



## **SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 4TH FEBRUARY 2020**

**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.

### **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. This report will outline the purpose of the Board, its work programme and achievements to date as well as referencing some of the ongoing challenges for Caerphilly CBC as a member of the Gwent RPB.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Members note the content of the report.
- 3.2 Members views on the role of this Scrutiny Committee in the context of the work of the Gwent RPB would be welcomed.

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

- 4.1 As previously stated, the RPB is becoming increasingly influential in shaping health and social care services, not just in Caerphilly CBC but across Wales. It is important that Members of Scrutiny Committee have an awareness of the priorities and work of the Board.

### **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. Recently staff representing Housing and Education have also been added to the Board. 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,

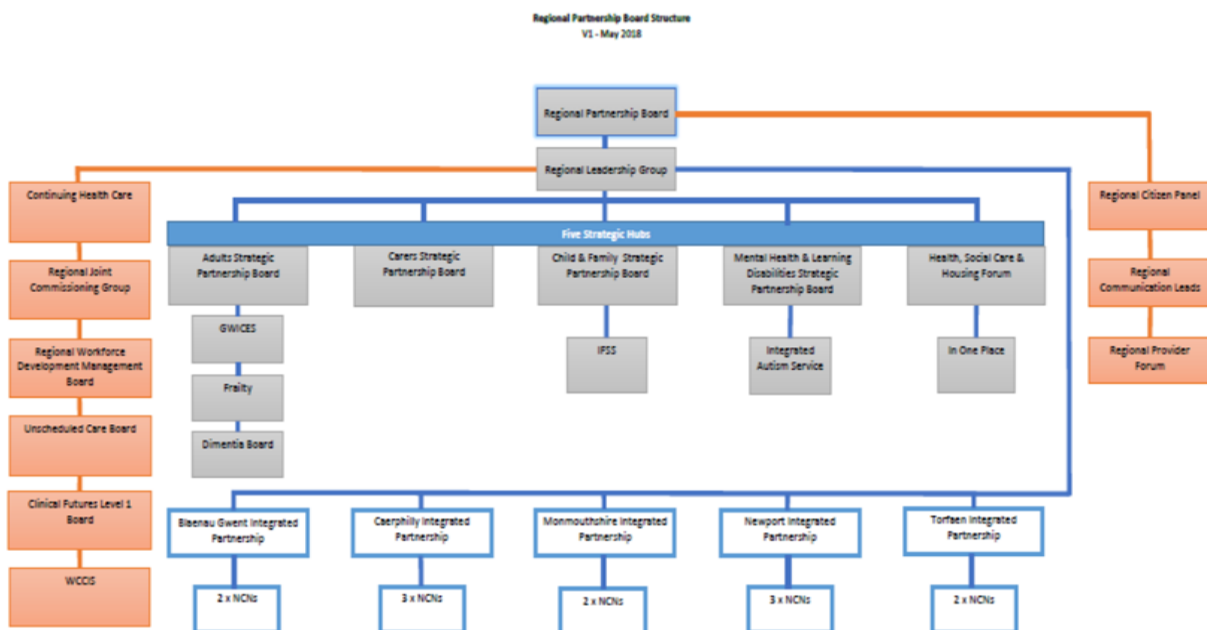
- Older people with complex needs, including dementia.
- People with learning disabilities.
- Carers, including young carers.
- Integrated Family Support services
- Children with complex needs due to disability or illness.

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 order to meet these requirements a structure of regional and local groups have been established. This structure is laid out below and also on page 12 of Regional Partnership Board Annual Report for 2018/19 which is attached as Appendix one of this report.



- 5.6 In order to support the work of the RPB WG have made significant amount of grant funding available to the Board via the Integrated Care Fund (ICF). For the period 2016/17 to 2020/21 it is estimated that over £37 Million has been available across Gwent. Some examples of how this money has been utilised includes, provision of assessment beds, supporting hospital discharge and supporting the establishment of Community Connectors. This funding requires regional bids to be worked up and submitted to WG for approval. Once approved funding is paid to the relevant authority via the Health Board.
- 5.7 In June 2018, WG published 'A Healthier Wales' it's plan for Health & Social Care in Wales which requires the development of 'new models of seamless local health and social care'. This document clearly lays out a significant role for RPB's in developing these services, supported by the provision of a dedicated Transformation Fund of £100Million over two years across Wales. Bids initially submitted by the Gwent RPB secured just over £13 Million to support the development services such as Home First to facilitate timely hospital discharge and the 'iceberg model' to support young people requiring mental health support. Again this funding is allocated via the health boards.
- 5.8 The RPB Annual report for 2018/19, attached as Appendix 1, demonstrates the progress of the Board which has been significant. However 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, WG are very clear that this funding will cease in March 2021 and significant work will be required over the next year to determine how we can mainstream or take down the services created via ICF and Transformation Funding.

Pooled Funds: Part 9 of the SSWBA also required the establishment of Pooled Funds in relation to care home accommodation and family support functions. This has proved a particularly difficult area to move forward across Wales. Some progress has been made with Torfaen CBC designated the Pooled Fund Manager and a greater degree of transparency in terms of the amount of money spent in these areas by the respective local authorities and the health board. In order to determine the position nationally WG have commissioned KPMG to undertake an audit of the current position. Their report is expected shortly.

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. An added complication is the role of the Public Service Boards in Wales and how 22 Public service Boards work with seven RPB's.

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

## 6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 There are no assumptions contained in this report.

## 7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

### 7.1 Corporate Plan 2018-2023

The content of this report contributes towards Well Being Objective 6: Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being

## **8 WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS**

8.1 The content of this report contributes to the following Well Being Goals:

- A resilient Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities

8.2 The report is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act as follows:

- Long Term – the provision of safe care and accommodation for children and vulnerable adults is, and always will be, a key strategic priority for the Council.
- Improving outcomes for children Looked After will deliver longer term improvements for them individually.
- Prevention – Children’s Services is committed to preventing the escalation of need and subsequent demand on higher tier statutory services through the delivery of early intervention and family support services. We continue to strive to keep older people in their own homes for as long as their needs allow.
- Integration – Service developments across the Directorate region are increasingly integrated with Health and other professionals

## **9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed because the issues covered are for information purposes only, therefore the Council’s full EIA process does not need to be applied.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

## **11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **12. CONSULTATIONS**

12.1 All consultation responses have been incorporated into this report.

## **13. STATUTORY POWER**

13.1 Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014

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Appendices: Gwent regional Partnership Board Annual Report 2018/19