



BWRDD  
GWASANAETHAU  
CYHOEDDUS

**CWM TAF**

PUBLIC  
SERVICES  
BOARD

**Cwm Taf Community Safety Strategic Assessment  
2017/ 18**

**Final (Version 11)**

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. The Community Safety Strategic Assessment

The Cwm Taf Community Safety Strategic Assessment has been undertaken to review existing service provision and delivery within Cwm Taf, determine objectives following analysis of current issues, trends, impacts on our communities and key strategic influences including the advent of the Public Service Boards, Police and Crime Reduction Plan and broad community engagement programmes. Previous reviews have focused on reducing and tackling crime and disorder which have been successful in key areas but following the enactment of the Well Being Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the critical focus on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and the ambition of all services to deliver earlier intervention before patterns and behaviours begin to develop, this review and assessment will seek to focus on developing and delivering partnership operational responses to address the underlying challenges.

*“Early intervention is at the heart of building healthy, happy and safe communities, reducing demand on all our public services.”*

*Police and Crime reduction Plan 2017-2021*

There has been a fundamental shift in local governance and priorities with the establishment of the Cwm Taf PSB, a joint Public Services Board covering Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT). The PSB has a duty under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act to coordinate the planning, commissioning and delivery of public services across organisational boundaries.

The PSB’s purpose is to ensure everyone works together to improve the well-being of our communities, through effective partnership working. The PSB’s focus is the well-being objectives. The work of the PSB must consider the well-being of the people of Cwm Taf now and those who will live and work here in the future. This will be achieved by ensuring that all the work of the PSB is carried out in line with the sustainable development principle of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, which sets out five specific ways in which the PSB must go about meeting its duty (Figure 1). By working in these ways, public bodies can seek to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Figure 1: Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015: 5 Ways of Working



The *Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011* established Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) who have a reciprocal duty to co-operate with community safety partnerships and powers to directly commission work on addressing community safety. The assessment has therefore also had due regard to the South Wales Police and Crime Reduction Plan 2017-21 Priorities, namely:

- Reduce and Prevent Crime and Anti Social Behaviour to keep people safe in their homes and communities
- Improve the way we connect with, involve and inform our communities
- Work to protect the most vulnerable in our communities
- Make sure the criminal justice system works effectively and efficiently, meeting the needs of victims and challenging offenders
- Make our contribution to the strategic policing requirement and successfully police major events
- Spend your money wisely to protect policing in your communities

## **1.2. Responsibility for Community Safety in Cwm Taf**

Community Safety in the Cwm Taf region is monitored and evaluated by Cwm Taf Public Services Board (PSB). Membership of Cwm Taf PSB is based on statutory members:

- the two local authorities – Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf;
- Cwm Taf University Health Board;
- South Wales Fire and Rescue; and
- Natural Resources Wales

And invited members:

- South Wales Police;
- Welsh ministers; representatives of Welsh Government
- South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner;
- National Probation Service;
- Community Rehabilitation Company; and
- Voluntary Organisations – VAMT and Interlink

The work of Cwm Taf PSB will be directed by its Well-being Plan. In order to write this Plan, the PSB carried out a Well-being Assessment and Population Assessment, the findings of which have been used – along with other information sources – to inform this strategic assessment.

### ***Cwm Taf Population Assessment***

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 is about improving the well-being of people who need care and support and carers who need support. Under this Act, the Cwm Taf University Health Board, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and their partners have jointly published their Population Assessment [here](#).

The Population Assessment provides public services with an overview of the care and support needs of the people of Cwm Taf and the range and level of services required to meet those needs. The Assessment will inform the Cwm Taf Local Area Plan. The development of the Local Area Plan will take place during 2017-18.

## ***Cwm Taf Well-being Assessment***

As part of its duty under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, the Cwm Taf PSB will develop a Well-being Plan (by May 2018). The Plan will contain a set of Well-being Objectives and the steps the PSB will take to meet them.

In order to understand what well-being currently looks like in Cwm Taf and what is important to our communities, the PSB first carried out an assessment of well-being.

Following the Well Being Assessment undertaken, three Well-being Objectives have been identified by the PSB as the focus of its work, and the Cwm Taf Well-being Plan to support delivery of those objectives will outline the steps it will take to meet them.

### The Cwm Taf Well-being Objectives

- 1. To promote safe, confident, resilient, and thriving communities improving the well-being of residents and visitors and building on our community assets.*
- 2. To help people live long and healthy lives and overcome any challenges.*
- 3. To grow a strong local economy with sustainable transport that attracts people to live, work and play in Cwm Taf.*

## **1.3 Consultation and Engagement in Cwm Taf**

The inception of the PSB has created and encouraged increased engagement to support and develop a range of locally prioritised objectives, including those relating to Community Safety, and inform the strategic direction of each partner agency in Cwm Taf. The PSB commissioned the information work stream which developed the new internal and external web portal Our Cwm Taf. To find out more information on Cwm Taf PSB please visit [www.ourcwmtaf.wales](http://www.ourcwmtaf.wales)

The ambition of this portal is to bring together the partnership work of the Cwm Taf PSB and give partners and citizens opportunities to engage with and further understand the key role of the board. To compliment this prominent digital step in Cwm Taf, the PSB support two engagement forums that are closely aligned and underpin the function and delivery of Our Cwm Taf, namely the Public Engagement Group (PEG) and the Public Engagement Network (PEN)

The Public Engagement Group (PEG) is made up of the engagement and communications leads from the PSB partner organisations. The PEG is responsible for advising and supporting PSB work streams by working with project leads to involve partners in their work. The Public Engagement Network (PEN) supports the PEG to share information

from the PSB with partners and collect information from those partners to feed back into the work of the Public Services Board

#### **1.4 Cwm Taf Community Safety Partnership Board**

The PSB is the principal strategic leadership forum for the planning, commissioning and delivery of public services across organisational boundaries to achieve better outcomes for the people of Cwm Taf. In support of the PSB and the new Strategic Partnership Board, there is a single Cwm Taf Community Safety Partnership Board. The Board will discharge the statutory responsibilities set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership at a Cwm Taf regional level. The CSP also sits as the Cwm Taf Area Planning Board (APB) responsible for the strategic planning and commissioning of services for the prevention and treatment of substance misuse.

The Strategic Assessments already undertaken have provided a framework to inform and support the identification of PSB Objectives within Cwm Taf and will directly influence and shape the Community Safety focus in the coming years. The data and content of the “Our Cwm Taf” website is woven throughout the document and will support and inform future priorities.

The Cwm Taf Community Safety Partnership Board is the strategic leadership group for the planning, commissioning and delivery of community safety related services and activities, working across organisational boundaries to achieve better outcomes for the people of Cwm Taf.

The remit of the Board is inclusive of all matters relating to community safety and crime reduction in Cwm Taf with a particular focus on the following key thematic areas:

- **Crime & Disorder Reduction**
- **Offender Management**
- **Community Cohesion**
- **Counter Terrorism**
- **Substance Misuse**
- **Domestic Abuse**

Cwm Taf Community Safety objectives and priority areas have been determined by considering the reviews and assessments recently undertaken within the Cwm Taf area and the focus of the priorities within the South Wales Police Strategic Assessment (Appendix 2) and Police and Crime Reduction Plan (Appendix 3). The assessment has been compiled and produced through the collaboration of Cwm Taf partners together with the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner.

Cwm Taf have been particularly innovative in key areas of service delivery but recognise there is more to be done to marry the demands and the collaborative effort of each Board- Safeguarding, Mental Health and Community Safety. This assessment presents a current picture of Cwm Taf and recognises and identifies where further work needs to be done to understand the broader “why” and “how” in addressing the challenges.



## 2. Community Safety in Cwm Taf

### 2.1. Cwm Taf Population

The Cwm Taf area is comprised of two local authorities, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) and the Cwm Taf University Health Board Area. Combined, this is a population of nearly 300,000 people<sup>1</sup> and the area is more densely populated than other parts of Wales. It is also characterised as a diverse community, with areas of economic prosperity but a high proportion of deprived areas. This is important in terms of Community Safety as areas of high deprivation are known to demonstrate community safety risk factors. The National Wales survey data provides an outline overview of the level of deprivation within defined geographical communities, called Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA's) (Figure 2) and the indicators to the increased risks to communities' safety (Figure 3).

The average proportion of LSOAs per authority in the 10% most deprived LSOAs in Wales is 10%. **Rhondda Cynon Taf has 16.9%** which is **an above average number of LSOAs** in the **10% most deprived** LSOAs in Wales.

The average proportion of LSOAs per authority in the 10% most deprived LSOAs in Wales is 10%. **Merthyr Tydfil has 22.2%** which is **an above average number of LSOAs** in the **10% most deprived** LSOAs in Wales.

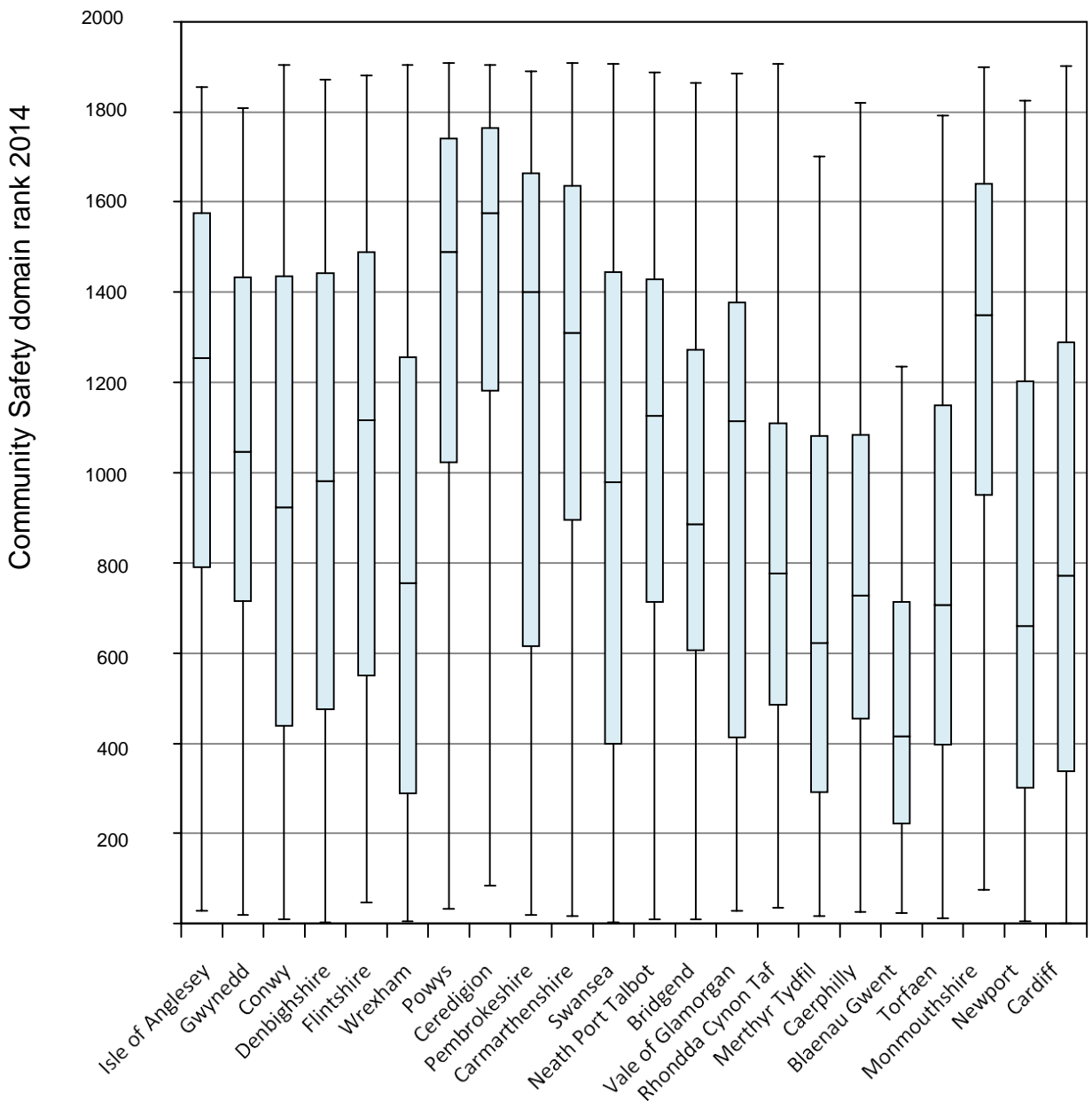
Figure 2. WIMD 2014 Overall deprived LSOAs, by local authority

Local authority	Number of LSOAs in local authority	% LSOAs in most-deprived 10% ranks 1-191	% LSOAs in most-deprived 20% ranks 1-382	% LSOAs in most-deprived 30% ranks 1-573	% LSOAs in most-deprived 50% ranks 1-955
Isle of Anglesey	44	2.3	15.9	18.2	45.5
Gwynedd	73	4.1	4.1	5.5	34.2
Conwy	71	5.6	14.1	23.9	42.3
Denbighshire	58	13.8	15.5	20.7	46.6
Flintshire	92	2.2	12.0	19.6	34.8
Wrexham	85	5.9	12.9	27.1	43.5
Powys	79	1.3	3.8	11.4	20.3
Ceredigion	46	2.2	2.2	6.5	39.1
Pembrokeshire	71	5.6	8.5	15.5	36.6
Carmarthenshire	112	4.5	10.7	22.3	52.7
Swansea	148	12.2	25.0	28.4	48.6
Neath Port Talbot	91	13.2	29.7	40.7	67.0
Bridgend	88	10.2	22.7	42.0	56.8
Vale of Glamorgan	79	5.1	15.2	19.0	36.7
Rhondda Cynon	154	16.9	29.9	47.4	72.1
Merthyr Tydfil	36	22.2	30.6	61.1	80.6
Caerphilly	110	12.7	28.2	39.1	67.3
Blaenau Gwent	47	23.4	46.8	66.0	85.1
Torfaen	60	5.0	25.0	40.0	56.7
Monmouthshire	56	0.0	0.0	7.1	21.4
Newport	95	14.7	30.5	38.9	56.8
Cardiff	214	17.8	27.6	36.4	46.3
<b>Wales</b>	<b>1,909</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>50.0</b>

Figure 3 below shows the spread of community safety domain ranks for each local authority in Wales. The blue boxes contain half the total number of LSOAs in each local authority, centred on the median (middle) rank for each local authority and the lines show the full range of ranks. Deprivation increases with decreasing rank (that is the LA areas

with boxes towards the bottom of the plot). This means that local authority areas with a high proportion of communities in classed as more deprived areas, which includes Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil, are more likely to score low when it comes to risk factors relevant to community safety.

*Figure 3 Box plot of WIMD 2014 Community Safety domain ranks, by local authority*

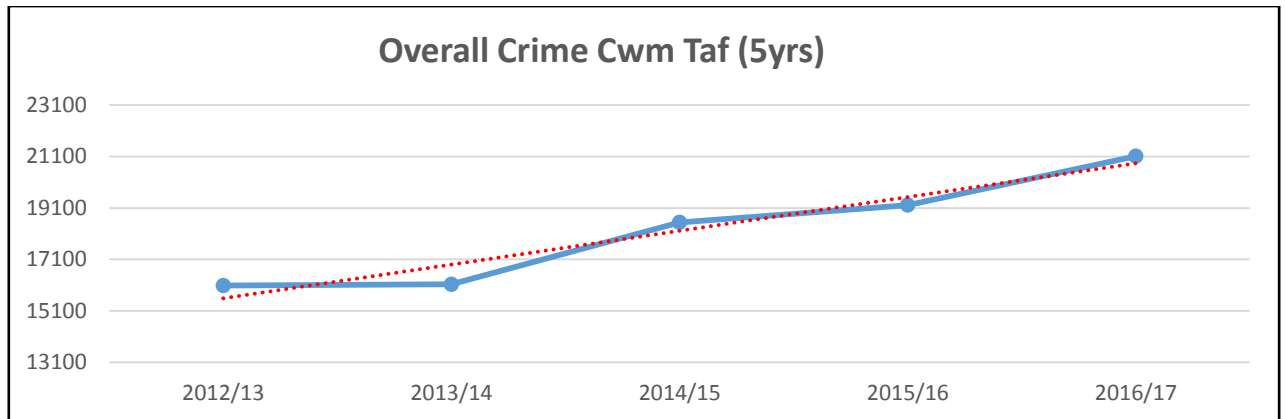


## 2.2. Crime in Cwm Taf

### Total recorded crime

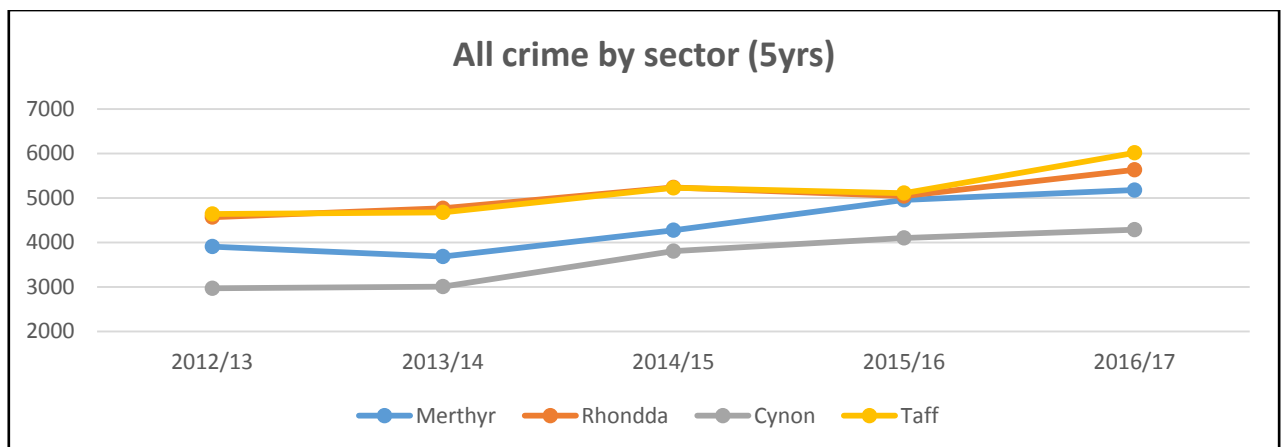
Following two initial years of similar levels of crime being recorded, the overall level of crime has seen a steady increase over the 5 year period of 32% (5,030) (2012-17). (See Figure: 4 below - Total crime)

*Figure: 4 - Total crime, Cwm Taf*



All areas have seen steady increases from 2013/14; although Rhondda and Taff both saw decreases between 2014/15 and 2015/16. (See Figure: 5 All crime by sector)

*Figure: 5 - All crime by sector*



Rhondda (25,246) and Taff (25,665) sectors recorded the greatest levels of crime over this period - 28% each. Merthyr (21,997) had 24% and Cynon (18,162) 20%.

The below table Figure: 6 shows a breakdown of all crime categories over the 5 year period and the increase/decrease between 2012/13 and 2016/17. The largest increases have been seen in relation to violent crime (145%), Sexual offences (135%) and other notifiable offences (87%) have seen the largest increases. Burglary of other premises (-11%), Theft of vehicles (-35%), Theft from vehicles (-23%) have all seen large reductions. Burglary dwelling/Residential burglary and other theft have remained stable.

*Figure: 6 - All crime by category*

All crime 5yrs	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Total	Dif	Perc
Violence against the person	3778	4430	6318	7331	9273	31130	5495	145%
Sexual offence	234	320	344	439	551	1888	317	135%
Robbery	47	44	50	60	56	257	9	19%
Burglary of dwelling	731	633	680	716	736	3496	5	1%
Burglary of other premises	989	1007	1146	1094	882	5118	-107	-11%
Theft of motor vehicle	474	407	388	369	310	1948	-164	-35%
Theft from motor vehicle	1221	1186	1210	1004	946	5567	-275	-23%
Other theft	3771	3616	4029	3693	3804	18913	33	1%
Fraud or forgery	315	29	15	9	28	396	-287	-91%
Criminal damage	3299	3185	3206	3337	3270	16297	-29	-1%
Drug trafficking	199	168	145	140	147	799	-52	-26%
Other drugs offence	758	822	686	663	613	3542	-145	-19%
Other notifiable offence	265	282	322	355	495	1719	230	87%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16081</b>	<b>16129</b>	<b>18539</b>	<b>19210</b>	<b>21111</b>	<b>91070</b>	<b>5030</b>	<b>31%</b>

Generally, crime has increased over the 5 year period, specifically in the categories where focus has been placed on increased reporting and management (namely violent crime and sexual offences). Home Office changes to how certain crimes are categorised are also likely to influence statistics. In the last twelve months, the police in England and Wales recorded a total of 4.8 million offences in the year ending December 2016, an annual rise of 9%. However, the large volume increases driving this trend are thought to reflect changes in recording processes and practices rather than crime, which will be a similar position for Cwm Taf.

Figure 7: Cwm Taf Crime Performance (2016)

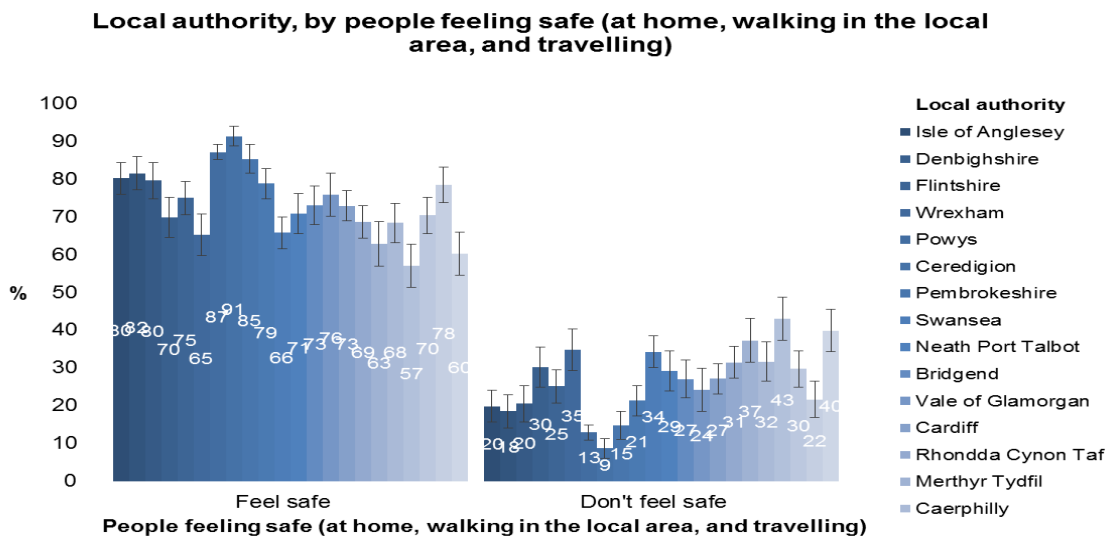
<b>Cwm Taf Rolling 12 Months Performance</b>		<b>Ease of Contact</b>	<b>Actions Taken</b>	<b>Follow Up</b>	<b>Treatment</b>	<b>Whole Experience</b>	
<b>Satisfaction Rate</b>	Burglary of dwelling	98.7% of 151	87.8% of 181	77.3% of 181	97.3% of 182	87.6% of 210	
	Vehicle Crime	95.8% of 167	83.0% of 200	76.5% of 200	96.0% of 200	86.1% of 208	
	Violence against the person	94.5% of 109	81.4% of 183	72.7% of 183	89.1% of 183	83.7% of 209	
	<b>Overall</b>	<b>96.3% of 427</b>	<b>84.1% of 564</b>	<b>75.5% of 564</b>	<b>94.1% of 565</b>	<b>85.8% of 627</b>	
	<b>Cwm Taf Rolling 12 Months Performance</b>		<b>Ease of Contact</b>	<b>Actions Taken</b>	<b>Follow Up</b>	<b>Treatment</b>	<b>Whole Experience</b>
	Racist Incident	93.8% of 32	86.4% of 44	81.8% of 44	95.5% of 44	89.4% of 47	
	Hate Crime (inc Race)	91.3% of 46	88.7% of 62	82.5% of 63	96.8% of 63	90.8% of 65	
	Hate crime - Disability	100.0% of 6	87.5% of 8	77.8% of 9	100.0% of 9	87.5% of 8	
	Hate crime - Religion	0.0% of 1	100.0% of 1	100.0% of 1	100.0% of 1	100.0% of 1	
	Hate crime - Sexual Orientation	85.7% of 7	100.0% of 9	88.9% of 9	100.0% of 9	100.0% of 9	
	Hate crime - Transgender	0 Surveyed	0 Surveyed	0 Surveyed	0 Surveyed	0 Surveyed	
	Burglary of dwelling	98.6% of 138	88.4% of 164	76.2% of 164	97.0% of 165	88.3% of 188	
	Vehicle Crime	95.7% of 163	84.7% of 189	76.3% of 194	95.9% of 194	85.6% of 202	
	Violence against the person	94.3% of 105	89.9% of 159	73.6% of 174	89.7% of 174	83.9% of 199	
	Hate Crime (inc Race)	91.3% of 23	92.6% of 27	85.7% of 28	100.0% of 28	93.1% of 29	
	<b>White Victim Satisfaction</b>	<b>95.0% of 429</b>	<b>88.9% of 539</b>	<b>77.9% of 560</b>	<b>95.6% of 561</b>	<b>87.7% of 618</b>	
	Burglary of dwelling	100.0% of 9	72.7% of 11	81.8% of 11	100.0% of 11	76.9% of 13	
Vehicle Crime	100.0% of 1	100.0% of 1	100.0% of 1	100.0% of 1	100.0% of 1		
Violence against the person	0 Surveyed	100.0% of 4	75.0% of 4	100.0% of 4	100.0% of 5		
Hate Crime (inc Race)	90.9% of 22	93.3% of 30	78.8% of 33	93.9% of 33	88.2% of 34		
<b>BME Victim Satisfaction</b>	<b>97.0% of 32</b>	<b>91.5% of 46</b>	<b>83.9% of 49</b>	<b>98.5% of 49</b>	<b>91.3% of 53</b>		

### 2.3 Perception of Crime and Community Safety in Cwm Taf

A Survey for Cwm Taf was commissioned by South Wales Police in 2017 (COMPASS Survey) to develop a broad understanding of the perception, views and expectations of Cwm Taf communities. This is a vital resource in engaging and developing a clearer understanding. The core headlines and recommendations following the review have been included to inform the priorities of this assessment and identify areas for further intervention, service delivery and reassurance locally or across the Cwm Taf area.

