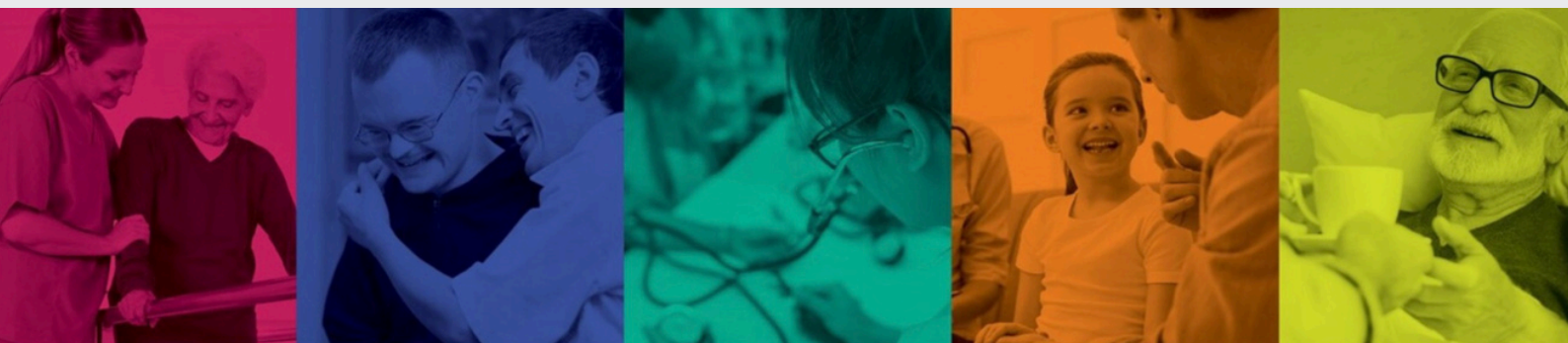




# NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025



## IN THIS ISSUE:

NEURODIVERSE  
PROGRAMME  
WORKSHOP

A BIG DAY  
FOR THE  
DEMENTIA HWB

MEET  
KIMBERLEY  
LITTLEMORE

COMMUNITY  
CONNECTIONS

STAY  
IN TOUCH!

## BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE: SHAPING A NEURODIVERSE STRATEGY FOR ALL

Welcome to this springtime edition of the West Glamorgan Regional Partnership Newsletter.

In this issue we're leading with an item on our Neurodiverse (ND) Programme, which has seen significant progress over the past few months as we've worked collaboratively with partners to start developing a new Neurodiverse Strategy for our region.



### ND WORKSHOP: A GATHERING FOR CHANGE

A key step forward with this area of work was a workshop that was held on 24th March and saw members of the Neurodiverse Co-production Working Group come together for a pivotal session focused on shaping the future of neurodiversity support across West Glamorgan.

The workshop marked a major milestone in the development of a regional Strategy that seeks to prioritise the needs, voices, and experiences of neurodiverse individuals - whether or not they have received a formal assessment or diagnosis.

Continued overleaf...



# ND WORKSHOP – CONTINUED...

The workshop, grounded in the commitments of the West Glamorgan Neurodiverse Action Plan, brought together representatives from a range of organisations committed to ensuring that neurodiverse people can access the services and opportunities they need to thrive in their communities.

The agenda centred on developing a comprehensive communications and engagement plan, with a strong emphasis on lived experience, inclusivity, and co-production. The workshop produced a unified commitment to building a Strategy that is not only inclusive and needs-led, but also person-centred and community-driven.



## NEXT STEPS FOR THE ND STRATEGY

In terms of next steps, the Strategy's development and delivery will include:

- a system shift towards building community resources.
- implementation of an inclusive approach to neurodiversity.
- a focus on a needs-led approach which is not based on an assessment or diagnosis.

The March workshop laid the foundation for a transformative, region-wide Neurodiverse Strategy. West Glamorgan's vision is to move towards a future where neurodiverse individuals of all ages are empowered to fully participate in their communities and live meaningful, connected lives.

We'll bring you further updates on this vital piece of work in a future edition of our Newsletter.

## A BIG DAY FOR THE DEMENTIA HWB

On 1st May, the Dementia Hwb at Swansea's Quadrant Shopping Centre welcomed Sarah Murphy MS, Welsh Government Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing, and Rhian Bowen-Davies, Commissioner for Older People in Wales. Their visit highlighted the crucial work being undertaken to support people living with dementia and their families and carers.

The development of the Dementia Hwb has been made possible through support from the West Glamorgan Regional Partnership, with investment from the Regional Integration Fund (RIF) and the Integration and Rebalancing Care Fund (IRCF).

