



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

27TH JANUARY 2020

**CWM TAF REGIONAL STATEMENT OF INTENT FOR SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES**

**REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN
DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR C
LEYSHON**

Author: Ann Batley Director of Children Services, Tel: 01443 744044

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this Report is to update members on the Cwm Taf Statement of Intent for Children and Young People: 'A Shared Regional Strategy for Supporting Children, Young People and Families'

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Corporate Parenting Board note the content of this report.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To ensure that Corporate Parenting Board are aware of the progress made since the approval of the Cwm Taf Statement of Intent for Children and Young People: 'A Shared Regional Strategy for Supporting Children, Young People and Families'

1. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The establishment of the Regional Partnership Board and completion of the Population Needs Assessment led to the development of a Regional Partnership Statement of Intent for children, young people and their families.
- 4.2 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and Cwm Taf University Health Board, together with a range of stakeholders, worked together to produce the shared regional statement of intent. The initial document was presented to Cabinet in November 2017. It set out a shared commitment to deliver services jointly, under the Social Services and Well Being Act (Wales) 2014.

From the 1st of April 2019 the Regional Partnership Board changed to include the redefined Health Board boundary and the inclusion of Bridgend. This provided an opportunity to review the governance arrangements and priorities for the region.

5. UPDATE

Since the Statement of Intent was approved the Children and Young Persons Group has become well established. The Group meets regularly, and has acknowledged the need to work more effectively together, to commission and deliver services and to ensure that the voice of children and their families are embedded within any processes or systems developed.

Following on from the publication of the 'Good Practice Guidance and Toolkit for Integrated Commissioning for Children with Complex Needs' by the National Commissioning Board for Wales (NCB) in Autumn 2018 a Regional Workshop was arranged. Facilitated by IPC in September 2019, the workshop has helped to support the Region in furthering the discussion and planning with regards to better meeting the needs of children and young people with complex needs. The session enabled there to be exploration on how to address some of the barriers and challenges to further joint working and consider how current commissioning arrangements measure up to the guidance and how they can be further developed.

Within Cwm Taf Morgannwg the information from the workshop is being taken forward via the Children and Young People's Strategic Group. Chaired by the Head of Children's Service for Rhondda Cynon Taf, the group is multi-disciplined with representation from across the region including education, the voluntary sector and newly appointed service user/carer representative.

Regional Priorities Identified include:

1. Emotional Wellbeing

To ensure an effective and robust pathway to improve the mental health and Emotional wellbeing of children and young people from universal to specialist Services.

To inform this work the following action is underway:

- Scope the evidence base regarding emotional Wellbeing services for children and young people from universal to specialist services. (This is to include Community resources to support resilience).
- Develop a robust mapping of current services against the model identifying any duplication, variation or gaps in provision.
- Make recommendations to address findings including identifying where existing resources could be utilised more effectively.

In addition to the mapping, ICF revenue funding has been identified for 2019/20 and 2020/21 to support the development of third sector and community support for children and young people. With a focus on collaboration and co-production, these new projects will form part of the enhanced model of service delivery and also form

part of wider strategy locally to improve referral pathways, access and integration and building community resilience.

2. Regional Commissioning Opportunities

The Cwm Taf Morgannwg shared regional strategy for supporting children, young people and families includes the regional ambition to have a full range of integrated services for children, young people and families with complex needs to provide care and support at the right time and place.

An example of a Regional development is the Multi Agency Permanence Support Service (MAPSS) that will be tendered in the New Year. The multi-disciplinary service will seek to improve the mental health and emotional wellbeing of children looked after (CLA), and those with a plan for adoption through helping children with or at risk of mental illness and emotional and behavioural difficulties. The service will also support professionals, carers and adopters in meeting needs and improving relationships and placement stability. The Service will support children to ensure multi-agency practice with looked after children across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Region is preventative, pro-active, planned and promotes permanence.

Emotional wellbeing is identified as a priority for not only the Regional Partnership Board but also the Public Service Board. This has allowed cross Partnership collaboration in relation to developing and endorsing the Prevention & Early Years Grant and Early Years Pathfinder Grant Scheme. Through clarity of local outcomes the Region was able to develop proposals across the two schemes thus maximising resources and avoiding duplication.

