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**VALE OF GLAMORGAN AND CARDIFF**

**REGIONAL COLLABORATIVE COMMITTEE**

**Minutes 11th September 2018**

**Present:**

Cllr Lynda Thorne – Cardiff (Chair) Kate Hollinshead VGC

Cllr Andrew Parker - VGC Pam Toms – VGC

Phil Richardson – CHC Rep Louise Bassett – CCC

Sarah Wills – Cymorth Rep Rossana Taylor – CCC

Helen Jones – Cymorth Rep Kim Flower – (Minutes)

Janice Bell – CHC Rep

**Apologies:**

Yvonne Connolly, Cymorth (Vice chair)

Mike Ingram – VGC

Jane Thomas- CCC

Mark Davies - VGC

Sian Griffiths - Public Health

Rachel Jones - Health

Victoria Harris - Probation

Mark Davies – PAG

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| **Agenda item** | **Action** |
| 1. **Welcome, introduction, apologies and declaration of interest**   LT welcomed everyone to the meeting.  Apologies were received. |  |
| 1. **Minutes of meeting, 9th January 2018 and Matters Arising**   The minutes were agreed as a true record.  All actions had been completed or were ongoing matters. |  |
| 1. **RDC report to the RCC**   KF has recently taken over the role of Regional Development Coordinator (RDC) for the Vale and Cardiff.  KF Gave a breakdown of her activity to date and set an intention to visit all RCC members on an individual basis, within the next few weeks.  RCC priorities are to be considered by a Task and Finish Group that will report back to the next meeting. |  |
| 1. **Vale LA update**   KH :   1. The Gateway for support allocation goes live on 1st September. This new way of managing cases should help with contract monitoring, waiting list reduction and the identification of priorities. 2. The New Proposal re Alarm provision was accepted by VOG cabinet and will begin on 1st October 18. This format will bring about a £30,000 reduction of costs. 3. 6 monthly Outcomes were submitted to WG at the end of August 4. Held a Supported planning group meeting. According to new WG guidance. Supporting People considerations are now required to underpin homelessness strategy. 5. New ’Drop in’ surgeries for support, positioned around The Vale are being well attended. 6. Waiting list for support is being closely monitored with a view of reducing waiting periods for non-acute needs.   RT can evidence some good practice examples of how Cardiff SP manages to operate without a waiting list. Mentioned that they currently have a working group KH may wish to attend. |  |
| 1. **Cardiff LA update**   **Highlights of the phased approach to Recommissioning Supported Accommodation:**  **Generic Floating Support**  Performance has shown both contracts to be delivering on target. Networking/raising awareness of the service partnership working arrangements are helping to ensure appropriate referrals are made and better sign posting/wrap around support can take place. Alongside the Supporting People distance travelled measures, more tangible outcomes are also collected in collaboration with the housing team to understand prevention statistics such as No ‘of individuals no longer at risk/threat of homelessness.  **Gender Specific Services**  The new RISE service is now working more closely with the MASH team. Being co-located provides for clearer communication lines which ensure a more co-ordinated/multi-agency response can be delivered.  Partners in the MASH have welcomed the new multi-agency approach the new service provides.  The One Stop Shop plans for the new site at the Cardiff Royal Infirmary are currently being finalised in partnership with Cardiff & Vale UHB. The move from the current location in Canton to the CRI is not planned until the end of next year.  Development of a regional service for male victims has seen a great deal of interest from Swansea, Neath, Bridgend, Merthyr, RCT Caerphilly and Newport. Surveys will be being sent to new, existing and previous service users imminently to start consultation on the male specific service.  **Young People Recommissioning**  Indicative timelines for recommissioning of Young People services:   * The tenders due to be issued early October * This is with a view to responses being submitted mid-November allowing the evaluation to take place by the end of November. * The finale contract will commence by 1st April 2019.   **Commissioning and Finance Meeting – CVAPB Substance Misuse**  LB will be attending the Cardiff and Vale APB Commissioning and Finance meeting from 12th Sept.  Substance Misuse Population Needs Assessment is underway facilitated by Institute Public Care (IPC)/commissioned by the CVAPB. Workshop arranged for this Thursday involving 30 housing/support practitioners. Information will be used to help inform future commissioning decisions.  **Employability Support**  The employability service commenced delivery on 1st April 2018. Aligning funding streams and core services has meant a system change that is not led by individual grant streams or programme, a more person centred approach has been fundamental in its design.  The Job Clubs provide a visible and accessible light touch support for those who may need just a little help with a CV or job searching for example, while the mentoring provides the more in-depth hand holding support. People with more complex needs can be better supported into wrap around provision such as, substance misuse support, housing/debt advice, parenting or family support as part of the approach.  