



Minutes of the North Wales Regional Partnership Board Meeting

10th February 2023

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Via Zoom

Present:	Mary Wimbury (Chair), Alwyn Jones, Alwyn Williams, Ann Lloyd (in attendance for Nicola Stubbins), Ann Woods, Catrin Roberts, Cllr Dilwyn Morgan, Cllr Elen Heaton, Cllr Christine Jones, Cllr Alun Roberts, Cllr John Pritchard, Craig Macleod (in attendance for Neil Ayling), Dave Hughes, Dylan Owen, Estelle Hitchon, Ffion Johnstone, Fon Roberts, Jenny Williams, Karen Higgins (in attendance for Gill Harris), Lindsey Duckett, Liz Grieve, Meinir Williams-Jones, Michelle Greene, Rhun ap Gareth, Roger Seddon, Shan Lloyd Williams, Sharon Hinchcliffe, Sian Tomos, Siobhan Gothorp, Steve Greyston (in attendance for Libby Ryan-Davies)
Apologies:	Cllr Liz Roberts, Dr Lowri Brown, Lucy Reid, Cllr Dilwyn Morgan, Neil Ayling, Nicola Stubbins, Livy Ryan-Davies, Gill Harris, Teresa Owen
In attendance:	Shelley Davies, Head of Partnership & Integration, WG (agenda item 2) Matt Jenkins, Deputy Director (Futures and Integration), WG (agenda item 2) Sally Rees, Head of Evaluation & New Models of Care, WG (agenda item 2) Richard Ellis, Head of Regional Integration Fund, WG (agenda item 2) Gillian Paul, Workforce Development Unit Manager Gwynedd Council (agenda item 3) Kim Killow, Learning Disability Additional Funding Support (agenda item 4) Lisa Goodier, Presentation on the T4MH Strategy (agenda item 5) Joseph Griffiths, Regional Capital Programme Manager (agenda item 7)

1 Welcome, introductions and apologies

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

The chair welcomed new members to the board, Liz Grieve, NWRPB LA Housing Rep and Rhun ap Iwan, NWRLB Rep. Thanks was given to Sam Parry, LA Housing Rep, and Trudy Ellis, Carer representative, for their participation.

2 WG Updates and actions of last meetings

Matt Jenkins, Shelley Davies, Richard Ellis, and Sally Rees from Welsh Government, provided the Board with an update, following the Rebalancing Care and Support White Paper.

There was a request from the minister, for the system to engage, this year, in some deeper work on an integrated approach to frailty, which has been a major challenge over the winter for several years.

The Regional Integration Fund remains a vital part of the work of the partnership, and was built on previous experience, and lessons learnt from the Integrated Care Fund and the Transformation Fund. There are always challenges faced when moving from funds which support projects, into those projects then becoming part of mainstream delivery.

Tapering and match funding for the Regional Integration Fund

Over the five years of the RIF fund, it was planned for the Welsh Government level of resource to drop off for individual projects, with the expectation that statutory partners, and statutory organisations then began to fill in that gap, in order for those projects to transition into mainstream funding. There was also an expectation of the partners contributing their own match funding.

Due to the difficult financial context over the last calendar year, the tapering element of the Regional Integration Fund has been paused until 2024/2025. In addition, the match requirement for three National Models of Integrated Care relating to emotional health and wellbeing, therapeutic support for children and accommodation-based solutions, is also paused until 2024/2025.

RPB's will be required to continue delivering the match element for the three national models of integrated care that will directly support community capacity building (community co-ordination, complex care closer to home, and home from hospital), drawing in wider core resources as match funds for these priority areas.

Workforce Pressures

A number of sectors are currently struggling within a labour market crisis, which is affecting social care in particular. The Senedd confirmed this week, to provide additional funding to enable the whole social care workforce to be paid at the level of the real living wage in its uprate form.

- Welsh LAS's and Health Boards will be provided with an estimated £70m in 2023-24, to implement the increased Real Living Wage uplift.
- The Social Care Fair Work Forum is focused on further improvements in the terms and conditions of social care workers.
- Significant investment to support the recruitment and retention of social care staff in Wales, with an intensive recruitment campaign.

