



## **SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 26TH JULY 2022**

**SUBJECT: REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARDS - UPDATE**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES & HOUSING**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform members of the role and functions of the Regional Partnership Boards (RPB's) that were introduced as part of the implementation of the Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWBA).
- 1.2 For Members to understand the increasing significance of the RPB's in the eyes of Welsh Government (WG) and how they are becoming key drivers in delivering "seamless services" in Health and Social Care.
- 1.3 For Members to understand some of the historical work of the RPB since its inception, its key statutory obligations and its current priorities.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 Part 9 of the Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 required local authorities and Health Boards to establish Regional Partnership Boards. RPB's were established on Health Board footprints with consequently seven Boards being established. The RPB for this area is titled the Gwent Regional Partnership Board.
- 2.2 Since their inception in 2016 the RPB have become increasingly influential in developing integrated health and social care services across the region. The Board has also been recipient of significant amounts of grant funding from WG to support and develop integrated service.
- 2.3 Previous members of scrutiny committee will be aware that previous updates on the work of the RPB were presented in February 2020, December 2020 and June 2021. Some content of those reports is repeated in this report for the benefit of new members.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Members note the content of the report.
- 3.2 Members comment on the work of the Board, particularly current priorities and some of the challenges continuing to be faced in the context of regional working.
- 3.3 Members consider how they are best sighted on the work of the Board.

### **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 The RPB is becoming increasingly influential in shaping health and social care services, not just in Caerphilly CBC but across Wales. Increasingly staff and Members will need to be able to balance the priorities and use of resources locally with the requirements of Welsh Government around regional working.

### **5. THE REPORT**

- 5.1 Part 9 of the Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 required local authorities and Health Boards to establish Regional Partnership Boards to manage and develop services to secure strategic planning and partnership working between local authorities and local health boards and to ensure effective services, care and support are in place to best meet the needs of their respective population.
- 5.2 RPB's were to be established on Health Board footprints with consequently seven Boards being established. The RPB for this area is titled the Gwent Regional Partnership Board. Membership of the Gwent RPB consists of the five local authority Cabinet Members for Social Services, five Directors of Social Services, Health Board senior executives as well as representatives from the third sector, independent providers and citizen and care representatives. The board also has the ability to co-opt other members as required.
- 5.3 Under the provisions of the Act RPB's were required to prioritise the integration of services in relation to;
  - Older people with complex needs, including dementia.
  - People with learning disabilities.
  - Carers, including young carers.
  - Integrated Family Support services
  - Children with complex needs due to disability or illness.
- 5.4 In order to support this Boards must produce;
  - A Population Needs Assessment
  - An Area Plan
  - An Annual Report
  - Integrated Market Position Statement
  - Establish pooled funds for care homes and family support functions.

The majority of these documents can be found on the Gwent RPB website which can be found at [www.gwentrpb.wales](http://www.gwentrpb.wales).

- 5.5 In June 2018, WG published 'A Healthier Wales' its plan for Health & Social Care in Wales which required the development of 'new models of seamless local health and social care'. This document clearly laid out a significant role for RPB's in developing these services, supported by the provision of a dedicated Transformation Fund of £100m over two years across Wales. Bids initially submitted by the Gwent RPB secured just over £13m to support the development services such as Home First to prevent unnecessary admissions to hospital and the 'iceberg model' to support young people requiring mental health support. This funding allocated via the health boards who in essence acted as Treasurer.
- 5.6 Members will be aware that in March 2020 the Local authority and its statutory partners began their response to the Coronavirus pandemic and as a result the Regional Partnership Board did not meet again until the 16 July 2020. The report taken to Scrutiny Committee on the 1 December 2020 explained how RPB partners had worked collectively on many of the challenges that had been faced and sought discussion on what had worked well and not so well in preparation for any future waves.
- 5.7 The report also went onto describe the progress that had been made using the £1m transformation monies allocated to the Board (referenced above) and the "transformation offer that had been made to Welsh Government via the region.
- 5.8 The offer in Gwent related to four areas, derived from the priority areas within the then Area Plan and the considered directions of the Regional Partnership Board. These included:
- 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' prevention and discharge model;
  - The development of workforce planning and organisational development to underpin transformational activity.
- 5.9 The report submitted to Scrutiny on the 15 June 2021, whilst referencing Covid, turned its attention to post covid, priorities including,
- Progress against the Transformation Grant
  - Uncertainties with grant funding
  - The Welsh Government expectations with regard to rebalancing care and support.
  - Pressures likely to be experienced as the second wave of covid passed
  - NHS turning its attention to backlogs and waiting lists
- 5.10 The above paragraph provides a very brief summary of how the RPB came into being and some of its initial priorities. Since the last report in June 2021 the work of the Board has continued. Attached as appendices to this report are the Draft Annual Report of the RPB for 2021/22 and Population Needs Assessment Summary for 2022. Please click the link for access to these 2 documents  
<https://www.gwentrpb.wales/rpb-annual-reports>.
- 5.11 The Annual plan lays out the priorities of the RPB as being:

