



RPB Newsletter

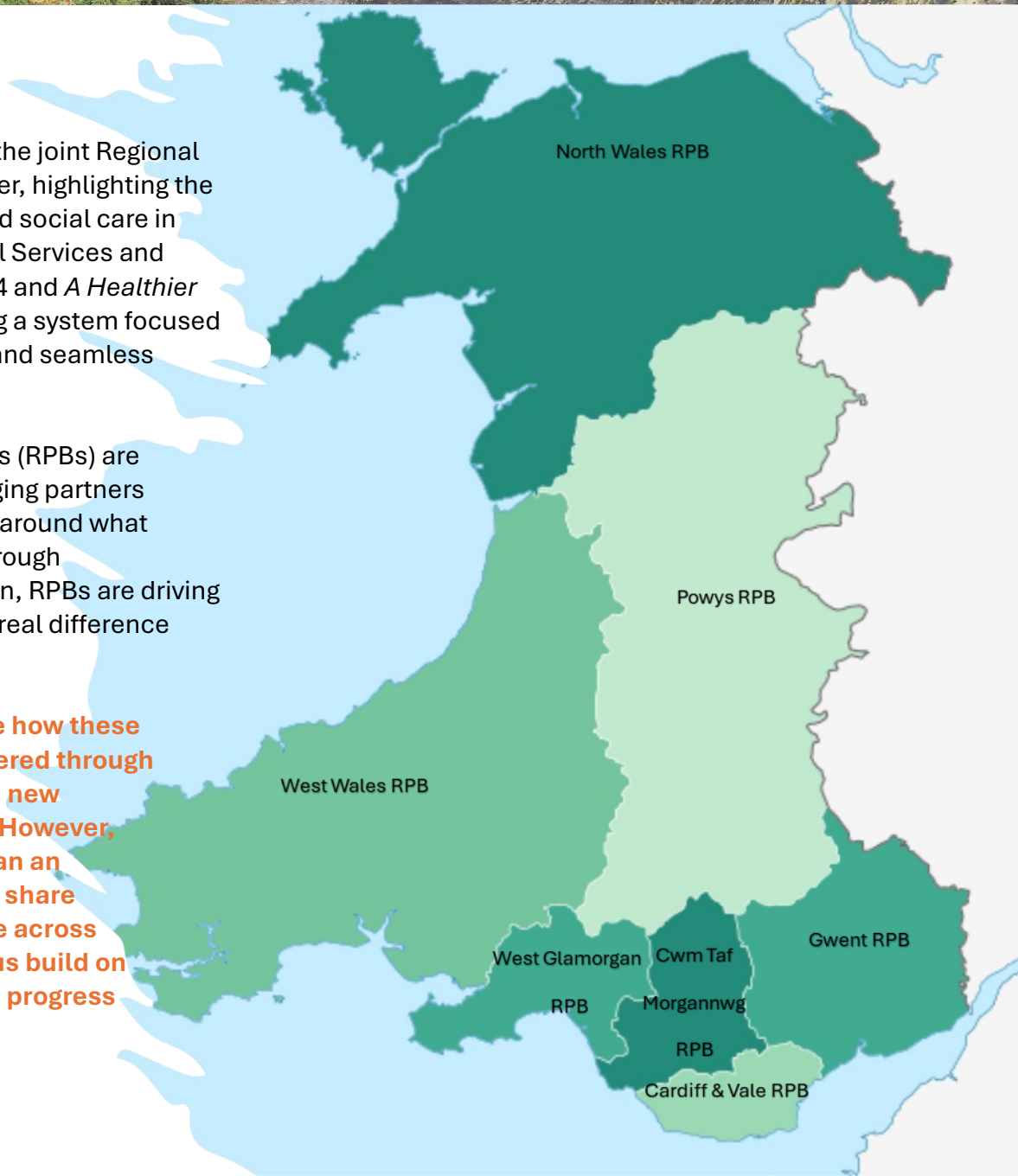
Issue: 1

Date: 09/12/2025

Welcome to first edition of the joint Regional Partnership Board newsletter, highlighting the transformation of health and social care in Wales. Guided by the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and *A Healthier Wales*, partners are building a system focused on prevention, well-being, and seamless integration.

