

# Supporting People National Advisory Board (SPNAB) Meeting

## Minutes

23 October 2019 – Cribyn Meeting Room, Welsh Government Offices,  
Merthyr Tydfil

### Present:

Daniel Groves (DG)	Chair (Independent)
Katie Dalton (KD)	Cymorth Cymru
Cheryl Emery (CE)	SPIN Representative
Will Atkinson (WA)	CHC
Michelle Church (MC)	Strategic Finance & Research Group Chair
Diana Binding (DB)	Probation
Frances Beecher (FB)	Governance Working Group
Josie Smith (JS)	Public Health Wales
Andrea James (AJ)	Housing Networks Steering Group
Claire Marchant (CM)	ADSS Representative
Hannah Mills (HM)	RCC Representative
Martin Whatty (MW)	Housing Networks Steering Group
Sarah Rhodes (SR)	Welsh Government
Sarah Bonwick (SB)	Welsh Government
Angharad Rogers (AR)	Welsh Government
Paul Webb (PW)	Welsh Government
Julie Llewellyn (JL)	Welsh Government

### Apologies:

Helen Northmore (HN)	Independent
Frances Beecher (FB)	Llamau
Emma Williams (EW)	Welsh Government
Naomi Alleyne (NA)	WLGA
Sam Parry (SP)	Housing Leadership Cymru
Harry McKeown	Representing CHC
Angela Lee (AL)	RCC Representative

Note	Action/s
<b>1. Welcome and Introductions</b>	
The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
<b>2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The minutes of the meeting 11/06/19 were accepted as an accurate record.</li> <li>• An update on actions from the previous meeting can be found at the end of the minutes.</li> <li>• DG clarified that he had not written to the Minister with recommendations on the future position of SPNAB. This work has been delayed and is on the agenda for discussion.</li> </ul>	
<b>3. Welsh Government Update</b>	
<p><b>HSG Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The new draft HSG practice guidance document was published for an 8 week consultation on the 7<sup>th</sup> October with a closing date of the 29<sup>th</sup> November.</li> <li>• The final guidance document will apply from April 2020 and the strategic planning and reporting arrangements set out in the guidance document will be applicable in preparing, planning and reporting for the HSG for the 2021-22 financial year and beyond.</li> <li>• PW clarified that Local authorities should develop <b>one</b> Housing Support Programme (HSP) Strategy every four years, which will outline the strategic direction of the local authority for housing support services. This should provide a single strategic approach to housing support services including homelessness prevention statutory homelessness functions funded through the revenue settlement.</li> <li>• LAs should develop an annual HSG Delivery Plan which should set out how they intend to deliver the HSG priorities identified in the Strategy including spending and commissioning intentions.</li> <li>• CE stated that RCT LA are positive about the changes and that the guidance sets out a good structure and clearer regional working arrangements.</li> <li>• JS asked if there will be targets and how will we address inadequate delivery plans i.e. if there is insufficient funding for substance misuse services? PW confirmed that there will not be targets however WG will be having conversations with LAs about how they are planning and engaging with service users in order to drive improvements. There will be also be a Single Outcomes Framework that sits across both the CCG &amp; HSG which will measure the performance of LAs in delivering the grants. This will be in place by April 2020.</li> </ul>	

- JS further asked about mechanisms for sharing good practice from and between LAs. PW explained that in addition to meetings between WG and LAs, there will also be the quarterly information network meetings, Regional Collaborative Group meetings and the new Ministerial Advisory Board.
- KD stated that providers have welcomed the alignment of HSG and HPG, and the general direction of travel. However:
  - i. Providers are nervous about their perceived loss of accountability, eg, for LAs the guidance not prescribing who sits on their planning groups and how they should engage with stakeholders. Concerned that authorities appear to have complete control and how that will affect working relationships with providers.
  - ii. Would like to see a consistent management information system across LAs. For providers working across different LAs it can be problematic if each LA have different systems.
  - iii. Changes to the role of the RCC - under the new proposed system providers do not want to lose any benefits generated by the current RCC structure where it has worked well, and are nervous about losing the provider voice. Providers generally support RCGs being attached to the RPBs but believe a stronger housing voice is needed on the Board to represent HSG/homelessness.
  - iv. It was felt that there needs to be the ability for providers and service users to be able to raise a concern with WG and that this needs to be set out in the guidance.
  - v. Providers are concerned about the outcome of the distribution work and its impact.
- CM (who currently sits on an RPB) stated that currently the RPB is too large to be an effective delivery mechanism. It should be about the governance structure how that is managed and having the understanding that they are not a delivery mechanism; they assess need and set a strategic direction.
- DB said that she welcomes the inclusion of engagement with parties in the criminal justice system.

