

To: Members of the Cabinet

Date: 16 January 2019

Direct Dial: 01824712568

e-mail: democratic@denbighshire.gov.uk

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **CABINET** to be held at **10.00 am** on **TUESDAY, 22 JANUARY 2019** in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, RUTHIN.**

Yours sincerely

G Williams
Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services

AGENDA

PART 1 - THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THIS PART OF THE MEETING

1 APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members to declare any personal or prejudicial interests in any business identified to be considered at this meeting.

3 URGENT MATTERS

Notice of items which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency pursuant to Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

4 MINUTES (Pages 7 - 16)

To receive the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 18 December 2018 (copy enclosed).

5 NORTH WALES LEARNING DISABILITY STRATEGY (Pages 17 - 136)

To consider a report by Councillor Bobby Feeley, Lead Member for Well-being and Independence (copy enclosed) seeking Cabinet approval of the involvement of Denbighshire in the Regional Learning Disability Strategy.

6 HOUSING RENT SETTING & HOUSING REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS 2019/20 (Pages 137 - 154)

To consider a report by Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill, Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets (copy enclosed) seeking Cabinet approval for the Denbighshire Housing annual rent increase, the Housing Revenue Account Capital and Revenue Budgets for 2019/20 and Housing Stock Business Plan.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STRATEGIC INVESTMENT GROUP (Pages 155 - 162)

To consider a report by Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill, Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets (copy enclosed) seeking Cabinet's support of projects identified for inclusion in the 2019/20 Capital Plan.

8 BUDGET 2019/20 - FINAL PROPOSALS (Pages 163 - 202)

To consider a report by Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill, Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets (copy enclosed) setting out the implications of the Local Government Settlement 2019/20 and proposals to finalise the budget for 2019/20.

9 FINANCE REPORT (Pages 203 - 216)

To consider a report by Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill, Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets (copy enclosed) detailing the latest financial position and progress against the agreed budget strategy.

10 CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 217 - 220)

To receive the enclosed Cabinet Forward Work Programme and note the contents.

PART 2 - CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It is recommended in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business because it is likely that exempt information as defined in paragraphs 12, 14 and 15 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Act would be disclosed.

**11 IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ALTERNATIVE DELIVERY MODEL (ADM)
FOR VARIOUS LEISURE RELATED ACTIVITIES/FUNCTIONS (Pages 221
- 246)**

To consider a confidential joint report by Councillors Bobby Feeley, Lead Member for Well-being and Independence and Julian Thompson-Hill, Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets (copy enclosed) seeking Cabinet approval of the project brief.

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

Hugh Evans
Bobby Feeley
Huw Hilditch-Roberts
Richard Mainon

Tony Thomas
Julian Thompson-Hill
Brian Jones
Mark Young

COPIES TO:

All Councillors for information
Press and Libraries
Town and Community Councils

This page is intentionally left blank

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000

Code of Conduct for Members

DISCLOSURE AND REGISTRATION OF INTERESTS

I, *(name)*

a *member/co-opted member of
*(*please delete as appropriate)*

Denbighshire County Council

CONFIRM that I have declared a ***personal / personal and prejudicial** interest not previously declared in accordance with the provisions of Part III of the Council's Code of Conduct for Members, in respect of the following:-
*(*please delete as appropriate)*

Date of Disclosure:

Committee *(please specify)*:

Agenda Item No.

Subject Matter:

Nature of Interest:

*(See the note below)**

Signed

Date

*Note: Please provide sufficient detail e.g. 'I am the owner of land adjacent to the application for planning permission made by Mr Jones', or 'My husband / wife is an employee of the company which has made an application for financial assistance'.

This page is intentionally left blank

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Ruthin on Tuesday, 18 December 2018 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

Councillors Bobby Feeley, Lead Member for Well-being and Independence; Huw Hilditch-Roberts, Lead Member for Education, Children and Young People; Brian Jones, Lead Member for Highways, Planning and Sustainable Travel; Richard Mainon, Lead Member for Developing Community Infrastructure; Tony Thomas, Lead Member for Housing, Regulation and the Environment; Julian Thompson-Hill, Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets (Deputy Leader in the Chair), and Mark Young, Lead Member for Corporate Standards

Observers: Councillors Mabon Ap Gwynfor, Meirick Davies, Alan James, Arwel Roberts, Peter Scott, Glenn Swingler, Rhys Thomas, Graham Timms and Emrys Wynne

ALSO PRESENT

Chief Executive (JG); Corporate Director: Economy and Public Realm (GB); Heads of Service: Legal, HR and Democratic Services (GW), Finance/S.151 Officer (RW), Highways and Environment (TW); Flood Risk Manager (WH); Commissioning Officer (Homeless Prevention) (LD); Acting Team Manager (Homeless Prevention Team) (CO); Economic and Business Development Officer (SW); Waste and Recycling Manager (TD) and Committee Administrator (KEJ)

POINT OF NOTICE

In the absence of the Leader Councillor Hugh Evans, the Deputy Leader Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill took the Chair for the meeting.

1 APOLOGIES

Councillor Hugh Evans, Leader and Lead Member for the Economy and Corporate Governance

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest had been raised.

3 URGENT MATTERS

No urgent matters had been raised.

4 MINUTES

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 20 November 2018 were submitted.

Matters Arising – Page 8, Item 4 Minutes – Cabinet 30 October 2018 (Gypsy and Traveller Site Provision) – Councillor Peter Scott was appreciative of the careful review of all the information received from residents, the wider community and the business sector in response to the pre-planning consultation into the proposals and looked forward to the report being presented in Spring 2019. He was also pleased that Cabinet appreciated the depth of feeling and concerns presented.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2018 be received and confirmed as a correct record.

5 SUSTAINABLE DRAINAGE (SUDS) APPROVAL BODY (SAB)

Councillor Brian Jones presented the report detailing the legislative requirement for the Council to undertake the role of a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) Approval Body (SAB) and seeking Cabinet approval to delegate powers to officers to establish and operate the SAB.

The Council would be required to undertake the role of SAB with effect from 7 January 2019 following implementation of Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. The current approach to managing surface water drainage for new developments had been problematic with conventional drainage systems often exacerbating flooding elsewhere. The SuDs approach aimed to address surface water management in a different way thereby reducing the wider flood risk problem. The cost of establishing and operating the SAB function was assumed by Welsh Government to be self-funded. However there was a risk that the costs of carrying out the function would exceed the fees received for applications requiring SuDs approval. To mitigate that risk the intention was to develop a collaborative regional SAB with local authorities in Flintshire and Wrexham and ensure careful monitoring of the SAB costs and income. It was confirmed that SAB applications ran in parallel with the planning application process and attracted a separate fee.

Councillor Mark Young questioned the risks and liabilities associated with the role. It was confirmed that the SAB role would not apply to retrospective applications and following implementation on 7 January 2019 the SAB would enter into legal agreements with developers to protect the Council from future risk or liability. Given that it was new legislation there would be a learning process and bedding in period but the eight week determination period for applications should provide enough time to put the necessary arrangements in place to provide sufficient protection.

RESOLVED that Cabinet –

- (a) notes the commencement of Schedule 3 ‘Sustainable Drainage’ of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 made by the Welsh Government on the 1st May 2018 and the legislative requirement for the Council to provide a new service from 7th January 2019, and
- (b) approves the delegation of powers to the Head of Highways and Environmental Services to establish and operate the SAB.

6 SUPPORTING PEOPLE / HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION COMMISSIONING PLAN 2019 - 22

Councillor Bobby Feeley presented the report seeking Cabinet approval of the Denbighshire Supporting People/Homelessness Prevention Commissioning Plan 2019 – 22 prior to its submission to the Regional Collaborative Committee and Welsh Government.

The Council was required to submit a 3 yearly Commissioning Plan/annual update to the Regional Collaborative Committee in January of each year. The Commissioning Plan provided an overview of plans and priorities for 2019 – 22, primarily relating to Supporting People commissioned service development. The Plan was a key part of delivering against the Homelessness Strategy with a focus on commissioned service development and five broad priorities. Commissioning was an important part of the plan and contracts would be continually remodelled and developed to make them more flexible and tailored to need with a focus on prevention. Full details of the Supporting People funded development had been included within the Plan. The Plan had been developed following extensive consultation and had been considered at Partnerships Scrutiny Committee when it had been recommended for approval.

During debate the need for sufficient social housing was raised and examples of housing/homelessness cases were highlighted to illustrate points and problems faced in that regard. In responding to the issues raised and further questions arising from the report Councillor Bobby Feeley and officers advised that –

- the Council had a robust housing enforcement regime and powers to deal with issues in the private rented sector and any concerns in that regard should be directed to the Head of Planning and Public Protection for his team to deal with
- the Homeless Prevention Team worked with Housing Enforcement to ensure only registered landlords were used and to report issues of concern; links between Supporting People commissioned projects and Housing Enforcement were also being fostered to ensure properties were of a good standard
- elaborated upon initiatives and ongoing work to engage with reputable private sector landlords in order to support them to provide homes for those requiring emergency, temporary and permanent accommodation
- homelessness was a corporate issue and there were many council services involved to help tackle the issue in addition to the Homeless Prevention Team
- recognised the impact of national policies such as Welfare Reform and reported on measures to mitigate those impacts together with initiatives receiving Welsh Government support such as the Denbighshire/Conwy Housing First Project. Cymorth Cymru represented the sector and campaigned on their behalf
- assurances had been provided that next year's funding allocation would not be cut with a slight caveat that if savings could be achieved they should be made however there was a potential issue about changes to the grant distribution in future years and the subsequent impact on the various regions
- the Housing Revenue Account was ring-fenced from wider council funds to be spent around provision of service for tenants. A project was currently underway to direct some of that funding into a service provision for emergency temporary accommodation owned and managed by the Council to assist the wider

homelessness issue. In addition the Homeless Prevention Team was leasing a number of properties from Community Housing to house those presenting as homeless who could not currently be accommodated in the private sector

- provided assurances that in addition to a specific section on mental health issues it was a common theme threaded through the Plan; support for people with mental health issues had been identified as a priority area over the next two years and would be a consideration throughout all service developments
- acknowledged that it was far more challenging to source emergency temporary accommodation in rural areas and often those presenting as homeless had the option of bed and breakfast accommodation near to their community or more suitable accommodation elsewhere – for those families supported housing could be an option or stepping stone back into independent accommodation and much work had been ongoing to broaden the supported housing offer for families, particularly in the south of the county.

RESOLVED that Cabinet –

- (a) *approves the draft Denbighshire Supporting People/Homelessness Prevention Commissioning Plan 2019-22, prior to its submission to the Regional Collaborative Committee and Welsh Government in January 2019, and*
- (c) *confirms it has read, understood and taken account of the Well-being Impact Assessment attached at Appendix 2 to the report as part of their consideration.*

7 NORTH WALES DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL FULL FIBRE NETWORK PROGRAMME

In the absence of Councillor Hugh Evans, Councillor Richard Mainon presented the report updating Cabinet on the digital work carried out to date by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (NWEAB) and seeking approval of authorisations for the work going forward.

