

WEST WALES REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD

11 MAY 2020, 11.30AM

Skype Meeting

Minutes

Present

Cllr Jane Tremlett (JT), Carmarthenshire County Council (Chair)
Cllr Tessa Hodgson (TH), Pembrokeshire County Council
Jonathan Griffiths (JG), Pembrokeshire County Council
Anna Bird (AB), Hywel Dda University Health Board
Judith Hardisty (JH), Hywel Dda University Health Board
Ros Jervis (RJ), Hywel Dda University Health Board
Hazel Lloyd-Lubran (HLL), Ceredigion Association of Voluntary Organisations
Jill Paterson (JP), Hywel Dda University Health Board
Sarah Jennings (SJ), Hywel Dda University Health Board
Jake Morgan (JM), Carmarthenshire County Council
Estelle Hitchon (EH), Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Cllr Alun Williams (Cllr AW), Ceredigion County Council
Alan Thomas (AT), User representative
Cathryn Thomas (CT), Social Care Wales
Donna Pritchard (DP), Ceredigion County Council
Joanne Silverthorne (JS), Carer representative
Gaynor Toft (GT), Ceredigion CC
Malcolm Perret (MP), Care Forum Wales
Hilary Jones (HJ), Bro Myrddin Housing Association

Also in attendance:

Kim Neyland (KN), West Wales Care Partnership
Jessica Rees (JR), West Wales Care Partnership (Minutes)
Martyn Palfreman (MJP), West Wales Care Partnership

Apologies

Alun Williams, Ceredigion County Council
Maria Battle, Hywel Dda University Health Board
Steve Moore, Hywel Dda University Health Board
James Tyler, User representative
Karen Chandler, Pembrokeshire People First
Margaret Allen, Carer representative
Gareth Morgans, Carmarthenshire CC
Jonathan Morgan, Carmarthenshire CC

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and gave a warm welcome to Hilary Jones, Chief Executive of Bro Myrddin who had joined the Regional Partnership Board as Registered Social Landlord (RSL) representative.

2. Apologies

Apologies were noted.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 January 2020 and matters arising

Item 3 Children's Commissioner for Wales

Following the Children's Commissioner's visit to the RPB in January and others across Wales over the autumn, a report on her findings regarding integration of services for children and young people with complex needs had been drafted. However, publication was on hold because of the Covid-19 outbreak. RJ stressed the importance of keeping the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people at the forefront of the Covid-19 response, given the likely impact of the pandemic on this population group.

Item 4 Membership update

MJP advised that current gaps in the membership, including the need for a replacement carer representative following the resignation of Steven Griffiths, would be addressed in the coming months.

Item 5 Winter Plan

It was noted that reviewing delivery of last year's winter plans had been affected by Covid-19 and that planning for 2020-21 would inevitably form part of recovery planning as likely Covid and non-Covid demand was modelled.

4. Covid-19: Interim Regional Governance and Activity Update

MJP provided members with an overview of relaxations of reporting and evaluation requirements, alongside flexibilities in relation to use of funding, which had been announced by Welsh Government at the beginning of the Covid-19 outbreak. Temporary governance arrangements had been put in place to facilitate an integrated response to the pandemic and rapid decisions where necessary to address the impact of the emergency. These included notably, the establishment of a Health and Social Care Covid-19 Planning Group (HSCCPG) in place of the Integrated Executive Group (IEG), which had been meeting weekly since late March and comprised alongside the core IEG membership additional members of the Hywel Dda UHB Executive Team. IEG members would continue to take decisions within their remit on non-Covid related issues, for ratification by the RPB as necessary. The intention remained to continue virtual meetings of the RPB to ensure that members were appraised of actions relating to the Covid-19 response and able to feed in to planning and decisions as appropriate.

Members were advised that an additional allocation of £1.4 million had been made available to the region to support implementation of the Welsh Government's Covid-19 Hospital Discharge Requirements through the development of enhanced, integrated discharge arrangements enabling safe and accelerated discharge of patients from acute to community settings, thereby preserving surge capacity within the acute sector to respond to the pandemic. Proposals were being developed which would be circulated for virtual agreement by the RPB. **ACTION: MP**

The discharge funding sat alongside £40m for local authorities across Wales to meet additional costs incurred by adult care providers due to the pandemic and £24m for third sector organisations to assist with the response to Covid-19.

A revised ICF revenue investment plan would also be submitted to the RPB for agreement, whilst the Healthier West Wales Transformation Fund programme was being revised to ensure that constituent programmes supported fully the Covid-19 response.

The Board was also advised of the diversion of £8m from the ICF Capital programme to support the design, build and restoration of field hospitals in 8 sites across the region, in accordance with pivot arrangements announced by Welsh Government.

