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NORTH WALES SOCIAL CARE AND WELL-BEING
SERVICES IMPROVEMENT COLLABORATIVE

Minutes of the North Wales Regional Partnership Board Meeting

12th March 2021

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Via M S Teams

Present:	Teresa Owen (Chair), Morwena Edwards, Chris Stockport, Cllr Bobby Feeley, Cllr Christine Jones (attended until 10:40 am), Cllr Joan Lowe (JLo), Cllr Louise Emery (attended until 11:45 am), Cllr Dafydd Meurig, Cllr Llinos Medi Huws (attended until 10:00 am), Dr Lowri Brown, Ffion Johnstone, Fon Roberts (attended until 10:00 am), Helen Corcoran, Jenny Williams, John Gallanders (attended until 10:40 am), John Gladston, Mary Wimbury (MWim), Neil Ayling (attended until 11 am), Nicola Stubbins, Paul Scott, Rob Smith, Sam Parry, (attended until 10:10 am), Steve Gadd (attended for agenda item 8 only)
Apologies:	Bethan Jones Edwards, Alwyn Jones, Judith Greenhalgh, Estelle Hitchon, Lucy Reid, Mark Wilkinson, Bethan E Jones, Shan Lloyd Williams, Roma Hooper
In attendance:	Add Imogen Blood, Consultant, Practice Solutions Limited (agenda item 3) Rhian Allen, Consultant, Practice Solutions Limited (agenda item 3) Rhian Edwards, Commercial Director, Wales Co-operative Centre (agenda item 3) Maria Bell, WLGA (agenda item 3) Catrin Perry, Regional Collaboration Team (agenda item 3) Carol Dale, Regional Collaboration Team (agenda item 3) Alan Hughes, North Wales WCCIS Programme Manager (agenda item 10)

1 Welcome, introductions and apologies

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting apologies were noted as above.

The Board was informed of Catherine Elaine Jones's resignation, and the chair gave thanks to CEJ for her contribution to the NWRPB.

As the Chair's term of office is ending today, TO took the opportunity to thank the board for their co-operation, commitment and achievements over the last two years. TO wished the board well in the continued work taking place across North Wales and wished MWim as the incoming chair all the best in the role.

2 Notes and actions of last meetings

The minutes of meeting 12.02.2021 were agreed as a correct record.

Matters arising:

- Third Sector RPB representatives' future funding opportunities – *update to be provided at the April NWRPB.*
- FJ to provide further information on the number not taking up the vaccine – *FJ reported that issue has been raised nationally and the work is ongoing - FJ to update at the April NWRPB.*
- NS/BEJ to update on the outcome - ICF – Expression of Interest: Safe accommodation for Children with complex, high end needs – *NS informed WG have confirmed receipt of the NWRPB EoI and have informed due to the number of detailed expressions of interest received, further time will be required in order to make a decision. WG's intention is to complete the process in the next few weeks.*

Agenda item 3 – MW informed care staff continue to wait to be vaccinated as part of the mop-up exercise with no clear route for new staff members/ previously refused vaccination. Social care staff are not being given priority, although plans exist in different areas.

FJ agreed to take this concern to the internal meeting with partners this afternoon.

Actions

- FJ to take concern re staff vaccine mop-up to the Vaccine Board

3 Update on the Foundation Economy Challenge Fund (FECF)

JW presented an overview of progress of the work within the FECF proposal. At the November 2020 NWRPB the FECF project received a steer from the board to focus the remainder of the funded period developing a business model for a not-for-profit-staffing agency.

JW noted the challenges faced in attracting, recruiting and attaining a qualified workforce within the health and social care sector work is being driven and regularly reported to the North Wales Workforce Board (NWWB). The model concerns consistency, quality and developing the workforce, ahead of cost saving. The pandemic has also highlighted the pressure points/ the need to accelerate care closer to home, and the opportunity to attract new recruits to the sector.

Following extensive engagement and consultation, the final recommendation of the NW FECF project business model summary is presented to the NWRPB.

