

Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Live Well Scrutiny Committee
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:	Lance Carver, Director of Social Services
Responsible Officer:	Cath Doman, Director of Health and Social Care Integration Meredith Gardiner, Head of Partnerships and Assurance
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 2025, 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 2024/25 RPB Annual Report, the link to which is provided later in this document. • In future the wider RPB annual report will be added to the information hub in place of this style of Scrutiny Committee report. This is expected to be added in the Summer of 2026 and annually thereafter. 	

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 were established in April 2016.
- 1.3 The objectives of the RPBs (updated in the revised 2025 statutory guidance) are to ensure that the organisations that make up the partnership work effectively together to:
 - **Respond to Population Needs Assessments**
Continue to base planning and delivery on the regional population needs assessment under Section 14 of the Act.
 - **Deliver Regional Area Plans**
Implement the area plans prepared and published by Local Authorities and Health Boards, ensuring alignment with national priorities.
 - **Strengthen Integrated Commissioning**
Demonstrate measurable progress on joint commissioning strategies for health and social care services, particularly for complex needs and priority groups.
 - **Ensure Adequate Resourcing**
Partnership bodies must provide sufficient financial and workforce resources to deliver agreed partnership arrangements effectively.
 - **Promote and Manage Pooled Funds**
Maintain flexibility in pooling arrangements, with an expectation to expand pooled funds beyond care home accommodation to other integrated services where appropriate.
 - **Embed Citizen Voice and Co-production**
To involve people with lived experience, carers, and the public in shaping services and decision-making processes.
 - **Improve Governance and Accountability**
Publish annual reports detailing outcomes achieved against population needs assessments and area plans, including financial transparency and performance metrics.

- **Advance Digital Integration and Data Sharing**
Comply with new standards for interoperability and shared care records across health and social care partners.
 - **Focus on Prevention and Market Stability**
Support preventative services and contribute to market stability reports, ensuring sustainable provision of care and support services.
 - **Collaborate on Wider Well-being Objectives**
Work with housing, education, and third sector partners to deliver holistic well-being outcomes, reflecting the “One Welsh Public Service” approach.
- 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 condition, 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** In October 2025, the Chair of the RPB transferred to Sam Austin Chief Executive of Llamau. The Vale of Glamorgan Council has the following representation:
- Councillor Eddie Williams, Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health
 - Councillor Sandra Perkes, Cabinet Member for Housing and Building Services
 - Elizabeth Jones, Director of Learning and Skills
 - Lance Carver, Director of Social Services
- 1.6** This Report provides an update following the last report to the Scrutiny Committee on 7th January 2025.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1** The Part 9 Statutory Guidance (Partnership Arrangements) 2025 require that each Regional Partnership Board produce an annual report on the extent to which it has met its objectives. The 2024/25 Annual Report of the RPB is available on the Partnership's website [here](#).

2.2 Our partnership has continued to experience 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 the 5-year Regional Integration Fund in April 2022 to support the delivery of integrated care across Wales. This fund 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.£3,240,805 from RPB funding streams in addition to programme support for a variety of work programmes.

2.5 The fund comes to an end in March 2027. There is currently no indication of a successor fund, and there is a particular risk because of the Senedd elections in May 2026 and current uncertainty on the next programme for government. All partners continue to lobby for ongoing resources recognising the significance of the funding to all partner organisations.

RPB funding arrangements – capital

2.6 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.

2.7 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. The Strategic Capital Plan was refreshed in 2025 with an updated pipeline and governance process.

2.8 As a partnership, the Capital Coordination Group (CapCoG) coordinates the planning, funding and delivery of capital schemes that involve more than one partner, and the Partnership Asset Management Board provide strategic oversight of opportunities for joint working. A central RPB capital team supports all partners in the grant application process, and dedicated organisational resources are also funded to support internal organisational planning and delivery arrangements.

