

# Report

## Cabinet

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### Part 1

Date: 18 October 2023

**Subject** Regional Partnership Board Area Plan and Annual Report

**Purpose** Presentation of the Gwent Regional Partnership Board (RPB) Area Plan 2023 – 2027 and RPB Annual Report 2022/23

**Author** Head of Regional Partnership team  
Strategic Director Social Services

**Ward** All Wards

**Summary** The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 lays out the statutory framework for the presentation of the area plan and an annual report on the work of the Regional Partnership Board. The format and nature of the report is determined by Welsh Government with a requirement for submission to the statutory partners and Welsh Government.

There are thus two elements within this item the Area Plan and the Annual Report. While the Area Plan is a forward looking document the Annual Report is a reflection of the work of the past year.

### Proposal

- 1.1 Cabinet is asked to consider the joint regional commitments within the Area Plan.
- 1.2 Cabinet is asked to review the RPB Annual Report and progress made against the objectives; and provide any feedback/comments

**Action by** Strategic Director Social Services  
**Timetable** Immediate

**Signed**

## 1. Background

The Social Services and Wellbeing Act (2014) places a statutory duty on local authorities and health boards to prepare a regional Area Plan, following the publication of the region's population needs assessment (PNA) and Market Stability Report (MSR). The Gwent PNA was previously signed off by NCC during Autumn 2022 and a commitment was made to share the Gwent Area Plan with Newport Council members, to set out how regional priorities are to be delivered in partnership.

The **Gwent Area Plan 2023-2027** has been completed and signed off by Gwent RPB. The plan has been developed in partnership with Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport, and Torfaen local authorities, and Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Third Sector partners and the Regional Partnership Team. The Area Plan sets out the actions required to achieve the priorities identified in the PNA, by our partners and citizens, and closely aligns and share similar principles of working to the Public Service Board (PSB) and Well-being Plan. The Area Plan is reviewed annually and can be updated to ensure we are meeting the needs of our communities. The progress against delivery of key objectives in the Area Plan, is monitored through the **RPB Annual Report** which considers specifically the priority groups set out in the PNA and cross cutting themes.

## 2. Previous Consideration of this item

This is the first time the Area Plan 2023 - 2027 has been presented. The last Gwent Regional Area Plan was brought in 2019 for comment and feedback.

The Annual Report for 2021 – 22 was presented to Cabinet in November 2022.

## 3. Information Submitted to Cabinet

Following the publication of the regional Population Needs Assessment (PNA) report each local authority and health board are required to prepare and publish an Area Plan setting out the range and level of services they propose to provide in response to the PNA core themes, which are:

- Children & Young People
- Older People, including People with Dementia
- Health & Physical Disabilities including Sensory Loss & Impairment
- Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health
- Learning Disabilities
- Autism and Neurodevelopmental Conditions
- Unpaid Carers
- Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence

Core themes are not addressed in isolation and there is an element of cross cutting working, in addition to the above including:

- A resilient skilled and integrated health and social care workforce
- Housing needs
- Rebalancing health and social care including social value
- Substance misuse
- Adult protection, child protection and safeguarding
- Transforming children's services and removing profit from the care of looked after children
- Tackling loneliness and isolation

Area plans must include the specific services planned in response to each core theme identified in the population assessment. As part of this, area plans must include:

- The actions partners will take in relation to the priority areas of integration for Regional Partnership Board
- Administer and monitor Welsh Government grant funding e.g. Regional Integrated Fund (RIF)
- The instances and details of pooled funds to be established in response to the population assessment.
- How services will be procured or arranged to be delivered, including by alternative delivery models.

- Details of the preventative services that will be provided or arranged.
- Actions being taken in relation to the provision of information, advice, and assistance services.
- Actions required to deliver services through the medium of Welsh.

The Area Plan highlights our commitment to work in partnership to improve the health and wellbeing across the population of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport, and Torfaen. Given current challenges and financial pressures, it is paramount to work in partnership to deliver joint solutions to shared priorities and avoid duplication.

