



Notes of the North Wales Regional Partnership Board Meeting

18 May 2020

9:00 am to 10:05 am

Via Skype

Present virtually:	Teresa Owen (chair), Bethan Jones Edwards, Alwyn Jones, Morwena Edwards, Bethan E Jones, Chris Stockport, Cllr Bobby Feeley, Cllr Christine Jones, Cllr Joan Lowe (JLo), Cllr Louise Emery, Cllr Dafydd Meurig, Ffion Johnstone, Helen Corcoran, Jennie Lewis (JLe), Jenny Williams, John Gladston, Judith Greenhalgh, Lucy Reid (in attendance for Marian Wyn Jones), Mark Wilkinson (MWil), Mary Wimbury (MWim), Michael Jones (in attendance for Neil Ayling), Nicola Stubbins, Peter Williams, Roma Hooper, Shan Lloyd Williams, Clare Budden (linked in 9.15 am), Estelle Hitchon (linked in 9:20 am), Kevin Roberts (linked in for part of the meeting))
Apologies:	Catherine Elaine Jones, Llinos Medi Huws, Marian Wyn Jones, Neil Ayling, Rob Smith, Lynda Colwell

1 Welcome, introductions and apologies

The chair extended a warm welcome to everyone to the Extra Ordinary North Wales Regional Board virtual meeting and apologies were noted as above

2 NWRPB Interim Governance Arrangements

The board received a report from BJE on the NWRPB Interim Governance Arrangements. The document has been created to provide interim arrangements in relation to sharing information and decision making in the current absence of regular meetings.

There are currently several funding stream managed via ICF; Revenue, Capital, WCCIS, Autism and the Winter Plan. As part of the information received from WG regions have the option to pivot ICF capital funding to support Covid-19 work if necessary.

MWim noted the need to move at pace to enable speedy decisions during this time, and noted being in agreement to endorse the report, providing that non-statutory partners are also given the opportunity to input to ensure all sectors are considered for health and social care funding. .

BEJ raised concern to the risks involved with major capital projects within the central area, which have not yet started. A decision to pivot would pose a risk, as future funding is not guaranteed to progress these strategic projects.

EH flagged similarities between schemes identified in other regions, and even though this is a difficult decision, there is no assurance that Covid will be fully funded by WG.

Cllr JLo asked for confirmation regarding the WCBC capital scheme with work due to start this week, and BJE confirmed that pivoting is not a requirement but an option where the capital scheme is unable to proceed. .

Cllr BF enquired if the recovery plans currently being discussed by LA's feature as part of the ICF remit.

TO noted that everyone has a responsibility to support the recovery phase and certainly the RPB will have a role to play as part of the process, and a regional group has been established to lead on this work.

BF also enquired about funding spent on the unused facilities i.e. Ysbyty Enfys, Llandudno.

TO confirmed the region will be thinking collectively on available assets and will be discussed as part of the recovery and future planning discussion in PSB's and AISB meetings.

KR pointed out that the recovery stage will be elongated, with a transition phase included between the response phase and the recovery phase due to the potential threat of future reoccurrence linked to lockdown procedures, and the recently established regional recovery group will lead on this. KR also reported that the RPB structures and links to partners lends itself well as a channel to help deliver the requirement under the recovery phase.

JG also confirmed the recently established regional recovery group propose to utilise existing groups to deliver the requirements and the RPB has a huge role to play involving the recovery of Health & Social Care.

Following a full discussion, NWRPB members were in agreement to endorse the Interim Governance Arrangements.

3 ICF Plan to Support Discharge

BJE informed WG have made available an additional £10M to support the Covid surge response, This is being released to regions as an ICF uplift.

Welsh Government has quashed the second round transformation programme and therefore the bid submitted by NWRPB will not proceed. It is this funding that Welsh Government has used to provide this £10m to support discharge.

As WG favour one regional plan, proposals have been discussed and agreed locally by the sub-regional Area Integrated Service Boards (AISB's), and collated into one proposal for WG under four main themes.

Central AISB chair, JW, informed that the Central AISB met virtually last week to discuss proposals which focus on areas of discharge and developing step down facilities. Both the housing the third sector organisations have been included in the discussion and report being in support of the proposal in principle, finer details are yet to be fully agreed.

West AISB chair FJ informed of a similar approach taken in the West with a virtual group held last week looking at early discharge support and enhanced community capacity and enhanced carer support for children across the West. Key actions are still being discussed, and links will be made with the third sectors for input.

