

North Wales Regional Collaborative Committee

Minutes of Meeting held on March 8th 2019

<p>Present: Lynne Evans (LE), NW Housing (Vice Chair)</p> <p>Cllr Alun Mummery, Anglesey CC Elliw Llyr, Anglesey CC Arwel Jones, Anglesey CC Arwel Wyn Owen (AO), Gwynedd CC Debbie Lambe, Conwy CBC Abbe Harvey, Denbighshire CC Lisa Pearson, Flintshire Shirley Jones, Wrexham CBC Phil Forbes, Health (MH)</p>	<p>Gwenan Ellis, Grwp Cynefin Gwynne Jones, Cartrefi Conwy Wendy Hughes, Digartref Ynys Mon Andy Roberts, Clwyd Alyn Glynne Roberts, Public Health Wales Neal Cockerton, Flintshire CC</p> <p>Rachel Pierce-Jones, Regional Development Coordinator Paul Webb, Welsh Government Liz Cook, Welsh Government</p>
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		Action
1.	Introduction and Welcome	
	<p>Lynne Evans chaired today's meeting in Enid's absence. Introductions were given for additional speakers on the agenda, Paul Webb and Liz Cook from Welsh Government.</p> <p>Update regarding RCC Membership: Siwan Lloyd Williams provider rep on the RCC has moved on to a new working venture and will no longer be a provider rep on the RCC, Thank you Siwan for your commitment and efforts to this post from both the RCC and the RCC Sub Group.</p> <p>Rachel advised Cymorth are responsible for recruiting this vacant position for the RCC.</p> <p>Apologies: Enid Roberts, CCG (Chair) Cllr Craig ab Iago, Gwynedd CC Sheila Phillips, Gwynedd CC Cllr Liz Roberts, Conwy CBC Sam Parry, Conwy CBC Cllr. Bobby Feeley, Denbighshire CC Katie Owen, Denbighshire CC Cllr Bernie Attridge, Flintshire CC Cllr Joan Lowe, Wrexham CBC Jono Clarke, Probation Gareth Evans, Health</p> <p>Reminder – if you know you are unable to attend in advance please let Rachel know in good time, not the day or day of the RCC.</p>	
2.	Previous Minutes and Table of Actions	
	Minutes were agreed as an accurate record pending minor amendments. Actions have all been completed.	RPJ
3.	Paul Webb – Welsh Government Update	
	<p>Paul Webb was in attendance to give an update on the Housing Support Grant, Outcomes Framework and the recent Housing Support Grant Engagement Events.</p> <p>Paul gave a brief introduction to how we have the HSG grant, (which has been covered in the November RCC minutes) and reminded the RCC that it is binding until the end of term for this administration. This is a transitional year for 2019/20, during this period WG</p>	

will be developing the guidance for this grant and doing it co-productively which was the reason for the engagement events.

Paul touched upon the Rent Smart Wales element of the HSG Grant, around 275K and this is mainly for action against those landlords who aren't signing up to it. Within the HSG Grant Paul advised private sector standards enforcement is included, hence the reasoning to bring Rent Smart Wales into it.

Under Rent Smart Wales, Shirley from Wrexham Council raised she met with colleagues from Housing Standards and asked could some of the funding be used for promoting Rent Smart Wales? Paul could not confirm and asked that we e-mail this to him for him to confirm.

Autumn – expect a draft Guidance

Steering Group meeting next week to look at all of the notes from the HSG Engagement Events, early thoughts from the events:

- Increase service user involvement at project level, planning level and for service users voice to come into the equation more
- Supporting People have tried to provide governance through Regional Committees? *Paul explained mixed messages from the regions for RCC's some have worked some haven't, not all have been successful, some questioning why do we bother with regional work? Majority is though saying regional working is of value.*
- Regional working is of value but RCC's not always achieving this? *How do we improve this? Do we take a different stance?*
- Housing Related Support is easy to define, hard to define Homeless Prevention very vast in what it can deliver.
- How we integrate RCC's? Future relationships between RCC and RPB and PSB's?
- Housing related support continues to deliver important projects

There will be another round of stakeholder events, possible a more focused audience. These will be in the summer.

