

WEST WALES REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD

18 MARCH 2021, 10.00AM

Via Teams

Minutes

Present

Judith Hardisty (JH), Hywel Dda University Health Board (Chair)
Jill Paterson (JP), Hywel Dda University Health Board
Jonathan Griffiths,(JG) 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
Hazel Lloyd Lubran (HLL), Ceredigion Association of Voluntary Organisations
Cllr Tessa Hodgson, (CllrTH), Pembrokeshire County Council
Anna Bird (AB), Hywel Dda University Health Board
Hilary Jones (HJ), Bro Myrddin Housing Association
Alan Thomas (AT), Service User Representative
Jake Morgan (JM), Carmarthenshire 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)

In attendance for Item 8:

Wendy Thomas (WT), Welsh Local Government Association
Bethan Roberts (BR), Hywel Dda University Health Board
Sioned Thomas (ST), Welsh Local Government Association
Julie Annett's (JA), Welsh Government

Apologies

Cllr. Jane Tremlett (CllrT), Carmarthenshire County Council
Estelle Hitchon (EH), Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Malcolm Perrett (MP) Care Forum Wales
Gaynor Toft (GT), Pembrokeshire County Council
Cathryn Thomas (CT), Social Care Wales
James Tyler (JT), Service User Representative
Karen Chandler (KC) Pembrokeshire People's First
Sian Howys (SH), Ceredigion 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. Members were advised that Maggie Allen, former Carer Representative on the Board, had resigned from her position. JH recorded thanks to Maggie for her contribution over her tenure. MJP advised that the process would now be commenced to recruit additional carer representatives to the Board, seeking as far as possible to achieve equal spread across the region and different population groups.

2. Apologies

These were noted.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 11 February 2021 and actions

A request was received to amend the sentence at the top of Page 5 (Item 6, Integrated Care Fund update) to read as follows:

'KN advised that the Quarter 3 report on the 2020-21 Revenue Investment Plan had been submitted to Welsh Government and had been **approved**.'

With this amendment, the minutes were agreed as accurate record of the meeting.

Progress on the following actions was noted as follows:

Meeting with Chair and Vice Chair to discuss approach to Population Assessment

MJP advised that Welsh Government guidance on Population Assessments was still awaited. An outline plan for undertaking the assessment would be brought to the next meeting of the Board.

Confirm regional position re Early Adopter bid for EHES Framework

Following discussion in the regional Children and Young People Group, a submission has been made to Welsh Government for the region to become an early adopter of the Framework. Feedback was still awaited in respect of this.

Sign off and submit Healthier West Wales Delivery Plans for 2021-22 to Welsh Government

Plans had been submitted following IEG approval (as per agreed delegation by the RPB). Formal feedback was still awaited.

Provide update on Carers' ICF spend

KN stated that over £100,000 of invoices had been submitted following the last meeting and there was confidence that full spend would be achieved by the end of the financial year.

Nominations for task and finish group to draft RPB response to White Paper consultation

Nominations had been received and a number of conversations had taken place, informing the draft response which would be considered later in the meeting.

MJP further advised that the Transformation Fund have received advice that there will be a further stream funding 'Transformation Fund Scaling Fund' which will support Discharge to Recover and Assess (D2RA pathways). The West Wales allocation was £774,000 for deployment over the coming financial year. It was noted that proposals for the funding needed to be submitted to Welsh Government by 9 April.

4. West Wales Care Partnership: Regional Governance

Following a request from RPB members at the previous meeting, MJP provided an update on regional governance arrangements. It was noted that:

- Programme groups established under the Integrated Executive Group reflected the priority areas identified by the RPB. Proposals from these programme groups (for example, in relation to deployment of external funding), were reported to the IEG prior to endorsement by the RPB, as appropriate.
- The IEG had continued to meet on a weekly basis during the pandemic and had over the past 12 months focused on a joint operational response to Covid-19 alongside oversight of core Partnership business and deployment of Welsh Government funding, including the Transformation Fund and Integrated Care Fund (ICF).
- Due to service pressures, the Digital and TEC and Connected Communities programme groups had been temporarily stood down, whilst discussions continued regarding the rationalisation of mental health governance arrangements, aimed at strengthening links with the RPB. The Digital and TEC Group would be reconvened shortly, with an oversight of the development of a regional telecare and telehealth strategy and shared systems development, including the Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS).

