

WEST WALES REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD

20 SEPTEMBER 2018, 10.30AM

Caer Suite
West Wales Fire Rescue Service HQ
Lime Grove Avenue,
Carmarthen SA31 1SP

Minutes

Present

Huw Irranca-Davies AM, Minister for Children, Older People and Social Care (Part)
Christopher Stevens (CS), Welsh Government (Part)
Emily Thomas (ET), (Welsh Government)
Jake Morgan (JM), Carmarthenshire County Council
Jill Paterson (JP), Hywel Dda University Health Board (Part)
Carys James (CJ), Ceredigion County Council (Part)
Cllr Jane Tremlett (CllrJT), Carmarthenshire County Council
Cllr Tessa Hodgson (TH), Pembrokeshire County Council
Cllr Alun Williams, (AW), Ceredigion County Council
Karen Chandler (KC), Pembrokeshire People First (Advocate for JT)
Hazel Lloyd-Lubran (HL), Ceredigion Association of Voluntary Organisations (CAVO)
Judith Hardisty (JH), Hywel Dda University Health Board
Melanie Minty (MM), Care Forum Wales (Part)
Sarah Jennings (SJ), Hywel Dda University Health Board
Margaret Allen (MA), Carer representative (Part)
James Tyler (JT), User representative
Cathryn Thomas (CT), Social Care Wales (Part)
Alan Thomas (AT), User representative

Also in attendance:

Anna Bird (AB), Hywel Dda University Health Board (Part)
Kim Neyland (KN), (Minutes), West Wales Care Partnership
Martyn Palfreman (MP), West Wales Care Partnership
Jessica Rees (JR), West Wales Care Partnership
Ros Jervis (RJ), Hywel Dda University Health Board
Alison Shakeshaft (AS) Hywel Dda University Health Board (Part)

Apologies

Jonathan Griffiths (JG), Pembrokeshire County Council
Steven Griffiths (SG), Carer representative
Joanne Silverthorne (JS), Carer representative

1. Welcome and introductions

CllrJT welcomed attendees to the meeting and extended a special welcome to the Minister for Children, Older People and Social Care and colleagues from Welsh Government. Round table introductions followed.

2. Apologies

These were noted.

3. Presentation to the Minister for Children, Older People and Social Care: 'A Healthier West Wales'

An overview of the work of the West Wales Care Partnership was provided by MP, HLL, JM and SJ. This covered:

- Information on the region and its key demographics
- Examples of achievements to date
- Involvement of the third sector in the work of the Partnership
- The approach adopted in relation to pooled funds
- The planned approach to transformation moving forward and developing a regional bid against the Transformation Fund
- Suggested 'ground-rules' for effective working between Welsh Government and the region in delivering 'A Healthier Wales'.

In response the Minister said he was encouraged by the site visit that had taken place at Prince Philip Hospital earlier that morning in which he had engaged with staff and users of the Acute Response Team and the progress that had been made by the RPB since its inception. He was particularly impressed with the commitment to engage meaningfully with users and carers. It was noted that work in key areas such as commissioning was being taken forward proactively in West Wales, without necessarily seeking a direct mandate or permission from Welsh Government. It would be important for the RPB to maintain pace and avoid inertia and over-reflection. Clear goals for both the short and long term were needed. The regional approach which sought to anticipate the needs of future generations and the requirements of our communities in 20 years' time was applauded.

A discussion followed, covering the following points:

- 'A Healthier Wales' set clear ambition for the pivotal role of RPBs in the transformation and integration of care and support.
- Logistical and technical difficulties in progressing beyond 'virtual' pooled fund arrangements to a risk-sharing arrangement were recognised but the Minister stressed that this needed to be the ultimate aim. Part of this would be winning hearts and minds. The recent paper by the Institute of Public Care was useful in making a strong case for pooling budgets. CS advised that ADSS Cymru had commissioned capacity nationally to support partnerships in delivering pooled funds.

- The outcomes of investment in new models through the ICF and cluster funding were welcomed; however there was a need to mainstream evidenced effective models and support them through core funding.
- The danger of an over-emphasis on national targets was recognised but a balance was needed here. Of primary importance was being able to demonstrate that people felt services were improving.
- Whilst there was clearly goodwill in relation to social enterprise, there was a need to progress work in this area at pace, to empower users, carers and communities and address challenges associated with loneliness and isolation.
- Welsh Government was keen to work with RPBs and wider partnerships to deliver the agenda set out in 'A Healthier Wales'. Ideas on where Welsh Government needed to provide stronger leadership and direction would be welcomed. However Welsh Government would not be seeking a 'command and control' approach but would be seeking a new dynamic in the national/ regional relationship which acknowledged that mistakes would be made as innovation progressed.
- Progress within West Wales was noted in relation to Delayed Transfers of Care (DTC).
- The proposed approach to delivery of 'A Healthier Wales' in West Wales and the ambitions set out on relation to the Transformation Fund were welcomed. The Minister stressed that a range of initiatives, including those impacting on children and young people, would be expected. It was not expected that everything could be achieved at once; rather those areas where early impact was possible should be the initial focus.
- The planned timescale of submitting a bid in November was not seen as problematic; however, the Minister advised that an ongoing dialogue with officials as the bid was being developed would be beneficial.

