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Blaenau Gwent

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

THIS IS A MEETING WHICH THE PUBLIC ARE ENTITLED TO ATTEND

Dydd Iau, 16 Tachwedd 2023 Dydd Iau, 16 Tachwedd 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

CYFARFOD CYFFREDINOL Y CYNGOR

A meeting of the Cyfarfod Cyffredinol y Cyngor will be held in O bell drwy Microsoft Teams on Dydd Iau, 23ain Tachwedd, 2023 at 10.00 am.

Yours faithfully

Damien McCann
Interim Chief Executive

AGENDA

Pages

1. CYFIEITHU AR Y PRYD

Mae croeso i chi ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg yn y cyfarfod, mae angen o leiaf 3 diwrnod gwaith o rybudd os dymunwch wneud hynny. Darperir gwasanaeth cyfieithu ar y pryd os gwneir cais am hynny.

Mae'r Cyngor 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.

2. YMDDIHEURIADAU

Derbyn ymddiheuriadau..

3. DATGANIADAU BUDDIANT A GODDEFEBAU

Ystyried unrhyw ddatganiadau buddiant a goddefebau a wnaed.

4. CYHOEDDIADAU'R CADEIRYDD

Derbyn cyhoeddiadau'r Cadeirydd.

5. CYFARFOD CYFFREDINOL Y CYNGOR

7 - 14

Ystyried ac os credir yn addas, gymeradwyo penderfyniadau'r cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd ar 21 Medi 2023.

6. CYFARFOD ARBENNIG O'R CYNGOR

15 - 20

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7. PWYLLGOR TRWYDDEDU CYFFREDINOL

21 - 22

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8. PWYLLGOR CRAFFU CYNLLUNIO

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To: Councillor C. Smith (Aelod Llywyddol)
C. Bainton
P. Baldwin
S. Behr
D. Bevan
K. Chaplin
M. Cross
H. Cunningham
D. Davies
G. A. Davies
M. Day
S. Edmunds
J. Gardner
J. Hill
W. Hodgins
J. Holt
G. Humphreys
R. Leadbeater
E. Jones
J. Morgan, J.P.
J. C. Morgan
J. P. Morgan
L. Parsons
D. Rowberry
T. Smith
G. Thomas
J. Thomas
S. Thomas
H. Trollope
J. Wilkins
L. Winnett
D. Woods

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

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO:	<u>THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL</u>
SUBJECT:	<u>ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL – 21ST SEPTEMBER, 2023</u>
REPORT OF:	<u>DEMOCRATIC OFFICER</u>

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR C. SMITH (PRESIDING MEMBER, CHAIRING)

Councillors C. Bainton
P. Baldwin
S. Behr
D. Bevan
K. Chaplin
M. Cross
H. Cunningham
D. Davies
G. A. Davies
M. Day
S. Edmunds
J. Gardner
J. Hill
W. Hodgins
J. Holt
G. Humphreys
R. Leadbeater
J. Morgan, J.P.
J. C. Morgan
J. P. Morgan
L. Parsons
D. Rowberry
T. Smith
G. Thomas
S. Thomas
H. Trollope
J. Wilkins
L. Winnett

AND: Corporate Director of Regeneration & Community Services
 Interim Corporate Director of Social Services
 Interim Corporate Director of Education
 Chief Officer Resources
 Chief Officer Commercial & Customer
 Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance
 Head of Democratic Services, Governance & Partnerships
 Head of Community Services
 Service Manager – Development & Estates
 Communications & Marketing Manager
 Data Protection & Governance Officer

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
1.	<p><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p>	
2.	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E. Jones, J. Thomas, D. Wilkshire, D. Woods, Interim Chief Executive and the Head of Organisational Development</p>	
3.	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported.</p>	

4.	<p><u>PRESIDING MEMBER’S ANNOUNCEMENTS</u></p> <p>There were no announcements reported at this meeting.</p>	
5. – 13.	<p><u>DECISION BOOK JUNE - SEPTEMBER - 2023</u></p> <p>The Decision Book for the period June - September 2023 was submitted for consideration.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the decisions be approved and confirmed as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
14.	<p><u>COUNCIL - ACTION SHEET – 20TH JULY, 2023</u></p> <p>The Action Sheet arising from the meeting held on 20th July, 2023 was submitted.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the information contained therein be noted.</p>	
15.	<p><u>MEMBERS QUESTIONS</u></p> <p>There were no questions submitted by Members.</p>	
16.	<p><u>PUBLIC QUESTIONS</u></p> <p>There were no questions submitted by members of the public.</p>	

<p>17.</p>	<p><u>AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Legal and Corporate Compliance (Monitoring Officer), whereupon:</p> <p><u>Paragraph 4.2/Page 31 - The Policy Framework – Housing Strategy</u></p> <p>The Head of Legal and Corporate Compliance reported that whilst it had originally been proposed to remove the reference to the Housing Strategy from the Constitution, following further consideration and consultation with the Cabinet Member, it had been agreed that the Housing Strategy would remain within the Policy Framework as per the 2022 version of the Constitution.</p> <p>It was, thereupon, unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing amendment, that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed namely that, the suggested amendments be approved and incorporated into the existing Constitution.</p>	
<p>18.</p>	<p><u>TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REVIEW REPORT 1ST APRIL, 2022 TO 31ST MARCH, 2023</u></p> <p>Members considered the report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>Following a discussion, it was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed namely that, the treasury management activity undertaken during the 2022/23 financial year be noted and the record of performance and compliance achieved during the year be accepted.</p>	

19.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE

Members considered the report of the Chief Officer Resources.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was proposed that:

- In respect of Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) that both options 2 and 3 be agreed, subject to a further report detailing a full cost benefit analysis, the impact on budget, the community and those that benefited from DFGs (whilst ensuring the adaptations were available for those that did not have the means to pay) together with the pace at which requests could be responded to.
- A further cross-party discussion take place on the whole of capital programme.

It was unanimously,

RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that capital resources be allocated to the identified priority schemes / projects detailed in the report i.e.

Highways Improvement Works – Option 2 be endorsed i.e., the allocation of £500,000 for 2023/2024.

Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG's) – Options 2 & 3 be endorsed i.e., that the capital allocation be increased to £400,000 per annum (for 2023/24 & 2024/25) and consideration be given to reinstating the means test element to the application process.

Community Asset Transfers, Empty Homes Grants, Glyncod School – Storm Drainage Line, Pen-y-Cwm School (old site) demolition and Play Areas – Option 2 be endorsed and funding for the estimated amounts be allocated as follows:

- Community Asset Transfers - £140,000

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Empty Homes Grants - £100,000 - Glyncoed School Storm Drainage Line - £100,000 - Pen-y-Cwm School (Old Site) Demolition - £200,000 - Play Areas - £50,000 <p>Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale – Demolition – Funding of £500,000 be allocated from current resources.</p>	
20.	<p><u>ADOPTION OF THE HIGHWAYS ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN (HAMP) 2023-2028</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Team Manager – Street Scene.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed i.e., that the adoption of the Highways Asset Maintenance Plan (HAMP) 2023-2028 be supported.</p>	
21.	<p><u>ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES 2022/2023</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Interim Corporate Director of Social Services.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed i.e., that the Annual Report of the Director of Social Services 2022/2023 be approved for publication.</p>	
22.	<p><u>ALN RESOURCE BASE CAPACITY – PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCE BASES</u></p> <p>Members considered the report of the Interim Corporate Director of Education.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p>	

RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed namely that the following be accepted:

- the Objections report, with evidence from the Statutory Notice (Appendix 1) and grants approval to proceed to the implementation stage; and
- The full business case (Appendix 2) in relation to the implementation of the resources bases from September 2023 onwards.

23.

MEMBERSHIPS REPORT

Advisory Panel for Local Authority Governors

The following recommendations were made by the Panel on 13th September, 2023 to appoint in principle:

Willowtown Primary School – Sian Barrett

Ystruth Primary School – Melanie Rogers

Cwm Primary School – Natalie Marshall

Coed-y-Garn Primary School – Joan Price

Brynmawr Foundation School – Gail Watkins

It was, thereupon, unanimously,

RESOLVED that the above appointments be endorsed.

Town/Community Councils Liaison Committee

RESOLVED that the Town/Community Councils Liaison Committee be established with the following membership:

Leader / Cabinet Member – Corporate Overview & Performance (Chair)

Deputy Leader/ Cabinet Member – Place & Environment

Cabinet Member – Place & Regeneration and Economic Development	
Cabinet Member – People & Education	
Cabinet Member – People & Social Services	

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO:	<u>THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL</u>
SUBJECT:	<u>SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL – 24TH OCTOBER, 2023</u>
REPORT OF:	<u>DEMOCRATIC OFFICER</u>

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR C. SMITH (PRESIDING MEMBER, CHAIRING)

- Councillors
- C. Bainton
 - S. Behr
 - D. Bevan
 - K. Chaplin
 - M. Cross
 - H. Cunningham
 - G. A. Davies
 - M. Day
 - S. Edmunds
 - J. Hill
 - W. Hodgins
 - J. Holt
 - G. Humphreys
 - R. Leadbeater
 - J. Morgan, J.P.
 - J. C. Morgan
 - J. P. Morgan
 - D. Rowberry
 - T. Smith
 - G. Thomas
 - J. Thomas
 - S. Thomas
 - H. Trollope
 - J. Wilkins
 - D. Wilkshire
 - L. Winnett

AND: Interim Chief Executive
 Corporate Director of Regeneration & Community Services
 Interim Corporate Director of Education
 Chief Officer Resources
 Chief Officer Commercial & Customer
 Head of Children’s Services
 Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance
 Head of Democratic Services, Governance & Partnerships
 Head of Organisational Development
 Service Manager Performance & Democratic Communications & Marketing Manager

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
1.	<p><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p>	
2.	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D. Davies, L. Parsons and the Interim Corporate Director of Social Services.</p>	
3.	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported.</p>	
-----	<p><u>CONDOLENCES</u></p> <p>Condolences were expressed to the family of Sally-Ann Evans, highly respected colleague and Council Solicitor. Sally-Ann had passed away suddenly on 6th October, 2023.</p>	

	<p>Tributes were paid to Sally-Ann and Members and officers paid their respects with a minute's silence.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>BLAENAU GWENT COUNCIL SELF-ASSESSMENT 2022/23</u></p> <p>Members considered the report of the Interim Chief Executive.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Council's Self- Assessment 2022/23 be approved for publication on the Council's website and shared with key partners as outlined in paragraph 2.42 of the statutory guidance i.e.:</p> <p>Paragraph 2.42 - The self-assessment report must be published within four weeks of it being finalised in accordance with the Council's agreed processes, and a copy should be made available to the Council's corporate Governance and Audit Committee. The report should also be sent to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Auditor General for Wales ▪ Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales ▪ The Welsh Ministers 	
<p>----</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM ORDER</u></p> <p>It was agreed that the following item would be considered at this juncture in the meeting:</p> <p>Item No. 7 – South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee (The CJC) Appropriate Scrutiny Arrangements</p>	

7.	<p><u>SOUTH EAST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE (THE CJC) APPROPRIATE SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS</u></p> <p>Members considered the report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Community Services.</p> <p>It was noted that a report detailing the work of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal and CJC would be presented to Council in due course. An update would also be provided to Members in the form of a Member Briefing.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted and Option 2 be endorsed, namely that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The JOSOC be appointed as the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the CJC. (2) The Draft Terms of Reference for its functions in respect of the CJC, as attached at Appendix 1 be approved. (3) The cost of administering the JOSOC for the CJC be noted and would be dealt with by a service level agreement between Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC) and the CJC, to be concluded in due course. 	
5.	<p><u>PUBLIC INTEREST REPORT – ASSURANCE REVIEW FINDINGS</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Democratic Services, Governance and Partnerships.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that the findings of the Assurance Review be noted and the recommendations outlined below be agreed:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Link Officer be identified within the Council to establish regular liaison meetings with Gwent Archives and Gwent Crematoria by the end of March 2024. • A Members Briefing be organised on the operations and services provided by the Gwent Archives and Gwent Crematoria by the end of March 2024. • All relevant strategic documents, annual business plan and accounts for Gwent Archives and Gwent Crematoria be included in the Forward Work Programme for the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee for 2024-25, and Council where relevant, at least twice a year. • The Terms of Reference be developed into a 'governance toolkit' for use by officers across the Council for providing assurance against existing companies and in the event of the establishment of any new ones by end March 2024. 	
6.	<p><u>HEALTH & SAFETY ANNUAL REVIEW 1ST APRIL 2022 – 31ST MARCH 2023</u></p> <p>The report of the Head of Organisational Development was submitted for consideration.</p> <p>Appreciation was expressed to the Health & Safety Team for the considerable amount of work undertaken during the year and for the work undertaken to ensure the safe return of pupils and staff to schools during the Covid period.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1 be approved, namely that the detailed Health & Safety Annual Review report be endorsed together with the recommended actions to mitigate areas of concern and risk.</p>	

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE – 25TH SEPTEMBER, 2023

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC OFFICER

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR LISA WINNETT (CHAIR)

Councillors S. Behr
 M. Cross
 G. Davies
 J. Hill
 G. Humphreys
 D. Rowberry
 D. Woods

**WITH: Team Manager – Trading Standards and Licensing
 Licensing Enforcement Officer
 Solicitor**

DECISIONS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
No. 1	<p><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p>
No. 2	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Apology for absence was received from Councillor G. Thomas.</p>

No. 3	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>No declarations of interest or dispensations were reported.</p>
No. 4	<p><u>SCHEDULE OF APPLICATIONS FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENCES</u></p> <p>Having regard to the views expressed by the Proper Officer regarding the public interest test, that on balance the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information and that the report should be exempt.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the public be excluded whilst this item of business is transacted as it is likely there would be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 12, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).</p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Team Manager Trading Standards and Licensing.</p> <p><u>Application 1.1(a) – Application for a new Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence and a request to depart from Policy in respect of the 5 year age rule for hackney carriage vehicles</u></p> <p>RESOLVED that the report which contained information relating to a particular individual be accepted and the application be <u>GRANTED.</u></p> <p><u>Application 2(a) – Application for a Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence/Private Hire Vehicle</u></p> <p>RESOLVED that the report which contained information relating to a particular individual be accepted, and the application be <u>GRANTED.</u></p>

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT PLANNING COMMITTEE – 5TH OCTOBER, 2023

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR LISA WINNETT (Chair)

Councillors P. Baldwin (Vice-Chair)
 C. Bainton
 J. Holt
 W. Hodgins
 G. Humphreys
 E. Jones
 J. Thomas
 D. Wilkshire

WITH: Service Manager Development & Estates
 Team Manager – Development Management
 Team Leader – Development Management
 Planning Officer (x2)
 Team Manager – Built Environment
 Engineer - Highways
 Solicitor
 Press and Communications Officer

DECISIONS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

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

No. 2	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>An apology for absence was received from Councillor L. Parsons.</p>
No. 3	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>No declarations of interest or dispensations were made.</p>
No. 4	<p><u>PLANNING APPLICATIONS REPORT</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Team Manager Development Management, whereupon:-</p> <p><u>Application No. C/2023/0097</u> <u>67 Marine Street, Cwm, Ebbw Vale</u> <u>Conversion of existing dwelling to create 4 self-contained flats (Resubmission)</u></p> <p>Upon a vote being taken, it was unanimously</p> <p>RESOLVED that Planning permission be <u>GRANTED</u> subject to conditions detailed in the application.</p> <p>Councillor G. Humphreys did not take part in the vote.</p>
No. 5	<p><u>APPEALS, CONSULTATIONS AND DNS UPDATE</u> <u>SEPTEMBER 2023</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Service Manager Development & Estates.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the information contained therein be noted.</p>

<p>No. 6</p>	<p><u>PLANNING APPEAL UPDATE: SPRINGFIELD COTTAGE, QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, TREDEGAR</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Planning Officer.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the appeal decision for planning application C/2022/0301 as attached at Appendix A be noted.</p>
<p>No. 7</p>	<p><u>LIST OF APPLICATIONS DECIDED UNDER DELEGATED POWERS BETWEEN 24TH AUGUST, 2023 AND 21ST SEPTEMBER, 2023</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Business Support Officer.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the information contained therein be noted.</p>
<p>No. 8</p>	<p><u>DEVELOPMENTS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE (DNS)</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Service Manager Development and Estates.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the information contained therein be noted.</p>
<p>No. 9</p>	<p><u>REVISED PRACTICE ADVICE NOTES (PANS)</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Service Manager Development and Estates.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Planning Committee adopted the revised PANS appended to this report (Option 2).</p>

No. 10	<u>AREAS FOR MEMBER BRIEFINGS AND TRAINING</u>
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The Chair reported that mandatory training on the material considerations and decision making had been scheduled for 6th November, 2023.

It was also reported that the Section 106 training would be held in the New Year.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE – 23RD OCTOBER, 2023

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC OFFICER

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR LISA WINNETT (CHAIR)

Councillors P. Baldwin
 M. Cross
 G. Davies
 G. Humphreys
 D. Rowberry

**WITH: Team Manager – Trading Standards and Licensing
 Licensing Officer
 Solicitor (Advisor)**

DECISIONS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
-----	<p><u>CONDOLENCES</u></p> <p>The Committee expressed condolences to the family of Sally-Ann Evans, Solicitor who had suddenly passed away. Members and Officers paid their respects with a minute’s silence.</p>
No. 1	<p><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p>

No. 2	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S. Behr, J. Hill and G. Thomas.</p>
No. 3	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>No declarations of interest or dispensations were reported.</p>
No. 4	<p><u>SCHEDULE OF APPLICATIONS FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENCES</u></p> <p>Having regard to the views expressed by the Proper Officer regarding the public interest test, that on balance the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information and that the report should be exempt.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the public be excluded whilst this item of business is transacted as it is likely there would be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 12, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).</p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Team Manager Trading Standards and Licensing.</p> <p><u>Application 1(a) – Application for a new Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicle Drivers Licence</u></p> <p>RESOLVED that the report which contained information relating to a particular individual be accepted and the application be <u>GRANTED.</u></p> <p><u>Application 1(b) – Application for a new Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicle Drivers Licence</u></p> <p>RESOLVED that the report which contained information relating to a particular individual be accepted, and the application be <u>GRANTED.</u></p>

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT PLANNING COMMITTEE – 9th NOVEMBER, 2023

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR LISA WINNETT (Chair)

Councillors P. Baldwin (Vice-Chair)

M. Day

J. Holt

W. Hodgins

G. Humphreys

E. Jones

L. Parsons

J. Thomas

D. Rowberry

D. Wilkshire

WITH: Team Leader Development Management x 2
Planning Officer
Head of Legal and Corporate Compliance

DECISIONS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
	<p><u>CONDOLENCES</u></p> <p>The Vice-Chair wished to pass on condolences on behalf of the Planning Committee to the family of Sally Ann Evans, Solicitor following her sad passing.</p>

	<p>The Vice-Chair further informed Members of the sad passing of Mr Bobby Davies, Councillor Winnett's, (Chair) father who passed away suddenly on the weekend and the Vice-Chair wished to express condolences to the Chair and her family on behalf of the Planning Committee,</p> <p>A minute's silence was undertaken as a mark of respect.</p>
No. 1	<p><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p>
No. 2	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>The following apologies for absence were received:-</p> <p>Councillor C. Bainton; and Councillor Jen Morgan;</p>
No. 3	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>No declarations of interest or dispensations were made.</p>
No. 4	<p><u>APPEALS, CONSULTATIONS AND DNS UPDATE OCTOBER 2023</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Service Manager Development & Estates.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the information contained therein be noted.</p>

<p>No. 5</p>	<p><u>LIST OF APPLICATIONS DECIDED UNDER DELEGATED POWERS BETWEEN 22ND SEPTEMBER 2023 AND 25TH OCTOBER 2023</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Business Support Officer.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the information contained therein be noted.</p>
<p>No. 6</p>	<p><u>REVISED PRACTICE ADVICE NOTES (PANS)</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Service Manager Development and Estates.</p> <p>It was proposed that the revised PANS, if adopted be sent to all Members of the Council for information.</p> <p>RESOLVED accordingly.</p> <p>FURTHER RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Planning Committee adopted the revised PANS appended to this report (Option 2).</p>
<p>No. 7</p>	<p><u>AREAS FOR MEMBER BRIEFINGS AND TRAINING</u></p> <p>The Chair reported that the Mandatory Training which had been cancelled would be rescheduled as soon as possible.</p>

No. 8

**ENFORCEMENT CLOSED CASES BETWEEN
15TH AUGUST 2023 AND 24TH OCTOBER 2023**

Having regard to the views expressed by the Proper Officer regarding the public interest test, that on balance the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information and that the report should be exempt.

RESOLVED that the public be excluded whilst this item of business is transacted as it is likely there would be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 12, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

Consideration was given to the report of the Service Manager Development.

RESOLVED that the report which contained information relating to a particular individual be accepted and the information contained therein be noted.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT: CABINET – 4TH OCTOBER, 2023

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER

**PRESENT: Leader/
Cabinet Member - Corporate Overview & Performance
Councillor S. Thomas**

**Deputy Leader/Cabinet Member – Place & Environment
Councillor H. Cunningham**

**Cabinet Member – Place and Regeneration
Councillor J.C. Morgan**

**Cabinet Member – People & Social Services
Councillor H. Trollope**

**AND: Councillor T. Smith,
Chair of People Scrutiny Committee**

**WITH: Chief Officer Resources
Chief Officer Customer & Commercial
Corporate Director Regeneration & Community Services
Interim Corporate Director Education
Interim Corporate Director Social Services
Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance
Head of Democratic Services, Governance & Partnerships
Service Manager Customer Experience & Transformation
Customer Experience Officer
Press & Public Relations Officer**

DECISIONS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
No. 1	<u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u> It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.
No. 2	<u>APOLOGIES</u> The following apologies for absence were received:- Interim Chief Executive Councillor S. Edmunds, Cabinet Member People & Education
No. 3	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u> No declarations of interest or dispensations were reported.
	<u>DECISIONS</u>
No. 4	<u>CABINET</u> Consideration was given to the decisions of the Cabinet Meeting held on 4 th September, 2023. RESOLVED that the decisions be received as a true record of proceedings.

	<p><u>GENERAL MATTERS</u></p>
<p>No. 5</p>	<p><u>CONFERENCES, COURSES, EVENTS AND INVITATIONS</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the following:-</p> <p><u>WLGA Annual Conference – Llandudno 15th September, 2023</u></p> <p>RESOLVED that approval be given to Councillor H. Cunningham, Deputy Leader of the Council to attend.</p> <p><u>Reserve Forces’ and Cadets’ Association for Wales – Annual Briefing –19th October, 2023</u></p> <p>RESOLVED that approval be given to Councillor D Bevan, Armed Forces Champion to attend.</p>
	<p><u>CORPORATE AND PERFORMANCE PORTFOLIO</u></p>
<p>No. 6</p>	<p><u>FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME – 29TH NOVEMBER, 2023</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Scrutiny and Democratic Officer.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Forward Work Programme for Cabinet for 29th November, 2023 be agreed.</p>

<p>No. 7</p>	<p><u>GRANTS TO ORGANISATIONS</u></p> <p>Consideration was given the report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>The following grants to organisation were received further to the publication of the report:-</p> <p><u>BRYNMAWR</u></p> <p><u>Brynmawr Ward - Councillor J. Gardner</u></p> <table data-bbox="343 772 1412 817"> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>Brynmawr & District Museum Society</td> <td>£250</td> </tr> </table> <p><u>EBBW VALE</u></p> <p><u>Ebbw Vale North Ward Ward – Councillor Jen Morgan</u></p> <table data-bbox="343 1064 1444 1254"> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>One Life Autism</td> <td>£500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>Tredegar Operatic Society</td> <td>£150</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.</td> <td>Ebbw Valley Brass</td> <td>£150</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.</td> <td>Heads of the Valley’s Boxing Club</td> <td>£200</td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Rassau & Garnlydan Ward - Councillors D. Wilkshire</u></p> <table data-bbox="343 1400 1444 2027"> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>Garnlydan Community Spirit</td> <td>£100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>Ebbw Vale Works Museum</td> <td>£80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.</td> <td>Beaufort Male Voice Choir</td> <td>£80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.</td> <td>Rassau & Beaufort Bowls</td> <td>£75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5.</td> <td>Rassau OAP’s</td> <td>£100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6.</td> <td>Blaenau Gwent Young Stars</td> <td>£80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7.</td> <td>Puddleducks</td> <td>£100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8.</td> <td>Ebbw Vale Christmas Lights</td> <td>£80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9.</td> <td>Beaufort RFC</td> <td>£80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10.</td> <td>Ebbw Vale Male Voice Choir</td> <td>£80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11.</td> <td>Rhos Y Fedwen Primary School</td> <td>£100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12.</td> <td>Ebbw Vale Netball</td> <td>£80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13.</td> <td>Blaenau Gwent Indoor Bowls</td> <td>£80</td> </tr> </table>	1.	Brynmawr & District Museum Society	£250	1.	One Life Autism	£500	2.	Tredegar Operatic Society	£150	3.	Ebbw Valley Brass	£150	4.	Heads of the Valley’s Boxing Club	£200	1.	Garnlydan Community Spirit	£100	2.	Ebbw Vale Works Museum	£80	3.	Beaufort Male Voice Choir	£80	4.	Rassau & Beaufort Bowls	£75	5.	Rassau OAP’s	£100	6.	Blaenau Gwent Young Stars	£80	7.	Puddleducks	£100	8.	Ebbw Vale Christmas Lights	£80	9.	Beaufort RFC	£80	10.	Ebbw Vale Male Voice Choir	£80	11.	Rhos Y Fedwen Primary School	£100	12.	Ebbw Vale Netball	£80	13.	Blaenau Gwent Indoor Bowls	£80
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	14. Garnlydan Football Club	£100
	15. Rock Chapel	£80
	<u>NANTYGLO & BLAINA</u>	
	<u>Nantyglo Ward – Councillor P. Baldwin</u>	
	1. Shared Prosperity Fund	£300
	<u>Nantyglo Ward – Councillor S. Behr</u>	
	1. Shared Prosperity Fund	£300
	<u>Blaina Ward – Councillor J. P. Morgan</u>	
	1. Christmas Extravaganza	£300
	<u>Blaina Ward – Councillor L. Winnett</u>	
	1. Shared Prosperity Fund	£300
	RESOLVED accordingly.	
	FURTHER RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted and the information contained therein be noted.	
No. 8	<u>CS092 INVESTIGATION ACTION PLAN PROGRESS</u> <u>QUARTERLY REPORT AND WELSH IN THE WORKPLACE</u> <u>POLICY / ADRODDIAD CYNNYDD CHWARTEROL CS092</u> <u>CYNLLUN GWEITHREDU'R YMCHWILIAD A'R POLISI</u> <u>CYMRAEG YN Y GWEITHLE</u>	
	<p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Democratic Services, Governance and Partnerships.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Cabinet approved the the Quarterly Progress Report and the Welsh in the Workplace Policy, as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the CS092 Quarterly Progress Report (Appendix 1), and supported the approach to be presented to Cabinet (Option 1a); and 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Welsh in the Workplace Policy (Appendix 2) and recommended approval by Cabinet for publication (Option 2a).
No. 9	<p><u>DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY FOR THE COUNCIL</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Commercial and Customer.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Cabinet approved the Digital and Transformation Strategy (Option 1).</p>
No. 10	<p><u>CUSTOMER SERVICE STRATEGY FOR THE COUNCIL</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Commercial and Customer.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Cabinet approved the Customer Services Strategy and associated Customer Standards and Charter with the minor amendment to the document as reported (Option 1).</p>
No. 11	<p><u>HEALTH & SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT – 1ST APRIL 2022 TO 31ST MARCH 2023</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Organisational Development.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Cabinet agreed the report as presented (Option 1).</p>
No. 12	<p><u>REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2023/2024 FORECAST OUTTURN TO 31 MARCH 2024 (AS AT 30 JUNE 2023)</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Cabinet provided the appropriate challenge to the financial outcomes in the report; approved the budget virements detailed in paragraph 5.1.18 in excess of £250,000 in line with the constitution and noted the application of reserves (Option 1).</p>

<p>No. 13</p>	<p><u>CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING, FORECAST FOR 2023/2024 FINANCIAL YEAR (AS AT 30 JUNE 2023)</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Cabinet provided the appropriate challenge to the financial outcomes in the report; continued to support appropriate financial control procedures agreed by Council and noted the budgetary control and monitoring procedures in place within the Capital Team, to safeguard Authority funding (Option 1).</p>
<p>No. 14</p>	<p><u>JOINT PORTFOLIO - PLACE AND ENVIRONMENT & PLACE, REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</u></p> <p><u>COMMUNITY SERVICES AND REGENERATION DIRECTORATE PERFORMANCE END OF YEAR REPORT 2022/23</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Cabinet approved the report as provided (Option 2).</p>
<p>No. 15</p>	<p><u>LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 PROPOSED TRANSFER OF FURTHER LAND TO ABERTILLERY BLUEBIRDS</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and, subject to conditions being in place to permit continued public access, a lease be granted to Abertillery Bluebirds in respect of the sports field at Windsor Road to facilitate use by junior members of the club (Option 1).</p>

	<u>PEOPLE AND EDUCATION PORTFOLIO</u>
No. 16	<p><u>INCLUSION AND ALN STRATEGY/POLICIES/GUIDANCE (REVIEW AND AMENDMENTS)</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Interim Corporate Director Education.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and after considering the views of Scrutiny (that only Local Authority officers have been involved and engaged in the process), Cabinet approved the reviewed and amended documents. This would ensure that the documents are re distributed to key stakeholders with the inclusion of the most up to date changes to national guidance and legislation; this would allow LA processes and statutory functions to align (Option 1).</p>
	<u>PEOPLE AND SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO</u>
No. 17	<p><u>VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, DOMESTIC ABUSE & SEXUAL VIOLENCE (VAWDASV): GWENT REGIONAL STRATEGY 2023 – 2027</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Democratic Services, Governance and Partnerships.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and approved the Strategy (Option 1).</p>
	<u>PEOPLE AND EDUCATION PORTFOLIO MATTERS</u>
No. 18	<p><u>HOME TO SCHOOL AND POST 16 TRANSPORT POLICY REVIEW 2024 – 2025</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Interim Corporate Director Education.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Cabinet approved the Home to School and Post 16 Transport Policy 2024/25 (Appendix 1). (Option 1).</p>

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT: PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 28TH MARCH, 2023

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER

PRESENT: Councillor W. Hodgins (CHAIR)

Councillors P. Baldwin
 K. Chaplin
 D. Davies
 E Jones
 L. Parsons
 C. Smith
 L. Winnett
 D. Woods

WITH: Head of School Improvement & Inclusion
 Service Manager Performance & Democratic
 Professional Lead for Strategic Partnerships
 Scrutiny and Democratic Officer

AND: Ed Pryce) EAS
 Jonathan Keohane)

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
No. 1	<u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u> It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.
No. 2	<u>APOLOGIES</u> No apologies for absence were received.

No. 3	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>No declarations of interest or dispensations were reported.</p>
No. 4	<p><u>PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>The decisions of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee held on, 7th February, 2023 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 – 7TH FEBRUARY, 2023</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the Action Sheet.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the action sheet be noted.</p>
No. 6	<p><u>EAS BUSINESS PLAN 2023-2025 (CONSULTATION VERSION – ACCESSIBLE)</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director of Education.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted; and Members considered the plan and offered further comment for consideration by the EAS; written feedback on the draft Business Plan should be provided to the EAS Managing Director following the scrutiny meeting. This feedback will be taken into consideration in the final version of the Business Plan. (Option 2)</p>
No. 7	<p><u>GWENT WELL-BEING PLAN 2023-28</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Professional Lead for Strategic Partnerships, and the Head of Democratic Services, Governance & Partnerships.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and the Gwent Well-being Plan 2023-28 be endorsed as presented (Option 1).</p>

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT: PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 5TH SEPTEMBER, 2023

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR M. CROSS (CHAIR)

Councillors R. Leadbeater
S. Behr
K. Chaplin
J. Gardener
W. Hodgins
L. Parsons

WITH: Interim Chief Executive
Head of Community Services
Service Manager – Development and Estates
Team Manager – Trading Standards and Licensing
Service Manager – Business and Regeneration
Service Manager – Community Services
Senior Energy Officer
Team Manager – Connected Communities
Team Manager – Regeneration Opportunities
Team Manager – Business Innovation
Team Manager – Housing Solutions
Service Manager – Infrastructure Services
Team Manager – Built Environment
Assistant Team Manager – Building Control
Team Manager – Natural Environment
Service Manager – Policy and Partnerships
Team Manager – Frontline Enforcement
Service Manager – Public Protection
Communications and Marketing Officer
Scrutiny and Democratic Officer

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
No. 1	<p data-bbox="317 327 898 365"><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></p> <p data-bbox="317 412 1442 490">It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p>
No. 2	<p data-bbox="317 542 544 580"><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p data-bbox="317 627 1390 665">An apology for absence was received from Councillor G. Davies.</p>
No. 3	<p data-bbox="317 714 1283 752"><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p data-bbox="317 799 1177 837">The following declarations of interest was reported:-</p> <p data-bbox="317 884 1442 1010">Councillor W. Hodgins Item No. 7 – Community Services and Regeneration Directorate Performance End of Year Report 2022/23</p>
No. 4	<p data-bbox="317 1061 884 1099"><u>PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></p> <p data-bbox="317 1146 1442 1225">Consideration was given to the decisions of the meeting held on 20th June, 2023.</p> <p data-bbox="317 1272 1442 1350">It was reported that the date on the decisions should read the 20th June, 2023 and not the 19th June, 2023 as stated.</p> <p data-bbox="317 1397 1442 1476">The Committee AGREED, subject to the foregoing that the decisions be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>
No. 5	<p data-bbox="317 1532 600 1570"><u>ACTION SHEET</u></p> <p data-bbox="317 1617 1054 1655">Consideration was given to the action sheet.</p> <p data-bbox="317 1702 1442 1780">The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted and the action sheet be noted.</p>

<p>No. 6</p>	<p><u>PROPOSED FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Scrutiny and Democratic Officer.</p> <p>The Chair and Committee Members agreed that the Abertillery Placemaking Plan be moved.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED, subject to the foregoing that the report be accepted and amendments were suggested prior to agreeing the Forward Work Programme (Option 2).</p>
<p>No. 7</p>	<p><u>COMMUNITY SERVICES AND REGENERATION DIRECTORATE PERFORMANCE END OF YEAR REPORT 2022/23</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted and Members accepted the report as provided. (Option 2)</p>

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT: CORPORATE AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2023

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR J. WILKINS (CHAIR)

Councillors J. Thomas
 J. Hill
 J. Holt
 E. Jones
 R. Leadbeater
 C. Smith
 T. Smith

WITH: Interim Chief Executive
 Corporate Director Regeneration & Community Services
 Interim Corporate Director Social Services
 Chief Officer Resources
 Chief Officer Commercial and Customer
 Team Manager Customer Contact
 Head of Organisational Development
 Senior Benefits Officer
 Customer Experience Officer
 Service Manager Performance & Democratic Services
 Service Manager Policy and Partnership
 Digital Projects Delivery Manager
 Press and Communications Officers
 Democratic and Scrutiny Officer

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
No. 1	<u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u> It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.
No. 2	<u>APOLOGIES</u>

	<p>An apology for absence was received from Councillor C. Bainton.</p>
No. 3	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>No declarations of interest or dispensations were reported.</p>
No. 4	<p><u>CORPORATE AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the decisions of the meeting held on 22nd June, 2023.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the decisions be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>
No. 5	<p><u>SPECIAL CORPORATE AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the decisions of the meeting held on 5th July, 2023.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the decisions be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>
No. 6	<p><u>ACTION SHEET</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the Action Sheet.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted and the information therein be noted.</p>
No. 7	<p><u>CUSTOMER SERVICE STRATEGY FOR THE COUNCIL</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Commercial and Customer.</p> <p>The Chief Officer Commercial and Customer Officer noted an amendment to the Customer Services Standards and advised that Page 69 stated “We will be courteous and welcoming When customers visit Council buildings they can expect a welcoming environment”.</p>

	<p>The Chief Officer advised that the Policy was not attached to buildings it was about how the Council interacted within our communities and the wording would be amended accordingly.</p> <p>The Committee noted and agreed the amendment.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED, subject to the foregoing that the report be accepted and provided recommendations for changes on the Customer Services Strategy and associated Customer Standards prior to it being presented to Cabinet for approval (Option 2).</p>
<p>No. 8</p>	<p><u>DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY FOR THE COUNCIL</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Commercial and Customer.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted and endorsed the Digital and Transformation Strategy prior to it being presented to Cabinet for approval (Option 1).</p>
<p>No. 9</p>	<p><u>CS092 INVESTIGATION ACTION PLAN PROGRESS QUARTERLY REPORT AND WELSH IN THE WORKPLACE POLICY</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Democratic Services, Governance and Partnerships.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted and supported the recommendation for the Quarterly Progress Report and the Welsh in the Workplace Policy, as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the CS092 Quarterly Progress Report (Appendix 1), and supported the approach to be presented to Cabinet (Option 1a); and • the Welsh in the Workplace Policy (Appendix 2) and recommended approval by Cabinet for publication (Option 2a).

No. 10	<u>TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REVIEW REPORT 1ST APRIL 2022 TO 31ST MARCH 2023</u>
	<p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted and Members scrutinised the treasury management activity undertaken during the 2022/23 financial year and provided comment prior to its submission to full Council (Option 1).</p>
No. 11	<u>HEALTH & SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT – 1ST APRIL 2022 TO 31ST MARCH 2023</u>
	<p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Organisational Development.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the report be accepted and supported the detailed report and the recommended actions to mitigate areas of concern and agree to the report progressing to Cabinet (Option 1).</p>
No. 12	<u>FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME – 12TH OCTOBER, 2023</u>
	<p>Consideration was given to the report of the Scrutiny and Democratic Officer.</p> <p>A Member proposed that a report be presented in relation to the universal free school meals roll out and the impact on school's budget. This proposal was agreed and seconded.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED, subject to the foregoing that the report be accepted and made amendments, suggested additional invitees, and requested additional information to be included to the Forward Work Programme with regards to topics to be discussed (Option 1).</p>

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT: PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 19TH SEPTEMBER, 2023

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER

PRESENT: Councillor T. Smith (Chair)

Councillors Jen Morgan, J.P.
 C. Bainton
 D. Bevan
 J. Gardner
 G. Thomas
 D. Wilkshire
 G. Humphreys
 J.P. Morgan

WITH: Interim Corporate Director of Social Services
 Interim Corporate Director of Education
 Service Manger Education Transformation & Business Change
 Head of Adult Services
 Head of Democratic Services, Governance & Partnerships
 Policy Officer Engagement & Equality
 Scrutiny & Democratic Officer

AND: Amy Thomas (Regional Lead Advisor, Gwent Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence)

<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.	

