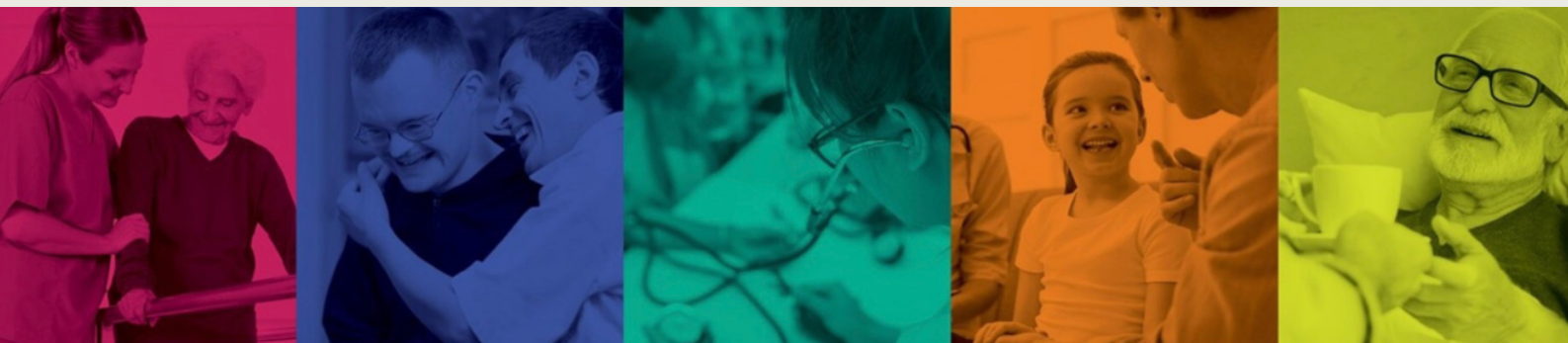




NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2022



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WELCOME TO OUR LATEST NEWSLETTER

It's been some time since we've been able to provide an update like this one, but we're very happy to be back and bringing you the latest news on the partnership's progress.

As is the case for all organisations within the health and social care sector, we're starting to regain some semblance of normality after a very challenging couple of years.

Towards the end of 2021, we had the opportunity to take stock of the regional programme of work and make some changes to our structure

and the way we operate.

We've also welcomed a number of new recruits to the regional team in recent months. With the programme continually growing and evolving, it's great to have more hands on deck to help deliver our vision for meaningful and productive partnership working.

The aim is to produce these bulletins on a quarterly basis, so keep an eye out for the next one in early 2023 (where does the time go?!).

Thanks for reading!

WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

Our work programme is now split into four key themed priority headings, each comprising of a series of projects/programmes. Our website provides further details:

www.westglamorgan.org.uk

Also, you may have noticed us out and about in the community over the past few months. Now the world has opened up again, we're seizing the opportunity to engage with the public at events and roadshows across the region.

Keep reading to find out more...



WALES AIR SHOW



The West Glamorgan Transformation Team spent a sunny weekend chatting to residents and visitors at the Wales Air Show on the 2nd and 3rd July.

It was the first outing for our colourful display stand and was a great way to connect with people in person and raise awareness of the regional programme of work.

The atmosphere was phenomenal, and we had plenty of interesting and valuable discussions with people who use services, carers and staff working in health or social care.



Kelly Gillings, Director of Transformation for the West Glamorgan Regional Partnership attended on both days, along with other members of the team. She said:

"We've been planning on doing something like this for a while and I'm really pleased we've managed to make it happen. COVID-19 disrupted all our plans for community engagement, but since events have started to resume we've been doing our best to work with our partners' events teams to get the word out about the partnership".

We attended a number of community roadshows over the summer, and will have a stand at Neath Food and Drink Festival on 7-8 October too.

Hope to see some of you there!

MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT

A key element of our work is the transformation of mental health services across the region.

23rd June saw the first West Glamorgan Mental Health Summit at Swansea's Village Hotel. Held in the style of an interactive workshop session, the Summit gave participants an opportunity to share their thoughts, experiences and suggestions for improvement. Its aim is to provide strategic direction to strengthen services, ensuring the right support is available at the right time for those who need it.

