

Public services improvement across the valleys – Discussion Paper

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Ministerial Taskforce for the Valleys is a cross government commitment which aims to improve outcomes in the South Wales Valleys. The next meeting of the taskforce is scheduled for 2 February. At this meeting, the taskforce will focus on public service improvement.
- 1.2 This paper will form the basis of discussions at the next taskforce meeting. It brings together actions and commitments around a public services offer for the valleys. For the purpose of this paper, the focus is on Housing, Health and Social Services and Education (schools).
- 1.3 The paper has been set out to provide an overview of the “offer” for the valleys, which is set out in section 3 below. Annexes 1-3 provide further background information, across each policy area.

2. Aim

- 2.1 The sections below outline the key priorities and commitments within education (schools), housing and health and social services. It looks to consider how these areas can help contribute to delivery and improve outcomes across the valleys.
- 2.2. Board members will be expected to consider the scope of the proposals. This will include informing a number of key questions which will then be included in the paper for taskforce members – with the aim of focusing discussions at their meeting on 2 February.

3. Public service improvement – Offer for the valleys

The sections below outline the specific “offers” for the valleys. The full papers produced by departmental officials can be found in Annexes 1-3.

3.1 Housing Offer

Investment in house building, home improvement and regeneration schemes is estimated to be over £1.5bn over the next 5 years. This will build on the existing significant investment in programmes taking place in the Valleys areas. To maximise the investment regional planning will be needed reflecting national, regional and local priorities the ‘offer’ is:

- Targeting of new house building, using innovative housing models wherever possible, in key areas where there is housing need across tenures reflecting local need.
- Take a targeted approach to land for housing to drive investment in key areas such as sites in the Metro and City Region areas providing a range of housing types and tenures..
- Support new local businesses and organisations in the valleys by focussing on targeting affordable housing solutions for key workers where there is a housing need.
- Explore new options for housing young people in the valleys due to welfare reform changes which is low cost and flexible, including innovative housing models.
- Consider exploring a reverse shared ownership model for homeowners to enable repairs to properties where required.
- Share the success of the housing sector's ability to secure community benefits through procurement contracts and continue to create investment, jobs and training opportunities in the valleys areas including through green growth and social enterprise.
- Based on data from the new House Conditions Evidence Programme explore the investment needed to improve people's homes and how this work can not only create jobs and training opportunities but also address challenges around fuel poverty, climate change, carbon emissions and a changing demographic.
- Continue housing led regeneration as a component of wider regeneration targeting social housing estates (WHQS plus programme and encouraging mixed tenure) in tandem with creating wider transformation of key settlement areas.
- Enable joint working with social landlords to support prevention of ACEs on key deprived social housing estates including exploring the development of children's zones.
- Mixed tenure offer – take up the new rent to own product – enabling more to access homeownership but also shared ownership models.
- Housing, health and social care – maximising the use of health assets – land and buildings to support housing needs.
- Property development fund – support SMEs in the Valleys regarding housing building. Consider self-build models.

3.2 Health and Social Services Offer

In order to engage a wider range of stakeholders across health and social services, a workshop is being planned for 27 January 2017. The purpose of this workshop will be to consider how existing and new deliverables from health and social services can help contribute to a real change in outcomes for the people of the Valleys. At the workshop approaches will be sought which can contribute to addressing the determinants of economic deprivation, such as the role of health and social services as employers or in procuring goods and services, as well as those which have the potential to lead to improved health and social service provision for meeting the needs of communities in the Valleys. At the same time recognition will need to be given to the impact of other sectors on health and wellbeing. For example, it will be important to reflect on the extent of low paid jobs within the Valleys, and the poor connectivity and transport infrastructure in the Valleys, as well as other real and perceived barriers to access to jobs where those are available.

Among the potential themes for consideration are:

The health and social services as sustainable employers

The NHS, Social Services Departments and other care services are major employers in Valleys areas and have a role in developing the local workforce. For example, with an increasing elderly population, these services will be requiring a wide range of skilled staff to deliver care across a range of settings from people's homes to community and regional resources. For such services to be sustainable and to provide long term careers and employment opportunities for the local population, consideration can be given to the potential for further joint working with the education sector to provide local tailored training opportunities, suggesting where the priorities might be for creating employment opportunities for Valleys residents while better meeting future service needs. There is also scope to develop the social care workforce through improved terms and conditions, including career pathway and greater professionalization of the workforce.

Developing the economic base

There is a well established health and social services academic base within 'local universities'. Further work is needed to explore new economic opportunities building on this base, such as nurturing links between academic health and social care and industry start-ups in the Valleys, with the aim of creating new skilled jobs. Such a development could also be a pull factor into attracting high quality health and social services staff to the area. This is an area being considered as part of the work being undertaken in the Cwm Taf Pilot Project to link in with academia as well as making more effective use of public sector estate.

Stronger engagement on health and social services

In line with the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act, the Future Generations Act and prudent healthcare, which is based on achieving a co-productive relationship between citizens and services, a key priority is how to more effectively engage with communities in Valleys areas to tackle problems and find solutions relating to health

and social services provision. It is worth noting updated information from the work of Public Service Boards and Regional Partnership Boards on the health and wellbeing needs of Valleys communities will become available from next spring. This will need to be explored and areas identified for further engagement, so that any offer from health and social services can be grounded in the voice of the community. Consideration of how health and social services can better respond to the public's views of their needs and work jointly with the Third Sector on this issue will be a feature of the workshop.

