RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RECORD OF DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION

SUBJECT: Supporting People Operational Plan 2011/12

PURPOSE OF ATTACHED REPORT:

The report has been prepared to inform Cabinet Members of the plans, priorities and needs, identified in the 2011/12 Supporting People Operational Plan.

DELEGATED DECISION (Date):

To approve the plan and its priorities on the basis of existing and projected financial commitments.

To note the contribution the programme makes to supporting vulnerable people secure safe and stable housing.

Chief Officer Signature	*Print Name*	*Date*
	Ellis Williams	24th October 2011.

The decision is taken in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government Act, 2000 (Executive Functions) and in the terms set out in Section 5 of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution.

CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE

21/oct/2011.

DATE

OFFICER CONSULTEE SIGNATURE

25/oct/2011.

DATE

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2011 – 2012:
REPORT TO ACCOMPANY DECISION OF
GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Part 1 (Non-Confidential)
Supporting People Programme and Support for Vulnerable Groups

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The report has been prepared to inform Cabinet Members of the plans, priorities and needs identified in the 2011/12 Supporting People Operational Plan.

In accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this report has been prepared to accompany the intended Officer decision of the Group Director, Community and Children's Services as described below.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet Members:

2.1 Note the content of the Supporting People Operational Plan 2011/12.

2.2 Consider whether they wish to scrutinise in greater depth, the plans, priorities and needs identified.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1. The Supporting People Operational Plan (SPOP) is one of the Council's key strategic delivery plans. The SPOP helps with the delivery of supported housing and housing related support services that compliment the Council's and its strategic partners higher level plans such as the Local Housing Strategy and the Health Social Care and Well-being Plan, Community Safety Plan and the Children and Young People's Plan.

3.2. SPOP is a commissioning and revenue-bidding plan. It reflects the Council's priorities for the allocation of revenue funding that is awarded to the Council, by the Welsh Assembly Government, through a specific grant funding scheme, i.e., the Supporting People programme.

3.3. The Supporting People programme is overseen by the Assembly Government, but administered locally by the Council. To-date the Council, working in partnership with supported housing providers, has been successful in obtaining more than £9 million to contribute to the provision of housing related support services for vulnerable groups, who would otherwise be homeless or at risk of unnecessarily remaining or entering institutional forms of care.

3.4. The programme contributes to the provision of sheltered housing for older people; homeless hostels; young and vulnerable homeless people and emergency accommodation; and for those fleeing domestic abuse. It also funds a number of projects that provide temporary and permanent housing and support for people with poor mental health, people with a learning disability, people recovering from substance misuse, people with a physical disability or chronic illness, older people, homeless vulnerable single parents, young people and prison leavers.

3.5. The programme is led by the Council and its administration overseen by a multi-agency group, chaired by the Group Director of Community and Children's Services. The 2011/2012 plan, which is based on evidenced need, continues to prioritise the following groups for development and investment, where capital and revenue funding is available: domestic abuse, young single homeless people, prison leavers, people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and people with a learning disability, older people and people with poor mental health.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1. The Supporting People programme supports some of the most vulnerable and excluded people in our communities. Support service work with individuals who often live chaotic or isolated lives, which can be compounded by homelessness, the threat of homelessness or unnecessarily entering institutional care. As a result people often experience greater exclusion and many are reluctant or unable to engage with services and in some instances services are unable to engage with them, without a stable home.

4.2. The housing related support services funded by the programme are no substitute for good quality health and social care or treatment and counselling to address people's long standing issues and chronic problems. Often, the provision of housing related support prevents or delays people's need for more costly or corrective interventions from statutory services. The provision of support helps to ensure vulnerable people can secure and sustain safe and stable housing that enables them to access and engage with a wider range of services that can help them overcome long standing problems.

RHONDDA CYNON TAF

Supporting People Operational Plan 2011/2012

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1. Introduction:

1.1. This is the eighth Supporting People Operational Plan (SPOP) to be produced by Rhondda Cynon Taf. The plan is updated annually and sets out how the Council and it's strategic partners are responding and planning to respond to the housing related support needs of specific vulnerable groups. The plan is concerned with the commissioning of housing focussed solutions that meet the needs of a wide range of people who are homeless, at risk of homelessness or at risk of entering and remaining in institutional care. The services developed are designed to deal with the underlying causes of homelessness, poverty and social exclusion. They play an import role in achieving our local and national objectives concerned with improving people's independence, choice and inclusion.

1.2. To develop effective solutions it must be recognised that many factors cause homelessness and the need for people to enter institutional care. The vast majority of people considered homeless or at risk of homelessness are families and single people who are not literally sleeping on the street, but living with relatives and friends or in un-suitable accommodation that they can no longer afford or safely stay at. There are some whose relationships and families break down as a result of domestic abuse or because their families can no longer meet their needs. Historically, supported housing services have been developed in an ad-hoc way, often in isolation from mainstream services and arrangements. To effectively address many of the complex issues faced by vulnerable people, it has been recognised that services need to work in partnership and be better coordinated at a strategic level.

1.3. Commissioning housing related support services for some of the most vulnerable people in our community is one of the most important activities that can be undertaken by the Council. A small number of people served by the programme experience a series of traumatic events, or suffer from drug, alcohol, poor mental health and other personal problems, that put their living arrangements at risk. There is an even smaller number of people who are extremely vulnerable because of long-term mental health difficulties, physical disability or learning disability, who need help to secure and sustain appropriate living arrangements as an alternative to institutional care. As such housing related support services and housing focused solutions developed through this plan are concerned with meeting the housing related support needs of:

- women or men seeking refuge from domestic abuse.
- people with learning difficulty.
- people with mental health difficulties.
- people misusing alcohol or drugs.
- people who are refugees.

- people with a physical disability or sensory impairment.
- people who are young and vulnerable or leaving care.
- people who are leaving prison or a young offender institution.
- people who are at risk of offending or behaving anti-socially.
- people who are potentially homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- people with a chronic illness
- people who are single parents.
- people who consider themselves old.
- people from traveller communities.
- people from BME communities

2. Overview of Need and Priority Groups:

2.1. To understand the nature of peoples need and their underlying problems an analysis is undertaken annually to ensure our plans and planned responses remain appropriate. The process ensures an objective measure of need, which is fairly and consistently applied to all vulnerable groups, who are homeless, potentially homeless or at risk of unnecessarily entering or remaining in institutional care.

2.2. The needs mapping process ensures a multi-agency approach and supports the implementation of a systematic process that focuses on client and not organisational need. Most importantly the process ensures need is considered in a housing context and people are properly involved in determining their needs and the housing options available to them. An essential feature of the model, which is in line with guidance from the Assembly Government, is that need and supply are expressed in terms of annual flows. After subtracting the potential supply of support from the estimated demand we can consider what the net surplus or deficit in housing related support may be.

2.3. The model provides a consistent and comparable evidence base that takes account of the needs of all households and potential households considered to be homeless, at risk of homelessness and those at risk of unnecessarily entering or remaining in institutional care. As in previous years the analysis suggests the following groups should be a priority and continue to be a priority for housing revenue and capital investment. The table below shows the client groups with the most significant need, the number of units required to meet demand and the number of units of supported housing or housing related support that will need to be created year-on-year over a period of 5 years.

Client Group	Overall number of units required to meet demand.	Number of units required per annum over 5 year period.
Domestic Abuse	42	8
Young People	68	14
Ex. Offenders	34	7
Homelessness	84	17
Mental Health	18	4
Substance Misuse	22	4
Older People	45	9
Learning Difficulty	28	6
Physical Disability	28	6

2.4. As well as identifying levels of unmet need the Council has to determine the priority of each client group for revenue and capital investment. As a housing programme, with a focus on the prevention of homelessness and

the unnecessary use of institutional care priorities are influenced by those we have a duty to accommodate. Data, from the all Wales Data Unit, on those considered unintentionally homeless, eligible for assistance and in priority need indicates that:

- 38 people were homeless because of domestic abuse;
- 28 16/17 year olds and 4 18/21 year olds were homeless, as a result of family or relatives being unable to accommodate them;
- 18 people were homeless as they had no accommodation to return to after leaving prison;
- 9 people were homeless because of issues beyond their control;
- 2 people were homeless because of poor mental health/learning difficulties;
- 2 people were homeless with a physical disability and
- 2 people were homeless because of an emergency.

(Data reflects the following months April-June 09, July-Sept 08, Oct-Dec 09 and Jan-Mar 10.)

2.5. Given the number of people found to be homeless and in priority need. Taking into account the impact homelessness and peoples underlying problems have on their ability to secure and sustain, safe, appropriate living arrangements, the following groups should be the focus of any supported housing developments and a priority for the allocation of available housing related revenue and capital:

Priority for SPRG	Client Group
1	Domestic Abuse
2	Young People
3	Ex. Offenders
4	Homelessness
5	Mental Health
6	Substance Misuse
Priority for SPG	**Client Group**
1	Older People
2	Learning Difficulty
3	Physical Disability

2.6. Having set out our main priorities for investment and areas of service development the remainder of the plan provides some context to the provision of housing related support at a local and national level. More importantly the plan expands on the needs of particular groups and sets out the current and planned arrangements that are in place to respond to peoples supported housing and housing related support needs.

2.7. In addition to highlighting the work being undertaken, the plan seeks to secure additional revenue and influence the allocation of capital expenditure from the Welsh Assembly Government. To date the approach

has resulted in the Council receiving an initial award of approximately £8.6 million. In recent years additional expenditure of approximately £250,000 has been secured and through remodeling services an additional 150 units of support has been created.

3. Policy and Programme Background:

3.1. The recently published Welsh Assembly Government Housing Strategy, Improving Lives and Communities (April 2010) sets out the principal challenges for providers of housing, supported housing and housing related support. In particular it recognises the challenges presented by an aging population on both the design of houses and the support available to help people live independently. It also recognizes the increased demand on supported housing and housing-related support services, particularly those that deal with homelessness. The current economic situation will have a significant impact on the supported housing sector. Not only will it impact on the only funding stream some projects rely on, it will also impact on the lives and opportunities available to many of the people they support.

3.2. In these difficult financial times it is important to remember that a home is an essential part of life. It affects people's health and well-being, quality of life and the opportunities available to them. Home is the focus for the delivery of many services that people need to live safe, meaningful, healthy and valued lives. However, some people have difficulty finding and sustaining a home at various times during their life. Some people need help to secure and sustain a home, due to factors that they may or may not be able to control.

3.3. To ensure help is made available to some of the most disadvantaged and excluded members of society, the government has created the Supporting People programme. The programme provides the means through which Local and Central Government ensure some of society's most vulnerable people receive help and support to establish and sustain safe and appropriate living arrangements. The Supporting People programme is seen as making an important contribution to tackling disadvantage and promoting equality of opportunity by enabling vulnerable people to participate meaningfully in the social and economic life of their communities.

