

Supporting People National Advisory Board (SPNAB) Meeting

Minutes

5 March 2019 – Caerdydd 2 Meeting Room, Welsh Government Offices,
Cathays Park, Cardiff

Present:

Daniel Groves (DG)	Chair (Independent)
Katie Dalton (KD)	Cymorth Cymru
Nigel Stannard (NS)	SPIN Representative
Cheryl Emery (CE)	RCT Council
Harry McKeown (HMK)	CHC Representative
Michelle Church (MC)	Strategic Finance & Research Group Chair
Diana Binding (DB)	Probation
Helen Northmore (HN)	Independent
Josie Smith (JS)	Public Health Wales
Lance Carver (LC)	ADSS Representative
Angela Lee (AL)	RCC Representative
Jim McKirdle (JM)	WLGA
Liz Cook (LC)	Welsh Government
Karl Thomas (KT)	Welsh Government
Emma Williams (EW)	Welsh Government
Angharad Rogers (AR)	Welsh Government
Paul Webb (PW)	Welsh Government
Julie Llewellyn (JL)	Welsh Government

Apologies:

Frances Beecher (FB)	Governance Working Group Chair
Keiron Montague (KM)	Independent member
Sarah Rhodes (SR)	Welsh Government
Naomi Alleyne (NA)	WLGA

Note	Action
1. Welcome and Introductions	
The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minutes of the meeting 19/09/18 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	
Feedback from HSG Steering Group	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A HSG Steering Group has been created and held its first meeting in November 2018. The purpose of the group is to design a co-productive approach to stakeholder engagement which will help inform development of appropriate administrative, governance, planning and monitoring arrangements for the HSG. • It was agreed that a Key Messages document should be produced and circulated at appropriate times in order to keep stakeholders informed and up to date with any key developments on the HSG. Two have been produced to date. • The Steering Group undertook a stakeholder mapping exercise in order to identify who all the HSG stakeholders are, and the most appropriate means of engaging with each one. A communication plan has been drawn up. 	
Feedback from HSG Engagement Events	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three stakeholder engagement events took place in February 2019 in Mid, North and South Wales. As a result WG were able to engage with approximately 140 stakeholders across the sector. All of the feedback will be analysed, however it is too early to draw any conclusions that can be shared with SPNAB. PW is also engaging wider with other relevant organisations and policy colleagues within Welsh Government. • NS asked what we want to have achieved by 2020, and for local authorities what is the plan? PW stated that for LAs this year it should be business as usual with no fundamental changes, however LAs should be thinking about how they manage the change process internally and there should be one strategic lead that is able to align HSG and CCG. • DG enquired about the main issue identified by stakeholders following the decision on two grants. PW explained that stakeholders are concerned that the current approach has only been committed to until the end of the 	

Assembly term. There is concern that this will restrict long term strategic planning. KD added that both Cymorth and CHC argued for a longer commitment to give time to bed in and establish an evidence base.

- HMK asked about the consultation and engagement plan for the implementation of the CCG? PW explained that the CCG grant is more complicated than the HSG as it is having to merge seven different programmes, and their main stakeholders are local authorities. Joint 1:1 meetings have been held with non-pathfinder authorities to help them prepare for the two grants, and regular meetings are continuing to be held with pathfinder authorities.

Single Outcomes Framework

- A Single Outcomes Framework is being developed to cover both grants. A workshop was held in January which SP leads were invited to attend. Following the workshop a draft Outcomes Framework was circulated at the end of February setting out WG's intent and provides a sense of direction of measuring the success of both grants. A data group is being set up (led by the Funding Transition Team) which will help develop a data strategy that will underpin the Outcomes Framework. The group will be a mix of representatives from LAs, Welsh Government and others.
- KD highlighted that the outcomes data group should have representation from other organisations not just local authorities i.e providers.

HSG Project Reporting Framework

- A Welsh Government internal HSG Project Team has been created and held its first meeting on 30th January. The purpose of the project team is to receive updates from each of the work streams and to consider their recommendations on the development and implementation of the HSG.
- To also agree advice to Ministers about the development and implementation of the HSG and identify and manage issues and risks for the HSG.
- To manage development, implementation and roll out of the HSG to local authorities through the oversight of the HSG Project Action Plan.
- The Project Lead will inform and provide updates to the Implementation Board.

HSG Next Steps

- Consultation on the draft guidance for the HSG Autumn 2019.
- Final HSG Guidance issued by February 2020.

