

# CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

**Report to:** Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Date of meeting:** 22/11/2023

**Title:** Minutes of the Joint Scrutiny Working Group meeting for the Mid Wales Joint Committee for Health and Care, held on 12/09/2023

**Purpose of the report:** To advise the Committee of new arrangements.

**Reason Scrutiny have requested the information:**  
For information

## **Background**

The Mid Wales Healthcare Collaborative (MWHC) was established by the then Minister for Health and Social Services following a study of healthcare in Mid Wales commissioned by Welsh Government and undertaken by Professor Marcus Longley in 2014. The 'Longley Study' made 12 recommendations forming the basis of a work programme for the Mid Wales Healthcare Collaborative arrangement, in seeking to implement the changes required for the Mid Wales population. The Collaborative was established in March 2015 for a period of 2 years, and then extended by Welsh Government and collaborative members for a further 12-month period. In March 2018 the MWHC transitioned to the Mid Wales Joint Committee (MWJC) with a strengthened role in the joint planning and implementation of health and care services across Mid Wales. This was to reflect the changes in the requirements of NHS bodies for collaborative and regional working and NHS bodies and Local Authorities for the integration of care services in order to ensure a seamless approach. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 impacted on the progress of the work of the MWJC due to organisations being required to focus their efforts on planning and responding to the pandemic. In response to these changing service needs, the Lead Chair and Lead Chief Executive requested that a post COVID-19 review be undertaken of the Joint Committee and how it operates. The paper outlining the current arrangements for the Joint Committee, a summary of the post COVID-19 review together with the proposed recommendations for the future arrangements for the Joint Committee was presented and agreed by the Mid Wales Joint Committee at its meeting on 31st October 2022. The Joint Committee also requested a more detailed paper on its future arrangements.

The partners of the Mid Wales Joint Committee (MWJC) are as follows:

- Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB)
- Hywel Dda University Health Board (HDdUHB)
- Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB)
- Welsh Ambulance Services Trust (WAST)

- Ceredigion County Council
- Cyngor Gwynedd
- Powys County Council

### **Current Situation**

The MWJC is and will be chaired by a nominated Chair of a Health Board, working on behalf of other Chairs, in rotation for a period of 2 years.

The Mid Wales Joint Committee will in the future meet bi-annually as follows:

- Annual meeting held in April with its main purpose being a planning meeting for the Joint Committee's future workplan.
- Annual conference held in November which will provide an opportunity to showcase the work of the Joint Committee and engage with partners and members of the public on its work. The annual conference to be arranged to coincide with the Rural Health and Care Wales conference.

### **Wellbeing of Future Generations:**

**Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If not, please state why.**

N/A

### **Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:**

**Long term:**

**Collaboration:**

**Involvement:**

**Prevention:**

**Integration:**

### **Recommendation(s):**

To note the minutes and the new arrangements.

### **Reasons for decision:**

For the Committee's information.

**Contact Name:** Dwynwen Jones

**Designation:** Overview and Scrutiny Support Officer

**Date of Report:** 23/10/2023

### **Acronyms:**

None

## Joint Scrutiny Working Group



### Minutes of the Meeting of the Joint Scrutiny Working Group held on Zoom, Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 10am.

#### Councillors

10:00am-11:00am

Ceredigion: Caryl Roberts, Ceris Jones.

Gwynedd: Apologies received.

Powys: No representative in attendance.

#### Officers

Ceredigion: Dwynwen Jones (Overview and Scrutiny Support Officer)

Gwynedd: Bethan Adams (Scrutiny Advisor)

#### Also in attendance

Peter Skitt, Ceredigion County Director and Programme Lead Mid Wales Joint Committee for Health and Care

Nia Williams, Programme Manager, Mid Wales Joint Committee for Health and Care

#### 1 Welcome and Apologies

Councillor Caryl Roberts, Ceredigion Chair of the Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Group had not met for a long period of time and this meeting had been convened to discuss and agree on its future arrangements. Councillors Eryl Jones-Williams and Linda Ann Jones apologised for being unable to attend the meeting.

#### 2 Mr Peter Skitt, County Director and Programme Lead Mid Wales Joint Committee for Health and Care

The Chair welcomed Peter Skitt to the meeting to update the Group on recent events regarding future arrangements for the Joint Committee.

Peter thanked the Group for the welcome and confirmed the reason he had been invited to the meeting was to provide an update on what its future arrangements will be.

