



Minutes of the North Wales Regional Partnership Board Meeting

9th April 2021

9:00 am – 11:15 am

Via M S Teams

Present:	Mary Wimbury (MWim) (Chair), Alwyn Jones, Barry Argent, Cllr Bobby Feeley, Cllr Christine Jones, Cllr Joan Lowe, Cllr Louise Emery, Cllr Llinos Medi Huws, Delyth Lloyd-Williams, Estelle Hitchon, Fon Roberts, Helen Corcoran, Claire Lister (in attendance for Jenny Williams), John Gallanders, John Gladston, Lucy Reid, Neil Ayling, Nicola Stubbins, Rob Smith, Roma Hooper, Shan Lloyd Williams, Teresa Owen
Apologies:	Bethan E Jones, Chris Stockport, Cllr Louise Emery, Cllr Dafydd Meurig, Dr Lowri Brown, Ffion Johnstone, Jenny Williams, Jo Whitehead, Mark Wilkinson, Morwena Edwards, Meinir Williams-Jones, Paul Scott, Sam Parry

1 Welcome, introductions and apologies

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

The chair welcomed Barry Argent and Delyth Lloyd-Williams, recently appointed Carer representative members to their first NWRPB meeting.

2 Notes and actions of last meeting 12th March 2021

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

Completed Actions:

- WG White Paper Consultation – Rebalancing Care and Support - circulate letter and final response to NWRPB members.
- Press release - incoming chair and to inform North Wales residents on the work of the NWRPB.
- TO to discuss Digital Work-stream concerns with BEJ

- Pooled Budget update NS/MWim

Outstanding Action:

- Circulate the PB letter and WG response letter when received – RW
- FJ to provide further information on the number not taking up the

Vaccine. FJ advised prior to the meeting that work is progressing and a request has been made for information on numbers split by cluster.

Actions

- Circulate press links to NWRPB – RW

3 Health & Care Group update – Nicola Stubbins

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 area of work has recently focused predominantly on the increased pressure in the West and exploring mutual aid from partners.

NA also informed JGr, H&CG chair and lead CEO for Health & Social Care has recently stepped down from DCC CEO post and discussion will be required on the interim H&C Group chairing arrangement and the CEO H&SC portfolio lead who will represent the CEO's on the NWRPB.

Actions

- NS to keep NWRPB updated

4 ICF – Neil Ayling

2021/22 ICF Capital Investment Programme

NA provided an outline of the 2021/22 ICF Capital Investment Programme for approval by the North Wales Regional Partnership Board.

- The Investment Programme has a funding allocation of £9.413m
- The detailed programme for 2021/22 is required to be submitted to WG by 31st March 2021 with a full 5-year programme for 2021-2026 due 31st December 2021
- The ICF capital programme is intended to support schemes and activities that provide an effective integrated and collaborative approach in relation to:
 - Older people with complex needs and long term conditions
 - Dementia

- People with learning disabilities and carers
- Children with complex needs due to disability or illness
- Early Intervention Children at risk of becoming looked after and in care
- In the new guidance, WG require all regions to have a majority of housing and accommodation projects in 2021/22 and going forward.
- New ICF Capital projects will not be approved until the detailed regional plan has been assessed by the WG ICF Capital team and it is clear that new proposed projects respond to need. The detailed regional programme is to be submitted on the approved WG template which requires details of
 - (1) the Existing Housing & Accommodation Provision,
 - (2) the Unmet needs up to 2025 and
 - (3) the Capital Programme Plan to meet these needs.
- The need for capital investment to support the recommendations in the Children's Commissioner's report, No Wrong Door has been recognised.
- There is an expectation that partner organisations will contribute to projects where appropriate and this can be via direct funding or assets. Requests for funding to cover the total costs of a main capital project will only be considered in exceptional circumstances and with compelling justification.
- There are 18 main capital projects in the 2021/22 Capital Investment Programme which will be prioritised, 9 are projects in progress and have had funding in previous years. Only 6 of these require additional funding in 2021/22 as 3 are utilising monies which are unspent from previous years. There are 9 new projects for 2021/22.
- The regional programme has 12 schemes which include housing /accommodation, 3 schemes which support the No Wrong Door report, a LD Employment /training facility, a LD Hub and a Dementia Centre

The NWRPB were in agreement to endorse the recommendations below:

- i. To note the value and variety of the schemes within the programme
- ii. To approve the programme
- iii. To note the Welsh Government new guidance for 2021/22 capital schemes
- iv. To note the requirement of a 5 year (2021-2026) RPB Capital Programme

ICF Dementia Slippage Report

NA provided an overview of the 11 schemes funded from the regional Dementia slippage monies and its use to support the North Wales Dementia Strategy.

