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NORTH WALES SOCIAL CARE AND WELL-BEING
SERVICES IMPROVEMENT COLLABORATIVE

Notes of the North Wales Regional Partnership Board Meeting

13 March 2020

9:00 am to 11:30 am

Optic, St Asaph

Present in meeting room:	Teresa Owen (chair), Bethan Jones Edwards, Alwyn Jones, Cllr Christine Jones, Judith Greenhalgh, Marian Wyn Jones, Mary Wimbury (MWim), Neil Ayling, Peter Williams, Roma Hooper
Remote connection to the room (which was subsequently unsuccessful)	Cllr Joan Lowe, Cllr Llinos Medi, John Gladston, Kevin Roberts, Morwena Edwards, Cllr Louise Emery, Jenny Williams, Jennie Lewis
Apologies:	Add Bethan E Jones, Catherine Elaine Jones, Charlotte Walton, Chris Stockport, Clare Budden, Cllr Dafydd Meurig, Cllr Bobby Feeley, Ffion Johnstone, Helen Corcoran, Lesley Singleton, Lynda Colwell, Nicola Stubbins, Rob Smith, Steve Gadd, Wendy Jones, Estelle Hitchon, Jennie Lewis (JLe), Mark Wilkinson (MWil), Shan Lloyd Williams

Due to late changes to the format of the meeting due to COVID 19, meeting was set up as a mixture of physical attendance and virtual link.

Due to technical difficulties of connecting over WebEx/Skype during the meeting due to insufficient bandwidth the meeting could only proceed with those present at the Optic.

Partners who submitted comments/observations over email for agenda items are included in these notes.

1 Welcome, introductions and apologies

The chair extended a warm welcome to everyone and apologies were noted as above.

All action requiring the agreement of RPB members will be circulated for a swift response.

2 Notes and actions of last meetings

Minutes of the meeting 10th January were accepted as a true record.

Completed actions:

- BJE and SA agreed how a further discussion on the BAHW plan could be facilitated.
- CHC on today's agenda but will be deferred.

Actions to be completed:

- RIIH report has been deferred to the May agenda.

Feedback from the meeting with Carer representatives by Chair (13.02.2020)

TO, LS and BJE recently met with Carer representative JLe and PW, to discuss remuneration of NWRPB Service User and Carer representatives.

Following a very productive discussion on this matter Chair felt that this was a matter that needs to be resolved at a national level and proposed writing again to Welsh Government to highlight this.

BJE reported this matter was recently discussed at the North Wales Leadership Group (LG) meeting, and it was agreed that the matter be escalated to the Cross Sector CEO meeting by Chair of LG. NS/BJE will prepare a brief. RPB members agreed that due to the possible wider implications with other regional/local forums that have carer/citizen reps this was welcome.

Feedback from the WG RPB Learning Event (12.02.2020)

MWJ reported attendees were presented with a series of presentations on RPB challenges and opportunities and a round table discussion focussing on 'to what degree is RPB seen as a real driver and change'. Discussions around the transformation agenda raised the issue of the complexity of different grants, with reporting structures being a genuine challenge for each RPB and the need to address this fundamental issue in order to optimise each funding stream.

The event also highlighted the different stages of maturity for each RPB, and the present work expected from the RPB's has changed considerably from the original purpose.

Feedback from 'Building a Healthier Wales' (BAHW)

TO gave an overview of the BAHW discussion held at the Leadership group meeting which CB, SLW, KR, WJ also joined – papers included for information.

Various options were discussed and debated; e.g. one large project in a disadvantaged area of the region, a food poverty project across North Wales aligned to work of the housing organisations.

TO stated at the end of the discussion, colleagues were in agreement to endorse the priority area plan. A letter will be forwarded from RPB following today's meeting to enable the drawing down the funds for 2019-20.

JG gave feedback on behalf of NS suggesting that a further discussion was undertaken prior to endorsement.

NA confirmed that there were difficult opinions voiced at the discussion in the Leadership group however, appreciated the urgency of getting a plan created and supported. NA proposed that we to learn from this episode so that we are not faced with the same difficulties with future grant funding streams which come through at short notice.

