

# **Gwent Supporting People Regional Collaborative Committee Meeting (Quarterly)**

1.00pm – 4.00pm, Wednesday 07 January 2014

Melin Boardroom, Ty'r Efail, Lower Mill Field, Pontypool, NP4 0XJ

## **Present (RCC members):**

Alyson Hoskins, Blaenau Gwent Social Services, Service Manager  
Caroline Hawkins, Office of Police Crime Commissioner, Policy Officer  
Chris Robinson, Monmouthshire Social Care and Health, Lead Commissioner –  
Quality Assurance and Supporting People  
Chris Rutson, United Welsh, CHC Representative  
Darren Daniel, Wales Community Rehabilitation Company, Team Manager  
Elke Winton, Torfaen CBC, Group Manager Housing (Chair)  
Julia Osmond, Public Health, Principal Public Health Practitioner  
Kath Howells, First Choice Housing Association, CHC Deputy Representative  
Neil Binnell, Monmouthshire Housing, Housing Support Manager, Provider  
Representative  
Nigel Stannard, Newport SP, Supporting People Manager  
Rhian Stone, Solas, Corporate Director, Provider Representative (Vice Chair)  
Richard Sheahan, Linc Cymru, CHC Representative  
Sam Lewis, Llamau, Head of Support Services East, Provider Representative  
Viv Daye, Caerphilly CBC, Service Manager

## **Supporting Officers in attendance:**

Angela Lee, Gwent SP Regional Development Co-ordinator (Minutes)  
Beth Covill, Torfaen SP, Acting Supporting People Manager  
Donna Lemin, Welsh Government, SP Governance & Accreditation Manager  
Malcolm Topping, Caerphilly SP, Supporting People Manager  
Michelle Church, Blaenau Gwent SP, Supporting People Manager  
Trudy Griffin, Monmouthshire SP, Senior Commissioning Officer

## **Observers/presentations:**

Chris Price, WLGA Homelessness & Supporting People Networks Co-ordinator  
Stewart Blythe, WLGA Policy Officer, Social Services & Health  
Steve Lynch, Welsh Government, SP Governance Manager

## **Apologies:**

Bobby Bolt, ABUHB,  
Diana Binding, Wales Probation Trust, Assistant Chief Executive  
Neil Taylor, Office of the Police Crime Commissioner, Head of Performance,  
Planning and Partnerships

	Standard Agenda Items	Action
1.	<p><b>Welcome and introductions</b> Elke Winton welcomed everyone to the Gwent Regional Collaborative Committee meeting and introductions were given.</p> <p><b>Apologies</b> Apologies were received from Bobby Bolt, Diana Binding and Neil Taylor.</p> <p><b>RCC Member Changes</b> EW extended thanks to Claire Harding for being ABUHB Health rep on the Gwent RCC and for her input and valuable contributions. A welcome was extended to Bobby Bolt who will replace CH as the new ABUHB Health rep on the Gwent RCC.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Social Services Act Presentation. Stewart Blythe, WLGA</b></p> <p>An overview of the Social Services Act was presented to the Committee which received Royal Assent in May 2014.</p> <p>The Act sets out a legal framework for Local Authorities and Social Services, consolidating and simplifying the Welsh social care legislation. It aims to increase consistency of services, strengthen safeguarding and protection, empower service users, promote partnership working and enhance the preventative role of Local Authorities and Health.</p> <p>There is an increased emphasis on personal responsibility and prevention within the Act with the responsibilities of Local Authorities increasing to provide advice and assistance as well as care and support. There is also a requirement for Local Authorities to support the development of social enterprises and co-ops.</p> <p>A Social Services Outcomes framework is also being developed; the Committee discussed the links and duplication to the Supporting People Outcomes Framework. A national workstream has been set up to take forward this piece of work and AH/MC are involved.</p> <p>The SP Programme and sector will be instrumental in enabling Local Authorities and Social Services departments to meet the requirements of the Act, by ensuring the development of preventative services to help meet the increased future demand, when resources are reducing.</p> <p>Welsh Government is currently consulting on the regulations and code of practice in relation to different parts of the Act which finishes on February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015.</p> <p><b>Action: AL to circulate presentation with the minutes. AL to circulate links to the consultation</b></p>	A
3.	<p><b>Housekeeping</b></p> <p><b>Declaration of any conflicts of interest</b> EW reminded members of the need to declare any conflicts of interest in relation to the agenda. No conflicts of interests were declared.</p>	

