

## **WEST WALES REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

29 JULY 2021, 2.30PM

**Via Teams**

### **Minutes**

#### **Present**

Judith Hardisty (JH), Hywel Dda University Health Board (Chair)  
Jonathan Griffiths, (JG) Pembrokeshire County Council  
Joanne Silverthorne (JS) Carer Representative  
Alun Williams (CllrAW), Ceredigion County Council  
Hazel Lloyd Lubran (HLL), Ceredigion Association of Voluntary Organisations  
Cllr Tessa Hodgson, (CllrTH), Pembrokeshire County Council  
Jake Morgan (JM), Carmarthenshire County Council  
Ros Jervis (RJ), Hywel Dda University Health Board  
Cllr. Gareth John (CllrGJ), Hywel Dda University Health Board  
Cllr. Jane Tremlett (CllrJT), Carmarthenshire County Council  
Elaine Lorton (EL), Hywel Dda University Health Board  
Sian Howys (SH), Ceredigion County Council  
Malcolm Perrett (MP) Care Forum Wales  
Gareth Morgans (GM), Carmarthenshire County Council  
Alan Thomas (AT), Service User Representative

Also in attendance:

Martyn Palfreman (MJP), West Wales Care Partnership  
Kim Neyland (KN), West Wales Care Partnership  
Michael McClymont (MM), West Wales Care Partnership (Minutes)  
Rebecca Llewellyn (RL), West Wales Care Partnership  
Kevin Pett (KP), West Wales Care Partnership (Part)  
Alison Bishop (AB), Hywel Dda University Health Board (Part)

#### **Apologies**

Jill Paterson (JP), Hywel Dda University Health Board  
Donna Pritchard (DP), Ceredigion County Council  
Anna Bird (AB), Hywel Dda University Health Board  
Estelle Hitchon (EH), Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust  
Jonathan Morgan (JM), Carmarthenshire County Council  
Gaynor Toft (GT), Pembrokeshire County Council  
James Tyler (JT), Service User Representative  
Karen Chandler (KC) Pembrokeshire People's First  
Cathryn Thomas (CT), Social Care Wales  
Hilary Jones (HJ), Bro Myrddin Housing Association

## **1. Chair's welcome**

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting.

## **2. Apologies**

These were noted. It was further noted that Maria Battle had resigned from the RPB membership and that her place had been taken by Councillor Gareth John (CllrGJ). The Chair welcomed him formally to the Board.

## **3. Minutes of meeting held on 18 March 2021 and Actions**

The minutes were agreed as accurate record of the meeting.

MJP updated on progress of actions from the last meeting, with the following specifically noted:

Report final amendments to governance structure and submit revised terms of reference for RPB for consideration

MJP advised that revised Terms of Reference were included on the agenda and that a report setting out final recommended changes to the regional governance structure would be presented at the October meeting.

ICF Capital programme to RPB for endorsement

Included later on the agenda.

Updated manifesto to RPB for sign-off

An update would be provided under Item 8 on the agenda.

Update to be provided on Transformation Scaling Fund

MJP advised that proposals for deployment of this additional funding had been approved by Welsh Government and were being progressed. A further update would be provided at the October meeting.

Provide breakdown by County and type of unpaid carers self-identifying to the Health Board during the Covid-19 Pandemic

Information to be circulated following the meeting.

Pursue opportunities for inviting the Older People's Commissioner to a future RPB meeting

MJP advised that staff from the Older People's Commissioner's Office had made a presentation to the Carmarthenshire Public Services Board in June on the 'Age Friendly Communities' initiative run by the World Health Organisation, to which individual agencies have the opportunity to sign up through a commitment to adopting a strategic approach allowing people of all backgrounds and regardless of age to participate in and be part of shaping the area in which they live. At the meeting Carmarthenshire County Council had indicated an in-principle intention to sign up to the scheme. Subsequent discussions had taken place between MJP and the Older People's Commissioner's Office to explore the possibility of the RPB endorsing any future application by Carmarthenshire and, potentially, other statutory

partners in the region and opportunities for the RPB itself to formally subscribe to the standards within the programme, although partnerships were not currently permitted to become direct signatories. A tentative invitation had been extended to the Commissioner to attend the October meeting of the RPB to discuss this further, coinciding with a planned presentation on the new regional Dementia Strategy. This approach was welcomed and MJP agreed to progress discussions with the Commissioner's Office.

#### **4. Transformation Fund Update**

RL provided a brief update, referring to the paper circulated prior to the meeting. She advised members that the Healthier West Wales Programme Board continued to meet monthly to oversee delivery of the programme and develop sustainability plans for post-March 2022. The Board was asked to note that the quarterly evaluation report from independent evaluators ORS had been drafted and would be circulated when finalised.

