

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


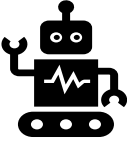



Welsh Government Core Theme	Outcome Priority
Children and Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve outcomes for children and young people with complex needs through earlier intervention, community-based support, and placements closer to home. • To ensure good mental health and emotional 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.