



NEWSLETTER

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THAT'S A WRAP ON ANOTHER YEAR OF PRODUCTIVE PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Welcome to the latest edition of the West Glamorgan Regional Partnership Newsletter! Given the time of year, we thought we'd take the opportunity to get into the festive spirit and jazz up our look!

These past few months have been eventful to say the least. This issue gives an overview of the main highlights, the most recent being our **'Working Together: Regional Showcase'** event on 28th November...

POSITIVE REGIONAL IMPACT

The event saw over 200 participants come together at the Swansea.com Stadium to hear about the diverse range of funded projects and initiatives currently making a difference to the lives of residents across Neath Port Talbot and Swansea. These included 'A Day in the Life' examples of individuals benefitting from services associated with West Glamorgan's **'Communities and Older People'** and **'Wellbeing and Learning Disability'** Programmes.

Attendees also had the chance to take part in a variety of interactive workshops and were treated to some lively performances and activities courtesy of organisations who are achieving great things as a result of regional funding.



You can find out more about the event and other West Glam updates via our 'Joint Working Journal' ([click here](#) to view).

The Journal was introduced at the beginning of 2024, and you can view all our instalments at:

www.westglamorgan.org.uk/journal



MEET LEE ELLERY – RPB VOLUNTEER 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 Lee Ellery, a Volunteer Representative on the Regional Partnership Board. Here's what he had to say...

Hi Lee, please tell us a bit about yourself...

Hi, I'm Lee from Swansea and I'm 40 years old. I have Cerebral Palsy and I currently work for The Shaw Trust Accessibility Services team. My role is to assess websites to ensure they are accessible for disabled users.

I also volunteer with a range of organisations, including the West Glamorgan Regional Partnership as a Volunteer Representative on the Regional Partnership Board.

Do you enjoy what you do?

Very much so. Whether I'm participating as a volunteer or in a paid capacity, I'm passionate about making a difference to the lives of others. I'm a proud Ambassador for Cerebral Palsy Cymru, which requires me to ensure decision makers are aware of the issues affecting real people and to challenge decisions, when needed. Elevating the voices of those who aren't always able to speak up is vital. I try my best to ensure service planning is inclusive and that the needs of disabled people are taken into consideration.

What is your favourite thing about volunteering with West Glamorgan?

I think it's having the opportunity to be proactive in my community, and knowing that my contributions are helping to make life better for the residents of our region. It's a great feeling.

Is there anything you think could be done better?

Although there are many benefits to being able to hold meetings online, I think we should take more opportunities to get out and about in community spaces to connect with people who may not be aware of the Partnership's work. This could mean linking with other organisations when they hold events, or running more of our own.

I realise these things can be costly and this is a challenging financial climate, but being more visible in the community would help spread the word about the work we do and how people can get involved.

Finally, why do you think it's important to have Volunteer Representatives on the Regional Partnership Board?

Involving real people in the development and delivery of services that affect them is a must. It's all in the spirit of co-production, which we've worked hard to embed into the regional programmes of work. While there's always more work to be done, I'm very proud to have been a part of what we've achieved so far and look forward to seeing more progress in 2025.



Big thanks to Lee for taking the time to speak to us! If you've been inspired to get involved in the Partnership as a Volunteer Representative, we'd love to hear from you!

Our contact details can be found at the end of this Newsletter.

RPB WELCOMES NEW CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Earlier this year we welcomed **Councillor Steve Hunt** (pictured) as the new Chair of the West Glamorgan Regional Partnership Board (RPB).

A long serving independent Councillor for the Seven Sisters ward, Councillor Hunt has been Leader of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council since June 2022 and succeeds the outgoing RPB Chair, Emma Woollett (former Chair of Swansea Bay University Health Board).

The Chair's role is to ensure the Board fulfils its objective to deliver efficient and effective person-centred services across the region, while also ensuring we deliver against the statutory obligations as set out in the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014.