JH queried whether changes to programmes funded through the Transformation Fund and ICF could result in reclaiming by Welsh Government of the funding. MP reiterated that there would be significant flexibility in use of funding to support the Covid response, but that there was still no guarantee of funding continuing beyond March 2021.

Cllr AW raised the difficulties experienced by many care homes and GP services due to a lack of Skype facilities and appropriate technology to maintain services and connectivity during the outbreak. JM advised on the availability of specially configured iPads for people within the community and other settings through the Connect programme (Transformation programme 1) and other initiatives. It would be important to consider as a region whether resources were being optimised. CT advised that Tec Cymru and Digital Communities Wales were working with Welsh Government, Public Health Wales and IMP Cymru to look at a collective digital response across Wales moving forward.

MP advised that Care Forum Wales were pleased with the response of the region in supporting providers in the response to Covid-19 but enquired about arrangements for reimbursing costs for care homes without positive residents but who were still affected by the outbreak, and how funding issues would be addressed after the expiry of emergency WG funding. JM advised that conversations were currently being undertaken with Welsh Government in relation to the latter.

GT asked whether the Connect transformation programme linked with the falls prevention agenda and MJP confirmed that falls prevention was one of the community pathways being supported through the programme.

Cllr AW asked for clarification on whether the diverted ICF Capital funding would cover the reverting of field hospitals back to their original operation following the crisis. MJP advised that, given the amount of ICF Capital that had been made

available, a projected deficit remained; however, discussions would be ongoing with Welsh Government on how this shortfall could be met.

5. Partner Updates

The Chair invited attendees to give a brief update from their respective agencies in the light of the pandemic and respective responses.

CT advised on the issuing of social care worker cards to provide identification for carer workers and enable them to receive similar benefits to health workers during the crisis. She also stated that, whilst welcome, the recent announcement on the £500 bonus for care workers there was still a lack of clarity over the administration of the scheme and when money would be received by individuals which needed to be resolved.

EH reported that WAST had seen a significant drop in routine 999 calls and that discussions were ongoing with Welsh Government to deliver appropriate messaging so as to ensure that individuals did not leave it too late to present with serious ailments or conditions. Additional staff had been brought into frontline services to help with a corresponding increase in volume of 111 calls although this was currently stabilising.

JS raised the impact that the lockdown restrictions was having on care services with significant provision either being paused or scaled back. She stressed the impact this was having on unpaid carers, many of whom were near breaking point. AB advised that conversations in this regard with carer support providers were ongoing and that appropriate responses were being identified.

GT advised the board that a homelessness cell had been established in Ceredigion comprising different focused on providing accommodation to homeless people during the pandemic. She also advised that during this period there had already been an increase in mental health issues among the homeless.

JP provided an update on the care home sector and primary care services. There has been changes in primary care on how services have been provided during this period. Conversations were taking place with Welsh Government on how the footfall within primary care would managed as services go back to some normality. There had been a 58% reduction in presentation of suspected cancers which was a concern, meaning that a clear message was needed to ensure the public still sought help for urgent and chronic illness. A regional eye care partnership had also been set up with eye specialists to ensure the public get the eye care they require.

JP also reported that within care homes there were currently 13 facilities that had experienced symptomatic or confirmed cases of Covid-19. Care home staff were being trained to carry out tests as required.

RJ stated that testing was a key priority, with a focus on hospital admissions and the workforce. A referral system was currently being developed at a national level. There were now multiple testing units in place across Hywel Dda's footprint including a drive through unit in Carmarthen showground to ensure the public had access to testing should they require it. She stated that there was now transition to a new

phase of testing to develop a plan on how to cope with the infectious disease by testing, tracking and tracing in the future.

TH queried whether moving forward there were any plans to continue using video or skype appointments for GPs and practitioners beyond the outbreak. JP stated that different ways of working had had to be identified quickly and the use of technology would certainly be more prevalent moving forward.

MJP advised that James Tyler and Karen Chandler, who were unable to attend the meeting, had submitted a paper advising of the difficulty individuals with Learning Disabilities were facing during the pandemic. He summarised these and the key points were noted.

6. Delivering support for Carers end year report

AB presented the end year report focusing on activities funded through the Welsh Government's Carers' Grant funding which stood at £121K for West Wales in 2019-20. This formed part of wider activity also supported by the ICF. A full annual report would be brought to a future meeting of the RPB.

The report was noted.

JH advised that a Carer Confident Level 1 award had been awarded to Hywel Dda UHB but stressed that this reflected the contribution of all partners in the region to the carer's agenda.

JS recorded thanks for all the work done for carers in the region and for involving her as carer rep in the work of the West Wales Carer's Development Group.

7. Next meeting:

22 July 2020, 9.30AM. Confirmation of meeting arrangements to be confirmed nearer the date.