

EITEM AGENDA / AGENDA ITEM: 5.2

Cyd-bwyllgor Canolbarth Cymru ar gyfer Iechyd a Gofal / Mid Wales Joint Committee for Health and Care			
Dyddiad y Cyfarfod: Date of Meeting:	31 st October 2022		
Eitem ar yr Agenda: Title of Report:	Mid Wales Public and Patient Engagement and Involvement Forum Closure Report		
Arweinydd: Lead:	Peter Skitt, County Director Ceredigion and Programme Director Mid Wales Joint Committee		
Pwrpas yr adroddiad: Purpose of the Report:	To receive the closure report on the Mid Wales Public and Patient Engagement and Involvement Forum	Ar gyfer cytundeb For Agreement	✓
		Ar gyfer trafodaeth For Discussion	
		Ar gyfer gwybodaeth For Information	
<u>Crynodeb / Summary</u>			
<p>The Mid Wales Healthcare Study, published in October 2014, highlighted a number of issues and twelve recommendations were made. One of these recommendations was that the three Health Boards should establish a joint governance mechanism. The Mid Wales Healthcare Collaborative, in order to implement many of the other recommendations made in the report. Two Independent co-chairs, Dr Ruth Hall and Jack Evershed, were appointed to challenge and support the collaborative with one of their key responsibilities being to energise and shape engagement with the public, staff and clinicians.</p> <p>One of the successful outcomes of the Mid Wales Healthcare Collaborative was a greatly improved relationship between providers and the population they serve. This was achieved by arranging engagement on the population's terms rather than on institutional terms. This had two major principles; firstly a commitment of the Independent co-Chairs to be available to meet or speak with any groups or individuals who wished; secondly formal engagement events were organised as the public wanted with an agreed agenda and NHS representation.</p> <p>In 2018 the Mid Wales Healthcare Collaborative transitioned to the Mid Wales Joint Committee for Health and Social Care in order to allow for a greater focus on delivery. This included the establishment of a Mid Wales Public and Patient Engagement and Involvement Forum to support and advise on engagement and communication activity in order to ensure a coordinated approach to meaningful discussion, challenge and explanation across the mid Wales area. The Mid Wales Public and Patient Engagement and Involvement Forum operated as a virtual forum with its membership comprising those members of the public who had shown an interest in the work of the Joint Committee and the former Healthcare Collaborative. To support the Forum a small group of Engagement and Involvement Leads for partner healthcare organisations, Local Authorities and CHC representatives was established, known as the Mid Wales Public and Patient Engagement and Involvement Steering Group, to discuss and agree how best to engage and involve the public and patients in the work of the Joint Committee using existing organisational mechanisms and specific Joint Committee events and to ensure they complement each other. The Forum and Steering Group were led by an Independent Chair.</p> <p>In response to the post COVID-19 review of the Joint Committee undertaken at the end of 2021/early 2022, the Chair of the Forum, Jack Evershed wrote to Joint Committee members in</p>			

June 2022 advising that circumstance had changed since the Joint Committee (formerly the Mid Wales Healthcare Collaborative) was formed. A major reason for establishing the Healthcare Collaborative was to make sure that the public of Mid Wales were able to inform and challenge the Health Boards about services in the area. There was also a regular public forum where evidence of joint working could be presented, and people could directly challenge senior executives. Originally when Dr Ruth Hall and Jack Evershed were Independent co-Chairs they had the resource to engage directly as the Healthcare Collaborative. Since its transition to the Joint Committee engagement has had to either “piggy-back” on to Health Board engagement processes or by direct contact with the Chair of the Forum and the Joint Committee team. Over this period the Health Boards have dramatically improved their engagement both in terms of process and delivery.

The need for public scrutiny and challenge to the collaborative working across Mid Wales still exists, however, consideration needs to be given as to whether the current arrangement is the best way to achieve this. The work of the Joint Committee is undertaken by the Mid Wales Clinical Advisory Group and the Mid Wales Planning and Delivery Executive Group. The Mid Wales Joint Scrutiny Group of elected councillors is in place to assure that collaborative working exists and is considering the population of Mid Wales in the planning and delivery of services. The Joint Committee reports but has no statutory duty to direct planning and delivery in Mid Wales, the lead Chief Executive is the person whose role it is to lead on discussion and Programme scrutiny. Suggestions or challenges are then referred to the executive authority of the individual Joint Committee members.

The Joint Committee meetings no longer seem to be the best place to challenge the statutory authorities and if each Board had “Mid Wales actions and strategies” as a standing item on the agenda each Chief Executive could be challenged about their proposals and decisions relating to this area. The joint scrutiny group (and possibly a joint Community Health Council/Citizens Voice Body arrangement) and the public have an opportunity to challenge and ensure that joint working is really happening at these individual and Regional Partnership Board meetings

Services are in a different place from when the Mid Wales Healthcare Study was presented to the Minister- there is a long term strategy for Bronglais, integrated working between health and social care has moved on massively, there are Ministerial expectations of joint working (both institutional and regional), Health Boards have a different and improved attitude to engagement, GPs and Nurses are being trained in Mid Wales to name a few achievements.

As such it is proposed that existing organisational engagement and involvement mechanisms are used as the main tools for Mid Wales engagement and involvement which will replace the Public and Patient Engagement and Involvement Forum. The Joint Committee Programme Director and team will lead on identifying those Mid Wales specific issues which require action and response by respective Health Boards and Local Authorities and will remain a point of contact for the people of Mid Wales to ensure responses from the appropriate source.

Argymhelliad / Recommendation

For agreement - The Joint Committee are asked to discuss the closure report on the Mid Wales Public and Patient Engagement and Involvement Forum and agree the proposal that existing organisational engagement and involvement mechanisms are used as the main tools for Mid Wales engagement and involvement which will replace the Public and Patient Engagement and Involvement Forum.

