



PWYLLGOR ARCHWILIO A SICRWYDD RISG AUDIT AND RISK ASSURANCE COMMITTEE

DYDDIAD Y CYFARFOD: DATE OF MEETING:	18 April 2023
TEITL YR ADRODDIAD: TITLE OF REPORT:	Carers Services Commissioned with Non-recurrent Grant Funding
CYFARWYDDWR ARWEINIOL: LEAD DIRECTOR:	Lisa Gostling, Director of Workforce and Organisational Development
SWYDDOG ADRODD: REPORTING OFFICER:	Anna Bird, Assistant Director – Strategic Partnerships, Diversity and Inclusion

Pwrpas yr Adroddiad (dewiswch fel yn addas)

Purpose of the Report (select as appropriate)

Er Sicrwydd/For Assurance

ADRODDIAD SCAA

SBAR REPORT

Sefyllfa / Situation

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 places a duty on the Health Board to provide information, advice and assistance to unpaid Carers. The Health Board's 2022/23 Strategic Planning Objective acknowledged the vital role that unpaid Carers play in the delivery of a social model for health and the contribution they make to reducing hospital admissions and supporting timely discharge from hospital.

The Audit & Risk Assurance Committee is asked to take assurance that the Single Tender Action requests relating to non-recurrent funding streams which are used to commission support for unpaid carers which have been approved for 2023/24 will be tendered via the Procurement Team in time for the April 2024 renewal dates.

Cefndir / Background

Support for unpaid Carers is a vital component of our ambition to minimise unnecessary hospital inpatient episodes and provide care and support as close as possible to people's homes and communities. Financially there is strong evidence of the economic value added by unpaid Carers and their important role as "the backbone of the health and social care system in Wales" (Cardiff University, 2021).

The Strategic Partnership, Diversity and Inclusion Team commission support for unpaid carers from local third-sector carers organisations, and worked in conjunction with the Procurement Team, and the Contracting Team to implement advice and guidance to ensure robust governance arrangements.

The funding of services for unpaid carers comes from three distinct sources, only one of which is recurrent:

1. The Health Board commits a **core budget** (currently £167k) and services are commissioned either jointly with local authority partners, or via the Health Board as lead commissioner.

2. Welsh Government have allocated £121k annually to the Hywel Dda area for several years as part of their commitment to support the implementation of the national Carers Strategy. However, this is non-recurrent ring-fenced Carers Strategy funding and the criteria for the use of the funding is revised annually by Welsh Government. The Health Board acts on behalf of the West Wales Carers Development Group to commission Carers Community Outreach Services for adults and young carers. These services are delivered by local third-sector carers' organisations and are aligned to the core services which are commissioned. Since 2022/23, this non-recurrent funding has flowed through the West Wales Regional Partnership Board (RPB). The letter confirming a financial allocation and the criteria for 2023/24 was received in February 2023.
3. The Regional Partnership Board (RPB) receives Regional Integration Fund (RIF) funding from Welsh Government to support the integration and transformation of health and social care. As part of the West Wales RPB RIF programme, funding is allocated to two regional projects led by the Health Board's Strategic Partnership, Diversity and Inclusion Team. These are the Carers Hospital Discharge Support Services and the Investors in Carers quality assurance scheme. The RIF programme and priorities for support for unpaid carers is agreed through the West Wales Carers Development Group (WWCDG), a population group which is part of the RPB governance structure. The WWCDG established a 3-year embedding programme commencing in April 2022, however the RPB decided that 2022/23 would be a transition year and have been undertaking evaluation of existing projects to agree future priorities for use of funding. Whilst the Carers Hospital Discharge Support Service and Investors in Carers scheme remain a priority for delivery as recommended by the West Wales Carers Development Group, decisions about the RPB funding allocations for 2023/24 had not been made at the time of writing this report.

Asesiad / Assessment

The Strategic Partnerships, Diversity and Inclusion (SPDI) Team have worked with the Contracting and Procurement teams to ensure that commissioning arrangements are in place to support good financial governance.

For services which are commissioned using core funding the SPDI team has undertaken open market tendering as a single organisation i.e. for the Health Board, as well as participating in joint commissioning arrangements for some services; in these circumstances the local authority is the lead commissioner and have led the procurement processes with input and advice from Health Board teams.

In acknowledgement of the non-recurrent nature of the ring-fenced funding from Welsh Government and the Regional Integration Fund allocation, historically written agreements have been put in place which have built on existing contractual arrangements with local third-sector partners. Previously this approach was supported by Contracting and Procurement colleagues as the most pragmatic way forward, given that allocations and criteria for utilising non-recurrent funding can change on an annual basis with minimal notice to allow for robust forward planning or open market tendering.

