



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023-24

**COMMUNITY SERVICES CRIME &
DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

28th February 2024

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC
HEALTH, PROTECTION & COMMUNITY
SERVICES**

Agenda Item No. 4

REGIONAL COMMUNITY SAFETY
PARTNERSHIP REVIEW

Author: Martin Morgans, Head of Partnerships, Bridgend County Borough Council

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To update Elected Members on the on the findings of the review of Community Safety Partnership (CSP) arrangements in the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region and the work done to take these recommendations forward.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Scrutinise the proposals made by the task and finish group in readiness for the merged Community Safety Partnership (CSP).
- 2.2 Make recommendations resulting from their scrutiny to support the creation of the regional Community Safety Partnership based on the review of CSP arrangements.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 There are currently two Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) operating across Cwm Taf Morgannwg; the Cwm Taf CSP covers Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil local authority areas whilst Bridgend CSP is for the Bridgend local authority area.
- 3.2 There has been an increased adoption of regional footprints by strategic groups operating within the CSP framework such as the substance misuse Area Planning Board (APB), the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)



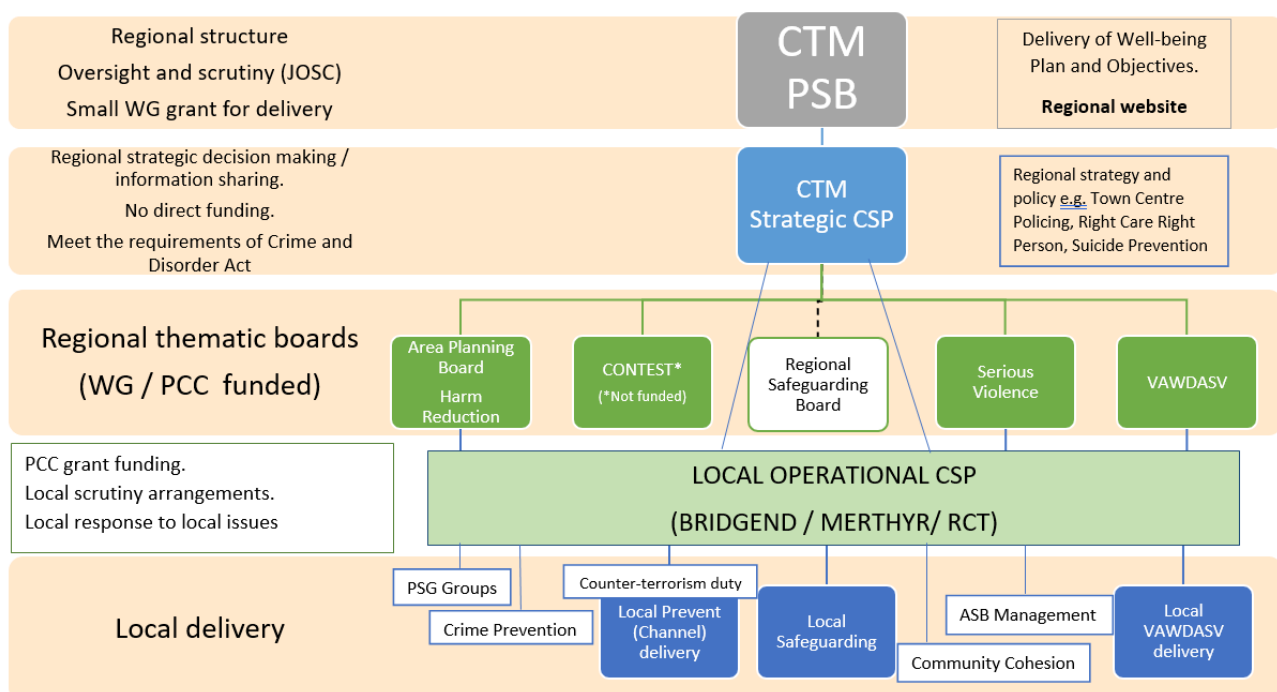
steering group and the Contest Board for counter terrorism. There is also one single Safeguarding Board for the region (CTMSB), one Regional Partnership Board (CTMRPB), and the regional Public Services Board (PSB).