2.9 The current profile of HCF/IRCF in the Vale of Glamorgan for 2025/26 is outlined in the table below:

CAVRPB Funding (Vale)	Indicative Amount
Housing with Care Fund	£2,221,082
Integration and Re-balancing Capital Fund (IRCF)	£1,263,750
IRCF Revenue	£67,314

- 2.10** In the Vale, HCF has funded, or contributed to, a number of schemes including the acquisition and refurbishment of properties to provide children’s residential homes and supported accommodation for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. In the last twelve months a two bedded children’s residential home has been developed in St Athan and a further home in the same area is being progressed. The Penarth Older Persons Village continues to progress. Funding for smaller scale capital projects has been maintained covering disabled facilities grants, technology and adaptive works, facilitating family at home, and residential/respite improvement.
- 2.11** Additional schemes are being developed for IRCF submission early in 2026 for adult health and social care, including day opportunities for people with physical disabilities, as part of a campus approach in Barry town centre.
- 2.12** Revenue funding has been made available to support feasibility work exploring adult residential and nursing care options to address particularly acute market insufficiency in this area. This may progress to a future IRCF application to support the development subject to the outcome of the feasibility study and the Council’s position on this.

Commissioning

- 2.13** The Regional Commissioning Board (RCB) brings together the 2 local authorities and third sector to monitor market stability and proactively address market sufficiency. It provides an annual assessment of the stability and sufficiency of the care market to meet the needs of the local population.
- 2.14** Work continues to develop and strengthen the Vale’s Section 16 Social Value Forum where the focus has been upon strengthening the range and number of third sector partners involved and working to upskill the sector in relation to accessing commissioning and grant opportunities.
- 2.15** Work also continues to review the scope and definitions for complex dementia services with a view to developing a potential region-wide approach.
- 2.16** Various workstreams are underway to improve service quality and safeguarding including a regional migrant care workers action plan and development of an equipment protocol for residential care settings.

Joint up services for winter

- 2.17** 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 within national integrated care governance arrangements, with representatives from both the RPB and the Vale of Glamorgan Council itself.
- 2.18** The RPB is supporting operational colleagues to develop coordinated winter plans for the coming season including the regional self-assessment and operational resilience plan. This also aligns the Vale’s Pathways of Care Transformation Grant plan, which includes moving towards a ‘reablement first’ model of care within the Vale Community Resource Service and building upon

the ‘Wellbeing Matters’ service (partly funded by the RPB) with a new website to enhance Information, Advice and Assistance.

The RPB’s work programme

- 2.19** 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.
- 2.20** 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).

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.

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.

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.

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 **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**.

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.

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

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

- 2.21** 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. NEST (or NYTH) stands for nurturing, empowered, safe and trusted. The NEST framework is a planning tool for and reflection tool for those working with, and on behalf, of 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.

2.22 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 line.
- **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.

2.23 Starting Well






Starting Well Programme


 Initiated
2018


 Total Annual
Partnership
£4,945,683


 Estimated Population
172,340
(0-24yrs)

Joint Area Plan 5 year commitment:

- Work together to keep our babies, children and young people 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 co-occurring complex needs



The story so far...

Strategic development of the programme has enabled creation of a reformed Starting Well Partnership Board with associated governance. This will ensure regional engagement across a set of priorities for the additional partnership approaches required to better work together and improve experiences for babies, children and young people.

The first three priorities for the programme across 2025/26 include:

- Focus on the early years' agenda
- Focus on the children and young people with highly complex needs that cannot be met by the current system
- Focus on the interventions funded via RIF to ensure a sustainable future.

Deliverable by 2028	Progress and comment
Implement preventative approaches in education, health, and support	On track
Deliver service improvements aligned to NEST	On track
Implement plans for No Wrong Door	On track
Provide accessible information to children and young people	Under review
Ensure enough regional provision to meet care and support needs	On track
Deliver a Joint Recovery Service for emotional wellbeing and mental health, including increased accommodation in Cardiff	On track
Improve transitions between services	On track
Develop an integrated care model for co-occurring complex needs	On track
Establish a joint approach to commissioning and funding complex care and support	In 25/26 delivery plan
Expand therapeutic support for care experienced children (e.g., Enfys and ARC)	On track
Embed a trauma-informed approach where appropriate	On track