Bringing services and community assets together

There are a range of models/approaches in the UK and elsewhere combining statutory services with community assets. These aim to bring together, often in a community hub, health and social services with advice services, Third Sector provision, time banking, social prescribing etc under community leadership. Such approaches value the capacity of communities, draw on their potential and allow communities to feel more in control. Consideration will be given to the potential of utilising such approaches to the benefit of Valleys communities.

Encouraging active communities

Shifting investment to primary and community care in its widest sense and to preventative services are key elements in developing sustainable services for the future. Empowering and informing citizens to take more responsibility for their own, their families and their community's health and wellbeing is also essential in delivering a positive scenario as we move forward. Within the Valleys area there are a number of challenges relating to health related behaviour and lifestyle choices which need to be addressed, including obesity and lack of physical activity. The potential for focussing on further work to increase physical activity levels will be given consideration.

3.3 Education Offer

We have refreshed Qualified for Life (our education improvement plan) to reflect the roll out of our education reform agenda over the next five years, *A Curriculum for Wales-A Curriculum for Life*, the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act and the new Programme for Government, '*Taking Wales Forward*'. Our refreshed improvement plan for schools in Wales 2016-2021 will be published in February 2017 and is based on international evidence including that from the OECD.

Our improvement plan will have five improvement objectives along with a coherent set of high level actions to drive forward improved outcomes for children and young people. The five improvement objectives are:

Wellbeing and Equity in Education - we will work with all key partners to ensure that all learners are emotionally and physically ready to learn. To achieve this, they need to be supported to overcome barriers to their learning. It should be our aim that all of our learners can have positive physical, social and mental states; this requires that basic needs are met, that individuals have a sense of purpose, and that

they feel able to achieve important personal goals and participate in school and society. It is enhanced by conditions that include effective safeguarding, supportive personal and school relationships, strong and inclusive schools, good health, personal security and a healthy and attractive environment. These wellbeing aspirations should apply to all of our learners. Equity requires that we ensure that the system, at school, local and national level takes account of the unique challenges that present themselves to individuals or groups of learners, and that we mobilise all that is reasonably at our disposal to minimize the impact of those challenges.

Curriculum and Assessment - we are already building a curriculum underpinned by the Four Purposes described in Successful Futures, with a clear focus on assessment for learning to support every learner and qualifications which will enable them to be ambitious to achieve their potential. This work is well underway in partnership with schools and supported by high levels of expertise from around the world.

Pedagogy - We will work across the system to secure improvements in the quality of teaching by ensuring that teachers and the support staff workforce are equipped with both the theoretical and practical knowledge and skills, based upon evidence about what works, to develop every learner's full potential.

Leadership - We will build the capacity of education leadership across schools and all other key partners (in the middle tier and in Welsh Government) to inspire, coach, mentor, support, share practice, collaborate and develop policy at all levels in the system to create an ethos of system leadership and build confidence in our shared journey of educational improvement.

Self-improving System - We will build upon our early foundations to develop deeper collective responsibility for the whole education system exercised through long-term, honest, trusting alliances with clear lines of responsibility and shared accountability based on the principle of subsidiarity.

Under each of the five improvement objectives we are proposing a number of key actions and the current draft is attached at Annex A.

Resources

To deliver the Welsh Government's aspirations for a world class education system, resources will be directed to those areas of greatest priority and underpinned by our improvement plan.

The majority of the Welsh Government's funding for education is provided through the Local Government Settlement Revenue Support Grant. Local authorities are responsible for setting core budgets for schools and in 2016-17, according to Local Authority Budgeted Expenditure on Schools, the gross schools expenditure which includes funding from all sources was budgeted to be £2.519billion for Wales.

The Welsh Government provides a number of specific education revenue grants, including the Education Improvement Grant for Schools, the Pupil Deprivation Grant

and the Post 16 grant. In addition the Welsh Government provides significant capital investment through the 21st Century Schools programme.

During this Assembly term we are also investing an additional £100million. This investment is intended to focus on accelerating improvement in our high level actions at Annex A which will result in the greatest return on investment and which will help set conditions for further benefit realisation. Whilst not all of the £100million is intended to be extended to schools, the funding will be used for the benefit of schools and a majority of it is intended to be passported to schools, including via regional consortia.

Within the 2017-18 Draft Budget, there is £20million allocated as part of the pledge to be invested against our high level actions contained in our improvement plan. We intend to invest in the following areas:

- £0.25million on Wellbeing. This is in addition to the £4.5million increase to the PDG that has been announced;
- £3.2million on building leadership capacity;
- £2.225million on Curriculum and Assessment;
- £10.99million on Pedagogy; and
- £4.65million on the Self Improving System.

Education in the Valleys – Current Picture of Spend and Performance

In the absence of a clearly defined map we have looked at education spend and performance within Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Merthyr Tydfil Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot, Powys and Swansea. It is important to stress that we are not starting from a deficit model of performance. There are some excellent schools within the region with outstanding leadership and pupil outcomes.