In relation to learning disability, an all age joint statement of intent has been developed in the former Cwm Taf area. This reflects the principles and vision of the Children's Statement of Intent, the Children and Young People's Group were very involved in its development. The Learning Disability Statement of Intent describes a shared commitment to deliver a new model for health and social services, focused on the following key messages:

- Maximise the use of universal services
- Increase early intervention, prevention, information, advice and assistance
- Build community support and develop people's independence
- Sustain people in their own homes
- Enable people to live full lives and achieve their potential
- Keep people safe
- Make the best use of our resources

A joint Steering Group was established to drive forward the vision and specific working groups to address the themes of; Preventing loneliness and isolation by increasing community inclusion, reducing stigma, housing, further education, employment, training and lifelong learning and communications

In 2019/20 the themes were refined and membership extended to include Bridgend. The three priorities being carried forward into 2019/20 are health, home and employment.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 This is an information report therefore, no Equality and Diversity Assessment is required.

9. CONSULTATION

9.1 This is an information report therefore no consultation is required.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

10.1 There are no Financial implications attached to this report.

11. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

11.1 The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 is the significant influence for this report. The fundamental principles of the Act of note are:

- People - Putting an individual and their needs at the centre of their care and giving them 'voice in' and 'control over' reaching the outcomes that help them achieve well-being.
- Wellbeing - Supporting people to achieve their own well-being and measuring the success of care and support.
- Earlier intervention - Increasing preventative services within the community to minimise the escalation of critical need.
- Collaboration - Strong partnership working between all agencies and organisations.

12. LINKS TO THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/ SIP

12.1 The Statement of Intent will complement the Council's corporate priorities to promote independence and positive lives for everyone by ensuring:

- Health and social care services will be personalised and integrated with more people supported to live longer in their own homes.
- Rhondda Cynon Taf's children and young people will receive a great start in life.

13. CONCLUSION

- 13.1 The Cwm Taf Regional Statement of Intent for Supporting Children and Young People and Families provides a basis for robust governance arrangements that feed directly into the Regional Partnership Board. It allows for opportunities for greater collaboration and understanding of partners roles and responsibilities to ensure children and young people receive the support they require. The planning groups and structures include parent and carer representatives and a wider range of agencies from statutory to universal and third sector.

Through the Regional structures there have been opportunities to develop services to better understand the gaps and challenges.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

27th JANUARY 2020

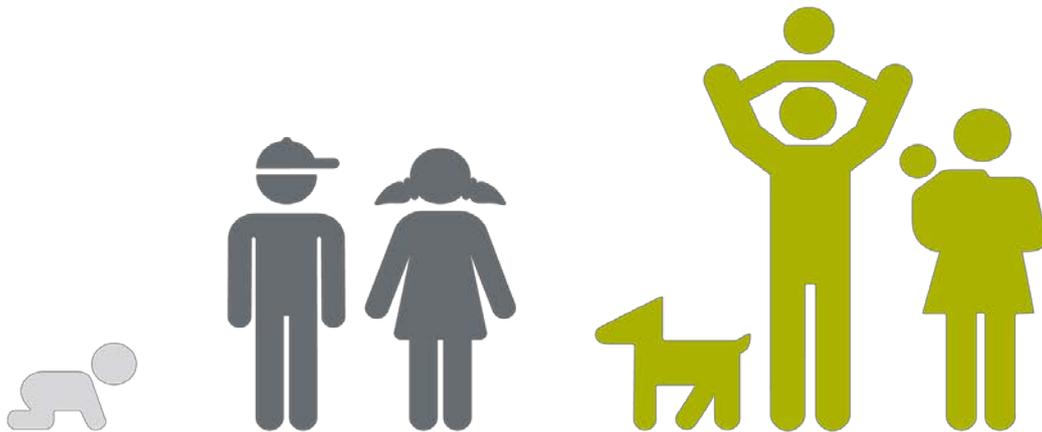
**REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN
DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR C LEYSHON**

Background Papers

Officer to contact: Ann Batley, Director Children's Services

Cwm Taf Social Services And Well-Being Partnership Board

A Shared Regional Strategy For Supporting Children, Young People And Families



Content and Glossary

	Page
1. Introduction and Context	2
2. Vision Statement	3
3. Cwm Taf Area	4
4. Our population	4-5
5. A History of Partnership	6
6. Our Shared Vision	7
7. Some of the Challenges we face together	8
8. Our Shared Principles	9
9. Our three-Year Shared Objectives	9
10. Governance and Accountability	10
11. Performance and Delivery	10

1 Introduction and Context

Partners in Cwm Taf have built on a strong record of constructive working on support for children and young people across the region to develop a joint strategy, the purpose of which is to steer the development of children's health, wellbeing and social services for the next five years. It will help partners address the resource and capacity issues facing them, and new and emerging Welsh Government legislation and policy requirements.

