

WEST WALES REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD

11 FEBRUARY 2021, 2.00PM

Via Teams

Minutes

Present

Judith Hardisty (JH), Hywel Dda University Health Board (Chair)
Cllr. Jane Tremlett (CllrT), Carmarthenshire County Council
Jill Paterson (JP), Hywel Dda University Health Board
Cathryn Thomas (CT), Social Care Wales
Jonathan Griffiths, Pembrokeshire County Council
Donna Pritchard (DP), Ceredigion County Council
Joanne Silverthorne (JS) Carer Representative
Alun Williams (CllrW), Ceredigion County Council
Jonathan Morgan (JM), Carmarthenshire County Council
Estelle Hitchon (EH), Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Hazel Lloyd Lubran (HLL), Ceredigion Association of Voluntary Organisations
Malcolm Perrett (MP) Care Forum Wales
Hilary Jones (HJ), Bro Myrddin Housing Association
Alan Thomas (AT), Service User Representative
Jake Morgan (JM), Carmarthenshire County Council
Sian Howys (SH), Ceredigion County Council
Ros Jervis (RJ), Hywel Dda University Health Board

Also in attendance:

Martyn Palfreman (MJP), West Wales Care Partnership
Kim Neyland (KN), West Wales Care Partnership
Jessica Rees (JR), West Wales Care Partnership (Minutes)
Rebecca Llewellyn (RL), West Wales Care Partnership
Rachel Rowlands (RR), Age Connects Morgannwg (Attending for Item 3)
Angela Lodwick (AL), Hywel Dda University Health Board (Attending for Item 3)
Warren Lloyd (WL), Hywel Dda University Health Board (Attending for Item 3)
Stefan Smith (SS), Carmarthenshire County Council (Deputising for Gareth Morgans)

In attendance for Item 3:

Deb Austin (DA), Together for Children and Young People Programme
Dr Liz Gregory (LG), Together for Children and Young People Programme
Rachel Rowlands, Together for Children and Young People Programme

Apologies

Anna Bird (AB), Hywel Dda University Health Board
Gaynor Toft (GT), Pembrokeshire County Council

James Tyler (JT), Service User Representative
Karen Chandler (KC) Pembrokeshire People's First
Cllr Tessa Hodgson, (CllrH), Pembrokeshire County Council
Steve Moore (SM), Hywel Dda University Health Board
Maria Battle (MB), Hywel Dda University Health Board
Gareth Morgans (GM), Carmarthenshire County Council

1. Chair's welcome

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting.

2. Apologies

These were noted.

3. Together for Children and Young People: Early Help and Enhanced Support Framework – Call for Early Adopters

The Chair introduced and welcomed Liz Gregory, Rachel Rowlands and Deb Austin, members of the national Together for Children and Young People Team (TFCYP) team. They provided members with an overview of the programme, which comprised 3 workstreams, each of which had been developed through engagement with a young people's group, parents and carers group and a broader range of stakeholders.

The Early Help and Enhanced Support Framework – or NEST, was introduced by LG as the workstream Chair. The co-produced framework focused on 6 key areas of work, promoting a multi-agency approach to meeting children and young people's emotional and mental health needs, informed by the 'No Wrong Door' approach. The framework was being digitalised to provide an interactive tool for partners in developing the approach at regional level.

RR explained that RPBs would be invited to become early adopters of the framework in February and that RPBs would be selected in March. A meeting was scheduled for 3 March, to be attended by the Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and the Welsh Language and the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services, to provide further information to RPB Chairs, Vice Chairs and leads. Members were advised of a series of 'self-assessment' questions/ readiness factors for RPBs to consider as a means of deciding whether to go for early adopter status.

Members welcomed the approach and noted the potential benefits of becoming an early adopter. The importance of establishing clear outcomes for the framework was raised and LG advised that work was underway on this with Values Based Healthcare colleagues. Given the wide scope of the framework, it was noted that Public Services Boards could also play a potentially vital role in implementation. It was further noted that non-specialist services would play a vital role in the framework. The impact of rare diseases on children and young people should also be considered.

RR confirmed that the readiness factors were not intended to be used as a basis for judgement of individual RPBs, but to assist boards in their decisions regarding the framework. There was scope for partnerships at different stages of the 'maturity scale' to get involved as early adopters.

It was agreed that the RPB would support the principle of becoming an early adopter and the regional children and young people's group mandated to consider the implications further and confirm the regional position with Welsh Government by the end of February.

The Chair thanked T2CYP colleagues for their attendance and the information they had provided.

