

Meeting of:	Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	Tuesday, 07 January 2025
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Healthy Living and Social Care
Report Title:	Update on the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Regional Partnership Board
Purpose of Report:	To update Members on the work of the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Regional Partnership Board in relation to the integration of health and social care
Report Owner:	Director of Social Services
Responsible Officer:	Cath Doman, Director of Health and Social Care Integration
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Cabinet Member, Social Care and Health. Social Services Senior Management Team.
Policy Framework:	This report is consistent with the Policy Framework and Budget
<p>Executive Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This paper provides Members with a briefing on the work of the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Regional Partnership Board (RPB), with a focus on developments to support the citizens of the Vale of Glamorgan. • The report summarises the progress of the RPB made since the last report in January 2024, recognising the severe financial and capacity challenges across the partnership and the associated effect on the progress of more strategic developments. • Full details of the activities and impact of the RPB can be found in the 2023/24 RPB Annual Report, the link to which is provided later in this document. 	

Recommendations

1. To consider the work being undertaken by the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Regional Partnership Board, and progress made, in particular the outcomes being achieved for local people.
2. To receive further annual updates on the work of the Board.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. To increase awareness of the work of the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Regional Partnership Board of which the Vale of Glamorgan Council is a major partner.
2. To ensure that Members are informed of and engaged with the work of the Regional Partnership Board.

1. Background

- 1.1 Part 9 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 requires Local Authorities to make arrangements to promote co-operation with their relevant partners and others, in relation to adults with needs for care and support, carers and children.
- 1.2 Local Authorities and Health Boards are required to establish *Regional Partnership Boards* (RPBs) to secure strategic planning and partnership working and to ensure effective services, care and support are in place to meet the needs of their respective populations. The Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan RPB was established in April 2016.
- 1.3 The objectives of the RPBs are to ensure that the partnership bodies work effectively together to:
 - Respond to the population needs assessment carried out in accordance with Section 14 of the Act;
 - Implement the plans for each of the Local Authority areas which are covered by the Board, which Local Authorities and Health Boards are each required to prepare and publish under Section 14 of the Act;
 - Ensure the partnership bodies provide sufficient resources for the Partnership Arrangements;
 - Promote the establishment of pooled funds where appropriate.
- 1.4 Over time, RPBs have widened their remit to prioritise the integration of services in relation to a much broader range of people:
 - Older people with complex needs and long-term conditions, including dementia
 - People with learning disabilities
 - Children with complex needs

- Carers, including young carers
 - Integrated Family Support Services
 - Children with disabilities and/or illness
 - Children who are care experienced
 - Children who need care and support
 - Children who are at risk of becoming looked after
 - Children with emotional and behavioural needs
 - Young People as they transition between Children and Adult Services
- 1.5 The Chair of the RPB is currently Charles Janczewski, Chair of Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and has been in post since April 2024. The previous Chair, Councillor Eddie Williams, Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health, Vale of Glamorgan Council remains a member of the RPB along with Cllr Sandra Perkes, Cabinet Member for Housing and Tenant Engagement, Elizabeth Jones, Director of Learning & Skills, and Lance Carver, Director of Social Services.
- 1.6 This Report provides an update following the last report to the Scrutiny Committee on the 9 January 2024.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 The Partnership Arrangements (Wales) Regulations 2015 require that each Regional Partnership Board must prepare an annual report on the extent to which it has met its objectives. The 2023/24 Annual Report of the RPB is available on the Partnership's website [here](#).
- 2.2 Our partnership has experienced a great deal of challenge in the last year due to the current financial climate, increasing costs, recruitment, retention and capacity constraints. This is unlikely to abate in the near future and working with partners becomes increasingly important to deliver effective and efficient services.