Seeing Directors of Social Services next week (11 Mar 2019)

Outcomes Framework:

The draft funding alignment Outcomes Framework was shared by Welsh Government last week, Rachel will resend this to all members.

Paul explained that the Outcomes will be for local authorities to provide to WG. They are conscious there is a lot of need for management information, this is not for WG to collect, for LA's to collect to essentially answer are our projects doing what they should be doing. Discussion at the RCC today was WG could say to each LA collect what you want for your authority and the other argument was to agree Regionally what to collect, so regionally could benchmark to see what we need etc.

LA's are to continue to collect current Outcomes for this year but not to submit to WG.

Also a transitional year for the Outcomes framework, there will be a data group.

SPNAB met this week and the main outcomes of this meeting were to expand its membership to cover all HSG and to continue the Finance and Research Group and task it with the Outcomes Framework.

Draft Outcomes Framework for the HSG are designed around the Future Generations

SJ and PW

RPJ

	<p>Act.</p> <p>Potential for all 22 LAs to set own management information.</p> <p>Outcomes – look at getting information from Single Pathway information held. DL has asked if Lead Officers want to meet as a region to look at how we collect the information going forward. Agenda for next Sub Group.</p> <p>Minimal / Core requirements and discretion on other elements. Consider all other grants participants when looking at this.</p> <p>Paul added that WG would welcome us to advise him what we discuss / decide to share in terms of local/regional outcomes with WG.</p> <p>Rachel to agenda Consistency for the next RCC Sub Group meeting, in relation to what performance and outcomes data we collect, whether it be locally, regionally?</p> <p>Redistribution: Karl Thomas in WG is leading on this. Rachel added he has been in touch to get a date in the diary to meet with officers to discuss this issue with North Wales.</p> <p>Paul advised Karl is managing this piece of research on the Redistribution, Karl to look at what's the existing, what's happened? Test the Aylward formula? Is it still current? And gathering the views to make a decision to take in November.</p> <p>Paul gave a brief background to redistribution (which can be found in his last update in the minutes from the November RCC), this was raised in the WAO recommendations, it is an incoherent distribution and we cannot say it is fair to all and have to look into this. However, North Wales argue we are being penalised for doing our jobs properly by maximising the pot as instructed to do so.</p> <p>Paul explained that the reason for visiting redistribution is service users in other regions cannot access services and WG have to balance this out. Aware there will be direct impacts. Paul advised part of the consideration will include what is fair? How can we mitigate the impact? WG won't make decisions without understanding all of the implications.</p> <p>Redistribution done against the whole HSG Grant (not affecting the Rent Smart Wales money).</p> <p>Size of the gap? Paul only had pre Aylward figures to hand - £30 per capita against £80 per capita. Part of Karl's work to update these figures to present day.</p> <p>The RCC asked WG to consider that projects cost more in North Wales, a lot of training is offered in South Wales only and that is a day of officer's time, plus travel and the cost of travel.</p> <p>Outcome of Redistribution discussion, Rachel to schedule a meeting for RCC members to pull a case together to show the impact, Paul Webb to be invited. Prior to this meeting Rachel to draft an impact paper.</p>	<p>DL to PW</p> <p>RPJ</p> <p>RPJ</p>
4.	<p>Liz Cook – Welsh Government Update</p>	
	<p>Liz Cook attended today to give an update on the Learning Disabilities agenda. Liz explained she has been bought into the Housing department to look at the HSG Grant and the WAO report which highlighted some issues for the client group LD.</p> <p>The recommendation within the WAO report stated for WG to work with RCC's on the</p>	

