The concept of a taskforce to respond to large scale redundancy situations is well established in Wales. One of the major aims of any redundancy related taskforce is to deliver co-ordinated, tailored advice and services to individuals, enabling them to achieve their career ambitions as soon as possible. This is achieved by utilising the expertise of a number of key organisations working in partnership with each other and the company concerned, overseen and co-ordinated by experienced Senior Civil Servants.

The services of some of those key organisations are highlighted below.

**Careers Wales**

Through professionally qualified careers advisers, Careers Wales help individuals to become more effective at successfully managing and planning their career development. Advisers gain an understanding of an individual’s career aspirations through one to one discussions. A package of advice, support and training, encompassing the services of other Taskforce partners, is then agreed with the individual to help meet those aspirations. Careers Wales’ services are often delivered in partnership with company appointed out-placement consultants.

**ReAct**

The Welsh Government’s React scheme provides a package of support to help individuals affected by redundancy to gain new skills, overcome obstacles and improve their chances of returning to work in the shortest time possible.

The scheme provides

- Up to £1,500 for vocational training *
- Up to £200 to remove barriers to training
- Up to £3,000 contribution towards the wage costs of a new job
- Up to £1,000 funding for work-related training.

  (*for training that takes place while under notice of redundancy or after having been made redundant but before starting a new job.)*

**Department of Work and Pensions**

The DWP provides a Rapid Response Service to employers and employees where there is the threat of redundancy or where notice has been issued. The service is designed to give both employers and employees support and advice on issues such as;
• helping people facing redundancy to construct CVs and find jobs
• providing general information about benefits
• helping people identify their transferable skills and training needs
• providing training to help people develop vocational skills
• helping with costs like travel to work expenses

Many of the above services are delivered in conjunction with other Taskforce members. The service is available for 26 weeks in total and can start as soon as people are at risk of redundancy or during the period of notice.

Public Health Wales

Public Health Wales is one of the 11 organisations which makes up NHS Wales. It is the national public health agency in Wales and works to protect and improve health and well-being and reduce health inequalities for the people of Wales. The Public Health Wales “Mass Unemployment Events (MUEs) – Prevention and Response from a Public Health Perspective” framework has been shared with the Task Force members and Bridgend County Borough Council to inform action, in particular the need to support mental wellbeing of those effected, their families and wider community. Support will be delivered through individual health boards to cover issues such as anxiety management and managing unhelpful thinking and behaviour.

Working Wales

Working Wales is a Welsh Government web based information portal designed to assist young people and adults with advice and information on seeking employment, improving skills and education, redundancy support and benefit information. The site brings together information from The Welsh Government’s Skills, Higher Education and Lifelong Learning Division (SHELL), Careers Wales and The Dept. of Work and Pensions to help individuals overcome barriers to finding employment.

Provision covers

• Work advice
• Funding for Training
• Help for Childcare
• Redundancy Support
• Courses
• Learning New Skills
• After Leaving School

As well as providing practical advice and information on schemes of assistance, the website also offers live chat, telephone (including call back) and face to face contact options for people seeking career advice.

https://workingwales.gov.wales/