

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2018-19

**FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

4TH JULY 2018

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2

**THE DRAFT CORPORATE
PERFORMANCE REPORT 2018/19**

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR – PERFORMANCE AND IMPROVEMENT

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To pre-scrutinise the draft 'Corporate Performance Report 2018/19'.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

2.1 Form a view on the extent to which the draft 'Corporate Performance Report 2018/19' sets out:

2.1.1 A balanced and evidenced based assessment of the Council's 2017/18 performance in its Corporate Plan priority areas.

2.1.2 The Council's ambitions for 2018/19 in an understandable way that will enable progress and impact to be measured and scrutinised.

2.1.3 How the Council is maximising its contribution to the 7 national well-being goals.

2.2 Approve a final draft version of the 'Corporate Performance Report 2018/19', subject to any amendments deemed necessary, for reporting to Cabinet on 17th July 2018.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 The Council's three key strategic priorities for 2016-2020 were agreed in [February 2016](#) and are set out in the Corporate Plan, '[The Way Ahead](#)'. 'The Way Ahead' sets a clear direction for the Council, which all staff and Managers can see, understand and work toward through their Service Delivery Plans. The three strategic priorities are:

- Economy - Building a strong economy;
- People - Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone; and
- Place - Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work.

3.2 During a year, the delivery of these priorities are reported as part of the Council's quarterly performance reports to Cabinet and the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee and are also made available on the [Council's website](#).

3.3 At the end of a financial year, the Council compiles a Corporate Performance Report that sets out performance in its priority areas for the preceding year together with its plans for the year ahead. In this way, the 'Corporate Performance Report' aims to meet two separate but related legislative requirements:

- The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, which requires public bodies to set and publish well-being objectives, take all reasonable steps to meet those objectives and publish an annual report of progress; and
- The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, which requires all local authorities in Wales to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of their functions and make a public assessment of their performance for each financial year by no later than 31 October following the end of the financial year to which the information relates.

3.4 In meeting the above legal requirements at the same time as providing stakeholders with an overview of the Council's performance and plans, it is imperative that the information included is balanced, evidenced based and understandable.

4. THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2018/19

4.1 The draft 'Corporate Performance Report 2018/19' (**Appendix 1**) is focused on the Council's Corporate Plan priorities of 'Economy', 'People' and 'Place' and its content has been based on:

- Draft evaluations¹ of performance against that planned for each priority during 2017/18; and
- Draft 2018/19 action plans and targets for each priority.

4.2 The Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee, in line with its Terms of Reference, is requested to review the draft 'Corporate Performance Report 2018/19' (**Appendix 1**) and form a view on the extent to which it sets out:

- A balanced and evidenced based assessment of the Council's 2017/18 performance in its Corporate Plan priority areas?
- The Council's ambitions for 2018/19 in an understandable way that will enable progress and impact to be measured and scrutinised?

¹ Draft 2017/18 evaluations – the 2017/18 evaluations will also form part of the Council's quarter 4 Performance Report for 2017/18.

- How the Council is maximising its contribution to the 7 national well-being goals.

4.3 As part of the Committee forming its views, Members are also requested to have regard to the draft 2017/18 evaluations of progress and draft 2018/19 action plans from which the 'Corporate Performance Report 2018/19' has been compiled. For ease of reference, Table 1 notes the appendix reference for each of these documents.

Table 1 – Appendix References

Priority	Draft 2017/18 Evaluation	Draft 2018/19 Action Plan
Economy	Appendix 2a	Appendix 2b
People	Appendix 3a	Appendix 3b
Place	Appendix 4a	Appendix 4b

4.4 Following on from the above, the Committee is requested to approve a final draft version of the 'Corporate Performance Report 2018/19', subject to any amendments deemed necessary.

4.5 For Members information, the feedback provided by the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee will be included in the up date reported to Cabinet on 17th July 2018 and also to Council on 25th July 2018.

5. **CONCLUSION**

5.1 All councils in Wales have a legal duty to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement, publish reports on performance annually and set and publish Well-being objectives. Rhondda Cynon Taf aims to discharge this responsibility through its 'Corporate Performance Report 2018/19'.

5.2 The Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee, in line with its Terms of Reference, has been assigned responsibility to form a view on the 'Corporate Performance Report 2018/19', the feedback from which will be reported to the 17th July 2018 Cabinet meeting and the 25th July 2018 Council meeting as part of the review and approval arrangements for the Report.



The Council's draft Corporate Performance Report 2018-19

This document contains the Council's priorities as required by the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and also the Council's Well-being objectives as required by the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015. To all intents and purposes, Well-being objectives and Improvement Objectives can be treated as one and the same. Therefore, by integrating processes for setting and reporting on these key objectives, the Council has discharged its duties under both areas of legislation

***This document is available in other languages and formats on request
All data included in this working draft will be subject to final checks prior to publication***

Planning the Way Ahead.....

This is the Council's Corporate Performance Report. It sets out our priorities for 2018-19 and how we performed in 2017-18.

We welcome your views on this report, our plans for the future and how we did last year. We would also like to know how you, your family and your community have been affected by our work to improve services.

You can get in touch by

<input type="checkbox"/>	www.rctcbc.gov.uk/sayit
Twitter	@rctcouncil or @cwmtafconsult
Facebook	www.facebook.com/RCTCouncil
	www.rctcbc.gov.uk/TheLeadersBlog
 Performance Team	Improvement@rctcbc.gov.uk
	(01443) 680723
<input type="checkbox"/>	Performance Team, Ty Bronwydd, Porth, CF39 9DL
 Consultation Team	consultation@rctcbc.gov.uk
Join the Cwm Taf Citizens' Panel	www.rctcbc.gov.uk/citizenspaneldetails
Cwm Taf Engagement Hub	www.ourcwmtaf.wales
Help us Improve by providing your comments, compliments and complaints	www.rctcbc.gov.uk/feedback
Your Councillor	Find the contact details of your local Councillor www.rctcbc.gov.uk/councillors
Sign up for our free eNewsletter for up to date service information, consultation opportunities and news.	www.rctcbc.gov.uk/newslettersignup
If you are interested in taking over the running of a Council run building or service	For more information www.rctcbc.gov.uk/rcttogether

Message from Cllr Andrew Morgan – the Leader of the Council

Leave until last when we are clear what the latest data is telling us.

Draft

Continuing to deliver our priorities in 2017-18

The Council's [Corporate Plan](#) for 2016-2020, '*The Way Ahead*' continues to put residents at the centre of what we do. The priorities set out in the Corporate Plan were originally shaped and informed by residents, staff and partners who told us what mattered most to them. Importantly, it continues to set the direction for everything we need to do in the Council and with others between now and 2020.

The Corporate Plan sets out a Vision for the future, *a County Borough that has high aspirations, is confident and promotes opportunity for all*, and focuses on three priorities

- **Economy** - *Building a strong economy*
- **People** - *Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone*
- **Place** - *Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work*

The Plan also sets out the key principles we follow to deliver these priorities, i.e.

- providing essential services well;
- helping people and communities to help themselves;
- building a sustainable County Borough; and
- living within our means.

These principles and our longer term Vision mean that we need to involve people and communities in shaping services, think about the effect of what we do now on people and communities in the future, carefully plan what we do so that we can work with others where it is best to do so, and put in place services that will help prevent problems from happening or getting worse.

Details of what we planned to do to deliver these priorities in 2017/18 were set out in our [Corporate Performance Report for 2017-18](#) and we have been continually monitoring our progress throughout the last year. The Corporate Plan doesn't show all the services we deliver to or organise for our residents, communities and businesses. You can find out more about what we do on the [Council's website](#).

Since the implementation of the Plan in 2016, we have made positive progress in tackling our three priorities. Our work has been reviewed and checked by Councillors every 3 months and at the same time, reports have been put on the Council's website so that everyone can see the progress for themselves. We are at the end of the reporting year, so this report contains an assessment of how we have performed in these three priorities over the past year and the difference our work has made to the people that live, work and visit Rhondda Cynon Taf.

The Council's three priorities will remain in place until 2020. However, how these priorities will be delivered, our targets and next steps have been refreshed and strengthened as part of the plans we are putting in place for 2018/19.

In order to better meet our ambitions and respond to the impact of austerity and increasing financial pressures, we have also put in place five work streams to improve essential services. These are

- **Digitalisation** so that customers can access more of our services online and also helping to increase access to technology for people and communities.
- **Commercialisation** so that the Council takes more opportunities to act as a business to earn income rather than cut budgets.
- **Early Intervention and Prevention** so that we spend more on stopping problems and less on trying to fix them once they have happened.
- **Independence** so that our vulnerable residents stay as well as they can for as long as they can.
- **Efficient and Effective Organisation** so that we challenge everything we do to see if we can do it better.

In 2017 we also continued our work to embed the [Well-being of Future Generations Act](#) into the Council's work and priorities, with the three priorities being adopted as our Well-being Objectives in [March 2017](#). We are also strengthening those aspects of our Corporate Plan that have changed or moved on since it was introduced in 2016.

The Act means that as well as the Council demonstrating that it is continually improving, we also need to show how our work is improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being and contributing to seven national Well-being goals

1. A prosperous Wales
2. A resilient Wales
3. A healthier Wales
4. A more equal Wales
5. A Wales of cohesive communities
6. A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
7. A globally responsible Wales.

Our three current priorities have provided a clear starting point to help us to show how our work is contributing to the seven national Well-being goals, but we know we need to do more.

The Act also strengthens how 'sustainable' we need to be by asking us to work differently, where we are not already doing so. The sustainable principles are described in the Act as the five ways of working i.e.

1. Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future
2. Working together with other partners to deliver objectives
3. Involving those with an interest and seeking their views
4. Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse
5. Considering impact on all well-being goals together and on other bodies

These five ways of working make all public bodies in Wales, including the Council, think more about the long-term, work better with people, communities and each other, look to prevent problems and also take a more joined-up approach to the work we do.

We know we have more to do to make sure we meet everything asked by the Act. We believe that we can best do this by making sure it is part of and not separate from our every day work.

There are already good examples in place across the Council where we can show we are working sustainably, including working [with other partners](#), e.g. by

- working with the Cwm Taf University Health Board (UHB) through the new Stay Well@home service where we are getting people safely home from hospital more quickly and reducing the number of cancelled operations
- tackling long standing problems in new and different ways in our Resilient Families programme, which is described in more detail in the PEOPLE section.

Another more long standing example of where we are working sustainably is our work in the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal which will include bringing jobs and improved transport links into the region. You will see many more examples throughout this report where we show that we are contributing to the seven national Well-being goals. However, we need to continue to build and improve on this positive platform.

Delivering for the future

For many years, Councillors have had to make the tough choices and difficult decisions needed so that the Council can prioritise services, particularly for those who are most vulnerable, whilst continuing to make the savings needed to balance the books. We have reduced management structures and 'back office' functions, put in place partnerships with other councils and public bodies and made better use of Council buildings which has allowed us to reduce the number of Council buildings and make better use of office space.

We have achieved these changes because we regularly [review every service](#) across the Council and challenge everything we do to see if it can be done differently or better. These reviews mean that we know the strengths and areas for improvement and are better able to respond quickly to change and continue to provide quality services with reducing resources, including fewer managers and staff. We are also talking more to our residents of all ages to find out what is important to them and seeking their ideas and suggestions for improvement. We are making best use of limited resources by working with others where it makes sense to do so. By looking at and challenging what we know about our services and the needs of our residents and communities, now and in the future, we can better understand how and what we need to change to focus on improving what matters most to make sure that the needs of future generations can be met.

As a key partner of the Cwm Taf Public Services Board and also the Cwm Taf Social Services and Well-being Partnership Board, in the last year, we have contributed to the development of two key plans for the Cwm Taf areas of Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr.

The Cwm Taf Public Services Board developed a Well-being Plan which sets out four Well-being Objectives

1. Thriving Communities
2. Healthy People
3. Strong Economy
4. Tackling Loneliness and Isolation

The Cwm Taf Social Services and Well-being Partnership Board developed a [Regional Plan](#) which set out how partners will work better together in relation to

- children and young people
- older people
- health/physical disabilities
- learning disability/autism
- mental health
- sensory impairment
- carers who need support
- violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence

with priority given to

- older people with complex needs and long term conditions, including dementia.
- people with learning disabilities.
- carers, including young carers.
- integrated Family Support Services and
- children with complex needs due to disability and illness.

As a Council, and working in partnership with others, we strive to improve everything we do so that we can provide better, more efficient and effective services to our residents and communities.

In its most recent report [in June 2017](#), our independent regulator, the Wales Audit Office, indicated that “the Council continues to meet its statutory requirements in relation to continuous improvement” and has:

- arrangements in place which are likely to help to make continuous improvements.
- complied with its responsibilities relating to financial reporting and use of resources.
- appropriate arrangements in place to secure, economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

We expect to receive the next report from the Wales Audit Office in July 2018.

How are we performing compared to the rest of Wales?

There are 16 national indicators and measures where we can compare our performance. We have used the most recent all Wales comparisons for 2016/17, to compare our 2017/18 data. This showed

- we were in the top quartile in Wales for 4 of 16 indicators.
- 10 indicators showed that performance improved, 5 were better than the Wales average.
- 3 indicators were in the bottom quartile in Wales despite improved performance.
- 5 of our indicators showed that performance declined from last year.
- performance in 1 indicator remained unchanged and continued to be in the top quartile in Wales.

To see a full summary of how we performed compared to the rest of Wales in 2017/18 please view our [Statutory PI comparison](#)

To summarise, comparing our performance against Welsh Councils we were among the bottom quartile in Wales for

- the number of visits to Public Libraries.
- pupil attendance in primary schools.
- pupil attendance in secondary schools.
- the amount of waste we recycle.
- the condition of principal (A) and non principal (B) roads.
- food establishments meeting food hygiene standards.

We were among the top quartile in Wales for

- % of pupils achieving the expected levels in English or Welsh, Maths and Science at Key Stage 2.
- the cleanliness of our highways that are inspected.
- reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill.
- the condition of our (C) roads.

Comparing our performance against our 2017/18 targets,

- 10 indicators met or exceeded our targets, although performance for 5 indicators were below the Wales average.
- 6 indicators missed the target, 5 of which were below the Wales average.

Performance indicators are not the only measure of the services we provide, nor do they tell the whole story, but they can help. Comparing our performance with other councils can raise more questions than answers. This is positive as it can help us to better understand what we do, learn from better practice as well as provide us with an indication on how well

we are performing. If we can see that our performance is not improving over time and remains below the Welsh Average without good reason, we can then focus on what we need to do to improve.

In 2019 there will be fewer strategic measures in place that are nationally set, this means that we will have fewer measures with which we can compare. But we are keen to look at other ways we can compare our performance.

In 2017 the Welsh Government published its first report that sets out the progress being made across Wales, to meet the seven national Well-being goals. Although the information contained in the report is not about Rhondda Cynon Taf, what we do locally helps to contribute to the [national goals](#).

The key messages from the report are:

- “Life expectancy has been broadly increasing and the amount of time spent in good health has been on the up. However, inequalities remain across different groups.
- Smoking and drinking are falling, but overall one in ten people follow fewer than two good healthy lifestyle behaviours. Obesity in adults has risen over the long term.
- In terms of a healthy start to life there has been good progress in areas such as breastfeeding and dental health, but obesity in children remains a challenge.
- People are more likely than ever to be in work in Wales, although historical economic challenges remain. Whilst having a job reduces the chances of being poor, in-work poverty is increasing as more people enter work. Two-thirds of workers are considered to be in “decent work”.
- As in the rest of the UK, there has been little improvement in people’s incomes, although the gender pay gap has reduced and educational attainment is increasing.
- Relative income poverty has remained stubborn and is highest amongst children, although a lower percentage of the population report themselves to be in material deprivation. Socio-economic disadvantage remains a key inequality for some outcomes such as educational attainment and life expectancy.
- Inequalities persist in different indicators and across different population groups. For example, black and ethnic minorities are less likely to say that they feel they belong to the local area, and women feel less safe in their communities than men.
- People’s sense of community and belonging depends on a range of factors. In general most people are satisfied with where they live, although one in five people feel lonely.
- Many adults attend and participate in culture and sports and trends are generally upwards in recent years. However participation varies according to age and background.
- One in five people speak Welsh and in recent years, data suggests that there is an increase in those speaking Welsh but not fluently whilst use of the language has remained steady.

- Water quality and air quality in Wales continues to improve and greenhouse gas emissions have fallen. However, air pollution continues to be a significant health issue.
- Renewable energy generation has been on the rise. But our ecological footprint suggests that our key natural resources are being depleted faster than they can be replenished.
- Overall, biological diversity is declining, and no ecosystems in Wales can be said to have all the features needed for resilience.”

Draft

ECONOMY – Building a Strong Economy

Key information about Rhondda Cynon Taf

- 5,800 people (5.2%) were unemployed in the year to December 2017 compared to 5,900 (5.3%) the previous year. Unemployment is still higher than the Wales average of 4.8%. However unemployment is falling in Rhondda Cynon Taf whilst rising in Wales overall.
- 17,200 households are workless (21.7%), which is higher than Wales (17.8%) and UK (15.1%).
- 20.2% of children live in workless households, increasing from 12.6% last year.
- 47% of areas in Rhondda Cynon Taf are within the most deprived half of areas in Wales.
- 10.1% of adults have no qualifications at all and 18.2% of adults have less than 5 grade C GCSEs.
- The gap between eFSM and non-FSM pupils at foundation phase and also at Key Stage 2 is closing. The gap at KS3 continued to grow, from 21.2% to 21.7%, and remains wide at KS4 at 32.7%, previously 32.0%.
- 17.8% of children are living in poverty. However, when the cost of housing is deducted from household income, this figure increases to 28%.
- 3,556 private sector dwellings have been vacant for over 6 months, 2,818 more than last year

In 2017 we said that we would continue our work to *Build a Strong Economy*. We have made positive progress towards a number of long term projects. In the last year

- we continued to work towards a prosperous long term future for Rhondda Cynon Taf by working with partners on the City Deal and Valleys Taskforce.
- we supported ongoing projects to revitalise our town centres, including Taff Vale and the YMCA in Pontypridd and the Boot Hotel in Aberdare.
- we continued to deliver our 21st Century schools project, including the construction of 3 new 'through' schools which will open in autumn 2018, and secured approval for further funding to improve the condition of more schools and provide more Welsh medium places.
- we further reduced the overall number of young people aged 16-18 who are not in education, employment or training to 1.4%.

However, we still face significant issues in some areas, in particular

- improving the number of pupils achieving good results at GCSE and reducing the gap between pupils eligible for Free School Meals and their class mates.
- reducing the number of pupils excluded from schools.
- increasing visits to our town centres and reducing the number of empty retail units in some towns.

You can see more detail of our progress against what we set out to achieve in 2017/18 in our [Performance Evaluation](#). This includes how RCT is contributing to the seven national Well-being goals, and in particular a Prosperous Wales, a More Equal Wales and a Wales of Cohesive communities. We will continue to develop our understanding of how we can maximise our contribution across all of the goals. An example of how we will do this is the development of the [Taff Vale Project](#).

So that residents see a responsible approach to regeneration, with new homes being built and job opportunities created

Among other things, we have

- continued to lead and work with partners to support the City Deal projects that will bring investment, improved transport housing and jobs into the region, including agreeing 5 [areas in RCT](#) where we can encourage additional investment.
- started construction work on the Taff Vale development and discussions with potential tenants for the office buildings are already taking place.
- supported 75 businesses/organisations through grant support and 62 jobs were created and safeguarded. This was less than the previous year when 90 businesses were supported to create 100 jobs. Job creation was an essential part of the grant support, which prevent some businesses from applying for support. The support programme is now being reviewed to see if other measures of business success and growth could be considered.
- supported new housing development and brought homes back into use. This resulted in 552 additional housing units, 226 new affordable homes and 204 empty properties brought back into use.
- launched the new Rhondda Cynon Taf tourism association in November 2017 and worked alongside local businesses to understand their views and experiences and promote RCT as a visitor destination for tourists.

Since last year, there have been fewer vacant retail premises in our Town Centres, which is generally positive. However, this was not the same in Aberdare where there were more. The number of people visiting each of our Town Centres fell slightly, with the biggest fall in visitor numbers was in Porth, which has experienced major necessary works to upgrade water pipes.

Infographics

	Pontypridd	Aberdare	Porth	Treorchy
% vacant retail premises in town centres	7.0% better (Prev 8.8%)	14.0% worse (Prev 10.4%)	12.00% better (Prev 14)	7.0% better (Prev 5.8%)
Number of visitors	63,234 worse (Prev 64,647)	23,135 worse (Prev 23,465)	9,407 – Worse (Prev 11,037)	15,135 – Worse (Prev 15,516)

Bringing properties in Tylorstown back to life – Case Study

A block of 8 flats had been empty for several years and was falling into severe disrepair because the owners and leaseholder did not carry out necessary repairs to the roof. The Council served a notice requiring the building to be demolished or renovated. The owners carried out repairs to the roof, windows and elevations. 7 of the 8 flats have now been occupied.

In 2018/19 our plans include

- continuing to work with our partners to support long-term improvements to the local economy through the City Deal and Valleys Taskforce to bring investment, improved transport, housing and jobs to the area.
- working with partners to develop of key areas within RCT, including Pontypridd and Tonypany town centres.
- involving businesses and local communities in work to help our other town centres benefit from growth.
- continuing to tackle unsuitable housing and empty properties so that people and communities can better enjoy their local areas.
- building on the strong heritage and natural beauty of the area to promote RCT as a visitor destination, celebrating the culture and history of the area.

You will know if we have made a difference because

- there will be further progress in the City Deal, Valleys Taskforce and local redevelopment projects.
- we will continue to deliver affordable homes and bring empty properties back to life.
- we will be promoting RCT to more visitors by developing interactive walking trails and gaining Museum of Wales accreditation for Rhondda Heritage Park.

To make Rhondda Cynon Taf's schools amongst the best in the country, and with all children achieving the best they can

Among other things we have

- strengthened our work to ensure consistency in the teaching quality and approach to tackling pupil absenteeism across all RCT Schools.
- continued to focus on raising standards and closing the achievement gap between children who are disadvantaged and their peers although we have not made as much progress as planned.
- continued our school improvement programme at Treorchy and Ferndale Comprehensive Schools. We also established Cymmer primary school by merging the existing infants and junior schools and begun remodelling and refurbishment of the school buildings.
- started construction of a new primary school at a new site in Cwmaman which will also provide facilities for the wider community, with the relocated and remodelled play area already being well used. Other facilities will include multi use games areas, grass pitches and a community room.
- started work on three new through schools i.e. Porth Community school, Tonyrefail Community School and Ysgol Nant Gwyn (Tonypandy), which will open in Autumn 2018.
- continued to invest in improving other school buildings so that more pupils across the County Borough benefit from better facilities.
- provided more places for pupils choosing to study in Welsh through refurbishing classrooms and increasing capacity in YGG Llwynceilyn and YGG Tonyrefail. We also relocated the Tai Centre Pupil Referral Unit to a newer modern building with improved facilities.

Infographics

- 49.8% of pupils achieved 5 GCSEs at grade A* to C including English/Welsh and Maths.
- 24.2% of eFSM pupils in year 11, typically aged 16, achieved 5 GCSEs at grade A* to C including English/Welsh and Maths.

We aren't able to compare these results with last year because of changes in exams and also those non GCSE qualifications that can be included in the measure. Many of the vocational qualifications for less academic pupils are now not included in the results. Overall, performance in schools was mixed and RCT performance was below the Wales average of 54.6%.

- more pupils eligible for Free School Meals (eFSM) achieved the expected outcomes in the Foundation Phase closing the gap between them and their classmates. However, for Key Stages 2 and 3 the gap has widened. Whilst a new way of measuring pupil performance recently introduced makes it difficult to compare progress from last year, we know we still need to do more to close the gaps.

- the attendance gap between eFSM and non FSM pupils increased by 0.4%. We are continuing to challenge and support schools, particularly those causing most concern.

Supporting Free School Meals pupils in school holidays

The School holiday enrichment programme 'Food and Fun' was piloted at Heol y Celyn and Penywaun Primary Schools, both schools with high numbers of pupils entitled to Free School Meals. To prevent 'holiday hunger' pupils were given a nutritious breakfast and lunch and encouraged to have a go at cooking, sports and educational activities as well as socialising with friends.

Parents felt the programme "encouraged the children to eat new foods at home" while pupils said "I wish there were more days at club and longer sessions – I liked everything". Following this good feedback the programme will now be rolled out more widely.

In 2018/19 our plans include

- working with our regional partners in the Central South Consortium to strengthen the links between improvement and well-being services to improve outcomes for pupils.
- continuing to focus on raising educational standards by improving pupils readiness to learn and closing the achievement gap between children who are disadvantaged and their classmates
- supporting families in most need, including providing our 'Food and Fun' programme to more schools and improving support for learners with mental health needs
- improving support to pupils who are struggling at school as a result of problems at home by improving how we work with our partners as part of the Resilient Families Service.
- continuing with long-term improvements to our school buildings through the 21st Century Schools programme, including three 'through' schools and involving parents and communities in developing plans for future projects.

You will know if we have made a difference because

- more pupils including pupils eligible for free school meals, will achieve good results in their GCSEs, which next year will count pupil's best 9 results including core subjects.
- fewer pupils will be excluded from school.
- feedback on the 'Food and Fun' school holiday programme will be positive and we can start to track the impact on overall pupil well-being.

To put in place a broad offer of skills and employment programmes for all ages

Among other things we have.

- continued to support vulnerable and hard to reach young people into work, using the European Social Fund, 'Inspire 2 Work' project, to help supplement our work.
- continued to support unemployed or economically inactive adults to improve their skills, gain qualifications and develop job-specific skills.
- continued to provide a range of options across the Council that will help young people to develop their career including jobs fairs, apprenticeships, traineeships, graduate programmes and work experience.
- provided additional childcare for 301 three and four year olds, as part of a pilot scheme in partnership with Welsh Government, to support working families and help non-working parents into employment.
- put in place apprenticeships, employment and training opportunities as part of the 21st Century Schools building projects and contractors have also delivered sessions about careers in construction to schools.

Case study - Inspire2Work

P is a 19 year old from Aberdare. He had been unemployed for 6 months before joining the 13 week employment pathway programme. Through the programme he completed a week's work placement and gained a health and safety qualification and his Construction Skills Certificate scheme card. Following the programme, P secured a job at a local medical supplies company. P said "the course saved me, put me back on the right path".

Infographics

- overall, fewer 16 to 18 year olds left school and did not enter employment, education or training (NEET) (1.4% compared with 2.14% last year)
- fewer 18 year olds left school and became NEET (2.6% compared with 4.1% last year)
- slightly more 16 year olds left school and became NEET (1.1% compared with 1% last year)
- *47 economically inactive or long-term unemployed adults and 49 young people were helped into work through Communities for Work.

**new measure, no previous data.*

In 2018/19 our plans include

- continuing to support people, including those with additional learning needs or disabilities, to gain work.
- working with partners to develop adult community learning opportunities that will support people to gain essential skills, enhance their well-being and confidence.
- working with employers to develop a skilled workforce that will enable more RCT residents to compete for jobs.
- continuing to help people to improve their digital skills through expansion of 'digital Fridays' and other workshops and courses.

- contributing to improving educational outcomes and removing barriers to work by providing more pre-nursery provision and more free childcare for eligible 3 and 4 year olds.
- working with partners to shape the work involved to deliver the Cwm Taf Well-being Objective - Strong Economy.

You will know if we have made a difference because

- more people, including young people and those with learning disabilities, will be supported to get jobs.
- more young people will leave school and go on to further education, employment or training.
- more of our residents will improve their digital skills through the courses we provide, which will also provide opportunities to reduce social isolation.

You can see more detail about how we will continue our work to 'Build a Strong Economy' in our [2018/19 ECONOMY plan](#). Our work will enable RCT to contribute to building a more prosperous, more equal, healthier and globally responsible Wales as well as contributing to a Wales of cohesive communities, vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language.

PEOPLE -Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone

Key information about Rhondda Cynon Taf

- RCT has the lowest life expectancy (76.5 years for men, 80.9 years for women) and healthy life expectancy (61.2 years in men, 62.6 years in women) in Wales.
- 94.4% of adults in RCT aged 60+ hold a concessionary bus pass, which enables them to get out and about and help to maintain their well-being.
- 20.2% of children live in workless households which has risen from 12.6% in the previous year
- 77.8% of children in the foundation phase who receive free school meals have achieved the expected standard at the end of foundation phase (Year 2, typically aged 7). Whilst this has closed the gap, children who receive free school meals don't achieve as well as pupils who don't receive free school meals
- 62% of referrals to substance misuse treatment services in Cwm Taf are alcohol related, the remaining 38% are substance related.
- 19% of adults aged 16+ asked about their social interactions were identified as lonely.
- A score of 4 for social isolation in the new [Welsh Thriving Places Index](#). A score of 10 indicates exceptionally good conditions for well-being and a score of 0 represents exceptionally poor conditions for well-being.
- A score of 2.34 for deprivation in the Thriving Places Index. A score of 10 indicates exceptionally good conditions for well-being and a score of 0 represents exceptionally poor conditions for well-being.

In 2017 we said that we would continue our work to promote independence and positive lives for everyone

We have made good progress in our work for the People priority, as a Council and as part of wider partnerships. Our measures demonstrate some positive improvements. However, we are unable to compare our performance across Wales as this information was not available in 2016/17 for the majority of the measures in Social Services.

We have worked hard to help people leave hospital and return to their home or care home more quickly and safely when they are well enough. There were over 53% fewer people waiting to leave hospital for care reasons. A major contribution to this success has been the first full year of the Stay Well@home service, which we launched with our partners in Merthyr Tydfil Council and Cwm Taf University Health Board.

We want families to have access to the right support and information earlier, so that fewer children and young people require statutory Children's Services support. In 2017/18, we have had more contacts received by Children's Services and more children progressing to a referral for intervention from statutory services. The introduction of our Resilient Families Programme and Resilient Families Service, will seek to reduce the number of children requiring intervention in 2018/19. The service is focussed on providing early intervention and prevention to families,

so they receive the support they need to help them 'bounce back' when they experience difficulties.

Breaking down barriers

A group of Councillors looked at the impact of 'period poverty' on girls in our schools. As part of this work they talked to pupils about their experiences and also watched an [animated film](#) produced by pupils of Ysgol Gyfun Garth Olwg. They found that lessons and information about periods and the availability of sanitary products was different across our schools. They also found that some pupils were unable to afford sanitary products and this was affecting their privacy, dignity and well-being. It was also affecting their attendance and performance at school. As a result of this work, [we will be making free sanitary products](#) available to pupils in all schools which they can access independently in toilet blocks.

You can see more detail on our progress against what we set out to achieve in 2017/18 in our [Performance Evaluation](#). This includes how RCT is contributing to the seven national Well-being goals, and in particular a Wales of Cohesive Communities and a Healthier Wales. We will continue to develop our understanding of how we can maximise our contribution across all of the goals. An example of how we will do this is our work to develop our [Extra Care housing facilities](#).

So that Health and Social Care services are personalised and integrated, with more people supported to live longer in their own homes.

Among other things we have

- implemented the Stay Well@home service to help to get people home from hospital more quickly when they are well enough. It is early days for the service but early signs are that by working differently with Health and other partners, fewer people have been admitted to hospital following a visit to A&E, more people have been sent home safely following a hospital stay and more people have gone home rather than to community hospitals.
- built on the success of our first extra care facility in Ty Heulog, Talbot Green by putting in place arrangements to build a second extra care facility on the site of the former Maesyffynnon Care Home in Aberaman. Work is scheduled to begin in July. We have also identified four more potential sites Pontypridd, Porth, Mountain Ash and Treorchy.
- invested in playgrounds and leisure centres to make them more attractive and accessible for residents and communities to encourage them to become more physically active and stay healthier for longer.

Quote from Andrew – resident at [Ty Heulog](#).

"Being here is marvellous. I have my independence, my health has improved and I can get out and about. It's so easy for me to meet other people and socialise and I'm getting involved in activities which I could never have done before. Having people around and the staff being here has giving me lots more confidence and security."

Andrew's family have said that the move to Ty Heulog has saved their brother's life.

Infographics

- fewer people (417) have been admitted to residential or nursing care. 456 in 2016/17.
- more adults (84.95%) who completed a period of reablement needed less support 6 months later. 77.63% had no package of care and support six months later
- more people returned home from hospital more quickly. (from 4.95 per 1,000 population in 2016/17 to 3.31 in 2017/18)
- more people (14.67%) are using a direct payment to manage their own care arrangements. (14.34% in 2016/17)
- 8,140 visits to local authority sports and leisure facilities per 1,000 population (7,581 in 2016/17)

In 2018/19 our plans include

- putting in place new accommodation arrangements for people who need support to live independently which integrates with our older person's housing strategy 'My Own Front Door – A Plan For Housing in Later Life'.
- developing services that are based in the community e.g. assistive technology, community alarms and response services, focussing on choice, control and independence which allow people to live in their own homes for longer
- continuing to invest in our leisure centres to encourage people to be more physically active, help to improve health now and also help to prevent health problems in the future.

You will know if we have made a difference because

- fewer people will be admitted to residential or nursing care.
- more adults who complete a period of reablement will need less support 6 months later.
- more people will return home from hospital more quickly.
- more people will be using a direct payment to manage their own care arrangements, so they can choose who provides their care and when.
- there will be more visits to our sports and leisure facilities.

Rhondda Cynon Taf's children and young people will receive a great start in life.

Among other things we have

- introduced a programme to help families in need to be identified early and to help them to better access the right information and support so that more children can stay with their families.
- developed and implemented an action plan that focuses on admissions to care, a child's journey in care and a child's exit from care. We have involved children in the development of this plan and will continue to do so in the future to ensure that their voices are heard when services evolve.

Quote from parent supported by the Resilient Families programme

"I'm really pleased with what I've achieved. I've found out I can actually cope in times of stress. I'm so much more confident in myself, I open the living room curtains every morning now which I never did before. I've asked the GP for help for me and my daughter which I would never have done before. My daughters are receiving support in school and I'm going to start mindfulness classes. And I'm helping out at a local charity event in the community centre this weekend, not bad for someone who never went out!"

Infographics

- fewer children (676) were 'Looked After' by the Council (690 in 2016/17)
- children and young people that do become 'Looked After' are returned to their families as quickly as it is safe to do so.
 - 18.1% in less than 12 weeks (24.5% in 2016/17)
 - 17.9% within 12-24 weeks (17.5% in 2016/17)
 - 66.1% after 24 weeks (58% in 2016/17)
- fewer (41%) young people are in education, training or employment at 12 months after leaving care (50% in 2016/17)
- fewer (49%) young people are in education, training or employment at 24 months after leaving care (53% in 2016/17)

Resilient Families Service was introduced in January 2018 to help families across Rhondda Cynon Taf by providing the right support to families at the right time, removing practical barriers to change, acting more quickly to provide help through a trusted single contact and making sure its exactly what the family needs. All this will help to increase a family's 'resilience'. What this means is helping them to 'bounce back' after something difficult has happened. Families are offered short term short term support, up to 12 weeks which is designed to give practical help them manage the challenges they face by focusing on their strengths as a family. To deliver this service we are working with a range of partners including Health Visitors, the Youth Offending Service and the Voluntary Sector.

In 2018/19 our plans include

- ensuring that we hear the voices of children and young people that that need to be 'looked after' by involving them in 'What matters' conversations and their well-being goals.
- developing a plan for a Regional Fostering Service to improve the range of locally available accomodation for children who cannot remain with their own families
- ensuring that those young people who leave our care are adequately prepared and are able to contribute to the communities they live in.

You will know if we have made a difference because

- more families will receive support at an earlier time which will mean fewer children will require intervention from Statutory Social Services.
- fewer children will need to be taken into the care of the Council.

To redesign Local Services so that they are integrated and efficient

Among other things we have

- put in place new arrangements for substance misuse services so that residents receive the same support, treatment and quality of service no matter where they live in the Cwm Taf area.
- changed the way we offer help to familes so that they get the help they need more quickly and problems don't get any worse.
- extended the Communities First employability pathway to the whole of RCT which supports people into employment.
- worked with our partners to maximise the opportunities for people to get involved in sport and physical activity.

Infographics

- more people (88.26%) we worked with reduced their substance misuse (68.99% in 16/17)
- more adults (1,242) gained a qualification through Communities First (1,018 in 2016/17)
- more people (413) aged 16+ were supported to enter employment through Communities First (to 317 in 2016/17)

Communities First Employment pathways into Cwm Taf NHS

N was made redundant after working 17 years as a teaching assistant. N was invited to attend an information event with Adult Education and the Department for Work and Pensions to inform everyone of what was available to them to support them back into employment. N was extremely keen on enrolling on the NHS Prepare to Care course, as this had always been her life long ambition to become a Nurse.

After the initial assessments and two formal interviews, N was given a part-time position on the 'Nurse Bank', but after just a short time, she gained a full time contract within the Health Board. N continues to enjoy this position 4 months later.

In 2018/19 our plans include

- continuing our work to support families as effectively as possible through our Resilient Families Service and wider Resilient Families Programme. We will integrate this work with the Council's development of Community Hubs to ensure that family support is accessible in community locations.
- reviewing the delivery of Early Years in RCT as part of the Welsh Government's Regional Early Years Integration Project, involving parents, families and service users in future developments.

You will know if we have made a difference because

- more people will reduce their substance misuse.
- more families will be better able to cope following intervention by the Resilient Families Service.

You can see more detail about how we will continue our work to 'Promote independence and positive lives for everyone' in our [2018/19 PEOPLE plan](#). Our work will enable RCT to contribute to a more resilient, equal and healthier Wales, as well as a Wales of cohesive communities, vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.

PLACE - Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work

Key information about Rhondda Cynon Taf

- **85%** of journeys in Wales are made by car, **8%** by rail and **8%** by bus.
- **94.4%** of adults aged 60+ hold a concessionary bus pass.
- The cost of physical inactivity to Wales is estimated to be **£650 million** per year.
- Levels of adult physical activity in Cwm Taf are amongst the lowest in Wales.
- RCT ranks **second highest** in Wales for the rate of alcohol use. Alcohol accounts for **62%** of referrals to substance use treatment services in Cwm Taf. Cwm Taf also has the **highest** rate of alcohol related deaths in Wales.
- RCT has reused, recycled or composted **73k tonnes** of waste this year; this is **61%** of all waste produced. We are working towards the 2024/25 Welsh Government recycling target of **70%**.
- There are **9** [Green Flag Award](#) areas and **2** [Green Flag Communities](#) in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

In 2017 we said that we would continue our work to create neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work, and have made positive progress over the last year

- we have worked with our partners in the community to continue the delivery the Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) for Porth and evaluated the outcomes. Residents told us that they are witnessing fewer young people drinking alcohol in the area. Our work with young first –time offenders through the delivery of the Cwm Taf ‘Divert’ Programme has also seen positive results, with the rate of re-offending within 6 months of the programme remaining low. We have also involved our residents in Council decision making through consultation to enforce and prevent alcohol related anti-social behaviour in our town centres.
- invested in 3G pitches to continue to provide an integrated sports provision for both schools and community use. We continue to maintain our road infrastructure with investment in repaired roads, bridges, pavements and highways schemes like the Cwmbach Road and roundabout. This year following a highways survey, we have fewer roads in an overall poor condition than in previous years, reflecting the investment in improving our highways.
- we continued to engage with the residents and communities to understand what they would like to see in our Arts programme and through active participation in our arts projects provided opportunities to build confidence, improve communication, limit isolation, support well being and education and employment opportunities.
- Our recycling target has not been met this year because of a national change in what we can include as ‘wood recycling’ in our figures. Despite this, we know that there have been significant increases in food, nappies and rubble recycling. We have also implemented a successful re-use shop [The Shed’ at Llantrisant](#) and a successful publicity campaign [‘Sort **IT Out!’](#) to enforce and support the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for dog controls across RCT.

However, we know that there is still more work to do particularly in meeting the Welsh Government 70% Target for recycling by 2024/25.

You can see more detail our progress against what we set out to achieve in 2017/18 in our [Performance Evaluation](#). This includes how RCT is contributing to the seven national Well-being goals. We will continue to develop our understanding of how we can maximise our contribution across all of the goals. An example of how we will do this is the development of the [Parks for People Ynysangharad War Memorial Park Project](#)¹.

So that Rhondda Cynon Taf's communities are more resilient and involved...

Among other things, we have

- put in place arts events in our theatres that are helping to enrich the lives of our residents of all ages, including Daytime Delights for our older residents and opportunities for budding young performers through initiative like '[Hot Jam](#)' to develop their skills alongside professional performers.
- changed the way we are working to bring people together and build community resilience and capacity. This has moved from the original Neighbourhood Networks to Community Hubs across the County Borough starting in Aberdare, Ferndale and Mountain Ash.
- worked with families to support parents and children to work together to improve their reading and writing through the [Petra](#) project.

We have not brought together the Youth and Older People's groups as quickly as anticipated, although this is still in our plans. The new Community Hubs will provide another opportunity to bring together our young and older residents and in the PEOPLE section you will see how this is already happening in the new extra care facilities.

Infographic

*80% of residents are satisfied with Rhondda Cynon Taf as a place to live. (previous 85%, lower)

**[National Study For Wales](#) data 2016/17*

Hot Jam Participant's Parent told us

"On a daily basis she has spoken about her worries and excitement on this course. I know she thoroughly enjoys it... Love seeing her develop."

In 2018/19 our plans include

- developing Community Hubs at Aberdare, Mountain Ash and Ferndale. This work also contributes to the Cwm Taf Well-being Objective for 'Thriving Communities' as set out [The Cwm Taf Well-being Plan 2018-2023](#).
- enhancing provision at Council libraries, to meet long term community need.
- putting in place an Arts programme that will enrich the lives of all RCT residents, and celebrates 80 years of the Coliseum Theatre.

¹ Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund

- developing an effective 'Engagement Strategy' that will involve residents and communities, including those that are seldom heard.
- progressing the new housing allocation scheme to support long term housing need.
- progressing Bryn Pica Eco Park, ensure integration with other national initiatives, including the Well being of Future Generations Act.

You will know if we have made a difference because

- our residents will be satisfied with Rhondda Cynon Taf as a place to live

So that Rhondda Cynon Taf will be amongst the safest places in Wales, where people get along together and residents feel safe

Among other things, we have

- analysed the results of putting in place the Community Alcohol Partnership in Porth. We found that residents saw fewer young people drinking alcohol and fewer hotspots where underage drinking was a problem, leading to a safer more enjoyable environment for all. However, at the same time whilst fewer 15 year olds had drunk alcohol in the past week, more had been drunk in the last four weeks and more thought that young people drink alcohol to look cool in front of their friends.
- continued to monitor and raise awareness of Hate Crimes. Our analysis tells us that more Hate Crime is being reported and that over 60% of the reported Hate Crime is racially motivated.
- prevented re-offending by working with young first time offenders aged 18-25 through the 'DIVERT' Programme. 96% of those attending did not reoffend within six months of attending the programme.

Quotes from DIVERT Programme participants

- ***"I've learnt to stop and think about my actions and who it will affect, and next time will walk away".***
- ***"The course has taught me that in future it would be wiser to take a few more seconds to think about my actions and the consequences before acting in certain circumstances".***
- ***"I will think before I act when I go out drinking such as drink less, don't give into temptations, think about family and friends as I could affect their life as much as my own"***

Infographic

- **69%** of residents told us they feel safe at home, walking in the local area and travelling (69% same)

In 2018/19 our plans include

- delivering community safety services and programmes that involve residents including:
 - promoting responsible drinking in our communities.
 - launching the Community Action Plan Partnership for Pontypridd.
- taking steps to prevent road traffic accidents in the community including,
 - delivering road safety initiatives.
 - enforcing parking restrictions at schools.

You will know if we have made a difference because

- fewer people will reoffend as a result of the preventative programme DIVERT.
- We will also introduce a measure that will show how safe our residents feel in our Town Centres.

To keep Rhondda Cynon Taf clean and attractive, with well-maintained roads and pavements, flowing traffic, increased recycling and less waste sent to landfill

Among other things, we have

- improved the condition and safety of roads and highways infrastructure as part of our [‘RCTinvest’](#) programme, e.g. Rhigos Mountain Road, repairs to Llantrisant Road bridge, replacement footways, repairing safety fencing barrier and putting in place new safety measures.
- delivered transport schemes that promote walking, cycling and public transport across RCT, reducing pressure on the roads e.g Llantrisant Community Route and Safe routes to schools and routes for cyclists.
- continued to raise awareness of recycling with our residents and increased the amount of food and general waste recycled.
- Tackled dog fouling by introducing the Public Spaces Protection Order alongside hard hitting [awareness raising campaign](#), ‘Sort **IT Out’ and more enforcement.

Infographics

- we have recycled 61.31% of our waste. (64.41, less)
This figure is misleading, as the way that recycling is measured has changed so that any wood we collect is no longer counted.
- we have maintained our high standards for keeping RCT clean (99.4% both years) and clearing fly tips.

New from old...

Our new, not for profit Reuse Shop, [‘The Shed’](#) in Llantrisant, is giving new life to residents’ unwanted items from books to furniture, and keeping them out of our landfill site. Since it opened in June 2017, 42,869 household items have found new homes. We created two new jobs at The Shed, provide work experience and welcome volunteers who are contributing around 200 hours every month to this community resource.

One of our volunteers told us..... "Being at the 'The Shed' has really helped me come out of my shell..... I'm naturally an introvert and really shy but that's changed completely. Now I'm confident to talk to anyone. The Shed is literally the hub of our community, everyone loves it here from the volunteers and staff to the customers"

Love Where You Live

Our annual 'Love Where You Live' awards celebrate and congratulate the people of RCT who go above and beyond to protect our local environment and help to keep our County Borough a clean, green place to live, work and visit. In 2017, the overall winner was Sarah Liney, Environmental Champion and creator of the 'Llanharan and Brynna Wimbles' Group that helps keep the local community clean and tidy.

Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for dog controls

In October 2017, residents supported us to implement a [PSPO for dog controls](#) which was implemented together with the hard hitting dog fouling, and enforcement campaign '**Sort **IT Out!**'. To date, **170** fixed penalty notices have been issued for dogs in restricted areas, dog fouling and dogs off leads.

In 2018/19 our plans include

- improving the condition of our roads and highways.
- progressing major schemes that will be beneficial to communities both now and in the future.
- progressing transport schemes that will join with other transport provision, including active travel.
- working with partners including Natural Resources Wales, to prevent the risk of flooding.
- continuing to involve residents in schemes to increase recycling.
- taking steps to prevent environmental crime through education, engagement and as a last resort, enforcement.

You will know if we have made a difference because

- more of our waste will be recycled.
- fewer penalty notices will be issued.

So that you continue to value Rhondda Cynon Taf's parks and green spaces

Among other things, we have

- completed a 3G pitch at Tonyrefail Community School for both school and community use and also at the Garth Olwg campus and at Abercynon Leisure Centre.
- continued to prepare Biodiversity Plan which will make sure we protect our environment, as well as meet the challenges faced by services, e.g. creating jobs and homes and improving health and education.
- submitted a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to help restore the bandstand and sunken garden and develop a horticultural training facility. We are also working with [Fields in Trust](#) Cymru to dedicate Ynysangharad War Memorial Park as a [Centenary Field](#) site as part of a national campaign to mark the centenary of the First World War.

Extract from feedback about Ynysangharad Park, Pontypridd.

"The bandstand seems almost pointless. I would love to see bands in the bandstand again".

"Planned days to help keep up maintenance or family fun planting days would be good ...if we could do family weekend sessions, I'm sure locals would help out".

In 2018/19 our plans include.....

- progressing grant funding to redevelop our heritage sites and secure the long term future of Ynysangharad War Memorial Park, Rhondda Heritage Park and Aberdare Park.
- improved online communications and social media to engage with residents.
- progressing the national standard 'Green Flag Award' for Ynyshangharad and Taffs Well Parks, and also Aberdare and Dare Valley Country Parks.

You will know we have made a difference because.....

- Residents will be satisfied with our parks and open spaces

You can see more detail about how we will continue our work to 'Create neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work' in our [2018/19 PLACE plan](#). Our work will enable RCT to contribute to a healthier, more prosperous, more equal and globally responsible Wales as well as contributing to a Wales of cohesive communities, vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language.

Making best use of our budget – Living within our Means

Like all Councils in Wales, Rhondda Cynon Taf, has operated for nearly a decade in a challenging environment of reduced funding alongside rising demand for services as well as inflation. During this time we have delivered around £87Million in savings without cutting frontline services and have done this by carefully managing our finances, planning ahead and changing how we work.

In 2018/19 the Council received a 0.5% increase in funding, and we needed to take account of inflation of around +2.3%. This meant that, along with rising demand for services, we needed to make saving of £9.8Million to set the budget. We were able to make these savings by becoming more efficient in how we purchase goods and services, changing how the Council is structured, investing in technology and working more collaboratively with others. We were also able to keep the Council Tax increase to 3.3%, the lowest in Wales. More detail on our 2018/19 revenue budget of £471.6Million can be viewed [here](#).

As part of our forward planning, we have estimated that we will need to find further savings of around £50Million by 2021 to off-set continuing reductions in government funding and increasing demand for services, particular in Social Care. We know it will be harder to deliver year-on-year savings in the future and that is why we are continuing with our approach of examining every part of the Council's budget alongside a programme of significant investment in key services. Our work and investment is focussing on:

- Early intervention and prevention work in a wide range of areas to improve the lives of residents. This includes our new Resilient Families Programme that is supporting an increasing number of families with complex needs and aims to prevent the need for children to be brought into the care of the Council.
- Keeping adults independent through, for example, collaborating with other organisations and integrating our arrangements to create a new regional Stay Well @home service. This Service is in its first year of operation and is already getting more people home more quickly and safely after being in hospital and helping more older people to stay living independently in their own homes.
- Generating more income from existing or new services, such as, offering a fast-track service for planning applications;
- Offering more services on-line by involving customers in the design of services and using digital technology to modernise how the Council works. This includes enabling Council staff to work from any Council office location so that they can provide even more responsive services, and
- Becoming more efficient by thinking long term and investing in the future. This includes invest-to-save energy efficiency schemes and looking at how the Council operates to eliminate duplication and paperwork.

As well as this, as part of our capital programme for 2018/19 to 2020/21 we are investing £180Million in priority areas to further improve infrastructure and facilities available for residents. This includes regeneration projects, building better schools, improving the

condition of roads and community assets such as parks and playgrounds as well as further investment in Leisure Centre facilities.

As part of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal our plans extend over ten years, with the Council playing a central role in delivering an exciting and ambitious plan to improve the economy of South East Wales.

Draft

WORKING NOW FOR THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

We are continuing to implement the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#) across the Council. This Act means that we have a duty to improve the social, economic, cultural and environmental well-being of residents, both as an individual public body, i.e. the Council and also working in partnership with others in a Public Services Board (PSB).

As a public body, the Council is continuing to make sure that its business is conducted in a way that integrates the requirements of the Act into everything we do, which is set out in a Policy Statement agreed by Cabinet in [November 2016](#). This means that in delivering our priorities of ***Economy, People and Place***, and across all our services we are doing more to

- balance the short term needs with planning for the future.
- work with other partners to deliver objectives.
- involve those with an interest and seek their views.
- put resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse.
- consider the effect of our work with that of other public bodies and organisations.

We also need to apply this thinking to our organisational planning and processes e.g.

- Corporate Planning – making sure that all services focus on what matters most.
- Financial Planning- making sure that we continue to make the most of our resources and focusing on preventing problems from happening at all or getting worse.
- Work force Planning – making sure that all our staff are equipped with the skills and knowledge to support the change in thinking that will help the Council to meet its obligations.
- Procurement – making sure that we not only provide value for money but also benefit society, and with minimal impact to the environment.
- Assets – making better use of our buildings, making them more widely available for community use, sharing with other public services so that they are sustainable in the long term. Also providing or supporting residents and communities to develop, as well as our staff.
- Risk Management – making sure the short, medium and long term risks are well managed, and allow the Council to meet its requirements.
- Performance Management – making sure that the Council can show how it is making progress towards its own Well-being goals and those it shares with others.

We know there is more to do and we are continually challenging why, what and how we do what we do and are willing to make changes that will benefit the people and communities of Rhondda Cynon Taf, both now and in the future. The Council voluntarily works with public bodies and other organisations in many [different partnerships](#) and joint working arrangements.

The Well-being of Future Generations Act sets out that all Councils must work as part of a Public Services Board and means a different way of working with other public bodies and involving people and communities.

Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils work with many of the same public bodies, e.g. South Wales Police and Cwm Taf University Health Board and in 2016, agreed to join together to form the [Cwm Taf Public Services Board](#). This Partnership Board consists of the two Councils as well as public and third sector bodies across the Cwm Taf region.

In May 2018 the Cwm Taf PSB published its [Well-being Plan](#) for the area. The Plan contains information about the priorities that will be the focus of the work of the PSB over the immediate and long term, which are

- THRIVING COMMUNITIES
- HEALTHY PEOPLE
- STRONG ECONOMY
- TACKLING LONELINESS AND ISOLATION

The Council will be actively involved in both leading and contributing to these wide ranging priorities.

The Plan was informed by an [Assessment of Well-being](#) of the Cwm Taf area and extensive discussions and engagement with residents and stakeholders from across both Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil. The information contained in the Assessment of Well-being is being continually updated to shape the work to deliver the Well-being Objectives where more can be achieved by working together. It will also help to increase our knowledge and understanding of the issues affecting Rhondda Cynon Taf.

The PSB will publish its first annual report setting out its progress towards its Well-being Objectives in July 2019.

The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales has also identified six priorities to give a focus for her work within the scope of the Act

“Creating the right infrastructure for future generations within which the focus will be:

- *Housing Stock*
- *Energy generation and efficiency*
- *Transport Planning*

Equipping people for the future within which the focus will be

- *Skills*
- *Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)*

- *Alternative models for improving health and well-being – often called ‘social prescribing’ where patients are referred to other services to meet their well-being needs, e.g. GPs referring patients recovering from surgery to a leisure centre to help their rehabilitation.*

We have a good track record in respect of work in these areas, much of which is included in our progress to date and our plans for the future.

Draft

EQUALITY

Last year we said we would review our Strategic Equality Plan. Whilst some progress has been made, it has been slower than we planned, we are now accelerating this work. We are using information and data about the population in RCT and what residents have already told us, information about our services and external sources such as Equality and Human Rights Commission reports, to shape and determine the Council's proposed Equality Objectives. We will then check with our residents that what we plan to do is relevant to their lives. The new Strategic Equality Plan (SEP) will better reflect the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act and the seven national Well-being goals and will enable us to establish how as a Council we are contributing to a more equal Wales in particular.

In the meantime we have been continuing to work on our previous Equalities Objectives, i.e.

- Hate Crime and Addressing Negative Attitudes and Behaviours
- Gender Pay
- Developing More Robust Monitoring Arrangements

Tackling Hate Crime and Negative Attitudes in Rhondda Cynon Taf

We have continued to work closely with partners including the South Wales Police and Registered Social landlords, which has enabled us to ensure that residents get a positive and consistent response when reporting Hate Crime.

Developing our partnership with South Wales Police, we now attend the South Wales Police divisional monthly Hate Crime meeting. Attending this meeting ensures we have continuing and accurate data relating to incidents of Hate Crime across RCT and we are able to monitor statistics and identify emerging patterns. Where patterns have been identified, we meet with people in the community, using pop-up stalls in libraries and supermarkets to raise awareness of Hate Crime and also talk to local residents about their experiences of hate crimes and how they can report it.

Emphasis has been placed on education and early intervention. We identified that most hate crime referrals come from Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils, therefore we have taken a more proactive and preventative approach and now deliver sessions to Year 6 pupils. We have worked with primary, secondary, special schools and colleges, to deliver PREVENT training to staff and Hate Crime Awareness training sessions to pupils. As well as raising awareness of Hate Crime, the aim of these sessions is to reduce discrimination and increase Hate Crime reporting. We have collaborated with parties such as Victim Support and the Children's Commissioner to ensure the training is fit for purpose and is relevant to emerging hate crime issues.

We have put in place two new processes in respect of Hate Crime

- providing support to high risk victims of Hate Crime, providing crime reduction tools e.g. dummy cameras, alarms for windows, stickers for windows stating CCTV is in operation as well as signposting to appropriate services where necessary.
- taking action against perpetrators of Hate Crime. The emphasis has been placed on education, and restorative justice approaches where we contact perpetrators and deliver one to one sessions with them with the aim of reducing further incidents

During Hate Crime week 2018, we worked in partnership with South Wales Police to host a variety of community engagement events. These were held in various locations across RCT, including hospitals and supermarkets. These events enabled us to talk to residents about their experiences, raise awareness of Hate Crime and collect statistics, which has helped us to gain a better and more accurate understanding of residents' experiences.

In early 2018, in recognition of our commitment and work towards sexual orientation equality, the Council was included in Stonewall's Top 100 employers. To achieve this status, we participated in Stonewall's Workplace Equality Index which is the benchmarking tool for employers to measure their progress on Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Transgender (LGBT) inclusion in the workplace. The 100 best-performing organisations are celebrated publicly.

Our work to retain this status included engaging with LGBT+ residents at Pride Cymru in Cardiff as part of a partnership with other local authorities under the banner of 'Proud Councils'. RCT residents at the event told us that they want more visibility of LGBT+ issues in the local authority area and more LGBT+ events in their local communities.

For LGBT History Month, Rhondda Heritage Park and Pontypridd Library exhibited Pride Cymru's Icons and Allies exhibition. The exhibit was also displayed within Council offices, where Perthyn and the Allies Network ran coffee mornings to raise awareness of the LGBT+ community. We ran a community event in Clwb Y Bont called 'Proud Valleys Proud Voices' where a LGBT+ panel explores issues such as 'being LGBT in the Valleys' and how Trans is portrayed by the media. We have also supported one of our Councillors, to establish 'Proud Valleys', the Rhondda LGBT+ network.

Many of the Council's buildings, including the Lido Ponty, the Rhondda Heritage Park and our Park and Dare and Coliseum theatres were lit in rainbow colours to mark 'Pride Cymru' and the images were shared on social media. This prompted a wide face book and twitter reach, over 10,000, with over 1,200 "likes/loves" and a number of supportive positive comments being published including ***"What a fantastic show of support!! Thank you @RCT Council"*** and ***"Thank you for celebrating Pride and for showing you are inclusive"***

Tackling complaints about Taxi Drivers

During 2017 there were complaints from the public about taxi drivers in RCT not taking fares from customers who are wheelchair users. Council officers responsible for issuing taxi licences together with members of the Disability Forum and Disability and Carers employee network undertook a 'secret shopper' exercise to assess the problem. There was mixed feedback from those involved. The majority of taxi drivers accepted customers who are wheelchair users and provided a good level of customer service. A few however, did not accept the fare. The drivers provided a number of reasons for their actions, which included the boot space of the taxi being full. Once the 'secret shopper' work was completed, the Council officers met with the taxi drivers who had not provided an acceptable service to outline expectations, raise awareness of disability issues and set out the consequences of not providing an inclusive taxi service. Also, all licensed Taxi Drivers in RCT have been made aware of disability issues. We will continue to raise disability awareness throughout the taxi trade, including in regular newsletters to taxi drivers and also through the BTEC qualification which all taxi drivers must complete. We will also take appropriate action where licensed drivers/operators do not provide an acceptable and inclusive service or do not comply with the law.

In January 2018, we again marked Holocaust Memorial Day with an event in Rhydyfelin Library attended by around 100 people. The event was a partnership of, South Wales Police, St John's Baptist Church in Wales School, Hawthorn High School and Treorchy Library's Young Readers Group marking the atrocities of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides as well as raising awareness of modern day prejudice and the need to report hate crime. Following the public event a bilingual workshop was held with Year 6 pupils from Heol Y Celyn Primary School which explored stereotypes and modern hate crime.

Delivering the Time to Change Wales organisational pledge

We continue to tackle the stigma and discrimination round mental health. Last year we said we would hold 'Time to Talk' sessions in schools. A presentation on the 'Time To Change' Campaign was made to Headteachers and 'Time To Talk sessions' were held in schools where we engaged with teaching and non-teaching staff. A counsellor from our Occupational Health Unit attended the sessions and was able to provide on the spot advice and support if needed.

Members of our Allies Network have received training from a 'Time to Talk' Champion and now the Allies Network is regularly involved in supporting the 'Time to Talk' sessions. During these sessions many staff have discussed issues affecting them which they have previously not disclosed. This means we are able to advise and signpost them to suitable support such as the Occupational Health Unit and Valley Steps Mindfulness and Stress Busting courses.

We have also delivered Resilience workshops to primary school Headteachers across the County Borough as part of a wider well-being programme.

Gender Pay

We are continuing to make sure that everyone who works for the Council is treated equally through our ongoing work on the 'WAVE' project (Women Adding Value to the Economy).

Our managers are continuing to receive training to help them recognise and eliminate any bias when they are recruiting or promoting staff. This includes a new e-learning package to go alongside the managers' briefings and other training in place.

We have introduced a number of schemes to provide more flexibility to staff which in turn will lead to improved services to our residents, reduced costs of services and a better work life balance for our staff. This includes Agile Working which is being introduced cross the Council. What this means is that officers who spend much of their working day working in the community and travelling across the County Borough are able to make better use of their time by working at shared 'hot desks' in different council offices where it is more efficient and effective to do so. This also means that they spend less time travelling from a set office base. This way of working was trialled in three of our service areas and the feedback has been very positive. There has been a noticeable improvement in productivity and staff have benefited from greater flexibility and an improved work-life balance. As a result of the success of the trial, Agile Working will be extended to other appropriate service areas.

We have also introduced the 'purchase of additional leave scheme'. Employees are able to purchase an additional 10 days leave per year, which they can pay back in their salary over a 12 month period. This allows greater flexibility for employees to manage their time to suit their individual needs, in some cases it may help with caring responsibilities, whereby reducing some pressure on their work life balance.

As part of our staff surveys, we found that women employed in lower graded jobs are less likely to have a performance review with their line manager. A performance review would provide these women with the chance to find out more about the opportunities that are available to them to progress, e.g. opportunities to progress to job roles on higher wages. As a result of the findings from the service we have put in place arrangements to make sure that these women have a performance review and access to development opportunities.

We are also developing a more detailed understanding of our staff and services so that we can identify where we can do better in terms of equalities but also so that we can recognise where we are doing well. We conducted a staff survey in 2017 which focussed on whether the Council is an inclusive workplace. It asked if staff felt they could be themselves in the workplace and also about mechanisms to report bullying and harassment. Staff who responded told us that they were 'always/often' able to be themselves at work and that most were not subject to bullying or harassment at work. Research indicates that staff who are being bullied or harassed may not wish to tell anyone or report this, so we will continue to advise employees through training and news articles about how they can report bullying and harassment.

The survey also highlighted that not all staff know about our networks i.e. Perthyn (LGBT+), Allies, and our Disability and Carers networks. These have now been included in our

induction arrangements when staff start new jobs and we have put in place arrangements to brief our managers so that they are better able to understand and communicate relevant information.

We assigned a project team to look at the information we collect on our service users and to explore the benefits of collecting equality monitoring information, and how we can best use the information to make decisions that better reflect the diversity of our communities. The recommendations will be incorporated into the new Strategic Equality Plan.

In partnership with the Carers Project, we ran a Disability and Carers event at Hawthorn Leisure Centre. There were a number of exhibits, information stands and activities on offer for the public to participate in. Feedback from people who attended the event was positive. This included the event itself, workshops taking place and the helpfulness of staff. One of the participants told us *“really enjoyed the event and hopefully have another one soon”*

Improving our monitoring arrangement so that we can check that what we are doing is making a difference

In everything we do we are seeking to ensure that the Council can demonstrate it is delivering equal and fair services to residents. As part of an annual review of all of our services we have been able to demonstrate where we are doing well and where we need to do more. This has been reported in our [Annual Equality Report 2016/17](#). We know we have more work to do and we will be setting out our approach and our measures of success as we develop our new Strategic Equality Plan this year.

What are we going to do next year?

Later this year we will involve residents and groups to help shape our new Strategic Equality Plan 2018/22 and take steps to better demonstrate our work to contribute to a more equal Wales.

In the meantime we will continue to

- monitor hate crimes to enable robust scrutiny at the Cwm Taf Community Cohesion Group.
- encourage service managers to gain a greater understanding of customers by collecting equality monitoring data and ensure diversity is represented in decision making.
- provide awareness about our employee networks and increase their membership.
- continue to implement the WAVE action plan with a specific project on whether barriers exist for career development for senior women in the organisation.
- continue to tackle the stigma of Mental Health through our commitment to the ‘Time to Change’ Wales Pledge.
- encourage new membership to the Disability Forum to ensure it reflects our diverse communities in Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- increase our knowledge and understanding of our workforce.

You can see more detail about our work and progress in our Annual Equality Report which was presented to a meeting of the Cabinet in [March 2018](#).

WELSH LANGUAGE: Delivering services in the language of your choice

Since the introduction of the [Welsh Language Standards in 2016](#), the Council has made good progress in implementing its requirements i.e.

- treating Welsh language the same as the English language, and
- offering people the opportunity to receive their services from us, as well as from those funded by us, in Welsh.

All Councils must follow these standards, which affect all areas of our work and we can receive a penalty of up to £5,000 for each time we are found to be in breach if we don't keep to them. The Council has been subject to a number of statutory investigations and have been found to be in breach of some standards. However, by working closely with officers from the Welsh Language Commissioner's office, we have worked hard to resolve these issues and as a result we have not received any financial penalties.

How we are implementing the requirements in the standards has been set out in two documents that we are required to publish by law, these are the [Welsh Language Standards Action Plan](#) and the Council's five year [Welsh Language Promotion Strategy](#), which was agreed by Council in September 2016. The Welsh Language Promotion Strategy also sets out our priorities in the 5 years covered by the strategy.

To promote the Welsh Language we are....	In the last year we have....
expanding Welsh-medium education from pre-school to post-16	submitted an amended Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020 to the Welsh Government. This sets out what we will do to increase the number of pupils receiving education through the medium of Welsh in our schools.
encouraging the use of Welsh in the home	put in place more Welsh medium pre-school settings, which we hope will influence the numbers of parents choosing Welsh medium education and support the use of the language at home and encourage parents who choose Welsh medium education for their children.
increasing the number of adults learning Welsh	reviewed the target for increasing the numbers of Welsh speakers in the Council to align with the Welsh Government's targets.
extending opportunities for children, young people and families to use Welsh in the community and in leisure activities	agreed a project with the 'Urdd' to ensure swimming lessons delivered through the medium of Welsh are mainstreamed in Council locations at no additional cost to the customer.
expanding the use of Welsh in	appointed a Welsh language tutor for our staff, so that

the workplace

our customers can access services in the language of their choice. As a result, 175 staff received support to improve their use of Welsh language in less than a year.

We are continuing to work with a wide range of partners to help us achieve our priorities we are work with partners on Rhondda Cynon Taf's Welsh Language Forum (Fforwm Iaith). This forum is made up of voluntary groups, third sector and other public sector bodies which play a key role in the development of the Welsh language.

The detailed report setting out our progress in delivering this strategy was considered by our [Welsh Language Cabinet Steering Group in May 2018](#).

We will continue to work on these priorities during in 2018/19. We will also

- work more closely with our partners in the community to help achieve our local strategy and meet our national targets.
- consider our plans in the light of the Welsh Government strategy [Cymraeg 2050 – A million Welsh speakers](#). This national strategy is about
 1. increasing the number of Welsh speakers.
 2. increasing the use of Welsh.
 3. creating favourable conditions, in other words making Welsh more accessible in our every day lives. As part of this work we will review our current targets for increasing the number of staff which can deal with our customers in the language of their choice.
- align with the Welsh Government's Action Plan in respect of [Education in Wales](#) which aims to improve Welsh medium provision across Wales.

As a result of the steps we have already taken, the Council is well placed to meet the requirements of both of these national initiatives as well as contribute significantly to the national Well-being goal of '*A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language*'

BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity is the variety of life on earth and includes all species of plants and animals and the natural systems that support them.

We are continuing our work to meet the requirements of the [Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016](#) which came into force in March 2016. What this law asks us to do is to protect our environment, as well as meeting the challenge of creating jobs and homes, health and education. By working in this way, it will also help to make Wales a low carbon, green economy, ready to adapt to climate change.

As well as being the right thing to do, we are meeting the other requirements of the Act by contributing to a more joined up approach to how natural resources such as the land, water, air and wildlife are managed. We are also thinking about how we use these natural resources so they will still be available for the future and consider biodiversity in our decision making and actions.

This law works alongside what we need to do to improve Environmental Well-being and helps to meet the seven national well-being goals in the Well-being of Future Generations Act described above.

In the last year we have been finding out more detail about what our services are already doing and are developing our Biodiversity plan that will integrate healthy ecosystems with developing infrastructure across the County Borough. We have also

- worked with the Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm developers on planning requirements that will integrate biodiversity and flood risk reduction in one of the largest peat-bog restoration in Wales. This will ensure positive nature conservation, landscape improvements and flood risk management for 25 years.
- continued to work with our partners, including South Wales Fire and Rescue, Natural Resources Wales and the Wildlife Trust on the 'Healthy Hillside' project. Starting as a pilot on two sites in the Rhondda, 'Healthy Hillside' will bring extensive hillside areas of land, including land owned by the Council, into grazing management that will both reduce the risk of wildfire and also increase biodiversity. If the pilot is successful the project will be extended to new sites as part of a long term programme of restoration works.
- continued to work as part of the Local Biodiversity Action Group. This Group brings together people and organisations to co ordinate action for wildlife across Rhondda Cynon Taf. One of its successes included a 'bio-blitz' in the former colliery site in Maerdy in summer 2017. Organised by the [South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre](#), (SWEBREC) the wildlife recording day 'bio-blitz' was described as ***"our most successful recording day for many years. A great turnout from the recorders, a brilliant site, a great format. and hopefully some great records too."*** So far records of 345 species have been submitted, 10 of which are listed as of importance under the Environment (Wales) Act. SEWBREC have also undertaken biodiversity training with Ferndale Comprehensive school on the former colliery site in Maerdy to encourage pupils to engage with their local environment. The Group is also working

with the [Glamorgan Bird Club](#) to help to stop the decline of the Swift population, including looking to identify sites where swift nest boxes can be located.

In 2018/19 we will continue to

- ensure that biodiversity is integrated into the plans for new housing estates. This includes sustainable long term management of public open spaces, protecting trees and hedges, meadows and wildlife corridors as well as providing for sustainable drainage, children's play, active travel routes and an attractive environment for new residents and their neighbours.
- look at how all the individual sites, where planning consent has included wildlife mitigation, can be made to work together to provide valuable habitat which is at a landscape scale and for the long term.
- develop and increase the number of sites providing wildflower and pollinating insect habitat, through grassland and grass verge management.
- develop an area in Llantrisant as part of 'Healthy Hillside', reducing the risk of wildfire.
- identify and progress the other priorities for the Council under the 'Biodiversity Duty'.

How we are listening to the Residents of Rhondda Cynon Taf

Over the last year we have continued to make information about Council services easier to find and understand. We continue to improve the ways in which we talk to and consult with residents in their communities, by having face to face conversations and moving away from the traditional surveys where they have been found not to work well, particularly with those people that in the past have been hard to reach or those that are seldom heard.

These conversations help us to be more visible, accountable and accessible to residents in communities and hear first hand their concerns and the challenges they face. People tend to have strong views and affiliations with their local communities, and this is definitely the case across Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Over the last year, as a Council we have continued to embed and strengthen our arrangements for involving and consulting with people and communities. This has included consultation on setting our budget and council tax levels, where we involved 1,500 people in a number of different ways e.g. through the use of an online Budget Simulator, Social Media, including a [Youtube video](#) , as well as Councillors and officers talking to people in Town Centres, Leisure Centres and Libraries and talking to young people in schools as well as a specific event for young people talking about the budget.

We have also

- consulted with residents on a number of proposals for changes to services in a variety of ways. This included consultations on the introduction of a Public Spaces Protection Order to prohibit dog fouling and also for Controlled Intoxicating Substance Orders in order to reduce antisocial behaviour in Aberdare and Pontypridd.
- continued to use social media to engage with our residents using @cwmtafconsult to reach more of our residents by promoting consultation events and online surveys, responding to residents enquiries and also retweeting the work of our partners, e.g. Police PACT meetings and Health advice from the Health Board and Public Health Wales. We have also used Twitter to ask people for their views on the budget proposals.
- worked with our partners to support consultation and engagement on the [Cwm Taf Well-being Plan](#) and supported the development of the Cwm Taf partnership website '[Our Cwm Taf](#)'.
- asked members of our Citizens' Panel
 - to complete a Travel Diary to find out how people travel across RCT, i.e. walking, cycling, using cars or public transport so that we can identify improvements to the transport network
 - for their views on Street Cafe Furniture in Pontypridd
 - for their views on the Public Spaces Protection Order as part of the wider consultation.
- further developed our RCT wide Youth Forum, which is chaired by young people. The Youth Forum is asked for their views about Council services and budget issues. A number of sub groups have been set up by the young people to take forward

issues such as mental health, well-being and anti-bullying. Together, the sub groups have created a video for schools and youth clubs across RCT, to raise the profile of the impact of bullying on the mental health of young people. This is still in development and will be available in the autumn.

- developed closer links to our Older Persons Fora across Rhondda Cynon Taf so that they are better able to provide feedback on issues that effect the well-being of our older residents. We have involved the Older People's Advisory Group on all major Council consultations and supported the Older Person Forums to increase their use of technology to help them engage differently.
- started work to develop an approach to involving our residents that brings together our young and older people so that they each gain a greater understanding of the issues that affect them.
- shared information with our partners through a Public Engagement Group to make sure that we better co ordinate resources and use the information we each receive so that residents are not asked the same or similar questions by different partners and that relevant, appropriate and anonymous responses can be used by different partners.

We continue to welcome feedback from all sources and are grateful to people who give us their views and tell us what we are doing right and where we need to improve. We also value feedback about our plans for the future so that we can better prioritise areas to change and/or improve. Please see our contact details to get in touch.

Listening and responding to you is important to us. We know that by involving you directly and more regularly, we get a better understanding of your needs and expectations, e.g. because of what you told us we introduced the Public Spaces Protection Order to reduce the impact of dog fouling across the County Borough. It also means that you get more information about the challenges, the choices we face and decisions we have to take as a result of reducing budgets.

We know we still have more to do and we are continuing to improve how we meet and talk with people and communities so that we have more opportunities for ongoing conversations and fewer formal questionnaires and complicated surveys. In 2018 we have plans to

- continue to talk to people across the communities in Rhondda Cynon Taf
- refresh and update our Citizens' Panel.
- use the information that residents give us to better focus how we engage and involve them.
- work with our partners as part of the Cwm Taf Public Services Board to support the delivery of the Cwm Taf Well-being Plan as well as other projects that involve working with others including the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, the South Wales Metro and Valleys Taskforce.

Corporate Priority Action Plan Monitoring Report - Quarter 4 2017/18

ECONOMY – *Building a Strong Economy*

Summary of progress

During 2017/18 we have made good progress overall in our work for the Economy priority. Amongst other things, we have:

- worked towards enhancing the longterm economic prospects for the County Borough through contributing to the development of the Cardiff Capital Regional City Deal and developing outline strategies for five strategic opportunity areas to further develop our strengths and capitalise on the benefits of the City Deal.
- collaborated with public and private sector organisations to progress regeneration projects within our town centres, including the Taff Vale redevelopment and YMCA in Pontypridd and the Boot hotel in Aberdare.
- Prepared funding bids for transport related infrastructure schemes, for example Safe Routes in Communities Grant and Local Transport Fund, to improve future transport infrastructure and support economic growth.
- Adopted the local development order for Treforest and Parc Nantgarw to encourage further economic investment.
- Involved housing service users in identifying areas for improvement, including the future development of a single point of contact and improved online processes for grant applications.
- Continued to deliver our 21st Century schools programme as part of our vision for making every school a great school, building schools with strong leadership which share facilities and support the wider community. This includes construction of three new ‘through’ schools – Porth Community school, Tonyrefail Community School and Ysgol Nant Gwyn in Tonypany – which will open in autumn 2018.
- Gained approval in principle for our ‘Band B’ 21st Century school projects, which will use Welsh Government funding to improve the condition of school buildings and provide facilities to meet the increased demand for Welsh Medium provision. However, delays at Welsh Government mean we need to revise our own timescales for involving local communities in developing our plans.
- Developed a toolkit to consistently identify risks in schools at the earliest opportunity, and challenged underperformance in our schools including where disadvantaged pupils are not performing to their full potential.
- Co-ordinated work to support More Able and talented pupils at all key stages within our schools, ensuring there is a collective understanding of how to identify and support more able children, and beginning to develop resources for schools.
- Supported the Welsh Medium schools sector in the strategic improvement of the sector and early years providers, so parents and carers can have confidence in having their child educated in their language of choice.
- Improved communication with and training of school governors and continued to encourage a wide variety of people to become involved.
- Delivered the Inspire2Work programme to support vulnerable and hard to reach young people into work, and reduced overall the number of 16 – 18 year olds who leave school and did not enter education, employment or training. We also delivered a range of programmes including apprenticeships,

traineeships and graduate programmes to support young people to progress their careers.

- Worked together with local employers to help people into work through bespoke employability support and supported those people not yet ready to enter employment to improve their skills.
- Successfully implemented the 30 hours childcare pilot for 3 and 4 year olds in partnership with Welsh Government, to support working families and encourage non-working parents into employment.

However, there are still areas where we have not made as much progress as we would like or have not, to date, had the impact we wanted through our actions:

- Although we have agreed on a Regional planning approach with other local authorities, this still needs to be agreed by Welsh Government before further progress can be made.
- It has not been possible to proceed with a Heritage Lottery Fund bid for Llantrisant town centre due to the Townscape Heritage Initiative coming to a close and insufficient resources remaining for new bids.
- Although the number of empty retail units have decreased in Pontypridd and Porth, there has been an increase in empty units in Aberdare and Treorchy, and all four town centres have seen a slight reduction in the number of visitors.
- Despite collaborative working with Central South Consortium and schools continuing to share best practice and learn from each other, Educational performance at Key Stage 4 was mixed following the introduction of new curriculum areas and performance measures, with some schools not achieving as well as others. Schools are being supported to understand their respective performance and take steps to improve results.
- The gap in educational achievement between our pupils receiving free school meals and their peers remains too high and although we have worked closely to support and challenge schools we have not delivered some of the strategic work we wanted to support this area through the Central South Consortium. We will focus on providing wider support for families which may impact on children's education in 2018/19 through our resilient families programme.
- There has been a significant increase in the number of exclusions from schools. We are providing challenge and support to those schools that need the most help and reviewing managed moves.

Council Priority:	ECONOMY - Building a strong economy
Lead Director:	Chris Bradshaw

Measuring Success

Measures to support Priority 1 - Residents will see a responsible approach to regeneration, with new homes being built and job opportunities created

PI Ref	Performance Measure	2015/16	2016/17		2017/18		Comment
		Actual	Actual	Wales Average	Annual Target	Actual	
LPSR103	No. of new affordable homes delivered	127	241	N/A	200	226	
LRGN014b	% vacant retail premises in town centres: Pontypridd	8.7	8.8	13%	A decrease would reflect positive performance	7.0	There have been several closures and departures by national chains and banks as part of national/regional corporate decisions which have contributed to the decline.
LRGN014a	Porth	10.8	14.0			12.0	
LRGN014c	Aberdare	9.0	10.4			14.0	
LRGN014d	Treorchy	9.0	5.8			7.0	
LRGN015a	Footfall - Average weekly number of visitors (Calendar Year) to: Pontypridd	63,992	64,647	N/A	An increase would reflect positive performance	63,234	Data presented for the previous year may not be an accurate reflection of footfall as the 'Footfall counter' in Porth has been out of use for some time. The 2016/17 figures were therefore estimated and the 2017/18 target was set using this data. Target setting for 2018/19 will be based on accurate actual footfall data.
LRGN015b	Aberdare	19,204	23,465			23,135	
LRGN015c	Porth	11,184	11,037			9,407	
LRGN015d	Treorchy	16,379	15,516			15,135	
LRGN019	No. of additional housing units provided during the year	569	716	N/A	600	552	The 600 additional housing units target is a flat indicator based on achieving 3,000 additional houses over a 5 year period. Despite this year's outturn being slightly below the annual target we remain ahead of the trajectory for achieving the overall target of 3,000 by 2020.
LRGN016	The stock of registered enterprises/businesses in the Borough	5,485	5,745	N/A	An increase would reflect positive performance	6,355*	
LRGN017	The rate of registered enterprises /business births (start ups)	14.4 (790)	16.1 (925)	12.1		19.5* (1,240)	
LRGN018	The rate of registered enterprises /business deaths (closures)	11.1 (610)	11.7 (670)	10.2	A decrease would reflect positive performance	10.9* (690)	

Footnotes:

* 2016 data

Key:

Within Top Quartile performance for all of Wales 2016/17	Performance met or exceeded target	Performance within 5% of the target	Performance below target
Within Bottom Quartile performance for all of Wales 2016/17			

Bolded PIs denote that an existing Corporate Plan high level measure

PI Ref	Performance Measure	2015/16	2016/17		2017/18		Comment
		Actual	Actual	Wales Average	Annual Target	Actual	
LPSR101	No. of empty properties brought back into use per annum	144	138	N/A	190	204	
LPSR102	Total number of interventions aimed at bringing long term empty properties back into use	324	536	N/A	400	356	In 2017/18 we changed how we counted interventions due to national clarification. To ensure consistency across the indicators we did not include work that was not a direct intervention. Also, loan enquiries were slightly lower than 2016/17 which was used as the baseline for setting the target for 2017/18. This has resulted in fewer interventions undertaken.
PSR004 PAM013	% Private sector dwellings that had been vacant for more than 6 months at 1 st April that were returned to occupation during the year	5.17	4.90	8.79	5.50	5.74	
LRGN021	No. of jobs created and safeguarded through grant support programmes	N/A	N/A	N/A	100	62	The indicator for 2017/18 was "created and safeguarded" not just "created". Applicants did not identify posts that were safeguarded as they would need to provide supporting evidence to verify this and this was not an essential criteria to apply and secure a grant (whereas job creation is). Also the underachievement against the 'businesses supported' target (LRGN009) had a subsequent impact on this PI.
LRGN009	No. of businesses/organisations supported through grant support programmes	73	114	N/A	90	75	The requirement for job creation to be an essential criteria for the Enterprise Support Programme has had an impact on the number of businesses supported. The Programme is currently being reviewed to identify the potential for more appropriate indicators that could be considered as a measure of business success and growth.

Key:

Within Top Quartile performance for all of Wales 2016/17	Performance met or exceeded target	Performance within 5% of the target	Performance below target
Within Bottom Quartile performance for all of Wales 2016/17			

Bolded PIs denote that an existing Corporate Plan high level measure

Measures to support Priority 2 - Rhondda Cynon Taf's schools will be amongst the best in the country, with all children achieving the best they can							
PI Ref	Performance Measure	2015/16	2016/17		2017/18		Comment
		(Academic Year 2014/15)	(Academic Year 2016/17)		(Academic Year 2016/17)		
		Actual	Actual	Wales Average	Annual Target	Actual	
Foundation Phase							
PAM003 (formerly EDU235)	% pupils assessed at the end of Foundation phase (Year 2, typically aged 7) achieving the Foundation phase indicator	86.3	87.2	87.0	87.9	86.9	Results have dipped slightly by less than 1% this academic year but the overall trend has shown an 5.1 percentage point increase since 2014. All Wales Data has also dropped slightly to 87.3.
LEDU501	% difference between pupils eligible for FSM and non-FSM who were assessed at the end of the Foundation phase (Year 2, typically aged 7) who achieved the Foundation phase indicator	-19.5	-14.4	N/A	-14.0	-11.8	
PAM004 (formerly EDU003)	% of pupils assessed at the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6, typically aged 11) achieving level 4 or above in the Core Subject indicator (CSI) ²	85.8	88.5	89.0	90.9	90.0	Although slightly below our challenging target, performance has improved by 1.5 percentage points since the previous year and is above the 2017 Wales average of 89.5
LEDU502	% difference between pupils eligible for FSM and non-FSM who were assessed at the end of the Key Stage 2 (Year 6, typically aged 11) who achieved the Core Subject Indicator (CSI)	-20.5	-12.6	N/A	-12.0	-14.9	The performance trend for this PI has declined compared to the previous academic year. Results for eFSM pupils dipped slightly from the previous year, whilst overall the percentage of pupils achieving CSI has improved slightly. The Local Authority and Central South Consortium are currently re-evaluating their approach to schools with dips in performance of eFSM learners and the provision of more holistic support to learners and families.
LEDU406 ¹	% of children looked after assessed at the end of Key Stage 2, in schools maintained by the local authority, achieving Core Subject Indicator as determined by Teacher Assessment	66.7	66.7	N/A	69.57	68.2	
29a ¹	% of children looked after achieving the core subject indicator at Key Stage 2	New	52.43	N/A	52.43	61.1	
Key Stage 3							
PAM005 (formerly EDU004)	% of pupils assessed at the end of Key Stage 3, (Year 9, typically aged 14) achieving the Core Subject Indicator (CSI) ³	81.6	84.0	86.1	86.0	87.4	
LEDU242	% pupils eligible for FSM assessed at the end of KS3 (Year 9, typically aged 14) achieving the Core Subject indicator	65.2	67.8	N/A	71.5	70.6	
LEDU407 ¹	% of children looked after assessed at the end of key stage 3, in schools maintained by the local authority, achieving Core Subject Indicator as determined by Teacher Assessment	38.5	58.1	N/A	60.0	69.0	

Footnotes:

¹ 2 different datasets are collected to monitor the educational performance of children looked after. Education indicators include those children looked after by RCT Council educated within RCT schools (LEDU406, LEDU407, LEDU411, LEDU012). Social service indicators include all children looked after by RCT Council, including those who are educated outside the authority (29a and 29b). Both data sets have been included as they monitor different aspects of our performance in supporting vulnerable young people.

² Wales average data for 16/17 published as 89.0 in National Strategic Indicator set does not include independent schools. Wales average data published as 88.6 by Stats Wales, this includes independent schools in the All Wales figure in addition to local authority maintained schools. 2016/17 all Wales data is available for Education attainment indicators only. The 2016/17 all Wales data quoted in comments is sourced from Stats Wales and also includes independent schools.

³ Wales average data for 16/17 published as 86.1 in Public Accountability Measures dataset does not include independent schools. Wales average data published as 85.9 by Stats Wales, this includes independent schools in the All Wales figure in addition to Local authority maintained schools. 16/17 All Wales data is available for Education attainment indicators only. The 16/17 All Wales data quoted in comments is sourced from Stats Wales and also includes independent schools.

Key:

Within Top Quartile performance for all of Wales 2016/17	Performance met or exceeded target	Performance within 5% of the target	Performance below target
Within Bottom Quartile performance for all of Wales 2016/17			

PI Ref	Performance Measure	2015/16	2016/17		2017/18		Comment
		(Academic Year 2014/15)	(Academic Year 2015/16)		(Academic Year 2016/17)		
		Actual	Actual	Wales Average	Annual Target	Actual	
Key Stage 4							
LEDU339	Average capped points score for pupils in year 11 (typically aged 16), in schools maintained by the local authority ⁴	345.6	351.2	N/A	351.2	346.1	Performance in this indicator cannot be compared to previous years as the definition of the PI has changed significantly. Targets have been set on the previous definition so cannot be applied this year. Performance has been impacted by a limit on the number of non GCSE qualifications which can be included. Schools continue to select the most appropriate qualifications for learners.
EDU209	% pupils in year 11 (typically aged 16) who achieve the L1 threshold (equivalent to 5 GCSEs grade A* to G or approved equivalent qualification) ⁴	95.7	96.7	N/A	96.7	94.7	Performance in this indicator cannot be compared to previous years as the definition of the PI has changed significantly. Targets have been set on the previous definition so cannot be applied this year. It has been impacted by a limit on the number of non GCSE qualifications which can be included and changes to the English and Mathematics GCSEs.
LEDU210	% of pupils in year 11 (typically aged 16) who achieved the L2 threshold (5 GCSE C or above, or equivalent) ⁴	87.1	90.3	N/A	82.1	63.2	Performance in this indicator cannot be compared to previous years as the definition of the PI has changed significantly. Targets have been set on the previous definition so cannot be applied this year. 1,625 pupils from a cohort of 2,571 achieved the L2 threshold, compared to 2,385 from a cohort of 2,641 the previous academic year. Performance has been impacted by a limit on the number of non GCSE qualifications which can be included and changes to the English and Mathematics GCSEs. Wales average data for this indicator is 67.0%, which provides a more relevant comparison than previous performance. There has been some variance in performance between similar schools, particularly in performance in English, and this will be investigated to fully understand the reasons behind it.
PAM006 (formerly EDU017)	% of pupils in year 11 (typically aged 16) who achieved level 2 threshold including a GCSE grade A* to C in English or Welsh (first language) and Mathematics ⁴	54.6	56.6	60.7	59.0	49.8	Performance in this indicator cannot be compared to previous years as the definition of the PI has changed significantly. Targets have been set on the previous definition so cannot be applied this year. 1,281 pupils from a cohort of 2,571 achieved the L2+ threshold, compared to 1,493 pupils from a cohort of 2,618 the previous year. As above, performance has been impacted by a limit on the number of non GCSE qualifications which can be included and changes to the English and Mathematics GCSEs. Wales average data for this indicator is 54.6%, which provides a more relevant comparison than previous performance.
LEDU243	% of pupils entitled to FSM in year 11 (typically aged 16) achieving Level 2 Threshold including a GCSE grade A*-C in English or Welsh (first language) and Mathematics ⁴	27.9	30.9	N/A	34.0	24.2	Performance in this indicator cannot be compared to previous years as the definition of the PI has changed significantly. Targets have been set on the previous definition so cannot be applied this year. 116 pupils from a cohort of 480 eligible for FSM achieved the threshold, compared to 162 from a cohort of 524 in the previous academic year. Changes to the way performance is measured have disproportionately impacted on pupils eligible for free school meals, who as a cohort may be more likely to take alternative qualifications. Notwithstanding this, the performance of pupils eligible for Free school meals remains a concern and as stated above the Local Authority and Central South Consortium are reviewing approaches to support and challenge.

Key:

Within Top Quartile performance for all of Wales 2016/17	Performance met or exceeded target	Performance within 5% of the target	Performance below target
Within Bottom Quartile performance for all of Wales 2016/17			

Footnotes:

⁴ Data for previous years is based on pupils aged 15 and not pupils in Year 11, due to a change in the way national statistics are produced. In addition, a limit to the contribution of non-GCSE qualifications has been introduced; and data now includes all pupils educated other than at school (EOTAS), including those who did not attend a PRU. Change from aged 15 to year 11 cohort has a slight positive impact on results; change to inclusion of EOTAS pupils has a slight negative impact on results. The impact of limiting non-GCSE qualifications cannot be quantified. Although data is broadly comparable, the combined impact of these changes may have slightly decreased reported performance compared to the previous methodology.

