

**Mid & West Wales
Supporting People Programme
Regional Collaborative Committee**

**Thursday, 8 March 2018, 10:00am
The Plough Inn, Rhosmaen, Llandeilo SA19 6NP**

Present:

RCC Members:

Cllr Catherine Hughes, Chair (CH)
Sharon Court, Vice Chair (SC)
Dr Gareth Morgan (GM)
Cllr Jane Tremlett (JM)
Jay Crouch, Deputy (JC)
Chris Harrison (ChH)
Jonathan Willis, Deputy (JW)
Paul Webb (PW)

Ceredigion County Council
Pobl
Hywel Dda University Health Board
Carmarthenshire County Council
Family Housing Association
Pembrokeshire County Council
Carmarthenshire County Council
Welsh Government

RCC Advisor:

Alun Jones (AJ)
Esther Grey (EG)
Gary Proven (GP)
Adrian Jones (AdJ)
Anna Henchie (AH)

Carmarthenshire County Council
Pembrokeshire County Council
Ceredigion County Council
Powys County Council
Ceredigion County Council

RDC

Beverly B Davies (BD)

Regional Development Coordinator

Apologies:

Sue Thomas (ST)
Simon Inkson (SI)
Cllr Tessa Hodgson (TH)
Ian Randell (IA)
Louise Webster (LW)
Neil Edwards (NE)
David Harris (DH)
Necia Lewis (NL)
Carys James (CJ)

Ceredigion County Council
Powys County Council
Pembrokeshire County Council
Pembrokeshire County Council
Wales and West Housing Association
Carmarthenshire County Council
OPCC
Hafan Cymru
Ceredigion County Council

ITEM	MINUTES/ACTIONS	LEAD
Welcome, Introductions and Apologies	Cllr Hughes welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made and apologies were noted (see above)	CH
1. Minutes of the Last Meeting & Matters Arising	<p>The accuracy of the minutes were agreed</p> <p>Action Summary from previous meeting (14/12/2017)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MoU - There is no need to amend and sign the MoU for 2017/18; MoU is being updated and will be made available this year • ChH to pick up a discussion with the new RDC and M. Palfreman (MP) with regards to regional priorities and overlaps between programmes <p>BD & MP met and discussed the nature of two programmes and agreed to exchange Plans/documents to map priorities and overlaps between programmes; MP to deliver presentation about WW Partnership Board and its Area Plan in the next RCC meeting</p> <p>CH conveyed that what the RCC aims to achieve from MP is to see duplications and how these can be reduced, to see how SP fits in their Area Plan and vice versa</p> <p>ChH stated that the Area Plan is reflecting the SP 's strategic priority on prevention, it focuses on re-enablement and long term recovery, SP will be able to align strongly with the preventive element of the Area Plan; the Area Plan is still going through scrutiny and approval and is targeted to be published by the 1st of April</p> <p>It will be good for all if MP is able to discuss the Area Plan in the RCC</p> <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RDC to summarise the strategic frameworks within the region - not started <p>BD to re-arrange a meeting with ChH, SC, RE and DrGM</p> <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forward to the RCC the newsletter Diane has produced and distributed after the SU Involvement Event; ongoing AJ to move this forward • On Regional Agreement on Management Charges, not started 	<p>All</p> <p>BD</p> <p>BD</p> <p>AJ</p>