 Governance: Starting Well Partnership Board (quarterly)	Membership:	Health	Local Authorities	Third Sector	Service Users	Other
		☑	☑	☑		

2.24 We have implemented improved governance arrangements to support the Starting Well Programme. Programme Board meetings are now in place with representation across both Local Authorities, health and third sector. Priorities have been confirmed for the current year with a focus on children with highly complex needs, early years including first 1000 days, and a review across all of RIF supported interventions in preparation for the end of the current funding. The Board is currently considering an enhanced approach to hearing and embedding the voice of lived experience by strengthening links to existing engagement structures including Vale Youth Council.

2.25 A first workshop has taken place to review the impact and outcome measures for Goleudy with a view to ensuring comprehensive understanding across region

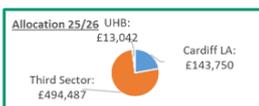
including the Vale of Glamorgan. Goleudy supports young people who are experiencing high levels of distress, many of whom have sought safety in the Emergency Department.

2.26 Vale of Glamorgan services which receive RIF funding have completed the Welsh Government NYTH/NEST self-assessment, the results of which were combined with others to inform the regional response. Colleagues were mindful of how more work might be done to highlight the importance of Children’s Rights, and how we should all keep them at the front and centre of our agendas [Children's Rights - Children’s Commissioner for Wales](#)

2.27 Living Well



Unpaid Carers Programme



Joint Area Plan 5 year commitment:
We will identify and recognise unpaid carers for the vital contribution they make to the community and the people they care for, and in doing so enable unpaid carers to have a life alongside caring.

The story so far....

The Unpaid Carers Charter launched in 2023 which outlined the commitment of partners to supporting unpaid carers and to support the identification and awareness of services to unpaid carers in Cardiff and Vale.

The Unpaid Carers Board provides oversight of the programme of work and considers wider national and local issues. There is wide representation from partners and lived experience on the board, but unpaid carers are further engaged through an annual Assembly celebrating carers and raising awareness of key challenges.

Partnership funding sources: RIF (ringfenced and embedding) and Short Breaks Fund

4 projects being delivered:

- Carers Gateway providing signposting to information, advice and support. The delivery model has changed recently but has seen rapid growth in its reach to unpaid carers in the past year.
- Young carers (Cardiff) – providing support and activities for young carers.
- Carer Friendly/Young carers in schools – providing training and support for organisations, teams and schools to best support unpaid carers.
- Short Breaks – providing a variety of breaks for carers to support wellbeing.

Deliverable by 2028	Progress and comment
The Unpaid Carers Charter	Complete
Specific support for young carers	On Track
Strengthened the role of carers in discharge planning	Delayed due to recruitment
Improved carers assessment process	Different approach taken nationally
Inclusion of carers needs across all our partnership commitments	On Track
Build mental health and wellbeing support	On Track
Improve physical and emotional support for young carers	On Track
Reduce waiting times to specialist services	Not started, to be considered in 2026-27
Early access to the right advice and support	On Track
Improve flexible planned and emergency respite	On Track
Support employment alongside and after caring	Not started, to be considered in 2026-27
Support employers to understand role and support needs	On Track
Update and publicise the carers directory	On Track

[Link to website: Unpaid Carers Charter – CAVRPB](#)

Governance:	Unpaid Carers Board (Bi-monthly)	Membership:	Health	Local Authorities	Third Sector	Lived Experience	Other
			☑	☑	☑	☑	n/a

2.28 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. This was refreshed in 2025 to reflect the current unpaid carer support available.

2.29 The RPB’s unpaid carer representative organised and hosted the third and fourth Regional Unpaid Carers Assembly in October ’24 and ’25 at Sophia Gardens, giving an opportunity for unpaid carers to raise what matters to them.