Partners have all undertaken significant work in recent years to help shape different aspects of their children's services offer and this work has been heavily informed by recent changes and ongoing commitments.

The strategy document was developed by a multi-agency working group in 2017-18, guided by the Regional Partnership Board and supported by the Institute of Public Care at Oxford Brookes University (IPC). It involved detailed analysis of local partner priorities, workshops to explore challenges and agree priorities, and engagement with children and young people.

The document has been prepared in a way to minimise the complexity of the messages in it, be readable to members of the public, and to ensure that further work by partners is informed by a clear set of priorities and objectives. It sets out the 5-year shared priorities for the region and it will be supported by a set of realistic but challenging milestones. Subject to the addition of the Bridgend area to the regional partnership it will be revised to incorporate new or revised priorities.

The document sets out how we will work together to address Welsh Government legislation and how we will pool our resources to ensure high quality, accessible and integrated services that will help children, young people, families and communities quickly and effectively. It explains our shared vision, and how it will be implemented, overseen and measured to ensure it is implemented effectively.

The plan to support the strategy has also been produced jointly by partners in Cwm Taf in response to the population analysis, and consultation with the public and professionals in 2016 and 2017. It is intended to remain relevant until 2022. There is proposed a shared vision, principles and objectives which will direct the work of all partners over that period. It takes into account:

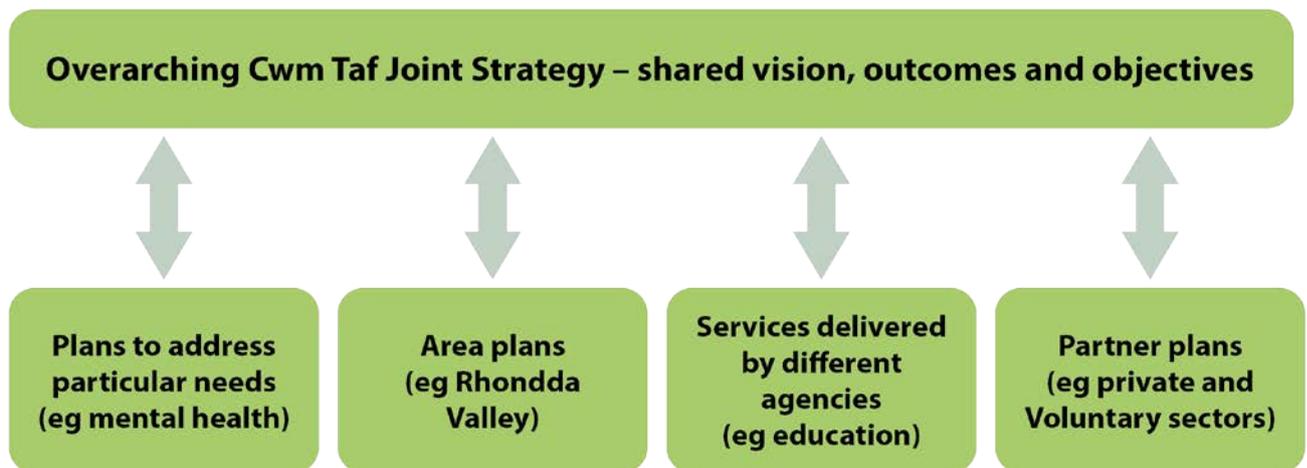
- The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act which gives people more of a say in the care and support they receive.
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. This Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.
- The Population Assessment which captures the needs and resources of the local population and how public resources can best be used to deployed support to them.
- The Well-being Assessment (WBFAG) which is expected to capture the strengths and assets of the people and communities in the area in their assessment.

- The commitment of the Cwm Taf Public Services Board on a range of strategic intentions across the region including delivering the goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.
- Universal services that are those services (sometimes also referred to as mainstream services) that is provided to, or is routinely available to all children, young people and families.
- Early help to ensure working with children and families to help them deal with difficulties or challenges as soon as they arise.