In parallel with the above, MJP advised that the Institute of Public Care (IPC) was providing support for a rapid review of the governance arrangements with a view to resolving outstanding issues and further strengthening accountability; this review would also include revision of terms of reference for the RPB and IEG and development of a protocol for enhanced collaboration between the RPB and PSB, consolidating existing joint working arrangements. An update would be provided for consideration by the RPB at the next meeting.

Finally, the RPB was advised that exploratory discussions were underway regarding the possible establishment of a multi-agency assurance board, comprising representatives from each of the statutory partners and overseeing Partnership activity, processes and spend. Again, further details would be brought to the RPB as the discussions were taken forward.

CllrAW thanked MJP for the work that was being undertaken and requested explicit reference within the governance arrangements of local authority scrutiny. MP agreed to ensure this was addressed.

CllrTH asked whether previous discussions regarding the creation of a group comprising council leaders and chief executives had been progressed. MP advised that IPC would be revisiting this proposal as part of their rapid review. The importance of avoiding multiple layers of decision making was agreed.

The RPB noted the contents of the paper.

5. Integrated Care Fund Update

KN provided an update for the RPB and advised that the activity and financial outturn in respect of the 2020-21 Revenue Investment Plan would be brought for endorsement by the RPB on 29 April prior to submission to Welsh Government. The RPB was asked to note a high level of confidence that full spend would be achieved across population groups.

The 2021-22 Revenue Investment Plan (RIP) was presented for endorsement of the RPB following sign-off by the IEG on 8 March. The Board was advised that supporting information had been submitted in support of the proposals, in line with Welsh Government requirements as set out in national guidance and specific recommendations within the recent Internal Audit of ICF Partnership Governance undertaken by Hywel Dda UHB.

Members noted that a proposal for a trauma-informed, multi-agency model of care providing wrap-around support with therapeutic input for children and young people had been submitted by the Partnership, following Welsh Government's announcement of £2m within the 2021-22 ICF to support schemes providing safe accommodation for children and young people with high-end needs. Feedback was awaited in respect of this. They were also advised that external consultants had been appointed to work with partners on the development of a regional dementia strategy and the comprehensive review of the existing ICF investment in respect of dementia. This would be completed by the end of May and the dementia element of the RIP submitted to Welsh Government at that later date.

The RPB approved the Plan and noted that a themed summary would be submitted to Welsh Government by 31 March.

Regarding the ICF Capital programme, the RPB was advised that Welsh Government had revised its previous position ruling out programme management (essentially carry-forward) of surplus funds from 2020-21 into 2021-22 and had confirmed that this would be permitted where existing programmes were suitably advanced and would be delivered in the coming financial year. This shift meant that the projected underspend had been reduced considerably to £700K. The 2021-22 Capital programme was being developed by partners and would be brought for endorsement at the next meeting of the RPB on 29 April.

MJP advised members briefly of the purpose and contents of the Written Agreement which was a requirement of Welsh Government and which set out details of how the Fund was invested in the region and governance, monitoring and reporting arrangements. It was noted that changes from the Agreement in place for the current Financial Year were minimal. The Agreement was approved in principle, with partners agreeing to obtain local sign-off from their individual agencies as necessary.

6. White Paper 'Rebalancing Care and Support': Draft RPB response

MJP reminded members that the deadline for responses to the consultation on the White Paper was 6 April. The draft response shared with members had been constructed to reflect key messages expressed at the last meeting and subsequently by colleagues involved in the detailed discussions mandated by the Board. The response stressed the importance of shared vision and commitment to collaboration as foundations of effective partnership working, rather than structural change and the creation of RPBs as legal entities as suggested in the White Paper. Such a change would also have implications individually and collectively for RPB members. In the draft response the opportunity for reflection on the relationship between RPBs and Welsh Government was highlighted, including the basis of funding post-2022, in respect of which the case for further autonomy was made.

