

# Engagement

## Taskforce priorities

## What's been done...

Undertake genuine engagement with valleys communities to develop taskforce priorities.

A total of nine formal engagement events have been run including five targeted events with young people, parents, businesses and social housing tenants. Four public engagement events have been run with more planned for May. Each meeting has been led by a Minister or Cabinet Secretary and supported by taskforce members, LA leaders, chief executives, and LHB representatives. These meetings will help identify individuals / community members who will comprise a People's Panel for the Valleys. Facebook and Twitter accounts have been set up #talkvalleys. Internal WG sessions across the estate are planned for staff throughout April.

An external contactor has been appointed to analyse the desktop evidence, results of the engagement events and run a series of small focus groups. They will produce an interim report which will also include evidence from the online surveys and ethnographic studies of pilot areas..

Work collaboratively with external stakeholders to take forward taskforce priorities.

Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language met WLGA, Regional Parks, Oxfam, University of South Wales and other stakeholders to discuss key priorities and identify opportunities for collaborative working. Taskforce members met with other stakeholders including Children in Wales.

Minister held meeting with LA Leaders, LA Chief Executives and PHBs. Key partners are also being identified during engagement meetings.

Learn from what's already been done and what's already out there.

Evidence review is underway looking at previous and existing engagement with valleys communities in relation to "what matters" locally including wellbeing data and National Survey.

Review of previous WG consultations undertaken to identify findings relevant to the taskforce. These include consultations on the new childcare offer and the new approach to resilient communities.

Work is being taken forward to explore how we can better utilise digital technology and data to understand local needs and priorities.

Be clear about what the taskforce will achieve. A specific focus on monitoring and evaluation.

GIS mapping site and a dashboard has been drafted to outline current picture of services etc in the valleys. A further map being developed monitor key data sets, population outcomes and specific performance measures.

Plans are in place to evaluate the role of the taskforce on an ongoing basis and to monitor progress of key objectives.

# Priority 1: Jobs and Skills

## Taskforce priorities

## What's been done...

The safeguarding and creation of new jobs for the valleys is critical.

Agreement from the Cabinet Secretary for E&I Minister for LL&WL and to develop a Jobs Plan for the valleys which will deliver 10,000 good, quality jobs in the valleys. This will form a key commitment of the Valleys Delivery Plan.

A Jobs and Skills workshop will take place on 24 April to assess priorities for the valleys delivery plan.

Discussions with Value Wales around community benefits and analysis underway using the Community Benefits Tool to explore practice and opportunities. This includes work around mapping the Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan across the valleys.

Exploring entrepreneurship alongside the use of the REAP programme and how the approach can be aligned and targeted in the valleys.

Better Jobs Closer to Home workshop held with the Minister for Skills and Science. Work underway to secure two new employment hubs – particularly in relation to clothing and signage.

Continued engagement with Transport for Wales regarding the Metro and links to the objectives of the draft Employability Plan for Wales.

Welsh Government will be publishing a new Employability Plan in summer 2017. Consideration is being given to how the Plan will be tested within the valleys.

A Framework for Action underpinning the Employability Plan for Wales will also be developed in the summer 2017. Priorities identified through the Valleys Taskforce will feed into core work streams of the framework.

Development of a new approach to investing in the future of our valleys with the creation of a new Shared Apprenticeship Programme. This will include a focus on key STEM related subjects or approved subjects where market failure has been identified.

Continuing discussions between Coleg y Cymoedd, Cwm Taf University Health Board, University of South Wales and Welsh Government to explore how carers could be supported to progress in a broad range of health and social services careers.

Increasing employability skills are key to supporting the regeneration of the South Wales Valleys.

# Priority 2: Integrated and Improved Public Services

## Taskforce priority

## What's been done...

A specific focus on delivering coordinated and integrated services at a local level.

The three pilots (in Ferndale, Llanhilleth and Glynneath / Banwen) to start shortly. An advert has been issued to senior civil servants with a view to receiving expressions of interest. These individuals will be allocated to a pilot area and will report back to the Welsh Government's Policy Directors' Forum to address issues raised and to implement solutions.

Ongoing work to align other pilot initiatives with the valleys pilots. This includes the All-Age Employability Programme pilots, early adopters of the new approach to resilient communities, early adopters of the new childcare offer, Children's Zones and ACEs Hubs.

Ensure Welsh Government commitments on public services are aligned with the priorities of the taskforce.

The vision for the valleys is shaping the proposed layout of a Valleys Delivery Plan – which will be refined as a result of engagement. The Delivery Plan will be using a 'You said...We will...' approach. This will be underpinned by a delivery table outlining key actions and outcomes.

Officials will be running five workshops focussed on the workstreams of the Delivery Plan during the week commencing 24 April. The workshops will focus on: Jobs and Skills, Public Services, Digital Opportunities, Environment: Multi Benefit Delivery and Assets and Opportunities. The aim of these workshops will be to further develop existing departmental offers for the valleys. This work will feed into the underpinning delivery table.

The Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language has held bilaterals with all Welsh Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers to continue to drive forward a cross-government valleys focus.

An overview of the boundary mapping tool will be demonstrated at the next taskforce meeting. Further data has been exported onto the map including the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Ensure a focus on ensuring City Deal and City Regions achieve maximum benefits for the South Wales Valleys.

There has been a continued focus on ensuring alignment with the City Deals and City Region. Officials continue to attend the Welsh Government City Deals Review Board to ensure continued alignment.

# Priority 3: Community and Personal Wellbeing

## Taskforce priority

## What's been done...

### Environment

- Maximising the tourist potential of the South Wales Valleys
- Using the valleys' natural environment to improve people's health and wellbeing
- Improving the physical environment of communities
- Energy generation, in partnership with local communities.

Environment and tourism will be discussed as part of the next taskforce meeting. A workshop was held on 21 March to identify outline offers for discussion at the taskforce. This will be developed further as part of the workstream underpinning the Valleys Delivery Plan.

Two workshops focussing on the environment workstream will be held on the 28 April. The workshops will specifically focus on Environment: Energy and Environment: Active and Community. The aim on these workshops will be to further develop the delivery table underpinning the high level Valleys Delivery Plan.

### Health & Well Being

- New forms of community engagement
- The role of arts and culture organisations
- The role of the NHS and social care, access to enhanced primary care services
- Mental wellbeing for individuals
- Prudent public services

Work in ongoing to align the offers within the previous Health Paper to strategic investments and other public services. These offers will be discussed as part of the Public Services workshop scheduled for 24 April and will feed into the commitments in the proposed Delivery Plan.

Discussions are taking place as to how the Public Bodies (including arts, culture and sports organisations) underpinning the Children and Families Wales Measure can support the work of the taskforce. This is being explored particularly in how they can link to the valleys.

### Housing and Regeneration

- Housing – including conditions and opportunities around Metro
- Social housing – housing stock and linking tenants to the community
- Regeneration – maximising the benefits of investment in the valleys

Work in ongoing to align the offers within the previous Housing Paper to strategic investments around the Metro. These offers will be discussed as part of the Public Services workshop scheduled for 24 April and will feed into the commitments in the proposed Delivery Plan.

Discussions have been held with regeneration officials in relation to developing an offer for the valleys. This will include exploring links to future investment around Vibrant and Viable Places and suggestions around Town Centres. This will feed into commitments in the proposed Delivery Plan.