In 2016-17, according to Local Authority Budgeted Expenditure on Schools, the gross schools expenditure (in the Valleys) which includes funding from all sources was budgeted to be £1,064,435m. This is split as follows:

Local Authority	2016-16 Gross Expenditure £m
Torfaen	79,492
Blaenau Gwent	55,283
Caerphilly	152,186
RCT	215,010
Merthyr	48,879
Bridgend	120,281
NPT	111,906
Powys	104,989
Swansea	176,409

Band A of the 21st Century Schools and Education Programme will see investment of over £640 million with over £320 million to come from the Welsh Government in

the 9 local authorities. The investment in these areas will see the rebuild and refurbishment of over 50 schools and colleges in the area over the five year period ending March 2019.

Projects in the Programme include:

- Aberdare Community School in Rhondda Cynon Taff. This new build £42.9 million project received Welsh Government funding of £21.4 million. Project. This project was used to launch the Programme in May 2014;
- Three new primary schools including Ysgol Panteg and Blenheim Road in Torfaen. This £20.25 million project received £10.12 from the Welsh Government;
- Y Gwyndy Welsh Medium School, Caerphilly. The £20 million investment caters for children aged 3-18 and received £10 million funding from the Welsh Government;
- £11 million for a new £22 million Further Education Campus in Aberdare; and
- A £12 million refurbishment for Afon Taff High School in Merthyr Tydfil.

The second wave of funding, Band B, will begin in April 2019 and extend over the five years to 2024. We are currently developing this wave of investment, and working with our partners to understand the funding need in Wales. Over the next four years we will invest capital funding of £509 million to this Programme, which contributes to our commitment to invest nearly £2 billion for improvement of our schools and colleges by 2024.

Education Improvement Grant (EIG)

Through the EIG we are making available over £134million in 2017-18 to support improved outcomes for learners. With the vast majority of funding delegated to schools, this remains a critical investment in supporting our schools to help their learners achieve their potential.

Within the Valleys, the Local Authorities have access to well over a third of the total EIG budget. With this budget, due to the flexibility of the EIG, the consortia, LAs and schools can target the funding where it is needed most. We continue to work with consortia to ensure that as much of the EIG is delegated directly to schools as possible. In fact, all consortia have increased the delegation rate since the introduction of the EIG and have also reduced the amount spent on the administration and management of the grant.

Pupil Deprivation Grant (PDG)

The Programme for Government identifies the importance of closing the attainment gap for poorer pupils and makes a commitment to ensure that every child gets the best start in life through an extended PDG. As a result, over £93million will be invested through the PDG in 2017-18 to help education services close the attainment gap for our disadvantaged children. The schools within this Valley will again benefit from well over a third of the total PDG budget for Wales. Those benefitting most next year include those eligible learners in the Foundation Phase whose allocation

will double (compared with this year). This underlines a continued commitment to support disadvantaged learners.

Additional specific information

Via the PDG programme budget CSC has been provided with a second year of funding to enable a consortia project to improve oracy skills across the south Wales valley primary schools. The project has identified schools to specifically investigate oracy and its impact on attainment and aspirations of children in valley communities. The project manager will facilitate the production of a final case study; oracy tool kit and assessment tool, all to be published and shared across the region.

Developing the New Curriculum

In relation to developing our new curriculum schools from the Valleys are leading this work and they include:

Pioneer School	LA
Maesteg Comprehensive School	Bridgend
Mynydd Cynffig Primary School	Bridgend
Oldcastle School	Bridgend
Pencoed Comprehensive School	Bridgend
St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Bridgend	Bridgend
Ysgol Cynwyd Sant	Bridgend
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd	Bridgend
Hendredenny Park Primary School	Caerphilly
Lewis School Pengam	Caerphilly
Ysgol Gynradd Caerffili	Caerphilly
Ysgol Gynradd y Castell	Caerphilly
Ystrad Mynach Primary School	Caerphilly
Bishop Hedley Catholic High School	Merthyr Tydfil
Craig yr Hesg	Merthyr Tydfil
Ynysowen Community Primary	Merthyr Tydfil
Ysgol Gynradd Santes Tudful	Merthyr Tydfil
Ysgol Santes Tudful	Merthyr Tydfil
Abercynon Community Primary	RCT
Cardinal Newman RC School	RCT
Cefn Primary Fern Federation	RCT
Darran Park Primary School	RCT
Ferndale Community School	RCT
Treorchy Comprehensive School	RCT
Y Pant School	RCT

Ysgol Gyfun Garth Olwg	RCT
Ysgol Llanhari	RCT
Coed Eva Primary School	Torfaen
George Street Primary School	Torfaen
Garnteg Primary School	Torfaen
St Albans RC High School	Torfaen

Performance Outcomes

22 schools from the Valleys are taking part in our School Challenge Cymru programme and have benefited from a two year investment of £10,592,922 (revenue) and £3,391,185 (capital). Performance of these schools is measured on the Level 2+ (5 A*-C GCEs including either English or Welsh Language and Mathematics) and the performance of those pupils in receipt of free school meals on the Level 2+.

Future Provision and Offer

Local authorities have the statutory responsibility for education. Delivery of education improvement services is undertaken by four regional consortia – three of which make up the Valleys (Central South Consortium, Education Achievement Service and ERW). As part of their business plan we expect them to prioritise resources where there is greatest need and greatest impact in line with our national improvement plan. Whilst our additional £100m is to benefit all schools, there are opportunities for schools in the three regional consortia to lead and benefit from our high level actions. We will be discussing these with consortia at the end of January and will provide an update on 2 February.