2.30 The Vale Carers Hub run by a Third Sector carers organisation, TuVida, since 2024 provides information, advice and support to unpaid carers in the Vale. In 2024-25, the service supported 858 unpaid carers in the Vale, including 226 unpaid carers who had been referred by Vale social services for further advice and support. In a recent case study review, one carer stated of their experience:

“Everyone I spoke to throughout was really friendly. They were all compassionate. They all clearly knew that it would make a difference”.

2.31 Over the past year, the Unpaid Carers Board has been engaging on the development of a wellbeing resource to support unpaid carers to maintain and enhance their wellbeing through signposting to activities and services which may be able to offer support for their mental health and wellbeing if needed. Feedback on the draft version of this resource has been extremely positive, and we will be looking to launch this in the new year.

2.32 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 2025-26 and beyond following the recent [written statement](#) on the continuation of the funding until March 2029.



2.33 People with neurodiversity

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

2.34 The Cardiff and Vale Integrated Autism Service (IAS) continued to support autistic adults and their carers across the region.

2.35 We have also continued the conversations started at the RPB conference regarding *‘Thinking Differently’* to support a shift towards a whole system model of support that is needs rather than diagnosis-led. This collaboration has created the space for key individuals across the Vale of Glamorgan to engage in the development of a shared improvement future model.

2.36 In May 2025, Keith Ingram, Autism Lead Officer for the Vale of Glamorgan and Autism Champion for Cardiff and Vale RPB, won the RPB’s award for an *‘Outstanding contribution to Neurodiversity and Autism Services’*. This award recognised his exceptional leadership in improving autism support and promoting inclusive services across the Vale of Glamorgan and the wider region.



2.37 Learning Disabilities



Learning Disabilities Programme



 **Initiated**
2018
  **Total Annual Partnership**
£1,870,162
  **Estimated Population**
10-12,000

Joint Area Plan 5-year commitment:
Develop integrated support services enabling people with learning disabilities to live as independently as possible in their local community

The story so far...
Our ambition is underpinned by the regional vision set out in the Joint Commissioning Strategy (extended to 2027) which aims to improve quality of life and support people to live the lives they choose.

Funding has been in place over a number of years for various grass roots projects to support people with lived experience. In April 2024, the Learning Disability Partnership Board (LDPB) reviewed progress and agreed 6 key priorities for the future. Additional funding was provided to support this strategic-level development:

1. Strengthening data and intelligence
2. Embedding co-production
3. Developing joined up health and social care service
4. Focusing on prevention through community
5. Advancing the capital programme
6. Improving transition for young people to adult services

The LDPB provides oversight for this programme and is working to improve representation to better reflect the range of system partners involved and ensure the voice of lived experience is equal, heard and drives continuous improvement across the region.

Deliverable by 2028	Progress and comment
Improve access to annual health checks and wider primary health choices	Delayed
Ensure smooth transitions between services and support	Under review
Improve access to information on local services	On track
Enhance services for people to live closer to home with the right support and maximise independence	On track
Increase access to work, activities, and volunteering (employment opportunities)	On track
Improve information for young people and carers on moving from child to adult services	On track
Increase the number of Adult Placement Carers (Shared Lives)	On track
Expand availability of technology to support independent living	On track
Ensure people with learning disabilities and Down Syndrome have equitable access to dementia screening	Scoping required to understand current pathway
Develop outcome-based commissioning for service delivery	Ongoing

Governance:	Learning Disabilities Partnership Board (quarterly)	Membership:	Health	Local Authorities	Third Sector	Lived Experience	Other
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2.38 As a partnership, we continue to work together to deliver the annual plan, overseen by the Learning Disability Partnership Board. The RPB continues to support the employment of two support workers who have lived experience for the region. They both remain fully engaged in their localities, with the Vale support worker is embedded within the Learning Disability Team in Hen Goleg.

2.39 Both continue to be invaluable in improving information, engagement with people with a learning disability as well as champion and wider awareness training with core priorities focusing on developing a lived experience engagement network to improve how the voice of lived experience informs and drives our work as well as improving the offer, uptake and understanding of the importance of Annual Health Checks.



2.40 The roles have been key to improving the information and support provided to people with a Learning Disability around relationships and sex, with a well-attended event taking place in March that continues to drive the work in this area.