RPB funding arrangements – revenue

- 2.3 Welsh Government introduced a 5-year fund to support the delivery of integrated care across Wales in April 2022. The Regional Integration Fund (RIF) has continued to support many of the successful projects and services delivered across the Vale of Glamorgan.
- 2.4 The Vale of Glamorgan Council currently receives c.£2,942,366 from the RIF (24/25 estimate).

RPB funding arrangements – capital

- 2.5 Capital funding streams overseen by the partnership include the *Housing with Care Fund* (HCF), which funds the development of housing-related care and intermediate care, while the *Integration and Rebalancing Capital Fund* (IRCF) targets the development of integrated health and wellbeing hubs, rebalancing

the adult residential care market, and supporting the elimination of profit from the provision of children's residential care.

- 2.6 The priorities for these funds are set out in the 10-year Strategic Capital Plan, enabling us to take a whole system view on the capital developments needed to support people to live well in their communities.
- 2.7 In the Vale, there are schemes underway including for adults with learning disabilities, designed and developed in partnership with First Choice Housing Association (FCHA), and community living for older people at Penarth Older Persons Village. Funding for smaller scale capital projects has been maintained covering disabled facilities grants and technology enabled care, with additional support for third sector organisations operating in the Vale of Glamorgan.
- 2.8 Additional schemes are being developed for HCF submission to include residential care for children and young people as well as schemes for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. A proposal for IRCF capital funding to support improved day opportunities for people with learning disabilities is under development.
- 2.9 Revenue funding for planning capacity in support of the capital programme was reduced by Welsh Government for the 2024/25 financial year. Despite this, revenue funding has been maintained for posts within the Vale to enable capital programme delivery and the development of capital plans to support service delivery and modernisation.

Commissioning

- 2.10 The Regional Commissioning Board has reviewed the Market Stability Report this year, providing an assessment of the stability and sufficiency of the care market to meet the needs of the local population. This review was informed by local assessments that are undertaken by each Local Authority on an annual basis.
- 2.11 Scrutiny Committee considered the changes to the market in the Vale of Glamorgan since publication of the original Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Market Stability Report (MSR) in December 2024.

Joined up services for winter

- 2.12 The RPB brings partners together to meet the additional demands placed on the health and care system during the winter period, although the distinction between winter and the rest of the year has become less marked in terms of changing demand. The region is represented at the national Care Action Committee with representatives from both the RPB and Vale of Glamorgan Council.

The RPB has supported operational colleagues to develop shared winter plans for the coming season. This includes plans to deliver the 50-day integrated care winter challenge.

The RPB's work programme

- 2.13 In 2023, the RPB published its [Joint Area Plan 2023-28](#) which sets out regional shared commitments for the 5-year period. Informed by the Population Needs Assessment and the Market Stability Report, the Joint Area Plan (JAP) gives us

the opportunity to consider what the needs of our population and how partners might respond collectively.

2.14 The JAP focuses on what we need to work on together to be able to make the changes needed to improve outcomes for local people. It is therefore written in the context of the Vale of Glamorgan Council's own plans and those of the other partners (third sector, Cardiff Council and the Health Board).

2.15 A summary of key commitments is outlined below:

Making a Difference – Our Commitments for 2028

We will:

- Work together to keep our babies, children and young people healthy, well and safe from harm
- Deliver a Nurturing, Empowering, Safe and Trusted approach to emotional wellbeing and mental health
- Improve the support offer for babies, children and young people with complex needs.

People with **Learning Disabilities** will have the ability to live as independently as possible in their local community.

We will support all people in our region to have the opportunity to live positive, independent lives without being affected by **violence and abuse**.

Unpaid Carers will be recognised for the vital contribution they make to the community and the people they care for and enabled to do the things they want to alongside caring.

We will build a co-produced plan with stakeholders and people with **mental health needs** that enables people to do the things that matter most to them.

With people with **physical and sensory disabilities** we will find out more about their needs, experiences and priorities, developing and delivering changes that enable people to live as independently as possible.

Neurodiversity services will have strengthened provision with a focus on providing the right support at the right time.

