

Community Safety & Public Protection

- Claire Jones: Strategic Manager Partnerships & Community Cohesion
- Julia Jenkins: Commissioning and Development Manager
- Matthew Rafferty: Harm Reduction Lead

Area Planning Board (APB)

This presentation will highlight

- The ROLE and responsibilities of the APB, including
 - Membership, structure, governance, and reporting arrangements
 - The services in the area
 - Drug market information
 - Drug deaths
 - Its priorities and aspirations including developing a public health approach
- The work and makeup of the APB support TEAM

Area Planning Boards

Area Planning Boards (APBs) were established in 2010 and provide a regional framework across Neath Port Talbot and Swansea, to:

- Strengthen partnership working & strategic leadership in the delivery of the substance misuse strategy;
- Enhance and improve the key functions of planning, commissioning and performance management.
- **APBs fulfil the responsibilities of Community Safety Partnerships in relation to substance use, at a regional level.**
- Provides a mechanism to pool scarce resources where appropriate
- Has over-sight of all substance use related issues but is not responsible for the commissioning of e.g. Statutory criminal justice interventions (this is via PCC)



Area Planning Board

- **Chaired: Keith Reid Director of Public Health, SBUHB**
- **Vice Chair: Trudi Meyrick, Chief Superintendent, SWP**
- The membership of the APBs includes representatives from all the responsible authorities which comprise CSPs, as voting members
- **Voting Members (full members/responsible authorities)**
 - NPT Council – Claire Jones & Chris Millis
 - Swansea Bay University Health Board
 - Swansea Council
 - South Wales Police
 - Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue
 - HM Prison and Probation
 - Office of Police & Crime Commissioner



Area Planning Boards- membership

The APB is also attended by a range of organisations, inc.

