

Supporting People National Advisory Board (SPNAB) Meeting

Minutes

11 June 2018 – Ty Hywel, National Assembly Building,
Cardiff Bay

Present:

Daniel Groves (DG)	Chair (Independent)
Katie Dalton (KD)	Cymorth Cymru
Naomi Alleyne (NA)	WLGA
Cheryl Emery (CE)	SPIN Representative
Philip Howells (PH)	Housing Leadership Cymru
Harry McKeown (HM)	CHC Representative
Frances Beecher (FB)	Governance Working Group Chair
Michelle Church (MC)	Strategic Finance & Research Group Chair
Helen Jones (HJ)	Strategic Finance & Research Group
Keiron Montague (KM)	Independent member
Claire Marchant (CM)	ADSS Representative
Anita Evans (AE)	RCC Representative
Emma Williams (EW)	Welsh Government (for item 3 & 4 only)
Angharad Rogers (AR)	Welsh Government
Paul Webb (PW)	Welsh Government
Julie Llewellyn (JL)	Welsh Government

Also in Attendance:

Rebecca Evans (RE)	Minister for Housing & Regeneration (present for items 3 & 4 only)
Rhodri Johnson (RJ)	Swansea University
Lewis Yearsley (LY)	Welsh Government

Apologies:

Diana Binding (DB)	Probation
Josie Smith (JS)	Public Health Wales
Helen Northmore (HN)	Independent
Mansel Aylward (MA)	NHS
Sarah Rhodes (SR)	Welsh Government

Note	Action
1. Welcome and Introductions	
<p>The Chair introduced and welcomed new members to the Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keiron Montague – Independent member - Anita Evans – representing RCCs - Harry McKeown – representing CHC 	
2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as an accurate record. • An update on actions from the previous meeting can be found at the end of the minutes. 	
3. Funding Flexibilities: Discussion Paper	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the previous meeting it was recognised that the potential introduction of the EIPS grant will impact organisations in different ways, and it was acknowledged by the Chair that the Board does not have an agreed collective opinion. Therefore, members were asked to submit the views of the organisation/groups they represent, which the Chair then used to draft a paper to the Minister for Housing & Regeneration with a summarised, collective view on behalf of the Board. • FB commented that she felt that the paper does not represent a balanced view of the members. Furthermore, it is felt that the housing/homelessness voice is being silenced and is disappointed in the lack of co-production from the Welsh Government in developing the policy around this. • KD agreed, stating that communication has been poor and mixed messages are being received from politicians and officials. SPNAB seems to be the only route to be able to convey concerns around the proposal. • NA stated that in her opinion the paper does present a balanced view, but has sent some suggested amendments separately to the Chair. • FB asked if an Equality Impact Assessment had been undertaken of the funding flexibilities project and will it be shared? PW said that it would be the role of the Funding Flexibilities team to undertake this but was not sure of the timings around this. He would need to check with the FF Team. • Not everyone on the Board agreed that the paper presented a balanced view, therefore it was agreed that all of the responses submitted to the Chair could be shared with Board members. The responses will also be included with the paper for the Minister to consider. It was agreed that subject to minor amendments, the paper will be submitted to the Minister from the Chair on behalf of the Board. The Minister for Housing and Regeneration joined the meeting for this part of the agenda 	<p>PW to check status of the EIA</p> <p>The secretariat to distribute all responses to the Board</p>

<p>item.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KD stated that the sector and has move forward from its original position (SP ring fenced only grant) and has accepted that some changes need to be made to the current structure in the best interest of the service user. An alternative grant structure has been proposed by the third sector, housing and front line LA staff; which is to combine the SP grant with the homelessness grant (and potentially the future funding for short term supported accommodation) to become one 'housing related grant'. • The alternative housing related grant structure has the support of the majority of the Board, including the WLGA. NA confirmed that whilst the WLGA supports the EIPS grant proposal, it is open to considering the alternative grant structure being put forward. HM agreed that the alternative grant proposal would alleviate some of the fears/uncertainties in the housing association sector that the current EIPS proposal presents. • The Minister said that she was minded to accept the recommendation in the PAC Report to consider the alternative grant structure. However, the Minister also needs to liaise with the other policy areas within Welsh Government involved in EIPS, and pointed out that EIPS cuts across Ministerial portfolios. • It has been suggested that one of the main benefits cited for introducing EIPS is to reduce duplication of services, however the Board felt that there is evidence to show that in the current system there is no duplication. • FB reiterated again the lack of co-production by Welsh Government in developing these proposals. The Minister said that she would raise this with colleagues across portfolios. • DG commented that as an independent member he is neutral to whichever decision is taken, but there doesn't appear to be enough evidence to support either option. • The Minister agreed that decisions need to be made based on evidence. She will be seeking the views of other parties involved and awaits the outcome of the independent evaluation. A decision will then be taken collaboratively between relevant Ministers. 	
4. SAIL Presentation by Rhodri Johnson	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RJ gave a presentation on the SAIL project in order to provide them with clarification of the projects aims and outcomes. • The project aims to explore the contribution that data linking could make to the evaluation of SP through assessing the ways in which health service use varies according to the characteristics of people accessing Supporting People services. • The project is due to run for 4 years and is still at the early stages. At present the project has gathered data from 19 out 	

