

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

**Thursday, 27th September 2018, 10:00am
The Plough Inn, Rhosmaen, Llandeilo SA19 6NP**

Present:

RCC Members:

Cllr Alun Williams (Cllr AW)
Cllr Pat Davies (Cllr PD)
Dr Gareth Morgan (GM)
Sue Thomas (ST)
Emily James (EJ)
Jonathan Morgan (JM)
Rob Powell (RP)
Jason Smith (JS)
Louise Webster (LW)
David Tovey (DT)
Guy Evans (GE)
Caroline Davies (CD)
Christine Harley (CH)

Ceredigion County Council (CC)
Pembrokeshire CC
Hywel Dda University Health Board
Ceredigion CC
Pembrokeshire CC
Carmarthenshire CC
Powys CC
Providers and Landlords Rep
Probation

External/Presenters

Michael Smith (MS)
Julie Llewellyn (JL)
Rob Owen (RO)
Joy Williams (JoW)
Chris Price (CP)

Regional Cohesion Coordinator
Welsh Government
Welsh Government
Supporting People Network

RCC Advisor:

Alun Jones (AJ) (Temp Chair)
Joy James (JJ)
Gary Proven (GP)
Adrian Jones (AdJ)
Anna Henchie (AH)

Carmarthenshire CC
Pembrokeshire CC
Ceredigion CC
Powys CC
Ceredigion CC

RDC

Beverly B Davies (BD)

Regional Development Coordinator

Apologies:

Cllr. Jane Tremlett (Chair)
Rachael Eagles (Vice-Chair)
Cllr. James Evans (JE)
Stuart Bourne (SB)
Simon Inkson (SI)
David Harris (DH)

Carmarthenshire County Council
CALANDVS
Powys CC
Powys Teaching Health Board
Powys County Council
OPCC

ITEM	MINUTES/ACTIONS	LEAD
<p>1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</p>	<p>Apologies were received from the Chair and the Vice-Chair; AJ asked if anyone from the group would be interested to chair the meeting. AJ chaired the meeting. AJ welcomed everybody, particularly the new members, to the RCC Meeting. All made their self-introductions. BD cited the apologies.</p>	<p>AJ</p> <p>All BD</p>
<p>2. Minutes of the Last Meeting & Matters Arising</p>	<p>The Minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and agreed to be accurate except for Item on Page 7 – ‘Housing (Wales) Act 2014’ instead of ‘Housing (Wales) Act 2015’.</p> <p>Action The RDC to amend page 7</p> <p>Actions from last meeting were reviewed and all were marked as completed.</p> <p>Action As requested by DT, AJ to send copy of the Management Charges to DT and all new members not present in previous meeting.</p>	<p>BD</p> <p>AJ</p>
<p>3. Declarations of Interest</p>	<p>No declaration of interest was raised</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>4. Presentation: Homelessness Strategy</p>	<p>CP helped Powys and Carmarthenshire undertake their homelessness reviews and has worked with all 4 authorities to draft the over-arching regional strategy.</p> <p>CP delivered a quick summary of the strategy being developed. It was emphasised that the Regional Homelessness Strategy offers a broad direction and that all LAs have different needs and, therefore, have different priorities. The Strategy is fluid, is a working strategy, and engages with stakeholders. Action plans are expected to change as they evolve.</p> <p>Focus of the Strategy is around prevention of homelessness rather than emergency response. As a result, it is expected to see reduction in the number of homelessness.</p> <p>It was recognised that people have complex needs over and above simple housing needs. The Strategy, therefore, looks at making all agencies work together.</p> <p>Supporting People has a key role in the strategy for homelessness prevention. Details of the Plan will be made available later.</p>	<p>CP</p>

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	<p>Priority 1: To continue to evolve and harness community-based services to assist in the prevention of homelessness</p> <p>Priority 2: By using intelligence, to explore how we can focus support to households in those localities which are producing the highest proportion of homelessness cases in order to prevent it</p> <p>CP cited an example or evidence that requires Homelessness to work with partners in localities – over half of all households who are at risk of becoming homeless are in 10 out of 58 wards in Carmarthenshire. It means that there are specific pockets of the Local Authority where homelessness are occurring; and if Homelessness will have to collaborate with Health and Social Services, there will be a need to present this kind of evidence.</p> <p>GM raised the question whether the households in those wards with high level of homelessness were from those wards or a drift from other wards.</p> <p>CP confirmed that those wards were the addresses people had when they presented themselves homeless.</p> <p>GM emphasised that people did not necessarily grow up in those wards but these areas that normally have high level of deprivation, may have low quality private rented housing that attract people and families with needs, for example, broken down families.</p> <p>DT asked whether hotspots are mainly rural or urban. CP confirmed that wards with high level of homelessness are mainly urban.</p> <p>Priority 3: To utilise IT systems and technology to prevent homelessness by ensuring systems are in place which flag up issues early to trigger help and advice as early as possible</p> <p>CP stated that Ceredigion already has a system in place which allows households and agencies to upload their housing needs online. It is not known yet how this system contributes to homelessness prevention in Ceredigion but there is evidence that the number of homelessness in the area is going down. ST concurred. It is believed that the system helps in bringing down homelessness because the needs are identified and met at an earlier stage.</p> <p>A similar system is now being commissioned by Carmarthenshire and Powys.</p>	