Invited members, include

- Providers
- Housing & supporting people
- Children & young people services

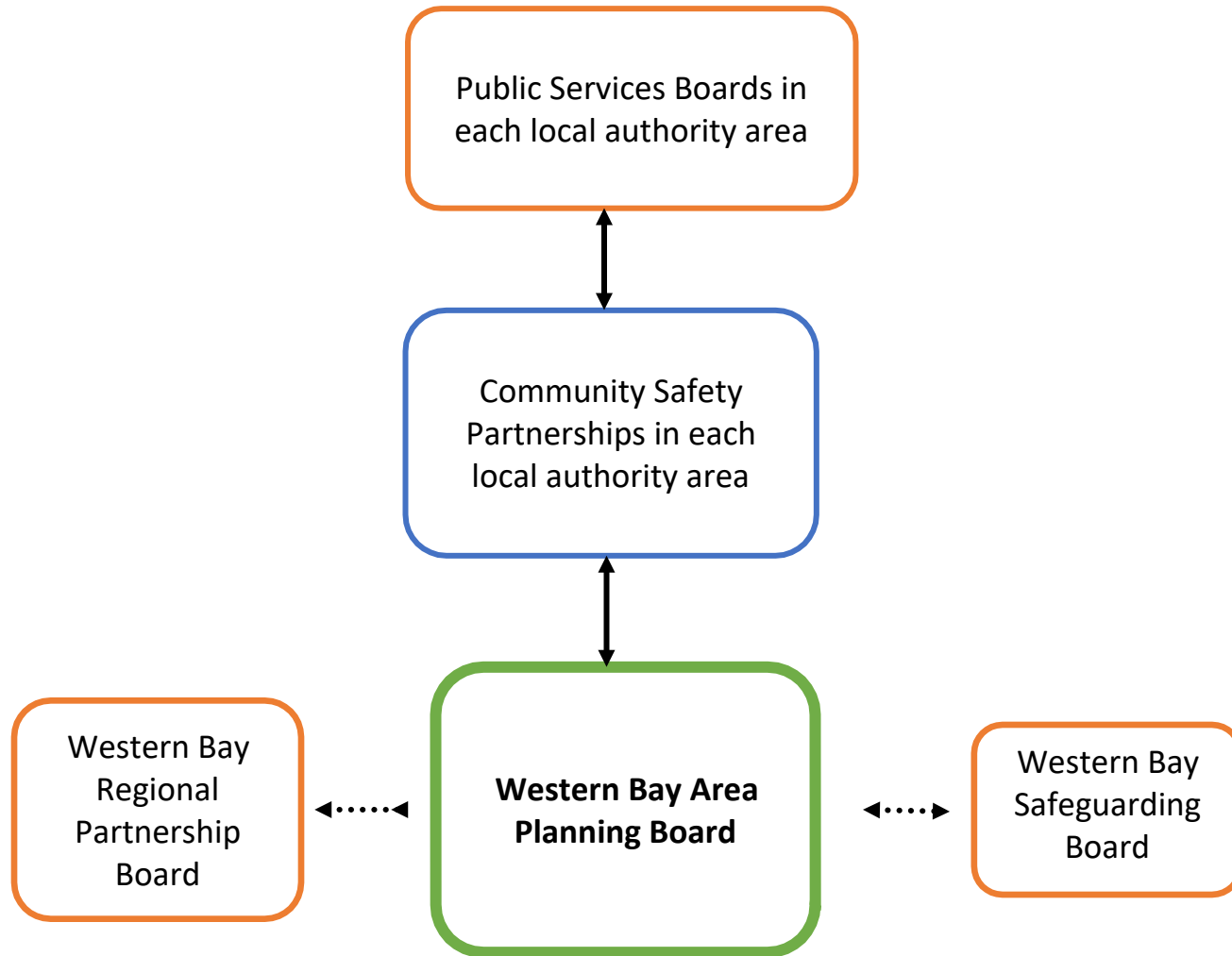
Advisors

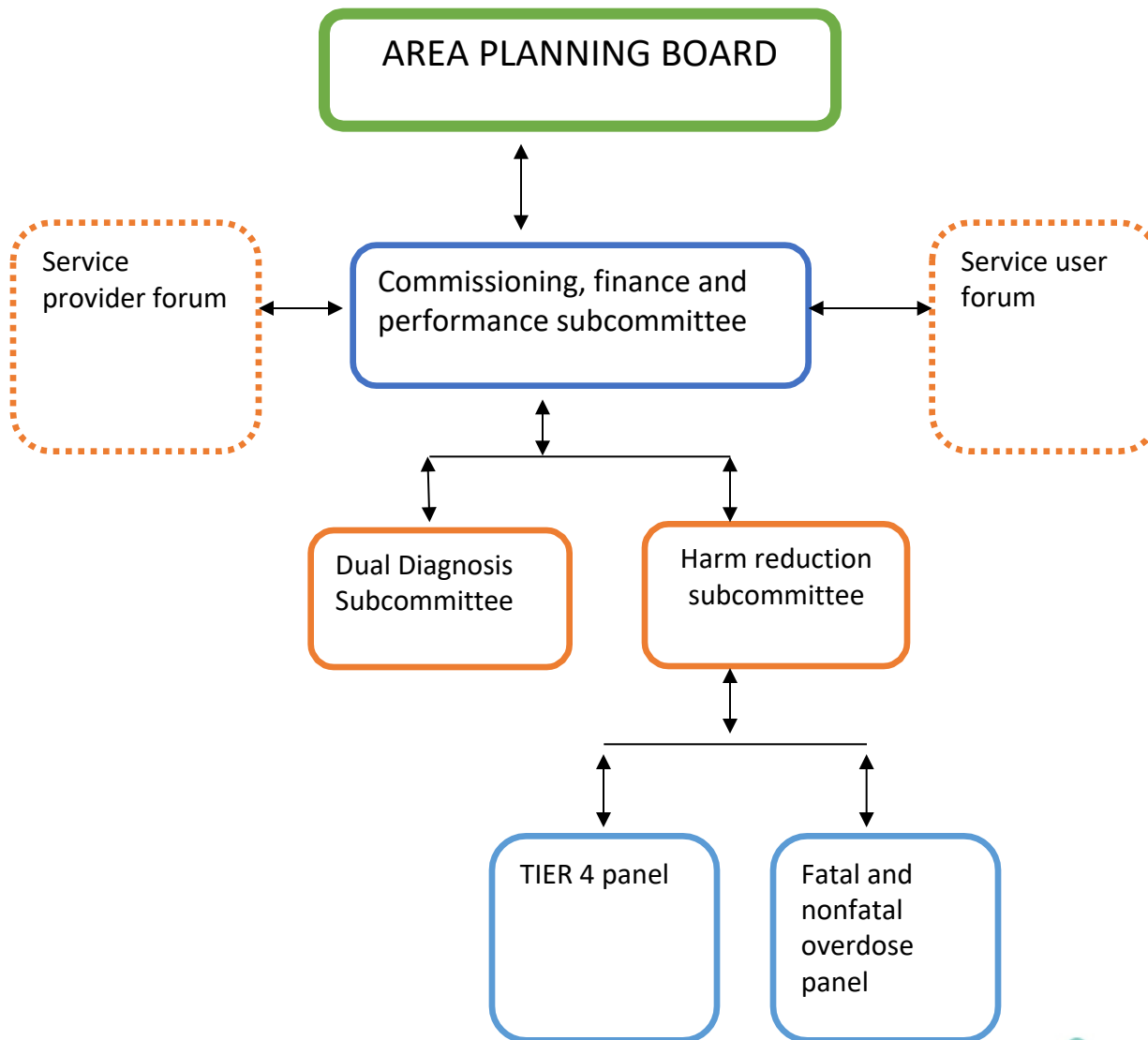
- Welsh Government
- APB Team
- Representative from Regional Partnership Board
- Public Health Wales

