

# Report

## Cabinet

---

### Part 1

Date: 18 April 2018

**Subject** **Social Services and Wellbeing Act: Regional Area Plan**

**Purpose** To present the regional Area Plan required under the Social Services and Wellbeing Act and set out how it complements the Well-being Plan required under the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

**Author** Strategic Director - People  
Theme Lead - Gwent Health and Social Care Transformation Team

**Ward** All

**Summary** The requirement to produce a regional Area Plan is a statutory duty on local authorities and health boards as part of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act. The Area Plan sets out how the priorities identified in the statutory regional population needs assessment (PNA) in relation to people requiring care and support, will be delivered in partnership and through integrated working.

**Proposal** **To adopt the Area Plan in principle.**

**Action by** Strategic Director - People

**Timetable** Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Head of People and Business Change
- Head of Law and Regulation
- Head of Finance
- Policy, Partnership & Involvement Team
- Service Manager, Adult & Community Services

## Background

The Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Act), in Part 2, section 14, requires that local authorities and local health boards jointly carry out an assessment of the needs for care and support in relation to the Gwent region's population. The Gwent regional population needs assessment (PNA) report was agreed and published on 1st April 2017 and set out priorities over specific core themes:

- children and young people
- older people
- health / physical disabilities
- learning disability/ autism
- mental health
- sensory impairment
- carers who need support; and
- violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Following the publication of the regional 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. 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 Boards;
- 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; and
- actions required to deliver services through the medium of Welsh.

The first area plans must be published by 1 April 2018 and there will be a need to ensure links between the Area Plan and the local authority Well-being Plans required under the Well-being of Future Generations Act. Although the definition of wellbeing is slightly different in each Act, there are synergies to gain, and duplication to avoid by linking the plans. Local officers have been working closely to avoid duplication and identify areas of synergy and joint working. Links to NNC's Corporate Improvement Plan and ABUHB Intermediate Medium Term Plans will also need to be established, as well as alignment to the Neighbourhood Care Network plans in each of the GP cluster areas.

The Area Plan and previously the PNA, were developed through extensive engagement with the regional citizen panel, provider forum and regional executive director leadership group; as well as local groups such as youth forums, older people's forums, carers groups and parenting networks. Members of the Regional Partnership Board attended the recent 'Families Love Newport' event to consult on the Area Plan as well as engaging with NCC's citizen panel with nearly 200 questionnaires completed with 91% agreeing that 'the Area plan set out *'the actions needed to ensure partners work together'* and 85% agreeing that *'the Area plan focuses on people who need support'*.

Some of the wider regional emerging areas of interest are also set out below and further engagement is planned during the consultation period:

- An ageing population brings many opportunities, however there are also challenges for service provision and increases in the number of people living with long term conditions.
- Loneliness is a growing concern.
- Across the region there are high levels of social capital and volunteering. By taking an asset and placed based approach there is an opportunity to improving well-being.
- Increasing support is required for Looked After Children across the region

- Adverse childhood experiences have a negative impact on people’s long term health and economic prospects and can be perpetuated through the generations.

The first area plans must be published by 1 April 2018 and there will be a need to ensure links between the Area Plan and the local authority Well-being Plans required under the Well-being of Future Generations Act to facilitate collaborative working between the 2 legislative duties and avoid duplication. Links to NCC’s Corporate Improvement Plan and ABUHB Intermediate Medium Term Plans will also need to be established, as well as alignment to the Neighbourhood Care Network plans in each of the GP cluster areas.

**Financial Summary**

- The financial implications will be explored more robustly through the delivery of the regional Area Plan and will involve the administration and delivery of the regional Integrated Care Funded projects, exploring joint commissioning opportunities and pooled budgeting.

**Risks**

The Area Plan is a high level regional action plan that sets out areas for joint working. If NCC do not provide comments and/or agree to priorities there will be a risk of little or no regional working

Risk	Impact of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)	Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect	Who is responsible for dealing with the risk?
Lack of regional working and joint commissioning	M	L	Elected members and senior strategic leaders are members of the Regional Partnership Board, Leadership Group and underpinning strategic partnership which oversees the Area Plan and will ensure the needs of Newport citizens and NCC are represented	JH

**Links to Council Policies and Priorities**

- Wellbeing Assessment (Wellbeing of Future Generations Act)
- Local Well-being Plan 2018-23 (draft)
- Corporate Improvement Plan

**Options Available and considered**

1. Undertake further consultation on the Area Plan before adopting in principle.
2. Provide comments and adopt Area Plan in principle.

**Preferred Option and Why**

- Provide comments and adopt Area Plan in principle.

This is the preferred option to enable NCC to provide formal consultation comments in relation to statutory regional Area Plan within the required timeframes. The benefits expected are more opportunities for regional working, joint commissioning and maximising of resources.

## **Comments of Chief Financial Officer**

The Area Plan has potentially very significant 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 and pooled funds etc.

These will need to be developed more fully in due course as developments emerge and reported, as appropriate, for further formal approvals. It will also be important that these are factored into the Council's MTFP as needed.

## **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 in order to meet the social care needs identified in PNA. The draft 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.

## **Comments of Head of People and Business Change**

The Regional Area Plan meets all of the sustainable development principles of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015, and is complementary the One Newport Public Services Board Wellbeing Plan. This is detailed overleaf.

The regional planning board has considered the protected characteristics in the development of the Area Plan and will also include a full Equality Impact Assessment that will be published following publication.

From an HR perspective there are no staffing implications

## **Scrutiny Committees**

This report is been shared with scrutiny members as an information report, and any comments will be reported to the Cabinet for consideration ahead of their meeting.

## **Equalities Impact Assessment and the Equalities Act 2010**

The Equality Act 2010 contains a Public Sector Equality Duty which came into force on 06 April 2011. The Act identifies a number of 'protected characteristics', namely age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation; marriage and civil partnership.

The RPB has considered the protected characteristics in development of the Area Plan and will also include a full Equality Impact Assessment that will be published following publication.

## **Children and Families (Wales) Measure**

The Area Plan sets out priorities under the statutory core theme of Children and Young People.

## **Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

The Social Services and Wellbeing Act shares similar principles to the sustainable development principle put into place by the WFG Act. The Area Plan will evidence actions to progress the following WFG principles:

- Long term / Prevention: The regional plan sets out to provide services that will promote the prevention of escalating need and the right help to be available at the right time Integration: This regional plan will strongly support two of the Newport City Council's Well-being Objectives
  - To enable people to be healthy, independent and resilient
  - To build cohesive and sustainable communities

- Collaboration: The new legislative framework in Wales, requires a step change in the pace of partnership working and collaboration. Whilst many challenges will remain in overcoming organisational boundaries, and cultures, a set of shared working principles in addition to the principles in the Act have been adopted by the Gwent Regional Partnership Board, to provide consistency and quicken the pace by which we can work collaboratively to transform and re model services. These are set out on [pages 13 and 14 of the regional plan.
- Involvement: People are at the heart of the Social Service & Well-being Act principles by giving them an equal say in the support they receive. The regional plan focuses on priorities that have been highlighted by citizens

### **Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

Section 17(1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 imposes a duty on the Local Authority to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area.

### **Consultation**

Comments received from wider consultation, including comments from elected members have been considered in identification of the priorities and actions included in the Area Plan.

### **Background Papers**

None.

Dated: 11 April 2018