People will be able to **age well** at home with more opportunities for wellbeing and independence. Services will reflect the diversity of people as they age well.

People with **Dementia** will be supported to live well and do the things they need to and enjoy in their communities.

2.16 The Joint Area Plan was developed in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders including the Vale's Public Service Board and Pan Cluster Planning Group before being endorsed by the Vale of Glamorgan Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee in June 2023. Examples of the commitments we have made for people in the Vale of Glamorgan include:

- Service delivery improvements aligned to NEST for babies, children and young people.
- Support to meet the new national guidance on neurodiversity requirements.
- Improved services for people with learning disabilities to live closer to home with the right support and maximise their independence.
- Delivery of the Unpaid Carers Charter including ongoing provision of the Carers Gateway.
- Development of the *Safe@Home* crisis response, admission avoidance service.
- Delivering clear community-based pathways for timely assessment and diagnosis for people with dementia

2.17 As a partnership, we work together to support people when they need it at every stage in their lives. Our work is organised around three life-stage themes:

- **Starting Well:** giving every child the best start in life.
- **Living Well:** supporting people to live well and do the things that matter to them.
- **Ageing Well:** enabling people to stay independent as they become older.



We will:

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- Deliver a nurturing, empowering safe and trusted approach to emotional wellbeing and mental health
- Improve the support offer for babies, children and young people with complex needs.

Our plans for 2024-25:

- Implement revised governance for Starting Well by end of Q1 2024/25
 - Expand the No Wrong Door model
 - Embed the Goleudy model
- 2.18 We want every baby, child and young person in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan to have the opportunity to thrive. Our Starting Well Programme covers three key areas:
- emPOWER: Emotional health and wellbeing
 - Children with complex needs and disabilities
 - Early Years Pathfinder
- 2.19 During 2024-25 the Vale of Glamorgan Council has been a key partner in reviewing the Starting Well partnership priorities for babies, children and young people. The Vale of Glamorgan Head of Children and Young People Services and the Director of Education are founding members of a new Starting Well leads group which is setting strategic priorities for the partnership programme and will oversee delivery of the programme of work.
- 2.20 The *No Wrong Door* approach continues to be embedded across the region. So far in 2024-25, 317 new contacts have been received from parents to the Vale's Families First Advice line against an overall annual target of 150. Of those families who responded to a post service survey, 100% felt that both their emotional health and wellbeing and overall family resilience had improved as a consequence of the service received.
- 2.21 In early 2024, the Strategic Leadership Group agreed a revision of the *Goleudy* model to include specific support staff recruited in each local authority instead of

one commissioned provider to ensure close alignment with the range of Children's Services in the Vale. Recruitment is underway.

- 2.22 The *Early Years Pathfinder* programme funding came to an end in March 2024, however the Non-Violent Resistance practice will continue to be embedded across practitioners who received training, with the Vale remaining committed to early years as a priority for delivery.
- 2.23 The Vale of Glamorgan Council has been a partner in the development of a memorandum of understanding to ensure continued delivery of Early Positive Approaches to Support for parents, following the end of the pathfinder funding.
- 2.24 Members of staff from the early years Additional Learning Needs (ALN) team and Flying Start are engaged in piloting a Summary Care View application to enable Vale staff to review health information for children on the Neurodiversity waiting list. The aim of this work is to improve community-based support to families who are awaiting a diagnostic assessment for neurodivergence.
- 2.25 Early Years Pathfinder and the Neurodivergence Programme funding continued to increase capacity to support assessment and diagnosis as well as improve access to support whilst waiting for diagnosis for infants, children and young people. This is in addition to transition provision for people with care and support needs and neurodiversity.



2.26 Living Well Headlines

Unpaid carers

Unpaid Carers will be recognised for the vital contribution they make to the community and the people they care for, and enabled to do the things they want to alongside caring.