In addition, a Town Centre Survey was carried out for Pontypridd and Aberdare in April/ May 2017, the findings of which have been reviewed and used to identify key headlines. Having regard to the feedback from both surveys, the key finding is the concern from communities that don't feel safe continues despite efforts to address the issues. The perception as made out with the analysis in Figure 8 indicates that reduced confidence and increased fear are an issue to Cwm Taf residents.

Figure 8: Perception of feeling safe by LA area



Local authority	People feeling safe (at home, walking in the local area, and travelling)					
	Feel safe			Don't feel safe		
	%	Lower CI	Upper CI	%	Lower CI	Upper CI
Isle of Anglesey	80	76	84	20	16	24
Gwynedd	82	77	86	18	14	23
Conwy	80	75	84	20	16	25
Denbighshire	70	64	75	30	25	36
Flintshire	75	71	79	25	21	29
Wrexham	65	60	71	35	29	40
Powys	87	85	89	13	11	15
Ceredigion	91	89	94	9	6	11
Pembrokeshire	85	82	89	15	11	18
Carmarthenshire	79	75	83	21	17	25
Swansea	66	62	70	34	30	38
Neath Port Talbot	71	66	76	29	24	35
Bridgend	73	68	78	27	22	32
Vale of Glamorgan	76	70	81	24	19	30
Cardiff	73	69	77	27	23	31
Rhondda Cynon Taf	69	64	73	31	27	36
Merthyr Tydfil	63	57	69	37	31	43
Caerphilly	68	63	74	32	26	37
Blaenau Gwent	57	51	63	43	37	49
Torfaen	70	65	75	30	25	35
Monmouthshire	78	74	83	22	17	26
Newport	60	55	66	40	34	45

Sample size: 10,450

In addition, the 2017 Compass survey highlighted a decrease in the proportion of people in our communities that feel safe:

- 69.4% of those surveys feel safe in their community (down from 82.8% in 2014/15, a drop of 16.2%)
- In addition, the National Crime Survey (2016) reports 63% of Merthyr residents and 69% of RCT residents feel safe (at home, walking in the local area and travelling) which ranks the LAs 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> respectively of the 22 LAs in Wales.
- Perceptions that the police and Council are dealing with what matters has declined by 12.6% (from 52.4% in 2014/15 to 45.8% in 2016/17). This compares to 60.6% for South Wales Police in the 2016 National Crime Survey. Areas least likely to perceive that matters are being dealt with are Merthyr Vale, Treharris and Merthyr Town.
- Perceptions that the police are dealing with what matters has declined by from 57.5% in 2014/15 to 56.3% in 2016/17). This compares to 61.8% for South Wales Police in the 2016 National Crime Survey. The areas least likely to agree that the police are dealing with matters are Plymouth, Vaynor and Cyfarthfa.
- Perceptions that police are doing a good or excellent job have decreased by 10.5% (from 61.9% to 55.4%). This compares to 60.7% for South Wales Police according to the 2016 National Crime Survey. The areas least likely to agree are Plymouth, Vaynor and Bedlinog.



- 24% of responders were dissatisfied with the visibility of PCSOs. Those satisfied with the visibility of PCSOs or who report knowing their PCSO reported higher feelings of safety and perceptions that the police are doing a good job. Conversely, those dissatisfied are most likely to be from a challenged neighbourhood with higher levels of crime and anti social behaviour.
- The majority of respondents agreed with the six priorities in the Crime Reduction Plan.
- Respondents did not feel informed about how local issues are being tackled, the use of the non- emergency number, accessibility of police stations and use of social media. People who are not informed are more likely to feel the police do a poor job.
- Around ¾ of the public would be interested in finding out about policing in their area in a newsletter, although a pilot scheme evaluation showed improved awareness of policing but did not affect overall feelings of safety.

When considered against a back drop of low victim satisfaction, deprivation, the evolving nature of criminality, our understanding of vulnerability together with our ability to communicate outcomes effectively, the landscape is complex. It is important that the Partnership understand the underlying causes of this concern to determine and initiate actions to improve resident confidence and levels of reassurance.

### 3. Introduction to the Cwm Taf Community Safety Priorities

The Community Safety Partnership has reviewed the data to identify priority areas that require appropriate actions to be developed, focused in particular on early intervention and a greater preventative agenda.

*“Early intervention helps prevent problems before they escalate, stops people becoming victims, diverts people away from crime and reduces demand on the police and partners.”*

*Police and Crime Reduction Plan 2016- 2021*

Community Safety objectives and initiatives have previously focused on the outcome of a crime or issue, however the purpose of this assessment is to not only identify the challenge facing our community and understand the vulnerabilities but develop a greater level of understanding of the underlying issues. Public Health Wales’ analysis of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) has put a spot light on factors within families that are likely to impact on the positive development of a child and the likelihood of that child becoming more agency dependent and continue a generational cycle of adverse experience, whether that centres around criminality, vulnerability, mental health, substance dependency or lifestyle (See Figure 9).

Following a review of the evidence, the Cwm Taf Community Safety Strategic Assessment will focus on six priority areas:

- A. Reduce the impact of alcohol and drug misuse on our communities.**
- B. Divert offenders and reducing re- offending**
- C. Tackle Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence**
- D. Promote Safe and Confident Communities**
- E. Protect vulnerable groups from harm and victimisation**
- F. Improve the environment by reducing environmental crime**

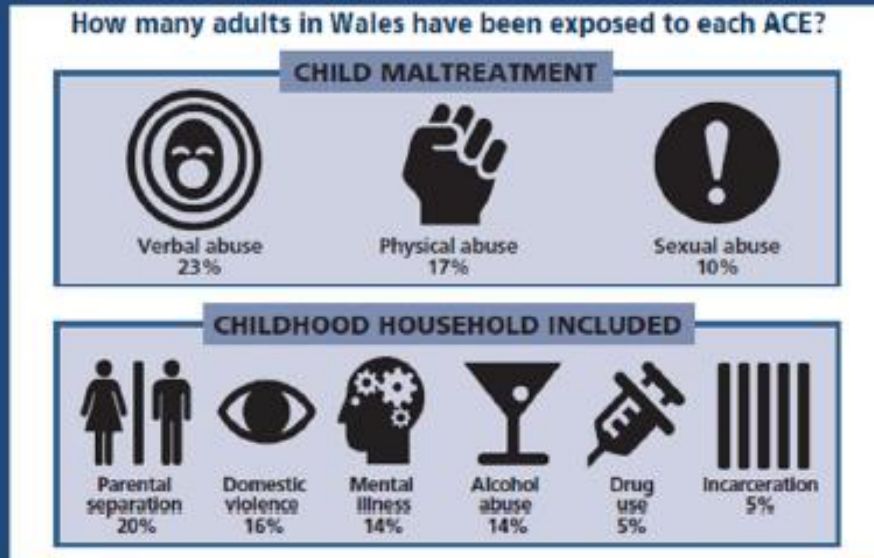
In response to an assessment of evidence across all areas, a **Cross Cutting Priority to “Improve Communication and Engagement with our Communities”** has been identified and will be a common and recurring theme in the Community Safety Priorities.

The Following Chapters will cover each Priority and the Actions planned by the Community Safety Partnership for 2018-2021. This assessment will be supported by a detailed **Action Plan and Performance Framework**, owned and monitored by the Partnership, to ensure robust monitoring of progress to make a difference made to our communities and the people we serve.

*Figure 9: Adverse Childhood Experiences and Impact on Long Term Health and Wellbeing (Info graphic) (Source: "Breaking the Generational Cycle of Crime, Ford et al (2016)")*

## What is an ACE?

Globally there is an increasing body of evidence showing how experiences during childhood can have long-term negative impacts on our health and wellbeing. The term adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) is used to describe these stressful experiences which directly harm a child or affect them through the environment in which they live. A study in Wales found that over half the population had experienced one ACE, with 14% experiencing four or more (Bellis et al, 2016).



The trauma caused by exposure to ACEs can lead to an increased risk of poor outcomes .



Source: Welsh Adverse childhood Experience study <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/page/88504>

## **4. Priority A - Reduce the impact of alcohol and drug misuse on our communities.**

Cwm Taf PSB commissioned a review of substance misuse services and the current challenges within Cwm Taf which was undertaken between December 2016 and April 2017 for the Cwm Taf Substance Misuse Area Planning Board (APB) by Health and Social Research (HSR), an independent review team.

Engagement work was carried out from December 2016 to April 2017 and in line with the Review Communication Plan. The work was overseen by a Review Steering Group made up of members of the APB comprising representatives from Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, Cwm Taf University Health Board and South Wales Police, which reported to the Cwm Taf APB. The review team referred to the APB Providers Forum for advisory input.

### **4.1 Current evidence of need**

*“Cwm Taf has the highest rates of both drug misuse deaths and alcohol related deaths in Wales. Data from the Welsh National Database for Substance Misuse evidences the continued need for services across Cwm Taf, with approximately 3,000 referrals received annually for the period April 2013 to March 2016.”*

Issues highlighted in the [Cwm Taf Wellbeing Assessment 2017](#) across well-being themes include:

*“Alcohol consumption and other substance misuse are associated with many chronic health problems including mental ill health, as well as social problems such as crime, assault and domestic violence.”*

Data from InfoBaseCymru indicate that of the 22 local authorities in Wales, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf rank first and second respectively for the rate of alcohol use. In relation to drug use, Merthyr Tydfil ranked fifth (above the Wales average) and Rhondda Cynon Taf ranked 11<sup>th</sup> (slightly below the Wales average) (see Figure 10).

*Figure 10: Rate and ranking (from the highest incidence to the lowest) of alcohol and drug use in the 22 Local Authorities in Wales based on individuals assessed per 100,000 of the population (Source InfoBaseCymru 2015/16)*

	Alcohol misuse		Drug misuse	
	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank
Wales	241	-	215	-
Merthyr Tydfil	362	1	255	5
Rhondda Cynon Taf	305	2	201	11
Caerphilly	237	10	269	4
Blaenau Gwent	296	3	276	3
Torfaen	233	11	218	9
Monmouthshire	164	21	155	18
Newport	260	7	380	1
The Vale of Glamorgan	170	20	111	22
Carmarthenshire	189	17	151	19
Swansea	215	12	196	12
Neath Port Talbot	172	19	210	10
Bridgend	153	22	137	20
Cardiff	202	15	159	17
Ceredigion	242	9	166	16
Pembrokeshire	211	13	121	21
Powys	187	18	193	14
Isle of Anglesey	210	14	226	7
Gwynedd	199	16	237	6
Conwy	259	8	170	15
Denbighshire	286	5	194	13
Flintshire	265	6	219	8
Wrexham	291	4	328	2

Alcohol accounts for 62% of referrals to substance use treatment services in Cwm Taf, with other drugs making up the remaining 38% of referrals (see Figure 11).

*Figure 11: Assessments undertaken in Cwm Taf 2015-16 by individual substance and by number and rate per 100,000 population. Source: WNDSM (NWIS)*

Substance	Number of referrals	Rate
Alcohol	1162	392
Cannabis	272	75
Heroin	181	61
Amphetamines	106	36
Cocaine	43	14
Methadone	35	12
Benzodiazepines	17	6

In 2012/13, Cwm Taf ranked the highest for the rates of males admitted to hospital due to alcohol-attributable conditions. Females in Cwm Taf rated just under the Wales average (see Figures 12 and 13).

Figure 12: Alcohol specific hospital admissions for males. European age-standardised rate per 100,000. Source: Public Health Wales Observatory

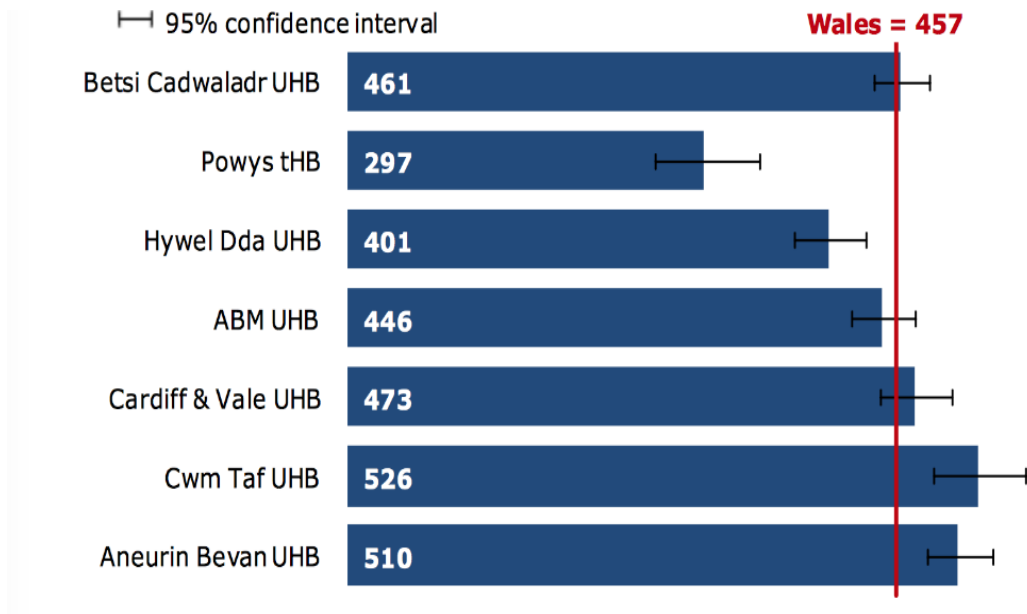
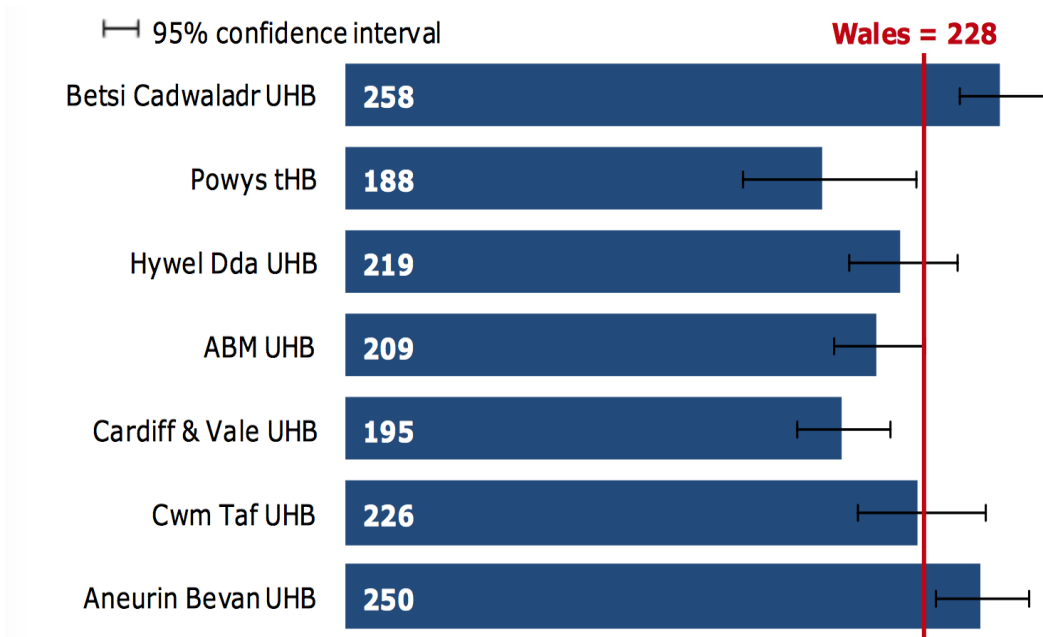


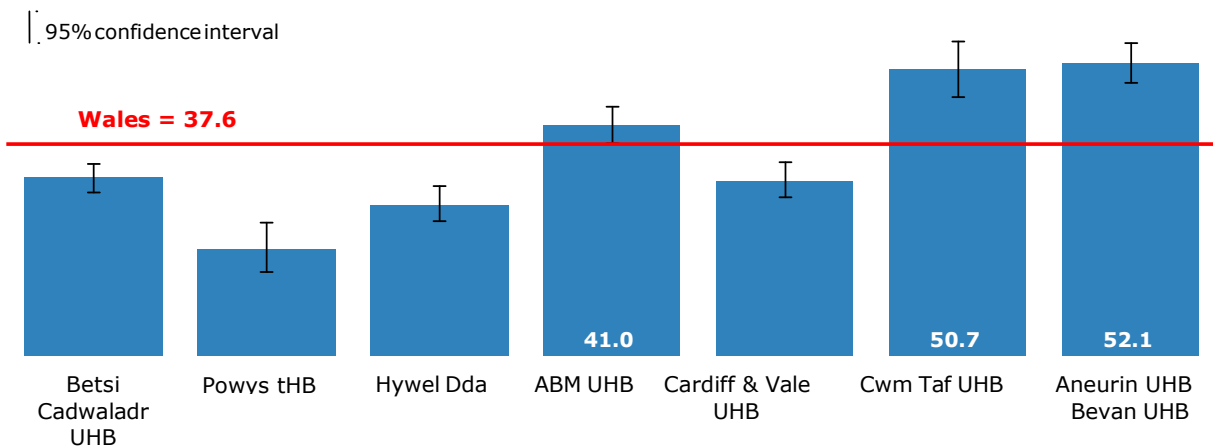
Figure 13: Alcohol specific hospital admissions for females. European age-standardised rate per 100,000. Source: Public Health Wales Observatory



Cwm Taf has the the highest rates of alcohol related deaths in Wales. According to Public Health Wales (2015), Cwm Taf had the highest incidence of alcohol related deaths in both males and females (see Figure 14) and the second highest rate of hospital admissions in Wales due to alcoholic liver disease. (See Figure 15).

**Figure 14: Rates of alcohol attributable deaths in Wales 2013-15 by Health Board**

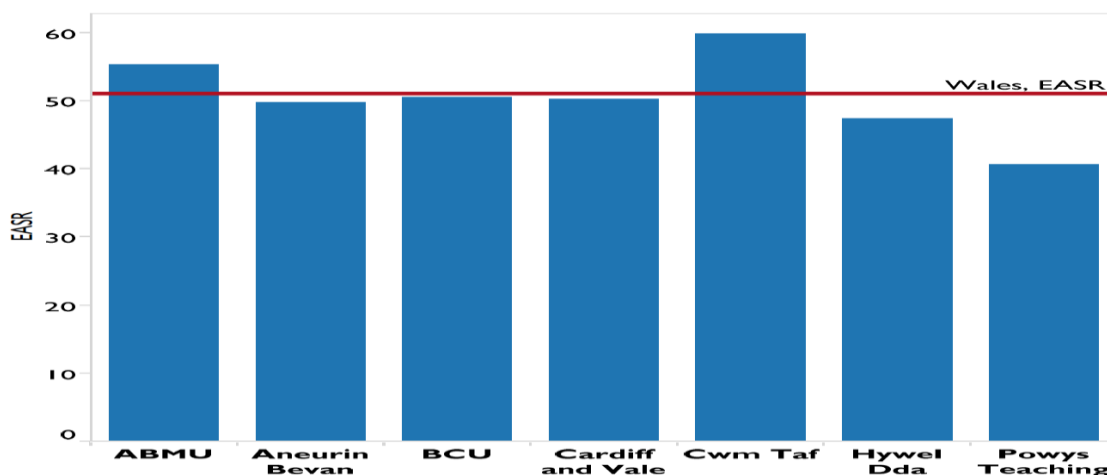
*(Source: Public Health Wales, 2016)*



\*ICD-10 code K70 (principal diagnosis)

**Figure 15: Hospital admissions due to alcoholic liver disease.**

*(Source: Public Health Wales, 2016)*



Welsh Government data indicates that drug misuse deaths in Wales rose from 113 to 168 between 2014 - 15 and those attributable to heroin/morphine increased from 44 – 85 in the same period, an increase of 93.2%. Cwm Taf is no exception and mirrors the Welsh level of gravity regarding drug misuse deaths with the highest EASR\* per 100,000 population for drug misuse deaths for all Welsh UHB areas in 2013 – 2014 and the second highest in 2015. The national average rate for drug misuse deaths in 2015 was 5.8 per 100,000 population with the Cwm Taf rate standing at 9.3 per 100,000 population. 2016 has also seen a relatively high number of drug misuse deaths in Cwm Taf although official figures are yet to be released. The data over the last two years indicates that the number of deaths as a result of substance misuse and addiction are high but not dissimilar year on year. The total economic and social cost of Class A drug use in Wales has been estimated to be around £780 million, and drug related crime accounts for 90 per cent of this.

*(\*European Age Standardised Rate)*

## **4.2 Cwm Taf Drug Poisoning Review**

There is an existing framework to review and consider the findings of drug related deaths with accountability and governance through the Area Planning Board. This process ensures that the learning and trends within Cwm Taf are understood and where appropriate agencies determine suitable interventions and changes in policy to respond to these matters together with operational responses to particular areas of concern. Alongside this a multiagency working group was established in late 2016 to develop a referral/review process to identify individuals deemed to be at high-risk of a drug related death, with a view to provide timely and co-ordinated support and intervention with a focus on reducing the likelihood of drug misuse deaths in Cwm Taf.

## **4.3 Offending linked to Drug Use**

### 4.3.1 Drug Related Offences

Drug offences in general are only recorded if an offender has been arrested and are a direct result of positive Police activity. Figure: 16 below shows all drugs offences recorded in Northern BCU. From a peak in 2013/14 there has been a reduction in offences through to 2016/17.

“Drug trafficking” offences have been at similar levels in sectors but “other offences drugs” show higher levels of activity in Rhondda and Taff. (See Figure: 17 below :)



Figure: 16 – Drug related offences 5yrs

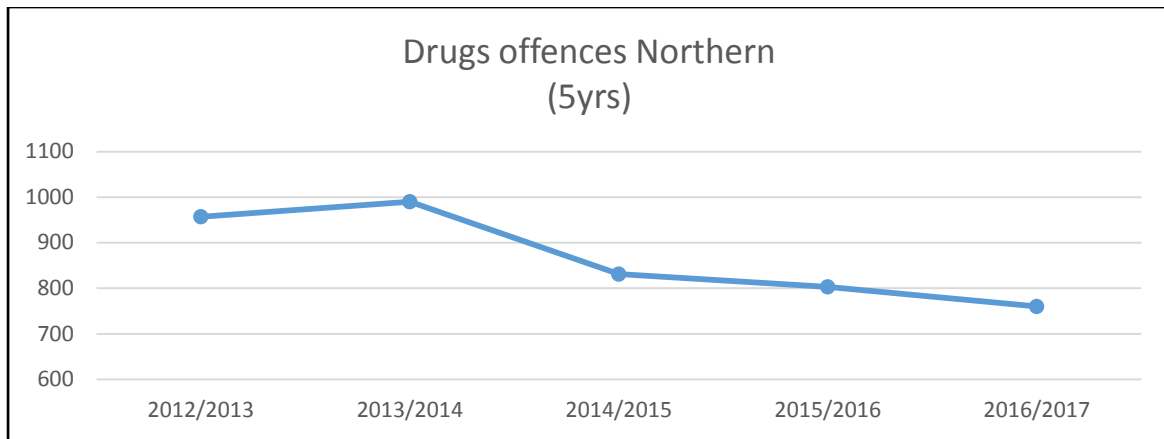
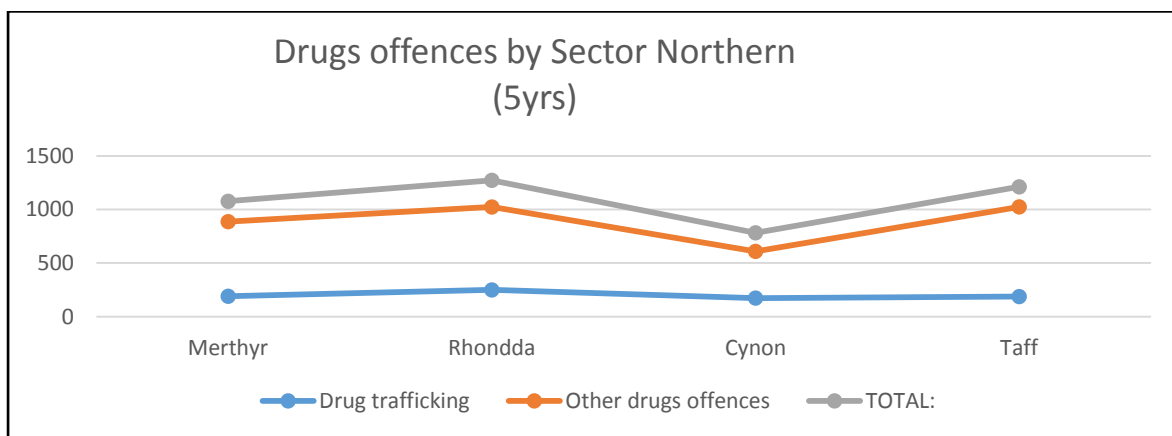
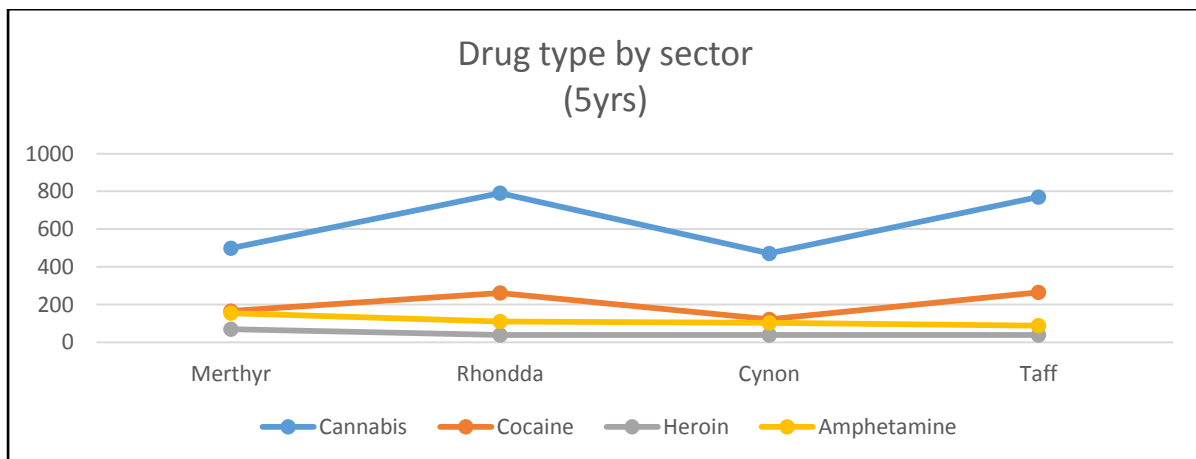


Figure: 17 - Drug offences by sector



Research shows that cannabis is the most recorded drug type, with the highest recorded activity in Rhondda and Taff. Rhondda and Taff also have the highest levels for cocaine and Merthyr recorded the highest instances of heroin. See Figure: 18 (below)

Figure: 18: - Drug type by sector



Intelligence suggests Class 'A' drugs, including cocaine and heroin, are readily available within the BCU and are being dealt at street level. The threat exists of the multi drug users being involved in 'near misses' or even death as a result of their habit. Gabapentinoids, prescription only anti-epileptics/analgesics, have been linked to overdose incidents involving opiate users. Fentanyl, a prescription only analgesic, is an extremely strong opiate and there are concerns as to the risk this drug poses to users.

