

Supporting People National Advisory Board (SPNAB) Meeting

Minutes

**19 September 2018 – Garn Ddu Meeting Room, Welsh Government Offices,
Rhydycar, Merthyr Tydfil**

Present:

Daniel Groves (DG)	Chair (Independent)
Katie Dalton (KD)	Cymorth Cymru
Nigel Stannard (NS)	SPIN Representative
Harry McKeown (HMK)	CHC Representative
Frances Beecher (FB)	Governance Working Group Chair
Michelle Church (MC)	Strategic Finance & Research Group Chair
Keiron Montague (KM)	Independent member
Hannah Mills (HM)	RCC Representative
Sarah Rhodes (SR)	Welsh Government
Angharad Rogers (AR)	Welsh Government
Paul Webb (PW)	Welsh Government
Julie Llewellyn (JL)	Welsh Government

Apologies:

Naomi Alleyne (NA)	WLGA
Sue Thomas (ST)	Housing Leadership Cymru
Diana Binding (DB)	Probation
Helen Northmore (HN)	Independent
Josie Smith (JS)	Public Health Wales
Claire Marchant (CM)	ADSS Representative
Emma Williams (EW)	Welsh Government
Mansel Aylward (MA)	NHS

Note	Action
1. Welcome and Introductions	
<p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	
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. Welsh Government Update	
<p>Supported Accommodation Review UK Government Announcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the UK Government's consultation last year on its proposal for new ways of funding supported housing, the UK Government made an announcement on 9 August 2018 that all supported housing funding is to be retained in the welfare system and that housing benefit will be kept in place for all those living in supported housing. • The Welsh Government SAR steering group met on 10 September and identified the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ it is likely that supported accommodation will be defined using the definition of Specified Accommodation. A large proportion of sheltered housing and even Extra Care schemes in Wales are not defined as Specified, meaning that working age tenants would need to claim Universal Credit. Universal Credit service charges are more restrictive than HB and this would lead to a rent and service charge shortfall for the tenants. ○ The definition set for Supported/General Needs was set as a temporary measure with Local Authorities interpreting the definition differently. DWP have stated that the current definition is to be used; however this was only meant to be a temporary measure. • HMK asked if the DWP are likely to review the definition and suggested that it may be worth undertaking an exercise with Benefit Managers to understand the scale of the issue and application of the definition by LAs. • PW confirmed that DWP have said that they don't intend on changing the definition of specified accommodation, however it could be useful to provide evidence to support our concerns. • KD stated that another issue to raise is that the stakeholder engagement built around the SAR had identified the opportunity for tenants to move into work without facing significant housing costs. The decision to revert to the Housing Benefit system would appear to reverse this opportunity. 	<p>HMK to speak to landlords to understand the scale of the issue</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh Government will discuss these issues with the DWP, and if needed a meeting will be arranged with the Steering Group and Benefits Managers in order for DWP to provide clarification. • FB commented that organisations have to subsidise women needing to stay in refuges as it is too expensive for the women to stay there. This is adding to the deficit of the sector which is leading to a huge problem. FB suggested that a working group be established to look at the issues. KD said that WWA are committed to speaking to their stakeholders and feeding back to the Steering Group. 	<p>PW to arrange a meeting/discuss with DWP to provide clarification on definitions</p>
<p>Funding Flexibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final Interim Evaluation Report from Wavehill will be published by KAS under Government Social Research guidelines shortly. The Evaluation Steering Group met during September to discuss the draft report and feedback comments to Wavehill. • An announcement on the final EIPS decision by Minister is expected in October. The group asked if a note could go to the Minister requesting that the group be made aware of any decisions/announcement as soon as possible in order to provide stability to the sector. 	<p>The Chair agreed to write to the Minister to make this request.</p>
<p>SP Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final Supporting People guidance was published on 30 July 2018. The guidance states that service users are unable to access services if they have no recourse to public funds. Internal legal advice received stated that this can not be changed as that would undermine UK immigration policy. • KD requested that if when the guidance is updated in the future, can it include reference to Psychological Informed Approach? PW stated that this is not a good practise document but a guidance document on how to administer SP. However we would ensure that specification would enable PIA. • NS stated that the revised guidance is more clearly set out and easier to navigate. 	
<p>PAC Inquiry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Assembly for Wales Public Accounts Committee published its report on the Supporting People Programme in May 2018. The report was welcomed and made thirteen recommendations mostly around the potential integration of SP within the EIPS grant. An official response was provided in July 2018. 	