At this point the Minister and accompanying officials left the meeting.

4. Minutes of previous meeting held on 7 June 2018 and Matters Arising.

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

Matters arising:

Item 2: Area Plan Easy Read version

This was nearing completion and would be published shortly.

Item 4: ICF Guidance – Welsh Government response

Welsh Government officials had responded to correspondence from the Chair expressing concern over delays in the issuing of guidance in respect of the dementia and Capital elements of ICF. The response provided reassurance that, now arrangements had been established for these elements, delays were not expected in the coming year.

Citizen and Provider engagement

MP advised that an Invitation to Tender was due to be advertised shortly seeking expert capacity to (1) support the establishment of a regional citizen panel and innovations forum for providers and (2) deliver pilot wider 'conversations' with selected communities using social media, as agreed by the RPB in its June meeting. SJ advised that discussions were ongoing within Hywel Dda UHB regarding the potential future role of its Stakeholder Reference Group in facilitating user and carer engagement in the work of the Partnership. MP stated that this would be considered by the appointed consultants as the work was taken forward.

Item 10: Carers' Ministerial Advisory Group (CMAG)

CllrJT advised that she had attended an inaugural meeting of the CMAG as representative of the RPB. Another meeting was due imminently. A commitment had been made to establish an additional group alongside the CMAG comprising current carers, providing them with the opportunity to shape improved support for carers and feed back on the extent to which the requirements of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act were being delivered. Further updates would be provided as arrangements were finalised. **ACTION: CllrJT**

Following discussion at the previous meeting, KC asked whether advocacy was being considered as a key service within the context of the regional preventions framework. MP confirmed this to be the case and advised that work was ongoing on the development of a new, regional contract for advocacy for adults across West Wales.

At this point in the meeting CllrJT proposed that the remaining business be reordered to enable Item 8 to be considered next and this was agreed by members.

8. Dementia Action Plan for Wales: Delivering in West Wales

AS introduced herself to members and thanked them for the opportunity to provide an update on work being undertaken in West Wales in support of the Dementia Action Plan for Wales which had been published by Welsh Government in February 2018. The work was being led through a multi-agency regional dementia group. She then have a presentation (attached) which covered the following:

- Definition of dementia
- Demographic and other pressures in West Wales
- Outline of the national plan
- The importance of diagnosis
- The dementia pathway
- Outline of the regional bid for ICF funding to support delivery of the plan in West Wales
- Headlines from a recent update on delivery in the region provided to Welsh Government, which identified gaps in relation to assessment and diagnosis but which anticipated rapid progress in other areas once ICF funding had been approved
- Proposals for reporting progress on delivery in West Wales

In concluding her presentation, AS offered to visit future meetings to provide updates on progress.

In response, MA highlighted excellent dementia awareness training that she had received from Pembrokeshire County Council using the Dementia Bus.

CH recognised the value of improving diagnosis rates but also stressed the importance of ensuring effective, community-based support was in place for sufferers and their families.

Whilst recognising the particular challenges associated with dementia, it was stressed that people with dementia often had on or more additional conditions and therefore required a holistic approach in terms of care and support.

5. Amendments to Partnership Regulations under Part 9 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act: Welsh Government Consultation

MP advised the Board that Welsh Government had recently launched a national consultation on proposed changes to the regulations and Statutory Guidance supporting Part 9 of the Act, to coincide with the transfer of Bridgend County Borough Council from Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board to Cwm Taf University Health Board in April 2019 and the resulting need to amend regulations to reflect that change.

Specific proposals were considered in turn and the position of the Board considered in respect of each, as follows:

Additional clarity that all local authorities and the health board within a partnership must contribute to the establishment of a single pooled fund in relation to care home accommodation functions for older people

It was agreed that this requirement was already met in West Wales through the virtual pooled fund arrangements which went live in April 2018.

Pooled funds should only be required in relation to care homes for older people, rather than all adult placements

It was noted that preparations were already in train to extend arrangements in West Wales to all adults. This needed to be reviewed in view of the proposed change to the regulations. There was some concern over the definition of 'older people' as people over 60 as this did not align with the current interpretation within the existing West Wales arrangements (which was over 65s) nor categorisations within the 2017 Population Assessment. More clarity would be needed on this point.

Joint commissioning strategies, informed by Population Assessment and Area Plans, should be an explicit requirement as part of the commissioning arrangements supporting pooled funds

It was agreed that this reflected a general approach within the region and was consistent with broader aspirations to further integrate commissioning. It was noted that joint commissioning strategies would not necessarily mean uniform provision across the region but rather provide an opportunity to articulate differences and the reasons for them.