Cocaine is readily available in the Rhondda and is generally the social drug of choice. Heroin is generally used by established users who are probably at the greatest risk of 'near misses' or death as a result of lifestyle and deteriorating health.

The Cwm Taf Substance Misuse Service review has made a considerable number of recommendations which will be taken forward by the PSB and will form the basis of recommendations under this Priority.

#### 4.3.2 The DYFODOL Programme

DYFODOL arrest Referral Workers are based in Merthyr Bridewell diverting people from offending behaviour to intervention services in relation to substance misuse and a variety of other trigger offences. In Cwm Taf 2016-17 2002 people were arrested and 927 were referred or signposted to Dyfodol services in relation to substance misuse interventions. 141 of the 927 were subject to a required assessment under Tough Choices a scheme that went live in quarter two.

#### **4.4 Serious and Organised Crime**

Cwm Taf serious and organised criminality is addressed and tackled via a multi agency partnership board which focuses on identified Organised Crime Gangs (OCG's) but also key thematic areas of concern.

There are currently 5 OCGs managed within Northern BCU (August 2017). There are 56 members currently linked to the locally identified OCGs, which range in size from the smallest group of 4 members to the largest group that has 20 associated members at present. The locally managed OCGs are predominantly made up of local individuals who are resident within the geographical locale of the BCU.

All five of the OCGs identified within Merthyr and Rhondda Cynon Taff relate to drugs supply of varying levels. Of these, four are also linked to other areas of criminality, including violence, money laundering and human trafficking.

Criminal assessments by the BCU indicate that all five of the OCGs identified and being managed are towards the lower end of the scale for criminality, intent and capability scores. Two can be considered as relatively high for intent and capability, whilst one can be considered as a mid-range level for criminality.

The BCU appreciates that this is not a completely true reflection of the current serious and organised crime threat within the BCU. Despite there being many more nominal working together to commit crime, they are not necessarily involved in serious and organised crime. There are a number of other individuals where the intelligence picture is sparse, but could suggest involvement in serious and organised crime. Work is ongoing to develop understanding of these groups in order to assess the threat they pose and determine the most effective means of disruption to prevent crime and promote better community safety.

There is no evidence to suggest any association between OCG groups within the BCU, Force area or other Forces. No street gangs or delinquent youth groups have been identified as having the potential to progress from low level anti-social behaviour (ASB) and crime to more serious organised crime; although, as mentioned below in the “County Lines” section, vulnerable youths make up a fertile recruitment ground for established organised crime and contribute a vital element of their business model. There are pockets of ASB in certain areas of the BCU and some youths get involved in crime from a very early age; these are managed at sector level and through ASB units. There has been intelligence of drug dealers using youths to run for them / deliver drugs on their behalf and the youths who are vulnerable / disengaged are likely to be the ones targeted and could be the first step on the road to a criminal career.

#### 4.4.1 County Lines

This is a national issue, posing a significant threat to all Police Forces and targets the most vulnerable members of society. It involves gangs from large urban areas (such as London, West Midlands or Merseyside), travelling to smaller locations such as South Wales to sell heroin and crack cocaine. The gangs function with a high degree of affiliation and loyalty, enforcing this through violence, fear and intimidation. This therefore is linked to crimes of drug supply and modern slavery. These gangs often challenge existing local dealers or other

county lines enterprises for territory (potential turf wars), which can lead to an escalation of violence.

Gang members or low level runners travel between the urban and county locations on a regular basis transporting drugs and cash. The gangs use local properties as a base for their activity, generally belonging to vulnerable people. This is often acquired by force or coercion and is referred to as 'cuckooing'.

The gangs exploit children into delivering drugs from the urban area to the county area using intimidation, violence, debt bondage and or grooming. The children used are often regular missing persons. Adult drug users, vulnerable females and those with learning difficulties / mental health are also exploited for the use of their properties or to assist with dealing within the county market.

County Lines gangs are significantly impacting on Western, Eastern and to a lesser extent Central BCU within the Force, with lines also running in Gwent and Dyfed Powys. County Lines methodology has recently emerged within the Merthyr area, originating from Merseyside based OCGs however this was quickly identified and disrupted. It is likely to be only a matter of time before increased County Lines incursions are active within the BCU. The high level of criminality associated with such groups and their focus on vulnerable individuals within the community means that they are a significant threat. Such gangs are likely to be attracted to the heroin and crack cocaine market within Merthyr in particular. The Serious and Organised Crime Partnership Board (SOCPB) has developed a control strategy to focus on prevention/disruption and enforcement linked to a strong partnership coordinated programme.

#### 4.4.2 Emerging Trends in Drug Supply

There has been an increased level of intelligence in relation to Synthetic Cannabinoid Receptor Agonists (SCRAs), commonly known as "SPICE" being available within the BCU. SPICE is a synthetic replacement for cannabis and one of the effects of smoking it is to become violently paranoid and users have been known to attack people around them; another affect is to turn the user into a zombie like state – This has often been described by the media. As this substance is synthetic, the chemical combinations found can vary and the effects on the user can also vary. The main reasons why people smoke SPICE are that it is cheap and strong. In Manchester the situation has been described as an epidemic ravaging the inner city centre where rough sleepers have replaced heroin, crack and even alcohol

with SPICE as the drug of choice. Intelligence suggests it is also widely used in prisons. SPICE is stronger than cannabis and may have adverse harm effects including mental health issues. Intelligence suggests it is widely available in the BCU community, with the Gurnos Estate in Merthyr a reported “hot-spot”.

There has been an increased level of intelligence in relation to Valium being available within the BCU. Also there have been local reports (although outside of the BCU) of Fentanyl use. Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid analgesic, similar to morphine, but 50-100 times more potent. There has been one death to date in Gwent in 2017. There have been a number of drug deaths within the local BCU recently and as the toxicology takes time and there is not routine screening for Fentanyl we are as yet unable to say whether this has impacted on the BCU.

#### **4.5 What the Public are telling us (COMPASS Survey 2017):**

- More people feel drug use or dealing drugs is a very or fairly big problem (34.1%, up from 32.2% - an increase of 5.9%). (The 2016 National Crime Survey for England and Wales figure for South Wales Police was 32.5%)
- Most people *feel* crime and antisocial behaviour has remained the same in the last 12 months.
  - Recorded crime is declining for violence and consistent for vehicle however both burglary and violence have seen an increase in Jan – March 2017.

#### **Priority A Recommendations**

The Substance Misuse commissioned review focused on multiple recommendations which are supported and endorsed by the PSB and key headline recommendations are:

- a) Take a more integrated approach to developing substance use services.
  - I. Consider those at greatest risk, in line with demographic changes as identified by population needs analysis, and services’ effectiveness
  - II. Have the flexibility to address changing trends in substance use
  - III. Address some key gaps in services such as for prevention and recovery
  - IV. Introduce joint commissioning and shared scrutiny of substance use services to develop one coherent service for the region

- V. Make positive multidisciplinary working an integral part of service design
  - VI. Encourage working closely with health, social and community services in a locality/ neighbourhood/ cluster
  - VII. Aim for the best possible outcomes for service users
  - VIII. Build on current good practice and provide an integrated early identification and intervention service for adults as well as children and young people
  - IX. Work with partners to identify how the needs of vulnerable and high risk groups people can be addressed as early as possible
  - X. Promote the use of brief online assessment tools for alcohol and drugs consumption on the Our Cwm Taf website
- b) Work in partnership with the Mental Health service to implement a delivery plan to ensure individuals with a co-occurring mental health and substance use problems receive effective treatment
  - c) Reduce the number of fatal and non fatal incidents in Cwm Taf
  - d) Involve service users and carers and develop a Service User Involvement Plan on the basis of their priorities and mapped against the different levels of participation.
  - e) Work with service users and the needle exchange service to ascertain a way forward to ameliorate 'needle litter'
  - f) Take a more community oriented approach to service provision including working with partners who can assist to support a recovery pathway, e.g., CVCs
  - g) Engage local politicians to raise awareness of substance use issues
  - h) Work with key partners to improved intelligence gathering in relation to known and emerging Organised Crime Gangs, their member's lifestyles, financial status and enforcement opportunities.

## 5. Priority B- Divert offenders and reduce re- offending

### 5.1 Adult Re-offending

A proven re offence is defined as “any offence committed in a one year follow-up period that leads to a court conviction, caution, reprimand or warning in the one year follow-up or within a further six month waiting period to allow the offence to be proven in court”. The table (Figure 19) below indicates the proven reoffending rates of adult offenders in Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taff during the period 2011-2015. The data shows that there has been an overall decrease in reoffending rates and in the volume of re offences committed by adult re-offenders across both areas since 2011.

*Figure 19: Proven Re-offending Rates (adult) Merthyr Tydfil and RCT 2011-15*

		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Merthyr Tydfil</b>	Proportion of offenders who reoffend (%)	33.1	27.7	26.6	30.7	30.8
	Average number of re-offences per re-offender	2.63	3.05	2.78	2.61	2.97
	Number of re-offences	616	643	518	576	596
	Number of re-offenders	234	211	186	221	201
	Number of offenders in cohort	706	761	700	721	653
	Average number of previous offences per offender	16.21	15.44	14.49	15.51	16.20
<b>Rhondda Cynon Taf</b>	Proportion of offenders who reoffend (%)	30.4	28.0	28.0	28.9	27.2
	Average number of re-offences per re-offender	2.84	2.81	2.76	2.92	2.71
	Number of re-offences	2,399	2,292	2,097	2,324	1,899
	Number of re-offenders	844	815	760	795	701
	Number of offenders in cohort	2,777	2,908	2,710	2,752	2,573
	Average number of previous offences per offender	13.88	13.18	13.73	14.81	14.80

Source: MoJ Proven Reoffending Statistics (July 2014-June 2015)

*(Note: Generally, offenders with a large number of previous offences have a higher rate of proven reoffending than those with fewer previous offences. Changes in reoffending rates across different areas and time periods may be impacted by differences in the risk profile of the cohort as well as in the interventions received. It is therefore important not to make direct comparisons between the reoffending rates across different geographical areas).*

To continue to reduce reoffending it is important to address the drivers/factors that contribute to offending behaviour and adapt interventions and practices to meet needs relating to

existing and emerging crime types. Offenders in prison and under the supervision of probation providers have risk factors and criminogenic traits that increase an individual's likelihood of committing another crime. These often relate to education/training/employability prospects, health (physical and mental), accommodation, drug/alcohol misuse, and maintaining healthy relationships with others. It is important that there is a collective focus on addressing these needs in order to reduce risk of reoffending/harm and reduce the number of future victims.

*Figure 20: Outcomes of Criminal Investigations*

	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
<b>Positive</b>	01: Charged/summonsed	4237	4384	3287
	02: Caution - youths	43	63	26
	03: Caution - adults	377	635	400
	04: Taken into consideration	147	112	157
	05: Offender died	11	14	10
	06: PND	233	365	276
	07: Cannabis/khat warning	92	126	104
	08: Community resolution	1056	267	129
<b>Other</b>	09: Not in public interest [CPS]	15	27	76
	10: Not in public interest [Police]	25	55	134
	11: Prosecution prevented [SUA]	75	64	56
	12: Prosecution prevented [S ill]	60	58	33
	13: Prosecution prevented [VW dead/ill]	3	3	2
	14: Evidential difficulties [S not identified]	401	334	204
	15: Evidential difficulties [VS]	3357	2580	1023
	16: Evidential difficulties [VDNS]	3039	2225	1625
	17: Prosecution time limit expired	7	19	14
	18: Investigation complete [NSI]	7627	7555	5808
	20: Further action by other agency [V Aware]	14	15	0
	21: Investigation not in public interest [Police]	68	0	0
	<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>20887</b>	<b>18901</b>

## 5.2 Integrated Offender Management

The Integrated Offender Management (IOM) process is designed to identify high volume acquisitive offending. Selection onto the IOM is through a Multi-Agency Selection Panel and the Police use a 'scoring matrix' within that process. Typically, high-volume acquisitive offending goes hand-in-hand with substance misuse making the majority of the Cohort addicts, although this does not detract from the fact that they may also be involved in other offence types.



*Figure 21: Details of IOM Cohort per month (2014-17)*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Number on Cohort</b>	<b>Of which Females</b>	<b>Merthyr/RCT</b>
May 2017	73	10 (14%)	35 / 38
April 2017	63	8 (13%)	25 / 38
March 2017	63	8 (13%)	25 / 38
February 2017	122	15 (12%)	50 / 72
January 2017	122	15 (12%)	50 / 72
December 2016	125	17 (14%)	52 / 73
November 2016	122	17 (14%)	50 / 72
October 2016	116	16 (14%)	44 / 72
September 2016	111	15(14%)	41 / 70
August 2016	108	15 (14%)	40 / 68
July 2016	105	13 (12%)	38 / 67
June 2016	109	12 (11%)	39 / 70
May 2016	109	11 (10%)	39 / 70
April 2016	111	11 (10%)	40 / 71
March 2016	113	9 (8%)	42 / 71
February 2016	110	8 (7%)	41 / 69
January 2016	110	8 (7%)	41 / 69
December 2015	113	9 (8%)	40 / 73
November 2015	119	9 (8%)	40 / 79
October 2015	119	10 (8%)	38 / 81
September 2015	121	10 (9%)	36 / 85
August 2015	123	11 (9%)	36 / 87
July 2015	122	11 (9%)	36 / 86
June 2015	122	10 (8%)	35 / 87
May 2015	123	11 (9%)	35 / 88
April 2015	119	10 (8%)	34 / 85
March 2015	110	8 (7%)	31 / 79
February 2015	108	8 (7%)	31 / 77
January 2015	106	8 (8%)	30 / 76
December 2014	133	14 (11%)	33 / 100

The large decrease from 133 to 106 between December 2014 and January 2015 was due to a Cohort review which was in accordance with the IOM Manual of Guidance. A further refresh took place again between February and March 2017 and is again signified by a large decrease in numbers. What does this tell us?

Figure 22 below gives a snapshot of re-offending for 2017, based on offence type, is as follows and is typical of any period :-

Primary Offence	Arrests/Offences	
	Jan- Mar 17	Apr- 27 <sup>th</sup> Jun 17
Theft	29	39
Breach of Court Orders (mainly CBO's)	8	18
Burglary	7	8
Assaults	10	5
Possession	3	6
Recall to Prison	4	6
Criminal Damage	5	5
Going Equipped	1	1
Public Order	6	0
Harassment	1	0
Warrant	0	0
Robbery	0	1
Handling / Receiving	0	1
PWITS	0	1
Arson	0	0
Threats to Kill	2	0
Offensive Weapon	0	1
Coercive Control	0	1
Vehicle Interference	1	0
Kidnap / False imprisonment	2	0
Indecent Exposure	1	0
Bomb Hoax	1	0
Malicious Communications	2	0
Driving Offences	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>93</b>

### 5.3 Cwm Taf Partnership initiatives to divert adult offenders

A key aspect of partnership working to reduce offending and reoffending centres on Early Intervention Project. A number of programmes have been delivered within Cwm Taf which are beginning to see early successes.

#### 5.3.1 DIVERT

Reducing offending and reoffending amongst the 18 – 25 year age groups is a key priority for the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner. There is a strong evidence base that nationally, 18-25 year olds are responsible for a disproportionate amount of overall crime.

The census of 2011 states that 11% of the Cwm Taf population were aged between 18-25 however, the Cwm Taf (Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr) data analysis of 2014 showed: *(All data below is for period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014)*

- A total of 18,096 crimes were recorded by South Wales Police across Cwm Taf (Northern Division) with a total of 5,789 (32%) classified as being detected (as at April 2015)
- There were 3,870 unique offenders associated with these crimes, 1,135 of these offenders were aged between 18 and 25. This equates to 29% of all offences 2014 were committed by the 18-25 age group
- Violence against the person accounted for 48% of offences in this age group. Theft (14%), Criminal damage (11%) and drug related offences (9%) were also prominent
- 72% of all 18-25 offenders were involved in just one offence in this time period and 81% of offenders were male
- Of the First Time Entrants, there were a total of 313 aged 18-25 with a total of 176 First Time Entrants aged 18-21. 64% of First Time Entrants were Male (18-25)
- 51 % of offences were Violence against the person (18-25)

In 2014, following funding from the PCC, the RCT Community Safety Team, developed and coordinated a new project to reduce offending and prevent reoffending in the 18-25 year old cohort within Cwm Taf. The pilot diversionary scheme in the Cwm Taf area initially concentrated on reducing the number of 18-21 year old first time entrants into the CJS with a view to expanding the criteria to the 18 – 25 year old cohort if warranted.

Key partners in the development and running of the project include South Wales Police, the Wales Community Rehabilitation Company, the National Probation Service and the Cwm Taf Youth Offending Service.

The original aims of the project were to:

- Reducing offending and preventing re-offending in the 18-25 age group
- Reduce offending and prevent re-offending in Cwm Taf

- Engage with service providers and partner agencies to effectively tackle offender's prevailing issues
- Reduce the number of First Time Entrants into the Criminal Justice System in this age group
- Free up resources for partner agencies to allow intensive case management of re-offenders
- Adopt an early intervention, problem solving approach for First Time Entrants (FTEs)

### Progress to date

The pilot DIVERT 18-25 project was launched in April 2016 with two DIVERT 18-25 Coordinator's in post and began to divert 18-21 year old first time entrants away from the Criminal Justice System, but soon expanded the eligibility criteria to 18-25 year olds.

The DIVERT 18-25 project offers eligible young adults (Aged 18-25, Resident of RCT or Merthyr, First Offence/Previous Caution, Low Level Offence (GMS 3 or below), Admission of Guilt, No previous referral to DIVERT 18-25) a voluntary referral to the scheme at the point of custody. As part of the project, each young adult undertakes a screening assessment to ensure that they are suitable for diversion, they are offered onward referrals to appropriate support services and attend a compulsory workshop aimed to educate the young adults about the consequences of crime and a criminal record, addressing consequences of crime, consequential thinking, victim empathy, emotion management and drug and alcohol awareness. For those young adults who were under the influence of alcohol and had an element of violence within their offence, they also attend an alcohol and aggression workshop. Successful completion of the project leads to the individual receiving an 'Out of Court Disposal' for their crime, rather than a criminal record.

Since the project was launched in March 2017, 153 young adults have been accepted onto the project at the point of assessment. 7 young adults have disengaged resulting in a 95% engagement rate. Analysis shows that for those participants who have completed the workshop and received a diversionary 'Out of Court Disposal', there has been a 96% non reoffending rate (measured at 12 months following completion of the intervention).

- 104 individuals have been eligible for a 6 month check. 4 have re-offended resulting in a 96% non re-offending rate

- 56 individuals have been eligible for a 12 month check. 2 have re-offended resulting in a 96% non re-offending rate.

In January 2017, the project was expanded to include an additional scheme called SUPPORT 18-25, which offers a needs assessment and onward referral to appropriate support services for ALL 18-25 year old offenders processed through Merthyr Bridewell who feel that they need some support with an element of their life e.g. mental health, drug and alcohol, housing, benefits, employment, education etc. In providing this service, the DIVERT 18-25 team aim to enable these individuals to access appropriate support services and thereby reduce the number of criminogenic risk factors in their lives and in turn their likelihood of offending. To date 36 young adults have accessed SUPPORT 18-25 and received support.

Since 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 the DIVERT 18-25 Project Coordinator's have been visiting young adults whilst they have been in police custody. 24 of the 36 young adults have received support since 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 and there has been a 100% engagement rate.

### 5.3.2 Wales Integrated Serious and Dangerous Offender Management (WISDOM) Project.

WISDOM is an all Wales IOM Cymru Project jointly led by the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) in Wales and Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) in Wales. Cwm Taf (Northern BCU) is the first operational pilot site in Wales.

The overall purpose of WISDOM is to better protect the public, achieved by enhancing public protection arrangements to optimise collaboration in the identification, assessment and day to day management of offenders who pose (multi-agency defined) high risk, threat and harm.

The types of offenders who will fall within the WISDOM definition of "high risk- threat and harm" include:

- High Risk Sexual and violent offenders
- High Risk domestic abuse perpetrators
- Serious and organised crime nominals
- High risk foreign nationals
- Other high risk priority groups

These cohorts / individuals will be 'in scope' of WISDOM irrespective of their criminal justice status (including un-convicted nominals and non-statutory cases.)

WISDOM will manage this prioritised cohort of offenders who are identified as high risk, threat or harm to the public and/or known victims and will be innovative in providing:

- Co-located offender management units with staff from HMPPS in Wales (including National Probation Service, Prisons, Forensic Psychology services) Wales Community Rehabilitation Company, and Substance Misuse providers among others;
- Core involvement of forensic psychology and personality disorder (health) services including case formulations (enhanced risk management plans), direct offender interventions, building Police and partnership capability through advice, clinical supervision and training;
- Bespoke packages of interventions for high risk offenders;
- Bespoke packages of monitoring / deterrence mechanisms including technologies such as GPS tagging, electronic alcohol monitoring, crime mapping analysis and polygraph testing;
- Daily, dynamic intelligence exchange and joined up risk formulation / delivery of risk management plans, aligned with existing statutory arrangements (e.g. multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference and Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs)

Early mobilisation of the Cwm Taf pilot commenced in April 2016; where an initial cohort of 31 was selected. This initial cohort was selected based upon the professional judgement of the Project team and has recently been refreshed through the implementation of the MAPPA Screening and selection panel process. The cohort number remains the same but some of the participants have been revised as the selection and operational processes have embedded.

The team work with both custody and community cases with forty three percent of the cohort currently in custody. The current composition of the cohort is as follows: 54% Domestic Abuse, 30% Serious Violence and 16% Sexual Offenders.

### 5.3.3 Women's Pathfinder

In 2013, the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) in Wales funded the establishment of the IOM Cymru Women's Pathfinder Project. The aim of the Pathfinder is to 'design and deliver a women-specific, whole system, integrated approach to managing women who come into contact with the Criminal Justice System (CJS) in Wales'. The main objective of the Diversionary Scheme is the diversion of women out of the CJS and into

community interventions which would help them to address their problems. Women receive 'Community Resolution' once the initial assessment has been completed.

The Cwm Taf Diversionary scheme was launched in February 2016 and works with many partners to deliver the service, including Safer Merthyr Tydfil, Oasis Centre, TEDS, Drug Aid, Gofal, Merthyr Valleys Homes, RCT Homes, Citizens Advice Bureau, Housing Options Merthyr Tydfil, MAASH and Social Services.

To date the programme has received 299 referrals, with 289 successfully accepted onto the scheme. Women who failed to attend/engage with the assessment were referred back to the arresting officer. Women accessing the scheme were aged between 18 years and 56 years. The most frequently represented age group were aged between 25 - 35 years (37%) and 18-24 years (27%). This age group represented 37% of all women accessing the scheme. The two most common offence categories were Violence and Public Order.

Since its launch in February 2016, the Diversionary scheme has had a high engagement from the women; over two thirds of the women assessed had identifiable needs at assessment. Approximately fifth of assessments have identified high number of needs which required urgent safeguarding; the team attending social services meetings and requesting welfare checks. The most frequently recorded needs during assessment are accommodation, finance, benefit and debt and attitudes, thinking and behaviour. Over a quarter of the women assessed had disclosed that they have experienced current or previous domestic abuse and or sexual violence. Over 50% of women diverted were unemployed including home maker, long term sick and full time carer. A small number of women have since gained employment through support from the Safer Wales Diversionary Scheme team and key partner agencies.

To date (2017) over 90% of women have engaged with the scheme, gaining access to support that, in many cases, had not previously been accessed and many have made progress in addressing their criminogenic needs. 200 women have exited the scheme, with 184 women have successfully completed the scheme; 16 women have failed to positively engage with the scheme.

*'Good job I had the opportunity to access Pathfinder, by having someone to talk to and not judge me, really helped me move on from a difficult time in my life. It should be more widely known to others as it helped me access the support I needed when I needed it' - Anna*

#### 5.3.4 DRIVE

The DRIVE initiative is a perpetrator management pilot designed to improve the safety of female victims of domestic and sexual violence. It was initiated through three police force areas, South Wales, West Sussex and Essex. With a specific focus on the research and evaluation, outcomes of the referred cases are monitored and aligned to coordinated action around perpetrators to provide the best possible chance of changing behaviour. Success has been seen in parts of South Wales already through working with GPs and our partner agencies, including local authorities, our local health boards, Public Health Wales the Fire Service and third sector organisations. A key aim is to encourage prevention, identify victims sooner and intervene practically through a victim centred approach. Where individuals choose not to engage, robust multi agency responses have been developed, including child protection and criminal justice where appropriate. All DRIVE interventions have the primary aim of reducing risk and increasing victim safety, through:

*Support: to address the needs of the perpetrator with the aim of removing barriers to the change process and reduce risk.*

*Disruption: to put barriers and obstacles in place to prevent abuse from taking place.*

*Behaviour Change: focused and specific interventions which aim to explicitly address the perpetrators attitudes and behaviour in relation to domestic abuse.*

198 cases were referred to DRIVE across the three Police regions, with the highest level of direct contact and engagement with perpetrators taking place in Cwm Taf, South Wales. The ongoing support for those engaging saw 6 perpetrators being supported through the Domestic Violence perpetrators programme as part of their case exit strategy. Tackling employment and housing issues all formed part of a suite of interventions to stabilise the lives of the perpetrators and change behaviour. The programme continues for a further two years with the anticipated cohort of perpetrators increasing to 600 by the end of year 2.

Other new initiatives that will build on the progress made on this project include the 'Ask Me' scheme through which up to 30 'community ambassadors' will be trained to identify the signs of abuse and to provide safe spaces within communities where women can report it.



