

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**MUNICIPAL YEAR 2016-2017**

**CRIME & DISORDER SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE**

**Agenda Item No.3**

**DATE – 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

**REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR,  
PUBLIC HEALTH & PROTECTION**

**CWM TAF COMMUNITY SAFETY  
PARTNERSHIP UPDATE ON  
STRATEGIC PROJECTS &  
PRIORITIES**

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**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committee on strategic priorities that fall within the remit of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in Cwm Taf.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members:

2.1 Note the content of this report.

2.2 Consider whether they wish to scrutinise in greater depth any matters contained in the report.

**3.0 BACKGROUND**

3.1 At the Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016, Member's were informed of the outcomes of a review of the Community Safety Partnership landscape commissioned by the former Cwm Taf Regional Collaborative Board. This determined that the existing partnership structure was not sustainable due to the multiplicity of groups routinely meeting and duplication that existed across the Cwm Taf region. As some partnership groups had developed in isolation or were operating at a Cwm Taf regional level, there was a need to strengthen governance and accountability.

3.2 During 2017, the partnership landscape in Cwm Taf has transformed. The Regional Collaborative Board and previous Local Service Boards in both Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil have been merged to form a single Public Services Board (PSB) to deliver the goals of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act. Beneath this a new Cwm Taf Community Safety Partnership Board has been created, merging the previous two Boards into a single group, answerable directly to the PSB. The Cwm Taf Substance Misuse

Area Planning Board (APB) is in alignment with the CSP Board so that both Boards now sit as a single meeting.

3.3 These new arrangements have streamlined the Community Safety partnership arrangements to make them more efficient and sustainable. The CSP Board and Substance Misuse APB report to and are directly accountable to the PSB, thereby strengthening the governance arrangements for both groups.

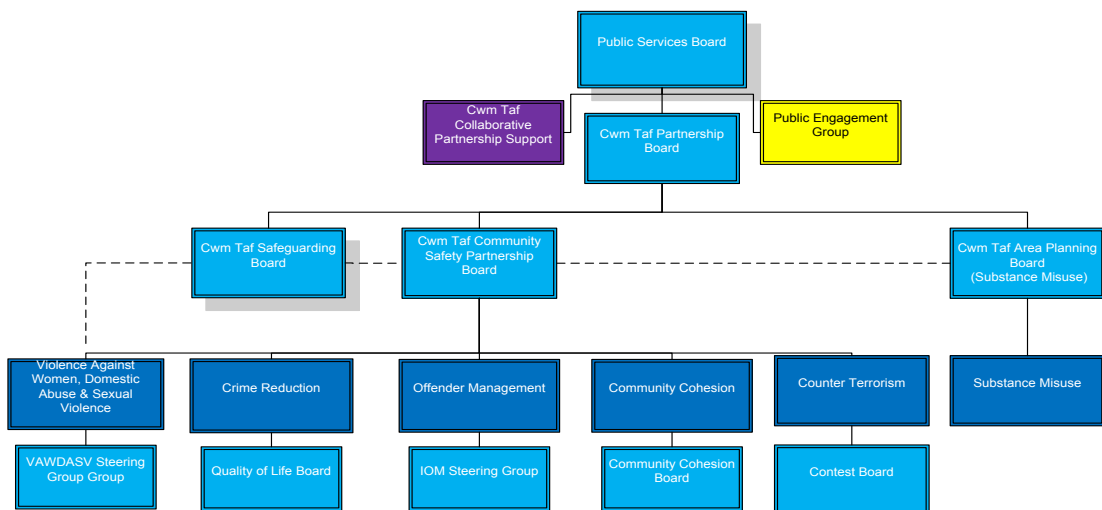
3.4 Within the remit of the Cwm Taf CSP Board there are a number of operational delivery groups that deliver against the thematic priorities of the Cwm Taf Community Safety Partnership. The updates in this report have been organised around these thematic priorities. These are:

- Quality of Life (Crime Reduction, Anti Social Behaviour)
- Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- Integrated Offender Management
- Community Cohesion & Contest
- Substance Misuse

#### 4 THE CWM TAF COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

4.2 The new partnership landscape in Cwm Taf is shown at diagram I, showing the new governance arrangements and lines of accountability.