- 2.30 The [Cardiff and Vale Unpaid Carers Charter](#) was formally launched on 24th March 2023. This sets out the commitments of all partners in the region in ensuring unpaid carers are recognised and supported for their vital contribution.
- 2.31 The RPB unpaid carer representatives, organised and hosted the first Regional Unpaid Carers Assembly on 20th November 2023 at Sophia Gardens. The event was attended by unpaid carers from across the region, Julie Morgan - Deputy Minister for Social Services (photo below), Heledd Fychan - MS for South Wales Central along with unpaid carer



organisations, Vale of Glamorgan Council information services and Cllr Eddie Williams.

- 2.32 The Carers Gateway is based in Penarth and supports unpaid carers across the region, reached 430 Vale carers in 2023-24. In 24-25 our new provider – TuVida - has provided information, advice and support to 351 Vale residents. This includes 120 unpaid carers who had been referred by Vale social services for further advice and support.
- 2.33 The RPB was proud to support the 2024 Carers Rights Day held at Penarth Leisure Centre on 21st November 2024. The theme for the day was ‘Recognizing your rights’ for all unpaid carers and also included a focused session for young carers.
- 2.34 The RPB also provided Short Break funding for a variety of respite activities for unpaid carers across the region and is working with third sector colleagues to deliver this grant again for use in 2024-25.



People with neurodiversity

Our Commitment: Neurodiversity services will have strengthened provision with a focus on providing the right support at the right time.

- 2.35 The Cardiff and Vale Integrated Autism Service (IAS) continued to support autistic adults and their carers across the region.
- 2.36 In 2023/2024 CAVUHB began testing the development of an ADHD pathway within a Community Mental Health Team to improve the service across the region.
- 2.37 Case Study: Vale of Glamorgan supporting an individual who has a diagnosis of ASD, learning disability, ADHD, Tourette's syndrome and anxiety disorder.**

Both the individual and family have reported how comfortable and happy the individual has been during their transition and feel having bespoke support and technology will aid the individual to develop independent living skills. The individual is now returned from Residential College to the Vale of Glamorgan to live in a transition smart house, closer to their friends and family.

Learning Disabilities:

Our Commitment: People with Learning Disabilities will have the ability to live as independently as possible in their local community.

2.37 Both of the two lived experience support workers for the region now have full time roles, with the Vale support worker embedded within the Learning Disability Team in Hen Goleg. Both are invaluable in improving information, engagement with people with a learning disability as well as champion and wider awareness training.

2.38 Together, these staff members have engaged with 589 health professionals and 305 people with lived experience of a learning disability as part of their outreach work across the region during 2023/2024.



2.39 This short video shows how services are benefitting from directly employing people with a lived experience [Stacey and Joanna's Story - Lived Experience - YouTube](#)

2.40 Work is now beginning to inform the next phase in the development of Learning Disability services.



2.41 Ageing Well Headlines

- Dementia programme
- @home – integrated community care system programme

2.42 People with dementia

Our Commitment: People with Dementia will be supported to live well and do the things they need to and enjoy in their communities.

2.43 Vale of Glamorgan Council has been working with communities and local businesses to ensure that the Vale is Dementia Friendly and people know how to access local support. The website gives an overview of how this important work supports people living with dementia and their carers: [News \(dementiafriendlyvale.com\)](#).

2.44 In 2023-24, 142 organisations within the Vale were supported to become Dementia Friendly with 3,709 Vale residents becoming Dementia Friends.

2.45 In 2024-25 so far, 324 Vale businesses are in the process of being supported while 1,588 people have become Dementia Friends. The Dementia Programme leads were able to support the Dementia Friendly Cowbridge Open Day, helping to support engagement in more rural areas, as well as raising awareness of dementia and the support available within the Vale.



2.46 We are now halfway through the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan's Dementia Strategy, a ten-year plan which links with national strategies including the National Dementia Action Plan and the All-Wales Dementia Care Pathway of Standards.