Governance

- Secretariat: APB Team
- Meets: Quarterly
- Governance: governance framework in place

WESTERN BAY APB STRUCTURE





Key role of APB

- To assist responsible authorities to discharge their duties in relation to substance misuse by, amongst other things:–
 - Development of an outcome based commissioning strategy.
 - Production of a fully costed implementation plan to support the commissioning and estates strategy.
 - Ensuring there are appropriate budget, accounting and audit management systems in place to effectively administer the Substance Misuse Action Fund (SMAF) revenue and capital funds
 - Ensuring the National Core Standards for Substance Misuse and other relevant standards are embedded in all service planning and delivery systems with appropriate arrangements in place for performance management and review.
 - Establishing arrangements to receive consider and act on performance management data.

Remit of the APB

- The APB is an unincorporated body - has no legal powers,
- Representatives on the APB are accountable to their separate organisations but people should attend with the necessary authority
- The APB itself cannot commission work, procure goods/services, and incur costs or to enter into contracts etc.
- The nominated grant recipient body can carry forward the proposals approved by the responsible authorities – NPT is the banker/grant holder
- Representatives of the Responsible Authorities should take the recommendations of the APB to their representative organisations, e.g. the financial risk sharing.
- The Responsible Authorities, as Board Members of the APB, will be held to account for the progress of the work of the APB through their own organisational performance management and decision-making frameworks.



Issues: Fatal and Non-fatal Drug Poisonings – NPT area

- Drug related deaths and non-fatal poisonings are a real concern to the APB
 - 18 fatal cases reported to the Case Review Coordinator in 2021.
 - 10 cases for Neath and 8 for Port Talbot
 - Increase of 5 cases compared to 2020
 - IRP commenced review of the fatal cases reviews in October 2021
 - Working more closely with the coroner to ensure fatal cases are identified in a timely manner
 - CRC has access to Niche to ensure fatal and non-fatal cases are identified and dealt with in a timely manner
 - 58 non-fatal drug poisonings, 28 in Neath and 30 in Port Talbot
 - All cases are reviewed and clients offered an intervention or support
- It is clear however that despite all the incredible work, DRD and non-fatal poisonings continue to increase
- Evidences need for systemic change