3.4. Housing related support services have been proven to reduce the need for costly and corrective interventions from traditional housing, health, social care and criminal justice agencies. With an emphasis on early intervention and prevention, money spent on housing related support is seen as an 'investment to save'. As the lead agency, the Council has an opportunity and responsibility to create a new and different set of relationships with many independent sector agencies. The relationships cut across a number of traditional service areas that share our concern for some of the most vulnerable people in our society who need assistance to establish or maintain safe, sustainable and appropriate living arrangements.

3.5. In addition to recognising the wider benefits of preventative services, our knowledge of the cost benefits associated with housing related support is also improving. Initial independent research, undertaken in Wales, suggested that for every £1.00 spent in 2005/06 the equivalent of £1.68 savings are achieved in other areas of public expenditure. In 2009 more detailed independent research, in England, suggested that for every £1.00 spent £1.80 savings were achieved to other areas of public expenditure. The research identified significant cost benefits in particular groups, specifically those fleeing domestic abuse, those recovering from substance misuse and those at risk of entering residential care. The research suggested that in some areas, such as Older People the cost benefit is 6 times greater than the level of expenditure on housing related support services.

3.6. The following table highlights the financial contribution made to services locally and using the findings from the research the corresponding savings to other areas of public expenditure locally:

Client Group	Overall local investment	Net financial benefit to other areas of public expenditure
Substance Misuse	£258,636	£1,293,180
Domestic Violence	£1,029,714	£3,089,142
Homelessness	£772,923	£386,461
Young People/ Parents	£991,727	£198,345
Learning Disability, Poor Mental Health and Physical Disability	£5,149,102	£10,298,204
Ex-Offenders	£117,752	£82,426
Older People	£1,020,230	£4,080,920
Total	**£9.3 million**	**£19.4 million**

(Data taken from Communities and Local Government 2009, based on a study undertaken by Capgemini.)

3.7. Implementing this agenda has brought major changes to the way housing related support services are planned and delivered. Prior to April 2003 projects were developed, in an ad-hoc and inconsistent manner, often making best use of surplus housing stock, in hard to let areas. One of the key aims of Supporting People is to ensure supported housing projects are in appropriate locations and run by fit and proper organisations with experience of housing, housing management and the provision of housing related support.

3.8. The current commissioning framework is designed to ensure projects are developed on the basis of evidenced need and in partnership with the Local Authority. Where accommodation is an element of the service it must be compliant with recognised housing standards and it must be objectively approved as being fit and appropriate for its stated purpose.

3.9. The framework surrounding Supporting People, ensures organizations have the appropriate experience, powers and governance to protect vulnerable people from abuse and exploitation and properly account for public expenditure. If the interventions and opportunities offered by projects are to be successful, projects must be in desirable and appropriate locations with easy access to local amenities, meaningful opportunities and local transport networks.

3.10. What has become clear from our commissioning activities over a number of years is that a wide range of projects are needed. This includes projects for those with emerging needs and those with extensive needs and chaotic lifestyles. To ensure current and future projects can respond effectively to peoples needs, we need to create a network of services with local connections. We need to work with experienced supported housing and housing related support providers who have enhanced expectations for service users and an understanding of the needs and aspirations of local people. To ensure services continue to be effective it is important that the people and stakeholders using them are involved in their development and access is as simple and as effective as possible. Interventions seem to work best when need is determined, first and foremost, by individuals themselves and people choose to engage with support rather than being required to engage with support.

4. Independent Review of Supporting People in Wales:

4.1. This is an important year for the supported housing sector both locally and nationally, with the Assembly Government commissioning an independent review of the Supporting People programme. With the granting of additional legislative powers, relating to housing and local government, it is hoped that a clear statutory framework will be created to help the delivery of policy proposals relating to housing and meeting the housing related support needs of vulnerable people.

4.2. The current framework to support the delivery of housing related support has made medium and long-term planning difficult. There can be major differences in the terms, conditions and procurement practices adopted by different stakeholders and agencies, and in some situations the same agencies and stakeholders. In introducing the recent 'legislative competence order' the Assembly Government, have recognised the need to 'enable coherent legislation to be developed to take forward the policy direction for housing related support'.

4.3. Supporting People is now seen as a major commissioning programme in its own right. However, the annual allocation of funding and the artificial differences between temporary and permanent support has not helped ensure a consistent approach to commissioning and procurement across all service areas. Accepting these inconsistencies we have worked hard, as a Council, to ensure that where they need to be, our commissioning activities are integrated and joined up.

4.4. As a Council we recognise that the provision of housing related support is distinct, in particular from the provision of health and social care. To support this we have developed administrative arrangements that are capable of being applied to the design of services, help establish the boundaries of support and the level of funding considered appropriate to support viable and efficient organisational structures.

4.5. Like many Council's we are still coming to terms with the challenges and opportunities the programme presents. The systematic analysis of need has helped ensure services are planned and commissioned on the basis of evidenced need through a clear strategic framework. However, housing related support cannot meet all the needs an individual may have. It is important that all agencies recognise that where the people they support have additional needs or their needs cannot be met within the defined service, they must work together and where necessary alongside each other, to ensure an appropriate response.

4.6. Housing related support services, regardless of who funds them and how they are funded must support people to achieve and experience

increasing levels of independence, participation, choice and control. Support services cannot constrain the freedoms of the people they support beyond that associated with the normal terms of a legal occupancy agreement. Should services adopt such practices they would essentially be creating an institutional environment, which is not compatible with the principles of Supporting People or the provision of housing related support.

4.7. The outcome of the independent review and the impact the current financial climate may have on the provision of support is difficult to predict. However, it is hoped that services will be safeguarded and the need for specific projects will continue to be prioritised by the Council.

5. Focus of work and it's contribution to local policies and strategies:

5.1. Given the increasing complexities of modern life and the multiple disadvantages people seem to face, it is important that services work together to respond to peoples needs. The main focus of work undertaken by housing related support services is the restoration or development of people's skills and confidence to establish and sustain their chosen living arrangements. The main measure of success is the transition people make to greater levels of independence, participation, inclusion, choice and control.

5.2. As a housing focussed solution the principal aim, for all projects is to prevent homelessness and reduce the need for people to enter or remain in institutional care to exceptional circumstances. The statutory safety net should only be used for those who have no alternative to homelessness and those at greatest risk of unnecessarily entering or remaining in institutional care.

5.3. There are a number of areas where other legislative and policy requirements compliment or supersede Housing, Health, Adult and Children's Social Care and Community Justice areas of responsibility. As such the provision of supported housing and housing related support has been built upon the efforts of voluntary agencies, local charities and housing associations over many years.

5.4. The approach has meant that most projects benefit from additional funding as part of larger not for profit organizations or as a result of their charitable status and fund raising activities. This often means added value and unintended benefits as many organisations produce outcomes, which have a value in excess of the contribution made through the Supporting People programme. For example, this year an analysis of spend in several projects highlighted that the organisations delivering them contributed more than £100,000 from their own resources to the provision of housing related support services.

5.5. Value for money is an important aspect of housing related support. However, it is not the only aspect that is taken into account when commissioning services. Independent research has helpfully recognised that service users experience a number of un-costed benefits and outcomes, that cut across a number of local policy areas, this includes:

- improved quality of life for the individual including greater independence,
- improved health.
- reduced dependence on relatives and carers,

supporting people to develop their own skills and confidence to undertake these tasks independently.

5.8. The costs of installing and maintaining security systems or adapting buildings to improve security are not support costs, but landlord costs. Concierge schemes or CCTV surveillance, in particular, are also considered to be landlord services, as they are not designed to respond to the particular support needs of vulnerable people but rather the everyday security of all residents, which may or may not include people with support needs. All subsidy is paid as a contribution towards the costs of delivering support through 'support staff' who may perform other duties as part of their day to day work.

5.9. A projects initial and continued strategic importance is measured against the impact and contribution it makes to achieving priorities established through a number of strategic plans. Like many of the plans produced by the Council and its strategic partners, The Supporting People Operational Plan (SPOP), takes its lead from the Community Plan.

5.10. The current Community Plan sets out the areas of priority for the Council and its partners. Over the next 10 years the focus of the Councils work will be on the following areas, a number of these areas are of particular relevance to the provision of housing related support services, which can compliment and contribute to the achievement of the following objectives in particular:

- **Safer and more stable home lives for vulnerable children.**
- **More support for adults and older people to live independently.**
- **Working with partners to deliver more visible improvements.**
- **More effective enforcement action to tackle anti social behaviour.**
- **More accessible services, increasing the ways you contact us.**
- **Make better use of our money.**

5.11. In addition to the Community Plan, projects compliment and contribute to achieving a number of high level strategic aims set out in the following specific plans. This includes:

The Children and Young Peoples Plan, which states that young people will:

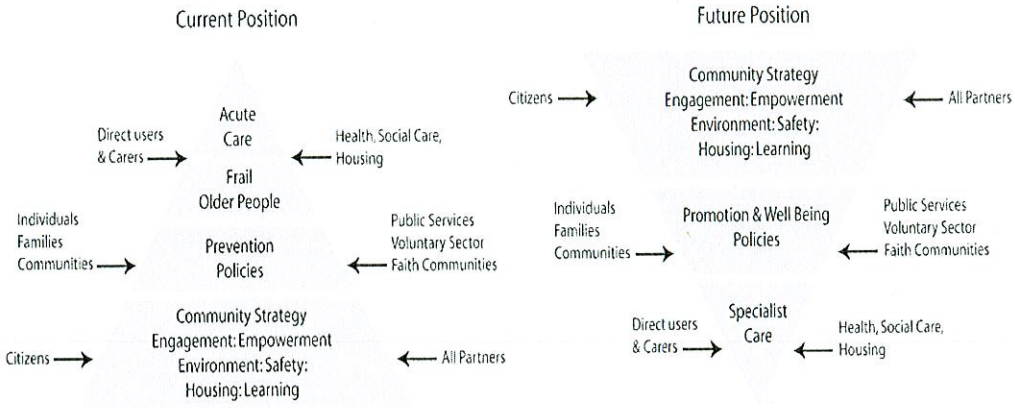
- Have a safe home and live in a community that keeps them well and happy.
    - To help achieve this our most vulnerable young people need to have somewhere safe and supportive to live should their current living arrangements breakdown. For some the transition to adulthood and managing their first home can be a difficult and testing time. The use of bed and breakfast is not, in most instances, an appropriate solution to the accommodation needs of our most vulnerable young people. To help we plan to develop alternatives to

Homelessness and Bed and Breakfast that can be used in an emergency, ensuring young people have a range of safe and suitable housing solutions to choose from. We already have a range of housing options that are specifically designed to meet young peoples needs, including supported lodgings, supported housing and floating support. What is missing from this spectrum of services is accommodation that can be accessed in an emergency. We have already secured additional revenue of more than £80,000, from the Assembly Government, to develop a housing solution that is dedicated to the needs of young people and provides a real alternative to homelessness and bed and breakfast.