- Slippage of £91,500 was identified from recruitment delays to both the Regional North Wales Dementia Project Manager post and the National (joint with Powys) Dementia project Manager post.
- An application process for the slippage was agreed and opened up to all partners, 10 applications for funding were received and scored.
- Funding was approved for the virtual delivery of the memory service across the region which is a priority and a significant issue across the patch
- It was agreed that each LA would have £10.4K.

The NWRPB were in agreement to endorse the recommendations:

- i. To note the variety and value of the dementia slippage schemes
- ii. To note opportunities to address Dementia priorities presented by the slippage projects approved by the Dementia Steering Group.

TP Scaling Fund Guidance

D2RA monies of £1.342m for North Wales for 2021/22 has been announced. LG members agreed (via email 11&12 March) that the preferred option is to allocate to the same % split as previous D2RA funding and for this to continue to be managed via the ICF process.

A high level regional plan is due to be submitted to WG by today, 9th April.

NS acknowledged the support provided from the ICF Programme Manager and team on completing all the above reports.

EH questioned whether the projects were secure in their funding given the vagaries of ICF.

NA confirmed a reasonable level of security, with all partners having confirmed projects to be sustainable to transform H&SC in North Wales.

5 RPB Communication and Engagement strategy

The board received an update from NS on the NWRPB Communication and Engagement Strategy:

- Communication and engagement has been undertaken since the origin of the NWRPB and WG funding, which is available until March 2022 has enabled a dedicated Communication and Engagement Officer to be employed.
- A Healthier Wales (AHW) (Welsh Government, 2018), identifies public engagement as a key priority – both as a principle for the design of the health and care system, and as a means of achieving a number of preferred outcomes.
- Within its Plan for the Delivery of A Healthier Wales, the Board stated that it strives to be a partnership that drives transformation based on listening and learning. It promotes the need to listen to its population to enable the shaping of service. This strategy will set out clearly how the Board will communicate and engage within the region
- To inform this strategy engagement took place with the Communication and Engagement officers of the 6 Local Authorities and the Health Board Engagement teams together with the County Voluntary Councils, Welsh Ambulance Service NHS, a range of National organisations such as WCVA & All Wales Forum, North Wales Fire and Rescue Service; Housing Associations as well as both Carer and Citizen representatives on the NWRPB.

Cllr BF noted being in agreement to approve, however suggested the need to be more proactive across North Wales, not only on the work of the board, incorporating all projects.

MWim noted the section on strengthening the Welsh language and ‘the duty on care providers to ensure they have staff with the appropriate language skills’ need to be amended. MWim informed Welsh language duty is placed on statutory organisations and is a shared ambition for the Providers.

SLW asked if the role of Housing Associations could be more explicit within the strategy, as the sector has good relationship with communities where the health inequalities gaps exist amongst the population.

EH noted the need to be clear on the outcomes aiming to achieve as a result of our engagement beyond basic awareness.

The NWRPB were in agreement to approve the Engagement & Communication Strategy, once the amendments have been made, so that delivery can commence immediately to support the NWRPB work programmes.

Actions

- NS agreed to provide feedback to the Engagement and Communication Officer.

6 Transformation Programmes - Evaluation Reports - Nicola Stubbins/Chris Stockport/Neil Ayling/ Teresa Owen

Community Services Transformation Programme (CSTP) Draft Evaluation Report

AJ presented on the CSTP in the absence of CS. This programme was established to improve integrated community based services, having the strategic vision so that community services are transformed to enable early help and support for people to be provided within their own home; and a significant amount of services have been developed across the three regional areas, in order to ensure the necessary local focus is achieved.

Due to the impact of Covid-19 on both resources and activity in 2021/22 was scaled down and the funding re-directed to IT and work adapted to assist with Covid during this period.

Some notable areas of progress since the mid-point evaluation report include:

- Three integrated health and social care localities have been established within the Central area.
- Partners in Public Health have completed a high-level Locality Needs
- Assessment on behalf of the region.
- Pacesetter funding has been awarded to 5 'localities' to help support key learning around the development of integrated health and social care localities.
- A detailed report into the alternative delivery models for integrated care has been completed and signed off by the Programme Board.

The NWRPB were in agreement to endorse the CSTP evaluation report and recommendations.

Children & Young People Transformation Programme (Ch&YP TP) Draft Evaluation Report

NS presented on the Ch&YP TP reports:

Evaluation Report for North East Wales Multi-Systemic Therapy Service (MST) - this programme is the only MST programme in Wales and positive feedback can be seen from the evaluation document.

