



CYDWEITHREDFA GWELLA GWASANAETHAU  
GOFAL A LLESIANT **GOGLEDD CYMRU**  
**NORTH WALES** SOCIAL CARE AND WELL-BEING  
SERVICES IMPROVEMENT COLLABORATIVE

## Notes of the North Wales Regional Partnership Board Meeting

10 July 2020

9:10 am to 11:30 pm

Via Skype

Present:	Teresa Owen (chair), Bethan Jones Edwards, Alwyn Jones, Bethan E Jones, Fon Roberts, Clare Budden, Cllr Bobby Feeley, Cllr Christine Jones, Cllr Joan Lowe (JLo), Cllr Louise Emery, Estelle Hitchon, Helen Corcoran, Jennie Lewis (JLe), Jenny Williams, John Gallanders (JGa), John Gladston (JGI), Kevin Roberts, Ieuan Williams in attendance for Llinos Medi Huws, Lynda Colwell, Lucy Reid, Mark Wilkinson (MWil), Mary Wimbury (MWim), Jane Davies in attendance for Neil Ayling, Peter Williams, Roma Hooper, Shan Lloyd Williams
Apologies:	Ffion Johnstone, Judith Greenhalgh, Morwena Edwards, Neil Ayling, Nicola Stubbins, Chris Stockport, Cllr Dafydd Meurig, Cllr Llinos Medi Huws, Rob Smith, Steve Gadd, Catherine Elaine Jone
In attendance:	Lesley Singleton, Interim Director of Mental Health and Learning Disabilities, Director of Partnerships, BCUHB (for agenda item 2) Professor Nicky Callow, Dean, College Human Sciences, Bangor University (for agenda item 3)

### 1 Welcome, introductions and apologies

The Chair extended a warm welcome to everyone and apologies were noted as above. A special welcome was given to John Gallanders, attending his first meeting as the interim representative from the VSC.

BJE informed that simultaneous translation facilities on a different virtual platform is currently being explored by DCC IT services.

TO reported from the recent Transformation Advisory Board meeting to discuss RPB Wales. The board reflected on how work had gone across health and social care and how 'A Healthier Wales' is continuing, though maybe in a different way. There were discussions around inequalities, opportunities and a change of pace; and reflections on how to keep momentum going into what will be a challenging winter.

## 2 Notes and actions of last meetings

LS presented the North Wales Dementia Strategy.

LS acknowledged the huge amount of work completed by Sarah Bartlett on the Dementia Strategy.

LS reported the impact of Covid on people with dementia is significant and the need to support people living with dementia and their carers is greater than ever. The Strategy has been developed pre-Covid, and this will be acknowledged during the implementation and delivery plan in relation to lessons learned within the patient group.

The strategy is based on extensive consultation, engagement and research data, and full references and appendices will be available publicly on the North Wales collaborative website.

The Dementia Strategy is based around the themes of the Welsh Government Dementia Action Plan with the addition of a specific priority for Carers in the North Wales strategy:

- Risk reduction and delaying onset
- Raising awareness and understanding
- Recognition and identification
- Assessment and diagnosis
- Living as well as possible for as long as possible with dementia
- The need for increased support
- Supporting carers

The strategy aimed to set regional principles for local delivery, with clear actions aligned to potential future funding opportunities. The Dementia Strategy supports the principles of AHW.

LR commended the huge piece of work completed and the very comprehensive document. However, also noted as the strategy has been drafted pre-Covid, detailed actions may need amending, which would need to be acknowledged as part of the endorsement.

LR is also aware this group of individuals critically require to be supported; are the group who have not engaged, and who then struggle the most and have most impact on families and carers.

LS noted raising awareness around dementia, providing support once diagnosed, with treatment and interventions will be a priority.

MWim also noted the huge amount of work completed on the strategy. However, asked for clarification on the points regarding commissioning services within 'the need for increased support' section, and how this will be actioned.

LS informed that the strategic document has been created to set intentions and the next phase proposes to hold the system into account and action the strategic direction.

