

T: 01495 355001

E: committee.services@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk



Our Ref./Ein Cyf.
Your Ref./Eich Cyf.
Contact:/Cysylltwch â:

THIS IS A MEETING WHICH THE PUBLIC ARE ENTITLED TO ATTEND

31st January 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee will be held in virtually via Microsoft Teams - if you would like to attend this meeting live via Microsoft Teams please contact committee.services@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk on Tuesday, 7th February, 2023 at 9.30 am.

Yours faithfully

Damien McCann
Interim Chief Executive

AGENDA

Pages

1. SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION

You are welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, a minimum notice period of 3 working days is required should you wish to do so. A simultaneous translation will be provided if requested.

2. APOLOGIES

To receive.

Mae'r Cynghor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn cyfathrebu gyda chi yn eich dewis iaith, dim ond i chi rhoi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn creu unrhyw oedi.

The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh and English and we will communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**
- To receive.
4. **PARTNERSHIP SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** 3 - 6
- To receive the decisions of the Partnership Scrutiny Committee held on 22nd November, 2022.
- (Please note the decisions are submitted for points of accuracy only).
5. **ACTION SHEET** 7 - 8
- To receive
6. **REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP UPDATE** 9 - 28
- To consider the report of the Interim Corporate Director of Social Services.
7. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME: 28TH MARCH 2023** 29 - 32
- To receive

To: Councillor W. Hodgins (Chair)
Councillor P. Baldwin (Vice-Chair)
Councillor K. Chaplin
Councillor D. Davies
Councillor E. Jones
Councillor L. Parsons
Councillor C. Smith
Councillor L. Winnett
Councillor D. Woods

All other Members (for information)
Interim Chief Executive
Chief Officers

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

**REPORT TO: THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE PARTNERSHIPS
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**SUBJECT: PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
- 22ND NOVEMBER, 2022**

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER

PRESENT: Councillor W. Hodgins (CHAIR)

Councillors K. Chaplin
D. Davies
E. Jones
C. Smith
L. Winnett

WITH: Chief Officer Commercial & Customer
Head of School Improvement & Inclusion
Service Manager - Customer Experience & Benefits
Service Manager – Young People & Partnerships
Project Officer
Scrutiny Officer

AND: Phil Sykes – Aneurin Leisure Trust
Matt Lewis)
Kathryn Beavan-Seymour) Shared Resource Service
Mike Doverman)
Paul Higgs)
Sarah Stephens)

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
No. 1	<u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u> It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.	

No. 2	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were reported for Councillors P. Baldwin and D. Woods.</p>	
No. 3	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>The following declaration of interest was reported:</p> <p>Councillor W. Hodgins – Item No. 6 Position Statement Shared Resource Service (SRS)</p>	
No. 4	<p><u>PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>The decisions of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee held on 14th October, 2022 were submitted.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the decisions be accepted as a true recording of proceedings.</p>	
No. 5	<p><u>ACTION SHEET</u></p> <p>The Action Sheet arising from the meeting held on 14th October, 2022 was submitted.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the action sheet be noted.</p>	
No. 6	<p><u>POSITION STATEMENT SHARED RESOURCE SERVICE (SRS)</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to joint report of the Chief Officer Commercial & Customer and the Chief Operating Officer SRS.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and supported Option 1, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered and supported the position statement against the objectives set out in the Business Case, prior to approval by Cabinet; and • Receive annual updates as part of the ongoing partnership with SRS. 	

No. 7	<p><u>ANEURIN LEISURE TRUST PERFORMANCE AND MONITORING</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Service Manager Young People & Partnerships.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and supported Option 2, namely:</p> <p>That Members consider the information detailed within the report and make appropriate recommendation prior to final approval, therefore, the Scrutiny Committee recommended that Cabinet consider the request, that in future monitoring reports, as well as the 6 monthly monitoring information, an overview be provided of future financial planning.</p>	
No. 8	<p><u>FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 7TH FEBRUARY, 2023</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Scrutiny and Democratic Officer.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED Option 1, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider the Forward Work Programme for the meeting 7th February 2023, and make any amendments to the topics scheduled for the meetings; • Suggest any additional invitees that the Committee requires to fully consider the reports; and • Request any additional information to be included with regards to the topics to be discussed; therefore • The Committee agreed that arrangements be made for a Members Briefing on the Council's partnership with Awen Trust. 	

