



Newport City Council Scrutiny Report Gwent Area Planning Board.

1. Purpose

Area Planning Boards (APBs) were established in 2010 as part of the new arrangements to deliver the Welsh Government Substance Misuse Strategy 'Working Together to Reduce Harm', and latterly the Substance Misuse Action Plan 2019-2022 which Welsh Government revised post Covid and request APB continue to work to. APBs are intended to provide a regional framework, to:

- Strengthen partnership working and strategic leadership in the delivery of the substance misuse strategy; and,
- Enhance and improve the key functions of planning, commissioning, and performance management.

APBs should, in line with the Welsh Government's wider collaboration agenda, combine resources for the development and management of substance misuse services across Community Safety Partnership (CSP) areas. This provides opportunities for strengthening service planning, commissioning, delivery and performance management whilst also achieving efficiencies. This regional approach has been in operation for a number of years. It has helped to relieve some of the burden at individual CSP level but also enabled experience and expertise to be shared more effectively on a regional and national level.

Key role of the Area Planning Boards is to assist responsible authorities to discharge their duties in relation to substance misuse by:

- Development of an outcome-based commissioning strategy.
- Production of a fully costed implementation plan to support the commissioning and estates strategy.
- Ensure there are appropriate budget, accounting, and audit management systems in place to effectively administer the Substance Misuse Action Fund (SMAF) revenue and capital funds within organisation's governance structure.
- Ensuring the National Core Standards for Substance Misuse and other relevant standards are embedded in all service planning and delivery systems with appropriate arrangements in place for performance management and review and have the mechanism to act on these as needed.
- Ensure all funded services form part of an integrated care pathway based upon the guidance documents. '
- Identifying opportunities where planning, commissioning and delivering services on a regional basis will be cost effective and provide a better platform for engagement with service providers or users.

- Work with the Regional Partnership Boards and locally through primary clusters to assess the substance misuse care and support needs of their population in line with the requirements of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (population needs assessments) and the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015, and ensure that substance misuse services are considered in the context of other care and support services.

2. Legislation

In line with the Crime and Disorder Act (1998), the statutory responsibility for formulating and implementing a regional strategy for combating substance misuse continues to rest with the responsible CSP authorities. The Welsh Government's strategy and action plan advocated strongly that CSPs and other agencies involved in tackling and reducing the harms associated with substance misuse should do more to plan treatment services and to pool resources at a regional level. The APB structure was therefore established to support delivery at a regional (Local Health Board) footprint level. The membership of the APBs includes representatives from all the responsible authorities which comprise CSPs to enable statutory responsibilities in respect to substance misuse to be discharged at a regional level.

The Gwent APB requests that the statutory bodies discharge their duty under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which outlines the executive membership required by APBs to plan, commission and performance manage substance misuse service delivery across Gwent. The MOU is clear that members attending the Board should be of sufficient seniority and have the delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of their organisation in order to ensure progression of work requirements and avoid delay.

The Gwent APB membership is outlined below.

Executive Voting Members: These members having voting and decision-making rights. One member per organisation.

- Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
- Caerphilly County Borough Council
- Monmouthshire County Council
- Newport City Council
- Torfaen County Borough Council
- Gwent Police – Chief Constable
- Probation Service
- Police & Crime Commissioners
- Aneurin Bevan University Health Board - Director for Mental Health and LD
- Aneurin Bevan University Health Board - Director for Public Health
- Public Health Wales
- Youth Justice/Offending Service

Role of APB Executive Group:

- Agree Commissioning Strategy and Implementation Plan
- Oversee planning, commissioning, and performance management.
- Make commissioning decisions.
- Make decisions around finance.
- Receive reports around performance management, finance, risks and issues.
- Make recommendations around commissioning options.
- Implement and monitor Implementation Plan and direct work of subgroups.
- Receive progress reports and recommendations from subgroups.

In addition, the Board also has **advisory members**:

- Children & Young People's Planning
- Third Sector Substance Misuse Services Representative
- Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Service Representative (clinical rep)
- Welsh Government
- APB Support Team

Welsh Government request that the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson will be from either Public Health Wales or one of the responsible authorities. Currently the Gwent APB chair is Professor Tracy Daszkiewicz, Executive Director for Public Health & Strategic Partnerships and the Vice Chair is SallyAnn Jenkins, Newport City Council Social Services Director.

The Chair's role is to ensure the APB operates efficiently and in line with the governance arrangement agreed by each APB.

Welsh Government require the APB to consider the following legislative framework in order to deliver its regional strategic objectives:

- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
- Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Housing (Wales) Act 2014

It is considered good practice for the APB to align with other structures and strategies such as CSP strategic assessments, RPB, Housing, Criminal Justice Board, PSB's etc to ensure that both strategic and operational developments link where needs are highlighted or required, particularly around the prevention agenda.