Issues: Drug Market– NPT area

- There are correlations between drug markets and areas that are ranked highly on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation
- Data and intelligence from South Wales Police suggest that the majority of drugs seized in Neath and Port Talbot are Cannabis, Cocaine, Heroin and Benzodiazepines
- Cannabis remains the most reported drug seized in Neath Port Talbot.
- Benzodiazepine type drugs being the second most seized drug, with 20% of all occurrences relating to the seizure of this drug
- Concerning to the area is the reports suggest that benzodiazepine type drugs can be bought for as little as 30p per tablet.
- National and local evidence suggests that these tablets contain far more potent substances which many consumers of the tablets are unaware of.
- There have been no reports from service users that substances are difficult to obtain, with heroin, cocaine (crack cocaine and powdered cocaine), benzodiazepines and amphetamine all readily available in NPT
- It has been noted that the demand and supply of cocaine at the moment is an astronomically high level. The supply is diverse and can cost over £95 a gram in some areas of NPT.

Drug Market– NPT area

- There is also large demand for crack cocaine which, although is cheaper for the user, is far more addictive. All this is leading to the expansion of cocaine supply and as a result, means NPT (and Western Bay) is a sought after area for organised crime groups who operate large county lines.
- In NPT we are also seeing increasing demand for amphetamine. Amphetamine is usually associated with areas that have high levels of deprivation and poverty
- In recent months we have also seen the increase in ketamine and MDMA use, upon review this is likely to be down to night time economy and students returning to the area and the easing of restrictions. However this is further increasing the lure of supply chains into the area
- Substances are being sold and bought via a range of platforms which include; online sales, dark web, social media, on the street and over the phone, which makes it difficult to fully understand the true picture
- Neath Port Talbot is a lucrative area for county line operations. Anecdotal reports from frontline services suggest that county lines are exploiting vulnerable individuals in two forms
 - Cuckooing

– Exploitation

www.npt.gov.uk



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

APB Priorities - integrated public health model

- The APB acknowledges that the services in respect of substance misuse needs to improve.
- A joint meeting of the two Public Services Boards decided to establish an 'Integrated Public Health Model for Substance Misuse in Swansea and Neath Port Talbot' as the key driver for transforming substance use services
- The APB is on a journey to develop a model for substance misuse services, that is seamless, evidence based and intelligence led
- A direction of travel has been agreed toward this integrated model, i.e. to develop a model collaboratively involving those with lived experience, and clinicians and people who work within the sector.
- This is about trying to break down the silos – whole system change i.e. across all sectors
- Strong, open relationships,



APB Priorities - integrated public health model

- The APB has acknowledged that it does not have a fully detailed model, at this stage, this will evolve collaboratively.
- More work is needed to create a shared view of what an 'integrated public health approach to tackling substance misuse' might look like, and how this will be achieved.
- Work is underway, including
 - **Vision and values workshop**

The workshops will help the APB build a shared understanding of what we are trying to do in Western Bay and that is vital as the basis for the changes that we know we want to make locally

- **The establishment of an expert panel**

.An independent expert advisory panel will be set up to support the development of the new model and hear evidence to help inform the new service model and reduce deaths.

- **Over-arching steering group established**

Representatives from SBUHB, SWP, PCC, NPT, and Swansea Councils

Priorities

- Understanding the resources needed to deliver the new model
- Continue to work with the PCC's office in the delivery of ADDER
- Signing of financial risk sharing agreement by ALL partners
- Reducing drug related deaths
- Launching new routes into service – to make it easier
- Strategic evaluation of prescribing services
- Improving service quality through monitoring
- Service user involvement
- Ensuring that tests for BBV is improved
- Promoting harm reduction
- Getting the risk-sharing agreement signed by all partners
- To implement learning from drug death reviews



DRUG & ALCOHOL
SERVICES IN SWANSEA
& NEATH PORT TALBOT

- newid is the over-arching description/branding of the services available across the region <https://www.newidcymru.co.uk/services-available/>

Services delivered under newid

- The Engagement Team is a service delivered by WCADA (now called Adferiad) in NPT providing assertive outreach as part of the wider Newid service provision. Barod deliver in Swansea. The Engagement Team will work with people in a variety of settings, including their home to ensure maximum engagement is achieved.
- The Community Drug and Alcohol Team (CDAT) Health Board services that provides a complex needs service for people experiencing problematic substance misuse requiring medical interventions.
- PSALT (pronounced P-SALT) is Newid's Primary Care, low threshold medical prescribing service. PSALT delivers high quality care to people who require opiate substitute therapy supported by highly experienced key workers within the community.