2 Vision Statement

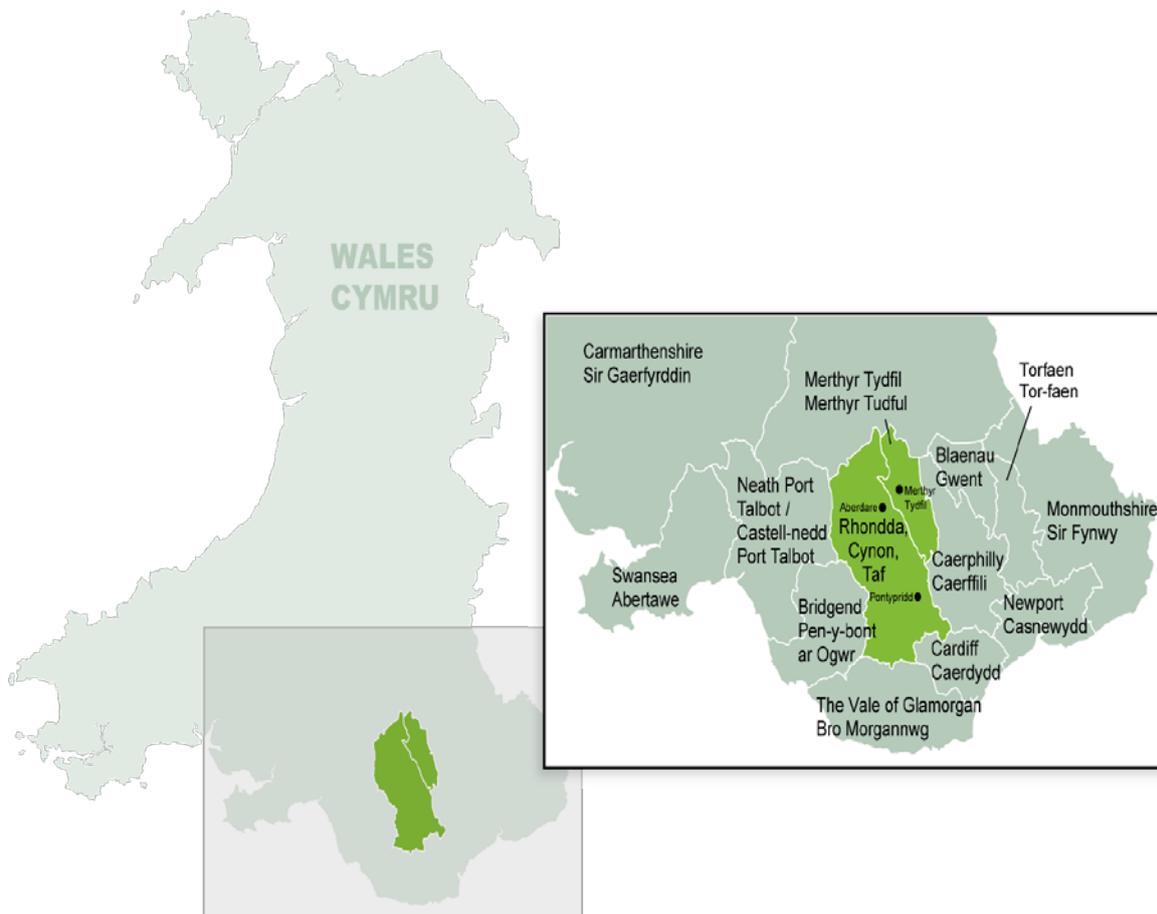
Our shared vision is that children, young people and families in Cwm Taf live safe, healthy and fulfilled lives and that they can achieve their full potential by building resilient communities.

The Cwm Taf Public Services Board will make sure that all our activities and services are driven by this Vision Statement.



3 Cwm Taf Area

The partnership is made-up of public and third sector organisations in the Cwm Taf region, and we are concerned with the wellbeing of all children, young people and their families in Cwm Taf.



4 Our population

Overall, we think that Cwm Taf is a great place to grow up, but children, young people and families do face challenges.



3.064 million people live in Wales. 10% of the Wales' population live in Cwm Taf.