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<p>Action</p> <p>Action</p>	<p>AJ to forward to all providers in the region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Spurs – SP Team in Carmarthenshire to prioritise the completion of the project definitions, ongoing <p>Teams have put the definitions together, waiting for a few to be translated and will be ready to be sent to SPURS</p>	<p>AJ</p> <p>AJ</p>
<p>2. WG Update Funding Flexibility and Supported Housing</p>	<p>CH welcomed Paul Webb</p> <p>There is an intention to publish the Guidance document in the summer 2018. The Guidance is informed by consultation responses and is aimed to provide awareness on funding flexibilities and the implications for SP moving forward. No decisions have been taken but there is clear direction of travel around more integrated ground work which (whatever form) will affect SP in the future. It is necessary to put the Guidance in order to put SP on an updated footing.</p> <p>Outcomes Framework Given that there is a need to look at the outcomes on a broader framework covering all of the grants, it is much more useful to use the information gathered through the consultation to inform that work, there will be no update on SP outcomes framework</p> <p>Funding Flexibilities (FF) This has been a significant matter of concern and to address this, engagement and discussions around FF has been taken place. There is a fundamental shift that is taking over the agenda for SP in many respects.</p> <p>An important part of the decision making around FF was the requirement that there is a need for LAs to spend the same on SP as they are currently spending unless they demonstrate that they can deliver the same level of service. This is a significant policy decision taken by the Welsh Ministers in recognition of the deal done by parties and of the concerns that have been expressed around supporting people.</p> <p>It was recognised that there are advantages of integration, which is the freedom to look at early intervention and prevention work in the most strategic fashion; that there is a lot of work involved; that there are balance of risks; and to expect a lot of engagement and conversations with colleagues</p>	

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	<p>The Supported Accommodation Review Affects the money that is currently paid out to housing benefits for rents and service charges within fixed-site supported housing; because Universal Credit will be the mechanism for paying welfare in the future and so on, UK Government intends to transfer the service charges, rent, local allowances to Wales, for Wales to distribute appropriately</p> <p>In Wales, we get the full transfer for the rent and service charges, that means all of the funding for short-term fixed-site supported accommodation will be within the control of Wales; WG will come up with a mechanism for distributing the money and terms and conditions</p> <p>WG has been through a series of co-productive engagements with ministers around developing change; series of engagements events to be held in April around the next stage which is to consider the options Five options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Money to go to Revenue Resettlement Grant (RSG) 2. Money to go in with the Funding Flexibilities, early interventions and preventions 3. Ring-fence grant for SP 4. Ring-fence grant mechanism for its own distributed locally 5. Ring-fence grant mechanism for its own distributed nationally <p>Implementation date is April 2020, to develop the policy and recommendations this financial year</p> <p>Q&A CH appreciated the presence from the WG PW affirmed that WG arranged meetings with RCC Chairs, Vice-Chairs and RDCs to discuss how they can relate to the RCCs given how the FF work</p> <p>Q: How can Mid and West Wales get involved with Pathfinders?</p> <p>Action A: Depends on what sort of engagement LAs want; all of these is about the direction of travel of intervention and prevention, we have ring-fenced single grant mechanism that would encompass SP and all the 10 grants, and that would have a single set of grant specification and outcomes framework; on that stage it will not be a two-tier system, it will apply across the board to everybody. The FF pilots are for WG and LAs to learn.</p>	

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	<p>If the engagement sought after is how do we understand the progress of LAs, PW is not entirely sure but having gone through the process of looking at the delivery plan, what was found out is that there are differences in the progress between 7 pathfinders authorities, some are reasonably advanced having a strategic overview of the 10 programmes, others do have a plan but are not there yet</p> <p>It is important that the other non-pathfinders understand how does that going to work, governance structure, how to review to grant to understand synergies; RCC can learn from some of the pathfinders areas but they are not necessarily advanced with regards to FF</p> <p>Q: What are the 7 Pathfinders areas? A: Bridgend, Cardiff, Conwy, Merthyr, Newport, RCT And Torfaen</p> <p>Q: How did WG decide on those pathfinders areas? A: Based on LAs coming to the WG and asking for that flexibility; it was a response by the WG to the advances of the LAs</p> <p>Q: The 7 LAs do not compare to the Mid and West Wales region in terms of geography, size, culture and diversity, if FF is to be ruled out, will it take into account those differences? Mid and West Wales is the only RCC that has no Pathfinder; RCC needs to get understanding from the pilot LAs and be able to discuss that in this forum or other forum and see how that will impact LAs in the region. A: PW to take this conversation back to his FF colleagues and ask how they can make sure the LA Pathfinders are linked in with RCCs for shared learning; to come back with an answer</p> <p>Q: What is the rationale around FF? A: The driving thinking behind FF were: (1) austerity, to make best of funding available; (2) the recognition of circumstances where there are families and individuals that receive complex support – to close the gap and avoid duplication (3) WG mechanism and administrative cost are great as it were</p> <p>Q: SP grant is predominantly for adult services and there is a risk of sucking a lot of SP grant towards services for children and young. A: One of the challenges identified by WG is how to stop SP funding being leached into statutory budgets; how to</p>	<p>PW (BD)</p>