<p>No. 2</p>	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>No apologies for absence were received.</p>	
<p>No. 3</p>	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>No declarations of interest or dispensations were reported.</p>	
<p>No. 4</p>	<p><u>PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>The decisions of the People Scrutiny Committee held on 18th July, 2023 were submitted.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the decisions be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
<p>No. 5</p>	<p><u>ACTION SHEET</u></p> <p>There were no actions arising from the meeting of the People Scrutiny Committee held on the 18th July, 2023.</p>	
<p>No. 6</p>	<p><u>VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, DOMESTIC ABUSE & SEXUAL VIOLENCE (VAWDASV): GWENT REGIONAL STRATEGY 2023 – 2027</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Head of Democratic Services, Governance & Partnerships.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend approval of the Strategy by Cabinet. (Option 1)</p>	
<p>No. 7</p>	<p><u>ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES 2022/2023</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Interim Corporate Director of Social Services.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend the publication of the Annual Report of the Director of Social Services 2022/2023 and approval by Council. (Option 1)</p>	

<p>No. 8</p>	<p><u>HOME TO SCHOOL AND POST 16 TRANSPORT POLICY REVIEW 2024 – 2025</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Interim Corporate Director of Education, and the Service Manager for Education Transformation and Business Change.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the Home to School and Post 16 Transport Policy 2024/25 (Appendix 1) be accepted; and recommended to Cabinet for approval. (Option 1)</p> <p>Councillor Jen Morgan, J.P. abstained from the voting process.</p>	
<p>No. 9</p>	<p><u>INCLUSION AND ALN STRATEGY/POLICIES/GUIDANCE (REVIEW AND AMENDMENTS)</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Interim Corporate Director of Education.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend Option 2, and reject the policies, owing to there being no consultation with Headteachers and Members felt that as a result the policies may not be fit for purpose.</p>	
<p>No. 10</p>	<p><u>FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME – 7TH NOVEMBER, 2023</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Scrutiny & Democratic Officer.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED the Forward Programme for the meeting 7th November 2023, as presented (Option 2).</p>	

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

**SUBJECT: GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE
20TH SEPTEMBER, 2023**

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC OFFICER

PRESENT: JOANNE ABSALOM (CHAIR)

Councillors S. Behr
D. Bevan
K. Chaplin
W. Hodgins
C. Smith
J. Wilkins

Martin Veale

WITH: Interim Corporate Director of Social Services
Chief Officer Resources
Head of Democratic Services, Governance & Partnerships
Head of Community Services
Audit & Risk Manager
Professional Lead – Internal Audit
Team Manager - Housing Solutions and Compliance
Service Manager Commercial & Business Opportunities
Service Manager – Children’s Services
Data Protection & Governance Officer
Communications & Marketing Manager
Team Leader – School Meals Catering Service
Professional Lead – Risk and Insurance
Senior Auditor

DECISIONS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
No. 1	<p><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p>	
No. 2	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from:</p> <p>Chief Officer Commercial and Customer</p> <p>Mike Jones, Richard Harries, Alice King and Deborah Woods, Audit Wales.</p>	
No. 3	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interests or dispensations reported.</p>	
No. 4	<p><u>GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>The decisions of the Governance & Audit Committee held on 12th July, 2023 were submitted.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the decisions be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
No. 5	<p><u>ACTION SHEET – 12TH JULY, 2023</u></p> <p>The Action Sheet arising from the meeting held on 12th July, 2023 was submitted, whereupon:</p>	

	<p><u>Item No. 7 – Forward Work Programme 2023/24 – Refresher Training on the Role and Remit of the Governance & Audit Committee</u></p> <p>It was noted that the above training would take place on Tuesday, 10th October, 2023 at 9.30 a.m. via MS Teams. Therefore, this action was now complete.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing, that the Action Sheet be noted.</p>	
<p>No. 6</p>	<p><u>FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2023/2024</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the proposed Forward Work Programme 2023/2024, whereupon:</p> <p>The following update was provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual Report of the Governance & Audit Committee would be considered by the Committee at the November meeting. However, in subsequent years this item would be included on the forward work programme for September. - Statement of Accounts 2021/2022 – subject to Audit Wales finalising the ISA 260, it was anticipated that this report would be presented to the October meeting of the Committee for consideration. <p>Following concerns raised by Members regarding the delay in receiving the finalised Statement of Accounts 2021/2022, the Chief Officer Resources advised that a representative of Audit Wales had offered to meet Members of the Committee to provide an explanation in terms of the issues that were currently being experienced.</p> <p>RESOLVED accordingly.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p>	

	<p>FURTHER RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted Option 1 be endorsed, namely that the Forward Work Programme be accepted.</p>	
No. 7	<p><u>INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Audit and Risk Manager.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that the Internal Audit Charter be approved in line with good practice and the requirements of the PSIAS.</p>	
No. 8	<p><u>INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS 2023/2024</u></p> <p>Members considered the report of the Professional Lead – Internal Audit, whereupon:</p> <p><u>Internal Audit Report – Temporary Accommodation 2022/2023</u></p> <p>Due to the potential financial impact on the local authority and the lack of social housing accommodation in the area, the issue of homelessness would be discussed departmentally to ascertain whether this matter should be included within the corporate risk register.</p> <p>If appropriate, following the assessment of the risk and any potential mitigation measures, updates would be provided to the Committee.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted and the progress on activities for the period 1st April to 30th June, 2023 be noted.</p>	

No. 9	<u>CORPORATE RISK REGISTER Q1 2023/2024</u> Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Resources. It was noted that Members would have further opportunity to comment on the format of the risk register, the risk management process and the information presented in respect of the Committee's assurance role at the refresher training session on 10 th October, 2023. It was unanimously, RESOLVED that the report be accepted and following consideration of the information the Committee was assured that the Council had appropriate arrangements in place to manage risk.	
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ETHICS & STANDARDS COMMITTEE

21ST SEPTEMBER, 2023

PRESENT: MR R. ALEXANDER (CHAIR)

Mr S. Williams
Mr R. Lynch
Jenny White
Councillor M. Cross
Councillor L. Winnett
Councillor J. Thomas

WITH: Head of Legal Compliance (Monitoring Officer)
Data Protection & Governance Officer

1. **SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION**

No requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.

2. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

No apologies for absence were received.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported.

4. **STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 2ND MARCH, 2023**

The decisions of the Standards Committee held on the 2nd March, 2023 were submitted.

The Committee AGREED that the decisions be accepted as a true record of proceedings.

5. **ACTION SHEET**

The Action Sheet arising from the meeting held on 2nd March, 2023 was submitted.

The following update was reported:

- Town/Community Council Representation at Meetings – The Data Protection & Governance Officer said he was expecting an update the following week.

The Committee AGREED, subject to the foregoing, that the action sheet be noted.

6. **OMBUDSMAN ANNUAL REPORT (CONDUCT ELEMENT)**

Consideration was given to the Conduct Element of the Ombudsman Annual Report, when the following point was raised:

- A Member suggested that meeting participants should use earphones when discussing exempt information at virtual meetings – The Monitoring Officer undertook to refer this matter to the Head of Democratic Services, Governance & Partnerships for further discussion.

The Committee AGREED that the Ombudsman Annual Report be noted.

7. **OMBUDSMAN REFERRALS**

Having regard to the views expressed by the Proper Officer regarding the public interest test, that on balance the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information and that the report should be exempt.

RESOLVED that the public be excluded whilst this item of business is transacted as it is likely there would be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 12, Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended).

Consideration was given to report of the Head of Legal Compliance.

Upon a vote being taken,

The Committee AGREED to proceed to formal hearing.

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

**SUBJECT: GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE
18TH OCTOBER, 2023**

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC OFFICER

PRESENT: JOANNE ABSALOM (CHAIR)

Councillors S. Behr
D. Bevan
K. Chaplin
W. Hodgins
C. Smith

WITH: Interim Chief Executive
Chief Officer Resources
Head of Democratic Services, Governance & Partnerships
Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance
Service Manager for Development and Commissioning
Service Manager – Registration, Elections & Corporate Complaints
Service Manager – Performance & Democratic
Senior Business Partner – Capital and Corporate Accounting
Data Protection & Governance Officer

**AND: Representing Audit Wales
Mr. Mike Jones**

DECISIONS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
No. 1	<p><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p>	
No. 2	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from:</p> <p>Councillor Joanna Wilkins, Mr. Martin Veale, Chief Officer Commercial and Customer, Audit and Risk Manager, Professional Lead – Internal Audit and Deborah Woods – Audit Wales.</p>	
No. 3	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interests or dispensations reported.</p>	
-----	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM ORDER</u></p> <p>It was agreed that the following items would be considered at this juncture in the meeting:</p> <p>Item No. 8 – Statement of Accounts 2021/2022 Item No. 7 – The Annual Letter of the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales 2022/2023</p>	
No. 8	<p><u>STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2021/2022</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the reports of the Chief Officer Resources and Auditor General for Wales.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p>	

	<p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that on consideration of the report together with the External Auditor's report that the Statement of Accounts be approved under the delegated authority of the Council.</p>	
No. 7	<p><u>THE ANNUAL LETTER OF THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES 2022/2023</u></p> <p>Members considered the report of the Head of Legal and Corporate Compliance.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that assurance had been provided that the process for the monitoring of complaints was robust and the performance information provided reflected these practices.</p>	
No. 4	<p><u>GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>The decisions of the Governance & Audit Committee held on 20th September, 2023 were submitted.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the decisions be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
No. 5	<p><u>ACTION SHEET – 20TH SEPTEMBER, 2023</u></p> <p>The Action Sheet arising from the meeting held on 20th September, 2023 was submitted.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Action Sheet be noted.</p>	

<p>No. 6</p>	<p><u>FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2023/2024</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the proposed Forward Work Programme 2023/2024.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that the Forward Work Programme be accepted.</p>	
<p>No. 9</p>	<p><u>AUDIT WALES: DIRECT PAYMENTS FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE</u></p> <p>The report of the Interim Corporate Director of Social Services was submitted for consideration.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that the Committee was assured that the Council's Management Response identified in Appendix 2 would appropriately respond to the Audit Wales recommendations.</p>	
<p>No. 10</p>	<p><u>BLAENAU GWENT COUNCIL SELF-ASSESSMENT OF 2022/2023</u></p> <p>Members considered the report of the Interim Chief Executive.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that the Committee was assured that the Council's Self-Assessment 2022/2023 was an accurate account of the effectiveness of performance management arrangements of the Council.</p>	

<p>No. 11</p>	<p><u>PUBLIC INTEREST REPORT – ASSURANCE REVIEW FINDINGS</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Democratic, Governance & Performance.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that the findings of the Assurance Review be noted and the recommendations outlined below be agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Link Officer be identified within the Council to establish regular liaison meetings with Gwent Archives and Gwent Crematoria by the end of March 2024. • A Member Briefing be organised on the operations and services provided by the Gwent Archives and Gwent Crematoria by the end March of 2024. • All relevant strategic documents, annual business plan and accounts for Gwent Archives and Gwent Crematoria be included in the Forward Work Programme for the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee for 2024-25, and Council where relevant, at least twice a year. • The Terms of Reference be developed into a ‘governance toolkit’ for use by officers across the Council for providing assurance against existing companies and in the event of the establishment of any new ones by the end of March 2024. 	
<p>No. 12</p>	<p><u>INFORMATION GOVERNANCE ANNUAL REPORT</u></p> <p>The report of the Data Protection and Governance Officer was submitted for consideration.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p>	

RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1 endorsed, namely that the information in the report be accepted which gave an assurance that appropriate oversight and monitoring was taking place and any shortfalls had appropriate controls in place to make the necessary improvements.	
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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT: SPECIAL PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 19TH OCTOBER 2023

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC OFFICER

PRESENT: Councillor W. Hodgins (CHAIR)

Councillors P. Baldwin
 D. Bevan
 D. Davies
 M. Day
 E Jones
 C. Smith
 L. Winnett

WITH: Interim Chief Executive
 Interim Corporate Director of Education
 Head of Democratic Services, Governance & Partnerships
 Service Manager – Young People and Partnerships
 Service Manager – Performance and Democratic
 Scrutiny and Democratic Officer

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
----	<p><u>CONDOLENCES</u></p> <p>Condolences were expressed to the family of Sally-Ann Evans, Solicitor who had suddenly passed away.</p> <p>Members and officers paid their respects with a minute's silence.</p>

<p>No. 1</p>	<p><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p>
<p>No. 2</p>	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>An apology for absence was received from Councillor Dean Woods.</p>
<p>No. 3</p>	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported.</p>
<p>No. 4</p>	<p><u>TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS</u></p> <p>Members considered the time of future Partnerships Scrutiny Committee meetings.</p> <p>The Committee unanimously AGREED that all future meetings commence at 10.00 a.m.</p>
<p>No. 5</p>	<p><u>PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>The decisions of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee held on 28th March, 2023 were submitted.</p> <p>The Committee unanimously AGREED that the decisions be accepted as a true recording of proceedings.</p>
<p>No. 6</p>	<p><u>PROPOSED SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2023/2024</u></p> <p>The report of the Scrutiny and Democratic Officer was submitted for consideration, whereupon:</p> <p>It was AGREED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awen Trust Member Briefing be scheduled early in the new year.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gwent Archives and Gwent Crematoria – strategic and relevant information including previous annual business plans and financial information which, would provide baseline data for Members be forwarded in advance of the reports being submitted to Committee in May 2024. <p>The Committee FURTHER AGREED, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted and the Partnerships Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2023/2024 be accepted.</p>
<p>No. 7</p>	<p><u>PUBLIC INTEREST REPORT – ASSURANCE REVIEW FINDINGS</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Head of Democratic Services, Governance & Partnerships.</p> <p>Following a brief discussion when the Committee was advised of the Members of the Council that had been to both the Gwent Archives and Gwent Crematoria, it was AGREED that the Committee be provided with the details of the Link Officers for both these organisations once confirmed.</p> <p>The Committee FURTHER AGREED to recommend, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that the findings of the Assurance Review be noted and the recommendations as outlined below be agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Link Officer be identified within the Council to establish regular liaison meetings with Gwent Archives and Gwent Crematoria by the end of March 2024. - A Member Briefing be organised on the operations and services provided by the Gwent Archives and Gwent Crematoria by end the end of March 2024. - All relevant strategic documents, annual business plan and accounts for Gwent Archives and Gwent

	<p>Crematoria be included in the Forward Work Programme for the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee for 2024-25, and Council where relevant, at least twice a year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Terms of Reference be developed into a 'governance toolkit' for use by officers across the Council for providing assurance against existing companies and in the event of the establishment of any new ones by the end of March 2024
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Notice of Motion to Council Re: Animal Welfare

We are concerned:

- About the number of cases reported to the RSPCA each year, regarding pets given as prizes via fairgrounds, social media and other channels in Wales.
- For the welfare of those animals that are being given as prizes.
- That many cases of pets being given as prizes may go unreported each year in Wales.

We, therefore, call on this Council to resolve to:

- (i) Ban outright the giving of live animals as prizes, in any form, on Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council land.
- (ii) Write to Welsh Government urging an outright ban on giving of live animals as prizes on both public and private land in Wales.

Signed by:

Councillor L. Winnett
Councillor T. Smith
Councillor J. C. Morgan
Councillor H. Cunningham
Councillor S. Behr

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Agenda Item 23

Cabinet and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: 07.11.2023

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: 07.11.2023

Committee: **Council**

Date of Meeting: **23rd November, 2023**

Report Subject: **Single Transferable Vote**

Portfolio Holder: **Councillor S. Thomas - Leader/Cabinet Member
Corporate Overview & Performance**

Report Submitted by: **Andrea Jones, Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Governance & Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet	Council	Other (please state)
	09/11/2023						23/11/2023	Member Briefing 31/10/2023

1. Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the newly commenced powers for local authorities to change their voting system for local elections, and to seek the view of Members as to whether they are minded to commence the formal procedure to exercise the power to change.

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 Councillors are currently elected to principal councils using a simple majority system commonly known as First Past The Post (FPTP). Each council will continue to use this method unless it decides to change to a system known as the Single Transferable Vote (STV). The power to change only applies to principal councils – town and community councils would continue to use the current system (FPTP).
- 2.2 The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (sections 8 and 9) sets out the steps a local authority must take if it was minded to change its' voting system. These sections came into effect on 6 May 2022.
- 2.3 Such a change would require a resolution supported by a two thirds majority of full council (22 members).
- 2.4 Before exercising the power to change the voting system, the local authority must consult local government electors, community councils and any other interested parties.
- 2.5 To change the voting system for the next set of local government elections in 2027, a Council resolution must be made before 15 November 2024.

- 2.6 If the Council makes a resolution to change the voting method, the Council will need to inform Welsh Ministers and the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission. It is likely that Welsh Ministers would direct the Boundary Commission to carry out a review of the Council's boundaries. Provisions for initial reviews outlined in the Act requires that if a council adopts STV, the number of councillors for each electoral ward is to be no less than 3, but no more than 6. Blaenau Gwent currently has 9 wards with only 2 members.
- 2.7 If the change is agreed, councils are required to retain the STV voting system for the next two terms of Council (2027 and 2032) before it can reconsider its decision and revert back to FPTP.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 **Option 1**

To retain the current First Past The Post voting system for local elections.

Option 2

To carry out a consultation exercise before bringing a report back to Council to consider changing the voting system which, would require a two thirds majority of Council before the voting system can be changed.

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

Recent changes in legislation has afforded the opportunity to local councils to adopt an alternative method of voting which should be considered.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

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

There is no additional impact on the budget allocated to an election using Option 1.

Option 2 may incur costs in carrying out a public consultation and further costs if STV is implemented.

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

Option 1 – Members with the highest numbers of votes are elected via FPTP which is not considered as fair as STV which is a form of proportional representation.

Option 2 – There is less understanding of the rules in relation to STV. The method of counting is a complex and lengthy process which can increase the number of rejected votes.

5.3 **Legal**

Local Elections are run in accordance with the Representation of the People Act 1983 and subsequent legislated changes. The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 allows local authorities to change its' voting system.

5.4 **Human Resources**

There are no human resource implications associated with this report.

5.5 **Health and Safety**

There are no health and safety implications associated with this report.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 **Performance Information and Data**

A count using STV is complex and there is evidence that the number of spoilt votes increases. Under the rules, an STV count must be undertaken manually and this would therefore take longer to count as there is the potential for several rounds of counting to count surplus votes. It is expected that an STV count would extend to a second day of counting which will incur increased costs.

6.2 **Expected outcome for the public**

Should the new system be adopted, there will be implications for the public as the method used to count votes in local elections will be altered and could in some circumstances lead to different outcomes in terms of persons elected.

6.3 **Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)**

Before exercising its power to change the voting system, the local authority must consult local government electors, community councils and any other interested parties.

6.4 **Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)**

N/A

6.5 **Preventative focus**

N/A

6.6 **Collaboration / partnership working**

N/A

6.7 ***Integration (across service areas)***

N/A

6.8 ***Decarbonisation and Reducing Carbon Emissions***

N/A

6.9 ***Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)***

N/A

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

N/A

Background Documents /Electronic Links

Agenda Item 24

Cabinet and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: 02.11.2023

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: 05.11.2023

Committee: **Council**

Date of Meeting: **23rd November, 2023**

Report Subject: **Proposed Amendment to the Constitution**

Portfolio Holder: **Councillor Steve Thomas – Leader/Cabinet Member
Corporate Overview & Performance**

Report Submitted by: **Head of Legal and Corporate Compliance/ Monitoring
Officer**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Governance & Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet	Council	Other (please state)
	9.11.23						23.11.23	

1. **Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of the report is to seek Council approval for a proposed change to paragraph 11.10.3 of the Constitution.

2. **Scope and Background**

Members of the Council will be aware that recruitment to the post of Chief Executive will commence shortly.

It is therefore timely to review the appointment procedure referenced in paragraph 11.10.3 of the Council's Constitution.

The existing paragraph states:

“11.10.3 Appointment of Chief Executive

(a) The Full Council will approve the appointment of the Chief Executive, following the recommendation of such appointment by a Committee or Sub-Committee of the Council. The Committee or Sub-Committee must include at least one Member of the Cabinet.

(b) The Full Council may only make or approve the appointment of the Chief Executive where no well-founded objection has been made by any Member of the Cabinet.”

It is proposed to amend the above paragraph to read as follows:

“11.10.3 Appointment of Chief Executive

The Full Council will interview and appoint the Chief Executive. A shortlisting exercise will first be undertaken by a Committee or Sub-Committee of the Council, and the Committee or Sub-Committee must include at least one

Member of the Cabinet. There will then be a suitable candidate assessment process to determine candidates to be interviewed by Full Council.”

3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 **Option 1:**

Consider and approve the suggested amendment and incorporate into the existing Constitution.

Option 2:

Do not approve the proposed amendment, and/or propose alternative wording.

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

There is a statutory responsibility upon all Councils to adopt a Constitution and keep it under regular review.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

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

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

If the Constitution is not revised on a regular basis there is a risk of non - compliance with legislation and the risk of successful challenge in several areas would be increased.

5.3 ***Legal***

There is a legal duty on the Monitoring Officer to review the Constitution and ensure it is fit for purpose and reflects legal and operational practice.

5.4 ***Human Resources***

There are no staffing implications arising out of this report.

5.5 ***Health and Safety***

There are no Health and Safety implications arising out of this report.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 ***Performance Information and Data***

The Constitution must be kept up to date and relevant in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2000.

6.2 ***Expected outcome for the public***

A Constitution that accurately sets out how the Council operates, how decisions are made and the procedures which are followed in the democratic process.

6.3 ***Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)***

Key members and officers have been consulted in the past 3 weeks.

6.4 ***Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)***

The Council must meet its statutory obligations and plans for the longer term, providing assurance in respect of the Council's governance arrangements.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

Any changes to the Constitution should seek to lessen the risk of the Council operating *ultra vires* and reduce the chances of a successful challenge through the courts or other regulatory avenues.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

Not applicable.

6.7 ***Integration (across service areas)***

Not applicable.

6.8 ***Decarbonisation and Reducing Carbon Emissions***

There are no implications to the decarbonisation and reducing carbon emissions plans as a consequence of this report.

6.9 ***Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)***

There are no Equality implications arising in relation to the suggested amendment.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 The Constitution is published on the Council's Corporate website. Any future amendments will be subject to consultation before proceeding to full Council for formal approval.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- The Constitution may be found on the Council's website.

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Agenda Item 25

Cabinet and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: 10.11.2023

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: 15.11.2023

Committee: **Council**

Date of Meeting: **23rd November, 2023**

Report Subject: **Committing to the Armed Forces Covenant**

Portfolio Holder: **Councillor Stephen Thomas, Leader/Cabinet Member – Corporate Overview & Performance**

Councillor Derrick Bevan, Armed Forces Champion

Report Submitted by: **Sarah King, Head of Democratic Services, Governance and Partnerships**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Governance Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet	Council	Other (please state)
	02/11/23						23/11/23	Armed Forces Steering Group

1. Purpose of the Report

To propose the re-signing of the Armed Forces Covenant by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

2. Scope and Background

Blaenau Gwent Council signed the Armed Forces Community Covenant on 8th February, 2014 alongside a wide range of partner organisations and military representatives. Since then, the council has hosted the Blaenau Gwent Armed Forces Covenant Steering Group, which includes a range of public and voluntary sector partners and armed forces representatives. This Steering Group is chaired by the council's Armed Forces Champion.

The Armed Forces Covenant reflects our moral obligation to those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families. By signing organisations commit to ensuring that members of the Armed Forces community should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services.

The Covenant has been strengthened with the introduction in November 2022 of the Covenant Legal Duty to the Armed Forces Act 2021, which places a legal obligation on certain public bodies, including local authorities, to have due regard to the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant when carrying out certain functions in healthcare, education and housing. As an organisation, we have worked to ensure that we are paying due regard to the Armed Forces community across all our services by strengthening understanding through training and including the armed forces community in

our organisational Integrated Impact Assessments process to strengthen decision-making.

The need to re-sign the Armed Forces Covenant is the result of a change in the signing process. Previously, there was a community covenant in each local authority area with numerous signatures, now the expectation is that each organisation is requested to sign a single national Armed Forces Covenant, with signatures submitted to the Ministry of Defence for approval.

As a result, current practice is not to organise a local signing in Blaenau Gwent, as was done in 2014. However, we can work through existing Blaenau Gwent Armed Forces Covenant Steering Group to encourage partners to re-sign, and the Chair intends to host such an opportunity to mark any re-signing with partners via the established steering group in the spring of 2024 (the next meeting).

The proposed 2024 Armed Forces Covenant Document for Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council is provided at Appendix 1, is in-line with Statutory Guidance on the Armed Forces Covenant Duty from the Ministry of Defence.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1

- Council commits to the Armed Forces Covenant, which is signed by Councillor Derek Bevan, as the Armed Forces Champion.
- Council decides not to re-sign Armed Forces Covenant.

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

Re-signing the Armed Forces Covenant demonstrates our commitment to meeting out statutory duties to pay due regard to the Armed Forces Community functions in healthcare, education and housing.

The Armed Forces Covenant supports the Corporate Plan objective 'empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient' and the Gwent Well-being Plan objective 'we want to create a fairer, more equitable and inclusive Gwent for all.'

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

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

No direct budget implications in relation to this report.

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

There is a reputational risk to the Council of not being up-to-date with legislative expectations associated to the Armed Forces Act 2021. To mitigate this is proposed to re-affirm the appropriate commitments outlined above.

5.3 **Legal**

The Armed Forces Act 2021 has strengthened obligations for relevant bodies, including local authorities to have due regard to the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant when carrying out certain functions in healthcare, education and housing.

In exercising these functions, we must have due regard to: (a) the unique obligations of, and sacrifices made by, the Armed Forces; (b) the principle that it is desirable to remove disadvantages arising for Service people from membership, or former membership, of the Armed Forces, and (c) the principle that special provision for Service people may be justified by the effects on such people of membership, or former membership, of the Armed Forces.

When considering 'due regard' this duty is about informed decision-making and means that we should think about and place an appropriate amount of weight on the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant when considering all the factors relevant to how we carry out relevant functions. It is not prescriptive about the actions we should take to comply with this legal obligation, and it does not mandate specific outcomes.

5.4 **Human Resources**

An on-going programme of training on Armed Forces Covenant is available to council staff. To date, 179 staff have completed this training from the council, specifically targeted at relevant services whereby the due regard principles are most relevant (e.g. Social Services, Education and Housing).

5.5 **Health and Safety**

No direct health and safety implications.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 **Performance Information and Data**

2% of the population in Wales (385,000) are members of the Armed Forces Community, which includes families and ex-Service personnel. 3,230 military and civilian personnel are based in Wales, and in 2018 approximately 3,000 people left the Armed Forces and settled in Wales.

The 2021 census showed that the numbers in Blaenau Gwent are:

- Previously served in regular UK armed forces – 1,643 (3.0%)
- Previously served in UK reserve armed forces – 424 (0.8%)
- Previously served in any UK armed forces -72 (0.1%)
- **Total – 2,139 (3.9%)**

The proportion of people in Blaenau Gwent who are part of the Armed Forces Community will be higher as it also includes immediate family members.

- 6.2 ***Expected outcome for the public***
Reiterating the commitments and strengthening service provision around the new duties, as well as the continuation of existing work supporting Armed Forces Community.
- 6.3 ***Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)***
Promote Armed Forces Covenant and raise public awareness via the steering group.
- 6.4 ***Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)***
Armed Forces Covenant reflects long-term ongoing commitment of council to support Armed Forces community.
- 6.5 ***Preventative focus***
Increasing awareness of Armed Forces community and ensure that we are asking people if they are part of that community to anticipate any potential issues or needs when accessing our services.
- 6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***
Encourage partners to sign/re-sign Armed Forces Covenant and continue work of Blaenau Gwent Armed Forces Covenant Steering Group.
- 6.7 ***Integration (across service areas)***
Due regard to the Armed Forces community has been integrated into policies across the authority, including housing and school admissions policies.
- 6.8 ***Decarbonisation and Reducing Carbon Emissions***
Not applicable.
- 6.9 ***Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)***
Not applicable.
7. **Monitoring Arrangements**
- 7.1 Continue to monitor work via Blaenau Gwent Armed Forces Covenant Steering Group.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

Appendix 1 - Armed Forces Covenant Signatory Document



Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

We, the undersigned, commit to honour the Armed Forces Covenant and support the Armed Forces Community. We recognise the value Serving Personnel, both Regular and Reservists, Veterans and military families contribute to our business and our country.

Signed on behalf of:

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Signed:

Name: Councillor Derek Bevan
Position: Council's Armed Forces Champion
Date: 23/11/23



The Armed Forces Covenant

An Enduring Covenant Between

The People of the United Kingdom
His Majesty's Government

– and –

All those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces of the Crown

And their Families

The first duty of Government is the defence of the realm. Our Armed Forces fulfil that responsibility on behalf of the Government, sacrificing some civilian freedoms, facing danger and, sometimes, suffering serious injury or death as a result of their duty. Families also play a vital role in supporting the operational effectiveness of our Armed Forces. In return, the whole nation has a moral obligation to the members of the Naval Service, the Army and the Royal Air Force, together with their families. They deserve our respect and support, and fair treatment.

Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.

This obligation involves the whole of society: it includes voluntary and charitable bodies, private organisations, and the actions of individuals in supporting the Armed Forces. Recognising those who have performed military duty unites the country and demonstrates the value of their contribution. This has no greater expression than in upholding this Covenant.

Section 1: Principles of The Armed Forces Covenant

1.1 We **Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council** will endeavour in our business dealings to uphold the key principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, which are:

- *no member of the Armed Forces Community should face disadvantage in the provision of public and commercial services compared to any other citizen*
- *in some circumstances special treatment may be appropriate especially for the injured or bereaved.*

Section 2: Demonstrating our Commitment

2.1 We recognise the value serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families bring to our business and to our country. We will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, by:

- promoting the fact that we are an Armed Forces-friendly organisation, to our staff, customers, suppliers, contractors and wider public.
- the employment of veterans, recognising military skills and qualifications in our recruitment and selection process; working with the [Career Transition Partnership](#) (CTP) to support the employment of Service leavers;
- supporting the employment of Service spouses and partners
- seeking to support our employees who are members of the Reserve Forces; granting additional paid/unpaid leave for annual Reserve Forces training; supporting any mobilisations and deployment; actively encouraging members of staff to become Reservists; working with the [Defence Relationship Management](#) (DRM) to further Partner with Defence. Full time employees who are reservists will be given 15 days (111 hours'), pro rata for part time employees, extra paid leave to help them meet their commitments to the reserve forces;
- offering support to our local cadet units, either in our local community or in local schools, where possible. Actively supporting [RFCA Wales](#)
- supporting Armed Forces Day, Reserves Day, the Poppy Appeal Day and Remembrance activities
- supporting Armed Forces charities with fundraising and supporting staff who volunteer to assist through our volunteering scheme;
- continue to offer a Guaranteed Interview to for service leavers, veterans, reservists and spouses

2.2 We will publicise these commitments through our literature and/or on our website, setting out how we will seek to honour them through a regularly monitored action plan and inviting feedback from the Service community and our customers on how we are performing.

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Agenda Item 26

Cabinet and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: 10.11.2023

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: 06.11.2023

Committee: **Council**

Date of Meeting: **23rd November, 2023**

Report Subject: **Gwent Regional Partnership Board (RPB) Area Plan and RPB Annual Report 2022/2023**

Portfolio Holder: **Councillor H. Trollope, Cabinet Member People and Social Services**

Report Submitted by: **Phil Diamond Head of the Regional Partnership Team**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Governance & Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet	Council	Other (please state)
	02/11/23						23/11/23	

1. Purpose of the Report

To update Council on the work of the Gwent Regional Partnership Board (RPB) in fulfilling local authority statutory duties required under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014

- Regional Area Plan 2023-2027
- RPB Annual report 2022/23

The Social Services and Wellbeing Act (2014) places a statutory duty on local authorities and health boards to prepare a Regional Area Plan, following the publication of the region's Population Needs Assessment (PNA) and Market Stability Report (MSR). The Gwent PNA was previously signed off by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council during Autumn 2022, and a commitment was made to share the Gwent Area Plan with members, to set out how regional priorities are to be delivered in partnership.

2. Scope and Background

The Area Plan highlights BGCBC's commitment to work in partnership to improve the health and wellbeing across the population of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen.

Given current challenges and financial pressures, it is paramount to work in partnership to deliver joint solutions to shared priorities and avoid duplication. The development of Area Plan and RPB Annual report is a statutory duty placed upon BGCBC under the Social Services and (Wales) Wellbeing Act 2014.

Following the publication of the regional Population Needs Assessment (PNA) report each local authority and health board are required to prepare and publish an Area Plan setting out the range and level of services they propose to provide in response to the PNA core themes, which are:

- Children & Young People
- Older People, including People with Dementia
- Health & Physical Disabilities including Sensory Loss & Impairment
- Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health
- Learning Disabilities
- Autism and Neurodevelopmental Conditions
- Unpaid Carers
- Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence

Core themes are not addressed in isolation and there is an element of cross cutting working, in addition to the above including:

- A resilient skilled and integrated health and social care workforce
- Housing needs
- Rebalancing health and social care including social value.
- Substance misuse
- Adult protection, child protection and safeguarding.
- Transforming children's services and removing profit from the care of looked after children.
- Tackling loneliness and isolation

The Gwent Area Plan 2023-2027 (**Appendix 1**) has been completed and signed off by the Gwent Regional Partnership Board. An Area Plan summary has also been included as (**Appendix 2**). The plan has been developed in partnership with Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport, and Torfaen local authorities, and Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Third Sector partners and the Regional Partnership Team. The Area Plan sets out the actions required to achieve the priorities identified in the PNA, by our partners and citizens, and closely aligns and share similar principles of working to the Public Service Board (PSB) and Well-being Plan. The Area Plan is reviewed annually and can be updated to ensure we are meeting the needs of our communities.

The progress against delivery of key objectives in the Area Plan, is monitored through the RPB Annual Report (**Appendix 3**) which considers specifically the priority groups set out in the PNA and cross cutting themes. Key developments have also been set out in (**Appendix 4**).

Area plans must include the specific services planned in response to each core theme identified in the population assessment. As part of this, area plans must include:

- The actions partners will take in relation to the priority areas of integration for Regional Partnership Board.
- Administer and monitor Welsh Government grant funding e.g., Integrated Care Fund.
- The instances and details of pooled funds to be established in response to the population assessment.

- How services will be procured or arranged to be delivered, including by alternative delivery models.
- Details of the preventative services that will be provided or arranged.
- Actions being taken in relation to the provision of information, advice, and assistance services.
- Actions required to deliver services through the medium of Welsh.

The regional Area Plan has been developed with ABUHB and Integrated Service Partnership Board (ISPB) leads to ensure alignment with the Blaenau Gwent ISPB Plan. The RPB will work closely with the 5 ISPBs across the region to ensure plans are delivered in collaboration, resources maximised, and duplication is avoided. ISPB plans have to demonstrate alignment to the RPB population needs assessment, and the regional strategic partnerships will define integrated models of care, and work with the ISPBs to make an assessment of how close they are to delivering those models, identify gaps and what can be addressed through the local Neighbourhood Care Networks. The RPB and Strategic Partnerships will identify specific actions within the Area Plan that are best delivered at the ISPB level and form part of a place-based care model. A copy of the Blaenau Gwent ISPB plan is published alongside the Area Plan <https://www.gwentrpb.wales/area-plan>

3. **Options for Recommendation**

- 3.1 *To include Recommendation(s) / Endorsement by other groups, e.g., CLT/Committees/Other groups)*

For Council to consider the joint regional commitments as outlined within the Area Plan and to review the RPB Annual Report, including progress made against the objectives; and provide any feedback or comments.

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

Blaenau Gwent Corporate Plan, ‘Empowering and supporting communities to be safe, independent and resilient’. An increase in the resilience of Communities, where everyone is welcome and safe, and which minimises dependency and maximises independence.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

- 5.1 *Impact on Budget (short- and long-term impact)*

There are no direct financial implications but BGCBC need to monitor the implication of match funding required as part of the Regional Integration Fund administered by RPB.

5.2 **Risk including Mitigating Actions**

The Regional Area Plan sets out areas for joint working. If BGCBC do not provide comments and/or agree to priorities, there will be a risk of little or no regional working.

The development of the Area Plan is a statutory duty on BGCBC and non-adoption risk not fulfilling this duty.

5.3 ***Legal***

Developing a Regional Area Plan is a statutory duty placed on BGCBC under the Social Services and (Wales) Wellbeing Act and by agreeing the plan, BGCBC are fulfilling their duties.

5.4 ***Human Resources***

The Regional Area Plan has been completed by the Regional Partnership Team, Local Authority officers, ABUHB officers and third sector, linking with local Social Services Managers. There are currently staffing pressures across both health and social care, however we are working in partnership so that new ways of working may be introduced, through the delivery of the regional Area Plan.

5.5 ***Health and Safety***

N/A

6. ***Supporting Evidence***

6.1 ***Performance Information and Data***

The Statutory Regional Area Plan contains a number of performance indicators linked to both national and local performance frameworks.

6.2 ***Expected outcome for the public.***

The Area Plan has a focus on citizen outcomes across health and social care and is aligned to Welsh Government policies.

6.3 ***Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)***

The Regional Area Plan has been co-produced with citizens and formal groups such as youth forums, older people's forums, citizen panels and carers groups across the region.

6.4 ***Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)***

The Regional Area Plan delivers the regional Population Needs Assessment which sets out regional priorities for health and social care over the next 3-5 years.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

The Regional Area Plan will set out preventative actions across the region and fulfil the local authority's duty to discharge preventative services.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working.***

The Regional Area Plan is a joint report with ABUHB but will also set out partnership working with the third sector.

6.7 ***Integration (across service areas)***

The Regional Area Plan sets out how Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and ABUHB will fulfil their statutory duties to integrate health and social care services.

6.8 ***Decarbonisation and Reducing Carbon Emissions***

The Area Plan is aligned to the RPB's Strategic Capital Plans. Project business cases must evidence how the investment will support a Net Zero Wales, by demonstrating areas such as low carbon energy use and energy efficiency measures, in both the built environment and service delivery.

6.9 ***Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) (All decisions, policy reviews or policy implementation will now require a completed Integrated Impact Assessment)***

The code of practice that underpins the development of the regional Population Needs Assessment (PNA) and Area Plan sets out clearly the need to evidence positive or adverse impact against people or groups from the nine protected characteristics. The code of practice also factors the Welsh Language into the Impact Assessment Process, to assist with meeting the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards 2015. The Area Plan is linked to the EQIA completed under the Well-being Assessment so that a common approach can be facilitated.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 *State how the work will be monitored e.g., through scrutiny or directorate performance management arrangements.*

The Area Plan will be monitored regularly by RPB and underpinning strategic partnerships. BGCBC Cabinet Member for People & Social Services and Social Services Director are members of the RPB. Progress will be set out in a RPB Annual Report and can be presented to BGCBC for further scrutiny.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- The Gwent Area Plan 2023-2027 Introduction (**Appendix 1**)
- Area Plan summary (**Appendix 2**)
- Progress against delivery of key objectives in the Area Plan (**Appendix 3**)
- Key developments have also been set out in (**Appendix 4**)

Appendices:

1: Regional Area Plan 2023-2027 – Appendix 1 - Introduction attached to report. Full documentation can be found at <https://www.gwentrbp.wales/area-plan>



2: Area Plan Summary – Appendix 2


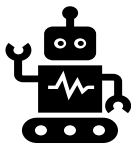



Welsh Government Core Theme	Outcome Priority
Children and Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve outcomes for children and young people with complex needs through earlier intervention, community-based support, and placements closer to home. • To ensure good mental health and emotional wellbeing for children and young people through effective partnership working especially mitigating long term impact of Covid-19 pandemic.
Older People including Dementia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve emotional wellbeing for older people by reducing loneliness and social isolation with earlier intervention and community resilience. • To improve outcomes for people living with dementia and their carers. 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. • To mitigate the long-term impact of Covid-19 pandemic through, especially reducing waiting lists and times to access support, appointments, and medical procedures
Health and Physical Disabilities including people with sensory impairment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Ensure people are supported through access to accurate information, assistance and 'rehabilitation' where required. • Improve transition across all age groups and support services. • Ensure people are supported through access to accurate accessible information, assistance and 'rehabilitation' where required.
People with a Learning Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase understanding and awareness of mental health amongst the public, to reduce stigma and help people to seek support earlier. • We need to improve emotional well-being and mental health for adults and children through timely early intervention and community support.



Carers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support unpaid carers to care through flexible respite, access to accurate information, peer to peer support, effective care planning and through increased public understanding. • Improve well-being of young carers and young adult carers and mitigate against long-term impacts
Autism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide more timely diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder and access to support services and information.
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A multi-agency partnership approach to ensure appropriate housing and accommodation for older people and vulnerable citizens. • To ensure effective use of Disabled Facilities Grants and appropriate partnership support and available resources. • 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.

