

COMMITTEE:	Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
DATE:	28 November 2013
REPORT TITLE:	Cymunedau yn Gyntaf Môn Communities First Progress Report
AUTHOR:	Shan Lloyd Williams, Head of Housing Services
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Councillor Kenneth P Hughes
CORPORATE DIRECTOR:	Gwen Carrington, Director of Community Department
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:	To inform Members of progress with the implementation of Communities First Programme in Anglesey

Background

Communities First [C1] was introduced in Wales in 2001 by the Welsh Assembly Government [WAG] as their flagship programme to improve the living conditions and prospects of people living in the most disadvantaged communities across Wales. Following two reviews of the Programme the Welsh Government [WG] introduced changes to the way the C1 programme was structured and in February 2013 the Môn Communities First Cluster became operational.

The Authority is the Lead Delivery Body for £1.368M worth of funding whilst Môn Communities First Ltd, a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity, is the Delivery Organisation. As the Lead Delivery Body [LDB], the Authority 'has the overall responsibility for ensuring good governance and accountability throughout the operations of the Cluster.' A Due Diligence visit took place in July 2012 to ensure that the Authority had the necessary systems and expertise in place to run the Programme and a follow up visit took place on 4th June 2013, both of which concluded successfully. A Legal Agreement is in place between the Authority and Môn Communities First Ltd for the delivery of the Programme.

The Programme runs from 1st February 2013 to 31st March 2015 and has a geographical focus, concentrating on the 10% most deprived communities on the island. The area covered consists of seven Lower super output areas [LSOA's] of Morawelon, Porthyfelin 1, Holyhead Town, Maeshyfyrd, London Road and Kingsland in Holyhead as well as Tudur in Llangefni. Four of these LSOA's rank in the 10% most deprived wards in one or more of the Communities First priority Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation [WIMD] domains and all LSOA's rank within the most deprived 20% overall.

The Môn Communities First programme focuses on 3 main outcome areas. These are:

- Prosperous communities
- Learning communities
- Healthier communities

WG has developed an Outcomes Framework for monitoring progress in delivering the new Programme, using the Results-based accountability methodology. There is also a Community Involvement Plan to enable community involvement.

Communities First sits within the Communities Department Housing Section and the delivery is managed by the Head of Housing receiving support from a Finance and Monitoring Officer based within the Finance Department who oversees the financial and output monitoring and undertakes twice yearly monitoring visits with any recommendations for improvements reported to the Board.

Mon Communities First Ltd Progress

On 1st February 25 existing staff from the former Communities First Partnerships were transferred to Mon Communities First Ltd under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations. A restructure took place following a period of consultation. Voluntary redundancy was offered to staff and was taken up by a number of staff which meant that no compulsory redundancies had to be made. 17 staff are now employed through Communities First. The costs of the redundancy payments were borne by WG. The staffing structure consists of the following posts:

- Cluster Manager
- Prosperous Communities Co-ordinator
- Learning Communities Co-ordinator
- Enterprise Officer
- Financial Inclusion Officer
- 3 Youth Workers (1 FT, 2 PT)
- Learning Academy Manager
- 3 Learning Academy Workers
- Learning Support Officer
- Finance & Monitoring Officer
- 3 Administration Officers (1 FT, 2 PT)

Mon Communities First Ltd is managed by a Board of Directors and the Board also includes observer representation from the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Social Services and Officers. The company held its' first AGM on 26th November 2013. All Board Members stood down with a view to a new Board being elected from the membership.

As a company limited by guarantee and a charity, the organisation has the ability to secure additional external funding to support the delivery of Communities First services in the area which the Authority as a public body may not have been eligible to apply for.

Following a meeting with WG in August 2013, Mon Communities First was chosen as the only Cluster in North Wales to pilot a Workless Households scheme. The scheme will provide £228,000 funding to specifically target and work with households where adults have been out of work for 6 months or more with a view to getting them back into work, work experience or training. Two new posts have recently been advertised in relation to this Programme. The Workless Households Scheme is one of the delivery mechanisms for 'Building Resilient Communities' the WG's Tackling Poverty Action Plan. It is likely that the Programme will commence early in the New Year and will run until March 2015. The Communities First area is also set to benefit from up to £190,000 funding following the selection of Mon Communities First by the Health Lottery, one of only three organisations to be selected across Powys, Flintshire, Wrexham, Gwynedd, Conway, Denbighshire and Anglesey. A period of consultation will now take place within communities to establish the plan of activity which will be based on community needs and aspirations for health and wellbeing.