PI Ref	Performance Measure	2015/16	2016/17		2017/18		Comment
		(Academic Year 2014/15)	(Academic Year 2015/16)		(Academic Year 2016/17)		
		Actual	Actual	Wales Average	Annual Target	Actual	
Key Stage 4							
LEDU411 ¹	% of pupils looked after attending RCT schools in year 11 (typically aged 16) who achieved the L1 threshold (5 GCSE grade G + or equivalent)	35.0	64.0	N/A	65.6	71.0	Performance in this indicator cannot be compared to previous years as the definition of the PI has changed significantly. Targets have been set on the previous definition so cannot be applied this year.
LEDU412 ¹	% of pupils looked after attending RCT schools in year 11 (typically aged 16) who achieved the L2 threshold (5 GCSE grade A* - C or equivalent)	New	52.0	N/A	53.1	22.7	Performance in this indicator cannot be compared to previous years as the definition of the PI has changed significantly. Targets have been set on the previous definition so cannot be applied this year. Due to the small number of pupils involved, performance can vary considerably between years due to the differing abilities of different cohorts. In the current year, 26% of pupils attended either a special school or a PRU. Note: cohort data is not included due to the small number of pupils involved.
29b ¹	% of children receiving care and support achieving the core subject indicator at Key Stage 4	New	7.69	N/A	7.69	10.9	Performance in this indicator cannot be compared to previous years as the definition of the PI has changed significantly. Targets have been set on the previous definition so cannot be applied this year.
Attendance							
PAM007 (formerly EDU016a)	% of pupil attendance in primary schools (excludes special schools)	94.8	94.6	94.9	95.3	94.7	Attendance levels have not met our challenging targets for this year and there has been a slight decline in secondary attendance with only 5 schools maintaining or improving their performance from the previous year. We need to ensure that attendance remains a priority across all schools. The Attendance and Wellbeing Service will continue to hold challenge and support meetings with schools causing the greatest concern and we have reintroduced secondary well-being data days to allow schools to share good practice and areas for development.
PAM008 (formerly EDU016b)	% of pupil attendance in secondary schools (excludes special schools)	93.7	93.9	94.2	94.3	93.6	
LEDU218	% attendance at PRU/EOTAS provision	82.2	82.6	N/A	N/A	78.6	
LEDU506	% difference in the attendance of FSM / non FSM pupils in primary schools	2.2	2.6	N/A	<2.6	2.3	
LEDU507	% difference in the attendance of FSM / non FSM pupils in secondary schools	4.6	4.5	N/A	<4.5	4.9	The attendance gap between eFSM and non FSM pupils had reduced by 0.6% from 2013/14 to 2015/16, 0.2% more than the Welsh average, but this year has increased by 0.4%. Wales comparative data is not yet available. We continue to challenge and support schools to refocus resources where they are most needed.
Exclusions							
LEDU409a	No. of fixed term exclusions per 1,000 pupils in Primary schools	8.8	13.5	N/A	12.91	14.2	There has been a significant increase in the number of exclusions. We will be working with schools to support and challenge, and looking at processes to enhance collaborative planning at a whole school, strategic level, including a review of managed moves.
LEDU409b	No. of fixed term exclusions per 1,000 pupils in Secondary schools	89.4	72.0	N/A	98.4	95.7	
LEDU410c	Average No. of days lost through fixed term exclusions (All Schools)	2.4	2.1	N/A	2.2	2.1	

Footnotes:

¹2 different datasets are collected to monitor the educational performance of looked after children. Education indicators include those children looked after by RCT Council educated within RCT schools (LEDU406, LEDU407, LEDU411, LEDU012). Social service indicators include all children in receipt of care and support as identified in the care and support census at 31 March 2017.

Key:

Within Top Quartile performance for all of Wales 2016/17	Performance met or exceeded target	Performance within 5% of the target	Performance below target
Within Bottom Quartile performance for all of Wales 2016/17			

Measures to support Priority 3 - There will be a broad offer of skills and employment programmes for all ages

PI Ref	Performance Measure	2015/16	2016/17		2017/18		Comment
		(Academic Year 2014/15)	(Academic Year 2015/16)		(Academic Year 2016/17)		
		Actual	Actual	Wales Average	Annual Target	Actual	
PAM009 (formerly LEDU223)	% 16 year olds (Yr 11) leaving school who are known not to be in education, training or employment	3.7	1.0	N/A	1.0	1.1	Provisional early release data that has not yet been verified.
LEDU225	% 18 year olds (Yr 13) leaving school who are known not to be in education, training or employment	6.4	4.1	N/A	4.0	2.6	Provisional early release data that has not yet been verified.
LCAP011	Number of NEET (Not In Education, Employment or Training) young people entering employment upon leaving the 'Inspire2Work' programme	N/A	N/A	N/A	NEW - Baseline Year	24	
LCAP012	Number of NEET young people entering training or education upon leaving the 'Inspire2Work' programme	N/A	N/A	N/A	NEW - Baseline Year	9	
LCAP013	Number of NEET young people gaining a qualification upon leaving the 'Inspire2Work' programme	N/A	N/A	N/A	NEW - Baseline Year	97	
LCAP007	Number of economically inactive adults entering employment as a result of 'Communities4Work' (C4W) intervention	N/A	N/A	N/A	NEW - Baseline Year	34	
LCAP008	Number of long term unemployed adults entering employment as a result of C4W intervention	N/A	N/A	N/A	NEW - Baseline Year	13	
LCAP010	Number of NEET young people entering employment upon leaving the C4W programme	N/A	N/A	N/A	NEW - Baseline Year	49	
LCAP002	No. of people supported that have entered employment – Communities First	N/A	317	N/A	238	413	
LCAP003	Number of adults gaining a qualification – Communities First	N/A	1,018	N/A	764	1,242	

Key:

Within Top Quartile performance for all of Wales 2016/17	Performance met or exceeded target	Performance within 5% of the target	Performance below target
Within Bottom Quartile performance for all of Wales 2016/17			

Bolded PIs denote that an existing Corporate Plan high level measure

Population & Contextual Measures - For information only		2015/16	2016/17		2017/18		Target 2020
		Actual	Actual	Wales Average	Actual	Wales Average	
PMe01	No. and % of economically active people aged 16 and over, who are unemployed	7,600 6.7	5,900 5.3	4.6	5,800 5.2 ⁵	4.8 ⁵	Wales Average
PMe02	% of people aged 18-24 claiming out of work benefits (including JSA)	4.9 ⁸	4.3 ⁷	3.8	4.0 ⁶	3.5 ⁶	Wales Average
PMe03	No. and % of economically active people in Rhondda Cynon Taf	114,700 74.9	112,300 74.2	74.8	112,300 74.7 ⁵	76.0 ⁵	Wales Average

Notes:

⁵ Data refers to Jan 2017 - December 2017

⁶ Data refers to March 2018

⁷ Data refers to March 2017

⁸ Data refers to March 2016

Priority 1: Residents will see a responsible approach to regeneration, with new homes being built and job opportunities created

Our work in this priority, both now and in the future, contributes to the seven national Well-being Goals, in particular a Prosperous Wales, a More Equal Wales and a Wales of Cohesive communities. It will also contribute to the delivery of the Cwm Taf Wellbeing Plan, particularly a Strong Economy.

Through delivering our ECONOMY plan we are continuing developments in Rhondda Cynon Taf and focussing on projects which will enhance the **long-term** economic prospects for the County Borough and make it a great place to live and work. The Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRCD) Programme Board has worked well in co-ordinating the City Deal themes Skills & Employment; Connecting the Region; Innovation; and Regeneration and Infrastructure; and developing joint working across the region as set out in its Strategic [Business Plan](#). We are ensuring that our work on the City Deal housing theme is closely **integrated** with national housing programmes and initiatives through close working and ongoing discussions with Welsh Government and the [Valley's Task force](#) working to improve prosperity in the South Wales valleys. We are working towards approval for a housing investment fund for the City Deal to provide loans to smaller house builders who may otherwise struggle to access finance in the current climate, helping to rebuild the SME housebuilding sector.

To ensure that Rhondda Cynon Taf can capitalise on the opportunities brought by the City Deal, such as improved transport links, we have identified 5 strategic opportunity areas in addition to the core projects in the City Deal. These are regionally important areas where there is significant potential to create jobs and prosperity across RCT and the wider region. The areas are the Cynon Gateway, Wider Pontypridd, Pontypridd Town, the A4119 corridor and Llanilid/M4 corridor. An outline strategy has been produced for each area, identifying key opportunities to benefit the region building on the existing strengths, current projects and opportunities. For example, ***the Cynon Gateway – Energizing the Region***, identifies opportunities including maximising investment at the Tower Colliery Site restoration by working with the developer to install electricity, roads and other services to make the site 'business ready'; developing an 'energy park' at Bryn Pica to attract businesses with a high heat/energy requirement; and capitalising on dualling of the A465 to develop infrastructure which will support future development. All five full outline strategies can be accessed [here](#).

Economic regeneration has a positive influence in **preventing** a wide variety of problems and supporting individual well-being. Development in our key strategic sites and improved transport links will provide more employment opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities so that they can achieve their aspirations and help to keep them and their families out of poverty. Developments of this nature are longterm projects, however progress has been made in a number of areas. The Local Development Order for Treforest Industrial Estate and Parc Nantgarw was adopted in August 2017. This will encourage further economic development in the area through removing the need for formal planning permission in some circumstances, making it easier for businesses to set up, thrive and grow.

Redevelopment of key sites revitalises neglected areas and brings people into our town centres, making them vibrant and attractive places to visit and helping to reduce related antisocial behaviour. The redevelopment of the former Taff Vale shopping centre in Pontypridd is a key redevelopment at an important site within the County Borough. The Taff Vale project is progressing well, with planning permission granted, construction work commenced on site and discussions underway to secure tenants for the office buildings. On completion, this scheme will provide a major office site bringing employment opportunities and footfall

Priority 1: Residents will see a responsible approach to regeneration, with new homes being built and job opportunities created

into the town centre, in addition to a new gateway building with community facilities including a library and leisure centre. Detailed design has been completed for a footbridge linking the Taff Vale site with Ynysangharad park, which will promote the use of park facilities enhancing wellbeing and improve sustainable transport to the site by providing an off-road route from the train station. More information on projects in Ynysangharad park can be found in our PLACE plan. Also in Pontypridd, we are **collaborating** in the community-led redevelopment of the YMCA, along with YMCA, Artists Community, the Arts Council for Wales and Welsh Government. Building design is complete and planning permission in place with a view to site works commencing later in the year. The project will deliver a centre for training, community enterprises and community arts, with onsite childcare provision. Delivery of visitor signage in Pontypridd is dependent on approval of designs and costing. The redevelopment of the Boot Hotel in Aberdare is ongoing with good progress made on external works. The private sector led scheme, supported by the Council and Trivallis, will deliver affordable homes and commercial premises. We are also progressing a town centre loan fund, to provide funding to refurbish disused or derelict buildings, and are currently investigating potential opportunities in our town centres to take projects forward. Unfortunately it has not been possible to proceed with a Heritage Lottery Fund bid for Llantrisant town centre due to the Townscape Heritage Initiative coming to a close and insufficient resources remaining for new bids.

Footfall in both Pontypridd and Aberdare has stabilised, with a very minor decrease in both town centres (63,234 visitors to Pontypridd compared to 64,647 in 2016/17; 23,135 visitors to Aberdare compared to 23,465). It is anticipated that the delivery of major projects such as Taff Vale will have a positive impact on visitor numbers in the longer term.

The City Deal approach and development of strategic opportunity areas will develop infrastructure to prevent bottlenecks in transport and mismatch in housing supply and demand created by population growth, which stifles economic growth. Increasing affordable housing will help prevent homelessness and also the wide variety of health and social issues arising from unsuitable housing. The provision of new, affordable and sustainable homes is integral to the development of our strategic opportunity areas, for example, strategic site allocation at Hirwaun could provide 400 homes and significant opportunities exist at both the A4119 corridor and Llanilid on the M4 with 1,850 new homes already consented at the Llanilid/M4 corridor. During 2017/18 we supported new housing development and bringing homes back into use with 552 additional housing units provided, 226 new affordable homes delivered and 204 empty properties brought back into use. The impact of bringing empty properties back to life is illustrated in two [case studies](#). We have worked with recent housing service users to identify areas for improvement and reviewed housing information on the Council's website to make information more accessible. As a result of this work we are developing a single point of contact for all general needs applicants and will be developing more online processes to make it easier for people to apply for services like housing grants. Approval of draft strategies for affordable warmth and Empty properties has been delayed due to service changes but will be completed during 2018.

Developing alternative areas of our economy, including Tourism, is important for the long term sustainability of Rhondda Cynon Taf. Drawing on the strengths of the region, including landscape and green spaces and industrial heritage, we are working alongside local businesses to develop a new Tourism action plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf. A Tourism Association has been launched with regular communication and meetings and work has begun to audit the sector to ascertain

Priority 1: Residents will see a responsible approach to regeneration, with new homes being built and job opportunities created

views and experiences of tourism businesses.

We recognise that our vision for Rhondda Cynon Taf is closely linked to the prosperity and success of the wider South Wales region. We are collaborating with other South Wales Councils, businesses and higher education providers in different ways to deliver economic growth for the region. For example, following discussions with neighbouring authorities as part of the wider J34/Airport opportunity, a joint submission was provided to City Deal partners outlining the strategic benefits of a collaborative wider approach to development in this area. At City Regional level there is support for a Strategic Development Plan so that longterm development planning is carried out at a regional level with developments in neighbouring areas linking and complementing each other (e.g. housing in one local authority close to business development in another), but this needs to be agreed by Welsh Government. By collaborating with partners towards these shared goals, jointly making decisions and pooling resources we are better able to deliver an integrated approach, which avoids duplication and allows partners to develop complementary approaches for business and skills development. Our work in supporting people to develop their skills is covered in more depth in the priorities below focussing on schools, skills and employment.

Building a Strong Economy is closely linked to our other well-being objectives. For example, Regeneration projects like Taff Vale will provide opportunities for enhanced community facilities and involvement, linking with 'Place' creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work' and 'People' by providing high quality jobs in the region.

Council Priority:	ECONOMY - Building a strong economy
Lead Director:	Chris Bradshaw

Challenges and Opportunities linked to this Council Priority	1 - Residents will see a responsible approach to regeneration, with new homes being built and job opportunities created...
Lead Officer	Jane Cook

Actions that will deliver Priority 1		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action	
RGNP01	Actively engage with the other South East Wales Councils over the next 10 years to maximise the benefits to the region and the residents of RCT of the new Capital Region City Deal (CCRCD)	Develop and support of City Deal process/projects and delivery.					
		Participate in, and influence, the City Deal Programme Board	Ongoing	Jane Cook	On Target	A number of proposals have now been considered by the CCRCD Joint Cabinet which the Programme Board has developed/considered during the year.	
		Consider implementation of both regional and local delivery of economic development; regeneration and planning	Sep-17	Jane Cook	Complete	Regional colleagues continue to be supported in developing business support and regeneration City Deal themes. Regional delivery has been and continues to be considered; however delivery remains a future project for development.	
		Lead the City Deal Housing theme					
		Develop and recommend a City Deal Housing Fund to the Joint Cabinet	Dec-17	Jane Cook	Complete		
		Coordinate with transport; skills; planning and other Capital Region City Deal work streams	Ongoing	Jane Cook	On Target	The CCRCD Programme Board has worked well in coordinating the City Deal themes and where appropriate, developing joint working across the region.	
		Work with Welsh Government to ensure that housing programmes and initiatives align	Ongoing	Jane Cook	On Target	Welsh Government and the CCRCD Housing Theme Group continue to work closely to ensure alignment of programmes and initiatives.	
		Work with public, private and 3rd Sector housing providers to increase the delivery, quality and range of housing	Ongoing	Jane Cook	On Target		
	Prepare a strategic plan for Regional Housing delivery, including Market Assessment	Dec-17	Jane Cook		Following further regional consideration of the approaches to the Housing Market Assessment and also the potential for joined up strategic development planning, this element is on hold to avoid duplication.		

Actions that will deliver Priority 1		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action	
CSTP04	Actively engage with the other South East Wales Councils over the next 10 years to maximise the benefits to the region and the residents of RCT of the new Capital Region City Deal	To undertake the forward planning of transport infrastructure, which through the City Deal and other funding streams supports economic growth.					
		Identify, assess, develop and programme transport related capital infrastructure schemes such as Active Travel, park and ride/share, public transport, road safety, road improvement and safe routes in communities schemes	Dec-17	Charlie Nelson	Complete	Bids that did not receive funding in 2017/18 have been reviewed and where appropriate fed into the Making Better Use Programme. Consideration is being given to those schemes to submit as part of the 2018/19 bidding round. Schools, Councillors and Communities have been canvassed for schemes to be considered under the Welsh Government's Safe Routes in Communities programme.	
		Prepare funding bids for transport related capital infrastructure schemes as approved by Cabinet to Welsh Government and other funding agencies.	Jan-18 or as directed by Welsh Govt	Charlie Nelson	Complete	Prepared 2018/19 bids to the Welsh Government for the Local Transport Fund, Local transport Network Fund, Road Safety Revenue Grant and Safe Routes in Communities Grant.	
RGNP02	Assist the development of employment and housing areas, either existing or allocated in the LDP, through partnership working, to maximise the delivery of homes and jobs to support the economy. Enable relevant landowners (including Welsh Government) to promote development on their sites	Ensure that Services positively respond to the evolving regional planning position and also continue to develop local strategy and promote development					
		Continue to work collaboratively with other South East Wales authorities to bring together methodologies, evidence and other ways of working	Mar-18	Gareth Davies	Complete	Completed for 2017/18. Methodologies established for employment evidence (RCT led), retail, candidate sites, population projections. This action will be ongoing.	
		Gather evidence to monitor housing delivery in RCT and submit as part of the Joint Housing Land Availability Study (JHLAS)	May-17	Gareth Davies	Complete		
		Gain delegated approval and submit the Local Development Plan (LDP) Annual Monitoring report to Welsh Government	Oct-17	Gareth Davies	Complete		
		Continue to promote the development of allocated employment sites and monitor all operational employment sites within the County Borough and produce an annual survey report to ensure our evidence base is up to date	Mar-18	Gareth Davies	Complete		

Actions that will deliver Priority 1		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action	
RGNP03	Develop strategies for investment and development in key strategic opportunity areas within Rhondda Cynon Taf to maximise development opportunities in the City Deal regional context	M4 Corridor between Llanilid and Pencoed:					
		Complete a preferred framework and strategy for investment and development	Sep-17	Jim Bailey	Complete	Outline framework considered by Cabinet in September 2017.	
		Work with partners to promote opportunities	Mar-18	Jim Bailey	Complete		
		A4119 corridor from the M4 to Coed Ely:					
		Complete a preferred framework and strategy for investment and development	Sep-17	Chris Jones	Complete	Outline framework considered by Cabinet in September 2017.	
		Work with partners to promote opportunities	Mar-18	Chris Jones	Complete	Permission recently granted for residential development at Cefn-yr-Hendy. Work ongoing	
		A465 to build on the existing energy related developments around Hirwaun Industrial Estate and Bryn Pica:					
		Complete a preferred framework and strategy for investment and development	Sep-17	Jim Bailey	Complete	Outline framework considered by Cabinet in September 2017.	
		Work with partners to promote opportunities	Mar-18	Jim Bailey	Complete	Discussions will continue until such a time as Tower Regeneration Ltd have completed their site restoration / plateau construction and have decided on the future ownership / management of the site.	
		Metro Area:					
Prepare a framework to maximise opportunities for investment in and around the Metro area	Sep-17 Revised Dec-17 Revised Mar-18	Gareth Davies	Target Missed	Currently working on a strategy for Porth. Site investigation work at Sardis. Discussions with Transport for Wales around creating hubs at Treforest, Pontypridd and Porth. Working with Transport for Wales to bring forward depot at Taffs Well.			

Actions that will deliver Priority 1		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
RGNP03	Develop strategies for investment and development in key strategic opportunity areas within Rhondda Cynon Taf to maximise development opportunities in the City Deal regional context:	Treforest:				
		In collaboration with partners, develop a programme of projects for <i>Treforest, Edge of the City, Heart of the Region</i> for Cabinet and produce an outline strategy consideration	Sep-17	Jane Cook	Complete	
		Adopt the Local Development Order	Sep-17	Simon Gale	Complete	
		Develop, in collaboration, Treforest Growth	Mar-18	Jane Cook	Complete	Working with partners, development of a number of key features of the Wider Pontypridd - Treforest, Edge of the City, Heart of the Region Strategic Opportunity Area, have been further developed.
		Work with partners to deliver projects and promote the opportunities which this key strategic opportunity area offers	Mar-18	Jane Cook	Complete	Partnership working has extended across a number of projects within this Strategic opportunity area, including major office development, and the further development of key schemes identified in the Strategy. Work will continue in this area over coming months and years. The Council has also worked with the University, Welsh Government, the College and Treforest Growth to raise the profile of this area. This will also continue into the future.

Actions that will deliver Priority 1		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action	
RGNP03	Facilitate housing development and increase the number of new affordable houses built in the County Borough	Facilitate Housing Development					
		Seek Cabinet approval to proceed to the next stage of housing investment initiative	Jun-17	Simon Gale	Complete		
		If approval is granted, Establish funding sources to support the initiative	Jul-17	Simon Gale	Complete	High level appraisal of existing and emerging funding sources produced and updated.	
		Establish mechanism for prioritising sites for investment	Jul-17	Simon Gale	Complete	Methodology paper produced by cross-service group. Consideration being given to potential approval process.	
		Establish monitoring and investment framework	Sep-17 Revised Mar-18	Simon Gale	Not on Target	Following targeted discussions with landowners no landowner has yet cited viability as a barrier to bringing their sites forward. Interventions so far have included detailed planning advice, liaison with the parties, stakeholders and developers to assist in progressing the sites. Without specific requests for financial assistance it has not been possible to develop an evaluation framework for investment.	
		Work with partners to promote the opportunities this key investment opportunity offers	Mar-18	Simon Gale	Complete	Assistance has been given to landowners through liaison with partners including developers and statutory bodies.	
		Increase the number of new affordable homes built in the County Borough					
		Review current approaches to funding affordable housing with the aim of identifying opportunities to maximise existing funding	Nov-17	Jennifer Ellis	Complete		
		Identify new and innovative mechanisms to fund affordable housing	Dec-17	Jennifer Ellis	Complete		
		Consult with key stakeholders and partners on Affordable Housing Plan and publish an Affordable Delivery Plan	Mar-18	Adam Provoost	Complete	Due to change in service structure, Empty Property Strategy is now scheduled to go to Cabinet in October 2018	
HOUP04	Facilitate housing development and increase the number of new affordable houses built in the County Borough	Improve the standard and make the best use of the existing housing stock by increasing the number of empty properties brought back into use across the County Borough					
		Review, consult and relaunch the existing empty property strategy	Mar-18	Jennifer Ellis	Complete		

Actions that will deliver Priority 1		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action	
RGNP04	The larger town centres of Aberdare, Llantrisant/Talbot Green, Pontypridd and Treorchy will see significant investment through Welsh Government, private sector and Council funding to improve access infrastructure. We will continue to work with business and local communities to ensure that the town centres benefit from growth, with a tailored package of support to help them adapt successfully to a changing world.	Lead the redevelopment of the Taff Vale Site					
		Conclude all site preparation works	Jun-17	Jane Cook	Complete		
		Complete detailed planning process	Jul-17	Jane Cook	Complete		
		Start main construction works	Nov-17 Revised Jan-18	Jane Cook	Complete		
		Secure occupiers	May-19	Jane Cook	On Target		
		Complete development	May-19	Jane Cook	On Target	Main contract now underway and development programme remains on target.	
		Design and gain planning permission for a pedestrian link bridge	May-18	Peter Mortimer	Not on Target	Submission of an application was endorsed by the Ynysangharad War Memorial Park Cabinet on 12th June and a planning application will be submitted over the summer. Revised delivery date August 18.	
		Facilitate and support the redevelopment of Pontypridd YMCA					
		Conclude site preparation works	Jun-17 Revised Oct-17	Peter Mortimer	Complete	Site preparation works were completed during September.	
		Complete procurement process	Jan-18 Revised Jul-18	Peter Mortimer	On Target		
		Commence construction	Mar-18 Revised Sep-18	Peter Mortimer	On Target		
		Support the grant aided redevelopment of the Boot Hotel, Aberdare in line with grant terms, conditions and timescales	Mar-18	Peter Mortimer	Complete	Works progressing on site and grant aided element of works being implemented. Further action on this project forms part of the 2018/19 Delivery Plan.	

Actions that will deliver Priority 1		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
RGNP04	The larger town centres of Aberdare, Llantrisant/Talbot Green, Pontypridd and Treorchy will see significant investment through Welsh Government, private sector and Council funding to improve access infrastructure. We will continue to work with business and local communities to ensure that the town centres benefit from growth, with a tailored package of support to help them adapt successfully to a changing world.	Support the redevelopment of the Bingo Hall in Pontypridd	Jun-17	Peter Mortimer	Complete	
		Submit a Heritage Lottery Fund Bid for a programme of improvements to Llantrisant Town Centre	Dec-17	Peter Mortimer	Target Missed	Following detailed discussions with HLF, it was advised not to proceed with the bid as THI will finish following the December round and insufficient resources remain for new bids.
		Maximise potential opportunities presented by the Building for Future Funding	Nov-17	Peter Mortimer	Complete	
		Develop a Town Centre Loan Fund	Dec-17 Revised Jun-18	Peter Mortimer	On Target	
		Subject to Welsh Government announcement, support and facilitate the development of Business Improvement District (BID) applications.	Sep-17	Peter Mortimer	Not on Target	WG have now relaunched the BID funding scheme with a deadline of end of July 2018. Preparation is being carried out to prepare for an appropriate application.
		Subject to Welsh Government announcement, support and facilitate the development of Town Centre Partnership applications.	Sep-17	Peter Mortimer	Target Missed	Welsh Government has not yet announced their plans for this initiative.
		Complete the Pontypridd Regeneration Framework, a programme of growth and improvement for the area, and present to Cabinet	Sep-17	Peter Mortimer	Complete	
		If approved by Cabinet, identify sources of funding to deliver priority projects within the Pontypridd Regeneration Framework	Mar-18	Peter Mortimer	Complete	This target is complete for 2017/18 but work will continue into future years to maximise opportunities for the town.

Actions that will deliver Priority 1		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
T&CP01	Promote Rhondda Cynon Taf as a Visitor destination	Subject to Cabinet support, launch the new RCT Destination Management Hub and Tourism Association (TA)	Jul-17 Revised Feb-18	Ceri Lloyd	Complete	The TA Committee has been elected; meetings and communication channels for the Committee and wider TA have been established with quarterly meetings and regular communication in place (based on the preferences noted in their membership form). The DMP Hub (North and South) membership has been created with the inaugural meeting taking place in March 2018. Quarterly meetings have been scheduled and regular communication undertaken (based on preferences in membership form).
		Develop a new 3 year Tourism Action plan for RCT	Mar-18 Revised Sep-18	Ceri Lloyd	On Target	Work has begun on auditing the sector following the workshop session at the DMP Hub launch to ascertain views and experiences of tourism businesses in RCT.
		Develop and analyse a focussed marketing campaign that promotes RCT as a visitor destination, including investigating the use of tourism social media platform, and review the success of the campaign	Feb-18 Revised Sep-18	Ceri Lloyd	Complete	Work has begun on auditing the sector following the workshop session at the DMP Hub launch to ascertain views and experiences of tourism businesses in RCT.
		Establish and deliver a programme of events, demonstrating value for money, outcomes for residents and contributions to the local economy	Mar-18	Ian Christopher	Complete	
		Maximise and improve the sponsorship of events within RCT	Ongoing	Ian Christopher	On Target	

Priority 2: Rhondda Cynon Taf's schools will be amongst the best in the country, and with all children achieving the best they can

Our work in this priority is contributing to the seven national Well-being Goals, in particular a Prosperous Wales, a more Equal Wales, a Resilient Wales and a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language.

Improving our schools is key to the **long-term** success of people and communities. Providing the right environment and facilities for learning is vital for equipping our young people with the skills they will need in the future. We continued to deliver our 21st Century schools programme as part of our vision for making every school a great school. We have commenced construction at three new 'through' schools – Porth Community school, Tonyrefail Community School and Ysgol Nant Gwyn in Tonypany – which will open in autumn 2018. More than just focussing on buildings and equipment, the programme aims to build schools with strong leadership and a positive ethos, which are hubs of the local community. Leadership structures are now in place at our new 'through' schools and staff attending bespoke training courses run by the local authority, focussing on the particular challenges and opportunities of all age schools.

In addition to our new schools, an extensive programme of refurbishment is continuing at many of our existing schools. This includes the addition of new and improved facilities to support the new curriculum such as ICT and science areas, and work to improve the school environment and enhance pupil wellbeing, for example toilets with washbasin areas open to the corridor to reduce bullying, and refurbished classrooms. Extension and refurbishment is continuing at Treorchy Comprehensive school to provide improved facilities including a new science block and specialist music facilities. Cymmer Infants school and Cymmer junior school have become the all through Cymmer primary school, with remodelling and refurbishment works underway in the school buildings. A new primary school is currently under construction in Cwmaman on a new school site. The school will also provide facilities for the wider community. The relocation and remodelling of the play area has been completed and is already being well used. Additional facilities will include multi use games areas, grass pitches and a community room. YGG Llwyncelyn and YGG Tonyrefail are undergoing refurbishment of classrooms to a 21st Century standard and extending capacity. Classroom facilities are being improved, ICT and Science areas being remodelled and new modern toilet facilities are being installed at Ferndale Comprehensive. The Tai Centre is being relocated from an old Victorian building into a newer modern building with improved facilities.

We have also submitted proposals for 'Band B' 21st Century school projects, which will use Welsh Government funding to improve facilities in our schools, in particular to improve the condition of school buildings and provide facilities to meet the increased demand for Welsh Medium provision. Our plans have been approved in principle by Welsh Government and we now need to involve parents, teachers, pupils and local communities in developing and delivering these plans.

We are ensuring that our building projects are sustainable for future generations through using sustainable technologies including photovoltaic systems and rainwater harvesting. We are promoting biodiversity by protecting existing habitats where possible and creating new areas for wildlife. For example, we have pond ecosystems at Porth Community School containing newts and a nature area adjacent to Ysgol Nant Gwyn with fungi and natural fauna which is protected.

By collaborating with our partners within the Central South Consortium we benefit from a wider range of resources and expertise. School to school working

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and peer review across the Central South Wales region is continuing to allow schools to learn from each other and share and develop best practice. For example, Darran Park Primary school supported SS Gabriel and Raphael Catholic Primary school in digital competency and Pontypridd High School supported Tonypany Community College in Science. The Headteacher of Cardinal Newman School has acted as a mentor to the new Headteacher at Ferndale school, developing a close working relationship which has worked effectively. In Core Subject meetings, schools are sharing best practice through heads of Mathematics, English and Science discussing the most effective approaches to improving standards e.g. small group work and personalised feedback for students following mock exams. Four Welsh medium schools have secured funding from Central South Consortium and Welsh Government to create their own network and support each other, for example, YGG Cymmer and Garth Olwg working closely together to support 6th form provision. We have also engaged with schools across the wider region to share best practice, for example, several schools in RCT have engaged with a lead practitioner for the Welsh Bacalaureate in a Bridgend school to improve their provision in this area.

Despite evidence of positive progress in a number of schools, it has been difficult to form a balanced judgement on performance due to a significant change in the Key Stage 4 (GCSE level) curriculum and the way schools are assessed on their performance. The new method of calculating the key performance measures suggests a significant decrease in educational performance across RCT, Central South Consortium and Wales. However, using the previous method of calculating key measures, some schools have increased their performance since the previous year and it is evident that some similar schools in the County Borough have outperformed others. Schools are being supported to understand their respective performance and take steps to improve future results.

In academic year 2016/17, 63.2% of pupils achieved the Level 2 threshold (5 GCSEs grade C or above, or equivalent), compared to 67.0% across Wales. 49.8% achieved the L2+ threshold (including English/Welsh and Mathematics). January 2018 results for early entry have shown an improvement in results across Mathematics and English so there is confidence that results will improve in the next academic year as schools gain confidence in teaching the new curriculum. During the 2017/18 academic year to date, 3 Secondary school inspections have taken place, with 2 schools judged as good or excellent and one inspection report yet to be published. In the same period, 8 Primary inspections were carried out, with 7 schools judged as good or excellent.

Enabling children and young people to have high aspirations and to develop to their full potential, not only academically but also socially and emotionally, contributes to the prevention of a wide range of social problems including unemployment and ill health. For example, children growing up in poorer families leave school with lower levels of educational qualifications, which reduces their prospects for employment and could increase the likelihood of disengagement. We continue to challenge schools on the progress of pupils eligible for Free school meals. However, strategic work at Central South Consortium on closing the gap has not progressed as planned due to temporary reduction in capacity and there has been insufficient progress. Many of these issues are deeply entrenched, and we have not made as much difference as we wanted to. The gap between eFSM pupils and their peers has closed at foundation phase, but has widened slightly at the other key stages and remains too high. In academic year 2016/17, only 24.2% of pupils in year 11 entitled to Free school meals achieved the Level 2+ threshold (5 GCSEs A*-C including English or Welsh and Mathematics), compared to 49.8% of all pupils. Although performance cannot be directly compared to previous years, as the definition of the PI has changed significantly, it appears that changes to the way performance is measured have disproportionately impacted on pupils eligible for free school meals, who as a cohort may be more likely to take alternative

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qualifications.

We are continuing to focus on making longterm improvements in this area through a range of strategies, including the development of 'all through' schools to allow schools to more closely follow the progress of vulnerable pupils. We are also developing a more integrated approach to supporting our young people, including supporting them within their families where it is beneficial to do so. We have redesigned the ways in which our services work together to provide support for families, including the introduction of the Resilient Families' Service to support families before they reach crisis point. Our progress in this preventative approach is covered in more detail in our PEOPLE plan.

We have continued to work **collaboratively** with a wide range of other partners, for example, working with South Wales Police and British Transport Police to hold joint truancy patrols during December. These patrols focussed on combating parentally condoned absences that rise during the last weeks of the autumn term in the lead up to Christmas. Parents and young people were provided with information and advice, and where appropriate absences were followed up with schools. The School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP), a collaboration with Health and Welsh Government, was piloted at two schools with a high proportion of eFSM pupils. The project aims to address 'holiday hunger' and social isolation by providing a safe, supervised place for pupils to socialise with one another, receive a nutritious breakfast and lunch and be encouraged to participate in activities that combined sports with Education. Pupils and parents were both positive in their evaluation of the pilot projects and plans are now in place to roll out the programme more widely. More detail on the programme can be found [here](#).

Involvement of our communities is vital in supporting our schools and young people. We are continuing to improve how we communicate with young people so that they are more confident and better able to tell us about the RCT they want in the language of their choice. We have continued to develop the RCT Council Youth Forum, which is now well established with county wide representation. The Youth Forum have identified mental health and anti-bullying as priority issues and supported work to address these, including consulting on the contents of the updated Education anti-bullying policy. The forum are currently working towards creating a video resource to use in schools and youth provisions across RCT to raise awareness of the impact of bullying on mental health in young people. During summer 2017 we engaged with young parents up to the age of 25 to determine what service provision would enable them to continue or re-engage with education, employment or training, helping to shape the curriculum available and support e.g. childcare to enable this to be accessed. We are improving the ways we work with school governors through improving electronic communication so governors have the information they need, and promoting and advertising training. 92.33% of governors have now completed Induction training and 76% of governors completed Data training. Completion of mandatory training is reviewed on a termly basis and non-compliant governors are informed. We continue to encourage individuals with diverse skills to become involved in school governance, for example through attendance at jobs fairs.

Following on from a positive pilot project, the Welsh Medium school sector is now leading on the strategic improvement of the sector and registered early years providers, delivering improvements to the sector so parents and carers can have confidence in choosing to have their child educated in their language of choice. Due to Welsh Government changes, this area will be revisited to ensure improvements remain self sustaining, including ensuring strong links between

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childcare funded by Welsh Government and early years education are established. Schools and communities continue to be closely involved in shaping the facilities and practices within our new schools, although due to delays in Welsh Government, consultation around 'Band B' proposals will now be carried out later in the year.

Draft

Council Priority:	ECONOMY - Building a strong economy
Lead Director:	Chris Bradshaw

Challenges and Opportunities linked to this Council Priority	2 - Rhondda Cynon Taf's schools will be amongst the best in the country, with all children achieving the best they can
Lead Officer	Esther Thomas

Actions that will deliver Priority 2	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action	
EDUP0 1	Improve the quality of leadership in schools, in collaboration with the Central South Consortium (CSC)					
	Continue to work in partnership with schools to raise standards and close the achievement gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers. The focus will be on improving the quality of leadership and teaching through effective school to school support	Evaluate leadership development programmes	Review Mar-18	Bernard Whittingham / Sarah Corcoran	On Target	Programmes have been delivered for heads of Core Subjects (English/Mathematics/Science) due to specific issues around results. Alongside courses delivered by CSC, the local authority have commissioned a leadership programme delivered by INSIGHT, where attendance and anecdotal feedback have been positive. A formal evaluation will be undertaken at the end of the summer term, evaluating progress against leadership standards. Further leadership programmes will be delivered in the new financial year, including continuation of the Rhondda new schools transition group.
		Further explore opportunities for collaboration & new models of leadership including federations & all age schools across the County Borough	Review Mar-18	Esther Thomas	On Target	We continue to explore new leadership models as opportunities arise, for example progressing the proposal to create an 'all through' 3 - 19 school at the Garth Olwg Lifelong Learning Campus.
		Further develop the peer review programme as appropriate	Review Mar-18	Bernard Whittingham / Sarah Corcoran	Complete	Processes and protocols for peer review are in place and will be available on an ongoing basis. Around half of RCT schools have already engaged in the peer review process. No RCT schools have been subject to peer review in the last academic year, but 4 RCT headteachers have led enquiries in other local authority schools.
		Develop a strategy for improvement across Welsh Medium schools and registered early years providers which is led by the sector	Review Mar-18	Tim Britton	Complete	The Welsh medium school sector is now leading this area under the self improving schools model. However, due to Welsh Government changes there will be a need to revisit to ensure it remains self sustaining, ensuring links between the childcare offer and early years education are established.
	Identify reasons for and challenge in school and between school variance in performance, in collaboration with Central South Consortium					
		Review the effectiveness and efficiency of the Challenge and Review framework in supporting schools in inverse proportion to need and adjust accordingly	Review Mar-18	Bernard Whittingham / Sarah Corcoran	On Target	A risk tool is in place for the consistent identification of risks in schools at the earliest opportunity. This allows risks to be identified and trigger support mid-year, including through local authority service meetings. Good communication systems are in place between schools, challenge advisors and local authority services. Categorisation will continue for one more year before national changes to the process.
		Review the target setting policy in line with new performance measures and performance maintaining high expectations at pupil level	Review Mar-18	Bernard Whittingham / Sarah Corcoran	Not on Target	There remains a lack of clarification from Welsh Government on the introduction of new performance measures which has prevented progress in this area. However, targets for existing measures are now in place.

Actions that will deliver Priority 2		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
EDUP0 1 & 02	Continue to work in partnership with schools to raise standards and close the achievement gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers. The focus will be on improving the quality of leadership and teaching through effective school to school support	Intervene swiftly where there is insufficient progress, with clear roles, evidencing impact of action	Review Mar-18	Bernard Whittingham / Sarah Corcoran	On Target	Draft intervention strategy is in use by accelerated progress leads in secondary schools, who have been allocated to 'red' secondary schools to support progress. Provisional data from January shows good improvement from schools where interventions took place, evaluation will be undertaken at the end of the academic year.
		Secure improvement at pace in red and amber support schools, reflecting what works through effective intervention	Review Mar-18	Bernard Whittingham / Sarah Corcoran	On Target	
		Improve the quality and consistency of teacher assessment	Review Mar-18	Tim Britton	Complete	Cluster moderation meetings take place, which are attended by challenge advisors as well as assessment leaders who lead clusters through established process. Documentation from these meetings is robust. In 2019 new draft assessment processes for schools will be announced.
		Continue to further develop regular, timely and high quality school level data and analysis with schools, working with the CSC to become more effective and reduce duplication	Review Mar-18	Catrin Edwards /Bernard Whittingham / Sarah Corcoran	On Target	Data collection and collation regularly updated, however there are national issues with target setting and assessment which need to be addressed by Welsh Government at all key stages.
		Improve the processes supporting recruitment and retention of school governors who have the necessary skills to facilitate improvements to school governance, and improve the methods by which we communicate with governors	Review Mar-18	Non Morgan	On Target	433 governors were appointed/reappointed during the financial year. Vacancies are reviewed and reported on a monthly basis and published on the website, and governor support also attended the jobs fair to promote becoming a governor. Governor Support continues to promote training and review completion of mandatory training. 92% of Governors have completed induction training, and 76% have completed data training. Following feedback received from governors that online systems were too complicated, papers are now sent using pdf documents via email. Following this change there has been a marked improvement in the use of electronic communication. In addition, a new website is currently being designed which will provide a section on good practice and guidance for governors.
		Improve attainment and attendance				
	Further develop effective working links with schools to deliver a streamlined approach to tackling absenteeism		Dec-17	Jessica Allen	Complete	Secondary school attendance strategic task and finish group has been established with schools with most concerning data to assist them with their self evaluation and improvement planning process for year ahead. Process is assisting schools to effectively evaluate their current interventions to determine if they are fit for purpose, review their impact and only take forward practices that are making a difference.

Actions that will deliver Priority 2		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
EDUP0 1 & 02	Continue to work in partnership with schools to raise standards and close the achievement gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers. The focus will be on improving the quality of leadership and teaching through effective school to school support	Collaborative working with wider partners to tackle absenteeism more effectively and consistently across the Central South Wales region.	Mar-18	Jessica Allen	Complete	The restructure of the Attendance and Wellbeing Service to align with the new Resilient Families Service is now complete. The collaboration between Children's Services, Health service, housing service and financial support services is key for families to overcome their barriers in a swift manner, building their resilience in a sustainable way to ensure they can overcome future obstacles that may arise. As a key partner in this process the Attendance and Wellbeing Service see this collaborative multi-agency working having an indirect outcome of improving attendance as other issues are resolved, allowing families to focus on re-engaging with education.
		Review the systems that are currently in place for identifying, tracking and locating pupils referred to as children missing from education (CME)	Mar-18	Jessica Allen	Complete	Review completed and the new process is underway, ensuring all relevant data is captured.
		Raise attainment of vulnerable groups of learners by working in partnership with CSC to establish shared priorities for improvement	Jul-17	Ceri Jones	Complete	Priorities for improvement have been agreed with Central South Consortium and we are now working towards delivering these. Sensory review completed and passed to CSC Directors of Education. Welsh medium ALN provision to be reviewed/scoped across CSC during Autumn/Spring Term
		Adapt the wellbeing data pack for specialist settings	Jul-17	Ceri Jones/Wendy Harding	Complete	
		Develop a wellbeing self-evaluation tool for schools and central services	Jul-17	Gaynor Davies/Ceri Jones	Complete	
		Review effectiveness of EOTAS provision	Jan-18	Ceri Jones	Complete	
		Develop a continuum of professional learning pathways for all school based staff through hub/lead schools linked to the New Deal Pioneer Developments	Review Mar-18	Bernard Whittingham / Sarah Corcoran	Not on Target	Evaluations of hub working and school to school working have improved. Evaluations from CSC are more rigorous and detailed. Due to funding issues, the future for school to school working is currently under review. Welsh Government have now decided all schools will be considered pioneers, with regional cluster working and a lead school. The success of this priority is linked to decision making by WG which is currently under review and beyond the control of the local authority.
		Work with Higher Education to provide classroom based initial teacher training and induction for NQTs	Review Mar-18	Bernard Whittingham / Sarah Corcoran	Complete	Currently being delivered by Central South Consortium
		Identify regional lead schools across the age range who can support the improvement of teaching and learning in RCT, in particular for literacy and numeracy	Review Mar-18	Sue Walker / Bernard Whittingham / Sarah Corcoran	Complete	Hub schools are providing support work and developmental work to all schools across the region in literacy and numeracy and other areas of the curriculum

Actions that will deliver Priority 2		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
EDUP0 2	Continue to work in partnership with schools to raise standards and close the achievement gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers. The focus will be on improving the quality of leadership and teaching through effective school to school support	Evaluate the success of the Welsh Government funded Seren Network to increase the numbers of pupils in RCT accessing the UK's most respected universities	Nov-17	Esther Thomas / Stephen Parry - Jones	Complete	
		Continue to support & develop the RCT MAT programme to provide opportunities and support for high achieving pupils at KS3, KS4 and 5	Review Mar-18	Esther Thomas	On Target	A MAT project working party has been established with a cluster MAT coordinator identified from every school cluster. At a conference attended by all schools in RCT, delegates were trained by NACE (National Association for Able Children in Education), the awarding body for excellence with More Able and Talented pupils. As a result of this training, all schools now have the same understanding of how to identify and support more able children. A website is currently being developed to standardise MAT policies and procedures for all schools and provide case studies and good practice links. From this work we will be able to identify current practice across RCT for all key stages. Work with MAT children is developing well and will be continued in the next academic year.
		Develop MAT programme into KS2	Review Mar-18	Tim Britton	On Target	
		Improve Educational Outcomes for Children Looked After (CLA) - working with Children's Services, rigorously evaluate outcomes for CLA, ensuring effective targeting of resources	Review Mar-18	Ceri Jones	On Target	
		Review and remodel the Children Looked After Education team in collaboration with Children's Services to ensure structure is fit for purpose	Jun-17	Hayley Jeans /Ceri Jones	Complete	
EDUP0 3	Continue to work in partnership with schools to raise standards and close the achievement gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers. The focus will be on improving the quality of leadership and teaching through effective school to school support	Promote the social inclusion and wellbeing of all children and young people				
		Undertake a review of the Restorative Action in Schools (RAIS) project	Jul-17	Gaynor Davies / Ceri Jones	Complete	
		Develop a sustainable model for the future development of restorative approaches	Sep-17 revised Jul-18	Gaynor Davies / Ceri Jones	Complete	Review complete, findings will inform cluster model delivery.