	<p><b>Minutes / Actions Arising for the previous meeting (23/07/14)</b> The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed.</p> <p><b>Minutes/Matters Arising from (24/04/2014) meeting:</b> Item 6 – DL to give a presentation to the Gwent RCC on the outcomes data later in the year: ongoing</p>	B
4.	<p><b>RDC Progress Report</b></p> <p>The report was accepted and noted in the minutes. Updates from the RCC task and finish groups are provided under agenda item 9 and 10 of these minutes.</p>	
	<b>Agenda Items</b>	<b>Action</b>
5.	<p><b>Financial position against budget</b></p> <p>➤ Third Quarter Outturns October 2014 – December 2014 will be collated towards the end of January.</p> <p><b>Action: these will be circulated to the Committee for information.</b></p> <p>➤ Spend Plan 2015 – 2016. Drafting the spend plans for 2015 – 2016 has been a longer process in light of the cuts that are expected to the Supporting People budgets for 2015/2016 and the necessary discussions that have had to take place with providers and with local planning groups. Concerns were raised about the difficulty in meeting the submission deadline whilst decisions were still being made in regard to local SP spend in 2015/2016.</p> <p>It was agreed that indicative spend plans could be submitted with caveats attached that there may be changes to the local authority spend once final budget figures are confirmed by Welsh Government.</p> <p>It was agreed the submission deadline of January 19<sup>th</sup> can be met; this will need to be circulated virtually for approval by RCC voting members.</p> <p><b>Action: Spend plan to be collated and circulated to RCC</b></p> <p>➤ SPPG Cuts: SPIN discussion paper. Chris Price, WLGA</p> <p>Chris Price presented to the Committee the above paper that was recently discussed at the Supporting People Information Network (SPIN) meeting on December 18<sup>th</sup>. It was presented to SPIN as a paper to begin discussions with the network on the implementation of future budget cuts to the programme and the need for the Supporting People Programme to meet the duties of the Housing Act and Social Services and Well Being Act, ensuring the same level of support is delivered with less resources.</p>	<p>C</p> <p>D</p>

	<p>The paper was circulated to the committee prior to the RCC meeting. Discussion and debate covered the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Danger of the development of large monopolies within the sector with smaller providers unable to compete.</li> <li>➤ Value for money and cost effectiveness will increasingly need to be demonstrated.</li> <li>➤ Applying fixed rates; a return to tariffs?</li> <li>➤ Risk of creating a “Race to the Bottom” in relation to salary costs</li> <li>➤ What should housing related support tasks be – do they need to be redefined.</li> <li>➤ How housing related support is provided – should this be redefined?</li> <li>➤ Locality based services were discussed and it was recognised that this would have added value for health and the Neighbourhood Care Networks (NCNs)</li> <li>➤ Ensuring that SP only funds housing related support as recommended by the Aylward review</li> </ul> <p>It was agreed that future reductions to the budget needed to be considered and discussed in more detail by the Committee and it was agreed that the next development day could focus on this issue. It was agreed that a development day should be held in March.</p> <p><b>Action: Date to be set for the next development day.</b>  <b>Ideas and items to be discussed on the day to be considered by members and forwarded to AL</b></p>	E F
6.	<p><b>WG Update Paper</b></p> <p>The paper was accepted by the Committee and noted in the minutes.</p> <p>It is anticipated that further information regarding the Memorandum of Understanding will be available soon.</p> <p>An increased amount of outcomes information has been submitted by LAs for the last collection. Welsh Government queries regarding the information submitted are being sent to local authority SP teams.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Provider Update</b></p> <p>The provider report was accepted by the Committee and noted in the minutes. The next Regional Provider Forum will be held on January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2015.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Landlord Update Paper</b></p> <p>The paper was accepted by the Committee and noted in the minutes. CRut advised the Committee that she and RShe are continuing with presentations to Local Landlord Forums. Matt Kennedy from CHC will be taking the lead on the lobbying initiatives to support the protection of the SP budget</p>	
9.	<p><b>LA Update</b></p>	

**Blaenau Gwent:** reductions to the budget have been discussed with providers. Cuts will be mitigated by not re-commissioning some of the pilot projects which are coming to an end. Two projects are being decommissioned.

