



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

**NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
Social Care, Health & Well-Being Cabinet**

17th October 2019

**Report of the Director of Social Services, Health and Housing –
Andrew Jarrett**

Matter for Information

Wards Affected: All Wards

**REVIEW OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES – LOCAL AREA
COORDINATORS**

Purpose of the Report:

This report endeavours to inform Cabinet that there will be an extension of the remit of Local Area Coordinators from their current geographical areas to cover the wider Local Authority.

Executive Summary:

There are currently 6 Local Area Coordinators (LACs) employed by Neath Port Talbot Local Authority. These LACs, in their current set up, only cover 27 out of 42 wards. A review of the service has been undertaken and there is scope to expand the LAC resource to the wider county so that all wards have the positive benefit of LAC input.

Background:

Over the last 3 years, LACs have been integrated into the structure of Adult Social Care's Community Support Services. LACs were, and continue to be, identified as integral assets in our local communities in

offering early intervention and prevention support to vulnerable individuals, across all ages and demographics. They work closely with community organisations, the private sector, community groups and the public sector. They also offer support in tackling everyday challenges our citizens might face in ways that are sustainable and not reliant on statutory services. The main purpose of the LAC post is to:

1. Provide advice, information and support in the community to individuals of all ages and across service types and their families / carers.
2. Support individuals on a 1:1 basis who may be facing complex life situations (and who may be disabled, older or have mental health issues, and their families / carers) enabling them to:
 - determine and pursue their vision for a good life,
 - identify their own strengths and needs,
 - stay safe, strong, connected and contributing as valued citizens
 - have a voice/self-advocate
 - build resilience,
 - find local, practical, non-service solutions to problems, and
 - access, coordinate and control the required supports/services/resources, to the extent that they desire, to get there.
3. To build strong partnerships with communities, agencies and services to develop and increase their capacity to include and meet the needs of people – who may be disabled, older or have mental health issues – and their families / carers.
4. To ensure there is widespread understanding of Local Area Co-ordination, to implement supporting initiatives and provide advice, information and appropriate data to ensure that opportunities for further development are maximised.

The remit and scope of the LACs over the last three years has expanded. Initially NPT only had two LACs; we now have the

availability of six. This has meant greater flexibility and availability across the county. When used effectively, LACs have shown their value in building the resilience in our communities and working closely with community champions/assets to connect those with the highest needs in NPT with the information, support, and guidance needed, tackling issues such as social isolation, food poverty and housing.

A management overview of the current LAC capacity and arrangement has taken place, specifically to consider the possibility of expanding the current boundaries covered by the LACs so that the whole of the county can benefit from the added social value of having a LAC in their area.

Please see Appendix 1 for a breakdown on where each LAC will be placed, by ward. With this expansion, there will be no dis-benefit to any citizen as there is no proposal to “take away” LAC support from any community. Rather, arrangements will be put in place to extend the boundaries of the LACs. There is no concern that their support to the community will be diluted given the expansion of boundaries, as the necessary support and structures will be put in place to ensure the way in which they work is efficient and effective in meeting the needs of each of their areas. The LACs will be expected to link in with each of their local GP clusters to build on the existing relationships with our Health colleagues, as well as other public services, such as Police, Education and Fire and Rescue. Furthermore, where they don't already exist, LACs will develop links with the local elected Members in order to ensure there is joined up working and good lines of communication with our local Councillors. LACs will also have the support of the Community Connectors team and the Community Independence Service in each of the wards to ensure residents are getting the right service, in the right format (i.e. 1:1 or group), at the right time.

Financial Impacts:

No Implications

Integrated Impact Assessment:

There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment as this report is for monitoring / information purposes.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

The recommendation has no spatial impact on our valleys communities. The LACs will have a natural and positive impact on the community as they will offer early intervention and prevention support improving the overall wellbeing of all citizens.

Workforce Impacts:

No implications.

Legal Impacts:

No implications

Risk Management Impacts:

No Implications

Crime and Disorder Impacts:

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on the Council in the exercise of its functions to have “due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent:

- a) Crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and
- b) The misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area; and
- c) Re-offending the area”

Furthermore, LACs will develop links with the local elected members in order to ensure there is joined up working and good lines of communications with our local counsellors.

There is no impact under the Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Counter Terrorism Impacts:

The proposals are likely to have no impact on the duty to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Impacts:

Section 2(1) of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 introduced a general duty where a person exercising relevant functions must have regard (along with all other relevant matters) to the need to remove or minimise any factors which:

- (a) increase the risk of violence against women and girls, or
- (b) exacerbate the impact of such violence on victims.

The proposals contained in this report are likely to have no impact on the above duty.

Consultation:

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations:

Not Applicable

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

Not Applicable

Implementation of Decision:

Not Applicable

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Ward Breakdown per LAC

List of Background Papers:

None.

Officer Contacts:

Andrew Jarrett, Director of Social Services, Health & Housing

Telephone: 01639 763279

Email: a.jarrett@npt.gov.uk

Nune Aleksanyan, Principal Officer Community Support Services

Telephone: 01639 763329

Email: n.aleksanyan@npt.gov.uk

Maggie Hayes, Operational Manager, Community Support Services

Email: m.hayes@npt.gov.uk

LAC WARDS

<u>LAC</u>	<u>WARDS COVERED</u>
CB AD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cymmer • Glyncorrwg • Gwynfi • Bryn & Cwmavon • Pelenna • Aberavon • Baglan • Margam • Sandfields East • Sandfields West • Port Talbot • Taibach
JC EJ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briton Ferry East • Briton Ferry West • Cimla • Neath East • Neath Noth • Neath South • Tonna • Aderdulais • Bryncoch North • Bryncoch South • Cadoxton • Coedffranc Central • Coedffranc North • Coedffranc West • Dyffryn
IR KR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blaengwrach • Crynant • Glynneath • Onllwyn • Seven Sisters • Resolven • Alttwen • Cwmllynfell • Godre'graig • Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen • Lower Brynamman • Pontardawe • Trebanos • Ystalyfera • Rhos

