

Board Summary

Discussion

13th January 2026



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

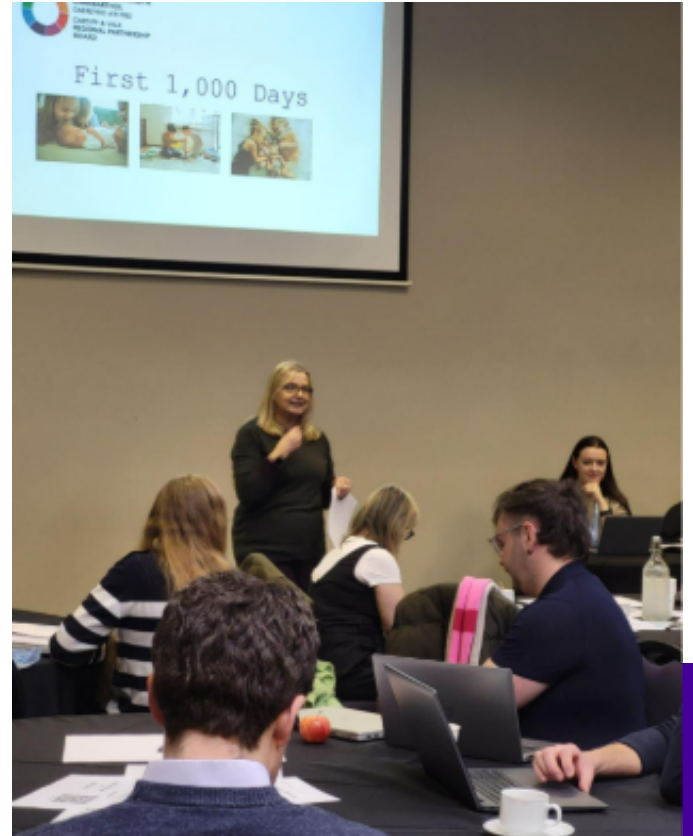
This session was the first opportunity to trial a new way of working for the RPB and wider partnership groups, creating a space for shared conversation on key priority areas for everyone in our region.

Collaboration between the RPB, PSBs, and operational colleagues to foster a unified approach to regional challenges.

Scene Setting: RPB Chair – Sam Austin

Our conversation brought together partners within the Regional Partnership Board, Cardiff Public Service Board, Vale of Glamorgan Public Service Board and wider operational colleagues to think about the First 1,000 Days of life for children in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

We were delighted to welcome Annette Algie from Blackpool's Better Start programme and hear about the groundbreaking work they have been driving to deliver better life opportunities for children and young people by focusing upon improving experiences in their First 1,000 Days.





1. Deep Dive: The First 1,000 Days (Starting Well)

Understanding the Challenge:

Our first session focused on building a common understanding of the challenge facing babies and children aged 0-2. .



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

First 1,000 Days



Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Caerdydd a'r Fro
Tim Iechyd Cyhoeddus
Cardiff and Vale University Health Board
Public Health Team



Llunio ein
Llwyddiant
I'r Dyfodol
Shaping Our Future
Wellbeing

Cardiff and Vale Early Years Population Health Assessment

Dr Jonny Currie, GP and Public Health Consultant
December 2024



Claire Beynon and Jonny Currie presented data and "audio stories" from partners to illustrate shared challenges in the region





Priorities

Attendees were asked to contribute to a Menti Meter, accessed via QR code during the meeting, to provide their views on what the partnership should focus on.

What are the priorities we need to focus on?





The Blackpool Model

Annette Algie shared experience from Blackpool and their "Better Start" roadmap, a 10-year programme of work which is demonstrating a systemic shift in early years support with funding from both the National Lottery and local partners.

Key discussion points

- Normalising Community Access: Shifting from clinical settings to community centres and using targeted "point of life" advertising (e.g., bus ads).
- Active Engagement: Replacing passive leaflets with peer-to-peer support and digital inclusion.
- Neutral Brokers: Using the Third Sector to build trust with families who may find statutory organisations intimidating.
- Sustainability: Building long-term viability into every project from its initiation.



What Makes a Better Start?
Learning from Blackpool





Table Discussion

Following the presentation on the Blackpool "Better Start" model, members discussed how to apply these lessons to the Cardiff and Vale region.

The emerging themes are outlined below:

Joint RPB / PSB 13th January Emerging themes



- Co-production with parents changes the plans
- School readiness
- Parenting support
- Oral health (including SALT)
- 'For Babies Sake' 2 yr intervention to reduce domestic abuse
- Speech, language and communication
- Community Connectors
- Bringing together existing resources as well as exploring new options
- Building a connected datasets
- Investment in comms and PR



Decision: There was a resounding "Yes" from the Board to commit to and prioritise investment in the First 1000 days. The Starting Well Partnership will be asked to develop a plan to take forward the next steps in formulating a vision and plan to take this work forward.