The Health Social Care and Well being Plan, which emphasizes the importance of:

- Staying healthy and independent and giving people greater choice in their care services.
    - The provision of housing related support is increasingly recognised as a preventative service and there is an increasing evidence base that shows the benefits of investing in prevention. To help achieve this we need to ensure policies and funding arrangements in housing, health and social care are pulling in the same direction, supporting independence and promoting early intervention. Where this is happening housing related support services are in a good position to support the transition to the model highlighted below (Figure 1).
    - However, supported housing and housing related support is no substitute for health and social care for people who have the most complex and challenging of needs. It is not designed to replace the work of regulated and registered care where the nature, intensity, complexity and unpredictability of individuals needs require specific interventions. Guidance on Continuing Health Care (CHC) from the Assembly Government, May 2010, highlights the need to focus on earlier intervention and ensure preventative measures are in place to maintain independence and prevent progression into more intensive forms of care and support. The guidance also supports the delivery of CHC packages in supported accommodation and peoples own home. If we are to give people greater choice and control over the services they receive, housing related support services will need to work alongside health and social care to ensure people can remain at home for longer where this is a safe, appropriate, realistic and viable option.

(Figure 1.)



The Community Safety Plan, which seeks to:

- Further reduce the levels and fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.
    - To help achieve this and ensure people do not lose their home as a result of anti-social behaviour, projects have been helping people understand the consequences of their behaviour and how it can lead to them becoming homeless. Interventions focus on diverting people into alternative activities, helping them to understand their responsibilities as a tenant, homeowner and neighbour.

The National Housing Strategy, Improving Lives and Communities, which has amongst it's priorities a commitment to:

- improving housing-related services and support, particularly for vulnerable people and people from minority groups.
    - To help achieve this we have invested and continue to invest almost £9 million in support services and specific projects. Projects need to ensure that the services they provide are of the highest quality and staff trained to the highest standards. The Supporting People Team and the Council, have the responsibility of ensuring the commisioning and organisation of safe, appropriate, cost effecitive, needs led houisng related support services.

The Local Housing Strategy, which seeks to:

- Meet the needs of all sections of our community by ensuring that all groups have fair and equal access to housing and information.
    - To help achieve this, the needs mapping process is objectively and systematically applied to all groups. The analysis takes account of those at greatest risk of homelessness or entering institutional care,

should an appropriate housing solution not be available. The process is fair and equitable to all sections of the community, who are in need of supported housing and housing related support.

- Prevent homelessness whilst ensuring appropriate support and sustainable housing options are available for vulnerable homeless people.
    - To help achieve this, the focus of our commissioning activities is influenced by the underlying causes of homelessness. As a, Council we have sought to ensure an appropriate range of services are not only available to those who are homeless, but those who are at risk of homelessness or unnecessarily entering institutional care.

6. Causes of homelessness and emerging challenges:

6.1. Homelessness is one of the most extreme forms of social exclusion. It represents the most acute part of the spectrum of housing need. For strategic purposes, the Assembly Government recommends a broader definition of homelessness is used, rather than it's statutory definition, with priority given to the prevention of homelessness wherever possible. The policy direction is towards a proactive approach rather than a reactive approach, once homelessness has occurred.

6.2. When we think of homelessness we think of people sleeping in cardboard boxes and doorways. However, most people considered homeless are families, young people and people who's living arrangements have broken down through no fault of their own or as a result of circumstances outside of their control.

6.3. To support the prevention of homelessness, housing related support services focus on people who fall outside of the statutory definition of homelessness. Supported housing and housing related support is targeted at people who may be rough sleeping or squatting, living in insecure/temporary, living in short term hostels, night shelters, direct access hostels, living in bed and breakfasts, those moving frequently between relatives/friends, those unable to remain in, or return to, housing due to poor conditions, overcrowding, affordability, domestic violence, harassment, mental, physical and/or sexual abuse, their physical needs, those threatened with losing their home and without suitable alternative accommodation for any reason, leaving hospitals, police custody, prisons, the armed forces and other institutions (residential care) or supported housing and those required to leave by family or friends or due to relationship breakdown.

6.4. Many of the people benefiting from housing related support services are excluded, have been excluded or have excluded themselves from state organised services. Many are especially vulnerable as a result of underlying problems, which are often compounded by homelessness and the possibility of homelessness. However, there are some that need to benefit most from the housing solutions and interventions available and planned, through Supporting People, in particular:

- young people making the transition to adulthood, who need support to establish their first home, plan their future and learn from their mistakes and the opportunities and experiences available to them.
- individuals returning to the community after spending time in institutions, people who need support to address their offending

and help to secure living arrangements that are safe, suitable, sustainable and provide them with some structure and support.

- families who need support to create a home and help to ensure children are raised in an environment that is safe, stimulating and full of opportunities and experiences to lead healthy fulfilling lives.
- people at risk of homelessness, violence, abuse and those living in un-safe and temporary accommodation who are most at risk from their own or others actions or in-actions.
- people leaving hospital or care and those required to leave their established home as a result of a breakdown in relationships or a carers inability to continue to care.

6.5. Whilst we have a number of projects developed to respond to the needs mentioned demand is set to increase significantly over the coming months and years. As an example, between April and June of 2010 statutory homelessness across Wales increased by 10% in comparison to the same time the previous year. With statutory homeless figures dropping significantly in previous years, this could be an indication of things to come as welfare reform begins and the state of the economy impacts on peoples day to day lives. In planning for the future we need to take account of welfare reform, the economy in general and the impact specific reforms will have on young people and those living in the private rented sector.

6.6. For example, the term 'non dependent' is used to describe people who normally live with a claimant of housing benefit, such as adult sons or daughters, relatives or friends. Deductions are made from the housing benefit awarded to reflect the notional contribution that the non-dependent should make to the rent. To date the rate of non-dependent deductions has been frozen at the 2001/2 rate. Welfare reform means that these deductions will now be updated, from April 2011, to the level they would have been if they had increased annually from 2001/2. These increases will be phased in over a 3 year period.

6.7. This change combined with the general downward pressure on housing benefit, will have a particularly adverse impact on households with young adult dependents. Non-payment by non-dependents is a common factor in rent arrears and is likely to increase family tensions and pressure for young adults to move out of the family home. This change and wider reform is likely to increase housing demand and growth in homelessness amongst young people in particular and the adult population more generally.

6.8. Estimates from the Department for Work and Pensions suggest that some 4,350 recipients of local housing allowance in Rhondda Cynon Taf will

lose out or notionally lose out as a result of changes to the allowance. The estimated loss for residing in a typical, 1, 2 and 3 bedroom property is £4, £12 and £9 pounds per week, this can be a significant loss of income for individuals and families who are dependent on a low income.

6.9. Many of these changes will impact on a number of people who become homeless and the risk of homelessness will increase in a number of households as rent arrears increase. These changes will impact on the need and demand for housing related support services. The increased demand comes at a time of great financial pressure on public expenditure. With cuts to supporting people a real threat, it is important that we maximize the impact and contribution housing related support makes to the lives of vulnerable people and wider strategic agendas.

7. Detailed analysis of need in Rhondda Cynon Taf:

7.1. We have already highlighted, earlier in the plan, the needs and priorities for investment. The remainder of the plan includes detailed information on projects prioritised for development, remodelling or decommissioning in 2011/12. It provides an update on the development of projects prioritised in previous plans, so as to ensure, the Assembly Government and our strategic partners maintain an understanding of the priorities for all groups served.

7.2. Guidance on assessing need suggests that an objective measure of need should be used wherever possible. To support this the Needs Mapping Exercise (NME) has been developed as the principal source of identifying need for supported housing and housing related support services. The process ensures a multi-agency approach and supports the implementation of a systematic process that identifies the supported housing needs of vulnerable individuals. Most importantly the process ensures need is considered in a housing context and people are involved in determining their needs and exploring the housing options available to them.

7.3. In its simplest terms the process helps identify current and emerging need, where need is determined, first and foremost, by the individual themselves. When used for all vulnerable groups, the approach is capable of identifying all in need of housing related support and not just those currently seeking support. As a result the process takes account of the needs of those who are identified as having underlying problems that may impact on their ability to secure and sustain appropriate living arrangements.

7.4. The table below shows the actual and potential demand for housing related support from particular groups who are considered homeless or at risk of homelessness or at risk of unnecessarily entering or remaining in institutional care over a 4 year period:

Client Group	Needs Mapped (actual and potential demand)				% Of mapped need
	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	
Domestic Abuse	397	502	549	533	17%
Learning Disability*	123	356	376	409	13%
Mental Health	186	240	283	351	11%
Substance Misuse	144	176	152	167	5%
Refugees	2	1	1	0	0 %
Physical Disability	31	30	35	47	1.5%
Young Single Homeless Care Leaver and Vulnerable Single Parents	273	316	354	425	13.5%
Ex. offenders	76	99	116	130	4%
Homeless and at risk of homelessness	267	545	713	512	21%
Chronic Illness at risk of homelessness	6	10	9	1	
Brain Injury at risk of homelessness	5	4	7	8	
Sensory Impairment at risk of homelessness	1	3	3	1	
Rough Sleepers			85	133	
Older People	528	411	509	434	14%
TOTAL		**2693**	**3192**	**3151**	

* includes people who have a learning disability and difficulty as those identified as having a learning difficulty often do not meet the criteria for statutory services- but have been identified as having difficulty learning, retaining information and establishing appropriate relationships.

7.5. An important feature of the model utilised is that need and supply are expressed in terms of annual flows. As an example the analysis of supply in some service areas shows that each unit of support is used on average 4 times throughout the year, so 10 units of support has the potential to meet on average 40 peoples needs. After subtracting the estimated supply from the potential demand, we can consider what the net annual surplus or deficit may be.

7.6. The following table shows the average surplus or deficit in the supply and demand for particular client groups. The end column shows the growth needed over the next 5 years to ensure appropriate and timely responses to the estimated demand for housing related support services. The exact nature of the response has in some circumstances already been considered in discussion with service providers, service users and appropriate stakeholders. For others this activity will occur following the allocation of additional revenue and capital, where required and upon completion of identified responses.

Client Group	Average short-fall or surplus per annum based on annual flow of supply and demand			Overall number of units required to meet demand.	Number of units required per annum over 5 year period.
	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08		
Domestic Abuse	51	43	33	42	8
Mental Health	57	12	-16	18	4
Substance Misuse	18	18	30	22	4
Physical Disability	34	27	23	28	6
Young People	120	49	34	68	14
Ex. Offenders	47	41	15	34	7
Homelessness	56	123	73	84	17
Older People	19	78	39	45	9
Learning Difficulty*	114	-13	-16	28	6

7.7. For the purpose of the plan and as a result of work undertaken by the Supporting People Team with the sector and stakeholders over a number of years, several projects have already been prioritised for development and they are seen as a continuing priority. As already stated further developments will be considered should revenue and/or capital be available. An example of such developments would include a mixture of Emergency Accommodation, Supported Housing and Floating Support, for specific groups. The preferred model and its location will be considered taking account of the current range of services, their location and understanding need in discussion with key stakeholders and most importantly service users.

