Appendix 2: Regional Working 'Tests'

'TESTS'

Underpinning tests
- Will regional working help to improve or maintain outcomes?
- Is this an area which should be done locally?
- Are there linkages with other service areas?
- Are benefits likely?

Tests for regional working

- *Will it improve the resilience of the service?*
For example, a service area with known sustainability challenges such as a significant reduction in budgets / staffing? Or perhaps an area with episodic but critical and unavoidable activities?

- *Will it improve the capacity and capability in the service, particularly at senior levels?*
For example, would regional working resolve issues in an area where it has been difficult to recruit (at either specialist or senior level)?
Or would regional working allow more strategic use of resources to plan, commission or deliver the service on a larger footprint?

- *Will it make a service or activity viable?*
For example, is this an area which is not viable at a smaller scale?

- *Will it offer economies of scale or greater efficiencies?*
For example, it is more efficient to deliver regionally and has scope to deliver savings?

- *Will this help increase public value?*
For example, would regional working offer the opportunity to make it easier to do the right thing or to increase ambition for what can be achieved?

- *Is this an area where Local Authority boundaries get in the way of the service a citizen might want?*

- *Is this a new service or expanded area of responsibility?*
For example, where there are no local arrangements in place yet.

- *Is there good practice that can be expanded on?*
Is there effective regional working already in place in one (or more) areas which make the case for undertaking the service on a regional basis across Wales?

- *Is this an area where joint working with partners is important and where partners operate on a different (and larger) regional footprint?*
For example, is this an area with significant interaction with other partners and regional arrangements would make joining up easier and enable more effective integration of services?