



## Health and Social Care Regional Integration Fund

### Communities of Practice Newsletter

### August 2022

#### Introduction

This newsletter summarises progress and future plans for the Communities of Practice (CoP) which the Welsh Government has established as part of the Health and Social Care Regional Integration Fund (RIF) arrangements for 2022-27.

In June 2018, Welsh Government's first joint plan for health and social care, 'A Healthier Wales: Our Plan for Health and Social Care' presented a vision for the future of health and social care in Wales and a set of actions to be delivered through a national Transformation Programme and operationalised through the seven Regional Partnership Boards. This programme is now amalgamated into the RIF.

As part of the RIF, Welsh Government has established Communities of Practice (CoPs) in some key areas of transformation. The CoPs bring together groups of practitioners, promote productive discussion and encourage collaborative solutions to overcome common challenges as well as contribute to the development and implementation of six national models of integrated care. The RIF guidance says:

*"Our aim is that by the end of the five-year programme we will have established and mainstreamed at least six new*

*national models of integrated care so that citizens can be assured of an effective and seamless service experience...Communities of Practice will be established to share learning and actively support the development and embedding of these integrated models of care."*

The CoPs programme commenced in March 2022.

#### The Communities of Practice

Six CoPs are planned, each focused on one key area of transformation identified in the national RIF implementation guidance:

- Community-Based Care
- Technology-Enabled Care
- Emotional and Mental Health.
- Hospital to Home.
- Accommodation-Based Care and Support.
- Supporting Families and Care Experienced Children.

#### Each CoP has 2 key responsibilities:

- To provide a forum where colleagues with experience and responsibility in the subject area from across Wales

can meet together, compare learning, and share good practice.

- To contribute to the development of resources to support the delivery and implementation of national models of care and to share learning more widely with colleagues across Wales.

The CoPs are based around 6-weekly on-line workshops, supported by ongoing email updates and information sharing. Membership is not restricted, they are all open to practitioners, leaders, service users, carers, and citizens more widely. We simply ask that you bring with you some knowledge, experience or responsibility in the area covered by the CoP. To get on to the invitation and distribution list simply contact us at the addresses at the end of the paper.

Four of the CoPs are now established and two more are planned to commence in the Autumn. The established CoPs have between 70 and 90 people subscribed, mainly professionals with operational or strategic responsibility in a Local Health Board, Local Authority, private or third sector service.

### **Community Based Care CoP**

This CoP is concerned with the transformation of 'place-based' community health, care and wellbeing services and applying the principles of 'A Healthier Wales' to secure more effective, seamless care in local communities in areas such as:

- Co-ordinating care across primary, community and social care.
- Responding quickly and effectively to meet the needs of people living at home. Building multi-agency and multi-disciplinary best practice.

Improving joined-up information, advice, and assistance.

### **This CoP has had 4 meetings since March 2022:**

- Colleagues have shared case studies and examples of local challenges in an action learning problem-solving format – and plans are in place for more case studies through the Autumn.
- It has linked with the national Strategic Programme for Primary Care and the community Infrastructure Programme and agreed a role in testing and contributing to materials and resources to be produced by the Programme.
- It has explored the challenges facing the implementation of integrated community hubs and agreed this is as an area which would benefit from more detailed 'thought leadership.' It plans to produce a discussion paper looking at these challenges and how to address them in the Autumn, and to work with Welsh Government colleagues to apply principles of best practice to future programmes in this area.

The community-based care CoP is now well-established and regular six-weekly meetings are planned from the Autumn on. We are keen to welcome more colleagues with expertise and responsibility in this area from across Wales.

### **Technology-Enabled Care CoP**

This CoP provides the opportunity for those who are at the forefront of developing and delivering technology-

enabled community health and social care to share learning and good practice, and to produce resources which will help others realise the potential of this area in the future. The CoP has met 3 times since March 2022.

As with the community-based care CoP colleagues have shared case studies and examples of local challenges in an action learning problem-solving format and plan to continue to offer this opportunity through the Autumn.