JGa noted a number of inaccuracies within the report and enquired what opportunities would there be for Third Sector organisations to input into any changes. JGa also asked how the intended outcomes will be measured and monitored.

LS and BJE agreed to meet with JGa separately outside of the Board to discuss the inaccuracies raised by JGa.

LS confirmed that the next operational stage will involve the outcomes and all sectors will be represented in achieving this piece of work.

EH informed of a strong dementia theme within WAST work, and reported being happy to make contact to support the operational phase and sharing of learning.

LS informed that the Dementia Strategy has already received the agreement of the North Wales Leadership Group, and is today requesting the RPB to endorse the strategy, to enable progression on to the next phase of delivery.

BJE informed once the Dementia Strategy has been endorsed by the RPB, each partner will be required to take the document through their own political process. This will be tracked and a record kept that it has been agreed by the individual partners.

LR stated that endorsement is slightly different to approval. Some actions and intentions are quite specific and those will need to be reworded in light of Covid. LR proposed members of the NWRPB endorse the Dementia Strategy in principles, subject to addressing the amendments and actions in relation to pre-Covid which will be addressed at the local approval process.

All NWRPB members were in agreement to the recommendation :

1. To endorse the North Wales Dementia Strategy.
2. To approve that the Dementia Strategy Steering Group continues to meet to oversee the delivery of the strategy.
3. To approve the region should submit a bid to fund a post for a period of 2 years to support the delivery of the strategy.

BJE agreed to work with LS to pick up those areas discussed and prepare a cover report for partners to take the Dementia Strategy along with a delivery plan through their own individual governance process.

#### *Actions*

- LS/BJE to discuss matters concerning the Dementia Strategy with JGa
- Forward cover report for partners to take the Dementia Strategy through their governance process - BJE

### **3 Intensive Learning Academy – Nicky Callow**

The board received a presentation from Nicky Callow on the Intensive Learning Academy (ILA)

NC informed following a workshop 9.3.2020 a decision was made to submit an Expression of Interest to WG. The current Covid-19 crisis further highlighted the need for innovation, sharing expertise and knowledge, and the bid was submitted 3.4.2020, having received an in-principle agreement from the chair of NWRPB.

NC reported that the precept that prevention is better than cure continues to grow in relevance. As populations become progressively affected by multi-morbidity and avoidable long-term disorders, both the urgency and the need to focus on prevention of illness is increasing. The AlphaAcademy will focus on accelerating the promotion and adoption of preventative health into practice across an integrated healthcare ecosystem (e.g., health and social care, third sector, housing, education, and life sciences industries), within a bilingual context.

Having been one of 3 successful bids in the first round, funding of £1M over 3 years, the timeline is short with a full business case deadline 7.8.2020 for the second phase. If the second phase is successful, it is anticipated that the programmes will be validated by Bangor University, and will offer a selection of qualifications from micro credit qualifications through to Masters and Professional Doctorate, all focussing on prevention and health equity. Part of the funding requested will subsidise these programmes, and employers will be contacted across the partnership for those potential leaders of the future to participate.

Two other successful potential academies across Wales are Cardiff and Swansea, with their respective Health Boards, and quarterly meeting will be held between the 3 academies to share good practice.

CB welcomed this exciting opportunity for the region. CB also suggested meeting with NC outside to discuss further in relation to her capacity of Clwyd Alyn CEO and chair of the 20/25 Movement across Wales, whose priority being to end avoidable inequalities in Health & Housing across North Wales by 2025

NC suggested CB makes contact with Rhodri Griffiths, Managing Director of Societas Management, who will be involved in all business stakeholder events and workshops.

MWim struggled to see how this role would work within the Care Home setting, in relation to contribution from employers, time away during intensive learning, which would work better in large organisations.

NC would welcome feedback from the Care Home sector and agreed to meet with MWim outside of RPB.

BEJ also commented this is an exciting development & opportunity for North Wales and agreed with Teresa that some PSB involvement/endorsement would be valuable, as there will be instrumental knowledge and information from across North Wales partners which such a development could build and share.

