

## WEST WALES REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD

22 JULY 2020, 9.30AM

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  
Cllr Alun Williams (Cllr AW), Ceredigion County Council  
Alan Thomas (AT), User representative  
Cathryn Thomas (CT), Social Care Wales  
Sian Howys (SH), Ceredigion County Council  
Joanne Silverthorne (JS), Carer representative  
Gaynor Toft (GT), Ceredigion CC  
Gareth Morgans (GM), Carmarthenshire CC  
Jonathan Morgan (JM), Carmarthenshire CC  
Maria Battle (MB), Hywel Dda University Health Board  
Steve Moore (SM), Hywel Dda University Health Board  
Libby Ryan Davies (LRD), Hywel Dda University Health Board (part)

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  
James Jewell Edmonds (JJE), West Wales Care Partnership (part)  
Joff Lee (JL), Ceredigion County Council (part)  
Rebecca Llewhellin (RL), West Wales Care Partnership, (Part)

#### Apologies

James Tyler, User representative  
Karen Chandler, Pembrokeshire People First  
Margaret Allen, Carer representative  
Jake Morgan, Carmarthenshire County Council  
Estelle Hitchon, Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust  
Malcolm Perret, Care Forum Wales  
Donna Pritchard, Ceredigion County Council  
Hilary Jones, Bro Myrddin Housing Association

## **1. Welcome and introductions**

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting. MJP advised that Jonathan Griffiths and Councillor Hodgson were attending to matters locally but aimed to join the meeting at some stage.

## **2. Apologies**

Apologies were noted.

## **3. West Wales Carers' Development Group Annual Report 2019-20**

The Chair advised that the Annual Report for 2019-20 had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. It was noted that the Report outlined work taken forward over the previous year to support three Welsh Government priorities, namely:

- Supporting life alongside caring
- Identifying and recognising carers
- Providing information, advice and assistance

The Chair welcomed JJE, a Graduate Trainee with the West Wales Care Partnership, to present highlights from the report and findings from a recent survey undertaken by the West Wales Carers' Development Group (WWCDG) to inform the regional strategy. The survey had attracted a commendable response rate of 558 people, with 46% of respondents coming from Pembrokeshire, 35% from Carmarthenshire, 18% from Ceredigion and 2% from outside the region. It focused on a number of themes as follows:

- Identification of carers, support needed in their caring role and how this was accessed – the most frequently cited support requirement was for respite
- Impact of the caring role – 64% agreed that it had an impact on their physical and mental wellbeing
- Impact of not receiving appropriate support (chiefly increased stress and anxiety)
- Provision of information and advice – 75% of respondents had accessed the Carers Information Service in the past 12 months
- Carers' assessments – 81% of carers had not received an assessment and 11% of those that had had waited for more than 6 months to receive it
- Impact of Covid-19 – there had been some partial benefits e.g. in relation to caring whilst working from home, although increased pressures were reported, including isolation and the effect of people having to shield. Practical support offered during the pandemic, including shopping and collecting medication and virtual support from peer groups were highly valued.

Highlights from the report were provided as follows:

- Commencement of a regional Employers for Carers membership and establishment of a formal steering group to support the roll out;
- Completion of Phase 3 of the Carers Resilience and Well-being pilot in Ceredigion;
- Roll out of the new Social Care Wales national Carer Aware e-learning course;

- Development of a carers needs assessment quality assurance framework and audit tool;
- Identifying new and innovative approaches to respite services;
- Launch of the redesigned Investors in Carers scheme;
- Commencement of a Carer Officer project in our four acute hospitals to improve engagement of Carers in discharge planning arrangements.

AB advised that in response to the survey, key priorities for the partnership were being identified within a regional Carers' Strategy which would be supported by an annual action plan.

CllrAW noted the low number of carers in receipt of an assessment was a cause for significant concern and suggested that more work was needed to ensure this statistic was significantly reduced. SH commented that the pathway to a carer's assessment needed to be made clearer. It was agreed that a position statement from each county, providing information on how they were looking to improve performance locally, would be helpful. This would be obtained. **ACTION: MJP**

SH asked whether the survey had included specific questions for parents caring for young adults. AB advised this had not been examined specifically but would be a focus for future engagement work. JH enquired as to whether there were any ideas on how 'hidden' carers could be encouraged to participate in future engagement exercises and to seek appropriate support. AB acknowledged this to be an ongoing challenge but drew attention to the numerous initiatives across the region aimed at encouraging carers to come forward and seek support.