2.41 Ageing Well



2.42 Ageing Well Headlines

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

2.43 People with Dementia



Dementia Programme



 Initiated 2018	 Total Annual Partnership £1.7m	 Estimated Population 7,000
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Joint Area Plan 5 year commitment: Raise awareness of Dementia and its determinants whilst working to develop community-based services that enable equitable and timely access to diagnosis and person-centred care.

The story so far....

Our dementia programme was commissioned in 2018-19 through the RPB and brought together existing services through RIF specific to dementia care in the region.

The programme is shaped into 4 pillars, aligned with the All Wales Dementia Pathway of Standards, as structured below:

1. Community Prevention and Compassionate Communities
2. Community Care and Support
3. Assessment, Review and Diagnosis
4. Dementia Friendly Hospital Charter

Enablers

1. Dementia Champions Network
2. Workforce Empowerment & Measurement
3. Community Engagement (Opening Doors & EmpowerMind)

Deliverable by 2028	Progress and comment
Deliver compassionate communities through awareness campaigns and increased number of dementia-friendly communities	On Track
Increase community-based care and support through advocacy in person-centred care planning and service development	On Track
Establish clear community-based pathways for timely assessment and diagnosis	On Track
Implement the Dementia Friendly Hospital Charter	On Track
Adopt a regional approach to dementia care learning and development	On Track
Improve accommodation solutions for people affected by dementia	On Track – Respite solution in the Vale agreed and implemented
Innovate research, including technology-enabled care to support strength-based approaches across all ages and stages	On Track (Led by Local Authorities)
Build pathways for people with learning disabilities at higher risk of developing dementia	On Track
Improve awareness and access to Advance Care Planning	On Track (National and regional workstreams)
Provide hospital-based liaison support to create a dementia-friendly journey through hospital	On Track
Develop innovative and flexible support for unpaid carers, including responsive respite options for different needs	On Track (Link with Unpaid Carers and Mental Health programmes)

	Governance:	Dementia Delivery Group (quarterly)	Membership:	Health	Local Authorities	Third Sector	Lived Experience	Other
				☑	☑	☑	☑	☑

2.44 With support from the partnership, 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 \(dementiafriendlyvale.com\)](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/news/dementiafriendlyvale.com).

2.45 In 2024-25, 778 organisations within the Vale was supported to become Dementia Friendly with 2,343 Vale Residents becoming Dementia Friends. This work is led, in the Vale of Glamorgan, by Miles Utting, who was also recognised at the RPB conference in May for his contribution with the RPB's award for Co-production.



2.46 Dementia Services, including Memory Assessment, Memory Link Workers, MAS Teams, and dementia friendly officers have been working with different forums such as the Vale 50+ forum, Barry Library, Dyffryn Gardens and various other existing social groups to share information on dementia services and to support the groups in the Vale of Glamorgan. This has now led to the establishment of a Dementia Friendly Vale steering group.

2.47 A core component of the programme is to increase the provision of GP-led local diagnosis clinics. In 2024-25, 152 Vale residents were seen in a Vale-based GP clinic for diagnosis. In 25-26 so far, a further 94 residents have been seen with 34 receiving a diagnosis of dementia. 26 people were diagnosed as being in early Stage 1 Dementia. Early diagnosis is important in ensuring access to information, advice and assistance, in dealing with early symptoms and planning for the future.

2.48 In 2024-25, 1,406 Vale residents were referred to the VCRS-based *Team Around the Individual* (TATI) for ongoing help and support re. Dementia. In 2025-26, 700 Vale residents have been referred so far.

2.49 The RPB has also supported the utilisation of Ty Dyfan care home for dementia respite. This new provision for 2025-26 in the Vale has already supported 19 people living with dementia and their carers to access and utilise these stays for respite in order to support wellbeing.