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Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Action Sheet

Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

Meeting Date	Action to be Taken	By Whom	Action Taken
14.10.22	Item 5 - Welsh Government Early Years Integration Transformation Programme Pilot <ul style="list-style-type: none">Following the Ward Member session, a further Member Briefing Session to be arranged for all Members.	Service Manager Children's Services / Democratic Team	Member Briefing session scheduled for Thursday 2 nd February 2023. Action Complete: 22nd December 2022
22.11.22	Item 6 – Position Statement Shared Resource Service <ul style="list-style-type: none">In relation to paragraph 5.1 <i>Impact on Budget</i> Further detail to be provided on the budget over the 5-year period, e.g. how much the SRS has saved the Council over the 5 year period against the original costs in the business plan.	Chief Officer Commercial and Customer	The SRS agrees a budget with Blaenau Gwent each year through the Finance and Governance Board, which the Chief Officer Resources sits on. Against the actual budget we have saved £633,000 which has been returned to Blaenau Gwent or sits in the Blaenau Gwent surplus within the SRS. Action Complete: 30th January 2023
22.11.22	Item 7 – Aneurin Leisure Trust Performance and Monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none">In relation to Appendix 1 page 29 - <i>Fitness Class Statistics</i> explanation to be provided in relation to the fall in numbers in August (4,579) to September (246).	Service Manager Young People and Partnerships	This figure is incorrect and should show 4,484 class bookings for September. The 246 relates to the number of squash bookings. Action Complete: 6th January 2023
22.11.22	Item 8 – Forward Work Programme Member Briefing Session to be arranged with Awen Trust.	Democratic Team / Service Manager	Action to be completed.

Meeting Date	Action to be Taken	By Whom	Action Taken
		Young People and Partnerships	

Agenda Item 6

Cabinet and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer:

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer:

Committee: **Partnership Scrutiny**

Date of meeting: **7th February 2023**

Report Subject: **Regional Partnership Update**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr Hayden Trollope, Cabinet Member People and Social Services**

Report Submitted by: **Tanya Evans, Interim Corporate Director of Social Services**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Governance Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet	Council	Other (please state)
	19.01.23	27.01.22			07.02.23			

1. **Purpose of the Report**
 - 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Members on the work and decisions taken by the Regional Partnership Board since April 2022.
2. **Scope and Background**
 - 2.1 The SSWB Act came into force in April 2016, Part 9 of the Act sets out statutory requirement for a Regional Partnership Board (RPB), along with the required minimum membership.
 - 2.2 Regional Partnership Boards have been established on current local health board footprints – so the Gwent regional partnership board includes Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) and Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport, and Torfaen local authorities.
 - 2.3 The Cabinet member in each local authority, with responsibility for health and social care, sits on the Regional Partnership Board.
 - 2.4 The Regional Partnership Board (RPB) is an advisory body, that does not take away the existing responsibilities of the individual statutory bodies, but it is expected to have oversight of and provide direction to, any areas of integrated working across health and social care. To support the work of the RPB there are a number of boards and partnership arrangements that sit underneath and focus on specific areas of work. This governance landscape can be seen under **Appendix 1**.
 - 2.5 The Regional Partnership Board has met on 4 occasions since April 2022. The Board has focused on the following areas
 - Oversight of the Regional Integration Fund
 - Oversight of the Winter Pressures Plan
 - The sign off of a Gwent Market Position Statement
 - The Eliminating Profit from Children's Services

- 2.6 This report will now give more detailed information on each of the areas highlighted above.

3. Oversight of the Regional Integration Fund

- 3.1 The Health and Social Care Regional Integration Fund (the RIF) is now a 5-year fund to deliver a programme of change from April 2022 to March 2027.
- 3.2 The RIF builds on the learning and progress made under the previous Integrated Care Fund (ICF) and Transformation Fund (TF) and seeks to create sustainable system change through the integration of health and social care services
- 3.3 The total allocation of the Regional Integration Fund for Gwent Regional Partnership Board is £26,858,840. Whilst the funding is provided at the outset of the financial year (to be allocated as determined by the Regional Partnership Board in line with RIF guidance), part of the financial allocation is ring fenced for specific use, or for specific priority groups where minimum investment levels are identified.
- 3.4 The ring-fenced elements of the Regional Integration Fund relate to the Dementia Action Plan (£1.611m), Memory Assessment Services (£0.565m), the Integrated Autism Service (£0.458m) and ring-fenced carers funding (£0.191m).
- 3.5 The aim is, 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 of Wales, wherever they live, can be assured of an effective and seamless service experience in relation to.
- Community based care – *prevention and community coordination*
 - Community based care – *complex care closer to home*
 - Promoting good emotional health and well-being
 - Supporting families to stay together safely, and therapeutic support for care experienced children
 - Home from hospital services
 - Accommodation based solutions
- 3.6 In addition to working towards these models of integrated care the programmes that are funded by the RIF are working towards the priorities developed as a result of the population needs assessment which the RPB is required to undertake. These priorities can be found under **Appendix 2**
- 3.7 In September 2022 the Regional Partnership Board agreed the Financial Programme of work to be undertaken using the Regional Integration Fund. However, as part of the guidance issued by Welsh Government there was an expectation that the programmes being delivered would move to being funded from the RIF to local authority and health core budgets over the 5-year period with funding tapering off year on year. The Regional