**Diagram I – Cwm Taf Partnership Arrangements**



## 5 QUALITY OF LIFE

- 5.1 The Anti-Social Behaviour Team in Rhondda Cynon Taf works in partnership with South Wales Police and continues to be leaders in the implementation of the tools and powers under the Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Due to our reputation, the teams ASB Co-ordinator is Chair of the National All Wales Anti Social Behaviour Group. We also lead on the community trigger process for all agencies in Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- 5.2 There were a total of 2392 incidents referred to the department in 2016. Each victim of ASB receives contact from the team, with more intense support provided to vulnerable / repeat victims.
- 5.3 Our performance in 2015/16 highlighted that 84.75% of vulnerable / repeat victims of ASB felt safer as a result of our interventions. At the end of Quarter 2 (2016/17) this figure is currently 87.88%.
- 5.4 All identified perpetrators of ASB receive an intervention from the team. Depending on the severity of the case, and the referral history attributed to the individual, this intervention can range from a warning letter to formal civil or criminal proceedings.
- 5.5 A large amount of multi agency work takes place with the perpetrator to try and prevent the case ending in legal action. As a result, our performance in 2015/16 highlighted that 70% of perpetrators no longer committed ASB within 6 months of receiving an intervention from the team. At the end of Quarter 2 (2016/17) this figure is currently 73%.
- 5.6 Despite the amount of perpetrator work we carry out, some cases ultimately lead to formal proceedings. The types of proceedings we have taken up to From January 2016 to December 2016 are:
- Community Protection Notice Warnings - 3
  - Civil Injunctions - 4
  - Criminal Behaviour Orders - 20
- 5.7 Community Alcohol Partnerships (CAP) is a Community Interest Company (CiC) whose aim is to tackle underage drinking and the resulting harm to local communities. A combination of enforcement, education, engagement of the community and local businesses, and provision of appropriate positive activity for young people is the hallmark of the CAP model.
- 5.8 The CAP was launched in Porth, in November 2016, as part of a Welsh Government initiative to support areas in Wales in tackling the problems caused by underage drinking and associated anti-social behaviour. The success of the launch (which attracted in excess of 80 delegates) was mentioned at a CAP event in Westminster. This event was organised to launch the CAP impact report for 2016.
- 5.9 The aim of the CAP is to educate the public on the impact underage drinking has on communities, and reduce young peoples' access to alcohol by building

on existing work already undertaken by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and South Wales Police in partnership with schools and licensees.

- 5.10 Porth is the third CAP to be launched in Wales and was chosen after an analysis of alcohol related incidents in Rhondda Cynon Taf was conducted. The findings of the analysis indicated that Porth had the largest number of alcohol related anti social behaviour incidents in RCT.
- 5.11 There is a Porth CAP action plan includes:
- Training and advice for licensees
  - Test purchasing exercises
  - Training and advice for parents
  - Promoting of new and existing diversionary activities
  - Multi agency patrols / operations
  - Alcohol education sessions in schools
- 5.12 Monitoring of the Porth CAP will be ongoing and a full twelve-month evaluation will be provided in the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee, January 2018.
- 5.13 “DrinkLessEnjoyMore” is the key message of the “Know the Score” campaign, which is making a positive difference across South Wales. It has already changed public understanding and changed attitudes about the sale of alcohol to people who are already drunk in South Wales. Evaluation is positive, showing that since there has been an increase in public knowledge of the law while tolerance of drunkenness appears to have reduced amongst the public.
- 5.14 The ‘Drinkaware Crew’ scheme has been a success this year, thanks to our partnership with the charity Drinkaware and Students’ Unions across South Wales. Ours is the largest collaborative project of its kind, aimed at safeguarding students in the nighttime economy so they have a positive experience as students in South Wales. Volunteers focus on preventing sexual harassment, safeguard students who become vulnerable through being drunk and promote a positive atmosphere within venues where drunken anti-social behaviour is not tolerated.
- 5.13 During the 2016 Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee, we outlined the 30% budget savings that were delivered as part of the significant service change within the CCTV department. These changes have not hindered the department’s performance and we continue to provide exceptional service for the safety of the general public.
- 5.14 During the period from January 2016 - December 2016, CCTV officers have played an integral role in assisting South Wales Police investigate the following offences:
- Violence against the person - 109
  - Drug related incidents - 224
  - Public Order - 340
  - Theft - 156
  - Traffic Offences - 279

- 5.15 There have been a further 420 data searches for various other offences and the service has assisted with over 100 missing person incidents.
- 5.16 The department have also started to take on the key holding and mobile guarding responsibilities for a number of internal departments such as schools, depots and theatres, a service that was originally being undertaken by external security companies at a significant cost to the Council. Since January 2016, the team have dealt with over 3000 alarm activations. We are looking to expand this service to other departments in 2017 and it will form part of the Council's efficiency savings programme.

