

## Regional Housing Support Collaborative Group (RHSCG) Minutes

June 10<sup>th</sup> 2021 10:00am – 11:30am

Meeting via TEAMS

### Minutes

#### Attendees:

Wendy Hughes – Chair	Julie Llewelyn – Welsh Gov North Wales Relationship Manager (bar Wrexham)
Arwel Jones – Anglesey	Lisa Pearson – Flintshire
Claire Owens – Denbighshire	Martin Cooil – Flintshire
Debbie Williams – Wrexham	Mark Conlan – Probation
Debbie Lambe – Conwy	Nigel Jones - Denbighshire
Elliw Llyr – Anglesey	Paul Firth – Area Planning Board
Elwen Roberts – VAWDASV rep (Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence)	Phil Forbes – Mental Health BCUHB
Emma Wood – Provider Rep	Tim Thomas – NRLA (National Residential Landlords Association)
Gwenan Ellis – Landlord Rep	Rachel Pierce-Jones – RDC (Regional Development Coordinator)
Gwyn Roberts – Gwynedd	

#### Apologies:

Sam Parry – Vice Chair, Diane Jones (OPCC – Office of Police and Crime Commissioner), Linda Hughes – Provider and Landlord rep, Lynne Evans – Provider Rep, Shirley Jones and Tracy Hague from Wrexham, Hedd Tomos – Gwynedd, and Steffan L Williams – Provider Rep.

#### 1. Welcome and Introduction and Declaration of interest:

Chair welcomed all to the meeting and no declaration of interest were raised.

#### 2. Previous Minutes and outstanding actions:

March 26<sup>th</sup> minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

Rachel presented all the actions from the March meeting on the slides, all actions had been completed or on today's agenda.

Review of RHSCG was an action from the last meeting and Rachel covered the outcome of the view. Rachel explained the main outcomes and the main changes members wanted to see were:

- Ensure strong collaboration with other regional groups / meetings

- Rachel ensured all members representing other boards at this meeting would update at today's meeting on said group's current priorities and cross overs with this group.
- Rachel explained that her post as RDC would be invited to the Regional Partnership Boards (RPB) Team Managers meeting once these are up and running. Also have our vice chair as the housing rep on the RPB.
- Increasing the awareness of the RHSCG
  - Rachel updated the translation of our annual statement has now been completed and will be circulated to you all to please share with the wider partnerships and regional meetings you attend to ensure all are aware of who we are at the RHSCG and that they can call upon us for housing expertise and knowledge. **(ACTION)**
- Communication outside of the meeting
  - Rachel has commenced this action and will now e-mail to update us all on any progress made outside of the meeting and any other relevant information worth sharing with members will be done frequently.
  - This is also for members to be mindful of and to do the same.
- Improving / strengthening links with Mental Health services
  - Rachel and Phil Forbes have looked at the feedback received from members regarding this and are meeting outside of this group to discuss how to achieve this goal. **(ACTION)**
  - It is also likely whether a Regional Housing Support Grant (HSG) Strategy is agreed or the next Annual Statement this will be a priority of the RHSCG to progress.
- Rapid Rehousing
  - Members were very keen to ensure this is the meeting we discuss Rapid Rehousing and ensure members actively engage with this agenda item.

### 3. RHSCG Annual Statement Progress:

Rachel shared Paper 2 which is our progress report against each priority area within the Annual Statement. This paper can be requested at any time by members. It is updated for each RHSCG meeting and outside of meetings to update on movement.

### 4. Updates from members on following boards:

- **Area Planning Board (APB)**
- **LITs (Local Information Team) including Housing sub group**
- **Vulnerable and Exploitation Board**
- **Regional Homeless Prevention Taskforce** – Mark Conlan was not present for this agenda item.

#### Area Planning Board:

Paul Firth updated that housing issues are now on the agenda at the APB. Sam Parry our vice chair attends the APB. Cross over is also on the agenda. The APB have agreed they want to be closely involved with the Rapid Rehousing delivery and this will also be an agenda item going forward at the APB meetings. APB interested in how the collaborative outreach workers that are regionally commissioned can support the Rapid Rehousing agenda.

Paul updated the new Police and Crime Commissioner lead will be launching his plan very soon and there is a category within this for vulnerable people. RHSCG to gain links here (**ACTION**).

Paul also added the APB will be re running substance misuse co-occurring training again.

### **LITs and Mental Health:**

Phil Forbes updated on the current set up of the LITs. The LITs – Local Information Teams are an initiative set up by BCUHB from the Healthier Wales funding. This funding has been carried over since the pause of action due to Covid-19. During the pandemic the LITs did step down like most regional groups whilst it was crisis stage. Have recently reviewed the LITs and how these can be reformed, the three LITs are at different stages.