Partnership Board lobbied Welsh Government hard to stop the tapering for 2023/24 due to the significant budget pressures. Late December Ministers agreed to pause the tapering element until 2024/25. This means that the current programme can continue for a further 12 months.

4. **Oversight of the Winter Pressure Plan**

- 4.1 As stated in the terms of reference, the RPB is the key leadership body to oversee all integration work across health and social care and to formally represent the interests of the local authorities, the Health Board, and its key stakeholders. The RPB is responsible for monitoring progress and the ongoing delivery of integrated work programmes. The winter plan is one of those work programmes.
- 4.2 The Winter Plan gives consideration to the demands and capacity constraints within our system, identifying the need to avoid hospital admission wherever appropriate, and strengthen our discharge enablers and community capacity to ensure people are able to receive care at home or close to home wherever possible.
- 4.3 The July meeting of the Regional Partnership Board received a report which reviewed how the 2021/22 winter plan had helped manage the health and social care winter pressures. It was acknowledged there were many aspects of the Winter Plan that could be repeated to provide the short-term additional capacity needed to respond to the expected rise in demand and increased staff shortages through illness during a winter period. There were also areas identified for further development, particularly those that were attempting to create additional capacity within the system to respond to the ongoing community workforce constraints
- 4.4 There is a balance to be sought between temporary short-term solutions to address additional winter demand, and longer-term sustainable solutions that will support ongoing system flow challenges.
- 4.5 As a region we were in the fortuitous position of having an underspend in the Regional Integration Fund which enabled the development of the 2022/23 winter plan without causing added cost pressures. The outline winter plan can be seen under **Appendix 3**

5. **The sign off of a Gwent Market position statement**

- 5.1 The Social Services and Wellbeing Act requires Regional Partnership Boards to complete a market stability report (MSR) on a regional footprint to help local authorities and ABUHB understand the dynamics of the market for regulated services in our area. This MSR is structured in accordance with Welsh Government's '*Code of Practice and guidance on the exercise of social services functions and partnership arrangements in relation to market stability reports*'. The Code of Practice states that: "*Market stability reports are designed to give a high-level overview and assessment of the*

overall sufficiency of care and support, and of the stability of the market for regulated services.”

- 5.2 In September 2022 the RPB signed off the 2022 Market stability report.
- 5.3 This MSR highlights the current provision and helps assess issues such as the sufficiency, quality, and sustainability of regulated services within Gwent. A regulated service is those listed in the Schedule to the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. Currently these are:
- Care home services (adult and children's)
 - Secure accommodation service (for children)
 - Residential family centre services
 - Adoption services
 - Fostering services
 - Adult placement ('Shared Lives') service
 - Advocacy services
 - Domiciliary support services
- 5.4 A summary of the findings in the MSR can be found under **Appendix 4**. A briefing was delivered to Blaenau Gwent members in November 2022. The issues raised in the MSR will be picked up in the Area Plan and measures to mitigate threats to market stability will be outlined.

6. The Eliminating Profit from Children's Services

- 6.1 Welsh Government has made a policy commitment to remove private profit from the care of looked after children. A multi-agency Programme Board has been established to implement this commitment to rebalance the market so that the duties on local authorities in relation to looked after children are not contracted out to for-profit companies but remain with public sector and not-for-profit providers.
- 6.2 A consultation on this commitment was launched in August 2022 and closed in November 2022. The intention is to introduce primary legislation which would mean only residential and foster care services operating under a non-profit model would be eligible to register with Care Inspectorate Wales from 2027. If passed, new legislation would require providers to demonstrate a not-for-profit status, based on a new pre-defined definition of non-profit, by 1 April 2026.
- 6.3 The Regional Partnership Board is well sighted on this policy commitment and is in agreement with the principle of removing profit. However, the RPB is concerned this commitment will lead to the unintended consequence of further reducing the provision of foster care and residential placements for children in Wales at a time when there is clear evidence via the market stability report that current demand outstrips supply.
- 6.4 The Board will await the outcome of the consultation no doubt this will form part of the area plan going forward.

7. **Options for Recommendation**

7.1 The options for consideration are:

Option 1 – to scrutinise the report and to support the programme of work by the Regional Partnership Board.