## **6 VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE (VAWDASV)**

- 6.1 This remains a key priority for the CSP. Between April 2015 and March 2016, the Oasis Centre (our one stop shop for victims of domestic abuse) received 4081 public protection notices from SW Police concerning incidents of violence against women. New Pathways is the sole provider of rape crisis and sexual abuse support services in Cwm Taf. Between April 2015 and March 2016 the total number of people accessing this service was 517.
- 6.2 The Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 sets the direction for services in Wales. The Act places statutory responsibilities on the Council and Health Board to develop a local strategy that delivers on national priorities set out in the Act. For example the local strategy will set out how we develop and implement a whole education approach to tackling VAWDSV within schools and the National Training Framework for VAWDASV (which outlines the levels of training professionals are required achieve).
- 6.3 The three key themes are:
- Prevent – how we prevent VAWDASV from happening in the first place,
  - Protect – how we protect victims and their families from more violence,
  - Support – how we support victims and their families affected by violence.
- 6.4 The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act has been put in place to make sure that public services are doing all that they can to support people using care and support services to have their say and get involved in managing their own wellbeing. The Act means that public services will need to make sure that the right support is available for the people who need it at the right time and in the right way.
- 6.5 Under this Act, public services must carry out and publish a Population Needs Assessment, which looks at:
- the needs for care and support, and the support needs of carer;
  - the extent to which those needs are not being met;
  - the range and level of services needed to meet those needs; and

- how services are delivered through the medium of Welsh.
- 6.6 In Cwm Taf, the population needs assessment has identified that we have a range of services to support victims and families. We have begun work with those responsible for violence. However, we need to do more work on preventing violence from happening in the first place. The population needs assessment has identified the following headline priorities for 2017/18:
- *People need to be empowered to report incidents of violence and take up the services on offer.*
  - *Services need to meet the needs of all groups in our communities.*
  - *Services need to work together to tackle the underlying problems that are leading to violence.*
  - *Services need to protect and support children in families where violence and abuse is happening.*
  - *People who use our services should tell us what they need and how we can do better.*
- 6.7 The priorities will be implemented through our service delivery plan and local strategy for 2017/18. On 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016, the Home Office announced the Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Service Transformation fund for England & Wales; a £15m fund, over three years to aid, promote and embed the best local practice and ensure that early intervention, and prevention, not crisis response is the norm. The Cwm Taf CSP is in the process of preparing an expression of interest by the deadline of 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 and, if successful, this will support the delivery of the priorities identified in the population needs assessment.

## **7 CWM TAF AREA PLANNING BOARD FOR SUBSTANCE MISUSE**

- 7.1 The responsibility for commissioning and coordinating substance misuse services across Cwm Taf rests with the Cwm Taf Substance Misuse Area Planning Board (APB); this is a multi-agency, cross border partnership. The majority of substance misuse services are funded through two Welsh Government funding streams, which are both managed by the APB.
- The Substance Misuse Action Plan Fund (SMAPF) – £2,686,376
  - The Local Health Board ring fenced allocation – £2,523,000
- 7.2 All services fit within a 4-tier framework for substance misuse referring to the level of intervention required:
- Tier 1 - Consists of a range of drug-related interventions provided by generic providers depending on their competence and partnership arrangements with specialised substance misuse services.
  - Tier 2 - Interventions are provided by specialist substance misuse providers and include a range of harm interventions and interventions that engage retain and support people in treatment. Aftercare is also considered to be a tier 2 intervention
  - Tier 3 - Provisions include the substitute prescribing programmes and home detoxification

- Tier 4 - Services provide substance misuse inpatient detoxification and residential rehabilitation.