The NWEAB had approved a Digital Connectivity Strategy for the region and the Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) project was an important project to help deliver that Strategy. The Board had agreed to develop and submit a regional bid to the UK Government's LFFN Programme Challenge Fund and that Denbighshire County Council would be the lead authority for the project. The LFFN Bid had been approved in principle by UK Government and the proposal currently stood at approximately £9m investment in the region. The investment would be directed to improving connectivity across the public sector resulting in wider enhancement of networks serving communities. Cabinet was asked to formally adopt the Digital Connectivity Strategy and approve the Council's role in delivering the LFFN project.

Councillor Mainon highlighted the benefits of the project which would deploy a full fibre network throughout North Wales linking up to 400 public buildings including schools, libraries, local government offices and also involved the Health Board and GP surgeries. The project presented a positive step in terms of bringing much needed digital infrastructure into the region and Denbighshire was particularly well

placed to benefit with 95 of the premises to be upgraded located in the county. There was also huge potential for ancillary benefits to other properties as part of that process. The focus of the report was improving public sector connectivity and there were other digital schemes working in parallel to address digital requirements in other sectors. The Economic and Business Development (EBD) Officer added that the intention was to commence the project in March 2019 for completion in March 2021 which was a challenging timescale but given the procurement route arranged by Welsh Government there was confidence that it would be delivered.

Cabinet welcomed the project and noted the positive benefits across the region. In response to questions Cabinet was advised that –

- the potential scope of public sector building upgrades had been detailed in the Strategy however the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport had recently asked that further sites be proposed with a view to further extending full fibre into rural areas and a review would be carried out in that regard
- in terms of health partners the technology would enable them to modernise their services and build further resilience – whilst they may choose to make Wi-Fi available in waiting areas they would not be compelled to do so. There would also be huge benefits to other public buildings such as schools and libraries
- scrutiny arrangements would be carried out locally at this stage and the project could be called in for scrutiny by the Council; there was potential for regional scrutiny of regional projects in the second phase of the Growth Deal.

Questions were also invited from non-Cabinet members and Councillor Mainon and the EBD Officer responded to those further questions as follows –

- regarding calls for other community buildings to benefit from the project it was confirmed that the distribution of smaller community/town council buildings across the region was potentially a means of deploying full fibre further into more rural areas – all of the work identified by the project would be subject to survey work by Openreach on a quarterly basis which would identify the extent and location of that impact on communities. Whilst much of the broadband work in Wales had been overseen by the Welsh Government, the Council would have greater control to an extent on work in the county as part of this project
- with regard to partner contributions every participating organisation would be investing in hardware at the actual site to enable themselves to connect – this included the Health Board and GP surgeries which accounted for a large proportion of the 400 sites identified
- the scope of the project and building upgrades included figures of premises passed at 50m and 200m which was the UK Government's model of proposed impact – however the number of premises that could access the infrastructure was dependent on the local network design which was not uniform – once Openreach had conducted the survey work there would be greater clarity on those figures which could potentially be higher or lower than the report figures.

Concerns were also raised by some members regarding poor digital connectivity experienced by residents and businesses in their particular ward areas. Councillor Mainon reiterated that the project subject of the report focused on improving public sector connectivity and there were other schemes currently being developed which

would focus on other digital requirements. There was much sympathy with those blighted by poor connectivity and the issue had been recognised and identified as a priority with the Council's Corporate Plan with work ongoing to effect a solution.

RESOLVED that Cabinet –

- (a) *adopts the North Wales Connectivity Strategy;*
- (b) *approves Denbighshire County Council's role as Lead Body on behalf of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board for the LFFN Project and agrees that the Council enters into a suitable Inter Authority Agreement with the other partner bodies in respect of the LFFN Project, and*
- (d) *authorises the Corporate Director Economy and Public Realm in consultation with the S151 Officer, Monitoring Officer and Leader to agree the final terms of the Inter Authority Agreement.*

8 FINANCE REPORT

Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill presented the report detailing the latest financial position and progress against the agreed budget strategy. He provided a summary of the Council's financial position as follows –

- the net revenue budget for 2018/19 was £194.418m (£189.252m in 2017/18)
- an overspend of £0.964m was forecast for service and corporate budgets
- detailed agreed savings and efficiencies worth £4.6m including those which had already been achieved with the assumption that all service efficiencies/savings would be delivered – any exceptions would be reported to Cabinet if required
- highlighted current risks and variances relating to individual service areas, and
- provided a general update on the Housing Revenue Account, Housing Capital Plan and the Capital Plan (including the Corporate Plan element).

The following matters were raised during debate –

- funding for the rise in teachers' pensions was being considered as part of the budget preparations for next year. Dialogue was ongoing between UK and Welsh Governments in this regard and whilst it was expected that the cost implication would be funded confirmation of that position was still awaited
- Councillor Arwel Roberts queried the potential for school clusters to access community funding benefits arising from Windfarm developments and Councillor Huw Hilditch-Roberts encouraged all school clusters and other bodies to bid for additional funding to benefit their communities. Councillor Richard Mainon confirmed that the Council was well placed to help and support any groups coming forward in order to put a good case together and maximise the chances of success in accessing that funding
- there was a total budget of £23.813m for the Rhyl Faith School (£7.005m expenditure to date and anticipated expenditures of £8.122m in 2018/19 and £8.686m in 2019/20); the funding was paid in tranches throughout the term of the contract dependent on when certain points in construction were achieved

- there was no financial impact arising from the Education Minister's decision in respect of Ysgol Llanbedr as the Council had continued to fund the school whilst the decision was awaited and would continue to do so – the Council's decision had been based on surplus places as opposed to funding issues. There had been a change to the school organisation code and pupil numbers had increased and the educational offer for the area was considered appropriate.

RESOLVED that Cabinet note the budgets set for 2018/19 and progress against the agreed budget strategy.

At this juncture (11.40 a.m.) the meeting adjourned for a refreshment break.

9 CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Cabinet Forward Work Programme was presented for consideration and it was noted that the following item would be added to the future work programme – North Wales Learning Disability Strategy.

RESOLVED that Cabinet's Forward Work Programme be noted.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

10 PROPOSED NEW WASTE AND RECYCLING SERVICE DESIGN AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE (DEPOT) REQUIREMENTS

Councillor Brian Jones presented the confidential report detailing the outcome of the modelling carried out to identify the best new operating model for waste and recycling services and seeking members' determination on the suitability of the proposed new service design and associated depot requirements.

Councillor Jones advised that the proposal was centred on environmental improvement and benefits included a reduction in the carbon footprint of the service, generating more recycling and improving the quality of recyclable material. The Welsh Government had set a recycling target of 70% by 2025 with the expectation that the target would rise to 80% in future and had committed £7.9m towards the proposed service which would be used to develop the infrastructure necessary to enable the service changes. The proposal would also result in savings of at least £500k and create around 20 jobs. If the new service design was approved it was anticipated that no changes would take place until at least 2020.

The proposed new service design would result in the majority of residents moving to a weekly kerbside sort recycling service and a four weekly service for the remaining non-recyclable waste. A free weekly service for the collection of Absorbent Hygiene Products (nappies and incontinence waste) would be introduced together with a fortnightly collection for clothes and small electrical

items. The most economically advantageous solution also required investment in depot infrastructure and the report outlined the preferred depot solution – Option B (central depot) with Option A (two site option) as a contingency and proposed how those requirements would be funded.

Cabinet welcomed the positive impact of the proposals on the environment and was pleased to note the expansion of the recycling service to encourage environmentally friendly practices. Given the greater capacity for recycling offered to residents, the proposal to move to a four weekly service for non-recyclable waste was considered sufficient but it was noted that larger bins could be provided if appropriate. Councillor Huw Hilditch-Roberts highlighted a number of issues raised by Communities Scrutiny Committee which had provided greater clarity on the proposed new service including cost to new houses/households; new weekly collection service for nappies; dealing with pet waste, and discussions with individual households on a case by case basis. As a result of the review by the Communities Scrutiny Committee the proposed charges for containers had now been removed from the draft policy and all containers would continue to be provided to households free of charge, including to new build houses. Cabinet considered public engagement and an effective and timely communication strategy to educate and inform residents about implementation of the new service to be of paramount importance and assurances were provided by Councillor Brian Jones and officers in that regard. It was noted that there were some areas which were proving difficult to engage but the officers were working hard to tackle those problem areas before the roll out of the project in order to stand the Council in good stead when implementing the changes and it was recognised that there were particular cases where residents would still need to use sacks or require more frequent collections and there were issues still to be addressed in terms of access and fly tipping etc. The financial implications were also discussed and Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill referred to the robust financial modelling and rigorous scrutiny of the business case by the Strategic Investment Group who had supported the proposals. Cabinet also discussed the infrastructure requirements and agreed Option B to be the preferred option which provided the Council with direct control and investment in the county.

Councillor Bobby Feeley was keen for the Council to lobby supermarkets with a view to adopting more environmentally friendly packaging practices and officers advised that it was a national issue which was being dealt with by WRAP Cymru who could exert greater pressure in that regard – however the issue could also be considered as part of the wider Council agenda on the use of plastics.

Councillor Huw Hilditch-Roberts asked that his disappointment be recorded in the minutes that only three non-Cabinet members had been present for the debate given that it was one of the biggest changes in Denbighshire. Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill considered the lack of observers present to be testament to the work of officers in explaining all the issues in various member forums prior to this stage.

RESOLVED that Cabinet –

- (a) *confirms that it has read, understood and taken account of the Well-being Impact Assessment (Appendix III to the report) as part of its consideration;*

- (b) *note that the projected revenue savings (Section 9 of the report referred) achievable from implementation of the preferred Waste and Recycling service design and depot option B, are higher than any other service delivery option modelled by WRAP (Appendix IV to the report);*
- (c) *note that the social benefits and financial implications (Section 9.7 of the report) of utilising the third sector for the collection of textiles and WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment), and recommend the continuation and expansion of an arrangement with a Denbighshire based Social Enterprise for the collection, re-use and recycling of these materials;*
- (d) *approve the proposed new Waste and Recycling service design as outlined in Appendix II [A] to the report to implement the preferred Welsh Government (WG) Blueprint for Waste Collections, subject to the expected revenue savings (for the first seven years) being at least within the range of £500,000 to £750,000. The expected revenue savings will be examined by the Council's finance team prior to any significant project gateway, for example, purchase of land;*
- (e) *approve the Household Waste Collection Policy (Appendix II [B] to the report) designed to support the implementation and regulation of the proposed service in order that revenue savings and environmental targets are met;*
- (f) *note WG have confirmed capital funding support of £900,000 in 2018/19, £4m in 2019/20 and a further £3m in 2020/21 for the implementation of a kerbside sort recycling operation, and instruct the Head of Highways and Environment to commit £900,000 of expenditure in 2018/19 in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant funding to enable the full grant to be claimed. Members should note the risk highlighted in paragraph 13.3 of the report;*
- (g) *support the Option B (central depot) as the preferred option for delivery of the new model, and authorise the Head of Highways and Environment to liaise with the Head of Facilities, Assets and Housing to pursue purchase of the land required for development of the central depot, providing the acquisition price is reasonable and reflects the current market value for such land;*
- (h) *grant permission for the Head of Highways and Environment to submit a formal business case, through the North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Partnership, to request that WG fund a further element of Option B (central depot), which would reduce the prudential borrowing requirement outlined in Section 9.3 of the report, and*
- (i) *approve depot Option A (the two site option) as a contingency, and authorise the Head of Highways and Environment to continue to develop costings and funding sources with a view to defaulting to Depot Option A should we be unable to secure the land required for Depot Option B (the preferred option).*

The meeting concluded at 12.35 hrs.