Swansea Councillor Louise Gibbard, said:

***"Today's visit was a fantastic opportunity to showcase the difference that community-based initiatives like the Hwb are making every day. It's been great to see the dedicated team at the Hwb receive the recognition they truly deserve, and to hear first-hand accounts of the impact of their invaluable support for people living with dementia, their families and carers."***

You can find more information on what the Dementia Hwb has to offer at: [www.dementiafriendlyswansea.org/dementia-hwb](http://www.dementiafriendlyswansea.org/dementia-hwb)



# MEET KIMBERLEY – RPB CARER REPRESENTATIVE

Introducing some of the key players within the Partnership is becoming a regular feature of our Newsletter, and this time it's the turn of Kimberley Littlemore, a Carer Representative on the Regional Partnership Board.

Here's what she had to say...

## Please tell us a bit about yourself...

Hello! I am Kimberley. I run a small digital media company that has created the PocketMedic library of films to support people living with chronic conditions, after a career as a producer/director at the BBC. I am the mother of 24 year old triplets and was the carer for many years of my parents who both lived with dementia. I am a strong advocate of supporting people in our communities; alongside my volunteer role as a carer representative, I support my church as a committee member of our local Ministry Area and I love being on the water as a power boat instructor for our local sailing club in Mumbles.



*Kimberley Littlemore*

## Do you enjoy what you do?

I absolutely love my work and my volunteering roles. Being a carer representative has taught me so much and I have met some really great people who have taught me a lot. I am particularly pleased when the things I learn as a volunteer can inform my work. I am always looking for ways to raise awareness about dementia and to support carers. So many people are facing real hardship and extraordinary demands on their time and emotional capacity.

## What is your favourite thing about volunteering with West Glamorgan?

I want to make it easier for innovation to be accepted and adopted by the RPB. If I can help drive that change it will be my "favourite thing". But we haven't got there yet!

## Is there anything you think could be done better?

The Five-Year funding plans are designed to create stability. However, they can also stifle innovation; in the absence of specific innovation funding, new ideas can only be embraced if we decide to disinvest in current RIF (Regional Integration Fund) projects.

## Why do you think it's important to have Volunteer Representatives on the Regional Partnership Board?

I am told that we are refreshing and ask challenging questions! If that is the case, then it is important for us to have a voice to challenge the status quo and be heard, so that we can make a case for people like us who have lived experience and want the very best for our families and our communities.

Big thanks to Kimberley for taking the time to speak to us! If you've been inspired to get involved in the Partnership's work, we'd love to hear from you!

Our email address is [west.glamorgan@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:west.glamorgan@swansea.gov.uk), or you can visit our website for further information on the regional programmes of work – [www.westglamorgan.org.uk](http://www.westglamorgan.org.uk)

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

We've been glad to see some sun over the past few weeks as it's been a busy time for our team in terms of getting out and about in our local communities to promote the work of the West Glamorgan Regional Partnership.

Our colourful information stand is a great way to connect with people and share examples of the impact of our work. Over the past few weeks, we've attended community Well Being events organised by Swansea Bay University Health Board in both the Afan and Penderi Clusters, engaging with a broad range of people and representatives from other local organisations.



The Penderi Cluster event (27<sup>th</sup> March) was held in the new Collaboration Station site in the former Crane's shop in Swansea city centre. We were thrilled to have the opportunity to spend some time in this newly repurposed building, which has an amazing community feel and has already become a popular local hub for a wide variety of groups looking for a place to come together.

In April we also had the chance to take part in the One Stop Shop Museum Takeover at Swansea's Waterfront Museum. This was a really inspiring event focused on the theme of disability, which paved the way for some very insightful and important discussions.

It's been a busy and rewarding time, but we're not stopping any time soon as we're planning on attending more events as we head into summer (let's hope for more sunshine!).

We'll be sure to update you on where we've been and how we've got on in our next Newsletter!

## STAY IN TOUCH...



Last month we took the decision to step away from X (formerly Twitter), as the platform just wasn't working for us anymore. But you can still keep up with our latest news and updates on our **Facebook** page: [Click here to view.](#)

We're also excited to announce that we've now joined **LinkedIn!** It's a great place to connect and stay informed about our work.

You can find us by clicking on the following link: [LinkedIn - West Glamorgan Regional Partnership](#)

Why not give us a follow? We'd love to see you there!

For more information on the West Glamorgan Regional Partnership, please email [west.glamorgan@swansea.gov.uk](mailto: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.