Suggested priorities for provision include:

- Improve teaching and learning
- Develop a range of collaborative working models to share best practice and knowledge
- Improve our leadership offer
- Focus on oracy – ability to present, speak and be heard
- Peer coaching and mentoring models
- Rigour in tracking, focused interventions on specific needs, profiling of vulnerable young people at transition particularly
- Community engagement – attendance, team around the family, literacy levels including third sector projects with impact (e.g. Save the Children FAST)
- Innovative use of Pupil Deprivation Grant and Education Improvement Grant
- Models to work with parents on building independence and resilience in young people
- Joined up focus to extra curricula opportunities across schools – with cultural, arts resources
- Resources to introduce and support HEI choices for more able and talented children

- Reliable affordable transport to get to college post 16 and transition support
- Planning of provision within local community, not too far from it
- Information and funding for apprenticeships and pathways into skilled work to match demand in economy
- Routes for SMEs to engage in apprenticeship and employment with training routes
- Long term profiling of jobs – higher skills, but young people need L1/L2 to progress to L3/L4
- A joined up approach to funding for these communities, which builds skills, aspirations and removes barriers to achievement at school/college

Developing the Offer

Welsh Government and the three regional consortia are meeting on 24 January to develop a coherent approach on developing the provision of education improvement services in the Valleys. Whilst Welsh Government sets the national education strategy it is for consortia and local authorities to deliver improvement and support based on local/regional needs and priorities.

At our meeting we will be discussing the three consortia can do to bring together schools, housing, community budgets and engagement with employers holistically to ensure improved teaching, learning and leadership. Specifically we will be looking at how consortia can cluster schools to:

- To identify and intervene with underperforming children and track and apply interventions - sharing learning in practice
- How can work with community services to engage parents early and with early intervention services
- What are schools are doing to build capacity for excellent teaching and learning in their cluster and how are they thinking about leadership growth models across the cluster
- How are they using the resources more widely to develop a more rounded extra curricula model using local business links and cultural
- How are they providing routes for high ability pupils to be identified and supported from primary upwards and aspire into jobs and higher education

Annex 1

Valleys Taskforce Board – Public Services: Housing offer paper

Overview of Taskforce Siscussions (TO DATE)

A presentation was made by Duncan Forbes, Bron Afon Housing at the taskforce to discuss the impact of housing. This includes:

- Evidence of a trend of reducing demand for homes in the heads of the valleys supported by property values, market rentals and allocations of social housing.
- High proportion of owner occupiers with homes that need significant investment which they can't afford.

- Connectivity; phone signal, broadband, public transport and parking
- Integration of Welsh Government anti poverty programmes and alignment between these and EU programmes, FE courses, apprenticeships etc
- A new housing product for owner occupiers to staircase to shared ownership thereby releasing capital
- Tapping the potential for the foundational economy

Discussions have also been held on the scope and potential for the housing sector as an employer to drive job creation and skills. The need for a greater focus on community benefits embedded into procurement approaches through Welsh Government contracts in the sector has been raised.

Existing Key Commitments (TO DATE)

There is a need to ensure alignment between the commitments outlined in the Programme for Government 'Taking Wales Forward' and from discussions at a bilateral with Cab Sec Communities and Children and during taskforce discussions. These commitments include:

Work in partnership to deliver an extra 20,000 affordable homes in the next term, including supporting construction of more than 6,000 homes through the Help to Buy scheme. (PfG)

Including assisting the delivery of new homes through Social Housing Grant and Housing Finance Grant. (Bilateral)

1000 of the new homes will be innovative models that will be low energy helping to tackle fuel poverty and potentially put money in the pockets of those on lowest incomes.

Continue long term collaboration with house builders to deliver accelerated rates of house building. Consider issues on snowline and development of planning to attract builders. (PfG)

Enhance understanding from valleys communities to support the development of regeneration and housing programmes to support resilient communities. Including development of a strategic spatial/ development plan for the valleys to map opportunities and challenges. (Bilateral and discussions at taskforce)

Meet the commitment to ensure all social homes in Wales meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard by 2020 and maintain the Standard afterwards.

Explore opportunities around private housing stock to increase quality of housing. (Meeting with local authority leaders) based on the data arising from the new Housing Conditions Evidence Programme which will support knowledge on where investment is needed, by housing type and tenure.

Key programmes underpinning actions and commitments

- Social Housing Grant – provides significant capital funding to RSLs for the development of affordable housing. Funding is allocated on a formula basis. In 2016/17, we are making available £68.1m plus an additional £30m for new affordable homes through SHG in this financial year.

The table below shows a breakdown of the SHG funding which is being made available to the Local Authority areas within the Valley Regions.

Local Authority	SHG Funding
Blaenau Gwent	£1,245,502
Bridgend	£2,271,457
Caerphilly	£1,929,247
Carmarthenshire	£2,942,226
Merthyr Tydfil	£989,924
Neath Port Talbot	£2,217,837
Rhondda Cynon Taf	£3,455,714
Swansea	£4,107,953
Torfaen	£2,063,387
Total	£21,223,247

- Housing Finance Grant - we are planning to expand the Housing Finance Grant with a second phase starting in 2017-18. This could provide up to 1,500 new affordable homes and create an estimated 5,000 jobs. This second phase has been extended to the 11 stock retaining Local Authorities and the Large Scale Voluntary Transfers with the Local Authorities being able to participate in the programme from April 2018.