Key elements of service include:   * Adult Community Learning - work skills training in the community. * Adult team to support those aged 25 and over, * A youth team to help those 16-24 and Not in Education, Employment or Training, working closely with education and schools * Employer engagement and work placement officer linked directly with our economic development team, we are now our own broker with employers coming into the City * Self-employment advisor – for those that have ideas and need some support/advice to look at self-employment opportunities * Specialist refugee and migrant workers and hostel based project * Expanding Volunteering team - as a pathway to work. * 1 year traineeships, offering traineeships in the Into work Service and also link the council corporate apprenticeships and trainee schemes   **Funding Flexibilities**   1. Flexible Funding Pathfinder meetings have taken place monthly, (except for August) next meeting due to take place 12th Sept. 2. Flexible Funding all Wales Network Event took place on 13th July – A selection of local authorities were asked to present on their journey so far – Cardiff updated on the alignment of employability programmes. 3. Wavehill are currently evaluating the Flexible Funding Project. A discussion guide and background for interviews that have taken place with various nominated people from both pathfinder and non-pathfinder Local Authorities has been included.   **Funding Flexibilities Integrated Outcomes Framework**  Positive news - Paul Webb & Julie Llewellyn in Welsh Government are leading on this piece of work. Cardiff has nominated Avril Hooper and Rose Taylor to the working group. A workshop is due to be held on 23 October to look at initial scoping work. Timeline, WG would like the framework in place by April 2019. | Rise service Rep to be requested to attend next meeting |
| 1. **Funding of short term accommodation**   KH How does this process work in Cardiff, in view of the benefit changes and in particular since the introduction of Universal Credit?  RT Cardiff has a designated Welfare Officer (Leah) that has worked alongside all providers during recent changes to the welfare system and has provided training. Service users are supported by partnership groups and the Welfare Reform Team.  KH Are providers losing out, considering there is a 5 week delay in payment?  PT What have the impact of these changes been on services?  LB The preparations that Cardiff made in advance of the changes have buffered the impact.  RT Supporting People providers have worked closely with the Cardiff Welfare Reform team  LB Suggested accessing an article on Cymorth’s website:    *‘The impact of Welfare reforms on Housing Policy in Wales. A rapid evidence review.’*  <http://ppiw.org.uk/files/2014/01/The-Impact-of-Welfare-Reforms-on-Housing-Policy-in-Wales-A-Rapid-Evidence-Review.docx.pdf>  A Suggestion was made for Leah Whitty, Cardiff’s Welfare officer and to be invited to speak at December’s RCC. | Invite Welfare Officer to RCC |
| 1. **Flexible Funding (FF) model**   LB Is attending FF Pathfinder workshops monthly. Each funding stream’s returns are being prepared on an individual basis and they are collated with all other streams, quarterly and submitted as a joint return. Hence reporting for this year will include an individual report and a collective report. Supporting People’s individually based reporting in relation to outcomes, finance sheets etc. has not changed at this time  The proposed 5% cut in funding will not apply this year. Paul Web and Julie at Welsh Government are leading on the new outcomes framework. - Looking at tangible outcomes.  General discussion:  Key points:   * Conversations are currently taking place with Welsh Government re the suggestion of there being two funding streams. * Observation has been made that in England apparently some services ended abruptly in the light of the new integrated funding. * There is concern re the increase in homelessness associated with benefit changes. * Hope there are lessons learned from Impact assessments related to England’s shift to flexible funding. * This model adds another layer of beaurocracy rather than reducing management cost. * Concerns were aired that there are fears that the service could be diluted and the quality of service may be reduced. |  |
| 8. **Substance Misuse / Mental Health**  LB **-** Discussed theImpact of substance misuse/ mental health on supported accommodation. The needs of Service Users (SU) have changed in the last 20yrs. Many SU’s are presenting with complex needs; which can lead to issues such as; neighbourhood issues, issues related to multi-occupancy etc. In view of these changes in needs, there is an opportunity to look at the challenges that are now facing Supporting People provision such as :   * Housing expectations are not always realistic. * Workforce development and training are required to flowing in line with trends * There is a need to Provide appropriate pathways to services * Need to identify suitable resources and identify complex needs   JB Be useful to collect information on issues that lead to evictions  SW There are concerns re the provision of mental health services in relation to the increase of complex needs.  HT Concerns when those with crisis needs are turned away from services.  PT This may be a topic that is useful to discuss with providers  JB It may be useful to get an operational perspective on this subject.  LB Suggests getting a working group together and preparing an action plan.  SW It would be useful to link with Cardiff and Vale Action for Mental Health. (CVAMH) |  |
| 1. **Housing First**   No report given. |  |
| 1. **Key Messages**   Flexible Funding  Some members expressed their concerns re the potential impact that flexible funding may have on the sector. The views of many interested parties have been purposefully presented by Cymorth (via the jointly assembled paper) to WG. |  |
| 1. **AOB**   **Task and Finish Group –** Initial meeting of this group to be held next week.  Purpose – To identify key priorities for the RCC for 2018 /19 and prepare a work plan.  **Thanks**  Cllr Thorne thanked everyone for the extremely difficult job they are doing during very testing times. It is worth noting that the success of the sector is tremendous and this is evidenced by the impressive outcomes. | Verbal Report back to RCC Dec. |

**Amended Date of Next Meeting**

**Tuesday 27th November 2018**