- To improve health and wellbeing outcomes and reduce inequalities in the region.
- To improve care, treatment, and support, ensuring people have more say and greater control.
- To provide information and advice, to help people sustain good health & well-being.
- To provide co-ordinated, person-centred care, treatment, and support.
- To make more effective use of resources, skills, and expertise.
- To align or integrate functions and resources, where integration adds value to citizens.

5.12 In order 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 Annual report sets out the work and progress of many of these groups.

5.13 The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 requires that local authorities and local health boards must jointly carry out a population needs assessment (PNA) of the needs for care and support, and the support needs of carers in the local authority areas. Care and support is in relation to people known to Social Services and/or the Health Board and those supported through preventative services. The PNA consists of two sections:

1. Assessing the extent to which there are people or their carers who need care and support and the extent to which they need support
2. Assessing the range and level of services required for the care and support needs of the population, their carers, to prevent needs arising and escalating.

Clearly the outcomes from the PNA then work their way into the Area plan.

5.14 The emerging priority areas for the RPB in 2022/23 include;

1. Winter planning and pressures – 1000 additional beds
2. Eliminating profit for Children's Services
3. Workforce Solutions – new ways of working
4. Community working – GP cluster development

5.15 Despite the progress made by the Gwent RPB there remain a number of issues that continue to prove challenging. These include;

Grant Funding: As already mentioned the RPB has received significant amounts of grant funding. However, ongoing uncertainty with regard to the “renewal” of grant

funding makes it difficult to recruit staff other than on fixed term contracts, this is particularly an issue in terms of specialist posts.

Governance: As referenced in paragraph 5.2 both the Cabinet Member and Corporate Director for Social Services sit on the RPB. However, it has proved difficult for grant bids and service development initiatives to come through the normal pre decision Scrutiny and Cabinet processes. This is often because that grant bids have to be very short notice and the regional nature of the services require a collective agreement as opposed to having to be agreed by six separate executive functions. This is a problem across Wales and continues to be flagged up with WG by local authorities and the WLGA.

Members views on how scrutiny can be better sighted on the work of the RPB would be welcomed.

#### **5.16 Conclusion**

This report provides a historical perspective on the creation and work of the Gwent regional Partnership Board. Regular reports will be brought to Scrutiny to sight Members on the work and key decisions relating to the RPB.

### **6. ASSUMPTIONS**

6.1 There are no assumptions contained in this report.

### **7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

7.1 This report is for information so the completion of an Integrated Impact Assessment is not required.

### **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

### **9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no direct personnel implications arising from this report.

### **10. CONSULTATIONS**

10.1 There are no consultation responses that have not been reflected in this report.

### **11. STATUTORY POWER**

11.1 Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.

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Councillor Elaine Forehead, Cabinet Member for Social Care  
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Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director (Education & Corporate Services)  
Steve Harris, Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer  
Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Services  
Gareth Jenkins, Head of Children's Services  
Jo Williams, Head of Adult Services  
Mike Jones, Financial Services Manager

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Draft Annual Report of the RPB for 2021/22  
Appendix 2 - Population Needs Assessment Summary for 2022