**Learning Disabilities Housing Related Support**

- In his report on the Supporting People programme in August 2017, the Auditor General for Wales’ highlighted the issues around the eligibility of support for people with Learning Disability(LD) and differences in the level of support provided. Work in response to the associated recommendation was taken forward as a work stream within the wider work to develop the new Housing Support Grant.
- The stakeholder engagement element of this work has been completed and the draft report from the financial research has been received, with the final report expected during the week

<p>commencing 28<sup>th</sup> October. The outputs of these two elements will be brought together to formulate advice for a Ministerial decision in mid-November.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At present the draft HSG guidance has been written as if LD is remaining within the HSG.</li> </ul> <p><b>Distribution</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work is progressing well on the redistribution work stream. Researchers have interacted with the sector in a number of ways including workshops, on-line surveys and interviews. It is hoped that the final report will be available by mid November 2019. Following receipt of the final report recommendations will be put to the Minister for Housing and Local Government.</li> </ul> <p><b>HSG Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HSG Consultation summary of responses published January 2020</li> <li>• Final HSG guidance issued end of January 2020</li> <li>• Housing Support Grant guidance implementation 01 April 2020.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4. RCCs Annual Reviews 2018-19</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The RCC Annual Reviews for 2018-19 and a synopsis of each was distributed to members for comment.</li> <li>• KD recognised that there has been progress made since last year, and it is very important not to lose those benefits. Progress needs to be recognised in the new structure and built upon.</li> <li>• CE agreed. There is a mixed bag but progress appears to have been made by all RCCs.</li> <li>• JS said that it is important that the sharing of good practice continues under the new system.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5. SPNAB Future Priorities Discussion</b></p>	
<p><b>Housing Support National Advisory Board (HSNAB)</b></p> <p>The following were suggestions made for the future board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to be clear what the board's purpose is, and a Programme of Work and action plan should be created.</li> <li>• Task &amp; Finish groups should be created to look at specific work areas and report to the board.</li> <li>• Possibility of merging SPNAB with current homelessness boards/task and finish groups currently in place.</li> <li>• Be more strategic, look at emerging evidence including international evidence. Benchmarking - how is Wales doing? Be responsive to emerging issues.</li> <li>• The need to ensure that the new board is cross public sector.</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It needs to be clear what the added value is of having the board.</li> <li>• The board needs to be truly collaborative and wider looking, not just what the WG are doing but what is the whole sector doing.</li> <li>• KD suggested that recommendations and conclusions should be made to the Minister following each meeting.</li> <li>• The agenda for the board should be set jointly by the Minister and the Chair.</li> <li>• As a result of the discussion, WG will create a paper with proposals of what <b>HSNAB</b> could look like for discussion and comment at the next meeting in January.</li> <li>• It was agreed that the Strategic Finance and Research Group no longer needed to meet as they had completed their programme of work.</li> </ul>	<p>WG to draw up paper with proposals</p>
<p><b>6. Hot Topics</b></p>	
<p><b>Substance Misuse</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Welsh Government Substance Misuse Plan 2019-22 was published on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 and builds on framework established by the Substance Misuse strategy 'Working Together to Reduce Harm', with the overarching aim to reduce the harms caused by substance misuse to the individual and wider society. Over its duration, this delivery plan will provide a focus for ensuring that substance misuse is embedded across other policy areas in the Welsh Government, ensuring partnership working at a national and local level to ensure a preventative, integrated and long term approach to improve outcomes.</li> <li>• Welsh Government have charged Public Health Wales to develop the Substance Misuse Treatment Framework (SMTF) for Prisons. This is one of four strands, the other being Mental Health, Medicines Management and Prison Environment. The aim of this new collective work is to ensure that those in prison can live in environments that promote health and well-being and where health services can be accessed to an equivalent standard of those within the community. The SMTF will focus on discharge from Prison to appropriate housing and support. Extensive workshop and engagement in development and refinement of the SMTF will be undertaken in 2020.</li> </ul> <p><b>Launch of Safeguarding Procedures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The New all Wales Safeguarding Procedures are being launched in National Safeguarding Week which is week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> November. The procedures will formally come into effect from April 2019. Training will be commissioned and training plans delivered through Regional Safeguarding Boards for adults and children.</li> </ul>	

<b>9. AOB – meeting dates for 2020</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next meeting will be in January. SPNAB will cease from 31 March 2020 and the new HSNAB will be in place. It was agreed that until the board is in a position to make decisions on the terms of reference for HSNAB, that the board should continue to meet quarterly during 2020. This decision will be reviewed.</li> </ul>	
<b>10. Next Meeting</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January at the WG Offices, Cathays Park.</li> </ul>	

**Action Log**  
**Supporting People National Advisory Board**

<b>Date Action Identified</b>	<b>Action Details</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Status</b>
1. 11 June 2019	The Chair to write to the Minister with suggestions of future direction of SPNAB.	The Chair	This has been delayed until further work is carried out
2. 11 June 2019	A position paper from the SF & Research Group on the Outcomes Framework was presented. MC to amend the paper and submit to Funding Alignment Data Working Group	Michelle Church	Completed