

Health, Social Care and Wellbeing planning group meeting
9 March 2021, 11am-12.30pm
Minutes

Attendees

- Rachel Burr, CTA UK
- Rachel Rowlands, Age Connects Morgannwg
- Faye Patton, Care and Repair
- Lowri Griffiths, Marie Curie
- Simon Jones, Mind
- Donna Coyle, Wales Coop
- Lisa Kenny Gough, Red Cross
- Simon James, Interlink
- Clair Swales, PAVO
- Debbie Shaffer, Fair Treatment for Women in Wales
- Kate Young, All Wales Forum
- Rahila Hamid, EYST
- Judith Stone, Kidney Wales
- Ruth Marks, WCVA
- Sally Rees, WCVA
- David Cook, WCVA

Recap of January 2021 Ministerial Meeting

Ruth recapped meeting.

Kate noted need to continue work with civil service post-election.

Group generally happy with report from Equalities, Local Government and Communities Committee on the impact of Covid on the sector, but has criticisms of care and support White Paper.

Initial findings from WCVA sessions on White Paper on Rebalancing Care and Support.

Sally noted a lack of community focus in the White Paper. A drive to make things simple seems to have been articulated, but what is outlined is quite complex. Adds to challenges we face in terms of connecting to existing structures. She said there is a long way to go to embed coproductive practices across sectors. The White Paper demonstrates no real learning from the pandemic.

Kate noted a Welsh Government event for carers to talk about how they could better engage. This would be useful for citizens too. Welsh Government need to recognise there's a national reaching down and local reaching up issue – the challenge in joining two things

Rachel said that RPBs aren't all making the best use of the sector. There is a need for understanding of what needs to happen to move sector organisations from being

grant dependent into helping them make it work for themselves. Kate noted this is add odds with the approach of the Minister for Housing and Local Government.

Donna said that North Wales local authorities feel the White Paper takes sovereignty from them and gives it to RPBs. Rachel said LAs were concerned around the market and that one-year funding from Welsh Government means no-one can plan.

Action

- *Kate and Sally to work together to draft a response from the network, then pass to group for comment.*

The Equalities, Local Govt and Communities Committee report on the impact of COVID-19 on the voluntary sector. How can the sector play a part in implementing the recommendations?

Simon James suggested picking four or five of the most important to respond to. The challenge post-May is ensuring momentum of the sector's work over the pandemic is continued.

Kate noted that conversations with the civil service are critical. They have been more flexible over the pandemic and this should continue.

Judith suggested 3,5,6,10 and 16-18 seem most key recommendations. Simon said we should develop collective reflections on the recommendations and share with the Committee via the chair. Simon James said we need to show how our networks are saying what's important before taking action. Simon Jones noted recommendation 12 too.

Ruth expected Welsh Government's response to the report before the election.

Judith suggested WCVA run a poll on the report to find key items the sector wants to work with Welsh Government on.

Donna suggested we need a summary of all different papers, reports, frameworks and consultations we should be considering and the group can agree five-six core points to use across all of them. Clair said we should ask Health and Social Care leads about the report recommendations and feed back. Sally suggested we could do a session with the sector about what to focus on and how to take things forward.

Actions

- *WCVA to Conduct poll on report to discover which key items the sector would like to work with Welsh Government on.*

Group plans for period post-election – is there anything we would like to bring to the attention of a potential new Minister?

Kate said we need to get core points established for each big bit of working going on. Could send in letter after election highlighting key objectives carried on from previous government. Need to come up with something between now and June where we have key priorities identified.

Simon said drawing out references to the sector within manifestos would provide an indication for where there is political consensus.

Rahila noted mental health as a key issue, and how she has struggled to connect with Local Authorities on this issue. Kate is concerned about the boom in demand for assessment processes as we move away from the pandemic.

Actions

- *WCVA to collate five-six key points arising from recent frameworks, consultations and papers.*
- *WCVA to produce document showing links between SSWBA, Coproduction, FG Act, social partnership bill and Fair Work.*
- *Kate to liaise with Rachel and Sally on barriers some groups have faced in accessing vaccine appointments.*

TSPC nominations

Group happy for Kate to remain as main representative.

Action

- *Ruth to email group members regarding finding an alternate to replace Adrian.*

AOB

Rachel highlighted the Early Help and Enhanced Support Framework – NEST.