



Notes of the North Wales Regional Partnership Board Meeting  
**6th September 2017**  
**9:30 – 12:30**  
**Optic, St. Asaph Business Park**

**Present:** Cllr Gareth Roberts, Bethan Jones Edwards, David Worrall, Mary Wimbury, Margaret Hanson, Teresa Owen, Jane Davies (on behalf of Neil Ayling), Cllr Joan Lowe, Clare Field, Caroline Turner, Vin West, Richard Debicki, Cllr Llinos Medi Huws, Cllr Bobby Feeley, Morwena Edwards, Nicola Stubbins, Lynda Colwell, Rob Smith, Wendy Jones, Cllr Liz Roberts, Ruth Whittingham (notes).

**Apologies:** Richard Weigh, Jenny Williams, Neil Ayling (Jane Davies deputising), Cllr Christine Jones, Dawn Docx, Debbie Shaffer

**In Attendance:** Christopher Stevens, Matthew Hall – Welsh Government  
Richard Palmer, DEWIS Cymru

| <b>Item</b> | <b>Notes</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Actions</b> |
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| <b>1.</b>   | <p><b><u>Welcome, introductions and apologies</u></b><br/>Cllr Roberts welcomed all to the meeting, introductions were made and apologies noted as above.</p> <p>The chair noted, as time is limited for agenda items, where reports are in the pack only a concise presentation to be given on the papers from presenters as members of the Board will have read the papers.</p> <p>The chair welcomed Chris Stevens and Matthew Hall attending from Welsh Government Partnerships and Integration Department.</p> |                |
| <b>2.</b>   | <p><b><u>Notes and actions from last meeting</u></b><br/>Minutes of meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> June were agreed as a true record.<br/>Minutes of meeting 21<sup>st</sup> July were agreed as a true record.</p> <p><b><u>Key Messages</u></b> – for information</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                |

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| <p>3.</p> | <p><u>RPB Priority Work streams – scope and delivery plans to be endorsed by the Board:</u></p> <p><u>Children with Complex Needs – Clare Field</u><br/> The BCUHB Children’s Transformation Board have been leading on this to meet the requirement of SSWBA. The report was presented to the recent Leadership Group and subsequently updated. It was decided that the Children’s Transformation Board was not the best forum to discuss this particular aspect and a sub-group will drive the work forward within community services. North Wales Heads of Children group are keen to be part of the sub-group to develop this work. An updated project plan will be presented that includes further emphasis on the requirements of the SSWBA.</p> <p>It was confirmed one main task of the sub-group would be to agree a local definition of Children with Complex Needs.</p> <p>MH would welcome an expanded preventative agenda including an explicit section in relation to what exactly is being prevented. MH also suggested including a positive statement in relation to transitioning from Children to Adult.</p> <p>CF confirmed it has been attempted to include the preventative agenda in the background of this document and the comments in relation to transition will be discussed further.</p> <p>The Board were in agreement to endorse the scope and delivery, a more detailed project plan/highlight report with further information on timeframes, that sub-group is set up etc. to be brought to the next meeting.</p> <p><u>Older People with Complex Needs including Dementia – Rob Smith</u><br/> RS confirmed the OP scope and delivery plan is progressing. The Health Board is already developing its own Older People strategy and undertaking partner engagement. A meeting between L.A. and BCU older people strategy leads has been scheduled 13.09.17 to discuss streamlining these two separate strategies which are addressing similar issues. This will ensure that other work streams do not cut across and the work will be consolidated with mechanisms to measure success and impact.</p> <p>The local authority Ageing Well documents relating to Older People is an example of work done in partnership with the HB and this model could be replicated for this work.</p> <p>ME thanked everyone for their comments. A huge amount of work has gone into this report with the service facing so many challenges e.g. 3<sup>rd</sup> sector with 5 days in a room. The purpose of</p> | <p>Updated report to be presented from the sub-group – Bethan Jones BCUHB to ensure report is available</p> |
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|           | <p>the paper is to try and map out the work that is already taking place, identify gaps and together with specialist elements and integration to develop new groups and/or influence existing groups to draw attention to these issues.</p> <p>Concerns raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Third sector representatives stressed the wealth of information available from the Third sector, providers and partners that could be used to strengthen the report.</li> <li>• No reflection of future generations in this paper and the voice of the Older Person including the challenges faced by older people.</li> <li>• Need a much more radical approach to integration of services and in partnership.</li> </ul> <p>The over 50's intervention and prevention will generate a culture change for older people to take more responsibility and time devoted to this group could lead to future sustainability within the older people service.</p> <p>RS and ME welcome the helpful comments which will be taken on board when further discussing the report.</p> <p>The Board were in agreement that further work is required on this scope and delivery report which will be discussed further at the next meeting.</p> | <p>Updated report to be presented 04.10.2017</p> |
| <p>4.</p> | <p><u>WG update on Partnership Working and integration</u><br/> Chris Stevens, Head of Partnerships and Integration, Welsh Government<br/> Matthew Hall, Deputy Director, Welsh Government</p> <p>Welsh Government officers attended the RPB Chairs meeting with the Minister, Rebecca Evans in July. They are also aware of the good work regions have undertaken completing the Population Assessment and this is to be congratulated. The next steps is the Joint Area Plan which will set the agenda to take regional partnerships forward on the services to be delivered in partnership in North Wales.</p> <p>WG have established a team working together with Social Care Wales to discuss the Joint Area Plan to implement integrated services to be delivered. There will be a Wales wide combined assessment which will be shared with the regional partnerships and this should shape the use of any grant funding from Welsh Government. Reporting arrangements in relation to ICF will demonstrate the progress made across North Wales.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                  |