4. SPNAB Future Priorities and Sub Groups post April 2019	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PW posed the questions that the group needs to consider. What does the future of SPNAB look like, what are we trying to achieve and is the current membership correct for that purpose? • The feeling was that SPNAB needs to be more strategic in order to be able to provide advice to the Minister. • The group should also be looking at wider relevant issues and further into the future. SPNAB should have better links with Homelessness Task and finish group and the Housing First network. • The current membership of SPNAB needs to be looked at and there should be wider representation from homelessness. • There was a discussion on the current sub-groups, the membership and the fact that the expertise on the groups should not be lost. It was agreed that SPNAB should commission work for the groups to undertake this year. • Following discussion the following was agreed by the group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Governance Working group will be consulted on proposals for the content of the HSG Guidance Document. ➤ Finance and Research Group to focus on feeding into the development of the Single Outcomes Framework and data group. ➤ Research & Evaluation Group will continue to focus on the delivery of SAIL • The Chair would like to commission people in the future to come and present at SPNAB meetings on wider issues that have strategic links with HSG. 	<p>JL to set up a meeting of Governance Group</p> <p>PW to commission work for Finance & Research group</p> <p>Advice to be sent to the Minister on the agreed changes</p>
5. Review of Learning Disabilities Services	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LC outlined the scope of the work she is carrying out in response to the WAO recommendation “to consider whether funding should remain within HSG or transfer to social care” The research will look at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) How much funding comes from SP, from Social care or from other budgets? (b) Differences between Local Authority funding and the reasons why? • Research is being commissioned and will go out to tender during March 2019. • No decisions have been made and stakeholder engagement activity is currently taking place in order to understand stakeholder views on the current and future funding. 	<p>A copy of the specification to be sent to the group</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LC asked if the budgets for health are being looked at as part of this work as it will provide a more rounded picture. Liz Cook to consider • The group were asked to contact LC if they have any specific question or would like to provide comment on the work. 	
6. HSG Distribution – Funding Research	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KT outlined the work being carried out to look at the re-distribution of funding. Research is being commissioned and will go out to tender during March 2019. The research will look at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The current Aylward formula to understand its strengths and weaknesses (b) Undertake research to understand key considerations for developing a new formula from local authority perspective (c) Develop options for a new funding allocation formula 	<p>A copy of the specification to be sent to the group</p>
7. Cymorth Service User Events - Feedback	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In January Cymorth Cymru organised three events on behalf of SPNAB to listen to the views and experiences of people who use Supporting People services in Wales. These were held in Carmarthen, Rhyl and Cardiff, and were attended by approximately 100 people. The discussions focused on a series of questions, including 'What Matters to You?', 'What works well?' and 'What can be improved'? Themes included the importance of compassion, respect and a non-judgemental approach, the need for flexible and person centred support, and the difficulty of finding suitable and affordable move-on accommodation. An electronic survey has also been created, so that people who weren't able to attend the events are able to feed in their views. Over 80 people have taken part in this survey. Cymorth will be writing a report over the next couple of months which summarises people's views and experiences from these events. 	
8. Updates	
<p>Homelessness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rough Sleeping: Cymorth Cymru are now delivering the second tranche of PATH training where 650 have already been trained and another 250 will be trained in 2019/20 to enhance the trauma-informed practice of the workforce. Cymorth Cymru are also about to finish their guidance document on assertive outreach, which will include examples of effective approaches. There will be a committee enquiry into Rough Sleeping on 21 March 2019 which will look at all aspects of rough sleeping since last year. There are two guidance documents which are in their final stages of drafting; local connection and interim 	

accommodation duties. These documents will be published this spring.

- **Housing First:** There are now four Housing First Trailblazer projects where funding has been agreed. These are Conwy/Denbighshire, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Cardiff. Early feedback from the Cardiff project (which received funding from the earlier pilot funding), has confirmed that of the 11 individuals who have been supported into accommodation, there has been no admissions to A&E and only one instance of anti-social behaviour reported across the whole group. While information has not been recorded systematically, support workers are of the opinion it is a significant decrease compared to interactions prior to engagement.
- **Youth homelessness:** Officials are currently reviewing applications for the youth support grant, specifically for the £3.7m of funding allocated for youth homelessness. Applications have been released for the Innovation Fund and the deadline is the end of the month. Officials will be working with successful applicants to identify capital funding, should they need it. We are currently working closely with Shelter Cymru to develop a plan for a bespoke advice service for young people. We are also in the process of putting together a plan for a communications and engagement piece of work to increase knowledge of homelessness and where to signpost for help and advice. This will be going to tender, and will feature on Sell2Wales once the final details have been developed.

SPIN

- The last SPIN meeting was held on 15 January in mid-Wales and was a joint meetings with the Homelessness Network.
- A full agenda included presentations on the following: Cardiff Housing Options introduced a presentation on Supporting People's input into homelessness prevention and their journey towards a joint data collection system. With support workers, housing options caseworkers and PRS officers working closely together a better service is provided to individuals approaching the service who are or may shortly be homeless.
- Welsh Government's Homes and Places Division, presented on the plan to secure pathfinders to pilot a new scheme to acquire properties from private landlords under a long lease. The properties would then be let at Local Housing Allowance rates to households on low incomes. A guaranteed rent would be paid to landlords for the period of the lease, including any void periods.
- Community Housing Cymru updated the meeting via a presentation on the 'End Youth Homelessness Campaign'. Discussion followed on questions posed including whether youth homelessness is included specifically in the recent

homelessness strategies, the specific needs of LGBTQ+ young people and what 'no discharge into homelessness' would look like.