MJ reported, in NA absence, that FCC and WCBC are also taking a similar approach with detailed programme plan with specific project to support hospital discharge and step down facilities.

Comments received prior to the meeting:

LC declared an interest re ICF for the Third Sector – Care and Repair (C&R) agencies across the region. LC has asked for the NWRPB to be aware - that capital funding will be required moving forward this year to cover the demand on our services for adaptations over and above the normal level as a result of COVID patients requiring help over a longer period of time not just to facilitate hospital discharge and therefore there is an ask across the region for additional capital / revenue monies during the year to support the work as reflected in the request from WG asking that Care and Repair agencies be considered in future funding needs.

LC noted being in agreement to endorse the ICF Plan to Support Discharge, and believes there is more that can be and needs to be done regarding ICF leads involvement on the Third Sector at the earliest possible stage.

SLW confirmed RSL's are already involved and working with BCU and LA's and there are already links with C&R to assist with the step down early hospital discharge support scheme.

TO enquired if the proposals included impact assessment work and the indicative number of people that would be assisted.

All projects have been produced in a very short timescale. Work on outcomes and outputs will be completed by the AISB's. The WG reporting requires each region to report against outcomes and outputs therefore these will be collected for the WG reports.

M Wimbury raise concern that the recent £40m funding announcement from Welsh Government to support providers does not include those providers providing nursing care such as CHC. If the matter is not resolved then the provider sector will be at risk.

ME believed following discussion with WG the £40m funding was made available for social care commissioned beds only and understood WG are striving to source separate funding for nursing care from their Health department. ME also suggested the RPB write to WG, highlighting the additional costs to the nursing sector and the risk to the sustainability of these providers. If funding is confirmed for providers of nursing care this should be progressed through BCUHB. .

M Wim was in agreement with this proposal, and requested that this action is completed as a matter of urgency.

FfJ also informed that BCU colleagues are lobbying WG in relation to additional funding for nursing care.

Cllr BF also supported M Wim and reiterated that more focus requires to be given to this sector at the moment, in particular the nursing home sector.

BEJ confirmed BCU colleagues are extremely mindful of the current situation in nursing homes across the region and are meeting with Social Care to discuss contingency planning within the central area, and are also aware of the testing situation and the need for significant support to the sector over the coming few months.

LE raised concern in relation to managing asymptomatic staff and residents, bearing in mind the fragility of the sector and that mass testing is revealing a lot of asymptomatic cases and the ever changing testing guidelines is also challenging.

Following a lengthy discussion the NWRPB were in agreement to endorse the ICF Plan to Support Discharge.

Actions

- Chair to write to WG to apply pressure for nursing care funding

4 ICF Pivot Report

The board received an Update report on Integrated Care Funding Pivoting to COVID-19 for endorsement.

BJE explained again that pivoting to support COVID 19 is allowed where capital schemes are unable to proceed or where there is an identified underspend.

Welsh Government suggest it would be appropriate to redirect funding to schemes which directly support discharge, admission avoidance or for equipment, adaptations or assistive technology.

Some partners have requested to re-direct 4 schemes to support Covid:

The provision of iPads to care homes for virtual visiting x 2 schemes –
CCBC&DCC

Support for increase domestic violence services - IACC

Support for increased bereavement service - IACC

The NWRPB are requested to endorsement the pivot in line with the governance arrangements.

HC requested more information in relation to the increase domestic violence service requested by IACC

Following discussions the NWRPB were in agreement to endorse the ICF Pivot requests as noted in the report.

Actions

- BJE to forward details to HC

5 AOB

John Gladston enquired on the PPE situation in care homes and informed that the RNLI and Mountain Rescue were sourcing their own equipment. MWim informed the significant concerns reported some weeks ago have by now been alleviated, and the situation has greatly improved, with no issues reported at the moment. However the situation needs to be monitored as costing issues are emerging.

SLW informed that RSL's across Wales are currently out to tender for new suppliers for the next 12 months and will circulate detail of competitive suppliers to the NWRPB.

TO also advised a group has been established to discuss the issue of assurance to support each other with mutual aid for all equipment and future sustainability will be of paramount importance.

For information items:

RPB members are requested to note the following:

- Newsletter

- Notes of the March meeting – to be formally approved at the next meeting

Information from WG on the management of the grants during Covid

Actions

- SLW to forward list of PPE suppliers

6 Date of the next meeting

RPB members were in agreement to meet virtually for an hour in 3/4 weeks' time, this will be arranged.

The NWRPB meeting scheduled for 10th July 2020 already in everyone's calendar, will also proceed.

Actions

- Send out invitation - RW