Report To: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 22 January 2019

Lead Member / Officer: Bobby Feeley / Phil Gilroy

Report Author: Alaw Pierce

Title: **North Wales Learning Disability Strategy**

1. What is the report about?

The North Wales Learning Disability Strategy sets out how we will work towards integrated learning disability services in North Wales.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To request that Cabinet approves the involvement of Denbighshire in the regional strategy.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That Cabinet approves the involvement of Denbighshire in the Regional Learning Disability Strategy.

4. Report details

4.1 The North Wales Learning Disability Strategy sets out how we will work towards integrated learning disability services in North Wales. It was developed jointly by Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) and the six North Wales councils and supported by Public Health Wales. It is informed by what people with a learning disability and their carers told us about what matters to them, i.e.:

- having a good place to live
- having something meaningful to do
- friends, family and relationships
- being safe
- being healthy
- having the right support

4.2 Our vision for North Wales is that people with learning disabilities will have a better quality of life, living locally where they feel 'safe and well', where they are valued and included in their communities and have access to effective personal support that promotes independence, choice and control.

4.3 The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 includes a statutory duty for Regional Partnership Boards to prioritise the integration of services in relation to people with learning disabilities. This is a priority in the North Wales Regional Plan (Area Plan) produced by the Regional Partnership Board.

- 4.4 To achieve our vision and provide services based on what matters to people we have planned five work packages to set out how we will achieve good lives for people with learning disabilities.
- 4.4.1 Integrated structures: We will make sure health and social services work together better to support people with learning disabilities through replicating the existing, effective integrated structures across North Wales to create a consistent, seamless model of service.
- 4.4.2 Workforce development: We will make sure staff know how to communicate well with people with learning disabilities. We will make reasonable adjustments to services so they are easier to use so that people get the health and social care they need in their language of choice. This strand links closely with the assistive technology strand, such as supporting carers and staff to help people to use the internet and social media safely.
- 4.4.3 Commissioning and procurement: We will work with other organisations to make sure we have the types of housing and support people need. We will deliver pooled budgets across health and social care in the region. We will look at creative ways of developing the services including direct payments/support budgets and pooled direct payments. Working with and supporting the provider market to develop new ways of working including social enterprises.
- 4.4.4 Community and culture change: - We will work with the local community to make sure people with learning disabilities can access lots of different activities and meet new people if they want to. In this strand we will build on the work of community navigators, local area coordinators and social prescribing models to develop a co-productive, scalable structure for community inclusion. This includes working with local employers to develop employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities as well as other day opportunities.
- 4.4.5 Assistive technology: We will find ways to use technology such as alarms and mobile phones to support people to be more independent.
- 4.5 Within each of these areas we include the needs of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities and support for people through changes in life from early years to ageing well. We are committed to strengthening Welsh language services and providing an active offer through the Mwy na geiriau/More than just words framework.
- 4.6 The strategy includes information about the population, current services and what we want to see change. Some of the key findings are that there are around 810 children and 2,900 adults with learning disabilities who receive services in North Wales although the actual number may be higher. The number of people who need support is increasing because people with learning disabilities are living longer and there are more young people with complex needs needing support. There are also an increasing number of older carers (including parents and family) providing care and support for people with learning disabilities. People with learning disabilities tend to experience worse health, have greater need of health care and are more at risk of dying early compared to the general population.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

- 5.1 The Learning Disability Strategy and planned five work packages are in line with Denbighshire's Corporate Priorities in particular the priorities relating to housing and connected and resilient communities.
- 5.2 The Strategy aims to ensure people with learning disabilities are supported to live in homes that meet their needs within communities that value them and where they can contribute and be part of building the independence and resilience of those communities.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

- 6.1 This strategy is focussed on delivering more effective use of current resources in order to sustain service provision and improve outcomes.
- 6.2 Putting the strategy into action through delivery of the 5 work packages has staff and financial resource implications for the six local authorities and BCUHB. The North Wales Social Care and Well-being Improvement Collaborative have successfully submitted a bid to the Welsh Government transformation fund and secured £1.7 million for the region to fund these additional costs.
- 6.3 The funding is available over the two financial years 2018-19 and 2019-20. The purpose of the funding is to make rapid progress towards new seamless models of health and social care that are sustainable in the long term. It will be used to fund a transformation project team; fund change projects, particularly projects focussed on reducing costs in the medium to long term; and, an evaluation. For example, funding assistive technologies to support people to live independently and reduce long-term costs of providing care and support.
- 6.4 The 'invest to save' funding secured is around 1% of the total investment in learning disability services in the region. Through implementing the Strategy current investment in learning disability services will be able to contain future demand.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

A well-being impact assessment has been written for the strategy which includes anti-poverty, environment and equalities issues. There are potential negative impacts which may result, particularly from difficult choices about where to prioritise investment which may disadvantage some groups over others. There are also potential positive and negative impacts from the way we will commission, procure and use and develop physical assets in the region to meet care and support needs. Further Equality Impact Assessments will need to be carried out as detailed plans are developed under each of the work packages.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

The strategy was based initially on findings from the consultation carried out as part of the population assessment and regional plan (see Appendix 3: Consultation Report). In addition Engagement has taken place with the following partners/stakeholder in the following ways:

- An online questionnaire and easy read questionnaire circulated widely to staff, partner organisations, the citizen's panel, service users and other members of the public between April and July 2018. We received 175 responses.
- Discussion groups and interviews with children, young people and adults with learning disabilities, parents/carers and parents with learning disabilities. This element was led by the North Wales Citizen's Panel.
- Consultation events for service providers and local authority and health staff. We had around 60 providers and over 100 staff attend the events.
- Worked with the North Wales Learning Disability Participation Group to write the Easy Read version of the strategy alongside the detailed version.
- Shared the draft strategy widely for comments.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

Involvement in the regional strategy will help the council to deliver its responsibilities under the Social Services and Wellbeing Act and should help to manage service demand in the longer term. The costs of delivery of the development and implementation strategy are supported by grant and should not therefore create an additional cost pressure locally.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

- 10.1 The risk that the level of integration will not meet Welsh Government requirements under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. To mitigate we will take a partnership approach to the project.
- 10.2 The risk that the process won't involve service users, parents and carers in a meaningful and co-productive way. To mitigate we will embed participation in the process and consider commissioning a specialist organisation to support. Documents will be produced in easy-read format where possible.

11. Power to make the Decision

11.1 The Social Services & Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 requires Local Authorities and Health Boards to integrate their functions for the provision of community based services.

11.2 Key executive strategic decisions shall be decided by Cabinet collectively and in accordance with Denbighshire County Council Constitution Section 13.



CYDWEITHREDFA GWELLA GWASANAETHAU
GOFAL A LLESIANT **GOGLEDD CYMRU**

NORTH WALES SOCIAL CARE AND WELL-BEING
SERVICES IMPROVEMENT COLLABORATIVE

North Wales Learning Disability Strategy 2018 to 2023

An Easy-Read version is available



Contact us

North Wales Social Care and Well-being Improvement Collaborative

County Hall, Wynnstay Road, Ruthin, LL15 1YN

Email: sarah.bartlett@denbighshire.gov.uk

Phone: 01824 712432

www.northwalescollaborative.wales

Contents

Our vision for North Wales	4
Introduction	4
Governance.....	15
What we know about the population.....	17
What people have told us	19
What we know about current services and what needs to change	25
Early years.....	26
Having a good place to live.....	29
Having something meaningful to do.....	32
Friends, family and relationships	36
Being safe.....	36
Being healthy	39
Having the right support.....	44
Putting the strategy into action	51
Integrated structures.....	52
Workforce development.....	52
Commissioning and procurement	53
Community and culture change	54
Assistive technology	55
References.....	56
Appendix 1: Baseline data.....	59

Our vision for North Wales

People with learning disabilities will have a better quality of life; living locally where they feel 'safe and well', where they are valued and included in their communities and have access to effective personal support that promotes independence, choice and control.

The strategy promotes the principles of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

- **Voice and control:** putting the individual and their needs at the centre of their care and giving them a voice in and control over reaching the outcomes that help them achieve well-being.
- **Prevention and early intervention:** increasing preventative services within the community to minimise the escalation of critical need.
- **Well-being:** supporting people to achieve their own well-being and measuring the success of care and support.
- **Co-production:** encouraging individuals to become more involved in the design and delivery of services.

In the strategy we focus on how health and social care services can work better together and look at the areas people have told us matters to them:

- having a good place to live
- having something meaningful to do
- friends, family and relationships
- being safe
- being healthy
- having the right support

Within each of these areas we include:

- the needs of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and,
- support through changes in life from early years to ageing well, including the needs of older carers and the transition from children's to adult's services.

We are committed to strengthening Welsh language services and providing an active offer through the Mwy na geiriau/More than just words framework.

To achieve our vision and provide services based on what matters to people we have planned the five work packages below that will set out how we will change things in order to achieve good lives for people with learning disabilities. These will be developed jointly with people with learning disabilities.

- **Integrated structures:** Making sure health and social services work together better to support people with learning disabilities. As a long term aim to provide the best quality services to everyone in North Wales we aim to integrate services across the region over the next 10 years.
- **Workforce development:** Making sure staff know how to communicate well with people with learning disabilities and change services to make them easier to use. This will help people get the health care they need. Make sure people who want support in Welsh can get it without having to ask.
- **Commissioning and procurement:** Work with other organisations to make sure we have the types of housing and support people need.
- **Community and culture change:** Work with the local community to make sure people with learning disabilities can access lots of different activities and meet new people if they want to. Help more people with learning disabilities to get paid jobs.
- **Assistive technology:** Find ways to use technology like alarms and mobile phones to support people to be more independent.

Introduction

Support for people with learning disabilities is a priority in the [North Wales Regional Plan \(Area Plan\)](#) based on what people told us was important to them as part of the [population assessment](#) produced by the [Regional Partnership Board](#).

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 includes a legal duty for Regional Partnership Boards to prioritise the integration of services in relation to people with learning disabilities (Welsh Government, 2015).

This strategy sets out how we will work towards integrated learning disability services in North Wales. It has been developed jointly by the six North Wales councils and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) supported by Public Health Wales.

About the strategy

The strategy focusses on the needs of children, young people and adults with learning disabilities in North Wales. It also includes the needs of autistic people who also have a learning disability. The strategy sits alongside other strategies and programmes including:

- The [North Wales Together for Mental Health Strategy](#)
- The [North Wales Integrated Autism Service](#)
- The [North Wales Carers Strategy](#)
- The work of the Children's Transformation Group as part of the Regional Partnership Board's children and young people's work-stream. This includes a priority for children and young people with [complex needs](#).
- Additional Learning Needs strategies and plans and implementing the Additional Learning Needs Act.
- Local Housing Strategies

What do we mean by the term *learning disability*?

- a) The term *learning disability* is used to describe an individual who has:
- a significantly reduced ability to understand new or complex information, or to learn new skills (impaired intelligence); and / or
 - a reduced ability to cope independently (impaired adaptive functioning);
which started before adult-hood and has a lasting effect on development (Department of Health, 2001).