	<p>LD eligibility concerns. Due to last year with the majority of WG time being taken up with EIPS, Liz explained it is now being picked up, and that WG need to come up with a response to the WAO. Liz also explained now we are in the year of the HSG grant the LD issue is wider, WG are now looking at whether the LD spend needs to go directly to Social Services and be funded that way.</p> <p>Liz will be contacting local authorities to see what funding there is, where it comes from and for any differences between local authority allocations to LD. There will be stakeholder engagement sessions and that is why Liz has attended today as well as attending the RCC Sub Group in February.</p> <p>WG aim to give their response to WAO by the summer of this year. Liz added WG will look to remove the funding rather than LA removing it, if that's the mechanism agreed for LD to be routed through. Decision to the Minister in November. Aligning with the Redistribution.</p> <p>The argument re Maximising the Pot was argued here for LD agenda, pre 2012 these were eligible services and we were asked to maximise the pot which we did. Paul added but at the time we didn't have the understanding of what we know Housing related Support is today and did we realise we were subsidising for Social Services?</p> <p>The RCC asked that with what the decision will be that a lengthy transitional period is granted.</p> <p>Liz explained WG are looking at transferring the money to Social Services not taking the money out and away from the Provider.</p> <p>A lot of political elements within Social Services to consider.</p> <p>Rachel explained the ineligibles piece of work the RCC completed in 2014 for LD is currently being updated by lead officers and will be sent to Liz beginning of April for information.</p>	<p>RPJ</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Work Plan Update</p>	
	<p>Rachel updated on the priority areas within the 2017-20 Regional Strategic Plan and where we are up to. Five priority areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Learning Disabilities 2. Prison Leavers 3. Mental Health 4. Domestic Abuse 5. Rough Sleepers / Housing First <p>Learning Disabilities: Completed the work plan for this in 2017. Re visiting for Liz Cook's work in GW, currently updating the paper for this.</p> <p>Prison Leavers: Rachel to invite the Prison Resettlement Officers to a future RCC Sub group and Jono Clarke from Probation. Revisit other recommendations from the research paper at this meeting.</p> <p>Mental Health: Have met what we set out to do in identifying training gaps for BCUHB to action.</p> <p>Domestic Abuse: Funding has been allocated from each LA to a Regional IDVA service, pending final sign off from some LA Planning Groups.</p>	<p>RPJ</p>

	<p>De-Merger of Welsh Women's Aid – Conwy and Wrexham have approved the novation of the contract to DASU.</p> <p>Rough Sleepers / Housing First: Opportunity here to make links with the Rough Sleepers agenda within the Regional Homelessness Strategy. Such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting StreetLink app • Changing perceptions of stereotypes • Data sets to collect around why people refuse accommodation • Understanding need more. <p>Other piece of work following today's meeting – Redistribution.</p>	
6.	Analysis of the service user feedback questionnaire	
	<p>Paper 2 was shared with the RCC, this analysis has also been shared with WG and Cymorth.</p> <p>Rachel went through the analysis, stressed that this was a snapshot for the first month, questionnaire is still live.</p> <p>Rachel explained for 140 service users to complete this questionnaire shows there is a want to give feedback on this sort of work, not consultations on a Regional Strategic Plan this is relatable to service users.</p> <p>The questionnaire will be changing slightly to add the optional question of who is your Provider, as the "any other comments" box was being used heavily to praise their Provider. The Questionnaire will also include the feeling safe outcomes question and to add an additional question to support the Paid Employment outcomes area question and for us to ask "Did you want support for this".</p> <p>97% would recommend the service they have received. Rachel read some of the testimonies and paid particular focus to the responses to "Where would you be without this service?" as this was powerful evidence to support the need for the Supporting People programme. Rachel read out of 102:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 said they'd be in prison • 39 said they'd be on the streets • 10 said they'd be sofa surfing • 4 said they be in a B&B • And 15 said they'd be dead. <p>The analysis was well received by the RCC. Paul gave some observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good that we have done this • Gives a good analysis of the work of North Wales • Mirrors what comes out of Cymorth service user events • Reinforces that SP is invaluable • In the context of Children's and Communities Grant this contains funding for "access to work" and these grants are supposed to be aligning, could we do more here? • Need to show how we make a plan to move onto training / education? • Need to publicise wider. <p>RCC Observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does SP do? This answers it. • Agree need to circulate it more widely • List the providers involved 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add the question “what areas can we improve” <p>Please could all RCC members circulate this more widely?</p>	RPJ ALL
7.	Proposals – future RCC Structures and Membership	
	<p>Paper 3 was circulated with the minutes. This outlined a proposal to make changes to the membership of the RCC. However the agreed outcome following discussion was to invite Homeless Prevention leads to the RCC meetings.</p> <p>Observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional working across HSG – C&CG focuses on locally and moves away from the regional focus Focus has shifted locally in working with C&CG colleagues Current guidance applies Challenges – how can you have a voice on what HSG should look like and how to start to work on regional working for HSG Homeless Strategies current and LCP – 2021 What would it mean to have the two documents combined Can work regionally to achieve outcomes Opportunities to work regionally with the homelessness strategy Link with C&CG when crisis over to enter into employment etc What would homelessness strategy and SP strategy look like <p>Arwel, GCC suggested we extend membership rather than change the two groups</p> <p>Agreed to extend the groups.</p> <p>Rachel to arrange inviting additional members to the July RCC.</p>	RPJ
8.	North Wales RCC Spend Plan	
	Awaiting spend plan from WG to pull together the North Wales spend plan, to be rescheduled.	
9.	Standard Agenda Items	
	Conwy and Denbighshire Housing First Update	
	Manager has been recruited Susan Stephenson, will be interviewing for support workers shortly.	
	Local authority preparation for HSG	
	Rachel did not receive an update from each LA to pull a regional paper together. Paul reminded LA’s have sent their delivery plans to WG could these be used? Rachel to re agenda for July.	RPJ
	Case Study Video	
	<p>Andy Roberts from Clwyd Alyn kindly provided the RCC with a video today showcasing the work that ResFest do each year and have been doing since 2008. This is an event purely for the service users with a themed event each year (i.e. Drugs and Alcohol Wellbeing etc.)</p> <p>Rachel to send the video to all members.</p> <p>Rachel to e-mail and find service user video for the next RCC.</p> <p>Under this item, Lynne Evans shared Digartref’s recent appearance on BBC Cymru last night, a 15 minute documentary called Hostel Sweet Hostel with the service users</p>	RPJ RPJ