Regional Partnership Boards (RPBs) are central to this change, bringing partners together to design services around what matters most to people. Through collaboration and innovation, RPBs are driving improvements that make a real difference locally.

In this issue, we showcase how these principles are being delivered through regional partnerships and new models of integrate care. However, this newsletter is more than an update – it is a platform to share learning and good practice across RPBs and Wales, helping us build on successes and accelerate progress together.



Bwrdd Partneriaeth
Ranbarthol Powys
Iechyd a Gofal
Cymdeithasol



Powys Regional
Partnership Board
Health and
Social Care

Shopping bus provides lifeline for rural communities

In Llanwrtyd Wells the introduction of a community shopping bus has been attributed with supporting residents who were struggling with transport access. It has provided opportunities for residents in rural areas to leave the house and maintain their independence, whilst also tackling loneliness and isolation.

The bus covers the area of mid Powys and now boasts a waiting list of interested residents who are seeking to benefit from its use. Thanks to its success, plans are afoot to expand the number of service days and the size of the bus provided.

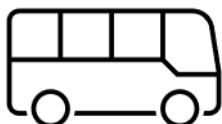
The project received initial funding of £37,369 from the Welsh Government's Regional Integration Fund to put the plan into action and has received further funding of £100,000 from the National Lottery for the provision of a new bus, plus running costs over a one year period.

As its usage has increased, word has spread across mid-Powys with demand continuing to increase. To date, the bus has been used 744 times with users being asked to contribute just £2 per journey.

Since the introduction of the service, 93% of users reported feeling less isolated. 100% said that the service prevented escalation of need and the bus has also fostered a community spirit, with friendships forming and daily social contact between users.

The service has even contributed to saving a life when a missed phone call escalated to a welfare check. The individual was found collapsed but has since recovered and is continuing to use the service.

Llanwrtyd Wells Community Transport





BWRDD PARTNERIAETH RHANBARTHOL CAERDYDD A'R FRO CARDIFF & VALE REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Stronger Together: Cardiff and Vale RPB Annual Conference Inspires Wales-wide Collaboration

Cardiff and Vale Regional Partnership Board's annual conference, *Stronger Together: Celebrating Our Partnership*, welcomed around 250 delegates from across health, social care, housing, education, third sector and lived experience communities to the **Temple of Peace, Cardiff, on 16 May 2025**. The day created an inspiring space to reflect on progress, share learning, and celebrate achievements that align with RPB priorities across Wales.

The programme included keynotes from senior leaders, an open Q&A session, interactive workshops, a vibrant marketplace, and a moving awards ceremony — all shaped by the shared vision of helping people stay well, connected, and supported closer to home. Throughout the day, there was a strong sense of positivity and partnership. Musical interludes from the Welsh National Opera added a human and creative dimension to the event,

while feedback captured the energy of the day: “superb event,” a real credit to the team,” “great networking,” and “a truly uplifting experience.

The workshops explored themes highly relevant to RPBs across Wales, including empowering communities, building consistent cluster-based care, strengthening crisis response, supporting children and young people, and developing multi-professional partnerships

The marketplace featured hands-on examples of innovation in priority areas such as Starting Well, Living Well, Ageing Well, and using digital technology to enable greater independence and choice.

An important highlight of the day was the awards ceremony, recognising the outstanding individuals and teams whose work embodies the values of co-production, innovation, community empowerment, and system-wide collaboration. These stories reinforce the importance of leadership at all levels in driving meaningful change.





Crucially, while the event focused on Cardiff and Vale, its themes echo work taking place across every RPB in Wales. From dementia-friendly communities and youth mental health supports, to digital innovation in assistive care and joined-up crisis services, partners across the country are committed to developing services that are more integrated, community-led, and prevention-focused. This shared learning benefits everyone, ensuring that innovations in one region can inform and inspire others.

