



Fforwm Camddefnyddio Sylweddau Gogledd Cymru

North Wales Substance Misuse Forum

Minutes of meeting held on the 16th December 2008 at Rhyl Fire Station.

Present

Andrew Jones (Chair)	Regional Director NPHS
Maldwyn Roberts	North Wales Coordinator
Ceriann Tunnah	Conwy/Denbigh SMAT
Gron Bennett-Williams	NPHS
Harold Burrows	Welsh Ambulance Service
Sarah Jones	Welsh Assembly Government
Wil Parry	Gwynedd SMAT
Catherine Roberts	Gwynedd SMAT
Katy Playle	NW DIP Manager
Dave Roberts	NWW NHS Trust
Veronica Mowat	WAG Regional Advisor
Steve Ray	Probation
Catherine Jones	Flintshire SMAT
Jenny Elliot	Denbighshire Supporting People
Eiddwen Borland	Jobcentreplus
Lynda Stokes	Touchstones 12
Naomii Oakley	UCLAN
Glenn Abbott	WOTS
Dan Tipton	NW Police
Mandy Jones	Minute Taker
APOLOGIES	
Richard Fairhead	NW Fire & Rescue Service
Joanna Jordan	WAG
Sarah Matthews	Barnardo's Cymru
Vicky Jones	Wrexham County Council SMAT
Gareth Hewitt	WAG
Tony Wyn Jones	Anglesey County Council
Sally Baxter	Denbighshire LHB
Lynne Joannou	Anglesey LHB
Jill Timmins	NEW-TR Wales NHS
Benn Pagett	Channel User Group
Jim O'Toole	SMS, NWW NHS trust

Coordinator, due to the unavoidable delay of the Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies on behalf of the chair who would be attending later. In view of this fact Coordinator changed the order of the agenda.

8. NW Substance Misuse Plan

Coordinator referred to papers previously circulated indicating a need to update the current NWSMF plan. There is now a need to align the NW plan and the new WAG Strategy. Also reference was made to the all Wales schools core programme and exit strategy if funding finishes, should this type of issue be included in such a plan?

Discussion took place as to the coverage of the schools programme; excluded children are not covered – should we be using the ‘Choose Life’ project to engage with these? This was especially so as a draft programme and bid has been submitted for adapting ‘Chose Life’ for north Wales.

The need to share good practice. The need for local plans and to include other agencies views in producing a north Wales plan. Basic framework has been circulated with the papers based on the WAG Substance Misuse Plan 2008-2018 and their 4 Priority Action Areas.

ACTION: Local plans and comments to be forwarded to Coordinator for inclusion/reference in the North Wales plan. Agenda item next meeting.

4. WOTS update

Naomii updated the group on the position of WOTS. They are currently liaising with SMAT coordinators regarding their barriers to access matrix and also working on the Family and Carers strategy. The matrix is helping and some recommendations have been implemented. Advocacy is also in place for some areas and they are hoping to extend this service to users across the region once more volunteers are trained in the New Year. A further update will be provided at the next meeting.

NHS changes which will happen in April were discussed and Dave said that it will be probably be a single NHS organization for North Wales.

Sarah said that Glenn will be a speaker at the best practice Conference scheduled for 19/20 January to be held in Newport.

Glenn talked about the draft consultation Service User Strategy and commented upon the document prepared by ‘UNLLAIS’ for the MH as being a boon to start up their work from a substance misuser perspective. This document had been adapted and circulated widely for comments. He asked for responses as the date has been extended to 9th January in order that they could then begin in earnest on the Strategy document. Looking to include service users group and family & carers support groups. Catherine mentioned they are starting a family and carers group in Blaenau Ffestiniog and that they could tie in with this group.

2&3 Minutes of the last meeting 16/09/08

Chair arrived and took over the meeting and welcomed Veronica back after a period of illness.

The minutes were taken for accuracy and matters arising, not being on the Agenda.

Capital Building Strategy – Maldwyn updated the group that expression of interest has been sent and 2 companies responded. Scoring matrix was prepared and sent out to CAG members. Once returned the total points indicated that Pennaf were successful of the two and will now undertake the work. They will be contacting the SMATs and other relevant agencies to see what building are currently used, what is needed and recommend after consulting with SMATs on the way forward with options in terms of either renovating or replacing these buildings.

Steve mentioned that NOMS have funding towards purchasing buildings.

Needle Vending Machine – Conwy are due to meet in January as WAG have requested that a decision about machine will have to be reached by March, otherwise they will take control of machine. Conwy intend to discuss in the January and welcomed any suggestions.

- Workforce Development Group – Agenda item
- Alcohol update – Agenda item
- DIP – agenda item

Minutes accepted as accurate.