- Adferiad Recovery provides support and interventions in Neath Port Talbot And Swansea). Adferiad has designated services for children and young people, adults, older people and family and carers. Adferiad provide the Minnesota 12-Step Abstinence treatment programme and Harm Reduction services, including needle and syringe programmes, outreach support, diversionary activities and counselling.
- Barod provides high quality substance misuse services to help improve peoples wellbeing who are affected by drugs and alcohol in Swansea. Barod assist people to make informed decisions about their care and support by promoting harm reduction and health promotion strategies.
- Dyfodol deliver the Rapid Access Prescribing service within the Newid partnership. RAPS, is an integral part of Newid, ensuring our most vulnerable people are provided with clinical interventions and specialist holistic support. The RAP's service encompasses an assertive outreach approach to service delivery, allowing flexible and dynamic engagement with people.

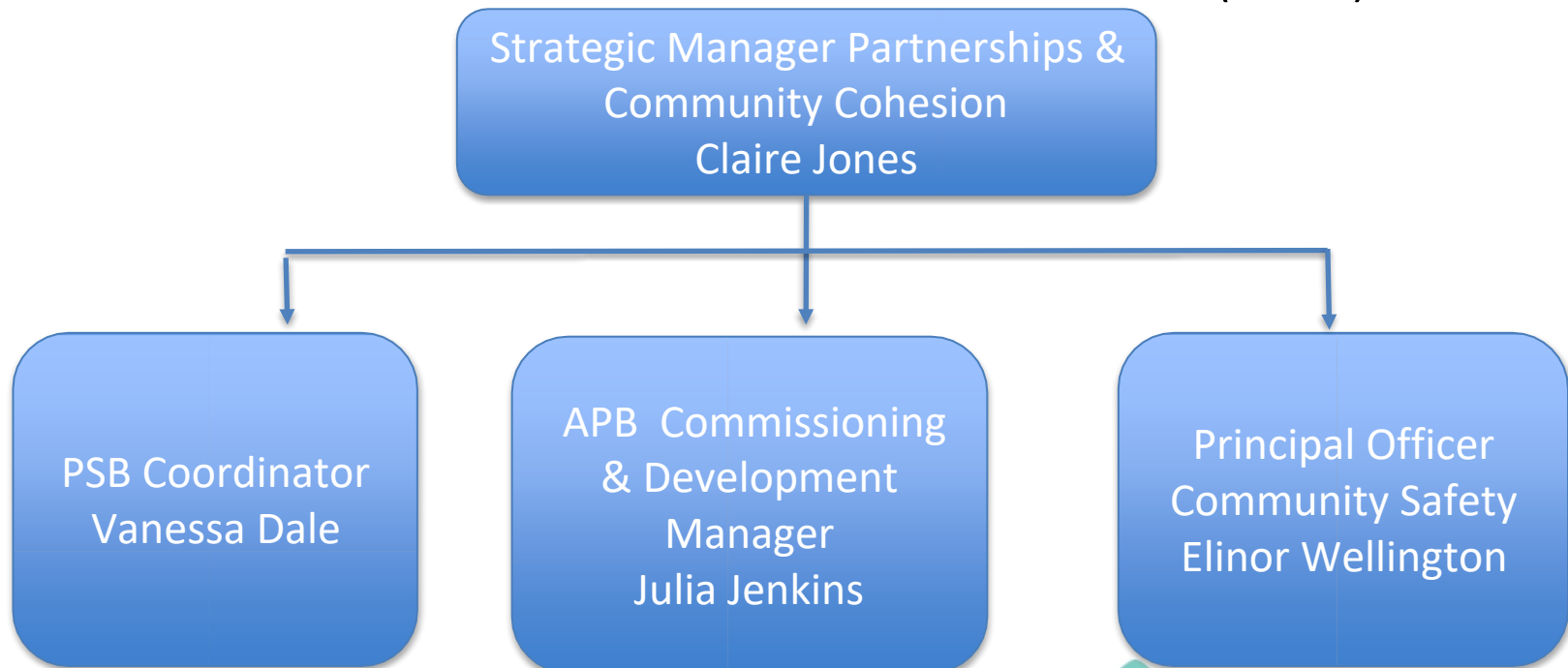
- Platform deliver substance misuse counselling within the Newid partnership. The substance misuse counselling service is designed to help people get more of an insight into the substance misuse problems they may be struggling with.
- Needle and Syringe Programmes (NSP's) formally known as needle exchanges are a vital harm reduction service that aims to reduce the harms and risky behaviours associated with injecting drugs. The programme provides clean and sterile injecting equipment, Blood Borne Virus (BBV) screening and support into more treatment services if requested.
- People can also obtain **Naloxone** kits in Needle and Syringe Programmes. Naloxone is the life saving medication given when someone has had an overdose, from opiate based drugs such as, heroin. Naloxone is pivotal to reduce drug related deaths in the region something that remains a high priority in Swansea and Neath