2.47 A core component of the programme is to increase the provision of GP-led local diagnosis clinics. In 2023-24, 113 Vale residents were seen in a Vale-based GP clinic for diagnosis. In 24-25 so far, a further 52 residents have been seen with 28 receiving a diagnosis of dementia. 19 people were diagnosed as being in early Stage 1 Dementia. Early diagnosis is important in ensuring access to information, advice and support, in dealing with early symptoms and planning for the future.

2.48 In 2023-24 115 Vale residents were referred to the VCRS-based *Team Around the Individual* (TATI) for ongoing help and support re. Dementia. In 2024-25, 52 Vale residents have been referred so far.

2.49 In addition, in 2024-25 so far the programme has:

- Trained over 750 people to support people with dementia
- Held 28 Awareness Sessions in the community to help people understand more about dementia
- Memory Link Workers have supported 2,000 people to help them get support more easily
- Our commissioned partners Mental Health Matters (MHM) supported 9000+ people with activities during their stay in hospital
- [Listen to the Dementia Learning & Development Team speaking about their proudest moments](#)

2.50 **@home programme**

Our Commitment: Establish integrated, locality-based, health and care services focussed on meeting and improving the health and wellbeing of the local population.

2.51 @home is a major programme dedicated to developing community-based integrated care services, focused on enabling people to remain healthy well and independent at home. In the Vale, this builds on a strong foundation of the integrated Vale Community Resources Service, Wellbeing Matters, and integrated roles.

2.52 A key focus over the last year has been bringing partners together to develop plans around a joint crisis response service called *Safe@Home*. This urgent response service is an alternative to ambulance conveyance to hospital, assisting acutely unwell service users as well as those with general frailty related issues. Phase 1 for the Vale locality development was to provide additional GP and Advance Nurse Practitioner support, along with the existing Vale Community Resource Service provision to respond and support people safely remain at home.



2.53 Since the service began in January 2024, 448 referrals have been made to the Vale Safe@Home team. 317 people, the majority of whom live in the Vale of Glamorgan, were subsequently accepted with 38 being signposted elsewhere. 178 (56%) Vale residents were able to remain at home for at least 28 days post discharge from the service.

2.54 In addition, the @Home programme has been working with clusters to develop a multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach; based upon learning from pilot work in central and western Vale of Glamorgan. The service is now being developed within the eastern Vale. In 2023-24, these MDT meetings were able to support 519 Vale residents through a joined-up approach. In 2024-25 so far, 247 Vale residents have received the same service.

2.55 Finally, the *Wellbeing Matters* service in the Vale brings together health, social care and third sector support into a single point of access. Health and Adult Services staff work together in the contact centre in Barry to ensure people can access the right information, advice, guidance and services. This service has seen these elements work more closely together and implement a 'What Matters?' process to ensure they capture the important outcomes in the person's own voice. In 2023-24 the service responded to 74,796 individual contacts from across the Vale. In 2024-25 so far the service has responded to a further 33,786 Vale residents. On average this year, 64% of calls have been addressed directly by the service without the need for further referral.



[Listen to people involved with @Home speak about what the programme has achieved.](#)

2.56 Digital Care Region –Summary Care Viewer

2.57 The Vale of Glamorgan has supported the Digital Care Region programme's development of the Summary Care Viewer.



2.58 Neurodevelopmental Care Pathway: Vale of Glamorgan staff using the Summary Care Viewer can see information from different services to support an integrated approach for children on the Neurodevelopmental Care Pathway. It also means that Local Authority staff can view the most up to date information at the time they need it supporting coordinated care and saving time.

2.59 Vale Community Resource Service: a Summary Care Viewer has been developed to share adult care data from WCCIS and Access Care Planning systems with data from the CAVUHB Paris community health system, ensuring staff have access to the right information to enhance coordinated care. Final testing is taking place and we anticipate the system going live in 2025.

