

SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 17TH APRIL, 2019

SUBJECT: REGIONAL ADVOCACY SERVICE

Purpose:

This paper provides information on the work that is underway to develop a co-produced regional advocacy service; the strategic and legislative background and context to this work; and the engagement work that has been commissioned to support the development of a co-produced regional advocacy service. Commissioners are at the point of going out to tender for a pilot of the service in Ceredigion, the evaluation of which will inform the basis of roll out of the regional service to Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire.

To consider and comment on the following issues:

- The development of a regional advocacy service for West Wales.

Reasons:

For the committee's Information

To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision: NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-
Cllr. J. Tremlett (Social Care & Health Portfolio Holder)

Directorate

Communities

Name of Head of Service:

Chris Harrison

Report Author:

Angela Phillips

Designations:

Head Strategic Commissioning
(Carmarthenshire CC)

Programme Manager, Integrated
Commissioning and Preventions,
West Wales Care Partnership

Tel Nos.

07384 242269

E Mail Addresses:

Chris.harrison@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

angphillips@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

17TH APRIL 2019

REGIONAL ADVOCACY SERVICE

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT

The Regional Integrated Commissioning and Preventions Board on behalf of the West Wales Regional Partnership Board has been leading on the development of a Regional Advocacy Service, the design for which has been co-produced between Commissioners from the 3 local Authorities and Health, Advocacy Providers and informed by engagement with service users.

There are a number of requirements under the Social Services and Wellbeing Wales Act and the Regulation and Inspection Act 2016 in relation to advocacy. Regional commissioning has been identified as a priority of the regional partnership board. (Part 9 SS&WB Wales Act); In addition, Local authorities are required to provide or arrange **preventative services** (Section 15, SS&WB Wales Act). This included advocacy services.

Advocacy provision also needs to be reviewed in light of future changes in advocacy standards linked to the 3rd phase of the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act which comes into force in April 2019. However, the Welsh Government position has changed and there are no plans for the regulation of adult advocacy in the imminent future.

Currently the 3 local authorities have their own separate advocacy commissioning arrangements. Carmarthenshire County Council commissions specialist advocacy i.e. for people with learning disabilities, mental health, dementia and carers. Carmarthenshire currently contract with Carmarthenshire People First and with Eiriol. Ceredigion County Council commissions' advocacy from Carmarthenshire commissioned organisations on a spot purchasing basis. Pembrokeshire County Council commissions advocacy through DEWIS Cymru for all adults including carers. DEWIS is generic but can access specialist organisations when required.

Completion of an advocacy self assessment tool produced by Age Cymru's Golden Thread programme, evidenced that there is room for the improvement of advocacy services across the region to ensure compliance with the Act and to ensure equity of provision and access to advocacy services across West Wales.

Commissioners have worked with advocacy providers over the last 18 months to design a regional service. This has involved:

- Providing funding to the 3 counties regional advocacy network to engage with users around what good advocacy looks like.
- Based on this feedback, the 3 counties provider network prepared a report with 12 recommendations for service design which has been discussed, debated and negotiated with commissioners and which has informed the development of the service specification.

A decision has been taken to pilot the service in Ceredigion. Some of the reasons for this include:

- The fact that there is currently no IPA service in Ceredigion, and all advocacy is procured on a spot purchase basis. Taking a phased approach will allow Ceredigion to grow a service in advance of regional roll out.
- Commissioning on a single contract basis (as suggested by the advocacy providers) could pose a number of potential and unnecessary risks for the established market in Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire. The single contract model heightens the possibility of total provider change, and the attendant upheaval and destabilisation of the market.
- A pilot will test out demand for IPA versus non statutory advocacy which is currently an unknown
- The pilot will also enable current providers to test out new ways of working collaboratively in a pilot at a local rather than a regional level; and it will give providers and commissioners time to develop their thinking around the practicalities of alliance contracting, and the legal framework to support this approach.

The net effect of this is that current contracts with Carmarthenshire People First and Eiriol in Carmarthenshire and Dewis in Pembrokeshire will be extended until April 2020, and that the evaluation of the Ceredigion Pilot will inform ongoing service design with a view to having a Full regional advocacy service in place by **October 2020. (Timeline below)**

Phase 1 – Ceredigion Pilot	
Sell to wales event for Ceredigion pilot (set within Regional Context)	5 th March 2019
Ceredigion publish tender	End March 2019
Tender award	Mid May 2019
Pilot implementation period	June-Sep 2019
Pilot contract commencement	1 st October 2019
Extend contracts in Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire.	1 st April 2019
Phase 2 – Regional Roll out	
Review data from Pilot	1 st October 2019 – April 2020
Reconsideration of service design	1 st December 2019 – April 2020
Publish regional tender	May 2020
Regional Contract Commencement	October 2020

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

NO - Presentation will be given on the day

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: **Chris Harrison** **Head of Joint Strategic Commissioning**

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: **Chris Harrison** **Head of Joint Strategic Commissioning**

1. Local Member(s) - None

2. Community / Town Council - None

3. Relevant Partners

Joint working group involving Commissioners from:

- Carmarthenshire County Council – Chris Harrison & Alison Watkins
- Pembrokeshire County Council – Rhian Bennett
- Ceredigion County Council – Anna Henchie & Alex Martin
- HDUHB (Mental Health Advocacy Review) – Clare Hale
- Golden Thread Advocacy programme – Huw Davies & Marc Forster
- CVC's – Sue Leonard

4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

3 counties Advocacy Network including Carmarthenshire People First, Pembrokeshire People First, Eiriol, Dewis, Mental Health Matters, Age Cymru Ceredigion, West Wales Action for Mental Health

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Part 9 of the Social Services & Wellbeing Wales Act		<u>https://gweddill.gov.wales/docs/dhss/publications/151218part9en.pdf</u>
Section 15 of the Social Services and Wellbeing Wales Act		<u>https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2014/4/section/15</u>