

Item 3

WEST WALES REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD

23 JANUARY 2020, 11AM

County Hall
Haverfordwest
SA61 1TP

Minutes

Present

Cllr Jane Tremlett, Carmarthenshire County Council (Chair)
Cllr Tessa Hodgson, Pembrokeshire County Council
Jonathan Griffiths, Pembrokeshire County Council
Anna Bird, Hywel Dda University Health Board
Judith Hardisty, Hywel Dda University Health Board
Ros Jervis, Hywel Dda University Health Board
Hazel Lloyd-Lubran, Ceredigion Association of Voluntary Organisations
Jill Paterson, Hywel Dda University Health Board
Sarah Jennings, Hywel Dda University Health Board
Jake Morgan, Carmarthenshire County Council
Estelle Hitchon, Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Maria Battle, Hywel Dda University Health Board
Steve Moore, Hywel Dda University Health Board
James Tyler, User representative
Karen Chandler, Pembrokeshire People First
Cathryn Thomas, Social Care Wales
Donna Pritchard, Ceredigion County Council
Alun Williams, Ceredigion County Council

Also in attendance:

Sally Holland, Children's Commissioner for Wales (Part)
Kirrin Davidson, Policy Lead (Part)
Darren Mutter, Pembrokeshire County Council (Part)
Bernadette Toomey Pembrokeshire County Council (Part)
Kim Neyland, West Wales Care Partnership
Jessica Rees, West Wales Care Partnership (Minutes)
Martyn Palfreman, West Wales Care Partnership

Apologies

Margaret Allen, Carer representative
Melanie Minty, Care Forum Wales
Gareth Morgans, Carmarthenshire CC
Cllr Alun Williams, Ceredigion County Council

Alan Thomas, User representative
Jonathan Morgan, Carmarthenshire CC
Joanne Silverthorne, Carer representative
Gaynor Toft, Ceredigion CC

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and thanked Sally Holland, Children's Commissioner for Wales and Kirrin Davidson, Policy Officer, for attending the meeting. Round table introductions followed.

2. Apologies

Apologies were noted.

3. Children's Commissioner for Wales: Arrangements in West Wales for Integrated services for children with complex needs due to disability or illness and for children and young people with mental health problems [Discussion] *Children's Commissioner in attendance for this item*

The Commissioner thanked the Board for the opportunity to attend the meeting which followed an earlier meeting with children's representatives from across the region which had taken place in December 2019. She advised that she was in the process of visiting all seven RPBs to discuss her aspirations in terms of (1) raising the profile of children's issues within the boards and (2) a clearer role for them in promoting joined up services for children, particularly in relation to mental health and learning disabilities. Findings from across Wales would be analysed and a report published by mid-March.

She acknowledged that how this was taken forward would vary between different parts of Wales, for example due to the challenges of rurality in some areas. She was conscious that most of the work undertaken by RPBs to date had focused on adults and hoped that the balance could be redressed moving forwards. New funding opportunities provided an opportunity here. She also recognised that a single, uniform regional approach was not possible due to different needs across West Wales but felt that consistency in terms of quality was important.

The Commissioner's focus was on improving the experience of children and young people when reaching out for help. She advocated a 'no-bounce' or 'no wrong door' approach whereby children and young people were helped without being referred away to another agency.

The Commissioner then asked a series of questions as a basis for her discussion with board members. These centred on the following areas:

Governance arrangements and engaging with children and young people

Martyn Palfreman advised that the regional children's group was at a formative stage and had met only once to date. Ros Jervis, who had led on the formation of the group, advised that it has been identified initially as a 'children's task force'. Its focus would be on starting and developing well, looking at outcomes for children and how

embedding prevention and early intervention could help them reach their full potential. The focus would not be merely on 'fixing services'. A key principle in its work would be listening to children and families. Sarah Jennings explained that this was a core principle of the partnership, demonstrated in the formation of an engagement community of practice with public sector partners aimed at reaching people 'on the fringes' to co-design services and test their impact. This complemented the user and carer representation on the RPB itself, and local initiatives such as carers' grants in Ceredigion, funded through the ICF and Transformation funding for inter-generational projects across the region, which Hazel Lloyd Lubran explained were key in effectively engaging children and young people.

