[Come together: Taskforce visits Cymmer to #TalkValleys](#)

The Ministerial Taskforce for the South Wales Valleys is holding a series of public meetings across the region to seek the views of local communities about priorities for their local areas.

Last month, the Minister for Lifelong Learning Alun Davies, who chairs the taskforce, met with pupils at Ferndale Community School and business leaders in Caerphilly to answer questions about the role of the taskforce and listen to suggestions for priority work areas.

Julie James will join other taskforce members to host a public engagement session at Croeserw Community Enterprise Centre on Thursday (February 2) and wants to hear from local residents about the challenges and opportunities for people living and working in the valleys.

She said:

> "The taskforce has made some significant strides forward in recent weeks and it is clear that understanding and awareness of our work is growing.
>
> "The engagement sessions we've held to date have been invaluable in helping to shape our priorities but it's vital we continue to work with and listen to communities throughout the lifetime of the taskforce.
>
> "From the discussions we've had with the public so far, some key themes have emerged. These include the importance of linking businesses with local schools to give young people the confidence and skills they need to enter into the world of work and the importance of linking infrastructure like industrial sites, schools, colleges and transport initiatives together, ensuring true connectivity for the valleys.
>
> "I am sure more will continue to emerge in the coming weeks starting this week in Cymmer. I would urge anyone who feels passionately about where they live to come along and have their say. We're here to listen and your views will help shape our shared vision for the valleys."

The taskforce was set up by the Welsh Government in July and aims to build on work previously undertaken across the South Wales Valleys in a more coordinated and targeted way to meet the needs of valley communities.

This week's session will follow a full meeting of the valleys taskforce which will take place in Llanhilleth Miners' Institute and will focus on public

services.

To learn more about the work of the taskforce or to sign up to attend one of the public meetings, please visit the [Facebook](#) page.

[News story: Manchester seminar: Developing place based services in Gtr Manchester slidepack (31 Jan 2017)](#)

From:
First published:
        1 February 2017

In this free seminar learning Jane shared past and future challenges for GM place-based delivery models.

featuring

Jane Forrest

Greater Manchester Public Service Reform Team

The scale of financial challenge facing Greater Manchester public services continues to be a driver for change and across Greater Manchester (GM) partners are working together on the radical reform of public services through a series of challenging and ambitious programmes to improve outcomes for GM residents whilst increasing independence and reducing the rising demand on public services.

The development of place-based integrated working is an essential feature of the GM whole-system approach to the creation of new Public Service delivery models. These new delivery models are being designed against demand; focussing on reduction and prevention and building on community capacity. It is intended that these new models will maximise operational effectiveness within the context of reduced budgets and are essential to the sustainability of neighbourhood services.

In this free seminar learning Jane will share past and future challenges for GM place-based delivery models and discuss how citizens are at the centre of their plans and will help to truly drive whole system reform

Please see slide pack for further information

News story: Serious signalling irregularity at Cardiff East Junction

Over the Christmas period in 2016, Network Rail carried out extensive resignalling and track remodelling work in and around Cardiff Central station. This was the final stage of the Cardiff area signalling replacement scheme, a project which has been in progress for several years. This stage involved the closure of the power signal box at Cardiff, with control of the area moving to the South Wales Control Centre (SWCC), and changes to the track layout and signalling on the east side of Cardiff Central station.

Some of the new track layout was brought into use on 29 December. At 08:46 hrs on that morning the driver of train 2T08 from Cardiff Central to Treherbert, which had just left platform 7, noticed that a set of points in the route his train was about to take were not set in the correct position. Train 2T08 was the first up train on the Up Llandaff line after the start of service over the new layout.

The points at which the train stopped were redundant in the new layout and should have been secured in the normal position in readiness for their complete removal at a later date. The project works required eight point ends in two separate locations to be locked and secured in this way. In the event only six of the eight point ends were locked and secured, and the line was re-opened to traffic without the omission having been identified by the project team through the normal checking processes which should take place as part of this type of works. These two point ends were left in a condition in which they were unsecured and not detected by the signalling system, and the points at which train 2T08 stopped, points 817A, were left lying reverse. If the driver had not noticed the position of these points and stopped, the train would have been diverted towards line E (the former down relief line) on which trains can run in either direction. The new signalling system uses axle counters for train detection, and in this situation the system would not have identified that the train was in the wrong place.

A few minutes earlier, at 08:24 hrs, another train, down train 1V02, had travelled over the other points which had been left unsecured at the other end of the same crossover (817B). These points had been left in the normal position, which was correct for trains travelling over them in the down

direction.