4. RCCs Annual Review Summary Report 2017-18	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FB explained that the role of the Governance Working Group is to analyse the RCC annual reports, with the overarching question being asked “Does the RCC demonstrate that it is providing Strategic direction for the SP Programme”. • On the whole the majority of RCCs are able to demonstrate that they are providing strategic direction with a clear vision of what needs to progress in the future. However there are two regions where issues have been highlighted and evidence was weak. It is also noted that funding flexibilities has dominated the RCCs’ agenda over the last year. It was felt that it would be beneficial to RCCs to highlight good practise within the report. The report will be amended by FB and a copy of the full report will then be sent to all RDCs. • FB asked what action SPNAB could take to deal with the issues highlighted. It was decided that once the Ministerial decision has been made on EIPS that the common issues identified and the role of the RCCs should be discussed and reviewed at the SBNAB Development Day in December. • HMK stated that there are other issues which need to be highlighted when the discussions take place; Bridgend CBC wants to change its regional area and we need to understand what the added value is from the way the RCC;s currently work. HMK also asked if the Board has a role to advise the Minister of the risks with RCCs. FB said that the working group could not support this as they consider it more of a missed opportunity for regional working than a risk to the delivery of SP. • FB wanted to note SPNAB thanks to the Governance Working Group for their hard work in producing the comprehensive report. 	<p>A copy of the amended report to be sent to all RDC’s. RCCs Review needs to be added to the agenda for the December meeting.</p>
5. Risk Register	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AR presented the SPNAB Risk Register which identifies the key risks to the Supporting People Programme. The register was last reviewed and updated at the June meeting. • The Board agreed for the SAR risk to be removed and replaced with a new risk around ensuring dialogue is maintained with the DWP over ongoing issues. • AR will update the risk register with all the changes agreed and the updated register will be sent out to the Board. 	<p>AR to update the risk register with amendments</p>
6. Updates	
SPIN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The last SPIN meeting was held on 3 July and was well attended. • SP Managers were thanked for providing their responses 	

on EIPS which was compiled into a paper. A copy of the letter which was sent to the Minister was shared with the meeting recommending consideration of two separate grants.

- The End Youth Homelessness Campaign has been up and running for a year. The group is currently setting up 3 task and finish groups which they are looking for representation for. If members are interested they should let Joy Williams know in the first instance.
- There is work currently taking place on the shared Emergency accommodation definition to include in the guidance for the next WG rough sleeper count. The group were asked for suggestions to the definition.
- The SHIN database is progressing and the fields are currently being developed. The database will be piloted in a few areas first before being rolled out across the country to all team working directly with rough sleepers.
- Joy Williams will be employed by Newport from 1st August.
- Carl Spiller of WG led a discussion on Post-implementation evaluation of Part 2 of the Housing Act (Wales) 2014: Final Report recently published.
- NS stated that there is currently a lot of work being done by SP to prevent homelessness that is not being recorded. There needs to be better links between homelessness and SP.
- Paul Neave from WG gave a presentation on **Quality and Sustainable Advice Services**. Discussion around the work of the Information and Advice Action Plan and the moves to reconfigure the resourcing of advice services in Wales.

RCC

- HM stated that the RCC's had requested she seek clarification on a few points:
 1. Would the RCC Report Review carried out by the Governance Group be shared with RCC's/RDC's? It has already been agreed that the report will be shared.
 2. What is the future of RCC's and RDC's? PW stated that it is not possible to give a definitive answer at the moment until a final decision has been made by Ministers on EIPS, however governance structures will need to be looked at.

Governance Group

- FB stated that the future work plan for the group needs to be looked at, as does the membership and purpose.

Finance and Research Group

- MC stated that the group met on 10 July and the meeting was dominated by discussions on Funding Flexibilities.

Research & Evaluation Group

- The group has continued to meet monthly in order to monitor progress with the SAIL project. It is still the case that 19 of 22 local authorities have signed Data Sharing Agreements and have submitted their data to the project.
- The Year Two progress report was published at the end of June which provided an update on process. However, it was not possible to include data analysis at that time.
- A report is being presented to the Minister on the emerging findings of the SAIL project.