Listening to feedback is key to making future conferences even stronger. Cardiff and Vale RPB is already gathering reflections from delegates to inform the next event — including calls to further amplify lived experience voices, deepen the focus on digital inclusion, support cross-RPB learning, and bring in emerging themes such as community care, transition planning, and ageing well. The aim is to build an even more inclusive, relevant, and impactful conference next year.

Ultimately, this is about more than one event: it is a platform for all RPBs in Wales to strengthen collaboration, share what works, and keep moving forward. By working together across regional and national boundaries, we can continue to accelerate progress towards our shared goals of creating more resilient communities and enabling people to live well and closer to home.

More detailed information on the event, including workshop slides and speaker biographies is available on our website:
[Stronger Together – Celebrating our Partnership – CAVRPB](#)

RPB partners across Wales are encouraged to contribute ideas for shaping next year's conference. To provide feedback on the 2025 event, please complete the Cardiff and Vale conference survey here: <https://forms.office.com/e/AmXbPrJ2UY>

We are currently planning the 2026 conference!! If you would like to be part of the planning team for the Conference or have some thoughts you would like to share, please contact us at hsc.integration@wales.nhs.uk





Cwm Taf Morgannwg
Partneriaeth | Regional
Rhanbarthol | Partnership

New Cwm Taf Morgannwg strategy aims to shape a fairer, more equal future for children and families.

The Cwm Taf Morgannwg (CTM) Regional Partnership has launched *Whole System: Whole Heart*, a new five-year strategy to improve the lives of babies, children, young people and families living across Rhondda Cynon Taf, Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil.

With babies, children and young people in CTM facing poorer outcomes than many parts of Wales, *Whole System: Whole Heart* is a shared commitment to work as one connected system to change trends and tackle the complex challenges shaping their lives.

The strategy sets out eight ambitions to uphold the rights of children, young people, and families -ensuring the best start in life, support in school, safe homes, and good mental wellbeing.

Shaped through regional workshops and engagement with babies, children, young people, and families, the ambitions aim to

to build strong, connected communities that foster resilience and wellbeing - guided by values that put children at the heart of decisions and service design.

Whole System: Whole Heart was officially launched on 21st November 2025 with attendance from over 100 professionals from across the health and social care system, in addition to children and parents.

Attendees participated in workshops that supported shared learning and honest reflections on how to work best together to tackle inequalities. Underpinned by the principles of the NEST (Nurturing, Empowering, Safe and Trusted) Framework, themes included data sharing, co-production, transition, community and togetherness.

Rocio Cifuentes the Children's Commissioner for Wales and Sarah Murphy MS: Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing delivered speeches to endorse the strategy, praising its potential to drive true partnership and co-production in shaping brighter futures for children.



Children and families were at the heart of the day. Their voices came through in a powerful performance by Rhondda based company, Spectacle Theatre, and an interactive workshop with the Children's Commissioner.

[A moving film](#) featuring babies, children, young people, and parents brought to life why *Whole System: Whole Heart* matters.

Ryan, who stars in the film said: *"if young people were equal, our voices would be stronger."*

In her closing speech, Cllr Jane Gebbie, Chair of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Partnership, underscored that true transformation depends on accountability, strong relationships, and trust

Cllr Gebbie said:

"Today is proof that when we come together, across boundaries, across roles, across lived experience, we create something powerful."

[Read our full strategy here.](#)

Watch our film here: [Launch of Whole System: Whole Heart](#)

For more information please visit our webpage: <https://ctmregionalpartnershipboard.co.uk/childrenstrategy/> or email Stacy Chamberlain on stacey.chamberlain@rctcbc.co.uk





Bwrdd Partneriaeth
Rhanbarthol Gwent
Gwent Regional
Partnership Board

Severn View Park Care Home wins MacEwen Award 2025

Monmouthshire County Council's state-of-the-art care home in Caldicot has been awarded the prestigious RIBA MacEwen Award 2025.

