



**North East Wales Wellbeing Network Meeting
10th January 2019
Gwersyllt Resource Centre, Gwersyllt**

Present:

Amber Percy – Glyndŵr University
Ann Hipkiss – Castell Ventures
Ann Woods – FLVC
Anwen Wraith – Castell Ventures
Carol Gardner – Dynamic
Carol Griffiths – Community Health Council
Clive Rowland – Advocacy Services N.E.W
Colin Evans – Stroke Association
Dawn Roberts – Wisdom of Equus
Fran Hughes – FLVC
Gareth Hughes – Hafal
Janette Williams – Armed Forces Covenant
Jo Woodward – Groundwork North Wales
Jo Young – British Red Cross
John Gallanders – AVOW
Karen Owen – BCUHB
Karen Robertson – Alzheimer’s Society
Laura Sankey – Hijinx
Marjorie Thomson – FLVC
Rachel Twiss – Deafblind Cymru
Rebecca Stevenson – NEWCIS
Rick Ward – Nyth/Nest
Sandra Wright – Wisdom of Equus
Siôn Edwards – Wrexham Youth & Play Partnership
Val Williams – The FDF CIL
Vicky Holberry – Parkfields Community Centre

In attendance:

Karen Peters – FLVC

Apologies:

Jan Thomas – The FDF CIL
Shirley McCann – Stepping Stones
Dafydd Gwynedd – British Red Cross
Sue Woods – Advocacy Services N.E.W
Hayley Hill – FLVC
Karen Edwards – Hafal
Stephen Townley – Armed Forces Covenant
Michelle Wynne – Rhos Community Council

The meeting commenced with housekeeping and introductions. Attendees are asked to introduce themselves to aid networking.

1 Safeguarding and Self-Audit Tool – Ann Woods, Chief Officer, FLVC

As FLVC's Safeguarding Officer, Ann talked about the WCVA Safeguarding and Self-Audit Tool. Ann has also been approved to deliver the North Wales Basic Safeguarding training. FLVC can provide the All Wales Accredited Safeguarding training. She explained that response and obligations will vary from organisation to organisation.

Ann explained that the Safeguarding Officer's role is to support staff, trustees and volunteers to pass on any safeguarding concerns to the relevant authorities. All organisations should have a Safeguarding policy in place. Organisations should contact their local CVC if they have concerns or need further information/support.

Attendees were divided into groups and asked to look at the self-audit tool, concentrating on 2 questions per group to identify any Safeguarding training needs. Each group was then asked to provide any verbal feedback.

Initial feedback for the discussion groups:

- It's not always clear if there is a robust process in place.
- It's not always clear if safeguarding is only for service users! There's a 'fine line' between safeguarding staff and service users.
- Is the information collected always necessary e.g. demographics. Data collection can't be too intrusive.
- Cost implications for smaller organisations with regard to DBS checks (WCVA can assist with the different levels). National/international organisations have policies, procedures and training already in place.
- Policies, procedures and training need to be reviewed regularly.

If you identify an indirect safeguarding issue, please refer this to your Safeguarding Officer. Information can also be found on the National Safeguarding Board website and essential steps can also be found on the last page of the Safeguarding Audit Tool.

Further information:

WCVA Learning Zone: www.learningzone.wales/

Suzanne Mollison, WCVA delivers full or half-day Safeguarding training.

2 Network Session

Attendees were asked to complete the network form: these will be shared after the session. (see attached)

3 Armed Forces Covenant – Janette Williams

Janette Williams and Stephen Townley are both Armed Forces Liaison Officers embedded within local authorities across North Wales. Funded initially through the MOD for a period of 2 years, their roles will continue for a

further 2 years through Welsh Government funding.
The aim of the AFC is to ensure that personnel should suffer hardship, disadvantage compared to other citizens.

The Armed Forces community is made up of:

- Serving and ex-personnel.
- Reservists
- National Service
- Merchant Navy
- Immediate family members of all of the above.
- Cadets, including instructors.

Statistics:

- It is estimated that 51,000 veterans reside in North Wales alone.
- 90% of service personnel transition back into society with no issues at all!
- 1 in 25 suffers with PTSD.
- They do have specific needs and issues as a community.
- Children of service personnel are 30% less likely to attend university.

Further Support:

- Veterans Gateway – 24 hour assistance with information to refer individuals to the appropriate services.
- Royal British Legion – 0808 802 8080.
- Veterans NHS Wales – Funded by Welsh Government for mental health support resulting from service. Self or GP referral, telephone 029 2074 2062.
- FLOW Website – offering the Armed Forces Community across North Wales specific guidance. The website also has links to the Veterans Gateway.

Armed Forces Covenant Funding

- Financial commitment is currently in place until 2022.
- £10m per annum.
- Local grants (less than £20k) are run quarterly and open to anyone working with members of the Armed Forces Community and does not have to be armed forces specific. Janette is happy to be contacted for further information, support or if you have any ideas.

Janette.Williams@wrexham.gov.uk.

4 Discussion Groups

Participants divided into three groups to discuss different topics:

- Regional Partnership Board (RPB)
- Consultation on Action on Disability: the right to independent living
- Consultation on Code of Practice on the delivery of Autism Services

The notes made about the RPB were submitted to the third sector representative, Dave Worrall, for the meeting on Friday 11th January. These can be found, along with his comments from the meeting, in the '2019.01 RPB update' attachment.

The [Autism Services consultation](#) is open until 1st March if anyone would like to submit a response to the Welsh Government.

The following notes from the Network Event have been submitted:

There is some concern that there are the available professionals with the skills to implement the service, i.e. one-to-one skills, soft skills such as empathy.

The self-referral form is lengthy, complex and overwhelming. Any documentation should be in an easy read format for individuals with autism, and should not need a glossary for the acronyms.

There is concern that the timeframe is unrealistic. Being signposted to a GP or other professional could involve a 2-week waiting time for an appointment at the outset. It also relies on the professionals being aware of the service and able to recognise the condition. Individuals with autism are likely to experience anxiety while they are waiting, and probably need continuous support to know the organisation is still present. There is also concern about what support is available for people while they're waiting for an assessment, and some services are only able to support post-diagnosis.

Training must be able to accommodate different learning styles and skills, and involve face to face training. Any online training should include videos to help illustrate responses, behaviours, etc.

News and feedback about the N.E.W Wellbeing Network

If you wish to present at any future network events, please contact fran.hughes@flvc.org.uk or fran.hughes@avow.org.

Any news items for the daily digest can be emailed to Karen.peters@flvc.org.uk

Future meeting dates 2019

- 14th March, 9:30am – venue TBC
- 9th May, 9:30am – venue TBC
- 11th July, 9:30am – venue TBC
- 12th September, 9:30am – venue TBC
- 14th November, 9:30am – venue TBC

To register, please email Karen.peters@flvc.org.uk