3: RPB Annual Report 2022/23 – Appendix 3 – Report attached link: [RPB Annual reports - Gwentrbp](#)

4: Key Developments over the last Year – Appendix 4

	<p>Carers Annual Report: Carers team supports implementation of various programmes across the region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 415 successful applicants provided with £415,000 to support • Young Carers in School: 599 members of staff have taken part in 17 face-to-face ‘Young Carers: Identifying Us’ training sessions and 19 virtual sessions • Over 100 Young Carers supported through schools. • Training and awareness: a broad range of Gwent services have been represented at training sessions where 8 Community Awareness sessions were held attended by 120 people, 39 workshops were held attended by 332 people and 52 people completed the on-line training
	<p>Dewis figures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The total number of published resources in Gwent over the past year has increased by 400 resources. • Detailed views of resources have increased by 9,568. This is the number of times someone has searched for something on Dewis and then clicked to find more information. In March 2022 there was 31,227 clicks and in March 2023 there was 40,795.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered users have increased by 365. • Expired resources have reduced from 158 to 65 showing that currency of the directory is improving.
	<p>Dementia Conference There were over 130 partners who attended the Gwent Dementia Friendly Communities conference at The Christchurch Centre, in September 2022 and 35 partners who attended the Gwent Dementia Friendly Webinar and 87% respondents wanted to become more involved in the dementia agenda across Gwent.</p> <p>Dementia Friends Dementia Friends sessions and supporting online connections with communities. 1,468 Dementia Friends have been made across 98 sessions during 2022 – 2023.</p>
	<p>Assistive Technology (AT) Over 650 AT devices have been distributed to all sectors across Gwent including the Happiness Programme, HUG and RITA to support well-being and positive stimulation.</p>
	<p>Workforce & College Consortium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Care Work Placements - regional work placement process was launched in September 2022 to support students to apply for LA work placements and for LA social care teams to adequately prepare to accept these placements. 13 work placement applications have been received and facilitated by LA social care teams. • Coleg Gwent campuses, the 'Placement to Progression' events. Held in Oct/Nov across 4 Coleg Gwent campuses, events have supported students with securing work placements while providing local providers the opportunity to promote part-time vacancies to the current student cohort. 52 work placement applications have been received by providers and 24 commissioned providers attended the events, all were from the adult care sector or 3rd sector. • ABUHB Work Placements. 25 students have been cleared and are ready to start placements with ABUHB. As of the 14th of November, these students will be placed on wards
	<p>Micro carers MCC pilot: There are currently 7 micro carers on the directory, providing around 70 hours of carer each week as of Dec 22. There are 3 more micro carers going through training. Updated figures will be available following the project evaluation. Costings of Recruitment agencies costing a total of £1575 for 70 hours, whereas Micro carers costings a total of £1155 for 70 hours. Micro carers provide a saving of £420 per week.</p>
	<p>Launch of Autism Code of Practice and Autism Conference. 240 people attended, day long awareness and training event 100% delegates felt better informed of autism after the event.</p>

	<p>Communications and Engagement Regional Partnership page views have increased from 7,470 (2021-2022) to 22,502 (2022-2023) – See Annex: 4.</p>
	<p>AskSARA As of February, all metrics (users, new users, sessions, reports, bounce rate) have increased. The user/report percentage and bounce rate remain at very positive levels, indicating users are interacting well with the site. Good variety of referral sources. 90% of users would recommend AskSARA, 71% were helped to find a solution or equipment.</p>

Use of grant funding

In 2022-23 the Regional Partnership Board utilised Welsh Government grant funding and the following has been achieved across the region:

- 19,310 unpaid carers have accessed services, with 2083 feeling less isolated and 2479 achieving personal outcomes.
- 2,597 children at risk of entering care have been supported, to date 600 have achieved personal outcomes.
- We have provided intensive support to 267 care leavers to develop coping strategies and achieve personal outcomes.
- 611 neurodivergent children and their families have been supported, with 515 reporting good experiences.
- Additional capacity within Memory Assessment Services has enabled a total of 3644 people with cognitive impairment, living with dementia and young onset dementia to be supported and assessed.
- 12,462 contacts have been provided to support people to live well with Dementia, and an additional in-year referral acceptance of 2,577 people.
- The connected communities programme has assisted 25,276 adults via a range of prevention and wellbeing services to remain well within the community. Of which, 4968 report maintaining or improving their emotional health and wellbeing and 4396 are more aware of the support available to them.
- 12,498 individuals have received intermediate care in the community via the Place Based Graduated Care programme. 45% of stroke survivors have been supported to rehabilitate within the community, and 53% of individuals receiving intermediate care were prevented from hospital admission/crisis.
- Improving System Flow programme capacity supported 8824 individuals to leave hospital, with 1689 of these individuals receiving aids and adaptations to return home as independent as possible, and 2007 individuals achieved personal outcomes.
- 2505 people with learning disabilities achieved personal outcomes via the LD independence and wellbeing programme, with 1195 new individuals identified during 2022-23.
- 25,000 individuals have accessed information and advice via the Enhanced Foundation Tier programme, along with 169 training sessions provided across the partnership to support awareness and recognition of emotional wellbeing in self and others.

- The CVC led Third Sector Grants fund has supported 3107 individuals within the community, with 2511 reporting maintaining or improving their emotional health and wellbeing.



Regional Area Plan 2023 – 2028

“Working together for a Healthier Gwent for the right care and support, in the right place, at the right time”

Foreword



The Regional Partnership Board have developed this Area Plan during the backdrop of extreme challenges and unprecedented demands. Public and Third Sector Services are still recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic and its huge impact on the health and social care workforce which has been exacerbated by the recent cost of living increases and cuts to budgets. We are moving on from one of the toughest winter periods with 27th Dec 2022 the busiest day the NHS has experienced in its 70-year history; and this also indicates the challenges across social care and community.

The challenges highlight the need for partners to come together to collaborate more than ever, to create synergy across services and reduce duplication. The RPB will be central to creating the partnership environment to tackle these challenges and the Area Plan will set out how we intend to work together, pool resources and transform services. It is important to adopt all the principles of working, but integration of services and increasing community capacity, given the afore mentioned challenges will be a key priority and requires significant focus in supporting the Minister for Health and Social Services '*Further, Faster*' agenda.

We are passionate about improving and creating the best health and wellbeing outcomes for the people of Gwent and put people at the heart of everything we do. We work closely with our communities to co-produce care and support services and making people and their families feel supported and listened to. We know that finding the right services and support is important and we want people in Gwent to be able to access the right services, at the right time and to feel empowered and supported.

Through the Area Plan we will also align actions to other strategic drivers such as Public Service Board's Wellbeing Plan, ABUHB's IMTP and supporting ISPB plans. We will avoid duplication and maximise resources to also deliver national policies.

The RPB is a partnership of consensus and does not have executive powers, so it is crucial that priorities, actions, and delivery of services are agreed by all partners, resources combined, and organisational boundaries reduced to share risk and ensure effective partnership governance.

As RPB Chair I will ensure all partners focus on delivery of the Area Plan and the underpinning action plans to accelerate transformation of services that work, and regularly monitor progress of the plans to ensure we identify good practice and create synergy across partnerships.

Ann Lloyd, CBE – Gwent Regional Partnership Board Chair



It is excellent to see our consultations and conversations with members and attendees at our meetings reflected in the new Area Plan again for the Gwent region. We have had a very busy year, mainly online since the pandemic, but we have been engaging and listening to representatives on many of the key issues that our populations face. It has been an extremely difficult few years for many of our population and for those staff from our organisations who have been through exhausting experiences trying to keep us all well and safe. We would like to thank them all for their dedication and commitment which will never be forgotten.

We are always trying hard to be inclusive of all voices and welcome any new citizens who wish to join us and contribute their experiences and thoughts. The opportunity to ask questions of senior members of our public services who are on the pathway to integrating services is unique to Wales and in our area of Gwent, and we see the results of much closer working between those local authorities and the health board to provide us with clearer and more integrated services each year. We look forward to working with the members of the RPB and monitoring the activities and service provision that affects us all.

On behalf of the Gwent Citizen Panel thank you to all the contributors in this Plan and we look forward to seeing the strategies and objectives in the plan transform into good outcomes for us all.

Lorraine Morgan – Citizens Panel Chair

Both TVA and GAVO are members of the Regional Partnership Board. Our joint roles are to reflect the views of our member organisations and the wider Third Sector we represent.

We have been included and involved in the development of the Regional Area Plan. A huge amount of time and commitment has been invested in the Regional Area Plan and getting to the point of consultation. It is vital to success to receive responses to the consultation and to be able to collate and recognise a broad range of views.

**Stephen Tiley – Chief Executive Officer, Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO) &
Anne Evans – Strategic Executive Officer, Torfaen Voluntary Alliance (TVA)**

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INTRODUCTION

The Gwent Regional Partnership Board (RPB)

Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 sets out the requirement for local authorities and local health boards to establish Regional Partnership Boards (RPB), to manage and develop services to secure strategic planning and partnership working. RPBs need to work with wider partners such as the third sector and providers to ensure care and support services are in place to best meet the needs of their respective populations.

The Gwent RPB includes Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen local authorities and the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB). Under section 14A of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act, RPBs are required to produce and implement plans (Area Plan) for each local authority area covered by the Board.

Principles of Working

The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 shares similar principles with several national strategies and legislation, including the Well-being of Future Generations Act. The main difference between the acts being the time frame with which they are produced: the Area Plan under the Act reflects the Population Needs Assessment (PNA) and covers a 3–5-year period based on the electoral cycle and the Well-being Assessment under the Well-being of Future Generations Act covers a longer period.

Social Services and Wellbeing Act Principles	Sustainable Principles: Well-being of Future Generations
Services will promote the prevention of escalating need and the right help is available at the right time	Prevention: How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse
Partnership and co-operation drives service delivery	Collaboration: How acting in collaboration with any other person or any other part of an organisation could help meet wellbeing objectives
	Integration: Consider how the proposals will impact on wellbeing objectives, wellbeing goals, other objectives, or those of other public bodies
People are at the heart of the new system by giving them an equal say in the support they receive.	Involvement: The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the wellbeing goals and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of local communities.

The Act supports people who have care and support needs to achieve well-being

The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs

The principle of wellbeing is at the heart of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act and refers to the emotional, physical, and social wellbeing of a person who needs care and support. We are working in partnership to identify and apply significant changes in the way we plan, commission, and deliver care to ensure we are building on innovative models of work already taking place and strengthening asset-based approaches to strengthen our work around:

- **Citizen engagement** – to ensure we are hearing the voice of citizens, as they are experts in their own care and support needs.
- **Carers who need support** – to work together as equal partners.
- **Prevention and early intervention.**
- The **promotion of well-being** to delay and prevent escalating need for care and support provision.
- **Co-production of services and activities** – supporting experts by experience to share power and working together as equal partners.
- Strengthen and build on our **multi agency and partnership working** to ensure the principles of voice and control are achieved through the design and operation of services.

Marmot Principles

A recent Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) review: [Building a Fairer Gwent](#), has revealed that the lives of people in some areas of Gwent are being cut short, due to lifestyle inequalities. The RPB are working in collaboration to support the Gwent Public Services Board (PSB) to help reduce inequalities and make Gwent the first Marmot Region in Wales.

Marmot Principles

1. Give every child the best start in life
2. Enable all children, young people, and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives
3. Create fair employment and good work for all
4. Ensure healthy standard of living for all
5. Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities
6. Strengthen the role and impact of ill-health prevention.
7. Tackle discrimination, racism, and their outcomes.
8. Pursue environmental sustainability and health equity together.

A recent Marmot launch event identified the inequity of service provision and the 18-year gap in healthy life expectancy between the wealthiest and poorest areas of



Gwent. In the least well-off neighbourhoods in the region, women are living just 48 years of their life in good health. We are committed to supporting our partners and communities to work together to improve equity across Gwent and to improve the lives of local communities as a result. The RPB will clearly set out where the work of strategic partnerships is contributing to the development of a Marmot region as well as where work also contributes to the new National Outcomes Framework for Health and Social Care (see Appendix 7).

Regional Challenges to Partnership Working

The RPB have developed this Area Plan during the backdrop of extreme challenges and unprecedented demands. Public Services are still recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic and its huge impact on the health and social care workforce which has been exacerbated by the recent cost of living increases and cuts to budgets. The challenges highlight the need for partners to come together to collaborate more than ever, to create synergy across services and reduce duplication. The RPB will be central to creating the partnership environment to tackle these challenges and the Area Plan will set out how we intend to work together, pool resources and transform services. It is important to adopt all the principles of working, but integration of services and increasing community capacity, given the afore mentioned challenges will be a key priority and requires significant transformation, supporting the Minister for Health and Social Services *'Further, Faster'* agenda.

Our Vision

'Working together for a Healthier Gwent for the right care and support, in the right place, at the right time'

We are passionate about improving and creating the best health and wellbeing outcomes for the people of Gwent and put people at the heart of everything we do. We work closely with our communities to co-produce care and support services and making people and their families feel supported and listened to. We know that finding the right services and support is important and we want people in Gwent to be able to access the right services, at the right time and to feel empowered and supported as they do.

Area Plan Guidance Requirements

Section 14A of the Social Services and (Wales) Wellbeing Act sets out the Area Plan requirements:

- The actions partners will take in relation to the priority areas for integration for RPBs.
- The instances and details of pooled funds to be established in response to the population needs assessment.
- How services will be procured or delivered, including by alternative delivery models.
- Details of the preventative services to be provided or arranged.
- Actions being taken in relation to the provision of information, advice, and assistance services.
- Actions required to deliver services through the medium of Welsh.

This Area Plan sets out the response of the Regional Partnership Board (RPB) to the findings of the regional Population Needs Assessment (PNA) report and has been prepared to meet the requirements of the statutory guidance in relation to Area Plans under section 14A of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. The Act requires a description of the range and level of integrated services proposed to be provided or arranged to deliver the priorities identified under each of the core themes and must include:

- Older people with complex needs and long-term conditions, including dementia.
- People with learning disabilities.
- Children with complex needs; carers, including young carers.
- And Integrated Family Support Services.

The RPB will undertake a full impact analysis and ensure the Area Plan meets requirements as set out in the Welsh Language strategic framework 'More than Just Words' and that a full Equality Impact Assessment is published alongside this plan.

Area Plan Expectations

The Area Plan will not be able to tackle all health and social care issues affecting people across the region and will focus on several joint priorities that require partnership working.

The Area Plan will:

- **Set out the high-level outcomes and priorities for regional working across health, social care, providers and the third sector.**
- **Focus on priorities that have been highlighted by citizens.**
- **Set out the success measures that will ensure collective accountability and effectiveness of partnership working.**



- **Set a common agenda for regional planning, design, and delivery of integrated services for those with a care and support need.**
- **Focus on areas of work across each of the priority themes areas that require partnership working.**
- **Sets out how the principles of working under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, will continue to be delivered, especially in relation to integration, preventative working, and transformational change.**
- **‘Signpost’ to other statutory and formalised actions plans where necessary.**

How the RPB and Area Plan Aligns to Other Strategic Partnerships, Plans and National Policies

The RPB recognises that there are other established partnerships working across the Gwent region and it is paramount that we do not duplicate efforts but maximise resources to create synergy across partners. There are identified priorities that the RPB are required to lead planning, and there are other priorities where established partnerships are better placed, and some priorities where there is a shared agenda. The Area Plan will highlight key actions but also signpost to established partnerships better placed to deliver. The established partnerships and the RPB will align the following work programmes:

1. Regional Public Service Board and implementation of the Well-being Plan
2. Regional Safeguarding Board
3. Area Planning Board
4. Violence Against Women and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Group
5. Gwent Regional Housing Support Collaborative Group (RHSCG)

The Area Plan will align and complement other strategic plans to avoid duplication and ensure national cross cutting priorities can be delivered.

Strategic Planning Framework	How the RPB and Area Plan will align:
National Programme for Government: Eliminating Profit from Children Services and Reducing Loneliness and Isolation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Plan will set out how partners are working together to eliminate profit from Children Services through Children and Young People Area Plan section. • Area Plan will set out how partners are working together to reduce loneliness and isolation across a range of Area Plan sections and contributing to National Outcome Framework.

Public Service Board Regional Well-being Plan (Well-being of Future Generations Act)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population Needs Assessment and Wellbeing Assessment developed in partnership. • Area Plan will align to Well-being Plan, cross reference priorities and where RPB and PSB lead and where there is joint ownership.
Marmot Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Plan will set out where actions are contributing to Marmot principles .
National Outcome Framework for Health and Social Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area plan sections will highlight contributions to national outcomes and indicators.
Integrated Medium Term Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Plan will align and set out delivery of IMTP priorities where they relate to partnership working.
NHS Wales Six National Urgent Care Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Plan will align and set out delivery of Urgent Care Goals and where they relate to partnership working.
Local Authority Corporate Improvement Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Plan will align to the local authority priorities where they relate to improving wellbeing and social care.
National Models of Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each core theme Area Plan section will set out delivery of related Models of Care. • RPB Strategic Partnerships will over deliver of Models of Care.
Value Based Health Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic partnerships will align and adopt the principles of VBHC (prevention, early accurate diagnosis, optimising intervention, supportive treatment and end of life care). • Area plan sections to set out where VBHC goals are being delivered (person-centred care, digital health, communication/engagement/education and delivering value).

Engagement and Co-Production (How We Have Developed This Plan)

“ A way of working whereby citizens and decision makers, or people who use services, family carers and service providers work together to create a decision or service which works for them all.

The approach is value-driven and built on the principle that those who use a service are best placed to help design it.

”

[Co-production: what it is and how to do it | SCIE](#)

The Social Services and (Wales) Wellbeing Act 2014 Act requires local authorities to promote the involvement of persons for whom care, and support or preventative services are to be provided in the design and operation of that provision. Welsh Government have also produced additional guidance to help local authorities



understand the experiences and outcomes of those who use social services with links to Care Inspectorate Wales and Health Inspectorate Wales key.

The SSWB Act sets out the need for engagement and the Area Plan builds on the extensive engagement with citizens (service users and unpaid carers) in the development of the Population Needs Assessment published in April 2022. The RPB has continued to engage with citizens in the development of the Area Plan and working alongside Public Service Board (PSB) colleagues through a joint engagement group to ensure citizen voices are central to the development of the underpinning actions plans.

“Lots of residents highlighted the importance of care and support for those who need it across Gwent and the importance of being able to provide the right care for older people in the region” – Gwent Public Services Board

How the RPB Will Respond

The RPB will respond to citizen comments and deliver in partnership effective Information Advice and Assistance (IAA) and effective ‘signposting’ care and support for older people across the region, including increasing wellbeing through access to the right support at the right time, in respect to Mental Health support and services across the region.

“Mental health and the importance of the right type of services for adults and children was highlighted throughout the feedback we received. Residents also commented on the importance of exercise and the ability to maintain a healthy lifestyle, access to sports centres and green spaces were felt to be key to this” – Gwent Public Services Board

The RPB has undertaken a wide range of engagement across the region using a variety of mechanisms such as online surveys, regional conferences, and small group work, as well as linking to established forums below. The Area Plan consultation was available to the public through an online survey and in addition, over 700 people have been directly contacted using citizen groups and over 200 responses received. The emerging RPB priorities were also included in the Gwent PSB’s recent wellbeing plan consultation, which reached 1,200 citizens, with over 750 citizens directly engaging and informing themselves of the draft plans online and 275 providing comment and feedback.

Engagement forums included:

- RPB Website – Survey Monkey
- Newport One consultation questionnaire.
- Gwent Citizen Network
- Dementia Friendly Communities
- Gwent Autism Steering Group



- Shared with IWBN networks across Gwent
- Gwent Suicide and Self harm Prevention Steering Group shared with attendees

“It does seem to have a better focus and linkage than the first such Area Plan, and acknowledges the importance of organisations working together with those needing and receiving care and support” – Citizen Feedback

Codes of practice that underpin the Act set out the need to engage with:

- People in the area, including children who have or may have needs for care and support.
- People in the area with parental responsibility for children who have or may have needs for care and support; and
- Carers who have or may have needs for support.

The regional Children and Families Strategic Partnership have coordinated engagement with children and young people across the region with a specific focus on children, young people, and parents and linked to existing forums such as the Gwent Youth Forum and Youth Parliament.

The Gwent **RPB Citizen Panel** has continued to lead and ensure engagement in the development of the Area Plan. The panel will choose three key Area Plan priorities to focus on in the coming year, regularly reviewing the progress of the actions plans and providing feedback. The **Citizen Panel Chair** updates RPB members through a standing item at RPB meetings. The RPB has also advocated and supported citizen engagement at strategic partnership level such as unpaid carers, people with lived experience of dementia and members of respective partnerships. The Chair has also sat on the national group developing the new **Citizen Charter** and the RPB are fully committed to adopting once completed.

The RPB have an established a **Provider Forum** which includes a wide range of partners from the third sector and private providers. The Provider Forum Chair is also a member of the RPB and provides updates at every meeting through a standing item on the agenda. The Provider Forum is not mutually exclusive to third sector and private providers and includes membership from across health and social care to lead, develop and promote **Social Enterprises, Co-operatives, and User Led Services** in partnership. The Provider Forum takes a lead on Social Value discussions especially with respect to rebalancing the social care market.

The Market Stability Report was developed with providers of care from across health, social care, third sector and independent providers, especially those partners with an interest in preventative services. Engagement with providers of care was important during the Covid-19 pandemic, with a need to understand pressures and challenges. Weekly webinars with care homes and domiciliary care providers were established and continue but less frequently.

The **Third Sector Leads** from the two umbrella organisations (Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations and Torfaen Voluntary Alliance) also sit on the RPB and provide feedback through standing items on the RPB agenda to ensure key messages following engagement with third sector partners is highlighted at each meeting.

Area Plan Outcomes

This is our second Area Plan for Gwent (following our initial plan in 2017) where we can continue with work already underway and plan to address and support the ever-changing needs in our communities. The plan reflects the national direction of travel established within ‘*A Healthier Wales: Our plan for Health and Social Care*’ and translates the requirements of the Social Services and the Well-being (Wales) Act, Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act and the national plan for health and social care into measurable and substantive action.

The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 provides a legal framework, to support and improve our statutory partnerships and integrated landscape, in terms of planning, designing, funding, and commissioning services for those people with a care and support need in Gwent. It enables a stronger emphasis to be placed on the development of early intervention and prevention services, co-production with those in need of care and support, and improved wellbeing as the driver of all activity. It also underpins the principles of working established in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, to ensure that in the planning and delivery of services, we are actively considering how the wellbeing of future generations can be improved.

The full list of Area Plan outcomes and measures are set out below under the core themes identified in the PNA (as detailed above) and agreed by the RPB. An action plan has been developed for each of the core themes and includes actions in relation to PNA priority outcomes as well as actions in relation to:

- **The range and level of services** – an assessment of the range and level of services required to meet those needs, and the actions required to provide those services.
- **Market stability** – an assessment of the stability of the market for regulated services providing care and support including commissioning priorities.
- **Workforce development.**

The outcomes are the start point for the RPB performance management framework and are included to provide a clear range of success measures that will be monitored by the RPB and its strategic partnerships. A more robust list of performance measures and qualitative data will be developed within the first year of the Area Plan. The Area Plan outcomes are also the citizen outcomes we want to achieve with high level success measures in place to monitor progress.

Welsh Government Core Theme	Outcome Priority	<u>DRAFT</u> Success Measures
Children and Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve outcomes for children and young people with complex needs through earlier intervention, community-based support, and placements closer to home. 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the support available to children and families with complex needs to reduce the number of out of county placements and increase number of young people provided skills for living. Increase number of partners adopting and delivering NEST principles. Increase awareness, number of referrals and support through SPACE Wellbeing panels.
Older People including Dementia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve emotional well-being for older people by reducing loneliness and social isolation with earlier intervention and community resilience. To improve outcomes for people living with dementia and their carers. 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. To mitigate the long-term impact of Covid-19 pandemic through, especially reducing waiting lists and times to access support, appointments, and medical procedures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase early intervention support and inclusion opportunities to reduce loneliness and isolation. Increase early intervention and prevention IAA, to support cognitive wellbeing and inform of risk factors of dementia. Increase of the proportion of people with dementia, receiving a formal diagnosis. Increase number of Dementia Friends, Dementia Ambassadors and Dementia Friendly Organisations through integrated working with the regional DFC partnerships and Dementia Board. Increase support for people living with dementia at point of diagnosis. Reduce Delayed Transfers of Care through integrated working. Increase wellbeing through access to the right support at the right time.

<p>Health and physical disabilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Ensure people are supported through access to accurate information, assistance and 'rehabilitation' where required. • Improve transition across all age groups and support services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease duplication of services for children with complex health needs and disabilities through integrated services for children with additional needs (ISCAN).
<p>People with a Learning Disability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase early intervention and practical support to help people live independently. • Increase awareness and understanding of the individual needs of people with a learning disability. • Increase the number of social opportunities for people with a learning disability. • 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. • Increase learning, training, volunteering, and paid work opportunities for people with a learning disability. • Increase number of social opportunities through 'My Mates'. • Those with learning disabilities would like more opportunities

		for learning, training, and employment to live independently.
Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase understanding and awareness of mental health amongst the public, to reduce stigma and help people to seek support earlier. • We need to improve emotional well-being and mental health for adults and children through timely early intervention and community support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the numbers of service users accessing IAA services, including Melo and Dewis Cymru and being signposted onto the most effective interventions. • Increase IAA in accessible formats to provide people with informed choices to support their wellbeing. • Increase emotional well-being support in schools and the communities through identified best practice models. • Increase support to the workforce to ensure they have the skills and training to effectively support their role. • Ensure that the workforce is supported, to be able to provide people with the support they need, at the right time. • Increase workforce emotional wellbeing support. • Maintain the 12% of people in employment through Growing Space and the Gwent Mental Health Consortium.
Sensory Impairment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure people are supported through access to accurate accessible information, assistance and 'rehabilitation' where required. • Many people felt lonely and isolated during the pandemic and highlighted a need for increased opportunities for more accessible social interaction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase accessible IAA to allow people to make informed choices around their care and support needs. • Increase opportunities to improve social interaction, mental health, and well-being.
Carers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support unpaid carers to care through flexible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness and need for flexible respite opportunities.

	<p>respite, access to accurate information, peer to peer support, effective care planning and through increased public understanding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve well-being of young carers and young adult carers and mitigate against long-term impacts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase peer to peer support opportunities. • Increase accessible access to IAA. • Increase awareness of public understanding of carers and the support available. • Increase the number of schools involved in the Young Carers awards scheme. • Link young carers awareness to the Dementia Ambassador sessions within schools. • Increase number of GP surgeries that are 'Carers aware'. • Increase opportunities for peer-to-peer support provision and respite. • Increase number of befriending opportunities through working in partnership with key stakeholders.
Autism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide more timely diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder and access to support services and information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce waiting times for diagnostic assessments. • Increase access to accessible IAA for pre and post diagnosis. • Deliver further autism and neurodiversity awareness training to health, social care and wider RPB partners as well as the wider public. • Increase awareness, understanding and acceptance of autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders through bespoke training offers. • Increase opportunities for people to find learning, training, and paid employment to support independent living. • Individuals with autism and their families have increased direct access to specialist support through a self-referral model.

Governance, Assurance and Monitoring the Area Plan

The aspirations encapsulated within this plan are ambitious, and for a step change in the pace of collaboration, of partnership working and service transformation. It is therefore crucial that there is effective governance and assurance mechanisms in place through the Regional Partnership structure.

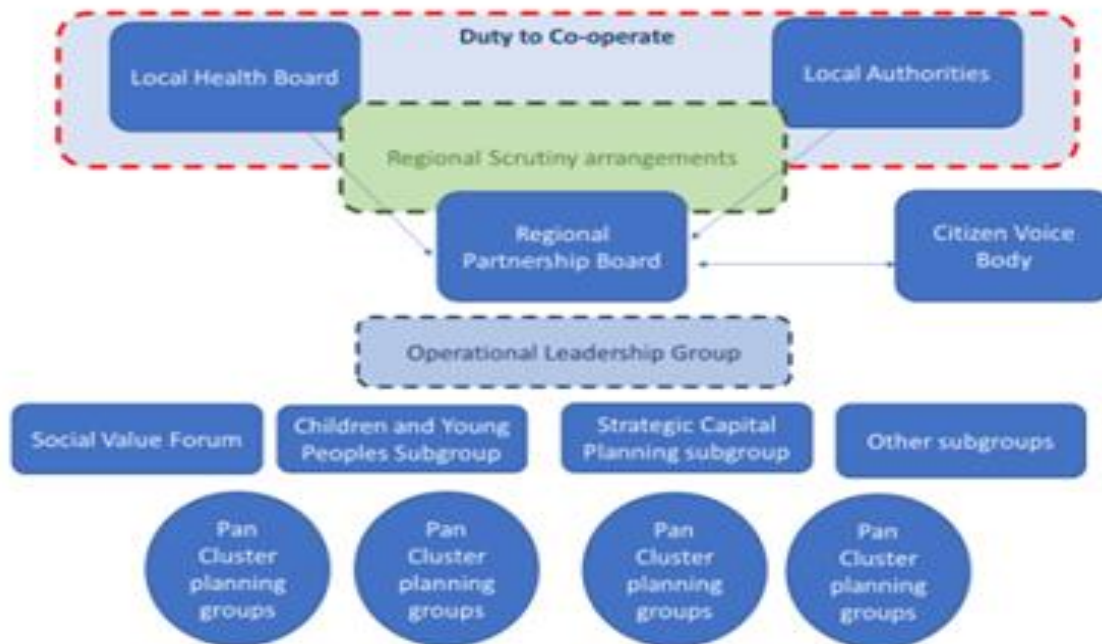


Fig 1: Welsh Government guide for the development of effective RPB structures

A regional Governance framework has been set out in the RPB terms of reference and strategic partnerships to support the work of the Board, and to provide assurance on the delivery of the activity committed to within the report. This framework will ensure all individual partner agencies are able to partake effectively in decision making, alongside their oversight and scrutiny roles.

The RPB supported the Welsh Government development of a self-assessment toolkit and completed an exercise during 2022. The RPB will complete on a regular basis and develop a business plan to be reviewed as a standing item at RPB meetings to support and strengthen governance and performance monitoring.

The Regional Partnership Board is supported by a strategic 'Leadership Group' comprised of senior offices providing a strong emphasis on collective leadership and ensuring the aims of the RPB are translated into core business back in partner organisations.

Thematic strategic partnerships are established to direct and deliver the activity committed to in this plan for those specific population groups identified in the needs assessment. Each partnership is co-chaired by senior leaders from Health and Social Care, who are on the Leadership Group and have led on the development of the core



theme action plans. Each of the strategic partnerships have a common set of terms of reference agreed and supported by a common set of terms of reference for the integrated partnership boards.

The governance framework will be reviewed following the publication of the refreshed codes practice to provide a clear process and line of sight between the Gwent Public Services Board (previously there were 5 separate public service boards, one per LA) and the Regional Partnership Board, and to the Integrated Partnership Boards at a local authority level. The RPB and PSB will ensure they are aligned and coordinate work.

How We Will Monitor the Area Plan

It is crucial that the RPB monitor and evaluate the core theme action plan sections to ensure effective governance and scrutiny. Each core theme section will set out success measures to be reported to the RPB and a performance management framework and reporting structure will accompany the Area Plan and set out:

- **Position statement** – where we are and the curves we have turned.
- **Progress factors** – story behind the curves.
- **Successes** – good practice identified.
- **Challenges** – barriers to progress.
- **Next steps** – what the RPB are being asked to support or unblock.

The success measures identified in the core theme sections reflect performance measures in the National Outcomes Framework, Public Health Outcome Framework, and the NHS Outcomes Framework. The RPB will also reference and align to the performance measures in local Well-being Plans and Local Authority Improvement Plans; and consider data development through the implementation of the Area Plan as some success measures may not be currently measured.

- The RPB will produce an annual report on activity and outcomes and quarterly progress updates.
- The RPB will develop a programme of self-assessment and organisational development to ensure its effectiveness in leadership and oversight.
- The RPB will ensure reports are issued by the RPB to the appropriate health and local government assurance process especially where this relates to planning and finance and where a commitment is required from statutory partners.
- The strategic partnerships will be required to report quarterly to the Regional Partnership Board on activity, and effectiveness.

The performance management reporting process is set out in Appendix 3.



Research Innovation Coordination (RIC) Hub and Identifying Good Practice

In May 2021 the First Minister set out a clear position that innovation in health and care is central to ensuring that we do not lose momentum, and the culture of 'getting things done quickly' to deliver the best possible outcomes for the public and Wales. Research, Innovation, and Improvement Coordination (RIIC) Hubs were rebranded as Regional Innovation Coordination (RIC) Hubs.

For an innovative-led health and social care system to succeed, a facilitated engagement and collaboration between the NHS, Regional Partnership Boards, Local Authorities, Housing Associations, Third Sector, Academic and Industry are vital. The principle of the RIC hubs is an opportunity to take forward this activity at a regional level, fundamentally bringing people, resources, and organisations together quickly, in order to deliver benefit and high value across the health and care system.

The RPB has considered the opportunity for a RIC Hub to support the monitoring and review of the Area Plan through a Community of Practice to:

- Create a repository of current good practice, raising awareness of existing opportunities and increase adoption across the partnership.
- Coordinate support and resources to enable innovation through challenges, ideas, and solutions across the partnerships, with closer engagement with citizens.
- Facilitate events and workshops to share good practice, case studies and citizen stories, with a greater emphasis on awareness and adoption.
- Support awareness campaigns with a clear pipeline of focussed work, to highlight to identified good practice and opportunities to mainstream across the region.
- Identification of new ideas and the ability to support small concepts of change that have the potential to spread and scale into mainstream adoption.

Each strategic partnership will link with the RIC Hub to monitor delivery of the Area Plan and identify areas of good practice.

STRATEGIC BACKGROUND

Population Needs Assessment

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 introduced a duty on local authorities and local health boards to prepare and publish a Population Needs Assessment (PNA) in 2018, highlighting the needs of people requiring care and support, including carers who need support. The 8 core themes for the population assessment are:

- **Children & Young People**
- **Older People, including People with Dementia**
- **Health & Physical Disabilities**
- **Mental Health**
- **Learning Disability & Autism**
- **Sensory Loss & Impairment**
- **Carers**
- **Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence**

Core themes are not addressed in isolation and there is an element of cross cutting working. In addition to the above, the Regional Partnership Board identified other priority themes as cross cutting and include:

- **A resilient skilled and integrated health and social care workforce**
- **Substance misuse**
- **Adult protection, child protection and safeguarding**
- **Housing needs**
- **Autism**
- **Rebalancing health and social care including social value**
- **Transforming children's services and removing profit from the care of looked after children**
- **Tackling loneliness and isolation**

The PNA report was developed by the Regional Partnership Board and was published 1st April 2022. The full report is included here: [Gwent RPB Population Needs Assessment](#) and includes further detail in relation to the above points.

The actions described in this plan are based on what communities have told us from our Population Needs Assessment (PNA) which assessed the 'care and support needs' of our local population in Gwent. To do this we worked with our citizens groups, professional groups and linked in with Gwent Public Service Board colleagues to engage with our communities.

The Gwent Area Plan will set out the services planned by local authorities and the health board in response to the core themes identified in the PNA, and also builds on the service mapping undertaken as part of the PNA. Additional services are being developed as part of the transformation and development agenda under the Regional Integration Funding plan.

Market Stability Report & Commissioning Strategy

Section 144B Social Services and (Wales) Wellbeing Act 2014 places duties upon local authorities to prepare and publish a market stability report to help local authorities and local health boards to better understand the social care market within each locality, particularly with respect to regulated services such as care home accommodation, domiciliary care and fostering.

The Partnership Arrangements (Amendment) and Regulated Services (Market Stability Reports) (Wales) Regulations 2021, includes a requirement for local authorities and the local health board to carry out these functions in partnership across the area covered by an RPB. The latest MSR is on included on Gwent RPB website and can be found [here](#).

The MSR identifies key commissioning priorities and Area Plans need to include a review of current pooled fund arrangements and joint commissioning across the region, especially in relation to the Rebalancing Care and Support Programme (currently there is a pooled budget arrangement for care homes). The 2015 partnership regulations also require partnership bodies within each RPB to set out how their exercise of their family support functions, consideration of alternative delivery models, such as social enterprises and details of the types of services to be arranged or procured and be delivered by private sector providers, third sector providers or alternative delivery models will be enabled.

The White Paper 'Rebalancing Care and Support' sets out Ministerial ambitions to rebalance the social care sector away from cost to quality, from outputs to outcomes and from profit towards social value. The regional Provider (Social Value) Forum will continue to support the RPB to engage with providers of care and third sector partners to ensure engagement and co-production with partners.

The Gwent RPB has established a Regional Commissioning Group to oversee commissioning across the region and an action plan section sets out the key priorities and actions to progress.

Market Position Report Priorities:

1. Adult Services – the stability of the market in adult services as increasing cost pressures mount, allied to long running and entrenched recruitment and retention difficulties especially so in the adult domiciliary, residential care markets.
2. Mental health and learning disability services – mental health provision and learning disability services including day services.
3. Childrens – fostering and services for children looked after need to be commissioned close to home and to reduce reliance on high profit organisations often far away from people's homes in line with Welsh Government's Eliminating Profit from Childrens Services.



4. Continued promotion of social enterprises through the Gwent Provider (and Social Value) Forum.

Strategic Capital Plan

Each RPB is required to develop a 10-year Strategic Capital Plan (SCP) that brings together health, social care, housing, third sector, education, and regeneration partners to develop integrated service delivery facilities and integrated accommodation-based solutions. The Gwent SCP will align with this Area plan and supporting national agendas such as Welsh Government's Eliminating Profit from Childrens Services and the development of accommodation-based solutions across the region.

The Programme for Government includes a commitment to create 50 integrated health and social care hubs and centres across Wales. Development of these hubs will be funded through the Regional Integration Fund (revenue) and the Health and Social Care Integration and Rebalancing Fund (capital). There is a need to take a strategic approach to identifying existing hub arrangements, and opportunities for additional or further enhancement of existing hubs that will enable integrated service to be offered closer to the community.

The Health Housing and Social Care Strategic Partnership will oversee and support partnership arrangements to develop and deliver a SCP; and this will be set out in the Area Plan Housing Section.

The Equality Act and Focused Work with Minority Groups

We have engaged the views of those who are seldom heard and marginalised, including those of minority groups such as homeless people and travellers. We are continuing to strengthen our relationships with community groups, service leads and organisations such as Diverse Cymru, to help us shape and coproduce future health and social care provision that is diverse, inclusive and meets individual needs. We have used existing mechanisms to engage with vulnerable groups such as those set out below:

- Children Looked After (CLA) and young carers
- People in secure estates and their families
- Homeless people
- Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) community
- Black Minority Ethnic groups
- Military veterans
- Asylum seekers and refugees



We work closely with the Gwent Public Service Board (PSB) to prevent duplication of engagement and planning with our communities, and the recent PSB Wellbeing Assessment shows that there are some aspects of well-being that are real strengths for our communities such as strong connections and supportive neighbourhood connections.

The wellbeing plan also highlights inequalities across our communities, impacting on many aspects of wellbeing. People living in more disadvantaged communities can have considerably shorter life expectancy and are more likely to be living with life limiting health conditions. Also, although the employment rate across Gwent is around the Welsh average, many families are struggling to meet their basic needs, made worse by the rises in fuel and food prices. Even in areas which appear to be more affluent there are pockets of hidden poverty. Further detail on the assessments can be found [here](#).

The Covid-19 pandemic also highlighted new challenges for the people of Wales. Health and wellbeing of individuals and communities has been poorly affected but these impacts have not been felt equally. Those who are already living in poor health, poverty or in marginalised communities have been the hardest hit. It has highlighted the inequalities we know have existed in our society long before the pandemic and these have been further compounded as a result of both the direct and indirect harms from the pandemic. A full Public Health Wales report. ***Inequality in a Future Wales*** can be found [here](#).

The Area Plan themed sections will set out actions to support and focus partnership working to support minority groups. For example, the Children and Young People section will set out key actions to support children looked after, the Housing section will set out actions to address homelessness, the Carers section will set out actions to support young carers. The RPB, working with statutory partners and the regional PSB will undertake a full impact analysis and ensure the Area Plan meets requirements as set out in the Welsh Language strategic framework 'More than Just Words'.

Regional Principles Adopted to Deliver the Area Plan Sections

'By working in collaboration, with a focus on long term sustainability we will transform services, to provide more care closer to home, improving well-being, and citizen outcomes.'

