



FULL COUNCIL REPORT

Date Written	19 th August 2021
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Service Area	Children and Families Services/ Social Care
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	8 th September 2021

To: Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen

Regional Priorities and Programmes progressed under the Regional Partnership Board

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

1.1 This purpose of the report is to update Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council members and officials on the developments of the Regional Children's and Adult Service Boards; their purpose, main objectives, themed developing workstreams and to give an overview of integrated care and support services funded by the Integrated Care Fund (ICF), Welsh Government funding and Transformation.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION that

2.1 The activity and progress, and risk to future funding with current ICF funding ending on 31st March 2022, be noted.

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

3.1 Part 9 of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act Wales (2014) identified the statutory need for regions to create Regional Partnership Boards (RPBs) to oversee integrated strategic approaches to deliver integrated Health and Social Care services. As a result of the statutory duties, the Regional Partnership Board within Cwm Taf was established in 2017, for the geographic footprint of Rhondda Cynon Taff and Merthyr Tydfil, and the regional Governance arrangements updated in 2019 with the boundary changes which saw Bridgend join the region, to create the newly formed Cwm Taf Morgannwg.

- 3.2 Since this time, Welsh Government have more recently published “A Healthier Wales: our Plan for Health and Social Care” which emphasises the need to prevent illness by supporting people to manage their own health and wellbeing and on enabling people to live independently for as long as they can.
- 3.3 The Governance arrangements under the RPB was ratified in the Autumn of 2019 with a regional Adults and Children’s Service Board established.

4.0 REGIONAL SERVICE BOARD PRIORITIES

4.1 Children and Young People

The aim of the Children Services Programme Board is to oversee the development and delivery of Regional Transformation of Children Services. Key themes have been identified by members and colleagues who attend the Board, which include colleagues from children’s social care and education services across RCT, Merthyr Tydfil and Bridgend, health colleagues and third sector partners. The regional Children’s Service Board is currently chaired by the Chief Officer (Social Services) (Merthyr Tydfil CBC).

THEME 1: Integrated approach to accommodation and care and support for those with complex needs.

Three priority workstreams have been developed under this theme, including:

Sub Group Priority 1: To develop a new proposal for a ***Regional Integrated Children’s Residential accommodation*** for young people with complex emotional needs. A concept paper has been produced for consideration across the region with support to progress. £55K of ICF capital funding has been allocated against this work area to produce a feasibility study and explore options around location, viability, running costs etc. This work is to begin during the Autumn 2021.

Sub Group Priority 2: Continuing care - To undertake a review of existing collaborative arrangements between health and social care when planning care and support packages for children and young people with complex needs. IPC Oxford Brookes University have been commissioned to undertake this task. Work is progressing with draft reports completed.

Sub Group Priority 3: MAPSS (Multi Agency Placement Support Service for Children Looked After (CLA)) - To commission an agency to deliver therapeutic interventions to Children looked after (CLA) and those with placement breakdowns. This new service has seen some delays with progress but a tender is expected during August 2021 with a view to services beginning in the Autumn 2021.

THEME 2: To promote an integrated approach to emotional and physical resilience in children and young people.

Two priority workstreams have been developed under this theme including:

Sub Group Priority 4: Emotional Health and Wellbeing Sub group - to adopt and implement the Early Help and Enhanced Support/NEST framework and to develop a regional strategy and statement of intent for children, young people and families.

Sub Group Priority 5: Development of a regional mobile phone app, to improve communication and operational requirements between social care staff and Children looked after (CLA) (aged 16+ years). Initial scoping report has been produced with positive appetite to progress to seek quotes/tender to commission an app to be used as a communication tool. £72,366 of regional ICF discretionary capital funding has been earmarked to develop this area of work during 2021/22.

4.2 Adult Board

For the regional Adults Service Board the themes and priorities are:

Care Homes

- Development and implementation of Care Home Action Plan.
- Feasibility study commissioned to support Market stabilisation.

Application for feasibility funding completed and submitted to WG. RCT CBC have agreed to lead tendering for the contract. This work will also support the development of the Market Stability reports required by June 2022 and support potential care home capital requirements in future years.

