

# Gwent Regional Provider Forum

15 October 2014, Power Station, Torfaen

Supporting you  
Supporting people

**CYMORTH  
CYMRU**

Cefnogi chi  
Cefnogi pobl

## RCC Representatives Present

Name	Role (Organisation)
Sam Lewis	Provider Rep – Short term services (Llamau)
Kath Moore	Provider Rep – Deputy (Gwalia Care and Support)
Angela Lee	Gwent Regional Development Coordinator

## RCC Representatives Apologies

Name	Organisation
Louise Evans	Provider Rep – Deputy (Gofal)
Neil Binnell	Provider Rep – Long term services (Monmouthshire HA)
Rhian Stone	Provider Rep – Short term services (Solas Cymru)

## Present

Name	Organisation
Catherine Hayman	Abbeyfield Wales
John Glennon	Reach Support
Diane Jenkins	Supporting People
Nicola Evans	Cymorth Cymru
Colin Jones	Gwalia Care and Support (RPF Chair)
Jane Kirby	Hafan Cymru
Helen Carter	Monmouthshire Housing Association
Ann-Marie Curtis	Hafan Cymru
Helen Swain	Torfaen Women's Aid
Melanie Lott	Charter Housing
Tracy Finnis	Monmouthshire Council (RPF Vice Chair)
Kath Preedy	Consensus support
Jan Stoneman	Hafan Cymru
Marie Williams	TVA Wales
Gemma Ridley	
Dawn Hallmark James	Gwalia Care and Support
Cath Gallivan	Llamau
Sarah Burt	Newport City Homes
Nicola Pamplin	Llamau
Sheree Williams	Torfaen Mind

## Apologies

Name	Organisation
Helen Jones	Hafod Care

Agenda Item	Action
Colin Jones welcomed attendees and introductions were completed	
<u>Minutes of the last meeting ( 15-07-2014)</u> Minutes were agreed as correct.	

**PRF Governance:**

**Minute Taking duties**

Nicola Evans highlighted the need for a volunteer to be available to undertake minute taking especially on occasions when Nicola was not able to attend forum. Tracy Finnis agreed to undertake minute taking on this occasion.

**Discussion: Preferred model for administering cuts:**

The guests invited to present on this subject were not able to attend and therefore Sam Lewis agreed to deliver the presentation.

Budgetary issues, i.e. £10 million shortfall and how the 22 Local Authorities were planning to address and administer these cuts.

**Option 1:** to implement equal cuts across each LA. Although easy to administer was viewed as not being equal in terms of proportional effect to each authority.

**Option 2:** indicative 2015/16 budget already assumes reduction for 9 Local Authorities, and future reduction amongst all 22 LA's, therefore 9 Local Authorities to be affected by a bigger reduction . Transparent and narrow funding gaps identified by Aylward review. Option 2 is the Welsh Government preferred option.

**Option 3:** RSG – reduction to Local Authority. New method based on centralised formula. Disadvantageous to some Local Authorities with clear winners and losers.

Sam referenced letter from Welsh Government, detailing theory of cuts and formulas and ministers expectations, i.e. should not be flat rate cuts.

Nicola Evans informed meeting that Cymorth Cymru were due to give evidence to the Financial Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014. A decision was expected from Welsh Government in November 2014.

Further opinions expressed that Welsh Government unlikely to offer any new money this year.

Cymorth Cymru to continue lobbying and reminded attendees of the need to provide case studies which demonstrate savings to other services.

**Group Discussion**

Sam Lewis chaired the discussion regarding suggestions for making savings and for feedback to the Regional Collaborative Committee, ( RCC)

Suggested :-

- Joint training
- Sharing office spaces

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In middle of SP transition years ( 2years) some savings as a result of SP budgets and SP reviews</li> </ul> <p>Kath Moore : suggested resurrecting list developed last year</p> <p>Angela Lee: 20% cuts over next 3 years. More collaborative working and real savings needed. Agreed across Gwent , gone to RCC , high level principles of :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local strategic priorities</li> <li>• Savings from service reviews</li> <li>• Not to review pilot schemes</li> <li>• Not applying for a flat rate cut.</li> </ul> <p>Questions raised about management costs, i.e what is considered as a “management cost “, and what percentage of a project is affected, and to what level of management within an organisation .</p> <p>Request made to seek representatives for Task and Finish Group to consider these issues.</p>	
<p><b>Feedback on consistency of contracts – Task &amp; Finish group</b></p> <p>Sam Lewis distributed feedback from RCC</p> <p>Questions concerning funding for Gwent Regional Development Officer role. The Miller Report recommends continuation of Development Officer posts</p> <p>Need for greater consistency of contract terms and conditions across Local Authorities. The following points are to be submitted to GROG:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voids; agree a 10% void reconciliation on annual basis.</li> <li>• Benchmarking ; consistent rates for similar schemes</li> <li>• Consistency of management charges and budget setting</li> <li>• Maximum numbers of staff in respect of staff to manager ratios</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Feedback/presentation from RCC development day</b></p> <p>Sam Lewis fed back to the attendees. Stressed need to take a lead on “what quality looks like”, as itemised below :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to be proactive rather than wait for a definition from WG</li> <li>• Check sustainability</li> <li>• Evidencing Homelessness prevention</li> <li>• Evidencing benefits of support</li> <li>• Service User voice, how best to hear from Service Users.</li> <li>• Quality and Value for Money</li> <li>• Cost/benefit of prevention</li> <li>• Savings to other services</li> </ul>	

<p>Client choices and making best use skills and tools as available ( see flipchart)</p> <p>The need for case studies that highlight savings</p> <p>Demonstrating outcomes and quality in respect of Homelessness prevention. How to identify status at start of support and to make comparisons *</p>	<p>*Tracy to forward to Sam Lewis a copy of closure form as used by MCC Gateway</p>
<p><b>Provider Forum and 'Showcase'</b></p> <p>Questions had been raised prior to today's meeting regarding the Showcase event being planned by Monmouthshire Supporting People. Clarification was being sought in respect of the purpose and rationale of such an event. Whether the other Gwent regions were to host similar events, and how information and data presented by providers would be used, especially in terms of comparing one provider with another.</p> <p>At today's meeting it was announced that Monmouthshire Supporting People had cancelled this event.</p>	
<p><b>Feedback from agencies &amp; Cymorth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcomes summary. Continuing theme regarding fitness for purpose of current system, and inconsistencies in respect of guidance, implementation and validity of data assessment .</li> <li>• National provider representative meeting at Llandrindod in late October 2014.</li> <li>• Homelessness Symposium on 17-10-2014 being hosted by Cymorth Cymru</li> <li>• Care Provider Summit in November 2014</li> <li>• Promoting Independence Awards</li> <li>• Llamau, Life begins at Home week</li> <li>• Service User event to be held 27<sup>th</sup> November at Taff Housing</li> <li>• Hafan Cymru , 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday event in Cardiff.( date to be confirmed)</li> <li>• Torfaen Women's Aid : new project "stepping stones " was launched this week , seeking to alleviate bed blocking in Women's Aid</li> </ul>	
<p><b>AOB</b> No other business brought to the attention for the group</p>	
<p><b>Dates of next meeting:</b> TBC</p>	