Practice Solutions (PS) have been commissioned to develop and produce a business case and RA provided an overview of the model:

- Ethical, not-for-profit social enterprise - evidence from providers in the survey details a significant spend on agencies.
- Small consistent salaried team – who would cover both H&SC and hire out to local providers in locality areas, getting to know areas and individual customers
- Aims to find sustainable solutions; does not disrupt existing workforce, carefully matching individuals with care settings, providing support and mentoring.
- Widening and upskilling the pool - good opportunities for new entrants with good progression route
- Locally-based; ‘grow your own’ approach – different cultural and linguistic needs in different parts of the region; reduce movement of workers to lessen the spread of infection.
- Multi-agency governance

The initial scoping of locality teams suggests a possibility of scoping around 11 teams across the area, administered by a multiagency/stakeholder governance group.

JW notes final considerations included:

- Further customer engagement – working with local agencies who are already supplying staff to the sector to ensure consistent quality staff for the future. Further engagement and views on proposed model with providers and agency provision and discuss a different way of working
- Improved data on agency usage
- Further test assumptions in model
- Pilot model and discuss the best way to progress – to understand local context
- Funding – explore costs and income further.
- Identify 2 or 3 localities in North Wales

- Level of desired regional structure

NA thanked JW and team for the informative presentation, and confirmed being interested to be part of a pilot in the East area, exploring the challenges within the East in regard to availability of nurses in nursing homes, and revenue would need to be explored.

MWim noted concerns relating to care home staff remuneration and the proposal not expecting to poach staff from the sector. Also concern re. applicability to nursing staff within care homes, who require registration and qualification and how the model would attract them given the numerous attractive options also available to them, and MWim noted, due to concerns about poaching, not being in agreement and unable to support the model.

IB agreed with MWim on the living wage argument. The issue of pay and any WG pay deal being significant. The model can still apply taking into consideration the minimum living wage. Also in relation to the nursing concern, discussions have been held exploring the health related tasks required and ensuring parity across the agenda to NHS working bands for staff undertaking clinical tasks. A supervisor will oversee the clinical governance and care staff identified and upskilled to undertake these tasks.

ME thanked for the presentation, however, noted some concern relating to the West area in particular. The main concern is the regional structure; the geographical nature, the rurality and linguistic issues of the West have not been given sufficient consideration. ME invited the FECF team to partake in local discussions to address these issues.

JW reiterated the project focus is predominantly on the quality of the workforce, support for the workforce, giving attention to recruitment challenges, models of care to ensure providers can be sustainable, and to ensure systems within the whole sector are robust. The WG Consultation on the White Paper and work on pay also go hand in hand with this project.

RS also noted being supportive of the initial stage and would also be supportive in a pilot in the East, however, would need to understand the concept in a bit more detail and the implication for the local team.

Cllr LE agreed with MWim point on pay being a significant ethical issue and proposes the private sector are fully engaged prior to continuing with a pilot to ensure the proposed model does not disrupt existing staff within the independent sector.

NS confirmed being in support of the proposal, with significant issues discussed at national level taking considerable time to resolve. Issues presented today are currently being worked through and agree on a regional proposal with local delivery.

JGal enquired on the justification of the high costs for the foundation to be put in place, and wondered instead of tackling the issue whether another layer was being presented. JGal also raised the issue of state aid and market disruption and whether this is a risk.

Cllr CJ also noted being supportive of the proposal and everything should be done to encourage people into H&SC roles.

DM also noted being supportive of the model, although uncertain how the model would resolve the issue of lack of workers in the sector.

JW concluded the discussion stating the work sits within a whole spectrum of other work ongoing at the NWWB. This specific proposal aims to tackle a system that is not working for everyone at the moment; a fragile sector including the significant issue of pay. This ambitious proposal concerns the workforce which supplements core teams across the sector, and discussions will continue with the NWWB to tighten the governance and representatives. JW confirmed full approval is not requested at this current time, and was encouraged by the support of colleagues for future pilot projects.

TO thanked JW and FECF colleagues on the comprehensive presentation.

4 Health & Care Group update

(WAO in attendance for this agenda item)

The board received a short verbal update from NS on the H&CG. The group continue to meet as a sub-group of the SCG. The main areas of work focus predominantly on understanding data, regional variation and the pressures in both H&SC systems.

The group continue to focus on the Covid situation whilst outbreaks and cases continue to emerge in the community/hospital/care settings. Moving to the recovery phase will be implemented in the future.

