



**VALE OF GLAMORGAN AND CARDIFF REGIONAL COLLABORATIVE
COMMITTEE
12TH DECEMBER 2012**

Present:

Councillor Bronwen Brooks - VGC
 Councillor Lynda Thorne – CCC
 Mike Friel – CCC
 Michelle Brewer – CCC
 Pam Toms – VGC
 Frances Beecher – Cymorth
 Robert Waldron – VGC (Audit)
 Richard Dooner (WLGA)
 Mike Ingram – VGC
 Kevin Parsons – VGC (Minutes)

Mark Sheridan – CHC
 Peter Greenhill – Probation
 Simon Prothero – WG
 Nathan Cook - WG
 Sian Griffiths -Public Health
 Helen Jones (Hafod Care)

Apologies:

Miles Punter – VGC
 Ceri Meloy – Cymorth
 Jeff Gooch - Cymorth
 Sian Harrop-Griffiths – CVUHB
 Mike Murphy - CCC

	Action
<p>Introductions and Apologies Councillor Bronwen Brooks (Chair) welcomed everyone to the second Regional Collaborative Committee (RCC) for the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff.</p> <p>Everyone introduced themselves, the organisations which they represented and apologies were noted.</p>	
<p>Minutes of last meeting The Minutes of the meeting of 7th November were agreed with the following corrections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The Supporting People Programme Grant budget cut being applied to Cardiff Council is 4% in 2013/14 and 5% for each of the following three years. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Correct spelling Richard Dooner (WLGA) ❖ The Guidance from Welsh Government confirms that the redistribution formula will be reviewed in 2014/15 but this is currently being debated 	
<p>Conflict of Interest Forms Councillor Brooks re-iterated the need for members of the RCC to be aware that they were required to declare any conflict of interest at the start of all RCC meetings and standard forms were available for completion.</p> <p>No conflicts of interest were declared.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p>Standard Agenda Items</p> <p>Accreditation. The draft guidance was sent out for consultation by the Welsh Government on 6th December, therefore there were no accreditation applications to report.</p> <p>Financial Position against Budget. Copies of the local and regional spend plans for the period 1st November 2012 to 31st March 2013 and the 2012/13 Local Spend Plan for the Vale of Glamorgan were circulated for information.</p> <p>Regional Needs Mapping. The needs mapping information, whilst available at the local level has not yet been combined and analysed to provide the regional needs mapping information. This work will be undertaken by the Regional Development Coordinator once appointed.</p> <p>Outcomes and Performance Management (including service reviews). Providers have submitted their first six months of Outcomes measures to both local authorities and scheme reviews in both local authorities are ongoing. Reports will be taken to future RCC meetings.</p> <p>Proposals for Strategic Modelling. None.</p> <p>Retendering of Learning Disability Contracts. Mike Murphy, Cardiff Council was unable to attend this meeting. His presentation will be included in the January 2013 RCC meeting. It was agreed that Cardiff Council's Cabinet Member who has responsibility for these services, Councillor Luke Holland</p>	<p>MB</p>

would also be invited to attend.

Commissioning and Procurement.

Richard Dooner (RD) from the WLGA was invited to the meeting to discuss the local authority responsibilities in respect of their own financial regulations and standing orders for commissioning and procurement as it conflicts with the Supporting People Guidance in parts.

RD outlined the requirements on local authorities to comply with their own financial regulations, which differed across Wales in addition to the European Union Regulations and that advice should also be sought from the legal officers at the local level. It needs to be a robust procedure but not overly onerous but was needed to protect Councillors and Officers.

Frances Beecher (FB) highlighted that some support providers had expressed concerns that commissioning and procurement were used in some local authorities as a means of cutting funding.

RD explained local authorities had to decide on their own 'route to market' and whether services were bought in, delivered in-house or to use a combination of both. It was also for the local authority to determine how its working relationship with the service provider developed. It was a commercial relationship but the emphasis should be on a less dogmatic approach. Competition and other organisations could be considered but this could be done without taking an adversarial role with providers.

Mark Sheridan (MS) advised that CHC had been involved in the development of the SP Guidance and they were hopeful that it would support co-production, but accepted that local authorities had to comply with their financial regulations.

Simon Protheroe (SP) advised that the Welsh Government intention and focus in the Guidance was on stability for service users, but recognised that local authorities had different financial regulations. He confirmed that across Wales the vast majority of procurement works well and that Welsh Government expected the Value Wales Route Planner (which is currently being updated) to be followed and promoted a procurement exercise based on strategic need.

