



**Caring Together  
Western Bay**  
Health and Social Care Programme  
**Gofalu Gyda'n Gilydd  
Bae'r Gorllewin**  
Rhaglen Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol

# Western Bay

Health and Social Care Programme



## ISSUE 2

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## Issue 2 - Spring 2015

Welcome to Issue 2 of the Western Bay Health and Social Care Programme's Newsletter!

Last time, we brought you a summary of the whole Programme and explained a bit about how the various projects are working towards achieving better quality and consistent services across the region.

Since then, the Western Bay Partnership Forum has come together and reinforced its commitment to bringing about real improvements through effective joint working.

The Partnership Forum provides a strategic overview of the Programme and membership currently consists of the Leaders of the three Local Authorities, portfolio holders, the

Chairman of ABMU Health Board, a regional Third Sector representative and the Chief Executives of the Health Board and Local Authorities.

Cllr Rob Stewart, Leader of the City and County of Swansea Council, who chaired the most recent meeting of the Western Bay Partnership Forum said:

"We were pleased to come together and to note the progress of the Programme so far – there is a lot of good work being undertaken to bring health and social care services together along the many work streams. We also took the opportunity to reaffirm a commitment to the Western Bay Health and Social Care Collaborative going forward".



## Western Bay Adoption Service - we're online!



February 2015 turned out to be a busy month for the Western Bay Adoption Service!

The last few weeks have seen the official launch of the Service's brand new website, which gives a wealth of information to anyone from Bridgend, Swansea or Neath Port Talbot who are thinking about adopting.

Val Jones, Western Bay's Regional Adoption Manager said:

"The new website is an excellent resource for anyone requiring advice or guidance on issues relating to adoption".

"We also offer support to existing/approved adoptive parents and to adopted children – including those who are now adults.

For more details, please visit [www.westernbayadoption.org](http://www.westernbayadoption.org)".

Plans to co-locate employees working in Adoption Services across the three Western Bay localities also became a reality in February.

Staff from all over the region are now based together in Port Talbot Civic Centre and can be contacted on 0300 365 2222 or via the website.



**This Newsletter is available in different formats. For more information, please contact the Western Bay Programme Office on 01792 633950 or email [western.bay@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:western.bay@swansea.gov.uk)**

**Mae'r cylchlythyr hwn ar gael yn Gymraeg. Ffoniwch Swyddfa'r Rhaglen ar y rhif uchod i ofyn am gopi.**



# 'Meaningful Outcomes' event welcomes Minister!



**Minister Mark Drakeford**

2015 got off to a flying start for the Western Bay Programme's Social Care in Partnership (SCiP) group, as their annual conference on January 7th welcomed Professor Mark Drakeford, Welsh Government Minister for Health and Social Services.

SCiP Western Bay is a partnership that promotes a collaborative approach to business development, education and training within the Social Care Sector in Wales. It supports implementation of national initiatives at a regional level.

Strategic guidance is provided by a regional steering group which includes a SCiP Co-ordinator and representatives from the wider membership, including Jobcentre Plus, Careers Wales and independent organisations.

This year's conference, entitled 'Meaningful Outcomes' brought together over 200 representatives from a wide range of sectors.

Its purpose was to consider how the new Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 will impact upon those receiving care services and to encourage organisations to share information and good practice.

The Minister opened the event by outlining his aspirations for the new Act which places new responsibilities on care service providers, calling for more joined up working and placing a specific focus on delivering person-centred care (see page 4 for more on the Act).

Susan Cooper, Chair of Western Bay's SCiP and Corporate Director of Social Services and Wellbeing at Bridgend County Borough Council said:

"The overall feedback from the conference has been excellent. Delegates participated in workshop sessions on a range of themes, including how new

technology can add value to our services".

"The key aim was to inform and empower those present to feel confident that they can deliver services to the best possible standard".

For more information on SCiP Western Bay's work, visit:

[www.ccwales.org.uk/scip-western-bay](http://www.ccwales.org.uk/scip-western-bay)

 #meaningfuloutcomes

**Shared Lives**  
**Carers open up**  
**their homes to**  
**help adults with**  
**learning**  
**disabilities live**  
**a fulfilling life**  
**in the**  
**community**

## Caring and Sharing across Western Bay

Those involved with the Shared Lives / Adult Placement scheme are set to see some changes in the coming months, as a new provider prepares to take over delivery of the service.

The scheme sees Carers in the community open up their homes to adults with learning disabilities, either on a long term basis or for periods of respite.

The service will now be co-ordinated by **ategi** who have a wealth of experience in delivering this family based model of support.