7.3 There remains an inequitable distribution of services for specialist secondary care across the Cwm Taf region. These services were necessary and appropriate when commissioned, however they may not be the most appropriate model to meet current and emerging need. The APB has engaged a consultant to support a review of the specialist secondary care services across Cwm Taf and inform a new service model. A draft report with recommendations will be ready for consideration by the APB in March 2017 and this will inform future commissioning decisions. Given the scale of services, it may be necessary to put in place transitional arrangements over a two-year period.

7.4 All services commissioned by the APB are monitored against a suite of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) set by Welsh Government. These are set out in table I

**Table I – Substance Misuse KPIs**

KPI	WG Target	2015/2016 End of year	2016/17 Quarter 2
KPI1 - Increase the number of clients who engage with services between assessment and planned ending of treatment by reducing the incidences of clients who do not attend (DNA) or respond to follow up contact post assessment date.	<20%	21% (473/2238)	13% (133/1038)
KPI2 - Achieve a waiting time of less than 20 working days between referral and treatment	>80%	74% (1677/2273)	82% (803/975)
KPI3 - Substance misuse is reduced for problematic substances between start and most recent review / exit Treatment Outcome Profile (TOP)	67%*	67% (2666/3983)	68% (1526/2237)
KPI4 - Quality of life is improved between start and most recent review / exit Treatment Outcome Profile (TOP)	56%*	70% (1554/2224)	68% (1009/1493)
KPI5 - Number / percentage of cases closed (with a treatment date) as treatment completed.	72%*	75% (1367/1828)	85% (679/796)

\*show continual improvement against baseline and Welsh benchmark figure (13-14)

7.5 At the end of quarter 2, all KPIs were within target. Service providers are monitored quarterly against a performance framework included in their contract. The most challenging KPI for Cwm Taf is KPI2 and we are working with service providers to ensure this KPI remains within target.

7.6 An issue of concern for the Cwm Taf APB and across Wales is the trend in fatal and non-fatal drug related poisonings. Table II presents data for 2015/16 and to quarter 2 in 2016/17.

**Table II – Drug Related Poisonings**

	<b>Fatal Incidents</b>	<b>Non Fatal Incidents</b>	<b>Total</b>
April 2015 to March 2016	25	44	69
April 2016 to September 2016	11	12	23
<b>Totals</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>92</b>

- 7.7 An Analysis of evidence collected for each incident has determined that the majority of poisonings relate to poly drug use, and a high number of these include opioids. Individuals are predominantly in their 30s and 40s and have a history of problematic drug use.
- 7.8 Recent cases have shown that pregabalin/gabapentin has been present in many poisoning episodes and seems to be the main drug (previously Diazepam) involved in illicit use of prescription only medication. At the most recent APB meeting, it was agreed that the Harm Reduction Co-ordinator would attend GP cluster meetings to raise awareness of this increasing trend.
- 7.9 The supply of ‘Take Home Naloxone’ (THN) was initiated (pilot project) in 2009 as a harm reduction tool used to prevent fatal opioid poisonings. Public Health Wales (PHW) recommend that all users receiving opiate substitute prescribing are to receive Naloxone Training and a Naloxone Kit. Table III shows the use of THN in Cwm Taf.

**Table III - Naloxone**

	<b>Individuals Trained</b>	<b>Kits Issued</b>	<b>Kits Re-issued</b>
April 2015 to March 2016	173	125	124
April 2016 to September 2016	76	60	60
<b>Totals</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>184</b>

- 7.10 In Cwm Taf all appropriate service users are routinely offered THN as part of their treatment. All users of needle exchange services are offered training and a kit. Kits are re-issued when used or by the “use by date”. In 2015-2016, there has been a substantial increase in the number of kits issued in comparison to previous years; it was evidenced that there were thirty-five recorded uses of THN resulting in 28 confirmed as non-fatal incidents.

## **8 COMMUNITY COHESION & CONTEST**

- 8.1 Prevent - The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on certain bodies, (local authority, health, police, probation, education) to have '*due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism*'. The Act states that each local authority must ensure a panel of persons (Channel Panel) is in place for its area, with the function of assessing the extent to which identified individuals are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. The Chair of the Cwm Taf Channel Panel is Gary Black, Community Safety and Licensing Manager, RCT.