5 RPB Expressions of Interest:

Carer Representatives

In the absence of peer panel members TO provided an overview of the recommendations within the report and the NWRPB were in agreement that the two top scoring candidates are offered the seats on the RPB from April 2021 for the two-year term:

- Delyth Lloyd Williams

- Barry Argent

Support has kindly been offered by Estelle Hitchon to enable representatives to settle into the meetings and to understand the work of the Board.

Third Sector Organisation representatives

MW and Cllr BF provided an overview of the of the Third Sector organisation Eol peer panel. 4 excellent Expressions of Interest were received by the closing date.

The NWRPB were in agreement

- That the two top scoring candidates are offered seats (1 seat and 1 deputy) on the RPB.
- Applicant scoring highest to be offered a seat on the NWRPB starting from April 2021 - Meinir Williams – Jones (Barnardos)
- Applicant scoring second highest to be offered a deputy role for Roma Hooper and today's successful applicant when they are not able to attend, providing the applicant with experience of attending the RPB. Roma Hooper and successful applicant should also discuss RPB matters with depute on a regular basis - Sian Tomos (GISDA)
- When Roma Hooper's current term expires, the depute will be offered a seat on the NWRPB from December 2021 for a term of two years.

John Gallanders has kindly offered to support the new Third Sector representative to settle into the meetings and to understand the work of the Board.

6 ICF

NWRPB ICF Programme Position 2020-21 Q3

The board received a brief overview from NA on the 2020/21 funding programmes managed via ICF at Q3:

- Revenue Investment Plan (RIP)
- Capital Investment Plan (CIP)
- Integrated Autism Service (IAS)
- Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS)
- Therapeutic Intervention Pilot (TIP)

- Covid Discharge Plan (CDP)
- Discharge to Recover & Assess (D2RA)

Some highlights include:

Revenue programme

Spend at the end of Q3 is £11.86m, 62% of annual allocation. Full spend is forecast by year end. In the first 9 months of the year £3.17m has been spent directly supporting carers and £1.55m investment went to third sector projects. 98 of 120 projects have a green BRAG status. 3 of the 120 schemes in the programme remain paused due to Covid and alternative plans have been agreed for the funding as it is still not safe to proceed/reopen.

Capital programme

The capital funding for 2020/21 is £9.41m with spend at Q3 of £4.13m (44%). There are 17 main capital schemes and 53 discretionary capital schemes, 35 of which are Covid-19 pivot schemes. A monthly status report is completed for each AISB so that progress and spend to date are closely monitored and any slippage identified early. Full spend of 2020/21 funding is projected for end of March 2021.

Full spend is projected for the Integrated Autism Service (IAS), Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS), Therapeutic Intervention Pilot (TIP) and D2RA funding streams

The NWRPB were in agreement to note the recommendations:

- To note the Q3 2020/21 position of the ICF funding streams.
- To agree the Q3 2020/21 report for the ICF funding streams.

ICF Revenue Investment Plan 2021/22

The board received a brief outline from NA of the 2021/22 ICF Revenue Investment Programme which is due for submission to WG by 31 March 2021 for a high level review to ensure that#;

(1) schemes meet the ICF criteria and

(2) that spend is in line with allocations to priority areas.

Total funding for the Programme is £19.6m, which is identical to 2019/20 funding. £240k is allocated to RPB infrastructure with £18.92m split between the 3 area ISBs.

There are 125 projects in the 2021/22 Programme; 108 have rolled over from 2020/21 into a second year and there are 17 new projects for 2021/22.

24 projects which were modified during 2020/21 to ensure safe and socially distanced delivery will continue with a modified delivery through 2021/22

The NWRPB were in agreement to note the recommendations:

- To note the value and variety of the schemes within the ICF RIP
- To approve the ICF RIP

7 Regional Care Homes Pooled Budgets (RCHPB)

NS provided the NWRB with an update on the Regional Care Homes Pooled Budget and to share observations made by the Welsh Audit Office and the findings of the report completed by KPMG for Welsh Government.

