

Health, Social Care and Wellbeing planning group meeting

To plan for the September 2022 Ministerial Meeting

July 19, 2022

Notes

Attendees

- Kate Young, All Wales Forum
- Neil Williams, Care and Repair
- Debbie Shaffer, Fair Treatment for Women in Wales
- Zoe Richards, Learning Disability Wales
- Gemma Lelliot, Community Transport Association
- Ross Evans, Kidney Wales
- Wynne Roberts, Interfaith Council
- Lewis Clark, Ty Hafan
- Sarah Roche, RVS
- Claire Morgan, Carers Wales
- Clair Swales, PAVO
- Matthew Brindley, Hospice UK
- Izzabella James, Home Start
- Cath Lewis, Carers Trust Wales
- Tracey Jones, Ty Hafan
- Donna Coyle, Cwmpas
- Roxanne Treacy, Coproduction Network
- Ross Evans, Kidney Wales
- Simon Jones, Mind Cymru
- Zoe Richards, Learning Disability Wales
- Sharon Richards, VAMT
- Becky Ricketts, Care and Repair
- Chris Williams, Age Cymru
- Johanna Davies, WCVA
- Judith Stone, WCVA
- David Cook, WCVA

Planning items for September Ministerial Meeting

Judith re-capped on the matters that had been discussed at the last meeting with the Minister in December 2021, and the issues that were covered at the most recent HSC&WB Planning Group meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to agree agenda items for the meeting with the Minister(s) on 8 September.

However, Judith suggested that for a Spring 2023 meeting, it would be worth considering an item on the National Framework of Care and Support for Wales as this is when government is expected to be undertaking consultation.

Consensus was quickly reached on two important agenda items for the September Ministerial meeting:

Cost of living crisis

Simon raised the cost of living crisis, particularly that commissioners aren't taking this into account when commissioning contracts for third sector providers. This could push staff into poverty. It was noted that local authorities have been given additional funding by government to enable budgets to meet Living Wage commitments for public sector social care provision. Ministers want the sector to deliver more, but funding isn't going as far. Local authorities are bringing some services in-house, or statutory partners are advertising similar posts to the voluntary sector, but for more money. The Community Transport Association, plus WCVA and other partners, have recently been involved in influencing implications of the cost of living and volunteer driver expenses: <https://ctauk.org/charities-call-on-chancellor-to-tackle-fuel-costs-crisis/>

Winter pressures

Neil made reference to the additional funding that had been made available to the third sector to address 'winter pressures' last year and said that this would be needed again – ideally with a longer lead in time. He highlighted voluntary sector services to keep people out of hospital and at home to recover. The cost of living crisis means that agencies are concerned they won't get the solutions required to get people out of hospital. Fuel poverty is due to skyrocket, so there are issues around warm homes in winter. Preventative action is necessary to minimize pressure on NHS – it's not a 'nice to have', it's essential. Decluttering is also an issue, leading to lack of repair work on properties and lower chance of domiciliary care.

Johanna said how funding is disseminated should be part of this item, including greater join-up with Health Boards.

Kate said it was important that all care staff, unpaid carers and those they care for should be vaccinated at the same time to keep the care system going.

Gemma said that funding needs to come out fast to allow for meaningful coproduction and coordination. We need to know where Welsh Government can influence organisations to help the sector help the people in need.

Wynne noted issues with people remaining in hospital because they live in rural areas with little to no care services, and too little community resilience to help.

Cath noted the importance of unpaid carers being involved with discharge processes.

Debbie said it was vital that both health and social care services are directed to engage and value the sector and grassroots organisations, to coproduce holistic services and enable a preventative approach.

Kate said that in the meeting, we need to not just say what we want to do, but what we can offer and how it will deliver, and consider this issue all the way up to Spring.

Simon suggested ensuring this discussion links back to the Anti Racism Action Plan to ensure that the plan doesn't get lost amid other debate.

Mathew noted issues around NHS England giving pay rises to staff, and pressure the sector here will face to compete, leading to it being harder to guarantee services.

Wynne noted carers who don't get paid mileage in between calls.

Kate said we need to come to the Ministerial Meeting with evidenced case studies and tools to fix the problems, then show if we want the same as previously or something extra. The work needs to form a work programme that goes through winter into spring. The paper should make the case for 'winter pressures' funding to be allocated by government to the sector again this year, ideally with a longer lead in time to enable effective preparation. Should the request be for the same package to be funded this year, or whether the forecast needs and solutions are different? The sector should pitch its offer, with case studies. *Do we want the same again, or do we foresee different problems that need different solutions? What do we need to do differently to ensure health inequalities do not worsen?*

Confirmed agenda items for 8 September Ministerial Meeting

- The implications of the cost of living crisis for the voluntary sector and volunteers
- The role of the voluntary sector and volunteers in alleviating winter pressures
- AOB

Actions

- WCVA to circulate reports from Simon and Neil to the group.
- Dave to draft outline structure of both papers, then send to the group to insert comments and evidence.
- Dave to ask for expressions of interest to speak in the meeting about the papers.
- A short further planning meeting to be held on the afternoon of 8 August 2022.