<p>of 22 Local Authorities and the analyst will be doing some first cut analysis by end of June for publication later in 2018.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NA asked about how it links in with the outcomes data. RJ confirmed that ideally they would like to be looking at both sets of data together, but it's not a priority at the moment. KD added that they are interested in doing this but that they need to see what happens with the outcomes framework in light of EIPS. • KM asked if the results factor in age and age related illnesses. Not currently, but KD acknowledged that there are different types of provision provides by SP; support provided for older people and those with learning disabilities is different to that provided to the homelessness or at risk of homelessness. The different client groups are being looked at by the Research and Evaluation. • HM asked will the data be able to demonstrate unit cost and value for money. There is potential in the future to build on the current data and outputs. • KM asked if health is engaged with the project as their input would be very important. KD confirmed that there is currently no health representative on the Research & Evaluation Steering group; however membership of the group will be reviewed at their next meeting. 	
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5. Short Term Supported Accommodation Engagement Events Update

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PW explained that the announcement by the UK Government to introduce a new system to fund supported and sheltered housing from 2020. This will mean that funding for short term supported accommodation, where move on is intended, will have all of its funding transferred out of the welfare system to a cash limited fund in the Welsh Block. • Four options appraisal engagement events took place during April/May 2018 in order to engage with stakeholders and to gather their views on the 5 possible options for future funding of short term supported accommodation. The events were well attended with approximately 130 people from a variety of organisations/sectors. • Key concerns relate to the sustainability of provision which will move from a demand led individual welfare entitlement to a cash limited commissioned arrangement. • In addition to the stakeholder events PW has also consulted with Housing Leadership Cymru and the Welsh Revenue Authority. In addition he would like to discuss these issues with LA members. • There are currently no clear answers being given on the issues by the UK Government. A decision is expected in July (by recess). • The next stage in the process is to develop advice to the Minister on the options that have been discussed with stakeholders. 	<p>NA to follow up meeting with LA Members</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KD wanted to thank the Welsh Government SP team for its co-productive approach in its development of a new funding framework for short term supported accommodation. 	
6. Updates	
<p>RCC In order to understand the links between RCCs, Regional Partnership Boards (RPBs) and Public Service Boards (PSBs) and collaborative working, the RDC's have been asked to carry out a scoping exercise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The priorities of the RPBs/PSBs and how they link with the priorities of SP/RCCs • Mapping of governance structures • Links between the Boards <p>The findings will be shared with the RCC for consideration and then with WG for information.</p> <p>SPIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The last SPIN meeting was held on 25 April and was well attended. • There was a discussion on EIPS and non Pathfinder authorities feel they are not being given any information on EIPS. • Gypsy and Travellers - The group were asked to undertake a mapping exercise to understand the extent to which SP Teams across all LAs are currently meeting the needs of these communities in their areas. • SHIN rough sleeping data collection system is a multi-agency, pan Wales data collection system. The aim is to have StreetLink champions in all LA's to deliver a more consistent response to referrals. • Rough Sleeping Action Plan – the plan was presented to the SPIN. SPNAB members asked for clarification around the purpose of a new task and finish group that they heard is being set up in relation to youth homelessness and housing first. Tamsin Stirling will be carrying out a piece of work on Youth Homelessness and will be approaching all local authorities to provide the relevant data. • NA would like to understand what type of support is currently being provided to refugees through Supporting People services. <p>Governance Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deadline for the Annual Review Report from RCCs is the end of June. The Governance Group will then review the reports and provide a summary paper for the next SPNAB meeting. 	<p>PW to confirm purpose of the task and finish group</p> <p>Members to feed back to NA on support for refugees</p>

Finance and Research Group

- There is currently no Welsh Government representative for homelessness on the group due to the retirement of the previous member.
- Discussions focused around the group's input into the funding flexibilities paper for SPNAB and the supported accommodation review.

