

Report

Cabinet



Part 1

Date: 13 November 2024

Subject Regional Partnership Board Annual Report

Purpose Presentation of the Gwent Regional Partnership Board Annual Report 2023/24

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Ward All

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.

The Annual Report is a reflection of the work of the past year.

Proposal Cabinet is asked to review progress made against the objectives; and provide any feedback/comments

Action by Immediate

Signed

Background

The Regional Partnership Board (RPB) is a statutory partnership body, established to lead and guide the implementation of the Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act 2014 across the five Gwent Local Authorities of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen within the footprint of the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board area.

The priorities of the RPB are:




- To improve care and support, ensuring people have more say and control
- To improve outcomes and health and wellbeing for people across the region
- Provide co-ordinated, person centred care and support
- Make more effective use of resources, skills, and expertise across partners


The RPB Annual Report for 2023/2024 is attached for information (Appendix A) and provides a strategic overview of the work of the Board in delivering against these priorities through the work of the themed Strategic Partnerships sitting beneath it. Although it is a regional report, most of the work undertaken is cross cutting and is relevant to Newport. Key developments have also been set out below and the use of Grant funding report is included for information in (Appendix B) The Annual Report is also submitted to Welsh Government.


The following is attached for the Cabinets consideration:

- a) Gwent Regional Partnership Board (RPB) Annual Report 2023-2024 (Appendix A)

3.2 The following is a summary of the “Key Developments of the last Year” taken from the report.

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|  | <p>Carers Annual Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects were developed to support carers with hospital discharge across the region, with 1,626 carers accessing support. • 226 individuals received a small grant between April and June 2024. • The Young Carers in Schools Programme extended its remit to offer support to schools for transition days. • 3,145 carers received a short break from their caring role, supporting wellbeing and positive caring relationships. • Projects delivered community support, providing information, advice, and assistance (IAA), activities, individual and peer support to 3,389 carers. |
|  | <p>Dewis figures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed views of resources have increased by 2,728. 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 • expired resources have reduced from 966 to 852 showing that currency of the directory is improving. |
|  | <p>Dementia Friendly Gwent Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are now over 270 multi agency networks members, including both paid professionals, volunteers, carers, and people living with dementia. • 55 network members joined us for the 2023 Dementia Friendly Gwent coffee morning, to celebrate the hard work of organisations across Gwent. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,305 Dementia Friends have been made across 152 sessions during 2023 – 2024, to help raise awareness and understanding across the region. |
| | <p>Citizen Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since it's relaunch, we have expanded the Gwent Citizen Network to over 100 members. • A Gwent wide Coproduction and Engagement event, 'Decisions Made Together: Inclusion and Experience' was attended by over 150 professionals and citizens. • Coproduction Luncheons are taking place across Gwent to enable us to connect and engage with citizens to influence and support development of our strategic priorities and service delivery. |
|  | <p>Workforce & College Consortium:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A regional work placement scheme was launched in September 2022, to support students to apply for local authority work placements and to support social care teams to adequately prepare to accept these placements. 92 work placement applications were received for the 2023/24 academic year, with a total of 30 work placements facilitated by LA social care teams. Future efforts will focus on converting placements to paid work opportunities. The RPB have continued to engage with members of Coleg Gwent to promote careers across health and social care and how to design course content to promote the sector. <p>Access to Medicine Course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been a continued shortage of Welsh students seeking to pursue a career in medicine, particularly those from socially disadvantaged areas. Developed with Professor Paul Edwards (ABUHB) this course, prepares local students for a Medical Pathway Degree and is designed to support talented individuals who have traditionally faced barriers in entering the field of medicine, it is the first of its kind in Wales. <p>The first cohort of students were recruited in September 2023, and it is anticipated that the course will expand in the new academic year.</p> <p>Clinical Placement Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initially launched in September 2022 this initiative provides second-year students with 100 hours of clinical placement in hospital settings such as The Royal Gwent, Nevill Hall, and Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr. Building on this success the program has been expanded to include placements at The Grange university hospital and Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan. 38 students across Coleg Gwent have secured placements this year. 2 students have recently secured substantive posts as Healthcare Support Workers within the health board. The remaining 36 students are currently on track to complete their qualifications this year and are poised to advance into university or employment within the sector. <p>Micro Care</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following an initial 12-month Micro Care pilot in 2022-23, exploring if micro carers could support local care capacity and delivery, providing an alternative to traditional domiciliary care provision, Micro Care Monmouthshire continues to support local citizens to become self-employed care workers. There is a total of 25 micro carers on Monmouthshire's Micro Care Directory to date. Further funding for the development of a digital, self-service portal via the Regional Innovation Co-ordination (RIC) Hub has also been secured. <p>Implementation of the portal spanned from January - April 2024 and includes features to ensure training compliance, document collection, and secure data handling. The portal will help to streamline the onboarding process, providing an easy access platform that will help the protect future resilience and longevity.</p> <p>Recognising the need for region-specific solutions, the Gwent Regional Partnership Team established a Micro Care Community of Practice in Wales in July 2023. The bi-monthly meetings aim to address barriers specific to Wales and foster the growth of micro care services.</p> |
|  | <p>AskSARA AskSARA 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. 90% of users would recommend AskSARA, 71% were helped to find a solution or equipment.</p> |