East LIT is now back up and meeting. Central are yet to meet and West have met once where they discussed how they can feed into the APB and ask what priorities are post pandemic from the population. Therefore work plans will more than likely change to pre pandemic.

Off the East LIT sits a Housing sub group. Within this group they have commissioned training for hoarding and therapeutic. This group will be offering this training again soon.

Phil updated that they are also currently devising a video that will be shared by the end of the year outlining all the different Mental Health services that are available.

### **Vulnerability and Exploitation Board:**

Debbie Lambe updated on progress for this board. Rhiannon Edwards is the member that attends this meeting but was not in attendance at today's meeting. Debbie chairs the VAWADSV Commissioning group.

Debbie updated at the next RHSCG can sent the updated strategy and minutes from the previous V&E board for information.

VAWDASV have received core funding of £440,000 and one off needs based of £294,000 and ring fence funding of just over £30,000. At the last RHSCG Debbie did update on the capital money awarded to the VAWADSV Commissioning group of £252,000 which had two from the expressions of interest for properties to be in Conwy.

Debbie and Rhiannon also attend the All Wales VAWDASV meeting and will share updates on this.

## **5. Rapid Rehousing**

Carl Spiller had recently gave a presentation at Wrexham's Housing Support Grant team on Rapid Rehousing and though we asked if he could do the same for the RHSCG unfortunately this was declined due to WG putting on an all Wales webinar for Rapid Rehousing very soon. The idea of this agenda item today was to discuss what Rapid Rehousing means for North Wales, and what will the objective and push be from the RHSCG for this. Each Local Authority (LA) updated where they were up to on the Rapid Rehousing agenda however the main consensus was to await the WG webinar and briefing paper for what is expected from LA's on this. LA's updated:

- Conwy have a Rapid Rehousing Task and Finish Group, looked at the Scottish models and Angus authority was the preferred model. Conwy have also developed a communication plan.
- Wrexham awaiting further WG guidance and having in-house discussions with staff on understanding of Rapid Rehousing.
- Flintshire have done similar background working to Conwy. Martin Cooil had recently spoken to Carl Spiller and updated from conversations had it will be a transitional process and a whole systems change.
- Denbighshire have a social work led team for this agenda.
- Gwynedd similarly looking at Scotland's various models. Gwynedd currently writing a policy for this agenda.
- Anglesey have set up a project approach and incorporating complex cases with dedicated officers.

For the next RHSCG in September we will have more guidance from WG on this item.

## 6. Regional Housing Support Strategy

Rachel updated there has been a lot of discussions outside of this meeting at the Housing Support Grant (HSG) Leads meeting, Cell Leads meeting and the Regional Homelessness Strategy meeting to do a regional HSG strategy this year for the four yearly plan. The same comments were echoed at the RHSCG why do six separate plans when we can do one. And other members and providers at the RHSCG were also in favour of this approach.

It was agreed at the meeting to action that each LA seeks final approval / confirmation to pursue a Regional Strategy. Rachel to e-mail out this action. **(ACTION)**

## 7. Case Studies

Two very powerful case studies were shared at the RHSCG. Two videos, one from Local Solutions about a young girl; Nurjana who was referred to the service as a looked after young person as she did not want to stay in foster care. The video showed the benefits the service had had on Nurjana's life. Lisa Pearson added after the video had finished that Nurjana has gone onto University to study criminology.

The second video was hard viewing but so special in its message of how amazing HSG funded services are. In this instance the praise was all on the provider NACRO, a gentleman from this service had a video message explaining how he was supported during the pandemic. Rachel added it is important providers keep sending these in as they really do show everyone round the table the importance of the HSG funding.

### **Any other business:**

Wendy raised an increase in presentations due to people being sent to Holyhead by the Port and Police due to PCR Covid test requirements. Had 15 last week at Digartref. Elliw was aware of the situation but not the increase in numbers again recently and will pick this back up. Digartref having

to give out sleeper packs and have ran out of food supplies on one occasion. Becoming an additional cost for Anglesey due to the PCR.

Tim Thomas updated NRLA with Cymorth Cymru have set up a Welsh Housing First Network to support Housing First and help maximise the private sector. Have a joint blog. This was circulated at the meeting and after by e-mail. Attached to the blog is a guide for PRS landlords and an element of strong business cases that have been endorsed by the social landlord scheme.

Wendy also raised the Social Care Recognition Payment Scheme. All members were clearly tired of the ever changing supplementary guidance for this scheme and how it is excluding a lot of front facing staff from the pandemic. Julie Llewelyn explained this was a Social Care Payment and Sarah Rhodes does attend the meetings for this item and has raised concerns that have been shared from HSG. The RHSCG raised a final supplementary guidance is required and that is unfair how not all who should be awarded will not be.

**Date of next meeting:** September 24<sup>th</sup> 2021 at 10:00am – 12:00pm

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