JH reported that she had recently visited Delta Wellbeing to observe the Connect programme and encouraged other members to take the opportunity to do likewise. She also noted the reference within the Programme 3 update to Cluster programmes and enquired as to how the HWW and Cluster programmes were being aligned more generally. MJP advised that there was a clear case for further alignment between the RPB's activities and the Cluster work and suggested that the Population Assessment provided an opportunity for sharing intelligence on need across different communities and the range of initiatives in place to meet that need. He also suggested that Cluster programmes should be included in a mapping exercise which was nearing completion, and which plotted all currently funded programmes across the different stages of the care and support pathway. This work would be instrumental in informing future funding bids. It was agreed that the outcome of this work should be reported at the next meeting RPB meeting.

EL reported that work was being undertaken at County level to ensure that Transformation Fund, ICF and Cluster programmes were aligned, with Cluster leads attending the Healthier Pembrokeshire Strategic Group in that County.

The contents of the report were noted.

#### **5. Integrated Care Fund Update and 2021-22 Capital programme**

KN introduced the item, referencing the updated revenue report circulated in advance of the meeting, which was due to be submitted to Welsh Government on 30 July. It was noted that the spend for Q1 stood at £2,307,687 against a forecast of £2,713,957. This demonstrated the significant progress that had been made in terms of timely deployment of funding, compared with previous years.

Positive feedback from Welsh Government on the Revenue Investment Plan for 2021-22 was welcomed. The success of the RPB in securing £708K to support development of safe accommodation for children with complex needs was noted as a positive development. It was further noted that discussions were ongoing with Welsh Government regarding the need for reducing reporting requirements in connection with any future funding streams.

KN then presented the 2021-22 ICF Capital programmes covering Major and Discretionary projects, for endorsement. The Major Capital programme included 'pipeline' projects with a zero allocation, against which slippage would be allocated if available through the course of the year. Welsh Government approval of detailed proposals would be required prior to projects moving to implementation phase, with no further endorsement required from Welsh Government at that subsequent stage.

JM stressed the considerable work that was involved in managing the programme at regional level and advised that he chaired a multi-agency ICF Capital Group for the region. Considerable progress had been made over the past 18 months in accelerating programmes, maximising spend and realising benefits for users across the region. This had mitigated the risk of unspent funding being redirected to other regions. The considerable work undertaken by colleagues across the statutory partner agencies to achieve this was noted. JM further advised that there was still a need for appropriately senior representation from Hywel Dda UHB on the Capital Group, notwithstanding regular attendance by financial officers, and EL agreed to raise this internally with the Director of Strategic, Development and Operational Planning.

Turning to the national ICF evaluation, KN stated that following a desk top review of the 14 West Wales projects included in the programme, fieldwork in connection with 2 projects (Care at Home and Carers' Discharge project) would be undertaken in August. Core stakeholders would be interviewed as part of this process.

The RPB noted the Q1 report and approval by Welsh Government of the 2021-22 Revenue Investment Plan. The 2021-22 Capital Investment Plans were endorsed.

## **6. NEST Implementation**

JG provided an update on the latest position regarding implementation of the NEST framework, in respect of which the RPB, along with all others across Wales, had been selected as an Early Adopter. He reminded members that different regions were in different places in terms of maturity of current arrangements and accordingly the implementation would be phased across Wales. There were two key elements of implementation; the first being the inputting of current services in each region on a digital platform and the second being embedding of NEST principles across the care pathway. A series of interactive workshops were being held over the coming months to work through the requirements and support partnerships with implementation. The first of these, focusing on the digital element, had taken place earlier in the week. Whilst Welsh Government was originally advocating the development of seven local platforms, a consensus had emerged at the meeting that a better approach would be to have one national database on which local information would be input via the regional partnerships. Welsh Government was reconsidering accordingly and there would be further discussion over coming weeks on how this element would be managed.

RJ stressed that the value of the initiative would be in facilitating positive outcomes in the medium and long term for children and young people. MJP agreed, stating that the platform needed to be seen not as a service directory but a strategic planning tool to enhance provision and improve outcomes. This was in alignment

with the aspirations of the Children's Commissioner in her recent 'No Wrong Door' report.

JH welcomed the update and requested further reports on progress as the initiative was taken forward.

## **7. Policy Update**

MJP provided an update on three key areas in relation to national policy.

Starting with the 'Rebalancing Care and Support' White Paper, he drew attention to the Welsh Government report on consultation responses, published in June, which had been circulated prior to the meeting and key points summarised in the cover report. 155 responses had been received, which included the collective response of the RPB in West Wales and individual responses by partners in the region.

Looking specifically at responses in relation to the current functionality of RPBs and the potential case for restructuring of regional arrangements, MJP reported that there had been a disparity of views across Wales between statutory and non-statutory partners on Boards in relation to this question; the majority of the former group being of the view that functions could be delivered under existing arrangements and the latter feeling reform was necessary and that there was currently inequity of status and influence within the RPBs.