Health and Social Care legislation and guidance is continually reviewed across Wales and sets out a need for a step change in the pace of integration, partnership working and collaboration - *Further, Faster*. Whilst many challenges will remain in overcoming organisational boundaries and cultures, a set of shared working principles in addition to the principles in the Act have been adopted by the Gwent Regional Partnership



Board, to provide consistency and quicken the pace by which we can work collaboratively to transform and re model services. We will adopt:

- An integrated approach to planning and service development
- A shared approach to workforce development and sustainability
- Development of shared financial arrangements
- Enabling those with a care and support need to be informed and able to self-manage their care
- A seamless service pathway of care which is truly citizen centred

Partnership Working - RPB Strategic Partnerships

RPBs will determine the most appropriate structures for ensuring effective strategic planning and the provision of integrated services and delivering key functions, including implementation of the Area Plan. As a guide, RPB structures should:

- Position the RPB as an effective collaborative vehicle through which Local Authorities and Local Health Boards exercise their duty to co-operate.
- Consider arrangements that will allow for more rapid operational decision making without undermining the strategic role of the RPB.
- Establish thematic subgroups to support plan and programme delivery.
- Make clear connections with Pan cluster Planning Groups.

As a minimum, RPBs must establish subgroup arrangements in relation to:

- **Children and young people** with a focus on early help and prevention in relation to
 - Children and young people who are disabled and/or experience illness.
 - Children and young people who are care experienced, including care leavers.
 - Children and young people who are in need of care and support.
 - Children and young people who are at risk of becoming looked after.
 - Children and young people with emotional and behavioural needs.
 - Young carers and young adult carers.
- **Strategic capital planning**
- **A Regional Social Value Forum**

Subgroup arrangements should also include groups to focus on housing and accommodation-led solutions to health and social care. The Gwent RPB have developed a strategic partnership sub structure to deliver related Area Plan sections. The individual core themes sections have been developed by the Gwent strategic partnerships and supported by the Regional Leadership Group. The following strategic groups have coordinated related core themed sections:

Strategic Partnership	Area Plan Core Theme Section
Children and Families Board	Children and Young People
Gwent Adult Strategic Partnership (GASP)	Older People, Health and Physical Disabilities and Sensory Impairment
Carers Board	Carers
Mental Health & Learning Disabilities Partnership	Mental Health, Learning Disabilities
Health Housing and Social Care	Housing and Strategic Capital Planning
Regional Autism Partnership	Autism
Dementia Board	Dementia and National Dementia Action Plan
Workforce Board	Workforce
Regional Commissioning Group	Joint commissioning, Market Stability, and Pooled Budgets

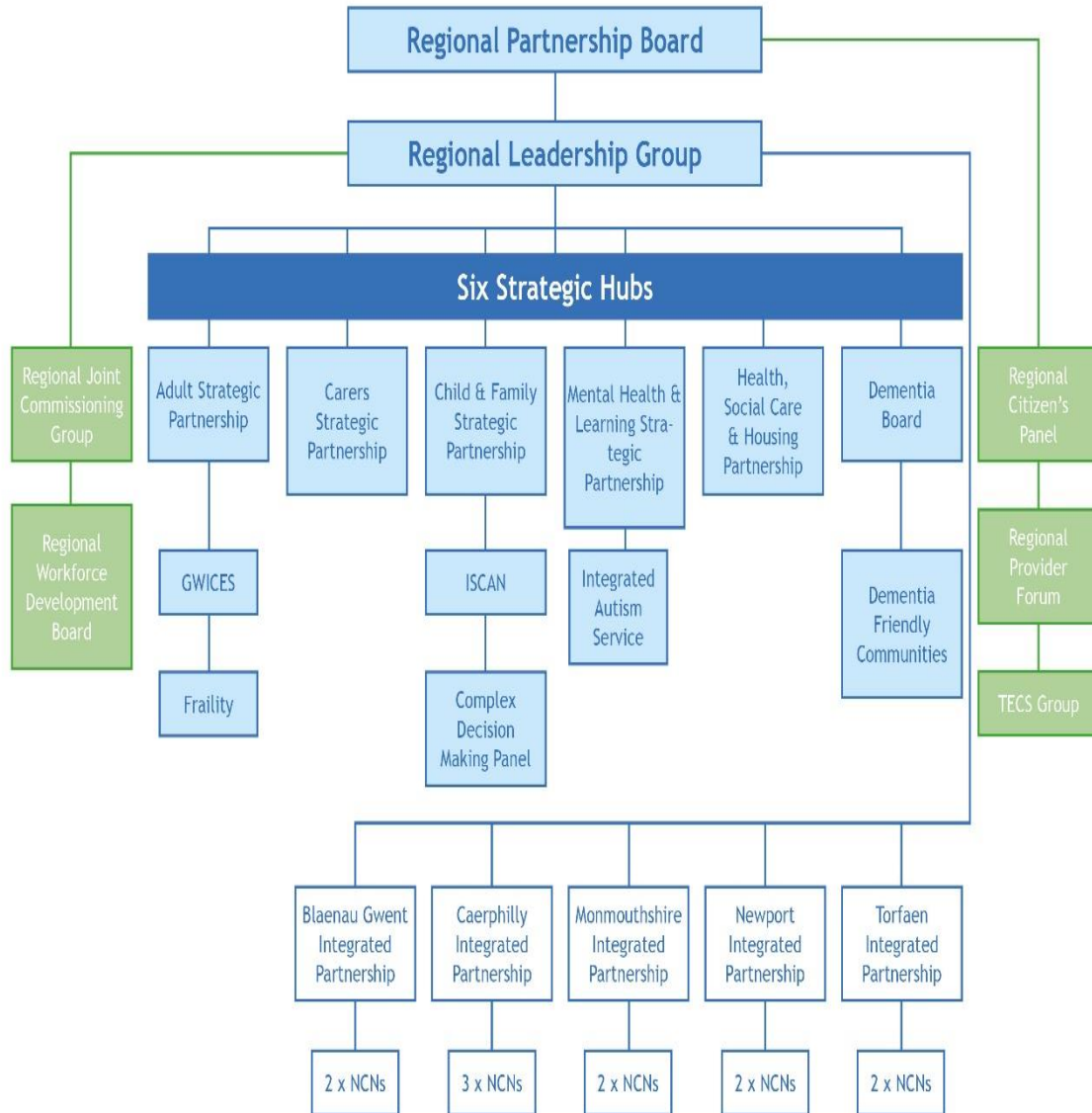


Fig 2: RPB structure

Other strategic partnerships such as the Substance Misuse Area Planning Board, Safeguarding Boards will also play a lead role in ensuring cross cutting themes such as substance misuse and safeguarding are aligned in this Area Plan. The Regional Partnership Board (RPB) will set the partnership framework for the above partnerships to link, align priorities and avoid duplication.

Prevention and Preventative Services

Section 15 of the Social Services and (Wales) Wellbeing Act 2014 requires local authorities and health boards to have regard to the need to provide or arrange preventative services. Also, the RPB must set out through this Area Plan, preventative services proposed to be provided or arranged in response to the population assessment, including those existing services which will be maintained. Each core theme section has been developed using principles of early intervention and prevention.

The RPB are considering how early intervention and preventative services can be as part of community capacity building, in line with Minister's 'Further, Faster' agenda; and will consider a prevention strategy to focus and redirect funding, especially in relation to winter planning.

INTEGRATED WORKING

Integration of Services – Part 9 Social Services and Well-being Act

Under Part 9 of the Social Services and (Wales) Wellbeing Act, Regional Partnership Boards are required to prioritise the integration of services in relation to:

- Older people with complex needs and long-term conditions, including dementia.
- People with learning disabilities.
- Carers, including young carers.
- Integrated Family Support Services.
- Children with complex needs due to disability or illness.

Additional guidance from Welsh Government have identified key enablers for integration.





For this Area Plan the Regional Partnership Board will adopt a principle of integration based on the following areas of working:

- Joint commissioning of services and pooled budgets.
- Joint workforce development and training.
- Consistent and portable assessment processes including outcome and distance travelled toolkits.
- Co-located teams.
- Sharing of resources.
- Similar understanding of information provision and consistent key messages to citizens.

The above definition of integration will be adopted when implementing the Area Plan and there is an expectation that the strategic partnerships charged with implementing the Area Plan will consider the above areas of work when delivering actions to achieve the identified outcomes.

Developing An Integrated System of Care and Well-being for Gwent

The Parliamentary Review into Health and Social Care in Wales states that the:

“Growing demand for care in the face of modest economic growth means that health and care services must change and adapt to best meet need and help people achieve the outcomes they desire. As we will show, the health and care system are not sustainable into the future in its current form; change which delivers major improvement to services is urgently required much faster than in the past”.

The shared ambition of partners across Gwent is to create a system of integrated services for those with a care and support need, where more care is provided closer to home in a seamless integrated pathway. We will do this by developing new health and wellbeing hubs, implementing, and growing our network of neighbourhood community networks (NCNs), developing regional integrated services for people with complex needs, and designing new more sustainable models of care for children, older adults and those with mental health or learning disabilities.

Our intention through the Gwent Area Plan is to re-model services to reduce unnecessary complexity and deliver a more consistent integrated, inter-professional way of working across health and social care. We have developed a new ‘transformational’ model focused on ‘place-based care’, with services operating on a local population basis, supported by more specialist expertise at a wider level. The delivery mechanism is the Neighbourhood Care Network Model (NCN), unique to Gwent, with local integrated partnership boards providing leadership, governance, and accountability at a local authority level.



The system is predicated on the shared agreement by both Health and Local Government to provide more care closer to home, to reduce a reliance on primary care services, and prevent unnecessary hospital admissions. The system will build on the existing innovation across Gwent, and use the NCN footprint, as the basis from which services will be planned and delivered, around a model of community well-being.

The establishment of strategic thematic partnerships provides an engine room for delivery, with dedicated programmes of work, and specific outcome measures in place across each. Delivery will be through the local 'Integrated Partnership Boards', and NCN model, ensuring a collaborative approach to planning and delivery from a regional level to localities.

The RPB and strategic partnerships will provide the regional expectation for delivery of services and the IPSBs and NCNs are well placed to ensure the services are delivered consistently regardless of demography. The plan articulates how we intend to do this, and deliver integrated services, which improve the well-being of the population of Gwent over the next three years; it establishes a set of outcomes, measures and milestones and appropriate governance arrangements, to provide assurance to the Regional Partnership Board.

Regional Integrated Funding and Models of Care

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 sets out statutory duties for regional partnership boards which bring together health, social services, the third sector and other partners to take forward the effective delivery of integrated services in Wales. Welsh Government have provided the Regional Integration Fund (RIF) to support Regional Partnership Boards to work together to support frail and older people, people with a learning disability, children with complex needs due to disability or illness and carers, including young carers. The fund helps support older people to maintain their independence and remain at home, avoiding unnecessary admissions to hospital or residential care and delays when someone is due to be discharged from care. It is also being used to support the Integrated Autism Service for Wales, and the roll out of the Welsh Community Care Information System across Wales.

Our Population Needs Assessment and Market Stability Report completed in 2022 will help to develop strategic planning and revenue investment proposals for the Health and Social Care Regional Integration Fund (RIF) 2022 - 2027. We will also ensure that we have a focus on the six new national models of integrated care, so that citizens can be assured of an effective and seamless service experience in relation to the models of care:

- 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.

Locality Integrated Service Partnership Boards and Neighbourhood Care Networks – ‘Vehicle for Delivery, Drivers for Change’

At a local authority level, integrated partnership boards have been established to act as the local drivers of change, translating the regional commitments into appropriate locality-based activity. For example, the Newport Integrated Board will provide oversight on the development of the proposed Ringland Health and Wellbeing Hub. Each of the ISPBs will oversee and support the Neighbourhood Care Network (NCN) delivering planned priorities.

Clearly, integrated working needs to be considered at a regional level in terms of strategic direction, oversight, and impact. However, implementation must be taken forward at a locality (local authority) level, being mindful of those services, structures and demands. These bodies do have some oversight of Neighbourhood Care Networks (NCN's) which are specific to ABUHB, having a management structure within that organisation, but needing to have strong partner connection at local level.

The 5 locality Integrated Service Planning Board plans have been aligned to the PNA priorities and this Area Plan. The planning relationship has been discussed by the regional Leadership Group and each of the Strategic Partnerships will consider how the ISPB enablers will deliver the regional priorities in collaboration and avoid duplication. During 2023/24 the RPB will work closely with ISPBs to identify a small number of key areas to progress joint working and how this will work long term e.g. workforce development features in all ISPB plans and an opportunity to work more closely with the regional Workforce Board on areas of collaboration and how NCNs can deliver regional priorities locally.

Accelerated Cluster Development

The Strategic Primary Care Programme in Wales promotes seamless working in Health Boards and with partners, including:

- Shifting the focus to a 'social model of care'.
- Ensuring timely access to primary care services across Wales.
- Working closely with partners to strengthen services and achieve seamless working across the whole system.
- Working on a 'once for Wales' basis, including championing and 'scaling up' of local initiatives across Wales identifying solutions and enabling functions at a national level.



Pan Cluster Planning Groups are seen as the mechanisms by which representatives of clusters come together at a county population level to collaborate with representatives of health boards and local authority decision makers, public health experts, planners, and representatives of citizens. It is important that Clusters and Pan Cluster Planning Groups are enabled to work closely and coherently with Regional Partnership Boards ensuring that they offer greater value as a whole than just the sum of their parts. Pan Cluster Planning Groups (PCPGs) should operate across a Local Authority area to deliver RPB priorities contained within the Area Plan and PCPG assessment of needs and plans must inform and be informed by regional level assessments of need (which are a statutory function of RPBs).

Given that ISPBs have been established across Gwent, the RPB recognised that the regional ISPB is well placed to pick up the functions of a PCPG for Gwent. The RPB will continue to work closely with partners during the first year of this Area Plan to ensure joint working and planning are realised.




CORE THEME ACTION PLANS

AUTISM AND NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DIAGNOSIS

Regional Priority / Outcome as identified in the Population Needs Assessment:

- To provide more timely diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder and access to support services and information.

HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS? Our Population level indicators.

		
Increase more timely diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder and access to support services and information and advice pre and post diagnosis.	Increase awareness, understanding and acceptance of neurodiversity across the region and recognise the varying individual support needs; via training to health, social care and wider RPB partners, as well as the wider public.	Increase opportunities and practical support for learning, training, volunteering, and paid employment, to support independent living.

The regional **Gwent Strategic Autism Group** will develop, co-ordinate and monitor delivery of this plan on behalf of the Mental Health and Learning Disability Strategic Partnership and Regional Partnership Board. A market position summary was undertaken as part of the Population Needs Assessment and actions below have been agreed

- To provide more timely diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder and access to support services and information and advice pre and post diagnosis.
- Improve awareness, understanding and acceptance of neurodiversity across the region to health, social care and wider RPB partners, including Registered Social Landlords (RSL's) as well as communities.
- Increase understanding and awareness of the varying support needs of people on the Autistic Spectrum, their families, and carers (Some people may require full time and care support, some may be non-verbal and have complex needs, some may need support with day-to-day activities, whilst other people live fully independent lives).
- Support more opportunities and practical support for learning, training, volunteering, and paid employment, to support independent living.

(WHAT we are doing) Action	(WHO) Partner Agencies	(HOW) will we deliver	(WHEN) Timescales/ Milestones	Progress Measures <i>How much and how well have we delivered?</i> <i>What is the difference made?</i>
Deliver the Autism Strategy for Wales at a regional level	Gwent Autism Strategic Group RPB Autism Champion IAS RSLs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The strategy will be delivered and monitored through the bimonthly meetings of the Gwent Autism Strategic Group. Their action plan is currently being reviewed as a response to public engagement in Gwent around the Code of Practice. RPB Autism Champion reports back to the RPB after each Autism Strategic meeting, to update on developments. Regular reports and updates from IAS to highlight good practice and identify challenges. 	Bimonthly	<p>An increase in the number of people receiving a timely diagnosis.</p> <p>Individuals with autism and their families have increased direct access to specialist support through a self-referral model</p>
Implement Autism Code of Practice	Gwent Autism Strategic Group IAS RSLs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake an audit and self-assessment against Code of Practice (CoP) requirements. Identify gaps, good practice, and areas of joint working across the region with an implementation plan. Autism Champion for the RPB is included in governance structure of the Gwent Autism Strategic Group and reports back to the RPB on developments. Experts by experience (people with a diagnosis of autism, ADHD, and other neuro developmental conditions) form a key part of 	Bimonthly	<p>Increase in the number of people receiving a timely diagnosis.</p> <p>Increasing in the number of people being offered pre and post diagnostic support.</p> <p>Increased access to accessible Information Advice and Assistance (IAA)</p> <p>Increased uptake of awareness, understanding and acceptance training on autism and other neurodevelopmental conditions.</p>

		<p>the group to share their knowledge and expertise. (Chair/Vice Chair)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore how RSLs can support and increase awareness for staff 		Increased number of people in training and paid employment opportunities.
Oversee and monitor delivery of Regional Integrated Funding delivery models of care and capital spend	Gwent Adult Strategic Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Partnership will oversee and review progress of all RIF funded projects through a standing item update at each meeting. • A complete list of related projects will be shared with members to determine the schedule of meeting/presentations • Projects will use a standard PowerPoint presentation setting out objectives, progress, barriers, and next steps, in delivering against the Area Plan • Following the presentation, the Chair with partners will update a risk register for the Chair to update Leadership group and share a partnership report card. • The Chair will include an overview of RIF delivery as part of annual presentation to RPB. 	Standing item, each meeting	Support delivery of national Models of Care and monitor effectiveness of projects.
Review other local, regional, and national plans to identify areas of collaboration and alignment of resources.	ISPB NCN LAs ABUHB PSB	<p>Review and identify areas of collaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABUHB IMTP • ISPB, NCN • Local Authority Corporate Improvement Plans • PSB regional Wellbeing Plan and delivery Marmot principles 	Quarterly	<p>Maximise resources Single work programmes</p> <p>Identify opportunities for joint commissioning</p>

- | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify how work contributes and deliver National Outcome Framework | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|

UNPAID CARERS, YOUNG CARERS AND YOUNG ADULT CARERS

Regional Priority / Outcome as identified in the Population Needs Assessment:

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

HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS? Our Population level indicators.

		
Number of small grants administered	Number of organisations awarded CFE accreditation	Number of schools awarded YCIS award

The regional **Carers Board** will develop, co-ordinate and monitor delivery of this plan on behalf of the Regional Partnership Board. A market position summary was undertaken as part of the Population Needs Assessment and actions below have been agreed

1. 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.
2. 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.

Policy Drivers

The Unpaid Carers Strategy for Wales (March 2021) set out the following revised national priorities for unpaid carers:

- identifying and valuing unpaid carers, providing information, advice, and assistance, supporting life alongside caring and supporting unpaid carers in education and the workplace. [Strategy for unpaid carers \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)
- A Carers' Delivery Plan published in November 2021. [Strategy for unpaid carers: delivery plan 2021 \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)

(WHAT we are doing) Action	(WHO) Partner Agencies	(HOW) will we deliver	(WHEN) Timescales/ Milestones	Progress Measures <i>How much and how well have we delivered?</i> <i>What is the difference made?</i>
Delivery of the Welsh Government national priorities for carers, as set out in Strategy for Unpaid Carers and national Delivery Plan	Carers Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate and review small grants scheme. • Deliver Carer Friendly Employee Accreditation scheme. • Promote Carers Hub and Spoke model. • Continue with GP champions work programme. • Continued rollout of Young Carers in Schools Award Scheme and Young Carers ID Card Scheme. • Communication campaign to raise awareness of carers amongst public and in schools to identify young carers. • Explore options to share more widely existing good practice and support other ways that identify and offer support to unpaid carers through the hospital discharge process. 	Quarterly meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of small grants administered. • Number of organisations awarded CFE accreditation. • Number of schools awarded YCIS award.
Integrated Wellbeing Network Development to support unpaid carers	Carers Board ISPBs NCNs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess and identify good practice in Community connector roles. • Ensure accurate information and advice available through effective IAA, Dewis, public awareness campaigns. • Support and build community resilience and grow social networks, tapping into sources of support in the community. • Review health and wellbeing hubs and identify effective hub coordination. 	Quarterly meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase number of unpaid carers better informed.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore volunteering solutions and promote and extend regional Ffrind I Mi volunteering scheme. 		
<p>Work in partnership with third sector partners to provide effective support to Carers including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible respite • Training and awareness • Support to Young Carers • Advocacy provision 	Carers Board GAVO TVA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with LA's and Third Sector Partners to deliver solutions to implement models of care and support hospital discharge. • Develop opportunities for peer-to-peer support. • Coordinate and administer respite grants and identify best practice. • Develop Young Carer network opportunities. 	Quarterly meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of peer-to-peer networks. • Number of respite hours.
<p>Ensure that the implementation of the care closer to home strategy increases the community level support for unpaid Carers</p>	Carers Board ABUHB/ ISPBs NCNS Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure carers are supported in discharge processes. • Signposting carers to relevant support services. • Providing training opportunities to staff in relation to unpaid carers. 	Quarterly meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of staff provided training/ awareness.
<p>Oversee and monitor delivery of Regional Integrated Funding delivery models of care and capital spend</p>	Carers Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board will oversee and review progress of all RIF funded projects through a standing item update at each meeting. • A complete list of related projects will be shared with members to determine the schedule of meeting/presentations. • Projects will use a standard PowerPoint presentation setting out objectives, progress, barriers, and next steps, in delivering against the Area Plan. • Following the presentation, the Chair with partners will update a risk register for the Chair 	Quarterly meeting	<p>Individual performance measures set out in project proposals</p> <p>Support delivery of national Models of Care and monitor effectiveness of projects.</p>




		<p>to update Leadership group and share a partnership report card.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair will include an overview of RIF delivery as part of annual presentation to RPB. 		
<p>Review other local, regional, and national plans to identify areas of collaboration and alignment of resources.</p>	<p>ISPB NCN LAs ABUHB PSB</p>	<p>Review and identify areas of collaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABUHB IMTP • ISPB, NCN • Local Authority Corporate Improvement Plans • PSB regional Wellbeing Plan and delivery Marmot principles • Identify how work contributes and deliver National Outcome Framework 	<p>Quarterly</p>	<p>Maximise resources Single work programmes</p> <p>Identify opportunities for joint commissioning</p>

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Regional Priority / Outcome as identified in the Population Needs Assessment:

- **To improve outcomes for children and young people with complex needs through earlier intervention, community-based support, and placements closer to home**
- **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**

HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS? Our Population level indicators.

		
Increase number of partners adopting and delivering NEST principles	Increase awareness, number of referrals and support through SPACE Wellbeing panels	Decrease number of out of county placements in line WG's Eliminate agenda

The regional **Children and Families Board** will develop, co-ordinate and monitor delivery of this plan on behalf of the Regional Partnership Board. A market position summary was undertaken as part of the Population Needs Assessment and actions below have been agreed

1. 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.
 2. The RPB will continue to implement principles of NEST/NYTH across all services, to remain focused on what matters to children, young people, and families as we move to a whole system approach.
 3. Given the new programme of government priority to eliminate profit in residential care for children looked after, the RPB will support this agenda and the early intervention and preventative services that help reduce children becoming looked after.
- The Welsh Government's Programme for Government 2022-2027 contains several commitments that describe a new vision to transform children's services to support the family unit to remain together where possible, with local services working alongside families to help design and take forward family-owned solutions to their problems.

- This way families will be better equipped with the skills, experience, and resilience to work through difficulties, with far fewer children needing to come into care.

(WHAT we are doing) Action	(WHO) Partner Agencies	(HOW) will we deliver	(WHEN) Timescales/ Milestones	Progress Measures
The Children and Families Board will develop a joint response and solutions to delivering Welsh Government's Eliminate Programme for Government priority	CFB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a joint safe accommodation task and finish group, to develop residential options with integrated processes across health and social care. • Link to Health Housing and Social Care partnership in developing capital solutions. • Consider joint commissioning opportunities across residential and foster care. 	July 2023.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placements closer to home.
Deliver and embed the NEST and NYTH framework across the region	CFB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop self-assessment to support NEST/NYTH across partners. • Develop regional NEST/NYTH plan. • Standing item reporting to CFB to identify good practice and challenges. • Explore how NEST/NYTH can support universal provision in line with PSB Wellbeing Plan, Marmot principles to provide all children best start in life. 	Quarterly meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased number of partners adopting NEST principles.
Deliver Integrated Support Children with Additional Needs (ISCAN) partnership solutions	ISCAN Board MHLD Transition Subgroup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing integrated therapeutic services for children with complex needs, as well as a continued focus on prevention and early intervention. • Improve Transition arrangements through identification good practice and pooling partnership resourcing. 	Quarterly meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased number of effective Transitions between children and adult services.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Continuing Healthcare processes to improve partnership working. 		
Deliver Together for Mental Health in partnership with MHL D partnership	CFB & MHL D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop joint task group to oversee and coordinate T4MH action plan, with a focus on CAMHS provision and aligned to ABUHB's IMTP. Standing item at CFB meetings. Support implementation of whole school approach to emotional mental wellbeing. 	Within 2 months of publication of new strategy.	See T4MH strategy.
Oversee and monitor delivery of Regional Integrated Funding delivery models of care	CFB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Partnership will oversee and review progress of all RIF funded projects through a standing item update at each meeting. A complete list of related projects will be shared with members to determine the schedule of meeting/presentations Projects will use a standard PowerPoint presentation setting out objectives, progress, barriers, and next steps, in delivering against the Area Plan Following the presentation, the Chair with partners will update a risk register for the Chair to update Leadership group and share a partnership report card. The Chair will include an overview of RIF delivery as part of annual presentation to RPB. 	Quarterly meeting	Project progress measures set out in individual RIF project profiles




<p>Review other local, regional, and national plans to identify areas of collaboration and alignment of resources.</p>	<p>ISPB NCN LAs ABUHB PSB</p>	<p>Review and identify areas of collaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABUHB IMTP • ISPB, NCN • Local Authority Corporate Improvement Plans • PSB regional Wellbeing Plan and delivery Marmot principles • Identify how work contributes and deliver National Outcome Framework 	<p>Quarterly</p>	<p>Maximise resources Single work programmes</p> <p>Identify opportunities for joint commissioning</p>
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DEMENTIA

Regional Priority / Outcome as identified in the Population Needs Assessment:

- **To improve outcomes for people living with dementia and their carers.**

HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS? Our Population level indicators.

		
Increase the proportion of people with dementia receiving a formal diagnosis	Increase Information, Assistance and Advice (IAA), to support cognitive wellbeing and inform of risk factors of dementia.	Increase number of Dementia Friends, Dementia Ambassadors and Dementia Friendly Organisations to provide further awareness and opportunities for social inclusion

The regional **Dementia Board** will develop, co-ordinate and monitor delivery of this plan on behalf of the Regional Partnership Board. A market position summary was undertaken as part of the Population Needs Assessment and actions below have been agreed

3. **We need to strengthen partnerships, services, and coproduction models to improve the outcomes for people living with dementia and their carers.**

Policy Drivers

- Welsh Government National Dementia Action Plan
- NHS Wales All Wales Dementia Care Pathway of Standards

September 2021 a companion to the Dementia Action Plan for Wales 2018-2022 was published, outlining the current priorities for action as we emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the launch of the plan in 2018, RPBs were asked to develop services which addressed any identified gaps, and they will recently have considered how older people, including those with dementia, can be supported by the six new models of integrated care under the RIF. Welsh Government are undertaking an independent evaluation to inform the content of any future action plans, and area plans will need to be flexible enough to respond to any relevant changes.

(WHAT we are doing) Action	(WHO) Partner Agencies	(HOW) will we deliver	(WHEN) Timescales/ Milestones	Progress Measures <i>How much and how well have we delivered?</i> <i>What is the difference made?</i>
Delivery Welsh Government National Dementia Action Plan (DAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dementia Board and all members • People living with dementia and carers. • Housing and RSLs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Gwent Dementia Action Plan setting out how national priorities will be delivered regionally • Delivery of the Dementia Action Plan (DAP) is delivered through the programme of work overseen by the Dementia Board, with regular progress updates and monitoring through the biannual dementia board meetings. • Progress is also fed through to the Regional Partnership Board (RPB) through annual reporting and project updates at RPB meetings. 	April 2023 and reviewed bimonthly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gwent Dementia Action Plan has been developed and aligns to the 20 All Wales Dementia Pathway of Standards which will also include performance measures. • Regular forums are held both face to face and online to gather case studies of good practice and where improvements need to be made. (Patient stories) • The Gwent Regional Action Plan for Dementia Friendly Communities aligns to specified needs in each LA area, as set by the multi-agency DFC groups. • Report progress and outcomes to RPB for review.
Deliver NHS Wales All Wales Dementia Care Pathway of Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dementia Board and all partners • People living with dementia and carers. • Housing and RSLs • Third Sector, • Private Sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of all Wales dementia pathway of standards promote a whole systems integrated care approach, through equity of provision, supporting the DAP. This work will be delivered through the subgroup workstreams, with 	Leads provide monthly report to Dementia Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workstream subgroups have been developed to take forward this programme of work which includes the following workstreams: • Engagement • Memory Assessment Service/Dementia Connector role. • Dementia Friendly Hospital Charter.

		<p>oversight and management and coordination of the Senior Programme Manager reporting on performance and progress to the Dementia Board. This will also be monitored through annual reporting to the RPB</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education/Workforce • Measurement/ Performance • Performance measures will be developed for all workstreams • Subgroup leads report to National group to share learning/progress, then feedback to regional subgroups and Dementia Board. • Experts by Experience group set up to support coproduction of service provision. • Exception reports and risk register to provide updates against outcomes.
<p>Further develop and strengthen Dementia Friendly Communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dementia Board and all partners • People living with dementia and carers. • Housing and RSLs • Third Sector, • Private Sector • ISPBs/ NCNs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Dementia Friendly Communities (DFC) agenda is overseen and coordinated by the Gwent Regional Partnership Team and supported through a network of Dementia Ambassadors within Gwent. 	<p>Bimonthly reporting via regional DFC. Annual conference showcasing innovation and progress.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priorities are monitored through bimonthly multi agency regional meetings and DFC is a standing item at each Dementia Board. • Case studies collected of difference made to people living with dementia, their families, and carers. • Increase in the number of Dementia Ambassadors completing training. • Increase in the number of Dementia Friends in Gwent. • Increase in the number of communities completing DFC accreditation to support inclusion.

<p>Integrated Wellbeing Network Development to support people living with dementia and their carers</p>	<p>Integrated Wellbeing Community Leads</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess and identify good practice in Community connector roles. • Ensure accurate information and advice available through effective IAA, Dewis, public awareness campaigns. • Support and build community resilience and grow social networks, tapping into sources of support in the community. • Review health and wellbeing hubs and identify effective hub coordination. • Explore volunteering solutions and links to schools to promote Age Friendly Communities. • Promote and extend regional Ffrind I Mi volunteering scheme. 	<p>Bimonthly meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi agency workforce with awareness of dementia and unpaid carers • Increase in information and advice available.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

Oversee and monitor delivery of Regional Integrated Funding delivery models of care

Dementia Board

- The Partnership will oversee and review progress of all RIF funded projects through a standing item update at each meeting.
- A complete list of related projects will be shared with members to determine the schedule of meeting/presentation
- Projects will use a standard PowerPoint presentation setting out objectives, progress, barriers, and next steps, in delivering against the Area Plan
- Following the presentation, the Chair with partners will update a risk register for the Chair to update Leadership group and share a partnership report card.
- The Chair will include an overview of RIF delivery as part of annual presentation to RPB.

- Support delivery of national Models of Care and monitor effectiveness of projects.

<p>Review other local, regional, and national plans to identify areas of collaboration and alignment of resources.</p>	<p>ISPB NCN LAs ABUHB PSB</p>	<p>Review and identify areas of collaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABUHB IMTP • ISPB, NCN • Local Authority Corporate Improvement Plans • PSB regional Wellbeing Plan and delivery Marmot principles • Identify how work contributes and deliver National Outcome Framework 	<p>Quarterly</p>	<p>Maximise resources Single work programmes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify opportunities for joint commissioning
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HEALTH, PHYSICAL DISABILITIES AND SENSORY IMPAIRMENT

Regional Priority / Outcome as identified in the Population Needs Assessment:

- **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.**
- **Ensure people are supported through access to accurate information, assistance and ‘rehabilitation’ where required**
- **Improve transition across all age groups and support services.**

HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS? Our Population level indicators.

		
Increase the number of frontline workers who receive up to date training and awareness raising in relation to the various information portals and sites that provide useful advice to the public	Increase recruitment across health and social care, including specific roles such as Rehabilitation Officers for Visual Impairment.	Increase accessible information, advice, and assistance to include British Sign Language (BSL) and Braille where needed.

The regional **Gwent Regional Partnership Board and aligned Strategic Partnerships** will develop, co-ordinate and monitor delivery of this plan on behalf of the Regional Partnership Board. A market position summary was undertaken as part of the Population Needs Assessment and actions below have been agreed.

Policy Areas:

- Welsh Government’s Disability Equality Forum Impact of Covid-19 on disabled people in Wales and ‘Action on Disability’ framework.
- Wales Council of the Blind: Rehabilitation Officers for Visual Impairment, Addressing a workforce crisis in Wales.

- All Wales Deaf Mental Health and Wellbeing Group - Deaf People Wales: Hidden Inequality.

(WHAT we are doing) Action	(WHO) Partner Agencies	(HOW) will we deliver	(WHEN) Timescales/ Milestones	Progress Measures <i>How much and how well have we delivered?</i> <i>What is the difference made?</i>
Promote equality and inclusion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RPB • Strategic Partnerships under the RPB. • Local Authorities • ABUHB • Gwent PSB • Independent/Third Sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to promote advocacy services Golden Thread Advocacy Provision, Snap Cymru and NYAS for children and young people. • Developing consistent, integrated regional services, that are accessible and respond to the population needs assessment. 	6 monthly reviews starting from April 2023.	Number of people accessing advocacy support.
Further development of accessible coproduced services to support people and promote inclusion, independence, and support people to become more resilient to manage their own conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen Panel • Strategic Partnerships under the RPB. • Local Authorities • ABUHB • Gwent PSB • Independent/Third Sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen panel working across Strategic Partnerships to continue to strengthen coproduction and implement Citizen Charter. • Continue with coproduction with children and young people through regional youth forum, to design mental health support. 	Quarterly meeting	Number of engagement events/meetings Number of services reviewed which demonstrate coproduction

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support the Gwent Regional Autism Group in coproduction with parents and neurodiverse individuals. • Continue with regional parent group to engage and coproduce support with parents in relation to neurodevelopment services. 		
Increase use of assistive technology, such as telecare to transform domiciliary care and supported living services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Partnerships under the RPB. • Local Authorities • ABUHB • Gwent PSB • Independent/Third Sector • RSLs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects and pilots supported throughout Dementia Board, Gwent Adult Strategic Partnership and Carers Board, via their own strategic plans to support independent living and living well. • Links to the Age Well agenda and key partnerships through Dementia Friendly Communities. 	Reviewed quarterly from April 2023.	Individual measures linked to provision resources e.g., Dementia Hug dolls, magic tables etc.
Promote healthier lifestyles and reducing health inequalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Partnerships under the RPB • Public Health Wales • Local Authorities • ABUHB • Gwent PSB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work ongoing linked to strategic partnerships and work plans to promote healthier lifestyles and reduce inequalities. (Links to 	6 monthly reviews from April 2023.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent/Third Sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> wellbeing plans to avoid duplication) Maximise health and social care staff to promote strength based and what matters discussions. 		
<p>Continue to strengthen Transition arrangements between children and young people's and adult services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Partnerships under the RPB. Local Authorities ABUHB Independent/Third Sector ISCAN Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work currently ongoing linked to the Children and Families Strategic Partnership and Mental Health and Learning Disability Strategic Partnership, to scope current Transition models and how to develop and improve. Support ISCAN Board and ensure good practice identified 	Quarterly meeting.	<p>Improved positive life outcomes for children, young people, and adults.</p> <p>Decrease duplication of services for children with complex health needs and disabilities, through integrated services for children with additional needs (ISCAN).</p>
<p>Continue to improve accessible information, advice, and assistance including support for people with sensory needs including rehabilitation.</p>	<p>RPB ABUHB LAs RSLs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with WG and partners to continue to develop and promote on progress already made, with a range of Information, Advice and Assistance provision, such as Dewis Cymru and Info engine. Ensure information is accessible and in 		

		<p>various formats, especially for people with sensory needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link to Dementia Board with the implementation and delivery of The All-Wales Dementia Pathway of Standards, for people living with dementia and sensory needs. • Work with partners to increase and promote Rehabilitation Officers for Visually Impaired (ROVI) To build confidence; provide emotional support; regain lost skills and teach new skills. Also, to support, maintain and promote independence and choice. 		
<p>Review other local, regional, and national plans to identify areas of collaboration and alignment of resources.</p>	<p>ISPB NCN LAs ABUHB PSB</p>	<p>Review and identify areas of collaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABUHB IMTP • ISPB, NCN • Local Authority Corporate Improvement Plans 	<p>Quarterly</p>	<p>Maximise resources Single work programmes</p> <p>Identify opportunities for joint commissioning</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSB regional Wellbeing Plan and delivery Marmot principles • Identify how work contributes and deliver National Outcome Framework 		
Integrated Wellbeing Network Development to support older people including those living with dementia and their carers	Integrated Service Partnership Boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess and identify good practice in Community connector roles. • Ensure accurate information and advice available through effective IAA, Dewis, public awareness campaigns. • Support and build community resilience and grow social networks, tapping into sources of support in the community. • Review health and wellbeing hubs and identify effective hub coordination. • Explore volunteering solutions and links to schools to promote age 	Quarterly update from April 2023.	

		<p>friendly communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and extend regional Ffrind I Mi volunteering scheme. 		
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HOUSING

Regional Priority / Outcome as identified in the Population Needs Assessment:

- **A multi-agency partnership approach to ensure appropriate housing and accommodation for older people and vulnerable citizens.**
- **To ensure effective use of Disabled Facilities Grants and appropriate partnership support and available resources.**
- **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.**

HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS? Our Population level indicators.

		
To increase the number of accommodation-based solutions for children look after (supporting Welsh Government's Eliminate agenda)	Ensure access to Disabled Facilities Grants to support people living at home	Reduce homelessness and the number of temporary accommodation long stays (Rapid Rehousing Action Plans)

The regional **Health Housing and Social Care Partnership will develop, co-ordinate and monitor delivery of this plan on behalf of the Regional Partnership Board. There will be a focus on:**

4. **Development of Strategic Capital Plan.**
5. **Regional delivery of shared Rapid Rehousing actions.**
6. **Alignment of Housing Support Grant to RPB priorities.**

(WHAT we are doing) Action	(WHO) Partner Agencies	(HOW) will we deliver	(WHEN) Timescales/ Milestones	Progress Measures <i>How much and how well have we delivered?</i> <i>What is the difference made?</i>
Develop a 10-year Strategic Capital Plan, setting a partnership approach to developing accommodation-based solutions, for children looked after. Also integrated health and social care hubs and wider accommodation solutions for older people and vulnerable citizens.	HHSC Partnership RSG RSLs Torfaen Strategic Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using WG template develop a SCP that incorporates ABUHB Capital Planning, LA Housing Market Assessments, HSG plan and RIF Capital Plan. Link with ISPBS to increase integrated health and social care hubs. Link with CFB to deliver WG Eliminating Profit from Children Services and increase care placements within region. 	April 2023 – high level plan. July 2023 – full plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased number of care placements for children. Reduced number of out of county placements. Increased number of integrated hubs.
To ensure effective use of Disabled Facilities Grants and appropriate partnership support and available resources.	Regional DFC task and finish group & PMO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure regular meetings to DFG regional task group to monitor DFG uptake across LAs and where RIF can support. Explore how DFGs can be maximised across RSLs and ensure citizens have equitable access Highlight good practice and blockages to HHSC Partnership. 	Monthly meetings Standing item HHSC agenda.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of DFGs administered across region. Maintain people living in own home.
Deliver a regional Rapid Rehousing plan based on joint priorities identified within LA plans	Housing Operational Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Rapid Rehousing task and finish group to review 5 LA plans and identify joint priorities, which require partnership working. Identify and share good practice. 	Bimonthly meetings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce time to support people into temporary accommodation.