SD advised that over the last nine months, work has been undertaken by five task and finish groups under the Rebalance and Care Support Programme. A white paper was produced, which consulted on a proposal to make RPB's corporate legal entities.

There was an overwhelming response, that stated the current legislation is believed to be enough. Interestingly, other provider representatives, and third sector were in favour of more of a corporate legal entity for RPB's.

The decision was made to review the existing governance and scrutiny, performance and planning, engagement and voice, integrated service, delivery, and rebalancing the care markets. Current guidance has been adapted and updated, and working drafts have been circulated.

Amendments to the Part 9 guidance

Key areas of change include:

- Up front policy context
- Defining scope and remit of RPB's
- Amended membership list
- Emphasis on creating the right environment for collaboration, in terms of resourcing, support for Chairs, and diverse participation
- Alignment with Pan-Cluster and Cluster planning and delivery arrangements. It is important for primary care to be properly represented at the table.
- Clarify scrutiny, accountability and performance management expectations.

The biggest changes here have been around Chapter 4, which was in relation to the Section 16 duty to promote social enterprises, co-operatives, user-led organisations, and the third sector. There are key changes to the way we describe social value and added value, with a focus on not for private profit provision.

All the work around engagement, voice, and coverage has been lifted out into its own chapter to really help again build in experiences and learning, and try to put in some more clear expectations around what effective engagement, voice, and co-production would look like.

Refining Regional Partnership Board Scope

Efforts will be focused on making integration happen for community services, working regionally, locally, and at a cluster level. The drive towards regional and national models of care is not a new concept and was set out as an aspiration of Healthy Wales. The ICF and Transformation Fund were intended to push this forward, and although some small steps have been made in that space, there is further work to undertake. The Regional Integration Fund is now designed to push this forwards.

There is an additional requirement for an annual delivery plan, so that Ministers will have that assurance. RPB's already do this through business planning processes, but it will become part of the annual report, focusing on key milestones and achievements for the coming year.

It has been evident over the winter, the profound pressures our systems faced. The challenge of a frailer population, has become evident over the last few years, and the Minister for Health and Social Services wants to bring forward, through her role in the NHS, but also in a request to local government and other partners, an initiative to strengthen community capacity, with a focus on addressing frailty.

The Integrated Care Fund, like the Regional Integration Fund, has been part of an effort to surface the characteristics of the most effective care models, and to spread those more consistently across the system. The intention from Welsh Government now is to work closely, to enable this more rapidly over the coming months.

Moving into early Spring, the aim is to co-productively enter into a development phase, to look at those community specifications. The role of RPB's, will be to develop this work, and oversee the delivery regionally and locally.

Developing an Integrated Community Care System for Wales – the role of the RPB's

- Creating a shared regional vision for implementing the national specification
- Demonstrating collaborative leadership to drive forward and mainstream implementation
- Sharing learning and experience, while promoting best practice
- Embedding a continual improvement system
- Seeking opportunities to pool resources to support effective implementation
- Identifying, challenging and unblocking barriers to progress
- Ensuring service planning, design and delivery is person centred and co-produced

MG, advised discussions have started to take place between health and LA colleagues, around how to move this agenda forwards, and it is important that we don't lose wider integration with other partners around the RPB.

EH and JW raised concerns around additional complexity, over-planning and the effectiveness of boards of this size, as it can mean a loss of focus on working

collaboratively to make things better for the citizen. RS also raised concerns around the consultation processes within the community, and the involvement of the citizen's voice.

Actions

- CR Discussion paper and slides to be circulated after the meeting

3 Social Care Wales Workforce Development Programme

Gillian Paul, Manager of the Workforce Development Unit in Gwynedd, provided an update on the Social Care Wales Workforce Development Programme Grant, and asked for views on any other additional priorities.

The grant is a Welsh Government Grant, managed through Social Care Wales, with focus to support the ambition of the Health and Social Care Workforce Strategy and continued implementation of the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 and Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016, and areas highlighted in the regional Population Needs Assessment.