A mental health project has been commissioned which will open in February 2015 and a young person's scheme is being relocated.

A Homeless Hostel has been experiencing a high number of voids in the family accommodation, so the SP team, provider and landlord have been considering how these could be filled. It has been agreed that these rooms could be used as additional domestic abuse accommodation.

**Torfaen:** A consultation event was held with providers in December, feedback provided at the event is currently being collated. This will be shared with providers and the local planning group to aid future decision making.

The Local Commissioning Plan has been updated and signed off by the local planning group and Cabinet Member.

A final review of LD services has been completed and all services provided to this client group are being commissioned according to the recommendations from the service reviews.

Planning for cuts: two large reviews are currently underway and pilots that are coming to an end are currently being assessed.

**Caerphilly:** budget cuts were discussed at the recent provider forum. At the moment it is not anticipated that there will be any cuts to services. Savings will be achieved from the review of older person's services and learning disability services.

The team are working closely with providers to evidence the cost of providing services.

Commissioning: 18 bed single person homeless unit. Planning application underway for an 8 bed mental health.

**Monmouthshire:** Focussed on cuts, light touch reviews are being undertaken. A support worker cap is being applied and close work with providers being undertaken to remodel services.

**Newport:** focussed on budgets and cuts. Two large ex SPRG funded services, reviews are currently underway, which may raise some savings.

No cuts to existing providers (not including the above reviews). Support worker cap being implemented.

Light touch reviews are also underway.

Joint funding discussions with homelessness for approaches to use the new burdens money are underway.

LD schemes being reviewed which is likely to see some savings that can be

	<p>used to mitigate cuts for the following year.</p> <p>Pilots that are not strategically relevant will come to an end.</p> <p>Commissioning: re-commissioned a generic floating support service, remodelling of the Autistic Spectrum Scheme underway. Housing related support will be provided by a floating support to those who need it.</p> <p>LCP agreed. Outcomes returns have increased. Floating support referrals have increased.</p> <p>Two students will soon be undertaking placements with the SP team: Housing Degree student and Social Work placement.</p> <p><b>Regional Project funding</b></p> <p>The Committee were advised that the agreed funding for the regional projects as highlighted to the last committee meeting is underway utilising underused funding from 2013/2014 budget.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prolific and Persistent Offender Scheme: number of units has increased, Blaenau Gwent SP team taking the lead.</li> <li>• BAWSO domestic abuse scheme extended to cover pan Gwent: Newport SP team taking the lead.</li> <li>• Gypsy and Traveller Worker pilot post – progress meeting is being held with support provider on January 9<sup>th</sup> 2015. JO advised that she would like to be involved with the project and sit on the steering group to ensure the links are made with the health needs assessment for Gypsies and Travellers: Torfaen SP Team taking the lead.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: JO to be invited to future Gypsy Traveller project meetings</b></p>	G
10.	<p><b>Service User Involvement</b></p> <p>The Service User Sub Group met with service users on November 11<sup>th</sup>, discussions at this meeting centred on the following engagement activities that have been highlighted in the plan; which included the development of a website and social media; and about the development leaflets, posters and info cards to promote this. Service users at the meeting again re-iterated that using social media would be a great way of engaging with people to gather their views.</p> <p>Representatives from the sub group advised the RCC meeting that money would be needed to progress the above engagement activities and to ensure that publications were developed which would be used to promote to service users the benefits of getting engaged to provide their views on the services they receive.</p> <p>It was recognised across the committee that resources were needed now to develop service user engagement activities and possible ways of funding this were also considered. Discussions centred on whether the SP Grant could be</p>	