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	<p>balance across certain needs; how do we make sure that there is a proper balance across the needs. For example, ACEs is a common issue but is a generational issue. Making a strategic decision where to prioritise is a challenge.</p> <p>How do we design a grant mechanism? How do WG hold LA into account to the outcomes they deliver? How do WG make sure that LAs have the needs assessment to inform strategic decisions? WG is working on these questions/implications.</p> <p>Q: Is the Health Advice being reflected in conversations around FF? There will be implications and possibly opportunities for NHS. A: Unsure how the FF will affect NHS and will come back to GM with specific answer. There is clear intention to see how this grant will affect the prevention of health and social care further down the line. Whilst essential part of the thinking, PW is not entirely sure of details.</p> <p>GM encouraged PW to engage with 3 key external health organisations (1) Public Health Wales, (2) Rep from Health Board (3) Ambulance Service to get a full spectrum of health input</p> <p>Q: What would be the role of RCC in the new FF? A: What WG does not want to do is lose the gains made through regional working of SP while moving into a Single Grant mechanism; currently, the intention is to keep the RCC doing what they do at the moment at least until the new grant structure is decided; Welsh ministers will still be looking for advice from RCC and wants to maintain the advantages gained from regional working; the landscape, however, may change depending on how mechanism will pan out</p> <p>Action PW to pick up discussion with colleagues on how to share ideas from the 7 pathfinders to non-pathfinders and will get back in couple of weeks</p> <p>PW is aware that there are a lot of questions and difficult for people; and he can only apologise for the uncertainties. It is important to say that what WG manage to secure is the ongoing funding for SP at its existing level which means all the responsibilities on the ground still remain</p> <p>Q: Do the Pathfinder areas feed back to their RCCs? A: PW is not aware of conversations around Pathfinder in</p>	<p>PW (BD)</p> <p>PW (BD)</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Action</p>	<p>SC raised the question on how we can improve the handling of underspend to ensure that we don't get in the position, to invest underspend rather than return the money and to safeguard the SP funding. There is a concern that WG may interpret underspend as SP not needing it.</p> <p>All LAs do not expect any issues on underspend but there is an agreement that underspending is difficult to predict.</p> <p>ChH queried if there are data available to check the average of void level. AJ stated that in Carmarthenshire, an exercise was carried out with the accountant and the average is 3%. This was confirmed by budget monitoring but remains a guesstimate.</p> <p>CH, SC, and BD to raise prospect of flexibility in Spend Plan at the meeting with the WG on the 30th of April, 2018.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CH/ SC/BD</p>
<p>6. Commissioning and Procurement: Services for those who are deaf/with hearing difficulties</p>	<p>Report from AdJ</p> <p>Powys carried out a small project of supporting 12 people who are deaf and with hearing difficulties. It looked at the needs of service users (SU) and what matters to them. The project was carried over 2 years, a slow and intimate process. The 12 SUs lived about 100 miles away and in small cluster in Llandrindod. There was a large travel time involved.</p> <p>Themes</p> <p>SUs need great deal of support in banking, getting employment, social life, volunteering, benefit applications, bills and other domestic needs. Accessing the bank and GP is a major operation and social life is very difficult</p> <p>No support needs specialised skills. Looked at local interpreters that clients know and trust them; considered the differences in BSL dialects to ensure clearer communication between clients and GPs and service providers</p> <p>60% of demands are delivered on SMS/text messages; there are face to face support but can be difficult. Some support are urgent; for example, in rural areas, SP are their lifeline. Over 40% of demands have multiple causes to them, unsurprising to people who are isolated; i.e. help with benefits, sorting out utility bills, and emotional and other hidden aspects that come with it</p>	