Other

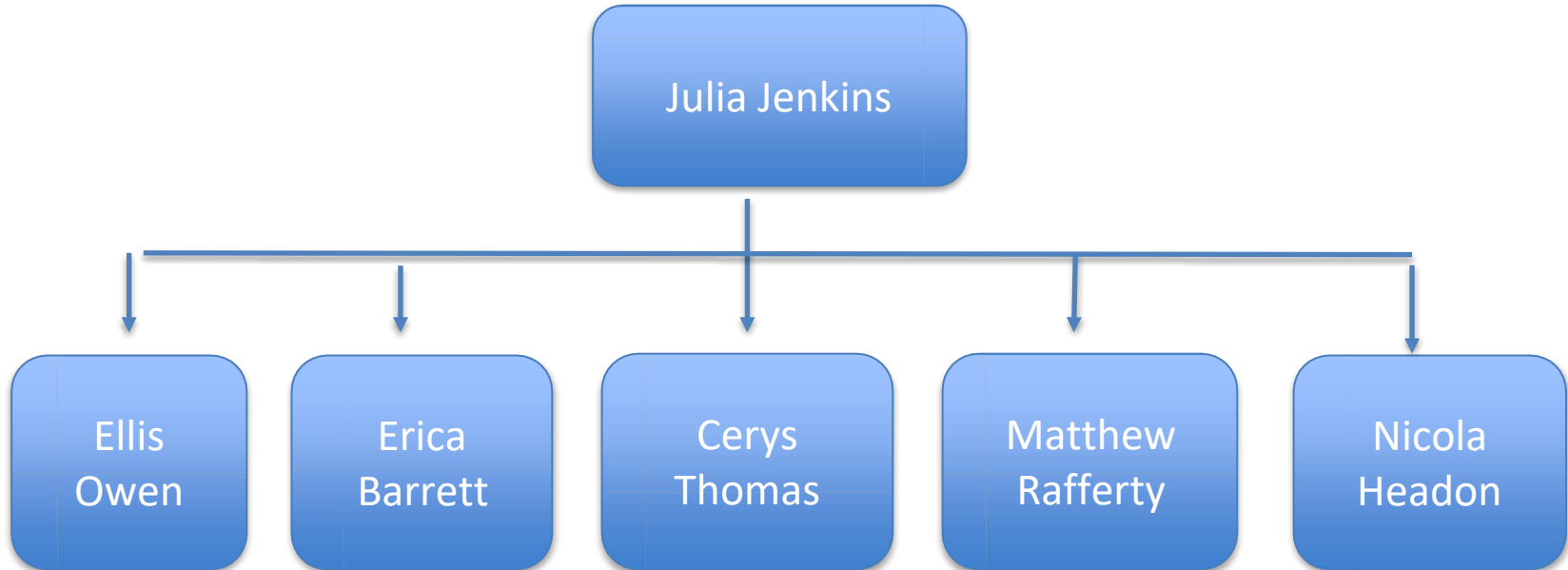
- The PCC's office also commissions statutory interventions programme called Dyfodol
- Project ADDER