Progress report for Bwthyn Y Ddol Service - a new residential assessment centre being developed in the central area. The project is moving at pace with planning permission granted and a constructor appointed.

The overall Ch&YP TP evaluation demonstrates how the different

Work-streams have made significant improvements, even in the context of Covid-19 where programmes have adapted to alter their intentions, and found improvements that will continue to keep moving forward.

All reports have been considered by the Ch&YP Transformation Board with a general agreement to the progress made and lessons learned noted with the following recommendations:

1. Next steps are to develop the evaluation plan for 2021/22, to include activities that will support sustainability planning beyond the end of the Transformation Programme. This could include facilitating workshops for Steering Groups to bring partners together and secure commitment to integrating new service models into their strategic/ business plans for 2022 / 23 onwards. Launch events for the new residential assessment provision will also be considered.
2. It will also be important to ensure that the final phase of evaluation is linked to developments that are being funded through other funding streams and initiatives for example, No Wrong Door/ Matrix Plant so that there is joined up and holistic understanding of the outcomes across all transformation projects to inform decisions about ongoing service development for children, young people and families.

The NWRPB were in agreement to endorse the Ch&YP TP evaluation report.

Learning Disabilities Transformation Programme (LD TP) Draft Evaluation Report

NA reported on the LD TP, the first AHW programme to be funded in the region. The LD TP is the implementing arm of the Learning Disability Strategy 2018-2023, and based around what people have said matters to them; having a good place to live, having something meaningful to do, friends, family and relationships, being safe, being healthy and having the right support.

To achieve the vision and develop approaches based on what matters to people there are five work-streams:

- Integrated structures.
- Workforce development.
- Commissioning and procurement.

- Community and culture
- Assistive technology

The development of a pooled budget pilot in Anglesey with underlying processes that promote integrated decision making and seamless experiences for the user, and the technology work-stream has been a positive factor in people's ability to cope during the pandemic.

The LD Transformation Board consists of a good representation from carers and people with lived experiences which is seen as a benefit to the Programme.

The NWRPB were in agreement to endorse the LD TP evaluation report and recommendations.

Together 4 Mental Health Transformation Programme (T4H TP) Draft Evaluation Report

TO reported on the T4MH TP which had made good progress up to the pandemic. The evaluation tells a story of the work which has taken place, including log risks and updates. The T4MH TP has been reconsidered in relation to the funding and the biggest risk is the future unknown needs of the community as a result of Covid-19. The success of the programme is a new way of working, and to ensure there is a sustainable process for the future understanding the new post-Covid requirements.

The NWRPB were in agreement to endorse the T4MH TP evaluation report and recommendations.

JGal, enquired, all work funded through grant schemes, particular high risk areas, the RPB need to be mindful of going forward, due to short time re embeddedness and for the transformation taking place, any particular pressures bearing in mind grant funding going forward.

NS assured JGal all Programme Sponsors have been aware from the outset of the time limited funding stream. The additional 12 months funding has enabled the work to be fully embedded. All TP's have risk logs and will shortly start to focus on the exit strategies, identifying the services which will be retained, re-directing core budgets and moving from the traditional to more innovative ways of working.

CllrLIMH noted the need to be realistic regarding capital and revenue funding and LA having to continually make difficult saving decisions.

DLW highlighted Carers are currently at breakpoint, having completed exceptional work during Covid-19, and requested this consideration is included within the work of the T4MH.

NA noted DLW point and confirmed Carers are involved in all programmes to a degree, and providing support during and post Covid will be integrated into the work-streams.

All NWRPB members noted concern in terms of funding moving forward post Covid.

NWRPB Year 3 Performance Measures

The NWRPB were in agreement to endorse the Year 3 Performance measures of the Transformation Programmes.

Right-Sizing Community Services for Step-up Care

AJ presented the work on Right-sizing and the request to the NWRPB for agreement in principle to engage in the for step-up/ admission avoidance project.

The Data Definitions for Modelling papers are built upon the 'Right-sizing Community Service for Discharge' work developed by Prof. John Bolton, previously endorsed by the NWRPB and forms part of the Community Services Transformation Programme. The data definitions work is led by the NHS Delivery Unit.

The 'Right-sizing for Step-up Care' project aims to help RPB's determine the extent to which they have sufficient capacity within community services to enable people's care to be 'stepped-up' and/ or hospital admission to be avoided, e.g. Crisis Response; Home-based Step-up; Step-up Re-ablement; Bed-based Step-up care; and Integrated Teams

The model includes wider urgent primary and community care services (e.g. chronic conditions management, palliative care, third sector responses) even though they fall outside of the formal Intermediate Care definition.