7.8. To support the analysis of need and to ensure current and future responses are relevant, other data is analysed. Data on the sex and age of those considered eligible, homeless and in priority need indicates that young people under the age of 24 make up a significant proportion of homeless presentations. We know that this group in particular, as first time householders, have particular difficulties establishing and managing a home and as young people are at significant risk of homelessness should they not receive support to secure and sustain appropriate living arrangements.

Age profile of those considered homeless and in priority need	Total
22 Male and 9 Females were aged between 16 and 17.	57
10 Male and 16 Females were aged between 18 and 24	
45 Males and 46 Females were over the age of 25+	91

7.9. Another indicator of need takes account of the number of people considered homeless, within the statutory definition, used by Homeless Departments. As a programme concerned with preventing homelessness this can give a good indication that the interventions developed are working. The analysis compares need within particular client groups and need across other Local Authorities. The analysis compares statutory homeless figures in Rhondda Cynon Taff to statutory homeless figures in other Local Authorities such as Cardiff and Swansea, which are of a similar size and Caerphilly, which has similar demographics. The analysis, taken from the All Wales Data Unit, on the highest presenting groups between Oct-Dec 09 and Jan-Mar 10 shows people are presenting with similar needs, in Cardiff, Swansea, Caerphilly and Rhonnda Cynon Taff. However, the numbers actually considered homeless, within it's statutory definition, appears to be less in Rhondda Cynon Taff than in most areas, compared.

	Domestic Abuse	Young person at risk 16/17	Young person at risk 18/21	Former prisoner	Vulnerable as result of PD, MH, LD
Cardiff	20	39	5	49	30
Swansea	69	21	6	61	55
Caerphilly	24	12	2	18	14
RCT	15	15	3	14	4

7.10. The analysis suggests that the numbers accepted as being in priority need are higher in most client groups. This we believe is as a result of the effective work of the homeless department, who are constantly seeking to prevent homelessness. The other factor is the range of housing related support services that are trying to engage with people at risk of homelessness. In particular Floating Support services that are focussing on peoples underlying problems and addressing the issues that may put people at risk of homelessness. Also Supported Housing services, that are focussing on meeting the needs of those who would be homeless or in institutional care should they not have somewhere safe and appropriate to live. The approach ensures that the statutory safety net offered by homelessness is only utilised for those that cannot be found alternative

accommodation and those who cannot be helped to sustain their existing living arrangements.

7.11. However, this does not mean we do not have significant numbers in housing need who would be homeless or at risk of homelessness, should support not be available to them. Direct Access, Emergency Accommodation and Floating Support and Supported Housing Services, in particular, aim to prevent homelessness and ensure that the statutory safety net homelessness offers is used in the extreme rather than the norm. In 2009/10 more that 3000 people were identified as needing or potentially needing such services.

7.12. To ensure services are responsive to peoples ethnic background and religious beliefs, an analysis of more than 2000 needs suggests that the majority in need are white and Welsh/ British. 1 person recorded their ethnic background as mixed race, 2 as Taiwanese, 1 as Bangladeshi and 1 as Romanian. A further analysis of peoples' religious beliefs suggests that the majority of people do not indicate their beliefs. Where they have 1 person has indicated they are a Muslim, 1 a Catholic and 2 as Buddhist.

7.13. An analysis of more than 2000 people suggests that the age profile of those in need of housing related support is as follows:

Age Group	Need	
under 18	53	22 Females and 31 Males
18 to 21	333	178 Females and 155 Males
22 to 25	286	147 Females and 139 Males
26 to 30	259	152 Females and 107 Males
31 to 40	409	230 Females and 179 Males
41 to 50	319	170 Females and 149 Males
51-60	183	61 Females and 122 Males
61-70	117	35 Females and 82 Males
71-80	131	68 Females and 63 Males
81+	75	48 Females and 27 Males
Total	**2165**	**1111 Females 1054 Males**

7.14. The analysis shows that support is required by similar numbers of males and females. Of those seeking support 31% were young people under 25 years of age. 46% were aged between 26 yet under 50, 14% were aged between 51 and 70 and 10% were aged over 71. Given the programmes preventative nature it is important that it focuses on those with emerging needs and those at a transition in their life.

7.15. Regional analysis and cross authority arrangements:
The majority of people, where it is safe to do so, want to remain in or return to their familiar social and support networks. People should have

services provided, where practicable, in the community rather than institutional settings and as near as possible to their existing family networks. Where this is not possible the Rhondda Cynon Taf's Supporting People Team work with other local authorities and their partners, to develop specific service responses that ensure people are appropriately housed and supported, on an individual needs led basis.

7.1.6. To support cross authority working on a larger scale, Rhondda Cynon Taf's Supporting People Team meet with a number of regional groups to consider the needs of people who cross traditional local authority boundaries and may utilise the services of other local authority areas. We plan to continue with this work to maximise any gains that can be achieved through cross authority working.

8. Current financial commitments and arrangements to support specific groups:

8.1. Through working in partnership with the Council and it's Supporting People Team more than 200 projects have benefited from grant funding of almost £9 million pounds. The grant programme is managed at a national level by the Welsh Assembly Government and administered locally by the Council and it's Supporting People Team. As stated the programme specifically funds or contributes towards funding housing related support for vulnerable groups.

8.2. The grant is currently administered through two separate funding streams. The Supporting People Grant, which contributes over £5.2 million to funding a permanent housing solutions such as, sheltered housing and very sheltered housing; low-level floating support for older people and supported housing projects for people with learning disabilities, people with enduring mental health problems and people with a physical disability, in particular.

8.3. The other the Supporting People Revenue Grant contributes just over £3.9 million to funding temporary housing solutions such as homeless hostels, floating support, emergency accommodation for women fleeing domestic violence and supported housing for young people, people with a drug or alcohol problem, offending behaviour and people with poor mental health.

8.4. The following levels of funding are allocated to meeting the housing related support needs of the following groups:

Client Group	Number of Units Funded	Grant Allocation	% of Grant
Domestic Violence	77	£1,029,714.	12%
Learning Disability e	291	£3,626,209.	41%
Mental Health	177	£1,144,849.	13%
Alcohol Dependency	10	£129,318.	1%
Drug Dependency	10	£129,318.	1%
Physical Disability	8	£119,000.	1%
Young Single Homeless	65	£784,807.	9%
Ex-offenders/risk of offending	18	£117,752.	1%
Homeless	100	£772,923.	9%
Vulnerable Single Parents	31	£206,920.	2%
Older People	1607	£1,020,230.	11%
Total	2404	£8,874,123.	100%

8.5. Given the current financial situation any cuts to the grant programme will need to be met by the supported housing sector. Other partners and contributors cannot be expected to pick up any reduction in funding

legitimately and specifically claimed for the provision of housing related support.

9. Mapping the supply of specific housing solutions and our plans and priorities linked to specific groups:

9.1. As previously stated the provision of housing related support compliments or supersedes other areas of legislation and policy development. Commissioning decisions contribute to the provision of housing solutions that are designed to prevent homelessness and the unnecessary use of institutional care. Service responses take account of the risks particular groups are exposed to as a result of their underlying problems and the risks associated with living in unsuitable, unsafe and un-sustainable housing. The principal outcome for all interventions must be the prevention of homelessness and unnecessary use of institutional care.

9.2. Projects working alone cannot address the underlying causes of homelessness such as domestic abuse, substance misuse, poor mental health or poverty and exclusion. However, they can help minimises its impact, contribute to an overall solution and help people access specific services to begin to deal with the underlying problems and causes.

9.3. E1- Domestic Abuse:

The Right to be Safe is the Welsh Assembly Government's six year integrated strategy for tackling all forms of violence against women. The strategy recognises the important role housing services play in keeping women safe. The strategy recognises that wherever possible, victims should be kept safe in their own homes by the perpetrator having to leave- not the victim. Unfortunately, it is a sad fact that some women have no other option but to leave because the risk to themselves and their children is so great. Preventing these women and their children becoming homeless is a priority and the way housing related support services are organised will need to change.

Refuge accommodation is a valuable resource that offers a real alternative to bed and breakfast, relief from the added stigma of homelessness and more importantly safe refuge from a violent situation. We are fortunate to have refuge services in Rhondda, Cynon and Taf, which allow people to remain in the communities they are familiar with, maintain contact with their wider support networks and keep children in familiar schools. Even when it seems safer to leave the area many women wish to return and remain in the communities they are familiar with. Each refuge offers something different, as a temporary solution to homelessness refuge provision is not intended to offer anything other than a temporary place of safety. The importance of having a permanent and settled home to help rebuild damaged lives and confidence should not be under estimated. Whilst we have effective move-on arrangements to support access to alternative housing, projects need to ensure women fully understand the options available to them to move on or return to their established home, where it is safe to do so.

In December 2008 a report commissioned by the Assembly Government noted that owner-occupiers were less likely to experience partner abuse. The report highlighted that levels of partner and family abuse were higher than average for both men and women living in the social renting sector. The report also noted that the incidence of partner and family abuse was highest in people under the age of 24, with the incidence decreasing with age. The report also noted that women in bad health experienced a higher incidence of partner abuse than women in good health.

The report suggests that a 'one size fits all' approach is not appropriate when responding to victims needs. Services identified as fundamental in the support they provide to victims of domestic abuse included the following housing related support services:

- Refuge provision,
- Supported Housing and
- Floating support.

The report noted that a range of housing related support services should be available including early intervention, emergency accommodation in a crisis and floating support post crisis to help people re-establish themselves in safe, supportive homes and communities. All these services are currently available and provided through the SP programme in RCT.

Across the borough there are 24 units of emergency accommodation. There are 10 units of Supported Housing, for those who need time and longer-term support to rebuild their lives and 44 units of Floating Support, which is focused on preventing homelessness and helping vulnerable women rebuild their lives following the end of an abusive relationship.

The principal aim of all these services is to provide a housing-focused solution that attempts to seek a resolution to the domestic violence situation. The outcomes people should expect from interventions of this kind include;

- helping women to remain safe in the family home with the domestic abuse perpetrator.
- helping women remain safe in the family home having either removed the perpetrator or with measures that ensure the risk of abuse is minimised and children are protected or
- staying in temporary accommodation prior to:
    - returning to the family home and to the perpetrator,
    - returning to the family home but without the perpetrator or
    - leaving the family home by securing permanent housing elsewhere

Refuge services are highly valued by the people who use and gain access to them. To ensure consistency across Rhondda, Cynon and Taf there is a need to

ensure services adopt common policies, process and procedures, common criteria and common assessment and service planning processes.