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	<p>Travel and accessibility is an issue; i.e., payment for travel expenses to the hospital in England for client with cancer, filling in forms, access to DWP</p> <p>What matters to them: ‘Are we listened to?’, ‘Do you do as I say?’, ‘Are we kept informed?’, ‘Do we stay in control?’ and ‘I want social life.’</p> <p>Took these themes on board when redesigning the service and these needed more resources.</p> <p>Learning The initial demand does not mean real demand and we need to look deeper. Demand may not be complex, the communication can make a low level demand complex. It is important for people to receive face-to-face service. It is handy and develops trust. There needs to look at demands from the clients’ perspectives. British Sign Language is not universal.</p> <p>Designing service can be a challenge. Powys is the only area taking this on board. The project is worth it because delivers findings and information.</p> <p>Action SP Teams to map services/specialities available in the areas, how people access services, barriers in access and look how SP can tap what we already got</p> <p>Action AdJ to send the summary and key points made in the presentation to BD</p>	<p>SP Teams</p> <p>AdJ</p>
<p>7. Homelessness Strategy</p>	<p>JW informed the RCC that the Housing Team Leads are meeting on the 13th March to revisit regional homelessness strategy. The strategy will reflect the regional prevention approach and support for those who are homeless. There is an opportunity to revisit a regional strategy and there are many reasons to operate regionally because there are similarities between LAs, shared expertise and similar providers, stakeholder engagement, and data gathered.</p> <p>Action To include Homelessness Strategy and brief presentation of progress from housing team leads in the June Meeting</p>	<p>Sue T., Simon I., Jonathan M, Kerry M.</p>
<p>8. Outcomes and Performance Management</p>	<p>Providers – no update</p> <p>Landlord Reps – no updates</p>	

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<p>Updates:</p> <p>LA Officers Providers Landlord Reps</p>	<p>LA officers</p> <p>Ceredigion – There is transformation in structure within Social Care taking on board the WG review on SP, Ceredigion is mindful of contractual obligations and documentation, looking at works rumbling for the last 14 months, i.e., engagement with SUs, met with Flying Start and Families First colleagues in light of Flexible Funding, met Housing Colleagues and look at where SP sits in; started mapping gaps in corporate perspectives rather than just SP, identified the things that need to work on</p> <p>Pembrokeshire – Status-quo in the past few months In line with outcomes, learned to improve ways of recording and monitoring, started looking at best practice across providers; the process of validation has not been ruled out before and is something new SP Business case for additional capacity has been put forward and has been agreed for SP to recruit 3 additional staff</p> <p>Powys – SP is moving to Social Services, part of the transformation of commissioning</p> <p>Carmarthenshire – undertaken strategic reviews with the planning group, over the next two years, SP will go through contract exceptions and procedures to be able that to happen, undertaken strategic reviews around substance misuse and prison leavers, there was change in thinking and process on how to deliver these services</p>	
<p>9. Annual Review</p> <p>Action</p> <p>Action</p> <p>Action</p>	<p>Annual Review to be submitted to the WG in June 2018</p> <p>Template was circulated to all, all members to review the template</p> <p>BD to send questionnaires to all members in April</p> <p>ALL members to complete and return questionnaires to BD</p> <p>Chair, Vice Chair, SP Team Leads and RDC to meet to discuss overview of the Annual Review</p>	<p>All</p> <p>BD All CH/SC/ BD</p>
<p>10.AOB</p>	<p>BBV to be decommissioned</p> <p>GM updated the RCC of the HB position on BBV No position from HDHB yet; because of the nature of the service, BBV was escalated to two executives</p>	

ITEM	MINUTES/ACTIONS	LEAD
Action	To complete Impact Assessment	EG
Action	Three months' notice to be given to Gwalia one week today	EG
11. Dates of next meeting	Thursday, 7 June 2018 Thursday, (TBA) September, 2018 Thursday, 13 December, 2018 Thursday, 21 February 2019	

DRAFT

Prepared by: BD