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	<p>Priority 4: In partnership with key agencies, to explore how a multi-agency case management approach can evolve to meet the needs of households who revolve around the homeless system and place demands on a variety of services</p> <p>Priority 5: In partnership with local stakeholders and other statutory services, each local authority to explore whether a 'Housing First' approach can be developed to support those with the most complex needs</p> <p>Priority 6: Each authority to explore with their Housing Association and private landlord partners how to develop affordable and sustainable housing options for single people</p> <p>Priority 7: Each authority to develop close partnership working with DWP/Job Centre+ to mitigate any impact the introduction of Universal Credit may have on household's ability to retain their tenancies</p> <p>Summary of Homelessness Strategy is available below.</p> <div data-bbox="539 1137 598 1205" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="467 1211 675 1261">Paper 4 Dyfed Powys Homelessness</p> <p>GM stated that whilst it is understood that different localities have different needs, Hywel Dda has single footprint across three local authorities. GM would like to see some regional products and some consistency, for example, some kind of regional decision making aid or tool for busy multi-agency teams in health and in other partners who got bigger footprint than local authorities.</p> <p>GE sought for more information around the models that are out there for providing the stock to pursue the housing first policy.</p> <p>CP explained that it is early days in Wales apart from Cardiff. In Cardiff, they have housing providers on board at the beginning of the project.</p> <p>BD stated that there is an expectation that SP Teams and the RCC will look at/consider the Homelessness Strategy when they review their Local Commissioning Plans and Regional Strategic Plans.</p>	

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<p>5. SP and Homeless Prevention</p>	<p>Rob Owen, the WG Homelessness Prevention Policy Manager, presented an update on where we are in terms of Homelessness, links between SP and Homelessness Prevention in terms of Policy drivers, and priorities.</p> <p>RO presented data on Homelessness All Wales Level</p> <p>RO stated that Homelessness Policies are focusing very much on prevention; support should be available to avoid these; and there is a need to understand why people are becoming homeless</p> <p>Whilst there is a legal framework to prevent homelessness, but if the legal framework is the minimum expectation from the LAs, it will be difficult to work further upstream.</p> <p>Supporting People Programme does make a big difference and will be made sure to evidence that. SP services play a crucial role in preventing homelessness in Wales, enabling people to manage their own lives and live confidently in safe, secure homes.</p> <p>On Evaluation of Implementation of HWA 2014 – The Salford University’s Evaluation of the Implementation of HWA 2014, report published in July 2018, found that there is unanimous support for the ethos or the spirit of the legislation and that the successful implementation of the Act is dependent on staff skills and structural factors such as availability of housing.</p> <p>The evaluation found that partnership working has improved, not only internally but also externally, by aligning agendas. RO stated that there is synergy between Homelessness and SP agendas and moving towards the same direction.</p> <p>Priority Recommendations from the Evaluation Report include: holistic assessments – whilst the Act has a very comprehensive assessment flexibility for Vulnerable “Reasonable Steps”, partnerships, SLA’s and information sharing protocols, Code of Guidance more user friendly Training for staff on “Softer Skills” for example PIE, and optimization of Private Rented Sector (PRS).</p> <p>There is a lot of things going within the WG around PRS, particularly in Homelessness Prevention Grant, putting a lot of money on Bond Schemes, in the process of reviewing how money is spent and what outcomes are we getting.</p> <p>Summary of Evaluation Report is found below.</p>	<p>RO</p>

