



EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 4TH JUNE 2024

SUBJECT: REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARDS - UPDATE

REPORT BY: INTERIM DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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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 April 2023.
- 1.2 For Members to understand the focus there has been on the Regional Integration Fund (RIF) and winter pressures/ system resilience plan, 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.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members to note the content of the report.

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.

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 bimonthly 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 need to be aware 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.
- 5.4 These documents can be found at the Gwent RPB website which can be found at WWW.gwentrpb.Wales.
- 5.5 Since the last report there has been an external governance review of the RPB, and the scope was: governance framework, financial governance, risk management, escalation and reporting to partnership bodies, openness and transparency and business processes.
- 5.6 The governance review contained 12 recommendations; thus, a task and finish group has been established to oversee the implementation. To date the following recommendations have been progressed:
- Introduction of standard reporting template.
 - All Partnership meetings will now be quarterly.
 - Introduction of a meeting round up document which is one side of A4.
 - Two workshops have been held with members in respect of the current structure of the board and reporting sub groups.

- 5.7 In respect of The Regional Integration Fund (RIF) Members will be aware of the proposal by WG to taper funding over a six-year period, which in essence would mean WG funding needing to be replaced by core funding from Caerphilly CBC. Members previously 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.
- 5.8 Following this and other representations from individual Local Authorities and RPB's, the Minister agreed to remove the RIF tapering.
- 5.9 Following the ministerial decision to remove RIF tapering the RPB has embarked on an evaluation of schemes currently funded by this grant. This evaluation is built on previous evaluations and learning. A methodology has been developed on a rating system which will prioritise those schemes that require a full in-depth evaluation.
- 5.10 The RPB is also responsible for overseeing the implementation of Building Capacity Through Community Care – Further Faster. It was agreed initial focus would be on anticipatory care planning, expansion of the Community Resources teams (CRT's) and funding for the digital switch over for telecare schemes. Further funding bids will come through the five Integrated Partnership Boards.
- 5.11 A key part of the RPB work is in related to the preparation and monitoring of a Winter Plan/System Resilience. 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 WG's initiative of Trusted Assessor. A report was presented to the Scrutiny Committee in March on the System Resilience Plan.

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 financial implications associated with 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 and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.

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Consultees: Councillor Teresa Parry, Chair Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Brenda Miles, Vice Chair Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Elaine Forehead, Cabinet Member for Social Care
Dave Street Deputy Chief Executive
Steve Harris, Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer
Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Gareth Jenkins, Interim Corporate Director of Social Services