Please note, the term learning disability should not be confused with the term *learning difficulty* which is used in education as a broader term which includes people with specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia (Emerson and Heslop, 2010). This strategy is about people with on learning disabilities.

What do we mean by the term *profound and multiple learning disabilities* (PMLD)?

The term *profound and multiple learning disabilities* (PMLD) is used to describe people with more than one impairment including a profound intellectual impairment (Doukas et al., 2017). It is a description rather than a clinical diagnosis of individuals who have great difficulty communicating and who often need those who know them well to interpret their responses and intent. The term refers to a diverse group of people who often have other conditions including physical and sensory impairments or complex health needs.

What do we mean by the term *autism*?

The term *autism* is used to describe a lifelong developmental condition that affects how a person communicates with, and relates to, other people. Autism also affects how a person makes sense of the world around them. It is a spectrum condition which means that, while all people with autism share certain difficulties, their condition will affect them in different ways. About 50% of autistic people also have a learning disability.

What do we mean by the terms *parents and carers*?

We use the term *parents* to mean those who bring up children including mothers and fathers, foster carers and adoptive parents, step-parents and grandparents.

We use the term *carers* to mean unpaid carers of all ages who look after family members, friends, neighbours or others because of a learning disability.

A *parent carer* is a parent or guardian who has additional duties and responsibilities towards their child because their child has an illness or disability. Parent carers will often see themselves as parents rather than carers, but they may need additional services to meet the needs of their child.

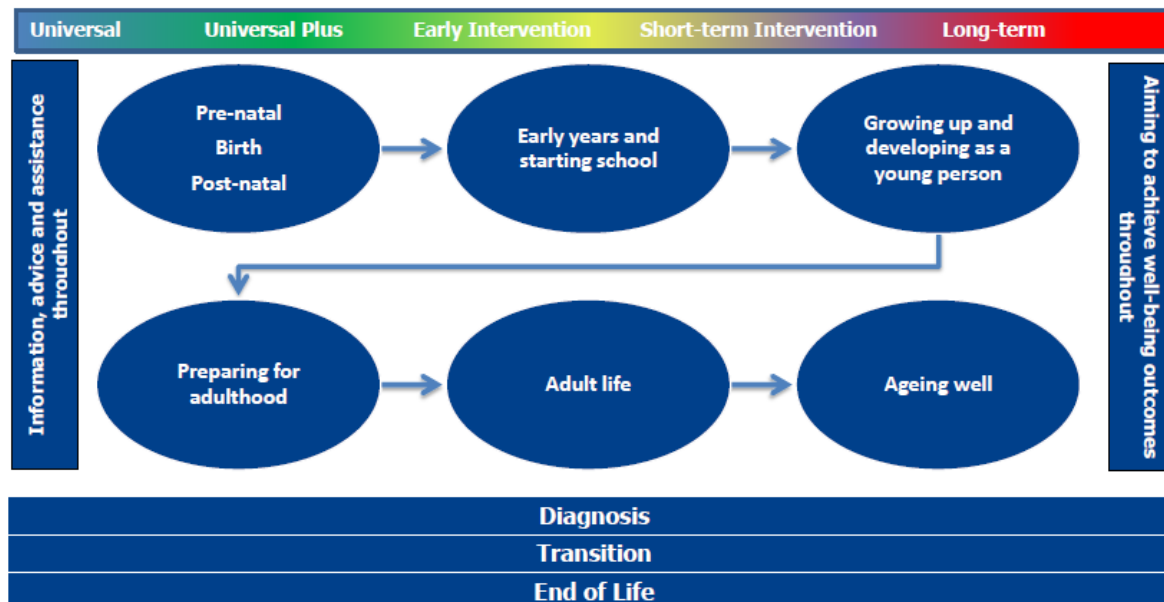
The social model of disability

The strategy is based on the social model of disability, which recognises that disabled people are people with impairments who are disabled by their environment. We use the term *learning disability* in this strategy as it was the preferred term of the people with learning disabilities that we spoke to and it is widely recognised and used. We acknowledge that this language may not reflect fully the principles of the social model and that people have different opinions about the language they prefer to describe themselves that can change over time. The debate will be welcome and hopefully helps us towards a common understanding about the use of language.

Whole system, lifespan pathway for producing good lives

The strategy takes a life span approach to Learning Disability Services based on the model below (National Commissioning Board, 2017). The model highlights the

importance of pathways that move people from universal services to interventions and back again as well as the need to achieve well-being outcomes and provide information, advice and assistance throughout the pathway. Issues around diagnosis, transition and end of life care can occur at any point in the pathway.



How we wrote the strategy

The strategy is based on the findings of the population assessment and regional plan produced by the Regional Partnership Board which both involved consultation with a wide range of people. The [Learning Disability Partnership](#) used this information to develop a set of themes for the strategy which we agreed with the [Learning Disability Regional Participation Group](#) before going out to a wider consultation about the themes, what works well at the moment and what needs to be improved. The consultation involved children, young people and adults with learning disabilities and their parents/carers, local council and health staff in children’s and adults’ services, third and independent sector providers, members of the North Wales Citizen’s Panel and others.

Alongside the consultation we collated baseline data and research to inform the strategy and worked with a wide range of services to make sure the main messages in the strategy reflect the needs of the region and complement related strategies and plans. Throughout the process we worked closely with the [Learning Disability Regional Participation Group](#).

The consultation generated a lot of useful information which has been included in the strategy. All the reports produced have been made publically available so that they can be used to inform other work. The main consultation report brings together information

about the consultation process, methods, promotion, response and findings. The reports are available on [our website](#).

- [North Wales Learning Disability Strategy Consultation Report](#)
- [North Wales Strategy: Local authority and health staff event 18 July 2018](#)
- [North Wales Provider Forum Event 9 April 2018](#)

The strategy is based on the principle of co-production, which is:

“An asset-based approach that enables people providing and people receiving services to **share power and responsibility**, and work together in equal, reciprocal and caring relationships” (Co-production Network for Wales).

We want to see co-production embedded at all stages of this strategy from the planning and commissioning to design, delivery and evaluation. While co-production is the aim that we are working towards it is likely to be an ongoing process of learning and experimentation. For example, while we involved a wide range of people in writing this strategy, the size and scale of the project meant we used more traditional methods of consultation such as questionnaires and workshops. There are likely to be better opportunities to truly co-produce service design, delivery and evaluation as we put the strategy into action at a local level. This will mean focussing on co-production where it will make the greatest difference to people's lives.

Background

There is a long history of successful and innovative partnership working between learning disability services in North Wales arising from the All Wales Learning Disability Strategy in the 1980s. This provided dedicated funding for community care as the staged process of closing hospitals began. It was based on the rights of people with a learning disability to an ordinary pattern of life within the community; be treated as an individual; and, have additional help and support in developing their maximum potential.

In 2008 Mobius UK were commissioned by the North Wales Social Care and Well-being Services Improvement Collaborative to suggest how services should develop so that people with learning disabilities can enjoy life as citizens in their community rather than as less than fully engaged recipients of services (Mobius UK, 2008). This work developed a [vision for learning disability services](#) in North Wales with service users and carers and made recommendations under two strands. The first was about making the most of opportunities in council strategies for communities and citizens to ensure inclusion of people with learning disabilities. The second strand relates to the joint development of services between the six local authorities and health in ways which support greater independence and choice, including joint commissioning. It included a review of good practice in the six local authorities.

One of the outcomes of the Mobius report was the creation of the North Wales Commissioning Hub in 2012 as a partnership between the six local authorities and BCUHB. The hub built on the work of a Regional Learning Disability Manager, a jointly funded post which resulted in improved procurement and service delivery for North Wales Adult Services. The original scope for the hub was to commission care home placements (including with nursing) and residential school services for all children, young people and adults with complex needs. Regional commissioning arrangements were reviewed in 2015 and it was agreed to transfer some commissioning activities back to local authorities and focus the regional commissioning function on strategic commissioning activities.

Currently, the North Wales Commissioning Board oversee the regional commissioning work supported by a Regional Business Manager and a Commissioning/Procurement Officer based within the North Wales Social Care and Well-being Improvement Collaborative.

North Wales Learning Disability Partnership

The North Wales Learning Disability Partnership was set up to drive forward improved services based on mutual understanding across the six councils and health.

The group includes representation from:

- North Wales Head of Adult Services
- Head of Strategy Learning Disability & Mental Health Division (BCUHB)
- Six Local Authority Service Managers
- Senior Learning Disability Community Nurse (BCUHB)
- Senior Learning Disability In Patient Services Nurse (BCUHB)
- Regional Project Manager
- Psychology Clinical Lead (BCUHB)
- Psychiatry Clinical Lead (BCUHB)
- Therapy services (SALT, OT and/or Physio BCUHB)

Participation

The Learning Disability Partnership recognise the vital contribution that the learning disability community across the region can make to shape and influence the services that they receive. This means working together; informing, listening, feeding back, acting, reviewing, and making ourselves accountable to the people we are working for and with.

The Regional Participation Strategy sets out a framework for ensuring that the work of the partnership is effective and citizen-focussed and that it meets the needs of the people with learning disabilities and their families (North Wales Learning Disability

Partnership, 2015b). The strategy sets out a framework for how people with learning disabilities are involved in the work of the partnership.

Learning disability participation is coordinated across the six councils and each county has its own local participation network/forum supported by advocacy. The Learning Disability Regional Participation Group (LDRPG) was been supported by a Regional Participation Officer for two years, jointly funded by the six local authorities and health. The LDRPG reviewed the model of support during 2018 and agreed to employ a person with learning disabilities with support to co-ordinate the group. The co-ordinator will be based in a third/voluntary sector organisation.

Legislation, policy and guidance

Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014

The act aims to improve the well-being of people who need care and support, and carers who need support. The act has changed the way people's needs are assessed and the way services are delivered so that people have more of a say in the care and support they receive. The act also promotes a range of help available within the community to reduce the need for formal, planned support.

The act replaces parts of the Children Act 1989. There is a new definition of a 'child at risk' and a duty to report a child at risk for all relevant partners of a local council. When a child has been reported as at risk the follow up action by the local council will be the same as that required by section 47 of the Children Act 1989. Disabled children were classified as 'children in need' under the Children Act 1989. The concept of a 'child in need' is not replicated in the new act which refers to children and young people who have a need for care and support defined around ability to achieve the well-being outcomes outlined in the act around education, health and so on.

This strategy is based on the principles of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act and it forms part of the Regional Partnership Boards approach to meeting its legal duty to prioritise the integration of services in relation to people with learning disabilities

A Healthier Wales: our Plan for Health and Social Care

Welsh Government (2018a) have produce *A Healthier Wales* in response to the Parliamentary Review report (Welsh Government, 2018d). The plan sets out a long term vision of a 'whole system approach to health and social care', which is focussed on health and well-being. It is based around a Quadruple aim:

- Improved population health and well-being.
- Better quality and more accessible health and social care services.
- Higher value health and social care.
- A motivated and sustainable health and social care workforce.

There are ten national design principles to drive this change and transformation which are: prevention and early intervention, safety, independence, voice, personalised, seamless, higher value, evidence driven, scalable and transformative services.