The action here will be overarching regional plans in line with priorities within Health and Social Care Workforce Strategy Priorities (HSCWS) and the Regional Population Needs Assessment (RPNA). All LA's will have individual plans aligned to priorities around delivery within each LA.

RS advised project management framework, planning training has been brought out by Whitehall, and drills down into management training, orientated towards project planning, and there is opportunity for the workforce planners to look at a similar planning document.

GP agreed, Social Care Wales are currently undertaking considerable work on national workforce planning, and it could be useful during this development stage.

LG added there is an opportunity to talk to housing colleagues about training that housing officers might benefit from. If we train people together, then there is a greater opportunity to work more collaboratively between services and organisations.

SG commented that services are often competing in the same space across health and social care, for health care and assistant time level, and how that links back to workforce commissioning at a national level. GP agreed that it needs to be highlighted and fed into the plan.

4 Learning Disability Additional Funding Support 2022-2023

Kim Killow, Lead Planning and Development Officer, North Wales Together, attended on Katherine Whitfield's behalf, for the Regional Partnership Board to consider the North Wales Together proposal around the allocation of additional WG monies.

Welsh Government has offered each RPB in Wales approximately £50K from underspend linked to the Learning Disability Strategic Action Plan 2022-2026 and associated action plan.

WG has stated that the funding must be used to support learning disability services and/or people with learning disabilities, their families or carers during the current financial year, and to support strategic outcomes already in RPB plans and aligning to the RIF models of care and associated outcomes.

It is proposed that the additional monies are split between the 6 Local Authorities and used to support existing commissioned day services in each of the county areas.

The focus would be over the winter period, for providers to put on activities that would be connected to the Five Ways to Wellbeing, for people who have not returned to services because they're continuing to isolate.

The item was formally agreed by the board.

5 Presentation on the T4MH Strategy

Lisa Goodier, Strategy & Partnerships, BCUHB, joined to provide an update on the work currently undertaken on the development of the Together 4 Mental Health Strategy.

Vision

By 2025 we want the people of North Wales to have the best possible mental health and wellbeing as defined by them. This means people get the support they need, when and where they need it.

Strategy for delivering mental health services across North Wales

- Addressing challenges within our workforces
- Right support at the first time of asking
- Prioritizing prevention in the community
- Giving every child the best start in life

Covid-19 has had a major impact on the mental wellbeing of the population of North Wales. A third of adults reported that their mental health had worsened during the Covid-19 pandemic compared to pre-March 2020.

In anticipation of a new national iteration of the strategy in 2022 the T4MHNW Partnership Board commissioned a review of the situation in North Wales with a desire to adopt a whole systems approach.

Do-Well Ltd were appointed to host a series of workshops that would allow the system to take stock of how things were working and to

identify priorities for action. There was representation from health, local authorities, housing providers, service users, police and the voluntary sector.

A further workshop will be held on 28th February, which board members are welcome to join. The objective of the session will be to make sure that what was gained in the previous three workshops, has been translated effectively into a draft strategy.

The aim is for the RPB to own the Together 4 Mental Health Strategy, as there is a diverse number of people around the table, all with different viewpoints, different objectives.

MW advised The National Lottery Community Fund awarded £10.8 million in grants through its Mind Our Future programme, to partnerships supporting young people's mental health and resilience across Wales, focused on early intervention following Covid-19, which could build into this work.

Barnardo's North Wales' Meddwl Ymlaen Gwynedd project, awarded £1,419,281, will co-produce solutions, leading to a more resilient and mentally healthy future for young people aged 11-25 in Gwynedd and Anglesey.

LG added, it is vital to remember wider community services beyond Health, Social Care or Third Sector. Housing, libraries, employment support, are important partners in a community-focused approach, and already proactive in the prevention space.

6 BCUHB Update

Karen Higgins, Director of Primary Care BCUHB, attended on behalf of Gill Harris, to provide an update on BCUHB.