The importance of robust governance to ensure different funding streams were optimised was recognised. Her challenge was to use funding flexibly, which was not always easy due to the separate conditions underpinning the range of funding available. The Commissioner asked for examples for her to raise in conversations with ministers.

Provision for children and young people with learning disability and transition arrangements

The Commissioner was keen to know how quickly individuals were being put into contact with the right service and what the RPB's vision was in this regard. The Commissioner noted from previous discussions models such as key workers working across teams but suggested that if arrangements were truly integrated these would not be needed.

It was acknowledged that due to varied conditions and needs across the region provision was not uniform. However, it was felt that 'single point of access' arrangements were generally working well. Transitional arrangements were a key focus and in Carmarthenshire, for example, a through-age service across children's and adult's services would become live from April 2020.

A five year programme to move people from residential to supported living accommodation with floating support was underway, with ICF Capital being used to build or develop appropriate sites. This was a genuine partnership approach across the three local authorities and health and would align with a locality approach to integration in terms of wider support.

Mental health and behavioural issues

Members acknowledged the value of a consistent approach underpinned by a single point of access; there was a commitment to taking this agenda forward on a regional basis, building on whole schools and emotional health approaches and the involvement of social workers in some CAMHS teams. There was some way still to go however, with challenges in terms of demand and capacity. The Commissioner highlighted examples of good practice in West Glamorgan (CAMHS worker embedded in social care intake teams) and Gwent (single panel consideration of all referrals) which could be drawn upon.

Lower level, preventative services across the region, based on the 'Team Around the Family' model were highlighted during the discussion.

Dealing with complex mental health and behavioural challenges

Here the ICF Capital project aimed at providing regional accommodation for complex cases, bringing people back from out-of-county and out-of-region placements and providing specialist care, was highlighted. A site for a suitable unit had been identified within Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire County Councils were fully on board with the initiative. Discussions were ongoing with health regarding appropriate levels of care to support the model.

While all agencies are involved to some extent and it will be a regional provision, there was a difference of views on the level of need and requirement which had caused some difficulties in initiating the programme. The Commissioner indicates that such difficulties would be highlighted – whilst not being attributed to West Wales – in her report.

The Chair thanked the Commissioner for her attendance and for the useful discussion. The Commissioner said she was encouraged to hear of the work being taken forward in West Wales and looked forward to further updates.

Commissioners report is being delayed due to Covid outbreak and we are awaiting further advice from her office. We will then be expected to respond to recommendations and, pending wider developments, would be looking to bring draft response to meeting in July.

4. Membership Update

Martyn Palfreman provided an update as follows:

Steven Griffiths had resigned from the Board as carer representative

Carys James would be retiring in March and pending appointment of her successor, Ceredigion County Council would be represented by Alun Williams (Corporate Lead Officer) and Donna Pritchard (Acting Head of Adult Services)

Hilary Jones, Chief Executive of Bro Myrddin Housing Association had been nominated by Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) in the region to sit on the RPB

Sarah Jennings advised that Hilary had recently stepped down as Chair of Hywel Dda University Health Board's Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) and Hazel Lloyd Lubran had assumed the role. This would provide another valuable link between the SRG and the RPB.

Members recorded their gratitude to Steven and Carys for the contribution to the work of the RPB and agreed that a formal invitation be made to Hilary Jones to join the Board as RSL representative. **ACTION: Martyn Palfreman**

Have not sought additional carer representative but will be doing so in coming weeks

5. Regional Winter Plan

Martyn Palfreman reported that £2.062m winter funding had been made available to the RPB as part of a total £3.275m in the region. The remaining £1.213m had been paid directly to the Health Board. The RPB allocation had been apportioned on a population basis and local, aligned plans developed to address seven core themes identified by Welsh Government. Joint working with health colleagues had ensured a further alignment between the Health Board and RPB plans, seeking to build capacity within the acute and community sectors to reduce pressure on the system. Regular delivery and impact reports were being produced for Welsh Government and these were also submitted on a regular basis to the Integrated Executive Group. A fuller report on impact would be brought to the March meeting of the RPB.