The quadruple aim and design principles have informed the development of this strategy and the action plans.

Learning Disability Improving Lives Programme

The Welsh Government Improving Lives programme has developed recommendations in the areas of early years, housing, social care, health and well-being and education, employment and skills for people with learning disabilities. The review took a lifespan approach from pregnancy to end of life. The three key priorities are:

1. To reduce health inequalities – through reasonable adjustments to mainstream services and access to specialist services when needed.
2. To improve community integration, including increasing housing options closer to home; integrated social care, health and education; and, increased employment and skills opportunities.
3. To enable improved strategic and operational planning and access to services through streamlined funding, better data collection, partnership working and more training and awareness.

The programme reflects the priority areas in Prosperity for All (Welsh Government, 2017b). The Improving Lives priorities have been incorporated into this strategy.

Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018

The act will introduce the following changes.

- Introduce the term Additional Learning Needs (ALN) to replace the terms ‘special educational needs’ (SEN) and ‘learning difficulties and/or disabilities’ (LDD).
- Legislation that covers the age range 0 to 25. This will replace the two separate SEN systems covering children and young people of compulsory school age and young people in post-16 education.
- A single individual development plan (IDP) to replace the existing variety of plans for learners in schools and further education.
- Increased participation of children and young people in the planning process, so planning is something done with them rather than to them.
- High aspirations and improved outcomes. This will be the focus of the IDPs.
- A simpler and less adversarial system. The process of producing and revising an IDP should be much simpler than is currently the case with statements of SEN and should avoid the adversarial nature of the existing approach.
- Increased collaboration and information sharing between agencies. New roles are created to support this – Additional Learning Needs Coordinators in education

settings; Designated Educational Clinical Lead Officers in health boards; and Early Years ALN Lead officers in local authorities.

- Avoiding disagreements and earlier disagreement resolution about the IDP or the provision it contains.
- Clear and consistent rights of appeal including a right of appeal to a tribunal where disagreements about the contents of an IDP cannot be resolved at the local level.
- A statutory ALN code to set out the duties of local authorities and other organisations responsible for the delivery of services to children and young people with ALN.
- A bilingual system where services must consider whether provision is needed in Welsh and take all reasonable steps to secure it.

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires us to think about the long-term impact of our decisions, work better with people, communities and each other and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.

There are four Public Services Boards (PSBs) in North Wales established by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The purpose of the PSBs is to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in their area by strengthening joint working across all public services in North Wales. Each PSB has a well-being assessment and a well-being plan which set out how the needs of the area and how they plan to work together to address them.

We have produced a Well-being Impact Assessment to help us consider the long-term impact of the strategy on the social, economic, environment and cultural well-being of the region, Wales and the world.

Equality and human rights

The Equality Act 2010 introduced a public sector equality duty which requires all public bodies including the council to tackle discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and promote good relations. An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken to identify any potential inequalities arising from the development and delivery of this strategy.

A key part of the Equality Impact Assessment is consulting with people who may be affected by the strategy and in particular people with protected characteristics. The protected characteristics are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership

- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion and belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Welsh language

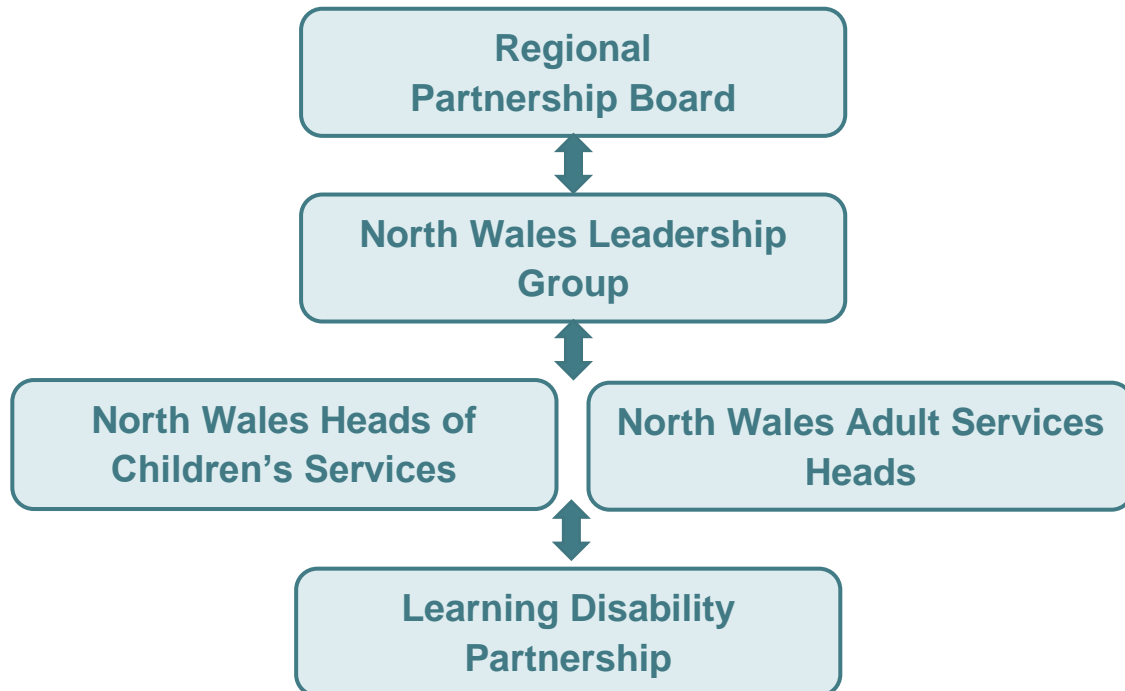
More information about the consultation and engagement that took place to develop the strategy is available in the [consultation report](#).

The strategy aims to tackle discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and promote good relations for people with learning disabilities. People with learning disabilities may have other protected characteristics and experience additional disadvantage because of these which we need to take account of. For example, older people with learning disabilities and people with profound and multiple disabilities and the use of the Welsh language.

The Human Rights Act 1998 sets out the basic rights we all have because we are human. They help protect people by giving public services, including health and social care services, a legal duty to treat people with fairness, equality, dignity, respect and autonomy. Services developed in response to this strategy also need to be based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the UN Principles for Older Persons (UNPOP) and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Governance

The [North Wales Learning Disability Partnership](#) will put the strategy into action in partnership with people with learning disabilities, parents, carers and organisations who provide care and support. Governance is being provided through the groups below and we will review and strengthen the governance as needed.



Regional Partnership Board

The Regional Partnership Board was established to meet Part 9 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. Membership includes:

- Lead members for Social Services from the six local authorities
- Directors of Social Services from the six local authorities
- Third sector representatives
- A service user and carers representative
- Health board representative
- Co-opted members from North Wales Police, North Wales Fire and Rescue Services, North Wales Ambulance Service, Local Authority Chief Finance Officer (section 151), and the Executive Director of Public Health (BCUHB)
- Head of Regional Collaboration – Business Management Support

More information about the board including a full membership list is available online here: www.northwalescollaborative.wales/regional-partnership-board

North Wales Leadership Group

The North Wales Leadership Group meets during Partnership Friday, a series of regional meetings that take place once a month. Membership includes the six Directors of Social Services and the three Area Directors from BCUHB.

North Wales Adult Services Heads (NWASH)

NWASH also meet during Partnership Friday. Membership includes the heads of Adult Services from each of the six local authorities in North Wales.

North Wales Heads of Children's Services (NWHoCS)

NWHoCs also meet during Partnership Friday. Membership includes the heads of Children's Services from each of the six local authorities in North Wales.

What we know about the population

Population assessment: what we found out

- There are around 810 children with a severe or profound learning difficulty and 2,900 adults with learning disabilities receiving services in North Wales. The actual number of people with learning disabilities may be higher.
- The number of people with learning disabilities needing support is increasing and people with learning disabilities are living longer. These trends are likely to continue. There are also an increasing number of older carers (including parents and family) providing care and support for people with learning disabilities.
- People with learning disabilities tend to experience worse health, have greater need of health care and are more at risk of dying early compared to the general population.
- There are likely to be more young people with complex needs needing support.

The full population assessment including an easy-read and audio-visual version is available online at: www.northwalescollaborative.wales/north-wales-population-assessment. The figures have been updated for this strategy and updated charts and tables are available on request.

Children and young people

There are around 102,000 pupils in North Wales, the total school-age population but there is a lack of reliable data available about the number of children and young people who have a learning disability ([see appendix 1](#)).

In place of data about the number of children who have a learning disability we have used data about the number of children who have a [learning difficulty](#), which is a broader term which includes people with specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia. We have also used data about the total number of disabled children which includes children who have a physical disability but not a learning disability.

Estimates suggest there are around 5,000 children in North Wales with a moderate learning difficulty, 650 with a severe learning difficulty and 160 with a profound learning difficulty. Council's in North Wales currently support around 700 disabled children and young people assessed as in need of care and support. Around 5,200 children aged under 16 are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance in North Wales.

Projections based on trends in the overall population show that the number of children with learning disabilities is likely to increase slightly over the next 5 to 10 years and then decrease slightly by 2035 ([see appendix 1](#)) as the overall number of children and young people decreases.

The improved survival rates of pre-term babies and increased life expectancy for children with complex disabilities are likely to lead to an increase in the number of children in need of care and support and in the number of adults with more complex needs (Doukas et al., 2017)

Adults

Table 1 below shows the number of adults with learning disabilities living in each local authority by age group in North Wales. These figures are based on the learning disability registers maintained by local councils, which only include those known to services and who wish to be registered. The actual number of people with a learning disability may be higher.

Table 1: Number of adults with learning disabilities by age, 2016-17

	Age 16-65	Age 65+	Total
Anglesey	270	40	310
Gwynedd	530	65	590
Conwy	440	55	500
Denbighshire	420	55	470
Flintshire	480	40	530
Wrexham	420	50	470
North Wales	2,600	300	2,900

Source: StatsWales, Disability Registers

Note: Data has been rounded and may not sum. The Disability Register also includes data for children under 16 but this hasn't been included here due to problems with data collection.

Since 2012-13 the number of adults aged 16 to 65 with learning disabilities has remained similar each year. The number of adults aged over 65 with learning disabilities has risen over the last five years by 23% across North Wales from around 230 in 2011-12 to 300 in 2016-17.

Projections suggest that the number of adults 18 and over with moderate learning disability is likely to increase in North Wales by around 6% by 2035 and the number of people with a moderate or severe learning disability is expected to increase by around 3% by 2035 ([appendix 1](#)). The number of adults aged 18 to 64 is expected to decline slightly so this increase is due to an increase the number of people aged 65 and over. Due to increased life expectancy it is predicted that the number of people with learning disabilities aged 65 and over will increase by between 20% and 30% by 2035.

Parents with a learning disability

There is no data currently available on how many parents have a learning disability although this is something Welsh Government are planning to research further (Welsh Government, 2018b). A survey in England found that 7% of people with learning disabilities interviewed had children (Emerson et al., 2005). Using this figure estimates there could be around 200 parents with learning disabilities in North Wales. Just over

half the parents in the survey looked after their children and other estimates suggest that between 40 and 60% of parents with a learning disability have their children taken into care (Stewart and McIntyre, 2017).