There are several statutory duties placed on all local authorities under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and further details are included in the underpinning codes of practice. In total, there are 299 'Must Dos' and 236 'Should Dos' included and facilitated through RPT and RPB on behalf of NCC. Both development of Area Plan and RPB Annual Report are duties placed on NCC.

|  | <b><i>Must DOs</i></b> | <b><i>Should DOs</i></b> |
|--|------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Local Authorities</b>                   | 75                     | 25                       |
| <b>Health boards</b>                       | 18                     | 9                        |
| <b>Local authorities and health boards</b> | 14 + (18)              | 6 + (22)                 |
| <b>RPB</b>                                 | 20                     | 20                       |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                               | 240 + (77)             | 130 + (115)              |
|  | <b>317</b>             | <b>245</b>               |

The regional Area Plan has been developed with ABUHB and Integrated Service Partnership Board (ISPB) colleagues to ensure alignment with the Newport ISPB Plan. The RPB will work closely with the 5 ISPBs across the region to ensure plans are delivered in collaboration, resources maximised and duplication is avoided. A copy of the Newport ISPB plan is published alongside the Area Plan <https://www.gwentrpb.wales/area-plan>

A section of the Area Plan is monitored at each Strategic Partnership that sits within the RPB governance structure, to evaluate progress; with an annual review report by the RPB via an Annual Report which is submitted to Welsh Government.

#### **4. Suggested Areas of Focus**

1. To consider the joint commitments within the Area Plan.

The Area Plan 2023-2028 is a continuation of the previous joint 5-year area plan and is informed by the Population Needs Assessment (PNA) completed in 2022. The effectiveness of delivering the plan and making a difference to people's lives in our communities, is dependent on a commitment to partnerships and integrated working.

2. To review the RPB Annual Report and progress made against the objectives; and provide any feedback/comments.

The Annual report is presented to all the Strategic partnerships that sit within the governance structure of the Regional Partnership Board (RPB) including the RPB. The report highlights progress being made against the commitments in the area plan.

#### **5. Suggested Lines of Enquiry**

In evaluating the delivery of the Regional Partnership Board's Strategic Priorities in Annual Report 2022/2023, Cabinet may wish to provide further feedback or comment. Cabinet may wish to provide comment on national grant funding overseen by RPB.

## 6. Links to Council Policies and Priorities

The Area Plan links to Newport City Council's Corporate Plan and Wellbeing Objectives. It looks to improve the wellbeing of people who need care and support through integration and partnership working, to transform health and social care in Gwent. People are at the heart of the Area Plan and all the work we do, as we work in coproduction with citizens so they can share their expertise and experiences, to help shape services and support across the region.

| Well-being Objective | 1 – Economy, Education and Skills  | 2 – Newport's Environment and Infrastructure  | 3 – Preventative and Equitable Community and Social Care                                | 4 – An Inclusive, Fair and Sustainable Council   |
|----------------------|--|---|---|--|
| Aims:                | Newport is a thriving and growing city that offers excellent education and aspires to provide opportunities for all. | A city that seeks to protect and enhance our environment whilst reducing our carbon footprint and preparing for a sustainable and digital future. | Newport is a supportive city where communities and care are at the heart of what we do. | Newport City Council is an inclusive organisation that places social value, fairness and sustainability at its core. |

## 7. Impact Assessment

**Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act**  
**Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act**  
**Equality Act 2010**  
**Socio-economic Duty**  
**Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011**

The Regional Partnership Team (RPT) worked closely with LA officers developing the regional Public Service Board Wellbeing Assessment for Gwent to ensure close alignment with the RPB's Population Needs Assessment. Population data and future trends were shared to avoid duplication of effort, and this also included equality impact assessments across statutory groups. The summary of impact for the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act, the Equality Act 2010, the Socio-economic Duty, and the Welsh Language are all included in the PSB Wellbeing Assessment and the Population Needs Assessment.

## 8. Links to Background Papers and Summary information


- A) Regional Area Plan 2023-2027 <https://www.gwentrbp.wales/area-plan>
- B) Area Plan Summary



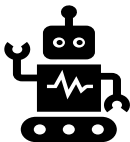



| Welsh Government Core Theme | Outcome Priority  |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Children and Young People   | To improve outcomes for children and young people with complex needs through earlier intervention, community-based support, and placements closer to home.<br>To ensure good mental health and emotional wellbeing for children and young people through effective partnership working especially mitigating long term impact of Covid-19 pandemic. |