Actions that will deliver Priority 2	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action	
EDUP03	Continue to work in partnership with schools to raise standards and close the achievement gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers. The focus will be on improving the quality of leadership and teaching through effective school to school support	Continue to support and challenge schools to ensure that children and young people are supported to overcome barriers to attendance, engagement and participation in learning.	Mar-18	Jessica Allen/ Claire Hutcheon / Ceri Jones	Complete	Head teachers from five secondary schools, whose data has been the most concerning, have attended challenge and support meetings with the Service Director for Access, Engagement and Inclusion, the Secondary School Improvement Officer and the Head of Attendance and Wellbeing. These meetings have reviewed the schools' Self Evaluation Reports, School Improvement Plans and any supplementary documentation that focuses on improving attendance/tackling absence. Local authority officers have critiqued the documents and offered suggestions for improvement for the next round of SER/SIP documentation, and requested these be brought back in a future review meeting at the end of the summer term 2018 in preparation for the next academic year.
		Review the range of indicators and data sets included in the Vulnerability Profile to ensure they remain fit for purpose and are providing schools with the means to identify those at risk of disengagement and support schools to integrate this data into their planning and evaluation cycles	Mar-18	Claire Hutcheon	Complete	
		Reduce the attendance gap between FSM / non-FSM pupils - Continue to closely monitor the attendance of FSM / non FSM pupils and challenge and support schools to close the gap accordingly	Sep-17	Jessica Allen	Complete	
		Work with Central South Consortium to develop and grow expertise across the region in effective strategies to close the attainment gap for children eligible for FSM and evaluate progress	Review Mar-18	Bernard Whittingham / Sarah Corcoran	Not on Target	Challenge advisors and LA officers are still challenging schools on progress of pupils eligible for FSM as per the national model. However, within Central South Consortium work specific to the strategic lead for closing the gap has not taken place due to long-term absence of lead officer, and there has been insufficient progress. Figures at KS4 for these pupils are on track to achieve targets for RCT but we await summer results for the full picture of progress. Long-term strategies include the introduction of through schools to allow schools to more closely follow the progress of vulnerable pupils. Improving links with family support through Resilient families service should also improve support in this area.
		Reduce the attainment gap between boys and girls - Improve the literacy skills of boys in the Foundation phase, KS2, KS3 and KS4 in collaboration with the Central South Consortium	Review Mar-18	Bernard Whittingham / Sarah Corcoran	On Target	Support being provided to the most vulnerable schools. School specific support programmes have been designed and delivered according to needs of individual schools. Heads of English from secondary schools have come together during their leadership programme and are sharing good practice and upskilling. However, this still remains an area of concern with ongoing review.

Actions that will deliver Priority 2		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
EDUP0 4	Continue to invest in improving school buildings and facilities, to ensure the County Borough's pupils have the learning environment fit for the 21st Century	Complete delivery of 'Band A' 21st Century schools projects:				
		Extension and refurbishment of Treorchy Comprehensive School	Sep-18	Andrea Richards	On Target	Construction work is underway and is on programme for completion by target dates
		Creation of a 3-16 School for Tonypandy	Sep-18	Andrea Richards	On Target	
		Creation of a 3-19 School for Tonyrefail	Sep-18	Andrea Richards	Not on Target	The primary element of the build is on target, however delays have been experienced with CADW approval of critical elements of the refurbishment of the listed building. The weather has also hampered progress on the new middle school building . The Contractor and the Council's project managers are working together to mitigate time delays within the construction programme and a revised construction project completion date is being worked on.
		Creation of a 3-16 School for Porth	Sep-18	Andrea Richards	On Target	Construction work is underway and is on programme for completion at agreed dates.
		New Primary School for Cwmaman	Sep-18	Andrea Richards	On Target	Project currently ahead of target
		Completion of new 'all through' primary school in Cymmer	Aug-18	Andrea Richards	On Target	Work is well underway and is on programme for completion on the specified dates.
		Remaining Band A Rhondda Schools (YGG Llwyncelyn extended capacity, YGG Tonyrefail relocation, refurbishment/upgrade of Ferndale Comprehensive and relocation of Tai Centre)	Sep-18	Andrea Richards	On Target	Programmes of work are currently being agreed with the schools involved, tenders for the work have been prepared with a view to ensuring all work is completed in readiness for the start of the new academic year in September 2018.
		Establish transitional 5 months delegated budgets for the Band A schools.	Mar-18	Catrin Edwards / Steph Davies	Complete	
		Establish delegated budgets for the 3 new Middle schools, 1 new English Primary and 2 extended / relocated Welsh Medium Primary Schools.	Sep-18	Catrin Edwards / Steph Davies	Complete	
		Disestablish existing schools and move into new schools	Sep-18	Andrea Richards / Julie Hadley	On Target	Work to ensure the smooth transfer to the new buildings and the closure of the former schools will continue during the summer term, with the aim of completion during August 2018.
		Support new schools to produce staffing structures	Sep-18	Andrea Richards / Julie Hadley	On Target	This work is now almost complete. School have made the majority of appointments to their new structures and this work will be completed shortly after the start of the summer term.
		Establish permanent governing bodies for all new schools	Sep-18	Andrea Richards / Julie Hadley	On Target	Work commencing in the summer term for completion by September 18.
		Delivery of new sustainable transition arrangements with all associated schools	Sep-18	BW / SW /SC / AR / JH	On Target	Schools working within and between clusters to develop sustainable transition arrangements.
		Begin planning for potential 'Band B' 21st Century schools projects, dependent on Welsh Government funding				
	Submission of 'Band B' school organisation programme to Welsh Government	Jul-17	Andrea Richards	Complete	Approval in principle granted by Welsh Government.	

Actions that will deliver Priority 2	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action	
EDUP0 4	Continue to invest in improving school buildings and facilities, to ensure the County Borough's pupils have the learning environment fit for the 21st Century	Produce Business cases for Band B programme	Apr-18	Andrea Richards/Julie Hadley	Target Missed	Programming in place, currently awaiting advice from Welsh Government on MIM Business Case format which has delayed progress. All relevant staff involved in preparation of business cases undertook specific training and exams in April 2018.
		Produce school statutory proposal documentation	Apr-18	Andrea Richards/Julie Hadley	Target Missed	Documentation and data currently being compiled and draft documents currently being worked on. Due to national delays, consultation will now take place during autumn 2018. Revised delivery date October 2018.
	Deliver additional improvements outside the 21st Century schools programme:					
		Improve pupil school admissions and in-year transfers by continuing to increase the number of online applications and monitoring and challenging in year transfers, helping to prevent disruption to pupils' education	Dec-17	Catrin Edwards	Complete	
		Carry out a strategic review of special school provision to ensure provision is fit for purpose	Jul-17	Gaynor Davies / Ceri Jones	Complete	Initial review of special schools undertaken and as a result of this a wider review of specialist provision will now be undertaken. Partnership working continues with Coleg y Cymoedd to develop Post 16 provision at Maesgwyn Special School and a scoping exercise is planned to review EOTAS provision.
		Deliver the school modernisation programme to improve the condition of existing school buildings	Mar-18	Andrea Richards	Complete	All works identified in the 2017/18 capital programme have been completed. Work on the 2018/19 programme commenced Easter 2018.
		Continue to modernise the delivery of school meals by removing dining centres at 3 further schools	Mar-18	Andrea Richards	Complete	
		Introduce a new Service Level Agreement (SLA) for all secondary schools to modernise secondary school meal provision	Mar-18	Andrea Richards	Complete	

Priority 3: There will be a broad offer of skills and employment programmes for all ages

Our work in this priority is contributing to the seven national Well-being Goals, in particular a Prosperous Wales, A more equal Wales and a Wales of cohesive communities.

Unemployment adversely affects mental and physical wellbeing and is one of the most significant causes of poverty. We have developed a range of skills and employment programmes to prevent disengagement and unemployment and the associated negative outcomes.

Changes in working practices mean people must now be more flexible, continue to learn throughout their career and adapt to changing technologies. We are helping people to think in a long-term way about their careers and development, so we can grow a skilled workforce to meet the future needs of our area. To provide young people with the most relevant and useful information to make decisions about their futures, we are collaborating with a variety of partners including local universities, colleges, employers and industry representatives. We delivered our Careers and the Working World programme in 14 secondary schools, providing young people with greater knowledge of job growth sectors in the area such as energy and the environment and advanced materials and manufacturing, to raise their awareness of fields where there may be increasing opportunities.

Involving young people in the development of employment programmes is vital so that they feel supported in making the right decisions for their future. We have engaged and worked with people to tailor our job programmes to their specific interests and skills. For example, as part of our Step in the Right direction traineeship for young people leaving care, we work with young people to identify their interests and aptitudes and provide a bespoke series of placements within the Council to help them develop their careers.

Our work in this area is closely **integrated** with our other priorities, as providing a suitably skilled workforce is closely connected to economic development. We have provided support to adults and young people of all ages to help them improve their skills and access employment opportunities through the RCT Employment pathway, which pulls together a range of funding streams to ensure that people of all ages and abilities across RCT are able to access a range of complementary programmes to support their needs. The Employment pathway supports people at every stage, from those needing support with essential skills to people who are 'job ready' and need support to access work placements. The well established links with employers continue to provide opportunities for people to gain sector specific qualifications suitable for jobs which are available locally, and for employers to benefit from suitably skilled applicants for job vacancies.

Through Communities First we supported people to gain 1,242 qualifications with 413 entering employment. Communities 4 Work supported 485 adults and 304 young people with 47 adults and 49 young people gaining employment. This figure is expected to rise as we receive further confirmations of the employment status of participants. You can see the impact of the Employment Pathway in the linked Case Study.

We have also supported 214 young people aged 16 – 24 who are currently not in Education, Employment or Training to access training and learning

Priority 3: There will be a broad offer of skills and employment programmes for all ages

opportunities through our Inspire2work programme, **preventing** them from entering longterm unemployment. Although a delay in WG funding and project delivery affected the impact of the programme, in 2017/18 Inspire2work helped 97 people (45% of participants) gain qualifications, 24 people (11%) gain employment and 9 (4%) enter education. We are still working with a number of the young people and expect these outcomes to increase next year. You can see the impact of the programme on individuals in the linked [Case study](#). The number of young people leaving school and not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) indicates that there has been a further reduction in the overall NEET rate across years 11, 12 and 13 to just 1.4% (73 young people). Although the rate for year 11 has increased slightly (from 1% to 1.1%) there has been significant reductions in both years 12 and 13 reducing from 2.3% to 0.8% for year 12 and 4.1% to 2.6% for year 13.

Removing barriers to people entering or staying in work is another important part of our prevention work. In partnership with Welsh Government, we have provided 30 hours per week of free childcare for eligible 3 and 4 year olds in 2 pilot areas to support working families and encourage non-working parents into employment. During 2017/18, 316 applications were received from parents, with 301 eligible to participate in the scheme, 8 awaiting more information, 5 children currently too young to take part and 2 did not meet the criteria. 99 childcare providers signed up to deliver care through the scheme, with 38 going on to submit claims for eligible children. Work has been undertaken to improve the information available to parents and further expansion of the scheme across the whole of Rhondda Cynon Taf is planned.

We also take advantage of opportunities which arise as part of the Council's own service delivery to create opportunities for training and employment for local people, particularly those who face barriers to employment. For example, we have provided 81 job opportunities and 31 apprenticeships through our 21st Century schools building projects at Porth, Tonypany and Treorchy. These schemes have also provided over 580 weeks of training to their apprentices, graduates and students undertaking placements and work experience. Scheme contractors have supported schools in science and technology subjects, engaging with 1,421 pupils over 320 hours, including sessions on career opportunities in the construction industry, as shown in the [Case study](#). Further training and employment opportunities provided by other 21st Century schemes have delivered additional work and training opportunities. We have also supported children who have been looked after to develop their skills and career aims by providing them with the chance to undertake work placements and training programmes within some of our services. In addition, 33 apprentices, 12 graduates and 5 trainees were employed by various Council services, and the Council also hosted 4 internships for University students.

Council Priority:	ECONOMY - Building a strong economy
Lead Director:	Chris Bradshaw

Challenges and Opportunities linked to this Council Priority	3 - There will be a broad offer of skills and employment programmes for all ages
Lead Officer	Esther Thomas/Deborah Hughes

Actions that will deliver Priority 3		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
EDUP 03	Deliver the 'Inspire 2 Work' European Social Fund Programme in RCT, aligning with existing arrangements to support vulnerable and hard to reach young people into work	Ensure the effective targeting of European Social Fund (ESF) 'Inspire to Work' programme	Mar-18	Complete	214 young people have engaged with Inspire2work during 2017/18. 24 participants (11%) have secured employment; 9 participants (4%) have returned to education; 97 participants (45%) have gained qualifications and a further 27 qualifications have been completed and are awaiting verification
		Extend the engagement of young people in education, employment and training post 16 by reducing the numbers of young people in Tiers 2 and 3 by moving them into Tier 4 or 5	Mar-18	Complete	
		To ensure that young people enrolled onto the Inspire 2 Work have access to a wide range of training and learning opportunities	Review Mar-18	On Target	Delivery of Inspire 2 Work will continue in the next financial year.
		Provide tailored support for Children Looked After and Young People with care and support needs through the 'Inspire to Work' programme	Mar-18	Complete	
EDUP 03	Deliver a single employability pathway for over 25s throughout Rhondda Cynon Taf	Deliver a pre-employability programme designed to enhance the skills of people who are unemployed or economically inactive.	Review Mar-18	On Target	397 participants attended a course, 157 sessions of delivery, in total 1,019 qualifications were gained. A review has been undertaken and additional provision in the form of digital skills training will be added to the provision post April 2018 to address learners' needs.
		Continue to work with employers to develop bespoke employability training for people who are unemployed or economically inactive under the Employment Routes Programme.	Review Mar-18	On Target	Achievements in 2017/18 are as follows: 584 participants signed up and assessed; 464 engaged in training; 391 people gained a qualification with 693 qualifications gained in total; 61 gained a work placement and 205 gained paid employment. There are some additional outcomes that will be added to these once the documentary evidence has been received from employers and accreditation verified. Funding has been allocated to continue the programme into 2018/19.
		Provide opportunities for people who are unemployed or economically inactive to gain work placements.	Review Mar-18	On Target	
		Provide opportunities for people who are unemployed or economically inactive to gain qualifications.	Review Mar-18	On Target	

Actions that will deliver Priority 3		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
EDUP 03 HRP03	To deliver a range of projects that provide high quality career advice, work experience and job outcomes to support the worklessness agenda.	Extend the engagement of young people in education, employment and training post 16 by locating young people identified as Tier 1 (unknown to services) by Careers Wales	Mar-18	Complete	
		To implement a range of programmes such as apprenticeship schemes, traineeship and graduate programme.	Sep-17	Complete	33 Apprentices, 12 Graduates and 5 Trainees started with the Council in September 2017.
		To implement work experience opportunities to develop work skills in line with national initiatives such as Get Britain Working.	Sep-17	Complete	The Council continues to provide work experience opportunities for Young People, students and job seekers.
		To work in partnership with Universities providing 6-8 week placement opportunities for students	Mar-17	Complete	Interview process for the next set of placements will commence in October with a start date in January 2018.
		Deliver a range of employability programmes to young people informing them about areas of growth, skills and qualities required for sustainable employment	Mar-18	Complete	Complete for 2017/18. Planning meetings arranged with all 17 secondary schools for delivery in Sep-18
		Provide an up to date Health & Safety vetting work experience database.	Ongoing	Complete	Complete for 2017/18
EDUP 03	To deliver a range of projects that provide high quality career advice, work experience and job outcomes to support the worklessness agenda.	To work in partnership with Welsh Government to implement their 30 hour education/childcare offer for eligible 3 and 4 year olds to support working families and encourage non-working parents into employment	Sep-17 onwards	On Target	316 applications have been received (as at 31st March) and all of these have been processed. 301 are eligible to participate; 8 are awaiting further information, 5 are not yet eligible (too young) and 2 did not meet the criteria. 99 childcare providers have signed up to participate in the scheme, with 38 submitting monthly claims for eligible children. The parent section of the website has been further updated to help users find specific information more easily. Further expansion of the scheme to other areas in Rhondda Cynon Taf will be included in the Financial Plan 2018/19
		Provide opportunities for disadvantaged young people to gain experience and qualifications working within RCT Catering services	Sep-17	Complete	

Actions that will deliver Priority 3		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action	
CPSP0 1	To deliver the European funded Communities For Work (CfW) programme to improve the long term prospects of families.	Embed the Communities for Work programme within the Communities and prosperity service.	Oct-17	Complete		
		Deliver the Communities for Work Programme to achieve the targets agreed with Welsh Government	Ongoing	On Target	At Q4 2017/18, 47 adults and 49 young people have gained employment following engagement with the Communities for Work programme.	
EDUP 03	Deliver a range of employment and development opportunities through our 21st Century schools programme	Provide a range of apprenticeship opportunities as part of construction projects in our 'Band A' 21st schools programme	Mar-18	Complete	further opportunities for local labour and apprenticeship programmes are continuing and more young people have had further work based experience. This includes 81 job opportunities and 31 apprenticeships through our 21st Century schools projects at Porth, Tonypany and Treorchy, which also provided over 580 weeks of training and work placements.	
		Provide opportunities for employment for local people who are long-term unemployed as part of construction projects in our 'Band A' 21st Century schools programme	Mar-18	Complete		
		Deliver Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) based projects at schools in collaboration with contractors	Ongoing	On Target		Contractors are continuing to provide workshops for school pupils, including specific ones aimed at girls, to encourage them to consider STEM subject options.
		Ensure a range of apprenticeship, training and employment opportunities for local people are provided as part of our 'Band B' 21st Century schools programme	from March 18	On Target		

ECONOMY - *Building a strong Economy*

Priority 1: How regenerating our communities, building new houses and creating job opportunities reflects the Sustainable Development principles

Our **ECONOMY** plan is focussed on projects which will enhance the **long term** prospects for the County Borough, such as the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal and development of five strategic areas which will benefit from the City deal improvements, including the wider Pontypridd area and A4119 corridor.

Economic regeneration has a positive influence in **preventing** a wide variety of problems and supporting individual well-being. Development in our key strategic sites and improved transport links will provide more employment opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities so that they can achieve their aspirations and help to keep them and their families out of poverty. Redevelopment of key sites such as Taff Vale will revitalise neglected areas and bring people into our town centres, making them vibrant and attractive places to visit and helping to reduce related antisocial behaviour. The City Deal approach will strategically develop infrastructure to prevent bottlenecks in transport and mismatch in housing supply and demand created by population growth, which will stifle economic growth. Increasing affordable housing will help prevent homelessness and also the wide variety of health and social issues arising from unsuitable housing.

We recognise that our vision for Rhondda Cynon Taf is closely linked to the prosperity and success of the wider South Wales region. We are **collaborating** with other South Wales Councils, businesses and higher education providers in different ways to deliver economic growth for the region. By **collaborating** with partners towards these shared goals, jointly making decisions and pooling resources we are better able to deliver an **integrated** approach, which avoids duplication and allows partners to develop complementary approaches for business and skills development which in turn will promote the success of the areas. Through involvement with strategic approaches including the Valleys taskforce we can promote schemes which will have the most impact regionally and ensure that resources are targeted where they will deliver maximum benefits.

Involvement of stakeholders and our residents is vital in ensuring that our regeneration projects deliver the best possible outcomes. We will be continuing to work with local businesses, education institutions, training providers, individuals and communities to shape and support projects for the benefit of everyone. This involvement ranges from informing strategic priorities such as the City Deal to local issues like the redevelopment of Guto Square in Mountain Ash and the Robertstown site in Aberdare.

Our plan to **Build a Strong Economy** is closely linked with the way we will deliver our other well-being objectives. For example, delivery of high quality strategic housing developments and reduction in empty properties improves housing options available to families and the appearance and vibrancy of local neighbourhoods, linking with 'Place' creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work and 'People' by improving living conditions which can impact on health and wellbeing.

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ECONOMY - Building a strong economy
Priority 1 - Residents will see a responsible approach to regeneration, with new homes being built and job opportunities created

Actions that will deliver Priority 1	Ref	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer
Actively engage with other South East Wales Councils over the next 10 years to maximise the benefits to the region and the residents of RCT of the new Capital Region City Deal (CCRCD)	RGNP1A01M01	Develop and support the City Deal programme, projects and delivery: Participate in, and influence, the City Deal Programme Board	Ongoing	Jane Cook
		Lead the City Deal Housing theme		
	RGNP1A02M02	Co-ordinate with other CCRCD workstreams	Ongoing	Jane Cook
	RGNP1A02M03	Work with Welsh Government to ensure that housing programmes and initiatives align	Ongoing	Jane Cook
	RGNP1A02M04	Work with public, private and 3rd Sector housing providers to increase the delivery, quality and range of housing	Ongoing	Jane Cook
		Develop and support the regional Targeted Regeneration and Investment programme; project and delivery.		
	RGNP1A03M01	Participate in, and influence, the South East Wales Targeted Regeneration Investment programme and ensure alignment with other funding streams	Ongoing	Derek James
	RGNP1A03M02	Develop and deliver a programme of interventions.	Ongoing	Derek James
		Develop and support the Valley's Taskforce programme; projects and delivery.		
	RGNP1A04M02	Develop and deliver a programme of interventions.	Ongoing	Derek James
		Ensure that the Service is prepared to positively respond to the evolving regional planning position and also continues to develop local strategies and promote development.		
	RGNP2A01M03	Gather evidence to monitor housing delivery in RCT and submit as part of the JHLAS	Jun-18	Simon Gale
	RGNP2A01M04	Gain delegated approval and submit the LDP Annual Monitoring report to Welsh Government	Oct-18	Simon Gale
	RGNP2A01M05	Continue to promote the development of allocated employment sites and monitor all operational employment sites within the County Borough and produce an annual survey report to ensure our evidence base is up to date	Oct-18	Simon Gale

Actions that will deliver Priority 1		Ref	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer
Lead and facilitate the delivery of strategies for key strategic opportunity areas within Rhondda Cynon Taf: Llanilid on the M4: Driving the Regional Economy	RGNP5A01M01	Agree strategy with Welsh Government and adjoining Local Authorities in Bridgend and Vale of Glamorgan to maximise the investment potential of the strategic site of Llanilid and VoG sites.	Mar-19	Derek James	
	RGNP5A01M02	Facilitate the establishment of a masterplan for the site by development partners.	Mar-19	Derek James	
Lead and facilitate the delivery of strategies for key strategic opportunity areas within Rhondda Cynon Taf: Cynon Gateway – Energising the Region.	RGNP5A04M01	Explore development options for the redevelopment of the Tower Colliery site, Hirwaun	Mar-19	Derek James	
	RGNP5A05	Develop an environmental Improvement Programme to enable improvements to the Hirwaun Industrial Estate, agreeing an improvement plan with the majority landowner and contribution agreement	Dec-18	Derek James	
Lead and facilitate the delivery of strategies for key strategic opportunity areas within Rhondda Cynon Taf: Wider Pontypridd, Treforest – Edge of the City, Heart of the Region.	Develop deliverable proposals for the Treforest Regional Business Hub				
	RGNP5A06M01	Agree options for development	Jun-18	Derek James	
	RGNP5A06M02	Complete project delivery plan and programme	Dec-18	Derek James	
	RGNP5A06M03	Begin detailed project delivery and delivery programme	Mar-19	Derek James	
	Develop deliverable proposals for the Treforest 21st century business premises Programme				
	RGNP5A07M01	Agree options for development	Jun-18	Derek James	
	RGNP5A07M02	Complete project delivery plan and programme	Dec-18	Derek James	
	RGNP5A07M03	Begin detailed project delivery and delivery programme	Mar-19	Derek James	

Actions that will deliver Priority 1		Ref	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer
Lead and facilitate the delivery of strategies for key strategic opportunity areas within Rhondda Cynon Taf: A4119 Corridor: Regional Rhondda Gateway.			Deliver a development of light industrial business units at the former Coedely Colliery site		
		RGNP4A10M01	Secure planning approval and other statutory requirements.	Dec-18	Derek James
		RGNP4A10M02	M&E plan be completed	Dec-18	Derek James
		RGNP4A10M03	Completion of process to confirm match funding package	Jan-19	Derek James
		RGNP4A10M04	Completion of procurement of construction contractor	Mar-19	Derek James
Lead and facilitate the delivery of strategies for key strategic opportunity areas within Rhondda Cynon Taf: Metro scheme			Scope development proposals for regeneration in Porth town centre linked to metro developments		
		RGNP5A12M01	Agree options for development	Sep-18	Derek James
		RGNP5A12M02	Complete project delivery plan and programme	Dec-18	Derek James

Actions that will deliver Priority 1		Ref	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer
Support the redevelopment of Pontypridd Town – Pivotal to the Region.	RGNP4A07	Facilitate and support the redevelopment of Pontypridd YMCA through completion of the procurement process and commencement of on site construction	Sep-18	Derek James	
	Lead the redevelopment of the Taff Vale site				
	RGNP4A05M02	Commence main construction contract	Mar-18	Jane Cook	
	LPBP3A02M01	Complete fitness studio and gym designs.	Jun-18	Keith Nicholls	
	LPBP3A02M02	Procure fitness equipment for studio and gym.	Mar-19	Keith Nicholls	
	Develop deliverable proposals for pedestrian link bridge				
	RGNP4A06M01	Gain Planning Permission.	Dec-18	Jane Cook	
	RGNP4A06M02	Secure funding.	Dec-18	Jane Cook	
	RGNP4A06M03	Subject to M01 and M02, begin construction on site	May-19	Jane Cook	
Increase the scale of empty properties being brought back into use	RGNP3A09M01	Launch Empty Property Strategy 2018-2021 which will provide a framework for all empty property activity in the County Borough	Jun-18	Derek James / Jennifer Ellis	
	RGNP3A09M02	Establish Empty Property Steering Group	Jun-18	Derek James / Jennifer Ellis	
	RGNP5A16	Research in targeted communities to understand why there are a high number of empty properties and identify solutions.	Sep-18	Derek James / Jennifer Ellis	

Actions that will deliver Priority 1		Ref	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer
Continue to work with businesses and local communities to ensure that the town centres benefit from growth	RGNP4A02M01	Facilitate and support the redevelopment of the former Boot hotel, Aberdare, offering support and advice to completion of the project	Sep-18	Derek James	
	RGNP4A03M01	Support the development of light industrial business units at the Robertstown, Aberdare site: Secure planning approval and other statutory requirements and complete M&E plan.	Dec-18	Derek James	
	RGNP4A03M03	Completion of process to confirm match funding package	Dec-18	Derek James	
	RGNP4A03M04	Completion of procurement of construction contractor	Mar-19	Derek James	
	RGNP5A02M01	Support and facilitate the redevelopment of the former Black Lion Hotel and Exchange Buildings, Aberdare: Gain planning approval and other statutory requirements	Mar-18	Derek James	
	RGNP5A02M02	Support project development and programme	Ongoing	Derek James	
	RGNP5A02M03	Begin delivery of construction on site	Jul-18	Derek James	
	RGNP5A14M02	Manage the delivery of the Redevelopment of Guto Square, Mountain Ash: Submit Cabinet Report seeking approval to proceed with agreed scheme, submit full planning application and exercise powers for Compulsory Purchase Order (if required)	Nov-18	Derek James	
	RGNP5A14M03	Obtain detailed design and associated cost for agreed scheme and agree delivery programme	Sep-18	Derek James	

Actions that will deliver Priority 1		Ref	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer
Promote Rhondda Cynon Taf as a visitor destination	LPBP3A05M01	Develop a business plan for a regional training centre at Pontypridd Lido delivering to the Leisure market.	Mar-19	Chris Richards Brent Bennett	
	LPBP3A06M01	Gain Museum of Wales accreditation at Rhondda Heritage Park	Sep-18	Chris Richards Sara Brown	
	LPBP3A06M02	Develop a Heritage events programme designed to increase community engagement.	Mar-19	Chris Richards Sara Brown	
	ART1A01M01	Identify and secure funding to implement capital improvements to the Park and Dare Theatre as part of the continuation of the Resilience programme	Dec-18	Adrian Williams	
	ART1A02	Improve our understanding of theatre attendees and non-attendees through utilising the MOSAIC system	Mar-19	Adrian Williams/Angela Gould	
	TEVP1A03M05	Work with the new DMP Hub Committees to develop a 3 year Destination Management Partnership Action Plan for RCT which will set out the priorities for the destination.	Feb-19	Ian Christopher Rubeca Williams	
	TEVP2A02	Develop a focussed marketing campaign that promotes RCT as a visitor destination to areas that are proven to be 'warm' to the county borough (SE England, SW England, Midlands) and review the effectiveness of the campaigns	Aug-18	Ian Christopher Claire Davies	
	TEVP3A02	Develop interactive walking trails with partners, to exploit the natural beauty of RCT.	Sep-18	Ian Christopher Ceri Lloyd	

ECONOMY - Building a strong economy

Measures to support Priority 1 - Residents will see a responsible approach to regeneration, with new homes being built and job opportunities created...

PI Ref	PI Description	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16		2016/17			2017/18		2018/19				
		RCT Actual	RCT Actual	Target	RCT Actual	Target	RCT Actual	All Wales Average	Target	RCT Actual	Proposed Target	How does the proposed 2018/19 target compare 2016/17 Welsh Average	How does the proposed 2018/19 target compare to 2017/18 Data	How does the proposed 2018/19 target compare to 2017/18 Target	
LPSR103	No of new affordable homes delivered	91	127	100	114	200	241	N/A	200	226	130	N/A	Worse	Worse	
LRGN014a	% vacant retail premises in town centres - Porth	15.0	14.0	N/A	10.8	A decrease would reflect positive performance	14.0	13%	A decrease would reflect positive performance	7.0	A decrease would reflect positive performance	N/A	Better	Better	
LRGN014b	% vacant retail premises in town centres - Pontypridd	9.0	9.0	N/A	8.7		8.8			12.0					
LRGN014c	% vacant retail premises in town centres - Aberdare	10.0	9.0	N/A	9.0		10.4			14.0					
LRGN014d	% vacant retail premises in town centres - Treorchy	4.0	7.0	N/A	9.0		5.8			7.0					
LRGN015a	Footfall - Average weekly number of visitors to Pontypridd	53,554	63,909	N/A	63,992	An increase would reflect positive performance	64,647	N/A	An increase would reflect positive performance	63,234	64,324	N/A	Better	Better	
LRGN015b	Footfall - Average weekly number of visitors to Aberdare	20,609	19,906	N/A	19,204		23,465			23,135					27,624
LRGN015c	Footfall - Average weekly number of visitors to Porth	12,006	11,373	N/A	11,184		11,037			9,407					8,742
LRGN015d	Footfall - Average weekly number of visitors to Treorchy	17,637	17,510	N/A	16,379		15,516			15,135					16,805
LRGN019	No. of additional housing units provided during the year	534	553	N/A	569	600	716	N/A	600	552	TBC	N/A	N/A	N/A	

PI Ref	PI Description	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16		2016/17			2017/18		2018/19			
		RCT Actual	RCT Actual	Target	RCT Actual	Target	RCT Actual	All Wales Average	Target	RCT Actual	Proposed Target	How does the proposed 2018/19 target compare to most recent Welsh Average	How does the proposed 2018/19 target compare to 2017/18 Data	How does the proposed 2018/19 target compare to 2017/18 Target
LRGN016	The stock of registered enterprises/businesses in the Borough	5,030	5,210	N/A	5,485	An increase would reflect positive performance	5,745	N/A	An increase would reflect positive performance	6,355*	An increase would reflect positive performance	N/A	Better	Better
LRGN017	The rate of registered enterprises/business births (start ups)	10.0 (505)	15.1 (785)	N/A	14.4 (790)		16.1 (925)	12.1		19.5* (1,240)		Better	Better	Better
LRGN018	The rate of registered enterprises/business deaths (closures)	10.9 (550)	9.1 (475)	N/A	10.9 (600)	A decrease would reflect positive performance	10.4 (600)	11.7 (670)	A decrease would reflect positive performance	10.9* (690)	A decrease would reflect positive performance	Better	Better	Better
PAM013N LPSR101	Total number of empty properties brought back into use per annum	94	114	N/A	144		138	N/A	190	204	190	N/A	Worse	Same
LPSR102	Total number of interventions aimed at bringing long terms empty properties back into use.	211	254	N/A	324		536	N/A	400	356	400	N/A	Better	Same
PSR004	% Private sector dwellings that had been vacant for more than 6 months at 1 st April that were returned to occupation during the year	3.05	3.37	3.50	5.17		4.90	8.79	5.50	5.74	5.5	Worse	Worse	Same
LRGN021	Number of direct jobs created and safeguarded in businesses supported through grant programmes.	86	New	New	New	New	New	N/A	100	62	60	N/A	Worse	Worse
LRGN009	No. of businesses/ organisations supported through grant support programmes	108	82	60	73	115	114	N/A	90	75	75	N/A	Same	Worse

Key:

Existing Corporate Plan high level measure

ECONOMY - *Building a strong Economy*

Priority 2: How making RCT schools amongst the best in Wales with children achieving the best they can reflects the Sustainable Development principles

Improving our schools is key to the **long-term** success of the people and communities. Providing the right environment and facilities for learning is vital for equipping our young people with the skills they will need in the future. We will continue to deliver our 21st Century schools programme as part of our vision for making every school a great school, including delivering 3 new 'through' schools. More than just focussing on buildings and equipment, the programme aims to build schools with strong leadership and a positive ethos which are hubs of the local community. We will also ensure that our building projects are sustainable for future generations through using sustainable technologies including photovoltaic systems and rainwater harvesting. We will respect the natural environment and promote biodiversity by protecting existing habitats where possible and creating new areas for wildlife. For example, we have pond ecosystems at Porth 3-16 school containing newts and a nature area adjacent to Tonypandy 3- 16 school with fungi and natural fauna which is protected.

Enabling children and young people to have high aspirations and to develop to their full potential, not only academically but also socially and emotionally, will contribute to the **prevention** of a wide range of social problems including unemployment and ill health. For example, children growing up in poorer families leave school with lower levels of educational qualifications, which reduces their prospects for employment and could increase the likelihood of disengagement. By closing the attainment gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers, we can reduce the impact of poverty on young people's life chances.

By **collaborating** with our partners within the Central South Consortium we can benefit from a wider range of resources and expertise. School to school working and peer review across the Central South Wales region will continue to allow schools to learn from each other and share and develop best practice. We will also work with a wide range of other partners, for example with Welsh Government and local Health Board to deliver the School Holiday Enrichment programme, to reduce 'holiday hunger' by providing nutritious meals, cookery lessons and other activities for pupils entitled to Free School Meals.

An **integrated** approach to supporting our young people is key to safeguarding their longer term well-being. Our work with schools will also support our **People** plan priority that ***Children and young people receiving a great start in life***. We will use vulnerability profiling to identify those children at risk of disengagement and work with our more vulnerable children to build resilience to help them cope with adverse life experiences. Rather than only working with young people in isolation, where it is beneficial to do so we will look at supporting them in the context of their wider family through our resilient families programme.

Involvement of our communities is vital in supporting our schools and young people. We need to improve how we communicate with young people so that they are more confident and better able to tell us about the RCT they want in the language of their choice. We will consult and work closely with schools and communities in shaping proposals for the next phase of 21st Century schools projects, including expanding Welsh Medium places to allow more families to have their children educated in their language of choice. We will also collect feedback from our schools and other stakeholders on the effectiveness of local authority support through a perception survey to help us improve and shape our services.

ECONOMY - Building a strong economy**Priority 2 - Rhondda Cynon Taf's schools will be amongst the best in the country, with all children achieving the best they can**

Actions that will deliver Priority 2		Ref	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer
Further develop Leadership, Management and Governance in our schools to improve outcomes	EDUP1A01M03	Continue to challenge under-performance, tackle ineffective leadership and use the LA's statutory powers of intervention where needed	Review Mar 19	Gaynor Davies / Bernard Whittingham	
	EDUP1A02M01	Identify and use the skills of high performing individuals to be drawn on at relevant levels in schools in RCT to build our capacity to improve (OTP/leadership programmes / school to school support)	Review Mar 19	Bernard Whittingham	
	EDUP1A04	Further develop leadership capacity in our schools	Review Mar 19	Bernard Whittingham	
	EDUP1A02M03	Achieve improved performance in English/Welsh, mathematics and science by supporting schools to target pupils readiness to learn, particularly focussing on vulnerable groups (eFSM) and boys where there is evidence of a significant gender gap	Review Mar 19	Bernard Whittingham	
	EDUP1A05	Work in partnership with schools to support the development of pupil transition across the 3 school clusters in the Rhondda Valleys and Tonyrefail, by continuing to develop cluster based projects for improved transition and developing curriculum cohesion between schools	Review Mar 19	Bernard Whittingham	
	EDUP1A06	Implement the new Governance regulations	Mar-19	Non Morgan	
Strengthen the links between improvement and wellbeing services to improve outcomes	EDUP1A03	Develop and strengthen the relationship with Regional local authorities and Central South Consortium Challenge Advisors to bring school improvement and wellbeing services together in a mutually supportive way in order to raise standards, reduce exclusions and improve attendance	Review Mar 19	Gaynor Davies / Bernard Whittingham	

Actions that will deliver Priority 2	Ref	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer
Develop Strong and Inclusive Schools committed to excellence, equity and wellbeing		Work collaboratively with Headteachers to develop strategic approaches to reducing exclusions and improving attendance		
	EDUP2A01M01	Review central Behaviour Support Service delivery models to be more consultative and strategic in focus, building capacity in schools through high quality training so that schools can strengthen their graduated response and improve whole school approaches to managing behaviour	Sep-18	Kate Hill
	EDUP2A01M02	Develop a managed moves policy and fair access protocol and evaluate impact	Mar-19	Gaynor Davies / Ceri Jones
	EDUP2A01M03	Strengthen support and challenge to schools displaying unacceptable levels of exclusions and increase schools' accountability to deliver improvements	Dec-18	Ceri Jones
	EDUP2A01M05	Strengthen support and challenge to schools relating to attendance and increase schools' accountability	Dec-18	Gaynor Davies
	EDUP2A02M01	Adopt proactive approaches to supporting families, through developing a robust interface between Education services and the Resilient families service, undertaking education appraisals during the initial assessment phase to ensure the needs of all families are identified	Mar-19	Jess Allen
	EDUP2A02M04	Extend School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP) and evaluate the impact	Sep-18	Grace Zecca Hanagan / Lisa Gorringe
	EDUP2A03	Support schools to work more effectively with partners to improve provision for learners with mental health needs	Dec-18	Hayley Jeans
	EDUP2A05	Strengthen strategic approaches in schools to enhance the wellbeing and resilience of learners	Nov-18	Hayley Jeans / Rob Kempson / Kate Hill
	EDUP2A06M01	Review EOTAS provision, with a view to establishing more cost-effective and improved group tuition opportunities	Sep-18	Gaynor Davies / Ceri Jones
	EDUP2A06M02	Review and remodel primary PRU / LSC and BSS provision so that there is greater alignment and an improved continuum of provision	Dec-18	Ceri Jones
EDUP2A07	Use wellbeing data more effectively to inform strategic priorities and improvements	Dec-18	Ceri Jones / Rob Kempson	

Actions that will deliver Priority 2	Ref	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer
Provide a 21st Century learning environment		Delivery of 'Band A' 21st Century school projects:		
	EDUP3A02M01	Extension and refurbishment of Treorchy Comprehensive School	Mar-19	Andrea Richards / Lisa Howell
	EDUP3A02M02	Treorchy Comprehensive School - completion of external works	Aug-19	Andrea Richards / Lisa Howell
	EDUP3A02M02	3-16 school Porth Community school – School occupation	Sep-18	Andrea Richards / Lisa Howell
	EDUP3A02M03	Treorchy Comprehensive School - completion of external works	Sep-18	Andrea Richards / Lisa Howell
	EDUP3A02M04	3-16 school Ysgol Nantgwyn – school occupation	Sep-18	Julie Hadley
	EDUP3A02M05	3-16 school Ysgol Nantgwyn – completion of internal refurbishment works of existing buildings	Sep-18	Andrea Richards /Julie Hadley
	EDUP3A02M06	Creation of a 3-19 School for Tonyrefail – school occupation	Sep-18	Andrea Richards
	EDUP3A02M07	Creation of a 3-19 School for Tonyrefail – completion of external works	Sep-19	Andrea Richards
	EDUP3A02M08	New Primary School for Cwmaman	Sep-18	Lisa Howell
	EDUP3A02M09 - 13	Deliver improvements at remaining Band A Rhondda Schools	Mar-19	Andrea Richards
		Consultation for Band B 21st Century schools projects		
	EDUP3A04	Undertake statutory consultation phase 1 Band B projects and engagement with Communities, parents, governors and staff	From Apr 18	Julie Hadley / Andrea Richards
	EDUP3A04M02	Complete feasibility studies for all potential projects	Mar-19	Andrea Richards / Dave Powell
	EDUP3A04M01	Production of outline business cases	Mar-19	Andrea Richards
	EDUP3A05	Delivery of the Council's School Modernisation programme	Mar-19	Andrea Richards
	EDUP3A06	Establish a 3-19 school at Garth Olwg	Sep-19	Denise Humphries/Julie Hadley

Actions that will deliver Priority 2		Ref	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer
Review and improve our services to ensure they are fit for the future	EDUP4A01	Develop the Capita One system to support improvements to service delivery through improved use of data both within Education services and across the Council	Mar-19	Catrin Edwards	
	EDUP4A03	Development of service delivery models for Access & Inclusion services	Mar-19	Ceri Jones	
	EDUP4A04	Development of service delivery models for school and community meals	Mar-19	Lisa Gorringe	
	EDUP4A08M02	Further improve access to information and the use of stakeholder feedback through development of a perception survey to seek stakeholder views on Education services	Jul-18	Gaynor Davies	

ECONOMY - Building a strong economy

Measures to support Priority 2 - Rhondda Cynon Taf's schools will be amongst the best in the country, and with all children achieving the best they can

PI Ref	PI Description	2015/16 (Academic year 2014/15)	2016/17 (Academic year 2015/16)			2017/18 (Academic year 2016/17)			2018/19			
		RCT Actual (year end)	Target	RCT Actual (year end)	Wales average	Target	RCT Actual (year end)	Wales average	Proposed Target	How does the proposed 2018/19 target compare to most recent Welsh Average	How does the proposed 2018/19 target compare to 2017/18 Data	How does the proposed 2018/19 target compare to 2017/18 Target
Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3												
Existing Measures discontinued nationally, at present there is no suitable data to include. Replacement performance indicators are currently being developed nationally.												
Key Stage 4												
PAM032	Capped 9 score	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NEW - Baseline Year	N/A	N/A	N/A
LEDU209	% of pupils in year 11 (typically aged 16) who achieve the L1 threshold (equivalent to 5 GCSEs grade A* to G or approved equivalent qualification)	95.7	95.6	96.7	95.3	96.7	94.7	94.4	94.7	Better	Same	Not comparable
LEDU210	% of pupils who achieved the L2 threshold (5 GCSE C or above, or equivalent)	87.1	87.0	90.3	84.0	82.1	63.2	67.0	67.0	Same	Better	Not comparable
PAM006 EDU017	% of Year 11 pupils achieving 5 GCSEs at grades A*-C, or equivalent, including English or Welsh first language and Maths	54.6	59	56.6	60.7	59.0	49.8	54.6	55.0	Better	Better	Not comparable
LEDU243	% of pupils entitled to FSM, aged 16, achieving Level 2 Threshold including a GCSE grade A*- C in English or Welsh (first language) and Mathematics	27.9	32	30.9	35.6	34.0	24.2	28.6	30	Same	Better	Not comparable
LEDU411*	% of looked after pupils attending RCT schools, aged 16, who achieved the L1 threshold (5 GCSE grade G + or equivalent)	35.0	42.3	64.0	N/A	65.6	71.0	N/A	Pupil data to inform target setting not yet available	N/A	N/A	N/A
LEDU412*	% of looked after pupils attending RCT schools, aged 16, who achieved the L2 threshold (5 GCSE grade A* - C or equivalent)	New	15.4	52.0	N/A	53.1	22.7	N/A	Pupil data to inform target setting not yet available	N/A	N/A	N/A

PI Ref	PI Description	2015/16 (Academic year 2014/15)	2016/17 (Academic year 2015/16)			2017/18 (Academic year 2016/17)			2018/19			
		RCT Actual (year end)	Target	RCT Actual (year end)	Wales average	Target	RCT Actual (year end)	Wales average	Proposed Target	How does the proposed 2018/19 target compare to most recent Welsh Average	How does the proposed 2018/19 target compare to 2017/18 Data	How does the proposed 2018/19 target compare to 2017/18 Target
Attendance												
PAM007 EDU016a	% of pupil attendance in primary schools	94.8	95.3	94.6	94.9	95.3	94.7	Not yet available	95.4	Better	Better	Better
PAM008 EDU016	% of pupil attendance in secondary schools	93.7	94.2	93.9	94.2	94.3	93.6	Not yet available	94.3	Better	Same	Same
LEDU218	% attendance at PRU/EOTAS provision	82.2	N/A	82.6	N/A	N/A	78.6	N/A	78.9	N/A	Better	N/A
LEDU506	% difference in the attendance of FSM / non FSM pupils in primary schools	2.2	<2.2	2.6	N/A	<2.6	2.3	N/A	<2.6%	Better	Worse	Same
LEDU507	% difference in the attendance of FSM / non FSM pupils in secondary schools	4.6	<4.6	4.5	N/A	<4.5	4.9	N/A	<4.5%	Better	Better	Same
Exclusions												
LEDU409 a	No. of fixed term exclusions per 1,000 pupils in Primary schools	8.8	11.5	13.5	N/A	12.91	14.2	N/A	14.2	N/A	Same	Worse
LEDU409 b	No. of fixed term exclusions per 1,000 pupils in Secondary schools	89.4	78.7	72.0	N/A	98.4	95.7	N/A	95.7	N/A	Same	Worse
LEDU410 c	Average No. of days lost through fixed term exclusions (All Schools)	2.4	2.0	2.1	N/A	2.2	2.1	N/A	2.07	Better	Better	N/A

Key:

Existing Corporate Plan high level measure

*2 different datasets are collected to monitor the educational performance of looked after children. Education indicators include those children looked after by RCT Council educated within RCT schools (LEDU406, LEDU407, LEDU411, LEDU012).