There are around 1,100 children looked after and the number is increasing year on year with a 13% increase in North Wales over the last five years compared with a 3% increase across Wales as a whole. [Improving support for parents with learning disabilities](#) may help to reduce the numbers becoming looked after.

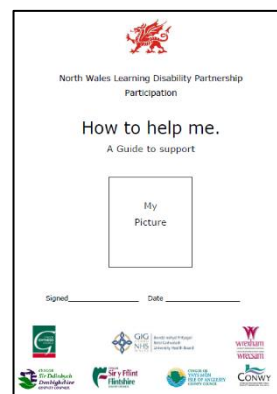
What people have told us

This section is a summary of what people have told us matters to them. The strategy has been based on the findings of the consultation and much more detail is available in the full [consultation report](#). This summary may not cover every issue that matters to people and it is very important that people can continue to have their say as we put the strategy into action.

Regional participation group

Learning disability participation is coordinated across the six councils and each county has its own local participation network/forum supported by advocacy. The regional participation group have been working on the topics below (North Wales Learning Disability Partnership, 2015a).

1. **Leisure.** People with learning disabilities said they can struggle to attend social events in the evening or have to leave early because of staff handovers or transport issues. Staff attending from the region are working on ideas to enable people to 'stay up late'. This may include local councils re-writing contracts with providers. The participation group chose to promote a 'Friendship group' currently being run in Conwy by a person with learning disabilities to be replicated across the counties
2. **Places people live.** On the whole, people with learning disabilities in North Wales are happy with where they live. The problems they experience tend to be with the way support is provided, particularly when it is inflexible. For example one person said they had to give 24 hours' notice to access money which meant they missed out on buying the dress they wanted at the market. To help with this the group have written a book called 'How to help me' which people with learning disabilities can keep with them, to have their say and to help support staff understand how they would prefer to be supported.
3. **Health.** There are a number of initiatives in North Wales to help improve the health of people with learning disabilities. The group have been working on how well people are aware of these and how the take-up can be improved. These include:



- Annual health checks.
- Learning disability nurse based in hospitals who can help people with learning disabilities communication and to complete a traffic light assessment.
- Public health leaflets about health checks designed to be easier to read
- Opportunities for physical exercise and healthy eating.

The group are also looking at the quality of mental health services for people with learning disabilities.

Other issues identified by the group include employment and pay for employment; keeping safe when out and about and when using the internet; and hate crime. A group aiming to reduce stigma have produced a poster and video encouraging people to report incidents of disability hate crime (Conwy Connect, 2014).

In March 2017 the group held a regional event on the theme of relationships. The purpose of the event was for people with learning disabilities to have their say about matters that are important to them. The group chose subjects that they would like to lead on which included: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT); marriage; living with your partner; communication; confidence and relationships in a self-advocacy group; and, a speed dating event. The group also invited people to talk about keeping safe in general and keeping safe online. The event highlighted that attendees wanted help to meet new people, including making friends and dating, and to know more about relationships including sex, sexual health and keeping safe.

Discussion groups held to inform the population assessment highlighted the need for paid work to give people a feeling of self-worth and acknowledge their worthwhile contribution to society. People with learning disabilities also said they would like more opportunities to join in socially with groups from all areas of society, not just those arranged for those with disabilities only. Another theme was the need for good transport to access services (a particular problem in rural areas) and a number of people expressed the desire to learn to drive.

A review of person centred plans found people with learning disabilities said that the things that work well are their homes (the people they live with and the things they do at home) and leisure (getting out and about and being a part of their community). New things mentioned that work well are having access to technology, such as Wi-Fi and a laptop, and well managed medication. Whereas the things that were not working well were mobility and health (particularly aging, getting around or the increasing effects or chronic health problems) and coping with anxieties and managing behaviours. New things mentioned include problems with the housing environment (often these were little things but they were having a big impact), friendships, relationships and loneliness - people said they wanted more friendships (Denbighshire County Council, 2016).

Feedback from parents of disabled children

Feedback from engagement sessions with parents for the population assessment highlighted the following common themes:

- The time taken for assessments to take place and delays in accessing support was considered to be too lengthy. Need to “be quicker when a cry for help is given”. Support while waiting for assessments or confirmation of diagnosis was also cited as important.
- Concern about the lack of available help to care for their children, particularly for those who are full time carers and single parents, if they are ill and in the school holidays.
- Felt they needed more support to maintain their own emotional wellbeing – including extra help, respite/short-breaks, learning more coping strategies, baby sitters and support for emotional wellbeing. This was a concern when juggling work and caring for a disabled child and professionals who listen was suggested as being important. The physical and emotional impact of managing behaviour problems on parents was also significant. Including; temper, difficulties communicating and safety concerns.
- The impact of social isolation and support to get out of the home for both children and parents. Including direct payments for family outings, suitable afterschool clubs or day care was needed.
- Parents reported that it would help them to cope if there was better understanding from the wider community regarding disabilities and more acceptance of disabilities that you can't see.
- Better facilities for families of disabled children.
- More support from voluntary and charity sector.
- Issues managing their children's anxiety when in public or not in their care.

In depth interviews carried out with parents of disabled children in North Wales identified the importance of good support and information during the process of diagnosis, including the need for emotional support (Conwy County Borough Council, 2013). The study also highlighted the need for consistent, accessible support and efficient systems, for example to provide specialist equipment. Most of the families mentioned the need for carer breaks including frustrations with getting the kind of flexible breaks they need and the benefits to the whole family when it works well. Families mentioned the impact of caring on their finances and employment opportunities and the impact on siblings. They also spoke about their fears and anxieties including fears for their children's future, supporting them to be independent and what would happen when they were no longer there to care for them. Many of the families also spoke about the stigma associated with disability including their own reactions and reluctance to ask for help as well as the need to improve awareness and support from the wider society.

Feedback from disabled children

- The children talked about the difficulties that they have meeting with friends outside school time. When you are younger there are special needs play scheme, they are not suitable if you are older. The children said they would like a club where they can meet their friends.
- Some children said they found noisy environments difficult such as going into large shops, swimming pools or sports centres.
- Some children would like to go out alone but parents are worried about other children bullying or taking advantage of them.
- The children said how difficult it was for them to make decisions.
- One child said because their mobility was not good they had difficulty getting around especially going downhill. This inhibits his social and leisure activities.
- The children said that they rely on their parents to help them with the things that they find difficult and one child had a social worker who took him out.
- The children would like a greater range of activities to do outside school such as art workshops, outdoor activities, trips to activity parks and somewhere to have fun, meet friends, to do cycling music and dance.
- The teachers said that they would like more information about what is available for children now that some of the play schemes have closed down.

Feedback from staff and partner organisations

Feedback from staff highlighted the complexity and interdependency of issues facing disabled children and young people and their families, including difficulties around transition from children's services to adult's services. They also highlighted an increase in the number of disabled children with very complex needs.

A questionnaire circulated for the population assessment highlighted that people want to be treated as equal to the rest of the population, they needed help to feel part of the community and to express themselves (Isle of Anglesey County Council et al., 2016). In particular, organisations feel that there is not enough support or opportunities for people with learning difficulties to work and not enough support or opportunities for them to develop new relationships.

They also identified a lack of long term low level support for people who have learning difficulties but do not reach the threshold for a learning disability diagnosis and who are unlikely to be ever fully able to maintain a housing tenancy independently.

National consultation (CSSIW, 2016)

When asked about their needs most people spoke about their relationship with their care manager and other staff. Concerns were largely about reliability (turning up on

time); dependability (doing what is promised); and availability (having a care manager in the first place).

The findings about providing effective care and support were:

- We need to improve the quality of information about the help that might be available. Concerns about the format of information – for example, too many words, small size of fonts and not enough pictures.
- Concerns about feelings of vulnerability and risk in the community.

They also identified three cross-cutting issues:

1. The quality and reliability of the relationship with staff (including care managers) is crucial to the achievement of positive outcomes for many people with learning disabilities.
2. The ‘helping’ relationship should focus on promoting and supporting the rights of people with learning disabilities including their right to express and exercise choice.
3. The expression of choice should be underpinned by sound risk assessment and risk management so that people feel as safe as possible as they grasp new opportunities.

Learning Disability Strategy Consultation

In January 2017 a meeting ‘Going Forward Together’ was held with staff and partners, facilitated by BCUHB, to inform the development of this strategy. The discussions looked at current strengths and challenges and what needed to change. The guiding principles discussed were:

- Shared responsibility to implement the legislation.
- Person first, learning disability second.
- Right support at the right time to the right people in the right place.
- No-one to experience delays in support due to disagreements between services. Shared responsibility to ‘fix it’.

In addition to the consultation findings above we asked a wide range of people for their views about what needed to be included in the strategy. Many of the findings have been incorporated within the strategy and a [full report](#) is available.

Some of the main messages from the consultation were as follows.

- Need for real choice and control with a focus on rights and equality for people with learning disabilities. The importance of taking a person-centred approach.
- More inclusion and integration of people with learning disabilities into the wider community. Including the need for staff training about specific learning difficulties and an awareness that not all disabilities are visible. There was a lot of support for the idea that we should ‘help each other’ but there were also some concerns about the pressures this could put on people.

- The support people receive from family and providers often works well and there was praise for dedicated and committed staff. Specific services were mentioned as working well including carer breaks, social services, health services, charities, third sector and independent organisations including advocacy services.
- Joint working between social care and health was highlighted as something that works well in some areas and something that needs to be improved in others including better information sharing systems and issues around funding.
- There were also mixed views about how well direct payments and support budgets worked for people. Some said they worked well for them and other commented that they need much more support to use them and shared difficulties of finding a direct payment worker.

The consultation also highlighted issues that can prevent people from experiencing good outcomes including:

- **Support for carers:** Carer breaks was mentioned by many people in the consultation. Some of the specific issues include a lack of short breaks for families, provision for people with more complex needs such as challenging behaviour and autism and regular and predictable provision that is open all year round. People mentioned the importance of considering the impact on families, including the needs of siblings of children with learning disabilities. Also the importance of listening to parents and supporting parents/carers to building resilience and develop coping mechanisms. People also mentioned the needs of older carers and planning for the future when they may be no longer able to provide care.
- **Funding:** There was concern about having enough funding available for services. A few people mentioned the need to work together and consider merging budgets to try and address these issues and the need to make better use of technology.
- **Transport:** People mentioned how important transport was to them for inclusion in activities including having someone who can drive them, bus passes and subsidised transport. People also mentioned the orange wallet system that helps people with using public transport.
- **Access to information:** A few people mentioned the need for more information about the services that are available, details of who is able to access support from them and availability of services in Welsh. The staff consultation highlighted the importance of promoting and developing [Dewis Cymru](#) as a source of information about the services and support available in local communities.
- **Workforce development:** People talked about the importance of training and support for staff, particularly support workers. Also the importance of training the wider workforce, such as training for GPs about the needs of people with learning disabilities and how to access community teams.

What we know about current services and what needs to change

People with learning disabilities often need support with many aspects of their lives. This support can come from their friends and families or their local community as well as from local councils, health services and/or the third sector and can include help with:

- having a good place to live
- having something meaningful to do
- friends, family and relationships
- being safe
- being healthy
- having the right support

Within each of these areas we include:

- the needs of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and,
- support through changes in life from early years to ageing well, including the needs of older carers and the transition from children's to adult's services.