## 5.4 Youth Offending Service

*Figure 23* below shows the data for Cwm Taff Youth Offending Service and include both RCT and Merthyr areas combined. The information has not been retained individually and the data has only been recorded since April 2015.

	YRD	Caution	YCC	Court	Total	M / F
Apr 15 – Jun 15	31	6	3	3	43	36 / 7
Jul 15 – Sep 15	45	11	2	3	61	49 / 12
Oct 15 – Dec 15	33	3	3	0	39	34 / 5
Jan 16 – Mar 16	21	7	1	3	32	27 / 5
Apr 16 – Jun 16	43	9	0	3	55	40 / 15
Jul 16 – Sep 16	43	10	1	0	54	39 / 15
Oct 16 – Dec 16	41	4	1	2	48	29 / 12
Jan 17 – Mar 17	54	8	2	1	65	52 / 13
Mar 17 – Jun 17	33	5	1	1	40	27 / 13

### Gender

Out of the above figures 97 offences were committed by female. 22%

340 offences were committed by male. 78%

Cwm Taf Youth Offending service focuses on three distinct areas in terms of performance and in line with performance indicators established and reported to the Youth Justice Board. These areas are First Time Entrants, Use of Custody and Re-offending.

#### 5.4.1. First Time Entrants (FTE)

The Youth Offending Service, in conjunction with partner agencies, continues to have a positive impact upon the reduction of first time entrants into the criminal justice system. Early intervention and prevention remains a priority for the service in order to maintain and attempt to further reduce the already significant reduction made over the years.

The following information (Figure 24) has been taken from the YOS database for the last four years and has been compiled from July-June as it represents the most up-to-date information.

	<b>Number of FTE's</b>	<b>Rate per 100,000</b>
<b>Jul 2015 – Jun 2016</b>	88	334
<b>Jul 2014 – Jun 2015</b>	60	224
<b>Jul 2013 – Jun 2014</b>	81	300
<b>Jul 2012 – Jun 2013</b>	94	344

The most contemporarily available annual information shows a reduction of 29.4% FTEs for the period April 2016 – March 2017 in comparison to the number of FTEs for the same period in the year before (April 2015 – March 2016). This relates to 226 young people per 100,000 in comparison to 323 for the previous year. (This represents better performance than Wales with an average of 267 per 100,000.)

#### 5.4.2 Use of Custody

There were a total of 7 custodial episodes in 2016/17 which compared to a figure of 8 in the previous year. Over the years, numbers of young people within the secure estate has reduced significantly and the small numbers within this cohort means that a small increase can represent a disproportionate % increase and subsequent decline in performance and vice versa. The YOS investment in early intervention has contributed to a reduction in custodial episodes in the longer term. The YOS also offers credible alternatives to custody for young people who present at risk before the Courts.

#### 5.4.3 YOS Re-Offending Rates

Re-offending rates are only recorded following a Statutory Disposal. Therefore a youth can come through the bureau a number of times but unless they receive a Youth Caution or above they will not be included in the figures. This will give a largely distorted view of the good work that YOS are doing as a large proportion of youths coming through the bureau process do not re-offend but this data is not captured and not taken into consideration when calculating the re-offending figure.

The below data has been retrieved from the YOS database.

Re offending figures are calculated 2 years after the sentence to allow any interventions or programmes to be successfully completed. So therefore if the sentence took place in 2013 the re-offending figures will not be counted until 2015.

The re-offending rate for 2014 (calculated in 2016) was 47.2%.

The re-offending rate for 2013 (calculated in 2015) was 48%

The re-offending rate for 2012 (calculated in 2014) was 36.3%

Re-offending data and performance is not contemporary due to the need to track a cohort of young people over a defined period of time (2 years). The most recent data (Oct 2014 – Sept 2015) shows that out of a cohort of 131, 66 young people went on to re-offend ((50%) and committed a total of 204 offences. In comparison for the previous year out of a cohort of 144 young people, 68 went on to re-offend and committed 235 offences. Even though the numbers of young people re-offending and the numbers of re-offences has reduced in the comparative years, the numbers of young people re-offending has not fallen by the same proportion as the numbers in the cohort.

As above, the continued decrease in FTEs will continue to have a longer term knock on effect and impact upon re-offending rates and in many ways these two measures have a direct inter-relationship.

The YOS has recently invested in and commenced with the Enhanced Case Management model and it is anticipated that this will have a longer term impact on re-offending. The YOS management board has also recently merged with the Integrated Offender Management board.

The YOS will continue to focus upon early intervention and prevention in order to reduce the numbers of young people entering the Criminal justice system. This in turn aims to have an impact upon use of custody and re-offending. Part of this early intervention approach uses Youth Engagement Projects to deal with issues in the Community through Street Disposals.

#### 5.4.4 Street Disposal Data

The following data has been gathered by the analyst in relation to street disposals for persons under the age of 18 within Cwm Taf. The following shows the gender split of these individuals. (If someone has been linked 10 times they are counted 10 times). YOS collate the data and arrange for the Prevention Team to visit the young person with a view to preventing further offending.

#### Rates of Community Resolution (Figure 25)

Quarter	Female	Male	Total
Jan - Mar 16	10	12	22
Apr - Jun 16	24	44	68
Jul - Sep 16	21	54	75
Oct - Dec 16	17	81	98
Apr - Jun 17	15	50	65
Jan - Mar 17	40	63	103
<b>Total</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>431</b>

#### Gender

Out of the above figures 97 offences were committed by female. 29%

340 offences were committed by male. 71%

The vast majority of early intervention and preventative activity within the YOS is externally grant funded via Welsh Government and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. In the event of this funding being reduced or ceasing, there is a risk that the non statutory preventative interventions would cease or be significantly reduced and adversely impact upon re-offending rates.

#### **Priority B Recommendations**

- a) Review the WISDOM programme to better understand the complex needs of clients and strengthen the programme to ensure, in partnership with Health Services, the interventions delivered are appropriate and effective.
- b) Consider the outcomes of the PCC evaluation of the DIVERT Programme and any recommendations relating to Cwm Taf.

- c) To continue to deliver the Youth Offending Service Delivery Plan and monitor outcomes to ensure offending and re-offending rates continue to reduce.
- d) Continue to work in partnership through the Youth Engagement Projects to facilitate early intervention and prevention of youth offending and focus on restorative approaches.

## **6. Priority C - Tackle Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence**

### **6.1 Evidence of Need in Cwm Taf**

The Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 ('The Act') places a strategic, and statutory, focus on the above issues, including the requirement to have a National Strategy. The Cwm Taf Population Assessment [LINK] has informed the Cwm Taf strategic response to the pursuit of the prevention of violence and abuse, the protection of victims and the support of all those affected.

#### **Headlines**

- There are a high volume of incidents of violence reported to SW Police, despite this volume we are aware that many incidents go unreported, therefore we are dealing with a small proportion of actual abuse.
- The number of people accessing support services is a small proportion of those affected by abuse.
- There is limited support available to low and medium risk victims, this equates to significant unmet need.
- Approximately half of high risk cases referred to local IDVA teams do not engage with the support services.
- Support services across Cwm Taf are not consistent in the way they are provided, or the type of intervention provided.
- Children were present in a high proportion of the household receiving support.
- A high number of the individuals provided with housing related support were living in either the social or private rented sectors.
- A high proportion of victims provided with emergency accommodation within refuges are from outside Cwm Taf.
- Where the provider declined to provide emergency accommodation, the main reasons were due to chaotic substance misuse or mental health.
- There is very little direct support provided to children to combat the impact of domestic abuse or sexual violence within their home environment.
- The majority of cases brought to the specialist domestic violence courts result in a positive outcome.
- A relatively high number of cases per 10,000 population are referred to MARAC in Cwm Taf.

- BME, LGBT and disabled victims are not being identified through the MARAC process.
- The only provider of services to victims of sexual violence within Cwm Taf is New Pathways.
- The majority of Violence against Women expenditure by service providers is on support provision.
- Currently there are limited opportunities for service users to be involved in the design and delivery of services.

Across Cwm Taf progress has been made in adopting alternative and innovative models of provision that address more directly early intervention and prevention. These models include the Safe Project, IRIS project, the DRIVE perpetrators programme and the Spectrum education programme.

## **6.2 National Training Framework and Ask and Act**

The National Training Framework (NTF) on violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence was published on 17 March 2016 and came into force on 1 April 2016. The NTF Statutory Guidance outlines a series of different requirements for training across the public service and specialist third sector depending on job role.

The NTF is aimed at all Public Service Professionals in Wales, particularly those involved in learning and development, those working in the field of Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) and Public Service Leaders.

A significant element of the NTF is the development of “Ask and Act”, a process of targeted enquiry across the Public Service for domestic abuse, gender-based violence including violence against women and sexual violence. Implementation of “Ask and Act” will provide pro-active engagement with those who are vulnerable and hidden, at the earliest opportunity, rather than reactively engaging with those who are in crisis or at imminent risk of serious harm.

The early adoption project of “Ask and Act” came to an end in March and a second phase of implementation will be rolled out in Cwm Taf, Welsh Ambulance Service Trust and the three Fire and Rescue Authorities during 2017-18.

### **6.3 Perpetrators**

A key objective of the new National Strategy is an increased focus on holding perpetrators to account and providing opportunities to change their behaviour based around victim safety.

Currently almost all interventions aimed at VAWDASV perpetrators are male perpetrators of intimate partner violence who have female partners. These are not suitable for all VAWDASV perpetrator and offence types. Furthermore, there is limited provision available across Wales and many projects are in their infancy in terms of evidence and availability. Services are not routinely compliant with relevant accreditation processes and there is no consistent approach to meeting minimum standards of practice.

Work with perpetrators remains a new and emerging area of practice where the evidence base is still developing. Whilst some significant research has been published, it is clear that gaps remain and further research to establish 'what works' is necessary. This will include consideration to developing prevention and early intervention services for perpetrators.

### **6.4 Survivor Engagement Framework**

The National Strategy on Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence 2016 - 2021 contains a Welsh Government commitment to develop a sustainable national survivor engagement framework to ensure that the needs and experiences of survivors of these issues are understood and inform the continued development and delivery of legislation, policy and strategy related to Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.

### **6.5 Service Performance**

Unfortunately in respect of VAWDASV there are no robust datasets available nationally, therefore the Cwm Taf needs analysis has to be based only on what is available locally. Additionally there is no common performance framework that all services contribute to.

#### **6.5.1 South Wales Police**

The data presented in Fig 28 has been provided by South Wales Police. The data covers the period April 2016 to August 2016 and identifies the amount of incidences that were reported in relation to each category of offence. From the data it can be determined that there were



1799 reported incidents of violence against women in Cwm Taf during this 5 month time frame.

*Figure 26 – SW Police (period April 2016 to August 2016)*

	<b>Category</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	All domestic abuse with injury	419
2	All domestic abuse without injury	663
3	All violence against women	1799
4	Serious sexual offences	184
5	Female Genital Mutilation	0
6	Honour Based Violence	1
7	Forced Marriage	0

### 6.5.2 Oasis Centre – IDVA Service

The Oasis Centre is the home of the RCT Independent Domestic Violence Advocate Service. Until recently the service was only available to those identified as high risk through the SafeLives risk assessment process. This fact explains why only 1008 individuals out of the 4081 Police Protection Notices (PPN's) received were eligible for the provision. Some additional capacity within the team now means support can be provided to some individuals with standard to medium risk needs. The development of pathway with Women's Aid RCT has enabled those victims identified as standard or medium risk to receive early contact and support.

From the figures it can be ascertain that roughly 50% of those eligible for the service engaged with the service.

*Figure 27 – Oasis Centre (period April 2015 to March 2016)*

Police Protection Notice	4081
High Risk	1008
Referrals	197
Non consent numbers	601
Non contactable	20
Refusals	442
Engaged	546

### 6.5.3 Teulu Multi Agency Centre – IDVA & Support Workers

Whilst the Teulu Multi Agency Centre is the home of the Merthyr IDVA service, it differs from the Oasis Centre in so far that it offers a service to everyone irrespective of the level of risk.

Attempts are made to contact everyone who is referred or the centre receives a PPN for. A key concern for Safer Merthyr Tydfil who runs the service is the impact that domestic abuse has on children. The 208 individuals who engaged with the service had between them 557 children.

*Figure 28 – Teulu MAC (period April 2015 to March 2016)*

Police Protection Notice	1526
Referrals	170
Non consent numbers	116
Non contactable	453
Refusals	919
Engaged	208
Children present	557

#### 6.5.4 Supporting People – Merthyr Tydfil

The Supporting People Programme across Cwm Taf commissions a number of support and accommodation based services for those who are or who have experienced domestic abuse. These service help improve mental health, resilience and well being by providing vulnerable people with better access to services and helps people achieve genuine independence, choice and control over their lives by providing support to help people live more independently. The figures below represent the numbers who presented to Merthyr Tydfil supporting peoples team with a lead need of domestic abuse.

*Figure 29 – Supporting People – Merthyr Tydfil (period April 2015 to March 2016)*

<b>Domestic Abuse</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
Housing Association	19		19
Hostel	3		3
Not Known	1		1
NFA	1		1
Private Rent	9	1	10
With Family & Friends	1	1	2
With relatives	1		1
<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>94</b>

### 6.5.5 Supporting People – Rhondda Cynon Taf

Supporting People funded services in RCT offer a range of services including emotional and therapeutic based projects and housing related support for individuals who are or who have experienced domestic abuse.

*Figure 30 - Supporting People – Rhondda Cynon Taf (period April 2015 to March 2016)*

<b>Domestic Abuse</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
Housing Association	32	2	34
Owner Occupiers	8	0	8
Hostel	9	0	9
Not Known	6	0	6
Private Rent	22	2	24
With Family & Friends	8	0	8
Care leavers	2	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>91</b>

From Table IV and V it is clear that the largest group of individuals requiring housing related supported are within the rented accommodation sector, with a social or private landlord.

### 6.5.6 Women's Aid RCT

Women's Aid provides a number of different domestic abuse services within RCT including the safe programme and tenancy support, however the information below relates only to their refuge provision. The tables below demonstrate that the majority of individuals accommodated in RCT refuges are not from RCT and individuals are declined a place in refuge primarily due to chaotic mental health or substance misuse.

*Figure 31 – Women's Aid RCT (period April 2015 to March 2016)*

<b>Numbers Referred / Accommodated from RCT and Areas Other Than RCT</b>			
RCT	84	59	36% of all were referrals from RCT we accommodated 70%
Other Authorities – Wales	129	80	55% of all referrals were from other LA's in Wales we accommodated 62%
Authorities - England	20	16	8% of all referrals were from LA's in England we accommodated 80%
<b>Total</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>155</b>	

Figure 32 – Women’s Aid RCT (period April 2015 to March 2016)

<b>Numbers Referred Accommodated / Unable to Accommodate - Presenting with Additional Support Needs</b>			
	Mental Health Support	Drug & Alcohol Support	
Accommodated	97 (62%)	72 (46%)	Unable to accommodate 15% of the total referrals during 2015 -2016, of those declined 50% were due to the high level of either mental health or drug and alcohol support needs.
Unable to Accommodate	7 (19%)	11 (30%)	

The data below has also been provided by Women’s Aid and again indicates that the women that are known to services generally have children, and that these children also require support.

Figure 33 – Women’s Aid RCT- Children & Young People (period April 2015 to March 2016)

Number of child protection referrals	23
Number of CYP supported in refuge	128
Number of CYP supported in Community	27

#### 6.5.7 Children’s Services – Rhondda Cynon Taf

The data provided by RCT Children’s services appears to be indicating that only a small proportion of the children known to domestic abuse services are escalated to the statutory sector.

Figure 34 – Domestic Violence Contacts, Referrals & Assessments (period April 2015 to March 2016)

	Female	Male	Not recorded	Unknown	Total
Domestic Violence Contacts	611	655	5	1	1272
Domestic Violence Referrals	31	24	-	-	55
Assessments linked to Domestic Violence Contacts	23	28	-	-	51

### 6.5.8 Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)

The Community Rehabilitation Company works with low and medium level offenders therefore the table below confirms that in respect of violence against women the organisation works primarily with perpetrators and these are predominantly males.

*Figure 35 – CRC Low & Medium Risk Offenders (period April 2015 to March 2016)*

Victims		Perpetrators	
Female	Male	Female	Male
22	2	23	289

### 6.5.9 Specialist Domestic Violence Courts

Within VAWDASV service provision it is acknowledged that many victims do not want to pursue a conviction in the court for many and varied reasons. However what the data shows that if a conviction is pursued then there is an 86% success rate.

*Figure 36 – Court Outcomes- April 2015 to March 2016.*

	Total Outcomes	Successful Outcomes
Merthyr	305	263
Rhondda Cynon Taf	650	554
	955	817

Domestic Violence cases represent a significant proportion of the cases taken to Court in Cwm Taf, and Merthyr Court Circuit report one of the highest proportions of “guilty” pleas at first hearing, avoiding the need for a full trial and witness attendance. However, of those which result in a “not guilty” plea and are listed for trial, using June 2017 as a reference month, 61% of the trials listed for a full hearing did not proceed as a result of the prosecution not proceeding with the case or the defendant changing their plea to “guilty” in advance of the trial. In the same month, only 36% of trials proceeded as scheduled.

The impact of this level of failure rate on witnesses and the associated costs to the public purse are significant. Improvements in performance in the preparation and decision making associated with the Criminal Justice System for Domestic Violence cases will improve the Court experience for witnesses and the outcomes for victims.

### 6.5.10 Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

MARAC data is collected and collated by the Safe Lives organisation and compares Cwm Taf data to a national average and a similar police force area. Fig 39 appears to demonstrate that the BME, LGBT and disability groups within Cwm Taf are not as engaged in the MARAC process as perhaps they should be.

*Figure 37 – MARAC Data (period April 2015 to March 2016)*

Indicator	National	Most Similar Force Group	Merthyr	RCT
Cases discussed	81,764	18,509	180	527
Cases per 10,000 population	33	43	73	54
Children in household	103,404	24,072	248	618
Repeat cases	25%	31%	14%	14%
BME	15%	10%	4%	1%
LGBT	1%	1%	0%	0.4%
Disability	3.9%	3.6%	0.6%	0%

### 6.5.11 New Pathways

New Pathways is the sole provider of rape crisis and sexual abuse support services in Cwm Taf. During the April 2015 to March 2016 period the total number of clients accessing this service was 517

*Figure 38 - New Pathways (period April 2015- March 2016)*

SARC clients 'In Service'		Adults			Children		
		Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
<b>Totals</b>		155	35	190	103	23	126
Referred by Police		113	24	137	82	15	97
Self Referral		21	7	28	2	1	3
Other referral source		21	4	25	19	7	26
Police Involvement		114	25	139	83	13	96
<b>Referral reason</b>							
CSA		11	2	13	18	3	21
Grooming		n/a	n/a	n/a	3	2	5
Rape		98	14	112	48	5	53
Sexual Assault		34	13	47	22	8	30
Other		14	5	19	12	4	16
Not recorded		0	0	0	0	0	0

Table XIV - counselling clients 'In Service'	Adults			Children		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
<i>Totals</i>	165	36	201	53	23	76
Referred by Police	2	0	2	5	1	6
Self Referral	51	13	64	2	1	3
Other referral source	112	23	135	46	21	67
<i>Referral reason</i>						
Historic sexual (adults only)	165	36	201			
CSA	n/a	n/a	n/a	28	6	34
Grooming	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	0	1
Rape	n/a	n/a	n/a	9	2	11
Sexual Assault	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	3	8
Non-sexual	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	8	11
Other	n/a	n/a	n/a	7	4	11

### Priority C Recommendations

The agreed aims of the Cwm Taf VAWSVDA Strategy are:

- Aim 1: Increase awareness of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence across the Cwm Taf Population
- Aim 2: Enhance education provision in relation to healthy relationships and gender equality
- Aim 3: Hold perpetrators to account for their actions and support them to change their behaviour
- Aim 4: Enable professionals to provide effective, timely and appropriate responses to victims and survivors
- Aim 5: Increase the number of specialist services that are of high quality across the Cwm Taf region
- Aim 6: Strengthen collaborative working across the sector to understand and meet the needs of our communities, increasing the sustainability and capacity of the sector.

Further recommendations arising from the Needs Assessment are:

- a)** Improve the preparation of and decision making process associated with Criminal Prosecutions of Domestic Violence cases to improve the timely achievement of outcomes for victims, Court efficiency and a reduction in costs.
- b)** Improve information sharing between partners about victims of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence in defined household types to improve understanding of their complex needs and their confidence in the Criminal Justice System.



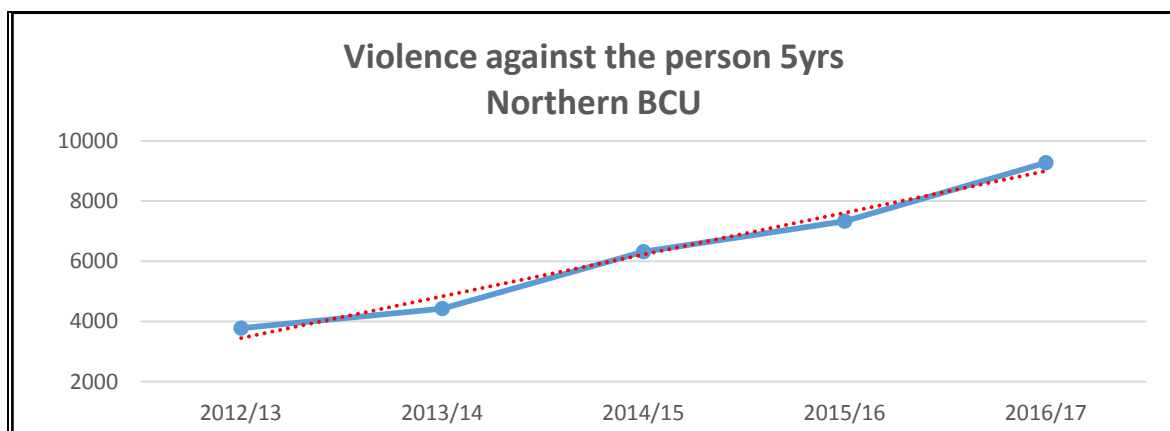
## Priority D - Promote Safe and Confident Communities

### 7.1 Managing the Night Time Economy

The night time economy concerns the economic activity occurring between the hours of 6pm to 6am. This encompasses a range of activities from restaurants and establishments serving food, the on and off trade sale of alcohol, music venues and clubs with dancing and entertainment, cinemas and other leisure activities. The night time economies are a valuable asset to Cwm Taf. They create jobs, revenue and provide opportunities for people to socialise. However, evidence at international, national and regional levels has demonstrated that the growth of the night time economy has been associated with increasing levels of anti-social behaviour, criminal activity and substance misuse. The night time economy can be a complex policy area to tackle, involving a broad range of agencies and stakeholders who need to work collectively to ensure a safe and enjoyable night time economy experience. This includes developing and maintaining an environment which is attractive and sustainable for all ages and developing targeted, intelligence led prevention strategies in order to move away from a culture of substance misuse and harm.

The night time economy historically has generally been focused in and around the Town areas of Pontypridd, Aberdare and Merthyr and is generally spread in the Rhondda between Pentre, Porth and Tonypany. It is known that a key concern associated with the night time economy is the associated misuse of substances, in particular alcohol, and incidence of violent crime. Violence against the person since 2012/13 has seen an increase of 5,495 offences (145%), over the last 5 years for each sector.

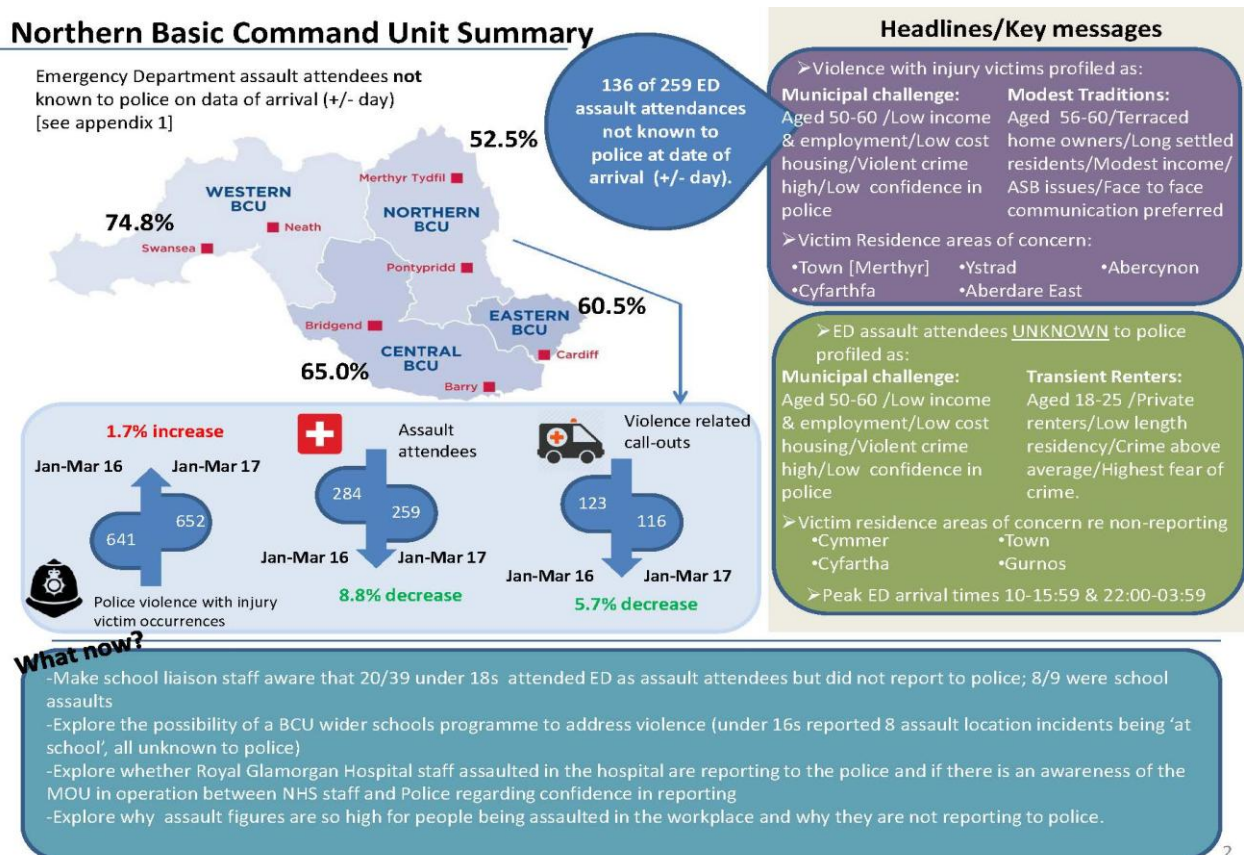
*Figure 39 - Violence 5 years*



The sector breakdown of Violence Against the Person offences show that the Rhondda (9,579) **31%** and Taff (8,242) **26%** had highest levels, whilst Cynon (6,691) **22%** and Merthyr (6,618) **21%** had the least. Within the overarching Violence Against the Person category is **Violence with injury** which includes the more serious offences. Data is only available from 2013/14 to 2016/17 (4yrs) which showed over 10,366 offences (of which **36%** were domestic related). Cwm Taf has no significant problem with knife crime and has one of the lowest levels in South Wales, with incident levels only half the upper incidence seen in Cardiff, which is itself regarded nationally as having lower levels of knife crime than other areas. We are fully aware and mindful of the problems being experienced in other parts of the United Kingdom therefore it is vitally important we keep an eye on proceedings in other areas of the UK, and ensure we are proactive in preventing knife crime becoming an issue.