The table below shows a breakdown of the 30 year total HFG funding being made available to Local Authority areas within the Valleys Region under phase 1 of Housing Finance Grant, which began in 2013-14.

Local Authority	HFG Funding
Blaenau Gwent	£2,969,273.70
Bridgend	£4,180,695.90
Caerphilly	£6,838,725.90
Carmarthenshire	£7,032,315.60
Merthyr Tydfil	£1,971,651
Neath Port Talbot	£5,146,714.80

Rhondda Cynon Taf	£8,704,287.30
Swansea	£10,171,820.01
Torfaen	£4,749,344.70
Total	£51,764,828.91

- Rent to Own – Taking Wales Forward includes a commitment to develop a Rent to Own scheme. This will be designed to support those who aspire to buy their own home but struggle to save a sizeable deposit. We are currently examining a variety of options for this scheme and details will follow in the coming months. Our broader aim will be to promote a range of routes into home ownership at an affordable cost.
- Innovative housing models – the new affordable homes built in Valleys areas could reflect new models reducing fuel bills and carbon emissions but also benefit the area by creating economic opportunities through a community benefits approach to procurement sourcing jobs, training and products locally.
- WG land – working with Cabinet colleagues to bring forward land which can be used to support house building across Wales. This may include sites in the Valleys and could reflect regional priorities such as the City Regions Deals and the Metro.
- Health and Housing - during the last term of government, good progress was made in joint working on housing and health matters, investing £60 million over the course of this administration.
- Help to Buy – Wales – affordable home ownership is an important way of getting on the housing ladder for many families. We are investing up to £290m to 2021 in the Help to Buy - Wales scheme to support Developers and buyers of new homes. The scheme has supported the construction of 4,180 homes, of which the following is a breakdown across Valleys Local Authority areas;

<i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Number of Completions</i>
<i>Blaenau Gwent</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Bridgend</i>	<i>394</i>
<i>Caerphilly</i>	<i>190</i>
<i>Carmarthenshire</i>	<i>365</i>
<i>Merthyr Tydfil</i>	<i>94</i>
<i>Neath Port Talbot</i>	<i>230</i>
<i>Rhondda Cynon Taf</i>	<i>351</i>
<i>Swansea</i>	<i>261</i>
<i>Torfaen</i>	<i>57</i>

- An independent review of the Welsh Government Policy for Social Housing Rents is being commissioned. The review will consider the rent policy itself and how external influences may impact on the rent policy, social landlords, their

tenants, lenders and other Welsh Government policies. In particular the Review will consider the impact of UK Government's announcement for Housing Benefit for social sector tenants to be capped at the appropriate Local Housing Allowance rates.

- Our Land for Housing Scheme launched in 2014 to increase the funding options available to Registered Social Landlords to acquire land sites for housing development. To date, we have invested £22m to support the building of up to 1,100 new homes with a further £10m being allocated this year. The South Wales valleys are benefitting from this scheme, as Housing Associations have been successful in securing loans for land acquisition for the purpose of housing development in every year of the scheme since the 2014/15 pilot, including this year.
- Ensure the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) is met by 2020 and the investment improves the homes of our poorest people in their communities using good procurement to create local jobs, training and other opportunities. The annual WG investment of £108m per annum levers in an estimated £500m pa via social landlords who invest substantial sums to improve and maintain their stock with all the benefits accruing from it.
- Community benefits – build on the substantial success of requiring community benefits from social landlords when procuring housing improvement and building. Latest figures indicate total contract value for the social housing sector amounted to £659m with 85% of this revenue going to Welsh based businesses. 69% are SMEs. Employment opportunities for disadvantaged people supported 1460 jobs in the same time period. Training opportunities were 36,984.
- Through the Welsh Government's House Builders Engagement Programme (HEP) we liaise with developers operating in the area, particularly SMEs. As a result of this direct communication with companies such as Llanmoor Homes, Lewis Homes and Davis Homes, we are developing a greater understanding of the perceived barriers to developing in the region. In addition we are engaging with the SME construction sector to promote the opportunity and support available to becoming house builders.
- Property Development Fund – we are increasing the value of this Fund to £40 million, which supports SMEs by providing equity funding for housing development. This can have disproportionate benefits for parts of the Valleys, in terms of bringing forward new housing, where the larger house builders are reluctant to undertake schemes.
- Houses into Homes – loan funding to bring empty properties back into use – covers all the Valley areas.
- Home improvement loans – loan funding to owner occupiers to fund category 1 and 2 health and safety hazards covering all the Valleys areas with the exception of Bridgend LA who chose not to participate.

- Housing led Regeneration – through Vibrant and Viable Places capital programme examples include “WHQS plus” which is housing led regeneration of social rented housing estates eg Rowan Place, Caerphilly.

Next Steps – What is the housing offer for the valleys?