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	 <p>Paper 5a Summary of Priority Recomme</p> <p>Priorities in no particular order -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rough Sleeping – WG is seeing more and more people on the street, what’s behind it and how to fix it - Housing First – massive priority moving forward, additional funding to be available this year - Review of HPG - Youth Homelessness – there is a lot of shift, particularly in SP, focusing on Youth Homelessness; £10Million was announced to be made available for 2019-2020 to tackle youth homelessness and to end homelessness by 2027. Youth Homelessness Coalition has a number of SP Providers i.e. LLamau. Shift is on early intervention and prevention, upstream identification, and looking at different support available and accommodation. If structure has to be drawn, it would look like what Chris has presented earlier on. <p>ST raised the question on the distribution of £10M by local authorities.</p> <p>RO stated that the answer is not known but there is a task and finish group, quite a senior group, that has been set-up which is chaired by the Minister. RO is not in that group. The group has started mapping out what the £10M can be targeted at. It will be a separate grant from the LA Revenue Grant.</p> <p>Consistency in the application of the legislation – started off very well but old habits started to creep back in</p> <p>RO’s presentation is found below.</p>  <p>Rob Owen.pptx</p> <p>It was asked how the Wales Statistics of homelessness is compared with the UK.</p> <p>RO stated that the UK in general has not seen a reduction; RO meet with colleagues every two months to dialogue and share work practices and seen England a little behind in terms of prevention agenda.</p> <p>Brief Update from SP and homelessness prevention – In Carmarthenshire, SP Team have gone down to locality based floating support which seems to be helping a large volume of people. The team is currently evaluating the impact being made. The team is also providing an advice service. Similarly, In Pembrokeshire, they have been</p>	

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	<p>providing generic support service with homelessness. In Ceredigion, they have been mapping the needs in localities. In Powys, a lot of demand is a cross-over with other services.</p> <p>BD raised the need for SP Teams to consider the Local Homelessness Plans when they update their Local Commissioning Plans.</p>	
<p>6. Welsh Government Update</p>	<p>JL provided updates from WG.</p> <p>Update on SAIL – The Project is running quite well and report is due to be published in October; 19 of the LAs have provided their data.</p> <p>JL was interested to understand why Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire still have not submitted their data. It would be interesting to understand what the issues are; if there are specific blockages there; and if there is something the WG can help.</p> <p>AJ stated that in Carmarthenshire, the data is all ready to go and is keen to submit the data, but it is the agreement that colleagues from Data Protection needing a sign off is where the issue lies. Similar issues are experienced in Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire.</p> <p>Action JM stated that a similar exercise was carried out years ago and would speak with AJ to see how they can move the submission forward.</p> <p>DT raised a question whether we can learn from other 19 LAs who have submitted data.</p> <p>JL asked how ‘we’ can resolve the issue. Would it help if we get the specific persons in a room with the WG, with some colleagues from CAS to try to move it forward? Would the group be able to identify the specific most appropriate persons?</p> <p>Action RDC to find the right/specific persons and arrange a meeting if needed. JL to do their best at their end to see if there is anything can be done.</p> <p>Update on SPNAB – SPNAB meets quarterly; meetings recently seemed to be dominated by the EIPS Grant agenda and the fact they want SP in the EIPS. The meeting in September covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the decision on Supported Accommodation Review (SAR) (decision made on the 9th August) and its implications; WG and DWP are continuing to talk 	<p>JL</p>

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	<p>regarding issues on definitions and other matters;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SP Guidance which was published on the 30th July; - Recommendations from PAC Inquiry; and - The RCC Reviews – SPNAB looked at all RCC Annual Reviews; Feedback on the RCC Reviews will be shared with the RDCs once completed. <p>SPNAB are having a Development Day on the 3rd of December; all the RCC Chairs and Vice-Chairs are invited in the meeting; the idea of the meeting is to look at the governance, processes, mechanisms, etc. following a decision on EIPS and knowing where SP sits and to look at how we can deliver.</p>	
<p>7. Flexible Funding</p>	<p>JS presented the context and the summary of the 2 way Grant option from Cymorth. Paper is available below.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Paper 7 Housing Matter and Flexible</p> </div> <p>JS stated that majority of providers support the 2 way Grant option; concern is on the risk of diluting SP Grant, losing SP focus into preventing homelessness, and putting SP services against more popular ones like children services</p> <p>The 2 way Grant proposal has gained support politically and the wider community</p> <p>Cymorth proposal – SP, Homelessness Prevention Grant and Rent Smart Wales to all go together into the Homelessness and Housing Related Support Grant as a separate grant from EIPS</p> <p>Advantages of the 2 way Grant are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It has a lot of support across the sector; - It will help achieve what the WG wants – the alignment process by bringing together different housing related grants; - It protects the future of homelessness and housing-related support services in Wales; - It would give lenders and landlords more assurances; and - It could utilise and build on existing commissioning and governance structures – strengthen existing regional partnership working <p>AH raised a question on the implications of the single grant on outcomes.</p>	<p>JS/JL</p>

