

Scrutiny Report



Performance Scrutiny Committee- Partnerships

Part 1

Date: 26th October 2022

Subject **Regional Partnership Board – Regional Integrated Fund**

Author Scrutiny Adviser

The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

Invitee:	Designation
Sally Jenkins	Strategic Director
Roxanne Green	Regional Partnership Board – Assistant Director Partnership & Integration PMO

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

1. Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is requested:

- a) To consider the financial liabilities and implications of the new Regional Integration Fund and its tapered funding model ;
- b) To determine whether it wishes to make any comments to the Gwent Regional Partnership Board;

2 Context

Background

- 2.1 Gwent Regional Partnership Board, via a range of statutory and third sector partners, have established a portfolio of activity aligned with the priority areas for integration, as defined within the Social Services and Wellbeing Act [Wales] 2014. This portfolio was enabled by a range of funding streams provided to Regional Partnership Boards across Wales, those funding streams ceased on 31 March 2022. To reflect the planned end of funding streams, the 2021-22 financial year was defined as a transition period to support both the regional partnership and organisational financial planning.
- 2.3? The Health and Social Care Regional Integration Fund (the RIF) is a 5 year fund to deliver a programme of change from April 2022 to March 2027. The RIF builds on the learning and progress made under the previous Integrate Care Fund (ICF) and Transformation Fund (TF) and will seek to create sustainable system change through the integration of health and social care services.
- 2.4? The RIF is a key lever to drive change and transformation across the health and social care system and in doing so will directly support implementation of several key pieces of policy and legislation. The aim is that by the end of the five year programme we will have established and mainstreamed at least six new national models of integrated care so that citizens of Wales, wherever they live, can be assured of an effective and seamless service experience in relation to:
- Community based care – *prevention and community coordination*;
 - Community based care – complex care closer to home;
 - Promoting good emotional health and well-being;
 - Supporting families to stay together safely, and therapeutic support for care experienced children, and;
 - Home from hospital services
- 2.4 **The Committee is asked to consider the executive summary report relating to the Financial Liabilities applicable to Newport City Council of the Regional Integrated Care Fund funding model, provided by the Regional Partnership Board in Appendix A.** In addition, the Regional Integration Fund Strategic Outline Plan is also included for wider context and information, and provides programme level information that has been submitted to Welsh Government, provided by the Regional Partnership Board in **Appendix B**.

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

- 3.1.1 The following are attached to for the Committee's consideration:

- Appendix A** - **Submission of Evidence to Scrutiny: Newport City Council Executive Summary – Regional Integration Fund Tapering Liabilities**
- Appendix B** - **Submission of Evidence to Scrutiny: Regional Integration Fund Strategic Outline Plan**

4. Suggested Areas of Focus

4.1 Role of the Committee

The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:

- **Consider the report upon the Regional Integrated Care Fund provided by the Regional Partnership Board to provide an organisational response on the acceptance or rejection of the tapering liabilities of the Regional Integration Fund.**
- Assess and make comment on:
 - The range of Newport City Council initiatives reliant on partnership funding, and their associated financial liabilities
 - The funding model proposed within the Regional Integration Fund
 - The financial landscape within which Newport City Council is undertaking this assessment
 - The acceptance or rejection of the financial liabilities of the Regional Integration Fund
- In drawing its conclusions, the Committee should assess:
 - What was the overall conclusion on the information contained within the reports?
 - Is the Committee satisfied that it has had all of the relevant information to base a conclusion on the delivery of the Integrated Care Fund to date?
 - Does the Committee wish to make any Comments to the Partnership upon the progress of delivering against the objectives to date?
 - What future scrutiny activity should be undertaken.

4.2 Suggested Lines of Enquiry

In assessing the financial liabilities of the Regional Integration Fund, the Committee may wish to explore some of the following areas of focus, which have been adapted from the Welsh Government Guidance on Scrutiny of the Public Services Board:

1. To what extent has the Local Authority contributed to the development of the Regional Integration Fund Strategic Outline Plan?
2. What scrutiny or process has been undertaken within the Regional Partnership Board to agree the projects/initiatives for inclusion within the Regional Integration Fund?
3. How has working as a partnership maximised the resources available?

4.3 Regional Integration Fund Policy Drivers

4.3.1 The policy and legislative drivers informing the investment of the Regional Integration Fund are identified as the Social Services and Wellbeing Act, with the specific reference to the Partnership Arrangements Regulations that were developed under this Act, and the objectives of Regional Partnership Boards within Regulation 10. For ease of reference, regulation 10 is shown below.

10. The objectives of a regional partnership are-
(a) to ensure that the partnership bodies work effectively together to –
(i) respond to the population assessment carried out in accordance with section 14 of the Act, and
(ii) implement the plans for each of the local authority areas covered by the board which local authorities and local health boards are required to prepare and public under section 14A of the Act;
(b) to ensure that the partnership bodies provide sufficient resources for the partnership arrangements, in accordance with their powers under section 167 of the Act;
(c) to promote the establishment of pooled funds where appropriate.

4.3.2 In addition, the Regional Integration Fund should put in place the ways of working identified within the Well-being of Future Generations Act. With the Public Service Boards having been developed under this Act, the Regional Integration Fund guidance references the need for RPBs and PSBs to align, share intelligence, planning priorities and resources where appropriate. A Healthier Wales identifies RPBs as key drivers of integration and delivery of transformation within A Healthier Wales; guidance also reflects the quadruple aim and the ten design principles of this plan, and identifies them as the basis for future model delivery.

Section B – Supporting Information

5 Supporting Information

5.1 The Characteristics of Effective Partnership Scrutiny set out in the Guidance for Local Authority Scrutiny Committees on the scrutiny of Public Services Boards issued by Welsh Government in August 2017 can equally be applied to the scrutiny of other Partnerships and states that:

“Research into the practice of collaborative or joint scrutiny in England and Wales identifies that arrangements are effective when they demonstrate the following characteristics:

Characteristics of effective partnership scrutiny:

- Scrutiny regards itself as a form of ‘critical friendship with positive intent’ in which scrutiny practitioners act as advocates for the success of joint working.
- Collaborative performance is evaluated from the citizen’s perspective.
- Strong efforts are made to understand the complexity of partnership arrangements and to facilitate learning about the culture and assumptions of different organizations.
- Scrutiny creates positive expectations by focussing on issues regarded as useful to the partnership or where there is consensus that ‘things need to change’.
- Scrutiny demonstrates intellectual independence and investigative rigour in all of its activities.
- Scrutiny demonstrates a positive impact by developing clear, timely, evidence-based recommendations aimed at enhancing collaborative performance.
- Scrutiny critically evaluates its own performance utilising partnership perspectives.

(A link to the full Welsh Government Guidance is included in Section 7 of this report in the Background Papers for Members’ information.)

6 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

- Newport City Council’s Corporate Plan and Wellbeing Objectives:

Well-being Objectives	Promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment	Improve skills, educational outcomes & employment opportunities	Enable people to be healthy, independent & resilient	Build cohesive & sustainable communities
Corporate Plan Commitments	Thriving City	Aspirational People		Resilient Communities
Supporting Function	Modernised Council			

7 Background Papers

- [Regional Integration Fund – Welsh Government guidance](#)
- Gwent Regional Partnership Board [Website](#)
- [Welsh Government Guidance for Local Authority Scrutiny Committees on the Scrutiny of Public Services Boards](#) (Issued August 2017)
- [The Essentials – Well-being of Future Generation \(Wales\) Actx](#)