- 3.3 The Chief Executives for Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf local authorities, along with the Chief Superintendent for Mid Glamorgan Basic Command Unit (BCU) of South Wales Police, agreed that a review of community safety partnership arrangements for the region was required with a view of consolidating the aforementioned already amalgamated strategic groups.
- 3.4 The review was commissioned by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council on behalf of its partners, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, Bridgend County Borough Council and South Wales Police. The review was undertaken by an independent, external company on behalf of the Region.
- 3.5 The original aim of the review was to consider the establishment of a single CSP for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region, the associated governance requirements and any specific infrastructure and funding needs to ensure the community safety partnership can operate as a strategic and effective partnership for the region.
- 3.7 The Review Report and its recommendations have been considered by the Cwm Taf Community Safety Partnership Board and the Bridgend Community Safety Partnership Board. Each Board has accepted the Report and its recommendations.
- 3.8 During [spring 2023 all three local authorities received reports](#) outlining the recommendations in the Practice Solutions review into community safety partnership arrangements. Each authority approved in principle the merger of Cwm Taf and Bridgend Community Safety Partnerships.

4. CURRENT SITUATION

- 4.1 There appears to be widespread support for integration and alignment with other regional arrangements. It was felt that greater economies of scale and critical mass, using a combined and streamlined approach to funding bids, provides potential for more resources and more value for money.
- 4.2 Following approval of the Report, South Wales Police colleagues began work on a project initiation document which discussed the recommendations of the review and what could be achieved by a task and finish group in readiness for the regional Board becoming operational in April 2024. It also considered what recommendations were more appropriate for the new Board to decide upon.
- 4.3 The project initiation document was discussed at the inception meeting for the Task and Finish group taking the work forward which included representatives from across the Community Safety Partnership. Martin Morgans, Head of Partnerships Bridgend County Borough Council, was appointed Chair of group.

- 4.4 A draft structure has been proposed, considering the statutory requirements in relation to Community Safety Partnerships as set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and ensuring financial arrangements, such as grants funding community safety related activities, such as addressing anti-social behaviour, crime prevention and Prevent requirements, are not impacted.
- 4.5 The diagram below sets out the proposed structure for the regional strategic CSP to adopt. This is in keeping with the recommendation that “An agreed rational structure which effectively dovetails with the new Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board and the Safeguarding Board should be established for the new Cwm Taf Morgannwg Community Safety Partnership Board.”



To note, the structure is not an exhaustive list of all CSP functions.

- 4.6 There had been some concern that regionalisation will dominate and diminish local arrangements, with the potential dominance of some larger partners. This structure demonstrates how the Cwm Taf Morgannwg CSP will take on the role of strategic decision making for the region, whilst local CSP arrangements will ensure hyper-localised strategies tailored to the needs of their communities.
- 4.7 To avoid duplication and ensure best use of resources, it is not intended that the same officer attend each meeting, or that regional Boards attend local arrangements, unless there is something specifically relating to that authority.

4.8 Based on the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the strategic intent of Cwm Taf Morgannwg CSP it is recommended that the membership of the Board be:

Organisation	Role
Bridgend County Borough Council	Head of Partnerships / Community Safety Partnership Manager
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	Head of Public Protection
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	Director Public Health and Community Services, Community Safety and Strategic Partnerships Service Manager
South Wales Police	Chief Superintendent / Supt Partnerships
South Wales Police	Partnerships Manager
South Wales Fire and Rescue	Station Commander
Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board	Health Board / Chair, Public Health Board
National Probation Service	Head of Probation Delivery Unit
Registered Social Landlord	Regional Rep: ensuring communication and cascading of information
Third Sector	Regional Rep: ensuring communication and cascading of information
Youth Offending Service	Cwm Taf and Bridgend
Police and Crime Commissioner	Head of Community Safety / Wales Violence Prevention Unit
Substance Misuse Area Planning Board	Chair / Head of Commissioning Unit
Regional VAWDASV Steering Group Rep	Chair / Regional Lead
Regional Safeguarding Board	Chair / Business Manager

4.9 Work is currently underway on drafting the proposed Terms of Reference for the regional Community Safety Partnership. These will be discussed at the meeting of a shadow regional Community Safety Partnership taking place in March 2024 involving the suggested membership.

4.10 The Review Report also recommended that in addition to the establishment of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Community Safety Partnership Board, appropriate local arrangements should be in place to scrutinise regional activity and oversee delivery of activity extraneous to, but supportive of, the identified regional priorities.

4.11 As shown in the proposed structure (4.5), the Task and Finish group recommends that the structure of the regional Community Safety Partnership dovetails into the PSB and

its scrutiny arrangements, i.e., that PSB JOSC be used to scrutinise regional CSP activity.

5. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 5.1 The work of the Task and Finish group to date has resulted in proposals on:
- i. A structure for Cwm Taf Morgannwg Community Safety Partnership.
 - ii. A focus on the strategic work for the region.
 - iii. Membership comprising of senior officers of the involved partners.
 - iv. Reporting mechanisms for existing regional structures, e.g. the Area Planning Board and VAWDASV along with the Serious Violence Duty.
 - v. Scrutiny of the regional Community Safety Partnership to be undertaken by the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the regional Public Services Board.

