

Committee: **Social Services Scrutiny Committee**

Date of meeting: **13th January 2020**

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)
	17.12.19				13.01.20	29.01.20		

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 13th 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 15th March 2017.

- 2.6 The Regional Partnership Board has met on one occasion since the last report to Scrutiny Committee on the 17th October 2019. There were a number of areas which have occupied the Regional Partnership Board at this meeting. 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 wellbeing 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 considered the reallocation of underspend on current proposals. Thirdly, it has considered the Integrated Winter Plan for 2019/20. Finally, the Regional Partnership Board has an update on the Bevan Commission and Social Care Wales work to help develop future models of services across the Boards area.
- 2.7 Members may recall from previous reports 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 (Integrated Wellbeing Networks);
 - The development of primary and community care services (Compassionate Communities);
 - The redesign of child and adolescent emotional and mental health services (Iceberg model);
 - 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 24th January 2019 and 17th October 2019 Scrutiny Committee but is attached again at Appendix 1 to remind Members of the projects.

- 2.10 The transformation programme continues to deliver the agreed priorities at pace, given the extremely short and testing time frame provided by Welsh Government of 2 years. Compassionate Communities are now dealing with on average 120 patients per month. Work is underway to track outcomes and build a profile of 'patient experience' to demonstrate the impact and effect Compassionate Communities is having on patients. The Integrated Wellbeing Networks held a seminar at national primary care conference demonstrating the importance of improved wellbeing on demand for and access to primary and community services. Wellbeing offers are now under development and are a core element of 'Building a Healthier Gwent'.
- 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. HomeFirst has dealt with over 1000 patients and are now scoping out what an integrated model could look like to include all four recognised discharge pathways.
- 2.12 The Iceberg model continues to be 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. They have started 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 All four programmes have commissioned the evaluation of the models, with the Institute of Public Care being successful for place based care, integrated wellbeing networks and Homefirst and Cedar Associates are leading the evaluation of the ICEBERG model.
- 2.14 One of the difficulties with the Transformation funding continues to be 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.
- 2.15 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 as they were presented at Scrutiny Committee on the 17th October 2019. Local authorities across Gwent had requested that any slippage funding within existing projects be used for Children with Complex Needs to meet demand for the remainder of this year. Regional Leadership Group endorsed the approach for any ICF revenue slippage to be utilised for Children with Complex Needs. Quarter 2 reporting has provided an updated slippage figure of £450,000, requested to be shared on an equal basis with all Local Authorities in Gwent which has resulted in an additional £90K for Blaenau Gwent.
- 2.16 Winter Planning is an integral part of the Health and Social Care system responsibility and this year's plan has been developed, in line with Welsh

Government guidance, with all partners within the Regional Partnership Board (RPB) who have agreed to recommend a number of the activities in order to support patients within the Gwent area. The plan has been developed with colleagues across the Health Board and partners in Social Care, third sector and Welsh Ambulance Service. The RPB signed off and agreed to submit the RPB Winter plan to the Welsh Government.

2.17 The key themes within the Welsh Government's guidance for the use of the £3.252 million funding provided to the Regional Partnership Board was:

- Optimising cross organisational and sector working to support resilience;
- Urgent Primary Care / out of hour's resilience;
- Preventing Unnecessary Conveyance and Admission to Hospital;
- Discharge to Assess/Recover;
- Community Step Down Capacity;
- An enhanced focus on the respiratory pathway;
- An enhanced focus on the frailty pathway.

2.18 Blaenau Gwent bid for and obtained £133K funding to flexibly spot purchase step up/step down beds, to purchase additional domiciliary care packages, to purchase additional social work capacity over bank holidays and weekends and funding for hiring an additional 4x4 vehicle for adverse weather conditions. There were also some separate bids for additional health capacity locally and some Gwent wide bids for equipment e.g. single handed hoists.

2.19 One of the challenges for this year is medical, social care and nurse staffing to enable the increase in the Health Board's bed capacity and enhance community services. The current staffing gaps and high numbers of unfilled nursing posts presents a real risk to effective delivery of this part of the Winter Plan.

2.20 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. The final meeting is set for the 10th January 2020 after which the Bevan Commission and Social Care Wales will provide a report of the possible future service delivery models for Gwent.

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 Wellbeing 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 wellbeing;
- 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

Option 1 - The Regional Partnership Board have statutory responsibilities laid out within the Social Services and Wellbeing 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 are complying with the legislation and Ministerial expectations.

Option 1 – Welsh Government have also determined that the use of the Integrated Care Capital and Revenue Fund, the new Transformational fund and new Integrated Winter Planning fund which will have oversight by the Regional Partnership Board. All 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 are 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 and Revenue Fund, Transformational fund and Integrated Winter Planning fund could result in the withdrawal or ability to receive funding for the Blaenau Gwent and Gwent region respectively.

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 and Revenue 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***

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

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