3. Financial Management- Newport City Council Role

Welsh Government Requirements and Funds

Welsh Government require one of the 'responsible authorities' preferably at Local Authority level due to their wide-ranging powers to act as the 'grant recipient', more commonly known as the banker. For the Gwent APB this function is provided via Newport City Council. Newport provides financial and procurement functions to the APB to ensure that the Boards commissioning intentions are contracted and paid for in line with regulations.

The APB banker receives the annual Substance Misuse Action Fund (SMAF), Complex Needs and Buvidal allocations. Welsh Government provide APBs with indicative spend plans in December, where an annual APB spend is produced and signed off by the APB executive members by March in line with agreed commissioned activity and reducing risk. Within the SMAF budget there are specific ring-fenced categories and mandated funding levels for Tier 4 and Children and Young People.

The 2024-25 SMAF allocation is:

Fund	Allocation
SMAF	£6,516,723
Complex Needs	£869,850
Buvidal	£496,600
Total	£7,883,173

This is allocated to the below service lines:

SMAF Project lines	24-25
Adult services (GDAS, Paloma)	£4,501,491
CYP services (N-Gage/CAMHS)	£1,208,125
Tier 4 (allocated to LA's, HB and CAMHS)	£386,600
Banker support*	£32,439
Strategy and support (APB teams costs)	£318,114
Bursary	£6,787
Naloxone	£28,995
Core SMAF to be approved	£34,172
Total	£6,516,723

*contribution to NCC to provide financial oversight and procurement support

Complex Needs Project lines	24-25
Complex Needs- NCC Housing 1 st and Complex Needs Service	£513,026
Complex Needs- Additional Buvidal	£356,824
Total	£869,850

Buvidal Project lines	24-25
Buvidal	£496,600
Total	£496,600

Substance Misuse Action Fund (SMAF) – Capital

The Substance Misuse Action Fund (SMAF) Capital is allocated via a national bidding process per annum, Welsh Government have confirmed due to funding constraints no capital funding is available in 2024-25. Proposals must first be approved by the APB in line with our agreed Estates strategy.

Priority is given to proposals which:

- Focus on improving the capacity, access and/or quality of treatment facilities through the creation of multi-agency bases, residential treatment and detoxification centres, increasing GP shared care participation, youth facilities, mobile outreach and daycentres.
- Demonstrate collaborative ventures between partnerships on a regional (or multi-regional) basis; and
- Addresses assessed local need and reflect priorities in action plans.

Additional Funds

Due to the integrated procurement arrangements for the adult substance use provision Newport receive the following funding which they then allocate in line with the GDAS contract.

Fund streams	Amount
OPCC contribution to GDAS	£ 867,229.00
HMPPS Contribution to GDAS	£ 571,387.00
ABUHB Contribution to GDAS	£ £384,346
Total	£1,822,962

APB Commissioning and Planning Support / Secretariat arrangements

To support the APB discharge its commissioning and planning intentions, there is an established APB Support Team. This partnership team has 6xfte posts which are funded via SMAF and a combination of SMAF/Health. The work of the APB Support team covers the following:

APB Regional Lead/Team Manager x1

Lead for governance, finance, risk register, overall performance and APB work programme. Key contact for strategy development and commissioning, partnership lead.

APB Substance Misuse Lead Officer (SMLO) x1.8

Lead for alcohol including alcohol pathway groups, alcohol related death review, family services, Lived Experience, Peer Mentors and joint lead for CYP. Contract review lead for GDAS.

Lead for drugs including Fatal and Non-Fatal Drug Poisonings Review and Harm Reduction meetings, Complex Needs and joint lead for CYP. Contract review lead for ABSDAS.

Finance x1

Leads on operational finance- SMAF, SMAF Capital and partnership funds aligned to contract arrangements. Links in with ABUHB finance partners for adult and CYP budgets in line with HB ring fenced substance misuse budget. Undertakes finance audits in line with finance regulations and Welsh Government needs.

Data Improvement Officer x1

Leads on the development of the substance misuse case management system - Palbase, monitors provider data quality and submission to the national database.

APB Support x1.2

Lead admin support for the APB meetings, setting up APB Executive and regional lead pre-APB briefings. Supports APB Complex Needs, Tier 4 meetings. Also provides admin support for all contract reviews (GDAS, N-Gage, ABSDAS).

Supports the Fatal and Non-Fatal Drug Poisonings Review Panel and Harm Reduction groups and its associated task and finish groups.

4. Substance Use Service Provision

SMAF

Adult Services: Gwent Drug and Alcohol Service £6,151,619

GDAS provides free, safe and confidential drug and alcohol services for anyone over the age of 18 years. Services range from reducing the harm of substances to maintaining abstinence.

GDAS was the first integrated substance use model commissioned in Wales and is jointly funded by the APB SMAF, Complex Needs and Buvidal, OPCC, HMPPS and Health Board funds.