Education attainment measures are not truly comparable between 2016/17 and 2017/18 due to changes in qualifications and how metrics are calculated at national level

Priority 3: How providing a broad offer of skills and employment programmes for all ages reflects the Sustainable Development principles

Unemployment adversely affects mental and physical wellbeing and is one of the most significant causes of poverty. We will further develop and deliver our employment pathway supporting people into work, to **prevent** disengagement and unemployment and the associated negative outcomes. Specific support will be provided to young people, adults and those with additional learning needs or disabilities. We will also support parents to remain in work or re-enter the workplace through extending free childcare for eligible 3 and 4 year olds, supporting better outcomes for families in the **longterm**.

We recognise that as a large local employer, our own approach to workforce development has a significant impact on the skills and aspirations of our community. We will **involve** our workforce in understanding and removing barriers to progression for underrepresented groups, such as women in senior leadership roles, and continue to offer a range of work experience, apprenticeships, traineeships and graduate opportunities to support young people into work. However, we can have a much greater impact working **collaboratively**. We will continue to engage with local employers to ensure we are targeting training to the skills required for local jobs, and working with learning providers to ensure we provide a complementary range of courses. We will also support our small businesses through Develop, Invest and Grow in RCT, which will provide occupational health services to help people to manage health conditions and return to work.

Our work in this area is closely **integrated** with our other priorities. Enhancing people's skills not only supports economic development, but also enhances their health and wellbeing and can strengthen links in the community, supporting our **People** and **Place** priorities. We will provide a range of adult learning courses which in addition to enhancing employability will have a number of other potential benefits. These include improving mental health and combating social isolation, increasing digital inclusion helping people to access services and information, and engaging people with Welsh language and culture.

Priority 3 - There will be a broad offer of skills and employment programmes for all ages
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Actions that will deliver Priority 3	Ref	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer
Deliver RCT's Employment pathway in partnership, to provide equitable access to employment support and opportunities that align to emerging local labour market needs and employers		Implement and embed the new Communities for Work plus Grant and Community First Legacy proposals	Mar-19	Nicola Lewis
	ESKP1A04	Develop an RCT Employment Strategy and implement and promote RCT's Employment pathway	Sep-19	Wendy Edwards/Syd Dennis
	ESKP5A01	Liaise with Delivery Partners and continue to monitor the performance and delivery of ESF Projects in RCT (Communities 4 work, Inspire 2 work, Ignite and Platform 1)	Ongoing	Syd Dennis
	ESKP5A03	Liaise with Delivery partners and establish the new WCVA Active Inclusion project providing employment support and training opportunities to people of any age with additional learning needs or disabilities	Apr-18	Syd Dennis
	ESKP5A04	Submit a business plan for the Develop, Invest and Grow in RCT for consideration by WEFO	Mar-18	Syd Dennis
	ESKP5A05	Develop and Implement the DIG in RCT Project which would provide MSME's with support to meet employee needs in terms of Absence Management and Policies. Provide support to individuals absent from works employed by the Council and MSME's via Occupational Health service delivery.	Dec-18	Syd Dennis /Deb Hughes

Actions that will deliver Priority 3		Ref	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer
ESKP1A02	Work with colleagues in the Adult Community Learning Partnership to develop a joint adult community learning curriculum for 2018/19	ESKP1A02M01	Prepare the Adult Community Learning Delivery Plan ensuring it complements the ESF Delivery Plan in supporting employability across the county, and submit to Welsh Government for approval within the required timescales.	Jun-Aug-18	Wendy Edwards
		ESKP1A02M02	Implement the Adult Community Learning Service Delivery Plan focussing on the following key areas as identified by Welsh Government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential skills • Employability • Digital inclusion • Welsh language provision • Health and well-being provision (especially for older learners) 	Sep-18-Aug-19	Heulyn Rees/Val Clarke
LIBP2A05	Introduce and promote the use of digital products and digital learning	LIBP2A05M06	Expand the delivery of Digital Fridays to include all libraries and work with partners to ensure a range of workshops and courses are available to increase customer understanding of digital products.	Mar-19	Richard Reed
		LIBP2A05M07	Introduce a range of products to improve the digital skills of children and young people e.g. fitbits, coding events etc.	Mar-19	Wendy Cole
	Develop and refine approaches to workforce development which support the worklessness agenda and support career progression for under-represented and disadvantaged groups	HURP02A02M01	Recruit and induct the required number of Graduates and apprentices to meet the service needs in time for the start of the programme.	Oct-18	Sian Woolson
		HURP4A02M01	Undertake an analysis of barriers for women moving into senior leadership roles as recommended through WAVE actions.	Sep-18	Deb Hughes
		HURP4A02M02	Utilise the information gathered through the analysis together with information gained through Head of Service meetings to recommend approaches to succession planning and career development	Mar-19	Deb Hughes
	Continue to work with partners to develop early years provision to support families	EDUP4A10M01	Increase the supply of 30hours free childcare offer	Dec-18	Catrin Edwards
		EDUP4A10M02	Increase pre-nursery provision	Jan-19	Denise Humphries

ECONOMY - Building a strong economy**Measures to support Priority 3 - There will be a broad offer of skills and employment programmes for all ages**

PI Ref	PI Description	2015/16		2016/17		2017/18		2018/19			
		Target	RCT Actual	Target	RCT Actual	Target	RCT Actual	Proposed Target	How does the proposed 2018/19 target compare to most recent Welsh Average	How does the proposed 2018/19 target compare to 2017/18 Data	How does the proposed 2018/19 target compare to 2017/18
PAM009 LEDU223	% of Year 11 leavers not in education, training or employment (NEET)	3.9	3.7	3.6	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	Better	Better	Same
LEDU225	% 18 year olds (Yr 11) leaving school who are known not to be in education, training or employment (NEET)	6.0	6.4	5.9	4.1	4.0	2.6	2.5	Better	Better	Better
LCAP011	Number of NEET young people entering employment upon leaving the Inspire 2 Work programme	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Baseline Year	24	78	N/A	Better	N/A
LCAP013	Number of NEET young people gaining a qualification upon leaving the Inspire to work programme	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Baseline Year	97	147	N/A	Better	N/A
NEW (combined)	Number of economically inactive, or unemployed, adults entering employment as a result of CfW intervention	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Baseline Year	47	48	N/A	Better	N/A
	Number of economically inactive, or unemployed, adults gaining a qualification as a result of CfW intervention	new	N/A	N/A	N/A	Baseline Year	96	192	N/A	Better	N/A
LCAP010	Number of NEET young people entering employment upon leaving the CfW programme	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Baseline Year	49	96	N/A	Better	N/A
New	Number of NEET young people gaining a qualification upon leaving the CfW programme	New	N/A	N/A	N/A	Baseline Year	96	118	N/A	Better	N/A
New	No. of people supported that have entered employment – Communities for Work Plus	New	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	350	N/A	N/A	N/A
New	No. of people entering a work placement with an employer – Communities for Work Plus	New	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100	N/A	N/A	N/A
New	Number of adults gaining a qualification – Communities for Work Plus	New	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	750	N/A	N/A	N/A

PI Ref	PI Description	2015/16		2016/17		2017/18		2018/19			
		Target	RCT Actual	Target	RCT Actual	Target	RCT Actual	Proposed Target	How does the proposed 2018/19 target compare to most recent Welsh Average	How does the proposed 2018/19 target compare to 2017/18 Data	How does the proposed 2018/19 target compare to 2017/18
New	Number of economically inactive, or unemployed, adults, with an additional learning need or disability entering employment as a result of Ignite (Active Inclusion) intervention	New	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	33	N/A	N/A	N/A
New	Number of economically inactive, or unemployed, adults, with an additional learning need or disability gaining a qualification (Part/whole or work related) as a result of Ignite (Active Inclusion) intervention	New	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	148	N/A	N/A	N/A
New	Number of young people NEET, with an additional learning needs or disability entering employment as a result of Platform 1 (Active Inclusion) intervention	New	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11	N/A	N/A	N/A
New	Number of young people NEET, with an additional learning needs or disability gaining a qualification (Part, whole or work related) as a result of Platform 1 (Active Inclusion) intervention	New	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	33	N/A	N/A	N/A
TBC 9	% of economically active people, ie 16 and over, who are unemployed	N/A	**6.7	N/A	5900 5.4	N/A	5,800 5.2 ⁵	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
TBC 10	% of people aged 17-24 claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)	N/A	***26.2	N/A	3.6	N/A	4.0 ⁶	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
TBC 11	No./% Economically Active people in RCT	N/A	**114,400	N/A	111,300 73.2	N/A	112,300 74.7 ⁵	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Key:

Existing Corporate Plan high level measure

** Data ONS Jan 15-Dec-15

*** Data Cwm Taf Data Observatory Mar-16

Corporate Priority Action Plan Monitoring Report - Quarter 4 2017/18

PEOPLE - *Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone*

Summary of progress

During 2017/18, we have made good progress in our work for the PEOPLE priority, as a Council and as a wider partnership. You can see more information in the detailed evaluation below.

We have worked hard to help people leave hospital and return to their home or care home more quickly when they are well enough and reduced delayed transfers of care (from 4.95 per 1000 population in 2016/17 to 3.3 per 1000 population in 2017/18). An important part of this reduction has been the first full year of the Stay Well@home service, which we have launched with our partners in Merthyr Tydfil Council and Cwm Taf University Health Board. This new regional service, which began operating in April 2017, aims to prevent unnecessary hospital admissions and ensure timely discharge for those people that require admission to hospital and initial results suggest that the service is achieving these aims.

We have received lots of positive feedback from residents of our first Extra Care facility in Talbot Green and we are now working with Linc Cymru to build a second scheme on the site of the former Maesyffynnon Care Home in Aberaman. The development will include the construction of 40 independent apartments, 36 one-bedroom and four two-bedroom, for people aged 50 and over, within a single three-storey building on Club Street. The build was due to commence in September 2017 but the project is currently at a pre-construction phase, and the main construction of the new building is scheduled to begin during July 2018. In addition to this scheme, we have also agreed a further four potential sites to deliver extra care housing across Rhondda Cynon Taf in Pontypridd, Porth, Mountain Ash and Rhondda Fawr over the next five years.

We have encouraged people of all ages to take regular exercise through investing in our facilities and better promoting what is available. This has included refurbishing Tonyrefail Leisure Centre as part of the 21st Century Schools Programme. The refurbishment has included a new fitness suite and 3G pitch that pupils will use during the day and sports clubs and the wider community will use in the evening and at weekends. We have also continued to invest in our playgrounds, completing 29 playground improvement projects this year. This is less than we planned but we will complete the remaining 15 playgrounds in early Summer 2018.

We have reviewed our existing Communities First programme and have identified the most successful parts of the programme that we want to continue to deliver. We will use the Welsh Government legacy fund to protect the current Communities First employability pathway, which from April 2017 to the end of March 2018 supported 413 people into employment, compared to 317 in 2016/17. As well as protecting this existing provision we will be able to extend this approach across all areas of RCT and not just in areas previously covered by Communities First.

We want families to have access to the right support and information earlier, so that fewer children and young people require statutory Children's Services support. To achieve this, we have focused on the development of our early intervention and **prevention** services by developing a Resilient Families Programme.

Summary of progress

This includes the development of a Resilient Families Service which started seeing families in January 2018. So far results have been positive and all of families that completed the programme up to the end of March have reported increased resilience (the ability for families to 'bounce back' from difficult experiences).

In order to keep our most vulnerable residents safe we have delivered a programme of interventions to prevent repeat victims of cold callers and doorstep crime. In the Summer of 2017, our Trading Standards team started installing trueCall technology to protect older and vulnerable adults from unwanted phone calls. Over 95% of nuisance calls have been intercepted by the trueCall units and feedback from service users has been very positive.

Council Priority:	PEOPLE - Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone
Lead Director:	Giovanni Isingrini

Measuring Success

Measures to support Priority 1 - Health & Social Care Services will be personalised and integrated, with more people supported to live longer in their own homes							
PI Ref	Performance Measure	2015/16	2016/17		2017/18		Comments
		Actual	Actual	Wales Average	Target	Actual	
LSCA014	% of clients choosing their own service providers through Direct Payments	12.91	14.34	N/A	14.63	14.67	
LSCA101	Proportion of people assessed by adult social care in receipt of care and support plan	N/A	67.04	N/A	67.04	70.15	
Measure 20a SSOF20a	% of adults who completed a period of reablement & have a reduced package of care & support 6 months later	N/A	42.11	N/A ²	Baseline Year ¹	84.95	
Measure 20b SSOF20b	% of adults who completed a period of reablement & have no package of care & support 6 months later	N/A	77.23	N/A ²	77.23	77.63	
LSCA102	No. of people admitted to residential or nursing care	539	456	N/A	422	417	
SCA001/ Measure 19 Framework PI/ PAM025	The rate of delayed transfers of care for social care reasons per 1,000 population aged 75 or over (All people 75+)	N/A	4.95	N/A ²	4.50	3.31	
Measure 21 SSOF21	The average length of time older people (aged 65 or over) are supported in residential care homes	922	903.43	N/A ²	903.43	922.47	
PSR002 PAM015	Average no. of calendar days taken to deliver a DFG	186	219	224	280	234	
LCS002b PAM017	No. of visits to local authority sports and leisure centres per 1,000 population where the visitor will be participating in physical activity	7,425	7,581	8,387	7,733	8,140	
LLCS014	No. of visits to local authority sports and leisure facilities per 1,000 population where the visitor will be participating in physical activity (New Local PI - includes school usage)	N/A	11,614	N/A	11,847	12,218	

Performance

¹ Welsh Government have changed the data collection criteria for this measure in 2017/18. This will be the first year of collection. Previous years data included but is no longer comparable.

² Not all local authorities have been able to provide fully completed social services data returns, due to issues with implementing or preparing for the new Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS). For this reason, accurate comparative data is not available for 2016/17.

Key:

Within Top Quartile performance for all of Wales 2016/17	Performance met or exceeded target	Performance within 5% of the target	Performance below target
Within Bottom Quartile performance for all of Wales 2016/17			

Bolded PIs denote that an existing Corporate Plan high level measure

Measures to support Priority 2 - Redesigned local services - integrated and efficient							
PI Ref	Performance Measure	2015/16	2016/17		2017/18		Comments
		Actual	Actual	Wales Average	Target	Actual	
LPPN140	Number and percentage of clients who reduce their substance misuse for problematic substances between start and most recent review (Cwm Taf APB)	2,528 66.91	3,077 68.99	N/A	71.00	10,145 88.26	Welsh Government has recognised that there are issues with this performance indicator as it focusses on a reduction in days (not amount). With specific regard to substance misusers, whose primary substance is alcohol, this does not accurately measure reduction. Welsh Government are exploring how this measure can be revised going forward. The PI has also changed during quarter 3. The PI now looks at the number of records and not number of clients, hence the large increase in figures reported in Q3 and Q4 (individuals are reported more than once if they have issues with more than one substance).

Measures to support Priority 3 - Rhondda Cynon Taf's children and young people will receive a great start in life							
PI Ref	Performance Measure	2015/16	2016/17		2017/18		Comments
		Actual	Actual	Wales Average	Target	Actual	
LSCC101	% of children & young people requiring intervention from statutory services	37.57	20	N/A	18	23.5	The performance trend for this PI has declined compared to 31st March 2017. Between April 2017 and March 2018, of the 15,792 contacts received by Children's Services, 3,708 have progressed to a referral for intervention from statutory services. It is anticipated that the Resilient Families Service will have a positive impact on performance in relation to this indicator during 2018/19
LSCC102	No. of children looked after (CLA)	623	690	N/A	655	676	
Measure 27 SSOF27	% of re-registrations of children on Local Authority CPR	8.22	9.40	N/A ²	8.00	8.10	
LSCC103a	% of Children Looked After returned home in less than 12 weeks	20.52	24.5	N/A	20.5	18.1	PI dropped for 2018/19
LSCC103b	% of Children Looked After returned home between 12-24 weeks	9.61	17.5	N/A	9.6	17.9	Performance has dropped slightly during the quarter but almost a quarter of children (7/30), ceased to be looked after within 12-24 weeks of becoming looked after because permanence for them was achieved through securing Special Guardianship Orders in a relatively short period of time. This can only be viewed as a positive outcome for the children concerned who will now have a safe & stable home environment within their extended family without the need for on-going statutory intervention from Children's Services.
LSCC103c	% of Children Looked After returned home after 24 weeks	69.87	58.0	N/A	69.9	66.1	Performance has dropped during the quarter but will have been impacted upon by the increase in the number of children that returned home in less than 24 weeks. There are a number of reasons why children & young people cease to be looked after in less than 24 weeks. It could be due to the fact that they had become looked after due to being remanded into youth custody & that remand ended within a short period of time but it could also be because while permanence for some children cannot be achieved through reunification with their parents it can be secured within their extended family. This will always be the most positive alternative outcome for the children concerned & associated timescales attached to the process of achieving this outcome will always be set in the best interests of the children.

Measures to support Priority 3 - Rhondda Cynon Taf's children and young people will receive a great start in life							
PI Ref	Performance Measure	2015/16	2016/17		2017/18		Comments
		Actual	Actual	Wales Average	Target	Actual	
Measure 34a SSOF34a	% of all care leavers who are in education, training or employment at 12 months after leaving care	N/A	50.0	N/A	50.0	40.7	After reaching target throughout the year, performance has dropped in Qtr 4. 32 out of 54 young people were not in EET 12 months after leaving care which is 8 more than reported in Qtr 3. 4 Young People are currently claiming benefits but are actively job searching. 5 Young People are unable to work due to mental health needs. 6 Young People are not engaging with 16+ Teams & 10 are not motivated to seek employment or training. 2 Young People are full time mothers. 2 Young People are in prison and 1 Young Person has recently been released so isn't currently working. 1 Young Person was an unaccompanied asylum seeker who doesn't speak English and 1 Young Person will be starting College in September 2018.
Measure 34b SSOF34b	% of all care leavers who are in education, training or employment at 24 months after leaving care	N/A	53.3	N/A	53.0	49	Performance has improved in Qtr 4 but still not meeting target. 25 out of 49 young people were not in EET 24 months after leaving care. 7 YP are unable to work due to various issues such as having mental health needs and learning needs. 6 YP are not engaging with 16+ Teams & 6 are not motivated to seek employment or training. 5 YP are full time mothers and 1 YP is in prison.

Key:

Within Top Quartile performance for all of Wales 2016/17	Performance met or exceeded target	Performance within 5% of the target	Performance below target
Within Bottom Quartile performance for all of Wales 2016/17			

Bolded PIs denote that an existing Corporate Plan high level measure

² Not all local authorities have been able to provide fully completed social services data returns, due to issues with implementing or preparing for the new Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS) computer system. For this reason, accurate comparative data is not available for 2016/17.

Measures to support Priority 4 - Rhondda Cynon Taf will be amongst the safest places in Wales, with high levels of community cohesion and residents feeling safe							
PI Ref	Performance Measure	2015/16	2016/17		2017/18		Comments
		Actual	Actual	Wales Average	Target	Actual	
LPPN156	% of domestic violence clients reporting no abuse experienced in the past month/since Intake	67	74	N/A	70	55	The performance trend for this PI has declined compared to 31st March 2017. Between April 2017 and March 2018, 69 of the 125 clients have reported that no abuse was experienced in the past month.
LPPN135b	% of domestic violence clients reporting feeling safer as a result of IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor) intervention	85	85	N/A	85	85	
LPPN137	% of domestic violence clients reporting that their quality of life had improved as a result of IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor) intervention	83	82	N/A	84	84	
LPPN157	% of domestic violence clients stating that they were confident in accessing support in future	86	93	N/A	90	91	

Key:

Within Top Quartile performance for all of Wales 2016/17	Performance met or exceeded target	Performance within 5% of the target	Performance below target
Within Bottom Quartile performance for all of Wales 2016/17			

Bolded PIs denote that an existing Corporate Plan high level measure

Priority 1: Health & Social Care Services will be personalised and integrated, with more people supported to live longer in their own homes

Our work in this priority, both now and in the future, contributes to the seven national Well-being Goals, in particular a Healthier Wales, a more Equal Wales and a Wales of Cohesive Communities.

Key Measures that show the impact of our work to help people stay in their own homes for longer

14.67% of clients chose their own service providers through Direct Payments (14.34% in 2016/17)

70.15% of people assessed by adult social care in receipt of a care and support plan (67.04% 2016/17)

84.95% of adults who completed a period of reablement and have a reduced package of care and support six months later

77.63% of adults who completed a period of reablement and have no package of care and support six months later

417 people admitted to residential or nursing care (456 in 2016/17)

Feedback from our service users

The Social Services and Well-being Act requires us to carry out a survey of users of our service. We asked for the views of adults who have a Care and Support Plan in place. Of those people who responded to the survey:

- **84%** were satisfied with their care & support (84% in 2016/17)
- **80%** felt that they live in a home that supports their well-being (87% in 2016/17)
- **75%** felt they received the right information or advice when they needed it (79% in 2016/17)
- **88%** reported being happy with the support from their family, friends and neighbours, however only **52%** feel part of their community (84% in 2016/17 & 52% in 2016/17)
- **79%** told us that they feel safe (76% in 2016/17)
- **78%** reported that they know who to contact about their care and support (79% in 2016/17)
- **78%** reported that they have been actively involved in decisions about how their care and support was provided, and **60%** said it was their choice to live in a care home (73% in 2016/17 & 67% in 2016/17)
- **91%** felt that they had been treated with dignity and respect. (92% in 2016/17)

The population in Wales is projected to change with a substantial rise in the older population, which is expected to result in a rise in age-related disease in the future such as dementia. As people in our communities are living longer, our **long-term** aim is to develop new accommodation models to help residents to remain independent and be part of a community, whilst meeting their increased needs. Development of extra care housing is key to this as it offers an opportunity for older people to lead more independent lives and **prevent** unnecessary admissions to residential care. Extra care housing also enables people to have more control and be more **involved** in decisions about their environment and the services they receive. Following the agreement of the extra care housing strategy in [November 2016](#), which **integrates** with our older person's housing strategy "[My Own Front Door – A Plan for Housing in Later Life](#)", we have worked with Linc Cymru to develop a business case and work programme to deliver extra care housing across Rhondda Cynon Taf. This has included the

Priority 1: Health & Social Care Services will be personalised and integrated, with more people supported to live longer in their own homes

identification of four potential sites for development in Pontypridd, Porth, Mountain Ash and Rhondda Fawr over the next five years in addition to the Maesyffnon development in Aberaman.

We have received lots of positive feedback from residents of our first Extra Care facility in Talbot Green, which opened in October 2016 and celebrated its first birthday in October 2017. There have been many examples of how people's lives have been transformed by the facilities offered at Ty Heulog including 68 year old Andrew. You can read more about the birthday celebration and Andrew's story [here](#). We are now working with Linc Cymru to build a second scheme on the site of the former Maesyffynnon Care Home in Aberaman. The build contract report has been presented to LINC's Board and £2.7m of Innovation Grant secured from Welsh Government to support the development of a Modular construction. This construction method offers a range of potential benefits to the Council such as reduced site disturbance, reduced material waste and shorter construction schedules. The development will include the construction of 40 independent apartments, 36 one-bedroom and four two-bedroom, for people aged 50 and over, within a single three-storey building on Club Street. There will be on-site assistance for residents with decreased mobility or other similar conditions. It will provide communal facilities including a dining room and cafe, hair salon, therapy room, lounge, laundry room, winter garden room, activity room and guest suite. Ancillary areas such as a kitchen, staff room and offices will be provided, along with a 24-space car park and a garden area, which will be used in conjunction with Blaengwawr Primary School. This will further contribute to beneficial intergenerational working within our Extra Care facilities as demonstrated by the positive relationships established between residents of Ty Heulog and local primary and secondary schools including Christmas carol singing and musical performances. The build was due to commence in September 2017 but construction has been delayed following the discovery of bats and Japanese knotweed on the site. The project is currently at a pre-construction phase, and the main construction of the new building is scheduled to begin during July 2018.

We have worked hard to help people leave hospital and return to their home or care home more quickly when they are well enough and reduced delayed transfers of care (from 4.95 per 1000 population in 2016/17 to 3.3 per 1000 population in 2017/18). An important part of this reduction has been the first full year of the Stay Well@home service. To support older people to stay in their own homes, **prevent** unnecessary stays in hospital and to help to get people home from hospital more quickly when they are well enough, we have worked **collaboratively** with Merthyr Tydfil Council, Cwm Taf University Health Board, Inter Link and Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil and led on the development of a new regional 'Stay Well @home' Service. This new regional service, which began operating in April 2017, aims to prevent unnecessary hospital admissions and ensure timely discharge for those people that require admission to hospital. The Project is made up of a number of services including a 'Stay Well@home' Hospital based Team in Prince Charles and Royal Glamorgan hospitals, *RCT Support@home* Service, *Your Medicines@home* service and *Nursing@home* service. This project has changed the way that Health and Social Services work together and has **integrated** services so that:

- Assessments are undertaken outside of core hours at the acute hospital sites
- Care/support packages agreed and established within the agreed 4 hour response – 7 days a week, including bank holidays
- Information is shared across health & social care, using one record

Priority 1: Health & Social Care Services will be personalised and integrated, with more people supported to live longer in their own homes

- Discharge to assess model used
- Community reviews undertaken within the first 14 days
- An enabling approach is implemented to increase independence levels and reduce dependence on long term service provision.

We have received many positive comments from people who have used the new service, confirming that the new arrangements are improving patient, carers and staff lives:

July 2017 – *‘if the team hadn’t referred me to you I don’t know what I’d done. I think I would have given up. I’m so grateful’* – verbal feedback following home visit.

August 2017 – *“Very happy with all that was done in one day”* – Patient Satisfaction Form.

October 2017 *“Good response to my wife. Excellent”*. Comment from Patient Satisfaction Form.

Nov 2017 *“I didn’t know this type of service existed. Thank you for all your advice, it’s made me feel more confident – I would recommend”*. Comment from Patient Satisfaction Form.

What difference has it made?

- Despite an overall increase in attendances at A&E, there has been a % reduction in numbers of people admitted to a hospital bed from A&E
- There has been an % increase in numbers of people admitted to hospital but returning home earlier
- There has been a % reduction in numbers of people transferred to a community hospital

In summary, the total impact upon potential bed days of the Stay Well @Home service is 13,146 total bed days avoided. For more information about the *Stay Well@home* Service please [click here](#). You can see how the *Stay Well @home* service has worked in practice being clicking on [Mrs S’s Case Study](#) and [Mr A’s Case Study](#).

We want people and our communities to be healthier, safer and more resilient and we continue to encourage healthier lifestyle choices and provide advice so that people can prevent avoidable health problems e.g. falls. We have delivered **integrated** actions identified through the Social Services and Well-being Regional Implementation Plan for Social Care including the continued rollout of three Falls Awareness Projects in sheltered housing schemes in Gilfach Goch, Rhydyfelin and Abercynon. The projects are delivered **collaboratively** with a wide range of health and third sector organisations with the aim of raising awareness of falls and to **prevent** them from happening. Information is gathered from participants at the start and end of each project for evaluation purposes. These schemes have been positively received by participants and we are exploring arrangements for a formal evaluation of the Falls Awareness Projects with Cardiff University so that we can demonstrate how the schemes have supported older people to remain independent.

A Cwm Taf Ageing Well in Wales event was held in March 2018, in **collaboration** with the Older People's Commissioner for Wales office, Merthyr Tydfil CBC,

Priority 1: Health & Social Care Services will be personalised and integrated, with more people supported to live longer in their own homes

Cwm Taf Care & Repair. The event was well-attended by both older people and professionals and feedback was positive. The event celebrated Ageing Well, provided advice and signposting opportunities and supported older people to live independent and fulfilled lives by providing information on support available within the community.

Taking regular exercise is an important part of staying healthy and active and can help protect against and **prevent** a number of serious health conditions including heart disease and diabetes. We have encouraged people of all ages to take regular exercise through investing in our facilities and better promoting what is available. This has included refurbishing Tonyrefail Leisure Centre as part of the 21st Century Schools Programme. The refurbishment has included a new fitness suite and 3G pitch that pupils will use during the day and sports clubs and the wider community will use in the evening and at weekends. Membership at Tonyrefail Leisure Centre has risen from 650 prior to the refurbishment to 708 (March 2018) after the refurbishment. We have also replaced the fitness equipment at Llantrisant Leisure Centre to improve facilities for our customers and progressed work on the proposed fitness suite that is planned to be included in the Taff Vale development in Pontypridd Town Centre. We have also continued to invest in the **long-term** sustainability of our playground facilities by improving 29 playgrounds in addition to the 28 that were improved in 2016/17. This is less than we planned to do and delays have been due to difficulties appointing contractors and the harsh winter weather conditions that we experienced in Spring 2018, but we will complete the remaining playground investments across the County Borough by early Summer 2018. These investments and developments will contribute to the **long-term** access and availability of physical activity opportunities for all ages in both leisure centres and in parks throughout the County Borough.

We have promoted our Leisure for Life membership scheme by creating targeted marketing campaigns with the aim of increasing the number of memberships amongst businesses and our partner organisations e.g. the Local Health Board and the Police. Emergency Service staff can now use their existing 'Bluelight' discount card to access a discounted membership at the Council's leisure centres. In order to encourage more businesses and organisations to sign up to our Corporate Membership scheme, we reduced the number of individuals required to qualify to join the scheme. This has meant that smaller businesses and sports clubs have been able to sign up and offer their members access to the discounted scheme. This is designed to encourage more people to be physically active and improve the **long-term** health of our communities. In total, we have more than 400 businesses and organisations accessing our discounted Corporate Membership scheme.

We also **collaborate** with partner organisations to offer various discounted and sometimes free memberships to identified groups in our communities. This includes free memberships for all Foster families within the County Borough, to date 800 individuals are enrolled on this scheme; free membership for all serving and reserve military personnel, 353 members, and free memberships for those families that have been resettled as part of the Syrian Refugee Resettlement programme. These memberships are designed to encourage not only improved levels of physical activity but also provide a good opportunity for residents that may feel excluded or isolated, to be more **involved** in their communities which improves inclusion and community cohesion. We also work with Dragon Savers to provide their members who are on very low disposable incomes and live in areas that we have identified as hard to reach with discounted access to our membership scheme to encourage improved levels of physical activity. We also recognise the benefits of physical activity on the

Priority 1: Health & Social Care Services will be personalised and integrated, with more people supported to live longer in their own homes

mental health of our residents and collaborate with Bryn Awel, a residential rehabilitation centre for the treatment of alcohol and substance misuse. We provide six discounted memberships, paid for by the Cwm Taf Local Health Board, which can be shared by multiple clients of the centre as part of their recovery programme.

We have also continued to improve the ways that we **involve** customers in developing our activity programmes and in the way that we promote our services. People are now increasingly using digital communication methods to find out about and get **involved** in what is going on in their local area. In response to this, we have developed a 'Leisure for Life' app to enable people who are members of our Leisure for Life scheme to easily access information about our facilities and the classes that we offer on their mobile devices. The app is interactive and members can book classes, receive news updates via notifications and provide feedback on classes and facilities in general. The app is also dual language so members can select their language preference when they first download the app so they can receive information and use all aspects of the app in English or Welsh. The app was launched in December 2017 and is freely available to download. In the first few weeks following the launch, 3,500 downloads of the app were made, allowing customers to book classes, receive up to date news about the Council's centres and provide feedback on classes. This was especially useful during the snow in March 2018 as customers were notified of closures and adjusted opening times in real time. We have used feedback from our users to further develop the app to make more facilities available on the app.

We have had initial meetings regarding a 'Green Exercise, Social Prescription, Outdoor Health and Well-being' group, which has been set up to look at existing and planned activities around outdoor health and wellbeing and how this could benefit residents. This will also **involve** professional bodies. Discussions are at an early stage but it is hoped that this will provide an opportunity for people to get involved with and learn about nature to improve health and wellbeing.

Council Priority:	PEOPLE - Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone
Lead Director:	Giovanni Isingrini

Challenges and Opportunities linked to this Council Priority	1. Health & Social Care Services will be personalised and integrated, with more people supported to live longer in their own homes
Lead Officer	Neil Elliott

Actions that will deliver Priority 1		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action	
ADUP1	Deliver the Stay Well @ Home Service with partner agencies to reduce the total number of citizens who experience a delayed transfer of care from hospital	Develop and implement new policies, procedures, processes and pathways to support implementation the new service	Apr-17	Complete	The Stay Well @ Home Service is implemented and all RCT elements are fully operational along with the hospital based teams.	
		Evaluate effectiveness of new service and revise as needed	Mar-18	Complete		
ADUP1	Deliver new accommodation models to improve outcomes for those individuals who need support to live independently	Work with preferred development partner to build new extra housing scheme on former Maesyffynnon Care home site:				
		Agree scheme specification	Jul-17	Complete		
		Commence build	Sep-17 Revised Mar-18	Target Missed	Planning permission granted in February 2018. Construction due to commence in June 2018.	
		Work with preferred development partner to develop business case and work programme to take forward the Council's extra care housing strategy	Oct-17	Complete	Report presented to Cabinet on 28th September 2017 and to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 2nd October 2017.	
		Complete review of supported living model and prepare options analysis for redesign of model to ensure that provision is high quality and cost effective	Oct-17	Complete		
	Deliver new models of day service that promotes independence, choice and wellbeing	Complete review of day services provision and prepare options analysis for redesign of current provision to ensure that new models of support are high quality and cost effective	Jul-17 Revised Mar-18	Target Missed	Completion of options appraisal delayed until 2018/19	
LPBP02	Encourage more people to be more physically active through increased Leisure memberships in line with the targets set out in the Leisure Strategy	Develop a service delivery plan that enables more people to be more active more often.	Ongoing to Mar-21	On Target		
		Review Community Sports and Health Development to ensure the staff resource is structured to most effectively deliver corporate priorities	Mar-18	Complete		
		Deliver targeted marketing campaigns to businesses and health boards	Jan-18	Complete		
		Launch the pilot Leisure app	Sep-17 Revised Jan-18	Complete		

Actions that will deliver Priority 1		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
LBP01	Prioritise investment in Council leisure centres and playgrounds to increase participation in exercise and contribute to residents health and well-being	Complete refurbishment of Tonyrefail Leisure Centre as part of 21st Century Schools Programme	Jun-17	Complete	
		Fitness Suite	Sep-17	Complete	
		3G Pitch	Sep-17	Complete	
		Replace fitness equipment at Llantrisant Leisure Centre as per the 5 year replacement plan identified in the original Business Plan for the Centre	Jan-18	Complete	Gym facility very well received and to date has increased membership month on month. Membership is the highest in the authority at 2,200 members and has risen by 8% since opening; attainment of latent demand has risen from 90% to 97%.
		Continue with the RCT Invest Programme to improve playgrounds across RCT including Edmond Street Park in Tylorstown and Brynteg Park in Beddau.	Mar-18	Target Missed	At year-end, 29 schemes were fully complete, 3 were under construction, 5 were designed, costed and scheduled and 7 'to be designed'. There have been some delays due to difficulties appointing contractors as well as the harsh winter weather in early Spring. The remaining schemes will be completed in 2018/19.
	Continue to progress work on the Taf Vale Fitness Suite Development designs and Business Case	Mar-18	Complete	Work is progressing on development designs and business case. Main contract of Taf Vale development is Winter 2020.	
ETCP03	To support the delivery of health protection and improvement initiatives that support residents and communities to be healthier, safer and more resilient.	Continue to deliver actions identified through the SSWB Cwm Taf Regional Implementation Plan for Social Care that promote independence of older people and other vulnerable groups and which improve health and well being	Mar-18	Complete	Three 'falls awareness projects' have been completed in sheltered housing schemes during the year. The projects are delivered collaboratively with a wide range of health and third sector organisations with the aim of raising awareness of falls and to prevent them from happening. Spend was achieved in relation to the Older Persons Grant in 2017/18, with an evaluation to be completed during Quarter 1 with the community groups and organisations that benefitted from the grant.
		Continue to work with partners to ensure the coordinated delivery of the Cwm Taf Ageing Well in Wales Action Plan	Mar-18	Complete	Work has been carried out with partners to ensure a collaborative approach to the delivery of the plan. A Cwm Taf Ageing Well in Wales event was held in March 2018, in partnership with many organisations, including the Older People's Commissioner for Wales office, Merthyr Tydfil CBC, Cwm Taf Care & Repair etc., to celebrate Ageing Well, provide advice and signposting opportunities and to support older people to live independent and fulfilled lives.
		Evaluate implementation of evidence based interventions that will reduce the number of older people falling in the community following roll out of a Resource Toolkit and Handbook	Mar-18	Complete	Three falls awareness projects have been completed in sheltered housing schemes during the year. Feedback from participants has been positive. The projects are delivered collaboratively with a wide range of health and third sector organisations with the aim of raising awareness of falls and to prevent them from happening. Information is gathered from participants at the start and end of each project for evaluation purposes. We have been unable to obtain funding for formal evaluation with Cardiff University during the year but will explore further opportunities with other higher education providers in 2018/19.

Priority 2: Redesigned local services - integrated and efficient

Our work in this priority, both now and in the future, contributes to the seven national Well-being Goals, in particular a Wales of Cohesive Communities, a More Equal Wales and a Healthier Wales.

Key Measures that show the impact of our work to redesign our services

88.26% of people we worked with reduced their substance misuse (reduction in days) (68.99% in 2016/17)

1242 adults gained a qualification through Communities First (1018 in 2016/17)

413 people aged 16+ were supported to enter employment through Communities First (317 in 2016/17)

Substance misuse remains a significant problem for many people living in our communities. Following a review of services, we have approved a new service delivery model for substance misuse specialist secondary care services across Cwm Taf. This new service delivery model will ensure that wherever an individual lives in Cwm Taf they are entitled to access and receive the same support, treatment and quality of service, now and in the **long-term**. Transitional arrangements have been implemented and a delivery plan for 2018/19 will be overseen by the multi-agency implementation group.

The numbers of children in need of care and support and children looked after per 10,000 population are both higher in RCT than the Wales average. The introduction of an improved Team around the Family model and parenting and young people framework through Families First, aims to improve this long-standing issue. We have implemented changes to the Families First programme to ensure that we focus on early intervention and prevention so that we can support families and **prevent** problems from escalating. We have worked **collaboratively** with partner organisations to ensure action has been co-ordinated and **integrated**, making best use of resources. A good example of this is the restructuring of funding to support wider Council priorities such as the development of the Resilient Families Service, Children First and Community Hub developments in order to provide early intervention support before individuals and families reach crisis point. In the future the Families First programme will focus on parenting support and support for young people in line with changes that Welsh Government have made to the programme and we have commissioned services to reflect the new emphasis. We have **involved** service users, wider residents and partners in the redesign of the Families First programme and substance misuse services.

Following the Welsh Government decisions to close the Communities First programme on 31st March 2018, Welsh Government have provided a Communities First Legacy Fund to continue to deliver elements of the programme that have been identified as best practice beyond 2018. We have reviewed our existing Communities First programme and have identified the most successful parts of the programme that we want to continue to deliver. We will use the legacy fund to protect the current Communities First employability pathway, which from April 2017 to the end of March 2018 supported 413 people into employment, compared to 317 in 2016/17. As well as protecting this existing provision, we will be able to extend this approach across all areas of RCT. Our proposals will **prevent** the loss of a successful programme and ensure that the impact of the closure of the Communities First programme is minimised for service users, the Council and our voluntary sector partners with whom we **collaborate**, as much as practically possible. An example of how some of our residents have benefited from the employability pathway can be found [here](#). You can find out more about our other employability programmes in our Economy plan.

Priority 2: Redesigned local services - integrated and efficient

We had planned to form a strategic board to support sport and physical activity with our partners. However, we decided that a strategic board would not be necessary and that we could work towards our goal of a healthier and more regularly active population by working with our partners in a less formal way. In 2017/18, we have worked with a wide range of partners including other local authorities, third sector organisations and sporting organisations that have similar goals to encourage more people to be more active, more often e.g. we have worked with universities and colleges to enable work experience for students via the RCT volunteer scheme.

Council Priority:	PEOPLE - Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone
Lead Director:	Giovanni Isingrini

Challenges and Opportunities linked to this Council Priority	2. Redesigned local services - integrated and efficient
Lead Officers	Paul Mee

Actions that will deliver Priority 2		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
CPSP01	To implement the Cwm Taf Substance Misuse Area Planning Board's recommendations following a review of secondary care substance misuse services to ensure that wherever an individual lives in Cwm Taf they are entitled to access and receive the same support, treatment and quality of service	Agree the new delivery model.	Jun-17	Complete	
		Develop clear service specifications aligned with the RCT single outcomes framework.	Jun-17	Complete	
		Transitional arrangements implemented.	Oct-17	Complete	
	To support the implementation of the Team around the Family review recommendations in order to improve the long term prospects of the family and prevent problems from escalating	Agree the new delivery model.	May-17	Complete	
		Support the implementation of the new delivery model.	Nov-17	Complete	
	To implement the recommendations following a review into all Families First Commissioned services, with a focus on prevention, integration, collaboration and involvement	Agree the new delivery model	Jun-17	Complete	
Develop clear service specifications aligned with the RCT single outcomes framework.		Jun-17	Complete		
Commission and implement new service delivery model		Nov-17	Complete		
CPSP01	To review and implement a revised Communities First programme in line with Welsh Government priorities for 2017/18	To respond to changes made by Welsh Government to the Communities First programme	Jun-17	Complete	
		Draft new approach in line with Welsh Government's revised priorities and budget	Sep-17	Complete	Draft Employability Support Grant and Communities First Legacy Fund proposals were reported to and approved by the Cabinet at its meeting on 26th October 2017.
		Agree and implement new model	Dec-17	Complete	Service restructured in March ready for implementation of Community for Work+ grant from April 2018.

Actions that will deliver Priority 2		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
Carry over from 2016/17	Where children may be at risk, maintain a multi-agency response that brings together different professionals to share information quickly and effectively, respond appropriately thereby reducing the need for re-referrals	We will take appropriate steps to protect and safeguard children and young people who need care and support and carers who need support from abuse and neglect or any other kind of harm - Develop plan to address local transition issues, consult and implement.	Dec-17	Complete	
LPBP03	We will work with partners to form a strategic board to support sport and physical activity in RCT contributing to a healthier and more regularly active population, increasing residents healthy lifespans and reducing the incidence of chronic disease.	Map existing strategic and operational partnership boards, groups and lines of governance	Apr-17	Complete	
		Awaiting Ministerial decision regarding the strategic direction of the sport and physical activity sector to inform the scope and terms of reference of a strategic board.	Dec-17 Revised Mar-18	Complete	
		Draft and consult on Terms of Reference for a strategic board	Jul-17 Revised Mar-18		This action is no longer being pursued and it has been agreed that a Strategic Board is not required at this time. It is more appropriate to work with potential partners in other formats
		Convene the first meeting	Sep-17 Revised Mar-18		

Priority 3: Rhondda Cynon Taf's children and young people will receive a great start in life

Our work in this priority, both now and in the future, contributes to the seven national Well-being Goals, in particular a More Equal Wales, a Prosperous Wales and a Wales of Cohesive Communities.

Key Measures that show the impact of our work to give children and young people a great start in life

23.5% of children and young people have required intervention from statutory services (20% 2016/17)

676 children looked after (690 2016/17)

8.1% of re-registrations of children on Local Authority Child Protection Register (9.40% 2016/17)

Feedback from our service users

The Social Services and Well-being Act requires us to carry out a survey of users of our service. We asked for the views of children and parents who have a Care and Support Plan in place. Of those who responded to the survey:

- **88%** of children were happy with who they were living with (88% in 2016/17)
- **74%** of parents reported that they felt involved in decisions made about their children's care and support (75% in 2016/17)
- **92%** of children satisfied with their care and support (91% in 2016/17)

Supporting our young people early on in life will improve their skills, improve life chances and also support the **longer-term** economic development of the area. We will seek to ensure that families have access to the right support and information earlier, so that fewer children and young people require statutory Children's Services support. To achieve this, we have focused on the development of our early intervention and **prevention** services by developing a Resilient Families Programme. Cabinet approved this in [July 2017](#) and Cabinet approved the proposed delivery model for the Resilient Families Service, to deliver improved Team Around the Family arrangements in RCT) in [October 2017](#). Both the Programme and the Service rely on the successful implementation of an Integrated Family Support Framework to organise, co-ordinate and govern the delivery of early intervention and **prevention** services by both Council services and partners across the County Borough including Barnardo's and Action for Children. By focusing on improving resilience levels, the Service aims to deliver sustainable **long-term** outcomes for families and reduce the likelihood of families requiring intervention from statutory services. We have **involved** staff and our partners in the development of this new service as well as some of the families that have come into contact with our services. The [Resilient Families Service](#) started seeing families in January 2018 and in the 10 weeks that followed (to the end of March 2018) had 379 referrals, completed 215 assessments, agreed 161 family plans and had 9 families complete a 6 week intervention programme. All of these families reported increased resilience (the ability for families to 'bounce back' from difficult experiences) following completion of the programme. An example of improved outcomes for two of these families and how they have felt following the intervention of the Resilient Families Service is [here](#).

For more information on the Resilient Families Service please access our [Resilient Families Service Family Factsheet](#).

