

Supporting People National Advisory Board (SPNAB) Meeting

Minutes

8 March 2018 – Caerdydd 3, Cathays Park

Present:

Daniel Groves (DG)	Chair (Independent)
Katie Dalton (KD)	Cymorth Cymru
Naomi Alleyne (NA)	WLGA
Will Atkinson (WA)	CHC
Helen Jones (HJ)	Atal y Fro (Research and Finance Group Representative)
Helen Northmore (HN)	Independent
Nigel Stannard (NS)	SPIN Representative
Sarah Rhodes (SR)	Welsh Government
Rob Owen (RO)	Welsh Government
Angharad Rogers (AR)	Welsh Government
Paul Webb (PW)	Welsh Government
Julie Llewellyn (JL)	Welsh Government

Apologies:

Philip Howells (PH)	Housing Leadership Cymru
Frances Beecher (FB)	Governance Working Group
Diane Binding (DB)	Probation
Josie Smith (JS)	Public Health Wales
Emma Williams (EW)	Welsh Government
Mansel Aylward (MA)	NHS
Claire Marchant (CM)	Monmouthshire LA

Note	Action
1. Welcome and Introductions	
Introductions were made for the benefit of new members.	
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. • The Board acknowledged Daniel Groves as its new interim Chair .. 	
3. Rough Sleeping Action Plan	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Rhodes introduced herself as the new Head of Homelessness Prevention, taking over from Simon Prothero who is now the Head of Housing Management. • SR and RO, presented the two year Rough Sleepers Action Plan and sought comments from the Board on its content. • It was acknowledged that the plan is a good high level document, however there now needs to be an operational plan that sits underneath, which will identify specific delivery (e.g. timescales, responsibilities). • KD commented that there needs to be more measures relating to prevention, and acknowledgement that some rough sleepers are unable to use certain provision. • KD further commented that everyone has a role to play in delivering the plan. Further discussion/action is required around Housing First and different WG policy areas need to work together (i.e. mental health and housing). Specialist Health Services also need to be involved. • WA confirmed that discussions are well underway at Housing First Network meetings; they are now at action stage. • NS asked for details on the accountability measures and asked what the reporting mechanisms will be. • SR confirmed that this is an evolving document, and that a specific operational plan will be developed in the near future. She will be looking at governance structures and reporting mechanisms, and there will be further engagement with established networks. 	
4. Funding Flexibilities Updates & Discussion	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PW confirmed that grant allocations have now been issued to all Local Authorities. It is Welsh Government's expectation that funding should be allocated to the Supporting People (SP) programmes at least at the level of the SP allocation 	