2. Board Development Conclusions

Cath Doman and Sam Austin provided feedback from recent RPB development sessions. Members discussed how to evolve the RPB into a more proactive and engaged forum.

- **Member Leadership:** Proposal for RPB members to "sponsor" workstreams and lead deep dive sessions to increase ownership and accountability.
- **Strategic Alignment:** Huw Thomas suggested reflection between the RPB and Public Services Boards (PSBs) to bring their work closer together.
- **Resource Shifting:** Estelle Hitchon and Suzanne Rankin noted that future priorities must be funded through "core allocation" and aligned delivery plans rather than depending on short-term external resources such as RIF.
- **Inclusivity:** Sheila Hendrickson-Brown emphasised putting people at the centre of co-production and ensuring board inclusivity.



There was general acceptance of the ideas that Cath was proposing. However, Sam also noted that we would need to reflect on the impact that these changes would make over a series of meetings. Partners would be encouraged to feedback after each gathering with suggestions for how we could continue to improve.





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

Issues for incorporating into the final plan

These principles will be used to shape future working plans for both the RPB and SLG over the coming months.

- RPB and SLG agendas to continue to be refined for exception reporting only with the understanding that relevant information is readily available on request.
- a shared summary of agreed action which can be circulated to all partners;
- using the deep dive approach to build a shared understanding of existing change programmes and resources which might be used together for greater impact;
- expanding our understanding of the presence and role of other existing Boards / Partnerships – particularly the PSBs) and the inter-relationship between them and the RPB if appropriate.
- Viewing the RPB not so much as a Board but as a community of connectors to inform a shared understanding.
- ensuring that Sponsorship roles are clearly articulated and enabling without being too onerous.
- making a gear shift from conversation to committing resource for long term action.
- Ensuring we build our plans through co-production and engagement.





3. Partnership Matters

- Winter Performance: Overall, the "Winter Sprint" had a negligible impact on discharges; members noted that small, basic actions often make a larger difference. Both LAs made a significant impact on supporting more people to return home.
- Finance: Chris Markall reported that slippage is currently on track, with Welsh Government feedback expected at the next meeting.
- RIF funding impact assessment: the assessment is underway with a report on outcomes due at the next meeting. This will provide detailed analysis associated with the end of RIF in March '27 to support future investment decisions.
- Next meeting: the next RPB will be incorporated into the ICCS Summit on 4th March with specific time set aside in the programme for a Partnership Matters 'Business' section.

4. Any Other Business

Director of Public Health Report: 

- Focus on obesity and diabetes.

Diabetes update:

- Feedback provided on diabetes work.
- Type 2 Diabetes Health Needs Assessment (T2D HNA): complete
- Type 1 Diabetes Health Needs Assessment (T1D HNA): nearing completion.



Mentimeter results



Mentimeter

What action will I take forward in response to our conversations today?

To think about how we align priorities better to make more of a difference

Understand the data infrastructure they use in Blackpool

Governance discussions

Directly linking with partners who can help unblock issues and make immediate and sustained change - ie engaging with health around oral health

Review flying start and how it is working

Support the wider assessment of our combined resources and how it could be deployed

Spread awareness of the RPB work within organisation and housing sector

Follow-up with Blackpool colleagues

Work with psb colleagues to look at the whole partnership landscape

Consider roles and functions to generate improved outcomes

Task members of the starting well group to work on the three agreed priorities



[Click here to view the full slides of responses.](#)



5. Summary of Actions

Action Item	Responsible	Status
Cancel 3rd March RPB Meeting	Bec	Complete
Ensure all members are invited to the ICCS session on 4th March, setting time aside in the agenda for a Partnership Matters section.	RPB Team	Members invite complete.
Organise all-day Partnership Matters event (4th March)		In Progress
Draft a Long-term Goals Tracker for Board approval	RPB Team	To be started
Provide feedback from WG on slippage at next meeting	Chris Markall	Due March
Report on Impact Assessment outcomes	RPB Team	Next Meeting
All to provide comments on proposed roles and responsibilities of RPB members	All (CD coordinate)	
Outcome of First 1000 days development to be shared with Cardiff PSB	Anna Tee	
Relationship between CVRPB and PSBs to be explored	Cath Doman	