Option 2 – to scrutinise the report and propose an alternative approach to Cabinet in relation to the options taken by Regional Partnership Board.

8. **Evidence of how this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

The report is fulfilling our statutory functions under the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014 and accompanying regulations. The work of the RPB is also supporting the following Corporate Priorities:

- Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent
- An ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place
- Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent, and resilient

9. **Implications Against Each Option**

9.1 ***Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)***

As already mentioned in the body of the report there would have been significant budgetary implications if the tapering had been applied to the Regional Integration Fund. Welsh Government has paused this for 12 months; however, this will be a risk going forward for all programmes.

9.2 ***Legal***

The Legal department becomes involved in considering and advising on any legal agreements before signing such as the Section 33 Agreement.

9.3 ***Human Resources***

The Gwent Transformational Team support senior officers and elected members to deliver and implement the priorities of the Regional Partnership Board. In addition, they administer the Regional Partnership Board and Leadership Group. The Gwent Transformation Team is hosted by Torfaen County Borough Council.

10. **Supporting Evidence**

10.1 ***Performance Information and Data***

Not applicable.

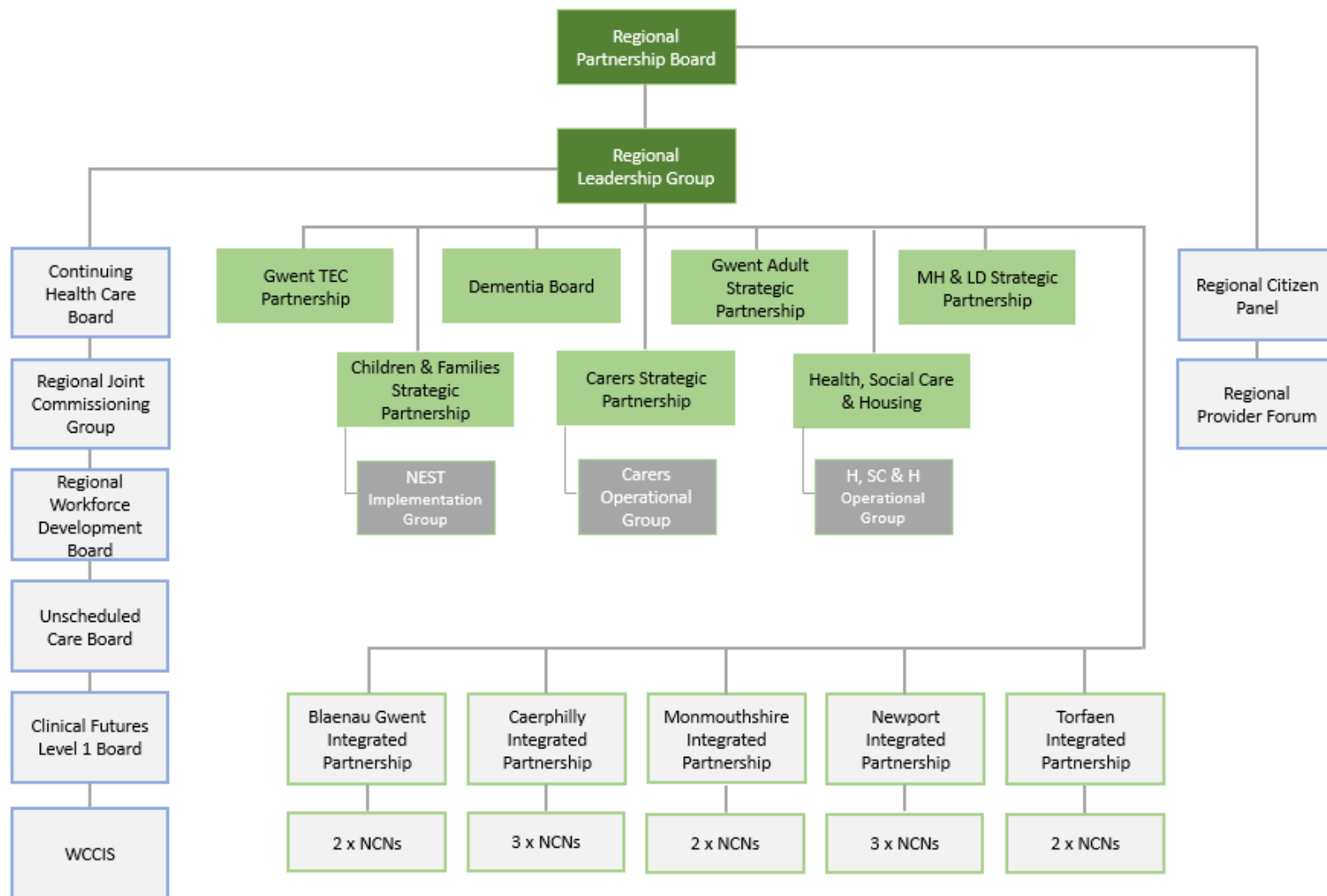
10.2 ***Expected outcome for the public***

The role of the Regional Partnership Board is to ensure more seamless provision of health and social care services across Gwent.