It is of note that the focus in recent years has been placed on victims and increased reporting which is likely to have influenced the increases over the period reviewed.

Figure 40: Public Health Wales Cwm Taf Violent Crime Overview



The **'Managing the Night Time Economy in Wales'** Framework (July 2016) has been developed by Welsh Government in partnership with Public Health Wales and key

stakeholders. The development of the Framework considered the social determinants of health and well-being, consideration of any vulnerable groups who would be affected by the Night Time Economy Framework, as well as the general population as a whole. It also considered the impacts of the night time economy on those key stakeholders who would be affected by, have an interest in, or are required to manage the night time economy. Using ambitions laid out in the ***Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015)***, the framework has shifted from a reactive focus, to a proactive and preventive approach to support prosperous and safe night time economies in Wales. The Cwm Taf Partnership, through the Area Planning Board, is working to implement the Framework through a local action plan. Specifically, the Objectives of the Framework are:

*Objective 1.-To support the development of a systematic approach to increase **understanding** of the night time economy based on intelligence and accurate information.*

*Objective 2- To promote sustainable environments and support **prevention** strategies to create healthy, safe and diverse night time economies in Wales.*

*Objective 3- To support effective multi-agency management of the night time economy and **enforcement** at the local level.*

#### 7.1.1 The Community Alcohol Partnership

An example of successful partnership working to address cross-cutting issues is the implementation of the Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) 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 CAP aims 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.

Porth was 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.

The resultant action plan for Porth 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

During 2017, focus has continued on the alcohol related youth annoyance in the area, and due to the multi agency operations carried out and our engagement with the Licensed Premises indications are that Anti Social Behaviour has reduced by 24% in the Porth area, in comparison with 2016.

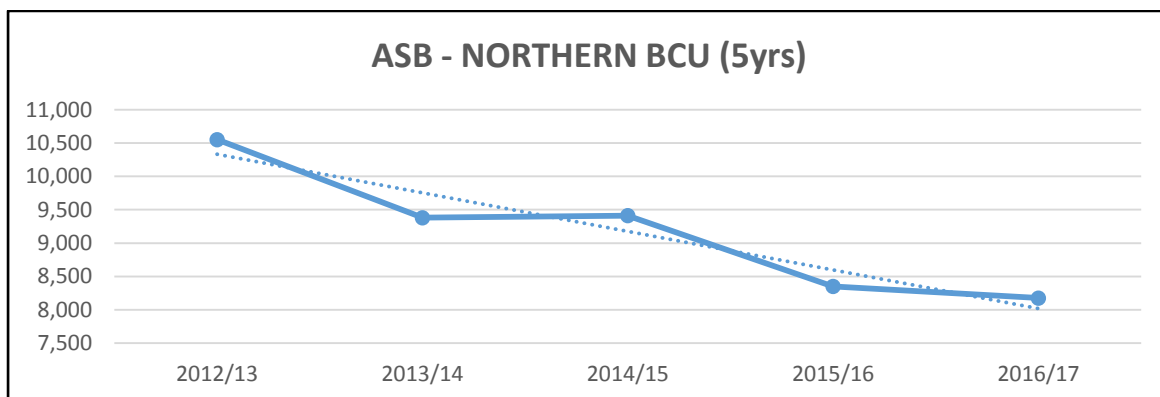
## **7.2 Anti-social behaviour (ASB)**

Anti Social Behaviour is a broad term used to describe the day to day incidents of crime, nuisance and disorder that have a negative impact on people's lives- from litter to vandalism, to public drunkenness or aggressive dogs, to noisy or abusive neighbours. The focus of the available legislation and the Community Safety Partnership is victims, many of whom are the most vulnerable in our communities and can be significantly affected by ASB, particularly when it is targeted and persistent.

Generally, ASB is influenced by events including Christmas holidays (New Year's Eve), school holiday periods, Halloween, bonfire night and sporting events. Trends appear to repeat yearly, reflecting certain types of ASB which include Grass fires in March to May, off-road motorcycles and scramblers during the summer months, Halloween and bonfire night in the autumn and the Christmas holiday periods. Repeat victims/callers tend to reflect some 'hotspot' locations and monitoring of trends is important to identify appropriate interventions, either through localised activity or targeted campaigns.

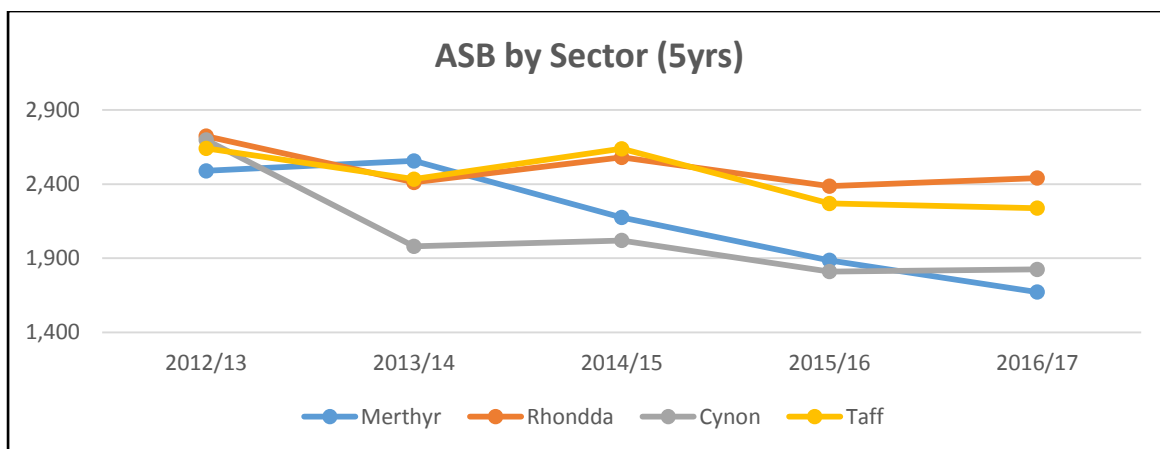
ASB in Northern BCU has seen a substantial reduction year on year over the last 5 years since 2012/13 but with some variance by sector (See Figure 41).

**Figure 41: - ASB Northern 5yrs**



Over the 5 year period, the Rhondda (2,441) 30% and Taff (2,238) 27% have recorded the highest levels of ASB. Cynon (1,824) 22% and Merthyr (1,672) 21% recorded the least. Rhondda and Taff both saw increases between 2013/14 and 2014/15 and Rhondda, Taff and Cynon last year (2015/16-2016/17).

**Figure 42 - ASB by sector**



We continue to work with partners to tackle anti-social behaviour through targeted interventions and promoting community safety.

Initiatives undertaken include, visits to various communities within Cwm Taf to engage residents on community safety issues such as the clean-up operation that was held in Treherbert where partners including Trivallis, Police, Fire Service, Anti-Social Behaviour Unit, local business and street cleansing services removed waste and graffiti from a block of flats, gave advice and guidance to vulnerable residents within the vicinity. As a result of our work in Aberdare to address youth annoyance associated with the skate park, the

partnership won the Police and Crime Commissioners Partnership award for its partnership approach to addressing anti-social behaviour.

The Partnership adopts a staged approach to early intervention to address ASB which ranges from a letter of concern, to an application to the courts for a Civil Injunction.

*1<sup>st</sup> Stage* – Formal recording – letter to perpetrator

*2<sup>nd</sup> Stage* – Formal recording – letter and home visit to perpetrator by council and South Wales Police anti social behaviour officers

*3<sup>rd</sup> Stage* – Formal recording – letter to perpetrator – case conference and acceptable behaviour contract. At this stage a formal warning about the behaviour is given and also the partners are able to explore if any underlying causes are contributing to behaviour. The person responsible is offered support to help them stop the behaviour complained of. The case is listed for a multi-agency anti-social behaviour management group meetings where efforts are made to find solutions to the problems being caused. Solutions could include signing an Acceptable Behaviour Contract or victim mediation work. Every effort is made to prevent further incidents of anti-social behaviour.

*4<sup>th</sup> Stage* – Formal recording – Civil Injunction In those cases where incidents of anti-social behaviour continue and the efforts by the problem solving group are unsuccessful consideration is given to court action. This could mean an application for a Criminal Behaviour Order or proceedings in a civil court for evictions or other action against problem tenants.

During the 2016-17 Financial Year, 1612 incidents of ASB was referred to the RCT ASB Team and the interventions undertaken were as follows (*Figure 43*).

	Stage 1	Stage 2	ABC	Injunction	CBO	CPN/Fixed Penalty	Visit
QTR 1	163	15	1	1	1	1	14
QTR 2	140	20	0	0	1	0	5
QTR 3	136	15	0	0	0	0	6
QTR 4	171	16	0	0	0	0	4

### 7.2.1 ASB Victims

Rhondda Cynon Taf adopts a victim led approach when dealing with Anti Social Behaviour cases. A designated Victim Officer is in post to provide support and advice to those experiencing Anti Social Behaviour. This officer co-ordinates a multi agency response to solving the problems faced by victims as well as ensuring that any underlying issues are addressed.

During 2016-17, 86% of our most high risk vulnerable victims said that they felt safer following the intervention and support received from our dedicated victims officer within the anti social behaviour team. This compares to 82% in 2015-16.

The team also focus on providing support and problem solving responses to vulnerable and repeat victims of anti social behaviour. Individual action plans will be created to support those victims being managed by the unit.

The team aims to stop the problems being suffered by victims and ensures partner agencies involved are working together to achieve this aim. We work alongside Victim Focus who can provide long term emotional support for victims of anti-social behaviour.

- To support victims of ASB, the Partnership focus is on: Continue to review the anti-social behaviour process to ensure that it is more victims focused.
- Identify vulnerable repeat victims of anti social behaviour quickly in order to provide support and take appropriate action against the perpetrators.
- Ensure adequate support is in place to help victims to deal with the long term effects of anti-social behaviour, improving their wellbeing.
- Promote the work of the Community Safety partnership in the community to reduce the fear of anti social behaviour in Cwm Taf.

### 7.2.2 Public Space Protection Orders

PSPO's give local authorities the necessary powers to introduce restrictions on activities and behaviours deemed to be anti-social and occurring in public spaces.

Powers to create PSPOs (Public Space Protection Orders) came into force in October 2014 as part of the Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 which introduced several new tools and powers for use by councils and their partners to address anti social behaviour in their local area. The new orders replace Designated Public Place Order, Gating Orders and Dog Control Orders. Existing DPPOs, Gating Orders and Dog Control Orders continue in force until 19th October 2017 or until they are discharged by the council, whichever is earliest. Orders still in force on 20th October 2017 will automatically become PSPOs. Both Merthyr Tydfil and RCT Council has DPPOs in place when the legislation was changed.

In March 2017, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council implemented a Borough wide PSPO to tackle alcohol related anti social behaviour. This Borough wide Order replaced 3 area specific DPPOs which were already in existence and revoked in favour of restrictions within all public spaces in the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough. The decision to seek a Borough wide Order was made to avoid issues with displacement and to promote consistency throughout the Borough for Police Officer's and the Public.

RCT CBC is currently undertaking a review of its DPPO from 2012 which is a County wide Order controlling drinking in public places. The review is looking at current evidence of public drink related anti social behaviour to establish whether the problem of alcohol related ASB is persistent, unreasonable and having a detrimental effect upon residents and visitors to the County Borough. Following the review, a report will be prepared for the Community Safety Board with recommendations for future controls that have come out of the review. A final cabinet paper will be submitted in December outlining options for endorsing the PSPO and to commence a period of public consultation on any changes identified for any new PSPO.

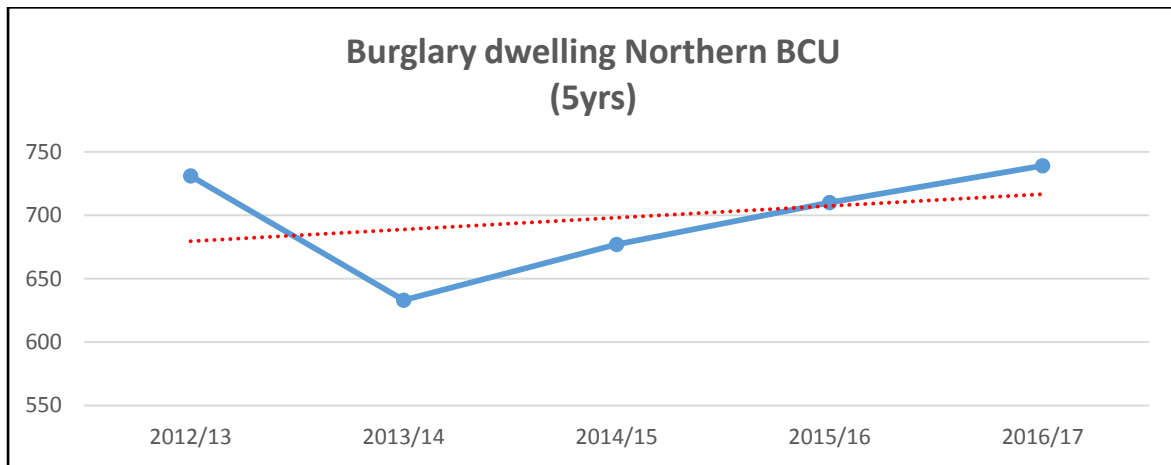
## **7.3 Acquisitive crimes**

### **7.3.1 Burglary and Theft**

After a reduction between 2012/13 and 2013/14, burglary dwelling has seen a yearly increase, returning to 2012/13 levels in 2016/17 (Figure 44).



Figure 44 - Burglary of dwellings, Northern BCU

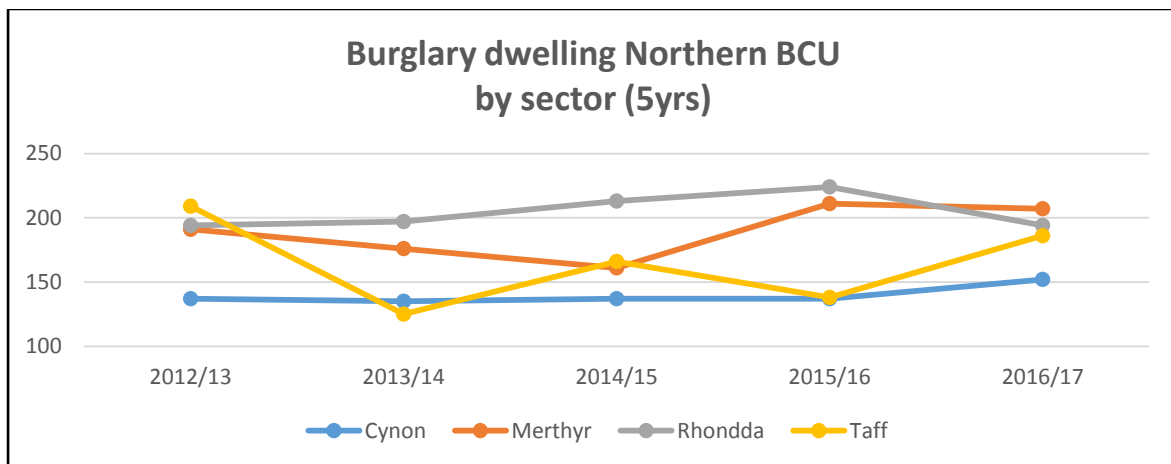


The trends of each sector varies, but the Rhondda (738) 30% and Merthyr (663) 27% recorded the highest levels of burglaries, followed by Taff (560) 23% and Cynon (492) 20%. Rhondda saw an increase in offences between 2013/14 and 2015/16, but a decrease last year, making it the second highest locality for 2016/17 after recording the highest levels for three years.

Taff burglaries appear to follow an inconsistent pattern, with an increase last year (2016/17) from a previous low level. Taff recorded the highest level of burglaries in 2012/13 and the lowest in both 2013/14 and 2015/16.

Merthyr recorded a slight decrease last year after an increase in 2015/16. Cynon has generally remained stable over the reporting period.

Figure 45 - Burglary by area over 5 years



Burglary monthly trends are affected by a number of factors including Cross border and prolific offenders, organised crime groups operating in the area and seasonal trends such as holiday periods or warm weather leading to more windows left open. A burglary category Home Office class change took place in April 2017 where a new class was created - 'Residential burglary'. This includes garages and sheds in or connected to a dwelling property (which was previously recorded under Burglary Other). This new categorisation will see future levels of recording a step above that previously recorded with the original classification and will therefore affect the data reported.

### 7.3.2 Vehicle crime

Vehicle crime has seen a decrease in both categories over the 5 year period. Theft from motor vehicles was down by 23% and Theft of motor vehicles down by 35%. (2012/13 compared to 2016/17).

*Figure 46 – Theft of / theft from motor vehicles over 5 years*

All crime 5yrs	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Total	Dif	Perc
Theft of motor vehicle	474	407	388	369	310	1948	-164	-35%
Theft from motor vehicle	1221	1186	1210	1004	946	5567	-275	-23%
Total	1695	1593	1598	1373	1256	7515	-439	-26%

### 7.3.3 Business crime

Across Cwm Taf, there is a network of almost 300 public space surveillance cameras installed to monitor our town centres, communities and public buildings. A key part of their role is the "live" monitoring of the cameras, using their skills and the latest technology to keep an eye on activity and protect the public. This can be from helping to find a lost child in a town centre to alerting patrolling police staff of suspicious activity or individuals. It has long been recognised that the CCTV unit has been crucial in ensuring our town centres and public spaces remain safe and enjoyable places to visit, leading to hundreds of arrests and being involved in thousands of incidents each year.

CCTV is also the essential link in the RCT town centre-wide Radio Net scheme, in which member businesses, shops and partner agencies communicate with each other via a shared radio system operating across the town centre. Radio Net provides reassurance to staff and customers by allowing communities to be in instant communication with each other, for a proactive approach to reducing and managing crime. Participation in the scheme is good in

Aberdare but promotion and use of the Scheme in Pontypridd could be improved to ensure better coverage in the Town Centre.

The British Retail Crime (BRC) survey 2016 has identified a number of strategic areas of focus which presents the most risk to businesses and have been prioritised below (tier in terms of risk) they include:

1. Violent abuse against staff [tier 1]
2. Organised Crime [tier 2]
3. Fraud [tier 2]
4. Cyber Crime [tier 2]
5. Terrorism [tier 3]
6. Customer Theft [tier 3]
7. Insider Threats [tier 3]
8. Robbery [tier 3]
9. Burglary [tier 4]
10. Criminal Damage [tier 4]

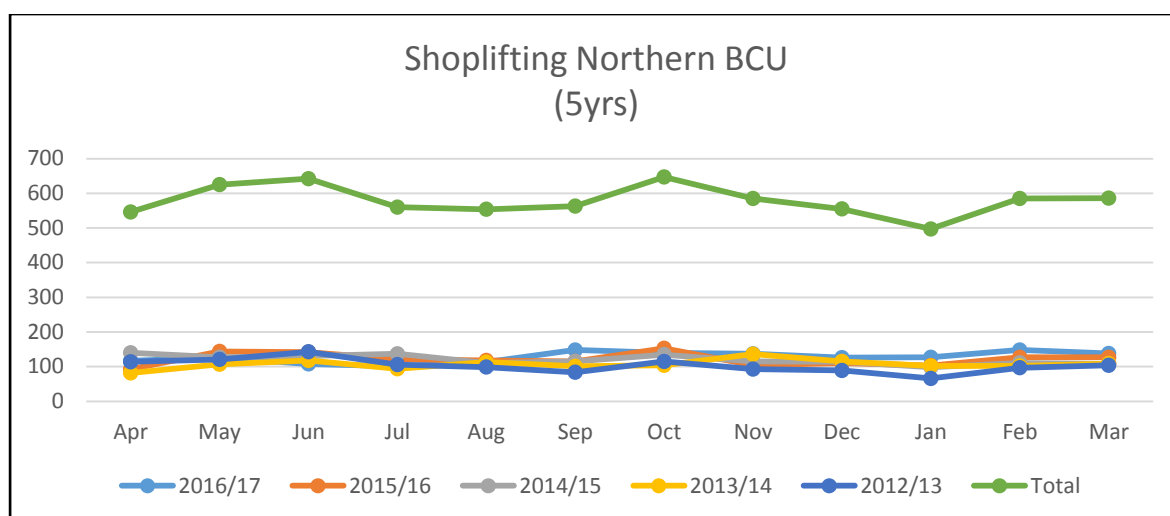
The report suggests that customer theft is the most common type of crime accounting for 75% of crime by incidents. Notable increases include cybercrime (Hacking) rising from 14% in 2015 to 50% in 2016.

Based on the 2016 BRC survey, the BCU should focus on the above tiers in terms of its strategy towards business crime. (BRC report - [https://brc.org.uk/media/116322/10081-brc-retail-crime-survey-2016\\_v6.pdf](https://brc.org.uk/media/116322/10081-brc-retail-crime-survey-2016_v6.pdf)).

Other thefts (which include shoplifting) have remained stable in the BCU over the last 5 years. As a shoplifting offence is usually only reported if an offender is detained or arrested, this suggests practices remain similar.

Shoplifting trends over the last 5 years show peaks in May/June, October and February, with the 2 weeks before Christmas presenting a particular risk.

Figure 47 – Shoplifting by month in Northern BCU



Shoplifting has seen a **-8.5%** (130) reduction between 2015/16 (1,538) and 2016/17 (1408). Taff was the only sector to see an increase (of 13% (50)). The highest proportion of offences generally take place at supermarkets, (Tesco, Asda etc) within the BCU, with the threat of organised crime groups targeting the larger retail outlets historically at Talbot Green (Taff).

#### 7.4 What the Public are telling us (COMPASS SURVEY 2017):

- Most people *feel* crime and antisocial behaviour has remained the same in the last 12 months.
- 69.4% of those surveyed feel safe in their community (down from 82.8% in 2014/15 – a drop of 16.2%). The National Survey for Wales reports that 63% of Merthyr residents and 69% of RCT residents feel safe (at home, walking in the local area and travelling), which ranks the LAs 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> respectively of the 22 Welsh LAs.
- Additional research shows that repeat victims of ASB have a significant impact on demands for services, and the services of our partners.
  - Perception of ASB is that it's remained the same however reported levels have seen an increase Jan – March 2017
- Victim satisfaction figures are lower for ASB victims than crime victims
- Fewer people feel drunk and rowdy behaviour is a very or fairly big problem (18.9%, down from 20.2% - a decline of 6.4%). (The 2016 National Crime Survey for England and Wales figure for South Wales Police was 16.3%).
- Results indicate an under-reporting of hate crime and ASB due to feelings of little chance of offender being caught or that the police would not be interested.
- Visibility of PCSOs: those satisfied with PCSO visibility / where people know their PCSO report higher feelings of safety and perceptions that the police are doing a

good job. Conversely, those dissatisfied are most likely to be from a challenged neighbourhood with higher levels of crime and ASB.

- 24% of responders said they were dissatisfied with visibility of PCSOs.

#### 7.4.1 Town Centre Perception Survey

Safer Town Centres is one of many priorities for Rhondda Cynon Taf Community Safety Partnership. Over the years the local authority and partners have run proactive operations, designed to disrupt anti social behaviour, detect licensing offences, deter environmental criminal activity, enforce parking restrictions and address perceived problems within the Town Centres of Pontypridd and Aberdare. A crime perception survey is carried out annually in Aberdare and Pontypridd Town Centre to assess the impact we are having in our towns.

- In 2017, both Pontypridd and Aberdare have reported an increase in the public witnessing crime and disorder within the town centres based on previous years.
- Of those surveyed, 46% stated that they had witnessed some form of crime and disorder within the town centres over the last 12 months.
- The 2016/2017 survey saw an increase of 51% responses compared to 2015/16 (322 responses were received for 2016/17 in comparison to 219 for 2015/16).
- Overall 75% of those surveyed said they felt safe or very safe in the town centres.

#### **Priority D Recommendations**

- a) Deliver the actions identified to support Delivery against the Managing the Night time Economy Framework
- b) Through an effective Partnership to tackle Anti Social Behaviour to:
  - I. Continue to work with partners to tackle anti-social behaviour through targeted interventions and promoting community safety, through effective monitoring of incidents of ASB / hotspot ASB areas
  - II. Work with intervention and prevention services to engage and support young people.
  - III. Establish robust reporting mechanisms to improve data quality and collection for analysis and improve future planning with key services, for example closure orders with housing, PSPO for alcohol in the town centres.

- IV. Through the Quality Of Life Partnership Forum, coordinate multi-agency activities to effectively manage repeat perpetrators of anti social behaviour and target hot spot location areas.
  - V. Implement initiatives to address the prevalence of alcohol use within anti social behaviour, for example using a Community Alcohol Partnership approach.
- c) Review the findings of Research undertaken in 2017-18 to understand the link between the Night-time Economy, Violence against the person and first time entrants to the Criminal Justice System
  - d) Target positive community messages around reduction in ASB and crime in specific wards identified (signpost to [www.ourcwmtaf.wales](http://www.ourcwmtaf.wales)).
  - e) Use of Mosaic data to understand the socio-economic groups (modest traditions, municipal challenge and transient renters) most likely to experience ASB and potentially resolve, including focusing patrols and resources, targeting areas where people are worried about being a victim, engaging with people in these areas about the local issues and targeting publicity campaigns according to preferred communication channels.
  - f) Develop targeted confidence building campaigns for areas of Cwm Taf where ASB under-reporting is known.
  - g) Raise awareness of the harms associated with carrying knives and knife crime to ensure continued low incidence of knife crime in Cwm Taf.
  - h) Undertake a review into the requirements of PACT to ensure it remains relevant and valued by communities, and act on learning points identified.
  - i) Review the findings of the DPPO Review in RCT and action the recommendations arising for a Public Consultation in 2018 and the decisions taken by Elected Members in relation to ongoing controls for alcohol use in public spaces.
  - j) Monitor and evaluate the outcomes achieved by the Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre PSPO.
  - k) Engage with Business Sector in Town Centres to promote partnership working and effective communication models, including promotion of use of Store-net to tackle known offenders operating in towns.
  - l) To Develop a Partnership Strategy to reduce Business Crime across Cwm Taf.
  - m) To develop a partnership strategy to tackling Acquisitive Crimes in Cwm Taf.
  - n) To develop a partnership strategy to raise awareness of knife crime in Cwm Taf.