4. West Wales Integrated Winter Plan 2020-21: Update

JP provided an update on the Integrated Winter Plan, which had been approved by the RPB at the meeting in October. Members were asked to note progress and take account of the following:

- Currently projected spend indicated significant slippage at year end. This was across the different funding streams. In respect of the D2RA funding, for which the RPB had direct oversight, the anticipated slippage was currently £259K. As with other elements of the plan, contributory factors included delays or non-delivery of approved schemes due to staffing/ workforce shortages because of the pandemic and in some cases, the inability to implement step-down provision due to embargoes in certain care homes.
- Regular monitoring of spend and delivery was carried out through a multi-agency steering group which continued to meet on a fortnightly basis. Slippage proposals were taken through this group and those agreed in principle were then signed off by the Integrated Executive Group (IEG) in the case of D2RA-funded projects and via internal UHB governance for other schemes. This process was expected to be complete by mid-February with the aim of maximising spend by approving slippage proposals that did not rely on personnel to deliver (for example equipment and digital solutions).
- The group also provided a mechanism for capturing learning and assessing the relative success of schemes. Learning was also being fed into a national task group looking at Discharge to Recover and Assess pathways and future development thereof, on which the region was represented. Learning would be fed into winter planning in future years, which would effectively need to begin at the end of the delivery period for this year's plan.

HLL suggested there would be potential value in undertaking a more detailed analysis of successful schemes and learning points to a future meeting. She also suggested there would be value in the third sector being involved in the development and delivery of the Winter Plan. MJP advised that the third sector had been invited to be part of the steering group and that opportunities for greater involvement would be explored in the programmes would be explored moving forward.

It was further noted that work would be undertaken in conjunction with the Research, Innovation and Improvement Coordination Hub to map existing programmes within the region across all funding streams to identify links, improve

alignment and collate impact information. Progress would be reported back to the RPB as the work progressed.

The RPB noted progress in delivery of the plan.

5. Healthier West Wales (Transformation Fund): Update

MJP advised that, following approval by the RPB at its October meeting of outline business plans for the Healthier West Wales programmes in 2021-22 and their submission to Welsh Government, the allocation of £6m to West Wales had been confirmed. The award was conditional on a number of Active Management Conditions which included submission of regular progress reports, development and delivery of an implementation plan addressing the recommendations of the KPMG evaluation and the RPB's compliance with further external evaluation requirements. Members were advised that the KPMG Action Plan had been circulated with the Board papers and that work had been undertaken on refining metrics for the programmes. The 'Connect to Wellbeing' App would be going live shortly and would provide a mechanism for capturing qualitative impact of the programmes alongside quantitative measures.

Partners were now working on the development of more detailed delivery plans, supported by indicative budgets within the overall £6m allocation. Welsh Government required these by mid-February. A meeting of senior managers from across partner agencies was scheduled for 12 February to agree the detail of business plans and the budgets.

Members were also advised of further allocations of £250K for the Research, Innovation and Improvement Hub, £60K for performance and evaluation capacity and £40K to support continuous engagement. Further information in relation to these would be brought to a future meeting.

CllrAW enquired regarding an apparent shortfall in funding for Programme 3 (Fast-Tracked, Consistent Integration) over the coming year and also raised concerns over the robustness and transparency of governance at regional level and stressed the need for clarity as to how budgetary and other decisions were being taken.

MJP confirmed that budget discussions were based on the indicative amounts contained in the business plans agreed in October. He further advised that current proposals increased the allocation to Programme 3 as a proportion of the overall allocation compared with previous years.

It was noted that over the past year, the pressures of the Covid-19 pandemic had led to the standing down of a number of regional groups as attention and capacity had been diverted to responding to the crisis. The IEG had recognised the need to address this and had committed to reinstating appropriate governance to provide clear accountability in the remaining year of funding. It was agreed that a paper detailing regional governance arrangements would be brought to the next meeting.

The RPB noted the report's contents and agreed to delegate the sign-off of costed delivery plans to IEG, enabling them to be submitted by the mid-February deadline.

6. Integrated Care Fund: Update

KN advised that the Quarter 3 report on the 2020-21 Revenue Investment Plan had been submitted to Welsh Government and had been approved. Some issues remained regarding confirmation of spend and projection figures; these were being pursued and would be resolved during the final Quarter.

