sustainability. Priority Outcome 3 of the Community Strategy states "Vale residents and organisations respect the local environment and work together to meet the challenge of climate change". One of the actions in the Delivery Plan for this Priority Outcome involves co-ordinating a sustainability awareness campaign. The report gives a number of suggestions on how this work could be progressed by LSB members and also includes feedback received from discussions at the Implementation Group meeting.</p> <p>Helen advised that members of the Implementation Group felt that setting up a sub-group to complete this work may not be productive and may move away from the aim of raising sustainability awareness amongst members of the LSB themselves. The most popular suggestions amongst members of the Implementation Group were the possibility of holding an LSB meeting at a venue such as an eco-school and the suggestion of liaising with private sector organisations such as Dow Corning for LSB partners to learn from the forward thinking, innovative approaches taken by the private sector towards sustainability.</p> <p>Sharon asked whether an awareness campaign would deal with specific aspects of sustainability such as climate change or broader aspects of the term sustainability as partners may better engage with this. Helen advised that this is something members of the LSB</p>	

<p>should consider in terms of which aspects of sustainability LSB members wish to work collectively on in regard to an awareness raising campaign.</p> <p>Sian said that the suggestions in the report centre on the environmental aspects of sustainability and proposed that this is what the group focus on.</p> <p>The group agreed that the preferred option to move work forward would be to liaise with the private sector to gain knowledge of best practice, and Mark stated that RWE Npower would be happy to be involved in this work.</p> <p>Helen also advised that there will be a workshop on sustainability at this year's Local Service Forum event.</p>	<p>HM/MP</p> <p>HM/JH</p>
<p><u>11. Regional Collaboration Fund Programme Board Update inc. Cardiff and Vale Joint LSB</u></p> <p>Sian provided a brief update on the Regional Collaboration Fund projects and advised that work is now moving ahead on all the projects. She advised that a project manager has now been appointed for the health and social care service integration project and it has been agreed that work will focus on services for the coming winter. Sian also highlighted that it is important to ensure the Sexual Assault Referral Centre and the Alcohol Treatment Centre are sustainable in the long term as funding is limited.</p> <p>Rachel Burnham from BDO was observing the meeting and she gave a brief update on the work to examine the feasibility of a joint Cardiff and Vale LSB. Rachel advised that in light of the earlier discussion regarding an LSB response to the Williams Commission, the scope of this project is not to consider organisational structures but to look at what work needs to remain on a local level and what work could take place regionally through a Cardiff and Vale LSB. Rachel advised that interviews with LSB members are being arranged and a special meeting of the Vale LSB will also take place with BDO consultants on the 2nd October to discuss the project. Following this, an interim report will be produced at the end of October, followed by a more in depth report showing the outcome of the work in January.</p>	
<p><u>12. Any Other Business</u></p> <p>Huw drew the group's attention to a number of key dates.</p> <p>As mentioned by Rachel (BDO), there will be a special LSB meeting on the 2nd October to discuss the joint Cardiff and Vale LSB work with BDO consultants.</p>	

<p>The scheduled LSB meeting on the 17th October will also be going ahead as the Local Development Plan will be presented to the LSB at this meeting before it goes to Council..</p> <p>Finally, the Local Service Forum will take place on the 18th October at Barry Memorial Hall. Helen thanked Sharon, who will be hosting this year's event on behalf of the LSB.</p>	
<p><u>13. Date of next meeting – Thursday 17th October 2013 @ 10am, Committee Room 1, Civic Offices.</u></p> <p><u>LSB meeting with Consultants regarding Joint LSB - Wednesday 2nd October @ 2.00pm, Committee Room 2, Civic Offices.</u></p>	