## **8. Priority E - Protect vulnerable groups from harm and victimisation**

### **8.1 Prevention of Homelessness**

The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 introduced a new duty for all local authorities in Wales to provide help to any homeless person to help them secure a home. Positive action to prevent homelessness cannot be taken once the authority is satisfied that someone is, or has become, homeless (for example, the authority has notified the person of a decision and owes a duty under Section 73). Following notification that an applicant is homeless the local authority will be under a duty to take reasonable steps to help to secure accommodation. For positive action to be recorded as successful, the authority must be satisfied that the intervention is likely to result in homelessness being relieved for at least 6 months and the accommodation is suitable.

Figure 48 below shows the percentage of successful prevention outcomes (Section 66), successful relief outcomes (Section 73) and positive discharges (Section 75) during 2015-16.

This shows that Gwynedd had both the highest percentage of successful prevention outcomes (Section 66) and of successful homelessness relief outcomes (Section 73) during 2015-16 at 85 per cent and 64 per cent respectively. The lowest percentage of successful prevention outcomes was recorded in Merthyr Tydfil at 44% with RCT at 48.7%. The lowest percentage of successful homelessness relief outcomes was in Denbighshire at 29 per cent with Merthyr Tydfil and RCT performance ranked at 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> respectively out of 22 LAs in Wales.

During 2015-16, for those households assessed as eligible unintentionally homeless and in priority need (Section 75) the homelessness was positively discharged in 100 per cent of cases across 4 authorities, the Isle of Anglesey, Flintshire, Wrexham and Blaenau Gwent. In 10 of the 22 local authorities (including RCT) the percentage of positive discharge outcomes was above the Wales average of 80 per cent whilst the lowest percentage was reported by Neath Port Talbot at 55 per cent. Merthyr Tydfil performance was 62.5%.

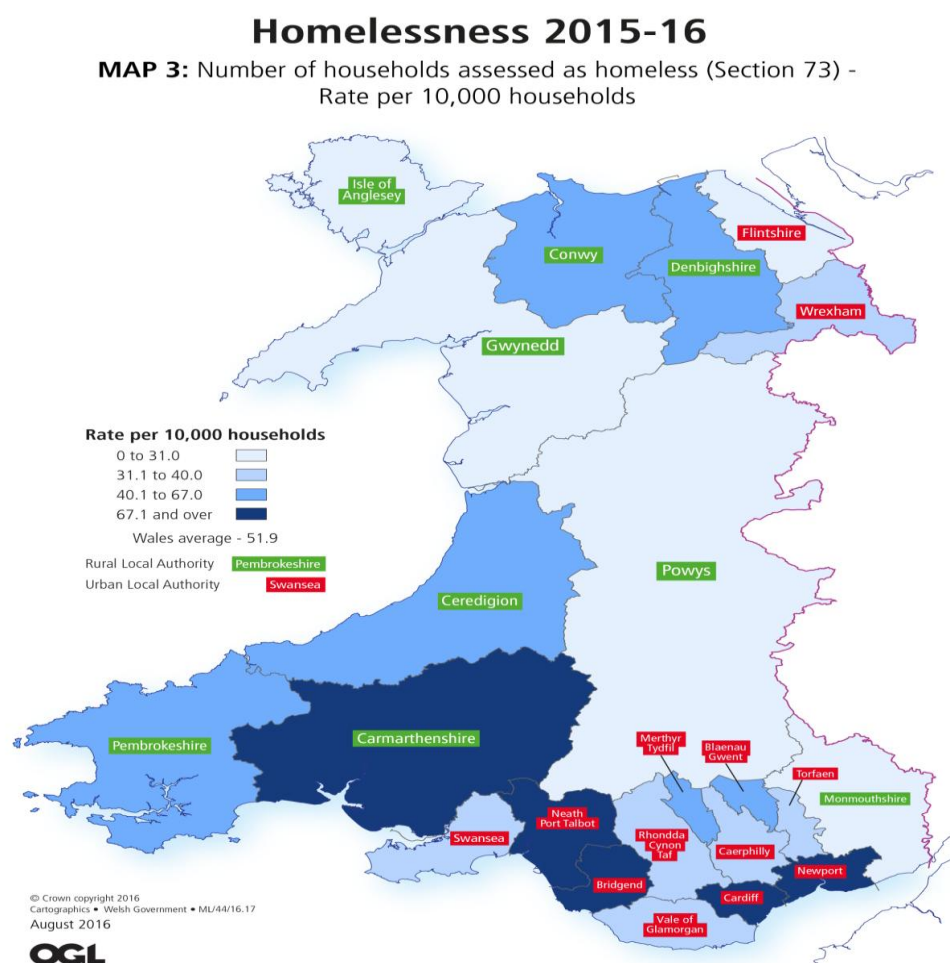
***Figure 48: Percentage of cases where positive action succeeded in preventing (Section 66) or relieving (Section 73 and Section 75) homelessness, 2015-16(a)(b)(c)(d)***

Local authority	Homelessness successfully prevented (Section 66)	Homelessness successfully relieved (Section 73)	Positively discharged (Section 75)
Isle of Anglesey	60.1	61.1	100.0
Gwynedd	84.6	64.0	94.1
Conwy	70.0	39.7	70.6
Denbighshire	55.1	29.0	80.0
Flintshire	75.9	53.6	100.0
Wrexham	59.4	52.6	100.0
Powys	71.0	48.6	75.8
Ceredigion	69.3	49.4	76.8
Pembrokeshire	68.8	59.1	87.5
Carmarthenshire	53.1	43.3	85.5
Swansea	75.4	58.2	68.8
Neath Port Talbot	52.2	45.7	54.5
Bridgend	64.2	40.3	62.5
Vale of Glamorgan	53.9	39.5	72.9
Cardiff	70.6	35.1	88.4
Rhondda Cynon Taf	48.7	40.7	93.4
Merthyr Tydfil	44.4	41.1	62.5
Caerphilly	78.2	62.4	78.2
Blaenau Gwent	58.6	63.2	100.0
Torfaen	64.2	32.7	68.1
Monmouthshire	73.8	41.1	68.4
New port	62.5	47.9	69.1
Wales	64.5	45.1	79.7

Source: Statutory Homelessness data collection from local authorities



*Figure 49: Map of Homelessness Rates in Wales 205-16 by LA Area*



## 8.2 Mental Health and Policing

Cwm Taf has the highest level of mental illness and poor well-being amongst adults in Wales. Around 50% of lifetime mental illness starts by the age of 14. Children and young people who are at greater risk of mental health problems include those going through family breakdown; those in the Looked After System and those showing behavioural problems; children who have experienced trauma.

Mental health at times it is not a single issue, the challenge for going forward is to deal with the other presenting circumstances in a more holistic partnership approach. The impact of use of drugs, alcohol and other substances provides challenges in dealing with not only the person but also the associated anti-social behaviour, community, health and social impact.

Within the Cwm Taf area, mental health impacts on a number of areas within policing. In 2016 /17 a 10% reduction was seen in those detained under section 136. Within the corresponding period there was a rise in voluntary admissions.

The challenging behaviour of offenders is a particular issue, as is the support required by families of people with poor mental health. There is ongoing work being done to place a community psychiatric nurse resource in the Police Public Service Centre. We will need to continue to work on the challenges of the Concordat in relation to alternative places of safety, transportation of patients and triage together with more effective collaborative intervention for the cross cutting issues detailed above.

### **8.3 Protection from Radicalisation**

The Counter-Terrorism & Security Act 2015 places a duty on LAs and partners to provide support for people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

CONTEST is the UK's strategy for Counter Terrorism (July 2011) which covers 4 main themes:

- Pursue: to stop terror attacks
- Prevent: to stop people being radicalised
- Protect: to strengthen our protection against attack
- Prepare: to mitigate the impact of attacks

There is a requirement for a local authority to chair a regional Contest Board.

The Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) for Northern BCU has recently been completed as part of a national programme commissioned in the spring of 2009. The programme was initially designed to focus on and support the PREVENT and PURSUE strands of the Government's Counter Terrorism strategy, but has since developed to also include elements of the PROTECT and PREPARE strands. The CTLP aims to identify threats, risk and vulnerabilities from Counter Terrorism and Domestic Extremism within a pre-defined area.

The CTLP Review for the period 1st March 2016 to 31st January 2017 was presented to the Cwmtaf CONTEST Board and includes a strategic threat and risk assessment for Northern BCU area for this period. Also included are emerging issues which are identified as having the potential to impact on the area in the short to medium term.

Key messages from the Profile include that the threat from International Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Northern BCU remains LOW but the move from organised cells being directed centrally, to individuals acting alone using increasingly low sophisticated methods of attack whilst purporting to act on behalf of a specific terrorist group means that there is a possibility that any location is vulnerable to this type of attack, including Northern BCU.

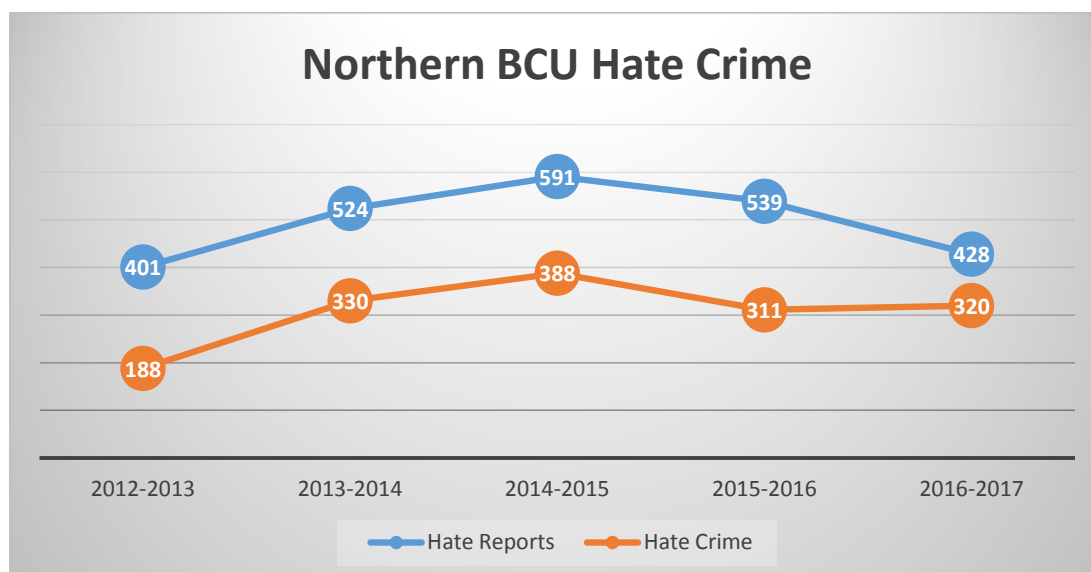
Community Safety Teams of the Local Authorities (LA) are involved with the PREVENT theme.

The Counter-Terrorism & Security Act 2015 places a duty on LAs and partners to provide support for people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. A Cwm Taf Channel Panel chaired by RCT local authority discusses local cases referred in by the Police.

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 preference by safeguarding individuals who may be vulnerable to recruitment by violent extremists or to radicalisation.

## 8.5 Prevention of Hate Crime

There has been a downward trend in hate incidents reported throughout the Cwm Taf area although 2016-2017 has seen a slight rise in hate crime reports (*Figure 50*).

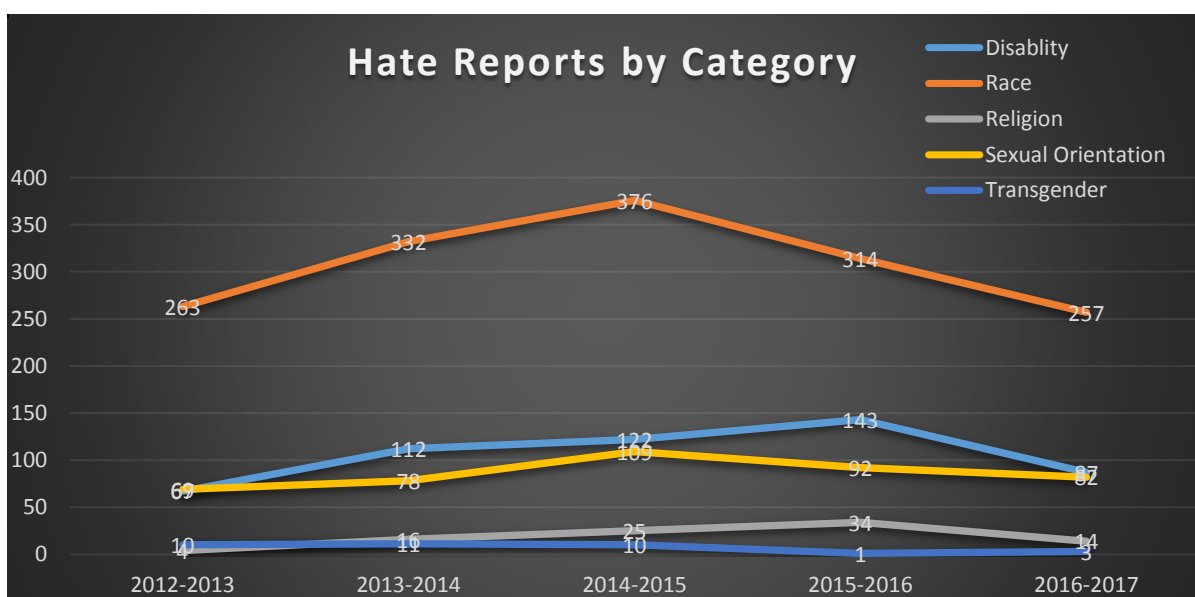


The period 2016-2017 saw 16 repeat victims (3 or more incidents within 12 months). There is a similar trend with each year around repeat victims. Regarding the period 2015-2016, a

number of action plans and safeguarding measures were put in place resulting in a decline of hate related occurrence, in one case a reduction of 100%. This would account for a percentage of the decline in calls but not all.

As can be seen, there has been significant rise in hate crime reporting since 2012 although the hate related reports are at 2012 levels, a 27% decrease since 2014. This may be attributable to increased awareness of hate crime and improved confidence in reporting incidents to the Police.

The occurrences over the last 5 years have been broken down by type and results shown below (*Figure 51*).



As shown, race remains the highest strand within hate crime reports although reporting across all categories has shown a decline since 2014.

We live in a diverse community in the UK. The non-white British population has grown from 6.6m in 2001 to 9.1m in 2009 - or nearly one in six. The white British population has stayed the same since 2001 - because even though there has been an increase in births, there have also been a similar number of people migrating. The non-white British population has grown by 4.1% a year or a total of 2.5m over the whole period, or 37.4%.

The mixed-race population has neared a million for the first time - from 672,000 in 2001 to 986,600 in 2009, an increase of nearly 50%. A third is mixed Afro-Caribbean and white, followed by Asian/white.

Cwm Taf has a smaller but increasing BME community with increasing diversity in all areas specifically around areas of employment/ industry and academic institutions (*Fig 52*).

Place	% White, British	% Mixed	% Asian or Asian British	% Black or Black British	% Chinese
ENGLAND AND WALES	83.35	1.8	5.87	2.81	0.82
ENGLAND	82.79	1.85	6.11	2.94	0.85
WALES	92.98	0.99	1.76	0.62	0.4
Isle of Anglesey	94.77	0.58	0.87	0.29	0.29
Gwynedd	93.01	0.76	1.35	0.42	0.25
Conwy	93.81	0.72	1.26	0.54	0.27
Place	% White, British	% Mixed	% Asian or Asian British	% Black or Black British	% Chinese
Denbighshire	94.21	0.83	1.76	0.52	0.21
Flintshire	96	0.67	0.67	0.2	0.2
Wrexham	94.89	0.75	0.9	0.3	0.23
Powys	94.46	0.68	1.06	0.68	0.23
Ceredigion	91.23	0.92	1.83	0.52	0.26
Pembrokeshire	93.44	0.77	1.36	0.85	0.26
Carmarthenshire	94.3	0.66	1	0.5	0.39
Swansea	91.7	0.99	1.86	0.65	0.61
Neath Port Talbot	95.2	0.73	0.95	0.36	0.22
Bridgend	94.63	0.82	1.19	0.37	0.3
The Vale of Glamorgan	92.46	1.36	1.85	0.64	0.64
Cardiff	84.24	2.11	5.56	1.67	0.95
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	94.88	0.73	0.98	0.3	0.3
Merthyr Tydfil	95.33	0.54	0.9	0.18	0.9
Caerphilly	95.89	0.75	0.93	0.35	0.23
Blaenau Gwent	96.5	0.58	0.73	0.44	0.15
Torfaen	96.14	0.66	0.77	0.33	0.22
Monmouthshire	94.2	0.91	1.14	0.57	0.23
Newport	90.67	1.5	3.13	0.93	0.36

There has been a considerable amount of investment in focusing on supporting minority communities as partners and this activity is reflected in the Community Cohesion Group, Quality of Life Board and voluntary sector via groups such as MAGNET.

Post Brexit and since the more recent terrorist attacks at Manchester and London there is national evidence of increased tensions but this hasn't materialised in any overt increase in hate crime within the Cwm Taf area.

Due to a number of migrants moving into areas of Cwm Taf, there are indications that there are a number of 'first time victims' who are reluctant to report matters to police. This combined with factors such as BREXIT and migrant families lacking support from peers could be a factor influencing under reporting of hate crimes across the BCU.

Whilst there are going to be a number of reasons for this decline, a number of both reactive and proactive measures have been utilised within Northern BCU, particular with the Syrian refugees where agencies collaborated in order to house Syrians away from high crime areas.

The number of repeat victims is relatively high, as is the number of repeat offenders. South Wales Police has a positive action policy with regards Hate Crime and if an offender is identified, action is taken to reduce the likelihood of re-offending.

#### 8.5.1 Syrian Resettlement Programme

In 2015, the Prime Minister announced a significant extension of the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme for Syrian refugees (SVPRS) - Now called 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. 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 region than encouraging Syrian refugees to make dangerous journeys to Europe.

Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils participate in the Programme and work with the Home Office to match refugees that are most suitable to the locality, based on their needs and the level of resources available in areas such as housing, health, education services and social care.

By September 2017, Cwm Taf has received 7 families in total, 6 families are from the Syrian Resettlement Programme and 1 family is from the Vulnerable Children Resettlement Scheme; there are a total of 24 children. All the families since they arrived here in the UK

have said that they feel safe and secure. They are happy, like the location where they are living and the schools that the children attend, in particular the Arabic School Support Assistants as they feel this has helped their children's integration and education needs. Provision of English Language Lessons (ESOL) is a crucial element to the SRP as the families' main aim is to integrate and gain employment. In RCT, the formal ESOL classes delivered by Coleg y Cymoedd have been supported by four qualified volunteer practitioners each delivering approximately two hours of ESOL classes per week.

## **8.6 Victims of Scams, Rogue Traders and Distraction burglaries**

Distraction burglary occurs infrequently, but trends do occur, force wide and regionally. These offences generally involve the elderly being targeted with offenders generally purporting to be someone they are not, or providing a reason to gain access to the properties. Examples have included, being from the water board, other service providers, charity collections, door to door sales or asking to change a note (cash).

Age UK found that 53% of persons aged 65 or over had been victims of scams; from working with the vulnerable, Trading Standards are aware that many are not aware that they have been a scam victim, or refuse to believe it, often through pride or embarrassment. This is regarded as a form of financial abuse and is the second most common form of abuse in the UK (Adult Social Care Statistics, 2016). The Care Act 2014 includes financial abuse as a form of abuse and neglect, and places a duty on a local authority to take action where a person is at risk.

Once a person has responded to a scam, their details are placed onto mailing lists which are then sold; the vulnerable becomes subject to repeat victimisation. Both Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil Trading Standards work in the field of adult safeguarding, which includes working with the National Trading Standards Scams Team (NTSS) to visit persons identified as victims; in some cases being able to return un-cashed cheques or cash which has been sent in the post to the scammers. Rhondda Cynon Taf was identified in 2014 by the NTSS as having the second highest number of repeat victims on scam 'suckers lists' in Wales.

In 2017, Rhondda Cynon Taf commenced on a programme of installing telephone blocking devices in the homes of the most vulnerable, these devices work in a positive manner, in that only known numbers will ring through to the consumer. All calls, including those that are blocked, are monitored in order to gain intelligence and assist in related criminal investigations. Joint visits are carried out, or information is shared across organisations

such as Alzheimers UK, Age Cymru and Social Services. Addressing scams in the home has proven benefits in associated areas, such as a reduction in trips and falls, a positive impact on loneliness and the ability to live independently for longer.

South Wales Police and the Trading Standards Authorities within the force area have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the enforcement of doorstep crime, rogue trading incidents and the banking protocol. This identifies the nature of cross-agency work that impacts on the successful resolution to these matters. Steele *et al* (2001) stated that there is an identified overlap between the crimes of rogue trading and distraction burglary, and offenders are known to switch between the methods of offending depending on the victim, their credulity and the circumstance and situation.

There are three 'no cold calling zones' (NCCZ) in Rhondda Cynon Taf. When their implementation was evaluated:

- 85.2% of homes in the area were displaying a NCCZ door sticker
- 87.5% stated there had been a decrease in cold callers
- 77.5% felt the sticker display aided the reduction in cold callers
- 92.8% felt more confident in sending doorstep sellers away
- 84.1% felt that they and their homes were safer

Trading Standards had previously responded to calls of doorstep selling and rogue trading with a rapid response; with the adoption of the Memorandum of Association, all such calls to Trading Standards or South Wales Police will lead to a joint response, where this is possible, and a greater exchange of information, in an attempt to severely reduce the instances of rogue trading in South Wales.

## **8.7 Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery**

There has been a number of intelligence logs submitted in relation to human trafficking and modern slavery within the BCU in the last 12 months; indicating that foreign nationals are being brought into the area to work in car washes, cannabis factories, nail bars and brothels.

Very little intelligence is available in respect of Prostitution within the BCU, albeit off-street prostitution; facilitated through brothels/massage parlours does exist and recent intelligence has been received of a property in Merthyr being used with a number of females working



there. In terms of on-street prostitution, female sex workers from the BCU tend to travel to the Cardiff area to commit prostitution offences. Currently, however no OCGs within the BCU have been identified as being involved in this area of criminality.

Previous operations have focused on car washes across the force; however there is very little recent intelligence to car washes within Northern BCU.

## **8.8 Child Sexual Exploitation**

CSE has become a focus for the BCU over the last few years, with the link between young individuals going missing from care homes and the potential for CSE firmly established. There have been no identified links between suspects / offenders to justify creating an OCG; however there have been links between the vulnerable young people. To date, no OCG's in this area have been identified.

The BCU recognises the threat that exists in relation to children residing in Children's Care Homes and Foster Care who often go missing and who due to their vulnerability and lifestyle are at the greatest risk of CSE. Analysis was recently requested to identify the care homes that present the greatest threat, risk and harm and identify why these homes are causing such issues.

CSE is a very complicated area of business, which by its very nature goes largely unreported (as often, those targeted do not feel that they are victims) and is difficult to identify. Continued monitoring of incidents and intelligence should identify when and if associations between individuals exist. There is work ongoing to recognize the trigger for intervention and identify areas of risk.

Following a review of missing persons (MISPER) return interviews and engagement with partner agencies such as Barnardo's, it was identified that regular missing persons vulnerable due to their age and in some instances circumstance, were at a higher risk of CSE and other exploitation than their peers. In response to this information and the analytical work completed, SERAF (Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework) assessments were conducted with children who frequently went missing, were believed to be taking controlled drugs and or engaging in sexual activity. From that SERAF assessment, officers from the Proactive PPU (Public Protection Unit) constructed a divisional list of children who were deemed to be high risk of such exploitation. In conjunction with Barnardo's and child services, officers conduct engagement with the children in order to

safeguard them, provide suitable support with housing and education and also to determine if any offences have been committed. The intention of this engagement in addition to the safeguarding and support is to break demand on the police and partner agencies by preventing the individuals from going missing and engaging in risk taking behaviour.

As a result of the enquiries conducted with these individuals, suspected perpetrators of CSE get identified and are actively policed and disrupted. This work is ongoing and dynamic as the risk levels change for persons already identified and from continued and wider engagement with children within the community.

### **Priority E Recommendations**

- a) Work effectively through an integrated place based approach to building resilient families (i.e. Community Zones) to target resources and interventions aimed at mitigating the impact of adverse experiences on families in Cwm Taf.
- b) Improve performance in relation to Homelessness Prevention through early intervention.
- c) Actively contribute to the Counter Terrorism Agenda by supporting CONTEST and Channel Boards, delivering training inc WRAP and PREVENT to enable others to share information/ intelligence
- d) Support delivery of the Syrian Refugee Programme in Cwm Taf through effective partnership planning and settlement of vulnerable families.
- e) Work as a partnership to strengthen provision on mental health services in Cwm Taf for people in the criminal justice system e.g. a community psychiatric nurse resource being located in the Police Public Service Centre
- f) Encourage and facilitate volunteering opportunities for community members to actively work on specific projects and interventions in their locality.
- g) Work as a partnership to ensure intelligence in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery is shared to enable early identification and action to tackle Organised Crime Groups.
- h) Through the Memorandum of Understanding, work in partnership as multi agencies to identify and tackle rogue traders and protect the most vulnerable in our communities from scams which result in financial harm.