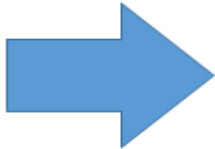

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Align to Housing Support Grant delivery and avoid duplication. 		
Oversee and monitor delivery of Regional Integrated Funding delivery models of care	HHSC & PMO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop IRCF programme linked to regional Integrated Capital Planning Group. Monitor and exception report as standing item on HHSC agenda. Exception reporting to RPB. Unblock and expedite solutions to capital issues. 	April 2023/July 2023 IRCF to align to SCP above.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total use of IRCF across the region.
Review other local, regional, and national plans to identify areas of collaboration and alignment of resources.	ISPB NCN LAs ABUHB PSB	<p>Review and identify areas of collaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ABUHB IMTP ISPB, NCN Local Authority Corporate Improvement Plans PSB regional Wellbeing Plan and delivery Marmot principles Identify how work contributes and deliver National Outcome Framework 	Quarterly	<p>Maximise resources Single work programmes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify opportunities for joint commissioning

JOINT COMMISSIONING GROUP

Regional Priority / Outcome as identified in the Market Stability Report:

- **To deliver commissioning priorities highlighted through Market Stability Report in relation to Adult Services, Childrens Services, Mental Health and Learning Disabilities as well as reviewing opportunities for joint commissioning across health and social care.**

HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS? Our Population level indicators.

		
Work with commissioners and provider groups to increase intelligence, co-ordination, improvement, and communication across the region	Develop consistent processes to be a resource for and to undertake work on behalf of the Regional Partnership Board and the strategic partnerships in Gwent	Identify and share good practice bringing stability to the commissioned and regulated sector across the region

The regional **Joint Commissioning Group** will develop, co-ordinate and monitor delivery of this plan on behalf of the Regional Partnership Board. A market position summary was undertaken as part of the Population Needs Assessment and actions identified across other population themes

- The JCG will ensure joint commissioning is prioritised across other strategic partnerships and coordinate and monitor actions to reduce duplication, effectively overseeing development across the region.

(WHAT we are doing) Action	(WHO) Partner Agencies	(HOW) will we deliver	(WHEN) Timescales/ Milestones	Progress Measures <i>How much and how well have we delivered?</i> <i>What is the difference made?</i>
Adult Services Deliver priorities identified in MSR with a focus on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • care homes, • domiciliary care • day services, • advocacy • Provider groups and webinars 	RCG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care home fees methodology. • Exploring domiciliary care models e.g., micro-carers, regional approach to fees and QA. • Support domiciliary, care homes and 3rd Sector/provider fora/webinars. • Supporting Direct Payments regional delivery. • Common regional approach template for QA in care homes. • Supporting LAS with Day Services review. • Linking with LAs and ABUHB in supporting pooled budget arrangement. 	Autumn 2023 On-going On-going Summer 2023 On-going March 2023	Care homes and domiciliary care proposals currently with RPB processes. Awaiting further instructions/on-going. Working group established. Discussion re options at next RCG meeting.

Childrens Services Support Eliminate profit from Children's Services priorities	RCG CFB HHSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support CFB and HHSC with Eliminate agenda and reducing not for profit. Linking to CFB in relation to CHC discussions. 	On-going	Awaiting further instructions/on-going.
Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Services	RCG MHLD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linking with ABUHB MH division to explore regional commissioning. Open invitation for Mental Health Division to join fees and QA workstreams. 	Current on-going discussions within Division	On-going.
Ensure joint commissioning issues identified by Strategic Partnerships and Integrated Wellbeing Networks, are coordinated across the region	RCG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RCG Chair to attend Leadership Group and discuss commissioning arrangements and opportunities with other Strategic Partnerships. 	On-going	On-going via RCG.
Oversee and monitor delivery of Regional Integrated Funding delivery models of care	PMO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Align and link to commissioned projects where they align to commissioning priorities e.g. Winter plan and commissioning of care home beds. 	On-going	On-going via RCG and other strategic partnerships.
Review other local, regional, and national plans to identify areas of collaboration and alignment of resources.	ISPB NCN LAs ABUHB PSB	Review and identify areas of collaboration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ABUHB IMTP ISPB, NCN Local Authority Corporate Improvement Plans 	Quarterly	Maximise resources Single work programmes Identify opportunities for joint commissioning




		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSB regional Wellbeing Plan and delivery Marmot principles • Identify how work contributes and deliver National Outcome Framework 		
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MENTAL HEALTH & LEARNING DISABILITIES

Regional Priority / Outcome as identified in the Population Needs Assessment:

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

HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS? Our Population level indicators.

		
Increase Information, Advice and Assistance (IAA) in more accessible formats to provide people with informed choices to support their wellbeing and increase understanding.	Increase emotional well-being support in schools and the communities through identified best practice models	Increase support to the workforce to ensure they have the skills, training, and emotional support, to effectively support their role

The regional **Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Partnership** will develop, co-ordinate and monitor delivery of this plan on behalf of the Regional Partnership Board. A market position summary was undertaken as part of the Population Needs Assessment and actions below have been agreed

8. 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.

9. 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.

(WHAT we are doing) Action	(WHO) Partner Agencies	(HOW) will we deliver	(WHEN) Timescales/ Milestones	Progress Measures <i>How much and how well have we delivered?</i> <i>What is the difference made?</i>
<p>Review and align regional strategies to Together for Mental Health Delivery plan and develop new regional 10-year T4MH strategy.</p> <p><i>To include Strategic approach to support people with complex needs, including those who are entitled to Section 117 aftercare, as defined by the Mental Health Act (1983)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MH/LD Division/ ABUHB • Five LAs/ Social Services • Housing/Homeless prevention • Area Planning Board (complex needs) • Gwent Police • WAST • Third sector • Private Sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mental Health and Learning Disability Partnership Board will develop the new 10-year T4MH strategy, setting out how WG priorities will be delivered at a regional level. • The Mental Health and Learning Disability Partnership will ensure an effective sub partnership structure, to deliver priorities and ensure regular updates from subgroups, as a standing item on the partnership agendas. (Subgroup partnerships to include MH Operational Group, LD Operational Group, Complex Needs, Whole Person, Whole System Mental Health Crisis Board') 	<p>Quarterly meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance Measures to be added after regional strategy developed and signed off by WG. • Effective subgroup structure developed to oversee delivery of strategy. • Reporting of outcomes to RPB and wider partners.
<p>Deliver T4MH CYP and ensure links with the Children and Families Strategic Partnership, to develop and enhance transition arrangements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MH/LD Division • Families/Children's Division • Crisis Liaison Teams • Social Services • Educational Teams • EDT's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Children and Families Board to align delivery and develop a joint action plan, to deliver priorities focussing on areas of collaboration. • Continue to organise a Transitioning subgroup to support 	<p>Quarterly meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint action plan developed and reviewed regularly, including review of support services. • Agreed transition pathways in place

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CFB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> transition between children and adult services. Link and monitor effectiveness of specific services, such as Mental Health 111 Team, Peer Mentors in ED, and other commissioned services. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance measures to be added.
<p>Develop local strategy and action plan in response to WG Talk 2 me National Strategy, in relation to Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Health Wales MH/LD Division PHP's, NCN's IWN's Police Social Services Third Sector services (MH Alliance) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gwent Suicide and Self-harm Prevention Steering group work programme in place, including an Expert by Experience group and Communications, Engagement and Training group. Support development of National Bereavement service along with locally commissioned services. Shared Lives (and other crisis services, such as the Crisis Support House, GDAS. 	Quarterly meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> T2M action plan developed and monitored regularly. Reporting of outcomes to RPB Performance measures to be added
<p>Work with Health, Social Care and Housing Forum and Supporting People to ensure that people with a mental health need, substance misuse need, a learning disability or a co-occurring need can access appropriate accommodation and housing related support. <i>Work in close partnership with the Area Planning Board, co-occurring agenda for people living with complex needs</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APB Social Services Housing/Homeless providers MH/LD Division Housing Associations Private Landlords GSSMS) and Area Planning Board commissioned services, such as GDAS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A standing item to be included on MH/LD Partnership agenda to ensure effective links with partners with a focus on referral pathways to access services. Share work plans across partners to ensure effective mapping of services and avoid duplication and maximise delivery. Review and develop commissioning priorities for Commissioned Third sector 	Quarterly meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective referral pathways in place across organisations supporting mental health, substance misuse and housing needs. Reviewed commissioning strategy based on mapping to avoid duplication

		services, floating Support commissioned organisations, Substance use services and VAWDASV providers and regional board.		
Implementing the Gwent Emotional and Mental Wellbeing Foundation Tier programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABUHB • Public Health Wales • Local Authorities • Independent/Third Sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing the content and reach of Melo website, as a Central Point of access for people to support their mental wellbeing in Gwent. • Providing free self-help courses and resources for people in Gwent. • Developing and promoting Gwent Connect 5 as a workforce training programme to build knowledge, skills, and confidence to have everyday mental wellbeing conversations. 	Quarterly meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in number of people undertaking Gwent Connect 5 training, and self-reported increase in knowledge, confidence, motivation, and skills to have a MH conversation after attending Gwent Connect • Number of users visiting Melo website, increased followers, and engagement on Melo social media channel • increased number local partners social media accounts following Melo social media • increased number of partners signposting to Melo from their website
Integrated Wellbeing Network Development to support people living with dementia and their carers	Integrates Service Partnership Boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess and identify good practice in Community connector roles. • Ensure accurate information and advice available through effective IAA, Dewis, public awareness campaigns. • Support and build community 	Quarterly meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi agency staff trained and awareness of mental health and needs of learning disabilities.

		<p>resilience and grow social networks, tapping into sources of support in the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review health and wellbeing hubs and identify effective hub coordination. • Explore volunteering solutions and links to schools to promote Age Friendly Communities. • Promote and extend regional Ffrind I Mi volunteering scheme 		
<p>Deliver Welsh Government's Learning Disability Strategic Action Plan 2021-2026, including development of a regional LD Charter.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MH/LD Division • Social Services • Local LD providers (voluntary and private providers) • People who access PIP and/or their personal carers? • Schools/colleges/ universities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Disabilities Integrated Community Service model developed. • Review of Specialist LD in-patient provision. • Review of individual placements and providers. • Review of Day Services and funding constraints for all partners. 	<p>Quarterly meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LD charter developed. • Mapping and review of services. • Citizen outcomes and case studies. • Increase early intervention and practical support to help people live independently. • Increase awareness and understanding of the needs of the individual needs of people with a learning disability. • Increase the number of social opportunities for people with a learning disability. • Increase the number of bespoke and individual support packages for people with a learning disability

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase learning, training, volunteering, and paid work opportunities for people with a learning disability. Increase number of social opportunities through 'My Mates'
Review other local, regional, and national plans to identify areas of collaboration and alignment of resources.	ISPB NCN LAs ABUHB PSB	Review and identify areas of collaboration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABUHB IMTP • ISPB, NCN • Local Authority Corporate Improvement Plans • PSB regional Wellbeing Plan and delivery Marmot principles • Identify how work contributes and deliver National Outcome Framework 	Quarterly	Maximise resources Single work programmes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify opportunities for joint commissioning
Oversee and monitor delivery of Regional Integrated Funding delivery models of care and capital spend	MH&LD Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Partnership will oversee and review progress of all RIF funded projects through a standing item update at each meeting. • A complete list of related projects will be shared with members to determine the schedule of meeting/presentations • Projects will use a standard PowerPoint presentation setting out objectives, progress, barriers, 	Quarterly meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support delivery of national Models of Care and monitor effectiveness of projects. • Individual project performance information to be included




		<p>and next steps, in delivering against the Area Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the presentation, the Chair with partners will update a risk register for the Chair to update Leadership group and share a partnership report card. • The Chair will include an overview of RIF delivery as part of annual presentation to RPB. 		
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OLDER PEOPLE

Regional Priority / Outcome as identified in the Population Needs Assessment:

- **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.**
- **To improve emotional well-being for older people by reducing loneliness and social isolation through earlier intervention and building community resilience.**
- **To mitigate the long-term impact of Covid-19 pandemic through, especially reducing waiting lists and times to access support, appointments, and medical procedures.**

HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS? Our Population level indicators.

		
Increase early intervention support and inclusion opportunities, to reduce loneliness and isolation	Reduce Delayed Transfers of Care through improved integrated working.	Increase wellbeing through access to the right support at the right time to reduce crisis referrals.

The regional **Gwent Adult Strategic Partnership will develop, co-ordinate and monitor delivery of this plan on behalf of the Regional Partnership Board. A market position summary was undertaken as part of the Population Needs Assessment and actions below have been agreed**

1. **Increase early intervention support and inclusion opportunities, to reduce loneliness and isolation.**
2. **Reduce Delayed Transfers of Care, through improved integrated working.**
3. **Increase wellbeing through access to the right support at the right time to reduce crisis referrals.**

(WHAT we are doing) Action	(WHO) Partner Agencies	(HOW) will we deliver	(WHEN) Timescales/ Milestones	Progress Measures <i>How much and how well have we delivered?</i> <i>What is the difference made?</i>
Ensure that the Home First ethos is always reinforced, if a person requires hospital admission	Gwent Adult Strategic Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preventative Measures (Clinical Futures Level 3 and 4) e.g., home first, Care Closer to Home. Integrate Frailty into community services. Define and agree what Discharge to Recover then Assess Model (Wales) (D2RA) means for Gwent. Support Winter Planning arrangements. 	Monthly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home First measures to be included, setting out clearly how many people supported, how well service delivered, and the difference made.
Oversee regional delivery of Frailty Service, in helping to address the needs of the ageing population by providing preventative support and early intervention	Gwent Adult Strategic Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frailty Service leads from each LA area to report as standing item setting out progress. The Gwent Adult Strategic Partnership are developing an integrated 'place-based' approach to supporting people by reconfiguring existing services to 	Monthly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual Frailty measures set out in service specification. Relevant measures to be included, setting out clearly, how many people supported, how well service was delivered, and difference made. Regular reporting to GASP.

		<p>strengthen community resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redesign of Older People's Pathway. 		
Maximise the use of Assistive Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gwent Adult Strategic Partnership • HHSC Partnership • Dementia Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support the roll out of assistive technology across health and social care and identify good practice (in relation to Dementia 'magic tables') • Explore regional opportunities to develop Telecare services 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved independence. • Improved emotional and/or physical wellbeing.
Covid Recovery planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gwent Adult Strategic Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring learning is shared about public service systems to support future planning. • Ensuring individuals and professionals are aware of the Long COVID pathways • Monitor care home outbreaks. 	Monthly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared learning and increased planning.

<p>Integrated Wellbeing Network (IWN) Development to support older people including those at risk of loneliness and isolation</p>	<p>Integrates Service Partnership Boards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess and identify good practice in Community connector roles. • Ensure accurate information and advice available through effective IAA, Dewis, public awareness campaigns. • Support and build community resilience and grow social networks, tapping into sources of support in the community. • Review health and wellbeing hubs and identify effective hub coordination. • Explore volunteering solutions and links to schools to promote Age Friendly Communities. • Promote and extend regional Ffrind I Mi volunteering scheme. 	<p>Quarterly updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase number of engagements and community interactions as part of age friendly communities. • Designed measures to be included setting out clearly how many people supported, how well the service was delivered, and the difference made.
<p>Oversee and monitor delivery of Regional Integrated Funding delivery models of care and capital spend</p>	<p>Gwent Adult Strategic Partnership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Partnership will oversee and review progress of all RIF funded projects through 	<p>Standing item, each meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support delivery of national Models of Care and monitor effectiveness of projects.

		<p>a standing item update at each meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A complete list of related projects will be shared with members to determine the schedule of meeting/presentations • Projects will use a standard PowerPoint presentation setting out objectives, progress, barriers, and next steps, in delivering against the Area Plan • Following the presentation, the Chair with partners will update a risk register for the Chair to update Leadership group and share a partnership report card. • The Chair will include an overview of RIF delivery as part of annual presentation to RPB. 		
<p>Review other local, regional, and national plans to identify areas of collaboration and alignment of resources.</p>	<p>ISPB NCN LAs ABUHB PSB</p>	<p>Review and identify areas of collaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABUHB IMTP • ISPB, NCN 	<p>Quarterly</p>	<p>Maximise resources Single work programmes</p> <p>Identify opportunities for joint commissioning</p>


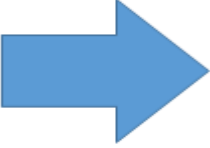

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Authority Corporate Improvement Plans • PSB regional Wellbeing Plan and delivery Marmot principles <p>Identify how work contributes and deliver National Outcome Framework</p>		
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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Regional Priority / Outcome as identified in the Population Needs Assessment:

- To promote health and social care sector career opportunities and retain and improve support to existing workforce.
- To continue to develop the College Consortium in the region to promote and recruit students to sector.

HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS? Our Population level indicators.

		
Increase number of student placements across health and social care partners	Ensure workplace training and qualifications through SCWDP grant	Increased promotion of health and social care recruitment through We Care campaign

The Regional **Workforce Board** will develop, co-ordinate and monitor delivery of this plan on behalf of the Regional Partnership Board. A market position summary was undertaken as part of the Population Needs Assessment and actions identified across other population themes

10. The WF Board will ensure workforce development is prioritised across other strategic partnerships and coordinate and monitor actions to reduce duplication, effectively overseeing development across the region.
11. The WF Board will work with key partners and stakeholders to deliver the vision of the national integrated workforce strategy for health and social care
12. The WF Board will build a skilled and valued workforce, developing the skills and talents of those within our local communities to provide high quality services.
13. The WF Board will ensure the workforce is equipped to deliver and record care through the medium of Welsh, meeting our statutory duty under the Welsh Government's 'Active Offer.'

(WHAT we are doing) Action	(WHO) Partner Agencies	(HOW) will we deliver	(WHEN) Timescales/ Milestones	Progress Measures <i>How much and how well have we delivered?</i> <i>What is the difference made?</i>
Oversee the delivery of Social Care Workforce Development programme	5 Gwent LAs ABUHB SCW RSLs	Continue to ensure regional engagement arrangements mirror the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act implementation arrangements and ensuring health and social care workforce have necessary skills Meeting the key workforce development priorities identified in the SCWWDP 2023/24 including effective training course, opportunities to improve qualifications and professional development	Bimonthly meeting	Increase number of practitioners completing training. Increase number of qualified workforces.
Coordinate and promote careers in health and social care through College Consortium	Coleg Gwent USW 5 Gwent LAs ABUHB RSLs	Continue to facilitate regular meetings with partners through College Consortium. Develop a framework to facilitate student placements within LA social care and ABUHB care teams. Adding value to learning through ongoing engagement with local health and social care sectors, its workforce and local recruitment initiatives.	Regular meeting	Increase number of student applications. Increase number of student placements. Increase number of student apprenticeships. 'Placement to Progression' events facilitated with LAs and local providers.

<p>Ensure workforce issues identified by Strategic Partnerships and Integrated Wellbeing Networks are coordinated across the region.</p>	<p>5 Gwent LAs ABUHB SCW</p>	<p>Establish a mechanism for feedback regarding workforce issues from the strategic partnerships as a first step.</p> <p>Include standing item at WF meeting to review ISPB and NCN plans to identify workforce requirements and opportunities.</p> <p>Support workforce integration and transformation through Integrated Hub model.</p>	<p>Bimonthly meeting</p>	<p>Increase joint workforce and transformation training and awareness developing Integrated Hubs.</p>
<p>Ensure alignment with the 7 key themes and ambitions of HEIW's and SCW's: A Healthier Wales, Workforce Strategy for Health, and Social Care</p>	<p>5 Gwent LAs ABUHB SCW</p>	<p>Develop a workforce strategic framework for Gwent creating a seamless health and social care service across the region.</p> <p>Deliver joint health and social care workforce plan for mental health services.</p> <p>Increased recruitment of volunteers to support workforce as both a means to enhance capacity and as means as a pathway to employment.</p>	<p>Bimonthly meeting</p>	<p>WFB Terms of Reference, aligns with themes and ambitions of the national strategy.</p> <p>Increased understanding of mental health.</p> <p>Increase volunteers supporting health and social care sector.</p>
<p>Oversee and monitor delivery of Regional Integrated Funding delivery models of care where it relates to WF</p>	<p>5 Gwent LAs ABUHB SCW</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board will oversee and review progress of all RIF funded projects through a standing item update at each meeting. • A complete list of related projects will be shared with members to determine the schedule of meeting/presentations • Projects will use a standard PowerPoint presentation setting out objectives, 	<p>Standing item at monthly meetings.</p>	<p>Individual measures included in project briefs</p>

		<p>progress, barriers, and next steps, in delivering against the Area Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the presentation, the Chair with partners will update a risk register for the Chair to update Leadership group and share a partnership report card. • The Chair will include an overview of RIF delivery as part of annual presentation to RPB. 		
<p>Support workforce attraction, recruitment and retention to Gwent's Health and Social Care sectors.</p>	<p>5 Gwent LAs ABUHB SCW Coleg Gwent USW RSLs</p>	<p>Establish a specific sub-group to scope:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative approach to recruitment/marketing. • Tempering competition for staff between LAs, ABUHB and commissioned providers. • Consider solutions to support staff with personal wellbeing. 	<p>Established Nov 22.</p>	<p>Development of a 'recruitment bus' and regional enquiry form pilot</p>
<p>Review other local, regional, and national plans to identify areas of collaboration and alignment of resources.</p>	<p>ISPB NCN LAs ABUHB PSB</p>	<p>Review and identify areas of collaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABUHB IMTP • ISPB, NCN • Local Authority Corporate Improvement Plans • PSB regional Wellbeing Plan and delivery Marmot principles <p>Identify how work contributes and deliver National Outcome Framework</p>	<p>Quarterly</p>	<p>Maximise resources Single work programmes</p> <p>Identify opportunities for joint commissioning</p>

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Appendix 1: Policy Drivers and Current Work (March 2023)

Policy Drivers

- **Part 2 of the Code of Practice within the SSWB Act**
- **Autism Delivery Plan 2021-2022**
- **Code of Practice on the Delivery of Autism Services 2021**
- **NHS Wales Act**

The Autism Code of Practice was implemented from September 2021 building on the Autism Strategy for Wales and reinforces existing duties within the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and the NHS (Wales) Act 2006, as an alternative to a separate autism bill. RPB engagement through the covid 19 pandemic, highlighted the challenges faced by autistic and neurodiverse people and the potential of an increasing need for support. The Gwent Autism Strategic group supported by the RPB are the first in Wales to hold a stakeholder event with neurodiverse individuals, families' carers, and paid professionals to discuss the Code of Practice and what this means to peoples care and support. The workshops identified what is working well, where improvements are needed and gaps in provision, to help coproduce and shape future support provision. Discussions are also taking place around the name of the steering group to incorporate neurodiversity and its programme of work.

Current Work in Gwent

- In Gwent the referral rate to the Integrated Autism Service continues to increase. This is resulting in significant waiting times for ASD diagnostic assessment and post diagnostic support. Non recurrent funding has been allocated by WG to help address this and a programme is in place (to end of March 23) which is delivering additional diagnostic assessment clinics, post diagnostic support appointments, 'drop in' clinics and post diagnostic courses. This is in addition to core service provision and is mainly taking place during evenings and weekends.
- Several clinicians within Community Mental Health Teams across Gwent have undertaken training regarding ASD diagnostic assessment. This is allowing secondary care service users to access diagnosis and support in a timely manner.
- A further 4 Neurodevelopmental Practitioners have been appointed to secondary care services. These individuals will be instrumental in further developing and delivering neurodevelopmental services. They are currently developing psychoeducational packages for those referred for ND assessment, both pre and post diagnosis.
- Resources continue to be developed and are available on the Melo website. People may be signposted to these resources, but they are also available to the public and professionals.
- Work is ongoing to increase awareness and improve skills and knowledge of staff working across mental health and learning disability services. An online **Autism Awareness** course has been developed and is currently being rolled out to staff. ABUHB is also currently liaising with the National Autism Team, in relation to rolling out E-Learning modules to staff – **Understanding Autism** is currently available and **Understanding Effective Communication and Autism** will be available imminently.
- We have a Gwent Regional Autism Steering group, that is parent led and supported by the Regional Partnership Board Autism Champion. This is a



multiagency group with partners from Local Authority, ABUHB and Independent Third Sector and is in the process of strengthening links with RSL's, so they can improve how they meet diverse needs in housing and support.



Appendix 2: Links to Well-being of Future Generations Act, Public Service Board, and other Strategic Partnerships

The Regional Partnership Board will link and align priorities with other partnerships and strategic plans. There are several strategic partnerships which will share similar priorities and involve supporting the same cohort of people in local communities. It is paramount that there is not a duplication of services but a synergy between the partnerships, plans, workforce, and resources. Partnership and priorities are set out below; and

‘The RPB will establish a widened governance to ensure all partnerships are well informed of priorities, and which partnership will lead an agenda and where they will complement and support an agenda’.

Links with Public Service Boards under the Well-being of Future Generations Act

The Gwent Public Service Board (PSB) was established by the merging of the 5 PSBs across Gwent under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. PSBs have been set up across Wales to improve the economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being in the area by strengthening joint working across all public services in Gwent.

The Social Services and Well-being Act shares similar principles with several national strategies and legislation. However, the Act shares almost identical principles with the Well-being of Future Generations Act with the main difference between the acts being the time frame: the Area Plan under the Act reflects the Population Needs Assessment and covers a 3–5-year period based on electoral cycle and the Well-being Assessment under the Well-being of Future Generations Act covers a longer period.

A regional Well-being Assessments has been developed in parallel with the Population Needs Assessment to ensure duplication is avoided and a shared approach to improved wellbeing is established. More information on the wellbeing assessments can be found on the [Gwent Public Services Board website](#)

PSB Wellbeing Plan Priorities (to include)

- Objective 1 - to create a fair and equitable Gwent for all.
- Objective 2 - to create a Gwent that has friendly, safe, and confident communities.
- Objective 3 - to create a Gwent where the natural environment is protected and enhanced.

A strategic network of PSB managers and partners has been established to ensure good practice is shared when developing individual Well-being Plans and an opportunity for PSBs to undertake joint planning against regional priorities. The Gwent



Strategic Well-being Assessment Group (GSWAG) includes wider partners from Gwent Police, Public Health Wales, Welsh government, National Resources Wales, and South Wales Fire Service. The Regional Partnership Team is also represented on the group and promoting a consistent approach to the plans where they can easily be read and referenced in tandem to promote alignment. A mapping of Well-being Plan priorities against the Area Plan and a common definition of terms used across the plans – which will be the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding. Going forward an alignment of success measures will be required with the ultimate aim to avoid duplication across the plans and apportion priorities across the RPB and PSBs.

As we move forward, we will also align this Area Plan to the PSB's Wellbeing plan. This work has started through a Gwent Strategic Wellbeing Assessment group to ensure clarity where the RPB leads on a priority, where the PSB leads on a priority, and where there are shared priorities.

Safeguarding Boards

As of the 6th of April 2016, the Gwent-wide Adult Safeguarding Board and Southeast Wales Safeguarding Children Board became statutory boards as set out in the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014. The boards were formed in 2011 covering the local authority areas of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport, and Torfaen. Both boards have developed work Programmes which ensuring the continued effectiveness of safeguarding practice during the implementation and transition of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. The individual priorities are set out below and the RPB will support the delivery of priorities through joint working.

Adult Board Priorities:

- Targeting Interventions towards adults who are at risk of specific types of abuse.
- Improving the Quality of Care across the region.
- Improving the effectiveness of the Regional Adult Safeguarding Board.

Children Board Priorities:

- Reducing the effects of compromised parenting on children's well-being.
- Improving our work with adolescents who exhibit risky behaviours.
- Improving the effectiveness of the Regional Safeguarding Children Board.

Police Crime Commissioner and Gwent Police

The Chief Constable for Gwent Police will provide a detailed annual Delivery Plan of the activities proposed to achieve the outcomes required to meet the Police Crime Commissioner's priorities from a policing perspective. The office of the Police Crime



Commissioner will also produce a Business Plan which will detail its contribution towards delivering the priorities. The results of the progress against all activities will be reported each year in a PCC annual report. The priorities for policing are set out below:

- **Crime Prevention** – Taking action to prevent and reduce crime by working partners organisations and communities to tackle crimes that present the greatest threat, harm, and risk and especially those crimes committed against the most vulnerable.
- **Supporting Victims** – Provide excellent support for all victims of crime with a particular focus on preventing further serious harm.
- **Community Cohesion** – Ensure that the Police, partners, and my office engage with communities to encourage help and support them to work together to keep themselves safe.
- **Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour** – Ensuring the Police work closely with partner organisations to tackle anti-social behaviour effectively.
- **Efficient and Effective Service Delivery** – Ensuring that Gwent Police and my office are high performing organisation which value and invest in our staff to achieve value for money in delivering impressive services that meet the needs of all communities.

The full Police and Crime Plan can be found [here](#).

Area Planning Board

The substance misuse Gwent Area Planning Board works across the Gwent region to reduce substance misuse through a combination of education, prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation. The current priorities the board are working to address are below and the RPB will work in partnership to avoid duplication and create a synergism across partners.

Priorities:

- Improving emergency service substance misuse training and Naloxone roll out.
- Increasing alcohol prevention both in terms of treatment and education.
- Improved primary prevention including raising awareness of Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP).
- Co-occurring mental health and substance misuse services.
- Improved housing options.
- Securing capital estates funding (impact to service delivery if reduced).

Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Board

The Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 focusses on the prevention of issues, the protection of victims and support for those affected by such issues. Welsh Ministers are required to prepare and publish a National Strategy in relation to these matters and appoint a National Adviser on Violence against Women and other forms of Gender-based Violence, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. Relevant authorities are required to prepare and publish strategies to contribute to the pursuit of the purpose of the Act. A Southeast Wales VAWDASV Board has been established and supported by a VAWDASV regional team.

The board has identified several emerging regional priorities and the RPB will support the work of the VAWDASV Board in achieving the required outcomes:

- ***Strategic Priority 1:*** Increase awareness and challenge attitudes of violence against women, domestic abuse, and sexual violence across Gwent.
- ***Strategic Priority 2:*** Increase awareness in children and young people of the importance of safe, equal, and healthy relationships and that abusive behaviour is always wrong.
- ***Strategic Priority 3:*** Increase focus on holding perpetrators to account and provide opportunities to change their behaviour based around victim safety.
- ***Strategic Priority 4:*** Make early intervention and prevention a priority.
- ***Strategic Priority 5:*** Relevant professionals are trained to provide effective, timely and appropriate responses to victims and survivors.
- ***Strategic Priority 6:*** Provide victims with equal access to appropriately resourced, high quality, needs led, strength based, gender responsive services throughout the region.

The Area Plan will also set out where it contributes to ABUHB IMTP Plan, Local Authorities Corporate Improvement Plans, and 6 national urgent care goals. Our 'six goals for urgent and emergency care' below:

1. Coordination, planning and support for people at greater risk of needing urgent or emergency care
2. Signposting to the right place, first time
3. Access to clinically safe alternatives to hospital admission
4. Rapid response in a physical or mental health crisis
5. Optimal hospital care following admission
6. Home-first approach and reduce risk of readmission

Appendix 3: ABUHB Clinical Futures and Integrated System of Well-being

ABUHB's ambition is to create a new system of primary, community care and well-being across Gwent, in partnership with local government and the third sector. They aim for people to be able to access the care they need in their own community and homes, improving independence and wellbeing, and avoiding the need for unnecessary hospital admission. To do this they will require a radical transformation of services, and the development of new models of care, based in the community. ABUHB's vision is to create a system of primary, community and well-being services, based around the Neighbourhood Care Network (NCN) footprint, where there is a consistent regional service offer, and effective locality based multi-disciplinary teams. A framework has been developed to set out a vision, with a 5-year programme plan developed from 2018/19 to deliver change.

The four stages are:

1. Keeping people healthy and well
2. Self-care
3. Primary Care and NCN Team
4. NCN Hub with specialist and enhanced services

ABUHB will draw on the findings of the Parliamentary review, recognising their expectations of a community focused, seamless service. Integrated commissioning, and a clear set of service principles will underpin the development of a consistent NCN model which includes:

- Establishing a Gwent wide unified vision for health and social care
- Increasing the pace of transformative change and integration
- Developing new models underpinned by the principles of prudent healthcare and the Social Services and Wellbeing Act

The system is predicated on the shared agreement by both Health and Local Government to provide more care closer to home, to reduce a reliance on primary care services, and prevent unnecessary hospital admissions. The system will build on the existing innovation across Gwent, and use the NCN footprint, as the basis from which services will be planned and delivered, around a model of community well-being. To drive action, a set of 10 high impact actions have been adopted to drive forward change, and which are focused on partnership working, the development of more productive flows, and the creation of a standard model of multi-disciplinary teams. Taken together, these principles can be translated into high impact actions including:

- The development of a new model of integrated care predicated on improved wellbeing, based on an NCN/IWBN footprint
- The development of active signposting through Information Advice and Assistance (DEWIS) to empower citizens to make informed choices about their healthcare needs and actions

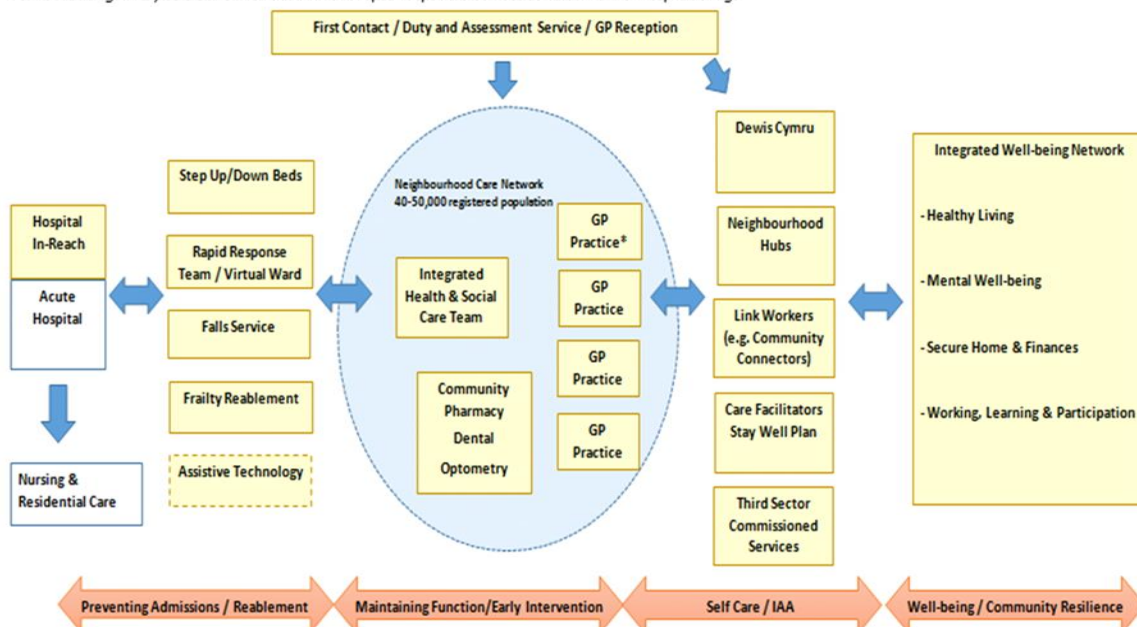
- Greater partnership working to deliver a consistent specification for NCNs across organisational boundaries to provide a seamless pathway to accessible local community services.
- Developing an appropriate skills mix within a modernised and more integrated workforce, aligned to the population needs assessments.
- Enhancing self-care through social prescribing, and new consultation methods in line with the principles of prudent health care.

Further pathways establishing secondary care and primary care responsibilities and enhancing the leadership of primary care, particularly for chronic conditions. Proposed Outcomes for ABUHB Integrated System:

- People are identified early if they need care or support, and they are prevented from ill health or decline in wellbeing wherever possible
- Improved community capacity to support improved health behaviours
- Reduced unnecessary hospital admissions through the provision of integrated community capacity, that is responsive and accessible
- A seamless pathway of care for patients, by integrating social services, health and third sector provision at a local level
- Improving the sharing of information across health and social care

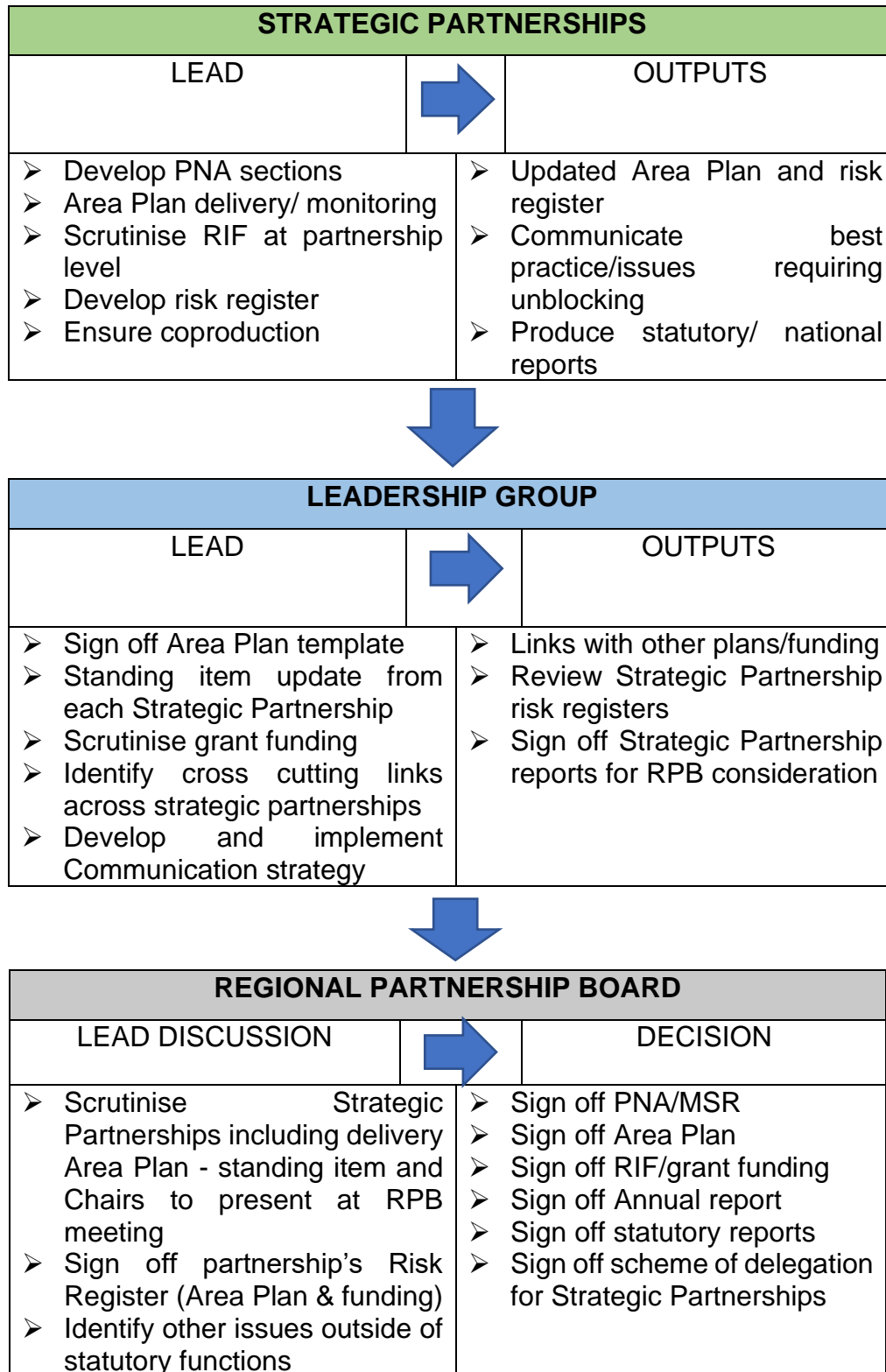
Continuum of services to maintain health, independence and well-being into old age

NB. Not including Primary Care Out-of-Hours and condition specific specialist services delivered in out-of-hospital settings



*Multi-professional teams might include - ANPs, Clinical Pharmacists, Community Paramedics, Mental Health Practitioners, Social Prescribers, HCSVs

Appendix 4: Performance Management Operation/Process Flow



Appendix 5: Welsh Government Principles of Working Action Plans and Acronyms

Acronym	Full Description
ABUHB	Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
ACE	Adverse Child Experience
APB	Area Planning Board
ASD	Autistic Spectrum Disorder
BME	Black Minority Ethnic Group
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CFPB	Children and Families Partnership Board
CYP	Children and Young People
DEWIS	National website
GAVO	Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations
GNME	Gwent Needs Mapping Exercise
G+T	Gypsy and Traveler
IA	Integrated Assessment
IAA	Information Advice Assistance
ICF	Intermediate Care Fund
ISCAN	Integrated Services for Children with Additional Needs.
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community
LVSU	Low Vision Service Wales
NCB	National Commissioning Board
NCN	Neighbourhood Care Network
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NOMS	National Offender Management Service
PMLD	Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities
PNA	Population Needs Assessment
PSB	Public Service Board
PTSD	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
RPB	Regional Partnership Board
RCC	Regional Collaborative Committee
RJCG	Regional Joint Commissioning Group
SIMS	School Information Management System
SLCN	Speech Language and Communication Needs
TVA	Torfaen Voluntary Alliance
VAWDASV	Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence



VT	Veteran Therapist
WBA	Wellbeing Assessment
WCCIS	Welsh Community Care Information System
WFG	Wellbeing of Future Generations Act
YJB	Youth Justice Board
YOS	Youth Offending Service

Appendix 6: Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act 2019- Liberty Protection Safeguards

The Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act 2019 amends the Mental Capacity Act 2005, introducing a new legal process that recognises that care and support can happen anywhere, providing protection to people who lack capacity to consent to their care or treatment wherever they live or receive care. The Mental Capacity Act will eventually replace the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards with the Liberty Protection Safeguards and places responsibilities on Local Councils and Health Boards.