No-one was injured and no damage was caused by either event, and Network Rail acted quickly to secure both sets of points.

Our investigation will examine:

- the events leading up to the commissioning of the new track layout in the area of 817 points
- the methods that Network Rail's Cardiff area signalling replacement project used for project management and assurance processes
- the on-site team briefing and works management process.

It will also examine any relevant management issues and consider previous relevant recommendations made by the RAIB.

Our investigation is independent of any investigation by the railway industry or by the industry's regulator, the [Office of Rail and Road](#).

We will publish our findings, including any recommendations to improve safety, at the conclusion of our investigation. This report will be available on our website.

You can [subscribe](#) to automated emails notifying you when we publish our reports.

[It's welcome news that simplifying fares will be trialled but it is clear that this is just tinkering around the edges – Andy McDonald](#)

Andy McDonald MP, Labour's Shadow Transport Secretary, commenting on reports that reforms to the rail fare system will be trialled this May, said:

"It's welcome news that simplifying fares will be trialled but it is clear that this is just tinkering around the edges.

"Privatised rail has created a fragmented system with a jumble of operators offering a complicated array of fares for passengers to navigate.

"Passengers don't want to shop around for tickets, they want to get from A to B

for the cheapest price. This is why Labour will bring our railways back into public ownership, creating an integrated national network with simple and affordable fares for all."

[Tens of thousands of 'adverse events' in Scotland's dementia and geriatric wards](#)

1 Feb 2017

Dozens of "adverse events" are recorded every day in the dementia and geriatric wards of Scotland's hospitals, new figures have shown.

A Freedom of Information request revealed 167,041 such incidents have occurred in the past six years as an under pressure health service attempts to deal with an ageing population.

The Scottish Conservatives said the data illustrates problems many vulnerable patients have encountered, as well as the daily challenges facing staff in elderly inpatient wards.

Incidents range from falls and assaults on staff to self-harm and patients absconding from secure facilities.

In NHS Borders, one staff member was injured while receiving training in dealing with aggressive patients, and in Fife there were reports of bomb threats and suspicious packages, as well as "rooftop protests".

Much more seriously, bosses at NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde said adverse events had resulted in the deaths of 49 patients since 2011.

In some cases, staff shortages were posing such a risk that employees formally logged that as an adverse event in itself, while in the Western Isles a lack of staff was blamed directly for allowing a patient to climb out a window and escape from hospital.

Shadow health secretary Donald Cameron warned these problems would become more commonplace as Scotland's population aged, and cases of dementia

increased.

The true figure is likely to be even higher, as some health boards were unable to provide the information, or supplied only the most serious of events.

Last year, it was revealed that maternity units across Scotland had also endured thousands of adverse events, prompting calls for an investigation.

Scottish Conservative shadow health secretary Donald Cameron said:

"Patients in dementia and geriatric wards are among the most vulnerable in our hospitals, and deserve the best possible care.

"And there's no question that wards dealing with dementia patients are incredibly challenging places to work: many of these incidents illustrate that.

"In such environments many of these adverse incidents will have been unavoidable, and it's a credit to hardworking NHS staff that they deal with these day, in day out.

"But patients in these wards, and their families, will be extremely worried at the sheer scale of these flashpoints.

"There are a significant number of incidents which were put down to staffing shortages, or a lack of adequate resources and training, and that very much falls at the Scottish Government's door.

"As our population ages and conditions like dementia become more prevalent, it's clear something needs to be done to ensure these incidents don't increase.

"We need to see a proper plan to make sure our staff and hospitals are equipped for all the future challenges they face."

Below is a list of the adverse events recorded by health boards for the past six years:

Ayrshire and Arran – 15,043
Borders – 10,252
Dumfries and Galloway – 6399
Fife – 19,308
Forth Valley – 13,629
Greater Glasgow and Clyde – 270
Grampian – 16,426
Highland – 7073
Lanarkshire – 33,092
Lothian – 44,890
Orkney – n/a
Shetland – n/a

Tayside – no response
Western Isles – 659

Total – 167,041

Below is a list of the national figures broken down by year:

2011 – 28,239
2012 – 28,659
2013 – 28,317
2014 – 29,847
2015 – 28,906
2016 – 23,118*

Total – 167,041

Some health boards only supplied information for part of 2016, which may explain the lower number.

All details were obtained by the Scottish Conservatives through Freedom of Information. For a copy of individual responses, contact the Scottish Conservative press office.

Last year, it was revealed that thousands of adverse events had occurred in maternity units across the country:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-38055060