	<p>utilised for this project.</p> <p>Possible linking with Public Health for the development of the web site was also discussed.</p> <p><b>Action: DL to investigate whether the SP grant can be used towards engagement activities</b></p> <p><b>Action: Representatives from the service user sub group and DL to liaise with JO regarding the development of a web site with Public Health</b></p>	<p>H</p> <p>I</p>
11.	<p><b>Reporting on the RCC Work plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Learning Disabilities:</b> The group is meeting again on January 21<sup>st</sup>; best practice is being shared by Monmouthshire on the work that has been undertaken to separate the care and supporting people funding from the dual workers that have been delivering care and support to these clients. Further mapping is also underway to determine the picture across the region. The purpose of the sub group was raised and discussed. The Committee agreed that it would like the group to report back with a set of principles that could be used by all LAs.</li> <li>➤ <b>Older Persons:</b> The sub group has met and discussed the current position within Gwent. The group is unclear of the direction of it's travel and the tasks that it needs to undertake in light of the progress that has been made across Gwent to implement the Aylward recommendations. A researcher has recently been appointed by Welsh Government to undertake some further scrutiny of the position across Wales and it was felt that the group should be reconvened once the recommendations from this research are known. The group are able to engage with the researcher as required.</li> <li>➤ <b>Communications Sub Group:</b> The group has focussed on developing a standardised case study template that could be used across the region to highlight the benefits of the programme. Cost benefit analysis tools are also being considered by the group so that these can be standardised for this piece of work. Tackling poverty and the preventative agenda was highlighted by the Committee as an important element of the case study template and further developing this template for marketing purposes was discussed. The template was circulated to the RCC and any comments are to be returned to the Regional Development Co-ordinator. It was noted that referencing of the cost sources will feature.</li> </ul> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <p><b>Comments regarding the case study template to be forwarded to AL</b></p>	<p>J</p>

12.	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Regional Commissioning Plan Some final amendments have been received which will be added to the document before submission on January 19<sup>th</sup>, once added the final document will be circulated to the committee.</li> <li>➤ Supporting People, Guidance, Vision and Values Event: meeting planner and some basic details have been circulated to the committee. More information will be circulated once available from Chris Maggs (SPNAB Chair). The event is taking place on February 20<sup>th</sup> in Committee Rooms 2&amp;3, Pontypool Civic Centre. CRut advised that the information gathered from these events will feed into the review of the guidance, visions and values that the Governance Workstream will be undertaking.</li> <li>➤ CH advised the Committee that an event was being held by Positive Futures a sports project which diverts young people away from the criminal justice system. The event is taking place tomorrow morning in Newport. She also advised the group of the upcoming conference “Prisoners, Housing and Social Care” <b>Action: AL to circulate details of the conference to the committee.</b></li> <li>➤ DD advised the committee that Working Links had won the contract for the Wales Community Rehabilitation Company and will be taking over officially from February 1<sup>st</sup> 2015.</li> <li>➤ JO shared copies of the following report with the committee: “New and Emerging Public Health Threats to the Health of the Population of Gwent”. The Public Health team are currently working to ensure that they are geared up to deal with Ebola and are in the process of finishing the HavGHAP for Asylum Seekers and Refugees.</li> </ul>	K
	<p>Date/time of forthcoming meeting: 21st April 2015 1.00pm</p> <p><b>Venue:</b> Melin Boardroom, Ty'r Efail, Lower Mill Field, Pontypool, NP4 0XJ</p>	



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## Meeting Actions

ACTION	AGENDA ITEM NO	ACTION	TO BE COMPLETED BY
A	2	Circulate Social Services presentation with the minutes. Circulate links to the consultation	AL
B	3	<b>Minutes/Matters Arising from (24/04/2014) meeting:</b> Item 6 – DL to give a presentation to the Gwent RCC on the outcomes data later in the year: ongoing	DL
C	5	Circulate third quarter outturns to the Committee for information	AL
D	5	Spend plan to be collated and circulated to RCC	AL
E	5	Date to be set for the development day in March	AL
F	5	Ideas for the day to be forwarded to AL	ALL
G	9	Invite JO to future Gypsy / Traveller project group meetings	SP Leads
H	10	Investigate whether the SP Grant can be used towards Service User engagement activities	DL
I	10	Service User sub group reps to liaise with JO regarding the development of a website with Public Health	SU Sub group reps
J	11	Comments regarding the case study template to be forwarded to AL	ALL
K	12	Circulate details of the Prisoners, Housing and Social Care conference	AL