



SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 18 APRIL 2023

SUBJECT: REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARDS - UPDATE

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



1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members of the work of the Gwent Regional Partnership Board (RPB) since the last update report presented to Scrutiny Committee in July 2022.
- 1.2 For Members to understand the focus there has been on winter pressures, the role played by the RPB and its members in managing the numerous challenges that emerged.
- 1.3 For Members to be aware of the policy direction of Welsh Government (WG) which increases the 'ask' of RPB's and increases their influence over Health & Social Care services in Wales.

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, June 2021 and July 2022.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members to note the content of the report and offer comments.

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. This report brings Members up to date on the content of RPB meetings between July and December 2022.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 Members will be aware that 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. 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 can co-opt other members as required.

- 5.2 The RPB meets bi monthly but is supported by a range of strategic partnership and other groups. These include;

- Leadership Group
- 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

- 5.3 Members will recall from previous reports that there have been a range of reports that the RPB has had to submit to WG including an Area Plan, Annual Report, Population Needs Assessment and Market position statement.

These documents can be found at the Gwent RPB website which can be found at WWW.gwentrpb.Wales.

- 5.4 A summary of the meetings held between July 2022 and December 2022 is attached as Appendix 1 of this report. Members will appreciate that much of the RPB's time has been taken discussing and trying to resolve the pressures faced by the NHS in the early part of the year and the preparatory work needed in readiness for winter.

- 5.5 A key part of this work related to the preparation and monitoring of a Winter Plan (see Appendix 2). This plan was approved by the Board and then risk assessed through the winter by the Gwent Adult Strategic Partnership, the Leadership group and progress / issues fed back to each RPB. The RPB also had oversight of the region's response to Welsh Governments '1000 beds or equivalent' initiative, aimed at creating additional care capacity in Gwent to facilitate hospital discharge. Progress on the winter plan and the 1000 bed initiative was considered and scrutinised by the RPB prior to being reported back to Welsh Government. Progress in Gwent was considered good with more than 120 'beds or equivalent' being created. Evaluations

are currently taking place to determine which initiatives can be carried forward into next winter.

- 5.6 Scrutiny received a report on 11 October 2022 with regard to the Regional Integration Fund (RIF) and a proposal by Welsh Government to taper funding over a six year period, which in essence would mean Welsh Government funding needing to be replaced by core funding from Caerphilly CBC. Members expressed concern with regard to the proposal and did not support the tapering model and Committee asked the Cabinet Member for Social Care to contact the Minister directly highlighting her concerns.

Following this and other representations from individual Local Authorities and RPB's, the Minister agreed to defer the RIF tapering for 2023/24. It remains to be seen if the tapering is reinstated for 2024/25 and beyond.

- 5.7 The workforce pressures across Health and Social Care are well documented throughout the UK. Within Gwent our inability to recruit and retain carers and key NHS staff has had a significant impact on our ability to deal with winter pressures, particularly relating to discharging people from hospital. The RPB has a workforce Board to consider ways of making a career in social care / health more attractive and to ensure we are not all 'fishing in the same pool'. Through this work and changes that we recruit for carers in Caerphilly CBC we are beginning to see some progress on rates of recruitment. We now need to follow this through and ensure we can retain the staff concerned.
- 5.8 Feedback from Members at almost all Scrutiny Committee's that have considered reports around the RPB have expressed concerns around governance and in particular that grant bids and service development initiatives have not been able to come through the normal pre decision Scrutiny and Cabinet processes. The Gwent RPB is currently undertaking a governance review with these issues in mind and progress in this area will be reported to a future Scrutiny Committee.
- 5.9 In relation to Children's Services, the Children and Families Strategic Partnership plays a key role in shaping regional service development and delivery. Members will be aware of the NEST/NYTH Framework led by the Partnership to address improved access to emotional and mental health support for children and families. Part of this work has included the development of Windmill Farm, a specialist residential unit for children with complex mental health needs. Windmill Farm is managed by Newport City Council on behalf of the five Local Authorities and ABUHB. The intention is to provide short term intensive multidisciplinary assessments to support Children's Services planning to best meet the child's longer term needs. Windmill Farm became operational in February and Caerphilly has already made one placement.