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|           | <p>MH confirmed that as part of the Local Government reform agenda; Bridgend will become part of Cwm Taf region.</p> <p>Welsh Government will be amending the regulations and changes will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move RPB annual report date to May/June</li> <li>• Explore housing and how they link into the RPB's</li> <li>• Provide more clarity on Pooled Funds which has proved so far to be a significant obstacle to successful integration</li> </ul> <p>General concerns raised for Partnership Boards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pooled budgets - guidance too vague and not enough clarity from WG</li> <li>• ICF funding – guidance not clear.</li> </ul> <p>Discussed also:<br/>WG colleagues noted that Social Care will become part of the Local Government Reform agenda.</p> <p>A letter of response to the Minister in relation to pooled budgets is required by end of September. WG colleagues noted that this response needs to be an honest reflection setting out clearly the steps being taken and way forward.</p> <p>WG will be taking the opportunity to amend the Statutory Guidance and these will be strengthened in relation to the requirements around pooled budgets. MH asked whether WG has a view on the governance structure below the RPB. WG colleagues responded that there are different arrangements across Wales, all of which have their strengths and weaknesses.</p> <p>WG also noted that the establishment of a Social Value Forum and the work of these forums would inform the work of the Regional Partnership Boards.</p> | <p>Letter to the Minister by end of Sept 17 - BJE</p> |
| <p>5.</p> | <p><u>Pooled Budgets – Nicola Stubbins</u></p> <p>NS presented a detailed Pooled Budgets report addressing all issues raised at the June NWRPB meeting - “that the report does not provide a sense of the differentiation between the requirements of the Act around having a pooled budget for care homes and what may be happening in reality”, and addressing the risk requirements and provided a proposed response to the Minister’s letter.</p> <p>This report also reflects on the Local Government Reform and white paper which poses a series of questions in relation to the challenges of regional working.</p> <p>A Pooled Budgets Working Group (PBWG) has been established with representatives from the 6 local authorities and the Health</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                       |