Priority 3: Rhondda Cynon Taf's children and young people will receive a great start in life

Where children and young people are unable to live with their own parents, we need to ensure we have placements that are varied and flexible and can provide the necessary outcomes for this very vulnerable group. We have developed and implemented an action plan that focuses on admissions to care, a child's journey in care and a child's exit from care. We have **involved** children in the development of this plan and will continue to do so in the future to ensure that their voices are heard when services evolve. There continues to be an increase of Children Looked After with the numbers still being comparatively high when compared with similar authorities within Wales, and this continues to be an ongoing budget pressure. The highest % of children becoming looked after in the year continues to be in the under 4 age group. A recent independent review of the Children Looked After population noted however that there is a slight fall in the number of older children becoming looked after, indicating that we are acting earlier when seeking permanency for children.

Council Priority:	PEOPLE - Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone
Lead Director:	Giovanni Isingrini

Challenges and Opportunities linked to this Council Priority	3. Rhondda Cynon Taf's children and young people will receive a great start in life
Lead Officer	Ann Batley

Actions that will deliver Priority 3		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
CHSP0 1	We will ensure that families have access to the right support and information earlier, so that fewer children and young people require statutory Children's Services support.	Develop a draft service delivery model of providing Integrated Family Support Services within RCT that uses the Vulnerability and Resilience Profiling and includes all elements of early intervention within children services.	Jun-17	Ann Batley/Zoe Lancelot	Complete	Service model completed. New service operational from January 2018.
		Consult on the draft service delivery model both internally within Children Services and with partner agencies.	Sep-17	Ann Batley/Zoe Lancelot	Complete	Structure of Service consulted on with staff.
		Obtain agreement from Group Management Team (GMT) and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) for the new Service Delivery Model	Oct-17	Ann Batley/Zoe Lancelot	Complete	Model agreed
		New service model to be fully implemented across all areas of early intervention and prevention services within Children Services.	Mar-18	Ann Batley/Zoe Lancelot	Complete	New service operational from January 2018
		Better targeting the provision of universal Early Years services in relation to:- -Babies born in RCT during the year; -Children migrating into RCT during the year; and -Health registrations completed during the year and associated outcomes i.e. support / no support needs identified.	Oct-17	Nia Thomas Clair Ruddock	Complete	We have made use of the Capita system to improve data capture in relation to Childcare Entitlement Flying Start, Care to Play and Parenting on the system. Other areas will be put onto the system as the system is developed.
CHSP0 3	Ensure that children that cannot live with their own parents live in suitable accommodation in RCT	Develop a draft plan to address the identified specific actions that will focus on admissions to care, a child's journey in care and a child's exit from care.	Apr-17	Julie Clark	Complete	
		Implement the plan within the set timescales	May-17	Julie Clark	Complete	Plan completed and implemented. Systems developed that addresses all areas of a child's journey in care to avoid drift.
		Monitor the implementation of the plan through the Children Looked After Action Group.	Ongoing	Julie Clark	Complete	Monitoring system in place.
		Evaluate the effectiveness of the actions taken to reduce children looked after (CLA)	Mar-18	Julie Clark	Complete	Plan reviewed and updated for 2018-2019. Numbers of children becoming looked after has decreased compared with 2016/2017
		Review the current fostering recruitment, support service capacity and working practices	Dec-17	Liz Pearce	Complete	
		Implement the standards for Kinship Carers Assessments that are being developed through the National Fostering Framework	Aug-17	Liz Pearce	Target Missed	Good practice guidelines not yet finalised by the National Fostering Framework. Draft guidance developed March 2018 that are presently out for consultation.

Priority 4: Rhondda Cynon Taf will be amongst the safest places in Wales, with high levels of community cohesion, and residents feeling safe

Our work in this priority, both now and in the future, contributes to the seven national Well-being Goals, in particular a Wales of Cohesive Communities

Key Measures that show the impact of our work to make RCT amongst the safest places in Wales

55% of domestic violence clients reporting no abuse experienced in the past month/since Intake (74% in 2016/17)

85% of domestic violence clients reporting feeling safer as a result of IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor) intervention (85% in 2016/17)

84% of domestic violence clients reporting that their quality of life had improved as a result of IDVA intervention (82% in 2016/17)

91% of domestic violence clients stating that they were confident in accessing support in future (93% in 2016/17)

We have worked collaboratively with Cwm Taf UHB to put in place a joint Cwm Taf strategy that will address the requirements of the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015. This strategy aims to improve the safety of victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence and reduce the **long-term** impact that this has on the lives of victims, perpetrators and wider families. We have developed a delivery plan that supports the strategy and we monitor progress of this regularly.

We have identified the need for a regular, sustainable consultation process to **involve** service users in the development of all domestic abuse services. We need to make sure that services are developed with the service user in mind. We have worked **collaboratively** with our partners, through the delivery plan, to develop a regional service user group, which will be set up from April 2018.

We have reviewed the Supporting People funding for Women's Aid RCT to ensure that a range of emotional support services are available through the S.A.F.E. project (Stop Abuse For Everyone). The S.A.F.E. Project aims to provide women who have experienced domestic abuse with increased access to information and support. It also aims to increase the opportunities available to victims of domestic violence by implementing early intervention and prevention strategies. The services provided by the project build capacity by increasing the service user's skills to identify the early warning signs of abusive behaviours within current or future relationships, increase their confidence and self-esteem and reduce isolation.

The project delivers this in a variety of ways including;

- One to one support / advocacy (short term).
- Life skills sessions including domestic abuse awareness programme and confidence building.
- Direct referral pathways to other support agencies.
- Access to legal advice and debt management surgeries.

The project enables victims of domestic violence to access information and support in a friendly and supportive environment and aims to reduce the risk to the individual, increase safety, prevent further crime and keep people safe in their own homes – breaking the cycle of domestic abuse.

We have delivered a programme of interventions to prevent repeat victims of cold callers and doorstep crime. In the Summer of 2017, our Trading Standards team started installing trueCall technology to protect older and vulnerable adults from unwanted phone calls. 54 units are currently installed and active.

Priority 4: Rhondda Cynon Taf will be amongst the safest places in Wales, with high levels of community cohesion, and residents feeling safe

During 2017-18, an evaluation of the installations found that 6,609 nuisance calls were received of which 6,350 were blocked (over 95%). Units are recording an average of 26 nuisance calls per month, where the UK national average is 18; one unit has received 87 nuisance calls per month. The savings already made, based on the average amount of money lost to scams and the additional cost of NHS and health & social care for scam victims is £17,698. On a 5-year projection, this will be a saving of £263,159. This project has been delivered **collaboratively** with colleagues in Social Care and Health & Well Being Improvement, with scam awareness and safeguarding training being delivered to the 50+ Forums. All +6month users have said that they feel safer with the unit installed, comments since January 2018 including: *'Nuisance calls are no longer a worry or a concern and I've not lost any money since'* and *'Wonderful, the best thing I've had done in years, no nuisance phone calls since'*.

You can see how the installation of trueCall technology has worked in practice by reading [Mrs T's story](#)

There is also positive **collaboration** with the 3rd Sector, such as Age UK and Alzheimer's UK, where joint visits to vulnerable people have been made. We have also been **collaborating** with the National Trading Standards Scams Team to install units in the homes of dementia sufferers.

We have also worked **collaboratively** with South Wales Police in respect of Operation Signature, the Police response to scam/fraud incidents reported through Action Fraud, the UK's national fraud and cyber crime reporting centre. This **collaboration** will result in more coordinated, **integrated** work with Trading Standards as such victims are often already in the remit of Trading Standards.

Council Priority:	PEOPLE - Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone
Lead Director:	Giovanni Isingrini

Challenges and Opportunities linked to this Council Priority	4. Rhondda Cynon Taf will be amongst the safest places in Wales, with high levels of community cohesion and residents feeling safe
Lead Officer	Paul Mee

Actions that will deliver Priority 4		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
HOUSP07	Improve the safety of victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence and reduce the impact this has on the lives of the victims and perpetrators and wider families	Develop a joint strategy to fulfil the requirements of the Act - <i>carry over</i>	Mar-18	Complete	Strategy completed and signed off by Executive Group.
		Implement and monitor Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Delivery Plan	Jun-17 Sep-17 Dec-17 Mar-18	Complete	VAWDASV Plan approved by Executive Board and is monitored quarterly by the Executive Group
HOUSP07	Ensure that Domestic Abuse Services in Cwm Taf meet the needs of our service users	Complete review of Supporting People funding for Women's Aid RCT to provide a range of emotional support services to those at standard to medium risk.	Jun-17	Complete	
		Develop a sustainable service user involvement process in relation to all domestic abuse services.	Jul-17 and ongoing	Complete	
ETCP03	To support the delivery of health protection and improvement initiatives that support residents and communities to be healthier, safer and more resilient.	Deliver a programme of interventions to prevent repeat victims of unsolicited (cold) callers and door step crime to include home visits, use of the 'True Call' system and enforcement responses	Mar-18	Complete	This quarter has seen stronger links with Health and Wellbeing officers in the Authority, resulting in either attendance at events or details of the work of Trading Standards being championed at those events. The majority of the most recent TrueCall installations have resulted from meeting people at events and talks. Referrals this quarter include those from the Alzheimer's Society, 50+ Forums, South Wales Police and OAP Groups. One unintentional benefit from the introduction of Agile Working has been meeting other internal partners who now make referrals to Trading Standards, and who include financial harm assessments in their vulnerability criteria. Vulnerability is not age related: this period officers attended a family who had received a significant lottery win, and had already lost money to fraudsters, as this information became known: the family were not elderly, but had become vulnerable due to their circumstances. Intervention strategies have prevented them becoming further victims.
		Evaluation of implementation of the 'True Call' bogus caller interception project for vulnerable clients, which was introduced in 2016-17	Mar-18	Complete	A total of 54 units are currently installed and active. During 2017-18, 6,609 nuisance calls were received of which 6,350 were blocked (over 95%). Units are recording an average of 26 nuisance calls per month, where the UK national average is 18; one unit has received 87 nuisance calls per month. The savings already made, based on the average amount of money lost to scams and the additional cost of social care for scam victims is £17,698. On a 5-year projection, this will be a saving of £263,159, resulting in a cost benefit of 1:27. All +6month users have said that they feel safer with the unit installed, comments this quarter including: 'Nuisance calls are no longer a worry or a concern and I've not lost any money since' and 'Wonderful, the best thing I've had done in years, no nuisance phone calls since'.

PEOPLE - Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone

Priority 1: Health & Social Care Services will be personalised and integrated, with more people supported to live longer in their own homes

We know that older people prefer to stay in their own homes and communities until it is impossible for them to do so, rather than move into residential care. Living independently comes with many benefits such as the ability to retain independence, freedom to have family and friends visit whenever they like, and the comforts of remaining in their most familiar place. As the number of older people in Rhondda Cynon Taf continues to grow, bringing with it the associated increase in age-related chronic illnesses our **long term** aim is to deliver new accommodation models to improve outcomes for those individuals who need support to live independently. For example, building on the success of our extra care facility in Talbot Green, we will work **collaboratively** with development partners to build a new extra housing scheme on the former Maesyffynnon Care home site, and progress the development of two further extra care facilities in Treorchy and Pontypridd. This **integrates** with our older person's housing strategy "My Own Front Door – A Plan for Housing in Later Life".

Older people whose discharge from hospital is delayed, are likely to suffer adverse consequences ranging from anxiety and discomfort to more serious and longer-lasting physical and psychological harm. Delays may even lead to their capacity for independent living being significantly reduced. This can be challenging for both the patient and their family. To **prevent** these problems, we will further develop the 'Stay Well @home' service with our partners to support people to live independently at home following hospital discharge.

Research has shown that people want to be **involved** in decisions about their care. We will work closely with clients to ensure that care packages meet their personal needs and preferences through our Information, Advice and Assistance services and by having 'what matters' conversations with individuals and their families to identify what matters most to the person in term so of their care. is this the same as involvement?

Many factors contribute to health and well-being, including quality of health and social care and lifestyle issues such as diet, exercise and smoking. To support the delivery of health protection and improvement initiatives, we will work **collaboratively** with partners in Health to develop a model of social prescribing that promotes well-being and protects health of the individual. We will also continue a community based approach to deliver our successful Falls Prevention Programme to help older people who have suffered a fall or who are at risk of falling to improve their mobility, strength and balance and re-build their confidence.

Taking regular exercise is an important aspect of staying healthy and active and can help protect against a number of serious health conditions including heart disease and diabetes. We will encourage people of all ages to take regular exercise through refurbishing leisure facilities including changing rooms in Sobell Leisure Centre and Abercyon Sports Centre. We will also open the first indoor 3G sports pitch in Rhondda Fach Sports Centre, which will be used by the community as well as local schools. This work integrates with our Place priority by providing enhanced community facilities and also our Economy priority through linking with the 21st Century schools programme. There is a large evidence base both within RCT and nationally of the positive effects of libraries on health and well-being and socialisation and we will seek to improve facilities so that libraries can be utilised by communities.

Our work in this priority, both now and in the future, will contribute to the seven national Well-being Goals, in particular a Wales of Cohesive Communities and a Healthier Wales. However, we will seek to maximise our contribution across all of the goals. An illustrative example of this is the development of our Extra Care facilities. We will contribute to a more Prosperous Wales by committing to using local labour and local supply chains to ensure contracts support the local community. This will also contribute to a more Resilient Wales as using local supply chains will reduce the carbon footprint of the build and we will use a modular construction in Maesyffynnon, which means that the majority of the construction will be completed off site in a factory and then brought to site to be assembled. This is a greener process that generates less waste by recycling materials in the factory, controlling inventory and protecting building materials from the weather. It also reduces the number of vehicles that need to enter the site. The developments will also seek to conserve and enhance the natural environment, particularly in relation to biodiversity and access to open spaces by providing areas within the developments, for example sensory gardens. We will contribute to a Wales of Cohesive Communities by connecting our extra care facilities with our local communities Schools, churches, businesses and many other groups or individuals are encouraged to be involved and visit the service and made to feel part of the lives of the older people. Joint intergenerational activities are promoted across all extra care schemes for example carol services with local schools and musical performances by school children at the facilities. Good transport links and public transport accessibility are also critical and considered when locating Extra Care facilities. Extra Care housing enables residents to live independent, healthy lifestyles and will offer a diverse range of activities that promote health a well-being in later life, contributing to a Healthier Wales. All schemes will consist of an on-site restaurant and will promote healthy eating, balanced nutrition and hydration. Finally, we will contribute to a Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language by promoting the Welsh Language and providing access to an activities programme which encourages residents to participate in craft, exercise and musical performances.

PEOPLE - Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone

To which of the Council's challenges and opportunities, as outlined in the Council's draft Corporate Plan, will this action respond?	Priority 1 - Health & Social Care Services will be personalised and integrated, with more people supported to live longer in their own home
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Actions that will deliver Priority 1		Ref	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer
ADUP1A01	Deliver new accommodation models to improve outcomes for those individuals who need support to live independently Working jointly with Linc Cymru , deliver the Council's Extra Care Housing Development Programme and enable more people to live independently in their own home rather than institutional settings.	ADUP1A01M01	Deliver new extra care housing scheme at former Maesyffynnon care home site in Aberaman (scheme complete July 2019):		
		ADUP1A01M01i	Commence on site construction	Jul-18	Stephen Williams
		ADUP1A01M02	Deliver new extra care housing scheme at former Magistrates Court site in Pontypridd:		
		ADUP1A01M02i	Agree scheme design	May-18	Jill Bow
		ADUP1A01M02ii	Liaise with scheme developer to ensure planning permission awarded	Oct-18	Stephen Williams
		ADUP1A01M03	Deliver new extra care housing scheme at former Ysbyty George Thomas hospital site in Treorchy:		
		ADUP1A01M03i	Agree scheme design linking with Valley Life Proposal	Jul-18	Jill Bow
		ADUP1A01M03ii	Liaise with scheme developer to secure planning permission	Jan-19	Stephen Williams

Actions that will deliver Priority 1		Ref	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer
ADUP1A04	<p>Deliver new accommodation models to improve outcomes for those individuals who need support to live independently</p> <p>Continue to ensure that there are appropriate levels of modern fit for purpose housing and accommodation available for vulnerable people in the long term, that meets their needs and supported, where appropriate, by access to community facilities</p>	ADUP1A04M01	Complete options analysis for the ongoing redesign of the supported living model to ensure efficient and effective supported accommodation; including options to effectively manage “stay back” days more efficiently:		
		ADUP1A04M01i	Complete “Just checking” project and analyse findings to inform future support requirements and scheme configurations	Aug-18	Paul Evans
		ADUP1A04M01ii	Finalise options analysis and draft strategy proposals, including implementation plan consideration and	Oct-18	Jill Bow
		ADUP1A04M02	Deliver Penllew Court sheltered housing scheme (Aberdare) redevelopment in partnership with Cynon Taf to create new supported living for people with learning disabilities		
		ADUP1A04M02i	Agree scheme design	Apr-18	Jill Bow
		ADUP1A04M02ii	Commence on site redevelopment works	Sep-18	Jill Bow
		ADUP1A04M04	Work with Ategi to explore opportunities to increase the availability of current shared lives provision and expand the model of care to offer support both short and long term to wider range of people who have an assessed need		
		ADUP1A04M04i	Complete review the existing Shared Lives SLA and redesign service specification in order to better promote service and the Shared Lives offer	Jul-18	Fran Hall
		ADUP1A04M04ii	Relaunch Shared Lives scheme to identify and recruit additional carers	Dec-18	Fran Hall

Actions that will deliver Priority 1		Ref	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer
ADUP2A01	Develop new community based models of service with a focus on early intervention and prevention , choice, control and independence Complete review of learning disabilities day services provision and prepare options analysis for the redesign of current provision to ensure that new models of support are high quality and cost effective	ADUP2A01M01	Finalise options analysis and draft proposals, including consultation plan and present to Cabinet	Dec-18	Neil Elliott
ADUP2A03	Develop new community based models of service with a focus on early intervention and prevention, choice, control and independence Co-ordinated and integrated community based care and support teams for people with continuing health and social care needs that supports people within their local community and supports people outside a hospital setting where a referral for hospital based services or admission is not necessary. Provide high quality coordinated care in people's homes and communities.	ADUP2A04M01	Work with Merthyr and Health to develop a community response service (Stay well @home Phase 2) to prevent people being taken to hospital unnecessarily. (This would include responding to GPs (in and out of hours) and WAST.		
		ADUP2A04M01ii	Undertake an options appraisal to consider the best way of delivering this new service model and draft proposals for consideration and approval	Dec-18	Luisa Bridgman
		ADUP2A04M01iii	Subject to M01(i), agree development programme and commence implementation	Jan-19	Luisa Bridgman
ADUP2A03	Develop new community based models of service with a focus on early intervention and prevention , choice, control and independence Make better use of technology solutions to maintain people independently in their home and prevent escalation of need increasing or by enabling recovery and independence	ADUP2A03M01	Finalise assistive technology strategy to inform the commissioning a new model for equipment, assistive technology, community alarms and response services and obtain sign off by Cabinet	Mar-19	Luisa Bridgman

Actions that will deliver Priority 1		Ref	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer
LPBP1A01	Deliver the priority investments for Leisure Centres, Parks and Playgrounds, Bereavement Services and Heritage and Visitor Attractions to increase participation in exercise and contribute to residents health and well-being	LPBP1A01	Deliver improvements to leisure centre changing rooms		
		LPBP1A01M01	Undertake work with Corporate Estates to prioritise works at each of the sites. (Sobell Leisure Centre and Abercynon Sports Centre)	Apr-18	Keith Nicholls
		LPBP1A01M02	Undertake works and complete projects.	Oct-18	Keith Nicholls
		LPBP1A02	Deliver the Council's first indoor 3G pitch at Rhondda Fach Leisure Centre.		
		LPBP1A02M01	Draw up specification in readiness for procurement.	Mar-18	Keith Nicholls
		LPBP1A02M02	Undertake work and complete installation of 3G pitch.	Jul-18	Keith Nicholls
		LPBP3A01M01	Use of the new 3G pitch by local schools, clubs and associations to develop a hub of community based sports activities	Sep-18	Keith Nicholls Hywel George Gavin Bennett
LIBP2A04	Improve facilities at library premises to ensure they are fit for purpose	LIBP2A04M01	Improve facilities at Tonypanydly library so that a wider range of activities can be facilitated there in partnership with Employment Mentors and CF staff.	Mar-19	Wendy Edwards
LIBP2A05	Introduce and promote the use of digital products and digital learning	LIBP2A05M04	Pilot the provision of tablets to mobile/housebound customers.	Mar-19	Menna James
ETCP3	To support the delivery of health protection and improvement initiatives in collaboration with partners, that support residents and communities to be healthier, safer and more resilient	ETCP3A02M02i	Develop a Community Based approach to delivery of the Falls Prevention Programme to include the wider community	Mar-19	Amy Lewis
		ETCP3A02M02ii	Ensure an effective evaluation of the Falls Prevention Programme is undertaken.	Mar-19	Amy Lewis
		ETCP3A02M03	Work with Health to develop a model for Primary Care to adopt social prescribing of falls prevention, arts therapy and other interventions that promote well being and protect health.	Mar-19	Amy Lewis

PEOPLE - Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone

Measures to support Priority 1 - Health & Social Care Services will be personalised and integrated, with more people supported to live longer in their own homes

PI Ref	PI Description	2015/16		2016/17			2017/18		2018/19			
		Target	RCT Actual	Target	RCT Actual	All Wales Average	Target	RCT Actual	Proposed Target	How does the proposed 2018/19 Target compare to 2016/17 Welsh Average	How does the proposed 2018/19 Target compare to 2017/18 Data	How does the proposed 2018/19 Target compare to 2017/18 Target
LSCA014	% of clients choosing their own service providers through Direct Payments	13.5	12.91	13.3	14.34	N/A	14.63	14.67	15.5	N/A	Better	Better
LSCA101	Proportion of people assessed by adult social care in receipt of care and support plan.	N/A	N/A	NEW-BASELINE YEAR	67.04	N/A	67.04	70.15	70.15	N/A	Same	Worse
Measure 20a SSOF20a	% of adults who completed a period of reablement & have a reduced package of care & support 6 months later	N/A	N/A	NEW-BASELINE YEAR	42.11	N/A	Baseline Year*	84.95	84.95	N/A	Same	N/A
Measure 20b SSOF20b	% of adults who completed a period of reablement & have no package of care & support 6 months later	N/A	N/A	NEW-BASELINE YEAR	77.23	N/A	77.23	77.63	77.63	N/A	Same	Better
LSCA102	No. of people admitted to residential or nursing care	N/A	539	499	456	N/A	422	417	400	N/A	Better	Better
SCA001	The rate of delayed transfers of care for social care reasons per 1,000 population aged 18 or over (All people 75+)	N/A	N/A	3.21	4.95	N/A	4.50	3.3	2.4	N/A	Better	Better

PI Ref	PI Description	2015/16		2016/17			2017/18		2018/19			
		Target	RCT Actual	Target	RCT Actual	All Wales Average	Target	RCT Actual	Proposed Target	How does the proposed 2018/19 target compare to 2016/17 Welsh Average	How does the proposed 2018/19 target compare to 2017/18 Data	How does the proposed 2018/19 target compare to 2017/18 Target
Measure 21 SSOF21	The average length of time older people (aged 65 or over) are supported in residential care homes	N/A	922	NEW - BASELINE YEAR	903.43	N/A	903.43	922.5	922.5	N/A	Same	Worse
PAM015 PSR002	Average No. of calendar days taken to deliver a DFG	250	186	220	219	224	280	234	260	Worse	Worse	Better
PAM017	No. of visits to local authority sports and leisure centres per 1,000 population where the visitor will be participating in Physical Activity (National PI)	8,155	7,425	8,250	7,581	8,387	7,710	8140	8400	Better	Better	Better
LLCS014	No. of visits to local authority sports and leisure facilities per 1,000 population where the visitor will be participating in physical activity (New Local PI)	N/A	N/A	N/A	11,614	N/A	11,824	12,218	12,500	N/A	Better	Better
WPLSQI16a	Number of visits to Public Library premises (Physical) during the year, per 1,000 population.				3385	N/A	3285	3355	3,338	N/A	Worse	Better
WPLSQI16b	Number of visits to Public Library premises (virtual) during the year, per 1,000 population.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NEW	318	Awaiting target	N/A		

* The criteria for calculating this PI was changed by Welsh Government during 2016/17, therefore we are unable to use the 2016/17 data as our baseline.

PEOPLE - Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone

Priority 2: Redesigned local services - integrated and efficient

The Council understands that to get the most out of its services they need to be fully **integrated**, efficient and resilient, which is why many local services have been redesigned to encompass early intervention and prevention to better serve communities in the **long term**.

A wide range of problems which impact on our communities are interrelated, including substance misuse, low educational attainment and poor health. Identifying families where issues are present, assessing their needs and providing timely support can **prevent** problems from escalating and requiring specialist services in the future. We will continue our work to support families as effectively as possible through our Resilient Families Service and wider Resilient Families Programme. We will **integrate** this work with the Council's development of Community Hubs to ensure that family support is accessible in community locations

A child's first 1000 days has been identified as a critical part of life. These years have a long lasting impact on individuals and families. They shape the destiny for children as they grow up: their educational achievements, their ability to secure an income, their influences on their own children, and their health in older age. We will review the delivery of Early Years in RCT as part of the WG Regional Early Years Integration Project, involving parents, families and service users in future developments. This **integrates** with the Healthy People Objective as set out work of the Public Service Board detailed in the Cwm Taf Well-being Plan.

Substance Misuse is linked to a range of other problems including crime and disorder, antisocial behaviour, domestic violence, mental health issues and unemployment. We will work **collaboratively** with our partners to ensure that wherever an individual lives in Cwm Taf they are entitled to the same access and receive the same support, treatment and quality of service to ensure everyone receives the help and support they need and avoid problems escalating.

PEOPLE - Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone

To which of the Council's challenges and opportunities, as outlined in the Council's draft Corporate Plan, will this action respond?	Priority 2 - Redesigned local services - integrated and efficient
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Actions that will deliver Priority 2		Ref	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer
CWRP1	Implement the Resilient Families Programme as the Council's prevailing arrangement for the delivery of family support in RCT, focusing on the opportunities available via the Regional Community Zones, Funding Flexibilities and Early Years Integration Projects alongside WG	CWRP1A04M03	Ensure the delivery of the family support is accessible in community locations by aligning the work of Resilient Families Programme partners with	Mar-19	Zoe Lancelott/ Geraint Evans
		CWRP1A04M04	Actively seek opportunities through the Funding Flexibilities pilot to remove barriers to delivering fully integrated services to secure commitment from key partners to the Resilient Families Programme	Mar-19	Zoe Lancelott/ Geraint Evans
CWRP3	Lead the delivery of effective visible pathways of support for young people and parents to support the work of the Resilient Families Service in building family resilience and delivering positive outcomes	CWRP3A01M01	Introduce, promote and communicate the Young Persons Support Framework to key stakeholders across RCT	Apr-18	Geraint Evans
		CWRP3A01M02	Roll out a single young people's resilience assessment tool and action plan template supported by workshops/sessions with key partners providing opportunity to discuss new paperwork and processes	May-18	Geraint Evans
CWRP4	Review the delivery of Early Years in RCT as part of the WG Regional Early Years Integration Project	CWRP4A02M01	Develop an integrated service delivery model for the provision of Early Years Services for children aged 0-7 (future state pathway of services), including Cwm Taf Flying Start Health visitors in that scoping exercise	Jun-18	Nia Thomas
		CWRP4A02M02	Compare and combine future state pathway of services with Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and Cwm Taf UHB	Jul-18	Nia Thomas
		CWRP4A02M03	Share pathway and seek feedback from parents, families and service users	Aug-18	Nia Thomas
	Continue to develop and implement the Cwm Taf Integrated Substance Misuse Service model.		Milestones to follow	Mar-19	Paul Mee & Ceri Ford

PEOPLE - Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone

Measures to support Priority 2 - Redesigned local services - integrated and efficient

PI Ref	PI Description	2015/16		2016/17			2017/18		2018/19			
		Target	RCT Actual	Target	RCT Actual	All Wales Average	Target	RCT Actual	Proposed Target	How does the proposed 2018/19 Target compare to 2016/17 Welsh Average	How does the proposed 2018/19 Target compare to 2017/18 Data	How does the proposed 2018/19 Target compare to 2017/18 Target
LPPN140	Number and percentage of clients who reduce their substance misuse for problematic substances between start and most recent review (Cwm Taf APB)		66.91	N/A	69	N/A	71	88.26	Awaiting Target			
LCWR001a	Number of families with increased resilience following intervention with the Resilient Families Service	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Baseline year	N/A	N/A	N/A
LCWR001b	% of families with increased resilience following intervention with the Resilient Families Service	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Baseline year	N/A	N/A	N/A

PEOPLE - Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone

Priority 3: Rhondda Cynon Taf's children and young people will receive a great start in life

Having a good start helps children and young people to have high aspirations and to develop to their full potential, not only academically but also socially and emotionally. This positive start will contribute to the **longer term prevention** of a wide range of social problems including unemployment and ill health.

Where children and young people are unable to live to live with their own parents, we put in place the care arrangements, including specialist independent accommodation for care leavers, which will keep them safe and well. We will continue to ensure that those young people who leave the care system are adequately prepared and are able to contribute to the communities they live in.

We will ensure that we hear the voices of these children and young people by **involving** them in 'What matters' conversations and the co-production of their wellbeing goals.

We will also work **collaboratively** with our partners in Merthyr CBC to develop a Regional Fostering Service which will improve the range of locally available accommodation.

This work with children and young people is closely **integrated** with our Economy priority, as supporting our young people early on in life will improve their skills and educational attainment and support the longer term economic development of the area.

PEOPLE - Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone

To which of the Council's challenges and opportunities, as outlined in the Council's draft Corporate Plan, will this action respond?	Priority 3 - Rhondda Cynon Taf's children and young people will receive a great start in life
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Actions that will deliver Priority 3		Ref	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer
CHSP3A03	Ensure that children that cannot live with their own parents live in suitable accommodation in RCT by identifying a range of placements that support children looked after and care leavers to achieve positive outcomes.	CHSP3A03M04	Undertake a review of the independent living programme for care leavers	Jun-18	Tracy Prosser
		CHSP3A03M05	Develop an independent living programme for care leavers that incorporates the finding of the review and implement within the service.	Oct-18	Tracy Prosser
		CHSP3A03M06	Develop a accommodation model for 16+ that takes into account their particular vulnerabilities and needs, including emergency and single persons placements.	Dec-18	Tracy Prosser
CHSP3A04	Promote engagement with children looked after and partner agencies to ensure coproduction and that the voice of the children and young people are heard	CHSP3A04M01	Review the current methods of communication used to engage CLA, care leavers taking into account the learning from the 'Bright Spots Survey'	Jul-18	Cath Tyler
		CHSP3A04M02	Analyse information gathered in the review and develop a plan to ensure information gathered influences, and is incorporated into any planned service developments within the Children Looked After Quality Assurance Group	Sep-18	Cath Tyler
CHSP3A01	Develop a plan to implement a Regional Fostering Service in line with the recommendations of the National Fostering Framework.	CHSP3A01M03	Work with partners to develop an implementation plan	Mar-19	Head of Children Looked After

PEOPLE - Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone

Measures to support Priority 3 - Rhondda Cynon Taf's children and young people will receive a great start in life

PI Ref	PI Description	2015/16		2016/17			2017/18		2018/19			
		Target	RCT Actual	Target	RCT Actual	All Wales	Target	RCT Actual	Proposed Target	How does the proposed 2018/19 Target compare to 2016/17 Welsh Average	How does the proposed 2018/19 Target compare to 2017/18 Data	How does the proposed 2018/19 Target compare to 2017/18 Target
LSCC101	No. of children & young people requiring intervention from statutory services	N/A	37.57	35.00	20	N/A	18.00	23.5	18	N/A	Better	Same
LSCC102	No. of looked after children	N/A	623	592	690	N/A	655	676	655	N/A	Better	Same
Measure 27 SSOF27	% of re-registrations of children on Local Authority CPR	N/A	8.22	8.00	9.4	N/A	8	8.1	8	N/A	Better	Same
Measure 34a SSOF34a	% of all care leavers who are in education, training or employment at 12 months after leaving care	N/A	N/A	NEW - BASELINE YEAR	50	N/A	50	41	50	N/A	Better	Same
Measure 34b SSOF34b	% of all care leavers who are in education, training or employment at 24 months after leaving care	N/A	N/A	NEW - BASELINE YEAR	53.3	N/A	53	49	53	N/A	Better	Same

Corporate Priority Action Plan Monitoring Report - Quarter 4 2017/18

PLACE - *Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work*

Summary of progress

During 2017/18, we have made good progress in our work for the PLACE priority.

We have continued our work to help people feel safe in the community by progressing the Porth Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP). As part of the evaluation of the work to date, residents told us that they are witnessing fewer young people drinking in the local area, including in the local drinking 'hotspots'. Whilst residents' perception is positive, there is still more work to do to educate young people on the safe use of alcohol, as results tell us that they consider it 'cool' to drink alcohol in front of their friends, and more than 30% said they had been drunk in the last 4 weeks. We have also seen positive outcomes from our work with young first-time offenders, through the Cwm Taf 'Divert Programme'. We have continued to inform people about **preventing** radicalisation and terrorism, and increasing awareness of hate crime and how to report it. This year, residents were keen to support our [Public Space Protection Order \(PSPO\)](#) to control and **prevent** alcohol related anti-social behaviour in RCT. Following Council [agreement](#), the PSPO will commence in September 2018.

Our parks and open spaces continue to be used for physical and recreational activity. We have **involved** residents in our plans for grant-funded projects in Ynysangharad Park, and supported community groups to re-open some of our paddling pools during the summer months. New 3G pitches installed in Church Village and Tonyrefail, have provided an **integrated** sports provision for both pupils at Garth Olwg and Tonyrefail Community School and local residents. We have also taken steps to meet our legal duty arising from the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, to ensure we are considering biodiversity, in other words plants, animals and the systems that support them, in all Council decision-making and actions.

We have **involved** residents and encouraged their participation in our arts projects to help build confidence, improve communication, limit isolation, as well as support well-being, employment and educational prospects. We have also **involved** people in the development of our arts programme to ensure that we provide a wide range of activities suitable for all our residents. Our work with young people has focussed on mental health issues and anti-bullying. This work has led to the development of a mental-health app and a video on the impacts of bullying and its effect on the mental health of young people. Our 'E-Teens' library section in Treorchy has also received new furniture and equipment following the successful grant bid by young people to the ['Treorchy Wind fund'](#).

As part of our work to better support communities, we put in place investment and started to develop 'Community Hubs' in St Mair's Day Centre, Aberdare, Mountain Ash Day Centre and Ferndale Infants School. Once in place the Hubs will bring a range of public organisations together to provide a more joined up service for residents and communities in one place and at the same time making better use of our staff and buildings and so reduce costs. By making better, more cost effective use of our resources and reinvesting in new or retro fitted, fit for purpose buildings will mean that services will be more sustainable in the **long term**. Providing improved **integrated** services to our residents and communities, in their local environment, particularly access to information, advice and assistance, will help families

Summary of progress

to access support as early as possible to **prevent** problems from escalating or from starting in the first place. The development of Community Hubs also feature as a priority in the [Cwm Taf Well-being Plan](#), further demonstrating the partners commitment to working together.

Maintaining our highways and keeping traffic moving continues to be a high priority for the Council and this year we invested further in our road infrastructure. The wide-ranging programme of work included improved and repaired roads, bridges and pavements, continuing to repair potholes and investing in more energy efficient replacement streetlights. A condition survey of our highways shows that fewer of our roads are in 'overall poor condition' as a result, i.e.5.7%, compared with 7.2% in 2016/17.

Despite not meeting our recycling target this year, we remain committed to achieving the Welsh Government, recycling target of 70% by 2024/25. We continue our work with residents in areas of low recycling and as a result have improved recycling activity. We have also raised awareness through our events and competitions, which have been very successful in our primary schools. Our new recycling project '[The Shed](#)' at Llantrisant is flourishing and has provided jobs and positive work experiences and opportunities to gain social skills for volunteers. Our annual '[Love Where You Live](#)' awards took place in July, celebrating and recognising the efforts of residents who are active and inspirational in the community, helping to improve the local environment. We have also announced **long-term** plans for a multi-million pound development for an Eco Park development at Bryn Pica Waste Management Facility that will turn more rubbish into sustainable energy, encourage the relocation of local business and provide employment opportunities.

We continue to work with residents to keep the County Borough clean and tidy. This year has seen the implementation of an RCT-wide Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for dog controls following public consultation and a hard hitting dog fouling campaign 'Sort **it Out!'. Additional enforcement officers have been recruited to ensure regular monitoring in areas covered by the PSPO including sports pitches and children's play areas. Our work with students in Treforest continues, with some positive progress being shown in responsible waste management, and we continue to progress our '[Who Done It?](#)' reporting to ensure perpetrators of environmental crime are held to account.

Council Priority:	PLACE - Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work
Lead Director:	Chris Lee

Measuring Success

Measures to support Priority 1 - Rhondda Cynon Taf will be amongst the safest places in Wales, with high levels of community cohesion and residents feeling safe

PI Ref	Performance Measure	2015/16	2016/17		2017/18		Comments
		Actual	Actual	All Wales Average	Target	Actual	
LLSD001	% of people reporting that they feel safe [South Wales Police (SWP) Compass Survey]	N/A	69.4	N/A	For information only	69.00	Results from National Survey for Wales April 2016 to March 2017
LPPN127	% of vulnerable repeat victims of anti-social behaviour (ASB) that feel safer as a result of intervention	91	87	N/A	90	90.56	48 out of 53 victims of ASB
LPPN154	% of 18-25 year olds accepted into the programme who do not reoffend within 6 months of completing the intervention	N/A	100	N/A	95	96.45	136 out of 141 offenders attending the Divert Programme
LPPN159	Number of recorded incidents of antisocial behaviour' [Community Safety Partnership Data]	N/A	2,496	N/A	2,500 ¹	2,034	The long-term objective is to reduce the number of antisocial incidents recorded. However, in 2017-18 we were expecting to see an increase in recorded incidents following work with partners to address current under reporting.
LPPN155	% of people receiving training on hate crime who report an increased awareness of hate crime reporting procedures	N/A	N/A	N/A	80	98	

Footnote:

¹ This data represents the original classification recorded against the incident. Note: this classification may change as investigations progress.

Measures to support Priority 2 - Rhondda Cynon Taf's parks and green spaces will continue to be valued by residents

PI Ref	Performance Measure	2015/16	2016/17		2017/18		Comments
		Actual	Actual	All Wales Average	Target	Actual	
LLCS016	% of residents satisfied with our parks and open spaces for leisure, enjoyment and sport [Survey Data]	N/A	86	N/A	≥86	N/A	No data for 2017/18

Key:

Within Top Quartile performance for all of Wales 2016/17	Performance met or exceeded target	Performance within 5% of the target	Performance below target
Within Bottom Quartile performance for all of Wales 2016/17			

Bolded PIs denote that an existing Corporate Plan high level measure

Measures to support Priority 3 - More involved and resilient communities							
PI Ref	Performance Measure	2015/16	2016/17		2017/18		Comments
		Actual	Actual	All Wales Average	Target	Actual	
LLSD002	% of residents satisfied with the County Borough as a place to live [Survey Data]	N/A	85	N/A	≥85	80	Results from National Survey for Wales April 2016 to March 2017

Measures to support Priority 4 - Rhondda Cynon Taf's local environment will be clean and attractive, with well-maintained roads and pavements, flowing traffic, increased recycling and less waste sent to landfill							
PI Ref	Performance Measure	2015/16	2016/17		2017/18		Comments
		Actual	Actual	All Wales Average	Target	Actual	
LTHS011a PAM020	The percentage of principal (A) roads, that are in overall poor condition	7.2	5.6	3.7	5.4	5.2	
THS012	The percentage of principal (A) roads, non-principal (B) roads and non-principal (C) roads that are in overall poor condition	8.6	7.2	10.7	6.5	5.7	
WMT004b PAM031	% of municipal waste sent to landfill	22.59	2.16	9.5	5.00	1.76	
WMT009b PAM030	% of municipal waste collected by local authorities and prepared for reuse and/ or recycling, including source segregated biowastes that are composted or treated biologically in another way	60.49	64.41	63.81	65.00	61.31	The dataset for 2017/18 has been changed and we can no longer include certain types of wood within our tonnage figures. This has had an adverse effect on our performance when compared to previous years and our current target. We are currently working with Amgen Cymru to look at potential ways in which we can address this.
STS005b PAM010	% of highways inspected of a high or acceptable standard of cleanliness	100.0	99.4	96.6	95.0	99.4	
LLSD003	% of residents satisfied with the condition of roads and pavements [Survey Data]	N/A	36	N/A	≥36	N/A	No data for 2017/18
STS006 PAM011	% of reported fly tipping incidents on relevant land cleared within 5 working days	97.81	96.87	95.37	95.00	96.94	

Key:

Within Top Quartile performance for all of Wales 2016/17	Performance met or exceeded target	Performance within 5% of the target	Performance below target
Within Bottom Quartile performance for all of Wales 2016/17			

Bolded PIs denote that an existing Corporate Plan high level measure

Priority 1: Rhondda Cynon Taf amongst the safest places in Wales, with high levels of community cohesion, and residents feeling safe

*Our work in this priority, both now and in the future, will contribute to the seven national Well-being Goals, in particular **a Wales of Cohesive Communities and A healthier Wales.***

Key Measures for this Priority

- **69%** of residents told us that they feel safe at home, walking in the local area and travelling – compared to 69% last year
- **90.56%** of vulnerable/repeat victims of anti-social behaviour feel safer as a result of intervention– compared to 87% last year

Community safety relates to people’s sense of personal security and their feelings of safety in relation to where they live work and spend their leisure time.

The Cwm Taf Community Safety Board is required by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to develop a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area, including anti-social behaviour and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment.

A recent [Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment](#) has informed the [Draft Cwm Taf Community Safety Delivery Plan 2018-21](#) This delivery plan is closely **integrated** with this priority, and links with the following core themes:

- Reduce the impact of alcohol and drug misuse on our communities.
- Divert offenders and reducing re- offending.
- Protect vulnerable groups from harm and victimisation.
- Tackle violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence
- Promote safe and confident communities
- Improve our environment by reducing environmental crime

There were **2,034** incidents of antisocial behaviour recorded in RCT during the year, which is less than 2016/17 (2,496). This appears to be positive, as the **long-term** objective is to reduce the number of antisocial incidents recorded. However, in 2017-18 we were expecting to see an increase in recorded incidents following work with partners to address current under reporting.

Feeling safe influences how people value their community and is important to people’s quality of life, often making the difference between people wanting to live and stay in their neighbourhood or not. We know that many of the complex issues such as alcohol and drug misuse are closely related to antisocial behaviour, and can only be tackled effectively through **collaboration** with our partner organisations and the local community. This year, further positive progress has been achieved in actions delivered through the Porth Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP). In partnership with South Wales Police, schools, licensees and the local community, we have been working to **prevent** underage drinking by reducing young people's access to alcohol and by educating residents of the impact on communities.

Priority 1: Rhondda Cynon Taf amongst the safest places in Wales, with high levels of community cohesion, and residents feeling safe

A full evaluation of the Porth CAP has been undertaken and the report submitted to the national Community Alcohol Partnership representative. An action plan of activities achieved sustainable improvements through education, intelligence-led enforcement and offered positive alternatives for young people that promoted a healthy lifestyle. The CAP has reduced the opportunity for young people to purchase alcohol. This included training offered to staff working in licensed premises on responsible selling practises, including the ['Challenge 25'](#) age-verification policy and how to spot fake identification. The CAP also successfully engaged and educated a number of parents following a recent survey that revealed parents are often the most likely provider of alcohol to young people.

The majority of stakeholders, residents, workers and business owners interviewed or surveyed confirmed that the wider support and partnership work of the CAP has made a visible difference to life in Porth. In addition, from those that responded:

- **58%** thought there was less general anti-social behaviour than before.
- **50%** felt that there was 'less'/'much less' alcohol related litter e.g. bottles in the area. 38% thought there was 'about the same amount'.
- **23%** thought there were less street drinkers buying alcohol
- **20%** thought that there was less anti-social behaviour related to street drinkers

The ASB team has had **18** incidents of ASB referred in the CAP area. Only **7** involved youths, none of which involved alcohol.

The survey also included a repeat of the original questions put to residents before commencement of the CAP, to establish the impact of the Porth CAP.

Survey Questions	Before	After	Change
% of residents said they witnessed young people under 18 drinking alcohol in and around the local area on at least a weekly basis	58.2%	48%	10.2% - Better
% of residents identified particular hotspots where underage drinking tended to be a problem	67.8%	53%	14.8% - Better
% of 15 year olds had drunk alcohol in the last 7 days	26.5%	24%	2.5% - Better
% of 15 year olds had been drunk in the last 4 weeks	29.4%	32.6%	3.2% - Worse
% of 15 year olds thought young people of their own age drink alcohol to look cool in front of their friends	72%	76%	4.0% - Worse
% of 15 year olds had been given alcohol by their friends in the last 4 weeks	40 %	38%	2.0% - Better

Whilst the majority of these results are positive and present an improved resident perception, there is still more work to do to educate young people on the safe use of alcohol.

The **involvement** of local people and partners in the Porth Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) has been vital to the promotion of community safety and cohesion. These actions have helped contribute to people feeling safe not only in their homes and local areas, but also in their local environment, being able to enjoy their surroundings and having a positive effect on their well-being.

Priority 1: Rhondda Cynon Taf amongst the safest places in Wales, with high levels of community cohesion, and residents feeling safe

We have also continued our work to **prevent** crime and anti-social behaviour, as we know that this is the most effective way to address problems in the **long-term**. In partnership with South Wales Police, we have continued to **prevent** re-offending by working with first time offenders to address the underlying issues behind their behaviour. Through the Cwm Taf DIVERT Programme, we continue to work with first time offenders aged 18-25. The young adults who take part in the programme engage in restorative interventions, where appropriate, and attend a whole day, interactive, educational workshop focusing on the consequences of their actions. This includes writing [letters to the affected parties](#).