Discussion with support providers suggests that there is a small but increasing number of women who present to refuge services with complex and multiple problems. The issues they present with can often challenge the service and potentially expose other service users and their children to un-acceptable and un-defensible risks. Some of these issues arise because of the communal nature of most of the accommodation, their inability to appropriately accommodate staff and the availability and organisation of support staff.

To ensure the provision of appropriate staffed accommodation, plans are in place to develop a new refuge and create an additional unit of accommodation and support using revenue from a previously decommissioned scheme. The current refuge in Taff Ely is provided across 2 sites and is not fit for purpose.

The table below shows the service profile and our proposed purchasing plans for 2011/2012.

Project or Scheme	Support Provider	Service Model	No. of Units	Area	Funding Stream/s
Rhondda Women's Aid Refuge	Rhondda WA	Direct Access	7	Rhondda	SPRG
Rhondda WA Floating Support Project	Rhondda WA	Floating Support	6	Rhondda	SPRG
Cwm Cynon Women's Aid Refuge	Cwm Cynon WA	Direct Access	8	Cynon	SPRG
Cwm Cynon WA Floating Support Project	Cwm Cynon WA	Floating Support	7	Cynon	SPRG
Pontypridd Women's Aid Refuge	Pontypridd WA	Direct Access	8	Taff Ely	SPRG
Pontypridd WA Floating Support Project	Pontypridd WA	Floating Support	12	Taff Ely	SPRG
Pontypridd Cluster Scheme (Beddau)	Hafan Cymru	Temporary Accommodation	5	Taff Ely	SPRG
Rhondda Cluster Scheme	Hafan Cymru	Temporary Accommodation	5	Rhondda	SPRG
Tai Hafan Floating Support Project	Hafan Cymru	Floating Support	19	RCT	SPRG
Total number of units:			77		

2011/12 Plans and priorities:
The way services are currently organised will need to change to ensure women experience a consistent response to their needs across Rhondda, Cynon and Taf. To minimise duplication and make the best use of our available resources, refuge and floating support services offered by the current providers need be organised and delivered through a more consistent and co-ordinated approach. To achieve this the Supporting People Team will review how services are currently commissioned and in discussion with wider stakeholders consider the most appropriate arrangements to ensure:

- support is available to women and families with complex, variable needs and simple, stable needs.
- services can work across organisational and geographical boundaries to deliver joined up services.
- clear and consistent outcomes are delivered through clearly defined support planning and risk management mechanisms.
- the provision of good quality accommodation, effective housing management and housing related support is provided within clear and consistent standards.
- services and service users experiences are systematically monitored and reviewed, in line with established quality assurance mechanisms that aid service development, strategic planning and the delivery of needs led services.
- the best use of available resources, increased value for money and better economies of scale.

To ensure an alternative to refuge is available to those who may need longer term support to rebuild their lives, especially young people who may have limited experience of managing a home. The Supporting People Team will work with Hafen Cymru and key stakeholders to review the use of supported housing projects they currently support.

9.4. E2- People with Learning Difficulties:

Over recent decades, society's perceptions and expectations of disabled people have evolved radically. In today's society people with a disability are not viewed as victims and passive recipients of care, but as full members of society who deserve, and should expect, fair treatment as a right.

Applying these principles to housing services will require a range of housing options to be created that are sensitive to the needs, preferences and desired lifestyles of people with learning disabilities. Housing services, must be developed in line with individuals' choices and preferences and offer people the same rights as are available to other members of society.

Shared and supported housing services in particular must be provided in a way that:

- Supports people to make informed decisions about who they live with, where they live, who supports them and how they are supported.
- Supports people to make choices and be independent within their home and when outside in the wider community.
- Supports people to achieve clear outcomes through the provision of planned and structured housing related support.
- Supports people to understand their rights and responsibilities.
- Supports people to make informed choices lifestyle decisions in relation to their health and well being.
- Supports people to have opportunities to maintain existing friendships and relationships and develop new ones.
- Supports people to have opportunities to develop the skills and confidence to complete or participate in daily living activities that contribute to the management, running and organisation of their home.
- Supports people to become involved, where they choose, in their local community and wider social networks.

Shared and supported housing, in particular, has been a widely used model of housing, care and support for many years. For most people it continues to offer a positive housing option and can help alleviate loneliness, isolation and the unnecessary use of more institutional forms of care.

There are great variations in the degree of difficulty people with a learning disability encounter in developing independence, exercising control and participating fully in the activities of everyday life. The degree of these difficulties varies considerably from mild to profound and each individual is different requiring a range of support services from minimal to extensive.

The provision of housing related support extends to all ages and peoples housing requirements can typically change across an individual's lifespan. For some it is not the degree of learning disability that determines their status as a user of services, but the presence of some other significant factor such as autism, poor mental health, behaviour, peoples ability to form safe and supportive relationships, communicate their needs or a persons general vulnerability that determines the support they need to avoid homelessness and establish and sustain themselves in a safe and suitable home.

Regardless of the degree of a person's disability the term 'own home' should be understood in terms of its common usage, implying principles of control and autonomy for the individual. As the user's own home, the regime of management of the property must not constrain the freedoms of the service user beyond those associated with the normal terms of legal occupancy agreements, potentially creating an institutional environment. Where shared and supported housing is a response to peoples housing need, housing organisations and housing related support providers need to be clear about what the service offers that makes it distinct from more traditional forms of care.

Supported Housing	RCT Community Care Division	Permanent Accom.	56	RCT	SPG
Supported Housing	Opportunity Housing Trust	Permanent Accom.	8	RCT	SPG
Supported Housing	Perthyn	Permanent Accom.	5	RCT	SPG
Supported Housing	Private	Permanent Accom.	3	RCT	SPG
Supported Housing	TBA	Permanent Accom.	12	RCT	SPG
Supported Housing	European Lifestyles	Permanent Accom.	14	RCT	SPG
Total number of units:			281		

2011/12 Plans and priorities:
Where possible and appropriate Telecare will be used to offer additional or alternative protection to new and existing service users. Where appropriate and resources allow service responses will be developed to respond to the technology that is available to ensure service users remain safe and secure in their own home.
To ensure a range of housing options and support arrangements are available, a wider range of housing solutions will need to be considered and developed, in consultation with existing and prospective tenants, housing providers and key stakeholders.
To ensure that housing related support services are appropriately developed and projects receive appropriate levels of funding the Supporting People Team will continue to evaluate housing related support outcomes individuals and projects achieve.

9.5. E3- People with poor Mental Health:

Over four out of five people with severe mental health problems live in mainstream housing, with others living in supported housing or specialist accommodation. Half live alone. Many people with poor mental health feel that they are not offered the same choices as other people when establishing themselves in a home of their own in the wider community. People with poor mental health are one and a half times more likely than the general population to live in rented housing.

Poor mental health is prevalent amongst people who are homeless with between 30% and 50% of rough sleepers having mental health problems and as many as one in 5 homeless people having a mental health problem and further issues such as substance misuse.

Supported Housing is the gateway into more permanent forms of housing and can give individuals who are homeless or needing to leave institutional care an opportunity to prepare for the transition to independent living. Central referral and move-on arrangements have been specifically created to support this approach. Individuals needing to move-on to more permanent forms of housing are seen as a priority by our housing partners and are awarded extra points, to ensure they can secure appropriate permanent accommodation.

People with poor mental health after spending time in institutional care, find that without the provision of supported housing a move to a home of their own is too big a step and too much a responsibility. Supported housing provides an opportunity for people to prepare for the transition to independent living in a realistic and supportive environment. For people who may have become institutionalised, moved frequently between family and friends or spent time rough sleeping, supported housing is often the gateway into more permanent housing solutions.

Housing related support services can be available for up to 18 months, for the majority of people significant gains can be achieved within this period of time. Where outcomes established by the programme can be met sooner then individuals should be supported to move-on sooner. Where individuals choose to live together or with others then they should be supported to move-on together. Where people cannot move-on to more independent living arrangements schemes are responsible for developing more permanent living arrangements and working with others, such as health and social care agencies, to consider alternative support structures that ensure peoples emotional, social and 'specific' specialist needs continue to be met in the most appropriate way.

The table below shows the service profile and purchasing plans for 2011/2012.

Project or Scheme	Support Provider	Service Model	No. of Units	Area	Funding Stream/s
Gofal Dispersed	Gofal Housing Trust	Temporary Accommodation	5	Taff Ely	SPRG
Gofal- Ton-y-Felin	Gofal Housing Trust	Temporary Accommodation	3	Taff Ely	SPRG
Supported Housing 3 schemes	Gofal Housing Trust	Temporary Accommodation	12	Rhondda & Cynon	SPG
Gofal - Newydd Scheme	Gofal Housing Trust	Floating Support	5	Taff Ely	SPRG
Rhondda FS/Gofal	Gofal Housing Trust	Floating Support	4	Rhondda	SPRG
Gofal MH Tenancy Support Scheme	Gofal Housing Trust	Floating Support 12 low-level 15 intensive	27	RCT	SPRG
Hafod Care MH Tenancy Support Scheme	Hafod Care Low-level	Floating Support	27	RCT	SPRG

Gwalia MH Tenancy Support Project	Gwalia	Floating Support	25	RCT	SPRG
Caersalem House and Move On	Gwalia	Temporary Accommodation	13	Rhondda	SPRG
Supported Housing 2 schemes Ty Isaf	Gwalia	Temporary Accommodation	7	Cynon & Taff Ely	SPG
Supported Housing	Hafod Care	Temporary Accommodation	8	Rhondda & Cynon	SPG
Supported Housing	Shaw Housing	Permanent Accommodation	2	Rhondda	SPG
Supported Housing	Private	Permanent Accommodation	2	Taff Ely	SPG
RCT In-House MH Floating Support Scheme	RCT Community Care Division	Floating Support	33	RCT	SPG
Total number of units:			173		

2010/11 Plans and priorities:
The outcome of recent project evaluations, in this service area has identified the potential for de-commissioning and developing alternative and additional service responses. The remodelling planned for last year has not been completed as a result of changes in project staff and service users. Now that the project has a settled client group and staff team to support them the remodelling can continue. It is anticipated that remodelling 2 projects will provide an opportunity to develop additional units of support and a more flexible response to peoples housing related support needs. These opportunities will be explored further in 2011/2012, with all stakeholders and most importantly service users to ensure the commissioning of appropriate and effective services.

During 2011/12 we will continue to support the remodelling and development of Caresalem House and the provision of floating support services, as an alternative to bed and breakfast and emergency accommodation for those who are homeless and at risk of remaining in or returning to institutional forms of care.

We will continue to work with health and social care colleagues to ensure the provision of appropriate housing solutions for people who needs are currently being met outside of RCT. Where possible and appropriate we will make use Telecare to offer additional protection to new and existing service users. Where appropriate and resources allow floating support service responses will be developed to respond to the technology that is available to ensure service users remain safe and secure in their own home.