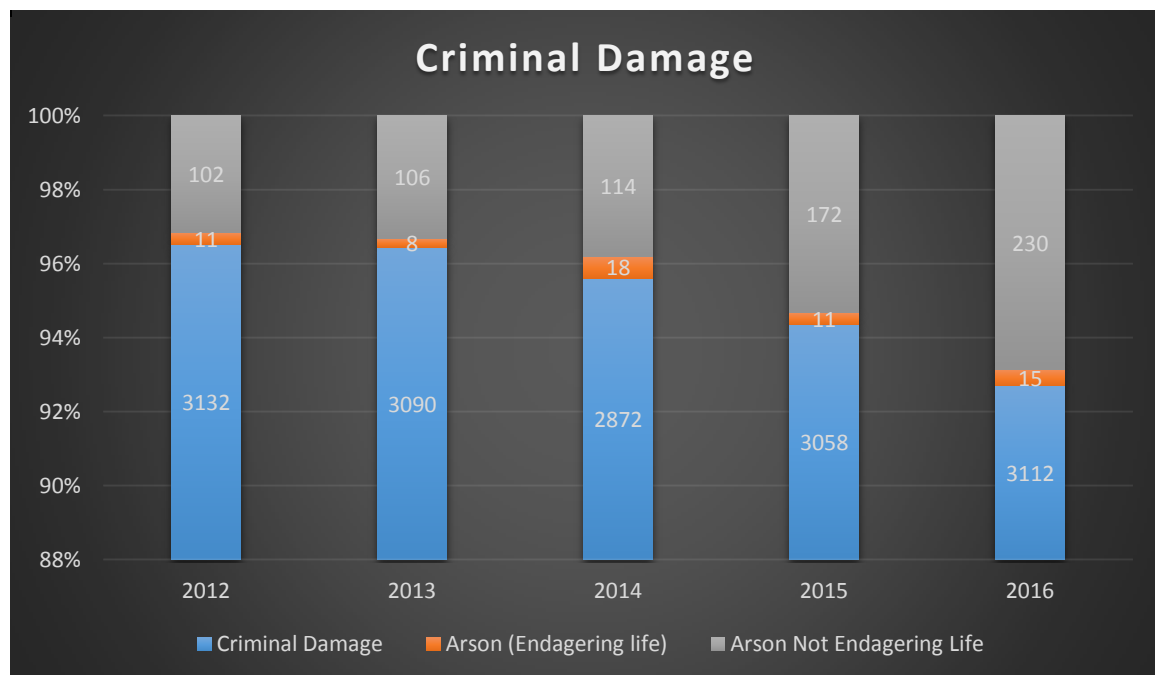
## 9. Priority F- Improve our environment by reducing environmental crime

### 9.1 Criminal Damage to the Environment

Cwm Taf is blessed with an outstanding natural environment. It makes people feel proud, positive and happy about where they live. However, crime and anti-social behaviour is a constant challenge and significant barrier to people using and enjoying their local environment.

Crime and anti-social behaviour within the woodland estate results in significant annual costs. This includes issues such as: illegal off-roading, fly-tipping, theft (including timber), activities with the intent of causing deliberate harm (e.g. nail traps, barbed wire etc), and damage to gates, fencing and car parks. Timber theft impacts income to legitimate harvesters and brings with it the risk of chainsaws being used inappropriately.

*Fig 53: Criminal Damage in Cwm Taf 2012-26*



Reported occurrences of Criminal Damage to the Environment have remained fairly constant in recent years although there was an increase in 2015 (note: this increase could be attributable to criming at source).

Arson (endangering life) has also remained constant but the trend of arson (not endangering life) has shown an increase from 102 in 2012 to 230 in 2016 – an increase of 55%

## **9.2 Fly-tipping**

Fly-tipping is the illegal dumping of rubbish and can vary in scale from bin bags, fridges and mattresses to large quantities of waste dumped from trucks. It can be found anywhere - along roadsides, in lay-bys or on private land. It costs the Welsh tax payer more than £2.1 million every year to clear up.

Local authorities are responsible for dealing with most types of small scale fly-tipping on publicly owned land including roads and lay-bys. NRW is responsible for dealing with fly-tipping on the Welsh Government Woodland Estate (as de facto land owner), and investigating larger scale incidents of fly-tipping. Generally, these involve more than a lorry/tipper load of waste, and/or incidents involving hazardous waste and organised gangs of fly-tippers, which have a greater potential to harm human health and damage the environment.

In 2015/16, there were 5,705 Fly tipping incidents in Cwm Taf. RCT are now using Fly Tipping Action Wales' Fly Mapper system to identify fly-tipping hotspots and help tackle the problem. Subsequently, surveillance operations at hotspot locations have led to a number of recent successful prosecutions.

Fly-tipping Action Wales is a partnership initiative, sponsored by the Welsh Government and coordinated by NRW to tackle fly-tipping. It's made up of 50 partners including the 22 local authorities in Wales, the national police and fire services, the National Farmers' Union and many more.

## **9.3 Illegal Off-Road Vehicle Use**

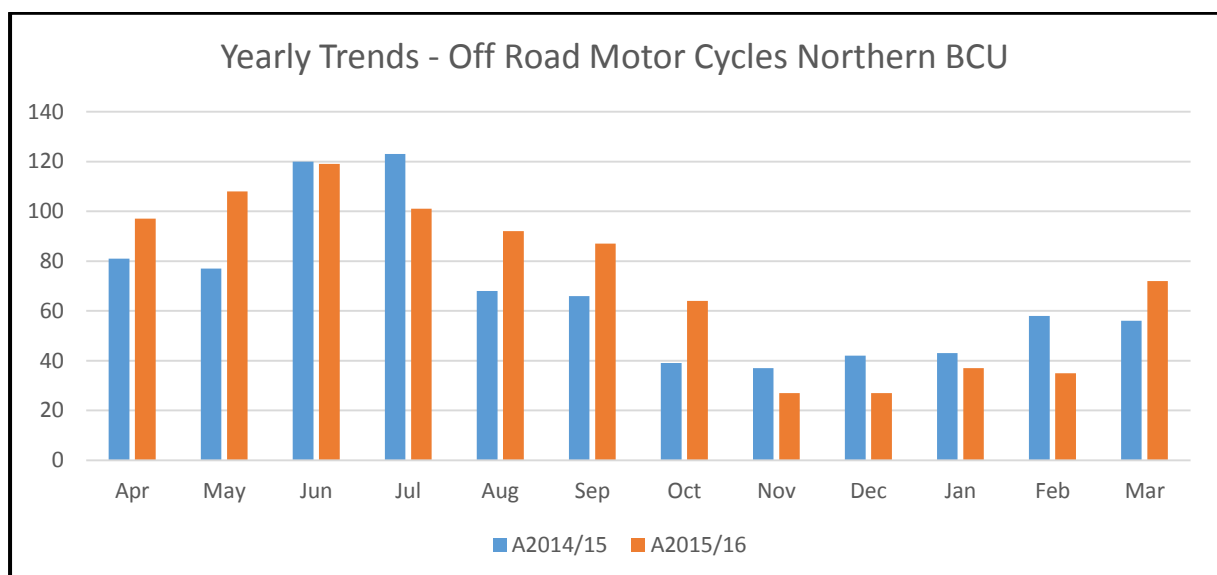
Illegal off-roading is a growing problem in the South Wales Valleys. It's an offence to drive motorbikes, quad bikes and 4x4's on land outside of public highways without the owner's permission. This includes private forests and publicly owned land.

Illegal off-roading poses a serious risk to walkers, horse riders, cyclists and other people who enjoy using their local countryside. It can also have far reaching consequences for the environment, damaging tree roots and disturbing sensitive habitats for our wildlife.

'Off-road' motorcycles, 'scramblers', 'quads' were identified as causing a general nuisance across the Cwm Taf. Analysis was conducted of data over a two year period (Apr 14 – Feb 16) to determine demand and the local community impact.

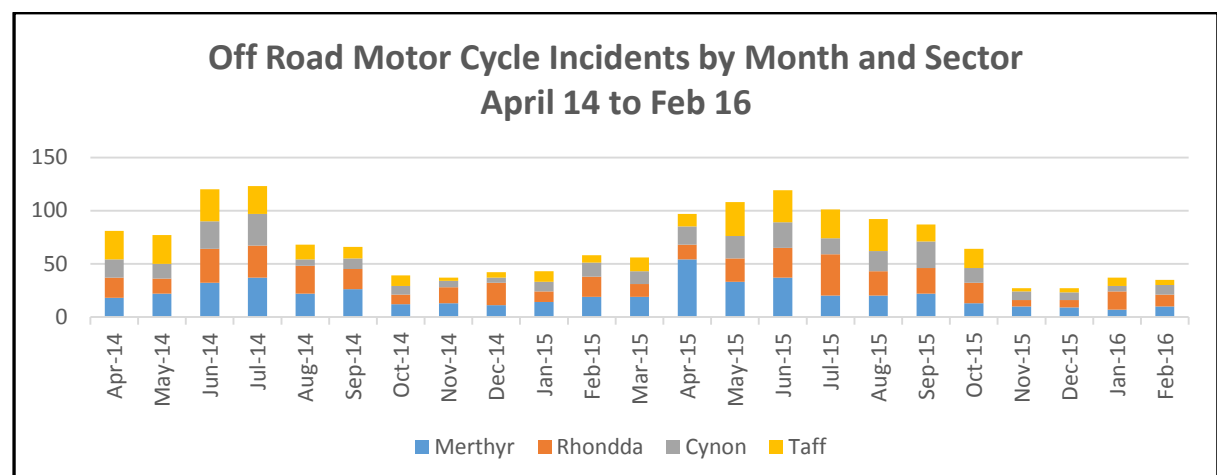
Monthly comparisons show higher reporting levels during the summer (May – Sept) peaking between May and July. November to March generally has the lowest activity. See Fig 54 below:

**Fig 54 Monthly comparison trends**



(March 2016 is a projected total)

**Fig 55: Monthly trends by Sector**



## Key Findings

- There were 810 occurrences over the period April to March 2014/15 compared to 866 2015/16. This equates to an increase of 7% (56).<sup>2</sup> The Rhondda sector remained stable but small increases were seen in Merthyr 5% (11), Cynon 15% (23) and Taff 10% (19).
- There were 1,604 occurrences over the 23 month period April 2014 to February 2016 that involved off-road motor cycles or quads in Northern BCU. 30% (480) of reported incidents took place in Merthyr, 27% (436) Rhondda, 23% (367) Taff and 20% (321) Cynon. Merthyr South 308, Pontypridd 265, Rhondda Fawr 225, and Cynon South 193 had most incidents. (See hotspot maps in appendices (Figs : 8 to 12)
- Trends within sectors based on the last 12 month data (Mar15 – Feb16) show the highest levels of activity during the following months - Merthyr – April/June. Rhondda – June/July, Cynon June/Sept and Taff – May/Aug.
- There were 6 beats with 50 or more reported incidents over the 2 year period, these beats accounted for 27% (430) occurrences; 0401 Pentrebach (125), 0303 Cyfartha (80), 0101 Gurnos (65), 1811 Nantgarw/Taffs Well (56), 1905 Penrhiwceiber (52) and 1501 Treherbert (52). These beats were also the top 6 beats over the last 12 month period (Mar 15 – Feb 16).
- ASB 55% (887) and Road traffic incidents including RTC 28% (449) make up 83% of all occurrence types.
- The main locations along the Taff trail were identified as Troedyrhiw/Trefechan Merthyr and Upper Boat Pontypridd. Incidents refer to off-road motor cycles, quads speeding at the locations. Riding on roads and footpaths nearby was also an issue. 65% (34) incidents took place over the weekend period Fri -Sun with peak times between 12:30-19:00hrs. (Last report 8/2/16)
- 52% (826) reports of off road motor cycles took place between April and July, incidents tapered off around August/September to low levels between October and January. February/March saw a steady rise towards the peak months.
- Most incidents involved off-road motor cycles or quads riding close to residential properties on roads, footpaths, common land or using known locations such as the Taff trail to the annoyance of residents or other users.
- 6 repeat victims/callers accounted for 134 reports over the reporting period; the top 6 can be seen in Fig: 6.
- There were 158 offenders; 19 of which were involved in 2 or more incidents, the top 6 can be seen in fig: 7.

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<sup>2</sup>This includes a March 2016 projected total of 72

- 'Quads' were referred to in 417 occurrences over the 23 month period, representing 26% of all reports. The majority of vehicles were referred to as 'Off-road' motor cycles, bikes, or scramblers.

## 9.4 Grass Fires

Wildfires deliberately caused by arson affect the South Wales Valleys every year, and Cwm Taf is one of the worst affected areas. They have multiple social, environmental and economic impacts. The Welsh Government Woodland Estate, managed by NRW, is regularly affected.

The problem of grass fires has been a feature for many years in the South Wales valley areas. The warmer, drier weather in the springtime, combined with a build-up of dry vegetation left from the previous growing season provides a fire hazard that is easily ignited, sometimes accidentally but usually deliberately. This problem generally abates once the newer green vegetation comes through and acts as a natural retardant, but the problem can reappear in the summer months and later in the autumn if the weather is dry. The issue of deliberate grass fires is so prevalent within the South Wales area that the statistics for deliberately set fires are comparable to those in London, and no other part of the UK faces the same problem on this scale. The cost to the Welsh economy as a whole is estimated at £132M pa, with a significant cost to our partners, especially Fire and Rescue services for whom there is a cost of £3,200 each time a fire tender is mobilised.

In spring 2015 a period of dry weather lead to a spate of grass fires across the force area, and particularly in Northern BCU. This particular spate of grass fires, whilst not statistically significant from a Fire and Rescue point of view, nevertheless caught the public attention in a way not seen before, possibly due to greater use of social media. The political attention was significant and subsequently led to a commitment on the part of the Welsh Government, police and fire service chief officers, and other partners, to put in place a robust contingency plan for 2016 and beyond. 2016 brought together the agencies to develop a Force Wide strategy. In Northern BCU, the operation reflecting the strategy was called Operation Purple Earth. A number of initiatives were put in place for 2016, including the weekly Dawns Glaw tasking meeting to predict and respond to issues relating to grass fires.

The table below (*Fig. 56*) shows how the occurrences have been distributed across the Force. Northern BCU has recorded by far the greatest number of grass fires, however has

recorded the greatest reduction on the same period last year. All BCUs have recorded a reduction on last year.

BCU	2015	2016	Total	Change
Central	162	77	239	<b>-85 (-52%)</b>
Eastern	70	54	124	<b>-16 (-23%)</b>
Northern	531	229	760	<b>-302 (-57%)</b>
Western	66	38	104	<b>-28 (-42%)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>829</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>1,227</b>	<b>-431 (-52%)</b>

The tables (Fig 57a and b) below show how the level of reporting of grass fire related occurrences changes over the periods.

*Fig 57 a: Force wide*

Month	2015	2016	Total
Apr	596	158	754
May	94	111	205
Jun	80	65	145
Jul	42	35	77
Aug	17	29	46
<b>Total</b>	<b>829</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>1,227</b>

*Fig 57 b: Northern BCU*

Month	2015	2016	Total
Apr	400	94	494
May	65	70	135
Jun	42	41	83
Jul	19	13	32
Aug	5	11	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>760</b>

During 2016, the most prevalent times for grass fires to occur were during the afternoon between 17:00 and 23:00 (greatest peak at 19:00). The top day was Thursday (18% of the weekly total), followed by Wednesday and Sunday (17% and 16% respectively). There was a general even spread between the rest of the week (between 12 and 14%).



## Grass Fire Comparisons for 2015-2017 Merthyr and RCT Unitary Authorities

*Fig 58: Grass Fire Data for 1<sup>st</sup> April - 31<sup>st</sup> August*

Unitary Authority	2015	2016	2017 (To Date)	Totals
Merthyr Tydfil	96	54	61	211
R C T	432	147	225	804
Totals	528	201	286	1819

*Fig 59: Grass Fire Data for April - June 2016 -17*

Unitary Authorities	April 16	April 17	May 1 6	May 17	June 16	June17
Merthyr	12	38	29	28	12	8
RCT	70	153	38	66	22	6
Totals	82	171	67	94	34	14

The evidence is that there is a downward trend in deliberate grass fires, with data for the first half of the peak season for fires being over 45% less than 2015.

In 2015 the priority was on the identification and charging of offenders following the spate of public concern and attention. In 2016, the emphasis was on awareness raising and referral of persons of concern to diversion and intervention schemes, largely those run by the Fire Service, of which there are a variety of useful schemes available.

Clearly, despite this statistical overview, there still intelligence gaps in our force's understanding of the problem.

In addition, we do not have a good picture of whether wildfire setting activity involves a relatively few number of individuals setting a lot of fires. Also, there does not seem to be much clarity on the profile of those involved as the age demographic of known previous perpetrators ranges from people as young as 10/11 up to people in their 60s.

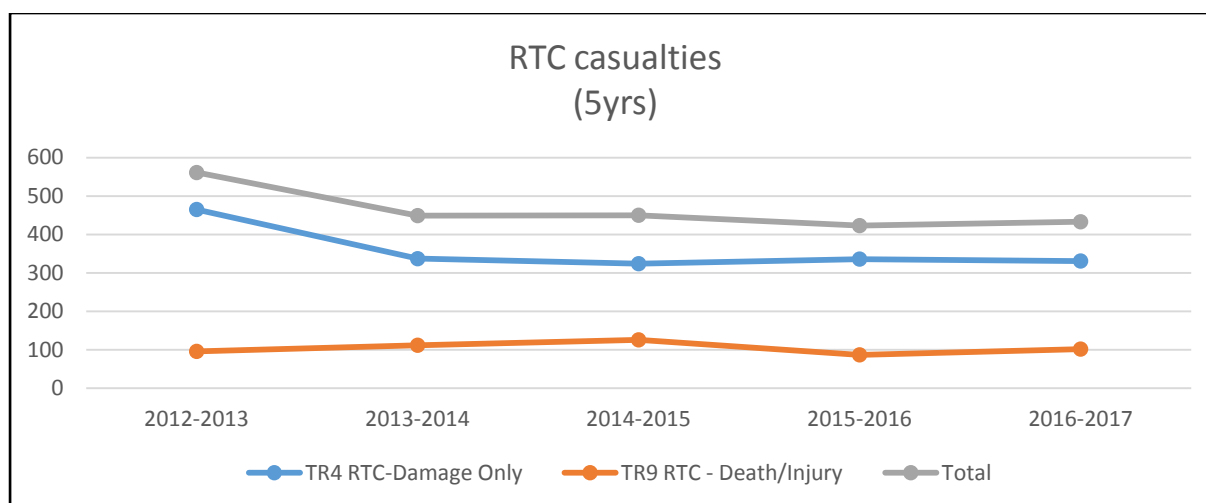
*Fig 60 Comparison of Grass Fires by Unitary Authority (April to August 2015 & 2016)*

Comparison of Grass Fires 1st April to 31st August by Unitary Authority									
UNITARY	Deliberate Grass Fires		Difference vs last year	% Variation	Total Grass Fires		Difference vs last year	% Variation	
	2015	2016			2015	2016			
Blaenau Gwent	157	71	-86	-55%	159	74	-85	-53%	
Bridgend	127	50	-77	-61%	127	52	-75	-59%	
Caerphilly	239	100	-139	-58%	247	104	-143	-58%	
Cardiff	72	48	-24	-33%	79	55	-24	-30%	
Merthyr Tydfil	96	54	-42	-44%	96	54	-42	-44%	
Monmouthshire	15	15	0	0%	26	22	-4	-15%	
Newport	106	61	-45	-42%	113	64	-49	-43%	
Rhondda Cynon Taf	432	147	-285	-66%	440	152	-288	-65%	
The Vale of Glamorgan	33	28	-5	-15%	36	29	-7	-19%	
Torfaen	69	38	-31	-45%	82	42	-40	-49%	
Grand Total	1346	612	-734	-55%	1405	648	-757	-54%	

## 9.5 Road Safety

Police Data in relation to Road Traffic Collisions (RTC) (codes **TR4 RTC-Damage** and **TR9 RTC - Death/Injury**) has been used to obtain the road casualty data over the 5 year period reviewed.

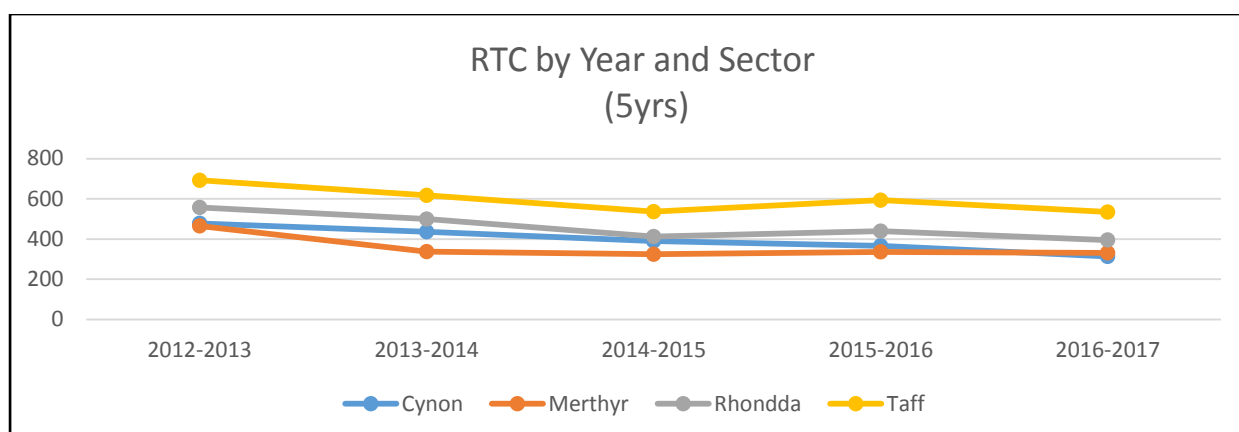
*Fig 61: RTC Casualties*



Generally RTC collisions (after a fall between 2012/13 and 2013/14) have remained stable in both category types.

Over the reporting period, Taff has consistently recorded the highest number of collisions (2,972) 33%, Rhondda (2,302) 25%, Cynon (1,983) 22% and Merthyr (1,793) 20%.

*Fig 62: RTC collisions by year and sector*



Road Safety Partners including South Wales Police, South Wales Fire and Rescue, the Local Authority Road Safety teams, officers from RPU Specials, local PCSO's and NPT, coordinated a number of road safety exercises within the Cwm Taf area, dealing with issues around the "fatal 5", namely speeding, alcohol consumption, drug use, use of mobile phones and not wearing a seatbelt.

There is a problem in this area with young driver's especially in motor vehicles, committing offences as well as anti-social behaviour in cars. The main problems are the lack of seat belt wearing by all vehicle occupants, speeding, misuse of mobile phones, as well as drink and drug driving. They are also focusing on areas such as passenger behaviour, as the attitude of friends in cars can have an effect on how a young driver behaves in a car. The below initiatives are utilised on a regular basis, and are proving very successful in education as well as enforcement.

#### 9.5.1 Operation Options

A multi-agency scheme with Road Safety Partners where we look at motorists who do not wear their seat belts or are found misusing mobile phones whilst driving. Seat belt offenders are then given the opportunity to undertake a short 15 minute presentation on the dangers of not wearing a belt. This is undertaken by the Fire Service. Those who do not wish to avail themselves of this are issued with a TOR for the offence. All drivers seen misusing a phone are given a TOR.

These deliveries are conducted at various locations and times to accommodate all across Cwm Taf.

On average over a 3 hour period, they address between 30-60 offenders. The highest was 69 in Tonypany, which was only a week after dealing with 62 at the same location. They also detect a number of other offences which result in vehicle seizures, and have made a number of arrests for drug driving. This exercise has proved very successful and we always receive a positive feedback from people who attend the presentations.

### 9.5.2 Mature Driver Courses

These are carried out via SWP in partnership with Cwm Taf road safety team. Drivers over the age of 60 attend an awareness day, where a presentation is delivered on the “Fatal 5”, and also a discussion about hazard perception etc. The local authority then provide Advanced Driver Institute (ADI) driving instructors who take out the attendees either in their own cars, or in a driving school cars, for up to an hour. The driver is then allowed to brush up on areas where they feel they now lack confidence, such as Motorway driving, roundabouts, parking in confined spaces. This scheme has been running for a number of years and has proved very successful. They normally carry out between 6-10 courses a year, with an average attendance of 10 people.

### 9.5.3 Megadrive

Road Safety Partners undertake awareness days for students between the ages of 16-25, at various schools and colleges. Again the main theme is the “Fatal 5”. Each year they speak to an average of 30 students at each session, to encourage them to be better drivers, as well as safer and more responsible when out on the roads.

They also encourage all young drivers to participate in the Welsh Governments Pass Plus Cymru scheme. The programme is grant funded by Welsh Government and for a small additional fee each attendee gets up to 9 hours extra driving instruction, after passing their driving test.

## **9.6 What the public are telling us C (OMPASS Survey 2017):**

- Main issues being reported as a very or fairly big problem are parking, speeding and off-road bikes. (COMPASS Survey)
  - Parking (scored slightly higher than rubbish and litter, and significantly higher than noisy neighbours/loud parties)

- Speeding (scored higher than people using or dealing drugs, malicious communication and people being drunk/rowdy)
- Off-road bikes (scored slightly higher than nuisance callers, vandalism, and higher than groups of youths – younger and older, and pubs/clubs/fast food premises)

### Priority F Recommendations

- a) Using intelligence analysis from the Crime reduction tactical advisor (CRTA), develop an effective strategy as a Partnership to tackle the issue of illegal off road use, to include:
  - Improve intelligence sharing across agencies to identify areas and individuals for targeted action.
  - In conjunction with Local Authority, restriction of access points to the Taff trail and other areas where identified.
  - Media campaign to raise awareness of the off-road riders to the dangers they pose to the public, themselves and other road users and to make users aware of the consequences of breaking the law. (e.g. seizure of bike etc.)
  - Delivery of suitable diversionary activities in partnership with communities e.g. setting up a legal off-road motor cycle club.
  - Conduct enforcement exercises across the BCU to target offenders and use appropriate legal powers to disrupt and prevent the illegal activities.
  - Media campaign to highlight any success.
- b) Deliver Road Safety Initiatives that contribute to the road traffic collision targets and vulnerable groups identified in the Road Safety Framework for Wales.
- c) Continuation of Grass Fire campaigns to improve education and awareness of the issue and reduce incidents.
- d) Continue to work in partnership to deliver effective enforcement against illegal waste offenders, to include prosecution, cost recovery of waste removal and media campaigns to identify offenders and raise awareness of environmental crimes and their consequences.