Officers from Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea are making arrangements with

staff from ategi to set up the regional scheme and hand over information about families who are currently part of the local schemes.

ategi look forward to meeting and getting to know all the existing Carers who have provided support within their own family homes for many years.

[www.ategi.org.uk](http://www.ategi.org.uk)



PROJECT  
UPDATE!

# Community Services Project

January's Newsletter touched on the work of the Programme's Community Services project, which brings together the four Western Bay partner organisations to develop services that enhance the health and wellbeing of older people.

In the early stages of the project, Intermediate Care was identified as a key priority for the project, with the main aim of developing an integrated approach to caring for people in their own homes.

## So, what's been happening?

The project has made some significant changes to the way services are delivered across the region.

In each of the three Western Bay localities, a number of teams responsible for delivering Intermediate Care services are now located in the same building. This is a big step in improving communication between service providers, making it easier to work together to create

the most suitable package of care for every service user.

Julie Duggan, Intermediate Care Manager for the project said:

"Although it's early days, we're already starting to see real benefits for people using our services, which is a great sign of the positive impact of collaborative working".

## What difference is it making? Here are just a few examples...

In Swansea, the project has given extra support to **Occupational Therapists** who are based in Accident and Emergency 7 days a week. An additional **76 people** have had the help they need to return home safely rather than be admitted into hospital.

The project has enabled more older people in the Bridgend area to benefit from having **Assistive Technology** installed in their homes.

Thanks to extra investment, more Telecare units (see [www.telecare.org.uk](http://www.telecare.org.uk)) have been issued to those who require that little bit of extra help to live safely at home.

The project recognises the value of the excellent work carried out by Third Sector partners, and more has been done to strengthen partnerships and enhance the services they deliver.



Thanks to joint working between Western Bay and the Third Sector, more people have benefitted from aids and adaptations to help them live safely at home, and more is being done to support those in need of a helping hand to settle back into home life after a hospital stay.

In Neath Port Talbot, the project has supported the **Acute Clinical Team (ACT)** to administer intravenous (IV) treatments to patients at home. This has meant that many have avoided going into hospital, or have been discharged early and continued their treatment at home.

Work is underway to capture the experiences of **Service Users** via 'digital stories'.

Keep an eye out for more on this in future editions!



# Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

## What's the latest?

Almost a year has passed since the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act became law, and as the implementation date of April 2016 draws nearer, organisations across the health and social care sector are preparing themselves for the forthcoming changes.

In the last edition of the Western Bay Newsletter, we provided a brief outline of the Act's key principles, and gave details of how you could contribute to the consultation on the first tranche of draft regulations, codes of practice and guidance.

Work is currently underway to consider responses to the consultation, which ended on 2nd February after a period of 12 weeks.

According to a statement issued by Mark Drakeford, Minister for Health and Social Services, early indications show that responses supported the regulations, codes of practice and guidance:

“The overall response to the consultation was positive”.

“Work is ongoing to analyse the responses in detail, however a number of common themes have emerged”.

Among these themes are:

- The need for a comprehensive approach to **learning and development**.
- The need to **raise awareness** among the **public** about the changes the Act will bring.
- The need to **embed collaboration** through partnership arrangements and policy delivery.

Visit [www.gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2015/sswellbeingact/?lang=en](http://www.gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2015/sswellbeingact/?lang=en)

to view the Minister's statement in full, which gives details of the funding available in 2015/16 to support implementation.

The second tranche of consultation is due to begin in May 2015.

## Implementing the Act across Western Bay...

Ensuring readiness for the implementation of the Act remains at the forefront of the agenda for the Western Bay Programme.

Initial steps have seen each Local Authority carry out a **self assessment** with the ABMU Health Board, intended to consider how current approaches to service delivery will fare in the context of the Act, and our readiness to implement the new requirements.

The next course of action is to develop a **Regional Implementation Plan**, outlining key decisions and milestones that are required for successful implementation.

Representatives from Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea have begun the process by gathering information about their respective

localities, and this is now being used identify where a regional approach will add value and where it makes sense to do things once, not duplicate effort.

Ultimately though, delivery of services will remain local.

**Communication** around the implications of the Act will also be a key priority for Western Bay in the run up to April 2016, and a dedicated **communications plan** will be developed over the coming weeks to ensure a thorough and targeted approach to awareness raising.

For further information and copies of Easy Read and a young person's summary of the Act, please visit:

[www.gov.wales/topics/health/socialcare/act](http://www.gov.wales/topics/health/socialcare/act)

**We welcome feedback and/or suggestions for articles or features which would be of interest to you. Please email ideas or comments to [western.bay@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:western.bay@swansea.gov.uk) or telephone the Western Bay Programme Office on 01792 633950.**