A first stage bid for the Communities First Pupil Deprivation Grant has been approved. A full bid for £60,000 is now to be submitted by 6th December. This will target pupils on free school meals and will contribute to raising standards in literacy and numeracy.

£10,000 funding has been secured from Children in Need to run a Fun 3:30 After School Club which will support children with homework and provide a range of activities.

£15,000 Community Safety Funding has been secured which provided for diversionary activities for teenagers over the summer months.

£5,100 has also been secured for Community Clean Up Days and a significant amount of this funding will be targeted to Llangefni.

Mon Communities First is a key partner of the Viable and Vibrant Places bid.

Details on outputs achieved and expenditure tables are shown in appendices 1 and 2.

Mon Communities First Advisory Board

In May 2013 the Authority established an Advisory Board consisting of representatives of the Authority and other organisations. The Terms of Reference of the Group is to facilitate a close working relationship between Mon Communities First Ltd and key service providers. The purpose of the Advisory Group is to:

1. To provide opportunities for the provision of mutual support, problem solving, good practice and information sharing for Mon CF by partners, taking full account of the needs of local communities and families.
2. To act as the link between the Local Service Board and Single Integrated Plan and other key strategic documents and programmes.

3. To align programmes locally, such as Mon CF and Families First and other programmes and activities on Anglesey and identify opportunities for joint commissioning, bidding and programme bending.
4. To act as a discussion forum, to review and develop Mon CF annual delivery plan and to influence the LSB and other partners to adopt the organisation's proposals.

Recommendations

Members of the Regeneration and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee are requested to:

Note the contents of the Report.

Report Author: Shan L Williams, Head of Housing Services

Report date: 15th November 2013.

Communities First Outcomes

A full listing of all of the outcomes and indicators which have to be reported to the Welsh Government via Ffynnon can be made available on request but a summary of key indicators are shown below.

During the first 6 months of operation Mon CF Ltd have achieved the following outputs:

Indicator	Target to Qu 2	Achieved to Qu 2
Prosperous Communities – Helping people to develop employment skills and find work		
No or people actively accessing advice and support	36	75
No of people entering employment	4	13
No. of people gaining an employment related qualification	2	3
Prosperous Communities – Reducing youth unemployment and disengagement		
No. of people volunteering regularly as a route to work	5	8
No. of people securing a Jobs Growth Wales Placement	1	10
No. of people gaining an employment related qualification	5	19
Prosperous Communities - Promoting digital inclusion		
No of people gaining basic IT skills	30	33
Prosperous Communities – Improving financial capability, managing debt and raising income		
No. of people opening a Credit Union account	0	102
No. of people accessing a Credit Union loan	10	40
No. of children with improved financial literacy/capability	33	16
No. of adults reducing or managing debt	20	60
Prosperous Communities – Supporting enterprise, time banking and building social capital		
No. of enterprises supported with start-up activity	4	3

No. of social enterprises started	0	2
Prosperous Communities – Reducing the risk of youth offending		
No. of young people engaged in regular positive activity	70	192
No. of young people gaining an extracurricular qualification	16	27
Learning Communities – Lifelong learning in communities		
No of people gaining a qualification	5	5
No of people who participate in volunteering to learn	5	8
Learning Communities – Improving adult life skills		
No. of people gaining a qualification	20	44
No. of people progressing on to further learning	5	16
Healthy Communities – Promoting physical wellbeing		
No. of people more aware of the risks of obesity	8	64
No. of people with a more positive attitude to improving their physical health	6	29
No. of people demonstrating increased physical activity	1	0
Healthy Communities – Encouraging healthy eating		
No. of young people eating fresh fruit and vegetables daily	100	165
No of males aged 50+ able to budget for a healthy diet for a week	8	0
No. of males aged 50+ more confident cooking a fresh meal	6	0
No of males aged 50+ cooking a fresh meal at least once a week	5	0
Healthy Communities – Reducing risking behaviour		
No of young people with a better knowledge of the risks	3	27
No. of young people reducing risky behaviour	2	0

Communities First funding:

	12/13	13/14
	Expenditure	Up to Qu 2 Expenditure
	£	£
Salaries	117,251	196,833
Management Charges	11,519	13,937
Travel & Subsistence	788	2,250
Training	540	776
Premises Costs	21,837	19,922
Community Involvement Plan	6,110	5,425
Community Events – Project Costs	187	5,123
Project Costs – Vocational Academy		6,105
Total Claimed	158,232	250,371
Budget	173,745	596,203
Underspend 12/13 and Balance left to spend 13/14	15,513	345,832

An external audit of the funding for the period 12/13 and 13/14 will be carried out by PWC as part of the 14/15 Grants Audit Programme.