2.60 Vale of Glamorgan Celebration Event

2.61 The RPB team were pleased to share in an event on 21st November which, celebrated the achievements of various RIF-funded adult services. Here are some highlights:



2.62 **The Telecare Falls Service** triages and responds to those who have had a fall, has managed to save the NHS an estimate £1m in reduced ambulance conveyances and potential admission to hospitals. The £114k investment in the service has realised a 777% benefit realised in avoided costs.

2.63 **Accommodation Solutions** – this service supports hospital discharge planning and admission avoidance through the provision of:

- housing advice and support;
- step up / step down flats for short term use;
- Clean and clear services.

In 2024-25, 98 Vale residents were assisted in their discharge from hospital with 16 using the step-up / step-down accommodation. This equates to an estimated 1,443 hospital bed days saved.

2.64 Dementia – Opening Doors to Brain Workout

Launched May 2023, so far 19 events have been organised across the region taking information into the community, specifically those that historically engage less with health and care services.

Impact



This project is significantly benefiting our population, as evidenced by the outcomes of the tailor-made engagements, which have exceeded expectations with over 1,000 people connecting with the services.

Whole system impacts of the scheme include:

- Increased awareness and involvement
- Accessing the right services the first time
- Reduced avoidable distress
- Person centred approach to engagement and co-production
- Strong emphasis and impact on prevention agenda
- Mutual learning means well informed and empowered services
- Realistic expectations
- People with lived experience can thrive more in their own communities



Forward look

- 2.66 As partners continue to deliver services in the most challenging of circumstances, the attention of the RPB has turned increasingly to consolidating and strengthening existing arrangements that are demonstrating a positive impact and improved outcomes for people.
- 2.67 As partners are ensuring that funding routed through the RPB is used in ways that reduce the impact of the financial sustainability challenges, rather than placing further obligations on stretched core funding streams.
- 2.68 The RPB is mindful of the need to continue to safeguard and maintain investment in prevention and joint working as a long-term strategy to reducing overall demand and associated financial risk.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1 The work of the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Regional Partnership Board plays a key role in supporting the delivery of sustainable social services in the long term. Engagement, integration, involvement, collaboration, and prevention are all founding principles of the Partnership as demonstrated within the Terms of Reference for the Board.
- 3.2 The emerging programmes set out above, will enable the RPB to have a greater impact on the delivery of the wellbeing objectives.

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 4.1 There are no Climate Change and Nature Implications as a direct result of this report.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

5.1 Welsh Government has introduced the new 5-year Regional Integration Fund during 22/23. The fund will include support to deliver:

- National programmes e.g. dementia and integrated autism services.
- RPB infrastructure to deliver part 9 duties of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act.
- Acceleration of the delivery of new care models.
- Embedding of successful projects previously funded by ICF and other funds.
- Support to the social value (third) sector.

The previous expectation of tapering funding has been removed from the RIF guidance in light of the financial pressures presenting across the economy at the current time.

Employment

5.2 The RIF predecessor funds (ICF and Transformation Fund) have enabled the employment of key staff within the Council. Every effort has been taken to limit the number of permanent roles. Nevertheless, the 7-year period of the ICF's existence along with the need to secure key skills set from a limited pool of availability has meant that a significant pool of permanent staff is now funded through this short-term resource. In the transition from ICF/Transformation Fund to the RIF, the RPB has ensured that all posts dependent on that funding have been secured, notwithstanding the risk set out above in paragraph v as a result of reducing WG funding over the lifetime of the RIF.

Legal (Including Equalities)

5.3 The work outlined in this report sets out the progress of the RPB in meeting the requirements of Part 9 of the SSWWA.

6. Background Papers

The Cardiff and Vale Regional Partnership Board Annual Report 2023/24 can be found [here](#).

Reports to Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee: 9th January 2024; 10th January 2023; 11th January 2022; 12th January 2021; 14th January 2020.