- 10.3 ***Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)***
The Regional Partnership Board has involvement from the third sector and representation from the Citizens Panel to ensure engagement and involvement in its direction.
- 10.4 ***Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)***
The Regional Partnership Board provides the opportunity to work collectively and have a long-term vision to progress integration and partnership across the Gwent region.
- 10.5 ***Preventative focus***
The Regional Partnership Board within its strategic intent statement will be considering how Health and Social Services can work together in a more preventative way.
- 10.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***
The role the Regional Partnership Board is to work collaboratively across boundaries to benefit citizens requiring health and social care services across Gwent.
- 10.7 ***Integration (across service areas)***
The purpose of the Regional Partnership Board is to foster integration between Health and Social Services.
- 10.8 ***Decarbonisation and Reducing Carbon Emissions***
The report contents do not relate specifically to this agenda; indirectly local employment supports to ensure:
- People having the opportunity to work closer to home;
 - The public can access services closer to home;
 - Employment and service provision locally relates specifically to the decarbonisation agenda.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- *Appendix 1 – Regional Partnership Board Structure*
- *Appendix 2 – Priorities Gwent Population Needs Assessment*
- *Appendix 3 – Winter Plan*
- *Appendix 4 – Market Stability Report Summary 2022*



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Priorities Gwent Population Needs Assessment

Children and Young People

Emerging Priorities

1. To improve outcomes for children and young people with complex needs through earlier intervention, community-based support, and placements closer to home.
2. To ensure good mental health and emotional well-being for children and young people through effective partnership working especially mitigating long term impact of Covid-19 pandemic.

Market Position Summary

- There is a need to continue strengthening services and partnerships around a single front door approach to reduce hand offs between organisations and establish a sequenced approach to multiple intervention needs.
- The RPB will continue to implement principles of NEST/NYTH and across all services to remain focused on what matters to children, young people and families as we move to a whole system approach.
- Given the new programme of government priority to eliminate profit in residential care for children looked after, the RPB will support this agenda and also the early intervention and preventative services that help reduce children becoming looked after.

Older people

Emerging Priorities

1. To improve emotional well-being for older people by reducing loneliness and social isolation with earlier intervention and community resilience.
2. To improve outcomes for people living with dementia and their carers
3. To support older people to live, or return following a period of hospitalisation, to their own homes and communities through early intervention, integrated care models and a whole system approach.
4. To mitigate the long term impact of Covid-19 pandemic through, especially reducing waiting lists and times to access support, appointments and medical procedures.

Market Position Summary:

- There is an increasing need to further support the emotional wellbeing for older people, through reducing loneliness and isolation issues and providing multi-agency early intervention and community support to boost wellbeing.
- We need to strengthen partnerships, services and coproduction models to improve the outcomes for people living with dementia and their carers.
- The RPB will need to strengthen partnerships and practices across health, social care and independent/third sector to ensure we are supporting people to remain well at home for as long as possible, and are able to return home from hospital, through an enhanced reablement approach.

People with disabilities

Emerging Priorities

1. To support disabled people, including sensory impairment, through an all-age approach to live independently in appropriate accommodation and access community-based services, including transport.
2. Ensure people are supported through access to accurate information, assistance and 'rehabilitation' where required.
3. Improve transition across all age groups and support services.

Market Position Summary:

- The RPB need to ensure all frontline workers receive up to date training and awareness raising in relation to the various information portals and sites that provide useful advice to the public, which will require training and awareness raising.
- Recruitment across health and social care needs to increase including specific roles such as Rehabilitation Officers for Visual Impairment.

People with learning disabilities

Emerging Priorities

1. To support people with learning disabilities to live independently with access to early intervention services in the community; and greater public awareness and understanding of people with learning disabilities needs.

Market Position Summary:

- There is a need to increase the number of bespoke and individual support packages for people with a learning disability which will involve more one to one support in the community and will require the recruitment of a greater number of volunteers.

Autistic Spectrum disorder

Emerging Priorities

1. To provide more timely diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder and access to support services and information and advice.
2. To improve awareness, understanding and acceptance of autistic people.

