

Swansea Bay University Health Board
Unconfirmed Minutes of a Meeting of the Health Board
held on 24th February 2022 via Zoom

Present

Emma Woollett	Chair
Mark Hackett	Chief Executive
Steve Spill	Vice-Chair
Andrew Jarrett	Associate Board Member
Christine Morrell	Director of Therapies and Health Science
Darren Griffiths	Director of Finance
Debbie Eytayo	Director of Workforce and OD
Gareth Howells	Interim Director of Nursing and Patient Experience
Jackie Davies	Independent Member
Keith Lloyd	Independent Member
Maggie Berry	Independent Member
Mark Child	Independent Member
Patricia Price	Independent Member
Reena Owen	Independent Member
Richard Evans	Executive Medical Director
Siân Harrop-Griffiths	Director of Strategy
Tom Crick	Independent Member

In Attendance:

Hazel Lloyd	Acting Director of Corporate Governance
Matt John	Director of Digital
Mwoyo Makuto	Community Health Council
Nick Samuels	Interim Director of Communications
Sue Evans	Community Health Council
Liz Stauber	Head of Corporate Governance

Minute No.		Action
38/22	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS	
	Emma Woollett welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Nuria Zolle, Independent Member and Keith Reid, Director of Public Health.	
39/22	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
	Mark Child declared an interest in the hydrotherapy agenda item as a board member for the Welsh National Pool, Swansea.	

40/22	<p>OUTCOME OF THE HYDROTHERAPY ENGAGEMENT</p>	
	<p>A report setting out the outcome of the engagement process around hydrotherapy services was received.</p> <p>In introducing the report, Siân Harrop-Griffiths highlighted the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The engagement had been a follow-on from the ‘Changing for the Future’ engagement which had identified a need for further work; - 54 responses had been received, which was low, but in-keeping with the fact that it was a specialist service; - The responses in favour and against the proposals were around equal in number, while 15% had not specified either way; - The proposals reflected the direction of travel as set out in ‘Changing for the Future’ and would enable more community access for other groups; - It would also support the recovery from Covid-19 by increasing planned care capacity to address waiting times; - The concerns raised had been from a small group of staff in relation to the proposed removal of the Morriston Hospital pool. This had not been open since the start of the pandemic due to infection control requirements; - The pools at Neath Port Talbot and Singleton hospitals had re-opened in 2021 and were able to meet the increased demands from the closure of the Morriston Hospital pool; - There had been concern raised by the staffing group at Morriston Hospital around the needs of critical care patients however, there were only around six to 12 users per year from this group, the majority of whom would only use it once; - If the proposals were to be accepted, the capacity at Singleton and Neath Port Talbot hospital pools would be increased and small investments made to upgrade the facilities, including the provision of hoists; - Work would also be undertaken with local authorities to increase the use of community pools; - Concerns around transport and access continued to be monitored; - The outcome of the process had been shared with the community health council at its executive committee earlier in the week. <p>In discussing the report, the following points were raised:</p>	

	<p>Sue Evans advised that following the community health council's executive committee, a letter would be sent to the health board to confirm its support for the proposed way forward following the outcome of the engagement. Members had asked that further information be shared around the use of the community pools once available, but recognised this was an extra element to the service for those who would benefit from hydrotherapy but did not need a heated pool. Mwoyo Makuto added there had been a passionate debate which demonstrated the value of the service. The executive committee took the decision to support the proposals as they were in-line with the overall model of service change for the health board and there was connectivity between the plans.</p> <p>Christine Morrell stated that this was an opportunity to modernise the service provided and support service users to become more self-managed, as the majority only needed a few sessions before moving onto weight-bearing therapies. The proposals were in-line with the ambition to create a centre of excellence for rehabilitation at Neath Port Talbot Hospital and had been recommended by physiotherapists.</p> <p>Maggie Berry commented that it was important that Morriston Hospital was focussed on its future plans for urgent and emergency care and this could only be achieved by relocating rehabilitation services.</p> <p>Mark Child was supportive of the proposals, stating that having fewer facilities meant that focus could be given to ensuring they were modern and efficient for service users.</p> <p>Steve Spill queried how the health board compared with others in terms of provision. Christine Morrell advised that other organisations only had one pool so even if Morriston Hospital pool was to close in-line with the proposals, the health board's provision would still be greater than others. However others did have access to community pools which the health board did not currently, so access was balanced.</p> <p>Steve Spill asked whether arrangements would be made with the local authorities so that those who needed to access community pools as part of the health board's service could do so free of charge. Christine Morrell responded that the local authorities were keen to have physiotherapy supported sessions within its pools so there were negotiations to take place around costs for service users. In addition, there was potential for the health board's pools to be used for income generation when they were not needed for service users.</p>	
<p>Resolved:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The report be noted; - The recommendation to proceed with the proposal to close Morriston Hydrotherapy pool be agreed. 	

41/22	VOLUNTARY SECTOR SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS 2022-23	
	<p>A report seeking approval of the voluntary sector service level agreements for 2022-23 was received.</p> <p>In introducing the report, Siân Harrop-Griffiths highlighted the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work was continuing around the recommissioning framework for service level agreements following board approval to extend the process to March 2023 due to the pandemic; - In the interim, special arrangements had been put in place and the board was now asked to approve the extension of these; - £2.3m had been ring-fenced as a fund for these agreements for a number of years and while it had never been increased, it had also never been subject to cost improvement schemes; - There had been significant discussion around whether to have a cost improvement scheme given the health board's current financial position. It had been agreed that savings should be sought where possible and that any achieved would be used to recommission further services from the third sector. <p>In discussing the report, the following points were raised:</p> <p>Mark Child stated that there can be complacency when interim arrangements were rolled-over so it was pleasing to hear of the monitoring and efficiency work.</p> <p>Reena Owen commented that a number of voluntary organisations were small and found the application for bids process quite challenging. It was important that the commissioning process was accessible to all as some had limited resources. Siân Harrop-Griffiths advised that some support was provided and the challenges were recognised. There was a meeting taking place in March 2022 with two councils for voluntary services to discuss the application process. Emma Woollett stated that it was important that the health board was flexible but also that the right level of due diligence was undertaken. Darren Griffiths provided assurance that the procurement team was working with colleagues within strategy to ensure the right process was designed. The need to ring-fence the monies was a Welsh Government requirement so there were opportunities to move things around to create more sustainability.</p> <p>Mwoyo Makuto advised from a community health council perspective, the impact of the third sector as a partner was recognised. There were occasions when service users raised concerns relating to commissioned services and it was important these were delivered to the right standard.</p>	

Resolved:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It be agreed to continue current arrangements from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 to align with the recommissioning timeline and development of the voluntary third sector framework to be in place by 1st April 2023; - The proposal for funding the service level agreements in 2022-23 be agreed. 	
42/22	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
	There was no further business and the meeting was closed.	
43/22	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
	The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 31 st March 2022.	