For every **100** adults in Wales **47%** have suffered at least one adverse childhood experience (ACE) during their childhood and 14% have suffered 4 or more



2,625 children in need live in Cwm Taf and make up 13.5% of all children in need in Wales.
28.7% children aged 4 to 5 are overweight or obese in Cwm Taf, highest in Wales 26.2%
1 in 5 children report low life satisfaction in Wales.



2,615 children and young people are reported to have experienced mental ill-health in Cwm Taf and make up 13.5 % of all such children and young people in Wales



765 children and young people are looked After in Cwm Taf, which is 13.5 % of all those looked after in Wales.
555 children and young people are on the Child Protection Register in Cwm Taf and make up 18.5% of all such children in Wales.



56% of pupils in Merthyr and **62%** in RCT gained A* - C grade in GCSE
Care leavers leaving school with no qualifications was **38%** RCT and 29% Merthyr in 2016



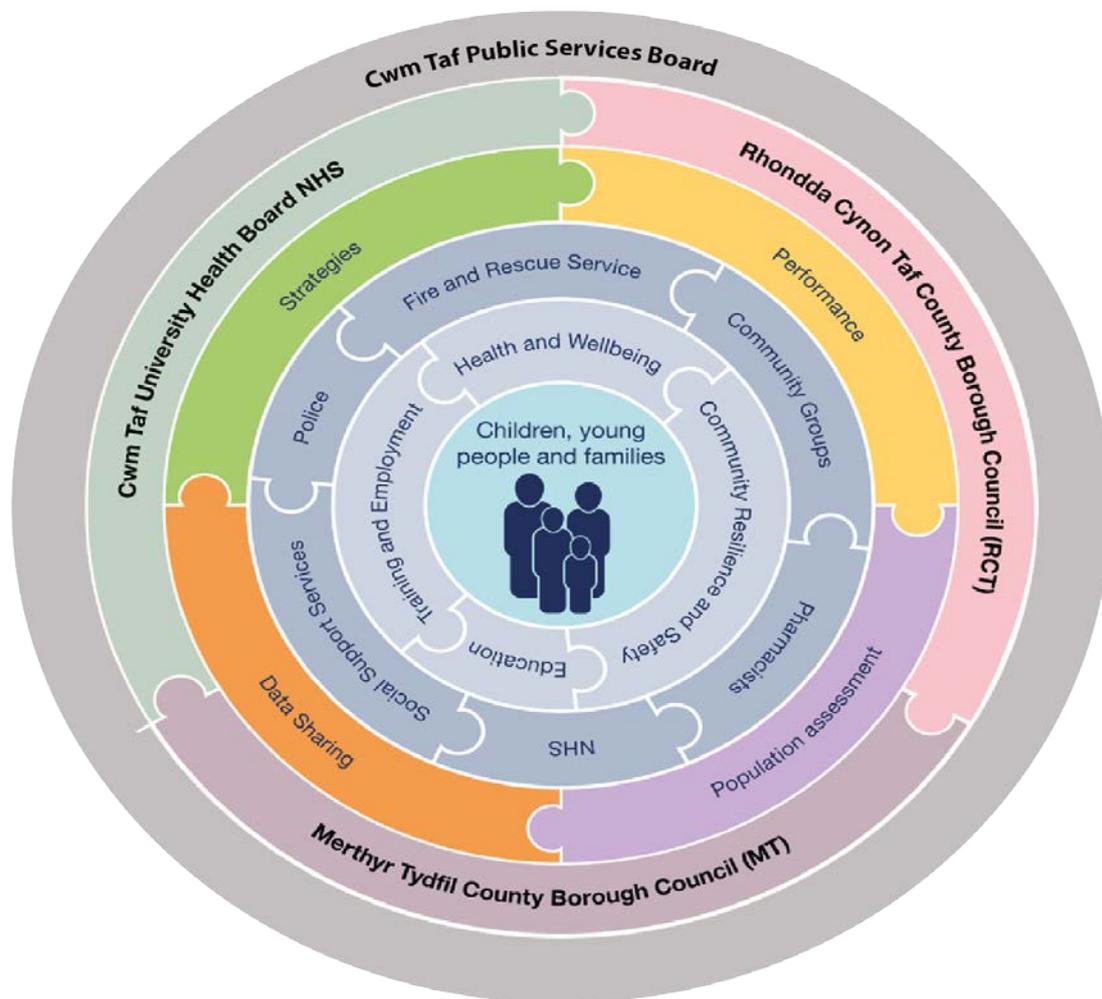
3,263 self-reported young carers aged under 25 years in Cwm Taf, an increase of **16%** since 2001.