Market Position Summary:

- There is an increasing need to deliver further autism training and awareness to health, social care and wider RPB partners as well as the wider public.

Awareness of mental health

Emerging Priorities

1. Increased understanding and awareness of mental health amongst the public to reduce stigma and help people to seek support earlier.
2. To improve emotional well-being and mental health for adults and children through early intervention and community support.

Market Position Summary:

- We need to promote the mental wellbeing of people in Gwent and ensure that the workforce is supported to be able to provide people with the support they need at the right time.

Unpaid carers & Young carers / young adult carers

Emerging Priorities

1. Support unpaid carers to care through flexible respite, access to accurate information, peer to peer support, effective care planning and through increased public understanding.
2. Improve well-being of young carers and young adult carers, and mitigate against the long-term impact of Covid-19 pandemic

Market Position Summary

- There is still a need to increase awareness of the needs of carers and for frontline staff to be able to recognise when people take on caring responsibilities and signposted to information, especially young carers.
- Peer to peer support and respite provision are continually highlighted as being a priority need for carers and there is a need to increase support through third sector and community partners to increase befriending opportunities and community groups.

Housing

Emerging Priorities

1. A multi-agency partnership approach to ensure appropriate housing and accommodation for older people and vulnerable citizens
2. To ensure effective use of Disabled Facilities Grants and appropriate partnership support and available resources.
3. Homelessness requiring a collaborative response from public services and partners, especially the non-use of B&B accommodation for young people, and through prevention and early intervention.

ACTIVITY	STATUS	DEPENDENCY/ RISKS	MITIGATION	PROPOSED IMPACT	VIABILITY RAG RATING	IMPACT RAG RATING
Create additional beds as part of a graduated care pathway (costings and modelling taking place on 80 beds). Supporting convalescence for individuals awaiting community support.	<p>CIW attended Winter Planning Group 10/10/22 to discuss governance</p> <p>A session is arranged for 20/10/22 to understand registration requirements, particularly aimed at HB's implementing SC2H equivalents within hospital facilities.</p> <p>Concerns re. care home stability in some areas</p> <p>Additional opportunities continued to be explore.</p> <p>Bi-weekly meetings arranged by Delivery Unit to monitor progress</p>	<p>Staff shortages noted in the care home sector, may impact the ability for homes to respond to the tender invitation.</p> <p>Ability to source Therapy capacity (OT/Physio/Assts)</p> <p>Throughput of the pathway to maintain flow</p> <p>Capacity of GP surgery(ies) to support additional care home capacity</p>	<p>Refined patient cohort included within service specification for these beds.</p> <p>Patients moved on maintenance plans waiting for PoC, reduced reliance on therapy capacity</p> <p>To be considered following care home responses as to suitable geographical area – engage with NCN leads</p>	<p>Up to 693 patients could be supported within a 26 weeks timeframe</p> <p>Reduction in DTOC</p>	<p>LOW-MED</p> <p>Workforce constraints across all sectors may impact ability to implement model</p>	<p>Flow Impact - Medium</p> <p>A&E Impact - Very Low</p> <p>Community Hospital Impact - Medium</p>
New Directions Caerphilly Continue to provide domiciliary care commissioning via complex care (inc. within current SC2H pathway)	Ongoing informal arrangement	Continued availability of provision; no risks identified through consideration	Nil required	<p>Maintained or improved DTOC position</p> <p>Good person centred outcomes</p>	High	Low additional impact as Stabilising existing capacity

Additional winter capacity within community teams Supporting the ability to offer additional hours of work to mitigate further staff shortages due to sickness/leave over the winter period (provided via overtime/ additional hours of existing staff)	Scoping underway across all localities; capacity typically needed from December to February/March	Reliant on willingness of staff	Nil available	Stabilised workforce Capacity to provide 7 day working (e.g. brokerage over the weekend)	Medium	High
Equitable fuel reimbursement for care staff (<i>providers only – excl. Health and Social Care care staff</i>) Responding to the cost of living crisis and increasing number of carers leaving the profession, methodology developed to identify methods of providing equitable fuel reimbursement for care staff across the region.	Costings currently being received. LA Commissioners linking with complex care to share methodology	Mitigate ongoing staff retention issues due to the cost of living crisis within the provider sector	Not required	Stabilised workforce	High	Low-Med - stabilising existing capacity

