

Voluntary Sector Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Planning Group

6 September 2022, 10m-12pm

Notes

Attendees

- Kate Young, All Wales Forum
- Wynne Roberts, Interfaith Council
- Lewis Clark, Ty Hafan
- Kate Griffiths, Red Cross
- Claire Morgan, Carers Wales
- Tracy Jones, Ty Hafan
- Gemma Lelliot, CTA UK
- Debbie Shaffer, Fair Treatment for Women in Wales
- Simon Jones, Mind
- Jas Bains, Hafod
- Neil Williams, Care and Repair
- Rachel Rowlands, Age Concern Morgannwg
- Fiona Reid, Learning Disability Wales
- Bethan Jenkins, Welsh Government
- Selima Bahadur, EYST
- Clair Swales, PAVO
- Helen Smith, St John's Cymru
- Sharon Richards, VAMT
- Uzo Iwobi, Race Council Cymru
- Sarah Lusty, Welsh Government
- Matt Jenkins, Welsh Government
- Judith Stone, WCVA
- Johanna Davies, WCVA
- Suzanne Mollison, WCVA
- David Cook, WCVA

Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes were accepted.

Rebalancing care and the work of the National Technical Group – Sarah Lusty and Bethan Jones-Edwards, Welsh Government

Bethan (Head of Social Care Futures at Welsh Government) gave a presentation. The National Framework for Care and Support will set standards for commissioning practice; reduce complexity; and rebalance commissioning to focus on outcomes. The Code of Practice will be reviewed every two years. A National Office, when established, will oversee the implementation of the National Framework. The Technical Group also has a workstream focused on strengthening regional partnership arrangements. By the end of October, recommendations from the Technical Group will be sent to Ministers for agreement on the content of the Framework.

The group discussed issues around integrated working, and that the sector is seen a key partner in service delivery but often it seems to be treated as a junior partner. The group debated accountability measures to ensure equal treatment of the voluntary sector. Bethan noted a framework for monitoring the implementation of the National Framework including this was being considered, but had not yet been progressed. Rachel said that individual sector representatives can't always speak for the entire voluntary sector on RPBs.

There was a discussion about the challenges faced by voluntary organisations in accessing the Regional Integration Fund (RIF), including short term funding agreements for services that have existed for years and may be considered as 'core' service provision. It was recognized that the £146m RIF budget represents a tiny proportion of the overall budget for health and social care. A much better understanding is needed of resource allocations to the third sector through main stream budgets as well as supplemental funding streams eg RIF, in order to assess how the rhetoric of the third sector as a 'key partner' stacks up to reality.

Bethan noted discussions around the Cost of Living Crisis on the National Framework were still ongoing.

The group noted the importance of the equality agenda and that it should be at the heart of implementation of the National Framework.

Action

- *Matt to share investment plans from RPBS. WCVA to circulate to group.*

Speaker: Winter pressures – Matt Jenkins, Welsh Government

Matt noted the increases in the health and social services group budgets following last year's Budget, and the greater surety offered by the Revenue Investment Fund. Whilst additional funding for 'winter pressures' was made available by Welsh Government in 2021/22, this was as a result of UK consequential funding, and no equivalent funds have been offered yet this year. He commented that Stats Wales allows people to look at individual Local Authority spending patterns.

The group discussed that 'winter pressures' now feel much more like systemic pressures felt all year round, although this winter is likely to be particularly bad. Kate noted that it is important to influence plans so that people are prevented from being in emergency spaces, rather than simply dealing with critical emergencies as they happen. Matt said that health and social care outcomes frameworks will help with accountability, and that Ministers are committed to the voluntary sector.

Simon commented that mental health impacts often appear at the tail end of a crisis, so planning must go beyond the end of winter. He added that the sector needs to be seen as integral to a continuing health and social care system.

Actions

- *Issues from this discussion to be taken up at Ministerial Meeting on 26 September 2022.*
- *Johanna to liaise with Uzo and Simon on the issue of how grassroots sectors engage with commissioning processes.*

Update on the National Care Service – Kate Young

Broad recommendations have been developed around fair pay, citizen voice, community, etc, but specifics can't be given until given Ministerial sign-off. This should be completed by end of September 2022. Bec Woolley has been appointed as independent editor for the final recommendations of the group. A Ministerial statement is expected in autumn, expected to be followed by an engagement process/consultation with all relevant wider stakeholders to help discuss and further develop any recommendations into an action plan by autumn 2023. This will be an important focus for this group.

Action:

- *WCVA to circulate info on the future commissioning standards survey.*

Any Other Business

Kate noted her role on a panel about hospital discharge at the NHS Confederations Conference.

The autumn COVID booster programme will follow the same format as last year.

Actions

- *Johanna to contact ADSS and the NHS Confederation to find out which sessions will be led by the third sector and who is attending from the third sector. Info to be shared with this group.*
- *Final comments on the papers for the Ministerial Meeting must be submitted by 16 September. Members are also asked to confirm if they are able to attend the meeting with the Minister and Deputy Ministers, to speak to the two agenda items.*