The award is a celebration of architecture for the common good – celebrating projects that demonstrate a mutual willingness of architect and client to push at the edges of design and practicality.

Designed by Pentan Architects and constructed by Lovell, the care home opened its doors in March 2024. It was funded through a partnership between Monmouthshire County Council and the Gwent Regional Partnership Board via the Welsh Government's Integrated Care Fund and Housing with Care Fund.

Working closely with the architects and developers, Colin Richings, Integrated Service Manager at Monmouthshire County Council, played a vital role in developing the care home.

Throughout the seven-year development of Severn View Park, his philosophy was consistent: allowing people to live well with dementia. This transpired into creating a home with a sense of familiarity for all residents.

The care home's design aims to support people with dementia. Front doors open directly into the living spaces, promoting a sense of comfort, unlike the typical reception desk and office setup. With four residences, each housing eight residents, the care home is centred around a new village hall for the new housing community, with gardens and allotments creating shared spaces for all.

Located on the new Crick Road housing development, Severn View Park Care Home maintains connections with the surrounding community.

By creating opportunities for the residents through events and shared spaces, residents can maintain a sense of personal identity and inclusion.

Along with the innovative design, the care home is at the forefront of developing best practices in care. Throughout the day, staff will ensure that all residents are included in all aspects of daily living.

Monmouthshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Social Care, Safeguarding and Accessible Health Services, Cllr Ian Chandler, said: "Severn View Park Care Home is at the forefront of care. Thanks to Pentan Architects and Lovell, the home provides a fantastic opportunity for staff to innovate how care is delivered. The care home is a jewel within our social care portfolio; along with its fantastic design, staff are making this a real home for the residents to live connected to their community."

Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government, Jayne Bryant, said: "When I visited Severn View Park Home last year, I was so Impressed by the work undertaken to create such a beautiful space to deliver independent living and specialist dementia care in the community. It's wonderful to see this innovative care home receiving such prestigious recognition and I am so pleased that we were able to support the project through our Integrated Care Fund and Housing with Care Fund."

Chair of the RPB said "We are grateful for the significant funding support from Welsh Government, which has made this flagship dementia provision scheme a reality, not only as an exemplar for Gwent but also in sharing best practice across Wales. Together, in partnership, we have worked collaboratively with communities, organisations, and experts to deliver lasting, meaningful change, for those affected by dementia. Congratulations to everyone involved in this project."





BWRDD PARTNERIAETH RHANBARTHOL
GOGLEDD CYMRU
NORTH WALES
REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD

North Wales Dementia Friendly
Communities Scheme

The journey to creating dementia-friendly communities across North Wales is well underway. The Dementia Friendly Communities Scheme is about helping to build communities that are compassionate, inclusive and resilient for people living with dementia, and also to support their friends, families and unpaid carers to stay connected, and live well within their local areas. The North Wales Regional Partnership Board (RPB) launched the North Wales Dementia Friendly Communities Scheme on 1 January 2024. This initiative builds on the valuable work of the Alzheimer's Society, whose scheme has now closed, and involves collaboration with six local councils, County Voluntary Councils, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, local businesses, and charities.

The Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council (DVSC) has been instrumental in the scheme's development, sharing expertise from their Dementia Aware Denbighshire project to support other councils and promote the initiative across the region.

Rebecca Bowcot, Dementia Aware Denbighshire, DVSC said:

"Raising awareness of dementia across Denbighshire has been a great way of empowering individuals and communities to take action in order to help people affected by dementia in their local communities. It is extremely rewarding to see

people coming together to achieve their individual aims of wanting to support people so that everyone can continue to be included and play an active role within their community. We host a bi-monthly Dementia Aware Denbighshire Network which allows dementia friendly communities to come together to share ideas and support each other to enable their dementia friendly communities to develop and thrive."

Dementia Friendly Denbigh - Chair Dilwyn Jones said:

"I was honoured to become Chair of Dementia Friendly Denbigh and be part of the process of increasing awareness locally, through information session. We have been able to donate items such as Alexas and robotic cats and dogs to help those living with dementia and their carers".