- A non-risk OP PB has been in place since April 2019.
- Arrangements and processes were put in place with a Section 33 agreement signed by 6 LA and HB with financial transactions relating to care homes accommodation made to the DCC, the host authority since 1.4.2019.
- The annual £20k hosting cost was paid from ICF underspend in 2019-20. Arrangements will need to be made by partners to fund this cost in 20-21 and for the duration of the Pooled Budget, as an addendum to the S 33 agreement.
- The WAO became aware of the pooled fund arrangement in place during a WAO review in DCC and CCBC in August 2020. The observations made by the WAO have now been dealt with by DCC and CCBC's internal processes.
- WG also commissioned KPMG to undertake an evaluation of the pooled budget arrangement in place for care homes accommodation within each region to focus on the establishment and maintenance of regional Care Home OP PB, where each region was assessed in terms of progress in implementing the pooled funds arrangements in line with the regulations. Following KPMG interviews with RPB colleagues the findings of the evaluation requests improvement plans from RPB chairs to address the 9 recommendations within the report.

NS informed of next steps:

- The review is considered fair and there are statutory requirements to be taken into consideration.
- The intention is to analyse the data gathered by the finance leads, on care home placement spend, examine in terms of benefit and the demands of the workforce. This exercise is timely given the work required on the Population Needs Assessment (PNA) and the Market Stability Report (MSR).
- Each partner to scrutinise their data to enable the benefits, not only for RCHPB but also to inform and shape other parts of the integration.

ME thanked NS for progressing this work during the pandemic, believing there is a wealth of information to be compared here which will feed into the MSR in the care home sector.

The NWRPB were in agreement with the recommendations:

- To note the progress and funds transferred since the pooled fund came into effect.
- RPB members to consider any action required following comments made by Welsh Audit Office. The audit reports were specific to DCC and CCBC and have been dealt via internal process. The NWRPB needs to be sighted on this issue only.
- RPB members to consider content of the KPMG report and develop an improvement plan for submission to Welsh Government.

The chair of NWRPB has written a response to WG, based on WAO and KPMG comments. The letter sent to WG and response, once received, will be circulated to NWRPB members

NS to meet with MWim to understand the response on the RCHPB.

Actions

- Circulate the PB letter (WG and response) when received - RW
- NS to update MWim re PB

8 Final Draft response on the WG Consultation White Paper: Rebalancing Care and Support

At the February NWRPB it was agreed to establish a T&F Group to compile the draft response on the WG Consultation.

The following NWRPB members put their names forward to sit on the T&F group: Mary Wimbury (Vice Chair); Cllr Bobby Feeley; Cllr Dafydd Meurig; Morwena Edwards; Bethan Jones Edwards and Kamala Williams attended from BCUHB

Two meetings were held and the final draft version is presented today for NWRPB to endorse. NWRPB members are also requested to note:

1. The approach taken and the proposed response which the T&F group have agreed.
2. Any further additions or amendments to be raised by wider NWRPB members at its meeting on 12th March 2021.
3. Final agreed version to be submitted to WG prior to the close of the consultation period 6th April 2021.
4. Final version of the response to be shared with the NW Regional Leadership Board as the Board into which the NWRPB reports into.
5. Individual organisations of the NWRPB to take account of content of the NWRPB response when compiling any individual organisation responses.

The T&F group acknowledged the work completed by BJE on collating the different views and perspectives of colleagues for the response.

Due to the regional nature of the NWRPB, it was also suggested a letter should also accompany the response to WG, emphasising key overarching points of the detail within the response:

- That the changes proposed could add to the complexity rather than simplify the system and arrangements.
- Some solutions proposing a national approach to resolving some all Wales issues are welcome i.e. the pay framework
- The NWRPB believe that best decisions for the individual are made locally and that resources and accountability arrangements need to be in place.
- Believe the NWRPB has performed well against its statutory requirements. Do not agree the NWRPB needs to be turned into a legal entity
- Geographical footprint of the NWRPB across 6 LA and one large HB means sub-areas are needed so that a more local voice is heard.
- The Welsh Language is not prominent in the WP and the need to consider further what steps are needed to improve these provisions for our population.

The chair thanked members of the Task & Finish sub-group for their work on the White Paper response and proposed that a further 7 days is given to RPB members to forward any further comments.

Actions

- ME/MWim to draft letter to accompany the response to WG – to be circulated to NWRPB
- Circulate letter and final response to NWRPB

9 AHW Delivery Plan

The board received an update from NS on the AHW Transformation Programmes 2021/2022 Delivery Plans.