ACTION: Martyn Palfreman

Jake Morgan stressed the importance of learning lessons and applying learning to develop detailed plans for winter 2020-21 in advance of funding being announced. This would help prevent delays in implementation. It was agreed that collaborative work on this involving colleagues from across sectors should commence by May, following a full evaluation of the 2019-20 plans. Simulation exercises could then be undertaken in advance of the winter period, with the RPB being appraised as the work progressed. **ACTION: Directors of Social Services, Health Execs**

Estelle Hitchon and Jill Paterson stressed the importance of wider culture and practice change across the system, including reframing expectations and engagement with the public. Winter plans needed to be one part of a wider transformation effort.

Winter plan specific work has not taken place due to covid but we will be looking to update further at next meeting – all part of the recovery/ planning for future waves etc.

6. A Healthier West Wales: Update

Martyn Palfreman provided a brief update on the approved programmes within A Healthier West Wales, funded through the Transformation Fund. It was agreed that a fuller report would be brought to the RPB in March.

He further advised on the recent announcement of additional resources for regions from the Transformation Fund for additional programmes reflective of original funding priorities but with a pan-regional/ national focus (£1.4m from West Wales and prevention and early years (£742K for West Wales in both 2019-20 and 2020-21). Proposals for the former needed to be submitted to Welsh Government by 9 March and virtual RPB sign-off would therefore be necessary. Proposals had been developed for the prevention and early years monies, signed off by the RPB Chair and Chief Executive of Hywel Dda UHB and spend for the current year would be commencing immediately.

Finally, the Board was advised of a mid-term evaluation report which had been produced by the external evaluators for the Healthier West Wales programme and which contained details of the constituent programmes, supporting governance, and early emerging learning. The report also set out how impact would be measured

going forward using the regional outcomes and benefits framework. It would be used as a source document, along with reports from other regions, for a composite national mid-term report to be presented to the Minister for Health and Social Services at the end of March. The Board was asked to note that the West Wales report stressed the absence to date of clear outcomes from the programmes, given the early stage of delivery that had been reached. This was due to the relatively long lead-in time required for complex programmes of this nature, to accommodate the establishment of supporting governance and recruitment to key posts etc. These challenges were common across Wales and raised questions, as previously rehearsed, regarding the limited duration of the fund.

Judith Hardisty asked about the low level of funding claimed to date and Martyn Palfreman advised that (1) the next quarterly claim would be submitted at the end of January and (2) the forward profile suggested full spend by the end of the funding period (March 2021). She also asked whether the common obstacles at inception phase such as those listed above could be tackled more effectively. It was noted that the lack of agility in core process such as HR and finance, within and across agencies, was a key factor which was difficult to overcome.

Update – more under Item 4 but we have been progressing the programmes with adjusted activity to address Covid. However the scope and structure of the programmes have lent themselves to the response, unlike in some other regions. We will share further detail on redirected activity and resources within the programmes remotely over the coming weeks.

Regional evaluation has been paused and contract with our evaluators ended. In the interim we will be reviewing opps for reactive evaluation and will be continuing to measure impact of programmes to inform future planning (although there is no clarity from WG regarding future funding beyond March 2021 – discussions were progressing before Covid). National evaluation report has been drafted but is currently on hold

7. RPB self-assessment

Martyn Palfreman referred members to materials that had been produced by Welsh Government to underpin two twin tracked self-assessment pilots across Wales, prior to roll-out across all RPBs. Whilst the intention in West Wales had originally been to express an interest in being a pilot, given capacity and timing issues the recommendation to the Board was now not to apply to participate at this stage. This would not preclude using the materials to undertake local self-assessment of the RPB, Integrated Executive Group and other tiers of regional governance over the coming few months.

This approach was agreed and a costed proposal for a locally-managed programme was requested at the next meeting. **ACTION: Martyn Palfreman**

Maria Battle suggested there would be value in relation to this exercise and more generally regarding the regional approach to transformation etc., for there to be more proactive interaction with other regions to share experience and learning. Martyn Palfreman explained that various national forums existed to facilitate such

exchange. It was agreed that additional opportunities should be sought in this area.

ACTION: Martyn Palfreman

Inter-regional interaction on hold

Self assessment – approach is being worked upon and will be shared virtually. Aim to do something at various tiers and reflect specifically on work over past 10 weeks and the impact/ effectiveness of interim governance arrangements (frequency, decision making, membership etc.)