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| <b>Older People including Dementia</b>   | To improve emotional wellbeing for older people by reducing loneliness and social isolation with earlier intervention and community resilience.<br>To improve outcomes for people living with dementia and their carers.<br>To support older people to live, or return following a period of hospitalisation, to their own homes and communities through early intervention, integrated care models and a whole system approach.<br>To mitigate the long-term impact of Covid-19 pandemic through, especially reducing waiting lists and times to access support, appointments, and medical procedures |
| <b>Health and Physical Disabilities including people with sensory impairment</b> | To support disabled people, including sensory impairment, through an all-age approach to live independently in appropriate accommodation and access community-based services, including transport.<br>Ensure people are supported through access to accurate information, assistance and 'rehabilitation' where required.<br>Improve transition across all age groups and support services.<br>Ensure people are supported through access to accurate accessible information, assistance and 'rehabilitation' where required.  |
| <b>People with a Learning Disability</b>   | To support people with learning disabilities to live independently with access to early intervention services in the community; and greater public awareness and understanding of people with learning disabilities needs.   |
| <b>Mental Health</b>   | Increase understanding and awareness of mental health amongst the public, to reduce stigma and help people to seek support earlier.<br>We need to improve emotional well-being and mental health for adults and children through timely early intervention and community support.  |
| <b>Carers</b>  | Support unpaid carers to care through flexible respite, access to accurate information, peer to peer support, effective care planning and through increased public understanding.<br>Improve well-being of young carers and young adult carers and mitigate against long-term impacts  |
| <b>Autism</b>  | To provide more timely diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder and access to support services and information.   |
| <b>Housing</b>   | A multi-agency partnership approach to ensure appropriate housing and accommodation for older people and vulnerable citizens.<br>To ensure effective use of Disabled Facilities Grants and appropriate partnership support and available resources.<br>Homelessness requiring a collaborative response from public services and partners, especially the non-use of B&B accommodation for young people, and through prevention and early intervention.   |

C) RPB Annual Report 2022/23 link: [RPB Annual reports - Gwentrbp](#)

D) Key Developments over the last Year

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|---|---|
|  | <p><b>Carers Annual Report:</b> Carers team supports implementation of various programmes across the region</p> <p><b>415 successful applicants provided with £415,000 to support Young Carers in School: 599 members of staff have taken part in 17 face-to-face 'Young Carers: Identifying Us' training sessions and 19 virtual sessions</b></p> <p><b>Over 100 Young Carers supported through schools.</b></p> |
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|   | <p><b>Training and awareness:</b> a broad range of Gwent services have been represented at training sessions where 8 Community Awareness sessions were held attended by 120 people, 39 workshops were held attended by 332 people and 52 people completed the on-line training</p>   |
|    | <p><b>Dewis figures</b><br/>The total number of <b>published resources in Gwent over the past year has increased by 400 resources.</b><br/><b>Detailed views of resources have increased by 9,568.</b> This is the number of times someone has searched for something on Dewis and then clicked to find more information. In March 2022 there was 31,227 clicks and in March 2023 there was 40,795.<br/><b>Registered users have increased by 365.</b><br/><b>Expired resources have reduced from 158 to 65</b> showing that currency of the directory is improving.</p>   |
|    | <p><b>Dementia Conference</b> There were over 130 partners who attended the Gwent Dementia Friendly Communities conference at The Christchurch Centre, in September 2022 and 35 partners who attended the Gwent Dementia Friendly Webinar and 87% respondents wanted to become more involved in the dementia agenda across Gwent.<br/><b>Dementia Friends</b> Dementia Friends sessions and supporting online connections with communities. <b>1,468 Dementia Friends</b> have been made across <b>98</b> sessions during <b>2022 – 2023.</b></p>  |
|   | <p><b>Assistive Technology (AT)</b><br/>Over 650 AT devices have been distributed to all sectors across Gwent including the Happiness Programme, HUG and RITA to support well-being and positive stimulation.</p>  |
|  | <p><b>Workforce &amp; College Consortium</b><br/><b>Social Care Work Placements</b> - regional work placement process was launched in September 2022 to support students to apply for LA work placements and for LA social care teams to adequately prepare to accept these placements. 13 work placement applications have been received and facilitated by LA social care teams.<br/><b>Coleg Gwent campuses, the 'Placement to Progression' events.</b> Held in Oct/Nov across 4 Coleg Gwent campuses, events have supported students with securing work placements while providing local providers the opportunity to promote part-time vacancies to the current student cohort. 52 work placement applications have been received by providers and 24 commissioned providers attended the events, all were from the adult care sector or 3<sup>rd</sup> sector.<br/><b>ABUHB Work Placements. 25 students</b> have been cleared and are ready to start placements with ABUHB. As of the 14<sup>th</sup> of November, these students will be placed on wards</p> |
|  | <p><b>Micro carers MCC pilot:</b> There are currently 7 micro carers on the directory, providing around 70 hours of carer each week as of Dec 22. There are 3 more micro carers going through training. Updated figures will be available following the project evaluation. Costings of Recruitment agencies costing a total of £1575 for 70 hours, whereas Micro carers costings a total of £1155 for 70 hours. <b>Micro carers provide a saving of £420 per week.</b></p>  |
|  | <p><b>Launch of Autism Code of Practice and Autism Conference.</b> 240 people attended, day long awareness and training event 100% delegates felt better informed of autism after the event.</p>   |