Communities participating in the scheme can gain recognition for their efforts, which might include:

- Staff training in local businesses
- Clear and understandable signage around town
- Dementia friendly activities

There are currently 12 communities in North Wales recognised for their progress towards becoming dementia friendly, from Ynys Mon to Wrexham. It is anticipated that a further 12 communities will be looking to apply for dementia friendly status accreditation during 2025.



In the scheme's first year:

- Over 1,000 people living with dementia and their unpaid carers were supported through dementia groups.
- More than 150 people attended dementia training sessions
- Over 1,400 people reported improving knowledge of dementia services in their community

A person living with dementia said:

"Being part of a dementia friendly community helps to get your voice heard. It has also helped promote the Precious Memories group in Rhyl which takes place weekly and is a valuable source of peer support for people".

This is one of a number of schemes delivered by the North Wales Regional Partnership Board (RPB) and their partners, working to make communities more inclusive and empowering:

<https://www.northwalescollaborative.wales/regional-partnership-board/>

To learn more about the North Wales Dementia Friendly Communities Scheme and how to apply, visit: <https://www.northwalescollaborative.wales/dementia/>

Related news: [Anglesey County Council has been recognised as the first Dementia Friendly Council in North Wales](#)

For more information about DVSC's work, visit: <https://www.dvsc.co.uk/>





**Partneriaeth
Ranbarthol
Gorllewin
Morgannwg**

**West
Glamorgan
Regional
Partnership**

Westfield House: A Supportive Step-Down Service in West Glamorgan

Westfield House is a specialist step-down care service tailored for older adults living with dementia, who have recently been discharged from hospital to Westfield House and require extra support and assessment before transitioning back home or into longer-term care.

Based within the Waunarlwydd area of Swansea, the 8-bed facility bridges the gap between hospital and home, giving residents time to recuperate, restore their confidence, rebuild physical strength and engage with tailored dementia-aware support in a safe, temporary setting.

As part of the region's Home-from-Hospital model (aligned with the National D2RA pathway), Westfield House is funded through the Regional Integration Fund (RIF). Since its inception in 2023, the service has supported 83 hospital leavers to regain their independence.

Alison Bromfield, Project Manager (Service Remodelling) at Swansea Council, said:

“Westfield House is all about giving people time, dignity and support to recover after a hospital stay. Our team focuses on what matters most to each individual, and the difference we see in people’s confidence and wellbeing in just a short space of time is incredible.”

Individuals have the chance to do the ordinary, everyday tasks that mean so much, while enjoying the privacy of their own room in a homely atmosphere. Loved ones are also able to visit and maintain contact in a comfortable and welcoming space.

Westfield House is a prime example of how RIF investment makes a tangible difference by enabling people to build on their strengths and achieve their personal health and wellbeing goals.

To view the digital story, please visit:

<https://vimeo.com/910163424?fl=pl&fe=sh>



**Bwrdd Partneriaeth
Rhanbarthol
Gorllewin Cymru**

**West Wales
Regional Partnership
Board**

Shining a Spotlight on Integrated Community Care in West Wales

On Tuesday, March 11th, 2025, Parc Y Scarlets hosted the annual West Wales Regional Partnership Board (WWRPB) Conference and the West Wales Health and Social Care Awards. This year, the spotlight was on "Integrated Community Care", emphasising the importance of coordinated, collaborative and accessible care within our local communities.

The event brought together a diverse range of over 150 stakeholders, including health and social care professionals, third sector organisations, volunteers and community leaders, all united by a shared commitment to improving the wellbeing of West Wales residents. With keynote speakers, WWRPB Chair Hazel Lloyd Lubran and Children and Social Care Minister Dawn Bowden MS, highlighting local and national developments and challenges in health and social care.

In the main room, attendees had the opportunity to explore a range of projects, and third sector information stands. From tech enabled care and VR headsets showcasing their technology for improving the lives of individuals in West Wales, to the VC gallery demonstrating their community outreach with different population groups across Pembrokeshire, each stand highlighted the impactful contributions being made within our community.