HLL commended JJE on his presentation and welcomed the emphasis on how the partnership had worked effectively together in response to Covid-19. AB thanked JJE on behalf of the WWCDG for all the work he had undertaken during the past 12 months in supporting its work programme. MJP reiterated this and thanked him for his contribution to the partnership, including to the regional workforce agenda. He also took the opportunity to thank JS as carer representative for the RPB for her continued input to the regional carers' agenda.

#### **4. Hywel Dda University Health Board Transformation Steering Group Update**

The Chair welcomed SM and RLD to present this item. SM stated that experience of the pandemic in West Wales had been multi-faceted. Impact had included a 50% drop in Emergency Department attendance and reductions in cancer referrals. The region had been the leader in Wales for Test, Track and Trace (TTP) and field hospitals.

SM provided highlights of work undertaken by Hywel Dda UHB to assess the impact of and learn from the experience of Covid-19. This included:

- Establishment of a multi-agency Transformation Steering Group (TSG) with the aim of:
  - Learning from the pandemic and the local response to it, looking outwards to global evidence, inwards to feedback from staff and others and back to the experience of previous pandemics

- Translating the learning into practical actions
- Transforming health and care services in the immediate term and over the duration of the health and care strategy
- Production of a Strategic Discover Report, setting out learning and practical application and including an assessment of delivery against the health and care strategy. This would enable to UHB to authorities change and innovation building on this, moving forward. The focus would be whole system rather than merely health. Virtual events involving a range of stakeholders had taken place the previous week to help shape priorities moving forward and feed into the TSG.

LRD spoke further on the Strategic Discover Report, which would be circulated to members following the meeting. 100 local leaders had been interviewed and their views elicited on what had worked well during the pandemic and views had also been captured via an online survey. The report set out a vision on how HDUHB would seek to support the community moving forward, using the Hywel Dda 'Teulu Jones' as a lens.

MJP advised that the Integrated Executive Group had begun to engage with colleagues on the question of how the work of the TSG should be aligned to that of the RPB and respective roles and contributions.

MB suggested the pandemic presented an opportunity of a lifetime for the RPB and its partners to think through how services could be further integrated moving forward. The early work of the TSG was noted and members expressed the view that genuinely collaborative approaches and effective engagement with communities would be necessary to ensure that services improved and were aligned in the future.

The Chair thanked SM and LD for the update.

## **5. Integrated Care Fund Update**

MJP advised that the ICF Revenue Investment Plan (RIP) for 2020-21 had been submitted as a draft to Welsh Government on 10 July. It included a range of initiatives covering the following areas:

- Older people
- Learning disabilities
- Children with complex needs
- Children on the edge of care
- Carers
- The Integrated Autism Service in West Wales
- Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS)
- Dementia

The submission date had been delayed by Welsh Government in view of the pressures relating to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Plan, which was shared in summary form, came within the regional allocation of £11.847, although indicative investment across different population groups had been adjusted where necessary to fit regional priorities. Outcomes and indicators in support of funded projects were being finalised and these would be reported against in the Quarter 1 and 2 report

which would be brought to the RPB in October in advance of submission to Welsh Government. **ACTION: KN**

It was noted that there was no requirement for formal approval of the RIP by Welsh Government.

Members were advised that the majority of projects within the RIP were rolled over from 2019-20, in accordance with Welsh Government guidance. Detailed project plans for the dementia element were still being worked up and the summary provided highlights of planned activity across a three-stage care and support pathway. The full dementia plan would be brought for noting and sign-off at a future meeting. **ACTION: KN**

MJP further advised that the planned redirection of £8m from the ICF Capital programme to support the design, build and restoration of field hospitals, reported to the RPB in May, was being reversed due to alternative funding being provided for this purpose by Welsh Government. Accordingly, paused projects within the Capital programme would be recommenced as soon as practicable and progress reports brought to the RPS as delivery was taken forward. **ACTION: KN**

Members were informed of the requirement by Welsh Government for a written agreement to be signed by all partners setting out how the ICF investment would be deployed and governance arrangements to ensure effective management and reporting of the fund. A draft agreement had been circulated prior to the meeting and all partners had been engaged in its drafting.

