

Summarised notes from Housing-led Regeneration Network

Thursday 23rd April 2015

Media Resource Centre, Llandrindod Wells

Attendance

Organisation	Name
Community Housing Cymru & CREW	Hayley Macnamara
United Welsh	Steve Cranston (CHAIR)
Melin Homes	Stuart Baldwin
RCT Homes	Steve Phillips
Tai Calon	Sarah Freeman
Merthyr Valley Homes	Paula Lunnon
Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd	Llyr ap Gruffydd
Monmouthshire HA	Farida Aslam
Welsh Government	Laurie Hayward
Welsh Government	James Burgess
Rhondda Housing	Simone Devinett
Merthyr Tydfil Housing	Lee Jones
Alison Chaplin	Wales & West Housing
Coastal Housing Group	Clare Watkins
Bron Afon	Dafydd Hellard
Coastal Housing Group	Rob Morgans
United Welsh HA	Alun Thomas
Family Housing	Carol Johns
Cantref	Rhiannon Ling
Hafod Housing Association	Sally Cockerill
Newydd HA	Kevin Howell
SWEA Cynefin	Diana Berriman
Charter Housing	Bron Lloyd
Newport City Homes	Marc Fury
Derwen	Helene John
Duke of Edinburgh Wales	Hannah Morgan
People's Republic	Dani Beck

All presentations from the day can be found on the [CHC website](#).

Presentation: Housing and Tackling Poverty, James Burgess, Welsh Government

Slides for this presentation are available on the [CHC website](#)

Now more than ever there is recognition of the work that HAs are doing due to the Minister's portfolio which links poverty and housing.

The preventative agenda is the main focus of the Tackling Poverty Action Plan. There has been some great progress made in meeting the targets set in the action plan, but faster pace is needed on educational attainment and health inequalities

The Tackling Poverty Regional Events which took place last Autumn looked at the various services delivering the action plan and the following issues and key points came out of it:

- There are opportunities for increased Shared working in delivering advice services and the first point of contact is key. Referrals must be appropriate and staff should be trained across a range of organisations
- Rural areas have less interventions
- Community benefits measurement is key

The Tackling Poverty Action Plan remains to be the key delivery mechanism for the revised Child Poverty Strategy which has been consulted on (see [CHC website](#) for consultation response).

The yearly progress report on the Tackling Poverty Action plan will be released in June and it is expected that there will be new commitments and actions for the following 5 areas:

- Childcare
- Welfare reform
- In work poverty
- Food poverty
- Housing and regeneration.

This may lead to new targets for HAs.

Q- There are a range of organisations delivering communities first, families first and Lift, if they are joined what are the implications?

A- There is not yet any commitment to merge these programmes. We are focussing on avoiding duplication.

Comment- Lets work together and produce something collaboratively? If WG are keen, how do we go about doing this?

Comment- The Minister attends various projects and events but perhaps more civil servants should be on the ground finding out what is going on?

Comment- We are regenerating communities and tackling poverty but it is difficult for us to make the case to assist those that are not our tenants at a time of reduced budgets.

Q- Fuel poverty is missing in these 5 areas?

A- It sits in the tackling poverty action plan and would be covered by housing & regeneration

Comment- Perhaps we need an impact study on the work that HAs are involved with to tackle poverty? It can assist with WG in identifying what works well.

Action: Hayley will meet with James and Laurie as a follow up to this presentation to identify how Housing can feed in to the proposed 5 areas, and will also look at how we as a sector can showcase our work directly to the Tackling Poverty department

Presentation: An introduction to the Cynefin Project, Diana Berriman, SWEA Cynefin

Cynefin is a WG initiative looking at environment and sustainability through place based learning and development. The project gets people in the community to work together to come up with solutions to improve places. Every approach is different, dependent on the communities that the Cynefin place coordinator is working with.

Cynefin and Housing:

NPT Homes and the Neath Cynefin officer working together to identify place based intervention

Wrexham Cynefin is working to bring derelict buildings back into use. Actually now developing two affordable housing units from waste land acquired from a LA that no other organisation wanted (including HAs)

Cynefin operates very differently to other WG projects and is being used to trail different approaches to inform policy makers of what works well. Cynefin operates more flexibly on the ground, but is closely managed by Severn Wye.

Comments- HAs can also provide advice and expertise to community groups on development, planning, funding, as Charter have done with their local Cynefin project.

Action: Hayley to share where the Cynefin Coordinators operate. See the [Cynefin website](#)

Discussion: Measuring Social Impact

The Value for Money and measuring social impact topics are being discussed across a number of our forums and networks at the moment, and we recognise that this is a cross-network area of work which CHC needs to lead on.

Discussions have so far looked at:

- Regulatory requirements- in England there is a requirement for HAs to demonstrate impact and WG may follow suit
- How can we demonstrate and measure the amount of work we are doing on social impact?
- How can we demonstrate value for money?
- How can we ensure that our procurement processes are positively impacting on our communities and our organisations

At the last regen network we briefly discussed that it would be beneficial to look at the different models for measuring impact, to in particular look at how we in Wales can measure our contribution to social impact and wellbeing.

We identified that a number of housing associations are, or are considering using the HACT toolkit to do this. These are:

- Bron Afon
- Merthyr Tydfil HA
- Charter Housing
- Monmouthshire HA
- Hafod
- Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd
- Newydd HA
- Merthyr Valley Homes

We discussed using the tool and there was scepticism of using a model which puts a monetary value on wellbeing. Questions were also raised on the validity of the survey however the majority view was that doing nothing was not an option and it would be useful to trial a couple of indicators within the above organisations over this summer to feedback to September's regen network.

Action: Hayley will organise a meeting of those that expressed an interest in trialling a number of the HACT indicators that relate to employment and skills development. This meeting will take place in JUNE and will be confirmed ASAP.

Presentation: Duke of Edinburgh Wales

DofE Wales is part of the UK Duke of Edinburgh development team. In 2014 12,000 young people in Wales were engaged in Duke of Edinburgh across the programme levels.

DofE can easily fit into your current community projects and the benefits to HAs of leading on a DofE programme are shown in presentation. There are also opportunities to train up members of the community to become DofE leaders.

DofE are currently running a very successful volunteer pilot with Newydd ([see video clip](#)) who are open to having other organisations along to show the work they are involved with.

For further information on DofE visit their website:

<http://www.dofe.org/en/content/cms/takepart/notice-boards/wales/> which includes contact details if you would like to discuss how your organisation could work with them.

People's Republic:

The People's Republic is a platform that allows you to submit community projects that are looking for funding. All projects must have a social purpose.

A Peoples Republic platform can be used regionally providing acommunity online platform as well as a mechanism to source funding.

Dani explained the potential of crowdsourcing and undertook an exercise with delegates to demonstrate the range of projects or schemes that could source crowdfunding. Some well-known examples are shown on the [CHC website](#).

Dani will attend fesTYval to further explore crowdfunding with the sector.

Next event:

fesTYval 2015 9am – 5pm, 18th June 2015, Cyfarthfa Castle, Merthyr

Building on the success of last year's Award Winning event, CHC, CREW and Building Enterprise are once again hosting fesTYval, and are looking forward to making fesTYval 2015 even bigger and better! The event is an informal and interactive day suitable for all those involved in community regeneration, including housing associations, local authorities, social enterprises and third sector organisations. This year has a "school theme" and you will see from the attached school planner that we have a variety of sessions planned around the themes of wellbeing, health, social enterprise and engagement. We are expecting that this will again be a sold out event with over 200 attendees!

Take a look at the [CHC website](#) for the agenda and booking information.