The possibility of future joint commissioning and procurement was discussed across the region and it was established that the Vale of Glamorgan Council's financial regulations allowed it to abide by

<p>Cardiff Council’s commissioning process if it led on the exercise. However, Cardiff Council’s financial regulations did not allow for another local authorities process to be followed if it took the lead.</p> <p>At FB’s request, the attendees agreed that this was a work in progress, that Commissioning and Procurement should become a standard agenda item for future meetings and that the RCC would invite local authority Procurement Officers to meetings as required.</p> <p>Service User Engagement – TPAS Tenant Engagement Grant Bid discussion</p> <p>The bid information was circulated for the RCC to consider.</p> <p>The other Five RCC regions in Wales had already supported the bid which was aimed at capacity building and ensuring that service users had the knowledge and confidence to get involved in the RCC process to represent service users views. If successful, TPAS would also assist in the development of a Service User Participation Framework</p> <p>FB voiced concerns about how engagement would take place with different service user groups as they should be treated as individuals and thought that more clarification was needed.</p> <p>MS shared the concerns and advised that further discussions should be undertaken with TPAS.</p> <p>Further discussion took place and it was resolved that because of the Welsh Government deadline for the bid, a letter of support would be provided to TPAS. However they should be advised that the RCC will work with TPAS to engage with service users but will determine the process and finalise a Service User Engagement Strategy or Framework which best meets the needs of the region.</p>	<p>PT</p> <p>PT</p>
<p>Proposed Budget Cuts 2013/2014 – Cardiff Council.</p> <p>Following consultation with Cymorth and CHC members by their representatives on the RCC, a written request was made to Cardiff Council on behalf of both Organisations requesting further information about the proposed 4% budget cut being introduced to all services in 2013/14.</p> <p>FB advised that many providers had expressed surprise that given that Cardiff Council had undertaken a large number of strategic</p>	

<p>reviews of services, a more strategic approach could not be taken to the budget cuts. However other providers preferred the introduction of a 4% cut, rather than close services.</p> <p>Mike Friel (MF) confirmed that reviews had taken place but that due to the short timeframe left to implement the cuts there was not enough time to undertake consultation with the providers and service users. He confirmed that a more strategic approach would be taken in 2014/15.</p> <p>Further discussion took place about the delay in forming the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff RCC, which took place after the local government elections. It was also acknowledged that the delay and lack of clarity about the regional process resulted in less communication with providers.</p> <p>MF assured attendees that there was no lack of strategic direction but more a lack of clear process because of the introduction of the RCC.</p> <p>MS said that there was an acceptance by CHC members that given the time of year, there was no other way of making the cuts</p> <p>MF outlined the work to be undertaken by Cardiff Council in 2013/14 and 2014/15. There are not only a large number of services which will need to be reviewed but consideration will also have to be given to remodelling requirements. He assured attendees that all planned changes would be reported and taken through the RCC.</p> <p><u>A vote was taken and the proposed approach to the 4% budget cuts being imposed across all providers by Cardiff Council in 2013/14 was approved by all members of the RCC.</u></p>	
<p>AOB</p> <p>An email had been received from Chris Rutson, Chair of Governance and Regulation Work stream requesting that the RCC consider whether it was satisfied with the existing Landlord representation or whether consideration should be given to inviting a landlord representative from the local authority if it had retained its stock and the private rented sector.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that there should be appropriate representation on the RCC, but that it may be too early to extend</p>	

the membership. It was also noted that the local authority landlord function was already represented on the RCC through the Chief Officers as they represented Housing Services.

It was resolved that:

- ❖ A discussion paper would be taken to the February RCC about the involvement of the private sector landlords
- ❖ Contact would be made with Chris Rutson to determine how other RCC were approaching this

MB

FB

SP gave the following update to the attendees:

- ❖ The domestic abuse paper 'Ending Violence against Women' is due to be published this month and will have implications for homelessness.
- ❖ There are implications for Supporting People in the new Housing Act.
- ❖ The new Social Security Bill could have an impact on supported housing in respect of prevention.
- ❖ The Older Person's Strategy and Action Plan is due to be published soon.
- ❖ Nathan Cook is leaving the Supporting People Team at Welsh Government to take up a promotion and a new member of staff will be recruited in the foreseeable future.
- ❖ The Supporting People National Advisory Board (SPNAB) met on 10th December and members were keen to attend a meeting of every RCC and for members of RCC to attend a SPNAB meeting. Attendees confirmed that if deemed necessary they would extend an invitation to SPNAB to a future meeting and if required SPNAB could reciprocate.
- ❖ SPNAB has requested that amendments be undertaken to the proposed Review and Monitoring Procedure and this will delay its publication.

MF voiced his concerns about this delay, as the Accreditation procedure was out already for consultation and local authorities should be able to consider both documents at the same time in order to understand the implications before responding.

<p>Councillor Lynda Thorne (LT) asked that in future the RCC be advised ahead of meetings of any items that Welsh Government was going to discuss so that they could be on the agenda.</p> <p>It was agreed that an agenda item for the February meeting would be the new national approach to dealing with young offenders. This will be presented by FB.</p> <p>Next Meeting: 3p.m. Wednesday 2nd January 2013 in Committee Room 3, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry.</p>	<p>FB</p>
--	-----------