- 8.2 Cwm Taf's Channel Panel priority is to keep the public safe, by working together with key partner agencies, and all our communities, to tackle all forms of extremism, violent and non-violent, regardless of race, culture, religion or political reference. Partner agencies include:
- Local Authorities - Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil
  - South Wales Police and Wales Extremist & Counter Terrorist Unit (WECTU)
  - Community Rehabilitation Company
  - National Probation Service
  - Housing Associations
  - Health Service
  - University of South Wales
  - Further Education Establishments
- 8.3 Cwm Taf's Channel Panel has been put in place to safeguard individuals who may be vulnerable to recruitment by violent extremists or to radicalisation. The aim of the process is:
- To support and protect people who may be susceptible to radicalisation at a very early stage so that they are not drawn into criminal activity which may affect their prospects in life
  - To ensure that individuals and communities have the resilience to resist all forms of violent extremism whether it be far right, ISIS inspired, animal rights, environmental or any other form
- 8.4 Channel assesses the nature and extent of the potential risk to an individual and community and where necessary, provides an appropriate support package tailored to their needs. The action plan is created by a multi-agency panel and may include diversionary activities and/or support from services such as education, housing, employment and mentoring designed to help individuals resist those aiming to harm or radicalise them.
- 8.5 Channel accepts referrals for any individual who displays a vulnerability to violent extremism, regardless of age. Cwm Taf has a low referral history and the current trends indicate that the types of referrals are predominantly related to far right extremism.
- 8.6 Refugee resettlement programmes - On 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015, the Prime Minister announced a significant extension of the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme for Syrian refugees (SVPRS). Now called the Syrian Resettlement Programme, this extension is based on an additional 7 point criteria which includes; women and girls at risk, survivors of torture, medical and disability issues, sexual orientation or gender identity and refugees who have links to the UK.
- 8.7 The Government intends to resettle up to 20,000 refugees from Syria's neighbouring countries over the next five years, arguing that it is better to take the most vulnerable people directly from the refugee camps in the region than encouraging Syrian refugees to make dangerous journeys to Europe.

- 8.8 In 2016, the Council committed to participating in this Resettlement Programme and a number of families have been successfully resettled. The Wales Refugee Council provide the orientation service and provide advice and support on rights, entitlements and responsibilities regarding education, housing, benefits, health and employment as well as interpretation services. As a Local Authority, we ensure all aspects of pre-arrival, from securing and furnishing the appropriate property, finding school and English language (ESOL) places, to confirming access to health provision, interpreters and putting in place necessary procedures.
- 8.9 All families report they are happy, settling in well and have indicated that their health has improved since arriving in the UK. All adults are attending ESOL classes. All children are settling in well at school, are extremely well behaved and doing really well with their studies.
- 8.10 In addition, the Council is working with Welsh Government and the Home Office to support the Vulnerable Children Resettlement Scheme (VCR) and the Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children Transfer Scheme.
- 8.11 Hate crime - A key aim of the Rhondda Cynon Taf Hate Crime Strategy is to ensure that people feel safe and can live their lives free from hate crime. Engagement exercises such as hate crime awareness sessions, public engagement sessions on hate crime and multi-agency and diversity forums have taken place over the past twelve months.
- 8.12 South Wales Police Hate Crime Officers work closely with the Council. The key objectives we have worked towards are:
- 1) Support victims of Hate Crime and reduce repeat victimisation:**
    - We regularly utilise analysis and intelligence to develop hate crime trends. The risk of repeat victimisation of those individuals vulnerable to hate crime are identified and effective risk management plans are put in place.
    - We prioritise the provision of services within RCT to support hate crime victims, ensuring victims are supported to cope and recover from victimisation. By working in partnership with other agencies and voluntary groups we ensure a full level of support is provided and that responsibilities and resources are shared between the agencies.
  - 2) Improve the confidence to report Hate Crime**
    - We have worked with our partners to develop joint hate crime information, training and awareness campaigns. This has ensured our communities are more aware of the support available and has instilled increased confidence within our communities about police / partner responses. The training has also been rolled out to front line staff.
    - We have worked with the schools in RCT to raise awareness about hate crime and the impact it has on individuals and the wider community. This intervention is going to be enhanced in 2017 as a result of our partnership with the charity "Show Racism The Red Card".

- 8.13 Sitting alongside the above objectives, we place a strong emphasis on tackling the perpetrators of hate crime, where we work very closely with South Wales Police.
- 8.14 The Key Performance Indicator for this strategy is "*the % of people receiving training on hate crime who report an increased awareness of hate crime reporting procedures*". The target for 2016/17 is set at 80% and we will report back on our achievements in the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee 2018.