	<p>showing their stories and the stigmas they have come across. Digartref will also be on comic relief next Friday.</p> <p>Rachel to send link to Hostel Sweet Hostel. The film is also available on iPlayer.</p> <p>Arwel raised Digartref have also had 'Alfie's Army', Gareth Thomas ex Wales Rugby player selected Digartref out of 100 providers, and the task was to find challenging young people to complete the Cardiff Half Marathon which they all successfully completed, two even went on to join running clubs.</p>	RPJ
10.	Any Other Business	
	None raised.	
	<p>Date of next meeting – July 12th 2019 10:00am – 12:00pm Porth Eirias, Promenade, Colwyn Bay, Conwy, LL29 8HH</p>	

Table of actions

	Action	Who	Status
1	Amend previous Minutes – amend Siwan Lloyd Williams and Gwenan Ellis provider names, and correction to Debbie Lambe’s name.	RPJ	Completed
2	Resend the Draft Outcomes Framework	RPJ	Completed
3	Paul Webb to confirm can Rent Smart Wales funding be spent on promoting Rent Smart Wales? Rachel to e-mail to Paul Webb	RPJ	Awaiting response from Paul
4	SP lead Officer meeting – to discuss Outcomes Framework. Debbie Lambe to let Paul Webb know what the outcome was for data collection?	DL	
5	Agenda Consistency for the next RCC Sub Group	RPJ	Completed
	Arrange an RCC meeting for Redistribution	RPJ	
	Prior to the Redistribution meeting Rachel to draft a paper on the impact of redistribution	RPJ	
8	Lead Officers to update 2014 paper re LD and Ineligibles	RPJ	Request has been sent
9	Rachel to send updated paper to Liz Cook for LD	RPJ	
10	Rachel to invite Prison Resettlement Officers to a future sub group and Jono Clarke	RPJ	
11	Service User Questionnaire – add: “What areas can we improve?”	RPJ	Completed
12	Invite Homelessness Leads on to the RCC, start from July	RPJ	Completed Awaiting response from Wrexham
13	Send ResFest Video	RPJ	Completed
14	Rachel to e-mail out for service user video for the next RCC	RPJ	Completed
15	Send link to RCC members for Hostel Sweet Hostel	RPJ	Completed