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	<p>JL stated that since the decision is not known yet, if the decision on FF is towards the proposed single EIPS grant, there will be potentially 13 grants, including WAWDASV and Community Cohesion to come up with an outcomes framework which will stand for 13 grants; Since LAs will have the flexibility and the idea to meet their own individual priority needs, the overarching outcomes framework may have the flexibility LA needs.</p> <p>MS asked how does the Community Cohesion, which is a regional project, fits in four LAs EIPS with varying priorities and needs. There is uncertainty how the regional projects such as Community Cohesion and VAWDSV will fit in the proposed single grant for LAs and still to be worked out within particular region and different LAs. The Pathfinders are working on these issues at the moment, but until the Ministers make a decision on FF, WG is on the same position as everybody else in the room in terms of making decision and changing things.</p> <p>The decision on FF is to be announced on the first days of October around the Budget announcement. Wavehill Report on the evaluation of FF will be published in October but there is an assumption that the Ministers would have seen it to inform their decision in early October.</p> <p>As a result of the SPNAB meeting, WG sent an email to the Minister to request information on the decision as early as possible to help with planning.</p>	
<p>8. Joint Working with Equality and Inclusion Programme</p>	<p>MS delivered the proposal for partnership working between Equality and Inclusion Programme and SP</p> <p>MS delivered a presentation in the RCC in June to explore partnership between a number of Equality and Inclusion Programmes (EIPs) and Supporting People Programmes. In the meeting, it was actioned that MS, the Regional Cohesion Coordinator to work with the RDC to work out on proposals for collaboration and potential funding uplift or options for EIP by SP.</p> <p>MS and BD looked at three programmes to put proposals for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All Wales Hate Crime Report and Support Centre run by Victim Support; 2. Travelling Ahead run by Tros Gynnal Plant – a Gypsy and Traveller Programme; and 3. All Wales BAME Engagement Programme run by 	<p>MS</p>

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	<p>ESYT.</p> <p>Proposals were sent before the meeting. (Please see the proposals below)</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  Paper 8a Proposal for collaboration SuEngagement Propos </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Paper 8c BAME Engagement Propos </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Paper 8c BAME Engagement Propos </div> </div> <p>Proposals for the three programmes are around the areas of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. signposting – two-way; 2. training opportunities, i.e. hate crime awareness, cultural awareness of gypsies and travellers; and 3. funding uplift – to increase existing support for the EIP programmes. <p>MS highlighted the links between EIPs and SP, for example, as cited in Paper 8a (Hate Crime), many victims of Hate Crime are targeted in and outside their homes, their sanctuary and safe place, which can lead to increased feelings of depression, isolation and anxiety. This can lead to victims wishing to move from their accommodation to escape being targeted with a risk of homelessness. Many recorded cases of victims leaving their area of accommodation.</p> <p>In 2017-18, the All Wales Hate Crime Report reported 131 hate crime victims who stated feeling unsafe in their homes, and 79 hate crime victims accepted Housing advocacy support to help them move.</p> <p>In Mid and West Wales, there is one case-worker for hate-crime and works part-time. Options for funding uplift from SP to support existing case-work hours are outlined in the proposal.</p> <p>On Gypsies and Travellers, there is evidence of a need for support from various agencies like health, Domestic Abuse, accessing services, etc. The group can be marginalised.</p> <p>On BAME – Black and Ethnic Minority can be marginalised due to various barriers, support need is wide-ranging</p> <p>GM expressed his support for the proposed projects, particularly in the areas linked to health.</p> <p>BD stated that there is potential for partnership in terms of signposting and training the trainers. In terms of funding uplift, BD asked the RCC whether they can consider the</p>	