Changes include:

- Applies to people 16+ who have been assessed to lack capacity to consent to their care or treatment, where that care or treatment amounts to a deprivation of liberty
- The authorisation can be anywhere where that person is receiving care or treatment that amounts to a deprivation of liberty, including their own home, educational establishment, respite, day centre.
- A new role called the Approved Mental Capacity professional replaces the Best Interest Assessor
- A new role called the Appropriate Person is introduced, that replaces the Relevant Person Representative Councils and Health Boards will be known as Responsible Bodies
- Integrating LPS into existing assessment/planning practice – promoting principles of the MCA as part of core practice

Preparing for the implementation is an essential part of the process to ensure that the transition is as smooth and efficient as possible, helping to reduce the impact on our citizens and workforce, whilst providing key opportunities for them to influence the implementation across Gwent. The local councils, Newport, Blaenau Gwent, Monmouthshire, Caerphilly, and Torfaen along with the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board are working in partnership to look at how this change can be implemented across Gwent, addressing the need to appropriately support the workforce as well as the people within our communities.

Most importantly the Act will ensure responsible bodies are applying the fundamental principles of the Mental Capacity Act into the core business to ensure that the people who are supported have their rights protected and are afforded the appropriate safeguards they are entitled to, promoting empowerment by placing them at the heart of decision making, to support their needs and provide a seamless pathway of care.

A successful implementation for Gwent will be:

- To understand and meet our statutory duty obligation in line with the Mental Capacity Act 2005 across Local Authority services, commissioned providers, and Aneurin Bevan University Health Board.

- To raise awareness across services outside of health and social care to ensure that MCA practice is embedded in service delivery
- To support and develop skilled and competent workforce in applying MCA and the new legal framework following implementation
- To continue working towards sustainable training that can be delivered across the sectors for specific audiences with various roles and responsibilities
- Build on consistency and strengthening practice-based support within the health and social care sector.
- Utilise the opportunity to improve existing process and procedures to support the integration of health and social care
- Support resilience within the sector
- Identify opportunities to integrate existing practice to comply with new framework
- Work in collaboration with partners and stakeholders, identifying shared objectives to achieve better outcomes for the people we support
- Encourage engagement with the workforce and citizens, to listen and learn from experience
- Provide accessible and relevant information to meet the needs of citizens and the workforce
- Advice, support, and assistants that considers the demographics of the Gwent population, considerate of all needs, culture, and background.

Change, improve and deliver were three key words from the Area Plan 2018 and the amendment to the Act provides us with an opportunity to utilise this to our advantage by placing the workforce and people with care and support needs at the heart of the planning and implementation.

More information about Liberty Protection Safeguards [here](#).

Changes to the MCA Code of Practice and the implementation of LPS can be found [here](#).

Appendix 7: National Outcome Frameworks and Measuring Outcomes

The national outcome indicators evidence whether the national well-being outcomes are being achieved and provide a measure of the wellbeing of people who need care and support and for carers who need support.

The Regional Partnership Board continue to build on and strengthen the work we do with our statutory, independent and third sectors partners, building on people's strengths and abilities and enabling them to maintain independence and realise their personal goals. To support this work, Welsh Governments National Outcomes Framework, includes a series of national wellbeing outcomes which these groups should expect in order to lead fulfilled lives. These are set out in the table below:

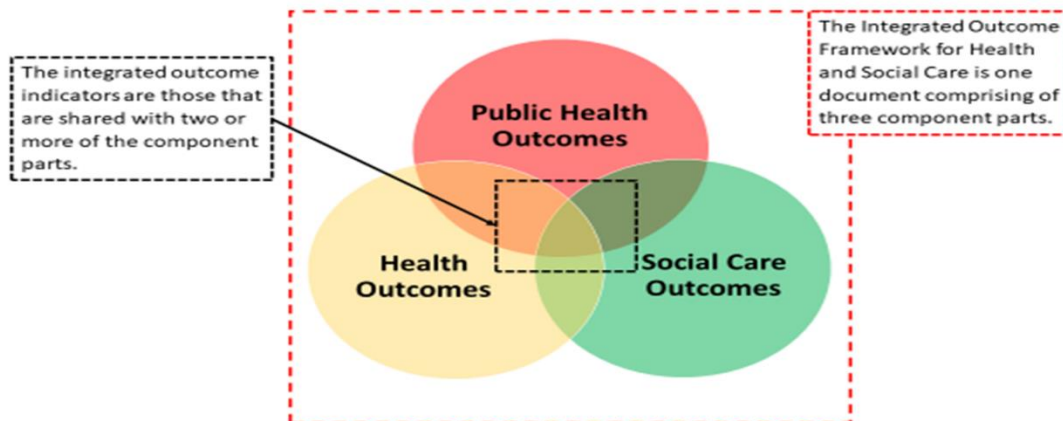
What Wellbeing Means	National Wellbeing Outcomes
Securing rights and entitlements Also for adults: Control over day-to-day life	<p>I know and understand what care, support and opportunities are available and use these to help me achieve my well-being.</p> <p>I can access the right information, when I need it, in the way I want it and use this to manage and improve my well-being.</p> <p>I am treated with dignity and respect and treat others the same.</p> <p>My voice is heard and listened to.</p> <p>My individual circumstances are considered.</p> <p>I speak for myself and contribute to the decisions that affect my life, or have someone who can do it for me</p>
Physical and mental health and emotional well-being Also for children: Physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and behavioural development	<p>I am healthy and active and do things to keep myself healthy. I am happy and do the things that make me happy. I get the right care and support, as early as possible.</p>
Protection from abuse and neglect	<p>I am safe and protected from abuse and neglect. I am supported to protect the people that matter to me from abuse and neglect. I am informed</p>

	about how to make my concerns known.
Education, training, and recreation	I can learn and develop to my full potential. I do the things that matter to me.
Domestic, family, and personal relationships	I belong. I contribute to and enjoy safe and healthy relationships.
Contribution made to society	I engage and make a contribution to my community. I feel valued in society.
Social and economic well-being Also for adults: Participation in work	I contribute towards my social life and can be with the people that I choose. I do not live in poverty. I am supported to work. I get the help I need to grow up and be independent. I get care and support through the Welsh language if I want it.
Suitability of living accommodation	I live in a home that best supports me to achieve my well-being.

The National Outcomes Framework will continue to support specific performance measures identified in the Gwent region, to help us monitor progress and continue to adapt how we work to ensure the best positive for outcomes for people needing health and social care.

The Gwent RPB will align the work of strategic partnerships with the new National Outcome Framework for Health and Social Care a recommendation of A Healthier Wales. It will demonstrate how integrated working has contributed to the health and wellbeing of the whole population. It will also contribute towards delivering the goals of: A Healthier Wales; the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014. The indicators included will provide all integrated partners with a Framework that enables them to review and prioritise their programmes and activities so that they are progressing the things that matter. It will measure whole system progress so that we understand the effectiveness of partner's actions.

Each strategic partnership will highlight where actions are contributing to the national indicators and review the data regularly to inform practice and update action plans.



Draft National Wellbeing Indicators

1. Healthy life expectancy at birth
2. Healthy birth weight
3. Healthy lifestyle behaviours
4. Prevention of people feeling lonely
5. People have positive mental well-being
6. Children are tooth decay/disease free
7. Supporting children to remain with their families
8. People of a healthy weight
9. Prevention of deaths from all substance misuse (drugs and alcohol)
10. Supporting people with a long-term condition to work
11. People's accommodation is suitable for their needs
12. Safeguarding adults from abuse and neglect
13. Prevention of falls among older people

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Bwrdd Partneriaeth
Rhanbarthol Gwent
Gwent Regional
Partnership Board

Regional Partnership Board Annual Report

An integrated system of health, care and wellbeing for Gwent

2022/23

Working in Partnership



Bwrdd Iechyd
Aneurin Bevan
Health Board



Actively supporting the contribution of
individuals, through voluntary action.
Charity Registration No: 1097079
Company No: 4803713



Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations
Cymdeithas Mudiadau Gwirfoddol Gwent

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Foreword



The Regional Partnership Board Annual Report provides RPB partners with the opportunity to highlight progress over the last year and to set out case studies where innovation and good practice have been developed through partnership working. The progress highlighted in this annual report is significant when considering the challenges and unprecedented demands placed on partners following the Covid-19 pandemic, the workforce challenges and difficulties in recruitment, as well as recent cost of living increases and cuts to budgets. We are moving on from one of the toughest winter periods ever experienced with 27th Dec 2022 the busiest day for the NHS in its 70-year history; an increase in demand replicated across the whole of health and social care services.

The challenges highlighted set out the need for partners to come together to collaborate more than ever, to create synergy across services and reduce duplication. The RPB is central to creating the partnership environment to tackle these challenges and has recently developed a new Area Plan for 2023/24 which sets out how we intend to work together, pool resources and transform services. This annual report sets out progress made through the previous Area Plan and also how we made steps to deliver the 'Further, Faster' ambition set by Welsh Government.

We are passionate about improving and creating the best health and wellbeing outcomes for the people of Gwent and put people at the heart of everything we do. We work closely with our communities to co-produce care and support services and enable people and their families to feel supported and listened to; and I am pleased to include perspectives from our citizen panel, third sector and provider partners within this annual report.

As RPB Chair I feel it is important to ensure the RPB recognises the hard work of all partners and identifies innovation and good practice to develop further. However, we cannot be complacent as there are significant challenges ahead, but this annual report is an opportunity to recognise the efforts of all staff, volunteers, providers and unpaid carers for their huge efforts over the last year. This report belongs to them as well as the RPB and partners.

Ann Lloyd CBE
Gwent Regional Partnership Board Chair

1. Perspective from Partners

Lorraine Morgan - Citizen Panel Chair

This had been my last year as Chair, but I have now been re-elected, so will continue to focus on the voices of citizens around the table and how their well-being and quality of life concerns are responded to by the RPB, and services transformed for the better. I am so pleased that we also now have two vice chairs, which shares the voluntary work well. We are now holding blended meetings - virtual and face to face and so we will hope to see some old friends return. It has been a very difficult few years for many people, but many of us have also learned new communication skills.

Our meetings remain topical, but we do continue to monitor whether any issues have been acted on and changed for the better. I have enjoyed my involvement in the Engagement and Voice Task and Finish groups with Welsh Government which have concentrated on RPB guidelines and stronger evidence on co-production within RPBs and citizens.

We continue to include hospital discharge experiences as one of our standing items on the agenda and we now have joining us, the new Llais Cymru local body who were the previous Community Health Council but now include social care in their monitoring and citizen support role.

As we emerge out of a pandemic but into uncertain territory around serious social care workforce issues and long NHS waiting lists, we remained concerned about difficulties in accessing GPs for citizens. So, our focus must be more on how our well-being affects our ability to live our lives - and how citizens are really involved in measuring their own outcomes. To this end we had a very informative session from Dr Sally Lewis on Value Based Healthcare and how citizens can share their own reported outcomes to practitioners. We plan to work further with VBHC.

The speed of change is slow but still encouraging if we see some clear co-production within that change. The admin team and our support team from the RPB has been and continue to be so engaged with us - and show their understanding as citizens themselves. So, I would like to, on behalf of the whole Citizen Panel thank them for their real dedication in keeping us informed and engaged.

Jason O'Brien - Strategic Director for Children and Family Services Torfaen

As we continue to recover post pandemic, we are faced with the increasing cost of living crisis and subsequent economic downturn, which has impacted on all parts of our communities and public services. This, combined with a shrinking workforce across health and social care, has continued to present challenges and has further confirmed the need for services to work collaboratively across all sectors. The Regional Partnership Board is an example of shared priorities and joint ownership of resolution, where sectors and agencies can support one another, challenge one another, and reach collective solutions in order to meet the needs of those who present as being the most vulnerable. Our challenge going forward is to ensure that our work is increasingly effective and transparent, whilst drawing on and creating community resilience to enable people to live the lives they want to live independently and safely.

1. Perspective from Partners

Tracy Daszkiewicz - Executive Director of Public Health & Strategic Partnerships, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

Over the past year strategic partners working together have established Gwent as the first Marmot region in Wales. What this means is a shared commitment to improving and protecting the health of our communities, through greater efforts around prevention and tackling health inequalities and assuring equity. We will work together to better understand the social, environmental, and economic determinants and how they contribute to health inequalities. We want our residents to live long lives in good health, living in safe communities, have opportunities for education and employment and live in good quality homes. Working to the Marmot principles enables us to put in place programmes which enable a focus on those who are disproportionately impacted by poor health and do more, faster for those who need it most.

Melanie Minty - Policy Adviser for South West and South East Wales, Care Forum Wales

In the last annual report, I reflected on the genuine partnership approach emerging in Gwent and I am pleased to say that the relationship has continued to mature. I have been able to contribute as provider representative to debate within the RPB and its subgroups, for instance feeding into the regional response to Welsh Government's challenge to provide additional winter capacity. In the coming months, we will be reviewing regional provider structures with a view to establishing a clearer purpose and distinction between the various provider groups in Gwent and a process for them to feed into a new, more strategic provider forum. I hope that this will strengthen the voice of regulated care services across third and private sectors whilst enabling closer working with third sector representatives on key priorities for the coming year.

Stephen Tiley - Chief Executive Officer, GAVO

2022/2023 continues to be challenging with the fallout of the COVID 19 pandemic still impacting on the way we work and the cost-of-living crisis hitting much of the Third Sector and its services. The cost-of-living crisis in particular is also having a heavy impact on our Public Service partners, so more than ever it's been vital that we have worked together for the benefit of the residents of the Region. Our County Voluntary Council Health and Social Care Teams across the GAVO regions of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire and Newport and Education Programme for Patients Project have been actively ensuring services have continued during challenging times, providing support and strategic links to the sector. We are very fortunate that we have built strong relationships with partners around the Regional Partnership Board whereby we can raise the issues affecting the sector across the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board footprint and have the opportunity to address those issues for resolution. Collaboration is at the heart of our work at the partnership, and this continues to progress for the benefit of our communities. Moving from Integrated Care Fund money to Regional Integrated Fund money has brought elements of change and will continue to change through the coming years but having partners that want to work together has ensured these are worked through together. I am enthused to be a part of the positive work of the partnership moving forward on behalf of the Third Sector.

2. Executive Summary

The Regional Partnership Board have recently developed and agreed a new Area Plan following the publication of the Gwent Population Needs Assessment (PNA) April 2022. The Area Plan sets out how the RPB will deliver the regional priorities identified in the PNA and forms the work programme for the strategic partnerships supporting the RPB.

All partners are still experiencing issues and challenges following the COVID-19 pandemic and this has been exacerbated with the busiest winter period in NHS history, cost-of-living increases and significant workforce recruitment and retention across health and social care.

Working in partnership and creating synergy across our services is fundamental to meeting the challenges, the RPB provides a forum to develop the solutions required whilst ensuring the focus is on outcomes. The continued focus on coproduction with citizens is key as well as working side by side with our third sector and independent providers.

We have the opportunity through the recent 'Further, Faster' announcement from Welsh Government to further invest in our community services as the pressure on hospitals is not just a health board challenge. The RPB and partners need to ensure we help people to remain at home, but also return home quickly and safely, following treatment. Winter planning is still proving to be a continuous all year process and the strain on front line workers will require close monitoring, given the pressures they have worked under over the previous years. Yet again it is testament to the passion and commitment of all RPB partners and their staff that we have been able to continue with the delivery of priorities in the Area Plan and key successes include:

Adult Strategic Partnership:

- Adult Strategic Partnership has continued to support the coordinated effort to deliver a Winter Plan programme with regards to admission avoidance and discharge to assess and community resourcing. The partnership has been key to the development, monitoring, evaluation and delivering the national '1000 beds' aim; and has continued to work very closely with local care homes and domiciliary care providers to support sustainable services through a regional commissioning programme.

Carers Strategic Partnership:

- Carers Strategic Partnership has started to develop support for carers and enabling effective hospital discharge in line with national priorities; as well as delivering the other Welsh government national priorities for carers of all ages. Information and support to carers during national carers week and carers rights day has been provided and the administering of the carer's small grant scheme has continued as well as the commitment to supporting young/young adult carers in education.

Children and Families Board:

- Children and Families Board are continuing to deliver the NEST Framework planning tool to ensure a 'whole system' approach for developing mental health, well-being and support services for children and young people as well as developing residential solutions to reduce the number of out of county placements.

Dementia Board:

- Dementia Board have continued to implement the All Wales Dementia Care Pathway of Standards with dedicated sub groups and workstream leads. People living with dementia, their carers and families play a key role in supporting this work and engagement continues with our communities to help coproduce services. We have continued to lead and coordinate the Dementia Friendly Community programme of work in Gwent, to further build on dementia awareness, inclusive and connected communities.

Heath & Housing Strategic Partnership:

- Health & Housing Strategic Partnership has focused on the development of the rapid rehousing requirements. Members have continued to implement capital projects and improve existing resources especially using digital technology. Key priorities have been identified through the area plan, and members will continue to deliver on these as well as developing a Strategic Capital Plan for the region.

Mental Health and Learning Disability Partnership:

- Mental Health and Learning Disability Partnership have continued to support and improve access to, and awareness of, approved mental wellbeing self-help information, resources, and the workforce training programme (Gwent Connect 5). The Coproduction steering group continues to work with people with lived experience in the coproduction of future support provision, The Foundation Tier programme continues as well as planning through our self-harm and suicide sub-group.

Regional Autism Group:

- The regional group have developed an implementation plan to deliver against the new Welsh Government Autism Code of Practice and launched the code at a conference during Autumn 2023 - the event was attended by over 150 partners and families. The Gwent RPB were the only area in Wales to launch the code.

3. PART 1: Partnership Governance and Development Overview

i Purpose, role, membership, operating structure and key priorities of the regional partnership board.

“Working together for a Healthier Gwent for the right care and support, in the right place, at the right time”

Role and Priorities:

The Gwent RPB will deliver the key aims of Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 of co-operation, partnership and integration, which are set out as the following strategic priorities:

- To improve care and support, ensuring people have more say and control.
- To improve outcomes and health and wellbeing for people across the region.
- Provide co-ordinated, person centred care and support.
- Make more effective use of resources, skills, and expertise across partners.

The Gwent Regional Partnership Board will also deliver the strategic intent set out in Welsh Government’s ‘A Healthier Wales: our Plan for Health and Social Care’, specifically the four themes of the Quadruple Aim:

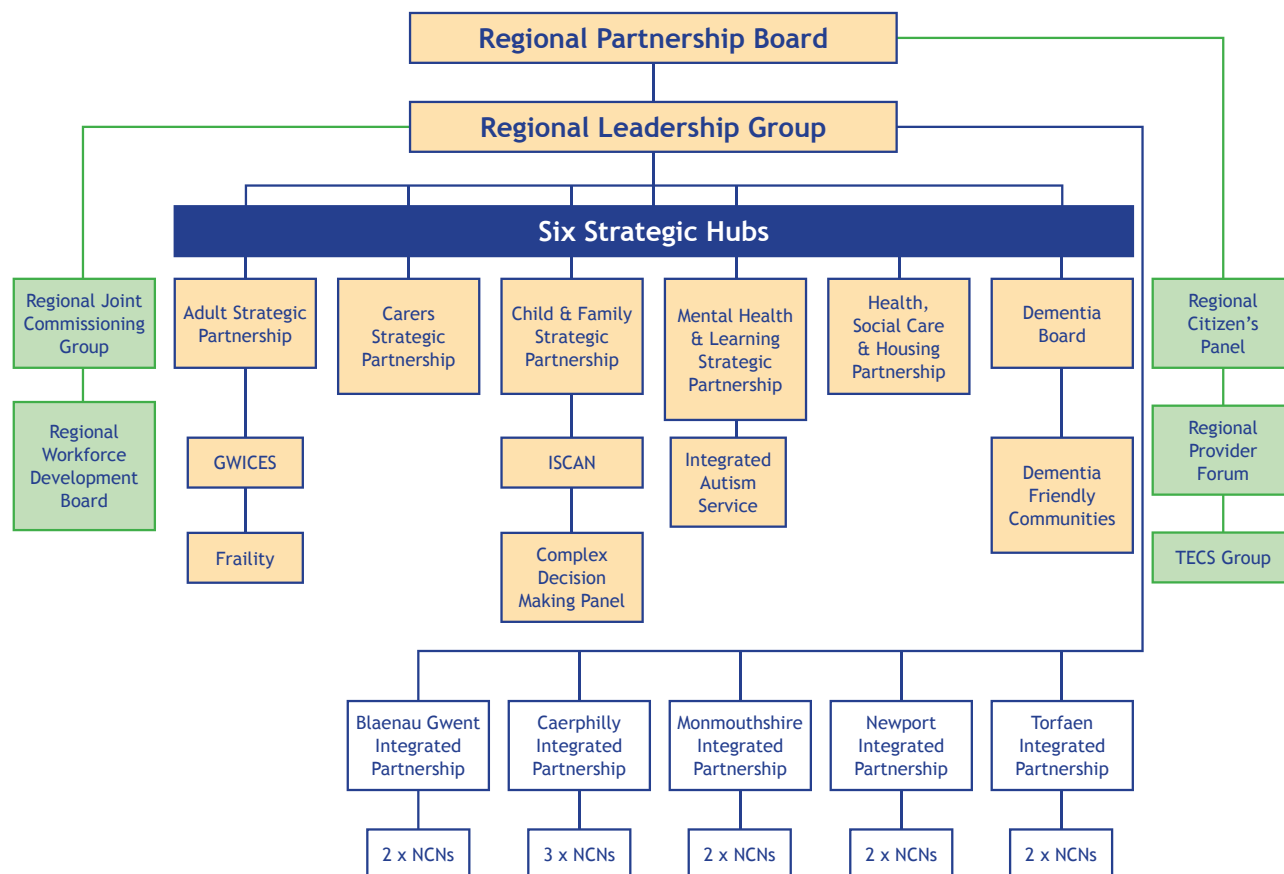
- Improved population health and wellbeing.
- Better quality and more accessible health and social care services.
- Higher value health and social care.
- A motivated and sustainable health and social care workforce.

To deliver RPB priorities and the objectives of the Area Plan, the RPB have established 6 strategic integrated partnerships, which also have oversight of the relevant programmes of work and projects within the new Regional Integration Fund. These sub partnerships report to the RPB and update on progress against Area Plan priorities and challenges:

- Carers Strategic Partnership.
- Children and Families Strategic Partnership.
- Dementia Board.
- Gwent Adult Strategic Partnership.
- Health, Housing and Social Care Strategic Partnership.
- Mental Health and Learning Disability Strategic Partnership.

The thematic partnerships each deliver sections of the Area Plan as part of a strategic work programme, which is also translated at a local level via the Integrated Partnership Boards and Neighbourhood Care Networks. The RPB has also established enabling and supporting partnerships as part of the requirements set out in the SSWB Act and this includes:

- The regional citizens panel (including carers), with two representatives to sit on the Board.
- The Value-Based provider and third sector forum, to connect to the RPB directly - having two elected representatives to sit on the Board.
- A regional Joint Commissioning group.
- A regional Workforce Development Board.
- A regional Technology Enabling Care (TECS) group.



The Gwent Area Plan (<https://www.gwentrpb.wales/area-plan>) sets out actions for an integrated system of health, care, and wellbeing across Gwent. Collaborative leadership from Health, Local Government, and Third sector colleagues has driven the development of the plan. It is ambitious, and it sets a clear road map for the delivery of an integrated model of health care and wellbeing across Gwent. The Regional Partnership Board (RPB) will provide leadership and oversight on the delivery of the plan, supported by appropriate governance and performance management systems.

The Plan is structured around the statutory core themes identified in the published Population Needs Assessment and priority population groups older adults, children and young people, carers, autism and people with mental health and learning disabilities. A step change in the pace of transformation is required for all of the groups and we have also included housing, workforce and commissioning sections to our Area Plan aligning to the structure set out above, comprising regional activity (strategic partnerships) local activity (5 x integrated boards) and locality models (NCN's).

ii Key Developments over the last year.

Carers Annual Report:

Carers team supports implementation of various programmes across the region.

- 415 successful applicants provided with £415,000 to support.
- Young Carers in School: 599 members of staff have taken part in 17 face-to-face 'Young Carers: Identifying Us' training sessions and 19 virtual sessions.
- Over 100 Young Carers supported through schools.
- Training and awareness: a broad range of Gwent services have been represented at training sessions where 8 Community Awareness sessions were held attended by 120 people, 39 workshops were held attended by 332 people and 52 people completed the on-line training.

Dewis figures:

- The total number of published resources in Gwent over the past year has increased by 400 resources.
- Detailed views of resources have increased by 9,568. This is the amount of times someone has searched for something on Dewis and then clicked to find more information. In March 2022 there was 31,227 clicks and in March 2023 there was 40,795.
- Registered users have increased by 365.
- Expired resources have reduced from 158 to 65 showing that currency of the directory is improving.

Dementia Conference:

There were over 130 partners who attended the Gwent Dementia Friendly Communities conference at The Christchurch Centre, in September 2022 and 35 partners who attended the Gwent Dementia Friendly Webinar. When reviewing feedback, 87% respondents wanted to become more involved in the dementia agenda across Gwent.

Dementia Friends:

Dementia Friends sessions and supporting online connections with communities. 1,468 Dementia Friends have been made across 98 sessions during 2022 - 2023.

Assistive Technology (AT):

Over 650 AT devices have been distributed to all sectors across Gwent including the Happiness Programme, HUG and RITA to support well-being and positive stimulation.

Workforce & College Consortium:

- **Social Care Work Placements** - regional work placement process was launched in September 2022 to support students to apply for LA work placements and for LA social care teams to adequately prepare to accept these placements. 13 work placement applications have been received and facilitated by LA social care teams.
 - **Coleg Gwent campuses, the 'Placement to Progression' events** - held in Oct/Nov across 4 Coleg Gwent campuses, events have supported students with securing work placements while providing local providers the opportunity to promote part-time vacancies to the current student cohort. 52 work placement applications have been received by providers and 24 commissioned providers attended the events, all were from the adult care sector or 3rd sector.
 - **ABUHB Work Placements. 25 students** have been cleared and are ready to start placements with ABUHB. As of the 14th of November, these students will be placed on wards.
-

Micro carers MCC pilot:

As of Dec 2022 there are 7 micro carers on the directory, providing around 70 hours of care each week. In addition, there are 3 more micro carers going through training. Updated figures will be available following the project evaluation. Costings of Recruitment agencies total £1575 for 70 hours, whereas Micro carers costings total £1155 for 70 hours. Micro carers provide a saving of £420 per week.

Launch of Autism Code of Practice and Autism Conference:

240 people attended a day long awareness and training event in which 100% delegates felt better informed of autism after the event.

Communications and Engagement:

Regional Partnership page views have increased from 7,470 (2021-2022) to 22,502 (2022-2023) - See Annex: 4.

AskSARA:

As of February, all metrics (users, new users, sessions, reports, bounce rate) have increased. The user/report percentage and bounce rate remain at very positive levels, indicating users are interacting well with the site. Good variety of referral sources. **90% of users would recommend AskSARA, 71% were helped to find a solution or equipment.**

iii Progress on implementing changes in the revised Part 9 guidance. Specifically Housing and Education:

Housing and Education:

Housing partners are key members of the RPB and supporting partnerships in line with 'A Healthier Wales' and enabling effective delivery of capital grants. The revised Part 9 guidance requires: 'At least one housing representative from a local authority and at least one registered social landlord onto the membership of each board'. The Gwent region has an established a Health, Social Care & Housing Partnership and the Chair of this group, Chief Executive of Melin Homes, was nominated by Registered Social Landlord (RSL) colleagues to represent them on the RPB.

The Children's Commissioner 2018/19 Annual report called for greater focus from the regional boards on prioritising integration of services for children with complex needs. The Amendment Regulations add a requirement for at least one senior local authority officer from the education sector to be a member of the board. A nominated Director of Education sits on the RPB. It is worth noting that Directors of Education have identified a nominated representative on the Children and Families Strategic Partnership which reports directly to the RPB, and the collective regional education voice is also present during discussions.

Children and Young People:

Integrated Family Support Services (IFSS) provides targeted support and help connect children and adult services, focusing on the family as a unit. IFSS work with families to help them to make positive changes, so that any concerns are lessened, and children can stay safely at home. In the ABUHB region, Newport City Council were originally the lead organisation and coordinated operations across the region. The 5 local authorities funded a shared service specifically delivering the original IFST model. The pooling of funds for IFST is a requirement under Part 9 of SSWB Act, and these arrangements were in place prior to the Act implementation date of 6th April 2016 for the IFST model.

From 2016 to 2018 the 5 LAs reviewed and remodeled approaches to interventions for Edge of Care services. This included a review of the efficacy of our previous IFST provision. There was concern and potential risk of having parallel services with duplication for families. All IFSTs have evolved the original model of support to meet the needs of families experiencing parental substance misuse, domestic violence, and parental mental ill health more effectively. The 5 Gwent LAs have different structures with set ups which vary for family support, intensive interventions, family contact, preventions, and edge of care services. The previous IFST provision had been overtaken with the developments of improved edge of care services using the best elements of the IFST model but moving away from some of the less useful aspects.

The 5 LAs all offer intensive family support with a mixture of models, staffing and partners but rooted in research and evidence-based practice. Partners include health colleagues, consultant social workers, specialist domestic abuse workers as well as family support workers. The 5 LAs all take a role with the Children and Families Strategic Partnership and work together as appropriate; for example, on continued joint approaches to the use of RIF with edge of care services to further develop effective family support interventions and work in the court arena.

Under the Children and Families Strategic Partnership we have developed a regional Integrated Service for Children with Additional Needs (ISCAN) subgroup, and this supports children with complex needs with a single front door approach and focuses on transition between children and adult services.

As outlined in Part 9 of the SSWB Act, the 5 LAs work together to share practice and collaborate with training and expertise. The five LAs have developed a Gwent offer across four areas of: Family Group Conferences, Mediation, Family and Friends, and Edge of Care services. All are delivered using a trauma focus and a strengths-based approach so embracing the learning of IFST methodology. The RIF resource is monitored regionally and work with the RIF team continues in order to evaluate this work across the region. Looking forward the five LAs will be looking to the evaluation of the Cardiff and Vale Family Drug and Alcohol court (FDAC) to consider further development of services across the region.

The Children and Families Partnership have also led on implementation of the national NEST/ NYTH policy and have developed and monitor an implementation plan to ensure consistent approaches across the region.

Joint Commissioning and Pooling of funds Including Progress Against KPMG Report Recommendations on Pooled Budgets

The Regional Commissioning Group (RCG) has developed a regional Market Position Statement (MPS) as set out under Section 144B of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. The RCG have developed an action plan to deliver the identified priorities for care homes, domiciliary care, community services, advocacy and ensuring effective links with provider groups. The MPS has been adopted by all Councils and the Gwent Regional Partnership Board.

The RCG has a cross-cutting function across the regional strategic partnerships and has undertaken work on their behalf. The group is also an information and good practice sharing forum across the regional partnerships as well as specialist technical advice to partners on commissioning related activity. The focus over the next period is to continue to support the domiciliary care and care home sectors as they face a crisis in recruitment and retention. This works links closely to that of the Workforce Development Board and the development of a regional workforce strategy.

Progress:

Providers of care are experiencing considerable challenges but despite this, good progress had been made against Part 9 requirements and the revised regional Area Plan for commissioning, this includes:

- Section 33 Pooled Fund Arrangement signed by all parties.
- A review of the previously agreed regional contract for care homes for older people resulted in no significant changes to the existing document.
- Reconvened the working group with care homes regarding a regional fee methodology with good progress being made.
- Development work underway to establish a common joint contract monitoring framework for care homes for older people.

- Development work underway to establish a common joint contract monitoring framework for domiciliary care services.
- A relaunch of the 3rd sector Gwent Social Value Forum - large participative event planned for September 2023.
- Development of a commissioning approach to mental health and learning disabilities commissioned services within ABUHB - awaiting Divisional response.
- A discussion took place regarding pooled funds opportunities in Gwent - no further pooled funds were identified that this time.
- A review of day services in Gwent - concluded - further work being taken forward.
- A review of direct payments in Gwent - concluded - further work being taken forward.
- Establishment of a monthly webinar for care homes in Gwent - on-going.
- Establishment of a monthly webinar for domiciliary care services in Gwent - on-going.

The KPMG report has been used to develop the regional agenda and helped to provide a focus on key areas. The Gwent RPB continues to look for new opportunities to use the flexibilities afforded by pooled budgets and the current pooled fund supporting care homes is maintained. Torfaen Council hosts the pooled fund manager under a Section 33 Agreement.

The regional commissioning work program will ensure that the issue of pooled funds remains a 'live issue' and is routinely considered as an option when discussing, devising and developing joint commissioning arrangements. The existing regional pooled fund arrangement under the Section 33 Agreement 'Accommodation Arrangements for Care Homes for Older people in Gwent' remains in place. A report is presented to the RPB annually.

4. PART 2: General progress update

2a: Delivery against Key Objectives

The Area Plan outcomes are delivered and monitored through the 6 strategic Partnerships that also ensure the national themes set out in the Population Needs Assessment (PNA) are prioritised:

- Children and young people with complex needs (including new part 9 definitions).
- Unpaid carers.
- older people, with specific reference to supporting people living with dementia.
- People with physical disabilities.
- People with learning disability/autism.
- People with poor mental health or emotional support needs.
- People with sensory impairment.
- People experiencing VAWDASV or homelessness and the secure estate (as set out in the Code of Practice).

In addition to the above statutory themes, the RPB have also included focussed sections for Housing, and Autism.

Partnership working with strategic boards is key to creating synergy across the region and avoid duplication of efforts; and the RPB also links closely with the Area Planning Board, which lead on substance misuse issues and Safeguarding Boards. At a strategic level the RPB links closely with the regional Public Service Board to ensure there is a collaborative approach to the delivery of the Area Plan and regional Wellbeing Plan and VAWDASV agenda as well as delivering ambitions of a Marmot region.

This section of the annual report sets out key work taken forward through each of the partnerships under the RPB and key outcomes delivering the Regional Area Plan.

Gwent Adults Strategic Partnership (GASP)

Area Plan Outcome identified through the Population Needs Assessment:

- To improve emotional well-being for older people by reducing loneliness and social isolation with earlier intervention and community resilience.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

2022-23 Regional Integration Fund (RIF) Programmes:

Revenue

There are four strategic programmes that report into the Gwent Adults Strategic Partnership and further information is included in the RIF annual report included in appendix.

- 1. Connected Communities**
- 2. Place Based Graduated Care**
- 3. Improving System Flow**
- 4. Assistive Technology**

Capital

Within Gwent, accommodation focused solutions for Older Adults, secured HCF funding for 10 schemes totalling a value of £2.4m over three years, of which £1.2m was delivered in 2022-23 across 7 of the schemes.

Partnership Progress

- RPB has once again overseen the winter planning across the region and following last years implementation of the Discharge to Recovery and Assessment pathway (D2RA) a further programme was devised for the region which was overseen by the GASP. This included the commissioning of a number of beds in the care home sector on a block purchase basis. Evaluation to follow.
- GASP has been key to the development, monitoring and evaluation and subsequent capturing of learning of and from the Winter Plan programme and the RIF initiatives that pertain to adults and older adults in the region.
- GASP also considered the review of older peoples' services and Gwent Frailty programme.
- The GASP and the Regional Commissioning Group has continued to work closely with local care home and domiciliary care providers following the pandemic to ensure responsive, sustainable services in the face of the increasing workforce challenges.
- Continued to develop a regional commissioning approach for care homes and domiciliary care agencies for example by monitoring bed vacancies in care homes, financial risks associated with high numbers of voids and to monitor the activity of domiciliary carers.

- The pandemic effected the timescales and testing of a common fee methodology; however, this is now moving forward at an acerated pace and is expected to be fully implemented during 2023/24 at an accelerated pace over the next year.
- The group will also further explore with third sector partners opportunities to prevent hospital admission and facilitate timely discharge. This work is now reflected in the RIF funding programme.

Case Study

Reablement Testimony

My husband had 2 strokes last year and spent almost 10 months in hospital, resulting in care needs when he came home in December 2022. He came under your reablement team from day one. The reason for my email is to give you feedback on the service as we always hear the bad and often not the good.

The initial assessment was carried out in a polite and caring manner, followed up by weekly calls from reablement team to review and pan for longer term care. Whenever I needed to call the office for any reason or asked to speak with the reablement team, the response was always friendly and helpful. Thank you and please pass this on to the ladies who answer the phone too.

Your care team across the board have been excellent and outstanding in their care and support for my husband as the client and me as the next of kin. Nothing has been too much trouble for anyone, and they have all been kind, caring, professional and helpful, always demonstrating respect for this being our home.

They not only delivered the care but also chatted with my husband in meaningful ways to help him recover from his acute brain injury, listened to him talking about his doggies with pride and never showed they had probably heard it many times before.

They gave him laughter to start his day, and safety to end it. We both cannot thank you all enough for everything and Charlie our large old dog of almost 15 loved them all. We had lots of different people calling but some were more regular but please say a massive thank you from our family and tell them all to be proud of the difference they make in someone's home. **Wife of Service User**

Children & Families Strategic Partnership

Area Plan Outcomes identified through the Population Needs Assessment:

- To improve outcomes for children and young people with complex needs through earlier intervention, community-based support, and placements closer to home.
- To ensure good mental health and emotional well-being for children and young people through effective partnership working especially mitigating the 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.

2022-23 Regional Integration Fund (RIF) Programmes:

Revenue

There are five strategic programmes that report into the Children and Families Strategic Partnership and further information is include in the RIF annual report included in appendix.

1. Early Intervention & Support: Edge of Care
2. Supporting Care Experienced Children
3. Supporting Children development needs/ND
4. Good emotional health & wellbeing
5. Workforce development/professional support

Capital

Within Gwent, accommodation focused solutions for children with complex needs secured HCF funding for 20 schemes totalling a value of £12.7m across three years, of which £4.3m was delivered in 2022-23 across 15 of the schemes. In addition, there were 9 Legacy ICF schemes which utilised £439k of Programme Managed funds in 2022-23.