TO inform that one of the requirements of the funding was to have a RPB representative on the group and this was put forward to the RPB.

BEJ noted that she was interested to be involved and offered to take the RPB lead, having worked across numerous public sectors and also an independent member of one of the RSL's in the region.

NC will be in contact again with the NWRPB, if the second round business application has been successful to update the progress on this exiting project.

#### *Actions*

- Share NC contact with RG - RW
- Share MWim contact with NC - RW

#### **4 Carers Grant Funding 2020-2021**

The board received an update from BJE on the Carers Grant Funding 2020 – 2021 which is being presented today for endorsement by the NWRPB.

John Gallanders declared an interest in the Carers Grant Funding 2020-2021 – AVOW and Maelor Wrexham Hospital facilitator.

BJE reported that £213K recurrent funding was made available by WG on 13.2.2020 to BCUHB to 'support Health Boards in Wales to work collaboratively with partners on activity to enhance the lives of carers'. The funding is expected to meet 3 national priorities:

- Supporting life alongside caring
- Identifying and recognising carers
- Providing information, advice and assistance

North Wales Carers Operational Group (NWCOG) welcomes the opportunity to utilise the funding to respond more flexibly to local need in North Wales, in particular during the current pandemic, and plan to use the funding for the following:

- Establishing an Investors in Carers scheme
- Improving access to carers support services from primary care and hospitals
- Supporting carers to maintain their role and own well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Project Management support to deliver on the above

BJE explained that unfortunately the grant conditions does not permit respite to be funded from the grant. However, appendix C of the report, lists how each LA is responding individually to respite.

JLe again raised concern on the desperate situation families are in at the moment. Carers continue to struggle as the Covid situation remains and asks colleagues to keep in mind that Carers will need a break as soon as is possible, and to acknowledge how difficult this period has been for carers and carers support has and continues to be a lifeline for a lot of people.

The NWRPB were in agreement to endorse the Carers 2020-2021 spending plan for 2020-2021.

## **5 Health & Care Recovery Group (H&CRG)**

The board received an update from Alwyn Jones on the Health & Care Recovery Group.

AJ gave an overview of the role of the H&CRG, highlighting the work-stream document which demonstrates the areas to recovery and the groups responsible for local delivery; and the governance document which aims to underline local delivery through co-ordination work via sub-regional structure of AISB's.

The Recovery Co-ordination Group (RCG) and RPB will have oversight of the recovery phase, whilst recognising that each partners will have their own recovery plan. The Recovery work is descriptive, taking a risk based approach, with decisions made based on data and sharing lessons learned along the way.

The H&CRG main responsibility will be to provide an oversight of the work completed by the delegated groups across the region, supporting the work and giving strategic direction, and updating and reporting regularly to the RCG and NWRPB.

MWim believes the sector is far from recovery. Although Care Homes and many organisations may be in a transition phase, the organisations are understandably very nervous, recognising the significant risk of increased exposure as society starts to re-open and regressing back into the pandemic again.

Cllr BF noted the huge improvements seen within Care Home environments, and to the safety of both staff and patients. Although, it is very unfortunate these changes did not happen sooner.

MWim also raised the issue of 4 weekly testing of Care Home staff and the lack of engagement with the sector and policy direction at the end of the 4 weeks. The method/timing of receiving results also needs to be transformed, which is currently having an adverse effect on TTP, residents and families.

TO is aware of the long delays taken with results and is working closely to adjust the timescales. There is also a delay within the national laboratory and TO agreed to discuss this issue with MWim outside RPB.

JGa asked if there are any issues the RPB need to be looking at in terms of the long recovery period for many people who have been affected and recovering from Covid, and if there are any pressure points on services in the community.

AJ informed that this is being given duly consideration with short, medium and long term recovery sub-groups to enable individuals to transition to day to day living.