Throughout the day, attendees engaged in insightful discussions, exploring innovative strategies and best practices for a range of important topics, including:

- Unpaid carers and those living with dementia
- Capital developments
- Workforce challenges
- The home from hospital process
- The effect of AI on children and young people

Later in the afternoon we welcomed the annual West Wales Health and Social Care Awards. The awards were a celebration of the individuals and teams whose dedication and compassion are positively shaping our community.

We have a full write up on the day here:

[WWRPB Conference & Awards 2025 summary – West Wales Regional Partnership Board](#)

We would also like to share our thanks to RADIO BGM for broadcasting a highlight of the WWRPB Conference and Awards, which includes recordings of the speakers, the RPB Q&A, information stands and award nominees. **The full recording (without the addition of music) can be found on the link here: [WWRPB Conference & Awards 2025 Audio](#)**

West Wales Dementia Conference 2025

The West Wales Dementia Conference 2025 took place at the Halliwell Centre in Carmarthen on the 1st July.

The West Wales Dementia Conference offered an important opportunity for over 120 attendees to regroup, review, and reflect on the progress made across the region through the Dementia Wellbeing Pathway, as well as looking ahead to the development of a renewed All Wales Dementia Action Plan, expected in 2026/27.



We welcomed Hazel Lloyd Lubran CEO of CAVO and Chair of the WWRPB for the opening address of the conference.

Naomi McDonagh and James Severs then set the stage by introducing the Regional Dementia Wellbeing Service and the plan for the day.

Next up, Gemma Emile provided a deep dive into the Regional Dementia Diagnostic Pathway (previously known as MAS). Her talk was particularly impactful, as it centred on the insights gained by listening to the voices of those with lived experience.

Aranwen Ellacott introduced the Regional Dementia Connector Service provided by Age Cymru Dyfed, where newly diagnosed people living with dementia in West Wales have a named point of contact (connector), from diagnosis through to end of life or admission into care.

Dementia Wellbeing Connectors are responsible for coproduction of a wellbeing plan and ongoing support to individuals living in Ceredigion, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire.

Charlotte Duhig spoke about the vital role of Admiral Nurses in supporting unpaid carers throughout the dementia pathway. The Admiral Nurse service has a partnership with Dementia UK and forms a part of the West Wales Dementia Wellbeing Service, serving as a key wrap-around function to preventatively manage complexity and family/carers stress to pre-empt breakdown and crisis.

We also heard from Peter Clarke and Damian Murphy, who presented on the 'Good Life with Dementia' training.

This initiative is particularly special as it is created by people living with dementia to help others living with dementia. It is a 6-week course that starts in September in Ammanford. It is open to referrals, please see the poster below.

The afternoon session began with opening remarks from Rhian Bowen-Davies, the Older People's Commissioner for Wales.

Following this, the team behind the Regional Advanced Practice Dementia multi-disciplinary resource provided an overview of the work they undertake, including;

- Research & Innovation
- Post-Diagnostic Intervention
- Foundations in Dementia Wellbeing Programme
- Professional Practice Standards for Allied Health Professionals
- The Regional Learning and Development Framework