5. DIP update

No formal decision has been made as yet on the re-commissioning. Details will be circulated when available as the process is underway.

Tough Choices project is starting in April in Wrexham. This will allow DIP to chase people up for non-attendance if they test positive for drugs whilst in custody. Questions were asked about the extra demand on the service. Katy confirmed that a study has shown that there should not be any extra call on services, as most people are already in the system.

6. Naloxone

Coordinator said that this was originally brought up at the Drug Death Review Group in South Wales. They have undertaken a project on 'near misses' – people who have been admitted to hospital with near fatal overdoses of drugs. Pilots have been running in England of 'take home' Naloxone and have proven to be successful. It is now intended that 4 pilot areas will be run in Wales next year, with one of them being Rhyl (details yet to be worked out).

Discussion took place. Who will over-see the project? What are the legalities? Will the 4 pilot projects proposed for Wales be working together? Will there be an NHS Lead? Police have also raised their concerns about the storage and transportation of naloxone. Ceriann will be attending the next Naloxone pilot meeting where further information should be available and she will update this group at the next meeting.

ACTION: Ceriann to update on Naloxone project at next Forum meeting

7. WAG Matters

Veronica stated that financial delicacies have now changed. She can approve capital bids up to £50k and revenue up to £25k.

Tier 4 review - Starting a review group in the next 12 months. Flintshire already have a Tier 4 Group. It will be up to each SMAT to look at what's included in their plans.

Sarah mentioned that TOPS will be holding an event in the first 2 weeks of February. Details will be circulated. Forms will be available to download from website.

Best Practice conference to be held on 19/20th January.

Capital funding available for substance misuse. It was asked on the position of Touchstones 12. No update available today.

Mike Denman mentioned that CAIS intend to submit a bid for alterations to the Dawn building in Colwyn Bay to provide a similar facility to the Dewi Sant Centre running there. He will submit the bid through the Conwy SMAT.

ACTION: Proposal to be discussed at next CAG meeting on 180209 with results brought back to the next Forum meeting.

8. NWSMF Review

Plans previously discussed. Framework will be populated once members respond. Coordinator mentioned the Terms of Reference as these have been agreed since 2004 and not reviewed since. Discussion took place. We now have National Strategy leading from local and regional. Does the TOR reflect what we need/want? The group's Remit was looked at. The need to influence other groups i.e. Children & Young People's Partnerships. NHS changes might also influence this.

Action- Comments to be returned to Coordinator for inclusion in the draft TOR. Also, member to send suggestions as to content of NW Plan to coordinator Agenda item next meeting.

Coordinator referred to a letter that had been sent by WAG regarding a representative on the Substance Misuse Strategy Implementation Board. Discussion took place as the letter was not clear on who the representative should be and no Terms of Reference for the group was available. It was suggested that the chair Andrew Jones was the representative. It was decided to write to all CSP/SMAT chairs asking for volunteers, and if no volunteers that the chair become the representative (if not required as an NPHS representative).

Action – Coordinator to write to CSP/SMAT chairs asking for volunteers. Request TOR for the group and further information on dates of meetings etc.

9. Sub groups

Drug Death Review Group - Coordinator mentioned that Alcohol is now a contributory factor in a number of deaths. Karen Eveleigh has arranged funding for a pilot research project on alcohol deaths in North Wales. Chair offered his support to this.

Funding Formula – Relevant data to be used has now been identified. New funding formula will be produced which will make it a more robust, although acknowledged that it is not perfect. This will then apply to new money only. Discussion took place on the issue of where the population data was collected from. Views were that this was taken from the latest census figures.

Training sub group minutes – for information no matters arising

Homeless & Accommodation minutes – for information no matters arising

Alcohol Prevention and Alcohol Treatment minutes – for information no matters arising

10. AOB

Workforce Development Plan- This has been signed off on Monday. This will have implications for SMATS on mapping towards DANOS. Workshop and launch of plan will be held in January. Discussion took place around the lack of capacity in SMATs. Mike stated that funding for the development officers is finishing in March. Documents will be available but there will be no resources for training. The Oracle website is available.

Coordinator commented on the fact that the development officers posts were coming to an end when perhaps they were now needed the most to continue the work, which appears to be foisted on to SMATs now.

NHS reform – currently there is a 3 months consultation period. The proposal is for a single NHS organization for North Wales. There will be transitional directors appointed to oversee the changes. The Chair will bring to their attention any substance misuse issues.

Time/date Next Meeting – 2.00 pm on 4th March 2009 at the NW Police Headquarters, Colwyn Bay. (Buffet at 1.30pm)