## **9 OFFENDER MANAGEMENT**

- 9.1 Divert "18-25" Project - Funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Cwm Taf DIVERT "18-25" team have been providing diversionary opportunities for 18-25 year old, first time entrants into the criminal justice system, since April 2016. Since launching the project, the team have dealt with and diverted 113 young adults away from the criminal justice system.
- 9.2 Cwm Taf DIVERT "18-25" currently offers an invitation for young adults who fit the projects eligibility criteria to attend a 'clinic' appointment with a DIVERT "18-25" co-ordinator. The eligibility criteria is:
- Aged 18-25
  - Resides in RCT / Merthyr Tydfil
  - Offence has a Gravity Matrix score of 1 to 3 (excludes knife crimes, motoring offences and sexual offences)
- 9.3 At the 'clinic' appointment, a needs assessment is undertaken and, if appropriate, referrals are made to appropriate agencies for ongoing support. From April 2016 to December 2016 the following referrals have been made for young adults who have been referred to the project and presented with a need;
- referrals to the Army's Be the Best course
  - 3 referrals to the Prince's Trust Fairbridge programme
  - 8 referrals to the Prince's Trust Get Started programme
  - referrals to Communities 4 Work
  - 1 referral to South Wales & Rescue "Firefighter for a Day" programme
  - 3 referrals to Communities First for their various programmes
  - 8 referrals for mental health support
  - 4 referrals to Supporting People
  - 4 referrals to Eye 2 Eye counselling
  - 7 referrals for drug and alcohol support
  - 1 referral to Team Around the Family
  - 9 referrals to the Job Centre
- 9.4 The young adults who take part in the project engage in restorative interventions (where appropriate) and are provided a place on a whole day, interactive, educational workshop which focuses on the consequences of

crime, consequential thinking, victim empathy, emotion management and drug and alcohol awareness. In providing this service the team aim to educate the young adults about the pitfalls of crime, and enable them to access support, thereby reducing the number of criminogenic risk factors in their lives and in turn their likelihood of re-offending. Individuals who adequately complete all of the elements requested of them are given an alternative disposal (Adult Community Resolution) and do not receive a criminal record.

- 9.5 The Key Performance indicator for this programme is *"the percentage of 18-25 year olds accepted into the programme who do not reoffend within 6 months of completing the intervention"*. The target for 2016/17 is set at 80% and we will report back on our achievements in the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee 2018.
- 9.6 The Commissioner worked with the National Probation Service to replace the "Drug Intervention Programme" with a new joined-up Offender Interventions service across police custody, probation, Community Rehabilitation Company and prisons in South Wales to tackle alcohol as well as drug use. The service is provided by the DYFODOL consortium and is a comprehensive triage, assessment, diversion, support and treatment service for offenders with substance dependency and or identified vulnerability.
- 9.7 The project aims to ensure individuals are identified and engaged within the criminal justice and wider partnership activity by providing a rigorous and seamless assessment and triage service in police custody, courts, Welsh prisons and into the wider community to divert people from crime and substance misuse as well as tackling vulnerability.
- 9.8 Dyfodol commenced in Cwm, Taf 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016. Their bases are in Oldway house, Merthyr Town Centre and the United Reform Church, Pontypridd. Since the start of the service, the Dyfodol team have embraced partnership working and have introduced collaborative working arrangements with Drugaid in Merthyr Tydfil where they have adjoining offices.

## **10 CONCLUSION**

- 10.1 The Cwm Taf Community Safety Partnership has undergone significant change during 2016/17. With the creation of a *Cwm Taf* Community Safety Partnership, working across the region, the opportunity has been taken to streamline the organisational arrangements and create a more sustainable model. Governance and accountability has been strengthened as the Cwm Taf CSP Board and Cwm Taf APB is now accountable directly to the Public Services Board.
- 10.2 This report has provided an overview of the current projects and programmes being delivered in Cwm Taf under each of the key strategic themes of the Cwm Taf CSP Partnership. This update, which is by no means exhaustive, illustrates the range and diversity of community safety activity in Cwm Taf and demonstrates the commitment evident from all partner organisations.