The current spend by social services and health directly on learning disability services in North Wales is around £130 million. This does not include additional services which provide support such as housing, leisure, third and voluntary sector support and so on.

Table 2: Revenue expenditure, adults aged under 65 with learning disabilities, 2016-17

	£ thousands	£ thousands
<i>Social services expenditure</i>		
Supported living / community living	36,000	
Residential care placements	20,000	
Day care	13,000	
Direct payments	8,200	
Home care	6,400	
Assessment and care management	5,800	
Other services to adults aged under 65 with learning disabilities	5,200	
Nursing placements	1,000	
Total Social Services		96,000
<i>BCUHB expenditure</i>		
Mental health and learning disabilities division (including continuing health care)	32,000	
Primary care and other contracts	370	
Total BCUHB		32,000
Total spend learning disability services		130,000

Please note this information is taken from Welsh Government returns and does not include spending on children and older people with learning disabilities because of the way the data is collected.

Local authorities also spend around £220 million of capital each year in North Wales for personal social services. This includes spending on buildings and housing related to all kinds of personal social services, not just for people with learning disabilities.

Early years

Support for parents with a learning disability is included in [the right support section](#).

We want every child with a learning disability to have the best start in life.

Diagnosis and assessments

In the consultation parents mentioned challenges around waiting for assessments, the time taken and issues around needing to wait for a certain age for an assessment. Parents also said they needed better support and understanding from professionals while waiting for an assessment. Support is also needed following a diagnosis of learning disability, which may include counselling for parents if a specific condition or syndrome is identified.

Support for parents

Support should begin before birth for children identified of being at risk of a learning disability with good information and support available from midwives and health visitors.

It's important that parents have access to parenting courses that are specifically geared towards parents of young children with learning disabilities.

Parents told us there was a need for good information and advice. This information should be joined-up so health, social care and education staff are giving the same messages. It should also be accessible and available to people early on. At one of the strategy workshops the following guide was recommended: '[A Parent's Guide: Improving the well-being of young children with learning disabilities](#)' produced in collaboration between the University of Warwick, Cerebra, Mencap, the Challenging Behaviour Foundation and parents of children with learning disabilities. There is also information available and through Family Information Services and on [Dewis Cymru](#).

Childcare and short breaks

Each local council in North Wales produced a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment in 2017, which includes an assessment of the provision for disabled children. These highlight that in all areas there is a need for childcare for children with additional needs and the action plans set out how this will be addressed. Initiatives to support childcare for disabled children include pre-school referral or pre-school support schemes to support children with additional needs in pre-school settings; a Childcare Brokerage

officer post which supports parents / carers of children with a disability to access suitable childcare and play provision; using the Welsh Government Out of School Childcare Grant to fund assisted places or 'helping hands' scheme; and, providing training for childcare staff.

Short breaks are activities for children and young people, usually occurring away from the home, that allow them to have a good time with others – peers and adults, while also giving a break to parents/carers from their caring role.

The short breaks can range from an hour or more planned activity to overnight stays with alternative carers. Some short breaks can involve the whole family having quality time together, by having assistance for trips out or leisure activities.

A report by the Children's Commissioner for Wales (2014) highlighted the importance of appropriate, accessible and good quality short breaks. The report found that the provision of short breaks is a complex matter due to different eligibility criteria and range of provision in each council and because each family has a different set of circumstances and needs. Some of the issues identified include issues around transition and support for children and young people aged 18 to 25 such as young people wanting to continue using the residential facility they were used to after they turn 18 and suggest continuing until they finish education. Other barriers included the accessibility of universal services, transport and awareness of the support available. The report also highlights the importance of the language used around short breaks, the perception and understanding of it among children and young people and the importance of independent advocacy. They found that some children and young people believe the main purpose of a short break is for parents/carers to have a break from them, whereas it should be for mutual benefit.

Childcare and short breaks also a priority in the Welsh Government (2018c) Improving Lives Programme:

'To ensure there is adequate childcare and short break solutions for children with a learning disability to enable families to live an ordinary life including going to work where possible.'

Early intervention

Family-focussed support is available in some areas from Flying Start and across North Wales from Families First and Team Around the Family (TAF), known as Together Achieving Change (TAC) in Wrexham. Interventions available from child learning disability teams include PACT, Musical Interaction Therapy, Incredible Years ASD programmes, Earlybird programmes, Child Development Centres, Preschool Development Teams and school age learning disability health teams.

Early intervention is also a priority in the Welsh Government (2018c) Improving Lives Programme:

- To improve life chances by building on the team around the family approach to reduce the number and impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) experienced by children with a learning disability.
- To reduce inappropriate use of medication and restraint through increasing the use of a range of evidence based interventions for example Positive Behavioural Support and active support to ensure early intervention of challenging behaviour and prevention where possible

Speech, language and communication needs

People with learning disabilities will often have communication difficulties, either because of the learning disability itself, or due to an associated physical or sensory impairment. Between 50% and 90% of people with learning disabilities have communication difficulties and many people with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD) have extremely limited communication ability which may be restricted to eye gaze and changes in facial expression (Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, 2017). While communication difficulties vary greatly from person to person, the following areas are commonly found to be of difficulty with this group (Kelly, 2002):

- understanding speech, writing and symbols, and interpreting environmental sounds,
- having a sufficient vocabulary to express a range of needs, ideas or emotions
- being able to construct a sentence
- maintaining focus and concentration in order to communicate
- fluency, for example, stammering
- being able to articulate clearly which may be due to related physical factors
- social skills, a lack of which may prevent positive interactions with people

Dysphagia (swallowing disorder) is also a common associated condition for people with learning disabilities. It is difficult to know how many people with learning disabilities have dysphagia due to the way it is reported as part of other health conditions but it is estimated that around 15% of people with learning disabilities need support to eat and drink and 8% of people known to learning disability services have dysphagia (Public Health England, 2016). Speech and language therapists support individuals with dysphagia by playing a key role in diagnosing dysphagia and supporting people to eat and drink safely. Early intervention by speech and language therapy can help prevent hospital admissions for people with dysphagia.

Children with complex needs

There are different ways of defining children with complex needs. Children may have complex needs due to:

- chronic health conditions, including life-limiting conditions;
- sensory impairment;
- physical disability;
- displaying risky, challenging and/or harmful behaviours;
- mental ill health;
- learning disability and / or autism; and / or,
- context, for example, abuse, neglect, growing up with domestic violence or growing up as a refugee/asylum seeker. The circumstances of some young people will become complex because in addition to their original needs they have also become involved in the youth justice system.

The definition agreed by the National Commissioning Board (2018) highlighted that not all children with one or more of the needs listed above will have complex needs. The key message is that:

‘Complex is not a label we should give a child. We should recognise that it is a description of the complex service response needed to meet their needs. The service response is complex in nature because it requires collaboration from at least two, if not three or four services and often cross-border provision’.

Children with complex needs are a priority for the Children’s Transformation Group as part of the Regional Partnership Board’s children and young people’s work-stream so we have not duplicated this work in this strategy.

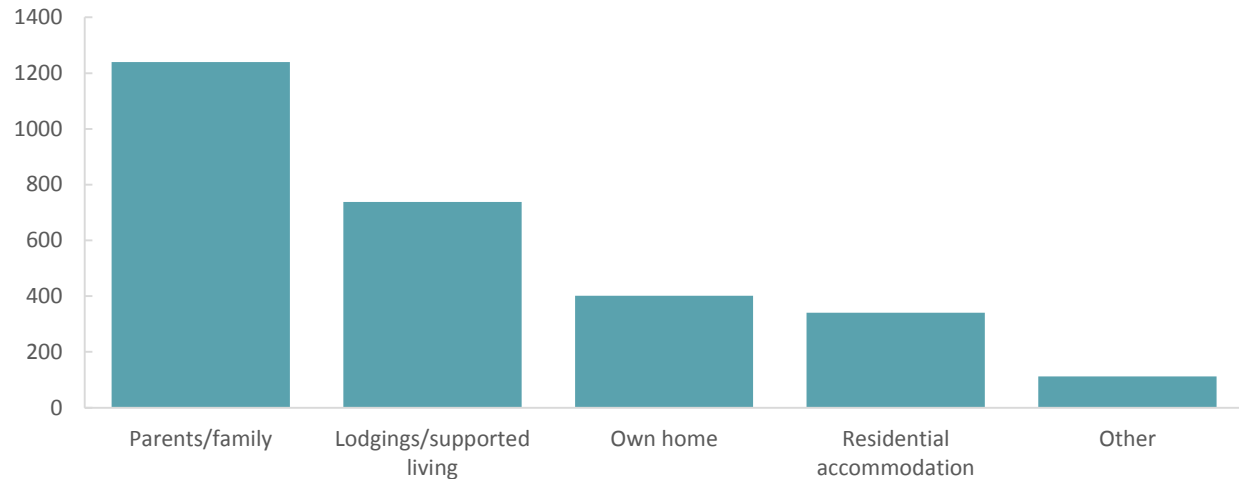
Early years: the change we want to see

- Fewer people will fall between the gaps in services.
- Carers will have access to a range of flexible carer breaks.
- People with learning disabilities and their parents/carers will have access to good, consistent and accessible information and advice.

Having a good place to live

Most children and young people with learning disabilities live with their parents/family. There is no data available showing how many children with learning disabilities live in foster placements but in total there are around 120 disabled children looked after in North Wales ([see appendix 1](#)). Children with learning disabilities may need adaptations to their home or to move to a more adaptable home. There can be long waits for the adaptations or for suitable housing, which needs addressing through housing strategies and other multi-agency responses. Unsuitable housing increases stress on the whole family.

Figure 1 shows that the most frequent living arrangement for adults with learning disabilities is in community placements with their parents/family.

Figure 1: Community, residential and other accommodation placements, 2016

Source: Adults receiving services at the 31st March 2016 and range of services during the year, Welsh Government

(a) The 'Other' category includes health placements and foster placements

Welsh Government is currently developing guidance in the commissioning of supported living services and a regional procurement exercise is taking place for supported living providers in North Wales.

Housing for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD)

The Raising our Sights guide to housing (Mencap and PMLD Network, 2013) says that people with PMLD have very complex housing needs including:

- **The physical environment** including adaptations, equipment and the space needed to meet the person's needs
- **The location** of the housing to allow people to remain close to family, friends and their communities
- Wherever they are living, the person will need **individualised and skilled support** for their health, social and well-being needs from appropriately trained staff.

There should be a range of options and a person-centred approach to planning to find the model of housing and care that is right for the individual. This may include supported housing, extra care housing, shared lives, residential care, home ownership and different types of tenancies.

Community based, residential services and nursing care

In North Wales there are around 1,900 adults with learning disabilities who receive community-based services, around 280 who receive residential services and around 26 who receive nursing care within a care home ([see appendix 1](#)).

The North Wales Adult Services Heads (NASH) have agreed to explore the use of the national Integrated Health and Social Care Collaborative Commissioning Programme framework agreement for younger adults (18-64 years) with mental health and learning disabilities in residential and nursing care homes.

