

# Meeting of the Social Services, Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

9 July 2025

## Responses to Recommendations / Additional Information Requested

	Recommendations / Information Requested:	Response:	Accepted / Partially Accepted / Not Accepted:
<b>Regional Partnership Agreement</b>			
<b>Recommendations</b>			
<b>1</b>	The Committee reiterated their recommendation made on 1 May 2025, expressing concern at the number of acronyms being used within reports causing a barrier to full understanding of reports and terms included. and <b>recommended</b> that future reports contain a glossary of abbreviations to assist the Committee and the public. In addition, the Committee <b>recommended</b> that reports should be written in plain English avoiding unnecessarily complex language.	<p>A glossary of abbreviations will be included in future reports.</p> <p>The Regional Partnership Agreement (RPA) is a technical and legal document, but the committee's recommendation to user plainer language will be addressed in future in covering papers.</p>	Accepted.
<b>2</b>	The Committee expressed concern regarding the number of levels of governance set out in Figure 2 of the Agreement highlighting how it would involve multiple meetings of the same people and <b>recommended</b> that consideration be given to reducing the levels and, in particular, the removal of the Integrated Leadership Board.	<p>The RPA does not add an additional level to existing regional partnership governance, rather it would use existing structures for any decision making required in operating of the agreement.</p> <p>The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act established Regional Partnership Boards (RPBs) to improve joint working in health and social care. The Part 9 Statutory Guidance for the Act explicitly outlines that RPBs must:</p>	Partially Accepted.

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	However, given that the service user voice could be lost if the Integrated Leadership Board level of governance was removed, the Committee <b>recommended</b> that this be picked up in another level of governance. <b>(MJ)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish governance structures that support integration;</li> <li>Ensure accountability and reporting mechanisms; and</li> <li>Facilitate multi-agency collaboration through appropriate sub-groups and programme boards.</li> </ul> <p>Whilst then is for the RPB to determine the appropriate arrangements to enable it to discharge its duties, officers and the Cabinet member indicated an intention to streamline and focus existing arrangements.</p>	
3	The Committee expressed concern that despite reliance on other stakeholders, there appeared to be little reference to third sector and voluntary organisations in the Agreement and were advised of the possible challenges of obtaining funding without reference being made to them. The Committee therefore <b>recommended</b> that third sector and voluntary organisations be fully described in the Agreement.	The RPA is a legally binding arrangement between Bridgend Council Borough Council, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board. The model of integration prescribed in the RPA commits these partners to a 'Prevention Pathway' which is where Third Sector including voluntary organisations have a key role. This will be explained more fully in the final version of the RPA. The Third Sector are also represented throughout regional partnership structures.	Accepted.
4	The Committee expressed concern that 'Outcomes' had been replaced with 'Output' in the <i>Outcomes and Performance and Measurement Framework</i> (Appendix 1) and	The officer explained how the Outcomes and Performance Framework section of the RPA is based on the Results Based Accountability methodology. However, the framework seeks to draw out a category of indicators which will	Accepted.

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	<b>recommended</b> that this be addressed to provide clearer understanding.	demonstrate the extent to which a stronger community-based and preventative model is being delivered in practice. A clearer explanation will be provided in the final version of the RPA to aid understanding.	
<b>5</b>	The Committee acknowledged the innovative and transformational work taking place in the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate and that the Community Resource Team's delivery model was being replicated as best practice across the other local authorities within the region and <b>recommended</b> that correspondence be sent to the Corporate Director recognising the work thanking her and her team.	Scrutiny actioned with Chair of SSHWB OSC.	Accepted.
<b>Additional Information Requested:</b>			
<b>6</b>	The Committee <b>requested</b> that information regarding the Members information day being arranged by the Regional Partnership highlighting the regional working arrangements be shared with Members once arranged.	To be provided as agreed.	Accepted.
<b>7</b>	Members <b>requested</b> that the PowerPoint slides and the video shared with the Committee during the meeting be shared with Members.	Link provided to Members of the Committee.	Accepted.

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8	The Committee <b>requested</b> the case studies demonstrating hospital avoidance in cases of complex needs and safeguarding concerns referred to by the Group Manager – Integrated Community Services – Community Networks.	The case studies have been provided.	Accepted.
9	The Committee <b>requested</b> detail of the membership of the Integrated Leadership Board.	<p>Integrated Leadership Board membership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chief Executive Officer, Cwm Taf Morganwg University Health board (Chair)</li> <li>• Chief Executive Officer, Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations</li> <li>• Chief Executive, Interlink RCT</li> <li>• Chief Officer, Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil</li> <li>• Statutory Directors for Social Services (x3), Bridgend CBC, Merthyr Tydfil CBC and Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC</li> <li>• Executive Director of Strategy and Partnership, Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board</li> <li>• Director of Primary, Community and Mental Health, Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board</li> <li>• Deputy Director of Strategy and Partnerships, Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board</li> <li>• Clinical Director for Primary Care, Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board</li> <li>• Regional Integrated Services Director, Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Partnership</li> </ul>	Accepted.

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	<b>Recommendations / Information Requested:</b>	<b>Response:</b>	<b>Accepted / Partially Accepted / Not Accepted:</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Head of Regional Commissioning Unit, Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Partnership</li> </ul>	
<b>Forward Work Programme (FWP) Update</b>			
<b>10</b>	The Committee <b>requested</b> that the Regional Partnership Agreement be added to their FWP for review after 12 months.	Scrutiny to action in Work Planning Meetings with the Chair and Corporate Director. Item added to the Committee's Forward Work Programme.	Accepted