

EITEM AGENDA / AGENDA ITEM: 2

**Cyd-bwyllgor Canolbarth Cymru ar gyfer Iechyd a Gofal /
Mid Wales Joint Committee for Health and Care**

Dyddiad y Cyfarfod: Date of Meeting:	18 th October 2021		
Eitem ar yr Agenda: Title of Report:	Report of the Lead Chair		
Arweinydd: Lead:	Professor Vivienne Harpwood, Chair of Powys Teaching Health Board and Lead Chair for the Mid Wales Joint Committee (MWJC)		
Pwrpas yr adroddiad: Purpose of the Report:	To receive a written update from the MWJC Lead Chair regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant matters undertaken as Lead Chair • Provide an overview of the current key items of relevance to the MWJC. • Progress to date on the post COVID-19 review of the MWJC. 	Ar gyfer cytundeb For Agreement	
		Ar gyfer trafodaeth For Discussion	
		Ar gyfer gwybodaeth For Information	✓

Crynodeb / Summary

This report provides the opportunity to present items to the Mid Wales Joint Committee (MWJC) in order to demonstrate areas of work that are being progressed and achievements that are being made, which may not be directly reported to the MWJC through the other reports presented to its meetings. This report is intended to ensure that the MWJC are kept up to date on work undertaken, both nationally and regionally, and provides an opportunity to highlight areas which can be brought back to future meetings of the Joint Committee.

1. National developments

A Healthier Wales: Our Plan for Health and Social Care

'A Healthier Wales: Our Plan for Health and Social Care' is the Welsh Government's plan in response to the Parliamentary Review of Health and Social Care report and was launched in June 2018. The plan, which sets out a long-term future vision of a 'whole system approach to health and social care', includes actions designed to focus activity through the A Healthier Wales Transformation Programme. In my last report to the last meeting of the Joint Committee in May 2021, I advised that a revised set of actions were published in March 2021 to support the stabilisation and recovery of services following COVID-19 as well as those elements of A Healthier Wales brought to the forefront by the pandemic. These revised set of actions were re-published in September 2021.

The Integrated Care Fund and Transformation Fund was extended for a further 12 months until April 2022 and this money has been made available through Regional Partnership Boards. The aim of the fund is to improve health and social care services by scaling up models that are successful and replacing less successful or outdated ones. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic each region has completed a rapid review of the projects delivered within their area. This has meant a shift of resources within projects to meet the demand.

Quality and Safety Framework

The Health and Social Care (Quality and Engagement) (Wales) Act 2020 became law on 1 June 2020. The purpose of the Act is to introduce a strengthened Duty of Quality and Duty of Candour for the NHS in Wales, as well as create a Citizen Voice Body to strengthen the voice of our population. This legislation, together with the need to learn from recent system failings in the NHS, and to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic were the principle drivers in developing the Quality and Safety Framework which was published in September 2021. The Quality and Safety Framework states that organisations at every level should function as a quality management system to ensure that care meets the six domains of quality; care that is safe, effective, patient-centred, timely, efficient and equitable.

Together for Mental Health: Delivery Plan 2019 to 2022 – Updated actions

The Welsh Government have updated the actions within the Together for Mental Health Delivery Plan in response to the impact that COVID-19 has had on the mental health and wellbeing of people in Wales and to support services to meet changing mental health needs. The revised version of the final delivery plan, which supports the 10 year plan to improve mental health and well-being, was issued in August 2021.

Social Care recovery framework

In July 2021, the Deputy Minister for Social Services, published a social care recovery framework, which set out the immediate and short term priorities for social care recovery. The framework builds on 'Improving Health and Social Care (COVID-19 Looking Forward)', which was published in March 2021, and the implementation of the social care commitments published in the Programme for Government in June 2021. The recovery framework was developed in collaboration with partners across the social care sector.

Strengthening Welsh language services in health and social care

In late 2018, Welsh Government commissioned Arad Research and OB3 Research to undertake an evaluation of 'More than just words', the Welsh Government's strategic framework to strengthen Welsh Language provision in health and social care. The aim of the evaluation was to assess how and to what extent the follow-on framework achieved its intended aim to promote and support use of the Welsh language in health and social care in Wales. It also aimed to identify the barriers and facilitators to implementing the follow-on framework's seven key objectives. The evaluation report was published on 31st August 2021.

Overall the findings of the evaluation showed that for many Welsh speakers being able to access services in Welsh made a significant positive difference to their overall experience as well as in many cases, the health and well-being outcomes they gained as a result. However, the findings also demonstrated that service users often find it difficult to access services they need and are reluctant to ask for it when not offered. The findings of the evaluation indicate that there is a continued need for 'More than just words'. However, the evaluation report suggests that 'More than just words' role may need to change from being a strategic framework upon which the sector can plan provision, to an enabler, supporting the sector to put into practice the agreed priorities and support the aims of 'Cymraeg 2050'.

The Welsh Language in Health and Social Care Partnership Board oversees the delivery of 'More than just words' and includes representatives from key professional bodies. The Minister for Health and Social Services has agreed to the recommendation made by that group to set up a small Task & Finish Group to develop a 5 year work plan for 'More than just words' based on the recommendations of the evaluation and other evidence.

2. Regional developments

Grow Mid Wales Partnership

At its meeting on 21st September 2021, the Growing Mid Wales Board approved the portfolio business case to be submitted to both UK and Welsh Governments for their consideration and review. The decision signals a key point in the Growth Deal's development, that subject to Government approval, will enable the focus to shift to developing the Programme and Project Business Cases.

The Portfolio Business Case provides a framework for the growth deal and an initial set of programmes and projects which can be developed and considered further as the work progresses. Current proposals include the intention to bring forward formal programmes for digital connectivity, sites and premises, and a range of early project proposals to develop the region's economic infrastructure.

Assessment of Local Well-being

Mid Wales Public Service Boards are undertaking or due to undertake engagement exercises on their well-being needs. The latest timescales on the public engagement exercises regarding the Assessment of Local Well-being for those areas within Mid Wales are as follows:

- Ceredigion Public Services Board: Engagement exercise closed on 8th November 2021.
- Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Gwynedd Public Services Board (Mantell Gwynedd): Due to go out to engagement October/November 2021 with timescale to be confirmed.
- Powys Public Services Board: Due to go out to engagement from 1st November to 16th December 2021.

3. Mid Wales Joint Committee post COVID-19 review

A review of the Mid Wales Joint Committee and how it currently operates is currently in progress. This includes a programme of meetings with members of the Mid Wales Joint Committee to seek their feedback to inform the outputs of the review. A draft report on the outputs of this review will be presented to meetings of the Mid Wales Planning and Delivery Executive Group on 6th December 2021 and to the Mid Wales Joint Committee on 24th January 2022.

4. Mid Wales Joint Scrutiny Working Group

The next meeting of the Mid Wales Joint Scrutiny Group will be held on the afternoon of Monday 18th October 2021 following the Mid Wales Joint Committee meeting in the morning. Items to be discussed at the meeting include:

- i) Recovery Plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Detailed look at the recovery plan and its priorities
 - Deliverability of the proposals contained within.
- ii) Information on the steps being taken to support the workforce following the pressures of the pandemic.
- iii) Update on the joint working between Betsi, Hywel Dda a Powys in the region.
- iv) Mid Wales Joint Committee post COVID-19 review

Argymhelliad / Recommendation

For information - The Joint Committee are asked to note for information the written update from the MWJC Lead Chair regarding relevant matters undertaken as Lead Chair of the MWJC and the overview of the current key items of relevance to the MWJC.