

Priority 1: Engagement

Taskforce priorities

What's been done...

Undertake genuine engagement with valleys communities to develop taskforce priorities.

Communications and Engagement Plan developed for the taskforce. A timetable of events has been compiled which includes targeted day time visits with specific audiences and themes, as well as evening public events. Each meeting will be lead by a Minister or Cabinet Secretary and supported by a selection of taskforce members, LA leaders and chief executives. Events have taken place with businesses, young people and parents and more events are scheduled between February and May. 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 session planned for staff.

Specification issued for an external contractor to undertake a programme of engagement underpinned by qualitative and ethnographic approaches. They will also compile and analyse all data collected from engagement activities.

Work collaboratively with external stakeholders to take forward taskforce priorities.

Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language met WLGA leaders in November to discuss key priorities and identify opportunities for collaborative working.

Meetings being held with external stakeholders including anti poverty champions, LA Leaders, LA Chief Executives and PHBs to disseminate information and undertake initial engagement.

Work with the Young Wales Project to ensure a strong focus on engaging with children and young people living in the valleys. Engagement events being arranged with Young People's Forum.

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 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 2: Jobs and Skills

Taskforce priorities

What's been done...

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

Agreement from the Minister for LL&WL and Cabinet Secretary for E&I to develop a Jobs Plan for the valleys which will deliver 10,000 quality jobs for people living in the valleys.

Development of spatial plan for the valleys which will identify circa five strategic 'ready for market' hubs.

Discussions with Value Wales around community benefits and analysis underway using the Community Benefits Tool to explore practice and opportunities.

Better Jobs Closer to Home workshop held with the Minister for Skills and Science. Work underway to secure two new employment hubs.

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

Childcare pilots will include two local authorities in the South Wales Valleys (RCT and Blaenau Gwent).

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

Welsh Government will be publishing a new Employability Plan in early 2017. Consideration is being given to how the valleys will be used as a 'test bed' for the new approach to providing support. It will include a specific focus on supporting people to enter, remain and progress in employment.

A Framework for Action underpinning the Employability Plan for Wales will also be developed in early 2017. Priorities identified through the Valleys Taskforce Jobs Summit 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.

Discussions taking place 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.

Priority 3: 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 Cymmer) are expected to start in early February. A senior civil servant will be allocated to each of these pilot areas, who will report back to the Welsh Government's Policy Directors' Forum to address issues raised and to implement solutions.

Background information and key data sets being compiled for each of the three pilot areas.

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

A vision for the valleys has been developed which outlines the main aims of the taskforce. More detailed work plans for each priority area will be refined as a result of engagement. The aims are jobs and skills, integrated and improved public services, environment and well being.

Education department officials have met with senior members of the Regional Consortia in the valleys to identify opportunities. An update will be provided at the taskforce meeting on 2 Feb and will be considered as part of discussion around public services improvement.

Health department officials have met with senior officials from the health boards in the valleys to identify opportunities. An update will be provided at the taskforce meeting on 2 Feb and will be considered as part of discussion around public services improvement.

An event is planned with RSLs within the valleys to identify joint working opportunities. An update will be provided at the taskforce meeting on 2 Feb and will be considered as part of discussion around public services improvement.

The pilot study on Public Assets in Cwm Taf featured at the last meeting of the VTB. The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government is keen to share learning and explore plans to consider expanding the pilot across parts of the valleys, supported by £2 million funding.

Officials in statistics have developed an outline boundary purely for monitoring and data collection purposes. Within this boundary, work has been undertaken to map key services for the valleys, including the Metro and schools.

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. Membership from the Swansea City Region is being explored for the taskforce. In addition, a representative from Cardiff City Deal now attends the Valleys Taskforce Board. Membership from Swansea Bay City Region will be sought.