8. Delivering Support for Carers: Progress Report April-September 2019

Anna Bird introduced the item in her role as Chair of the West Wales Carers Development Group (WWCDG). Members had been provided with a copy of the bi-annual report which was submitted to Welsh Government in the autumn. She began by emphasising that the group are keen to ensure that the voice of carers feeds into their work and advised that the carers representatives on the RPB had an open invitation to attend the West Wales Carer's Development Group meetings. The group were also holding a planning workshop on 24 January to engage a stakeholders in discussions about the development of a regional Carers strategy.

Anna highlighted some of the areas of work which the group had been progressing, including the appointment of Carers Officers who have just commenced posts in each of the hospital sites, as well as linking to community and integrated teams. The Carers Officers will have a role to deliver awareness raising training and support carer involvement in discharge planning, as well as offering information and advice to staff and carers. This is work which links into wider Winter Planning actions.

The report also referenced pioneering work in Ceredigion on carer resilience and well-being, and the work which is also being led on behalf of the region to pilot ID cards for Young Carers.

Anna highlighted that the National Assembly for Wales Health, Social Care and Sport Committee had released a report into their recent Inquiry prior to Christmas which contained 31 recommendations. It was noted that Anna and Cllr Jane Tremlett represent the region on the Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG) for Carers. This group will be pivotal to the development of a National Action Plan for Carers, which will also respond to Inquiry recommendations.

Maria Battle asked whether the young carer ID cards would allow the carer to gain medical information of who they are caring for. Anna advised that there is still work to be done on defining how the cards would be used. At present the cards would put emphasis on the individual's role as a carer, but would not enable them to gain access to that information at present, but this is an ambition to ensure that it's meaningful for the carer.

Anna was thanked for the update on the work that has been achieved by the WWCDG and it was noted that much has been achieved in a short period of time.

End year report will be considered later in the agenda

9. Integrated Care Fund Update

MP provided a brief update drawing on the contents of the report, drawing attention to the recommendations of the recent report by the Wales Audit Office into governance and management arrangements in West Wales and the first national Annual Report on ICF released by Welsh Government in January and how these were being addressed in the region.

It was noted that a detailed report on current programmes would be brought to the May meeting of the RPB. In the meantime, the 2020-21 revenue investment plan would be brought to the March meeting for endorsement.

Steve Moore suggested that, alongside detailed consideration of the impact of the West Wales programmes, there could be value in inviting other regions to present on their ICF and Transformation programmes as a basis for considering opportunities for upscaling etc. It was agreed that this would be looked into. **ACTION: Martyn Palfreman**

Highlight report on 19-20 submitted to WG but more detailed work being done and this will be shared.

20-21 revenue investment plan along with redirected resources will be completed by the end of MAY and shared virtually with the RPB for sign-off

10. Feedback from Ministerial meeting with RPB Chairs 16 January 2020

Martyn Palfreman provided brief highlights of the recent meeting between RPB Chairs, the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services and Welsh Government officials, which he had attended with Jane Tremlett. Discussion had included potential options for successor funding to ICF and Transformation Fund, discussion around which would be taken forward at an RPB learning event in Cardiff on 12 February, and outline proposals from the national transformation advisory board regarding collective leadership development for RPBs. A more detailed written report would be circulated to members after the meeting. **ACTION: Martyn Palfreman**

Martyn further advised that revised Statutory Guidance for Part 9 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act would be adopted shortly, reflecting changes to regulations which took effect from 1 April 2019. There were potential implications for the existing terms of reference for the RPB and accordingly suggested amendments to these would be brought to the March meeting. **ACTION: Martyn Palfreman**

Terms of reference to be formally reviewed in July

11. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 September 2019 and matters arising

Item 7 – Transformation Fund funding period

Martyn Palfreman confirmed the agreement by the Minister for Health and Social Services to extend this to 31 March 2021, following lobbying from West Wales leaders and other regions.

Item 12 - Health and Social Care funding mapping

Martyn Palfreman advised that a joint letter from RPB chairs across Wales had been submitted in response to The Director General for Health and Social Services Andrew Goodall which had been shared with the Board at the previous meeting. The response called for collaboration between Welsh Government and regions in looking at options to simplify funding streams and associated governance, as part of the the future funding discussions.

12. Next meeting:

19 March 2020, 10.00AM, Venue TBC.