“As I step into the role of RPB Chair, I am immensely grateful to the outgoing Chair, Emma Woollett, for her steadfast leadership and unwavering dedication to positive and productive joint working.

I am committed to continuing the legacy of enthusiasm and vision that has guided us thus far, and I look forward to leading the Partnership with a shared sense of purpose, confident that we will continue to flourish and achieve our goals.”

Councillor Steve Hunt



We are also very pleased to welcome **Steve Spill** as the new RPB Vice Chair. Steve has carried out the role of Vice Chair of Swansea Bay University Health Board since 2020 and succeeds **Councillor Rob Stewart**, who was the previous RPB Vice Chair.

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

One of Councillor Hunt's first duties as RPB Chair was to provide the foreword for our latest Annual Report, which is available to view on our website.

The report highlights the powerful impact of our work and includes examples of positive outcomes delivered by Third Sector organisations funded via the Welsh Government's Regional Integration Fund (RIF), administered by the West Glamorgan Regional Partnership.

Click on the link below to view our Annual Report for 2023-24:

[West Glamorgan RPB Annual Report](#)

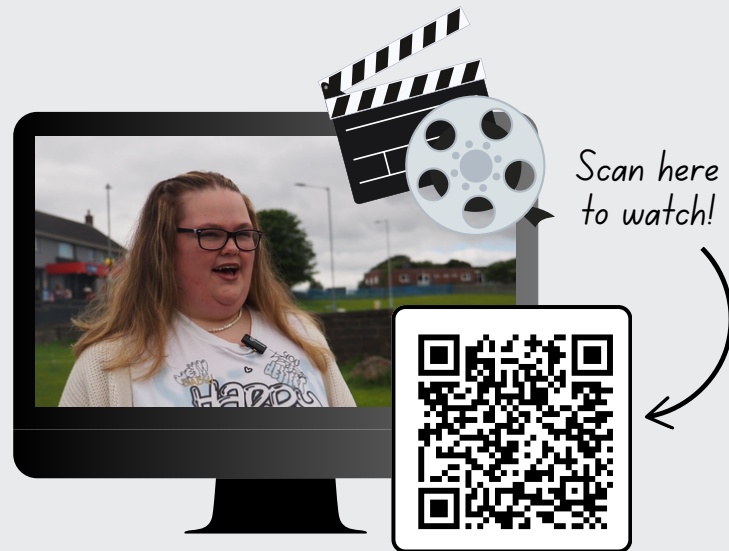
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DRIVING CHANGE IN WEST GLAMORGAN

In the last edition of our Newsletter, we featured an item on the **Learning Disability Strategy** for 2024-2029 and highlighted **'Transport'** as being the initial area of focus to improve the experiences of people with a Learning Disability when travelling on public transport.

A co-produced workshop on the theme of 'Transport' was held over the summer, and our Communications and Engagement team have produced a short video documenting the progress of this key piece of work.



The video captures the process of putting the workshop together, gathering the views of public transport users and representatives from public transport service providers.

We are excited to share this film, which is now available to watch on our Vimeo channel (**[click here](#)**) or by scanning the QR code above.

The video offers a valuable insight into the collaborative efforts taken to address this priority theme. The project has opened new channels of communication between users of services and providers, offering a better understanding of the challenges and providing potential solutions.

TRAVEL CHARTER

A key outcome of the workshop is the development of a **'Travel Charter'** in collaboration with the Community Transport Association. This will outline shared commitments and goals to improve accessibility, ensuring that the voices of people with Learning Disabilities are central to creating a more inclusive transport network across our region.

We'll bring you more on the development and delivery of the charter in a future edition of our Newsletter!

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE TEAM



On behalf of all members of the West Glamorgan Regional Partnership Team, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the Partnership's work for your valued contributions and commitment to collaborative working over the past year.

As we head into the festive season, I hope you have the chance to relax and enjoy yourselves, and I look forward to continuing our work together in 2025.

Kelly Gillings
West Glamorgan Regional Transformation Programme Director

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.