The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 took effect from 27th April 2015. Under the Act every local authority in Wales must carry out a local review of homelessness and related services in their borough and develop and publish a homelessness strategy based on that review. The Welsh Government requires the strategies to be operational by 31 December 2018.

Torfaen County Borough Council; Newport City Council; Monmouthshire County Council; Caerphilly County Borough Council and Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council have pooled resources to undertake a regional approach to developing a Gwent Homelessness Strategy that encompasses all five authorities’ local reviews.

A Regional Research Officer position has been created as a six months dedicated resource to undertake the reviews and draft the strategy on behalf of the Gwent local authorities. This will include undertaking research and consultation with individuals and families who have been homeless, or threatened with homelessness alongside seeking information and feedback from other key stakeholders and partner organisations.

The strategy will require formal approval by each of the five local authorities who will be required to produce their own homelessness action plans guided by the strategy. Taking a regional approach has enabled the five partners to share resources and consider needs across local authority boundaries.

If you’d like to know more about this work please contact the Regional Research Officer, Chris York on Chris.York@torfaen.gov.uk or 01495 766877.