Partnership Progress:

- The five LAs with colleagues in ABUHB continue to develop residential solutions for children in the region following development of Windmill Farm in Newport using capital grant funding. Windmill Farm is a four bedroomed children's home developed specifically as a home for children who need time in a safe and trauma informed environment as partners support them and their family to establish the best care in the longer term.
- The Healing Hands project is supporting and upskilling staff with emotional wellbeing and additional needs - Approx. 200 professionals/staff received attachment informed positive behaviour support training and evaluation forms suggest over 95% scored high or very high to 'this training experience will be useful in my work.'

- Action for Children Platform Gwent4YP Support service continues to provide individual peer support and group peer support sessions with 88% of young people self-reporting improved emotional wellbeing.
- The Skills for Living project delivered by Action for Children within the RIF Care Experienced Children Programme supports care experienced young people to overcome their experiences and make changes in their lives. “Giving them a Life Worth Living - [CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)”
- The partnership work closely with Welsh Government to roll out the NEST/NYTH model to all partners and have developed an implementation plan following an audit.

Gwent Single Point of Access for Children’s Emotional (SPACE) Wellbeing Service

Background summary - provide the context:

- The CAMHS transformation programme supported the development of Single Point of Access for Children’s Emotional (SPACE) Wellbeing Service in 2019 working across the five local authorities in Gwent region. The model is driven by the ‘No wrong door’ approach endorsed by the Children’s Commissioner in 2020. The service operates in line with the Single Front Door principle of the NEST/NYTH model as per the national objective. It enables children, young people and families to access the right service at the right time. It is recognised as an example of good practice in Wales.



- SPACE Wellbeing is a process through which professionals and families can seek early help and support and panels meet weekly and include CAMHs, Families First, Youth Service, NYAS, Families Intervention Team (FIT) and Platform but are supported by other services who can offer support for the reasons that a child/young person is referred for.

What worked well, what didn’t work so well:

- The volume of referrals over the past four years has been challenging to process in a timely manner but by ensuring close links with services, duplication of referrals and offerings by services is reduced.
- The governance of the SPACE Wellbeing Service is overseen by the Regional SPACE-Wellbeing Steering Group (RSSG) which is in place to ensure collaborative working.

What ‘good’ or ‘success’ looks like:

Feedback from professionals who have submitted referrals concludes that the ‘no wrong door’ approach streamlines how referrals are processed and support is directed in a timely manner:

“Thank you for making SPACE Wellbeing work, you have no idea how much relief it has brought to GPs!”

“I am most proud of the multi-agency approach to working and how this helps support families and young people not to bounce around services when they are in need.”

“I feel that ABUHB SPACE Wellbeing Service acts as a bridge between our Social Service and Health Service. This improved collaboration, speeds up delivery of much needed mental health and wellbeing support to the youth and families in our communities. I am very proud to be a member of this first class team and accept the challenge to develop a more efficient and streamlined service so that young people can rely on us get the right service at the right time.”

Meeting the needs of the babies, children and/or young people:

The SPACE Wellbeing Service focusses on a holistic approach to early support ensuring families feel contained and receive a therapeutic experience from the outset. The panel's aim is to ensure packages of support are sequenced/co-ordinated where multiple services are involved; panel chair aims to 'hold the thread'.

Conclusion:

The SPACE Wellbeing Service continues to be the mainstay of referrals for children and young people who need the support to grow and develop. Communication between the Health Board and Local Authorities is a priority to ensure the sustainability of the single point of access.

The next steps include:

- Training and development of the new administrative assistants and ensuring they are supported plus continued professional development for the SPACE Wellbeing Co-ordinators;
- Ensure that referrals are appropriate for services attending the SPACE Wellbeing panels;
- Monitor unmet needs and liaise with services to minimise these;
- Exploring digital access and process to help with parents making good, quality self-referrals;
- Continue to promote the SPACE Wellbeing Service ethos of 'right service, first time'

MH & LD strategic partnership including Regional Integrated Autism Service - key priority areas

Area Plan Outcomes identified through the Population Needs Assessment Mental Health:

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

- 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.
- 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.

2022-23 Regional Integration Fund (RIF) Programmes:

Revenue

There are three strategic programmes that report into the Mental Health and Learning Disability Partnership and further information is include in the RIF annual report included in appendix.

1. LD Independence & Wellbeing
2. Enhanced Foundation Tier
(recently renamed Gwent Emotional and Mental Wellbeing programme)
3. Transition

Capital

Within Gwent, accommodation focused solutions for Emotional Health & Wellbeing secured HCF funding for 13 schemes totalling a value of £2.4m across three years, of which £0.751m was delivered in 2022-23 across 3 schemes. Accommodation focused solutions for People with Learning Disabilities secured HCF funding for 7 schemes totalling a value of £4.2m over three years, of which £3.2m was delivered in 2022-23 across 3 of the schemes. In addition, £0.45m of Legacy ICF programme managed funds was fully utilised in 2022-23 to deliver Augusta House Phase 2.



Partnership Progress:

- **Foundation Tier work:** The Gwent Emotional and Mental Wellbeing Foundation Tier Programme, is funded through the Regional Integration Fund and focuses on two distinct but complementary projects, which set out to improve access to, and awareness of, approved mental health resources.

1: Gwent Connect 5

(‘Changing the conversation on mental wellbeing’) workforce training programme

- **Gwent Connect 5** is a mental wellbeing workforce training programme, supplying contemporary evidence-based tools and techniques, which can be applied within everyday life and working practice. It is managed by the Public Health team who work in partnership with organisations across Gwent, with the aim of improving population mental wellbeing by changing the way the frontline workforce has conversations about mental health and wellbeing.
- In total, **66** local trainers have now completed the Gwent Connect 5 Train the Trainer programme and **60** of these trainers are currently members of the Gwent Connect 5 Trainers Network and **169** modules were delivered across Gwent in 2022-23. More than 30 local organisations have access to in-house Gwent Connect 5 trainers.
- Training has been provided to over 40 partners including the Gwent Regional Partnership Team, South Wales Fire & Rescue service, Gwent Police, Department of Work and Pensions, Diverse Cymru, South-East Wales Carers Trust, ABUHB and Local Authority staff. Over 25 trainers are currently delivering the Gwent Connect 5 training across Gwent. Most trainers are delivering in-house, whilst 5 local Trainers from Third/Not-for-Profit organisations commissioned to deliver to organisations who do not have access to an in-house trainer.
- Outcome measures from the pre and post course evaluation forms demonstrate a small but positive increase in reported motivation, confidence, skills and knowledge to have a mental wellbeing conversation from attending Gwent Connect 5.

2: Melo

Website, for details on wellbeing self-help information, resources, and training.

- **‘Melo Cymru’** website launched in January 2021, developed by the Public Health Team and supported by partners. The site acts as a repository for approved self-help resources and information on mental wellbeing. It is an accessible bilingual resource, and the Reach deck tool enables speech to text and reading and translation of text into 99 languages. This makes online content more accessible for people with dyslexia, low literacy levels, mild visual impairments and those who speak English as a second language.
- Since the initial website launch in January 2021, there have been 43,000 visitors to the site. However, we are expecting this figure to substantially increase with the refreshed version of website launched on the 18th of August 2022.
- Melo is promoted across social media channels (Twitter - English and Welsh, Facebook - English and Welsh and Instagram - English and Welsh) and shared through partner social media channels. There is a continued increase in followers across these platforms. Melo has seen an increase in Facebook followers over the last year in both English and Welsh views.
- There are also more resources on Melo that are downloadable/printable, that can be printed off for people who are digitally excluded or can be given out by GPs and other partners. On Boxing Day 2022, Melo was also promoted as the matchday ‘sponsors’ at Dragon Rugby. This game was the biggest game of the season for our regional rugby club, with almost 9,000 seats sold.

- Melo has been recognised nationally as a beneficial resource, and discussions continue to take place regarding possible roll out of the website as a national wellbeing resource.
- In addition, the promotion of Melo continues to be part of ABUHBs Psychological Well-being Practitioner programme's staff induction training and an integral part of the Gwent Connect 5 training.

In September 2022 the website was relaunched and expanded from an 8-page site to a 105 page site. Since the relaunch of Melo there are now 378 resources, 61 courses, 78 helplines and 40 topics on the site.

Please see our refreshed website for more information:

<https://www.melo.cymru/>

Psychological Health Practitioners (PHP's):

- The The PHP service (formerly PWP service) provides support from non-registered, mental health practitioners, increasing GP service provision for people with mental health difficulties of mild-moderate severity.
- During 2022/23 they delivered over 12,700 appointments, 63% of which were delivered face to face.
- There is a current focus to adjust the current way in which PHPs are used at surgery level as they continue to be booked after a GP appointment (63% of the appts) which means that GP time is not being freed up as intended. The service is currently monitoring and piloting strategies to increase bookings direct from reception and other surgery staff.
- The majority of people seen are referred to self-help and community-based resources, with less than 25% being referred into statutory services.
- The service has an outreach worker who continues to deliver a proactive service to ethnic minority communities in Newport; working in collaboration with third sector and education partners to find suitable confidential spaces to support individuals.
- The PHP service is working closely with the new Mental Health 111 (press 2) service and primary care teams, to clarify pathways to access mental health support.

Mental Health 111 Service Data April 2022-March 2023

Accessing mental health services was previously difficult to navigate and people needing support often were unsure which services they should contact. The introduction of Mental Health 111 has simplified the pathway and allows anyone living in Gwent to access support quickly. This is an all-age service and does not have exclusion criteria. The ethos of the service is that a crisis is defined by the person calling, and not the service or staff, allowing for a person-centred approach.

The Mental Health 111 service was introduced on 28th November 2022 between 9am and midnight. From 19th March 2023 the service has been operational 24/7. The service is accessed by calling 111 and selecting option 2 for mental health.

To date, 95% of calls are answered in under 40 seconds by a Mental Health & Wellbeing Practitioner who is trained to have a meaningful conversation about why the person has called, carry out an assessment and, if required, deliver brief interventions over the phone. If the caller requires a mental health assessment, they will be triaged by a clinician within the service and booked in for an assessment or referred to the most appropriate service.



Am gyngor
iechyd meddwl
ar frys 24/7

Ffoniwch 111 &
gwasgwch Opsiwn 2

For 24/7 urgent
mental health
support

Call 111 &
press Option 2

GIG 111 Cymru
NHS 111 Wales

GIG Cymru
NHS Wales
Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Abertaweke
University Health Board

Call Stats:

7,666 calls
taken and
recorded

**Average
49 calls**
per day

95% calls
answered in
<40 secs

33 secs
average
wait time

Autism

Area Plan Outcomes identified through the Population Needs Assessment:

- To provide more timely diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder and access to support services and information and advice.

Market Position Summary:

- To provide more timely diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder and access to support services and information and advice pre and post diagnosis.
- Improve awareness, understanding and acceptance of neurodiversity across the region to health, social care and wider RPB partners, including Registered Social Landlords (RSL's) as well as communities.
- Increase understanding and awareness of the varying support needs of people on the Autistic Spectrum, their families, and carers (Some people may require full time care support, some may be non-verbal and have complex needs, some may need support with day-to-day activities, whilst other people live fully independent lives).
- Support more opportunities and practical support for learning, training, volunteering, and paid employment, to support independent living.

"It was beneficial to hear about our rights as parents and carers."

Progress

We have an established Gwent Autism and Neurodevelopmental Strategic Group that is Co-Chaired by individuals with lived experience and carers. This group grows from strength to strength and is coordinated by the Gwent Regional Partnership Team and has members including; The RPB Autism Champion, Local Authority leads, ABUHB leads and Clinicians, Elected Members, Education leads, Third Sector and Charities.

First Autism Code of Practice Event in Wales

The Gwent Autism Steering group coordinated and led the first multiagency Autism Code of Practice event in Wales, in October 2022, which was very successful. It was facilitated by experts by experience who Chair the steering group and was attended by a range of partners such as, Welsh Government, National Autism Leads, the Gwent Regional Partnership Board Autism Champion, Gwent Regional Partnership Team, ABUHB leads, ASD and Local Authority Leads and Gwent Police.

The presentations and workshops gave neurodivergent people, families, carers and paid professionals a chance to discuss the Autism Code of Practice and ask questions and share their experiences. We had over **240** attendees and over **30** information stands at the event. All feedback from the event is now being fed into our action plan for Gwent, to ensure we are capturing the needs and voice of experts by experience, in the planning of future support provision.

"Helpful to speak to other autistic individuals and hear about their experiences."

Neurodevelopment (ND) Improvement Fund

We have been working closely with clinical leads, partners and the Gwent Autism and ND Strategic group, to ensure full use of the Neurodevelopmental Improvement Fund. This has been utilised to increase children's additional support sessions, increase assessment capacity, increase post diagnostic support and for the production of digital material for individuals and their families, whilst awaiting assessment.

The Third Sector allocation of ND funding (2022/23) was utilised in Gwent to provide local community support for families, supporting parents with a child awaiting an ND assessment via CAMHS and individuals awaiting an ASD/ADHD diagnosis. Five third sector organisations were successful in gaining funding, Hope GB, Torfaen Opportunity Group (TOGS) The ADHD Sisterhood, Growing Space and Autistic Minds. The support included:

- a project providing support specifically for families
- a project providing support to adults
- 3 projects providing support to both groups.

The projects have supported a total of **200** individuals through phone and online support and provided signposting opportunities and resources to **181** of those individuals. Of the individuals supported, **139** had an ASD diagnosis, **16** have an ADHD diagnosis, and **4** have Tourette syndrome. Additionally, the programme has provided information and support to **222** individuals on benefits/Personal Independence Payment (PIP), as well as to parents and professionals. Learning and feedback from the projects, is now being used to help inform some of the detail in the Autism Code of Practice Action plan for Gwent, which is being developed and monitored by the Gwent Autism and ND Strategic Group.

ADHD Training

In 2023, The ADHD Foundation (Neurodiversity Charity) Dr Tony Lloyd, worked with Monmouthshire ASD leads to provide a pilot training session funded through the ND Improvement fund. The session was well received with **46** attendees, who all found the training very beneficial. More sessions have been requested throughout 2023.

Carers

Area Plan Outcomes identified through the Population Needs Assessment:

- Support unpaid carers to care through flexible respite, access to accurate information, peer to peer support, effective care planning and through increased public understanding.
- 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 need to be 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.

2022-23 Regional Integration Fund (RIF) Programmes

Revenue

There is one strategic programme that report into the Carers Strategic Partnership Board and further information is include in the RIF annual report included in appendix.

1. Unpaid Carers

Partnership Progress

- We We continue to deliver against the four Welsh Government National priorities for unpaid carers. A complete carers annual report has been submitted to Welsh Government and can be found within the annexes of this report.
- The Gwent Regional Carers Hub and Spoke is a single point of access for all carers in the Gwent region that co-produces services for carers alongside existing provision across the partnership area.

In 2022/23:

- ◆ 2,731 Carers accessed the service.
- ◆ 2,295 were signposted for additional support.
- ◆ 579 were referred to other organisations for additional support.
- ◆ 51 Carers Assessments took place
- ◆ 92 Hub Events took place, and 146 Spokes were held
- ◆ We have continued to invest in our Small Grants Scheme (SGS) and the Regional Integration fund has supported this further. Post lockdown, we have seen an increase in the number of applications requesting short breaks and respite. In 2022/23 852 applications were received, and 166 carers were successful in receiving a small grant.
- ◆ 420 Carer's were referred for support within other services and 1,201 signposts were made to other services for those who were ineligible.
- HUG by LAUGH (HUG) is a new therapy device developed by design researchers, engineers, and health professionals from Cardiff Metropolitan University. The Hug is a teddy device with weighted arms and a heartbeat which helps to reduce anxiety and use other mechanisms to provide comfort. In the evaluation study, it was found that HUG improved the quality of life for 87% of the people who used HUG for six months. This is currently being piloted for unpaid carers in other areas beyond dementia. During end of February/March 2023, 32 hugs have been provided for young carers at schools, 25 hugs to carers of the diverse community autism project, 1 to the carers hub and 1 to the young project at community house. It is hoped to evaluate its impact in six months' time.
- The Gwent Young Carers in schools Accreditation programme is delivered by the Care Collective on behalf of the Gwent Carers Strategic Partnership. A total of 94 of the 233 primary/secondary schools in Gwent are engaging with the programme.
- Coleg Gwent provides post 16 education across Gwent and has achieved an Advanced Accreditation of our Carer Friendly Accreditation programme (a carers employment initiative developed for all public and private workplaces and communities to become more Carer friendly). To date 19 services have been awarded Carer friendly status and 1 employer.
- We have a number of initiatives in place that support unpaid carers with hospital discharge and this area will be strengthened in 2023.

Young Carers Action Day

This year the annual Young Carers Action Day took place on 15th March 2022 and the theme was 'Make time for young carers. Many activities and information provision took place across the Gwent local authorities where young and young adult carers benefitted from improved self-esteem, friendships formed, respite from their daily care activities and social development.



In Monmouthshire 15 young carers participated in activities at Gilwern Outdoor centre, 920 people viewed the Twitter posts and schools participated to celebrate the day e.g. life skills course at Caldicot comprehensive. Young carers were able to take a break from their caring role, make new friends and raise the profile of young carers.

In Blaenau Gwent 24 young carers were provided with a full day of activities at Bryn Bach Park which included crazy golf, the cave, go karting and climbing the wall, lunch and transport was also provided. 34 Young carers learnt new outdoor skills, had some respite, built their confidence, made new friendships and improved their mental and physical health by engaging in physical activities.

“Hi, I just wanted to thank you all for today ‘N’ had a brilliant time Thanks J” - Parent

In Torfaen 80 young carers were engaged. A disco was held for those aged 5 -10, this activity resulted in a social media reach of 214 people with a 103-post engagement. Bowling for the 11-13 and 14-17 age groups was arranged with a social media reach of 380 people with 2014 post engagements.

“I enjoyed spending time with my friend ” - YC

The Regional partnership team sent out information over social media over the week leading to Facebook post impressions of 8,812 to a reach of 3,978 and 164 post engagements. For Twitter there were 4,888 post impressions, 183 post reach and 43 post engagement. In Caerphilly 206 young carers engaged in a number of activities e.g. rock climbing day, family swim, poster competition, vouchers, little mix tribute show and deliveries of Beth's Bakes cakes. These small rewards provide sense of pride and recognition, promoting the message that being a young carer is a positive thing, even though it can sometimes be challenging. In addition, a social media campaign invited YCs and their parents to share positive stories.

“My young carers, in the last 2 years they've been through so much, I went into hospital Oct '21. and was in until May '22. They've also had to move house as I lost the use of my legs so couldn't get up the front steps. But even though we've been to hell and back they're still the happiest little helpers I could ever wish for (well apart from the moody teenager lol) I'm so proud of them all xxxx” - Parent

Carers Mental Health and Wellbeing Support

Carers Café Project

We have supported the carers café model: an ICF/RIF funded project that provides greater support and information to carers within Older Adult Mental Health hospital settings throughout Gwent. The project aims to improve the wellbeing of carers and other family members, and ultimately impact positively on the health of the service user, enable carers to feel equipped with the necessary skills to support their caring role and ensure Carers are confident and able to consider their own needs.

This year:

- We held 276 cafes supporting 566 carers.
- 396 carers reported an improvement in wellbeing.
- 87 referrals were made for carers assessments, 181 advised of benefit.
- Entitlements and 516 were provided IAA to support their caring role.
- 234 were advised to register as carers with their GP's, 172 were signposted to organisations and 39 carers accessed training.
- 254 felt listened to by professionals with 219 feeling they were more aware of the need to look after themselves.
- 350 Carers felt involved in care planning and how services were delivered and 382 felt they were given enough information about diagnosis and treatment.
- 467 carers stated they knew their rights.

Dementia

Area Plan Outcomes identified through the Population Needs Assessment:

- To improve outcomes for people living with dementia and their carers.

Market Position Summary:

- We need to strengthen partnerships, services, and coproduction models to improve the outcomes for people living with dementia and their carers.

2022-23 Regional Integration Fund (RIF) Programmes

Revenue

There are two strategic programmes that report into the Strategic Dementia Partnership Board and further information is include in the RIF annual report included in appendix.

1. Dementia - Assessment and Diagnosis
2. Dementia - Living with Dementia

Capital

Within Gwent, £1.2m of HCF funding was issued to support accommodation focused solutions for Older Adults, including those with Dementia. In addition to this, £3.2m of ICF Legacy funding was utilised in 2022-23 for the delivery of the Crick Road Dementia Scheme.

Case Study

Crick Road - Dementia Project

Severn View Park, is an innovative and inclusive 32-bedroom care home, designed to replace Monmouthshire Councils, Severn View home in Chepstow. Severn View Park is being constructed by Lovell and will support older people with dementia, both residentially and in the form of respite and shorter-term support.

Severn View Park will establish a new way of providing care, creating individual households designed around a communal, courtyard garden, and will ensure that residents of the home and the local area come together as one community. The Scheme is scheduled for handover by March 2024.

The scheme is being delivered through ICF funding

Total Project Cost	£6,937,903
ICF	£4,810,931
MCC	£2,126,972

Currently on site with the development of an innovative care home that specialises in dementia care (long-term and short-term care) and rehabilitation

The scheme will provide an exciting opportunity to deliver best practice in design and outcomes for people receiving council run services and support



Partnership Progress

- ABUHB have adopted the Dementia Friendly Hospital Charter for Wales. The Charter builds on the foundation offered by the Royal College of Nursing's Staffing, Partnership, Assessment, Care and Environment (SPACE) principles. It acts as a short, clear statement of the key principles that contribute to a dementia friendly hospital. It provides a set of principles and indicators that focus on the needs of people with dementia and their families, carers and supporters and offers an improvement guide to assist hospitals in their self-assessment against the dementia friendly principles. Importantly, the Charter informs people of what to expect when they receive care and visit a dementia friendly hospital. The following animation has been created to further raise awareness of the charter and it's aims:

English: <https://youtu.be/KudreUFNZ-E/>

Welsh: <https://youtu.be/8gu4AB5VFLM>

- Since Covid and restricted visiting, the distress and concerns from carers around in-patient hospital care has been highlighted through a number of complaints, through webinars and 'patient stories'. Locally, feedback about people's lived experience of dementia care when they are in hospital has been used to influence, shape and improve dementia care across our hospital wards. Our Hospital Dementia Action Plan has been significantly revised based on feedback and what matters to people.
- Through using Twitter, Facebook, internal intranet and external web pages, ABUHB have described the improvement plans that support both the Dementia Friendly Hospital Charter and overall dementia care including John's Campaign, patient bedside boards, dementia volunteer companions, Dementia Champions, and carers information.
- The Dementia Board have set up additional subgroups with workstream leads to take forward work, in readiness for the implementation of the All Wales Dementia Care Pathway of Standards to take forward workplans.
- Our Gwent Dementia Friendly Communities group now has over 170 partners flying the flag for dementia awareness, inclusion, and support across Gwent.

- We have continued to work with schools, colleges, charities, community groups and partners across Gwent, providing online and in person Dementia Friends sessions and supporting online connections with communities. 1,468 Dementia Friends have been made across 98 sessions during 2022 - 2023.

Dementia Action Week 2023:

Free Digital Skills Training to Help People Living with Dementia

As part of Dementia Action Week 2023 Gwent Dementia Friendly Communities partnered with Digital Community Wales to offer free online training sessions for people living with dementia, their family, friends, carers and professionals. The sessions provided an opportunity to increase dementia awareness and understanding within the community and provide people with practical knowledge to help support people to live well with dementia in the community.

Six sessions were held in total including:

- Inspiring Digital Activities (24 attendees)
- Digital Storytelling (24 attendees)
- Digital Tools to Support People Living with Dementia (16 attendees)
- Reminiscence (18 attendees)
- Smart Speakers and Devices (15 attendees)
- How Digital Tools can Support People with the Cost of Living (9 attendees)



Darparwyd gan
Delivered by



“Thank you for the training sessions this week - they have been very inspiring!” - Member of Gwent DFC’s

A social media communications plan supported the advertisement of the free training sessions across the RPB’s Twitter and Facebook accounts. A blog post was also produced with DCW to highlight the partnership, Dementia Action Week and the training itself - <https://www.digitalcommunities.gov.wales/blog/dementia-action-week-2023-free-digital-skills-training-to-help-people-living-with-dementia/>

“While dementia can be challenging to manage, technology and the internet have provided a wide range of new tools, devices, and resources that can make a significant difference to the lives of those living with the condition.” - Angela Jones, Digital Inclusion Advisor, Digital Communities Wales

John's Campaign

Following a task and finish group that met throughout the year we re-launched Johns Campaign in March 2023 for carers of patients in hospital with Dementia which allows carers to support their loved ones along the hospital pathway. John's Campaign is a framework to ensure that unpaid carers of people living with dementia are welcome on hospital wards. It encourages staff to recognise the importance of unpaid carers and their valuable expertise to always maintain a positive attitude to the involvement of unpaid carers.

It recognises carers valuable contribution to the patient's assessment, care planning and ongoing recovery, demonstrating sensitivity to their needs whilst someone they care for is in hospital. At the centre of this initiative is the patients' needs to help the recovery of the patient, the wellbeing and ongoing involvement of the carer, the support of better communication with carers and the enablement of the patient's secure discharge.



Health, Social Care & Housing

Area Plan Outcomes identified through the Population Needs Assessment:

- A multi-agency partnership approach to ensure appropriate housing and accommodation for older people and vulnerable citizens.
- To ensure effective use of Disabled Facilities Grants and appropriate partnership support and available resources.
- 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.

Partnership Progress:

- The HSC&H Partnership continue to oversee the ICF Capital grant and prepare for the implementation of the new RIF Housing with Care Fund (4-year programme) to support tenanted accommodation for people with complex needs, particularly where affordable housing standards are not appropriate, Intermediate care accommodation (e.g. step up/down, children's residential) and discretionary funding (aids/adaptations, feasibility studies, etc.).
- MCC and TCBC Care and Repair are continuing to deliver the Hospital to Healthier Homes project to support hospital discharge. Every £1 spent on home adaptations to support quicker hospital discharge generates £7.50 saving for health and social care.
- The Partnership continue to provide regional support to individual partners in relation to the homelessness and ending evictions agendas during the pandemic and going forward will coordinate a regional response to the Rapid Rehousing policy.
- Oversight of the Housing Support Grant (HSG) Programme especially in relation to early intervention programmes and housing related support to homelessness services and activity to help people stabilise their housing situation, prevent people from becoming homeless, or people affected by homelessness to find and keep accommodation.
- A Substance Misuse and Housing task group reporting to both the Area Planning Board and Regional Housing Support Grant Coordination Group developed a specific free online substance misuse training course targeted towards housing staff.

Case Study



Transitional accommodation - Former Caerphilly Police Station

HCF funding of £632,256 was utilised for the delivery of long-term sustainable accommodation for 6 self-contained units, within the same building for adults (16+) with mental illness, previous substance use or alcohol dependence or young people with support needs to address their emotional and mental wellbeing needs. This scheme forms part of a wider ICF, SHG and HFG funded project in partnership with CCBC and Linc Cymru.

4. PART 2: General progress update

2b: Supporting Better Integration and Delivery

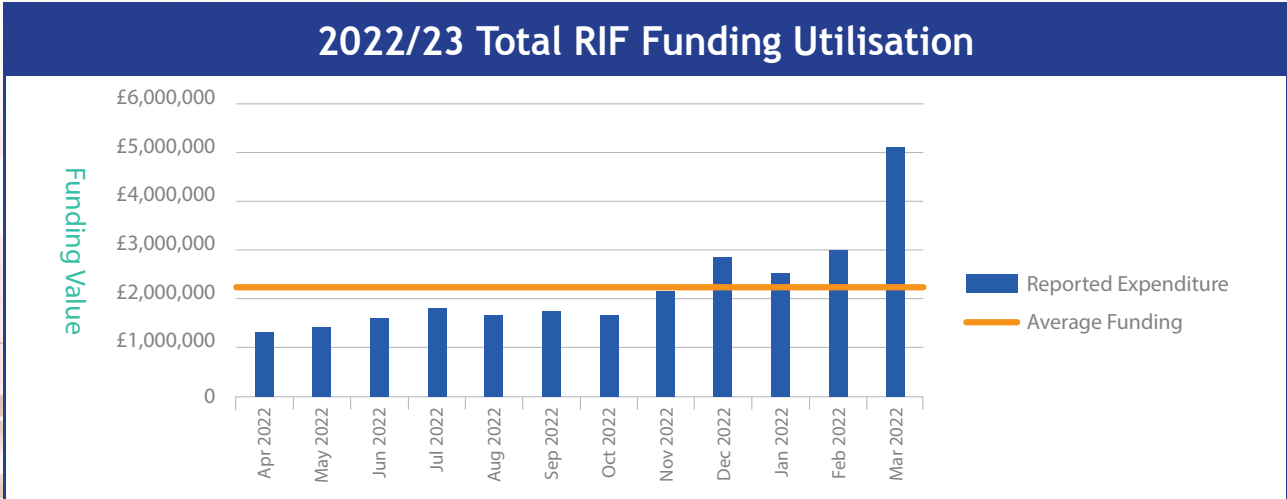
Regional Integration Fund

Welsh Government provided a 5-year commitment of partnership funding at the outset of 2022-23 within the Regional Integration Fund. The policy funding guidance introduces the concept of 6 National Models of Care as an output of the 5-year programme, with regional learning and best practice intended to shape a national specification for the following national models:

- 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.
- Accommodation based solutions.

Whilst the Regional Integrated fund guidance targets the models of care as the intended outputs, it acknowledges that funding is historic and existing allocations are in place. As a region, we have continued to deliver the strategic programmes identified within the RIF strategic outline plan during 2022-23 alongside seeking to describe the contributions and learning against the national models of care. Continued conversations with Welsh Government are taking place to manage the transition and ensure local ownership and oversight of Regional Integrated Funds with the development of the models of care. The core RIF allocation for 2022-23 was £26.8million. £15.4million utilised as Year 1 ‘acceleration funding’ and £8.3million as Year 1 ‘embedding funding’, with circa £3million has been provided in ring-fenced funding which consists of Dementia, Memory Assessment Service, Integrated Autism Service and Unpaid Carers.

In addition to the core RIF allocation, Welsh Government provided a further £0.666 million of additional funding, making the total 2022-23 allocation provided by Welsh Government £27.5million. This growth in funding relates to Carers Short Breaks, the Neurodivergent Improvement Programme and the Learning Disabilities Programme which is shown in the graph below. The utilisation profile also takes account of the approval of uncommitted funding utilised for the RPB winter plan delivery in the Autumn as strategic tests of change, and the usage of slippage materialised across the programme in Month 12.



In 2022-23 the Regional Partnership Board spent a total of £27.5m Revenue and the following has been achieved (the following headlines do not reflect specific activity within the RPB winter plan):

- 19,310 unpaid carers have accessed services, with 2083 feeling less isolated and 2479 achieving personal outcomes.
- 2,597 children at risk of entering care have been supported, to date 600 have achieved personal outcomes.
- We have provided intensive support to 267 care leavers to develop coping strategies and achieve personal outcomes.
- 611 neurodivergent children and their families have been supported, with 515 reporting good experiences.
- Additional capacity within Memory Assessment Services has enabled a total of 3644 people with cognitive impairment, living with dementia and young onset dementia to be supported and assessed.
- 12,462 contacts have been provided to support people to live well with Dementia, and an additional in-year referral acceptance of 2,577 people.
- The connected communities programme has assisted 25,276 adults via a range of prevention and wellbeing services to remain well within the community. Of which, 4968 report maintaining or improving their emotional health and wellbeing and 4396 are more aware of the support available to them.
- 12,498 individuals have received intermediate care in the community via the Place Based Graduated Care programme. 45% of stroke survivors have been supported to rehabilitate within the community, and 53% of individuals receiving intermediate care were prevented from hospital admission/crisis.
- Improving System Flow programme capacity supported 8824 individuals to leave hospital, with 1689 of these individuals receiving aids and adaptations to return home as independent as possible, and 2007 individuals achieved personal outcomes.
- 2505 people with learning disabilities achieved personal outcomes via the LD independence and wellbeing programme, with 1195 new individuals identified during 2022-23.
- 25,000 individuals have accessed information and advice via the Enhanced Foundation Tier programme, along with 169 training sessions provided across the partnership to support awareness and recognition of emotional wellbeing in self and others.
- The CVC led Third Sector Grants fund has supported 3107 individuals within the community, with 2511 reporting maintaining or improving their emotional health and wellbeing.

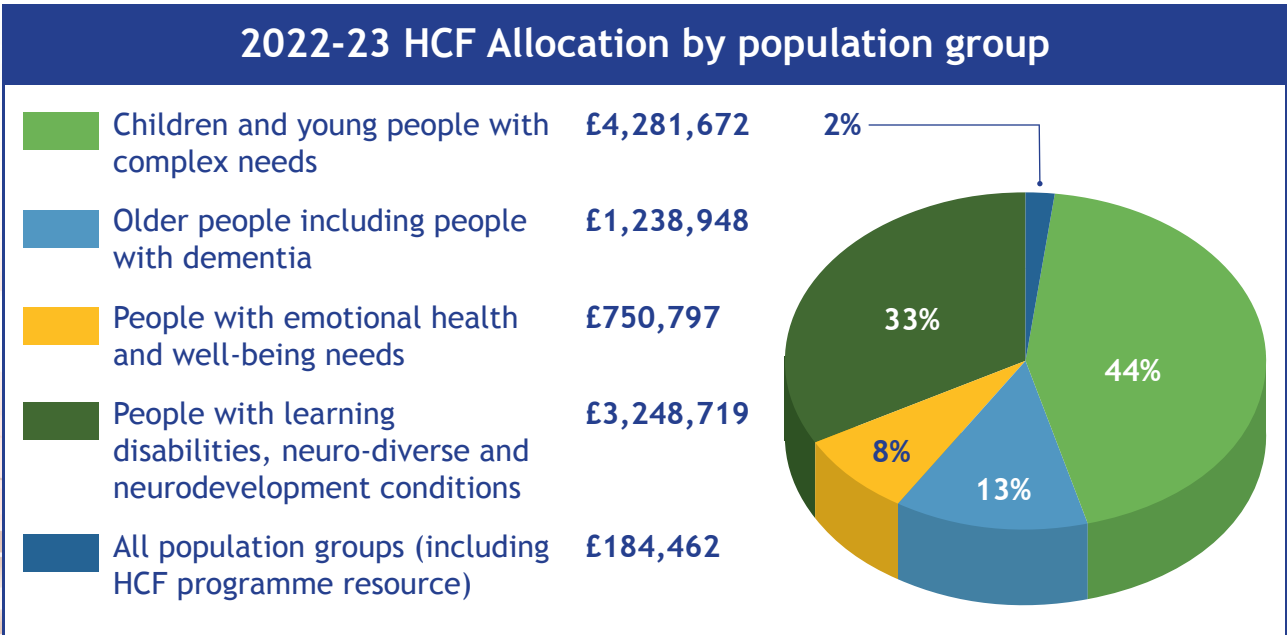
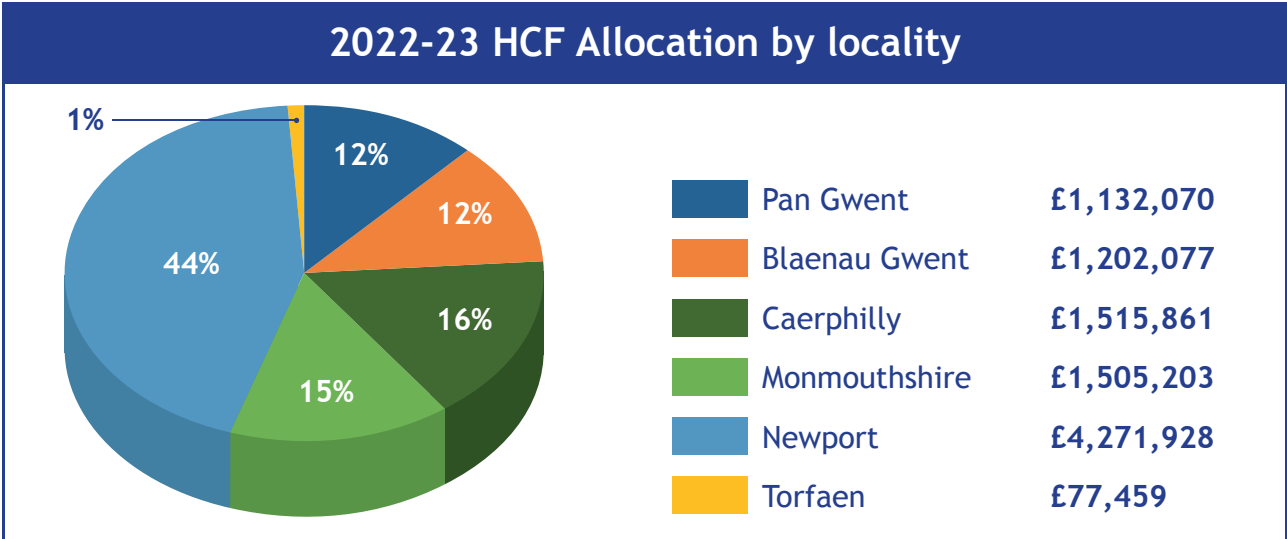
2022-23 Regional Partnership Capital Programme

Welsh Government provided significant growth in partnership capital funding at the outset of the 2022-23 financial year, building on the successes and learning from the ICF Capital programme. Welsh Government have therefore introduced two sources of capital funding for the region as the Housing with Care Fund (the successor to the ICF Capital programme), and the new Integration and Rebalancing Capital Fund. Both funding streams support key programmes for government commitments and are intended to be complementary and supported by RIF revenue to develop new models of preventative care.

With 2022-23 being the first year of a refreshed capital programme for Regional Partnership Boards, significant focus has been on fund utilisation against policy funding guidance in the early years of the programme, pending the development of a regional Strategic Capital Plan. With a significant collaborative effort between the Partnership PMO and partnership delivery organisations, the RPB were able to optimise the funding available to the region, utilising £9.7million of the £11.2million HCF allocation, achieving the highest number of committed accommodation bed spaces within Wales, with a pipeline of 44 units and 95 bed spaces being funded.

The graph below illustrates the fund utilisation on a county basis. Within Gwent, Newport City Council have secured £4.3m spend within the HCF programme, the second highest within Wales, whilst Caerphilly and Monmouthshire both secured £1.5m each, the third and fourth highest within Wales respectively. Whilst few developments were commenced in Torfaen during 22-23, there are a number of opportunities being explored for potential partnership funding in future years.

The graphs below provide an illustration of the Housing with Care Fund investment by population group and by geographical area for 2022-23.



In addition to the Housing with Care Fund, the Region utilised £3.3m of the Integrated Rebalancing Care Fund in 2022/23 for the Newport Integrated Health & Wellbeing Centre in 2022/23. With an expected completion date of December 2024, the remaining balance has been re-profiled into future years.

Improving System Flow

The Improving System Flow programme has two workstreams. The first is delivered by the Home First model which provides turnaround services at the hospital front door and preventing admission to the hospital where appropriate. Where admission is required, the second workstream provides a streamlined discharge liaison capacity to support people to be discharged to recover at home as quickly and safely as possible, transferring seamlessly between pathways. The overarching objective for the Improving System Flow programme is that community admission prevention and discharge support services are strengthened and redesigned to ensure that they are right sized to meet the needs of an individual. Through the redesign of services outcomes for individuals will be improved through the avoidance of unnecessary days in a hospital bed and subsequent deconditioning.

2022 to 2023 Delivery Summary

The programme primarily supports older people including those living with Dementia. The programme's Home First model has provided turnaround services at the front door of the hospital and the project has prevented unnecessary admissions, promoting efficient system flow. The emphasis on involving individuals in deciding where they receive care and support, as well as facilitating timely discharges with the necessary support in place, reflects good person-centred care practice and promotes individual involvement in the care journey.

Timely discharge of individuals from the hospital with appropriate support in place has been a notable programme success. By streamlining the discharge process and involving individuals in discharge planning the programme has facilitated smoother transitions and reduced unnecessary hospital stays.