Finally, MJP advised that ICF funding was due to be terminated on 31 March 2021. Risks were being identified regionally, whilst conversations continued with Welsh Government regarding possible provision of transitional funding in 2021-22 to maintain key programmes at the same time as discussing possible longer-term funding models. An evaluation of Transformation Fund programmes (see Item 6) and key ICF initiatives in West Wales over the summer would inform this discussion. This was noted.

The RPB approved the 2020-21 RIP and draft written agreement.

## **6. Transformation Fund Update**

The Chair welcomed JL, Strategic Transformation Lead (Programme 3/ Ceredigion) and RL (Programme and Change Manager in the Regional Partnership Unit), who were in attendance for this item. MJP provided an overview progress in relation to the three Healthier West Wales programmes supported through the Transformation Fund, referring to a detailed update paper which had been provided prior to the meeting. This included details of how programmes had been key in partners' response to the Covid-19 outbreak.

The Board was advised that updated evaluation requirements for transformation programmes had been issued by Welsh Government in June 2020. Under these, partnerships were required to undertake a high level evaluation of progress and the impact of Covid-19, informing business cases for mainstreaming successful activity or decisions to discontinue less successful approaches. These needed to be submitted to Welsh Government by 30 September. Currently, transformation funding

was scheduled to cease from 31 March 2021; however as in the case of ICF, discussions were continuing with Welsh Government over possible transitional funding.

MJP further advised that:

- Appointments had been made to the West Wales Research, Innovation and Improvement Hub for which up to £250K had been made available to the region on 2019-20 and 2020-21
- An additional £60K had been made available to support performance and evaluation of the partnership's programme. This was funding a Performance Evaluation Officer within the Regional Partnership Unit
- A further £40K had been made available to support continuous engagement. Proposals for using this allocation were being worked through, with the aim of supporting the recently-established regional engagement community of practice, and would be brought to the RPB for agreement. **ACTION: MJP**

## **7. Children's services Update**

MJP advised that, following the visit by the Children's Commissioner for Wales to the RPB in January and other across Wales in late 2019/ early 2020, her report 'No Wrong Door: Bringing Services Together to Meet Children's Needs' had been published in June 2020. The report contained a number of recommendations for RPBs, highlighting their role in improving collaboration and the integration of emotional and mental health services for children and young people, and the need to rebalance regional programmes to ensure that children's services were prioritised alongside care and support for other population groups.

As a first step, a regional Children's Services Group was being established and would be chaired jointly by Jonathan Griffiths and Ros Jervis. An initial priority for the group would be to develop an action plan against the Commissioner's recommendations and this would be brought to the RPB for sign-off at the October meeting. **ACTION: MJP**

## **8. Welsh Government Review of Strategic Partnerships**

Members were advised that a report had been produced following a review of strategic partnerships across Wales conducted by Welsh Government, the Welsh Local Government Association and Welsh NHS Confederation. The report had identified a plethora of partnerships which had resource and capacity implications for participating agencies and a lack of clarity regarding the overlap between RPBs and Public Services Boards (PSBs). Unconnected partnerships on similar footprints was leading to additional bureaucracy. There was no clear consensus from stakeholders engaged in the review, although it was clear that there was no appetite for merging or abolishing existing partnerships but a sense that collaboration should happen at a local level to streamline and optimise arrangements.

Some concern was expressed regarding the value of the report, particularly given that recent work by the Wales Audit Office on PSBs published in 2019 had not been adequately followed through to date. The central questions of maintaining local democratic accountability and promoting the work of the RPB more clearly across

the region and within partner agencies were also raised. The lack of reference to housing and the need to align the work of RPBs and in particular that of the Regional Housing Support Collaborative Groups overseeing deployment of the Housing Support Grant.

It was noted that these issues would be considered further in forthcoming development sessions for the RPB and Integrated Executive Group which would take place in the autumn.

The report was noted.

### **9. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 May 2020**

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

It was noted that a regional programme supported through Welsh Government's Covid-19 Discharge Funding (Item 4) had been approved remotely prior to submission.

The Chair thanked SJ on behalf of the RPB for her contribution to the RPB and partnership working in West Wales over a considerable period. In response, she thanked members for their support and expressed her view that partners could be proud of the progress made and achievements of the RPB since its inception.

### **10. Next meeting:**

29 October 2020 10AM. Confirmation of meeting arrangements to be provided nearer the date.