COTE/Frailty Redesign - 8-8 CRT Model extend the operational hours for CRT rapid medical up to 8pm Monday to Friday, by Jan/Feb 23. It is proposed that by recruiting additional support now, it would be possible to make the existing CRT medical team more robust across all areas and develop a weekend response in the same timescale.	Recruitment underway for the consultant and ANP posts to support extended opening hours.	Recruitment Initiative cannot be viewed in isolation of the wider activities within the CRT	Comms and engagement across all CRTs re. the Pilot development Clear dependency map	As a 7 day model, the service could support a further 32 patients to remain at home each week, avoiding a hospital admission	Medium	Medium
COTE/Frailty Redesign - Proactive Frailty Transformation Project developing a robust method of identification and collaborative planning, admissions and GP interactions reduce. Project resource needed: • 1 WTE Band 8a programme manager • 4 medical sessions each week split across CRT consultant and GP	Opportunity identified within COTE/Frailty Redesign programme; activity proposed to be brought forward into winter activity to enable earlier benefits realisation (into 2023-24) Recruitment underway	Recruitment	Nil	Work with the three projects that are currently in existence and would develop the proactive frailty project in these areas.	Medium	Low

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 WTE Band 5 Project support officer 						
<p>COTE/Frailty Redesign: Night Time Support</p> <p>Develop two teams of HCSW working initially in the out of hours period 8 pm to 8am, seven days per week. Each team would consist of two Health Care Support Workers who are trained to undertake observations and provide personal care and support to people to enable them to stay safely in their own home.</p>	<p>Opportunity identified within COTE/Frailty Redesign programme; activity proposed to be brought forward into winter activity to enable earlier benefits realisation (into 2023-24)</p> <p>T&F group established, draft JD developed.</p>	<p>Recruitment activity having a detrimental effect on other services</p> <p>Incremental gains in the early stages of the programme not realising full impact within winter period</p>	<p>Recruitment will be for a night contract only, which will minimise the staff pool interested, and therefore less likely to impact domiciliary care market</p>	<p>Keeping frail and/or elderly people at home reduces dependency on longer term social care services, increasing independence and quality of life.</p>	Medium	Low

Same Day Emergency Care @ YYF The development of the SDEC treatment space alongside other improvements in AMU will ensure that YYF is in a position to meet the demand and requirements for the Caerphilly population, supporting whole system flow and optimising patient outcomes.	The workforce plan ensures that there is a robust medical and nursing team with joined up leadership across the front door currently being implemented.	Recruitment of staff for a 6-month pilot	Confirmation of interest in the posts from existing staff, opportunity to work in a new initiative service, delivering patient centre care		Medium	High
Additional equipment for GWICES to facilitate hospital discharge Phase 1: Manual Handling (seating, hoists & stand aids) - £300,000 Phase 2: Bettercare (showering, bathing including bariatric) - £100,000 Phase 3 - Single handed care)Elks, slings, returns including bariatric) - £100,000	Understanding urgent requirements v standard requirements to ensure individuals receive equipment in an appropriately prioritised method. Phase 1 equipment procurement underway	Procurement of stock, potential supply chain issues	Phased procurement takes account of lead in timeframes	Avoidance of delays due to equipment availability	High	Medium

Strengthened resource for Home First Service Existing home first resource from RGH & NHH spread to GUH. Proposal is to strengthen the capacity to reflect the 3 hospital model.	Agency staff secured to enable strengthened capacity over the winter period.	Ability to appoint staff, due to funding decision timeframes		# Turnaround at front door Reduction in admissions	Medium	Medium
Staff support provided via Wellbeing Bus, able to be placed throughout the region and available to partnership organisations. The service offers a warm and personable welcome, light refreshments, a quiet zone, a colleague chat zone, chats with crew, and hospitality treats.	Tested within ABUHB. Staff spent 10-20 minutes on board; 100% found it valuable, and 97% indicated interest in further events. Proposed that the offer is widened to the partnership.	None known. Would need to consider where the bus can be placed regionally - needs electricity supply	Scoping to be undertaken within winter planning group on suitable locations for the wellbeing bus	Improved staff wellbeing	High	Low

Market Stability Report Summary 2022

Adult Services

- Care home market is currently stable, given the additional funding throughout the pandemic, however serious risks are present which threaten sustainability and stability due to fewer placements being made during the pandemic leading to an overprovision of places in some areas. Despite this the cost-of-living crises now threatens to bring further instability linked to funding.
- Workforce crisis threatens social care and domiciliary care in particular – recruitment and retention losses appear to be levelling off leaving some areas unable to cover all packages
- Growing recognition that the mental health of the workforce has been seriously affected by the pandemic and measures are needed to support the workforce.

Mental Health and Learning Disabilities

- Pandemic has had a significant impact on mental health support for adults and children particularly in the general population leading to increased waiting times for CAMHs
- Early intervention needs to be improved across all emotional wellbeing and mental health services
- A more diverse and responsive market for complex learning disabilities placements is needed in the region
- A focus on support for people with learning disabilities:
 - to live independently in their communities
 - earlier diagnosis of ASD required.