483 households were assessed as homeless in Cwm Taf in 2016.
24% of children living households below average income in Cwm Taf in contrast to 22.2% in Wales.

5 A History of Partnership

In Cwm Taf we have a strong history of partnership working and this is evident on our collaborations:



These include:

- Cwm Taf Public Services Board
- Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board
- Cwm Taf Youth offending Service
- Cwm Taf Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub
- Vale, Valleys and Cardiff Adoption Collaborative
- Intensive Family Support Team
- Out of Hours Duty Service (MT, RCT and Bridgend)
- Joint Education and Psychology Service
- Cwm Taf Children and Young People's Emotional and Mental Health Partnership

6 Our Shared Vision

We have agreed a shared vision which recognises these challenges, and sets out how we will address them:

- Children, young people and families in Cwm Taf will live safe, healthy and fulfilled lives and achieve their full potential.
- Families and communities will be more resilient and independent.
- Our focus on communities will give children, young people and families the best possible environment to thrive.
- The balance of resource will shift from safeguarding, substitute and complex care to early and targeted help.

In summary:



7 Some of the challenges we face together

This is a challenging time for us all, as we work together to address issues including:



Significant changes in family and community structures



Increasing financial pressure on public services



Changing Populations including a higher proportion of older people



New technology changing the way we interact and communicate with each other



Changing public expectations about what is a good life and what services are needed to support them



Increasing complexity of need for some of our children and young people

8 Our shared principles

To address these issues and deliver on our vision over the next five years we will work as partners to deliver the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and Well-being and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and:

- Work better in partnership with local children, young people, families and communities to help them achieve their personal well-being outcomes and build resilience.
- Work positively with children, young people and families taking a strengths-based, co-production approach.
- Take a place-based approach to working collaboratively in and with communities to develop the best possible environment for them to thrive
- Focus our intensive support on those children and young people who need help to deal with significant adverse experiences.

9 Our three-year shared objectives

In the next three years each partner will use our shared vision and principles as the basis for their own detailed plans and services. In addition, we will work together to secure the following twelve objectives:

1. We will work to achieve an integrated place-based approach to building resilient communities that prevents and mitigates the effects of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).
2. We will invest in and collaborate with our local communities to support children, young people and families' learning, resilience, and wellbeing.
3. We will co-produce shared plans for the development and organisation of early help interventions in localities, underpinned by information sharing, joint-working arrangements and the active involvement of children, young people and families in their co-production.
4. We will enhance partner's joint arrangements for safeguarding, risk assessment and information sharing, ensuring that they are successful in protecting children, young people and vulnerable adults in communities.
5. We will have a full range of integrated services for children, young people and families with complex needs to provide care and support at the right time and place.
6. We will implement a shared framework for the assessment, eligibility and support for children, young people and families, to ensure we are collaborating effectively across professions and agencies.

7. We will have effective shared information arrangements in place between all key agencies across Cwm Taf.
8. We will have a shared performance framework reflecting our continuum of services, which meets the requirements of the Welsh Government and allows us to review the impact of our services on wellbeing outcomes for children, young people and families.
9. All of our local plans will be informed by a single population assessment for Cwm Taf, which will be kept under review.
10. We will have a workforce across Cwm Taf which is working effectively with children, young people and families in the spirit of the SSWB (W) Act.

10 Governance and accountability

The strategy is owned by the Cwm Taf Regional Partnership Board, which will hold partners to account for its delivery and ensure that local plans are developed within these overall priorities.

The Regional Partnership Board will review targets and performance measures (including relevant National and Regional Performance Indicators) to ensure that the strategy is having its intended impact.

Every partner agency will seek agreement from the Partnership Board for any key local plans related to the strategy.

11 Performance and delivery

The Partnership Board will review the impact of the shared strategy through a twice-annual review, and an annual report to the Welsh Government covering:

Population outcomes, needs and services from the data collected for the Government such as education returns, health performance and social care outcomes.

Service activity and performance from the same sources and our locally collected data.

Progress against milestones identified in the delivery plan for the five-year priorities and three-year objectives in this strategy.