Membership of each regional partnership board to include at least one housing representative from a local authority and at least two representatives from registered social landlords (RSLs)

There was general agreement with the requirement for housing representation generally on RPBs and this reflected the growing involvement of housing colleagues in work such as the development of the ICF Major Capital Programme. However, there was some concern over the potential disproportionality of requiring 2 RSL representatives and the need to establish an equitable system for identifying which RSLs would sit on the Board. Linked to this, concern was expressed over potential unfair commercial advantage to those RSLs represented on the Board.

Wording to be amended to include 'at least' in relation to other RPB representatives

It was noted that current membership in West Wales exceeded existing minimal requirements in a number of instances (e.g. elected Members, LHB officials and users and carers). As a result this change would have no implications in terms of compliance.

Annual reports should be produced by 30 June each year, rather than 31 March, to allow for end-of-year information to feature in the reports

It was noted that existing regulations had been relaxed in 2018 to enable later publication and inclusion of end-of-year information and the proposed change was therefore welcomed.

It was agreed that MP would draft a regional response to the consultation based on the above, by the end of September. This would be circulated to RPB members for comment and changes incorporated prior to submission to Welsh Government by the 26 October deadline. **ACTION: MP**

6. Integrated Care Fund

MP advised that a Quarter 1 report on the Revenue Investment Plan (RIP) approved by the Board in June had been submitted to Welsh Government. A link to the report would be circulated following the meeting. The RIP would be updated to incorporate initiatives funded through the dementia element of ICF once these had been approved by Welsh Government.

Priorities for the new Major Capital Programme had been identified through a new regional ICF Capital group chaired by JM. These were:

- Community Equipment
- Reablement centre (s) of excellence

- Supported community living
- Children's services – mother and baby and complex needs provision

Outline proposals had been submitted to Welsh Government for approval as part of the overall Capital Investment Plan and would be worked up further over the coming weeks. The Board would be advised at the next meeting on the full proposals and be asked to approve these at that stage. **ACTION: MP**

Projects included in the Minor Capital programme (initiatives costing less than £100K) had been approved virtually by the RPB in August and submitted to Welsh Government as the remaining part of the overall Capital Investment Plan.

MP advised that Wales Audit Office would attend the November meeting of the RPB to share regional findings from the recent national review of the ICF. It was agreed that CllrJT, JM and MP would meet with the auditors to discuss preliminary findings and that the opportunity to correct any inaccuracies within the findings sought at that stage. **ACTION: MP**

7. Regional transformation proposals: Update

MP confirmed the proposed approach to developing transformation proposals as has been endorsed by the Minister in the earlier discussion. A detailed update on proposals and the bid against the Transformation Fund would be provided at the next meeting of the RPB in November.

9. Publication of RPB papers and holding meetings in public

TH introduced her paper setting out proposals for consideration by the Board in relation to publication of papers and holding meetings in public. Such changes would build on current arrangements whereby agendas and minutes were available to the public via the WWCP website with further information available to residents and others on request.

Potential benefits in terms of transparency were noted. However it was recognised that currently the RPB had no delegated decision-making powers and in-principle decisions taken by the Board required endorsement by statutory partners prior to enactment. As these meetings were held in public this provided accountability to residents in each area.

It was further suggested that the accessibility of the RPB and its business, including papers, would need to be considered before any changes were introduced.

Were changes conferring delegated decision-making powers to the RPB to be introduced in the future, it would be timely to review current arrangements and consider holding meetings in public. Within this context, it was agreed that the issues set out in the paper should be considered more broadly as part of a planned review of regional governance arrangements. **ACTION: MP**

In the meantime, the possibility of rotating venues of meetings across the region or finding a more central venue was raised. It was agreed that this would be explored further. **ACTION: MP**

Regional Priorities Update

Written updates were noted.

In respect of Transforming Learning Disability Services, KC advised that workstreams had been reviewed and detailed plans were being developed under the leadership of CJ, who was sponsoring the work on behalf of the RPB.

Carers: KN updated on behalf of AB and stated the carer's investment review had concluded and would be launched at carers' rights day on the 30th November.

MP advised that there would be more comprehensive updates on each of the regional priorities at the next meeting. **ACTION: MP**

Next meeting

8 November 2018, Mid and West Wales Fire Service HQ, Carmarthen, 2.00PM

Any Other Business

Letter from the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales and Children's Commissioner for Wales

MP advised the Board of recent correspondence received from the Future Generations and Children's Commissioners seeking information on how governance arrangements for Public Service Boards (PSBs) and RPBs were being aligned to ensure that respective work programmes were complementary and decisions taken in the most appropriate forum. Ongoing discussions with the 3 PSBs were noted in this regard.

It was agreed that a response would be drafted and circulated to members for comment prior to submission to the Commissioners. **ACTION: MP**