CHC

- HM reported that CHC are holding elections to renew the landlord reps on RCCs. Currently having elections in Cwm Taf, Cardiff & Vale and North Wales. Looking for deputies for Gwent and Western Bay.
- CHC will be working with Cymorth to open up the RPFs to the landlord representatives so that the services are more joined up.
- CHC welcome UK Government's decision to continue to fund Supported Accommodation rents through Housing Benefit after scrapping their plans to localise housing costs.
- HM wanted to make people aware of the One Big Housing Conference taking place on 11/12th October.
- Working with CIH and Housing First Network and Housing Network to engage with senior housing management staff to understand what is required in order to access accommodation for Housing First services. Engagement will be through existing networks, groups and events.
- A Housing Management sub-group of the Housing First network to be created to engage with this very important part of Housing First deliver.

Cymorth Cymru

- Much of the work Cymorth has focussed on the campaign to retain a ring-fence around homelessness and housing-related support funding. The Housing Matters report has been published which outlines an alternative solution to the EIPS super grant and has widespread support from across the housing and support sector.
- They have continued to run the Housing First Network, which has had very good attendance from third sector support providers, housing associations and local authorities, with broader membership including public health.
- Further work to organise and service the Third Sector Substance Misuse Networks continues and aims to develop links between housing and substance misuse organisations.
- Work continues with the Learning Disability special interest

<p>group with providers of LD supported living schemes. Meeting have been facilitated with relevant WG officials and corresponded with local government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SP Regional Provider Forums are being held across the six RCC regions. These have been well attended by providers and landlords and provide a useful space for discussion on national policy developments and local commissioning issues. • An application for funding has been submitted to deliver more PATH training, working in conjunction with the Local Authority Housing Networks Project and the ACEs Hub. Also, work is being undertaken with the Assistance Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales to incorporate the Review Together project into the proposal. • Cymorth have two upcoming events: Psychologically Informed Housing and Support on 26 September and Homelessness Symposium on 7 November. 	
7. December Development Day	
<p>The following is a list of items it was identified should be discussed/reviewed at the December meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The links between homelessness and SP/governance arrangements • Recommendations on governance arrangements for a new Housing Grant (depending on decision on EIPS), including the role of SPNAB & RCCs • Review of RCCs/RDCs • Review of current SPNAB Groups and membership • Programme of Work for the coming year • A detailed look at the WAO Report Recommendations • A set of questions to be created to facilitate group discussions. 	
8. Election of SPNAB Chair	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DG has acted as the interim Chair since March 2018 due to the resignation of the previous Chair. There are currently 3 independent members on the board. Following a vote DG was nominated as the permanent Chair. DG accepted the role. 	
9. AOB	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board asked for further clarification and an update on the work being undertaken on homelessness and Housing First. SR suggested that this should be added as a standard update on the agenda. 	<p>Board to consider as part of the review of governance arrangements in December</p>

10. Next Meeting	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The December meeting will be a development day held on Monday 3rd December 2018 at the National Assembly Building, Ty Hywel, Cardiff Bay. • Further discussion will be held regarding who should attend the development day. 	

Action Log

Supporting People National Advisory Board

Date Action Identified	Action Details	Responsible	Status
1. 11 th June 2018	Funding Flexibilities – Equality Impact Assessment PW to check the date for completion of the EIA with FF team.	Paul Webb	Completed
2. 11 th June 2018	Funding Flexibilities – the secretariat to distribute all of the contributions provided for the paper sent to the Minister.	WG Secretariat	Completed June 2018
3. 11 th June 2018	SAR – NA to arrange a meeting between PW and Local Authority Members.	Naomi Alleyne	This meeting is no longer necessary in light of the SAR announcement.
4. 11 th June 2018	Rough Sleeping Action Plan – a copy of the ToR for the Homelessness Task & Finish Group to be sent to the board.	WG Secretariat	Completed September 2018
5. 11 th June 2018	SP support to Refugees – the board to provide information to NA on the level of support provided to refugees.	Board Members	Completed
6. 11 th June 2018	The Risk Register had been updated as it was out of date. The board to provide comments on the changes to AR.	Board Members	Completed