The approach is intended to support RPB's to 'know their numbers' with regards capacity within and demand for Intermediate Care type services. This will facilitate robust evidence-based commissioning of the services to meet the needs of the North Wales population.

The aim is to combine data and information gathered in both the right-sizing projects (step-down for discharge and step-up admission avoidance) to

undertake simulation modelling of capacity and demand, thereby maximising utilisation of scarce community health and social care resources.

Initiative aligned with Components 4, 5 and 6 of the Integrated Framework for Older People (IPOP) is being taken forward as part of the Community Services Transformation Programme:

COMPONENT 4: Step up my care and keep me at home

COMPONENT 5: Give me good care

COMPONENT 6: Step down my care and get me home safely

AJ noted there are some concerns regarding the data collected as part of the Right-sizing for discharge project:

- whether the numbers are correct;
- quality of the source data

If these issues are not resolved, the work will not proceed.

AJ noted the options for funding:

(a) use Transformation Scaling Fund to commission Grant Thornton to do the work (GT are already doing the RS for discharge work for us);

(b) use existing in-house IMS officers. Total funding required to be determined by approx. £75k across region.

Cllr BF enquired if there was a key person who would have access to this information or a mode of gathering the required accurate data.

AJ informed that Prof John Bolton's model needs to be populated regionally and required to be completed by a variety of people who have the knowledge and expertise and aspiration of regional requirements.

Cllr LIMH considered this request to be a good idea, however, believed it would need a lot of time and resources, benefitting from cutting down the work to bite-sized effort by individual LA's. Attention would also need to be given to demographic consideration and the ageing trend in certain authorities and how the future needs of the population will be modelled. Cllr LIMH recommended continuing with the work and return to a future RPB with an update report.

AJ agreed this work is much bigger than anticipated and tackling our own systems to ensure the correct data is fed into the model is crucial to the success of the pilot.

The NWRPB agreed in principle at this stage to take the pilot forward and an update report will be provided in June/July.

Actions

- Right-Sizing Community Services for Step-up Care update report to be provided June/July – agenda RW

7 Update from the Third Sector re strategy for funding opportunities

A dedicated officer from the regional team has been identified to support this agenda.

Funding opportunities are currently being explored, exploring the financial pressures of current work-streams in progress, with the possibility of the Third Sector providing funding to support the lower level activity identified to ensure continuation of services.

JGal informed the group are in the process of seeking the Terms of Reference for the Social Value Network Group.

TO offered to discuss separately with JGal the discussion pre Covid in relation to the progression made on Social Value at that time and discussion on cross border links.

JGal asked for comments relating to the current Social Value Network to: John.Gallanders@avow.org

Actions

- TO to contact JGal
- Comments re SVN meeting to JGal

8 Any other business

Framework for embedding a whole school approach to emotional and mental wellbeing

NS informed of the above letter from WG bringing the framework to the attention of the NWRPB and seeking support for implementation.

The ambition of the Framework is to achieve a consistent, equitable and holistic approach to the way wellbeing needs of learners and wider school community is met. It complements the new school curriculum plans and also work occurring within the NHS under the Together for Children and Young People Programme to develop a wider 'whole systems' approach to planning and delivering services for children, young people and their families. Taken together with the Whole School Approach Framework, will ensure all the wellbeing needs of children and young people are addressed in a timely and appropriate manner.

There is reference within the document to the role that the RPB may take in overseeing, scrutinize and embed the framework. Equally there is also reference to GWE (the Schools Consortia), and Public Services' Boards. However, the expectation on the role of each organisation is unclear in the document, and possibly reads that the expectation needs to be determined locally.

NS informed from an initial meeting of the Children & Young People Board with Public Health Wales and Health Board colleagues to discuss the oversight of the framework. It was agreed the Ch&YP Transformation Board was not the appropriate forum for this work as the board does not include members from Education Services. A meeting with LA Directors of Education, GWE, PHW and BCU has been arranged for an informal discussion on where the oversight of this work should be placed. NS will represent the NWRPB and provide an update at the next RPB.

Cllr BF enquired on a timescale for this work.

NS confirmed no timescales have been noted, with the initial requirement to complete a self-assessment. The timescale will be determined following completion of the self-assessments and multi-agency work to determine the priority for the region.

Actions

- NS to provide an update at a future meeting.

9 The following documents were provided for Information:

1. Care Homes Action Plan – Final Update and Written Statement
2. ICF Annual Report - 2019 – 20
3. Letter from Julie Morgan AS, regarding the PNA
4. Press release – term of new chair and inform on the work of the NWRPB