



SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1ST DECEMBER 2020

SUBJECT: REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARDS - UPDATE

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES & HOUSING

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 At its meeting on the 4 February 2020 Scrutiny Committee received an update report with regard to the work of the Gwent Regional Partnership Board (Appendix 1). One of the recommendations made, after members had considered the report, was for the Social Services Scrutiny Committee to receive quarterly reports on the work and priorities of the Board.
- 1.2 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 July 2020.
- 1.3 This report is to update Members on the work and decisions taken over the last 4 months by the Regional Partnership Board.

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 has 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.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members note the content of the report.

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. Whilst its work programme was put temporarily on hold during the initial phases of the pandemic, it is now back up and running.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 The Regional Partnership Board has met on several occasions since the report to Scrutiny Committee on the 4 February 2020, with meetings considering a number of key issues, including;

- The Coronavirus outbreak across partner agencies and the effect on services.
- The continuation of funding for the Transformational Offer beyond 2021, in response to Welsh Government's new long term plan for health and social care 'A Healthier Wales'.
- The reallocation of underspend for 2019/20 and the continuation of the Integrated Care Revenue and Capital Funds.
- Consideration of the Integrated Winter Plan for 2020/21.

- 5.2 The first meeting of the Regional Partnership Board since the coronavirus outbreak very much focused on how organisations had worked collectively during the Coronavirus pandemic and what had worked well, not so well and any future lessons should we have a further wave. This included feedback from the Citizen Panel on some of the issues that had been raised with them concerning access to healthcare. The Board were reassured that the pandemic had not reached its predicted worst case scenario regarding hospital capacity and support in the community and overall the system had been able to cope with the initial outbreak locally and regionally which was very much due to collaborative working by all partners.

- 5.3 Members may recall that the Regional Partnership Board had successfully submitted a 'Gwent transformational offer' to Welsh Government which 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. The new transformation fund was 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'.

- 5.4 The offer in Gwent related to five 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.
- 5.5 The Gwent Transformation Programme has continued to make good progress, with the programmes adapting their scope and focus to ensure they are able to support the local response to COVID-19. The transformation programme continues to deliver at pace, given the extremely short and testing time frame provided by Welsh Government of 2 years. The Board has heard that Welsh Government had agreed to roll over some of funding to allow for some of the projects to continue until March 2021 rather than finish in December 2020. However, during the Coronavirus pandemic some of the projects under the transformation programme had to stop, reduce their offer to the public or redirect towards helping fight the Coronavirus. This has delayed the time available for these models to evidence success and for their evaluations to be completed.
- 5.6 At the time of writing the indications from Welsh Government are that transformation funding will continue for a further transition year in its current format until March 2022. Consequently, each programme is developing a programme of work around financial sustainability, making clear the value of the programmes in line with the wider strategic improvement objectives of the Regional Partnership Board. To support this work, Welsh Government are working with the regions to develop Communities of Practice, to share the learning and support pan regional scaling and also economic demand and management modelling, to demonstrate where longer term system efficiencies can be secured.
- 5.7 All programmes had commissioned 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. These pieces of work are being restarted following them pausing during the pandemic.
- 5.8 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.
- 5.9 During 2019/20 Local authorities across Gwent had requested that any slippage of 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. At the end of the Financial year 2019/20 an updated slippage figure of £956,000 was shared on an equal basis with all Local Authorities in Gwent.
- 5.10 An additional £10 million across Wales was announced by the Minister for Health and Social Services on the 24th January 2020 for Regional Partnership Boards, the Board agreed that this funding be equally split between Health and Social Services on a 50:50 basis and subsequently was shared equally between the Gwent local authorities.
- 5.11 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 submitted the Winter Plan to Welsh Government in early November 2020 (See Appendix 2).

- 5.12 The purpose of the plan is to demonstrate by region, the agreed partnership activity, to support the provision of care and support services during this winter period, to outline the safe and integrate management of 'winter pressures' and to provide assurance of a whole system approach to the winter period. The plan is structured around the 'Six goals' and 'Four harms' identified in the National Winter Protection plan. These are;

Goal 1: Co-ordination, planning and support for high risk groups

Goal 2: Signposting, information and assistance for all

Goal 3: Preventing admission of high risk groups

Goal 4: Rapid response in crisis

Goal 5: Great hospital care

Goal 6: Home first when ready

For Members information the four harms relate to the Coronavirus pandemic these are:

- The harm of COVID-19 itself;
- The harm from overwhelming the NHS and Social Care system;
- The harm from the reduction in non COVID activity;
- The harms from wider societal actions/lockdowns.

- 5.13 The plan sets out a coordinated whole systems approach to the delivery of health and social care services across Gwent, in partnership with both housing and Third sector partners. It sets out the required capacity necessary to protect the system in Gwent during the winter period, within the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. It demonstrates the depth of partnership working across the Regional Partnership Board providing a clear statement of system wide activity in line with the 'Six goals' and 'Four harms'.
- 5.14 One of the challenges continues to be the recruitment of 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.

5.15 Conclusion

- 5.15.1 Despite a pause in its activity during the initial stages of the pandemic, this report demonstrates that the Gwent Regional Partnership continues to be at the fore of the transformation of health and social care services across the region. The development of the winter plan is key to us continuing to deliver services through what are undoubtedly going to be a very difficult few months.
- 5.15.2 Further reports on the work of the Board will be brought to Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the Forward Work Programme.

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 which are:-

- 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 – Both Adults and 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. The work of the Board has been principally focussed on the allocation and utilisation of grant funding from Welsh Government.

11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

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

12. CONSULTATIONS

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

13. STATUTORY POWER

13.1 Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Report to Social Services Scrutiny Committee – 4 February 2020

Appendix 2 – Gwent Regional Partnership Board Winter Plan