

North Wales Regional Provider Forum

1:30 – 4:30 (1pm for refreshments), 18th December, 2014

Conwy Business Centre, Llandudno Junction

Supporting you
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**CYMORTH
CYMRU**

Cefnogi chi
Cefnogi pobl

Provider Representatives Present:

Rob Loudon (Clwyd Alyn HA)	RCC Provider Rep – Long term services
Lynne Evans (North Wales HA)	RCC Provider Rep – Short term services
Elwen Roberts (De Gwynedd Domestic Abuse)	RCC Provider Rep – Short term services

Provider Representatives Apologies:

Mary Harrison (Anheddau)	RCC Provider Rep – Long term services
Sian Elen Thomas (GISDA)	RCC Provider Rep – Deputy

RCC Representatives Apologies:

Debbie Lamb	NW Regional Development Coordinator (Interim)
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Providers Present:

Organisation	Full Name
ARCH	Linda Rogers
Clwyd Alun	Robert Loudon
De Gwynedd	Elwen Roberts
Denbighshire Council	John Sweeney
GISDA	Wendi Jones
Hafal	Samantha Hughes
Hafan Cymru	Tricia Jones (Chair)
Hafan Cymru	Tudor Roshin
Hafan Cymru	Sharon Smith
NWHA	Lynne Evans
The Sanctuary Trust	David Lackner-Smith
The Wallich	Shian Thomas
Tyddyn Mon	Tracy Davies
Welsh Women's Aid	Jo Hammond
Y Gelli	Phil Williams

Providers Apologies:

Organisation	Full Name
Grwp Cynefin	Sian Ellis
Wales & West	Lindy Brettell
Wales & West	Deborah Ward
Domestic Abuse Safety Unit	Sandra Edwards
Nacro	Eirwen Khan
North Denbighshire Domestic Abuse Service	Lynne Thackery
Welsh Women's Aid	Alison Hamlington
Cais	Jeff Hughes
Hafan Cymru	Emma Wood
Digartref	Jen Saboor
The Sanctuary Trust	Ian McNeille

Agenda Item	Action
Welcomes & Introductions	
<p>Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>Trish opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees.</p> <p>Minutes of previous meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minutes were reviewed. • Rob gave his apologies for the letter to WA not being sent. It would be useful to the panel to know which AM's and MP's are aware of the current situation. Some AM's have responded publicly to the current situation in funding cuts. Conwy has already sent a letter to the WA, as well as Cymorth. This forum will need to be more vocal and address WA on behalf of the providers. Providers need to also write to MP's and AM's individually, outlining the local service needs. • Rob pointed out that the budget for next year will have been agreed before these letters can be considered. Trish stated that these efforts would be to influence considerations in cuts next year. • Trish mentioned that the position for Vice Chair of the NWRPF is still open. Trish welcomed volunteers. It was agreed that this will be looked at in the next meeting. 	<p>Reps/Chair - A standard letter or template needs to be written up and disseminated to all providers, which can then be filled in with local information.</p> <p>Chair – Compose and send a letter regarding cuts/risk to service to WG on behalf of the RPF</p> <p>Chair – Try to allocate a Vice Chair of the North Wales RPF</p>
Regional Collaborative Committee Update	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The last RCC meeting was held the first week of September, and was run as a workshop. • The final draft of the RC Plan was completed. This will be confirmed in January at the next RCC meeting. The RC Plan has already been through the NWRPF for feedback. • The RCC has elected a new Chair; Arwel Jones from Ynys Mon County Council. • Rachel Pierce-Jones is now on maternity. Debbie Lamb is temporarily taking over her responsibilities. Rachel's role is currently out to post. • As well as the RC Plan, the RCC Annual Report will be released in January. This was decided by the committee to ensure transparency. • The Terms of Office are coming to an end soon. Cymorth will need to hold elections as soon as possible. The forum would like clarity on how the election process will take 	

place. Elections are hopefully going to go ahead at May time. Induction material to the RCC has been produced to help the newly elected. There is a need to maintain consistency throughout the transition of representatives.

- Rob fed back from the RCC workshop: It may be preferable if the committee were to be chaired by a paid, impartial, retiree. It's felt that the RCC needs to be headed by someone who can freely scrutinise the Local Authorities.
- All positions will be ending at the same time. There was a worry that this could cause a problem with the transition due to lack of experience. The transition of representatives may have been better executed with a staggered rotation.
- Nothing to report in terms of spending as there is no money in the pot.
- The Memorandum of Understanding from the WA is due for the last 12 months. The MOU can be used to review and clarify RCC's standing with the WA.

Feedback from Workshops:

- Gwynedd would benefit from geographically orientated, non-specialist services; emphasising flexibility.
- At the last RCC meeting in December, it was felt that the Local Authorities were only looking at what they saw as the solution, rather than working in partnership.
- Providers were also left wondering who decides on what happens with funds leftover from an under spend. Are providers able to offer 'off the shelf' projects and vote on them?

Cuts:

- The cuts to funding for providers in Gwynedd and Denbighshire have been announced.
- There have been no cuts announced for Wrexham this year; however, there will be a slim down for providers and services.
- RCC see the current cuts as fair.
- There is a concern that Local Authorities are setting benchmarks to lower the cost of services. It's felt that these benchmarks will keep salaries down, lowering the quality of the service, making it more difficult to maintain good results. There are also concerns that staff retention will fall with falling wages.
- The RCC needs to find efficiencies and creative approaches to solve this. Commissioners' need to look at allowing more flexibility.

Chair – To put the overspend topic on the next agenda

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No feedback from 'Value for Money'. The few who do offer feedback will only attend when there is an issue. • Some of Gwynedd 'One off Projects' will be ending. The rough sleeper project and two schemes. Hafan reported some cuts also in Denbighshire. • There is a concern that cut will also impact on staff sickness levels. Service targets will be put under further pressure as sickness increases which in turn will increase stress on staff. 	
Local Forums	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrexham is waiting to finalise – nothing to report. • There is a question of long contracts last. There may be some inconsistency around this. This needs stating in the contracts. • The SPWAB event was a success and made a powerful statement. • Gwynedd and Anglesey – nothing happened yet regarding outcomes letter. • Denbighshire and Conwy – Held discussion on cuts. Providers compared interpretations on outcomes. There was an update on the night shelter. A discussion on clawbacks. There was an SP update, 	
Date of next regional provider forums	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30th April 2015, 1.00-3:30, Conwy Business Centre • 3rd September 2015, 1.00-3.30, Conwy Business Centre • 5th November 2015, 1.00-3.30, Conwy Business Centre <p>Please email owenbrown@cymorthcymru.org.uk to confirm attendance.</p>	