APB TEAM

- The APB team is a regional team, hosted by NPT, sitting within ELL/Partnerships & Community Cohesion
- The APB team supports the APB, but is not the APB, e.g. it enacts decisions of the APB in relation to Substance Misuse Action Fund (SMAF)



APB Team



APB Team: Julia Jenkins

Cabinet Portfolio: [Cllr Leanne Jones](#)

Purpose: Improving lives for people and communities affected by substance misuse

What we do:

- The APB support team ensures that substance misuse services funded through SMAF across Western Bay are commissioned and delivered in an effective and efficient way, in-line with WG guidance and policy.
- Ensuring that the effect that substance misuse has on our communities is minimised by having oversight of overdoses and drug trends and responding to issues as they arise.

APB Team:

- Developing and implementing contractual and commissioning strategies for the APB
- Ensuring the smooth running of APB and sub-group meetings.
- Monitoring services provided by internal and partner organisations in order to ensure safety, quality and best value is achieved.
- Performance Monitoring
- Working with partners across the statutory and voluntary sector to develop and deliver an effective harm reduction strategy in respect of the misuse of drugs and alcohol.
- Managing the system of reviewing fatal and non-fatal overdoses
- Gathering together information necessary to carry out multi agency reviews of suspected drug related deaths including trends, Police intelligence and coroner's reports.
- Co-ordination meetings, papers, receive apologies for and take minutes of meetings etc.
- Service user engagement (new post/ADDER funded)
- Monitoring expenditure



APB Team: Covid 19 response

- The team maintained all its services throughout the pandemic including during lockdown
- Team members have been working hard at home.
- NEX and THN schemes were maintained throughout the lockdown
- Provided support for the Housing Options teams in Swansea and NPT for service users homed in B&B's and hotels to ensure that outreach continued to be provided at those locations.
- Met with HB colleagues to develop a medication delivery scheme
- All APB meetings were successfully maintained on-line
- Worked with providers to develop risk assessments
- Ensured that Buvidal funding from WG was administered appropriately.
- Coordinated applications from providers for WG Winter Covid fund for PPE and Digital Support
- Coordinated lists of CYP working with services to the MA Vulnerable Children meetings

APB Team: Achievements

- Established a contract monitoring system and performance management framework
- Developed the Drug Poisoning Task Force and improved systems for reporting and recording overdoses
- Established 2 new prescribing services to increase the amount of places available for service users
- Worked with SWP and A&E dept to introduce a naloxone programme
- Local Drug Information System (LDIS) Model
- Established a new SM service website <https://www.newidcymru.co.uk/>
- Established a 72 hour protocol in responding to non-fatal overdoses
- Worked with PCC to secure ADDER funding from the Home Office

Harm Reduction

- Local Drug Information Model – regional drug alert system to allow access to concise and accurate information to control the public narrative and stop “fake news”.
- Peer to Peer Naloxone Distribution – Trained volunteers with lived or living experience will distribute naloxone to their peers this will build on the successes of naloxone distribution in the area by improving the reach to those who may not come into services
- Early Help Hub – collaboration with SWP and Social Services where people who are known to services are referred voluntarily to the Hub without sanction (PPN). When people are voluntarily referred it ensures that they engage with service providers for the right reasons rather than being forced to via police sanctions. It also reduces administration for SWP.
- BBV screening – this reduced dramatically during lockdown. This is now a clear priority. The APB agreed that a local protocol be established with individual testing targets for substance use services to adhere to, which will be monitored and reported to the APB.

