

Situation

The Regional Partnership Board's cross cutting theme of supporting informal and unpaid carers is led by a co-producing group, the Carers Steering Group, which has members from the Powys Teaching Health Board, Powys County Council (adults and children's social care, and education services), 3rd Sector Organisations, Elected Members, and informal carers. Carers are the largest group within the Carers Steering Group. Carers take turns to chair the meetings, along with the Powys Teaching Health Board and Powys County Council officers.

The roles of the Carers Steering Group include:

- Responsibility for the commissioning and contract monitoring of the Carers Support Service in Powys (currently provided by Credu)
- Responsibility for the specifying and commissioning of carers support projects as funded by the Integrated Care Fund

The Carers Steering Group considered the Section 33 Agreement that was in place and deemed it not fit for purpose. The group has decided that a simpler Memorandum of Understanding would be more effective and efficient for management by the Carers Steering Group.

Background

Section 33 of the National Health Service (Wales) Act (2006) enables Local Authorities and Local Health Boards to enter into prescribed arrangements in relation to the provision of health and well-being related services.

Powys teaching Health Board (PtHB) and Powys County Council (PCC) entered into such a partnership agreement in 2015. Powys County Council was the lead commissioner and the host partner for the purposes of the Regulations. The value of the Agreement is set out in the Table below.

Gross Funding	2018/19
Powys County Council - Adults	£263,051.27
Powys Teaching Health Board	£16,580.00
Total Funding	£279,631.27

The Section 33 Agreement required a governing Board to meet regularly and for quarterly reports to be provided to the Joint Partnership Board. The Board was not routinely convened and reports were rarely provided.

The 17 page Section 33 Agreement, therefore, governed the money for commissioning the Carers Support Service in Powys.

The Welsh Government has, since 2017, provided an additional £42,000 for integrated carers support. This money has been provided to the Health Board and has been used to purchase respite care and support. This money has not been included as a part of the Section 33.

In 2018 the Social Services Commissioning Unit was restructured and investment was made to create a part time post to coordinate all carers' work from a social services perspective. Working with Credu and other 3rd sector organisations a number of informal carers (all age) were invited to participate and to become members of a new Carers Steering Group.

The Carers Steering Group developed a Plan on a Page for developing carers' support (please find embedded document at the end of this paper), and having considered the Section 33 decided that they would prefer an easier agreement to negotiate. As such a Memorandum of Understanding was developed (please find embedded document at the end of this paper), which provides a simpler agreement between the Health Board and the Local Authority.

Assessment

Ensuring that any agreement between sovereign bodies are easy to understand and implement is essential in order to engender ownership by the Carers Steering Group and in order to ensure that the requirements of the agreement are fully undertaken. The Memorandum of Understanding in this instance is co-produced by the Carers Steering Group and enables a robust commissioning and monitoring function.

Recommendation

- 1) To recognise that the signed Section 33 Agreement for 2018/19 was the final Section 33 Agreement for Carers services and that the Section 33 Agreement is ended;
- 2) To accept the new Memorandum of Understanding and to sign the document as the new Agreement between both organisations.

Embedded Documents:



DRAFT Carers in Powys - Plan on a Page
DRAFT 2019-21 Memorandum of Un