The CoP has explored some of the key challenges facing technology-enabled care related to the RIF programme and identified a number of areas where future thought-leadership and resources might be valuable including:

- Capturing people's lived experience of working with technology.
- Data capture and information sharing.
- Responsiveness of tech companies to consumer needs and preferences.
- Standardising approaches to technology research and evaluation
- The role of the national tec project register.

Colleagues are now exploring how the work of the CoP might best complement the TEC Cymru programme in this area, with a plan to be agreed for the Autumn. We are keen to welcome more colleagues with expertise and responsibility in this area from across Wales.

## **Emotional and Mental Health CoP**

This CoP is concerned with how best to design and deliver emotional and mental health support for people of all ages across Wales. CoP colleagues are

sharing approaches and challenges in areas such as:

- Early help and advice services and how they can best be delivered.
- Changes in culture and professional behaviours, and the role of patient voices in service development and support.
- Community-based treatment support.
- Integrated health and care support for people in the community and the role of voluntary and community support.
- New relationships between schools, community services and statutory health and care provision.

### **This CoP has met 4 times since March 2022:**

- Like the other CoPs, colleagues from across Wales have shared case studies and examples of local challenges in an action learning problem-solving format and this element will continue through the Autumn.
- The CoP has made strong links with colleagues in the NHS Wales Health Collaborative and HEIW, and have agreed to offer 'sounding board' support to their work in this area, as well as to share examples of good and emerging practice.
- The CoP has identified an immediate priority for its contribution to national thinking about integrated care models as arrangements for single points of access for mental health services. It is working on a discussion paper proposing principles which should guide the

design and development of single points of access in the Autumn.

The emotional and mental health CoP is now well-established and regular six-weekly meetings are planned from the Autumn on. We are keen to welcome more colleagues with expertise and responsibility in this area (covering all ages and conditions) from across Wales.

### **Hospital to Home CoP**

This CoP has been established for a considerable time and produced national 'Discharge to Recover and Assess (D2RA)' guidance in 2021. It is taking forward the implementation and further development of this work on models of good practice in delivering effective services between hospital and home, and supporting national programmes concerned with Hospital to Home and the Urgent and Emergency Care Six Goals and the NHS Delivery Unit Unscheduled Care Programme. The CoP has met 4 times since March 2022:

- Colleagues from across Wales have shared case studies and examples of local challenges in an action learning problem-solving format and this element will continue through the Autumn.
- The CoP is working closely with the '6 Goals' programme offering feedback on emerging resources and planned developments, and support in distributing and embedding good practice.
- Colleagues in the CoP have agreed that an important challenge facing Hospital to Home practice across Wales is how to ensure that the 'What Matters' approach, enshrined in legislation and a key commitment of the 'A Healthier Wales' plan, is

fully delivered in practice. They have agreed to develop resources to help local and regional partners to develop more robust approaches to 'What Matters' conversations as core elements of the D2RA/Home from Hospital process, and to explore some of the implementation challenges that many partners are facing across Wales.

The CoP continues to thrive, and regular six-weekly meetings are planned from the Autumn onwards. We are keen to welcome more colleagues with expertise and responsibility in Hospital to Home delivery from across Wales.

### **Further CoPs**

The next phase of the programme will include an expansion of the number of CoPs. Two more – aligned with the RIF themes above - are currently being scoped and initial meetings will take place once the scope is agreed and the sponsor body is confirmed. We are keen to welcome colleagues with expertise and responsibility in both of these areas – do contact us to register your interest – and we will be writing out to regional partners, local authorities, Local Health Boards, and the third sector and private sectors in due course to seek nominations.

### **Get Involved**

If you would like to be added to one of the CoP distribution lists for materials and meeting invitations, then simply email one of the following:

[rachel.cohen@gov.wales](mailto:rachel.cohen@gov.wales)

[kmoultrie@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:kmoultrie@brookes.ac.uk)

We will add you to the distribution list and send you joining instructions.