Work is currently underway on drafting the proposed Terms of Reference for the regional Community Safety Partnership. These will be discussed at the meeting of a shadow regional Community Safety Partnership taking place in March 2024 involving the suggested membership.

- 5.2 The following recommendations from the Review Report were considered to be for the regional Community Safety Partnership to discuss and take forward:
- Reviewing the thematic sub-groups that have emerged at a regional level and, where appropriate, incorporating them into the CTMCSP.
 - Establishing mechanisms for the CTMCSP to work with responsible authorities to engage with communities and pay heed to citizen voices.
 - Develop, or consider the development of, a business unit to serve the CTMCSP to fulfil as a minimum the functions set out in this report.
 - The funding formula to be developed to source support arrangements.

6. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Five Ways of Working

Involvement	<p>The methodology for the Review of the CSPs included a desktop review which considered the national context and local arrangements and engagement from a wide range of individuals. The Review Report noted that the commitment and engagement of current staff was valued and appreciated.</p> <p>The success of the regional Community Safety Partnership will be reliant on involving partners and people. The Board will also look for</p>
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	opportunities to learn from the work of the PSB with the Co-Production Network for Wales and develop a mechanism to engage with communities.
Integration	The Review was undertaken with a view for continuing to support communities across Cwm Taf Morgannwg to be safe and cohesive, and ensuring integration between all relevant strategic boards and plans.
Prevention	One of the main drivers for the review of Community Safety Partnership arrangements was to prevent duplicated work and efforts, and ensure the best outcomes for our communities.
Long term	The regional Community Safety Partnership will be setting a strategic intent working to effectively address the long term CSP arrangements for the region and manage the evolving requirements placed on the partnership.
Collaboration	<p>The work to undertake the Practice Solutions review and all work since by the Task and Finish group has been a collaborative effort between the bodies involved in the existing Bridgend and Cwm Taf Community Safety Partnerships as well as the structures existing around them.</p> <p>The future Cwm Taf Morgannwg Community Safety Partnership will have collaboration at its core.</p>

6.2 The Well-being Objectives

Healthy Local Neighbourhoods	<p>Healthy neighbourhoods are dependent on feelings of safety, cohesive and inclusivity. The Well-being Assessment told us that people want to feel and be safe.</p> <p>The creation of a Cwm Taf Morgannwg Community Safety Partnership will help to build a sense of belonging, improve perceptions of safety and ensure there are opportunities to act together to tackle problems when they occur.</p>
Resilient and Sustainable Local Neighbourhoods	A regional Community Safety Partnership will support cohesive environments where the conditions allow for more people to improve, use and protect our natural spaces.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

7.1 An Equality and Impact Assessment is not required as the contents of this report are for information purposes only.

8. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no Welsh Language implications as the contents of this report are for information purposes only.

9. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

9.1 The process was overseen by a steering group consisting of representatives of all statutory members of a Community Safety Partnership.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

10.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. Any financial implications arising from the implementation of the Regional Cwm Taf Morgannwg Community Safety Partnership Board will be subject to separate consideration by all Community Safety Partners.

11. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

11.1 Community Safety Partnerships are a statutory function under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. There is a provision for partnerships to be formed, with a strategic focus, on a regional basis. This relies on ensuring there remains a capability to deal with community safety issues on a local basis.

12. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE PRIORITIES

12.1 Community safety and the public's positive perception of safety are key in ensuring the Council achieves the priorities set out in the Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024 "Making a Difference".

12.2 The work of the Community Safety Partnership Board is directly aligned to the "Places" priority within the Corporate Plan – *ensuring the County Borough is one of the safest places in Wales, where people from all backgrounds get along with each other and feel safe.*

13. CONCLUSION

13.1 Highly significant and specifically relevant legislative and policy changes have been introduced in the 25 years since the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 introduced the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships which have subsequently become Community Safety Partnerships. The consequence of these changes has been the expansion of the



number of authorities involved in the Community Safety Partnership agenda and an increase in the duties placed upon these authorities.

- 13.2 As a result of these changes, the importance of community safety has been amplified and the complexity of the necessary partnerships and priorities has significantly increased. However, the resource available and targeted at community safety has not kept pace with these increasing demands.
- 13.3 The creation of a Cwm Taf Morgannwg Community Safety Partnership Board, as outlined in the report, will provide a regional strategic direction whilst maintaining the essential local community safety delivery.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

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28th FEBRUARY 2024

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION & COMMUNITY
SERVICES**

REGIONAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP REVIEW

Officer to contact:

Gary Black - Community Safety and Strategic Partnerships Manager
Gary.Black@rctcbc.gov.uk