## **Appendices:**

**Appendix 1 Framework for Cwm Taf Community Zones 2017**

**Appendix 2 South Wales Police Strategic Assessment** *(to be added once Draft approved)*

**Appendix 3 South Wales Police and Crime Reduction Plan 2017-2021** *(to be added)*

## Appendix 1

### CWM TAF PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD

#### A CWM TAF COMMUNITY ZONE APPROACH TO BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

##### 1. Vision

“An integrated place-based approach to building resilient communities that prevents and mitigates the effects of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and breaks the intergenerational cycle of adversity which challenges so many families across Cwm Taf”.

##### 2. How we will achieve our vision

To achieve this vision, we will organise ourselves as partner organisations more effectively through a **single recognised approach** known as “Community Zones”.

This single recognised approach will be piloted within the **Gurnos and Upper Rhondda Fach** areas and will consist of the following key components:

- Taking a **whole community approach** to better understand the role of the following factors in precipitating and modifying ACEs:
  - The context in which families live
  - Parent and family factors
  - Household adversities
- A new **prevention, early identification and intervention framework** that enables individuals and families to access non-stigmatised support as early as possible to prevent problems from escalating. Identification of those requiring early intervention support will take place:
  - **Pre-emptively** through the application of Vulnerability and Resilience Profiling to identify families that have low levels of resilience and in need of support.
  - **Pro-actively** by self identification at the point of access into specialist pathways of support e.g. anchor organisations, substance misuse services, housing, domestic abuse.
- A **single point of contact (SPOC)** for those requiring information, advice, support and intervention.
- A robust **community engagement and involvement approach**. This will include:
  - **Proactively** engaging with individuals and families identified through Vulnerability and Resilience profiling, using a strengths-based approach.

- **A co-production** approach to listening to, and working with the community to develop community support and assist in the design and delivery of services.
- **Low level community based activities** that facilitate community involvement and progression (early help).
- **Collaborative community action research and engagement** through the Listening Project and SenseMaker.
- A suite of interventions to create an **ACE-informed Cwm Taf**— from low level community based activities through to more specialist/intensive interventions delivered through **shared priorities** and **pooled resources** across partners.
- A **sustainable** step down support pathway that embeds behaviour change.
- A single **shared outcome framework** that creates a robust infrastructure for supporting the delivery of an outcome-focused approach and evidencing change. The outcomes will focus on:
  - Reducing the incidence of Adverse Childhood Experiences
  - Families and communities are confident, nurturing, resilient and safe
  - Achieving good educational outcomes: (closing the inequality gap)
  - Realising sufficient income and obtaining work that pays
  - Achieving a thriving and healthy future (Wellbeing, active lifestyles)

Figure 1 below encapsulates this system wide Community Zone model:

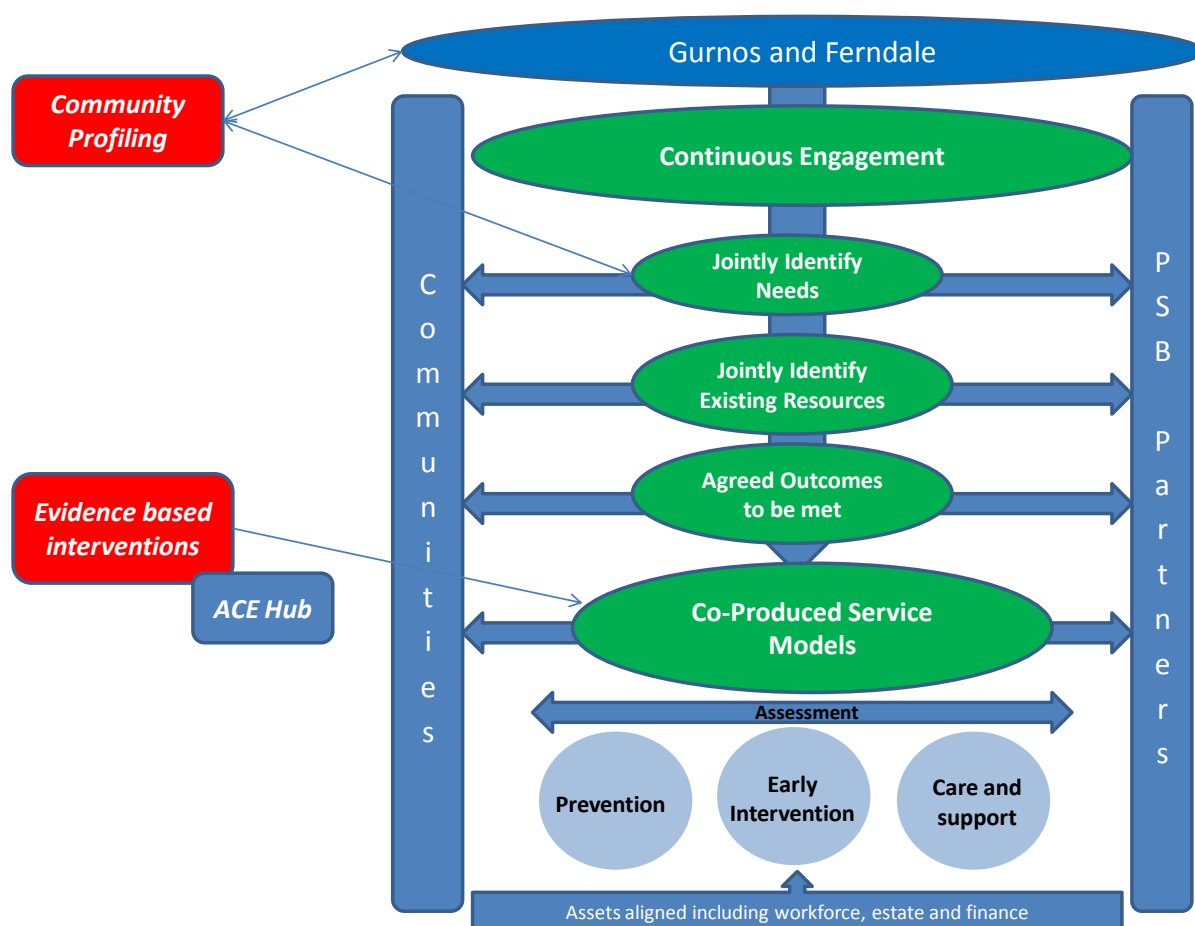
### 3. Introduction

The purpose of this document is to outline Cwm Taf's Public Services Boards proposed approach to the development, implementation and evaluation of two 'Community Zone' pilots within the Gurnos and Upper Rhondda Fach areas.

The approach/model draws on the experience and learning of a range of partners who have been working for the last 24 months to move towards a more integrated and sustainable approach to building resilient communities.



**Figure 1: Cwm Taf Community Zone model**



#### 4. Background

On 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016, the Cabinet Secretary for Children and Communities shared his ambition for resilient communities and invited organisations to express an interest in developing Children’s Zones in Wales. A Children’s Zone is a place-based approach, bringing together different organisations to improve outcomes for children and young people. The aim is that through a shared strategic vision, long-term sustainable reductions are achieved in the inequalities experienced by children in disadvantaged communities when compared to those in more socially advantaged areas.

In response to this challenge from Welsh Government, the Cwm Taf Public Services Board (PSB) held a workshop on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2016 attended by representatives from the public and voluntary sector in Cwm Taf to explore place based partnership approaches and how they might be developed in Cwm Taf. The consensus was that an expression of interest be

submitted to Welsh Government from the PSB, bringing all partners together in a coordinated regional approach.

It was also agreed that whilst any proposed approach would have tackling Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) at its heart, the building of resilience to achieve sustainable change would require a whole-family approach. This whole-family approach would seek to tackle ACEs through building the resilience of the child at the same time as challenging and changing behaviours of parents or future parents. It was also felt that a resilient community required the engagement and investment of the whole community and as such any place-based approach should be as inclusive as possible. It was therefore proposed that the approach would be to develop and pilot “**Community Zones**” in two recognisable communities in Cwm Taf.

## **5. Current situation**

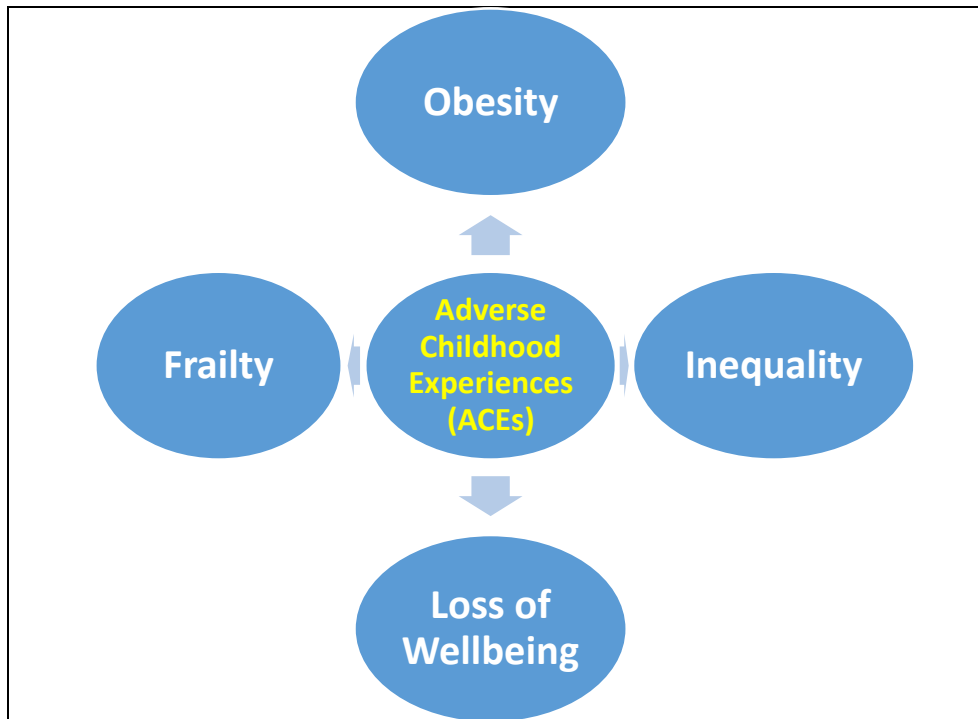
Currently there is a wide range of interventions and services delivered by both public and third sector services across these two areas; however much of this provision could be more effectively co-ordinated or organised. The lack of a single recognised approach across Cwm Taf lends itself to, at best, a duplication of effort and resources and, at worst, no provision at all for individuals and families in need. At present the main drivers for the delivery of support are legislative frameworks, grant funding criteria, existing commissioning arrangements and the current skill base of providers as opposed to the needs of families and communities across the region.

In order to effectively **remove these barriers**, the Public Services Board seeks to fundamentally change the way in which it approaches this agenda by taking a broader view of how all structures of public services and partners can be reconfigured and re-aligned. Individuals, families and communities should not miss out on much-needed help and support because of our differing thresholds, eligibility criteria, procedural mechanisms and priorities which are directed by prescriptive funding streams.

A single approach would enable us to maximise current resources and also ensure that there is a mechanism in place to oversee the consistent use of evidence-based approach. Furthermore, it is envisaged that the creation of “Community Zones” will support a number of the key challenges for our population that have emerged through Cwm Taf’s Well-being of Future Generation (Wales) Act need assessments. These can be grouped under the main

headings of **Frailty, Obesity, Inequality and Loss of Well-being**. All organisations will relate to these system challenges, but the focus is on ACEs.

**Figure 2: Key challenges**



We know that each of these challenges create major difficulties for our population and create the demand for a range of services, and this will not disappear overnight. However as laid down in the Well-being of Future Generations Act, there needs to be focus on addressing prevention and long term needs as well as developing more integrated and collaborative services in partnership with our population to tackle the current issues.

There are numerous ways that this could be approached but a key area that we know has strong links to each of these challenges and is extremely relevant to our communities is the issue of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). Those experiencing ACEs are more likely to experience family difficulties, be involved in violence and other antisocial behaviour and have poor educational attainment. However, adverse outcomes are not inevitable, but the risk increases with increasing exposure to ACEs. Conversely, preventing ACEs can improve outcomes greatly, that is why tackling and preventing ACEs has been put at the centre of our Community Zone approach.

## 6. Cwm Taf's Proposed Community Zone Model

Our goal is to prevent and minimise the effect of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) on individuals and families by organising ourselves as partner organisations more effectively through a single recognised approach called "Community Zones".

In order to achieve this, it is proposed that our Community Zone model consists of the following key elements that will form the basis of a pathway of support for individual, families and communities:

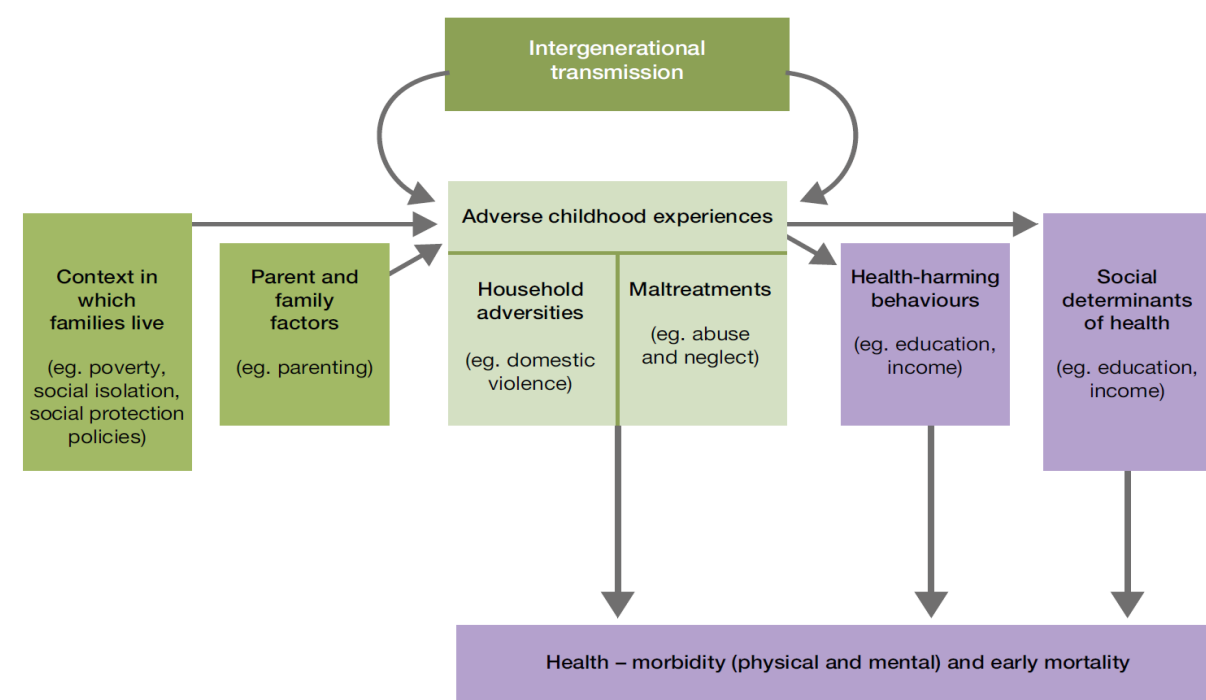
### A whole community approach

Taking a whole community approach will seek to better understand and address the following, depending on the needs, strengths and challenges of each community:

- **A focus on place:** Understanding how all resources and assets in our community zones can be used to support wider determinants of health and well-being
- **Context in which families live:** Understanding social isolation, increasing community co-ordination, mitigating the impact of poverty and increasing resilience.
- **Parent & Family factors:** Improving parental capacity, strengthening relationships and helping to prevent cycles of behaviour that encourage adverse outcomes across subsequent generations.
- **Household adversities:** Develop "an ACE-Informed Cwm Taf" - across our workforce, schools, communities, support services and public to understand the impact of ACEs.

The following diagram (Figure 3) is an illustration of the determinants and intergenerational cycle of adverse childhood experiences within the context of a child's environment, highlighting the challenges we aim to address.

**Figure 3: Logic model for interventions around ACEs**



### A prevention, early identification and intervention framework

The prevention, early identification and intervention framework creates a robust infrastructure upon which collective effort can be measured. Partners of all sizes and sectors will be challenged to fit into this approach which will be supported by a number of tools that will direct, support and regulate collaborative working. These tools will include formal contracts, clear referral pathways, shared paperwork, and effective impact measurement arrangements via a **Shared Outcomes Framework**.

The development of an early intervention framework will enable all partners to identify the contribution they make to this agenda, irrespective of how they are funded or where they are situated. The reconfiguration and realignment of services needs to be based on their key functions to create an effective and meaningful **graduated response** for communities to enable individuals and families to access support as early as possible to prevent problems from escalating. The framework is diagrammatically depicted in Figure 4, which shows the referral routes to access support, the assessment and brokerage mechanism and the continuum of support.

**Figure 4:** Prevention, early identification and intervention framework



The pooling of budgets and resources will seek to facilitate this framework, with commissioning arrangements clearly focused on the commissioning of outcomes as part of the whole community picture rather than the commissioning of services or provision within the confines of individual funding streams. It is envisaged that this will serve to facilitate a common understanding between a range of public, private and voluntary sector partners of where their contribution sits in the wider context and the creation of a **shared approach to delivering outcomes**.

Within this framework, the identification of individuals and families requiring early intervention services will take place:

- **Pre-emptively** through the application of Vulnerability and Resilience Profiling to identify families that have low levels of resilience and in need of support.
- **Pro-actively** by self identification at the point of access into specialist pathways of support e.g. anchor organisations (Hubs), substance misuse services, housing, domestic abuse.

Through the use of the Vulnerability and Resilience Profiling process, pre-emptive identification will be data led to ensure we are in a position to swiftly identify families in need of support, yet are not known to services as a family, before they reach crisis point.

### **A single point of contact (SPOC)**

At the centre of the Community Zone and early identification framework (Figure 4) will be a single point of contact for those requiring information, advice, support and intervention via the two identification routes outlined above. The SPOC will provide the central mechanism for co-ordinating interventions, assessing need/resilience, identifying the most relevant support pathway and brokering support for individuals and families to build their resilience.

It is envisaged that this central mechanism will remove the need to refer individuals and families between non statutory services delivering early intervention and prevention and the associated delays of organisational differences including prescriptive referral criteria and differing thresholds of intervention, and procedural delays such as case allocation.

The reconfiguration of Team around the Family, combined with pooled partner resources, will create a dedicated team/hub to co-ordinate the single point of entry.

### **Community engagement and involvement**

Effective community engagement and involvement will be critical to the success of this approach. This is based on how members of the community connect with each other, are engaged in local services, how services are commissioned and how outcomes are measured. A strength-based approach will be implemented to equip people with the skills and confidence to live successful, independent and fulfilling lives without the support of statutory services.

Specifically, community engagement and involvement will include:

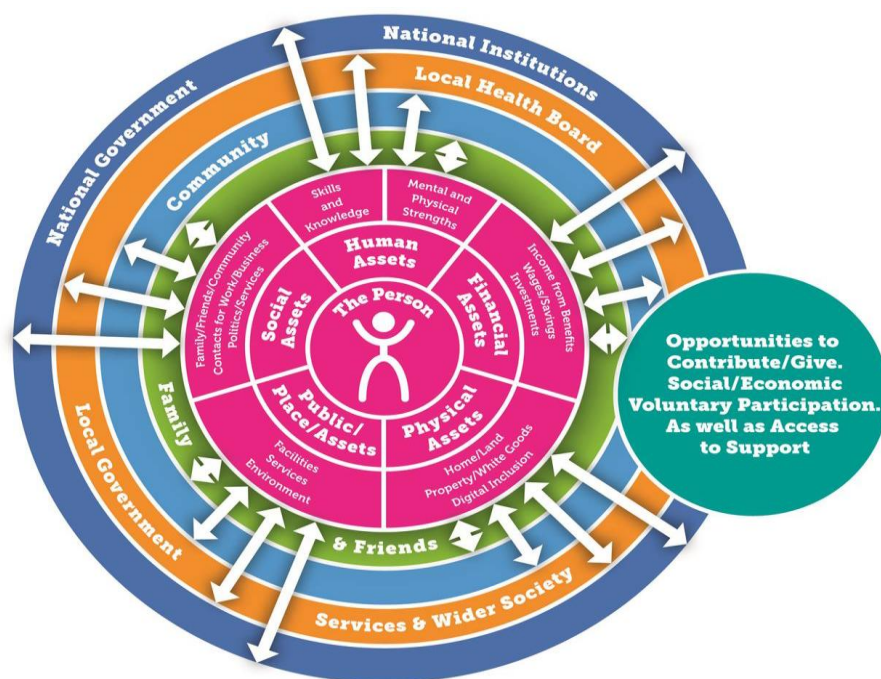
- **Using co-productive approaches** (see Figure 5) to build individual and community assets, knowledge and capacity to address what matters in relation to preventing ACEs. We will help develop individual and community resilience by supporting the community to share and provide information, advice and guidance (IAG). This includes promoting and providing access to relevant and up to date IAG through activities, programmes, venues, services and on line sources within the community to the whole population, including within schools, and when to refer to single points of contact to other public services when appropriate to do so.

- **Proactively engaging with individual and families** identified through the early identification process and single point of contact. This might be through one-to-one mentoring and brokering support for someone as they visit an existing local specialist intervention for the first time; providing information and signposting, supporting them to 'step-up' or 'step-down' from a service as they move towards reaching their goal or assisting them to reconnect with their community, family and develop their self-confidence through a range of low level community based activity.
- **Low level community-based engagement activities/events** which support the involvement of individuals, families and professionals to come together on an equal footing to contribute their time, skills, knowledge and resources to the area. These activities are also designed to support the involvement of service users in their community and play a part in the wider intervention pathway to improvement i.e. pre-engagement, feeder or step up/step down activities.
- **Co-production approach to listening to and working with the community** to carry out a comprehensive profiling and service review to develop, design and deliver improved community services.
- **Collaborative community action research** to support the community work with all partners to collect the experience of local people using the Listening Project underpinned by SenseMaker software. Interlink has been pioneering the use of this technology with communities in Cwm Taf over the last 18 months, specifically with older people, people experiencing mental ill health and in a placed based project in Porth. It is also currently being used by the Future Generations Commissioner.

The underpinning value of this community engagement and involvement approach will be one of putting the citizen at the centre to create resilience not dependency; with clear community pathways that supports and develops people to move from initial involvement and engagement to community governance within a cooperative structure that encourages collaboration and cooperation between citizens, community organisations and the public and private sectors. The following diagram describes this approach:



**Figure 5:** Putting the citizen at the centre (O'Hara-Jakeway, 2017, *Humanising Services and Building Communities*,).



### A suite of interventions to create an ACE- informed Cwm Taf

The suite of ACE interventions will be developed based on our local knowledge, evidence base, and initial engagement with those who live and work in our target communities. These interventions will form part of an effective and meaningful graduated response for people in need of support, as outlined in Figure 3 - from low level community based activity through to more specialist/intensive intervention.

By focusing on **building the resilience of individuals, families and communities** to deal with the challenges they face, interventions will be more meaningful, directive and effective. Pooled budgets and resources will support the development of bespoke services to meet need rather than forcing families needs into pre-designed ‘programmes’ that suit grant criteria or service thresholds. A shift to commissioning outcomes as opposed to commissioning provision will also serve to create and promote a culture of shared responsibility for, and a shared approach to, the delivery of outcomes. This co-ordination should provide intensity to the work we do which in turn would secure sustainable change.

## **A sustainable step down support pathway**

To embed behavioural change and sustain positive outcomes our model will include clear step down support pathways from interventions/services. As individuals and families move towards reaching their goal they will be assisted to reconnect with their community, family and develop their self-confidence through a range of low level community based activity. This low level community based activity will include peer support, group work activity, training, coaching and mentoring.

## **A single shared outcome framework**

A single shared outcomes framework will create a robust infrastructure to support the delivery of an outcome focused approach upon which collective effort can be measured across all partners. The outcomes focus on:

- Reducing the incidence of Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Families and communities are confident, nurturing, resilient and safe
- Achieving good educational outcomes: (closing the inequality gap)
- Realising sufficient income and obtaining work that pays
- Achieving a thriving and healthy future (well-being, active lifestyles)
- Evidencing change by developing and delivering regular local survey of ACEs to provide neighbourhood data on baselines and prospective outcomes

Please see **Appendix A** for the shared outcomes framework which provides more detail in relation to priorities, population indicators and performance measures for each of these outcomes.

This will also be supported by the development and delivery a regular local survey of ACEs to provide neighbourhood data on baselines and prospective outcomes. This will allow us to collect qualitative and quantitative information and to measure changes in perceptions at an individual and community level. It will help us measure and evaluate the impact of the approach on the community in their own words.

By concentrating effort via a place based model with two of our areas of greatest need, it facilitates partnership working on a small enough scale to effectively trial and evaluate this new and innovative ways of working.

## 7. What support could we need to take this approach forward?

It is important that we do not try and anticipate what this model will look like prior to completion of the review and first engagement phase but initial discussions suggest the following support would be beneficial:

- **Research & Evaluation** – professional support to develop the outcome and evaluation framework exist within the partnership. However, funding to support the development and delivery of prospective evidence gathering (e.g. through periodic local surveys) and research would support capacity issues
- **Community Presence** – the Community Zone will need to have a physical presence within the community. Physical asset(s) will need to be identified and may require investment to make it fit for purpose.
- **Community Engagement & Involvement** – this is likely to require ‘Community Coordinators’ based in both Zones.
- **Coordination & Administrative Support** – to manage and support the development and implementation of the proposed approach as well as data gathering and analysis for evaluation and research purposes.
- **Long-term commitment** – an acceptance that the aim is to build capacity and influence population indicators, inequalities and determinants of health & well-being that take a long time to change. A long term commitment is required from all partners.
- **Resources** – all organisations to commit resources (core and grant) to a shared approach. However, more flexibility in the way in which funding can be deployed to best effect would be of considerable help. This could be achieved by aligning resources to support people by:
  - Providing the help they need when they need it
  - Providing early interventions to prevent problems in the first place
  - Addressing issues well before they reach crisis point, when they place a considerable burden and cost across on a range of public services.
- Resources are required to support community activities / facilities that provide non-stigmatised accessible universal services, and to support the contribution made by volunteers and community organisations. With change comes challenges and accountability, particularly in the work involved in harnessing the benefits of a more flexible funding stream, and to make the best possible use of public funding to deliver agreed outcomes. We recognise this and as a Public Services Board, we are committed to devoting the time and effort to ensure is a success.

This proposed approach will be used as a proof of concept. If outcomes are successful the Public Services Board will explore how this model can be applied to other communities across Cwm Taf to meet their specific needs and challenges.