AJ stated there was a level of concern, due to the rushed approach taken to endorse the plan, for good reason, and agreed with NA to take the pragmatic route so that the funding could be drawn down. AJ proposed that the RPB should look at agreeing a governance process to follow when such grant funding streams come to the RPB.

TO confirmed that she is committed to meet with Third Sector colleagues as part of the plan, and this meeting has already taken place.

Email comments received:

ME: Whilst accepting that the timetable for delivering any "bid" to the Welsh government can be challenging, I am concerned that the spirit of what many suggested at the last Partnership Board meeting was lost in the final bid here. We had a Leadership Group meeting to discuss further, where the 3rd sector and others were invited, and I think this feeling was also similar - but we didn't have a report at this meeting - so it was difficult to fully understand what had changed from the original presentation. Having read the report before me, I feel that the proposal to focus on one or two specific interventions, perhaps in one geographical area, had not come out at all, which saw no reference to the fact that this had been the desire of many of RPB members.

I see that a small number of themes have been developed, but this was not really the request of Partnership Board members. The request was for one or two things to focus on. Obviously I'm not an expert on public health issues, but I want to voice the fact that many of us have different opinions - and it should be noted that there are different opinions within the bid or in the record. I am not sure that the counter argument is clear to me, except that this money may be needed to fund basic public health services. If this is the case, I think that needs to be said more clearly, and that the money wasn't really available to trial anything new and innovative. Difficult to explain by email but hopefully this makes sense.

JW and Cllr LE comments: PHW plan still not sure about sign off, leadership group were unclear as to decision made, need to look at future governance of partnership monies.

Following various discussions, with input from JW and ME via e-mail, JG accepted the assurances of RPB colleagues who were in agreement to move on. JG welcomed the suggestion of a proposal to establish a RPB governance policy for future guidance in relation to short term grants.

BJE agreed that it would be good practice for the RPB to create and adopt a process for short term funding so that all RPB members have opportunity to input into discussions.

The chair informed that future RPB agenda will be split in two sections: Strategic agenda and Business agenda.

The chair also informed of WJ's recent resignation from the Board. WJ has been an active member of the NWRPB and represented the North Wales Voluntary Service councils for a number of years, and a member of the original Shadow Board.

Following RPB discussion it was decided the chair would write to the six Voluntary Councils across North Wales, acknowledging WJ's resignation, and thanking for the ongoing support carried out across North Wales. It was agreed that having a VSC representative on the RPB would be recommended, even though not a required membership in the Statutory guidance.

Actions

- BJE/NS to brief CEO's re remuneration of NWRPB Service User and Carer representatives
- RPB governance process for grant funding streams to be created – BJE
- TO write to the VSC's - BJE

3 North Wales Medical School

This item has been deferred to a future meeting of the NWRPB due to COVID 19.

Actions

- Future agenda- RW

4 Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014

The board received a brief update from BJE on the updated Codes and Guidance: Part 9 Statutory Guidance (Partnership Arrangements).

Email comment:

JW and Cllr LE: How much can we really influence as this is the final version, still worried about pooled budget implications and increased membership, can we come back to the ToR for both RPB and LG again?

NWRPB members were in agreement, due to the numerous changes and RPB requirements within the guidance, a full discussion will be required at a future RPB meeting.

Focus and priorities draft

The draft focus and priorities paper was created following the workshops on the RPB vision and priorities, instead of creating a strategy. This document will also need to be re-visited and discussed, as part of the additional requirements in the Part 9 Statutory Guidance. RPB members are urged to read and respond, so that this documents can be signed off when discussed next.

Actions

- Updated Codes and Guidance: Part 9 Statutory Guidance (Partnership Arrangements) - Future agenda – RW
- RPB members to respond to the focus and priorities draft document.

5 Compassionate Leadership Principles (draft) for consultation

The chair presented on the consultation, the draft Compassionate Leadership Principles for Health and Social Care in Wales. These Principles have been co-designed by Social Care Wales and Health Education & Improvement Wales, with input from Prof Michael West, Academi Wales and Welsh Government. They are underpinned by a robust evidence base developed over 30 years by experts in the field.