Attendees

Name	Title
Alison James	Lead Nurse - Children, Young People and Family Health Services, Cardiff and Vale UHB
Andy Jones	Director of Nursing/Midwifery, Children & Women's Clinical Board, Cardiff and Vale UHB
Anna Howells	Specialty Registrar, Public Health
Annette Algie	Strategic Service Manager, Better Start (Blackpool)
Astrid Etherington	ST2, Medicine, Public Health Wales
Cath Doman	Director of Health and Social Care Integration, Cardiff and Vale RPB
Catherine Bickerton	Senior Nurse Health Visiting, Cardiff and Vale UHB
Chris Markall	Assistant Director of Finance, Cardiff and Vale UHB (RPB Banker)
Claire Beynon	Executive Director of Public Health Wales, Cardiff and Vale UHB
Cllr Ash Lister (Deputy Chair)	Cabinet member, Social Services, Children's Services, Cardiff Council
Cllr Eddie Williams	Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health, Vale of Glamorgan Council
Cllr Huw Thomas	Leader, Cardiff Council
Cllr Leonora Thomson	Cabinet Member, Adult Services and Public Health, Cardiff Council



Name	Title
Cllr Sandra Perkes	Cabinet Member for Public Sector Housing and Tenant Engagement, Vale of Glamorgan Council
Elizabeth Jones	Director of Learning and Skills, Vale of Glamorgan Council
Emma Cooke	Executive Director of Allied Health Professionals, Health Scientists and Community, Cardiff and Vale UHB
Estelle Hitchon	Director of Partnerships and Engagement, Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust
Gareth Newell	Head of Performance & Partnerships, Cardiff Council
Helen Williams	Assistant Director of Education and Inclusion, Cardiff Council
Jonny Currie	Locum Consultant, Local Public Health
Kirsty Williams	Chair, Cardiff and Vale UHB
Natalie Drury-Styles	Unpaid Carers Representative, Cardiff and Vale RPB Team
Professor Ceri Phillips	Vice Chairman, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board
Rachel Connor	Chief Executive Officer, Glamorgan Voluntary Service (GVS)
Rob Thomas	Chief Executive, Vale of Glamorgan Council
Sam Austin (Chair)	Chief Executive and Director of Operational Services, Llamau
Sandra Veasey	Unpaid Carers Representative, Cardiff and Vale RPB Team



Name	Title
Sarah Fitzgibbon	Principal Educational Psychologist – Parenting & Play, Cardiff Council
Sarah McGill	Corporate Director, People and Communities, Cardiff Council
Sarah Scire	Director of Business Development, Marketing and Communications, Platfform
Sheila Hendrickson-Brown	Chief Executive Officer, Cardiff Third sector Council (C3SC)
Suzanne Rankin	Chief Executive, Cardiff and Vale UHB

Secretariat and observers

Name	Title
Meredith Gardiner	Head of Partnerships and Assurance, Cardiff and Vale RPB
Chris Ball	Ageing Well Programme Manager, Cardiff and Vale RPB
Anna Tee	Starting Well Programme Manager, Cardiff and Vale RPB
Colleen Eley	Improvement and Development Manager, Cardiff and Vale RPB
Rebecca Al-Nashee	Partnership Support Assistant, Cardiff and Vale RPB



Apologies

Name	Title
Abigail Holmes	Director of Midwifery and Neonatal Services, Cardiff and Vale UHB
Andrew Templeton	Group Chief Executive, YMCA Cardiff Group
Avril Hooper-Williams	Operational Manager, Early Help, Cardiff Council
Casey French	Policy Advisor, Care Forum Wales
Cllr Lee Bridgeman	Cabinet Member, Housing and Communities, Cardiff Council
Cllr Lis Burnett	Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, Vale of Glamorgan Council
Cllr Lynda Thorne	Cabinet Member for Housing & Communities, Cardiff Council
Cllr Margaret Wilkinson	Cabinet Member, Housing and Building Services, Vale of Glamorgan Council
Deborah Driffield	Director of Children's Services, Cardiff Council
Joshua Dowdall	Chief Executive, Taff Housing
Karen Pardy	Deputy Clinical Board Director, PCIC, Cardiff and Vale UHB
Karenza Moulton	Senior Nurse, Acute Child Health, Cardiff and Vale UHB
Lance Carver	Director of Social Services, Vale of Glamorgan Council



Apologies

Name	Title
Lauranne Cullen	Official Observer, Llais Cymru
Lisa Trigg	Director of Workforce Development and Improvement, Social Care Wales
Melanie Godfrey	Director of Education, Cardiff Council
Michael Allum	Consultant, Public Health
Natalie Southgate	Partnerships Delivery Manager, Cardiff Council
Nia John	Community Paediatrician, Child Health, Cardiff and Vale UHB
Nick Blake	Business Officer, Cardiff Council
Nicola Pitman	Operational Manager, Health and Wellbeing, Cardiff Council
Paul Orders	Chief Executive, Cardiff Council
Rachel Evans	Head of Children and Young People Services, Vale of Glamorgan Council
Rhianon Urquhart	Principal Health Promotion Specialist, Local Public Health Team