<p>unless they can demonstrate that they can be sure of delivering the same, or improved, services for less money as a result of efficiencies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WG are in the process of assessing the delivery plans received from pathfinder Local Authorities. The Board questioned why the decision has to be made so quickly and stated that everything felt very rushed. PW confirmed that it is the grant cycle for a 2 year budget, therefore the decision will need to be made for 2019/20. • PW confirmed that the evaluation will be an iterative process, focused on lessons learned of the process rather than impact of delivery. The Board raised a number of concerns about the evaluation exercise and the decision timetable, commenting that there will be no valuable evidence in order to inform decision making. The Board asked for a copy of the terms of reference for the evaluation exercise to be circulated to members. • The group sought clarity around its role in discussing this issue and advising the Minister. PW confirmed that the Minister has only agreed a direction of travel on this matter and has not made any final decisions. The board has a role to set out their view/considerations to inform the Minister's final decision. • DG said that it was important to have these discussions. The Board doesn't have to reach an agreed collective opinion, acknowledging that different organisations represented on the Board will have different issues/opinions regarding this issues. It was suggested that those views be captured and collated and a paper be brought back to the next meeting for consideration to be submitted to the Minister. The secretariat for the group will collate the responses. 	<p>WG to circulate the terms of reference for the evaluation exercise</p> <p>JL to send out commission with template to obtain the Board's views/considerations and collate paper for next SPNAB Meeting.</p>
<p>5. Updates</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCC's – HN commented that the paper did not provide any useful information and questioned its purpose. It was also felt that a RCC representative should be a member of the Board. PW agreed to check membership and discuss with RDCs/ RCCs. • SPIN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nigel Stannard introduced himself as the new representative of the SPIN Network. - Ruth Studley attended the previous SPIN meeting (on 25 January) to provide an update on funding flexibilities. LAs have a balanced view on Funding Flexibilities and can see both negative and positive elements. However LAs feel there is a lack of information and communication about decisions being made. 	<p>PW to follow up on RCC representative</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was requested that a copy of the minutes from the SPIN meetings be shared with the Board. - The next SPIN meeting is on 25 April. Items to be covered include: Housing First, Universal Credit and Rough Sleepers Action Plan. • Finance and Research group – the group would like to have the opportunity to feed into the Pathfinder group. Data sharing is different in every LA, and the group would welcome SAIL making a presentation at the June SPNAB meeting. • Cymorth Cymru – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the trauma informed training is being rolled out and take up of the training has been excellent with over 1000 people signed up. - Housing First Network is going well and useful discussions are taking place. - The Cymorth Annual Conference is taking place on 15 March. - Briefing sessions have been held on GDPR. - Developing good practice for substance misuse and homelessness. - Involved in preparing for SAR Engagement events • Risk Register – it was identified that the document needs updating before the next meeting. • WAO Report update <p>PAC evidence sessions have been held. There were concerns expressed around WG engagement with the sector about the changes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Waiting on PAC to conclude its inquiry and issue its report/recommendations. We will need to formally respond to the report. 	<p>A copy of the SPIN minutes to be circulated to the group</p> <p>WG to organise SAIL presentation for June</p> <p>WG to update risk register and circulate for comments before next meeting</p>
6. Cymorth Service User Event Report	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three regional service user events were held in January with approximately 100 people attending. A survey was also circulated, which was completed by 50 service users. • As a result of the events a report has been produced, “Experts by Experience”, and this was presented to the Board. The feedback gathered covers a broad range of service users from different support providers and is an honest representation of their views. • The engagement events also covered what has not worked well or could be improved; these comments will be used to look at where improvements need to be made. • NA asked if there is equality data available of the people who took part in the service user event/survey. KD stated that currently this type of information is not recorded due to service users wanting to remain completely anonymous and asking 	

<p>for this type of information might deter people from taking part. But she will consider how this could be done for future events without compromising anonymity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PW recommended that the report be shared with funding flexibilities project and LAs. • The report will be officially presented at the Cymorth Annual Conference on 15 March by two service users that participated in the events. 	
7. Supported Accommodation Review (SAR) Update	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PW presented a paper with an update on SAR • PW explained that as part of the UK wide consultation ‘funding for supported housing’ the UK Government announced its intention to transfer to the Welsh Block a sum equivalent to the amount that will no longer be paid through Housing Benefit, once Universal Credit will apply to residents of supported accommodation. This policy applied to all residents of fixed site supported accommodation and the change will be implemented in April 2020. • Telephone conversation planned with DWP in the next few days. Definition of short term accommodation is required. • The timetable for the review includes delivery of; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy advice on options appraisal by the end of May 2018 • Preferred option advice end of September • Formal consultation on the framework to run from November 2018 to January 2019 • Guidance to be published by end of March 2019 • Implementation year March 2019 to March 2020 • Go live April 2020 <p>Three stakeholder consultation events have been arranged, in conjunction with Cymorth and CHC, and are open to all stakeholders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12th April - North Wales • 18th April - West Wales • 26th April - South Wales. • KD commented that the engagement and collaborative working from WG on this issue has been positive. • WLGA should also be involved in the stakeholder events and PW will extend invitation. 	
8. AOB	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In line with the Welsh Language Standards, the Board’s language preference for meetings was checked with members again. The Board agreed that they were happy for meetings to continue to be held in English but would need to check with members who are not present. 	<p>JL to check language preferences of members</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group were asked if they were happy for the September development day to be moved to 19 September due to the availability of suitable rooms. This was agreed as the new date. 	
9. Next meeting	
Monday 11 June, National Assembly Building, Ty Hywel, Cardiff Bay.	