The Mid Wales Healthcare Collaborative (MWHC) was established by the then Minister for Health and Social Services following a study

of healthcare in Mid Wales commissioned by Welsh Government and undertaken by Professor Marcus Longley in 2014. The 'Longley Study' made 12 recommendations forming the basis of a work programme for the Mid Wales Healthcare Collaborative arrangement, in seeking to implement the changes required for the Mid Wales population. The Collaborative was established in March 2015 for a period of 2 years, and then extended by Welsh Government and collaborative members for a further 12-month period. In March 2018 the MWHC transitioned to the Mid Wales Joint Committee (MWJC) with a strengthened role in the joint planning and implementation of health and care services across Mid Wales. This was to reflect the changes in the requirements of NHS bodies for collaborative and regional working and NHS bodies and Local Authorities for the integration of care services in order to ensure a seamless approach. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 impacted on the progress of the work of the MWJC due to organisations being required to focus their efforts on planning and responding to the pandemic. In response to these changing service needs, the Lead Chair and Lead Chief Executive requested that a post COVID-19 review be undertaken of the Joint Committee and how it operates. The paper outlining the current arrangements for the Joint Committee, a summary of the post COVID-19 review together with the proposed recommendations for the future arrangements for the Joint Committee was presented and agreed by the Mid Wales Joint Committee at its meeting on 31st October 2022. The Joint Committee also requested a more detailed paper on its future arrangements.

The partners of the Mid Wales Joint Committee (MWJC) are as follows:

- Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB)
- Hywel Dda University Health Board (HDdUHB)
- Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB)
- Welsh Ambulance Services Trust (WAST)
- Ceredigion County Council
- Cyngor Gwynedd
- Powys County Council

The MWJC is and will be chaired by a nominated Chair of a Health Board, working on behalf of other Chairs, in rotation for a period of 2 years.

The Mid Wales Joint Committee will in the future meet bi-annually as follows:

- Annual meeting held in April with its main purpose being a planning meeting for the Joint Committee's future workplan.
- Annual conference held in November which will provide an opportunity to showcase the work of the Joint Committee and engage with partners and members of the public on its work. The annual conference to be arranged to coincide with the Rural Health and Care Wales conference.

The Chair thanked Peter Skitt for attending and advised him and Nia Williams that Dwynwen Jones would be in touch following the groups discussions.

**3 Agree on future arrangements and review Terms of Reference**

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed by Ceredigion attendees (would need to be shared and agreed by Gwynedd and Powys Local Authorities) as follows:

1. Focusing on encouraging Group Members from the three Counties, namely Gwynedd, Ceredigion and Powys to attend meetings of the Mid Wales Joint Committee, in order to observe and ask questions to the Board when the agenda item - questions from the Public.
2. If any Member wishes to receive more information in the form of a report or presentation after the meeting of the Mid Wales Joint Committee, then a meeting of the Scrutiny Working Group will be arranged and held at that time.
3. The Terms of Reference would be amended to reflect the above.

## **Joint Scrutiny Working Group**

### **Terms of Reference**

#### **Aims:**

The aim of the Group is to ensure the best health and care outcomes for the people of Mid Wales by providing good scrutiny of the Mid Wales Joint Committee for Health and Care.

#### **Role:**

The role of the Group is to look at the provision of health and care services in Mid Wales and issues that affect people who reside in the relevant areas of Ceredigion, Gwynedd and Powys Counties.

The process provides the opportunity for Councillors from the three Counties to examine health and care service provision, to ask questions on how decisions have been made, to consider whether service improvements can be put in place and to make recommendations to this effect.

Scrutiny plays an essential role in promoting accountability, efficiency and effectiveness in the decision-making process.

Effective Scrutiny can lead to:

- Better decision making
- Improved Service Delivery and Performance
- Robust Policy Development arising from public consultation and input of independent expertise
- Enhanced Democracy, Inclusiveness, Community Leadership and Engagement
- Adds a clear dimension of transparency and accountability to the three Councils
- Provides an opportunity for all Members to develop specialist skills and knowledge that can benefit future policy making and performance monitoring processes

#### **Membership:**

The Group is for scrutiny members with an interest in health and care

- Up to three scrutiny members from each council including for example the scrutiny chair / convener
- Membership is flexible and replacement scrutiny members will be allowed
- Relevant co-opted members may be invited if they are not part of the Executive of the Joint Committee, the Health Boards, the Councils or Welsh Government.
- Scrutiny Support Officers/Advisors should attend.

**Meetings:**

- Group Members from the three Counties, namely Gwynedd, Ceredigion and Powys to attend meetings of the Mid Wales Joint Committee, in order to observe and ask questions to the Board under the agenda item - Questions from the Public.
- If any Member wishes to receive more information in the form of a report or presentation after the meeting of the Mid Wales Joint Committee, then a meeting of the Scrutiny Working Group will be arranged and held at that time.

**Support:**

Support to be provided from the Scrutiny Officer/Advisor of each authority with the Scrutiny Officer/Advisor from the host authority of any meeting providing the support for that meeting.