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 The RPB has increasingly been the recipient of grant funding from Welsh Government. A major part of the funding related to the Integrated Care Fund (ICF) and the Transformation Grant. To illustrate the level of funding below is a summary of the ICF and Transformation Grant received between April 2017 and March 2022

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Total
Revenue	1,238,474	1,027,895	2,186,959	2,499,604	2,943,724	9,941,656
Capital	0	804,687	243,818	268,979	487,098	1,804,582

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 and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.

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Consultees: Councillor Donna Cushing, Chair Social Services Scrutiny
Councillor Marina Chacon-Dawson, Vice Chair Social Services Scrutiny
Councillor Elaine Forehead, Cabinet Member for Social Services
Christina Harrhy, Chief Executive
Mark S Williams, Corporate Director (Economy and Environment)
Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director (Education and Corporate Services)
Steve Harris, Head of Financial Services and 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 - Regional Partnership Board - Agenda Summary – July 2022 to December 2022

Appendix 2 - *RPB Winter Plan – Interim Review & Risk Assessment

**This document is provided by the Regional Partnership Board and may not be*

RPB Meeting Summary 2022

Regional Partnership Board Meeting: 19th July 2022

Agenda item	Decision
Appoint Chairperson	Agreed new Chairperson
Review Terms of Reference	Agreed work programme and 4 priorities for 2022/23
Welsh Government Funding	Considered use of funding to support Regional Integration, Winter Planning and supporting workforce
Regional Frailty Budget	Budget agreed and signed off
RPB Annual report	Agreed report and submit to Welsh Government
Citizen Panel Feedback	Agreed to explore older people and ageing research project
AOB	Agreed to raise item on Domiciliary Care at next meeting

Regional Partnership Board Meeting: 6th September 2022

Agenda item	Decision
Welsh Government Priority: Eliminating Profit from Children's Services	Regional response to national consultation outlining concerns.
Regional Winter Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated Risk Register • Action Regional Workforce Board to discuss workforce implications and proposals • Write to WG highlighting Winter Pressures requiring national consideration such as real living wage • Develop public messaging
Regional Integration Funding Finance Plan	Considered plan prior to submission to Welsh Government. Agreed funding to projects and services up to March 2023
Market Stability Report	Agreed and signed off Market Stability Report (<i>Statutory Requirement Social Services and Wellbeing Act</i>)
RPB Terms of Reference	Agreed to interim TOR in light of national review of codes of practice
AOB	Agreed regional response to WG consultation: Social Care and Continuing NHS Healthcare

Regional Partnership Board Meeting: 15th November 2022

Agenda item	Decision
Election Vice Chair	Agreed Vice Chairperson
Regional Winter Plan	Updated Risk Register ABUHB Winter Integrated Plan Agreed

Workforce Transformation Planning	Agreed annual Workforce report Action: Workforce Board to consider staff wellbeing support Consider regional commissioning approach to Domiciliary Care Circulate briefing student recruitment and college consortium partnership
Welsh Government Funding	Agreed draft regional capital funding spend Revenue budget update and monitoring
GP cluster development (Accelerated Cluster Development)	Agreed governance arrangements and alignment of work programmes (WG requirement)
Standing item update Citizen Panel, Third Sector and Providers	Updates from panel and organisations
Autism	Agreed RPB Autism Champion Agreed use of WG funding autism and neurodevelopment

Regional Partnership Board Meeting – Single Item agenda Welsh Government Funding: 12th December 2022

Agenda item	Decision
Welsh Government Regional Integrations Funding	Identified risk to delivery of programmes in relation to tapered funding. RPB Chair to raise with WG Agreed to additional funding for Missing Children Project and funding to Children and Families Board