Service user involvement

- SU Involvement Officer – Home Office funding via the Police and Crime Commissioner (ADDER) has allowed for a new officer.
- Ellis Owen took up post in Jan 2022 and is based with the APB Team.
- This post will support the implementation of the ADDER project across Swansea Bay and will scope and review existing opportunities across the partnership landscape, with a view to ensuring opportunities to develop the involvement of Service Users, their families and communities in review of existing and development of new Substance Misuse services.
- Main areas of work:
 - To develop and support service user engagement across the area.
 - To act as a conduit for information and research in developing transparent, communication and feedback mechanisms between planning structures of commissioners, providers, service users and carers as directed by service users and carers.
 - Working across all organisations in scoping what currently exists in terms of SU engagement
 - Address barriers to meaningful engagement.
 - Liaise with relevant personnel for concerns/complaints and success stories to be acknowledged and addressed within the service provision and planning structures.
 - Ensure service user engagement contributes to an individual's recovery pathway, therefore engagement within wider community support services and acknowledged as part of the journey.

Service Developments

- Strategic Evaluation of Prescribing Services – the APB team is carrying out an evaluation of prescribing services in Western Bay to identify issues within the current arrangements and to recommend improvements which may require additional investment.
- In-patient detoxification – due to the pandemic the health board closed the in-patient detoxification ward as it is being used as an isolation ward. The interim provision of 2 beds on the main mental health ward has raised some issues. The APB has requested an options appraisal be carried out to advise on possible alternative arrangements during the interim period. The HB hasn't advised when the ward will reopen. Longer term plans are being considered.
- Bupropion Treatment – During lockdown Welsh Government provided funding for Bupropion, a ground breaking slow release medication as an alternative to Meprobamate. Prescribing services in NPT are now offering this treatment and a priority of the APB is to ensure that people can continue to access this option further into their recovery. People in treatment have reported wide ranging benefits. The APB team is working with providers to develop a new Bupropion Maintenance Service in 2022.

Service Developments

- Rapid Access Prescribing Service (RAPs) – the APB commissioned a new assertive outreach model which provides people who don't usually access services and are at high risk of harm with rapid access to opiate substitute prescribing. 30 places across Western Bay. Performance monitoring has shown that this model is highly effective and efficient. There have been no deaths in service since it started in 2020.
- Route into Services – following a long period of evaluation and consultation, with a range of stakeholders a new first point of contact service aimed at improving access to services is being introduced. The new service will help to ensure that more people can access the advice and support that they need, when they need it, as we have extended the number of ways that people can make contact with services. Access will be through a Freephone number, drop-in, email and via the Newid website.
- Western Bay Expert Panel/Change Project – APB team will support this.



Service Provision – areas of concern

- WCCIS – the new integrated information system commenced in April 2021.
 - 3 areas of concern have been identified:
 - performance of the system (resolved Feb 22)
 - Lengthy processes for inputting data
 - Staff knowing how best to use the system
 - A working group has been established with an action plan to address the particular issues identified. This group reports to the APB.
 - Issues with the system have affected the APB Team’s ability to effectively monitor services as well as the capacity of services to deliver front line support.
- Waiting Times for accessing prescribing – monitoring has identified that the length of time to wait for prescribing treatment is above acceptable limits. As of the end of January there were 51 people waiting (36 for alcohol and 15 for drugs). The longest waiting time was 29 weeks. The strategic evaluation mentioned previously will look into this in more detail and recommend improvements to provision.



APB Team: priorities going forward

- To ensure that WB meets its BBV testing target
- To work on the APB's vision and values
- To successfully implement the new first point of contact service
- To commence with the first phase of the Transformation Project
- Whilst change project is in the development stage, developing services that plug gaps that have been identified.
- To establish an information sharing protocol between all partners
- To continue to work to support community safety and housing colleagues
- To work with PCC's office in the delivery of the ADDER project

APB Team: Issues & Challenges

- Managing relationships between partners effectively
- Dealing with organisations that are not receptive to change
- Getting buy-in for development ideas at a strategic level from ALL partners
- Implementing effective service developments
- Scale of issue



Partnership & Community Cohesion

Thank You

Any Questions....