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.

Risks

This report reflects the work of the Regional Partnership Board. There are risks identified in the Corporate Risk Register for Social Services for 2023/24 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.

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.

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| 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 |
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| 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. |
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Options Available and considered

Cabinet is asked to consider and accept the report of the Regional Partnership Board.

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

Preferred Option and Why

For Cabinet to accept the Annual Report

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 fund arrangements. 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.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

Regional Partnership Boards (RPB) are established under Part 9 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, and The Partnership Arrangements (Wales) Regulations 2015. The purpose of RPBs is to improve the well-being of the population and improve how health and care services are delivered. All Regional Partnership Boards must provide a regional annual report, which is presented within this report to Cabinet.

It is open to the Cabinet to review the report and accept it, or ask for further information.

Comments of Head of People Policy and Transformation

This report seeks the consideration and acceptance of Cabinet of the Gwent Regional Partnership Board RPB Annual Report 23/24 and to review progress and provide feedback.

The proposal is in line with the Council's Corporate Plan 2022-27 vision of 'an ambitious, fairer, greener Newport for everyone', and supports its four Well-being Objectives, ensuring people are at the heart of the Area Plan and all its work. The report also meets the requirements of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2024.

The principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and its five ways of working are supported, with the report summarising the key progress during 2023/24 and the Area Plan looking forward over the long-term to improve outcomes and health and well-being for people across the region. This is done through collaboration across partners to make more effective use of resources, skills, and expertise – involving the views of a range of citizen groups.

A Fairness and Equalities Impact Assessment was not required for this report. There are no staffing or HR related issues arising directly from this report.

Scrutiny Committee

Report presented to Partnership Scrutiny Committee on the 23rd of October

Below are comments from the Committee

- The Committee sought clarification on Bereavement Funding arrangements once national and local frameworks are in place
- The Committee asked to receive regular updates on College Consortium developments
- The Committee requested updates on both the Dementia Friendly initiative and the Brain Health Programme
- The Committee emphasised the need for ongoing communication about the partnership's progress, particularly to enable Ward Councillors to share developments with their communities. The Committee highlighted the importance of establishing strong links between the Regional Partnership Board (RPB) and Ward Councillors regarding available programmes and services
- The Committee suggested to create a simplified or easy-read version of the report to improve accessibility
- The Committee enquired about tracking carer accreditation at city and ward levels to help promote the programme
- The Committee recommended maximising the role of Community Connectors in engaging with local groups
- Further details were requested about the Autism Neurodiverse Strategic Partnership

Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment:

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

The principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 are supported by applying the five ways of working (sustainable development principle):

Long term

It is important for the RPB to balance short term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs. This is shown through reviewing key progress during 2023/24 and the Area Plan identifying priorities over the long-term to improve outcomes and the health and well-being for people across the region.

Prevention

The Area Plan and Annual Report ensures that the priorities of the RPB address the issues of people across the region and that the preventative interventions put in place improve care and support, ensuring people have more say and control over their health and well-being.

Integration

The work of the RPB support the Council's Corporate Plan 2022-27 vision of 'an ambitious, fairer, greener Newport for everyone', and supports its four Well-being Objectives, ensuring people are at the heart of the Area Plan and all its work. The 7 Well-being Goals identified are also considered, including: A Healthier Wales; and A Resilient Wales, which ensures people across the region have improved health and well-being and are more resilient. In addition, the report also meets the requirements of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2024.

Collaboration

Working together in collaboration ensures the partnership makes more effective use of resources, skills and expertise across the different organisations to help deliver on the priorities within the RPBs Area Plan.

Involvement

The RPB has representation from a range of citizens groups to support the co-production of services and is supported by the Gwent Citizens Panel to ensure people's views are heard.

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.

Background Papers

Appendix A



RPB Annual Report
23-24 WG final..pdf

Appendix B



8b. Gwent RPB - Y2
Q4 RIF SoC Report Fir