9.6. E3 and E4 People Misusing Substances:

Substance Misuse is associated with a wide range of personal, social, economic and potential health problems. Individuals with a substance misuse problem may

require several different types of support overtime including support with housing, family relationships, employment, offending behaviour and finance.

The return of individuals to communities after spending time in prison, residential rehabilitation or hospitals can be very problematic. The establishments they have left will have provided them with some form of treatment for their substance misuse and to sustain the gains made within these establishments supports are needed within the areas they return that covers both the elements of health and social care.

The importance of appropriate accommodation and support cannot be underestimated. Without a secure base, the treatment an individual has previously received can quickly be jeopardised and any benefits gained lost.

The table below shows the service profile and purchasing plans for 2010/2011.

Project or Scheme	Support Provider	Service Model	No. of Units	Area	Funding Stream/s
Lloches/Castle House	Gwalia	Temporary Accommodation	10	RCT	SPRG
Supported Housing Valley of Hope	Valley of Hope	Temporary Accommodation and Floating Support	10	RCT	SPRG
Total number of units:			20		

Plans and priorities 20011/2012:
The misuse of substances is a continuing problem for many of the people using housing related support services. To ensure people's needs are appropriately responded to all projects will need to develop stronger partnerships with specialist services and improve the skills, knowledge and confidence of their staff to support service users affected by the misuse of both drugs and alcohol.

Castle House (Lloches) has been developed to offer intensive support and housing management to former substance misusers who are homeless and returning to the community after spending time in institutional care. Whilst in development it has been able to provide additional floating support services that prevent people losing their established home as well as providing support to people to resettle into the community.

To build on this work, it is planned to merge the scheme with another Gwalia project, originally designed to support new tenants. The scheme will continue to have a focus on new tenants, especially those misusing substances, linked to the Castle House Project. The Supporting People Team will continue to work with Gwalia and liaise with the Assembly Government to implement these changes in 2011/12.

9.7. E6- Refugees:

People from ethnic minority backgrounds figure very prominently amongst the most disadvantaged in society, as well as amongst those most at risk of homelessness. In relation to many of the factors likely to increase the risk of homelessness, many ethnic minority communities fare less well than the general population. Each community also has its own distinctive socio-economic and cultural patterns and must be understood in its own terms.

Currently there is no specific provision available to refugees as the numbers presenting are so low, in 2009/2010 there were no NME's processed. However, where people do require housing related support their needs are responded to through existing arrangements, that are designed so as they do not intentionally discriminate against any person on grounds of their race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, age, language, nationality, marital status, political beliefs and religion.

9.8. E7- People with a Physical Disability:

Over recent decades, society's perceptions and expectations of disabled people have evolved radically, so that disabled people are not viewed as victims and passive recipients of care, but as full members of society who deserve, and should expect, fair treatment as a right. Shared and supported housing services to this particular group must be provided in a way that:

- Enables a person to make informed decisions about who they live with, where they live, who supports them and how they are supported.
- Enables people to make choices and be independent within their home and when outside in the wider community.
- Ensures clear outcomes are achieved through the provision of housing related support.
- Ensures people's rights and responsibilities to themselves and others are explained and people are supported to understand the consequences of their lifestyle choices and decisions.
- Ensures people are enabled and supported to make informed choices lifestyle decisions in relation to their health and well being.
- Ensures people have opportunities to maintain existing friendships and relationships and develop new ones.
- Ensures people have opportunities to develop the skills and confidence to complete or participate in daily living activities that contribute to the management, running and organisation of their home.
- Ensures people are involved, where they choose, in their local community and wider social networks.

The table below shows the service profile and purchasing plans for 2010/2011.

Project or Scheme	Support Provider	Service Model	No. of Units	Area	Funding Stream/s
Maestrisant	RCT Community Care Division	Permanent Accommodation	7	Rhondda & Taff Ely	SPG
Capel Farm	Rhondda Care Group	Permanent Accommodation	1	Taff Ely	SPG
Total number of units:			**8**		

Plans and priorities 2011/2012:
Disabled people experience a range of difficulties when making transitions in their lives, with the main negative impacts being delays to the service they need, or not receiving the service at all. Various publications have identified a range of barriers, which may disrupt a smooth transition which includes organisational/ structural issues (the way particular services are structured and in particular how roles and role boundaries can have implications for service delivery), budgetary issues (in particular, the way that budgetary boundaries and procedures operate between and within organisations) and procedural issues (such as procedures being incompatible between organisations, procedures not being followed, or not existing in the first place).

Apart from the provision of one sheltered complex within the County Borough there is limited specific provision for individuals with a physical disability who wish to establish independent lifestyles. The Housing Needs Survey of 2002, indicated that as many as 15% of households may have someone with a physical or sensory disability. Whilst this will not automatically lead to a need for housing related support, further analysis is required in conjunction with key stakeholders.

The development of a new project, through the Social Housing Grant programme, for those with a spinal cord injury provides an opportunity to develop a wider range of services for people with a physical disability. Access to the service and the outcomes it has achieved will be reviewed, by the Supporting People Team during 2011/12 and links with the provider strengthened to ensure the strategic fit of the project.

With a new housing provider Habinteg taking over Maestrisant, there is an opportunity to explore how the complex can be best utilised to respond to the permanent and temporary housing needs of people with a physical disability. In 2011/12 a stakeholder event will be organised by the Supporting People Team to explore how this valuable resource can be best utilised.

To ensure that the housing related support needs of people with a physical disability and sensory impairment are understood and appropriately mapped. The Supporting People Team will develop improved needs mapping arrangements with statutory services and the pathways to adapted housing team, in particular.

9.9. E8 and E12- Young Single Homeless People, Young People Leaving Care and Vulnerable Single Parents:

The transition to adulthood is exciting and also difficult, full of challenges, opportunities and new experiences. For young people and particularly those with young children, it is a time when the lifestyle choices and decisions they make can have a dramatic and long-term effect on their self esteem, education, employment, health, housing, behaviour and relationships.

Most young people deal successfully with these decisions and lifestyle choices, but a minority can face more serious problems. They may have differences with their parents, which may lead to them leaving home. They may have health problems, which can affect their learning and ability to achieve. Smoking, alcohol and drug habits are also often formed in the teenage years.

A further minority get involved in behaviour that is a serious problem for the wider community, including anti social behaviour and crime. A range of services are in place, but they do not amount to a coherent, collaborative system that is focussed on collectively responding to the needs presented by the individual and the sharing skills, resources and knowledge.

Local research and analysis continues to suggest that young people have significant needs and housing related problems. It is recognised that there is an insufficient supply of suitable housing options for young people. Young people are frequently provided with a poor standard of accommodation. Homeless young people continue to be placed in bed and breakfast accommodation, which is an inappropriate and unacceptable response to their housing needs.

Young people are generally ill prepared for independent living and there is limited floating support available to those who establish themselves in a home of their own. Although there are examples of excellent partnership working, there is a need for improved coordination of housing services, in general. Some specific groups of young people, such as those leaving care and young offender institutions face particular housing challenges.

The table below shows the service profile and purchasing plans for 2010/2011.

Project or Scheme	Support Provider	Service Model	No. of Units	Area	Funding Stream/s
Mountain Ash YMCA - Emergency Accom	Mt Ash YMCA	Direct Access	5	Cynon	SPRG
Action for Children Youth Support Team	Action for Children	Floating Support	32	RCT	SPRG
Supported Housing Project	Llamau	Floating Support and Temporary Accommodation	10 and 5	Taff Ely	SPRG

Old Bakery	Adref	Temporary Accommodation	6	Cynon	SPRG
Supported Lodgings Scheme	RCTCBC Education & Children's Services	Temporary Accommodation	10	RCT	SPRG
Ty Rhondda	Diocese of Llandaff	Temporary Accommodation	4	Rhondda	SPRG
Adref Tenancy Support Project	Adref	Floating Support	5	RCT	SPRG
Project Bridgit Young Women's FS Scheme	Hafan Cymru	Temporary Accommodation and Floating Support	3 and 6	Taff Ely	SPRG
Rhondda Include Young Peoples Project	Rhondda Housing	Floating Support	14	Rhondda	SPRG
Total number of units:			100		

* an element of another larger project.

Plans and priorities 2011/12:

The development of emergency accommodation, supported housing and floating support, have been part of our plans and our partners plans for sometime. We have already secured additional revenue from the Assembly Government to support a range of appropriate developments.

The Supporting People Team will work with housing strategy and housing partners to progress the development of supported housing for young people, linked to Llamau's 'Moving on up Projects'.

The Supporting People Team will work with housing strategy and housing partners to progress the development and remodelling of the Old Bakery and the provision of accommodation that can be used in an emergency.

The Supporting People Team will work with key stakeholders to remodel the Ty Rhondda supported housing project and explore the potential it has to provide intensive housing management and housing related support to young people.

The Supporting People Team will work with key stakeholders to remodel the YMCA in Mountain Ash to provide supported housing as an alternative to emergency accommodation.

The Supporting People Team will seek to develop effective Supported Lodging arrangements for those who fall outside of the after care system who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and need and want to be accommodated and supported in a family home.

9.10. E9- Ex-offenders:

The return of individuals to communities after spending time in prison can be very problematic. The establishments they have left will have provided them with a structured routine and some form of rehabilitation to address offending behaviour. To sustain the gains made within these establishments' good quality housing and support is essential to help people make the transition to independent living and reduce the risk of re-offending and the impact this has on the wider community. Approximately half of the ex-offender population will have accommodation problems, the vast majority of whom are men.

The importance of appropriate accommodation and support cannot be underestimated. Without a secure base, the treatment and intervention an individual may have previously received can quickly be jeopardised and any benefits gained lost, increasing the possibility of individuals becoming involved in behaviour that is a serious problem for themselves and potentially the wider community.

Youth Offending:

As with offenders the return of young people to communities from young offender institutions, secure training centres or a secure children's homes can be very problematic. They have the added difficulties associated with making the transition to adulthood. Finding and keeping accommodation can be one of the hardest aspects of this group's transition to independence and rebuilding their lives in their own community.

Unlike many other vulnerable groups this group because of their age and limited life experiences are less likely to be aware of how the housing market works, where to get advice, and also have less developed life skills for establishing, managing and maintaining a home. Without accommodation and support people can find it much harder to maintain employment or training and become more vulnerable to poor health, substance misuse and its associated problems.

The challenge is ensuring we adopt a preventative approach to homelessness for both groups, which means that housing provision and services have to be better coordinated with improved attempts to allocate accommodation prior to or at the latest upon leaving an institution.

Housing services already have the ability to house individuals with particular needs and those considered especially vulnerable. To avoid homelessness and ensure those leaving institutional settings (prison) access housing and receive support in a timely, planned, coordinated and consistent way it is essential that housing and homelessness services receive housing applications well in advance of an individual leaving institutional care.