- A total of 8,824 individuals accessed the services delivered by the programme. This demonstrates the programme's ability to reach a considerable number of people and suggests that it effectively addresses the needs of a diverse range of individuals.
- 1,689 individuals received aids and adaptations through the programme. This highlights the commitment to enhancing living conditions and promoting independence by providing necessary equipment or modifications at home.

2018-22 Dementia Action Plan

The regional Dementia Board oversee development and implementation of the national Dementia Action Plan (DAP) across Gwent; and general progress is highlighted in part 2a above, including how the RPB has delivered against the DAP aims. The Dementia Board have considered the new national Dementia Standards and strategic alignment across the DAP priority areas and this will be embedded during 2022/23. The RIF allocation has been distributed and allocated against the national DAP aims.

PART 3: Communication, engagement and social value

i How your Board engaged directly with service users, or groups representing service users.

Communication and Engagement Strategy

The RPB will be working to refresh its communications and engagement strategic approach in light of Rebalancing Care consultation (up to 14th August). The Gwent RPB website has undergone a redesign during 2022-2023, with many areas now finalised. The website redesign continues to take place and is due to be completed by the end of 2023. The new look website will be key to further raising the profile of the RPB with both the public and professionals. The new design will act as platform to share the work of the RPB across Gwent with the aim to engage citizens in policy decisions and share information, advice, and assistance.

The below data, demonstrates increase in website usage since the commencement of the redesign.

<https://gwentrpb.wales/>

The English facing site from 01 April 2021 to the 31 March 2022	The English site from 01 April 2022 to the 31 March 2023
Users - 2,214	Users - 3,912
Sessions - 3,070	Sessions - 6,034
Page Views - 7,470	Page Views - 22,502

The RPB raises awareness of national campaigns through social media (Twitter and Facebook) and includes key messages from Monday to Friday each week of national campaigns.

<https://twitter.com/BoardGwent>

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068857284255>

Citizen's Panel

The Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) sets out through coproduction principles the need for partners, including citizens to work together. The Citizen Panel Chair and Vice Chair attend Regional Partnership Board (RPB) meetings and feedback topics raised at the Citizen's Panel Meetings. The Vice Chair is also an unpaid carer and ensures the voice of carers is included in discussions. Due to the pandemic the meetings are now hybrid so panel members can join either via teams or in person at the Civic Centre. The meeting has extended to 2 hours.

“Attending the Gwent Citizen panel gives me a chance to voice concerns, on matters that are important to me, in Health and Social Care, as well as catching up with new and useful information. It also gives access to people who can often make things happen. I enjoy the privilege of raising points from my community and feeding back to them.” - GCP Citizen

Standard agenda items discussed at each meeting: notes from previous meeting with an action log to monitor progress, community updates from partners including hospital discharge, update from Llais, Area Plan Priorities and upcoming Events. A more detailed list of topics discussed during 2022/23 is included in annex 4.

Co-operation and participation with relevant partners and adults with care and support needs, carers, people with dementia and children and young people.

- The Regional Autism group include parents of people living with autism and meets regularly to monitor and implement the new autism code of practice.
- The Citizen Panel Vice Chair is an unpaid carer and identified RPB carers member. Carers sit on the Gwent Carers Strategic Partnership Board and provide a voice for carers across the region. The board also links to established carers groups and coordinators in each of the 5 local authority areas and ABUHB.
- The Dementia Board oversee Dementia Friendly Communities across the region with a regional group coordinating delivery and Dementia Friends awareness. People with Dementia and their carers sit on local groups and help coproduce approaches to deliver DFC. We have been continuing to link with people living with dementia and their carers via online webinars and forums during the past year and also a number of face-to-face events with ABUHB.
- The Mental Health & Learning Disability strategic partnership have engaged with people within mental health and learning disability services to develop an Engagement and Involvement Strategy for Gwent, to help transform future services and are continuing to implement coproduction training for both professionals and experts by experience and all citizen panel notes are easy read and produced by a third sector partner.
- The RPB have continued to engage with members of Coleg Gwent to promote careers across health and social care and how to design course content to promote the sector.
- The RPB continues to engage with the Regional Youth Forum around a Mental Health Campaign following the completion of the national UK Youth Parliament's Make Your Mark survey.

- Neuro Development parent group - we are working together with parents awaiting an assessment for their child to develop solutions together around how we might provide support to families on the waiting list. We have been working with the group to create a group identity (name/mission statement) and working on our 'key objectives' going forward.

Co-Production in Partnerships



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Aneurin Bevan
University Health Board

What is co-production?

Partnership co-production is the process in which those who use or have used a public service become involved in the development of that service. Within the Health Board and other partners this is seen in voluntary and paid opportunities for service users and carers to be involved in a variety of projects such as sitting on interview panels, co-producing new pathways and becoming a peer mentor. This not only benefits the services, but also the individual and overall co-production is a process that is highly valued with the aim to embed it within all aspects of mental health and learning disabilities.

A multi agency steering group made up of public service staff, 3rd sector representatives and those with lived experience of mental illness and learning disability ambassadors meet every 6 weeks to collaboratively make progress on a work plan created to focus on embedding co-production throughout the Health Board and partners.

"Nothing about us without us"

Victoria Stock says...

"The opportunity to work co-productively has been a real positive for me in both a personal and professional manner. Being able to offer my insight from a lived experience view point and also my working role within mental health alongside those in other organisations and the Health Board has given me a true reality of the challenges we face. But together we can make a difference and I am excited for the amazing outcomes from working co-productively with the team."

Victoria Stock, Lived Experience Volunteer for the Health Board



As a team we are exploring new and exciting ways to embed co-production, including liaising with the National Forum for service user and carers on policy documents, exploring the use of time credits to show the value and payment of volunteers time, recruiting representatives to sit on the Partnership Board and sub-groups and setting up the foundations for Lived Experience Advisory Panels.

Stephen Ash says...

"I have been working alongside the health board in the Gwent area and also working with Senedd advisory group. I have also been working with the Melo website. I feel with my life experiences with mental health and autism that I have made a difference to services. Before working alongside services I used to have the opinion that they couldn't be bothered to help people who are neurodiverse but since working alongside the health board I have changed my opinion and it's made me appreciate things are changing for the better."

Stephen Ash, Lived Experience volunteer for the Health Board

Sally Hewitt says...

"We want to ensure that co-production is a key under-pinning principle that ensures that people who have lived experience are involved at all levels of service design and delivery. We are also committed to ensuring that people with lived experience have a real opportunity to shape policy and throughout 2023 the Welsh Government will be working co-productively to develop the successor of both Together for Mental Health and Talk to me 2, as we see this as key to driving forward improvements."

Sally Hewitt, Senior Policy Lead, Mental Health and Vulnerable People for Welsh Government

For more information please contact: Libby.Ford@wales.nhs.uk or Lorna.Anderson@wales.nhs.uk

Engagement with people living with dementia

We have been working in collaboration with partners and communities providing webinars through ABUHB, to highlight the Dementia Care Standards, and gather peoples experiences of dementia care. This included bespoke webinars for people who are deaf, people from ethnic minority communities, carers and people who identify as LGBTQ+



Evening and daytime online and face to face enragement opportunities have also taken place, to highlight the Dementia Standards, and what this will mean for people living with dementia, their family, and carers.

Wales Listens Campaign: Improvement Cymru has launched a Wales Listens Campaign, which encourages regions to engage with specific communities and work with those communities to identify what they feel is important to ensuring good dementia care and support.



How we have engaged with wider stakeholders, including Public Service Boards, other strategic partnerships, service providers from the third and independent sectors

Third sector partners sit on the RPB including the Chairs and senior strategic leads from the 2 CVCs: Gwent Association Voluntary Organisations (GAVO) and Torfaen Voluntary Alliance (TVA). The chair of the Provider Third Sector Forum also sits on the RPB to ensure a voice for local providers and third sector partners. The third sector are also represented on the strategic partnerships under the RPB including CVC reps on Carers Board, GASP, Dementia Board and a specific third sector network developed under the Children and Families Board. The voice and input from third sector colleagues has contributed to partnership working across the region at all levels and in particular ensuring RIF funding was appropriately utilised across the third sector, in line with Welsh Government’s requirement for RPBs to ensure an identified proportion was made available. Third sector staff have also been seconded to work in the Performance Management Office administering RIF.

The Regional Partnership Team that supports the RPB work closely with Public Service Board colleagues and sit on a joint regional needs assessment and engagement group. A PSB Chair has also attended and shadowed RPB members at meetings. The 5 PSBs have now merged a regional board and developed a regional stakeholder engagement group and RPB officers attend to ensure synergy.

Progress to establish social value forums to promote social value and share good practice.

The RPB continues to engage with WCVA and the Wales Cooperative centre in adopting a Social Value Forum Toolkit and will look to support the development of social enterprises across the regions working with our third sector umbrella organisations. We will work at pace during 2023 to rebrand our current forums in line with new duties set out in Rebalancing Care and refreshed codes of practice.

The Regional Commissioning Group continue to explore new opportunities linked to RIF and will provide a renewed focus to further develop the role of 3rd sector social Value-Based services in the region. This may be linked to day services or to supporting hospital discharge, admission avoidance and maintaining low level support in the community.

The Mental Health and Learning Disability Partnership are also exploring a new coproduction approach to commissioning based on a consortium approach across third sector providers.

Gwent Regional Domiciliary Care Provider Fora

The Gwent Regional Domiciliary care provider fora is a long-established forum led by the Regional Team and ABUHB to provide support to domiciliary care providers in Gwent. Meetings are held on a monthly basis collaboratively between the local authorities and ABUHB, and address current issues being experienced by providers. During the pandemic, these meetings were increased to weekly, to ensure that providers were suitably supported while receiving up to date legislative information.

Care Home Executive Liaison Group (CHELG)

As with third sector and domiciliary care providers, the regional team also engages with care home providers. Support is provided to ABUHB at monthly care home webinars. These were increased during the pandemic to weekly, although occurred more frequently when new legislation was released. This allowed local authorities and ABUHB to ensure care homes were suitably supported through a critical period.

More recent meetings have focussed on the recruitment and retention issues faced by providers, and the effects of the cost of living crisis on services. Regular engagement with care providers in Gwent while also ensuring key priorities are addressed by RPB through provider representatives. Providers also engage with ongoing workstreams, such as regional fee methodology and a regional approach to contract monitoring procedures in care services.

“I must commend Gwent for their partnership approach with commissioned services which I know is much appreciated by care homes, domiciliary care agencies and 3rd sector bodies alike. Prior to the COVID pandemic partnership working was well developed in the region and this provided a head start when it came to working through the many and varied issues brought about during the 2020 - 2022 period. The weekly webinars were particularly valued.”
- Melanie Minty, Provider Representative, Gwent RPB

PART 4: Forward look

The new Area Plan sets out the key actions and priorities following the Population Needs Assessment and will continue to focus on priorities requiring collaboration and include:

- Reduce length of hospital stays for older people and return safely back home with sustainable support through our winter planning and delivering the 'Further Faster' agenda.
- Continued focus on children with complex needs and children looked after, especially provision and impact of out of county placements.
- The increasing need to support people living with dementia and their carers especially with community support and earlier intervention.
- The domiciliary care marketplace requires innovative solutions to long term recruitment.
- Isolation, loneliness, and impact on mental health.
- Respite is critical for carers and needs to be available in a timely and flexible way (formal, informal) especially in crisis situations.
- Recruitment across health and social care, especially Domiciliary Care workers.

The RPB will continue to monitor and support progress of the Area Plan through 2023/24.

Annexe 1: Register of RPB bi-monthly meetings

Meeting date	Meeting type	Key topics covered
July 2022	Business Meeting	RPB Chair election and ratification. Terms of Reference update. Winter Plan and preparing for future challenges. Regional Integration Fund Outline Plan sign off. Programme Closure report. Frailty Budget proposals for consideration and sign off. Draft RPB Annual report. Views from Regional Citizen Panel. RPB Self-Assessment.
September 2022	Business Meeting	Eliminating profit from Children's Services. Winter Plan update and risk assessment. Regional Integration Fund financial plan and Memorandum of Understanding. Market Stability report. RPB Self-Assessment. Views from Regional Citizen Panel.
October 2022	Special Meeting	RPB Capital Workshop
November 2022	Business Meeting	Winter Plan and risk assessment. Workforce transformation and planning. Partnership Programme Development and Delivery. NCN Development and Integrated Partnership Strategic Planning. RPB Statutory Duties and Self-Assessment. Views from Regional Citizen Panel. Views from the Third Sector. Views from the Provider Forum. Autism and Neurodevelopment.
December 2022	Special Meeting	Regional Integration Fund.
January 2023	Business Meeting	Winter Plan review and system pressures. Redesign of Services for Older People and Frailty Service. RPB Statutory Duties and Self-Assessment. Views from Regional Citizen Panel. Views from the Third Sector. Views from the Provider Forum. Partnership Programme Development and Delivery.
March 2023	Business Meeting	RPB Chair's update. Redesign of Services for Older People and Frailty Service. Frailty budget sign off. Winter Plan review and system pressures. RPB Statutory Duties and Self-Assessment. Regional Partnership Board Footprint meeting (with Welsh Government) - proposed amendments to Part 2 and Part 9 of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act.

Annexe 2: Membership of the Regional Partnership Board

The required membership of the Regional Partnership Board is set out in statutory guidance in Part 9 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act. The Board also has the flexibility to co-opt additional members should they wish.

The current RPB membership as of March 2023 is set out below:

Name	Title	Organisation
Ann Lloyd CBE	ABUHB Chair	ABUHB (Chair)
Phil Robson	Independent Member	ABUHB (RPB Vice Chair)
Katija Dew	Independent Member	ABUHB
Nicola Prygodzicz	Chief Executive	ABUHB
Chris O'Connor	Interim Executive Director of Primary Care, Community and Mental Health	ABUHB
Tracy Daszkiewicz	Executive Director for Public Health & Strategic Partnerships	ABUHB
Cllr Hayden Trollope	Executive Member	Blaenau Gwent
Tanya Evans	Interim Director, Social Services	Blaenau Gwent
Cllr Elaine Forehead	Executive Member	Caerphilly
Dave Street	Director, Social Services	Caerphilly
Cllr Tudor Thomas	Executive Member	Monmouthshire
Jane Rodgers	Director, Social Services	Monmouthshire
Will McLean	Monmouthshire	Education Rep
Cllr Jason Hughes	Executive Member	Newport (Vice Chair)
Sally Jenkins	Director, Social Services	Newport
Cllr David Daniels	Executive Member	Torfaen
Jason O'Brien	Director, Social Services	Torfaen
Paula Kennedy	Chief Executive	Melin Homes
Melanie Minty	Care Forum Wales	Provider Rep
Lorraine Morgan	Citizen's Panel Chair	Citizen Rep
Christine Kemp-Philp	Citizen's Panel Vice Chair	Citizen Rep
Stephen Tiley	GAVO	Third Sector Rep
Anne Evans	TVA	Third Sector Rep

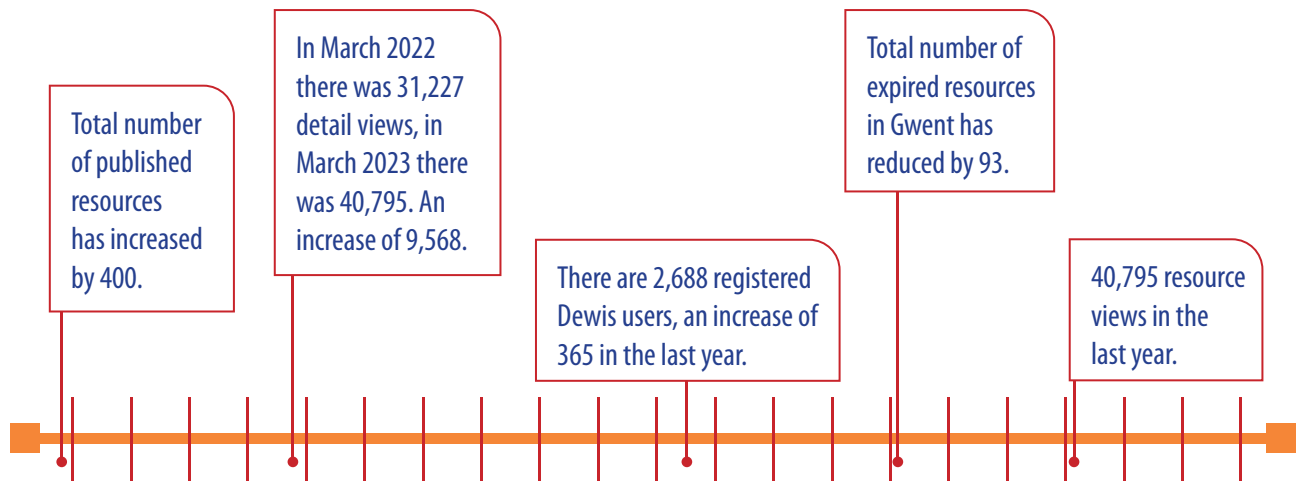
Annexe 3: DEWIS Citizen Portal

Overall Progress 2022 - 2023

www.Dewis.Cymru
Cael dewis a chymryd rheolaeth



www.Dewis.Wales
Have choice and take control



Top 3 Successes

1. Increased resources and a reduction in expired resources.
2. Increased registered users.
3. Resource detail views have increased.

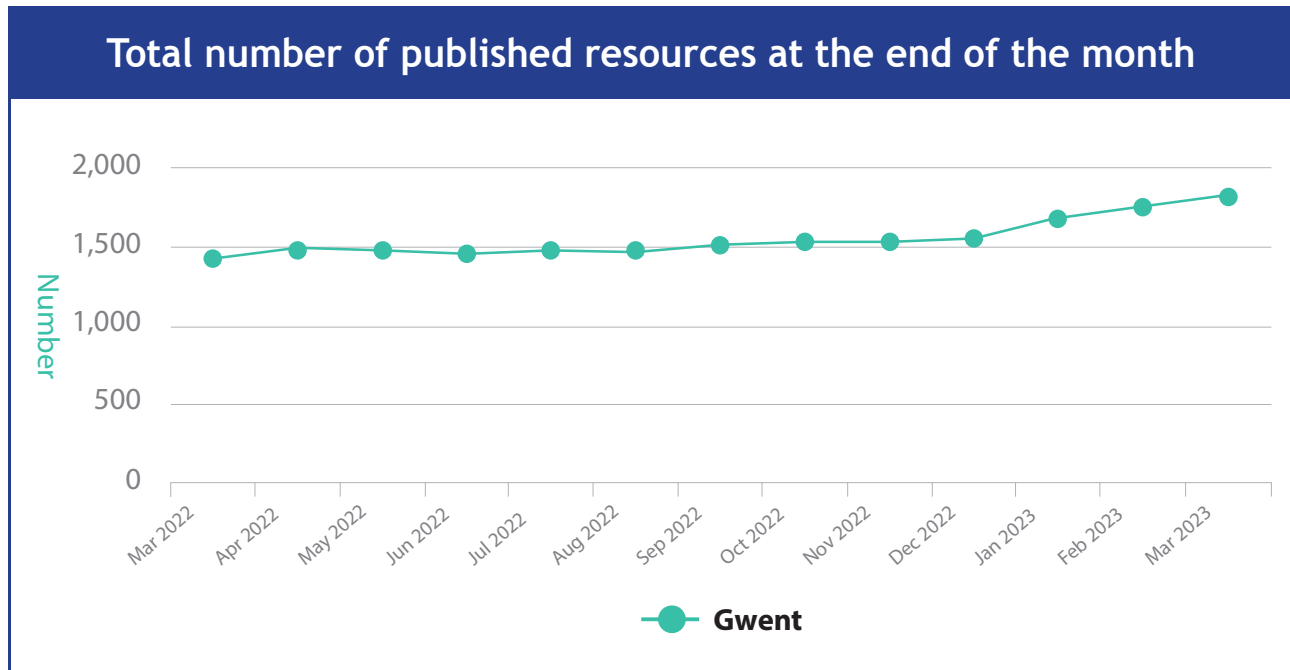
Top 3 Challenges

1. Re-engaging with expired resources.
2. Myth busting that DEWIS resources are out of date if viewable.
3. Ensuring DEWIS is developed with/linked to existing/new directories, developing stronger links with partners and organisations.

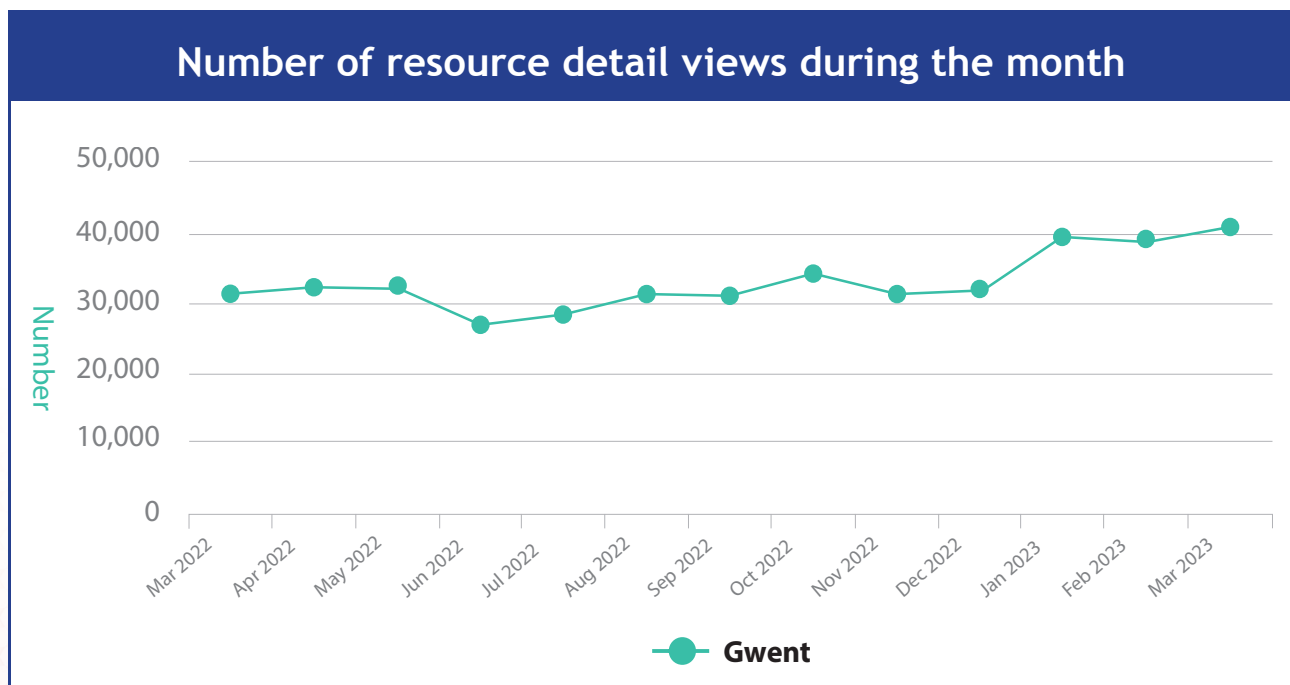
Next Steps

1. Continue to lead and coordinate DEWIS implementation across the region.
2. Promote and encourage the use of DEWIS within the community and with providers of support and services throughout Gwent.
3. Continue to increase available resources and reduce the number of expired resources.

March Data 2022-2023

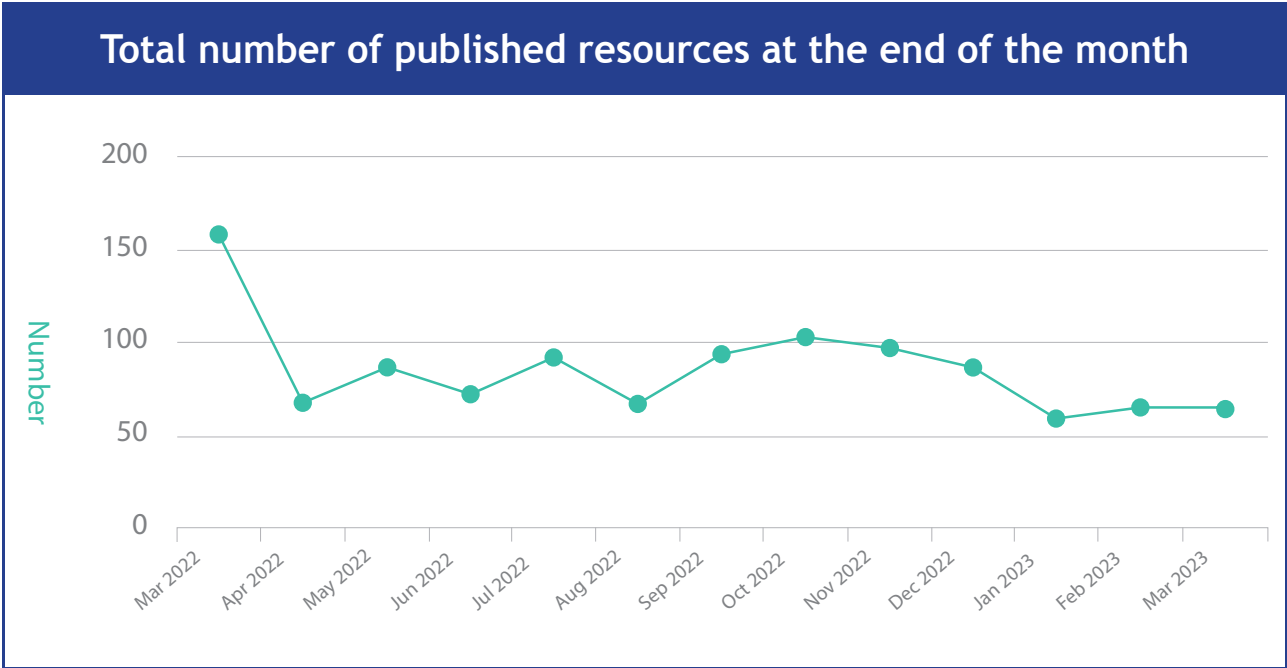


The required membership of the Regional Partnership Board is set out in statutory guidance in Part 9 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act. The Board also has the flexibility to co-opt additional members should they wish.

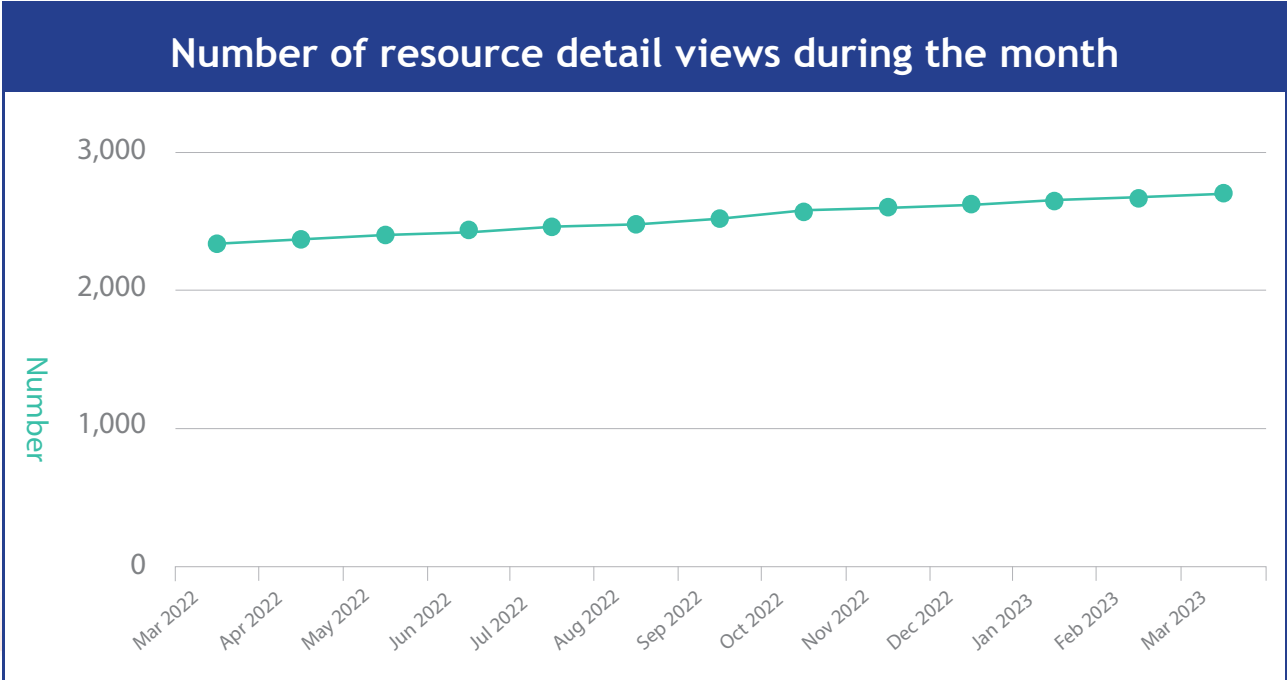


The graph above shows how many clicks there has been in Gwent over the past year, this shows how many times someone has searched for something on Dewis and then clicked to find more information about the resource. In March 2022 there was 31,227 clicks and in March 2023 there was 40,795. Over the last year there has been an increase of 9,568 clicks.

March Data 2022-2023



The graph above shows the Total number of expired resources in Gwent over the past year, in March 2022 there was 158 expired resources and in March 2023 there was 65 expired resources. This has been a decrease of 93 expired resources.



The graph above shows the Total number of registered users over the last year. In March 2022 there was 2,323 registered users and in March 2023 there was 2,688. There has been an increase of 365 users over the last year

Annexe 4: Gwent Citizen Panel discussed topics 2023/24

Meeting topics

Unpaid Carers.

Carer's week takes place in June every year, the theme for the last year was making carers valued. We have a young carers hub - in the last year held 28 events. Supporting Life Alongside Caring - a small grant scheme and a young carer in school's programme.

Finding the Light in Dementia presentation.

There is a training platform called 'My Favourite Things'. This has been developed with people who have dementia through the dementia, engagement and empowerment project and the 3 Nations Working Dementia Group. The training is available for hospital staff, volunteers, care homes, or anyone working within dementia linked roles.

Jackie's Revolution presentation.

Jackie's Revolution has moved from a concept to a campaign. The sole purpose of Jackie Revolution is to ensure that it's based on community and citizens and our community has been identified as the people born between 1945 and 1964, the so-called baby boomer generation. The intention is that our community has real choice and viable options to live and die in our own homes or wherever we choose.

Wellbeing Plan presentation. Online consultation.

Cost of Living Crisis.

This is something that we're trying to raise through all the strategic partnerships and dementia friendly communities, as this is a topic that's affecting everyone.

Obstructive Parking - Crime Commissioner and Gwent Police.

A Member of the panel put together a presentation. Dropped curb parking is endangering disabled people.

ASB - Crime Commissioner and Gwent Police.

A number of ongoing projects were discussed.

Community Podiatry Services presentation.

The acting head for podiatry in ABUHB took attendees through a presentation. Any health care professional can refer a patient to the service

Market Stability Report.

As a requirement of WG each LA and Health Board are required to produce a MSR and the Regional Partnership Board must publish a regional summary. The report has been taken through all LA councils for comment and sign off of the report.

Housing Support Grant presentation.

Housing Support Grant brought together 3 funding streams: Supporting People Programme, some Homelessness Prevention Grant funding and Rent Smart Wales funding.

Direct Payments presentation.

Direct Payments are monetary payments made to an individual who is eligible to receive a service for care and support from a Local Authority.

Meeting topics

Value Based Care presentation.

Value based healthcare is the equitable, sustainable and transparent use of the available resources to achieve better outcomes and experiences for every person.

Track the Act - Carers Wales presentation.

Under the Social Services and Well-being Act 2014, unpaid carers in Wales have equal legal rights to support as well as the people they look after.

ABUHB CEO

ABUHB CEO attended the September meeting to discuss Covid 19 Pandemic, vaccination programme, annual plan and answer questions from the panel.

Compassionate Communities -

ABUHB presentation contained patient stories.

Police and Crime Plan Engagement Survey -

Link sent to panel to complete.

Engagement Reports - GAVO and TVA.

Results from the survey which asked of those who have accessed health services during the pandemic. BAME has been renamed Diverse Communities.

The State of Caring in Wales -

Carers Wales presentation. There are a growing number of carers. Welsh Government Strategy for Unpaid Carers: 4 national priorities and delivery plan.

Time Credits -

Paper time credits have now gone digital. The panel were encouraged to join the scheme.

ABUHB Primary Care Update -

Digital, face to face and home visiting is important as a blended approach. The telephony service must be fit for purpose. Recruitment and retention is important. Dental work was suspended due to the pandemic, this caused a backlog and urgent care is to be prioritised.

Day Services -

Several day services were closed and people with learning disabilities were accessing more local services available to them.

Population Needs Assessment -

RPT presentation looked at population increase and core themes including Dementia, Older people, Carers, Mental Health, Children Looked After, Learning Disabilities, Autism, Housing and next steps.

Older Persons Commissioner -

Helena Herklots presentation on priorities: Protecting and Promoting Older Peoples Rights, Stopping the Abuse of Older People, Ending Ageism and Age Discrimination and Enabling Everyone to Age Well.

Annexe 5: Assistive Technology

The Assistive Technology (AT) Programme seeks to maximise the use and impact of Assistive Technology solutions to improve health and well-being outcomes, maintain and improve independence, and support the transformation of models of care. The programme goal is to work with partners across Gwent to optimise the implementation and effectiveness of AT and technology-enabled care (TEC) solutions, which enhance health and well-being outcomes, maintain and improve independence and aid escalation prevention.

2022 to 2023 Delivery Summary

The Assistive Technology (AT) programme includes regional Better Care projects, a Technology Coach and AT projects centrally managed by the RPB PMO team. Over the last year, there has been a positive increase in the collaboration and sharing of existing AT projects across the region and clarity of AT leads across local authorities, housing associations, third sector and within the health board.

Organisations across Gwent continue to innovate and use AT products that are person-centred and in ways that are making a positive difference. There has been an increasing investment in AT and Telecare over many years and there is a good level of awareness of the products available across all partners. Over the 2022-23 period, the programme has assisted 754 people in various capacities. Additionally, 290 people received training delivered through 92 sessions. The Gwent AT Network delivered an Inspiring Digital Activities Festival of training in partnership with Digital Communities Wales in March. The 4 sessions resulted in training 37 people accessing training. Programme Case Studies.

1. How Care and Repair is Helping to Tackle Hospital Waiting Times.
2. How British Red Cross support staff and patients within the Emergency Department.
3. Newport and other counties in the region have produced wellbeing town maps.
4. The Happiness Programme has been rolled out across Gwent including County Hospital.
5. 15 'happy to chat' benches have been installed in Monmouthshire to help tackle loneliness.

Assistive Technology and Dementia

- RITA (Reminiscence Interactive Therapy Activities), developed by My Improvement Network, enhances care for older individuals, including those with dementia and mental health conditions. It uses a touchscreen device with interactive screens to offer meaningful activities that blend entertainment with therapy. RITA assists patients, particularly those with memory impairments, in recalling and sharing past events through music, news reports, speeches, games, karaoke, and films. Over 120 RITA devices were purchased in 2020/2021 and distributed to care homes, hospitals, and healthcare teams. An additional 140 devices were purchased in 2021/2022 and distributed in partnership with local authorities and third-sector organizations in Gwent. RITA is also being used by mobile teams and has been trialled in complex care settings. More information is available on the Gwent RPB website - <https://www.gwentrpb.wales/rita>

- **500 HUG** devices were purchased for distribution across Gwent as a pilot in the financial year 2021/2022. A guide has been co-produced with partners to support implementation across the region. Although designed for people living with Dementia, the device is being tested in a range of different settings including - care homes, hospital wards, hospice care, carers and organisations within the third sector. A HUG evaluation by TEC Cymru is due for completion in Summer 2023. More information is available on the Gwent RPB website - [HUG by LAUGH - Gwentrpb](#)
- The Happiness Programme, developed by Social Ability, blends interactive, sensory light technology with a guided programme and training and support. Developed for people living with cognitive physical care needs the projector, known as a Magic Table 360, offers meaningful and engaging activity through over 80 interactive activities. The activities are a collection of interactive games, quizzes and mindful immersive content some of which are specific to Wales. Over **140** devices have been distributed across all sectors in Gwent with early feedback positive. More information is available on the Gwent RPB website [Happiness Programme - Gwentrpb](#)
- Stay Well at Home Pilot - The Stay Well at Home project is a free non-intrusive monitoring service being tested by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) in partnership with a smart home monitoring provider, HOWZ. This system aims to help people retain their independence by supporting people to stay safer at home for longer. The pilot project started in April 2023 with five patients.

Annexe 6: Micro Care

The Regional Partnership Team in partnership with Monmouthshire Council have completed a 12-month Micro Care pilot. The pilot aimed to explore if micro carers could support local care capacity and delivery, providing an alternative to traditional domiciliary care provision. Micro-care pilots have been introduced in other regions as a response to the national shortage of care workers and to meet the growing demand for care at home, particularly in rural areas where recruitment is difficult. During the initial stages of the project, a 'Community Catalyst' was commissioned on a consultancy basis to support with project roll out.

The pilot has focused on two identified areas where micro carers could potentially support local care capacity:

- Providing care to those that self-fund their care and support
- Providing care to those in receipt of direct payments.

The first 12 months of micro care in Monmouthshire has seen 9 micro carers meet the standards laid out in the code of practise and entered onto the micro care directory. There are currently 21 citizens being supported by micro carers in their local community, delivering a total of 161 hours of care and support each week. There are 5 citizens funding their own care through a micro care service, and 16 citizens via a direct payment.

Following the success of the first 12 months of the pilot, Monmouthshire CBC intend to continue the project for a further 12 months with a full-time member of staff.

Next steps will look to see if the Monmouthshire micro care model could be scaled up and learning shared with the other Gwent local authorities.

Micro Carer Video- Liza and Phoebe



The poster features the 'microcare' logo with the tagline 'a little bit of good'. The main headline reads 'Become a micro carer and make a big difference!'. Below this, it asks if the reader is passionate about supporting people in their community and interested in being their own boss. It provides contact information: 'Call us on: 07977094126 for an informal chat about becoming a micro carer Or Scan the QR code below or e-mail microcarer@monmouthshire.gov.uk to register your interest.' It also states 'We offer FREE support with business set-up and training.' The bottom of the poster includes the Monmouthshire Council logo and contact details: 'Tel: 07977094126' and 'Email: microcarer@monmouthshire.gov.uk'. The illustration shows a woman in a purple coat pushing a man in a wheelchair, with a dog and a silhouette of a person in the background.

microcare
a little bit of good

Become a micro carer and make a big difference!

Passionate about supporting people in your community?
Interested in being your own boss? Looking for flexible, local work?

Then we want to hear from you!

Call us on: **07977094126** for an informal chat about becoming a micro carer Or Scan the QR code below or e-mail microcarer@monmouthshire.gov.uk to register your interest.

We offer **FREE** support with business set-up and training.





 monmouthshire
sir fynywy

Tel: 07977094126
Email: microcarer@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Annexe 7: Annual Carers report

(Submitted separately)

Annexe 8: Gwent Dementia Friendly Communities Conference Report 2022

(Submitted separately)

Annexe 9: Regional Integration Fund End of Year Report 2022-23

(Submitted separately)



Agenda Item 27

Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: N/A

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

Committee: **Council**

Date of Meeting: **23rd November, 2023**

Report Subject: **Memberships Report**

Portfolio Holder: **Councillor S. Thomas – Leader/
Cabinet Member – Corporate Overview
& Performance**

Report Submitted by: **Democratic Services**

Report Written by: **Democratic 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)
							23/11/23	

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To present a list of Memberships for consideration and determination by Members of the Council.

2. Scope

2.1 ADVISORY PANEL FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNORS

To ratify the following appointments made at the panel meeting held on 15th November, 2023:

Beaufort Hill Primary School – Belinda Tolman
Georgetown Primary School – Jacqueline Thomas
Bryn Bach Primary School – Nyree Davies-Jones

2.2 GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE LAY MEMBER APPOINTMENT

To ratify the appointment of Mrs Cheryl Hucker as a Lay Member on the Governance & Audit Committee.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

To consider the above.