Community Services Model Review

- Implementation of Optimal Model for community services.
- To review best practice, and the learning from the transformation programmes, to develop an optimal and financially sustainable operating model across the region as part of a single regional programme.

Once completed this work will help shape existing provision and determine future configuration and priority for partnership resources from 2022/23.

Dementia Action Plan

- To oversee local implementation of the key actions in the national and local Dementia Action Plan.
- To review services to ensure that they meet the All-Wales Dementia Care Pathway of Standards (March 2021).

Integrated Care Funded Revenue and Capital Projects - Revenue Projects

- 4.3 In addition to the number of regional workstreams, Welsh Government Integrated Care Funding (ICF) funds 17 projects that support children services to the value of £2,747,654 across the region. Funding is directed to services to children and young people that require care and support, those with complex needs, including emotional wellbeing needs, those at the edge of care/care leavers and those with disabilities.

- 4.4 Within Merthyr Tydfil, ICF funds 3 projects providing care and support to children, young people and families:
- Supporting Change (Edge of Care) = £180,000.
 - Preventing Escalation of Need (Care Leavers) = £30,000.
 - Emotional wellbeing/Community Mental Health post (seconded from Health).
- 4.5 A third project (MAPSS) is looking to be commissioned across the 3 localities and an allocation of £106,880 as the Merthyr Tydfil contribution. There is also access to additional funding via Interlink and VAMT issued on a needs basis and through application process.
- 4.6 For adults the following projects are funded at a total budget value of £458,625.
- Domiciliary Care - Recruitment & Retention = £200,000.
 - Complex Transition Support = £20,000.
 - Senior Social Work Complex Care = £59,000.
 - Single Point of Access - Senior Social Worker = £45,000.
 - Additional Social Workers (MT) = £53,780.
 - Increased Capacity - Intermediate Care Reablement Service & Initial Response = £80,854.

Transformation programme

- 4.7 The CTM Transformation Programme is made up of eight projects being delivered across the Regional Partnership Board footprint that covers Bridgend, RCT and Merthyr Tydfil. Three of the projects are located in Bridgend and five are located in RCT and Merthyr Tydfil, although they share common approaches and common aims.
- 4.8 All eight projects are focused upon improving the performance and effectiveness of community services in order to both improve the experience, wellbeing and health of the local population and to reduce the reliance upon acute and in-patient health services to meet the needs that people have.
- 4.9 In Merthyr Tydfil and RCT the two councils and CTUHB are pursuing similar aims with their workstreams that were designed to build upon and 'scale up' work done previously.
- 4.10 The five workstreams are:

Workstream 1 - Risk Stratification and Segmentation: Risk Stratification will be used to calculate individual patient risk scores using a range of modifiable and non-modifiable factors. These scores can be used at a GP practice, GP cluster and Health Board level to identify individuals or groups of patients within the highest risk groups and to enable the management and reduction of risk through targeted and anticipatory care.

Workstream 2 - Assistive Technology: expands upon existing services to provide a new 24 hour/365-day mobile response service that responds within 1 hour to non-medical requests. Also, a proof of concept piece around wellbeing assessments linked to proactive out-bound telephone calls at regular intervals to prevent escalation or crisis following a preventative intervention.

Workstream 3 - Community Health and Wellbeing Teams: Enhanced Community Cluster Teams that are made up of a range of professionals from health and social care, they take on a strategic role and to directly plan, organise and manage services for their local populations and deliver Anticipatory Care - using the information from the population segmentation and risk stratification workstream.

Workstream 4 - Stay Well@Home2: has enabled the Local Authorities to extend the opening hours of their Adult Social Care Single Points of Access (SPA) from 5 days to 7 days a week, 8:30am to 8pm, which provides community health and social care professionals access to rapid assessment and response services to support individuals to remain safely living at home and avoid any unnecessary conveyancing to hospitals.

Workstream 5 - Urgent Primary Care Out of Hours: Strengthening the MDT team triaging through the 111 clinical services and maximising the opportunities from the application of artificial intelligence to sign post patients to self-care and appropriate alternative services (Note: from 2020/21 this workstream has been mainstreamed).