The table below shows the service profile and purchasing plans for 2010/2011.

Project or Scheme	Support Provider	Service Model	No. of Units	Area	Funding Stream/s
New Start	Adref	Floating Support	10	Cynon	SPRG
PDHA – Ex-offenders	GWALIA	Supported Housing and Floating Support	3 and 5	Taff Ely	SPRG
Total Number of Units:			18		

Plans and priorities 2011/2012:
Prison Link Cymru has been commissioned by the Welsh Assembly Government to undertake homeless assessment and make housing applications long before individuals are released and present as homeless only to be accommodated in bed and breakfast. Adopting a preventative approach to homelessness for this group means that housing provision and related services have to be better coordinated with improved attempts to allocate accommodation prior to or at the latest upon release must be a solution to homelessness amongst this group.

Many individuals already have the necessary skills to manage a home and live in the wider community. What appears to be lacking is the availability of appropriate emergency accommodation and initial support upon their return to the community. Individuals are often returning with no or limited furniture and equipment. Expecting them to be able to establish a home and all it requires is often an impossible task. People need time to consider their options re-acquaint themselves with normal life and source the things they need to establish a home. This cannot be done in bed and breakfast or prior to a person returning to the community.

However, good preventative services are it is not always possible to indentify and locate safe, suitable and available housing in areas that people want to settle in or return to. With the levels of rough sleeping and homelessness in the borough and an over reliance on bed and breakfast accommodation there needs to be an increase in the emergency accommodation available to vulnerable homeless people in general. The increased provision will mean that people are not forced to accept accommodation in areas they may not want to live but they are given the time and support to consider their housing options and obtain the furniture and equipment they need to establish themselves in places they choose to live.

2011/2012 Plans and priorities:
The Supporting People Team will bid for additional Supporting People Revenue Grant and work with housing strategy and housing providers to secure revenue funding and social housing capital grant to develop 20 units of supported accommodation that is furnished, available at short notice and dispersed across Rhondda, Cynon and Taff.

The Supporting People Team will re-model the current Gwalia Care and Support project and work with key stakeholders to source additional units of accommodation for those who are homeless and need support to establish and sustain safe and appropriate accommodation.

9.11. E 10- Homeless and Potentially Homeless People:

For the majority of the public when the term 'homeless' is used they picture a person sleeping in a cardboard box on a city high street. This is compounded by the images typically used by the media and some charities. However, the vast majority of homeless people are actually families or single people who are not literally sleeping on the street but living with relatives and friends or in temporary accommodation. For most, this means living in poor quality accommodation that is detrimental to their health and well-being.

Alongside this a relatively small but significant number of people may experience or be at risk of homelessness, for example where relationships or families break down, where a persons main carer is no longer able to care or passes away or where there is domestic violence, or where they get into debt and can no longer afford the home they rent or own.

A number may experience a series of traumatic events, or suffer from drug, alcohol, mental health or other personal problems, which may lead to them being unable to pay their rent or mortgage.

Many of these people are able to secure alternative housing on their own or with the help of family or friends, but some are not. Under the current system about half of these are accepted as being 'unintentionally homeless' and in 'priority need'. In other words they are homeless through no fault of their own and either have children or are vulnerable for reasons such as disability, health or age. In these cases, local authorities have a duty to provide them with temporary accommodation until a longer term home can be found.

The needs of homeless people can be very complex with a large number of services users having multiple needs. The availability of direct access and emergency accommodation remains at a premium. Needs mapping, feedback from support providers and service users suggests that there are significant numbers of people in housing need and rough sleepers who are being turned away from existing projects due to a lack of availability. In particular accommodation for ex-offenders who have recently returned to RCT is breaking down soon after their return or just prior to their return, meaning that they are finding it increasingly difficult to make a successful transition to the community and rebuild their lives.

The table below shows the current service profile and purchasing plans for 2011/2012.

Project or Scheme	Support Provider	Service Model	No. of Units	Area	Funding Stream/s
Direct Access Hostel	Adref	Direct Access	10	Taff Ely	SPRG
Tenancy Support	Adref	Floating Support	11	RCT	SPRG
Newydd FS Scheme	GWALIA	Floating Support	20	Taff Ely	SPRG
Rhondda HA Include**	Rhondda HA	Floating Support	59	RCT	SPRG
Total Number of Units:			100		

*element of service supports other client group

Plans and priorities 2011/2012:
The Supporting People Team will bid for additional Supporting People Revenue Grant and work with housing strategy and housing providers to secure revenue funding and social housing capital grant to develop 20 units of supported accommodation that is furnished, available at short notice and dispersed across Rhondda, Cynon and Taff for this group and people who are homeless and in need of safe, suitable and good quality accommodation.

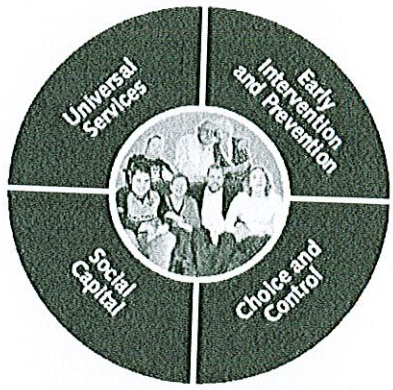
To ensure people experience clear, consistent and comparable responses from all forms of emergency accommodation and supported housing, occupancy agreements, 'house rules', landlord and tenant responsibilities need to be clear and consistent. To support a consistent approach the Supporting People Team will work with housing and support providers to develop clear and consistent arrangements that can be applied in all settings.

9.12. E14- Older People:

People over 60 represent about 28% of the population of Rhondda Cynon Taf and this is set to rise significantly over the next 20 years.

It is important that services providing housing related support to older people are seen as part of a whole system approach. Good quality accommodation has a significant influence on the health and well being of older people as with all people served by the programme.

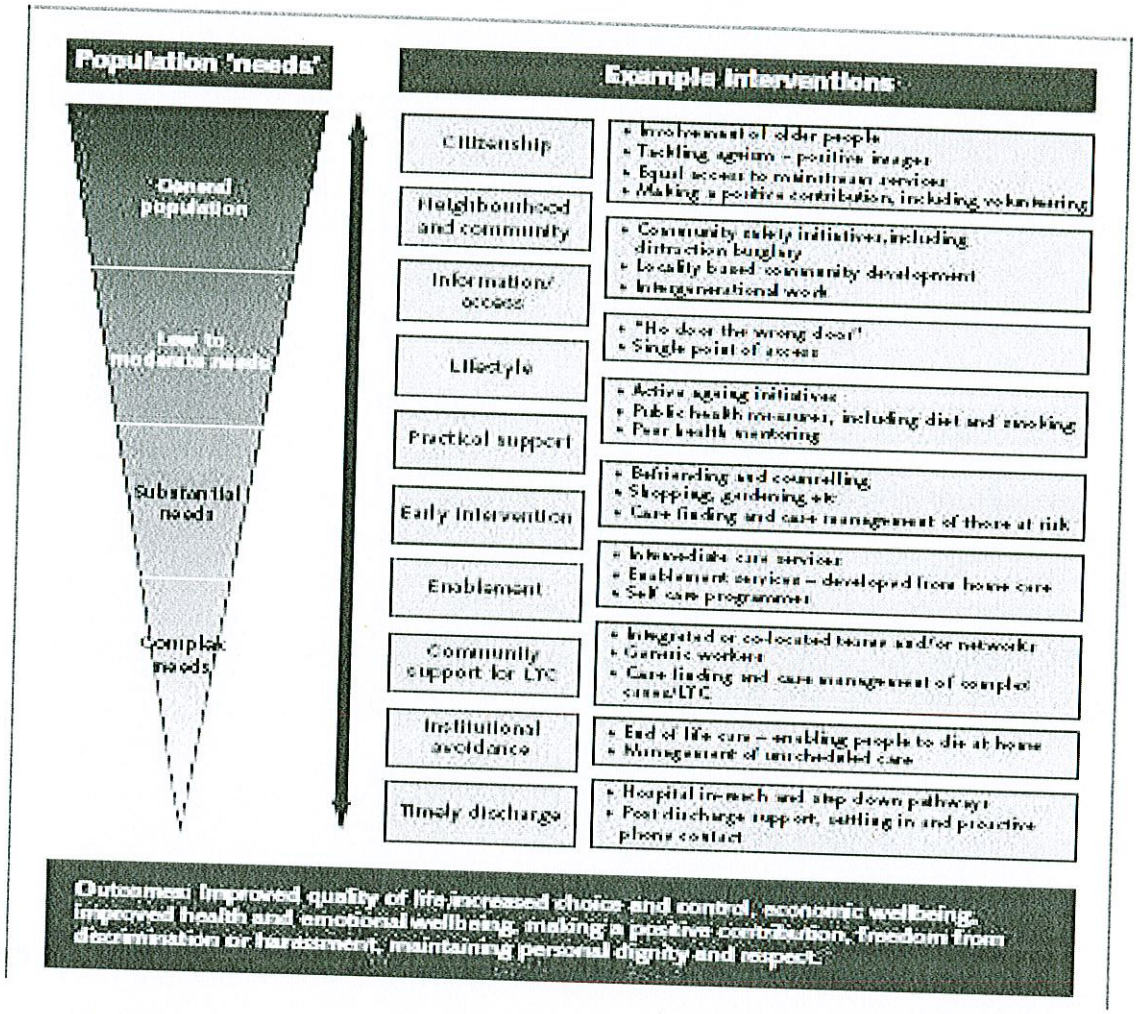
One of the key aims of housing related support to older people is to prevent, delay or reduce the need for more costly and corrective interventions from traditional housing, health and social care services. The following diagram reflects how we are attempting to reshape existing services that are commissioned through the programme in response to the needs of older people:



To meet peoples current and emerging needs we need to commission and develop services that improve the choice and control people have over their lives. Services that improve the opportunities older people, in particular, have to participate in and be included in their community. Services that increase the opportunities and experiences people have to make informed decisions and lifestyle choices. Services that are organsied and delivered flexibly and responsively to improve older people's independence, safety, security, health and well-being.

One of the ways we are attempting to achieve this is by commissioning services that engage with older people who have emerging needs. The focus of their work is to build the capacity individuals and communities have to provide support and provide interventions that prevent problems becoming a crisis or emergency.

The follow diagram highlights the spectrum of preventative interventions that are proven to delay, reduce or avoid the need for more costly interventions. The benefit of the approach we are taking is that even those with complex needs can and should benefit from such interventions. To improve our capacity locally to deliver effective service responses we need improved partnership arrangements, improved use of the technology available and a wider range of innovative interventions that can intervene quickly and work actively to improve older peoples quality of life and ability to maintain their chosen living arrangements.