It was felt that a lack of clarity remained from Welsh Government around its intention and ambitions for RPBs. Whilst this was being worked through at national level, there was an opportunity to undertake a fundamental reappraisal of arrangements in West Wales and to reset the ambition and objectives of the Board. This would need to take into account the range of perspectives from different members, including Cabinet representatives, and to obtain clarity on respective expectations. This would help determine the most appropriate structures and operating models within West Wales and the regional deliberations could feed into the ongoing national debate. This work would coincide with the introduction of likely successor funding and provided an opportunity for resetting the regional programme. It was agreed that this exercise could build on sessions held in late 2020 with the RPB and IEG. It would need to reflect the original intention, agreed at the outset of the new arrangements in 2016, to shape an approach that works for West Wales and should seek to determine what regional working entails alongside necessary flexibility in delivery and recognising the sovereignty of partner organisations. Rurality would be a key consideration and a clear aim of collaborating only where there was clear added value to doing so in terms of outcomes for individuals and communities. As a first step, a principles paper would be worked up for consideration by IEG, also outlining a process for taking the discussion forward with the wider RPB. Any agreed changes would then be taken through the formal governance of partner agencies to ensure full sign-up.

Referring briefly to the principles paper agreed by the RPB and submitted by Chairs of the seven RPBs to the Minister for Health and Social Services, MJP advised that a response had been promised shortly. It was expected that the key areas of concern would inform the agenda of the first RPB Chairs' meeting with the Minister and Deputy Minister on 15 September.

Finally, in relation to successor funding, MJP reported that proposals had been submitted by Welsh Government officials to the Minister for approval. Indications were that this funding would be for the duration of the Senedd term and include explicit requirements for match funding from core budgets to support transformation and integration projects. It was also envisaged that funding would taper over the period, requiring an increasing contribution from partners for those projects evidencing impact resulting in them being eventually mainstreamed. Discussions with officials were ongoing and MJP undertook to keep RPB members apprised of progress.

## **8. West Wales Annual Report 2020-21**

MJP reminded members of the statutory responsibility on RPBs to produce an Annual Report outlining delivery against agreed objectives. As in 2020, the statutory publication deadline of 30 June had been extended in the current year and reports were required by 31 August 2021. He thanked colleagues across partner agencies for contributing to what was considered a succinct yet helpful summary of the considerable range of activity being taken forward in the region. The report was approved. It was noted that Welsh and Easy Read versions would also be produced.

## **9. Population Assessment and Market Stability Report Update**

In referring to the update report, MJP reported that the Research and Development Team within Hywel Dda UHB had been commissioned to lead on production of the Population Assessment and this was being progressed in line with the plan approved by the Board at the previous meeting. The Institute of Public Care had been commissioned to support the Market Stability Report, which as previously advised would be undertaken in parallel with the Population Assessment. The aim remained to complete both reports by December 2021, allowing sign-off by the RPB and statutory partners to be obtained prior to publication in March 2022.

Referring to the commitment to produce a Manifesto for the RPB, MJP suggested that this should build on the early draft considered by the Board in March 2021 but be timed to incorporate the findings of the Population Assessment and Market Stability Report as well as the planned deliberations regarding the future of the RPB and wider regional arrangements. This was agreed and the contents of the report noted.

## **10. West Wales Integrated Winter Plan 2020-21: Initial Evaluation**

AB was welcomed to the meeting and provided a summary of the circulated report, which sought to demonstrate the impact of the integrated winter plan on key measures across the system, namely length of stay in hospital, emergency admissions and readmissions, discharges, ED attendance and performance and ambulance handovers. In spite of the impact of Covid-19 on the system (e.g. reduced routine admissions), it was felt that the overall message was one of positive impact being made by the winter activity. As well as measures within acute, a range of community-based initiatives had been delivered through the plan and these were noted in the paper. AB also advised that pressures in the system were prevalent at

all times of the year and that planning needed to reflect this. This view was endorsed by several members, with the impact in the summer months of inward migration and excessive heat being cited as examples of this.

The report was welcomed, although it was felt that additional information would be helpful. For example, JM suggested that the impact of longer waiting times for routine procedures following Covid-19 needed to be assessed. Someone waiting longer for a hip replacement might be expected to become less mobile over that period and as a result need social care.

Longer term projections of an ageing population in West Wales coupled with a decline in citizens of a working age added to this 'perfect storm' and the impact of second homes, decline in international migration and expected rise in inward migration from other parts of the UK needed to be taken seriously.

Discussion then progressed to some of the wider system pressures currently being experienced across the region, including inadequate domiciliary care provision, with the current situation in Pembrokeshire having been noted in the public meeting of Hywel Dda UHB earlier in the day and a resulting action for matters to be considered by the RPB.