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| <p>Board. The membership includes officers with specialist knowledge - a dedicated legal adviser, HR personnel support and accountancy support as well as service staff.</p> <p>The group was tasked to create a set of options to develop Pooled Budgets with an approach that was flexible, whilst being mindful that Pooled Budget is a tool to deliver integration that would improve outcomes for citizens.</p> <p><u>Regional Integration Agreement</u><br/>The Regional Integration Agreement has been completed and agreed by legal leads for the 6 Local Authorities and NHS Legal. The next step is to proceed to signature and for the Board today to endorse the Regional Integration Agreement so that each Local Authority and Health Board can proceed to take this agreement through their own governance process for signature.</p> <p>Board agreed to endorse the Regional Integration Agreement. Each local authority and the Health Board to proceed with taking this through their own governance process for signature.</p> <p><u>Integrated Care Fund (ICF)</u><br/>A draft partnership agreement has been developed for the ICF by the PBWG. The next step is to agree the draft and proceed to signature and the Board were asked to endorse this in relation to the ICF Agreement.</p> <p>ICF has a defined amount of money with clear guidance on how it should be spent. Previously there has been a requirement for a Memorandum of Understanding however, WG now recommends within the Statutory Guidance a partnership agreement.</p> <p>WJ stated she would be unable to endorse as the Third Sector are not part of the agreement and would be abstaining. MW felt in a similar position, but has an active interest and would want to be included in discussions.</p> <p>NS clarified that the ICF Partnership Agreement does not specify what ICF money is used for. ICF is already committed and funds services within both the Third Sector and independent sector.</p> <p>LLM raised her concerns in discussing these ambitious issues at a strategic level as there is no assurance this will make a difference at an operational level in our communities.</p> <p>There is a lot of resources vested to improve regional and sub-regional services and there is a huge challenge to change service delivery.</p> | <p>Each L.A and NHS to proceed the RIA through their own governance process.</p> |
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| <p>It was stated that the scale and complexity of pooling budgets is very different when done locally compared to on a regional basis. Gwynedd have examples of integrated teams within the authority where pooled budgets have improved the service, but this is on a sub-regional level.</p> <p>The Board were in agreement to endorse the Integrated Care Fund Partnership agreement to be completed and progress for signatures through the governance of each partner.</p> <p><u>Carers Transition Funding Grant</u><br/> Integration of services for Carers is a priority area in Part 9 of the SSWBA for integration. This is the last financial year for Carers Transitional grant and the recommendation to this board is that a partnership agreement is completed to underpin the management of that grant. There is a wider piece of work underway to map current services for carer's and a report will be brought to the RPB in due course on the findings. The position of the Health Board in relation to the Carer's grant will be sought.</p> <p>The Board were in agreement to endorse the Carers Transition Funding Grant partnership agreement pending further discussions with the Health Board.</p> <p><u>Children with Complex Needs</u><br/> BJ is leading on this area of work and a sub-group is being established. One of the work streams will be to agree a regional definition and define the scope of this area of work which could lead to a pooled budget.</p> <p>An update on the scope and delivery and particularly the work of the sub-group has been requested from BJ/CF for the next meeting.</p> <p><u>Integrated Family support Services (IFSS)</u><br/> Sub-regional arrangements are already in place in the East and West. Further discussion will be required in Conwy and Denbighshire to meet the legislation requirements. The request is for the Board to endorse that the current sub-regional approach to IFSS continues.</p> <p>Contact has been made with WG for clarification on whether a regional pooled budget is required but we await a response on this. Chris Stevens (WG) will ensure that WG colleagues will get back to BJE to confirm the requirements.</p> <p>The Board were in agreement to endorse the current arrangements of the IFSS.</p> | <p>Directors and HB colleagues to action this.</p> |
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| <p>New areas where pooled budgets are being explored are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ffordd Gwynedd. Gwynedd &amp; West Area Health Board are looking to pool care homes and community resources in the Towyn area.</li><li>• Section 117 Care Homes Placements. Discussions ongoing with the Health Board and CCBC who will pilot. Waiting for further discussions with health to progress.</li><li>• Flintshire Care Home Capacity with priority to strengthen the care home sector. FCC will work together with BCUHB to develop a joint pooled budget focussing on increasing care home capacity in the Flintshire area.</li></ul> <p>All new areas are subject to options appraisals to highlight the benefits and risks.</p> <p>The Board were in agreement to proceed with the development of Pooled Budgets in the above areas.</p> <p><u>Proposed response to the Minister</u></p> <p>Concern was raised that BCUHB intend to go out to tender to re-commission care homes provision and would be withdrawing from existing agreements. There has been no formal discussions with partners on this. If this is the case then HB will take a different direction to WG expectations within the Act. The HB need to be aware that changes to the way that care homes are commissioned at this time could de-stabilise the care home sector substantially and pose implications to the partnership.</p> <p>RS stated the HB has not properly commissioned care homes in the past and they are working outside of their financial/contract rules.</p> <p>MW raised concerns that care homes have not been properly engaged in the changes to the the final pre-placement agreement. MW understands that Local Authority legal will not be in a position to respond until September. WG colleagues advised that the following points should be noted in the response to the Minister:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The region is exploring Pooled Budgets in a range of areas and at local and sub-regional levels which will be evaluated and examples of what is developing in the region should be included in the response to the Minister.</li><li>• Sub-regional approaches is in-keeping with the ethos of the Act.</li><li>• Concern has been raised by Local Authorities of cross subsidisation</li><li>• Reference the challenges to the region with developing pooled budgets.</li></ul> |  |
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| 6.  | <p><u>Funding of the Third Sector – Dave Worrall</u><br/> Chair asked that this agenda item be deferred to the next meeting. DW stated the Third sector were delighted to be approached to be part of the work to develop this report and was disappointed that the item will be deferred. DW will not be at the next meeting therefore agreed to include on November agenda.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Place on the agenda<br>November 17 |
| 7.  | <p><u>Market/5 day in a room programme update – Rob Smith</u><br/> It was agreed that this has been deferred until the next meeting</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Place on agenda<br>4.10.17         |
| 8.  | <p><u>Overview of the use of the Primary Care Fund – Morag Olsen</u><br/> MO was not at the meeting, and no one present had been asked to present the paper. It was agreed this item has been deferred until the next meeting. Chair noted that when papers are on the agenda presenters should attend or arrange for another member of the Board to present on their behalf.</p> <p>CS (WG) noted that he was disappointed that this item would not be discussed today as he was looking forward to seeing how the Primary Care Fund and ICF are being used in conjunction with each other as WG has recommended.</p>                                                                                                                                                  | Place on agenda<br>4.10.17         |
| 9.  | <p><u>DEWIS Cymru – Richard Palmer</u><br/> Richard Palmer gave a comprehensive presentation on the DEWIS portal which is the solution to address IAA within the Act. Dewis Cymru is free to use and is funded by 21 local authorities, one authority has declined to engage. Dewis Cymru is the website for information about organisations, well-being and what matters in relation to well-being in Wales for individuals.</p> <p>The biggest challenge has been to look at innovative ways of targeting different audiences to put their services on DEWIS. Searches on the website can be made using postcodes.</p> <p>Board members stressed the importance of this service to deliver on information and advice to assist in the well-being of our citizens.</p> |                                    |
|     | <p><b>AOB</b><br/> BJE confirmed that the NWRPB Terms of Reference would be an agenda item at the next meeting and all Board meeting minutes are available on the Regional Collaboration website once agreed by the Board.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                    |
| 16. | <p><b>Date of next meeting</b><br/> 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 9:30 – 12:30, Optic St. Asaph Business Park</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                    |