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**Minutes of the Advisory Panel on Substance Misuse (APoSM) Enhanced
Harm Reduction Centres (EHRCS) Sub-Group Meeting
Wednesday 27th September 2017 (10:00am – 12.00pm)
Room 4.11, Cathays Park, Cardiff**

Attendees

Members

Dr Julia Lewis (JL) (Acting Chair for this meeting)
Professor Simon Moore (SM)
Dr Tom May (TM)

Observer

REDACTED (REDACTED)

Secretariat

REDACTED (REDACTED)

Apologies

Members

Ifor Glyn (IG) (Lead)
Andrew Wilson (AW)
Professor Katy Holloway (KH)
Richard Ives (RI)

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

- 1.1 JL welcomed members to the meeting and thanked them for attending. All apologies were noted.
- 1.2 JL advised members that she had previously agreed with IG to act as Chair for this meeting in his absence.

Agenda Item 2 – Minutes and Matters Arising

- 2.1 Members agreed that the minutes recorded from the previous meeting held on 2nd August 2017 were a true and accurate record and that all actions had been completed.

Agenda Item 3 – Wound Care Statistics

- 3.1 JL referred members to the paper circulated prior to the meeting. JL stated that the data had been gathered over the last eighteen months from approximately 80-100 clients. JL explained that these were clients who had accessed needle exchange and had then sought intervention for an abscess, ulcer or open wound as a result of injecting drug use.

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- 3.2 JL informed members that approximately 40 clients had either continued to access the clinic until successful completion of treatment or were still currently attending. JL stated that on average, there were four or five ongoing clients at any one time.
- 3.3 JL stated that given EHRCs are designed to be an overall approach to providing harm reduction services, she had agreed to provide data on wound management to highlight how the establishment of an EHRC could impact on this issue.

Agenda Item 4 – Update from Welsh EHRC Steering Group

- 4.1 JL informed members that there had been a meeting of the EHRC Steering Group on 20th September 2017. JL stated that at the meeting, representatives were identified from within the membership in order to respond to potential queries following the recent media interest in relation to EHRCs.
- 4.2 JL informed members that the Steering Group would still need to contribute to the report to the Minister in terms of a needs analysis which would include both a community and service user perspective.

Agenda Item 5 – Current situation and possible pilot in North Wales

- 5.1 Members were informed of a briefing paper that had been published by *Release* entitled 'Drug Consumption Rooms and the Law'. Members were advised that the paper had been produced by the *Release* legal team and considers the legal position linked to the possible establishment of a Drug Consumption Room in Wales, England or Scotland.
- 5.2 Members were provided with the transcript from a recent BBC Wales news article where the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for North Wales had stated that he was 'hoping to pilot' a safe injecting facility in the North Wales region after research is presented to Welsh Government. JL stated that the PCC was referring to the Sub Groups report and that he was aware that this was to be submitted to the Minister for consideration. JL also stated that the news article reiterated the current legal position in Wales which was that there were significant concerns with the compatibility of EHRCs with the current criminal law.
- 5.3 TM stated that he hoped to be able to produce a meta-analysis of the data by mid-October. It was agreed that at the next meeting of the Sub Group, members would focus on developing the executive summary and recommendations for the report. Members also agreed that a final draft of the report would be produced by mid-November with the final version being submitted to the Minister mid-December.

Agenda Item 6 - Any other business and date of next meeting

- 6.1 There were no items of any other business raised.
- 6.2 It was agreed that the next meeting of the EHRCs Sub-Group would take place on Friday 10th November 2017, 2.00pm – 4.00pm at the Welsh Government office in Cathays Park, Cardiff. The Secretariat agreed to e-mail members to confirm details for the next meeting.

Action Point 1	Secretariat to e-mail members to confirm details for the next meeting of the EHRC Sub-Group.
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