JG stressed that numerous pressures were related to workforce rather than a lack of ideas or will to improve. Various initiatives were being taken forward in Pembrokeshire involving a range of partners, to address the current pressures and demands; these included flexible roles across health and social care, joint apprenticeship programmes and the community catalyst programme supporting the development of social and micro-enterprise in the county to enhance provision. EL cited local solutions being developed in Pembrokeshire between health and social care and emphasised the positive impact of initiatives being taken as part of the Healthier West Wales Programme 7. As discussed previously in the meeting, the need for local solutions within broadly agreed care models would be key.

JS highlighted the significant contribution made by unpaid carers without which the situation would be exacerbated, but which was placing additional pressure on those people caring for family and friends at home.

The current lack of parity in terms of pay and conditions between health and social care continued to be an issue, with Welsh Government commitments to introduce a Real Living Wage not expected to come on stream until 2024 and action required in advance of that. There was the continued fundamental issue of funding of social care which needed to be addressed at national level.

JH recognised the significant work being taken forward by all partners in the challenging environment and emphasised the key role of the RPB in helping develop solutions and monitoring progress. It was also agreed that meetings between Ministers and RPB Chairs provided an opportunity for collective representation to be made to Welsh Government and areas for national action highlighted. It was agreed

that relevant plans and updates on IEG discussions would be shared on a regular basis with members of the RPB.

### **11. Quarterly programme reports: Commissioning Programme Group**

KP briefly introduced the update report, reminding members that the Commissioning Programme Group oversaw activity in this area and reported into IEG. JM was IEG sponsor and Chair of the Programme Group. The breadth of activity reflected the emphasis being placed on commissioning by Welsh Government and an increasing appetite amongst partners for collaboration in this area.

JH thanked KP for the report and for the positive action being taken forward. Contents of the report were noted.

### **12. West Wales RPB Terms of Reference**

MJP advised that the revised Terms of Reference had been amended very slightly to reflect changes in statutory requirements, notably through revised Statutory Guidance for Part 9 of the Act which required increased membership. The current Terms of Reference, adopted in March 2019 stipulated the need for an annual review and in the wake of Covid-19 this had not been undertaken in 2020. He suggested that the revised version be adopted for the remainder of the 2021-22 financial year and reviewed at that point. This would enable any changes at national level and the agreed regional deliberations on the role of the RPB and priorities to be reflected in the next iteration.

The Terms of Reference were approved, with the caveat that CllrGJ be added to the membership list.

### **13. RPB Forward Plan**

The updated Forward Plan reflected adjustments in some areas of activity and would be revised as necessary over the course of the year. MJP invited members to contact him with any other suggestions for future agenda items.

### **14. Date of Next Meeting**

22 October 2021, 1.00PM

### **15. Any Other Business**

*Memory Assessment Service (Dementia) - Bid for additional funding.*

KN advised that additional funding had been awarded to regions by Welsh Government to support dementia diagnosis. This was in addition to the main ICF allocation for dementia. The draft proposal had been developed with a view to addressing local challenges and would support additional memory assessment staff across the region. Draft approval had been received from Welsh Government, pending RPB endorsement. It was agreed that the proposal should be supported.

*Head of Regional Collaboration*

JH shared the news with members that MJP would be leaving this role in the autumn. There was a possibility that he could still be in post for the next RPB

meeting in October; however as this was not definite and therefore she wanted to record thanks for his contribution, and that of his team, to the work of the RPB and wider partnership over a number of years. These thanks were echoed by former Chair CllrJT and JM. It was noted that MJP would remain in the 'Welsh network' and it was likely that there would be opportunities to work with him again in the future.

DRAFT

**WEST WALES RPB: ACTIONS JULY 2021**

ID	Action	Lead	Timescale	Progress	Status
03/21/3	Bring updated manifesto to RPB for sign-off	MJP	July 2021	March 2022	
07/21/1	Progress discussions with Older People's Commissioner's Office re attendance at October meeting	MJP	Sep 2021	Deferred to January 2022 meeting	
07/21/2	Circulate ORS Evaluation Report on HWW programme	MJP	Aug 2021	Complete	
07/21/3	Share mapping of funded projects at next meeting	MJP	Oct 2021	To be circulated	
07/21/4	Identify senior HDUHB representative for ICF Capital Group	EL	Aug 2021		
07/21/5	Draft principles and process paper for regional partnership review	MJP	Sep 2021	Paper drafted for initial consideration by IEG	
07/21/6	Provide updates on successor funding proposals	MJP	From Aug 2021	On agenda	
07/21/7	System pressures -plans and updates to be provided to RPB members	IEG	From Aug 2021	On agenda	