- PW from Welsh Government presented on the development and future implementation of the Housing Support Grant. The whole meeting considered the following areas: governance, distribution formula and the planning process. This session was part of a wider series of consultation events on the new grant.
- The next SPIN meeting to be held in June will have items on the VAWDASV Act and commissioning from Welsh Women's Aid and a discussion on the Welsh Government research project looking into Supporting People funding of learning disability schemes.
- All future SPIN meeting will be joint between SP and Homelessness.

RCC

- AL ask for clarification from the group on the current purpose of the RCC and their role. There is also an issue with the retention of the role of RDC as there is no security of funding for the post. PW confirmed that one of the questions posed at the HSG engagement events was around Regional working. This will be considered with all of the other feedback. For this year, RCCs should continue to operate business as usual.

Governance Working Group

- This group has not met since the last SPNAB meeting. The Governance group will be utilised to consider potential proposals and content of the HSG Guidance document.

Finance and Research Group

- This group currently has no work plan and would welcome direction from SPNAB. SPNAB will task the sub-group to feed into the development of the Single Outcomes Framework and data strategy.

Research & Evaluation Group

- The group hasn't met since the last SPNAB meeting but members are currently being consulted about which subgroups within the data set should be considered for further analysis.

CHC

- CHC are coming to the end of a review of their Strategic Delivery Groups (SDGs), whereby they have been reviewing/updating their individual Work Plans and focussing the locations/timings of the meetings for maximum impact to achieve their strategic delivery plan. Further details will be released soon, via CHC.

- The Housing First Network's first Housing Management sub-group met on 18th December 2018. The meeting brought together a wide ranging group of senior managers from housing associations and stock holding local authorities. There was consensus that the housing sector will support Housing First; providing high quality support is delivered and a consistent funding stream is secured.
- The next meeting will be focussed on a proposed Housing First Housing Management charter, which will describe the standards of housing service provision that will be delivered by housing providers working with Housing First services.

Cymorth Cymru

- Since the last SPNAB meeting Cymorth has been heavily involved in the Housing Support Grant work, as a member of the steering group and helping to organise and facilitate the engagement events.
- Cymorth have embarked on a research project, part funded by the Oak Foundation and part funded by Cymorth, to assess the human and financial impact of homelessness and housing related support services in Wales. The research team is being led by Cardiff Met and Cymorth have just appointed a research officer.
- A second phase of the PATH Training Programme has been delivered to people working in the homelessness, housing and support sector. Training has been delivered on psychologically informed approaches to an additional 650 people by the end of March, building on the 1,100+ people who were trained in 2018.
- Cymorth has continued to organise and facilitate the Housing First Network, bringing together support providers, landlords, local authorities and other public services to support the roll-out of this model, which is a Welsh Government priority.
- Cymorth have also been working with the Welsh Government and the sector to develop principles for assertive outreach services in Wales, which is part of the WG Rough Sleeping Action Plan. The project will end in May 2020.
- They continue to facilitate the Third Sector Substance Misuse Network, and will be taking forward work to develop guidance on substance misuse in supported accommodation in the next six months.
- Cymorth recently held a conference on housing, health and social care, trying to further develop and strengthen links between these sectors and are holding their Annual Conference on 14 March 2019 on the theme 'Challenge the System | Shape the Future'.

9. AOB

No issues were raised.	
10. Next Meeting	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 11th June at the National Assembly Building, Ty Hywel, Cardiff Bay. The new Minister for Housing and Local Government, Julie James AM will be in attendance at the beginning of the meeting. 	

Action Log
Supporting People National Advisory Board

Date Action Identified	Action Details	Responsible	Status
1. 19 th September 2018	SAR Announcement – result of the decision could prevent tenants from moving into work. HMK to speak to landlords to understand level of impact.	Harry McKeown	Completed
2. 19 th September 2018	Women staying in refuges is subsidies by third sector and adding to deficit. PW to discuss with DWP for clarification on definitions.	Paul Webb	On going
3. 19 th September 2018	EIPS Decision – The Chair to write to the Minister to request information on decision as soon as possible.	Daniel Groves	Completed
4. 19 th September 2018	RCC Annual Review Summary Report – a copy of the reports to be sent to RDC's	Julie Llewellyn	Completed
5. 19 th September 2018	SPNAB Risk Register – to be updated and SAR risk to be removed.	Angharad Rogers	Completed
6.			