

Committee: **Social Services Scrutiny Committee**  
Date of meeting: **17<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

Report Subject: **Regional Partnership Update**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr John Mason, Executive Member Social Services**

Report Submitted by: **Damien McCann, Corporate Director of Social Services**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
		07.10.19			17.10.19	06.11.19		

**1. Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of the Report is to update Members on the work and decisions taken over the last 6 months by the Regional Partnership Board, developed under statutory guidance Part 9 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWB Act).

**2. Scope and Background**

- 2.1 The SSWB Act came into force in April 2016, Part 9 of the Act sets out statutory requirement for a Regional Partnership Board (RPB), along with the required minimum membership and a regional Citizen Panel, regional Provider Forum and regional Leadership Group (senior officer group) which have all been established.
- 2.2 The Regional Partnership Boards have been established on current local health board footprints – so the Gwent Regional Partnership Board includes Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) and Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen local authorities.
- 2.3 The regulations also set out required membership of Regional Partnership Boards. The Executive member in each local authority, with responsibility for health and social care, sits on the Regional Partnership Board. In a similar vein, non-executive members of the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board also sit on the Regional Partnership Board.
- 2.4 The Regional Partnership Board is an advisory body, that does not take away the existing responsibilities of the individual statutory bodies, but it is expected to take oversight of and provide direction to, any areas of integrated working across health and social care.
- 2.5 Social Services Scrutiny Committee on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017 agreed for the Executive Member of Social Services and Director of Social Services to report

back to Scrutiny Committee on a quarterly basis. This approach was endorsed by Executive Committee on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

- 2.6 The Regional Partnership Board has met on a number of occasions since the last report to Scrutiny Committee on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019. There are a number of areas which have occupied the Regional Partnership Board over this period. Firstly, the Transformational Offer which sets out the proposals of the Gwent Regional Partnership Board, to support the continued development of a 'seamless system' of care, support and well-being in Gwent, in response to the Welsh Government's new long term plan for health and social care 'A Healthier Wales'. Secondly, the Integrated Care Revenue and Capital Fund which has required bids and has been awaiting approval by Welsh Government. Thirdly, a visit by Health Secretary, Vaughan Gething to the Regional Partnership Board on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and the fact that Welsh Government has appointed KPMG to commission a short review of the extent of progress with establishing pooled fund arrangement in each of the Regional Partnership Boards. Fourthly, a visit was received from the Children's Commissioner in Wales, Sally Holland to hear what integrated services we have in place for children with complex needs and for children and young people with mental health problems. Finally, the Regional Partnership Board has commissioned the Bevan Commission and Social Care Wales to help us look at future models of services across the Boards area.
- 2.7 Members may recall in the previous report dated the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018 and 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019 that the Regional Partnership Board had successfully developed and submitted a 'Gwent transformational offer' to Welsh Government which was approved and granted the Gwent RPB £13.4 million of new limited funding over a two year period. Members may also recall that this was in response to 'A Healthier Wales' which set out a new £100 million transformational programme. It has the expectation that transformational change delivers a 'seamless system of health and social care'. The new plan emphasises the role of the Regional Partnership Boards in setting the strategic change agenda and providing the collaborative leadership required to deliver system change through the 'Area Plan'. The new transformation fund is intended to provide additional funding to catalyse 'whole system change', driven through the Regional Partnership Boards with an expectation that each region develops a 'transformational offer'.
- 2.8 The offer in Gwent related to four areas, derived from the priority areas within the Area Plan and the considered directions of the Regional Partnership Board. These include:
- The development of early intervention and prevention services;
  - The development of primary and community care services;
  - The redesign of child and adolescent emotional and mental health services;
  - The development of an integrated 'Home First' discharge model;
  - The development of workforce planning and organisational development to underpin transformational activity.

- 2.9 A summary of the different projects was previously provided at the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019 Scrutiny Committee but is attached again at Appendix 1 to remind Members of the projects.
- 2.10 There has been progress in relation to all Transformational projects, delivery is underway of enhanced early intervention and prevention services in tandem with the new transformational model of primary care. Transformation funding will deliver integrated well-being networks across Gwent with a model of compassionate communities. Individual local authorities are implementing plans that best fits the unique needs of their community.
- 2.11 Homefirst has been successfully implemented using a 'Trusted Assessors' model allowing patient to return home as soon as possible with support before they are assessed in their own home.
- 2.12 The Iceberg model has successfully implemented a 'Single Point of Access' (SPA) for GP's and Families and feedback is that it is making a considerable difference in improving access, making families feel more supported and able to access the system more easily. We are starting to activate additional capacity in schools to deliver the 'whole schools' approach as the next part of the system and enabling access through the SPA.
- 2.13 One of the difficulties with the Transformation funding is recruitment to specialist posts, with staff reluctant to leave existing posts for a short term funded post. This has been fed back to Welsh Government and hopefully will be taken on board for future funding streams.
- 2.14 The Regional Partnership Board is the body who sign off and agree the Integrated Care Fund revenue and capital proposals. We do not intend to go into detail of the funding obtained and the bids made and agreed for Blaenau Gwent within this report as this is subject to a separate report which will be presented at this Scrutiny Committee meeting. There has been some frustration with Welsh Government particularly over the capital funding which required bids in by early summer (May 2019) and were only confirmed at the end of September giving a 6 month period to implement some large schemes.
- 2.15 Vaughan Gething, Minister for Health and Social Services met with Chair of Gwent Regional Partnership Board; with the Local Health Board Chair and Chief Executive; Local Authority Leaders, and Cabinet Members with responsibility for social care together with Directors of Social Services on the 13 June, 2019 for an hour and half. The discussion was around an update from Minister on the implementation of A Healthier Wales: our plan for health and social care at a national level, and an outline of priorities for the year ahead. The RPB's presented its key achievements over the last 12 months; progress on Transformation Fund supported projects in the region. Finally a discussion of the steps being taken within the region to improve the effectiveness of transfers of care. The meeting was very fruitful and the Minister was particularly interested in the Iceberg model around children with complex mental health problems and was seeking early evidence of its

success or otherwise, although it was too early to provide clear evidence of its impact.