4.11 Independent Evaluation has been completed:

- IPC concluded that since their last report in the Summer of 2020, 'the majority of projects have made progress, the evidence of which is beginning to emerge as most robust data and qualitative evidence is routinely gathered and analysed'.
- The design of the interventions in each workstream continues to fit well with national policy and Government guidance, evidence and emerging best practice.
- Projects provide real evidence of the improvement of individuals' outcomes, professionals' stating their experience and impact of new arrangements, and emerging data of positive cost avoidance activities.
- There should be an on-going confidence that they will continue to achieve both positive individual and system outcomes.
- The final evaluations will have to be careful to evaluate cost/benefit for each workstream in a way that doesn't disadvantage those that are less clinical in nature ie. those which are not able to make the financial link between hospital bed days avoided as an outcome from their intervention.
- The task of reflecting on workstream impact as a collection of inter-related or integrated services is increasingly important, how the performance of one project impacts on others.
- Encourage development in respect of improved understanding through education and learning for all staff and partners to enable the required and sustainable culture shift that ensures all community service options are considered in the first instance to avoid people being inappropriately conveyed or admitted to hospital.

ICF Capital Funding into Merthyr Tydfil

4.12 In addition to ICF revenue funding, ICF Capital funding into Cwm Taf Morgannwg is issued to a number of schemes across the region, split between the Main Capital Programme (MCP) and Discretionary Capital Programme (DCP). Within Merthyr Tydfil in particular, **£898,202** of ICF MCP and DCP regional capital funding has been awarded to the three schemes to support children and young people, to be developed during 2021/22:

- **MCP 15 Neighbourhood Learning Centre (NLC)** - reconfiguring of one of the NLC buildings to create Supported Accommodation for Care leavers (aged 16+ years) = £742,302.
- **MCP 17 - Feasibility Study** - to explore options and use of Thomastown House building, with consideration to developing a crisis assessment unit and residential accommodation for children and young people = £70,000.
- **Ty Homfray & Ty Dysgu (PRU)** - Development of a therapeutic space for children at risk of exclusion/reduced timetable = £85,900.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 With ICF funding ending on 31st March 2022, Welsh Government is currently planning a new future funding programme from 1st April 2022 with suggestions of a 5-year tapered funding approach. Four workstreams have been developed with representatives from each of the 7 RPBs across Wales attending, to help inform and shape the new health and social care programme and guidance. The workstreams will focus on the finance model, outcomes, monitoring performance and regional infrastructure requirements. New programme guidance is expected to be issued in September 2021 with budgets likely to be announced by December 2021. Early indications suggest the new programme will retain focus on the same client groups: older people, those with learning disabilities, children with complex care and those with mental health difficulties and carers.

5.2 At this time the Regional Commissioning Unit is working with each ICF funded Project Manager and Transformation Manager to develop robust evaluation methods and service area feedback in order to guide and inform future decisions regarding projects to retain, those required to be de-commissioned and identify any gaps in service provision. The population needs assessment for the region, currently being developed, will also help inform future services and gaps in health and social care provision.

6.0 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1

	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts	Neutral/Not Applicable
1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives	3 of 4	0 of 4	1 of 4
2. Sustainable Development Principles - How have you considered the five ways of working?	5 of 5	0 of 5	0 of 5

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term • Prevention • Integration • Collaboration • Involvement 			
3. Protected Characteristics (including Welsh Language)	7 of 10	0 of 10	3 of 10
4. Socio-economic Disadvantage	6 of 6	0 of 6	0 of 6
5. Consultation and Engagement	Undertaken	Due to be Undertaken	Not Required
	1 of 1	0 of 1	0 of 1
6. Data and Evidence to inform the proposal	Yes		No
	1 of 1		0 of 1
7. Biodiversity and the resilience of Ecosystems	Maintained	Enhanced	Reduced
	0 of 1	0 of 1	0 of 1
Summary			
The main positive impacts are:	Regional working showing integration and collaboration across 3 LA's, Health and third sector.		
The main negative impacts are:	No negatives identified.		

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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Welsh Government 'A Healthier Wales' a Plan for Health and Social Care		Welsh Government website
Integrated Care Funding, Revenue, Dementia and Capital Guidance April 2021	December 2020	Welsh Government website
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		No

Consultation has been undertaken with the Corporate Management Team in respect of each proposal(s) and recommendation(s) set out in this report.