During 2017/18:

- **96%** of young people that took part, did not reoffend within six months of attending the course
- **87%** of incidents were committed under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs
- **44** onward referrals were made to partner agencies including: substance misuse; mental health support; counselling and employment/education/training opportunities,
- **274** signposts to partner agencies have been made including accommodation services, domestic abuse services and to the GP.

We have also worked with schools and community organisations to educate people about the prevention of terrorism and radicalisation, and to increase awareness of hate crime and how to report it. 372 people attended training on hate crime, what it was and how to report it. 98% of people receiving this training reported an increased awareness of hate crime reporting procedures.

During the year, there were 478 reported hate crime incidents within Cwm Taf, a slight increase on 2016/17 when 443 incidents were reported. They were categorised as follows::

Category	2017/18		2016/17	
	No	%	No	%
Racial	292	61%	257	58%
Sexual orientation	104	22%	82	18%
Disability	49	10%	87	20%
Religion	24	5%	14	3%
Transgender	9	2%	3	1%
Total Reported	478		443	

To establish public opinion, we have undertaken consultation to **involve** residents in the decisions made to retain the [Public Space Protection Order \(PSPO\)](#) to control and **prevent** alcohol related anti-social behaviour in Rhondda Cynon Taf, and to extend the Order to include two defined exclusion zones to control

Priority 1: Rhondda Cynon Taf amongst the safest places in Wales, with high levels of community cohesion, and residents feeling safe

intoxicating substance use in Pontypridd and Aberdare Town Centres. Responses were received from residents, South Wales Police, Pontypridd Town Council, Cwm Taf UHB Director of Public Health, The Older Peoples Advisory Group and the RCT wide Youth Forum.

Key findings from the consultation:

- Over **60%** of respondents said they had been affected by alcohol related anti-social behaviour.
- **80%** of respondents agreed that the Council should retain the PSPO designating the whole County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf as a Controlled Drinking Zone.
- **80%** of respondents said that they thought the Council should include an Intoxicating Substance Exclusion Zone in Pontypridd, compared to 67% in Aberdare.
- **85%** of respondents agreed that the Council should allow the consumption of alcohol in the exclusion zones (within the premises or boundary of premises authorised for the supply of alcohol).
- **61%** said that the Council should not allow the consumption of alcohol in any other activities in the town centres.
- **82%** of respondents agreed with the fixed fine of £100.

These results were considered in a paper submitted to the [Council's Cabinet](#), and formed part of the decision making process. It was [agreed](#) to:

- support the retention and extension of the PSPO for the County Borough to control alcohol related anti-social behaviour and extend the Order to include two defined exclusion zones to control intoxicating substance use (including alcohol) in public places in Aberdare and Pontypridd Town Centres,
- set the fine for fixed penalties issued for contraventions of the PSPO at £100,
- undertake a high profile awareness and marketing campaign prior to the commencement of the PSPO on 1st September 2018.

Council Priority:	PLACE - Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work
Corporate Priority Action Plan	Chris Lee
Challenges and Opportunities linked to this Council Priority	1. Rhondda Cynon Taf will be amongst the safest places in Wales, with high levels of community cohesion, and residents feeling safe
Lead Officer	Paul Mee

Actions that will deliver Priority 1	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
ETCP02 To deliver Community Safety Services and Programmes that promote Rhondda Cynon Taf as a safe place to live with high levels of community cohesion	Continue to deliver the new work programme to focus on first time offenders aged 18-25 to reduce re-offending and ASB and work with the Police and Crime Commissioner to evaluate its effectiveness	Mar-18	Complete	The Divert 18-25 programme continues to be a success and we have fully implemented the "Support" 18-25 project into the programme. End of year results have shown us that 96.5% of 18-25 year olds accepted on to the programme, do not commit any further offences within 6 months of completing the intervention. The results and effectiveness of the programme has been evaluated by the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office and we have received a further 12 months of funding.
	Support Education and other partners to deliver training programmes to educate target audiences about the prevention of terrorism and radicalisation and to increase awareness of hate crime and how to report it.	Mar-18	Complete	An extensive programme of Hate Crime Awareness training has taken place throughout Rhondda Cynon Taf. The training has been delivered to schools, Local Authority staff and the community. End of year results indicate that 98% of people who received the Hate Crime training have an increased awareness of hate crime reporting procedures. The Prevent training (Preventing Radicalisation) is an ongoing project and we have currently trained over 1,000 Local Authority staff. Evaluation forms of this training are collated by the Home Office.
	Subject to the outcome of the evaluation of National Pilot Authorities, respond to changes in how Extremist Behaviour Referrals are managed in RCT by developing robust protocols between the local authority and Police.	Mar-18	Complete	Cwm Taf currently has an effective process in place and Channel meetings are convened on a quarterly basis to discuss relevant referrals. Channel meetings are convened more regularly if the need arises. An evaluation of the Authorities piloting the proposed Dovetail project has taken place and a further regional trial is taking place in the North West during 2018/19. The rollout in Wales has been scheduled to commence in April 2020.
	Deliver the action plan to support achievement of the objectives of the Community Alcohol Partnership launched in Porth	Sep-17	Complete	A full evaluation of the Community Alcohol Partnership in Porth has taken place and the report submitted to the national Community Alcohol Partnership representative. The surveys conducted tell us that the majority of people interviewed or surveyed feel that the wider support and partnership work of the CAP has made a visible difference to life in Porth. 58% of respondents felt that there was less anti social behaviour in the area than before the CAP was implemented. The evaluation found that there was excellent partnership working taking place throughout the initiative. An action plan of activities achieved sustainable improvements through education, intelligence-led enforcement and offered positive alternatives for young people that promoted a healthy lifestyle. CAP has reduced the opportunity for young people to purchase alcohol. Training was offered to staff working in licensed premises on responsible selling practises, including the 'Challenge 25' age-verification policy and how to spot fake identification. The CAP also successfully engaged and educated a number of parents following a recent survey which revealed parents are often the most likely provider of alcohol to young people.
	Evaluate the effectiveness of the Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) in Porth	Mar-18	Complete	A full evaluation of the Community Alcohol Partnership in Porth has taken place and the report submitted to the national Community Alcohol Partnership representative. The surveys conducted tell us that the majority of people interviewed or surveyed feel that the wider support and partnership work of the CAP has made a visible difference to life in Porth. 58% of respondents felt that there was less anti social behaviour in the area than before the CAP was implemented. the evaluation found that there was excellent partnership working taking place throughout the initiative. An action plan of activities achieved sustainable improvements through education, intelligence-led enforcement and offered positive alternatives for young people that promoted a healthy lifestyle. CAP has reduced the opportunity for young people to purchase alcohol. Training was offered to staff working in licensed premises on responsible selling practises, including the 'Challenge 25' age-verification policy and how to spot fake identification. The CAP also successfully engaged and educated a number of parents following a recent survey which revealed parents are often the most likely provider of alcohol to young people.

Actions that will deliver Priority 1		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
ETCP02	To deliver Community Safety Services and Programmes that promote Rhondda Cynon Taf as a safe place to live with high levels of community cohesion	Evaluate the effectiveness of the programme of interventions, including proactive advice, training and test purchases, designed to reduce the level of underage sales of restricted products in RCT.	Mar-18	Complete	One day of underage test purchases (3 sales), and one day of Challenge-25 for the Pontypridd CAP (no sales) was carried out this quarter. 2017-18 has seen a more intelligence led approach to programmes of intervention. There has been less test purchase activity, but with a higher percentage of non-compliant result recorded. Work in both CAP areas (Porth and Pontypridd) appear to be bringing positive results, with no complaints received in respect of premises in those areas. Greater partnership working has meant that Trading Standards is receiving referrals from external partners such as the Police and Youth Offending Teams, as well as internal partners such as Licensing. In 2017-18 there were 14 proactive requests from traders for advice on underage sales systems and processes, an increase from 2 in 2016-17. The number of complaints received has decreased in 2017-18. Challenges still present in respect of enforcement and resolution of proxy sales, but there is no evidence of excessive underage sales activity within the Authority, as was the case a number of years ago.
		Develop and deliver an action plan of interventions aimed at improving the proportion of premises, excluding Clubs, licensed to sell alcohol which are broadly compliant with licensing legislation	Mar-18	Complete	There has been an increased focus on the inspection of licensed premises and a new protocol has been put in place. The new protocol includes an action plan being devised for any premises that are found to be not operating in compliance with licensing legislation. The action plans are put together in conjunction with the premises license holder and complement the increased legislation updates we provide to all premises license holders. This new protocol has resulted in a sharp increase in the percentage of licensed premises that are broadly compliant with licensing legislation and the current performance figure is 86%.

Footnote

¹ 'Channel' is part of the 'Prevent' strategy, and is a multi-agency approach to identify and provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism.

Priority 2: Rhondda Cynon Taf's parks and green spaces will continue to be valued by residents

Our work in this priority, both now and in the future, will contribute to the seven national Well-being Goals, in particular a **Resilient Wales** and a **globally responsible Wales**.

Key Measures for this Priority

- *86% of residents told us that they are satisfied with our parks and open spaces – 2016/17 data*

Local people identified wildlife, the local landscape quality and outdoor activity as important to their well-being. Well-maintained, accessible outdoor spaces provide opportunities for physical activity and relaxation, contributing to the **prevention** of a variety of physical and mental health conditions. We have actively worked on a pilot project with [Innovate Trust](#), Cardiff as part of its Lottery funded [Green Days project](#). This is a scheme to help people with learning disabilities and/or mental health problems to gain the skills and confidence that will help them to lead independent lives within their local communities. The project takes place in parks, nature reserves and green spaces across South Wales in the Cardiff, Vale of Glamorgan and Rhondda Cynon Taf areas, and carries out a wide range of activities from hands on conservation work like coppicing, planting and habitat maintenance, to nature walks and biodiversity surveys. Green Days is supported by volunteers from all walks of life, who mentor, encourage and act as positive role models for participants. Volunteers also gain valuable experience, such as learning new skills, meeting new people and improved physical and mental health.

Our parks and green spaces serve a wide variety of purposes and it is important that we balance the differing needs of residents whilst also protecting and enhancing the natural environment. We know that many people are passionate about their local parks and countryside and we have **involved** communities in developing and protecting our green spaces. For example, we have talked to local people about the best ways to develop and improve Ynysangharad Park. This [feedback](#) has been included in a grant-funded application to restore the bandstand and sunken garden, and develop a horticultural training facility. We are working with [Fields in Trust](#) Cymru to dedicate Ynysangharad War Memorial Park as a [Centenary Field](#) site as part of a national campaign to mark the centenary of the First World War. We also have a well-established 'Friends Group'¹ at Taffs Well Park and a new group is being developed at Aberdare Park.

We also know that our Parks and open spaces host many events **involving** communities including weekly '[Parkruns](#)' at [Ynysangharad Park](#) Pontypridd. A free 5km event that is open to everyone; The [Aberdare Festival](#), held at Aberdare Park with free admission to attractions including a live music stage and local craft stalls; The [Big Welsh Bite](#) – Welsh food and Agricultural Show at Ynysangharad Park. In November 2017, the Council also pledged its support to help community groups to [open local paddling pools](#) through the RCT Together initiative, providing a £5,000 support package to each volunteer group. We are currently supporting 7 'Pool Groups' at Lee Gardens (Penrhiwceiber), Abercynon, Butchers Pool (Ynysybwl), Penygraig, Maerdy, Treorchy and Gwernifor (Mountain Ash), to become operational by the Summer 2018 (subject to the necessary resourcing, training, and operational requirements).

The development of our Green Spaces Strategy has been delayed to focus on other **integrated** recreational activity priorities, for example, investment in 3G pitches linked to [21st Century school projects](#) that provides use of facilities for the benefit of pupils and the whole community. For example, [Ysgol Gyfun Garth Olwg, Church Village](#) and [Tonyrefail Community Schools](#). As part of the 3-year [RCTinvest](#) programme, the Council has a planned £200M investment in Leisure,

¹ A 'Friends Group' in this context, is a group of people who voluntarily work to maintain, improve and often promote a green space.

Priority 2: Rhondda Cynon Taf's parks and green spaces will continue to be valued by residents

Schools, Play Areas, Highways and Transport Infrastructure, Housing, Town and Village Centres and Recycling. An update on these improvements can be seen in this [video](#). All of this work is contributing to improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of residents and communities and helps to attract visitors and businesses.

We know that biodiversity is essential for our **long-term** future and we continue to take steps to meet our biodiversity duty arising from the [Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016](#). The Act provides a framework for a more joined up approach to managing natural resources such as the land, water, air and wildlife. It also means that we have to think about how we use these natural resources so they will still be available for the future. As a result of the Act, public bodies, including the Council, have to consider biodiversity in all their decision-making and actions. This new law works alongside what we need to do to improve Environmental Well-being as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

In the meantime, we have maintained the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and provided advice on ecological and land management identifying environmental impacts on new developments including housing and infrastructure improvements with an emphasis on habitat management including grassland, wetland, hedgerow and woodland management. This is helping to manage natural resources by mainstreaming biodiversity into planning processes for all our services, ensuring that long-term sustainability will be a core consideration in all decision making. This will help to safeguard the biodiversity of the area for future generations.

Council Priority:	PLACE - Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work
Corporate Priority Action Plan Monitoring	Chris Lee
Challenges and Opportunities linked to this Council Priority	2. Rhondda Cynon Taf's parks and green spaces will continue to be valued by residents
Lead Officer	Dave Batten

Actions that will deliver Priority 2		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
LPB6	Develop an RCT Council 'Biodiversity Duty' Action Plan to secure healthy, resilient and productive ecosystems while still meeting the challenges of creating jobs, housing and infrastructure, as set out in the Environment Act (Wales) 2016	Present draft Biodiversity Duty statement and Action Plan to Senior Leadership Team for consideration, support and challenge	Jul-17 Revised Oct-17	Complete	
		Seek Cabinet Approval of Biodiversity Duty statement and Action Plan	Sep-17 revised Jan-18	Target Missed	Statement reported to Scrutiny Committee on 12th December 2017. Up date to be reported to Cabinet as part of 2018/19 Cabinet Work Programme
		Put in place awareness raising actions (e.g. Inform/Managers briefings) to ensure that all managers are aware of the Biodiversity Duty and start to consider any implications for their service	Sep-17 revised Jan-18	Complete	
		Take steps to integrate Biodiversity requirements into Council processes e.g. Service Self Evaluation and Delivery Planning, with particular emphasis on Well-being of Future Generations, as set out in the Bio diversity Action plan	Sep-17 revised Feb-18	Complete	This theme was incorporated into the Service Self Assessment framework for all service areas to complete in autumn 2017 - the results have been used to inform 2018/19 priorities
		Put in place arrangements that will enable the Council to meet its duty to report to Welsh Government its implementation of the Biodiversity duty	Mar-18	Complete	
LPB01	Deliver the priority investments to enhance community leisure facilities	Procure, tender, award and deliver 3G pitch at Abercynon Leisure Centre	Nov-17 revised Jan-18	Complete	
		Deliver new 3G pitch at Garth Olwg Campus for school and community use	Dec-17	Complete	Facility now completed and handed over to the school on 16th February 2018
		Deliver new 3G pitch at Ferndale Comprehensive for school and community use	Mar-18	Not on Target	Some delays during the tendering process but project has started on site and good progress is being made.
		Deliver new 3G pitch at Tyn Y Bryn Park for Tonyrefail Comprehensive School and community use	Sep-17	Complete	Pitch opened on 11th Sept for school use

Actions that will deliver Priority 2		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
LPBP04 / RGNP5A02	Develop a project programme and submit a Heritage Lottery Fund bid to facilitate and support a programme of redevelopment for Ynysangharad Park as part of the 'Parks for People' initiative	Consultation with stakeholders	Jul-17	Complete	
		Develop draft Plan	Jul-17	Complete	
		Consult and update Ynysangharad War Memorial Park Cabinet Committee	Aug-17	Complete	
		Submit Stage 1 application to HLF	Sep-17	Complete	Submitted Aug 2017
LPBP04	Develop more innovative ways of managing Parks and Green Spaces	Prepare draft Green Spaces Strategy	Sep-17 Revised Oct-17	Not on Target	Decision taken to put Green Spaces Strategy on hold to concentrate on 21st Century Sports and Recreation Facility Strategy to support Corporate Plan Priority Investments.
		Consultation with stakeholders	Sep-17 Revised Dec-17	Not on Target	
		Draft Green Spaces Strategy to pre Scrutiny Committee	Dec-17	Not on Target	
		Draft Green Spaces Strategy to Cabinet	Mar-18	Not on Target	
LPBP04	Improve communication on Green Space management	Continue to update and improve Parks and Countryside Section of the corporate website	Sep-17	Complete	
		Arrange annual consultation meetings with all sports clubs that utilise the Council's sports facilities	Aug-17	Complete	
		Provide regular updates on pitch conditions via social media	Ongoing	Complete	

Priority 3: More involved and resilient communities in Rhondda Cynon Taf

*Our work in this priority, both now and in the future, will contribute to the seven national Well-being Goals, in particular **a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language, a Wales of cohesive communities, a Healthier Wales and a More Equal Wales.***

Key Measures for this Priority

- *80% of residents are satisfied with the County Borough as a place to live – compared to 85% in 2016/17*

We know that Community involvement can be a powerful tool in **preventing** or tackling many of the issues people face.

During the last year, we have **involved** and encouraged people to take part in our arts projects to help build confidence, improve communication, limit isolation, as well as support well-being, employment and educational prospects. These projects include:

- [Petra²](#) – working with families to support parents and children to work together on reading and writing skills.
- [Avant Cymru's](#) Rhondda Road ³continual drama, bringing different members of the community together to create a monthly show about local and global issues.
- [Hot Jam⁴](#), a song-writing boot camp that provides opportunities for disengaged young people to develop song-writing and performance skills alongside professional musicians.
- Providing opportunities for budding performers to [perform live on stage](#) as part of the [Young Promoters Network](#), [SONIG Youth Music Industry](#) programme and [Forte project](#). Local opportunities include performing at the Aberdare Festival, and at national festivals.
- [Fortitude Through Music](#) course. A music focused employability project coordinated and created by [SONIG Youth Music Industry](#) as part of the RCT Arts services.
- [Multiple Arts Project for young people with Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties at Ysgol Hen Felin](#) - created for young people between the age of 8 and 24, we worked in partnership with '[Touch Trust](#)' to facilitate this project that enabled participants to take part in music therapy sessions to begin with and then progress on to art sessions.
- TakepART a participatory art programme within theatres and on an outreach basis. This is predominantly children and young people focused, and includes:
 - weekly performing arts classes at the [Park & Dare Theatre](#)
 - weekly drama sessions in association with [Royal Welsh College of Music and Dramas Young Actors Studio](#)
 - Welsh language performing arts sessions delivered weekly at [Garth Olwg Lifelong Learning Centre](#)
 - monthly Kids Club arts & crafts and cinema at the [Coliseum Theatre](#)

² Funded by Communities First

³ Rhondda Road's community of all ages includes pupils at Treorchy Comprehensive, and received funding from Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm Community Fund

⁴ Funded through Families First

Priority 3: More involved and resilient communities in Rhondda Cynon Taf

The Coliseum and the Park and Dare Theatres are also members of the [‘Hynt’](#) national access scheme that works with theatres and arts centres in Wales to make sure there is a consistent offer available for visitors with an impairment or specific access requirement, and their Carers or Personal Assistants. Hynt cardholders are entitled to a ticket free-of-charge for a personal assistant or carer at all the theatres and arts centres participating in the scheme removing some access barriers for our audiences that prevent them from enjoying the arts on offer within the borough’s professional theatres.

During 2017/18, we have **involved** residents in discussions about what they would like to see in our programme. As a result of this input, we have developed a diverse programme of events that include:

- ‘Daytime Delights’ - Theatre performances and screenings to specifically cater for older people as part of an **integrated** approach to supporting their well-being or recovery from illness.
- Celebrating LGBT History Month – Hosting ‘An evening with Frank Vickery’ followed by a special screening of the smash hit film ‘Pride’ as part of the ‘Here and Now Festival’ celebrating LGBT History month in February.
- As part of the month long 2017 Gwanwyn Festival, celebrating creativity in old age, a sold-out performance of Lee Gilbert and his Big Band was held at the Park & Dare Theatre. This was arranged with the support of the Older People’s Advisory Group. Further activity arranged included ‘Concert & Cakes’.

We have also involved and engaged young and older people in conversation to establish what is important to them. This has included consulting with the RCT wide Youth Forum, who wanted to focus and raise the profile of mental health issues and anti-bullying. A sub-group has now been formed and a mental health app for young people is currently being developed. An accompanying video for schools and youth clubs across RCT is also being made to raise the profile of the impact of bullying and its effects on the mental health of young people. We also **involved** young people when Treorchy library put in a bid to the [Treorchy Wind fund](#)⁵ to renew the furniture in the E-Teens library. Twelve young people came into Treorchy Library on Saturday 25th November, the day before the public vote on the Wind fund proposals to serve tea and coffee to library users, handout leaflets and talk about why the E-Teens library was important to them. The resulting successful bid has enabled the purchase of new furniture in the E-Teens library section and a replacement X-box.

We continue to talk to older people and this year they gave us views on the new [Cwm Taf Well-being Plan](#), which was published in May 2018.

We continue to **collaborate** with our partners in many aspects of our services to help communities to help themselves. Our [‘RCT Together’](#) programme continues to help to give power to local people in libraries and other cultural and community facilities e.g. The Cynon Valley Museum has been supported to secure a £62.7k [Heritage Lottery Fund Grant](#) that will enable it to add new attractions and features, and fulfil its future ambitions.

⁵ A community fund supporting projects around Treorchy with money provided by the nearby Maerdy Windfarm

Priority 3: More involved and resilient communities in Rhondda Cynon Taf

Our plans to develop 'Neighbourhood Networks' have evolved into the creation of 'Community Hubs'. A [paper to the Council's Cabinet](#), proposed a three-year phased development of Community Hubs across RCT, focussing on early intervention and **prevention** in its approach to build resilient communities. This approach will **integrate** with the Well-being objective for 'Thriving Communities' set out [The Cwm Taf Well-being Plan 2018-2023](#), and the developing 'Cwm Taf Regional Plan 2018-2023'. 'Community Hubs' will provide a range of citizen based services in one or a number of closely located buildings in priority neighbourhoods. These facilities will support a **preventative** approach that enables individuals and families to access support as early as possible to prevent problems from escalating. Community Hubs will include a range of services provided by the public and voluntary sector. Bringing services together will provide a better public service offer and create economies of scale in terms of staffing and building costs. Making better, more cost effective use of our community assets and reinvesting resources in new or retrofitted, fit for purpose buildings will enable services to be sustainable in the **longer term**. Cabinet Members [agreed the proposals in the paper](#), and three initial hubs will be developed at St Mair's Day Centre, Aberdare; Mountain Ash Day Centre and Ferndale Infants School.

St Mair's Aberdare

Through the [RCT Together programme](#), the Council's [Cabinet has agreed](#) a leasehold transfer of St Mair's Day Centre to Age Connects Morgannwg (ACM) to create a Community Hub. Once developed it will provide a range of services including a social enterprise bistro, community space for local groups to hire, childcare provision and a headquarters for ACM to provide community outreach, befriending and information, advice and assistance for older people.

Mountain Ash Day Centre

[A four-week consultation](#) took place on proposals to develop the existing Day Centre into a Community Hub to provide a range of Council services from the same location. This included views on the relocation of a number of key services into one building i.e. Mountain Ash Library and the One4All Centre. Concerns expressed during the consultation exercise highlighted the value that service users have for the existing services available from both the library and the day centre. These views need to be balanced against the wider interests of the community and the need to ensure that services are sustainable in the **long term**.

From the responses received to the consultation:

- **43.8%** agreed with proposals. 52.1% disagreed
- **52.2%** of Mountain Ash residents said they would access the 'Hub'; 29% said they wouldn't
- **85.7%** felt that activities and events for adults was a priority
- **33** respondents said they would volunteer to help deliver activities

Ferndale Infants School

A four-week consultation took place on proposals to develop the former Ferndale Infants School into a Community Hub in partnership with Fern Partnership, a local third sector organisation. In addition to the provision of enhanced library services, the Hub would also provide childcare and employment support. Overall, the proposal was well received by the local community and responses to the consultation were positive.

From the responses received to the consultation:

Priority 3: More involved and resilient communities in Rhondda Cynon Taf

- **94%** agreed with proposals.
- **93.9%** of Ferndale residents said they would access the 'Hub'
- **84.4%** felt that improved Computers, ICT facilities and Internet access was a priority
- **12** respondents said they would volunteer to help deliver activities

Initiatives like the development of Community Hubs will respond to the current and **longer-term** needs of our residents, particularly as demand for our services is expected to grow in parallel with the population, in particular, the proportion of older people. In our **PEOPLE** plan, there is more information on the development of extra care housing facilities, which will enable older people to lead independent lives, integrate with the community and limit social isolation. Community hubs will help to bring together members of the community of all ages, and encourage intergenerational interaction, breaking down the barriers between generations, encouraging intergenerational activities and helping each generation to appreciate and value the contribution of others.

Council Priority:	PLACE - Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work
Corporate Priority Action Plan Monitoring	Chris Lee

Challenges and Opportunities linked to this Council Priority	3. More involved and resilient communities
Lead Officer	Chris Lee

Actions that will deliver Priority 3		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
CXMP	Continue to put in place arrangements that will enable residents to be involved in the services and decisions made by the Council	Agree and implement the Cwm Taf Engagement and Communications Strategy in order to provide consistent and complementary involvement and engagement activities across partner organisations, which can be used to inform the work of all partners.	Jul-17 revised Oct-17	Complete	
		Further develop the RCT-wide Youth Forum to ensure young people are able to establish their own priorities in the areas that matter to them e.g. mental health.	Jul-17	Complete	The mental health sub group has now been created and is currently working with Spectacle to create a mental health app for young people in RCT.
		Organise an event that brings together the 5 Older Peoples Forums from across RCT to undertake engagement on the Well-Being Strategy, and launch the RCT Older Peoples web site.	Oct-17 revised Nov-17	Complete	
		Bring together representatives of the Youth Forum and Older Persons Forum, to trial intergenerational activity, for shared information and understanding of the issues that affect them.	Oct-17 revised Mar-18	Target Missed	Discussions have taken place with both the Youth Forum and Older Person Forums, but we have been unable to set up a joint meeting during the current reported year.
CEAP02	Support delivery of the 'RCT Together' programme, including the Muni Arts Centre Company	Through the 'RCT Together' programme, work with community groups and the voluntary sector to develop proposals for community management of surplus Council premises, land and /or services	On-going	On Target	Work has continued during the year with community groups and the voluntary sector and a number of schemes are in development. In parallel, attention has also been focussed on the development of community hubs, community centres and childcare provision in line with key strategic priorities.
		To inform the 'RCT Together' process, establish a timeline model with the development of monitoring mechanisms to record the time taken from the 'Expression of interest' in an asset to the 'Actual handover'.	Mar-18		This action has been withdrawn in line with work being focussed in line with key strategic priorities.
		Encourage the Muni Arts Centre Company to network within the professional arts industry, such as becoming members of Creu Cymru.	Sep-17	Complete	

Actions that will deliver Priority 3		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
ARTP3	Deliver a theatre programme targeted at LGBT, children, young people and families, older adults and people living with disabilities	Continue dialogue with Community and Children's Services to develop and deliver relaxed screenings and performances, including Kids Club at RCT Theatres.	Jun-17	Complete	
		Continue to deliver the Daytime Delights programme of performances and film screenings at the Coliseum Theatre.	Mar-18	Complete	
		Consult with Older Adults and Young People's Programme Advisory Groups to determine programme content.	Sep-17	Complete	Monthly Outreach programme of musical events created for the Rhondda in consultation with the older adults programming group (launch May 2018). This development is targeting lonely older adults and is working with key partners such as Age Cymru , Avant and Rhondda Radio.
ARTP2	To enrich people's lives and to increase audiences for the arts by presenting a high quality, balanced, exciting and thought provoking programme that is accessible and relevant to our communities.	Present a programme of dance, drama, comedy, music and film screenings at RCT Theatres.	Mar-18	Complete	
		Produce and present the RCT Theatres pantomime.	Dec-17	Complete	
		Establish a Programme Advisory Group and develop a celebratory programme of works for the Coliseum Theatre's 80 th Anniversary in 2018.	Sep-17 Revised Mar-18	Target Missed	The Terms of Reference have been developed and the advertising/recruitment of candidates to be part of the advisory group has been undertaken. This action will continue in 2018/19
		Support local schools and voluntary/amateur arts organisations to present their work within our annual programme at RCT Theatres.	Jun-17 and Ongoing	Complete	
		Ensure partnership agreements are in place with all co-production partners	Mar-18	Complete	
		Progress dialogue with Arts Council of Wales to discuss capital works at the RCT Theatres.	Sep-17 Revised Mar-18	Complete	Further meetings to be held in 2018/19.
		Monitor delivery of proposed capital work during 2017/18 including work at the Coliseum Theatre, Aberdare.	Jul-17	Complete	

Actions that will deliver Priority 3		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
TRAP01	Lead the work across the Council to build community resilience and capacity as part of Neighbourhood Networks including developing options, identifying hub buildings, engage the key stakeholders to co-produce the network model and endorse with their support, agreeing service specification, progressing to tender and implementation	Complete meetings with stakeholders to engage them in the design and vision for Neighbourhood Networks	Aug-17	Complete	This milestone is under review following decisions to align Neighbourhood Networks and Community Hubs.
		Agree the key features of the model with stakeholders	Sep-17	Complete	
		Establish commitment and support from potential 3 rd sector 'anchor' organisations	Sep-17	Complete	
		Manage the transfer of buildings for the networks	Ongoing		
TRAP01	Lead the work across the Council to build community resilience and capacity as part of Neighbourhood Networks including developing options, identifying hub buildings, engage the key stakeholders to co-produce the network model and endorse with their support, agreeing service specification, progressing to tender and implementation	Undertake pre tender discussion with the 3 rd sector	Oct-17		These actions are currently under review and will be amalgamated into the wider Community Hubs workstream.
		Tender process	Jan-18		
		Award contracts	Apr-18		
		Development forum for Network anchors to support application of the contract specification	Apr-18		
		Arrange for the ongoing Contract management arrangements to monitor compliance with specification	Ongoing from Apr-18		

Priority 4: Rhondda Cynon Taf's local environment will be clean and attractive, with well-maintained roads and pavements, flowing traffic, increased recycling and less waste sent to landfill

*Our work in this priority, both now and in the future, will contribute to the seven national Well-being Goals, in particular a **Globally Responsible Wales** and a **Prosperous Wales**.*

We have continued to invest in our highways and transport infrastructure

Key Measures for this Priority

- **5.2%** of our principal 'A' roads are in overall poor condition – compared to 5.6% last year
- **5.7%** of our principal 'A', 'B' and 'C' roads are in overall poor condition – compared to 7.2% last year

We know that improvements to the physical environment, such as traffic calming, improves outcomes for the community and reduces inequalities. We also know that good transport infrastructure has a positive effect on the economy and is of great benefit to residents, businesses and visitors.

Rhondda Cynon Tafs highways and transport infrastructure is one of the Council's largest assets. This year we have continued our efforts to ensure safe driving conditions for our residents with a focus on repairs and renewal of our highways, and on the replacement of roads. We have undertaken repairs to our highways with 19 roads receiving specialised surface treatments^[1], and a further 51 receiving a more 'traditional'^[2] surfacing renewal.

We have also undertaken:

- **20** essential highway repair schemes including the completion of the resurfacing of the Rhigos Mountain Road, including road markings and reflective road studs.
- **23**-replacement footway schemes.
- **£105k** of safety fencing/barrier works including the mountain road between Maerdy and Aberdare.

A number of successful structural repairs have also been undertaken including:

- Sardis Road and Mill Street Bridges including repairs to the reinforced cantilevers and beams, and the construction of a permanent 'C' Frame prop in the river channel to support the cantilevered section of the bridge deck – involving extensive temporary works in the river.
- Repairs to Llantrisant Road Bridge and underpass
- Ynyswen Road Bridge deck replacement

We have also completed projects that will make better use of the existing highway e.g. work at Cwmbach Road and Roundabout – the road has been widened to provide additional lanes and new-dedicated right turn lanes introduced. This will improve traffic flow on the Cynon Valley corridor.

^[1] Specialised surface treatments are thin applications applied to the existing carriageway surface prolonging the expected life of the highway.

^[2] Traditional surface treatments whereby the existing surface is planed off and replaced with a wearing course

Priority 4: Rhondda Cynon Taf's local environment will be clean and attractive, with well-maintained roads and pavements, flowing traffic, increased recycling and less waste sent to landfill

The Council continues to progress [the Mountain Ash Southern Cross Valley Link](#). The scheme, scheduled for completion in 2019-20, will see a 60m bridge built from Cwm Cynon Industrial Estate to Miskin Road, over the Aberdare-Cardiff railway line and the River Cynon. It will provide a key link for traffic travelling on the A4059 and B4275, and ease traffic congestion, reduce noise and air pollution, encourage town centre regeneration and provide a link between communities in the Cynon Valley. Developments in 2017/18 include:

- the appointment of Walters-Sisk as contractor to design and build the bridge structure,
- completion of changes at Cardiff Road Junction including a new carriageway layout, road resurfacing and street lighting, to enable the scheme to progress. Construction of the Cross Valley link road will begin in the summer of 2018.

Our investment this year has also included road safety improvements to ensure that our residents can safely cross our roads.

These have been made at:

- Clydach Vale – funded by Welsh Government, raising the pelican crossing on Court Street, and a new raised plateau zebra crossing outside Cwm Clydach Primary School.
- Gwaunmiskin Road in Beddau – joint funded with Welsh Government, alterations to the junction alignment; installation of traffic signals with pedestrian crossing facilities; speed limit reduction from 40mph to 30mph; carriageway and footway construction; highway drainage works, and the installation of new street lighting and traffic signs.
- Treforest Industrial Estate – joint funded by the University of Wales, a safe crossing point has been located between the junctions for the Sports Park and Powys Road. This will enable pedestrians and cyclists with a safe point for crossing the busy main road through the industrial estate, and for those exiting the train station.
- Gilfach Goch – joint funded by REG Mynydd Windfarm Community Benefit Fund and Gilfach Goch Community Council, a new traffic signal controlled puffin crossing on Coronation Road, which fronts the Swn yr Afon Sheltered Housing complex has been installed together with alterations to kerb lines, installation of new street lighting, traffic signals and road markings.

Although highways development is crucial to the prosperity of the area in the short and medium term, we have balanced this necessary development with investment in **long-term** strategies to find viable alternatives to car use. This includes delivery of safe community routes for walking and cycling, including designing safe routes for our children to travel to school; strategic improvements to public transport such as the A4119 bus corridor to decrease journey times and encourage people to switch to more sustainable forms of transport; and investigating the viability of new park and ride schemes to reduce traffic in our town centres.

The Council is committed to promoting active travel, leading to the improved health and wellbeing of our residents. To encourage walking and cycling, the Council has completed a section of the Llantrisant Community Route, which has provided a new-shared footpath through Talbot Green. This footpath, approximately a mile long, and three metres wide runs to the rear of Glamorgan Retail Park towards Westfield Court, Llantrisant. Work included clearance of the disused railway track and vegetation, new drainage, fencing and signage. **Long term** environmental benefits are also expected with the reduction of local car journeys.

Priority 4: Rhondda Cynon Taf's local environment will be clean and attractive, with well-maintained roads and pavements, flowing traffic, increased recycling and less waste sent to landfill

In partnership with Welsh Government, we have developed safe routes in the community for pedestrians and cyclists. To improve local provision, two safety projects have been completed at Ystrad Rhondda and Porth.

At Ystrad, an improved Community Route for cyclists and pedestrians has been completed providing:

- A carriageway cycle lane through Gelli Industrial Estate.
- A wider (3m) shared cycle and footpath between Ystrad Rhondda Train Station and the footbridge to the rear of Rhondda Sports Centre.
- Alterations to Rhondda Sports Centre's entrance to provide a new 3m-wide shared cycle and footway, including speed reduction measures.
- Improvements to the existing route through Gelligaled Park.
- Traffic calming and remediation measures at Pontrhondda Road and Pontrhondda Avenue, including a new 20mph zone.
- Cycle storage facilities at Pontrhondda Primary School and at Rhondda Sports Centre.

The Porth Scheme included 20mph zone speed restrictions, raised zebra crossings and a raised plateau at the school crossing patrol location. Additional funding from Welsh Government has also enabled enhancements at Cemetery Road and Mount Pleasant Road.

We have also been successful in obtaining funding and delivering upgrades to our bus infrastructure. Funded by the [Welsh Governments Local Transport Fund](#), improvements have begun on 87 bus stops from Tonypany to Groesfaen, along the Rhondda-Cardiff corridor, ranging from the creation of raised bus stop kerbs to provide better access to the new low-floor buses, improved signage, bus shelters where required, footway and carriageway surfacing and new road markings. More buses are also being provided each hour, making services more frequent and attractive to use. Encouraging more people onto public transport will help to reduce congestion on our roads, reduce travel times and will have positive **long term** effects on the environment.

To provide a more **integrated** transport provision and looking to the **long term**, the Council at its [Cabinet meeting on 28th September](#), [agreed](#) to progress plans for 10 new Park and Ride Schemes at Treherbert, Cwmbach, Ynyswen, Treorchy, Llwynypia, Trehafod, Fernhill, Abercynon (Phase 2), Pontyclun and Llanharan. This would create a combined total of 600+ new parking spaces. These plans would **integrate** with the significant enhancements to rail capacity on the Treherbert, Aberdare and Merthyr lines by 2022, with a commitment of 4 trains per hour operating to the top of each valley, as part of the City Deal investment in the Metro Project.

We have worked with residents to further increase recycling by targeting areas of low participation

Key Measures for this Priority

- **61.31%** of our waste has been recycled – compared to 64.41% last year
- **96.94%** of fly tips have been cleared within 5 working days – compared to 96.87% last year
- **99.4%** of our streets and highways are of a high level or acceptable level of cleanliness– the same as last year

Priority 4: Rhondda Cynon Taf’s local environment will be clean and attractive, with well-maintained roads and pavements, flowing traffic, increased recycling and less waste sent to landfill

We continue to be committed to increasing recycling levels and achieving the 70% recycling target set by Welsh Government for 2024/25. We have not hit our recycling target of 65% this year, and this is primarily due to changes in what we can now include as recycled material. These changes mean that certain types of wood cannot be included in our tonnage figures. We are currently working with Amgen Cymru to look at potential ways in which we can address this. We do know that we have substantially increased recycling in the following categories since last year:

Category	Tonnage Recycled		Tonnage Increase
	2016/17	2017/18	
Nappies	639.49	1463.28	+823.79
Rubble	15054.12	15724.54	+670.42
Food Waste	10407.29	10737.74	+330.45
Glass	5178.81	5320.14	+141.33

We continue to raising awareness of recycling and encourage and support residents to recycle more. Earlier this year, we worked with ‘[Recycle for Wales](#)’ to deliver a ‘Food Waste Recycling Campaign’ to boost recycling rates. This campaign involved face-to-face doorstep engagement in areas that had low levels of kerbside food waste collection. There was also a specific focus on students, households with families, and those living in areas of high deprivation. During the 8-week campaign completed in April 2017, 15,478 households were canvassed and 5,255 residents were spoken to (34% contact rate). The campaign focused on Abercynon, Maerdy, Llanharan, Llywynypia, Penrhiwceiber, Rhydyfelin, Treforest, Gilfach Goch and Ynysybwl. Of the residents surveyed, **82%** said they used the food waste bin.

Residents told us they don’t food recycle because:

- they didn’t have a container to take part
- they weren’t producing enough food waste to warrant it
- that they use other disposal routes, such as home composting or feeding food to dogs

Residents also told us that

- the recycling bags provided rip
- they need more bags
- they need more information on recycling
- we provide a good service

From the campaign report findings, we have worked with universities and letting agents to ensure that new students in particular have access to a welcome pack, and the necessary waste containers for recycling; ensured [access to recycling bags](#) and [where they are available](#), and continue to undertake participation

Priority 4: Rhondda Cynon Taf's local environment will be clean and attractive, with well-maintained roads and pavements, flowing traffic, increased recycling and less waste sent to landfill

checks in areas of low recycling. We have also updated our [web pages](#) to ensure that residents are aware of the long term [benefits of recycling](#), [what can be recycled](#) and the location of our [Recycling Banks](#).

In addition to the areas identified in the campaign above, we have also worked with and **involved** residents in other communities where we know there are low levels of recycling. With our support and clear information on how to recycle, we have seen positive results.

Area	No. Properties	DRY RECYCLING			FOOD RECYCLING		
		At start of campaign	After intervention	% Change	At start of campaign	After intervention	% Change
Taffs Well	966	67.5%	71.6%	+4.1%	46.4%	50.5%	+4.1%
Ynyshir	889	69.9%	78.3%	+8.4%	32.7%	43.4%	+10.7%
Wattstown	442	67.6%	75.4%	+7.8%	39.5%	50.1%	+10.6%
Trallwyn	833	60.0%	71.3%	+11.3%	33.1%	47.1%	+14.0%
Clydach Vale	748	75.7%	83.4%	+7.7%	33.3%	46.3%	+13.0%
Llantwit Fadre 1	812	74.6%	85.5%	+10.9%	52.0%	62.9%	+10.9%
Llantwit Fadre 2	989	73.8%	85.7%	+11.9%	51.7%	62.9%	+11.2%

We have also worked with primary schools across Rhondda Cynon Taf to raise awareness of recycling through various recycling competitions including:

- Easter egg packaging collection – 44 Primary schools took part and collected 1,026.4 tonnes of packaging.
- Christmas card collection – 64 Primary schools took part, with over 4.5 tonnes of cards collected.
- School uniform collection – 27 Primary schools took part, 1.6 tonnes of uniform collected.
- Battery collection – 59 Primary schools took part, with over 2 tonne of batteries collected.

Attending events across RCT including the Aberdare Festival, Armed Forces Day, Big Welsh Bite and various Christmas events, has enabled us to talk directly with residents, promote recycling, distribute recycling bags, and advise of changes to recycling days, respond to their questions and provide advice. We have also **collaborated** with local supermarkets during national recycling week between September 25th and October 1st, to promote recycling and answer questions. Press articles during the week also promoted successful recycling initiatives including [Samantha's Woodland to Wearable project](#), and ['The Shed' at Llantrisant](#):

'The Shed' at Llantrisant Community Recycling Centre (CRC).

With partners, Wastesavers and Amgen Cymru we opened the not-for-profit re-use shop in June 2017. 'The Shed' provides a new lease of life to items deposited at the CRC that would otherwise go to landfill. Recycling and re-using materials is at the heart of 'The Shed', moving away from a 'throw away' culture. Attendants identify potential items for re-use and once cleaned and checked-over to ensure safe and good working order, they are placed for sale. 'The Shed' has also donated many items to local causes including items for displays at local schools and vases for use in local homes for elderly

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people. Job opportunities have also been created for a full and part-time worker and volunteering is encouraged. Being **involved** in schemes like this provide a means of reducing social isolation, improve wellbeing and provide valuable work experience and support for those that need it.

One of the volunteers told us:

"I had just had an operation on my feet so I physically couldn't work. It had been a few weeks after my operation, so I started visiting 'The Shed' with my mum – she loves it! The more I visited, the more I loved it too, then I saw the volunteers application and decided to help. I started volunteering one day a week but now I love it so much, I volunteer five days a week. I've met some amazing people here it's like one big happy family..... Being at the 'The Shed' has really helped me come out of my shell too. I'm naturally an introvert and really shy but that's changed completely. Now I'm confident to talk to anyone. The Shed is literally the hub of our community, everyone loves it here from the volunteers and staff to the customers". TB

Eight volunteers between them have donated 200 hours a month, and have become a valuable community resource. Since opening, 'The Shed' has diverted 60.38 tonnes of waste from landfill and more than 42,869 household items have found new homes.

Our annual 'Love where you Live' Awards ceremony celebrates and recognises those residents that are **involved** and use inspirational activity in the community to help improve the local environment, **prevent** environmental issues escalating and keep Rhondda Cynon Taf safe, clean and green. 2018 will be our 10th year and entries continue to be of a very high standard. Last year, the award [ceremony was held in July](#) and winners were:

Sarah Liney - Community Environmental Champion, and Overall Winner of Love Where You Live 2017 - Sarah met with Keep Wales Tidy to see what could be done about litter in her local area. The 'Llanharan & Brynna Wimbles' group was set up to help keep the community clean and tidy, with Sarah instrumental in organising the group's events. Sarah also volunteers as a bed and breakfast host for rescued hedgehogs, working with the Hedgehog Helpline charity.

St Michael's RC Primary School -Best School Environmental Initiative - The school's Eco Committee carried out a bin audit and arranged to replace missing or damaged recycling bins. They became aware that younger pupils' milk bottles were being put in the general waste bin, so the Committee raised money, through events such as toy and book sales, for new recycling bins. They also set up a rota to help younger children rinse their bottles each day.

In 2017, a multi-million pound Eco Park development at [Bryn Pica Waste Management Facility](#) was announced. Working with Welsh Government, this will be the first of its kind in the UK. [Cabinet agreed the outline proposals](#) in September 2017. The Eco Park will help turn more rubbish into a resource by collecting and re-using waste materials such as the heat and electrical energy produced on site. Phase One will see the development of five industrial units, that will be heated and cooled using surplus waste heat produced at an anaerobic digestion plant on site, run by Biogen. The Council is currently in discussion with a number of potential tenants.

