

# Cluster Plan 2024-2025

## Western Vale Cluster

Vale Pan Cluster Planning Group Name here

### Cluster Executive Summary:

The Western Vale of Glamorgan Cluster currently has 31,029 patients served by 3 major practices working from 7 sites.

The cluster covers a large geographical area including Cowbridge, Llantwit Major, St Athan and Rhoose. Our area of responsibility stretches from Ogmore by Sea in the west to St Nicholas in the east, and the coast to the south and M4 motorway in the north. We have the largest geographical area of the 9 clusters. Aside from the urban towns, much of our area is rural.

### Key Cluster Actions 2024/25:

The Western Vale Cluster held a successful workshop in October, where the following priorities were identified:

1. Expansion of the Care@Home project.
2. Projects to look at the increasing population (asylum population located in old RAF premises and hidden deprivation in the cluster).
3. Projects to further support the aging population in Western Vale.
4. Improvements in communication and pathways - linking in with 'wellbeing matters' to improve social prescribing and signposting.
5. Expand the membership of the cluster (particularly mental health but others suggested including the fire service).
6. Projects to improve childhood immunisations.
7. Chronic diseases especially hypertension, diabetes and obesity.
8. Projects to support the increasing demand for mental health services (adults and children).

Collaborative discussions and planning are taking place to develop projects under each priority above.

The Western Vale Cluster will continue with current workstreams:

1. The Care@home programme will continue with discussions regarding expanding it.
2. Cluster Pharmacist. However, a more sustainable arrangement of funding for the cluster pharmacist's incredibly valuable role needs exploration to enable the cluster to be well funded to launch and implement innovate projects.

### Health Needs Assessment Summary:

The 2022 Regional Population Needs Assessment for Cardiff and the Vale highlighted the following priorities facing our population:

- Growing and ageing population
- Ethnically diverse – especially in South Cardiff

### Finance and Workforce Profiles 2024/5:

Financial allocation of £168k

Cluster workforce profile:

- *Cluster Pharmacist*

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing levels of chronic disease; impacted by Covid pandemic – 5 harms, long Covid and ‘syndemic’ effect</li> <li>Modifiable risk factors – of concern before pandemic, but again impacted by Covid, mostly in less favourable direction</li> <li>Wider determinants, social isolation – impact of Covid and Cost of living crisis</li> <li>Impact of Climate Change and Climate Emergency</li> </ul> <p>In addition, local Cluster profiles were developed to provide further insights on the needs of the population, supplemented by the professional collaborative insights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We have some pockets of deprivation and a relatively aged population. These features represent a unique challenge when providing primary care to our population.</li> <li>The population in our area is set to expand due to housing developments and an increasing asylum population.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Key achievements/successes related to the 2023/24 Cluster Plan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Successfully recruited a Cluster Lead.</li> <li>Recruitment of a Cluster Development Manager to support the development of projects and evaluations.</li> <li>The Cluster Pharmacist has enabled GP’s to focus on patients with complex medical needs by undertaking annual medication reviews in a timely manner.</li> <li>The Care@home enhanced programme has been fundamental in supporting patients to remain well at home.</li> <li>The early flu vaccination and patient checks on housebound patients has enabled high risk</li> </ul>	<p><b>Key reflections / challenges related to the 2023/24 Cluster Plan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased Doctor and Nurse capacity to have the time to deal with complex patients and manage them comprehensively. Locum doctors are difficult to come by and nurses are under huge pressure.</li> <li>The number of dental nurses who are listed on the GDC register has dropped dramatically post pandemic and NHS practices are now understaffed.</li> <li>Lack of optometrists qualified to provide additional services such as IPOS and Low vision and the new services under optometry contract reform.</li> <li>No current Occupational Therapy provision in this cluster.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Emerging alignment with PCPG Plan 2023/26 / PRB Area Plan 2023/2028</b></p> <p>The revised cluster structure will provide the ability to ensure that ongoing cluster plans influence and align with those of the PCPG and Regional Partnership Board.</p> <p>A number of Cluster developed/delivered schemes already demonstrate alignment to the life stages of the RPB Area Plan; Starting Well, Living Well, Ageing Well.</p> <p>Through 2023/24 the common priorities identified for the Vale region include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children Services &amp; Safeguarding (starting well)</li> <li>Immunisation (starting well/living well)</li> <li>Chronic disease (living well)</li> <li>Frailty (aging well)</li> </ul>

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<p>patients to be protected from seasonal influenza.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Full representation of all collaborative leads at cluster level is a huge achievement for Western Vale.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dental - with the new NHS contract we have NHS slots available for emergencies almost daily, of which not all are filled.</li><li>• Using cluster funding to pay salaries for permanent posts such as the cluster pharmacist proves challenging as cluster funding isn't uplifted to keep up with recommended inflationary annual salary uplifts. A more sustainable arrangement of funding for the Cluster Pharmacist's incredibly valuable role needs exploration to enable the cluster to be well funded to launch and implement innovate projects.</li></ul>	
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List activities or projects planned to commence during 2024/5, as well as those planned/ initiated earlier (if ongoing)

Activity/ project title	New or existing activity	Brief activity/ project description	Results/ benefits expected	Strategic alignment: Ministerial priorities	Strategic alignment: SPPC key programme priorities	Activity/ project budget	Funding source(s)	Current status	Comments
Provide a consist activity or project title, one per unique activity	Is this a new activity for 24/25 or part of a previous cluster plan?	Simple and to the point - no need to go into specific objectives	Brief list of main results or benefits anticipated from this activity or project	Does this fit any of the ministerial priorities?	Does this fit any of the SPPC key priorities?	What money has been allocated to this project or activity? Insert total – to include staff, equipment etc. costs	What is the source of this funding? I.e. transformation funding, cluster funding etc.	What is the current status – short description only	Comments you feel may be relevant here – for example barriers to success, workforce issues etc.
Cluster Pharmacist	Existing	To provide additional capacity to meet medication needs of patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enables GP to focus on GP time to spend on patients with complex medical needs.</li> <li>Annual medication reviews carried out in a</li> <li>timely manner</li> </ul>	A Healthier Wales / Population Health	Community Infrastructure – Primary Care Model for Wales	52k	Cluster	Ongoing	
Care@Home Scheme (current model)	Existing	To embed MDT meetings to provide individualised care	Improve population health. Supporting the planned care system through balancing primary care capacity and demand.	A Healthier Wales / Population Health	Community Infrastructure – Primary Care Model for Wales	80k	Cluster	Ongoing	
Expansion of the Care@Home Scheme	Existing	Screening project so we can pick frail patients up with dementia sooner and feed them into the Care@Home MDT. Advanced Care Planning proposal to try to incorporate ACPs into the MDT and fund HCPs time to be able to do ACPs. etc	In planning	A Healthier Wales / Population Health	Community Infrastructure – Primary Care Model for Wales	In planning	Cluster	Ongoing	

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