During 2022/23, the arrangements for commissioning services in 2023/24 were reviewed in conjunction with the Contracting and Procurement Teams. In November 2022, the advice given was to submit a Single Tender Action, as neither the funding nor the criteria for use of the funding had been confirmed.

Welsh Government ring-fenced funding was confirmed in February 2023, but at the time of writing this report, the RIF allocation for Health Board led Carers projects had not yet been

formally confirmed, although the Carers projects are included as part of the proposed regional programme. This meant that there was insufficient time to progress with open competitive tender arrangements for services delivered in 2023/24. In view of this, the Director of Finance and Use of Resources group agreed to support the use of STAs to ensure that continuity of support to unpaid carers was safeguarded whilst an alternative approach for future financial years could be developed. The Use of Resources Group reviewed and agreed three Single Tender Actions on 22 March 2023.

In order to strengthen financial governance arrangements for 2024/25 onwards, the Strategic Partnerships, Diversity and Inclusion Team will be supported by the Procurement Team to undertake open market tendering and establish a framework arrangement, which in future will enable services to be awarded at short notice from an approved supplier list.

The consideration of the use of STAs for non-recurrent funding received via the Regional Partnership Board has provided an opportunity for Health Board learning and reflection on how to approach commissioning arrangements for this type of funding stream.

Argymhelliad / Recommendation

The Audit & Risk Assurance Committee is asked to **TAKE ASSURANCE** that the Single Tender Action requests relating to non-recurrent funding streams used to commission support for unpaid carers which have been approved for 2023-24 will be tendered via the Procurement Team in time for the April 2024 renewal dates.

Amcanion: (rhaid cwblhau)

Objectives: (must be completed)

Committee ToR Reference: Cyfeirnod Cylch Gorchwyl y Pwyllgor:	2.4 The Committee's principal duties encompass the following: 2.4.2 Seek assurance that the systems for financial reporting to Board, including those of budgetary control, are effective, and that financial systems processes and controls are operating. 3.15 Receive a report on all Single Tender Actions and extensions of contracts.
Cyfeirnod Cofrestr Risg Datix a Sgôr Cyfredol: Datix Risk Register Reference and Score:	Not applicable
Safon(au) Gofal ac Iechyd: Health and Care Standard(s):	Governance, Leadership and Accountability
Amcanion Strategol y BIP: UHB Strategic Objectives:	4. The best health and wellbeing for our individuals, families and communities

Amcanion Cynllunio Planning Objectives	2A Regional Carers Strategy response
Amcanion Llesiant BIP: UHB Well-being Objectives: Hyperlink to HDdUHB Well-being Objectives Annual Report 2021-2022	4. Improve Population Health through prevention and early intervention, supporting people to live happy and healthy lives 8. Transform our communities through collaboration with people, communities and partners

Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol: Further Information:	
Ar sail tystiolaeth: Evidence Base:	Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
Rhestr Termiau: Glossary of Terms:	Included in body of report
Partion / Pwyllgorau â ymgynhorwyd ymlaen llaw y Pwyllgor Archwilio a Sicrwydd Risg: Parties / Committees consulted prior to Audit and Risk Assurance Committee:	Use of Resources group

Effaith: (rhaid cwblhau) Impact: (must be completed)	
Ariannol / Gwerth am Arian: Financial / Service:	Single Tender Actions have been approved for 2023/24 to enable the continuation of support for unpaid carers. The Health Board is acting on behalf of the West Wales Carers Development Group, a sub-group of the West Wales Regional Partnership Board.
Ansawdd / Gofal Claf: Quality / Patient Care:	Targeted and direct support to unpaid Carers is a vital component of the delivery of a social model for health and supports timely hospital discharge and reduction in hospital admissions.
Gweithlu: Workforce:	Staff are employed by local third-sector organisations approval of the STAs will enable employment contracts to be extended and individuals will have security of employment and income.
Risg: Risk:	The value of the funding allocated to the West Wales RPB projects on an annual basis as non-recurrent funding poses challenges for open competitive tendering.
Cyfreithiol: Legal:	The Health Board may be subject to challenge if robust financial governance arrangements are not put in place.
Enw Da: Reputational:	Any disruption in delivery of services to unpaid Carers is likely to result in a negative impact to the Health Board reputation. Perceived lack of direct support for unpaid

	Carers is likely to result in a potential for negative political or media interest.
Gyfrinachedd: Privacy:	There are no impacts on individual privacy within this paper.
Cydraddoldeb: Equality:	Whilst not a specific protected characteristic unpaid carers provide support to individuals with protected characteristics including age and disability.