|   |  |
|---|--|
|  | <b>Communications and Engagement</b><br>Regional Partnership page views have increased from 7,470 (2021-2022) to 22,502 (2022-2023) – See Annex: 4.  |
|  | <b>AskSARA</b><br>As of February, all metrics (users, new users, sessions, reports, bounce rate) have increased. The user/report percentage and bounce rate remain at very positive levels, indicating users are interacting well with the site. Good variety of referral sources. <b>90% of users would recommend AskSARA, 71% were helped to find a solution or equipment.</b> |

### E) Use of Grant Funding

In 2022-23 the Regional Partnership Board utilised Welsh Government grant funding and the following has been achieved across the region:

- 19,310 unpaid carers have accessed services, with 2083 feeling less isolated and 2479 achieving personal outcomes.
- 2,597 children at risk of entering care have been supported, to date 600 have achieved personal outcomes.
- We have provided intensive support to 267 care leavers to develop coping strategies and achieve personal outcomes.
- 611 neurodivergent children and their families have been supported, with 515 reporting good experiences.
- Additional capacity within Memory Assessment Services has enabled a total of 3644 people with cognitive impairment, living with dementia and young onset dementia to be supported and assessed.
- 12,462 contacts have been provided to support people to live well with Dementia, and an additional in-year referral acceptance of 2,577 people.
- The connected communities programme has assisted 25,276 adults via a range of prevention and wellbeing services to remain well within the community. Of which, 4968 report maintaining or improving their emotional health and wellbeing and 4396 are more aware of the support available to them.
- 12,498 individuals have received intermediate care in the community via the Place Based Graduated Care programme. 45% of stroke survivors have been supported to rehabilitate within the community, and 53% of individuals receiving intermediate care were prevented from hospital admission/crisis.
- Improving System Flow programme capacity supported 8824 individuals to leave hospital, with 1689 of these individuals receiving aids and adaptations to return home as independent as possible, and 2007 individuals achieved personal outcomes.
- 2505 people with learning disabilities achieved personal outcomes via the LD independence and wellbeing programme, with 1195 new individuals identified during 2022-23.
- 25,000 individuals have accessed information and advice via the Enhanced Foundation Tier programme, along with 169 training sessions provided across the partnership to support awareness and recognition of emotional wellbeing in self and others.
- The CVC led Third Sector Grants fund has supported 3107 individuals within the community, with 2511 reporting maintaining or improving their emotional health and wellbeing.

## 9. Financial Summary (Capital and Revenue)

This report has no financial implications. However, services within NCC are delivered using RIF which is administered via the RPB.

## 10. Risks

This plan and report reflect the work of the Regional Partnership Board. There are risks identified in the Corporate Risk Register for Social Services for 2022/23 with Pressure on Services, Risks to

providers and Safeguarding being the key risks. While this plan and report references the challenges, they do not require decisions which would impact on these risks.

#### **11. Options Available:**

Cabinet is asked to consider and accept the report of the Regional Partnership Board. Cabinet is asked to consider the joint regional commitments within the Area Plan.

Cabinet is asked to review the RPB Annual Report and progress made against the objectives; and provide any feedback/comments.

#### **12. Preferred Option and Why**

For Cabinet to accept the Area Plan and the Annual Report.

#### **13. Comments of Chief Financial Officer**

The RPB Area Plan has the potential to result in financial implications for the Council not only in changing and developing services to meet the stated needs of the population but also in collaboration working, developing alternative delivery models and pooled funds. However, the plan aims to collaborate and reduce duplication and offer a partnership environment to tackle these challenges.

Any financial pressures or efficiencies arising from the developments within the plan will need to be reported as they emerge for formal approval and factored into the Council's MTFP as needed. Some services within NCC are delivered using RIF which is administered via the RPB and pressures relating to the tapering of this grant have been considered in the budget setting process.