TO urged RPB members to provide comments and feedback, and to become involved in the consultation opportunities. TO proposed a collective response from the RPB, and will circulate an e-mail to RPB members encouraging responses. Feedback is required by 10.04.2020

MWim informed the principles were not only about implementing principles within own organisations, but encourage and act in accordance with organisations in relation to commissioning work also.

The NWRPB were in agreement to respond collectively to the consultation.

Actions

- Circulate consultation document – Compassionate Leadership Principles to RPB members for response - TO

6 Integrated Autism Service

This item has been deferred to a future meeting of the NWRPB due to COVID 19.

Actions

- Future agenda - RW

7 A Healthier Wales

Community Services Transformation Programme

AJ referred to an informative briefing note received from Jo Ward on the work of the CST Transformation programme, and proposed the note be forwarded to RPB members.

Children & YP Transformation Programme (CH&YP)

In NS absence, a brief informative report has been provided in the meeting pack detailing all activities of the CH & YP Transformation to date.

Mid Term Evaluation of NWRPB 4 Transformation Programmes

The NWRPB note positive mid-term evaluation reports with good feedback received. A further report will be received for 2020-21.

AHW Transformation Funding – second round bid

The NWRPB are requested to endorse the AHW additional funding application form 2020-21 as the submission date to WG is today.

BJE informed a small group met weekly to develop the additional bid based on the areas where it had become evident more focus was required within the current 4 Transformation Programmes; Digital, Workforce and Early Intervention and Prevention – discovering/realising digital solutions to improve and transform current services.

This group has achieved a huge amount of work with a tight deadline to meet the submission date set by WG by 9.3.2020. This transformation funding is only available for 2020-21 and CB has kindly agreed to act as Programme Sponsor. A draft bid has been submitted to WG but the endorsement of RPB will need submission today.

Email comments:

ME - Happy with the bid and thanks to everyone who has put together such a comprehensive bid. Two very small points - does the virtual reality dementia tool need to be mentioned in the bid in case there is a resource available to order more? I couldn't see a reference to it, but Meilys has asked for more if there is funding available in the future. The second point is very small, but important - there is reference to bilingualism or "choice of language" but no mention of More Than Just Words as a National Framework. I prefer saying "Welsh" in bids like this - rather than saying "appropriate language".

JW and Cllr LE - Happy to agree the digital bid, welcome that being led by Claire.

NS - I am happy with the additional healthier Wales bid as this has been developed in partnership.

Actions

- Circulate CST briefing note – RW

8 CHC

MWim reported since the last meeting, discussions have been held with the Health Board, and an interim decision is awaited shortly. In addition, the provider sector also note the current additional pressure on the HB. However, requested to note there are also increasing pressure on the Care Home sector to resolve this issue. MWim is in agreement to defer the full discussion to the next RPB meeting.

JW and Cllr LE comments: CHC is such a sensitive issue can we defer please for future discussion.

Actions

- Agenda May 2020 - RW

9 For info

RPB are requested to note the following documents 'for information':

- Winter Plan reporting submission to end of January 2020.
- Tomorrow's Health 2020 – this event is now cancelled
- Mapping of funding letter from Chairs of RPB.
- Housing LIN report on older People accommodation needs.
- Public Health Wales: support for RPB letter
- ICF quarter 3 claim

Actions

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10 AOB

The chair informed BCUHB colleagues are busy working on the Covid-19 agenda to protect the health of the population of North Wales, and urged colleague to make contact electronically.

MWim also reported concern within the provide sector and those providing support for vulnerable individuals. Reports are still being collated and some commissioners have been in touch regarding non-essential visits etc. Issues include:

- Care home reluctance to take in new clients due to Covid-19 risks
- Training for care home workers reregistration deadline looming
- Planning for staff shortages

- Planning for using creative accommodation solutions
- Growing community capacity to help people stay in their own homes
- Shortage of supplies and equipment

PW highlighted the Carers Trust UK report, which notifies if the carer becomes ill what happens to the patient.

NA proposed colleagues should keep the NWRPB in mind for future award opportunities.

Actions