In discussion the following further points were raised:

- CllrAW requested explicit reference to subsidiarity in the response to Question 3. The importance of local democracy and accountability needed to be emphasised more strongly.
- Lack of clarity regarding the detail of proposals in relation to commissioning made meaningful response and comment difficult. Specific legislative provision in respect of Continuing Health Care (CHC) and Funded Nursing Care (FNC) were not reflected in the consultation document.
- The tone of the White Paper was seen as technical and aimed at a professional rather than 'lay' audience.
- Lack of clarity around some of the core proposals within the paper was a concern, with the potential for confusion around expectations moving forward. Conversely, it was felt that the RPB's reservations needed to be stated very clearly at this stage.
- The concentration on form rather than function was also a concern.

In the light of discussion, it was agreed that further amendments to the draft response were necessary. Any additional comments were requested by 19 March. Following further discussion and sign-off by the IEG, virtual endorsement would be sought from the RPB prior to submission.

7. RPB Draft Manifesto

JH reminded members of the recommendation emanating from the development sessions for the RPB and IEG in late 2020 that a manifesto be developed, setting out core principles and providing details on what would be delivered over the next 2 years. MJP took members through key commitments through a range of population groups, suggested as a basis for the document.

The approach was broadly welcomed, although the following comments were made:

- It was felt there was a need to include people with autism as a distinct population group.

- Broader issues such as reduction in carbon footprint and rural delivery should also be included.
- It was noted that housing did not currently feature and given the role of housing in supporting the care agenda, this should be reconsidered.
- Further work was needed on clarifying tangible deliverables and outcomes, supported by appropriate measures. This would facilitate effective monitoring by the RPB.

A further iteration of the manifesto, reflecting these comments, would be developed and brought for consideration and sign-off by the RPB.

8. Autism Spectrum Conditions National Strategic and Operational Developments, including the Integrated Autism Service (IAS) West Wales Update

Members of the National Autism Team (NAT) were in attendance for this item along with Bethan Roberts, lead for the West Wales IAS and Julie Annetts from Welsh Government. The Chair extended a welcome to these colleagues. WT then provided an overview of the National Autism Team and its priorities. Points covered included the impact COVID-19 and the creation of a new information hub in response to the pandemic for provision of targeted support and advice.

JA then provided an overview of the new Autism Code of Practice (COP) recently introduced by Welsh Government and its implications for partners. She also referenced a demand and capacity review that was currently being undertaken with the Children's neurodevelopmental services and the IASs across Wales to identify good practice, pressures, demand and capacity to meet that demand. The review would take a year with recommendations expected in the summer of 2022.

JA confirmed that, given the considerable pressure currently faced by services across all regions, 'light' implementation of the COP was expected in the current year.

In response to the presentations, MJP suggested that there were considerable foundations in place in West Wales on which to build moving forward. These included (1) the role of autism champion for the RPB being in place, (2) a current review of governance for autism to strengthen strategic oversight of the IAS and autism services more generally, (3) training underway on the implications of the COP across partner agencies and (4) a commitment to augment the focus on autism within the next Population Assessment.

BR shared data in relation to Autism diagnostic assessments in the region. It was not possible currently to meet all demand, but robust pathways and structures were in place. Two key pieces of work, being developed by the NAT in partnership with Hywel Dda UHB, were the production of a key learning package for primary care staff and a pilot scheme with specialist CAMHS.

9. Date of next meeting

29 April 2021, 2.30PM

10. Any Other Business

There was none.

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	Monthly meetings reintroduced COMPLETE	
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 COMPLETE	
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 COMPLETE	
02/21/04	Nominations for task and finish group to draft RPB response to White Paper consultation	All	Mid Feb 2021	Draft response to be considered on 18 March	
03/21/1	Report final amendments to governance structure and submit revised terms of reference for RPB for consideration	MJP	29 April 2021	Defer to July meeting	
03/21/2	Bring ICF Capital programme to RPB for endorsement	MJP	April 2021	Programme incomplete. Circulate for virtual endorsement May 2021	
03/21/3	Bring updated manifesto to RPB for sign-off	MJP	July 2021		
03/21/4	Comments by 19 March to on White Paper consultation response for inclusion in updated draft.	All	19 March 2021	COMPLETE	

ID	Action	Lead	Timescale	Progress	Status
03/21/5	White Paper consultation response submitted to Welsh Government	MJP	6 April 2021	COMPLETE	