2.50 In addition, in 2025-26 so far regionally the programme has:

- Trained over 594 people to support people with dementia.
- Memory Link Workers have supported 2,841 people to help them get support more easily.
- Our commissioned partners Mental Health Matters (MHM) supported 2,400 people with activities during their stay in hospital.
- [Listen to the Dementia Learning & Development Team speaking about their proudest moments](#)

2.51 Integrated Community Care System



Integrated Community Care System (@Home) Programme Overview



Initiated 2021	Total Annual Partnership £9,263,732	Estimated Population 682,236 (mid-2023 ONS; Pop. 65+)
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Joint Area Plan 5 year commitment:
Establish integrated, locality-based, health & care services focused on meeting and improving the health and wellbeing of the local population. [For more information, click here to the RPB webpage](#)

The story so far....

Our @home programme was commissioned in 2021 through the RPB and brought together existing RPB funded projects towards a single vision.

In 2024, following national developments, the programme adopted the model for an Integrated Community Care System (ICCS). The programme includes oversight of previously developed projects which operate on a 'business as usual' basis as well as supporting ongoing developments towards an ICCS:

1. Community access to services
2. Connected communities (cluster MDTs, social prescribing, pro-active support, future care planning)
3. Enhanced community care (intermediate care - Crisis, homebased and bedded, and community falls which is not reported here)
4. Hospital to home – integrated discharge teams

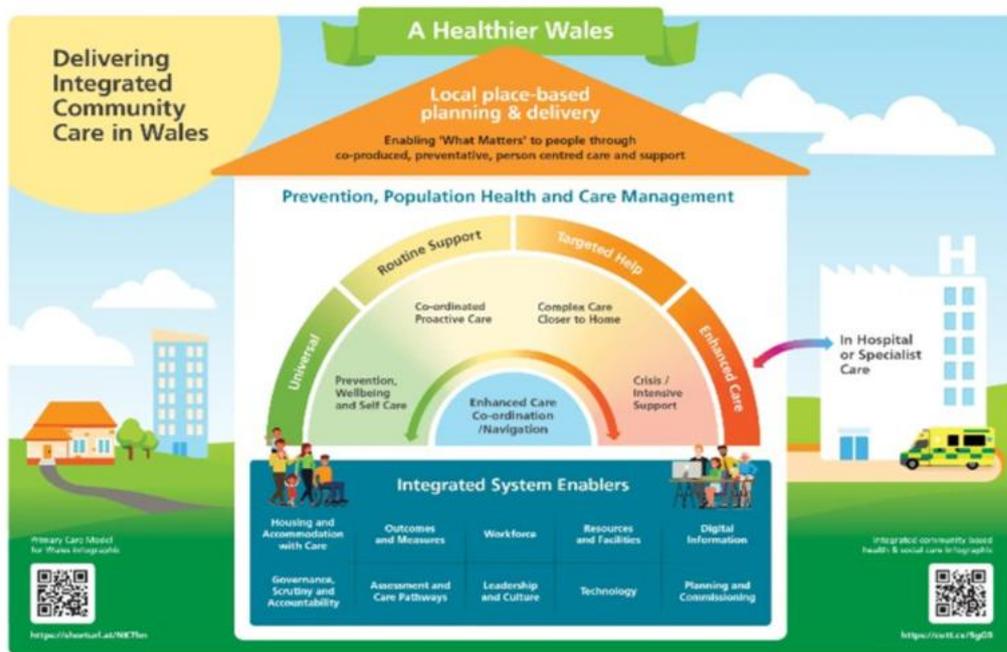
Deliverable by 2028	Progress and comment
Deliver an Integrated Community Care Service including an integrated workforce, integrated care records (Digital Care Region), and integrated Business Intelligence	On track
Improve and streamline community referral routes through coordinated access to community services via a single point of access	On track
Provide intermediate care including crisis response and step-down reablement	On track
Roll out MDT clusters based on learning from the Southwest Cardiff Cluster model and a co-produced locality operating model	On track
Deliver Health and Wellbeing Centres as capital assets to support joined-up community services	Programme of joint capital works now redeveloped due to available funding. Planning to align service needs.
Support mental health with increased prevention and support for people with delirium, dementia, and/or depression	On track
Improve advance care and end of life planning to empower choice and reduce avoidable hospital admissions	On track
Provide effective information and support to address the impact of rising food, energy, and travel costs	On track
Identify those at risk of loneliness and isolation and improve access to supportive services	On track
Reduce harm from substance use by promoting a healthy approach to alcohol, focusing on prevention and early identification	Not started. Links to be made with Area Planning Boards and Public Health Wales
Extend community services to reduce the risk of falls	On track
Extend access to tech-enabled care to support independent living	On track