There is a memorandum of understanding with the Welsh Ambulance service to provide an enhancement to the 111 service which is now 111 plus 2, which gives people the opportunity to access information and to be sign posted to access support and help when they have a mental health urgency or emergency care need.

The Welsh Health Specialised Services have now removed CAMHS, the North Welsh adolescent services, from targeted intervention, which is excellent recognition of the progress that has been made. Nearly all patients are being cared for in North Wales, and not being sent elsewhere, which alleviates a huge amount of pressure for patients and their families.

A vascular services inspection took place in December 2022, and there were no areas of immediate concern. There will be a full report in March. There has been a recognition of the work that BCUHB does around veterans, and awareness of veterans, that has been highly commended, not only for identifying veterans when they come forward for treatment, but also in the work that is done to enable

veterans into the workforce, and recognising the skill sets that they bring into the workforce.

7 RIF

- Q3 RIF slippage update report
- Capital update report

Siobhan Gothorp, Regional Project Manager, provided an update on the RIF.

At Q3 the spend was just over £17 million, against a projector spend of £21 million, with an underspend of £4.4 million. 152 projects sit under 40 regional schemes within the 6 models of care.

Lead officers continue to report that the three common themes for underspend remain recruitment challenges, delays in invoicing and claims processing, and slower than anticipated project set up times.

At the time of writing this report, 22 schemes have been rated amber, but these are all expected to be green by the end of the January position, with a robust plan in place to spend any slippage.

At the time of writing this report, formal notification has not been received from Welsh Government, on the level of funding for 2022/23 RIF. However, there have been some letters received, confirming some of the elements of the refunding. The level of funding is expected to remain the same, apart from some additional unpaid carers funding, coming into the region.

Welsh Government has advised that, in light of the current system of financial pressures, there will be a temporary relaxation of the tapering requirements, and the match funding requirements, for three of the six models of care. £13.5 million of match funding investment in the current RIF, and just over £11million, around 83%, sits within the three models of care that cannot have the match funding reduced.

The NWRPB allocation for 2022/23 is £14.2m. Eight main schemes have been approved in principle by WG in the October and November HCF panels. These have a total scheme value of around £22.2 million.

It is envisaged that partners will have an additional five schemes to submit to WG by the end of the financial year. These have a total scheme value just over £11.2 million with an anticipated draw down for this financial year of £2.8 million.

Around £6.5 million will be drawn down on objective one and objective two schemes for HCF.

Discretionary Capital programme (DCP) & Disability Facilities Grant (DFG) Funding

WG have advised that funding of up to £711,850 has been awarded to the region to use for DFG schemes. Partners have confirmed that this funding can be spent in full in addition to the £1.423 million DCP allocation which partners have also confirmed will be fully spent.

IRCF Update

Four schemes have been approved in principle by WG via the IRCF Pathfinder and November panel. It is envisaged that partners will have an additional 2 schemes to go to the IRCF Panel by the end of the financial year.

As set out in the Integration and Rebalancing Capital Fund (IRCF) guidance each RPB is required to develop a 10-year Strategic Capital Plan (SCP) that brings together health, social care, housing, third sector, education and regeneration partners to develop integrated service delivery facilities and integrated accommodation-based solutions.

The Regional Team have been working on the appointment of a consultant and research partner to support with the development of the SCP and have appointed Sirius Partners Ltd to develop the SCP, with the submission of a first draft due to WG by 30th April 2023, and the final version to be submitted by 31st July 2023.

Following the nominations being received for the Capital Fund Board, the first meeting will take place on 1st February 2023. The meeting will agree the Terms of reference and confirm the structure and membership for the Capital Steering Group, which is expected to be established for the new financial year.

8 NWRPB – Draft Forward Work Planner 2022-23

The March Regional Partnership Board is a face-to-face meeting at Conwy Business Centre.

Additional items can be raised, to be included on the work program.

Actions

- Future work program items to be shared with CR/ RW

9 Minutes and actions of last meeting – December 2022

The minutes of meeting January 2023 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

10 Any Other Business

Nothing to report.

11 Dates of next meetings

Friday 10th March 2023 – meeting in person at the Conwy Business Centre.