#### **14. Comments of Monitoring Officer**

There are no specific legal issues arising from the Report. The Council has a statutory duty under the Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) Act to carry out a joint Population Needs assessment with the local health board in relation to care and support within the Gwent region. A joint Area Plan must then be prepared to set out the services which are planned to be delivered locally to meet the social care needs identified in PNA. The Area Plan has been prepared in accordance with the legislation and statutory guidance and has been the subject of extensive engagement and consultation. The objectives and priorities identified in the Area Plan are also consistent with the Council's well-being objectives. Cabinet is now required to formally approve the Area Plan on behalf of the Council. In addition, the progress against delivery of key objectives in the Area Plan is monitored through the RPB Annual Report which considers specifically the priority groups set out in the PNA and cross cutting themes. Cabinet is required to review the content of the Annual Report and may provide comments and feedback as necessary.

#### **15. Comments of Head of People, Policy, and Transformation**

The report seeks Cabinet consideration and review of the Gwent Regional Partnership Board (RPB) Area Plan and RPB Annual Report 22/23. This report seeks comments and feedback on the progress outlined within the RPB Annual Report 22/23 and the objectives outlined within Gwent Regional Partnership Board (RPB) Area Plan. The attached report and plan are focused on meeting the requirements of the Social Service and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWB) and by addressing 'must dos and should dos' within this act. The regional ways of working outlined in this report are consistent with established regional partnership arrangements, with strategic governance established via the RPB.

An FEIA has not been completed for this report and plan submission, this has not been needed due to its previous completion and approval. The proposal supports the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the 5 Ways of Working ensuring that decisions by public bodies consider the impact they could have on people living in Gwent, both now and in the future. The proposal also works towards the vision of the Corporate Plan 2022-27 to ensure that, 'People are at the heart of the Area Plan and all the work we do' by supporting its four well-being objectives. There are no direct HR implications associated with the proposal.



## **16. Scrutiny Committees**

Scrutiny considered the Area Plan and the Annual Report on 10.10.2023. The collated comments are below:

### **Gwent Regional Partnership Board Area Plan**

- Members expressed their gratitude to the officers for their presentation and commended the partnership board for their ongoing efforts. They noted that the document was quite intricate and repetitive, and felt that important information could get lost in the document as a result. While they understood the statutory need to present the report in this format, they suggested future reports could benefit from less repetition and jargon, or even be more concise. This would aid members in better understanding the presented information.
- Members requested that the report explicitly detail how the Regional Partnership Board collaborated with Leisure Trusts and local sporting governing bodies to improve recreation accessibility. They also enquired about any ongoing or completed projects in this regard, seeking information on their start dates, locations, success rates, and potential areas for improvement.
- Members commented regarding the Rapid Rehousing programme and the commitment to not use bed and breakfast accommodation to temporarily house young people, and would like to request information on the Regional Partnership Board element of this commitment.
- The Committee expressed its intention to write to the Welsh Government, requesting a reconsideration of the planned tapering in the Regional Integration Fund, given the current financial circumstances.
- Members enquired whether the partnership had developed a strategy or engaged in cross-partnership collaboration with the Health Team to address the rising levels of obesity in the region.

### **Gwent Regional Partnership Board Annual Report**

- Members wished to again commend the partnership for their ongoing efforts, and also commented on the excellent work by unpaid and young carers in particular, with the burden and pressure they face, whilst also dealing with their own complex needs. It was noted Welsh Government grant funding is being used to provide services for over 19,000 unpaid carers, but only just over 2,000 of those reported feeling less isolated. Members were interested in exploring how we can improve uptake from unpaid carers and get more positive feedback.
- Members wanted to reiterate that the document was lengthy and recommended that future reports could be improved by reducing repetition and jargon, or by making them more concise.
- Members praised the case study of the Crick Road Dementia Project and spoke of it being innovative. Members would like to know whether this is going to be modelled elsewhere in the region.

## **17. Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment**

As there is no decision required for this report a FEIA has not been completed.

## **18. Consultation**

The Regional Partnership Board has representation on the Board itself from a range of citizen groups. The Board is supported by a Citizen's Panel. In addition, each of the subgroups is working in different ways to support co production and the engagement of all who use the services.

## **19. Background Papers**

There are no additional background papers.

**Dated: 11 October 2023**