Dept of Health: Putting People First- Making a strategic shift towards prevention and early intervention. Key messages for decision makers. October 2008.

The table below shows the current service profile and purchasing plans for 2010/2011.

Project or Scheme	Support Provider	Service Model	No. of Units	Area	Funding Stream/s
Age Concern Good Neighbour Scheme	Age Concern Morgannwg	Floating Support	63	RCT	SPG
Extra Care- community model.	Age Concern Morgannwg	Floating Support	62	RCT	SPG
	RCT Homes	Sheltered Housing	740	RCT	SPG
	Cynon Taff Group	Sheltered Housing	192	RCT	SPG

	Wales and West	Sheltered Housing	235	RCT	SPG
	Rhondda Housing Association	Sheltered Housing	140	Rhondda and Taff Ely	SPG
	Alewyd	Sheltered Housing	81	RCT	SPG
	Habinteg Housing Association	Sheltered Housing	29	Taff Ely	SPG
	Hafod HA	Sheltered Housing	24	Taff Ely	SPG
	Hafod Care	Sheltered Housing	8	Rhondda	SPG
	Newydd	Sheltered Housing	33	Cynon and Taff Ely	SPG
Total Number of Units:			1607		

Clearly the ongoing expectation of the vast majority of older people is that they stay within their own home and familiar community. A wide range of housing related support services currently contribute to meeting this agenda including:

- Sheltered Accommodation
- Floating Support Schemes
- Community Alarm Systems
- Care and Repair Schemes

Sheltered Accommodation:
Sheltered Accommodation represents the single largest area of supported housing with almost 1,500 sheltered units across Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Work is being undertaken with RCT homes to consider how we can make the most effective use of our investment in Sheltered Housing and ensure that support is available to the maximum number of people, who need and want it.
The provision of support provided by many Wardens is part funded by Supporting People, the Landlord and the Tenant. The charge for support is applied to all, regardless of need and it is often questioned by those who do not need or want to receive such support. However, such support where it is required and where it is accepted can make a significant contribution to reducing the isolation many older people experience and it can avoid or delay the need for intervention from traditional health and social care services.

If we are to respond to the emerging needs of older people there is a need to rethink the contribution the Warden and our housing partners make to sustaining and supporting older people, in particular, in their own homes and communities.

The current arrangements mean that wardens must be accessible to tenants, provide a reassuring presence and be available to respond to the day to day difficulties tenants may encounter in relation to managing their home and inclusion in activities at the complex and in the wider community.

Plans and priorities 2011/2012:
In 2011/12 a stakeholder event will be organised by the Supporting People Team to explore how this valuable resource can be best utilised across all tenures and housing types, through a strategic partnership with local housing providers.

Identify a suitable site and progress the development of Extra-care Housing for older people.

Floating Support:
Age Concern Morgannwg provides a small floating support service across Rhondda Cynon Taf. Recognising that older people make up 28% of the population and accepting the need to develop preventative low-level on-going support services, service levels need to increase.

Plans and priorities 2011/2012:
The planned re-tendering of this project has not been completed following the departure of key staff in Age Concern. However, it is our intention to create a single Support @t Home project that increases peoples housing options and links to and makes appropriate use of the technology available to prevent, delay or reduce the need for more corrective or expensive interventions.

Work with sheltered accommodation providers to review the organisation of housing related support and consider the opportunities available to create and deliver a wider range of preventative services to people living in the wider community.

Community Alarm Services:
The Council provides an extensive community alarm service (Telecare) through 'Carelink'. Telecare is based on the premise that older, disabled or vulnerable people should be able to remain independent and participate in their community as much as and for as long as possible.

Telecare systems can support the independence and wellbeing of older, vulnerable or disabled people. It enables carers to respond to a crisis and can help prevent problems arising in the first place by providing early indication of deterioration in an individual's wellbeing.

Telecare consists of assessment and referral of users; installation and maintenance of equipment; monitoring of users, and a response in the event of an alert or change in condition. Telecare addresses a range of government policies. New grant funding has been made available, from the Welsh Assembly

Government, and this local authority is expected to receive some £656,000 capital funding over the next few years.

Telecare has been a reality in Rhondda Cynon Taf since before Local Government reorganisation through the Council's 'Lifeline' services Carelink.

Currently over two thousand people pay a small amount each week to ensure their peace of mind by knowing that in an emergency they can reach the call centre to summon help.

Over the last three years the Housing Services and the Community Care Division have invested resources in developing assistive technology for the most vulnerable people in our community through the 'Safe AT Home' project. This concentrated initially on individuals with dementia but assistive technology solutions are increasingly being made available to all client groups.

Accepting that Telecare and Telehealth systems can provide a very wide range of environmental controls and following up on the interest from Health Services to its application in supporting health issues such as chronic disease management and cross cutting issues such as slips, trips and falls. The Telecare project in Rhondda Cynon Taf aims to ensure a coordinated and consistent approach is taken to the development, funding and delivery of Telecare and Telehealth Services across Rhondda Cynon Taff, at a strategic and operational level.

The proposed approach will ensure Telecare and Telehealth stands on its own to support people's feelings of general well being at a preventative level and contributes to positive outcomes, as part of a wider package of care designed to maintain and promote a persons independence. A number of Councils, like Kent and West Lothian have embarked on a major implementation of these services and there is an increasing body of research evidence to support the benefits of Telecare and Telehealth in the delivery of preventative services, that offer practical support to people to help them remain independent for longer.

Local arrangements:
We already have most of the key components of a Telecare Service:

- **Access and assessment** - via open access (life line), self- assessment (additional detectors) or needs assessment through the Unified assessment/ CPA process.

- **Installation and maintenance of equipment** - through the Councils Safe AT Home Service and partners such as Care and Repair.

- **Monitoring of users** - through the Council's Carelink Service.

A response to the activation of a sensor or alarm is currently provided, in the majority of situations, through family and friends. To compliment and enhance these arrangements, and in the absence of family and friends, there is a need to formally consider the role housing related support services, along with health and social care services across a number of related service areas to provide a network of support and a formal response service to the activation of an alarm.

Plans and priorities 2011/12:
The Supporting People Team will work with key stakeholders to review the organisation of housing related support and explore the opportunity to create and deliver a wider range of preventative services to older people living in the wider community. Support will be targeted at those who are in receipt of Safe At Home Technology who require planned and unplanned support, in the absence of an appropriate person, following the activation of an alarm or sensor.

10. Revenue bids and continuing priorities 2011/12:

Evidencing need through a consistent and comparable dataset is helping to build a picture of the gaps in the provision of support and supported housing. This is a relatively new area of service for local authorities and the value of the preventative work undertaken by projects is becoming clearer to wider stakeholders, strategic partners and local authority commissioners. Through consultation with the supported housing sector, wider stakeholders and using our growing knowledge of how local services are operating, our ability to objectively and systematically analyse the need for housing related support is improving. The information influences our commissioning decisions and helps to determine what groups are a priority or continue to be a priority.

Previous plans have identified the rational and detail behind specific service responses and the continuation of funding for specific projects. In particular women experiencing domestic abuse, young people, older people and homeless people continue to present in significant numbers and with high levels of need.

The Assembly Government and our Housing Strategy Team recognise that the projects needing revenue and capital continue to be a priority, as they were at the time of their submission. It is recognised that although capital for projects may not be available in the year the Supporting People Plan was submitted, deliverable capital projects with revenue, should influence future capital programmes.

To ensure our current needs and emerging priorities are met the Supporting People programme will require the following levels of funding. As a contribution to the projects identified as a priority for Supporting People Revenue Grant, funding equivalent to £195,702 has been secured through remodeling existing services. As a contribution to the projects identified as a priority for Supporting People Grant, funding equivalent to £236,392 has been secured through remodeling existing services. However, there remains a short fall of almost £1,384,958 across both funding streams.

Current SPRG	£3,945,285	Additional SPRG	£573,917.	Total SPRG requirements	£4,519,202
Current SPG	£5,274,644	Additional SPG	£637,488	Total SPG requirements	£5,912,132

*Includes £489,462 contribution from Community Care to housing related support services for people with a Learning Disability.

Supporting People Revenue Grant Bids and Priorities to ensure services grow by the required levels over next 5 years.

Rank	Name of Project	Project Type	Client Groups	No. Units	Total Annual Additional SPRG Required
1	Emergency Accommodation	Emergency Accommodation	Vulnerable women and those fleeing domestic abuse	9	Revenue identified. However, capital is needed to progress development.
1	Floating Support	Floating Support	Vulnerable women who are homeless at risk of homelessness	7	Revenue required £42,592
2	Emergency Accommodation.	Emergency Accommodation.	Homeless Young People	10	Revenue identified. However, capital is needed to progress development.
2	Supported Housing	Supported Housing	Homeless Young People	5	Revenue identified. However, capital is needed to progress development.
3	Emergency Accommodation	Emergency Accommodation	People who are Homeless	20	Revenue is needed equivalent to £409,635. Capital is needed to progress development.
4	Floating Support	Floating Support	People who are Homeless	20	Revenue needed £121,690
5	Supported Housing	Supported Housing	Mental Health	4	No revenue needed as remodelling and re-tendering existing schemes.
Additional Revenue required to respond to identified need 2011/2012					**£573,917**

a. Supporting People Grant Priorities:

Rank	Name of Project	Project Type	Client Groups	No. Units	Total Annual Additional SPG Required
1	Extra Care	Extra Care	Older People	40	Revenue identified. However, capital is needed to progress development.
2	Supported Living	24 hour Supported Housing.	Learning Disability	6	£74,013 additional revenue required on top of £489,462 already invested in new schemes providing HRS from Community Care-funds. Capital is needed to progress developments.
3	Temporary Accommodation	24 hour Supported Housing.	Physical Disability	6	Revenue needed £74,013 No capital needed as accommodation

					is available via an existing project.
4	Support @t Home	Floating Support	Older People	125	No revenue needed as remodelling and re-tendering existing schemes.
Additional Revenue required to respond to identified need 2011/2012					**£637,488**

Contributors:
RCT Community Care Division
RCT Children's Services
Housing Strategy
Local Health Board
Youth Offending Service
South Wales Area Probation Service

Domestic Abuse Forum
Homelessness Forum
Supporting People Support Provider Forums

Aelwyd HA
Cynon Taf Housing Group
Hafod HA
Newydd HA
Wales and West
John Grooms HA
RCT Homes
Rhondda Housing Association

Action for Children
Adref Ltd.
Age Concern Morgannwg
Ategi
Cartrefi Cymru
Hafan Cymru
Diocese of Llandaff
DRIVE
Reach
OHT
Perthyn
European Lifestyles
Hafod Care
Church Army
Llamau
Cwm Cynon Women's Aid
Rhondda Women's Aid
Pontypridd Women's Aid
Rhondda Include
Gofal Housing Trust
Hafod Care
Mountain Ash YMCA
Action for Children
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