Services on offer:

- Single point of contact
- Joint allocation meeting (all relevant internal and external partnerships in attendance)
- Assessment clinics
- Brief Interventions for both alcohol and drugs
- Clinical services including:
 - Substitute prescribing including Buvidal.
 - Needle exchange/safe injecting info,
 - BBV testing,
 - Sexual Health screening,
 - Drug testing.
 - Prison release and criminal justice prescribing
- Naloxone training and distribution.
- 1:1 therapeutic support inclusive of a range of evidence-based interventions
- Group work.
- Diversionary activities
- Peer 2 Peer Services
- Recovery College
- Digital Provision
- Complex Needs Service including HSG requirements.
- Provides clinical drug and alcohol support to NCC Housing 1st model
- Internal and external training

Contact details for the service are:

0333 999 3577

info@gdas.wales

Children and Young Persons Services: N-Gage £1,208,125

In line with Welsh Government SMAF expectations, Gwent are expected to spend a minimum of £1,208,125 on substance use services. The ring-fenced children and young people monies must be used in line with the guidance 'Integrated Care for Children and Young People Aged 18 years and under who misuse Substances' issued in March 2011 (due to be updated in 2024).

Gwent APB have commissioned an integrated co-occurring substance use service for this age range. The service includes a bespoke substance misuse CAMHS service, alongside a specialist community service. This combined service is called N-Gage.

Services on offer:

Joint N-gage Services

- Single Point of contact
- Joint Allocation Meetings
- Advice and consultation
- Training

Specific specialist services

- Brief interventions
- Assessments
- 1:1 case management
- Group work.
- Evidence based interventions.
- Diversionary and wellbeing Activities
- In reach into education settings including schools
- Transitions Services
- Peer Work
- Digital Provision
- Joint working (SLA) with Youth Offending Services

Specific CAMHS services

- Clinical services including:
 - Mental Health assessment
 - Substitute prescribing.
 - Needle exchange/safe injecting info.
 - BBV testing
- Naloxone training and distribution.
- Assessments
- 1:1 therapeutic support inclusive of a range of evidence-based interventions
- Recreational overdose pathway
- Tier 4

Contact for the services are:

0333 3202 751

<https://www.n-gage.cymru>

Family Services: GDAFS

The N-Gage service highlighted above, also includes the Gwent Drug and Alcohol Family Service. This provides a range of support for both under 18's and over 18's separately where individuals are affected by a loved one's substance use.

Services on offer:

- Referral and assessment
- 1:1 support
- Group sessions.
- Peer Support
- Training and awareness

Tier 4: Rehabilitation and Inpatient Funding £386,600

Another area of SMAF funding that Welsh Government mandate a ringfence allocation is that of Tier 4 provision. This is focussed on residential rehabilitation and/or detoxification for individuals with complex alcohol and/or drug use where community settings do not provide the necessary support. In April 2015 to help sustain the provision of high-quality Tier 4 services in Wales, Welsh Government introduced a Residential Rehab Framework. All residential rehabilitation placements commissioned using the ring-fenced allocation must comply with this framework, except in circumstances where the framework does not meet

the needs of the clients. In such circumstances prior approval should be sought from the appropriate WG Substance Misuse Advisory Regional Team.

Gwent's annual allocation for Tier 4 funding is broken down in line with previous CSP funding formula. Welsh Government specify that this funding is a contribution, and that further Tier 4 funding should be met by Local Authorities in response to need. Due to an increase demand in detox needs within Gwent, a specific pathway for detox has been established with Cardiff and Vale Health Board who have a specialist drug and alcohol ward.

Locality/Service	2024-24 Allocation
Blaenau Gwent	£25,700
Caerphilly	£52,100
Monmouthshire	£23,400
Newport	£53,900
Torfaen	£25,500
Health Board Alcohol Detox Pathway	£180,000
CYP (CAMHS)	£26,000
Total	£386,600

Complex Needs: Housing 1st and GDAS Complex Needs £869,850

The purpose of this funding is to enable APB's to deliver improvements in support for the increasing number of people who present to mental health or substance misuse services with a complex range of needs. The funding is to enable APBs to deliver this support, alongside housing support services.

£513,026 is allocated to Newport City Council Housing First Model. This is a multi-disciplinary model in partnership with GDAS, Pobl and ABUHB. The APB funding provides clinical substance use support including a Complex Needs Nurse, Support worker and 40 prescribing placements inclusive of Buvidal where medically appropriate. It also provides a newly developed Occupational Health modality.

The remaining £356,824 allocation has been signed off to secure further Buvidal treatment spaces.

Buvidal:

Buvidal is a new injectable medication that was introduced into the treatment system during Covid 19 and since its inception Welsh Government have continued to fund through the APB arrangements currently until 2025.

Buvidal is a medicine used to treat dependence on opioid drugs such as heroin or morphine and it can last for up to 4 weeks. Buvidal is used in adults and adolescents aged over 16 years who are also receiving medical, social and psychological support. It has a strong retention and success rate from individuals on low level medication to complex needs.

Ps note: substance use services refers to both drug and alcohol.