Children's Services

- Residential and foster care placements are currently unstable due to demand outstripping supply.
- Cost and outcomes of arranging residential placements and independent foster care placements are unsustainable and need to be improved leading to 'make or buy' decisions for future services
- Welsh Government's policy of 'removing the profit' from Children's Services will need careful management if the market is not to become further restricted/destabilised.

In Gwent, individuals have a choice as to the services available to meet their needs. However, the stability of the market is likely to be put to the test during financial year 2022/2023 as increasing cost pressures, allied to recruitment and retention difficulties will further expose the sector to increased levels of risk, this is especially so in the adult domiciliary and residential care markets.

Care Homes are currently able to meet the demand for the services, although a shortage of dementia care beds is of concern in some localities in the region. Domiciliary care services have reached critical levels due to staffing availability and providers continue to have issues with recruitment and retention. Currently the

demands for domiciliary care services are significant, with individuals choosing to remain at home if possible, and these demands are likely to exacerbate already strained resources. As community-based services continue to reopen following the COVID-19 pandemic, it is hoped that pressure on domiciliary care will alleviate somewhat.

In children's services, the external provider market is subject to instability caused by acquisitions and mergers. There is also currently a lack of competition and choice in the market and the costs and profits are significantly higher than they would be in a healthy, competitive marketplace.

Working throughout the pandemic in conjunction with partnership agencies, alongside independent providers within the care home and domiciliary care sector has required and allowed us to work differently and apply some creative commissioning in the best interest of our citizens. This has further strengthened the positive working relationships between health and social care and provider partners in the region.

The issues raised in this MSR will be picked up in the Area Plan and measures to mitigate threats to market stability will be outlined.

Agenda Item 7

Executive Committee and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: N/A

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: N/A

Committee: **Partnership Scrutiny Committee**

Date of meeting: **7th February 2023**

Report Subject: **Forward Work Programme: 28th March 2023**

Portfolio Holder: **All Portfolios**

Report Submitted by: **Scrutiny and Democratic Officer**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
x	x	27.01.23			07.02.23			

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To present to Members the Partnership Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme for the Meeting on 28th March 2023 for discussion and agreement.

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Work Programmes are key aspects of the Council's planning and governance arrangements and support the requirements of the Constitution.
- 2.2 The topics set out in the Forward Work Programme link to the strategic work of the Council as identified by the Council's revised Corporate Plan, corporate documents and supporting business plans.
- 2.3 Effective work programmes are essential to ensure that the work of scrutiny makes a positive impact upon the Council's delivery of services.
- 2.4 The Committee's Forward Work Programme was agreed in September 2022, recognising the fluidity of the document to enable the Committee to respond to urgent and emerging issues, and included timescales when reports will be considered by the Committee. The work programme is managed and implemented by the Scrutiny and Democratic Officer under the direction of the Chair and Committee.
- 2.5 The forward work programme for the forthcoming meeting will be presented to Committee on a 6 weekly cycle in order that Members can consider the programme of work; request information is included within the reports, as appropriate and / or make amendments to the work programme.

3. Options for Recommendation

- 3.1 **Option 1:** The Scrutiny Committee consider the Forward Work Programme for the meeting 28th March 2023, and
- Make any amendments to the topics scheduled for the meetings;

- Suggest any additional invitees that the committee requires to fully consider the reports; and
- Request any additional information to be included with regards to the topics to be discussed.

3.2 **Option 2:** The Scrutiny Committee agree the Forward Programme for the meeting 28th March 2023, as presented.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- Appendix 1 – Forward Work Programme – Meeting on 28th March 2023

Partnership Scrutiny Committee
Forward Work Programme

Dates	Topic	Purpose	Lead	
Tuesday 28 th March 2023	Welsh Public Library Standards (WPLS) Annual Return 2019/20	Performance Monitoring Members to consider the Annual Assessment from Welsh Government which highlights Blaenau Gwent's performance against the Welsh Public Library Standards.	Joanne Sims <i>Invitee: ALT</i>	Cabinet – 19.04.23
	Gwent Well-being Plan	Pre-Decision To present the Final Wellbeing Plan prior to approval at Council.	Sarah King / David Arnold	Council – 30.03.23
	Education Achievement Service (EAS) Business Plan 2022/23	Pre-Decision To consult Members on the draft EAS Business Plan for 2022/23.	Luisa Munro-Morris / Michelle Jones <i>Invitee: EAS</i>	Cabinet – 07.03.22

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