NS recapped from previous meeting, following a great deal of work and negotiation, North Wales have negotiated a total of £6.7M of funding. The information provided today informs the NWRPB in detail how the transformation programme will utilise the funding in 2021-22.

Following discussion with Programme Sponsors it was agreed that the Children & Young People Transformation would be prioritised with the minimum funding required, the work on the evaluation costs was priced into the system with CST, LD and T4 MH given a lesser amount.

NS, as Programme Sponsor for the Ch&YP TP is giving assurance to work collectively to deliver one programme, complimenting and supporting work within the other 3 transformation programmes in this final year.

TO thanked the Programme Sponsors for this detailed report.

10 Digital Work-stream update

The board received an update from AH on the Digital workstream. AH informed that unfortunately due to contractual funding issues with the supplier, BCUHB is in dialogue with the national team to address the current issues presenting within the development of software to support the integration within two CRT's in the West.

JW raised concern with lack of progress, and asked when the deployment order is likely to be signed.

Cllr BF highlighted the importance of the service offered by the CRT's across the region and if the issue was surmountable, in terms of the digital progress of the Community Resource Teams.

AH could not provide a definite answer, but believes the business case review is in development and presented through BCU channels at the moment.

The chair agreed to report back concerns raised and invite WCCIS Programme Sponsor to update, to include a timeline, at the next NWRPB.

Actions

- TO to contact WCCIS Programme Sponsor re concerns

11 Children and Young People's Wellbeing Services - Roll Out Of The Early Help And Enhanced Support Framework "NEST"

NS informed of the WG letter encouraging RPB's to consider volunteering to become an early adopter for the Early Help and Enhanced Support Framework "NEST", being developed by the Together for Children and Young People Programme.

This work would be in addition to and would complement the work being already done on the CH&YP TP and the work on the Children's Commissioner 'No Wrong Door'.

On this basis NS is requesting NWRPB's endorsement to confirming in writing to WG of NW's interest in expressing a EoI at this stage to volunteering to become an early adopted for the "NEST" programme.

Cllr JL fully supported the request, however, noted concern on the commitment from all partners and the extra workload pressure this work would entail.

NS confirmed the ask was an EoI at this stage, and if the position changes significantly, withdrawing would be possible.

The NWRPB were in agreement for NS to inform WG of NW's interest in volunteering to become an early adopted for the "NEST" programme.

12 Young Carers ID card (YCID)

In FJ absence, TO provided an update on the North Wales Young Carers ID (YCID) Card scheme. The YCID card is being developed to identify young carers, recognising their important role and the impact that this may have on their life/ well-being, raise awareness of young carers across their local communities, their peers and professionals that they may come into contact with, such as GPs,

District Nurses, Pharmacies, Schools/ Further Education etc., and help young carers to access the right support at the right time, including signposting to support services.

To thanked FJ and KM for the report and the NWRPB were in agreement to note the information within this report in preparation for the launch on 16th March 2021.

13 NWRPB Work Programme 2021-2022

The Work Programme will act as a helpful reminder for RPB agreed priority areas and other work-streams reports which are expected on future RPB agendas for the next 12 months.

The NWRPB were in agreement to note the 2021-2022 Work Programme.

14 Handover of the chair to Mary Wimbury

TO thanked NWRPB members for their support, encouragement and contribution over the last 2 years as chair and also thanked the vice-chair for deputising during absences and wished MWim well in her term as chair.

MWim on behalf of the NWRPB thanked TO sincerely for leading the NWRPB over the last two years.

Cllr BF suggested an opportunity here for a press release to inform North Wales residents on the work of the NWRPB, and the action will be taken by the NWRPB communication and engagement officer.

Nomination of a vice-chair – NS informed one nomination was received and Cllr BF has agreed to take the role of vice-chair.

Actions

- Contact the Regional Engagement Officer to create a press release to inform of in-coming chair and the wider work of the NWRPB

15 Any Other Business – nothing to report

16 The following documents were provided for information:

- Funding for delivery of Discharge to Recover and Assess (D2RA) pathways
- Welsh Government Transformation Programme Fund 2021-22 Research, Innovation & Improvement Co-ordination (RI&IC) Hubs: Guidance

- Welsh Government confirmation of LHB funding allocation in support of unpaid carers, 2021-22
- North Wales Winter Pressures Additional Funding confirmation letter