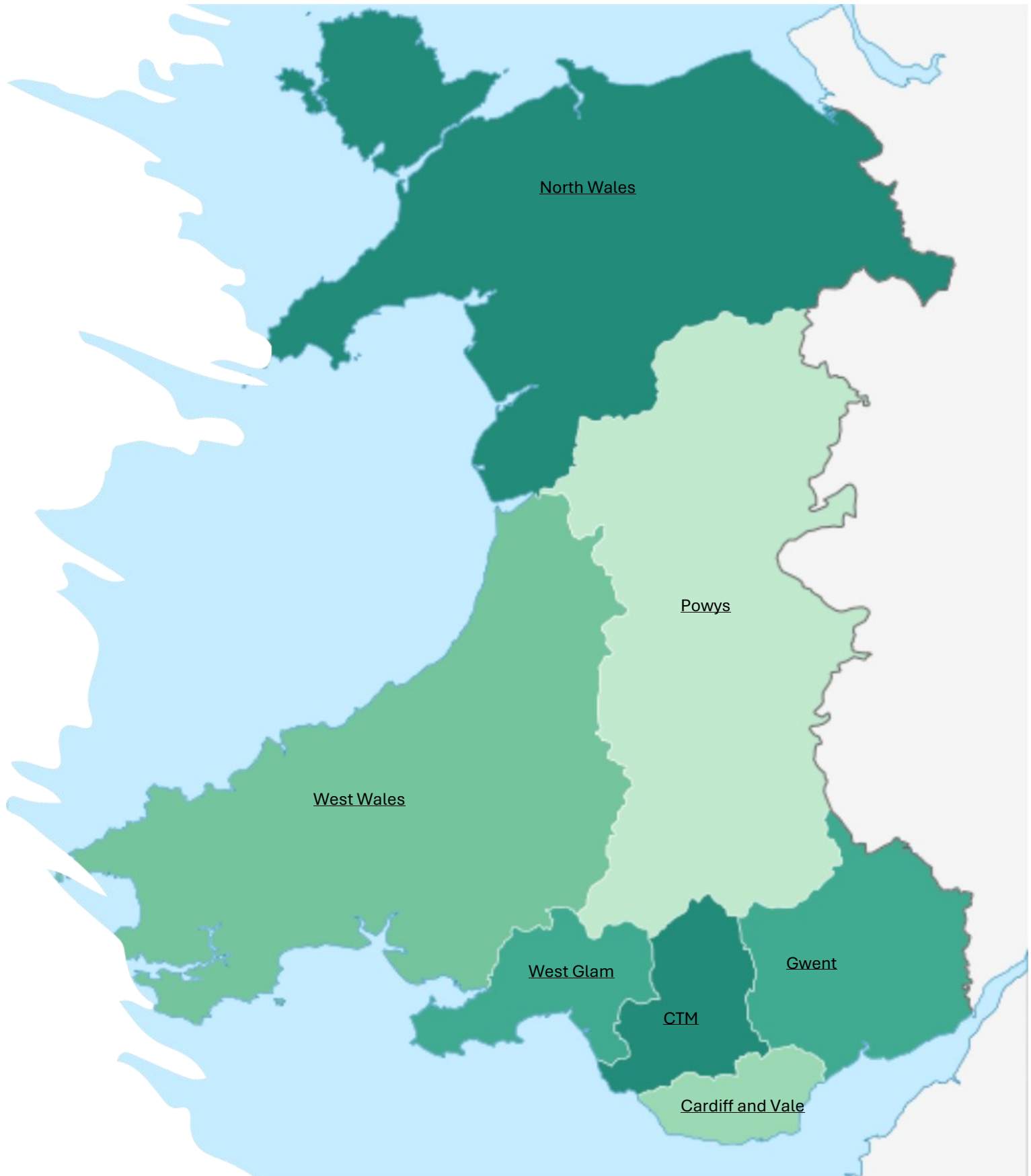
The Regional Community of Practice for Dementia Practice Development Coaches The team—Beca Stilwell, Ellen Turrell, Karen Shearsmith-Farthing, Alexandra (Lexi) Rees, Rosey Meiring, Helen Rawlinson, and Rosie Roberts—also discussed aspirations and challenges, all while incorporating the crucial voice of lived experience.

We wrapped up the day with a Q&A session where attendees could ask questions to all the speakers. The event officially closed with a Dementia Friends session, which was a fantastic way to end the day, led by Angela Reid, Age Friendly & Dementia Supportive Communities Development Officer from Pembrokeshire, PAVS.

For those who missed out or wish to rewatch, all presentations from the day are now accessible online [HERE](#).

[West Wales Dementia Conference 2025 – West Wales Regional Partnership Board](#)

RPB's Website



If you have a story you'd like to highlight in the next issue of the newsletter,
please send your stories to:



PartnershipandIntegration@gov.wales