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The services they offer are focused on recycling and re-use, including:

- Collecting used paint and producing a new, high-quality paint product, which has 90% recycled ingredients.
- Finding a solution to recycling mattress textiles, which is problematic due to contamination.
- A nappy recycling and recovery process to produce fibreboards and acoustic panelling, eliminating waste to landfill from this process.
- Turning manufacturers' waste into materials suitable for re-use in the plastics industry e.g. to make wheelie bins.

Other benefits that the Eco Park will bring to residents, communities and businesses include:

- Interest from businesses to locate within the County Borough, taking advantage of cheap sustainable energy.
- Increased employment opportunities within Cynon Valley, for people with a range of skills.
- Using cheap sustainable (green) energy to facilitate the local economy, which directly contributes to the national sustainability agenda.

The development of the Eco Park will contribute to national Well-being of goals and the associated vision as a '[One Planet](#)' development.

We have targeted 'Hot Spot' areas to reduce littering and dog fouling

Residents tell us that they want us to continue to tackle dog fouling, litter – including smoking related waste, flyposting, fly tipping, graffiti and other waste issues. We know that clean and safe communities are a source of pride and attract tourism to Cwm Taf, providing a valuable contribution to the economy.

Earlier this year, we spoke to 1,600 residents who told us they supported the proposals to introduce a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for dog controls. They told us:

Proposal	Agree (%)	Disagree (%)
Dog fouling should be prohibited in all public places	99	1
Dogs should be kept on leads in playgrounds and cemeteries owned or maintained by the Council	98	2
Dog owners should be required to carry bags or other suitable means for disposing of their dogs faeces	100	0
Authorised officers should be allowed to give a direction to dog owners to put and keep their dog on a lead if necessary	99	1
Dogs should be excluded from all schools and marked sports pitches owned or maintained by the council	90	10
The maximum permitted fixed penalty notice be increased to £100	91	9

Following this feedback the Council agreed to the PSPO and held [awareness raising events](#) to let all residents know about the order and dog owners what was expected of them, alongside the dog fouling campaign '[Sort **IT Out!](#)'. Further information was also made available on our website to give more detailed information and answers to questions from residents in [Dog Fouling FAQs](#).

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The [Public Spaces Protection Order \(PSPO\)](#) was formally implemented on 1 October 2017, enforcing dog controls across the County Borough. Enforcement was also increased, with the recruitment of four additional Enforcement Officers. The Enforcement Officers regularly monitor areas covered by the PSPO, i.e. schools, children's play areas and marked sports pitches maintained by the Council, as well as responding to direct customer complaints relating to streets outside the PSPO.

As at May 2018:

- **170** Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued
 - **70%** for dogs on restricted areas e.g. sports pitches, play areas etc.
 - **24%** for dog fouling
 - **6%** for dogs off leads or not under control
- Of these Fixed Penalty Notices
 - **52%** have paid in full
 - **32%** still awaiting payment or on payment plan
 - **11%** sent to legal for prosecution
 - **5%** have been cancelled

To support the '[Sort **IT Out!](#)' Campaign and encourage responsible dog owners, there are 1,013 dog waste bins across Rhondda Cynon Taf, 103 of which were installed this year. This PSPO for dog controls will enable the Council to encourage responsible dog ownership and will go some way to **preventing** the issue of dog fouling the community, and contributing to a cleaner Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Keeping local areas clean is extremely important to our residents, and we will continue to review the effectiveness of our street cleaning operations to enable quicker responses when problems are identified. The **prevention** of environmental crimes such as littering, dog fouling and fly tipping is also the most effective way to keep our streets clean. We have continued to raise awareness in schools, with residents and community groups on environmental issues and encourage people to take pride in their local area.

In **collaboration** with the University of South Wales and the student population in Treforest, we continue to focus on improving waste, recycling and litter issues, and attended 'Fresher's week', to distribute information on recycling and collection days. Monitoring activity in this area has shown a marked improvement in responsible waste management, with more students requesting food waste recycling equipment, and less contaminated waste.

We know how important it is to maintain two-way communication with our residents. We do this by continuing to respond daily to their posts/tweets/information. Our '[Who Done It?](#)' followers are now also responding to the PSPO on dog controls, reporting dogs being walked on sports pitches,

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etc. We also post and tweet information to residents to inform them about street cleansing issues, promoting the work of our cleansing and enforcement teams and encouraging residents to help to keep their communities clean.

To help tackle fly tipping, in the last year, eight fly-tipping cases involving RCT residents have been before Merthyr Magistrate Court. These were for 'Section 33-Fly-tipping Offences', 'Section 34 - Duty of Care Offences' (Failure to Control Waste) i.e. passing waste to unknown persons leading it to be fly tipped, and also where persons have failed to pay fixed penalty notices for waste offences. This court action has resulted in approximately £4k of fines issued. A further 20+ cases are currently being looked at with a view to legal proceedings.

Council Priority:	PLACE - Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work
Corporate Priority Action Plan Monitoring	Chris Lee

Challenges and Opportunities linked to this Council Priority	4. Rhondda Cynon Taf's local environment will be clean and attractive, with well-maintained roads and pavements, flowing traffic, increased recycling and less waste sent to landfill
Lead Officer	Nigel Wheeler

Actions that will deliver Priority 4		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
HDCP0 1	Continue to invest in our highways and infrastructure to improve the condition of our road network and improve traffic flow	Award the design and build tender for the Mountain Ash Cross Valley Link	Aug-17	Complete	
		Complete the design for the Mountain Ash Cross Valley Link	Mar-18	Complete	
		Deliver a series of projects to make better use of the existing highways network, for example, by widening highways and providing additional lanes	Mar-18	Complete	
		Repair the landslip on Maerdy Mountain Road.	Nov-17	Complete	
		Complete delivery of the roundabout modifications at the A4119 / A473	Aug-17	Complete	
		Continue to undertake improvements to our highways assets through a comprehensive programme including highway and footway resurfacing, streetlight replacement and structure repair and replacement	Mar-18	Complete	
HDCP0 1	Deliver a variety of sustainable transport schemes throughout Rhondda Cynon Taf to promote walking, cycling and public transport, improve safety and wellbeing, provide leisure opportunities and reduce pressure on the road network	Develop safe routes in the Community for pedestrians and cyclists in Porth and Ystrad, in partnership with Welsh Government	Mar-18	Complete	
		Design new safe walking and cycling routes for pupils to access the new schools at Tonyrefail, Tonypandy and Cwmamman	Mar-18	Complete	
		Deliver the Llantrisant Community cycle route	Jan-18	Complete	
		Complete a number of studies on the viability of various park and ride schemes to reduce traffic congestion and encourage modal shift	Mar-18	Complete	
		Develop works to promote a strategic bus corridor along the A4119, in partnership with Welsh Government, to reduce travel time and promote use of public transport	Mar-18	Complete	

Actions that will deliver Priority 4		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
CSWP1	To increase recycling levels to achieve the 70% recycling target set by Welsh Government for 2024/25 through awareness raising and participation checks and providing residents and businesses the information, bins and bags to help them recycle correctly	Identify areas of low recycling participation	Mar-18	Complete	In Q4 the Awareness Team completed door knocking exercises in Clydach Vale and Llantwit Fardre. Recycling participation rates increased in both areas for food and dry recycling participation. The team have also started trailer roadshows which will take place throughout Q1 2018-19 to make residents aware of the service changes that will come in on 4th June (black bags reduced to 2 black bags and no side waste if residents have a wheelie bin).
		Undertake door knocking exercises to ensure residents are participating in recycling	Mar-18	Complete	
		Monitor recycling participation and target non participating properties	Mar-18	Complete	Surveys undertaken on the food waste service provided by RCT. 82% of people surveyed claimed to recycle their food waste. Of those 80% said they use the service as much as they can, 8% said they would take part if they had a bin and 6% said there was nothing we could do to encourage them to use the service. Main barriers for not taking part are 'don't have a caddy, don't waste enough food' or compost at home or feed their food waste to their pet'. 32% of people claim to recycle 1-3 items, 37% claim to recycle 4-6 items and 31% claim to recycle 7-8 items. Main comments coming from residents suggest we do provide them with a good recycling service, but some people experience problems getting bags or bags splitting.
		Evaluate success of the food waste campaign funded by Recycle for Wales	Dec-17	Complete	
		To ensure Council website waste pages are accurate and contain timely information	Mar-18	Complete	
		Work in partnership with local supermarkets to take part in promotional events	Mar-18	Complete	
		Undertake customer satisfaction surveys as part of promotional and other events in order to inform improvements in our service provision	Mar-18	Complete	Surveys undertaken on the food waste service provided by RCT. 82% of people surveyed claimed to recycle their food waste. Of those 80% said they use the service as much as they can, 8% said they would take part if they had a bin and 6% said there was nothing we could do to encourage them to use the service. Main barriers for not taking part are 'don't have a caddy, don't waste enough food' or compost at home or feed their food waste to their pet'. 32% of people claim to recycle 1-3 items, 37% claim to recycle 4-6 items and 31% claim to recycle 7-8 items. Main comments coming from residents suggest we do provide them with a good recycling service, but some people experience problems getting bags or bags splitting.
		To review the effectiveness of 1. recycling bag distribution points and 2. local recycling bank facilities in order to reduce contamination of recyclable materials	Mar-18	Complete	
		To review the Council's method of delivering recycling bags/bins to residents and implement any required changes	Sep-17	Complete	

Actions that will deliver Priority 4		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
CSWP0 3	To provide an efficient waste and recycling service and reduce customer complaints by agreeing policy statement on missed collections versus 'not outs' and making staff aware of current performance, future expectations and channels to feed in suggestions for improvement	Agree and implement policy statement on Missed Collections versus 'not outs'	Jan-18	Complete	Ongoing work will take place in 2018/19 with particular emphasis on how the Webasox system will facilitate this.
		Provide awareness raising and training for collection staff, call centre, Street Care Communications Group and elected Members on agreed policy statement and implications	Jan-18	Complete	
CSWP0 4	To raise awareness on all aspects of Streetcare portfolio. i.e. recycling, waste collection service, litter, dog fouling, fly tipping, graffiti and fly posting.	Ensure collection crews report instances of contaminated recycling, too many black bags and non participation in recycling so that awareness staff can be targeted to problem locations.	Mar-18	Complete	South Wales Police, Dogs Trust and Trivallis have all 'tweeted' about joint exercises carried out with the Council's Streetcare Service. Meetings ongoing with Community Groups, local PCSO's and residents of RCT Housing Associations to discuss environmental crime issues and ways of resolving these problems, such as dog-fouling, fly-tipping and litter. Successful launch of new Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) throughout RCT as part of the new Sort**It campaign.
		Increase use of Social Media in order to widen reach and promote increased awareness of campaigns	Mar-18	Complete	
		Raise awareness of local enviro crimes by encouraging Community Groups, Schools, Treforest University and PCSOs to include environmental crime issues in their local areas on their web sites.	Mar-18	Complete	
		Attend regular meetings with Community Groups and local PCSOs, and residents of RCT to discuss environmental crime issues and ways of resolving these problems, such as dog-fouling, fly-tipping and litter.	Mar-18	Complete	
		Continue to raise awareness of personal and environmental issues caused by dog-fouling through presentations to local schools and Community Groups.	Mar-18	Complete	
CSWP0 5	Continuously review different types of technology to maintain an acceptable level of street cleanliness and productivity	Continue to review our use of mobile technology for quicker responses to cleansing issues identified, councillor requests and CRM queries	Mar-18	Complete	
		Research new mechanical street cleaning equipment to enable staff to maintain high levels of productivity by using the best available equipment	Mar-18	Complete	
		Continue to deploy surveillance equipment (CCTV) in hot-spot areas to identify fly tipping and other enviro crimes	Mar-18	Complete	

PLACE - *Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work*

Priority 1: Rhondda Cynon Taf amongst the safest places in Wales, with high levels of community cohesion, and residents feeling safe

Promoting community safety, so people are not only safe in their homes and local areas but also feel safe, enables people to use and enjoy their local environment and has a significant impact on their well-being. Safety is a prerequisite for people being able to access many facilities and opportunities, for example parks, green spaces and town centres and is closely **integrated** with other priorities such as promoting the ECONOMY and improving health and wellbeing as part of our PEOPLE priority.

Our priority plan for 2018/19 closely integrates with the Cwm Taf Community Safety Delivery Plan 2018-21, and includes partner collaboration in actions to **prevent** crime and antisocial behaviour, as we know that by addressing the root causes of issues is the most effective way to address problems in the **long-term**.

We continue to work in **collaboration** with our partners to **prevent** the re-offending of first time offenders through the DIVERT Programme, to address the underlying issues behind their behaviour and the consequences of their actions.

Complex issues relating to antisocial behaviour, such as alcohol and drug misuse, can only be tackled effectively in **collaboration** with partner organisations. To promote a culture of responsible drinking in our communities, we will implement a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Alcohol Controls in RCT to aid the enforcement of irresponsible intoxicating substance use particularly in our town centres. We will also support actions within the Pontypridd Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP). We will work with our partners, South Wales Police, schools, licensees and the local community to reduce underage drinking by educating residents on the impact on communities and reducing young people's access to alcohol. The **involvement** of local people is vital to the promotion of community safety and cohesion.

We will continue our work with schools and colleges to raise awareness of hate crime and how to report it. We will also deliver initiatives to educate residents on road safety and prevent accidents, for example, Bicycle Training Courses and Pass Plus Cymru. Our mobile camera enforcement at schools will ensure pupil safety and deter illegal parking.

*Our work in this priority, both now and in the future, will contribute to the seven national Well-being Goals, in particular a **Wales of Cohesive Communities** and **A healthier Wales**.*

PLACE - Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work

Challenges and opportunities linked to this Council Priority	Priority 1 - Rhondda Cynon Taf will be amongst the safest places in Wales, with high levels of community cohesion, and residents feeling safe
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Actions that will		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer
ETCP2A01	Support Effective Partnership working in Cwm Taf in relation to Community Safety to promote Rhondda Cynon Taf as a safe place to live with high levels of community cohesion to improve Community Safety for the population	Effectively contribute to the delivery of identified actions in the Cwm Taf Community Safety Delivery Plan 2018-21. The Delivery Plan priorities are 1. Reduce the impact of alcohol and drug misuse on our communities; 2. Divert offenders and reducing re-offending; 3. Tackle violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence; 4. Promote safe and confident communities; 5. Protect vulnerable groups from harm and victimisation; 6. Improve our environment by reducing environmental crime.	Mar-19	Gary Black and Louise Davies
		Work with Community Safety Partners to identify appropriate, evidence based communication methods for targeted audiences and communities.	Mar-19	Gary Black
		Develop a Partnership Strategy to deliver improved communication and engagement with the community, particularly on community safety matters to promote awareness of actions and what we have achieved (i.e. "You Said - We Did" etc.)	Mar-19	
		Improve hate crime awareness: * Develop in consultation with Schools a programme of training and awareness sessions to be delivered throughout the year. * Deliver a programme of hate crime awareness sessions across communities, in all settings including schools and colleges, to increase Hate Crime Awareness. * Evaluate the effectiveness of the training and awareness sessions with participants in the programme (ongoing evaluation during year).	Mar-19	Gary Black
ETCP2A02		Continue to deliver the DIVERT work programme to focus on first time offenders aged 18-25 and offer support to low risk repeat offenders to reduce re-offending and work with the Police and Crime Commissioner to evaluate its effectiveness	Mar-19	Gary Black
ETCP2A03		<u>Protect anti social behaviour victims from harm and reduce repeat behaviour from ASB perpetrators.</u> Deliver new ASB Intervention Plan during the year with partners with actions to include improved youth engagement, early identification of underlying causes of adult ASB and restorative approaches with schools.	Dec-18	Gary Black
		With partners, develop an intelligence led approach to tackling ASB associated with illegal off road use.	Dec-18	Gary Black

Actions that will		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer
ETCP2A01	Support Effective Partnership working in Cwm Taf in relation to Community Safety to promote Rhondda Cynon Taf as a safe place to live with high levels of community cohesion to improve Community Safety for the population	<p><u>Work with partners to promote a culture of responsible drinking in our communities</u></p> <p>Following the decision of Cabinet and the public consultation on Public Space Protection Order for Alcohol Controls, implement the PSPO and ensure effective monitoring and enforcement with the Police.</p>	Sep-18	Gary Black and Louise Davies
		<p>Deliver the action plan to support achievement of the objectives of the Community Alcohol Partnership launched in Pontypridd in early 2018. This will include consultation with young people and school awareness days, engagement with businesses, education of parents, carers and teachers about harms of underage drinking, and development of diversionary activities to reduce underage alcohol use and associated anti social behaviour.</p>	Mar-19	Gary Black
CSTP5A01	Work in Partnership with the Welsh Government and other stakeholders to deliver road safety education.	To facilitate and deliver a programme of Road Safety initiatives - cycle training courses to National Standards, Kerbcraft, Pass Plus Cymru, Mega Drive and Mature Drivers.	Mar-19	Charlie Nelson / Jessica Lonergan
HDPC4A01	Effectively enforce on and off-street parking restrictions	Implementation (in Sept 2018) of mobile camera enforcement at School keep Clear and Bus Stops.	Sep-18	A. Critchlow

PLACE - Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work

Measures to support Priority 1 - Rhondda Cynon Taf will be amongst the safest places in Wales, with high levels of community cohesion, and residents feeling safe

PI Ref	PI Description	2015/16		2016/17			2017/18		2018/19			
		Target	RCT Actual	Target	RCT Actual	All Wales Average	Target	RCT Actual	Proposed Target	How does the proposed 2018/19 target compare to 2016/17 Welsh Average	How does the proposed 2018/19 target compare to 2017/18 Data	How does the proposed 2018/19 target compare to 2017/18 Target
	% of people reporting that they feel safe [National Survey for Wales Data]		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	For information only	69	For information only	N/A	N/A	N/A
LPPN158	% of residents surveyed in targeted town centres who feel unsafe (NEW)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	25	N/A	N/A	N/A
LPPN127	% of vulnerable repeat victims of anti-social behaviour that feel safer as a result of intervention		91	90	87	N/A	90	91	90	N/A	Worse	Same
LPPN154	% of 18-25 year olds accepted into the programme who do not reoffend within 6 months of completing the intervention - DIVERT	N/A	N/A	NEW-BASELINE YEAR	100	N/A	95	96.45	95	N/A	Worse	Same
LPPN155	% of people receiving training on hate crime who report an increased awareness of hate crime reporting procedures	N/A	N/A	NEW-BASELINE YEAR	Not Available	N/A	80	98	90	N/A	Worse	Better

Key:

Existing Corporate Plan high level measure

PLACE - *Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work*

Priority 2: Rhondda Cynon Taf's parks and green spaces will continue to be valued by residents

Local people identified wildlife, the local landscape quality and outdoor activity as important to their well-being. Well-maintained, accessible outdoor spaces provide opportunities for physical activity and relaxation, contributing to preventing a variety of physical and mental health conditions.

We are actively progressing grant funding to improve our parks and open spaces for example, the continuing development of the Heritage Lottery Fund Parks for People application for Ynysangharad War Memorial Park. This includes further consultation to **involve** residents in decision making; the development of a heritage and horticulture zone to provide opportunities for training and apprenticeships; provide a vibrant visitor offer focusing on culture as well as active recreation, and assist in the regeneration of Pontypridd Town Centre. Work this year also includes **collaboration** opportunities with local schools, including Pontypridd High School where pupils have been making repairs to the Bandstand dry-stone wall, and RCT Learning Curve, to undertake planting work.

Many people are passionate about their local parks and countryside and we will **involve** communities in developing and protecting our green spaces. We will support existing 'Friends of' groups to apply for additional funding to support community activity such as the proposed 'Splash Pad at Pen-Y Cymoedd, Aberdare.

Our parks and green spaces serve a wide variety of purposes and it is important that we balance the differing needs of residents whilst also protecting and enhancing the natural environment. Through delivery of the biodiversity duty and action plan we will manage natural resources by mainstreaming biodiversity, as we know it is essential for our **long-term** future, as we rely heavily on a great variety of organisms for the production of food, materials and medicine. The protection of natural habitats will feature in our plans, and biodiversity will be **integrated** into plans for new housing estates ensuring that wildlife mitigation features to protect our trees, hedgerows, meadows and wildlife corridors. We will also develop and increase the number of sites providing wildflower and pollinating insect habitat, through grassland and grass verge management. In addition, in **collaboration** with our partners Natural Resources Wales, South Wales Fire and Rescue and the Wildlife Trust, have plans to develop an area in Llantrisant as part of 'Healthy Hillside', to manage the hillsides for biodiversity and reduce the risk of wildfire. This activity will help to safeguard the biodiversity of the area for future generations.

*Our work in this priority, both now and in the future, will contribute to the seven national Well-being Goals, in particular **a resilient Wales** and **a globally responsible Wales**.*

PLACE - Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work

Priority 2 -Rhondda Cynon Taf's parks and green spaces will continue to be valued by residents

Actions that will		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer
LPBP4A0 1	Progress grant funding to support a programme of redevelopment that will make a lasting difference for heritage, people and communities.	<u>Ynysangharad War Memorial Park as part of the Heritage Lottery Fund 'Parks for People' initiative</u> Develop essential key documentation to support the submission of a Stage 2 application in August 2019, including Management and Maintenance Plan, Biodiversity Action Plan and Digital Output and Interpretation Plan	Mar-19	John Spanswick Michelle Gibbs
		Develop and deliver a Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement Plan as part of the Development Phase.	Oct-18	Michelle Gibbs
		Develop a new "Friends of" group and provide support to apply for additional funding, including Welsh Church Act, Big Lottery etc. as part of match funding requirement	Mar-19	Michelle Gibbs
LPBP4A0 2		<u>Rhondda Heritage Park</u> Develop and submit a stage 1 application to HLF Heritage Grants programme (community oral history project)	Aug-18	Chris Richards Michelle Gibbs
LPBP4A0 2		Provide support to the existing "Friends of" group to identify and apply for external funding to support the HLF submission	Mar-19	Chris Richards Michelle Gibbs
LPBP4A0 3		<u>Friends of Aberdare Park</u> Support the group to submit the stage 2 application to Pen-Y-Cymoedd for the proposed Splash Pad (alongside exploring other external funding	Dec-18	Michelle Gibbs
LPBP5A0 4	Improve communication, marketing and promotion of services	<u>Parks and Countryside social media</u> Set up a Parks and Countryside Facebook page in partnership with ICT and Corporate Marketing Team.	Sep-18	John Spanswick
LPBP5A0 5		<u>Increase the number of Parks and green spaces with Green Flag status</u> Submit applications to retain status for Ynysangharad Park and Taffs Well Park (that will positively support the promotion of the parks).	Apr-18	John Spanswick
LPBP5A0 5		Submit new applications in respect of Aberdare Park and Dare Valley Country Park (that will positively support the promotion of the parks)	Apr-18	John Spanswick
CCCP1		Create a new web-page for Parks ensuring appropriate links to the Council's Tourism web-site pages	Jul-18	John Spanswick

PLACE - Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work**Measures to support Priority 2 - Rhondda Cynon Taf's parks and green spaces will continue to be valued by residents**

PI Ref	PI Description	2015/16		2016/17			2017/18		2018/19			
		Target	RCT Actual	Target	RCT Actual	All Wales Average	Target	RCT Actual	Proposed Target	How does the proposed 2018/19 target compare to 2016/17 Welsh Average	How does the proposed 2018/19 target compare to 2017/18 Data	How does the proposed 2018/19 target compare to 2017/18 Target
LLCS016	% of residents satisfied with our parks and open spaces for leisure, enjoyment and sport [Survey Data]	N/A	N/A	NEW-BASELINE YEAR	86	N/A	≥86	Not available	≥86	N/A	N/A	Same

Key:

Existing Corporate Plan high level measure

PLACE - *Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work*

Priority 3: More involved and resilient communities in Rhondda Cynon Taf

Community involvement can be a powerful tool in preventing or tackling many of the issues people face.

We will continue to develop capacities in communities and promote shared use of community buildings through a **collaborative** approach between public, private, voluntary and community sectors. In 2018/19, this will include the development of community 'hubs' in Mountain Ash and Rhondda Fach (Ferndale) to deliver **integrated** services at a local level. We will seek to involve the community in these developments at all stages. We will also continue to encourage and **collaborate** with local communities and groups (new or existing) to become empowered and active citizens by delivering services and managing local buildings in their local area. We will seek to do this in a planned way, identifying what services are needed in a community and who is best placed to deliver this.

Social isolation is a barrier to well-being and we want to break down the barriers that create isolation in as many ways as we can, including intergenerational projects where we bring residents of all ages together to learn from each other help them to value the contributions the other's contribution to communities. The Digital Fridays in our libraries are a simple but a well-received service that helps people, particularly older residents to learn or maintain IT skills that will give them sense of achievement, bring them into contact with others and help them to share their and skills and knowledge in their communities.

Our libraries are also an important resource to our residents' health and well being. There is a large evidence base both within RCT and nationally of the positive effects of libraries on health and well-being and socialisation. We will seek to improve facilities so that libraries can be utilised by communities e.g. we will enhance the facilities available at Tonypany Library through the creation of a community room, two consultation rooms and an IT suite . We will also seek to improve the availability of library resources to those residents that find it difficult to visit their local library via our mobile library and housebound services.

We are committed to supporting the target for growing the number of people able to speak Welsh in Rhondda Cynon Taf. We will seek to achieve this by implementing a 5-year Strategy that will focus on improving and promoting the opportunities to learn and use Welsh within the Council's own staff and in improving the provision of services within the communities through the medium of Welsh. This will include our leisure provision and improving Welsh medium provision in childcare settings. This will have a major impact for Welsh speakers and those who are interested in the language, as it will ensure that there are opportunities to use Welsh in their interaction with the Council, to use it more in the community and to have more services and activities available to them in their preferred language.

The provision of suitable and affordable housing has a significant role to play in the prevention of people going into hospital or experiencing other issues that negatively affect health and wellbeing. We will implement a new housing allocations scheme to improve the way people access social housing. We will also identify improvement areas within our housing advice and homelessness service through consultation with staff and service users. This will also allow the opportunity to collaborate with housing partners to respond to these challenges and ensure **integrated** service delivery and provision.

*Our work in this priority, both now and in the future, will contribute to the seven national Well-being Goals, in particular a **Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language** a **Wales of cohesive communities**, a **Healthier Wales** and a **More Equal Wales**.*

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PLACE - Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work

Challenges and opportunities linked to this Council Priority		Priority 3 - More involved and resilient communities		
Actions that will deliver Priority 3		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer
	A review to improve the current RCT Together is underway, a new process will be established that is aligned to the development of the Community Hubs. An RCT Together document for each of the 10 proposed Community Zones areas will be created. The document will provide officer recommendation on the potential to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform the councils development of its Community Hub and associated Neighbourhood Network model within a Zone by identifying potential hub and spokes • Ensure that only RCT Together Community Asset Transfer cases which strategically align and support the key Council priorities as laid out in the Cwm Taf Well-being plan are progressed. These will need to be evidenced and based on identification of unmet and or emerging needs. • Ensure any RCT Together Tenancy agreements are accompanied by an SLA which ensures they positively contribute to assisting and supporting the Neighbourhood Network. 		Claire Hutcheon
CWRP5A02	Develop and implement both the Children Zone pilot and the development of Community Hubs across RCT alongside the RCT Together programme	Work with partners to develop and implement Community Hubs at Mountain Ash and Rhondda Fach (Ferndale) and provide quarterly progress reports Cwm Taf Community Zone Strategic group during the year	Quarterly	Claire Hutcheon
		Develop proposals for the phase implementation of further community hubs within the County Borough and report to Cabinet for consideration	On-going	Claire Hutcheon
LIBP2A01	Improve the quality, range of services and use of the Council's Library Service	Undertake a public consultation exercise on proposals for the Mobile Library Service and Housebound Service (as agreed by Cabinet on 22/3/18)	Jul-18	Wendy Edwards
		Report the findings of the consultation exercise to Cabinet and seek Cabinet's decision around the proposals for the Mobile Library Service and Housebound Service (and thereafter implement Cabinet's decision(s))	Sep-18	
		Utilise digital technology to improve services available to users:	Dates to be up dated	To be up dated
		* Trial the use of self service kiosks in a selection of libraries		
		* Hold a series of exhibitions to promote e-books, and to support customers to download the books.		
		* Expand the delivery of Digital Fridays to include all libraries and work with partners to ensure a range of workshops and courses are available to increase customer understanding of digital products.		
* Ensure the Digital Photographic Archive and Our Past websites are fit for purpose and user friendly.				
* Introduce a range of products to improve the digital skills of children and young people e.g. fitbits, coding events etc.	Mar-19	Wendy Cole		

Actions that will deliver Priority 3		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer
LIBP2A01	Improve the quality, range of services and use of the Council's Library Service	Enhance the facilities available at Tonypany Library through the creation of a community room, two consultation rooms and an IT suite	Mar-19	Wendy Edwards / Nick Kelland
		Hold 3 'Keep in Touch' meetings at libraries – 1 each in Rhondda, Cynon and Taf areas to listen to customers and address any issues raised.	Sep-18	Wendy Edwards / Nick Kelland
WLSP5A02	Monitor the implementation of the 5 Year Strategy and Action Plan for the promotion and facilitation of the Welsh Language in the county	Support the target for growing the number of people able to speak Welsh in Rhondda Cynon Taf of 1.66% growth per annum until 2021 through: 1. Welsh Language Unit and HR colleagues to embed Level 1 Welsh Language Training for all new starters and movers employed by RCT Council. 2. Level 2 + Welsh language speakers employed by the Council to be supported for continuous language development via in-house Welsh language tutor 3. Continue to develop initiatives that create an environment which fosters the use of Welsh by staff, e.g. badges, posters, lanyards, use of Cymraeg logo on e-mail and intranet, e-mail signatures and out-of-office messages	(1) April - Dec 18 (2) On-going (3) April - Dec 18	Wendy Edwards / Steffan Gealy
		Build on delivering further Welsh medium activities via Council services through working collaboratively with the Urdd, Mudiad, Early Years and Menter Iaith focusing in particular on pre-school and school age residents. 1. Welsh Language Services, Leisure Services and Urdd to agree a process for delivering Welsh medium swimming lessons in the RCT's main pools with the aim of starting in the 18/19 academic year. 2. Explore further opportunities to deliver Welsh medium aquatic activities through the medium of Welsh in collaboration with Mudiad 3. Welsh language training to be delivered in RCT Council childcare settings in order to increase the use of Welsh language within settings 4. Welsh Language Services staff to support Menter Iaith in delivering high profile activities such as Party Ponty	(1) Sept 18 (2) June 18 (3) From Sept 18 (4) July 18	Wendy Edwards / Steffan Gealy
ART2A02	Maintain and develop a programme of community engagement within the theatres and on an outreach basis and deliver a high quality, balanced, exciting and thought provoking programme	Produce an RCT Theatres Co-production Plan of work created with and for our communities, particularly children, young people and their families, involving companies and artists in residence at the Creative Hub in the Park & Dare Theatre.	Dec-18	Angela Gould
		Develop and deliver an artistic programme to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the Coliseum Theatre.	Mar-19	Angela Gould

Actions that will deliver Priority 3		Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer
RGNP3A01	Assist the development of employment and housing, through partnership working, to maximise the delivery of homes and jobs, supporting the economy and ensuring a range of homes (affordable, market, adapted, re-use of empties and innovative) are developed. Enable relevant landowners (including Welsh Government) to promote development on their sites.	Facilitate housing development through the launch of a pilot version of the 'Plot Shop' initiative aimed at facilitating self and custom build housing	Aug-18	Simon Gale
RGNP3A02		Review approach to the provision of adapted housing supply in the County Borough and present findings and recommendations to Cabinet	Mar-19	Jennifer Ellis / Derek James
RGNP3A09		Increase in the scale of empty properties being brought back into through the launch of the Empty Property Strategy 2018-2021 which will provide a framework for all empty property activity in the County Borough	Oct-18	Jennifer Ellis / Derek James
RGNP4A01	Deliver the Council's Affordable Warmth Strategy	Subject to Cabinet Approval, launch Affordable Warmth Strategy	Sep-18	Jennifer Ellis /
		Deliver priorities of Affordable Warmth Strategy through consultation and engagement with key stakeholders and delivery partners	Mar-19	Jennifer Ellis / Derek James
HOUP2A01	Implement new Housing allocation Scheme to help improve the way people access social housing	Review and propose up dates to the Council's Housing Allocation Scheme and report to Cabinet for consideration	May-18	Jennifer Ellis
		Subject to Cabinet approval, launch an up dated Housing Allocation Scheme	Sep-18	Jennifer Ellis
MPCP1A01	Engage with residents and service users effectively	Review, promote and refresh Citizens Panel membership	Jul-18	Chris Davies
		Invite Citizens Panel Members to identify particular areas of interest	Sep-18	Chris Davies
		Launch new 'Decisions' social account covering Cabinet, Council, Scrutiny and Regulatory Committees	Sep-18	James Whitehurst
		Launch new 'RCThelp' twitter feed, embedded within CRM, to deal with customer care related issues rather than through the @RCTCouncil account	Mar-19	James Whitehurst
ETCP1A03	Work collaboratively with external providers to provide an effective and efficient animal control service for residents in RCT.	Evaluate the impact of the new kennelling arrangements with Hope Rescue one year after transfer of service	Jul-18	Neil Pilliner
HOUP6A01	Further Improve our Housing Services to provide enhanced housing options and support for vulnerable groups to prevent homelessness and reduce the use of temporary accommodation".	Development and adoption of a new Homelessness Prevention Strategy	Dec-18	Cheryl Emery
		Deliver the programmes and monitor the effectiveness of the Transitional Housing and Homelessness Prevention Funds in 18-19	Mar-19	Cheryl Emery
		Review of Homelessness Audit findings and develop and deliver an action plan to implement recommendations	Mar-19	Cheryl Emery
	Launch the Amgen / Bryn Pica Eco Park	Milestones / Sub Actions to be developed		

PLACE - Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work

Measures to support Priority 3 - More involved and resilient communities

PI Ref	PI Description	2015/16		2016/17			2017/18		2018/19			
		Target	RCT Actual	Target	RCT Actual	All Wales Average	Target	RCT Actual	Proposed Target	How does the proposed 2018/19 target compare to 2016/17 Welsh Average	How does the proposed 2018/19 target compare to 2017/18 Data	How does the proposed 2018/19 target compare to 2017/18 Target
LLSD002	% of residents satisfied with the County Borough as a place to live [National Survey for Wales Data]	Not collected		NEW-BASELINE YEAR	85	N/A	≥85	80	≥80	N/A	Same	Worse
PAM012	% of households successfully prevented from becoming homeless	N/A	48.71	60.00	63.22	N/A	68.00	74.54				

Key:

Existing Corporate Plan high level measure

PLACE - *Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work*

Priority 4: Rhondda Cynon Taf's local environment will be clean and attractive, with well-maintained roads and pavements, flowing traffic, increased recycling and less waste sent to landfill

Good transport infrastructure is of great benefit to residents, businesses and visitors. We are committed to investing in Highways, footways, structures, drainage improvements and flood alleviation schemes as part of the wider 'RCTinvest' scheme. These improvements integrate closely with our other Well-being objectives, by supporting the local Economy through improved logistics making the area more attractive to business and investment; and People by promoting active travel, improving people's health and promoting independence by making it easier for them to access local services and amenities.

Although highways development is crucial to the prosperity of the area in the short and medium term, we will balance this necessary development with investment in long-term strategies to find viable alternatives to car use. This includes delivery of safe community routes for walking and cycling, including designing safe routes for our children to travel to school and strategic improvements to public transport such as the A4119 bus corridor to decrease journey times and encourage people to switch to more sustainable forms of transport. We will also undertake bridge works at St Albans Bridge and Pont Rhondda Bridge and commence construction of the Mountain Ash Cross Valley Link.

Reducing, reusing and recycling our waste is vital to reduce the environmental impact of our activities to safeguard our landscape, wildlife and natural resources for future generations. Gases produced by waste in landfill release gases that play a part in climate change, and some waste, like certain kinds of plastic, cannot be broken down and causes damage to important ecosystems. We are committed to increasing recycling levels and achieving the 70% recycling target set by Welsh Government for 2024/25, and we can only do this by involving residents and the community, supporting them with clear information on how to recycle and ensuring they understand the long term benefits.

The cleanliness of their local area is extremely important to many people, and we will continue to review the effectiveness of our street cleaning operations to enable quicker responses when problems are identified. However, the most effective way to keep our streets clean is through the prevention of environmental crimes such as littering, dog fouling and fly tipping. We will continue to work with local schools, community groups, The University of South Wales and PCSOs to raise awareness of the personal and environmental issues caused these environmental crimes can cause, and encourage all parts of the community to take pride in their local area.

*Our work in this priority, both now and in the future, will contribute to the seven national Well-being Goals, in particular a **Globally Responsible Wales** and a **Prosperous Wales** .*

PLACE - Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work**Priority 4 - Rhondda Cynon Taf's local environment will be clean and attractive, with well-maintained roads and pavements, flowing traffic, increased recycling and less waste sent to landfill**

Actions that will deliver Priority 4		Ref	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer
HDCP1A04	Continue to invest in our highways and infrastructure to improve the condition of our road network and improve traffic flow	HDCP1A04M01	Commence the construction for the Mountain Ash Cross Valley Link	Aug-18	Andrew Griffiths
		HDCP1A04M02	Complete the construction of the Pont Rhondda Bridge	Mar-19	Andrew Griffiths
		HDCP1A04M03	Complete the design for the St Albans bridge renovation works.	Dec-18	Andrew Griffiths
		HDCP1A04M04	Complete the repair the river retaining wall at Pontypridd Rd Porth.	Nov-18	Andrew Griffiths
		HDCP1A04M05	Complete the preliminary design of the A4119 dualling (Stinkpot Hill).	Dec-18	Andrew Griffiths
		HDCP1A04M06	Continue to undertake improvements to our highways assets through a comprehensive programme including highway and footway resurfacing, streetlight replacement and structure repair and replacement	Mar-19	Huw Jenkins
		HDCP1A05M03	Complete the design of Llantrisant Community Route Phase 2.	Mar-19	Andrew Griffiths
		HDCP1A05M04	Commence construction of the Abercynon Park and Ride Phase 2.	Nov-18	Andrew Griffiths
		HDCP1A05M05	Implement a programme of works (subject to funding) to promote a strategic bus corridor along the A4119, in partnership with Welsh Government, to reduce travel time and promote use of public transport	Mar-19	Andrew Griffiths
HDCP1A05	Deliver a variety of sustainable transport schemes throughout Rhondda Cynon Taf to promote walking, cycling and public transport, improve safety and wellbeing, provide leisure opportunities and reduce pressure on the road network	HDCP1A05M01	Develop safe routes in the Community for pedestrians and cyclists in Pontyclun and implement in Porth, in partnership with Welsh Government and subject to funding.	Mar-19	Andrew Griffiths
		HDCP1A05M02	Complete construction of new safe walking and cycling routes for pupils to access the new schools at Tonyrefail, Tonypany and Cwmamman	Oct-18	Andrew Griffiths
		CSTP1A01M04	Review implementation of the re-tendered mainstream school contracts in the Cynon and Rhondda areas, and the removal of those routes now deemed to be safe enough to walk, making any operational adjustments required.	Oct-18	Charlie Nelson / Geraint Roberts / Matthew Edmunds

Actions that will deliver Priority 4		Ref	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer
HDCP5A01,05 & 07	As Lead Local Flood Authority, carry out the requirements of the Flood Risk Regulations 2009.	HDCP5A01M01	Undertake the statutory duty to Review Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA)	Dec-18	Andrew Stone
		HDCP5A07M01	<u>Facilitate awareness through active monitoring and communication within high flood risk areas.</u> Produce a communication strategy for flood awareness and resilience building within high risk areas (and thereafter target residents and businesses within the borough identified at risk of flooding to make them aware of their rights and responsibilities)	Oct-18	Owen Griffiths
		HDCP5A07M02	Review the existing layout of the 'Flood Alleviation section' of the RCT Website to improve the ease of use and increase sign posting from web resources including Sustainable Drainage System's (SuDs) Approval Body (SAB) Guidance, enforcement policy and Land Drainage Bylaws	Oct-18	Owen Griffiths
CSW1A01	To increase recycling levels to achieve the 70% recycling target set by Welsh Government for 2024/25 through awareness raising and participation checks and providing residents and businesses the information, bins and bags to help them recycle correctly	CSW1A01M01	Identify awareness target areas	Mar-19	C Evans
		CSW1A01M02	Undertake door knocking exercises to ensure residents are participating in recycling	Mar-19	C Evans
		CSW1A01M03	Monitor recycling participation and target non participating properties	Mar-19	C Evans
		CSW1A02M01	<u>Provide residents and businesses the information to recycle correctly</u> To ensure Council website waste pages are accurate and contain timely information	Mar-19	N Jones
		CSW1A02M02	Work in partnership with local supermarkets to take part in promotional events	Mar-19	C Evans
		CSW1A02M03	Undertake customer satisfaction surveys to improve our service provision	Mar-19	C Evans
		CSW1A03M01	To provide equipment needed to recycle correctly and timely	Mar-19	N Jones
		CSW1A03M02	To review the number of council distribution points and local recycling bank facilities	Sep-18	N Jones
		CSW2A01M01	Update website and literature	Mar-19	N Jones
		CSW2A01M02	Attending public events to raise awareness	Mar-19	C Evans
		CSW2A01M03	Promote the non kerbside recyclable items e.g. textiles, WEE (electrical items)	Mar-19	N Jones
		CSW2A01M04	Update website and Council literature	Mar-19	N Jones
		CSW2A01M05	Providing up to date information to comprehensive schools and council buildings	Mar-19	N Jones
CSW2A01M06	Awareness & Enforcement to assist and support with education and Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) actions	Mar-19	S Gammon/C Evans		

Actions that will deliver Priority 4		Ref	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer
CSW2A02	To increase recycling levels to achieve the 70% recycling target set by Welsh Government for 2024/25 through awareness raising and participation checks and providing residents and businesses the information, bins and bags to help them recycle correctly	CSW2A02M01	<u>Reduce municipal waste bins in comprehensive schools and council buildings</u> Update internal literature and service level agreement with secondary schools	Mar-19	N Jones
		CSW2A02M02	Review collection methods in secondary schools and Council Buildings	Mar-19	N Jones
CSW4A01	Continue to raise awareness in schools, residents and community groups on environmental issues.	CSW4A01M01	Arrange a schedule of presentations to Infant, Junior and Comprehensive schools.	Mar-19	S Gammon
		CSW4A01M02	Treforest Waste & Recycling Co-ordinator to continue to meet and work with students and residents in Treforest regarding any waste, recycling and litter issues	Mar-19	S Gammon
		CSW4A01M03	Increase usage of Facebook and Twitter to promote our campaigns and raise awareness	Mar-19	S Gammon
		CSW4A01M04	Encourage Community Groups, Schools, Treforest University and PCSO's to include environmental crime issues in their local areas on their web sites.	Mar-19	S Gammon
		CSW4A01M05	Continue to report offenders on 'Who Done It 'web page.	Mar-19	S Gammon
CSW4A02	Target enforcement exercises to tackle dog fouling, fly tipping littering etc.	CSW4A02M01	Attend regular meetings with Community Groups and local PCSO's, and residents of RCT to discuss environmental crime issues and ways of resolving these problems, such as dog-fouling, fly-tipping and litter.	Mar-19	S Gammon
		CSW4A02M02	Meeting with local schools and Community Groups. Presentations to be given regarding the personal and environmental issues caused by dog-fouling.	Mar-19	S Gammon
CSW5A01	Continuously review different types of technology to maintain an acceptable level of street cleanliness and productivity	CSW5A01M03	Continue to deploy surveillance equipment (CCTV) in hot-spot areas	Mar-19	S Gammon

PLACE - Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work

Measures to support Priority 4 - Rhondda Cynon Taf's local environment will be clean and attractive, with well-maintained roads and pavements, flowing traffic, increased recycling and less waste sent to landfill

PI Ref	PI Description	2015/16		2016/17			2017/18		2018/19			
		Target	RCT Actual	Target	RCT Actual	All Wales Average	Target	RCT Actual	Proposed Target	How does the proposed 2018/19 target compare to 2016/17 Welsh Average	How does the proposed 2018/19 target compare to 2017/18 Data	How does the proposed 2018/19 target compare to 2017/18 Target
PAM020 LTHS011a	% of Principal A Roads in overall poor condition	8.7	7.2	8.7	5.6	3.7	5.4	5.2	4.9	Worse	Better	Better
THS012	The percentage of principal (A) roads, non-principal (B) roads and non-principal (C) roads that are in overall poor condition	10.0	8.6	7.2	7.2	10.7	6.5	5.7	5.6	Better	Better	Better
WMT004b PAM031	% of municipal waste sent to landfill	42.00	22.59	BASELINE YEAR*	2.12	9.5	5.00	1.76	5.00	Better	Worse	Same
PAM030 WMT009b	% of municipal waste collected by local authorities and prepared for reuse and/or recycling, including source segregated biowastes that are composted or treated biologically in another way	58.00	60.49	62.00	64.69	63.81	65.0	61.31	63.00	Worse	Better	Worse
PAM010 STS005b	% of streets that are clean	95.0	100.0	95.0	100.0	96.6	95.0	99.4	95.00	Better	Worse	Same
LLSD003	% of residents satisfied with the condition of roads and pavements [Survey Data]	Not collected		NEW-BASELINE YEAR	36	N/A	≥36	Not available	≥36	N/A	N/A	Same
PAM035	Average number of working days taken to clear fly tipping incidents {NEW}	N/A		N/A			N/A	N/A	5 Days	N/A	N/A	N/A
LSTS006 PAM011	% of reported fly tipping incidents on relevant land cleared within 5 working days	95.00	97.81	95.00	96.87	95.37	95.00	96.94	95.00	Worse	Worse	Same

Key:

Existing Corporate Plan high level measure