Investment in house building, home improvement and regeneration schemes is estimated to be over £1.5bn over the next 5 years. This will build on the existing significant investment in programmes taking place in the Valleys areas. To maximise the investment regional planning will be needed reflecting national, regional and local priorities The ‘offer’ is:

- Targeting of new house building, using innovative housing models wherever possible, in key areas where there is housing need across tenures reflecting local need.
- Take a targeted approach to land for housing to drive investment in key areas such as sites in the Metro and City Region areas providing a range of housing types and tenures.
- Support new local businesses and organisations in the valleys by focusing on targeting affordable housing solutions for key workers where there is housing need.
- Explore new options for housing young people in the valleys due to welfare reform changes which is low cost and flexible, including innovative housing models.
- Consider exploring a reverse shared ownership model for homeowners to enable repairs to properties where required.
- Share the success of the housing sector’s ability to secure community benefits through procurement contracts and continue to create investment, jobs and training opportunities in the valleys areas including through green growth and social enterprise.
- Based on data from the new House Conditions Evidence Programme explore the investment needed to improve people’s homes and how this work can not only create jobs and training opportunities but also address challenges around fuel poverty, climate change, carbon emissions and a changing demographic.
- Continue housing led regeneration as a component of wider regeneration targeting social housing estates (WHQS plus programme and encouraging mixed tenure) in tandem with creating wider transformation of key settlement areas.
- Enable joint working with social landlords to support prevention of ACEs on key deprived social housing estates including exploring the development of children’s zones.
- Mixed tenure offer – new rent to own product – enabling more to access

homeownership but also shared ownership models.

- Housing, health and social care – maximising use of health assets – land and buildings to support housing needs..
- Property development fund – support SMEs in the Valleys regarding housing building. Consider self build models.

Annex 2

Valleys Taskforce Board – Public Services: Health and Social Services

Overview of Taskforce Discussions (TO DATE)

A presentation was made by Dr Gill Richardson, Executive Director of Public Health, Aneurin Bevan University at the taskforce to discuss the impact of the Inverse Care Law and the future challenges of health across the valleys. This includes:

- Public health issues are vital to challenge behaviours around lifestyle choices.
- The need for further positive work around the integration of services at a community level.
- Retention of GPs and nurses in the valleys was felt to be a critical issue and the need for wider multidisciplinary teams around the GP such as pharmacy and social prescribing as seen in the Bromley by Bow centre.
- Risk that prevention and primary Care is not prioritised in austerity when acute pressures on hospitals require resources.
- Population with more years in ill health – care sector pressure.
- Insecurity of employment in care sector with zero hours contracts and low pay.
- Using opportunities around the care sector and the foundation economy were felt to present good opportunities eg a training centre of excellence for the Valleys.
- Links to the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act approaches and priorities that will be identified through needs assessments for this and social services were felt to be important.
- The long term renewal plan for primary care needs to be aligned with the taskforce work.

Discussions have also been held on the scope and potential of the NHS and Social Services as an employer to drive job creation and skills. The need for a greater focus on community benefits embedded into procurement approaches through Welsh Government contracts in the sector has been raised.

Existing Key Commitments (TO DATE)

There is a need to ensure alignment between the commitments outlined in the Programme for Government 'Taking Wales Forward' and any commitments offered by the Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-Being and Sport or the Minister for Social Services and Public Health at bilateral meetings. These commitments include:

Health

- Continue to improve access to GP surgeries, making it easier to get an appointment (PfG).
- Invest in community pharmacies to take pressure off our GP surgeries (PfG).
- Invest in a new generation of integrated health and social services centres alongside the transformation of our hospital estate (PfG).
- Take action to attract and train more GPs, nurses and other health professionals across Wales (PfG).

Public Health

- Implement the Healthy Child Wales programme to ensure consistent delivery of universal health services up to age seven (PfG).
- Work with schools to promote children and young people's activity and awareness of the importance of healthy lifestyle choices (PfG).
- Continue to promote exercise and good nutrition, reduce excessive alcohol consumption and cut smoking rates in Wales to 16% by 2020 (PfG).
- Introduce a new Wales Well-being Bond aimed at improving mental and physical health and to reduce sedentary lifestyles, poor nutrition and excessive alcohol consumption (PfG).
- Specialist employment support for people recovering from substance misuse and mental health conditions – links to Out of Work Service (Bilateral commitment).
- Consider the Bromley by Bow centre and other international examples of integrated services in relation to remove the label of 'deprived' from the valleys – links to Inverse Care Law (Bilateral commitment).
- Link to chairs of regional partnership boards and to align work taking place across the valleys through Gwent, Cwm Taf, Western Bay and West Wales – utilising Intermediate Care Fund (Bilateral commitment).
- Link to Healthy Child Wales programme and consider future pilots (Bilateral commitment).

Social Services and Integration

- Enhancing support for social care workforce – training and development/ pilot the registration of domiciliary and adult residential care workers, Care at Home Strategy/ social care Lift opportunities/ Social Care Workforce Development Programme Grant – scope to pilot approaches in the valleys in discussion with Care Council for Wales (Bilateral commitment).
- More than double the capital people can keep when entering residential care to £50,000 (PfG commitment).
- Ensure our ground-breaking social services legislation is fully implemented and all the benefits are realised (PfG commitment).
- Retain the Intermediate Care Fund (PfG).
- Develop a nationwide and cross-government strategy to address loneliness and isolation (PfG commitment).