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	<p>proposed funding uplift as an RCC 'off-the-shelf project' for 2018/19 or whether SP Teams can consider the proposals in their Spend Plan for 2019/2020.</p> <p>Cllr AW expressed his support for the proposal but may need clear specifications.</p> <p>AJ stated that in terms of where the projects sit, its coverage need to be considered in LAs spend plan which needed to be completed by November 2018. If the proposal will be taken on by 4 local authorities it will need to be factored in alongside individual LA priorities. Personally, it is better off as an off-the-shelf project for the RCC should there be any underspend from any LA at the end of financial year.</p> <p>DT stated that it is difficult to make a decision now when there is no information whether there is money available.</p> <p>AJ informed the RCC that the group has grounds to report to the WG that where there is a slippage money, the RCC can spend it on identified priority off-the-shelf project.</p> <p>GM asked if the RCC is in principle voting in support of the proposed off-the-shelf projects; the papers presented today have been brought forward in response to the presentation made in the previous meeting and had a good discussion around it and there was an element of support generally. But point is taken that the RCC cannot fully endorse it if there is no clear information on what the RCC is voting on – is it to have further investigation to understand the feasibility of the funding?</p> <p>The RCC unanimously agreed on the principle to support the proposed off-the-shelf projects. There are three projects the RCC can look to prioritise should funding become available at the end of the financial year.</p> <p>MS thanks the RCC for voting in principle. MS is delighted to work with the RDC to move the proposal forward in terms signposting and other details.</p> <p>AdJ raised the question on the process, whether SP Leads will have to go back to LA planning groups for consultation as any slippage money in LA may mean competing with other LA priorities.</p> <p>AJ informed the group that the Guidance states that LAs have the responsibility to project whether there will be an</p>	

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<p>Action</p> <p>Action</p>	<p>underspent or not. AJ suggested that SP Leads can report to the RCC in December whether there is projected underspend.</p> <p>LAs have committed their budget for the year. If there is any slippage money it can be used for the off-the-shelf projects identified by the RCC.</p> <p>Question was raised around split of money between LAs and arrangements between the RCC and SPPGs.</p> <p>It was recognised that it is the first time the RCC has considered off-the-shelf projects so the RCC will need to go back to the Guidance around RCC priorities.</p> <p>ST stated that she is not voting against it but since it is the first time for the RCC to deliver a regional off-the-shelf project, it is recommended that it would be useful for all voting members to get more information.</p> <p>Action Email to be sent to all voting members so that those who are not present in the meeting are made aware of the discussion and the decision made and have the chance to vote. All voting members to receive the email/information.</p>	
<p>9. Updates and Progress Reports</p> <p>Action</p> <p>Action</p>	<p>BD informed the group that the RCC webpage is up and running. BD to send the web link to the RCC for feedback.</p> <p>The RCC page sits under Carmarthenshire County Council/Housing and is bilingual. Next step is to link the RCC with Regional Partners, providers, LA SP Teams and the WG. BD works with the BSU in Housing and Performance and Information.</p> <p>Action BD asked all SP leads and providers to (if possible) link their webpages to the RCC.</p> <p>BD asked whether other LAs can translate future RCC documents for publications such as the Minutes of Meetings.</p> <p>AH/Ceredigion is happy to receive next documents for translation.</p> <p>BD reported that the exercise of mapping and strengthening links with the RPBs and PSBs in the region are continuing and has achieved few developments. Links have also been made with VAWDSV and APBs.</p>	<p>BD</p>

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	<p>The Summary of the Report is available here.</p>  <p>Paper 9a Executive Summary Strenghter</p> <p>Due to limited time, all are invited to read the update reports from LAs which was circulated prior to the meeting. SP update available below.</p>  <p>Paper 9 LAs Update.pdf</p> <p>No update from Service Providers.</p>	
<p>10.AOB-</p>	<p>JJ asked other LAs of their views and practice in Procurement.</p> <p>All services must have a service review and if the plan is to remodel and award without tender, this should be agreed by SPPG and the RCC. It would be good to understand what the other counties are doing and what their interpretation is.</p> <p>GE suggested that there is a need to have a consistent approach in commissioning and procurement within the region as it is not fair for Providers to have mix and match of tendering approach. This was supported by a few members of the group.</p> <p>JL stated that the SP Guidance is meant to be a guidance and the LAs have procurement rules to follow.</p> <p>Action JL is happy to take it back to the WG to clarify and give feedback to BD/JJ.</p> <p>On RCC Service User Involvement – BD informed the group that a consultation paper on SUI was circulated prior to the meeting. The New SP Guidance has strong emphasis for the RCC to have a working Service User Involvement and that there is a need to review how the RCC will involve people who use SP service in their planning. Previous regional event showed that service-users want localised and thematic events rather than big, regional meetings so the RDC is ruling it out. BD is keen to map all existing engagement activities the providers and SP teams already use.</p> <p>DT said the paper was discussed in Pembrokeshire</p>	<p>All</p>

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11. Dates of future meeting/Themes	Providers Forum and happy to feedback to BD. 13th December 2018 – Development Day – Plan Update and EIPS/Flexible Funding, Spend Plan 7 th March 2019 – (TBD)	

DRAFT

Prepared by: BD