Welsh Government had confirmed Revenue and Capital allocations for 2021-22. Partners were finalising the West Wales Revenue Investment Plan for 2021-22 and this would be brought to the March meeting for approval. In respect of 2021-22 the Board was asked to note that:

- Funding for the Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS) was being removed from the ICF and would be funded from an alternative source. The resulting £2m within the ICF programme nationally was being made available to support regions in developing Safe Accommodation for children with complex, high-end emotional and behavioural need, consistent with recommendations in the Children's Commissioner's 'No Wrong Door' report. RPBs had been invited to submit proposals via an open bidding process, with a decision on allocations expected by the end of the month.
- The Dementia programme was currently under review and external capacity was being commissioned to lead on this work and the development of a regional Dementia Strategy.
- An external evaluation of selected ICF projects in West Wales would be undertaken by OBell 3 consultants as part of a national evaluation programme

Addressing a query regarding the regional top-slice, MJP confirmed that this contributed to salary costs within the Regional Collaboration Unit, costs of financial coordination of the programme within Hywel Dda UHB and the delivery of 'enabling' programmes of work, for example in relation to commissioning.

Regarding Capital, KN advised that unlike in previous years, Welsh Government would not be permitting underspend to be 'programme managed' (effectively carried forward) into the coming year and there was therefore some pressure regarding maximising spend in the current year, in order to deploy as much of the current year's allocation and approximately £4m programme managed from previous years. The need for swift local decision making to accelerate projects was a challenge but all reasonable efforts were being taken. Considerable progress had been made and the £1.7m underspend projected currently was expected to be reduced considerably by the end of the year. A further update would be provided at the next meeting.

Significant underspend was indicated in relation to the carers' programme. KN advised that this was due in part to late invoicing and was being addressed through the West Wales Carers' Development Group. An updated position would be provided at the next meeting.

Members noted the Quarter 3 return for 2020-21, Revenue and Capital allocations for 2021-22 and arrangements for development of Revenue and Capital Investment Plans.

7. White Paper 'Rebalancing Care and Support'

MJP provided an overview of the White Paper 'Rebalancing Care and Support' that the Welsh Government released for consultation on 12 January 2021, containing proposals to introduce new legislation to improve social care arrangements and strengthen partnership working thus achieving the vision set out in the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. A briefing had been provided for the Board, which highlighted the 3 main areas of focus set out within the White Paper, which were as follows:

- National commissioning frameworks for adults' and children's services,
- The creation of a national office for social care
- The strengthening of RPBs is set out within the White Paper.

Members were advised on the proposal for strengthening RPBs by making them corporate legal entities with the ability to employ staff, set priorities for regional commissioning and hold integrated budgets. Members felt that additional powers at regional level would need to be balanced against the need for continued local accountability. The potential impact of national commissioning frameworks on existing arrangements within the region would also need to be considered carefully. It was further noted that with the impending Senedd elections there was the potential for significant political change over the coming period.

There was support for a joint RPB response to the consultation, which would be submitted alongside individual responses by partner agencies. It would be important for the RPB response to be taken through individual agencies for agreement prior to submission. MJP advised that work was being progressed through the regional Commissioning Programme Group to develop a joint position in relation to the proposals specifically relating to commissioning. A similar approach was agreed in respect of the proposals for strengthening regional arrangements and members were asked for nominations of colleagues to join a task and finish group for this purpose. JM nominated Chris Harrison Avril Bracey for Carmarthenshire County Council.

Members noted that a draft response would be brought to the March meeting of the RPB.

8. Minutes of meeting held on 29 October 2020 and actions

These were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

9. Date of next meeting 18 March 2021, 10AM, via Teams

10. Any Other Business

AT informed members of the forthcoming Rare Disease Day on 28 February and advised that the Leader of Carmarthenshire County Council has agreed to light up County Hall to mark the event.

ACTIONS

ID	Action	Lead	Timescale	Progress	Status
10/20/01	Develop Action Plan for to address KPMG areas for improvement (HWW) and bring to RPB	MJP	Feb 2021	Plan to be brought to 11 Feb meeting COMPLETE	
10/20/02	Reconvene ICF Forum	MJP	Not specified	Complete and monthly meetings reintroduced	
10/20/03	Meeting with Chair and Vice Chair to discuss approach to Population Assessment	MJP	Not specified	Welsh Government guidance awaited. Plan to be brought to RPB in April 2021	
02/21/01	Confirm regional position re Early Adopter bid for EHES Framework	Regional Children's Group	Feb 2021	'Bid' for Early Adopter status submitted; decision awaited COMPLETE	
02/21/02	Sign off and submit Healthier West Wales Delivery Plans for 2021-22 to Welsh Government	IEG	Mid Feb 2021	Submitted on 15 February 2021 COMPLETE	
02/21/03	Provide update on Carers' ICF spend	KN	18 March 2021	Update to be provided on 18 March	
02/21/04	Nominations for task and finish group to draft RPB response to White Paper consultation	All	Mod Feb 2021	Draft response to be considered on 18 March	