Key programmes underpinning actions and commitments

There are already a number of programmes which can be seen to support the work of the Ministerial Taskforce for the Valleys. Two case studies are provided here:

Addressing the Inverse Care Law

The aim of the Inverse Care Law Programme is to improve the life expectancy and healthy life expectancy for populations with highest levels of deprivation and high mortality from cardiovascular disease, diabetes and cancers.

The initial focus of the programme is to increase health literacy of individuals, detect

treatable conditions, refer to appropriate health promotion programmes or clinicians for treatments and ultimately reduce premature mortality and emergency admissions from cardiovascular disease in deprived areas by improving the identification and management of cardiovascular risk factors such as hypertension hyperlipidaemia.

The Aneurin Bevan University and Cwm Taf University Health Boards are developing a programme for cardiovascular risk assessment delivery, aligned with proportionate universalism, prioritising the needs of the local population, placing a strong focus on empowering positive modifiable health behaviours and increased health literacy. Efforts are targeted in areas with high standardised premature mortality from preventable conditions which also tend to be areas of high economic deprivation.

The programme aims to address the impact of the inverse care law by:

- Embedding a sustainable, holistic cluster model for identifying people at risk of cardiovascular disease/cancer/diabetes through population based risk assessment; and
- Systematically delivering evidence based interventions in primary care at a scale that will achieve a percentage change in population outcome.

Aneurin Bevan and Cwm Taf Health Boards have led on the development of this work and are involved in rolling out an all Wales approach which is supported by the Heart Disease Implementation Group.

The aim is to have activity in every interested Health Board area by 2018, with initial work prioritised for the most deprived community areas. Each Health Board will have an agreed local programme approach which describes how this activity will be delivered for its population.

Social services legislation

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act and the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act have a number of key principles linked to and which will support the work to be taken forward through the Valleys Taskforce Board. These include for example:

- A focus on prevention and early intervention (delaying or avoiding the need for greater dependency on statutory services).
- Partnership and co-operation between health and social care and with other partners through the establishment of statutory Regional Partnership Boards who will need to ensure services in place to respond to the joint population assessment and meet the needs of people in the region.
- Looking at new models of care and support and ensuring people have more voice and control over their care and support (co-production and community resilience).
- Seeking to develop a more sustainable and professional social care workforce.
- Contributing to more effective public services by creating a regulatory regime which enables and empowers both citizens and service professionals.

Annex 3

Valleys Taskforce Board – Public Services: Education offer paper

Overview of Taskforce Discussions (TO DATE)

A presentation was made by Hannah Woodhouse, Central South **Consortium**, Andrew Llewelyn, Headteacher of Glenboi Primary school, Cynon Valley, Heather Nicholas, Headteacher of Ferndale Secondary school and Judith Evans, Principal of Coleg Y Cymoedd at the taskforce to discuss the impact of education. Priorities for provision included:

- Focus on oracy – ability to present, speak and be heard
- Pupil self perception and wellbeing analysis and follow up in planning
- Peer coaching and mentoring models
- Uniform, school council, branding – building pride, resilience, independence and high expectations
- Focus on values, cultural curriculum and enrichment experiences
- Rigour in tracking, focused interventions on specific needs, profiling of vulnerable young people at transition particularly
- Community engagement – attendance, team around the family, literacy levels including third sector projects with impact (e.g. Save the Children FAST)
- Libraries in school, bringing books to children and ICT - outward facing
- Use of Pupil Deprivation Grant and Education Maintenance Grant critical to fund interventions, transport, community engagement and support
- Models to work with parents on building independence and resilience in young people
- Joined up focus to extra curricula opportunities across schools – with cultural, arts resources
- Resources to introduce and support HEI choices for more able and talented children
- Child and adolescent mental health services very overstretched and experiencing increased demand
- Reliable affordable transport to get to college post 16 and transition support
- Planning of provision within local community, not too far from it
- Information and funding for apprenticeships and pathways into skilled work to match demand in economy
- Routes for SMEs to engage in apprenticeship and employment with training routes
- Consideration of funding formulae disincentives and benchmark weighting for deprivation
- Long term profiling of jobs – higher skills, but young people need L1/L2 to progress to L3/L4
- A joined up approach to funding for these communities, which builds skills, aspirations and removes barriers to achievement at school/college

Discussions have also been held on the scope and potential to improve standards of teaching across the valleys, which was felt should be better than elsewhere. Leadership, high expectations and whole school strategies were felt to be critical.

Existing Key Commitments

There is a need to ensure alignment between the commitments outlined in the Programme for Government 'Taking Wales Forward'. These commitments include:

Invest an additional £100 million to drive up school standards over the next term. (PfG)
Ensure every child gets the best start in life through an extended Pupil Deprivation Grant. (PfG)
Invest nearly £2 billion in new and refurbished schools, community schools and college buildings by 2024. (PfG)
Pilot a new model of Community Learning Centres providing extended services with childcare, parenting support, family learning and community access to facilities built around the school day. (PfG)
Incentivise, recognise and promote teaching excellence so that we raise standards across the board, and develop training and opportunities for teachers and the broader education workforce. (PfG)

Key programmes underpinning actions and commitments

Wellbeing and Equity in Education

- Expand the Pupil Deprivation Grant so that schools can impact more positively on the life chances of our most deprived younger learners through earlier intervention.
- Work with partners to identify the most effective means of measuring and improving pupil wellbeing, and strengthen the work of schools and their partners to enhance the safeguarding, physical and emotional wellbeing and resilience of all of our learners
- Ensure that Looked-after Children (LAC), those educated other than at school (EOTAS) and those educated in Pupil Referral Units across Wales are better supported to succeed, by strengthening effective cross-authority and cross-sector partnerships in order to share best practice.
- Build on our commitment to equity in education by ensuring a new legislative framework for the identification and support of learners through an Additional Learning Needs Bill designed to strengthen provision across Wales for all learners with ALN
- Implement the National Youth Work Strategy and Wales Charter for Youth Work.