CHC

- CHC are beginning the process of overhauling the representation on RCCs and sub-groups of SPNAB. This process is due to be completed towards the end of the summer, at which point the aim is to have high quality representation on all committees and groups.
- HM from Pobl Group has been elected the CHC Chair of the National Supported Housing & Provider Network, jointly run with Cymorth Cymru. As part of this position, HM has taken up the CHC representation on SPNAB.

Cymorth Cymru

- PATH Training - over 1000 people attended and is being independently evaluated. Initial analysis shows very positive feedback. Cymorth are currently in discussions with Welsh Government regarding the possibility of accessing funding for a phase two.
- Cymorth are receiving funding from the Oak Foundation to deliver a two year research project about the human and financial impact of Supporting People services in Wales.
- A Mental Health and Substance Misuse event was held on 15 May and included sessions about harm reduction; the impact of domestic abuse on mental health and substance misuse; alcohol induced brain injury; the compassionate mental health movement; Out of Work Programme.
- There will be a Poverty and Welfare Reform event on 11 July in Cardiff and will include sessions on JRF's research about poverty in Wales; the impact of welfare conditionality on homelessness; devolution of Universal Credit powers; whether it's possible to have a compassionate welfare system; how organisations have helped young people deal with UC; the Valleys Taskforce and participatory budgeting.
- Cymorth continue to facilitate and support the new Housing First Network for Wales, which includes providers, social landlords and local authority representatives. A recent meeting included a presentation from Crisis UK about their Housing First Hub study on Housing First in the Liverpool City Region.

WAO Report Update

- The PAC published its report on the Welsh Government's Supporting People Programme on 18 May, making 13 recommendations.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welsh Government will provide an official response by 2 July 2018. 	
7. Risk Register	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Risk Register sets out the key risks identified by SPNAB to the Supporting People Programme. The Register had been updated in light of new policy developments in relation to housing related support. The Board were asked to consider all the risks, agree changes made to the risk descriptions and risk scores and any further actions required. 	<p>All comments on the changes to be emailed to AR</p>
8. AOB	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was agreed by the Board that due to timings around decisions on EIPS & SAR, the development day will be deferred and will now be held on Thursday 6 December. Confirmation of the venue will be provided closer to the time. The Chair informed the Board that it was PH's last meeting due to retirement, and thanked PH for his contributions. 	
9. Next meeting	
<p>Wednesday 19 September in the Welsh Government offices in Merthyr Tydfil. The meeting will be for SPNAB Board members only.</p>	

Action Log

Supporting People National Advisory Board

Date Action Identified	Action Details	Responsible	Status
1. 8 th March 2018	Funding Flexibilities - WG to circulate the terms of reference for the evaluation exercise on the programme.	WG Secretariat	Completed April 2018
2. 8 th March 2018	Funding Flexibilities – WG to send out commission with template to obtain the Boards views on FF and the responses collated into a paper to be sent to the Minister.	WG Secretariat	Completed June 2018
3. 8 th March 2018	RCC representative to become a substantive member of the Board.	Paul Webb	Completed May 2018. A nominated RDC will represent the RCCs. Attended first SNAB meeting on 11 June 2018.
4. 8 th March 2018	SPIN minutes to be circulated to the Board.	WG Secretariat	Completed June 2018. Included with SPNAB papers for 11 June meeting.
5. 8 th March 2018	The Board requested a presentation be made to the group on the SAIL Project.	WG Secretariat	Completed June 2018. Presentation given at SNAB meeting on 11 June.
6. 8 th March 2018	It was identified that the Risk Register needs to be updated as it is out of date.	Angharad Rogers	Risk Register updated and provided for review at SNAB meeting on 11 June 2018. Members asked to provide comment via email.
7. 8 th March 2018	In line with Welsh Language Standards the secretariat to identify the Boards language preferences.	WG Secretariat	Completed June 2018. A language preference form was sent out. The returns will be recorded by WG.