- 2.16 At the end of July 2019, Welsh Government wrote to the Chair of Regional Partnership Board explaining its plans to commission a short review of the extent of progress with establishing pooled fund arrangements. It is intended to confirm the extent that the arrangements in place are consistent with the regulations associated with the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act. Welsh Government has appointed accountancy firm KPMG to undertake this work. This will be undertaken over the coming months.
- 2.17 The Children's Commissioner for Wales Sally Holland also visited the Regional Partnership Board in September 2019, to discuss our approach to integrated services for children with complex needs due to disability or illness and for children and young people with mental health problems. Again the Commissioner was impressed with some of the models that we have been implementing across Gwent and similar to the Minister for Health and Social Care was keen to see the evidence emanating from these projects.
- 2.18 To enable the RPB to oversee service transformation and the successful delivery of 'A healthier Wales' development sessions are held on a regular basis to support members to build trust, enable critical challenge and scrutiny. To help the Board to continue this they have mandated a programme of organisational development to be facilitated by the Bevan Commission and Social Care Wales to co-create with the RPB an options paper to set out potential options for future service delivery models, which will be effective and sustainable in the Gwent context.

### 3. **Options for Recommendation**

#### 3.1 The options for consideration are:

Option 1 – to scrutinise the report and to support the decisions of the Regional Partnership Board:

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

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

The report is fulfilling our statutory functions under the Social Services and Well-being Act 2014 and accompanying regulations.

The report is also fulfilling a number of the Social Services aims within the Corporate Plan:

- To improve accessibility, provision of information and advice to enable people to support their own well-being;
- To intervene early to prevent problems from becoming greater;

- To work with our partners including Aneurin Bevan Health Board and neighbouring authorities to deliver integrated responsive care and support;
- To promote and facilitate new ways of delivering health and social care involving key partners and our communities.

A number of the areas being progressed by the Regional Partnership Board will support us to achieve two of the Wellbeing Plan objectives:

- The best start in life for everyone;
- To encourage and enable people to make healthy lifestyle choices in the place that they live, learn, work and play.

## 5. Implications Against Each Option

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

There are no immediate impacts on the budget, the Integrated Care Capital Fund is provided on an annual basis to fund innovative projects within Health and Social Care until the term of the current Welsh Government. The transformation fund is to develop new models of transformation at pace and has been agreed for a two year period. These are all additional funding coming into the system.

The Integrated Care Capital Fund provides significant investment to develop a number of projects across Blaenau Gwent and Gwent as a whole and should this funding be removed at the end of the Government's time in the Assembly then this may have significant consequences going forward. In addition the transformation fund is a time limited fund intended to replace or reconfigure existing services not adding an extra layer; therefore there is an expectation that these models will be funded from core budgets going forward.

### 5.2 *Risk including Mitigating Actions*

Option 1 - The Regional Partnership Board has statutory responsibilities laid out within the Social Services and Well-being Act 2014 and Ministers expect to see the Regional Partnership Boards, maturing into a vehicle for more integrated commissioning, transformation and improvement across health and social care, with an emphasis on providing more care closer to home, maintaining independence and reducing unnecessary hospital admissions. Therefore by implementing the Gwent transformation offer the Regional Partnership Board is complying with the legislation and Ministerial expectations.

Option 1 – Welsh Government has also determined that the use of the Integrated Care Capital Fund and the new Transformational fund will have oversight by the Regional Partnership Board. Both these funding sources are to assist with the integration of health and social care across the Gwent Regional footprint. It is essential that the Regional Partnership Board has

oversight of funding proposals and subsequent use of these funding streams, and have approved the proposals before they were submitted and agreed by Welsh Government.

Option 2 – The Regional Partnership Board is made up of a number of organisations who collectively make decision for the good of the region. If Scrutiny were to recommend alternative approaches then it would need the support of neighbouring authorities and the health board to obtain consensus. Failure to do this would mean being in breach of legislation and could result in Welsh Government intervention. Whilst failure to comply with the requirements of the Integrated Care Capital Fund grant and Transformational fund could result in the withdrawal or ability to receive funding for the Blaenau Gwent and Gwent region respectively.

**5.3 *Legal***

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

**5.4 *Human Resources***

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

**6. *Supporting Evidence***

**6.1 *Performance Information and Data***

Not applicable.

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

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

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

The Regional Partnership Board has involvement from the third sector and representation from the Citizens Panel to ensure engagement and involvement in its direction.

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

The Regional Partnership Board provides the opportunity to work collectively and have a long term vision to progress integration and partnership across the Gwent region.

**6.5 *Preventative focus***

The Regional Partnership Board within its strategic intent statement will be considering how Health and Social Services can work together in a more preventative way.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

The role the Regional Partnership Board is to work collaboratively across boundaries to benefit citizens requiring health and social care services across Gwent.

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

The purpose of the Regional Partnership Board is to foster integration between Health and Social Services.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 The monitoring arrangements for the Regional Partnership Board are through the Social Services Scrutiny Committee and the Executive Committee on a quarterly basis.

**Background Documents /Electronic Links**

- *Appendix 1 – Transformation Offer Report Summary*