The Summit gave a fantastic insight into how services are working on the ground, and helped identify the most significant barriers for patients and professionals.

The plan now is to consider the feedback gathered at the first Summit and expand on the key themes and observations.



The second Mental Health Summit will be held on Monday 10th October, which coincides with World Mental Health Day 2022.

Interested in attending? Please register via Eventbrite using the following link:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/west-glamorgan-emotional-wellbeing-and-mental-health-summit-tickets-415171839147

VOLUNTEERS' WEEK 2022



SWANSEA BAY POP-UP

We were thrilled to be able to mark Volunteers' Week in the UK (1 - 7 June 2022) with a gathering at the Swansea Bay Pop-Up on 7th June.

The partnership wouldn't be what it is without the involvement of our brilliant volunteers. Whether they're a representative on one of our Boards or a member of the co-production group, their contributions are very much appreciated and it was great to have a chance to catch up over a cuppa.

Emma Woollett, Chairperson of Swansea Bay University Health Board and Chair of the West Glamorgan Regional Partnership Board attended on the day. She said:

"It's been so nice to see everyone in person after over two years of screen time, and to be able to say thank you for everything our volunteers have done for the partnership during these tremendously challenging times.

Looking to the future, we'd like to connect with more residents of the region who have an interest or experience in health and social care services. Events held over the summer have enabled us to reach new audiences, but there's still work to do in terms of building a diverse network of voices".

If you require more information or would like to get involved, our contact details are at the end of this newsletter. We'd love to hear from you!



Have you heard about the **West Glamorgan Volunteering Support** project (WGVS)?


Funded via the Welsh Government Volunteering Recovery Fund, this multi-agency initiative has supported the development of a series of useful toolkits, infosheets and other resources aimed primarily at volunteer-involving organisations. Visit www.westglamorgan.org.uk/wgvs to find out more.

POPULATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

For over a year, members of the West Glamorgan team have been working with colleagues from partner organisations to undertake the Population Needs Assessment (PNA). This is a requirement of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, and its aim is to gather information on people's well-being, health and any barriers that prevent them from living a happy and fulfilled life.

This is the second assessment of this kind (the first was carried out in 2017 when we were still 'Western Bay'). It's fair to say that it's been a significant challenge as the timing coincided with the COVID-19 recovery phase, but we have done our best to develop an evidence base that provides a solid starting point for this work.

Supplementary advice issued by Welsh Government last year describes the PNA as an 'ongoing journey', and that is certainly the approach that will work for us as we will add to and amend our data as and when new information and research emerges.

Click on the link below to view the West Glamorgan PNA 2022-27 

[WWW.WESTGLAMORGAN.ORG.UK/WEST-GLAMORGAN-POPULATION-NEEDS-ASSESSMENT-2022-2027](http://www.westglamorgan.org.uk/west-glamorgan-population-needs-assessment-2022-2027)



ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

Our latest Annual Report was completed over the summer and is available to view on our website:

www.westglamorgan.org.uk/annual-report

This is the third Annual Report we've produced since 'West Glamorgan' was formally established in 2019. Last year's version was understandably dominated by details of the COVID-19 relief effort, so we're pleased to be able to focus on the achievements of the wider transformation agenda this time around. It includes case studies and contributions from those using services, carers and the volunteer representatives who are members of our Boards, as well as updates on the various third sector projects and schemes funded via West Glamorgan.



WEST GLAM NEEDS YOU!

Are you interested in getting involved in our work? We are currently seeking volunteer **Service User representatives** to join the West Glamorgan Regional Partnership Board.

This is an opportunity for those with an interest and/or experience in health and social care to have their voices heard and help shape services across Neath Port Talbot and Swansea.

Could this be you? If so, please get in touch (contact details below) by **19th October 2022** to register your interest.



For more information on the West Glamorgan Regional Partnership, please email west.glamorgan@swansea.gov.uk or telephone 01792 633 805.

This newsletter is available in different formats - please contact us with details of your requirements.