



Housing Led Regeneration Network Meeting

Rhondda Housing Association

9 March 2017

Attendees

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Beth McPherson	Linc-Cymru Housing Association Karen Jeffreys
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Nick Landers	Merthyr Tydfil Housing Association Lee Jones
Bridgend Council Delyth Webb	MHA Natasha Jones
Bridgend Council Andrew Jones	MHA Michelle Smith
Bron Afon Community Housing Lisa Charles	Monmouthshire County Council Andy Smith
Caerphilly County Borough Council Jane Roberts-Waite	Monmouthshire Housing Farida Aslam
Charter Housing Alison Starling	Newport City Homes Casey Edwards
Coastal Housing Janet Gange	Newydd Housing Rachel Honey-Jones
Coastal Housing Group Adam West	Newydd Housing Association Jackie Holly
Community Housing Cymru Selina Moyo	Rhondda Housing Association Simone Devinett
Hafan Cymru Jayne Regan	Tai Calon Community Housing Matthew John
Hafod Housing Association Sally Cockerill	Tai Calon Community Housing Ryan Parry



Tai Calon Community Housing
Stephen Phillips

Trivallis
Lisa Balfe

Trivallis
Tracey Cooke

United Welsh
Elaine Elkington
Ynysmon Eiliw Llyr

United Welsh
Jenny Cashmore

United Welsh
Steve Cranston

Wales and West Housing
Kristin Vaughan

Welsh Local Government Association
Jane Lee

Notes/ Actions

1. Communities for Work Welsh Government- Sarah Evans

- Communities for work extended to December 2020
- Cabinet Secretary Carl Sargeant announced in a statement £20million investment in C1st areas
- Employment grant will be more flexible because it is not postcode based
- Employability grant will cover non LIFT programme areas
- Barrier fund- £12 million infrastructure of the employability grant
- What's the picture post 2020?
- Transition guidance currently being put together with lessons learnt from the review from C1st programme. Team within Welsh Government looking at what C1st has achieved. Best practice will be included in the employability grant
- Employability plan- feeling that there is a lack of representation of the housing sector

Actions:

- Sarah Evans to send contact details of colleagues in Welsh Government working on the Employability plan
- Bring back C1st good practice to network for consultation
- Standing invitation for employability programmes on the HLRN Meetings
- Lisa to check with Duncan if he's aware of progress of the employability plan-
- CHC to plan workshop on employability for the sector in May/June



2. Measuring Social Impact

- Various toolkits out there which we are all using- HACT, Value Wales toolkit, Crew website toolkit
- Our current data currently means nothing to our partners
- Are our indicators reflecting what our partners are interested in e.g. wellbeing agenda, how do we articulate to those partners.
- Do we do a pilot that reflects our current thinking
- Opportunity to link in with the whole wellbeing assessment
- Local area coordination –health social services and housing, joint measures

Actions:

- Agenda on the next meeting to talk about LAC- contact Coastal (Serena) for information and invite to attend the next meeting
- Explore CHC role in developing courses to help organisations learn on how to measure social impact
- Keep group informed of discussions from the Social Impact Working Group

3. Breakout sessions

a) Employability

Influence employability plan

- What are WLGA and CHC's thinking and doing around the Employability plan?
- This requires our input ASAP.
- Have CEOs done anything about it?
What are the learning lessons from Communities First programme that we can use in on-going programmes

b) In Work Poverty

P1 WEFO bids on-going 2017-2020

Action: Establish a task and finish group on what we can do to kick start in work support/progression. Others required in the discussions might include;

- DWP ?
- Valleys Task Force ?
- Case Studies/research to showcase or build evidence



c) Value for Money (VFM)

- Develop qualitative ways of capturing stories with tenants
- How to build VFM in our work
- Create Case studies
- Task and finish groups to figure out what is VFM for the different organisations
- Customer satisfaction rates as a measure
- Partnership programmes within regions with LAs
- What is important to tenants- community based assets
- Embark on co-production
- Acknowledge different ways of collating information
- Not just about pounds value

Action: Welfare reform to be included on next Network's Agenda

4. VVP Programme

a) Lessons learnt from previous programmes:

- Changes in ministerial backing through the programme's life caused hasty bid revision
- Notational allocation of funding not based on project proposals
- Scrabble to redesign programme
- Guidelines to LAs quite loose resulting in different LAs operating differently – this had an impact for RSLs which were working in 2 different LAs for example.
- VVP funding was paid retrospectively and annually and where different funds were in use e.g. SHG,HFG and VVP on one scheme this provided some inconsistencies
- Outputs required were quite challenging
- Some projects would have taken place anyway even without VVP funding
- Lack of longevity of Welsh Government project funding

b) Positives

- Helped councils put in place strategy for town centre developments
- Provided tight focus on what was to be achieved (LAs/HAs and Welsh Government)

c) Future Project

- Possibility of the future budget to be much less but focusing on bigger projects
- Minister keen to limit ACEs experiences, this might be woven into the next programme
- Early years not something that we are involved in
- Work with partners including LAs, RSLs and allow longer lead in time



- Aligning physical and social aspects of regeneration is the way forward
- Could we think of private sector involvement in fostering partnership involvement
- Early prevention programmes

d) Delivery

- Require a different approach to the last programme
- Suggestion that money be allocated on a regional basis so that it is not so competitive- question as to whether that might not result in one area in the region having a greater spend anyway?
- VVP should be complementary to other strategic priorities
- Make it easier clarity is required up front, with timescales made simpler, streamline process. Agreements with 3rd parties a problem, rules and regulations are complex
- Involves a lot of administration
- Report on lessons learned to be used as basis for developing new programme- (report went up to Ministerial advisory group).



150518 VVP

Summary of response

- Achieve joined up sources of funding- join up funding e.g. marry funding streams- SHG, HFG, VVP, empty Homes funding
- Start from the point of view of what we are trying to achieve
- Require Ministerial 'lock down' on the programme and not the constant change of programme which was dependant on which Minister was in post.
- Once agreed do not meddle with the delivery outcomes

e) Scale

- Under the first programme ambition had to be scaled down as full funding requested was not allocated

f) Measuring Success

- Lay out the measures beforehand and implement outcomes based accountability that does not change
- Realise that success is not measurable overnight it might take 20 years to see the impact on a community
- Things to measure include;
- Fuel poverty
- Isolation



- Vacant buildings
- Wellbeing assessments
- Requires a degree of continuity in funding

g) Timescales

- Departments need to communicate e.g. where there's mixed funding public sector need to communicate and align their budgets