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**VALE OF GLAMORGAN AND CARDIFF**

**REGIONAL COLLABORATIVE COMMITTEE**

**Minutes 5th March 2019**

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| **Attendees:** | | |
| Cllr Lynda Thorne – Cardiff (Chair)  Cllr Andrew Parker - VGC  Phil Richardson – CHC Rep  Sarah Wills – Cymorth Rep  Lorraine Griffiths - Deputy CHC Rep  Wynne Davies – CRC  Eleri Probert - Health  Liz Cook – Welsh Govt  **Apologies:**  Yvonne Connolly - Cymorth (Vice chair)  Mike Ingram – VGC  Jane Thomas - CCC  Mark Davies - VGC | Julie Llewellyn – Welsh Govt  Helen Jones – Cymorth  Janice Bell – CHC Rep  Kate Hollinshead - VGC  Pam Toms – VGC  Louise Bassett – CCC  Rossana Taylor – CCC  Hedd Wyn John – VGC (Minutes) | |
| **Agenda item** | | **Action** |
| 1. **Welcome, introduction, apologies and declaration of interest**   LT welcomed everyone to the meeting.  Apologies were received. | |  |
| 1. **Minutes of meeting, 27th November 2018 and Matters Arising**   The minutes were agreed as a true record.  All actions had been completed or were ongoing matters.  **Proposal to co-opt new member:**  Ian Jones (Housing Solutions Manager Vale) nominated by KH.  Outcome: Proposal not adopted due to membership of Pam Toms (VGC) and Jane Thomas (CCC) representing Homelessness. | |  |
| 1. **Liz Cook –** Learning Disability Services and the Housing Support Grant  * The Wales Audit Office (WAO) report on 2017 highlighted issues with the funding of housing-related learning disability (LD) services. * The report identified issues around different levels of support in Local Authority areas furthermore the report highlighted SP monies being used for non-housing related support. * Based on the WAO recommendations the Welsh Government intends to act on whether LD services funding should be included in the new Housing Support Grant (HSG) or whether they should be directly funded by Social Services instead. * WG is putting together a work stream to gather evidence to provide ministerial advice by December for the Minister to make a decision by the end of 2019. Evidence is being gathered to collate all the current funding sources and which specific areas are covered by the spend; this will include comparisons between different areas. * Stakeholder engagement is being carried out to gather people’s thoughts on future funding. Liz Cook is meeting all Regional Collaborative Committees (RCC) and Local Authorities, representatives from Social Services, Health and Social Care, the Ministerial Advisory Group and others in the coming months. The aim is to generate ministerial advice by autumn 2019. * The purpose of Liz attending today’s RCC is to gather the thoughts of RCC members on the topic.   SW – highlighted that SP funded service tend to be aimed towards the short term while there is an identified need for long term services. SP funded services support many vulnerable people who are victims of cuckooing, financial exploitation etc.  HJ – Stated that it was important to recognise the differing levels of funding LD services receive from SP in comparison to other spend categories, LD unit price being typically higher.  KH – mentioned the high thresholds that currently exist to access statutory mental health and learning disability services, SP funding is currently used to support vulnerable people who do not meet the threshold of statutory services, if this funding was directed straight to social services in future this creates a risk that these individuals will not receive support. There is a current gap in services which SP often fills.  JB – stressed the importance of having the same set outcomes regardless of the source of funding, there is a risk that if funding is directed towards Social Services than the support may become care instead which limits service users opportunities.  LG – raised the varying levels of support offered by SP services particularly long term housing support tends to be lower level support which helps people maintain their independence and effectively props them up.  PT – mentioned the importance of having regular reviews on projects to determine what is and isn’t housing related support and the focus on who is delivering care and support as there can be a blurring of lines particularly if care staff are required to provide support.  LB – raised concerns about how the new distribution figures will look across Wales and queried whether LD funding would be ring fenced it moved out of the Housing Support Grant.  SW & LB – stressed the need to look at all other categories and not just LD,  Liz Cook – confirmed that funding wouldn’t be ring fenced if taken out of the HSG and there are no current plans to look at other needs categories.  Following the other meetings a write up of all feedback will be drawn up and disseminated to partners and stakeholders. | |  |
