

Health, social care and wellbeing voluntary sector planning group

Thursday 15 July, 11.15am – 12.45pm

Notes

Attendees

Voluntary sector

- Nadine Honeybone, the Autism Directory
- Chris Williams, Age Alliance Wales
- Rachel Rowlands, Age Connects
- Bethan Edwards, Marie Curie
- Donna Coyle, Wales Coop
- Zoe Richards, Learning Disability Wales
- Adrian Roper, Cartrefi Cymru
- Lisa Kenny Gough, Red Cross
- Noreen Blanluet, CoPro Network
- Clair Swales, PAVO
- Jenny Laithwaite, Business in the Community
- Katie Till, Cancer Research UK
- Lewis Clark, Ty Hafan
- Tracy Jones, Ty Hafan
- Simon James, Interlink
- Gemma Lelliot, Community Transport Association
- Dan Roberts, Wales Coop Centre
- David Kirby, Care and Repair
- Debbie Shaffer, FTWW
- Judith Stone, WCVA
- David Cook, WCVA
- Sally Rees, WCVA
- Suzanne Mollison, WCVA
- James Lundie, WCVA

Welsh Government

- Matt Jenkins
- Shelley Davies
- Alex Slade

Previous minutes

Minutes accepted by the group.

Actions

Work to continue on document showing how SSWB and FG Acts link with different policy areas.

Recap of March 2021 Ministerial Meeting

Sally gave a recap of the March meeting, which looked at mental health, equality of access to vaccinations, the creative thinking and action from the sector since the beginning of the pandemic, and how the sector can be fully involved in strategic planning going forward.

Preparations for future Ministerial Meeting

Welsh Government officials noted that:

- They expect the pattern of meetings every six months to continue.
- The Ministers will work as a team of three
- They envisage specialist groups – e.g. the Carers Ministerial Advisory Group – increasing in prominence
- A new delivery plan for A Healthier Wales is being worked on.
- Social prescribing is being seen as a way to shift from a medical model and towards a wider model around how Welsh Government manages and supports the population.
- Access to services – e.g. GPs and dentistry – still a focus. Welsh Government would like to create a multi-access approach, with a role for self-referral.
- There is a commitment around reforming primary care to improve alignment in housing, pharmacy, social care and mental health.
- A programme is under way around accelerated cluster development.
- Another is looking at integrated health and social care facilities. This has implications for service alignment and includes mental health commitments.
- Continued recognition and commitment to partnership working, including creating closer alignment between RPBs and primary care clusters. Key areas include balancing accountabilities of partners, strengthening of partnership scrutiny and monitoring, increasing activity around joint commissioning, and strengthening citizen and carer voices.
- Looking at scope and potential for successor fund to ICF.
- A Chief Social Care Officer for Wales is now in post, and a listening period ongoing.
- Commitments have been made around the social care workforce, including the challenges of low pay and workforce turnover. A Fair Work Forum has been established. There are commitments to increase apprenticeships and Welsh speakers, and to eliminate private profit from the care of looked after children.
- Welsh Government are looking to UK Government to provide a solution to resourcing of the sector across the UK, such as how benefits work. Hoping the UK Government Spending Review in Autumn will provide more details.
- The White Paper will establish a framework for Adult Social Care.
- An Autism Code of Practice will be enacted over the next few months.
- There will be a refresh of the Together for Mental Health delivery plan.

Judith asked what the top issues are that Ministers want to talk about right now.

Responses were:

- There is an appetite from the Minister to see what can be done quickly, social prescribing highlighted as a particular interest.
- Getting a framework in place for service change areas.
- The pressures of winter
- The role of the sector in the recovery response, and how we can build the gains into the system.

A discussion took place around the replacement for ICF. Shelley commented a green light had not been given to this quite yet, but as soon as it is workstreams will be set up to scope funding models and monitoring processes. Groups will also look at regional infrastructure and outcomes frameworks. A question was asked about evaluation of the Transformation Fund. Emma Spear was named as best person to contact on this. Welsh Government confirmed a Working Group has been set up to help support RPBs around planning for needs assessments and market stability reports. A question was asked about ensuring services funded by ICF don't vanish was asked. Shelley said this had been made clear to Ministers, but a need for wider system change meant review into what services are critical for mainstreaming, building on the ICF and Transformation Fund.

Welsh Government officials left the meeting.

Group discussed pressing issues to take to a future Ministerial Meeting. Issues suggested were:

- Living Wage for social care staff, and recruitment and retention of staff
- What next for the White Paper? How will it enable innovation and impact on services and providers. How does the Workforce Strategy relate to the sector and unpaid carers
- Digital inclusion
- Social prescribing, social value and the importance of community-based services
- The replacement for the ICF – what has worked previously, and embedding the involvement principle
- Strengthening partnerships

The group agreed we need a smaller Task and Finish Group to look at possible priorities. The group will meet over summer and report back to the main group at the October meeting.

Actions:

Tracey to contact Matt regarding CHC and Direct Payments

Group members to email Dave with:

- *Expressions of interest to join Task and Finish Group.*

- *Possible priorities for the Task and Finish Group to discuss*

AOB

Adrian highlighted his involvement in a group devoted to system change.

Action

Adrian to share group activities with Judith and Sally.

Next meeting – 14 October 2021, 1.30-3pm