KR remarked on the position of recovery from both the Strategic Co-ordination Group (SRG) and RCG point of view, which is putting measure for individuals to start to live and work with Covid – there is no recovery until there is a cure.

JLe asked where the responsibility lies in relation to shielding, and where can this issue be resolved. There have been numerous queries in relation to who should/should not be shielding. How much responsibility lies with GP's/WG. Individuals are found to of been overlooked very late in the day and those individuals are still shielding until 16.8.2020 – and enquired how people are still falling through the net.

LR agreement with JLe comments. The guidance has changed continuously throughout the last few months, making it very difficult for lists to be maintained, with different individuals names on different records held by GP's, WG and supermarkets.

LR also informed people are confused between shielding and isolating. Clear guidelines were not provided at the outset, and no-one is taking ownership and responsibility of this issue. Many individuals contacted their GP's, those

individuals need to focus on the consequences of continuing to shielding presents and how they can be supported going forward.

Discussion also focussed on the effect of individuals' MH and the link to suicide as a result of the recent pandemic, which the H&CRG should priorities, with an increase seen in suicides at present, and also to the effect on the broader population whose lives have changed as a result of Covid.

*Actions*

- TO to discuss issues of Care Home testing with MWim outside of the Board

## **6 Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 – updated Codes**

### **and Guidance: Part 9 Statutory Guidance (Partnership Arrangements)**

BJE gave an overview of the changes within the Codes and Guidance for Part 9 of the SSWBA which came into force earlier this year.

Due to time constraints, it has been decided that discussion on this agenda item would be deferred to the next meeting 7.8.2020. RPB members require to be aware of the updated guidance and are asked to provide feedback on the amendments noted within 4.1 to 4.8 of the report. This will ensure a focussed discussion at the next meeting.

*Actions*

- Forward feedback to BJE by 30.7.2020

## **7 Letter from the chair and CEO of BCUHB**

MWil reported on the letter from BCUHB Chair and CEO, circulated to Leaders and CEOs, North Wales LAs Chair and Chief Officer, North Wales CHC, Chair of North Wales Regional Partnership Board and Members of Regional Leadership Board.

BCU are now required to submit quarterly plans to WG, the frequency being a reflection of the uncertain environment everyone are working to at the moment. Quarter 2 draft plan to end of September is also included, which will be presented for approval at BCUHB board 23.7.2020.

BCUHB priorities include the effective implementation of Test Trace and Protect across the region and continue with the recovery of the full range of high quality primary and community care and hospital services, recognising the inter dependencies between health and the supporting care sector. Winter pressure and surge in Covid are also being given high profile.

MWil welcomes feedback on the draft plan from RPB members now or outside the meeting.

MWim raised the issue of seeing an increase in false positive testing results in relation to the 28 days.

MWin also raised a strategic issues in relation to the fragility of the Care Home sector. Care Homes have already received funding for LA funded Care Homes places to recognise the significant costs within this period. However, a number of nursing homes are facing serious financial situations, as a result of the lack of funding in relation to CHC funding from WG or BCU.

MWil agreed take this action within BCU and respond to MWim.

TO replied to the concern on false positive testing results and recognises further work is required. TO informed that there is a new plan due from WG next week which give support across the system.

MWim also offered to assist by providing feedback and input into the system and TO offered to take this back.

## **8 Notes and actions of the last meeting**

Minutes of the meeting 11th June were accepted as a true record with all actions completed.

## **9 AOB**

CB proposed the 'Strategic Planning Framework for Housing Support Services' document is given an agenda slot for a full discussion at the next NWRPB meeting. Clarification is required how the NWRPB will meet the expectations around ending homelessness. North Wales LA's deadline to submit their phase 2 plans - 30.6.2020.

SLW also noted being in full support of this suggestion, and also enquired what will be the plan, if WG is unable to fund plans submitted by North Wales LA's.

### *Actions*

- Homeless document on the July agenda – RW
- Increase duration of meeting to 1 ½ hrs - RW

## **Date of the next meeting**

Friday 7th August – 1:00 – 2:30 pm