| 1. **Julie Llewellyn – Welsh Government Update (HSG)**   JL  The WG Supporting People team aims to attend at least two RCC meetings each year for every region.  WG has set up a new HSG steering group, the purpose of which is to set direction for engagement not decision making.  WG has carried out a stakeholders mapping exercise and drawn up a communication plan.  A Supporting People National Advisory Board development day took place and all RCC chairs and vice chairs were invited to attend.  WG is asking stakeholders what they think the HSG should look like, there are no preconceived ideas. WG would like aim to make HSG effective based on all advice and the next steering group takes place on 12th March.  Wider engagement is being carried out by Paul Webb with Housing Leadership Cymru, ADSS Cymru, Treasurers and other policy areas of Welsh Government. The aim is to link in with other policy areas and make everyone aware of the Housing Support Grant.  WG has met with all non-pathfinder authorities to ensure everyone is kept informed of developments, all local authorities are being asked to put in place strategic plans and it is evident from meetings that Local Authorities are in various stages of progression in this area.  The WG Supporting People Team are working closely with the Children and Communities Grant team, they have drawn up a new draft outcomes framework which demonstrates what it could look like. A data group is being put together and those interested in taking part should contact the flexible funding team in Welsh Government.  WG met SPINAB today and the plan is to put together a specific engagement event for the Housing Support Grant, a consultation on the different housing support grants needs is due to go out in December. The draft guidance will go out to formal consultation between August and September. The final guidance needs to be ready for February 2020 so that it can be in place for April 2020.  LB – queried if LAs will be required to produce a delivery plan without guidance being in place.  JL: Draft guidance will be out in September/October for formal consultation however there will be a transition between current arrangements and new system in April 2020 and Welsh Government does not expect anyone to do anything vastly different from what is currently being done at least in the initial period. | |  |
| 1. **Finance**:  * Spend Plan 19/2020      * Position at Quarter 3 18/19:   RT and KH updated the group on current spending for Q3, current spending is on track in both the Vale and Cardiff according to the spend plans and there were no issues to report.   * Virements: None to report. * Off the Shelf Projects:   RT & KH reiterated it would beneficial for ask providers to submit off the shelf proposals to SP Teams as only two proposals have been sent to the Vale and one to Cardiff so far.  KH: The 8 week off the shelf project is the first regional service jointly delivered by the Vale & Cardiff in recent years, in the Vale support sessions have been arrange at Barry College and Adult Learning to deliver housing related support to students aged 18+.  RT: In Cardiff the project was tweaked so that it meets the need by delivering support to 49 people affected by the benefit cap. The biggest challenge for the Council was successfully contacting and engaging these difficult to engage individuals. However by using a third sector provider they were able to get hold of the service users and get full engagement, budget plans were put in place and linked families in with rhe relevant organisations and Cardiff Council.  LT: Queried why so few proposals were received and suggested collating and disseminating successful proposals.  KH: stated that some providers were reluctant to submit proposals due to previous proposals not being implemented in other regions.  JB: will raise the issue at the next provider forum  PT: highlighted the importance that the original proposal was tweaked to meet the needs of the two different areas.  PR : queried how provider identified the need for this service.  KH: Frontline staff identified the need through their experience of working with service users. In the Vale it was clear that students aged 18+ needed an outreach service but due to differing provision this was not reflected in Cardiff, however Cardiff were aware there was a need to engage  LG: stated that the submission form may benefit from being simplified.  KH: agreed to review the form.   1. Commissioning:   RT: Local Commissioning Plan Cardiff:    KH: Local Commissioning Plan Vale: | |  |
| 1. **Cardiff LA update to RCC** by Rossana Taylor | |  |
| 1. **Vale of Glamorgan LA update to RCC** by Kate Hollinshead | |  |
| 1. **Development day agreement:** Postponed. | |  |
| 1. **Provider update:**   JB advised that the next provider meeting takes place March 23rd .  LG a recent service user event took place but no feedback has been collated or key points disseminated. Cymorth have agreed to produce a report by the June meeting.  PR: No national supported housing forum has taken place recently and therefore best to make update at the next meeting. | |  |
| 1. RDC update:   Update paper circulated to the group.    KH – The RDC post is currently vacant, can all members can all feedback on the RDC report be directed to KH.  New representatives from Probation (WD) and Health (EP) are attending the RCC for the first time.  LT: Suggested Supporting People Leads from both LAs arrange to meet with new representatives for Probation and Health to brief them on Supporting People.  KH & RT: Agreed | | KH & RT to arrange briefing meetings with WD & EP. |
| 1. A.O.B.   Potential for regional working:  LT & AP: Commitment made to work regionally on services aimed at Domestic Abuse and Homelessness prevention. A meeting needs to be arranged between Officers and Councillors to move forward on collaborative working in these areas | |  |
| 1. Key Messages: 2. The RCC highlights the importance for Learning Disability funding to be maintained within the Housing Support Grant as the delivery of housing related support to people has a significant impact for service users in this area of need. 3. The RCC welcomes news from Welsh Government of the upcoming consultation on the draft outcomes framework and the consultation on the new grant guidance and is awaiting the dates to be announced for when they are due to commence. | |  |

Next RCC meeting:

4th June 2019.

Committee Room 1, Civic Centre,

Holton Road, Barry,

Vale of Glamorgan CF63 4RU