Curriculum and Assessment

- Use globally acknowledged pedagogic research and effective collaboration across the entire system to design and develop a world-class curriculum for Wales to improve the higher order critical thinking and coding skills of all learners, foster their creativity and participation whilst also ensuring that they all

continue to make good progress with literacy, numeracy and levels of digital competence during that period of curriculum reform.

- Design new assessment arrangements, with more emphasis on formative assessment, including developing computer-based, adaptive personalised assessments to provide improved diagnostic capabilities for all our learners. Ensure that accountability arrangements are fit for purpose and designed to improve opportunities for all learners, including the more able.
- Ensure that the revised curriculum and assessment arrangements are underpinned by legislation which will re-affirm the principle of a national curriculum for Wales defined through a broad set of duties, and which will provide the freedom for our practitioners to use their professionalism and creativity to meet the needs all learners.
- Develop a transformational approach to the teaching, learning and assessment of Welsh with the aim of ensuring that, in future, all learners will be able to use the Welsh language when they leave school.
- Support all settings to develop their partnerships with business, the voluntary sector, charities, the arts and Higher Education Institutions including developing a national endowment fund for music to help offer all learners opportunities to engage in new experiences, be inspired and develop broad horizons.

Pedagogy

- Strengthen Initial Teacher Education through establishing new accreditation criteria which will expect HEIs and their school partnerships to collaborate in the design and running of high quality, relevant programmes that are both rigorously practical and intellectually challenging that will attract and retain more high quality applicants. Attract and retain more high calibre mature graduates into teaching through a re-designed Graduate Teacher Programme.
- Develop, consult upon and launch new professional standards for teachers and others in the education workforce, which will focus on and help build their expertise in the essential elements of successful teaching in order to deliver our new curriculum – pedagogy, leadership, collaboration, innovation and lifelong professional learning. Develop standards for support staff that can enable them to commit to professional learning and facilitate clearer pathways to the role of Higher Level Teaching Assistant.
- In partnership with the regional consortia, develop a national approach to professional learning that builds capacity and begins in initial teacher education and is embedded in the self-improving school system and in evidence-based research for all teachers and practitioners.
- The activities should reflect our aims to better equip our workforce to:
 - deliver the four purposes of our new curriculum to the whole range of abilities in our classrooms/settings and improve the quality of Assessment for Learning.

- teach Welsh as a living language and work effectively in Welsh-medium and bi-lingual settings.
 - utilise the relevant technologies and skills to transform the digital competence of our learners.
 - improve classroom practice in the STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) ahead of the new Areas of Learning and Experience.
 - share best practice in foundation phase teaching across all settings
 - improve the quality of teaching in order to extend our more able learners in all settings, including those in sixth forms. perform their appropriate roles in securing the most effective safeguarding and improved wellbeing of all learners and improved transition for learners at all key points.
- Establish a national approach to reduce infant class sizes, including providing additional capital and revenue funding, in order to improve the teaching and learning of learners most adversely affected by deprivation and continue the development of the principles and best practice of the Foundation Phase.
 - Establish workforce planning systems to help resolve long-standing challenges with the numbers of teachers that are able to work in Welsh, including for the wide range of ALN roles, and ensure more effective support for the employment and development of supply teachers.
 - Continue the 21st Century Schools Programme in partnership with local authorities in order to deliver learning environments that meet the needs of all learners and ensure the availability of education through the medium of Welsh for those who choose it.

Leadership

- Establish and develop a National Academy for Education Leadership that will improve leadership skills for those in school and non-school settings, secure a future pool of highly skilled leaders for the entire system in both English and Welsh and ensure that we can build our workforce capacity to deliver our wide-ranging ambitions for learners.
- Develop new professional leadership standards aligned to the new professional teaching standards, and embed the role of headteachers as leaders of change in our education system.
- In order to provide more effective support for school leaders, develop options for more flexible, skills-focused governing bodies and expand the utilisation of highly skilled business managers.

Self-improving schools system

- Develop a national approach to the self-improving system within the context of revised accountability arrangements, so that all schools grow as learning organisations, sharing their expertise for the benefit of all learners. This will involve supporting alliances for collaborative working in and between schools, and increasing the number of federations.

- Build the knowledge, expertise and research base of the self-improving system by supporting collaboration between schools, regional consortia and Higher Education Institutions, maintaining an unerring focus on teaching and learning in order to hone the skills of challenge advisers and school leaders as they deliver the new curriculum for Wales.
- Improve outcomes for sixth form learners, learners in Pupil Referral Units and those educated outside school settings (EOTAS) by promoting the development of the self-improving model to sixth form settings, PRUs and EOTAS.
- Develop a national approach to small and rural schools within the self-improving system.