Governance: ICCS Steering Group	Membership:	Health	Local Authorities	Third Sector	Service Users	Other
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Plans underway	n/a	n/a

2.52 This programme of work, previously known as the @Home Programme, is 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. The Health Board and Council have committed to continue to develop and strengthen these arrangements as a key plank of the regions emerging integrated community care system.

2.53 The programme covers the spectrum of needs from pro-active preventative, connected services at a neighbourhood level. This may include access to the right information advice and assistance through to GPs, social work teams, third sector and wider services being able to work together to provide the right support at the right time for individuals. As well as considering the responsive support required to people close to crisis who need an urgent response in order to be supported to stay independent and at home. National ICCS model shown below:

2025 – Integrated Community Care System V4



2.54 The Safe@home service launched in January 2024, provides an urgent response as



alternative to ambulance conveyance to hospital, assisting acutely unwell service users as well as those with general frailty related issues. In 2024-25, 642 referrals were made to the Vale Safe@Home team. 491 people, the majority of whom live in the Vale of Glamorgan, were subsequently accepted with 64 being signposted elsewhere.

2.55 So far in 2025-26, 290 referrals have been made to the Vale team, with 194 accepted and 32 signposted. Of the referrals discharged in 24-25, 380 (77%) achieved a 'successful' discharge, meaning they were neither admitted to hospital nor deceased following intervention.

2.56 253 (52% of discharges) Vale residents were able to remain at home for at least 28 days post discharge from the service. In 2025-26, there have been 194 discharges from the Vale Safe@Home team with 152 (78%) achieving a 'successful' discharge.

2.57 In addition, the ICCS programme has been working with partners to continue 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 with MDTs now active in all clusters. In 2024-25, these MDT meetings were able to support 406 Vale residents through a joined-up approach. In 2025-26 so far, 220 Vale residents have received the same service.

- 2.58** 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.
- 2.59** In 2024-25 the service responded to 68,629 individual contacts from across the Vale. In 2025-26 so far, the service has responded to a further 32,995 Vale residents. On average this year, 59% of calls have been addressed directly by the service without the need for further referral.
- 2.60** In spring 2026, the partnership will hold a summit to explore and co-create what a future integrated community care system looks like for the region. The Vale is already ahead of the game with its long-established integrated delivery arrangements, but with ambitions to further develop its integrated services to increase its impact for local people. Further details will be shared in due course.



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

2.61 Digital Care Region – Summary Care Viewer

- 2.62** The Vale of Glamorgan is a key contributor to the Digital Care Region programme and in particular the development of the Summary Care Viewer for the Vale Community Resource Service. This enables staff to see information from different care record systems in one place including the WCCIS and Access Care Planning systems and CAVUHB’s PARIS community health system. This ensures that staff have access to the right information to enhance coordinated care. Work is now underway to consider how links with education colleagues might be made.



2.63 Forward Look

- 2.64** 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.
- 2.65** As partners we 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.
- 2.66** Partners are 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.
- 2.67** An impact assessment is currently being undertaken to understand the consequences of withdrawing RPB funding from March 2027 across the region as a whole and for the council as an individual partner.

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 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.
- 5.2** 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

- 5.3** The RIF (and its predecessor funds - ICF and Transformation Fund) has enabled the employment of a significant pool of permanent staff within the Council. The RIF will cease on 31.03.27 and there is currently no line of sight to a successor fund, creating a risk for the Council and other employers in receipt of fixed-term funding.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 5.4** 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 2024/25** can be found [here](#)