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards

Under the Human Rights Act everyone has a right to liberty unless a legal process has been followed. The aim of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) is to provide legal protection for vulnerable people who are deprived of their liberty, to prevent arbitrary decisions and to give rights to appeal. The safeguards apply to people who lack capacity to consent to care or treatment and are living in residential or nursing homes or hospital in-patients. There were 160 DoLS referrals made by each local authority for people with learning disabilities during 2016-17 ([see appendix 1](#)).

Out of area placements

Data collected for the strategy found that there were around 20 children and young people aged under 18 who were placed out of county or region. Fewer than five of these were placed out of county by choice, for example, because they are closer to family or because have been placed with family (Connected Person) out of county for safeguarding reasons.

For adults there were around 160 people placed out of county or region, with around 20 of these placed out of county by choice, for example to be closer to family.

We want to reduce the number of people placed out of their area because of a lack of suitable placements locally. We have collected more detailed data for the strategy (a summary is included in [appendix 1](#)) to help us address this as we put the strategy into action.

Supporting People

The Supporting People programme is a Welsh Government programme providing housing-related support to help vulnerable people to live as independently as possible. The total budget for Supporting People in North Wales for 2018-19 is around £30 million of which £8.2 million has been allocated to supporting people with learning disabilities.

There is a North Wales Regional Collaborative Committee (RCC) to drive forward effective and efficient delivery of the programme at a regional and local level and is linked to the Regional Partnership Board. Learning disabilities is a priority area for the RCC in the 2017-20 strategic plan.

Planning for future accommodation needs

The Wales Audit Office (2018) estimate that local councils in Wales will need to 'increase investment by £365 million in accommodation in the next twenty years to address both a growth in the number of people with learning disabilities who will need housing, and the increase in the number with moderate or severe needs'. This figure includes increases in costs due to inflation.

For North Wales, this will mean we need to plan for between 80 and 190 additional placements by 2035. The increase is estimated to be greatest in Wrexham followed by Gwynedd and then Denbighshire. Anglesey are estimated to see a decline in the number of placements needed. Conwy and Flintshire are estimated to either have a small increase or small decrease.

The cost of these additional placements at current prices is estimated to be between £2.4 million and £7.3 million by 2035 and would be around 10 times as much if estimated inflation is included.

Having a good place to live: the change we want to see

- There will be fewer out of area placements.
- More people with learning disabilities will have choice and control over where they live and how they are supported.

Having something meaningful to do

This section is about having something to do that's meaningful and is chosen by the individual. It includes play, leisure and sport; education and training; day opportunities, work opportunities and paid employment.

Play

Play is a fundamental part of a healthy childhood and it is every child's right to be able to play. Play is defined in the Welsh Government Play Policy as freely chosen and personally directed. The right to play is enshrined within article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and further defined within General Comment 17. The comment on article 23 about the rights of disabled children states:

"Play has been recognised as the best source of learning various skills, including social skills. The attainment of full inclusion of children with disabilities in the society is realised when children are given the opportunity, places and time to play with each other (children with disabilities and no disabilities)"

Children with learning disabilities can face additional barriers to accessing play opportunities, the Bevan Foundation found:

“Disabled children and young people face barriers from lack of provision, lack of support, poor access to buildings and negative attitudes which, notwithstanding legislation and policies, prevent them from participating like non-disabled children and young people”

Each local council in North Wales has produced a play sufficiency assessment as part of their play sufficiency duty. A survey undertaken for one of the assessments found that 46% of disabled children said that they were satisfied with their play opportunities compared to 70% overall. Another found that parents of children with complex needs were particularly concerned about the attitude and actions of others and people’s understanding of ‘hidden’ impairments like autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

The assessments show that a lot of work has taken place to understand and provide for the needs of disabled children and to make sure play projects and providers have access to a range of resources to support inclusion. For example, delivering inclusive play training to providers, activity programmes for disabled children, providing one to one support workers in mainstream provision, providing small grants for equipment training or resources and buddy schemes.

The play sufficiency assessments also set out each areas’ plans to improve play opportunities for disabled children including better partnership working, providing disability inclusion training, sharing resources and mentoring mainstream clubs who want to become more inclusive. Challenges to providing inclusive play opportunities include lack of accessible transport, particularly in rural areas and funding for services.

A list of resources available to support inclusive play is available from [Play Wales](#).

Sport and leisure

People with learning disabilities often face barriers to accessing socialising or leisure opportunities, for example they may not drive or may need support to use public transport. If local councils did not provide this support then some people would not be able to have a social life.

In the consultation people told us that they were involved in many different kinds of sport and leisure activities including:

“volunteering, snooker, tennis, wheelchair basketball, ten pin bowling, playing pool, Men’s Sheds, magazines, star wars figures, art and art classes, cinema, shopping, watching TV and films, swimming, colouring, computer games, newspapers, ironing, watching and playing football, music, theatre, dancing, going out every night, sports clubs, buzz club, curry night, going out for meals, walking and holidays.”

People said that there needs to be more leisure activities and opportunities for people with learning disabilities, more integrated community-based activities and mixed groups.

Many of the solutions are low-cost and each county has a different way of funding these services. Some are funded as part of other provision, for example, a provider running disco nights. Others use small grants (either from the council or other funders) or informal arrangements. The provision varies depending on demand and geography. There are opportunities to make sure these services are more user led. For example, the 'Friendship group' currently being run in Conwy by a person with learning disabilities.

[Disability Sport Wales](#) provides an online database of disability-specific or disability-inclusive sport opportunities.

Education and training

There are nine special schools in North Wales with a total of 1,300 pupils. However, most children and young people with learning disabilities attend mainstream schools ([appendix 1](#)). Children and young people with additional learning needs are supported within mainstream schools and support is also available from specialist Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion Teams with advice, modelling and training. Support can include educational psychology, specialist teachers and specialist teaching assistance.

Young people with learning disabilities can access support with options when leaving school from Careers Wales and local authorities. They can also currently access support from grant funded programmes such as TRAC and ADTRAC.

For more information about support for pupils with Additional Learning Needs in North Wales please see each council's strategies and plans.

Day opportunities and work opportunities

By *day opportunities* we mean formal support for people during the working week which is provided away from their home – this includes work opportunities which tend to have a vocational focus or are based in a business setting. Each county has a mix of direct payments, in-house, independent sector and social enterprises, with a range of services and work based activities in each local council.

A *social enterprise* is a business with profits re-invested back into its services or the community. A *cooperative* is a group acting together voluntarily to meet economic and social need. Local councils have a new duty to promote social enterprises and co-operatives which involve people who needs care and support. Day opportunities are an area we would like to encourage social enterprises and co-operatives to provide.

Paid employment

We would like to see more people with learning disabilities in paid jobs. We don't know how many people with learning disabilities in North Wales currently have paid jobs but estimates suggest they are far less likely to have a job than the general population. Estimates from England suggest around 6% of adults with learning disabilities known to their local authority have a paid job. In the consultation many of the people who had jobs said that they were important to them although some people said they were concerned that they would struggle to find work. There is some support available at the moment, for example from:

- Disability Advisers in the Jobcentre
- Careers Wales
- [Supported employment agencies](#)

Active support for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities

Active support is an approach for people with very profound needs who are not able to do typical activities independently and has three components:

1. Interacting to promote participation. People who support the individual learn how to give him or her the right level of assistance so that he or she can do all the typical daily activities that arise in life.

2. Activity Support Plans. These provide a way to organise household tasks, personal self-care, hobbies, social arrangements and other activities which individuals need or want to do each day, and to work out the availability of support so that activities can be accomplished successfully.

3. Keeping track. A way of simply recording the opportunities people have each day that enables the quality of what is being arranged to be monitored and improvements to be made on the basis of evidence.

Each component has a system for keeping track of progress, which gives feedback to the staff team and informs regular reviews (Jones et al., 2014).

Five ways to well-being

Having something meaningful to do is an important part of the 'Five Ways to Wellbeing', which is a set of evidence based public health messages aimed at improving the mental health and well-being of the whole population. The five actions people can take to improve their well-being are: *connect, be active, take notice, keep learning and give*. All of the themes in the strategy about supporting people to have good lives will also contribute to these.

Having something meaningful to do: the change we want to see

- More people with learning disabilities will be involved in their local community.
- More people with learning disabilities will have paid jobs.
- Increased take-up of support budgets / direct payments.

Friends, family and relationships

The [what people have told us](#) section highlights the need for more opportunities for people to develop friendships and relationships. This includes opportunities to join in socially with groups from all parts of the community, not just events arranged for people with learning disabilities.

The right support is important to help facilitate friendships and relationships for people with learning disabilities and needs to include positive risk taking. This includes the recognition of people's rights to a sexual relationship as long as they have the capacity to consent to one. More information is available about the [relationships event](#) held by the Learning Disability Participation Group. There is also potential for short breaks to support people with learning disabilities to develop friendships and relationships.

Friends, family and relationships: the change we want to see

- More people with learning disabilities will be involved in their local community.
- The rights of people with learning disability to engage in relationships are recognised.
- Support workers and carers are supported to facilitate relationships and positive risk taking.

Being safe

Often as a result of their disability, disabled children are more vulnerable to abuse and neglect in ways than other children and the early indicators of abuse or neglect can be more complicated than with non-disabled children (HM Government, 2006).

Young people with learning disabilities may be more vulnerable to county lines drug gangs and child sexual exploitation.

County lines drug gangs are those where an urban criminal gang travels to smaller locations to sell heroin/crack cocaine. The gangs tend to use a local property, generally belonging to a vulnerable person, as a base for their activities. This is often taken over by force or coercion (cuckooing). They pose a significant threat to vulnerable adults and children who they use to conduct and/or facilitate this criminality. People with

learning disabilities may also be at risk of being victims of other crimes, such as modern slavery.

The Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework (SERAF) tool includes learning disability as a vulnerability factor for child sexual exploitation.

Each year there are on average around 210 safeguarding concerns raised in North Wales concerning adults with learning disabilities ([appendix 1](#)). In the last five years there have been around 50 crimes in North Wales where the victim had a learning disability, including people with Down's syndrome, ADHD and Autism ([appendix 1](#)).

Children and adults with learning disabilities may be at risk of financial abuse. This is any theft or misuse of a person's money, property or resources by a person in a position of, or expectation of, trust to a vulnerable person. Common forms of financial abuse are misuse by other of a vulnerable adult's state benefits or undue pressure to change wills.

Forced marriage statistics show that there was a year on year rise in the number of people with learning disabilities being reported who may be at risk or subject to a forced marriage from 2010 to 16 (North Wales Safeguarding Board, 2017). Forced marriage is where one or both people do not consent or lack the capacity to consent to the marriage and pressure or abuse is used.

North Wales Safeguarding Boards

The [North Wales Children's and Adults' Safeguarding Boards](#) are in place to make sure the citizens of North Wales are adequately prevented and protected from experiencing abuse, neglect and other kinds of harm. They have produced 7 minute briefings for professionals about the issues described above including warning signs and advice about what to do in response.

Positive risk taking

Safeguarding children, young people and adults from the risks described above also needs to be balanced against the risk of overprotecting people which can affect their well-being (Community Care, 2015).

The importance of positive risk taking was highlighted in the consultation. People spoke about how other elements of this strategy can support safeguarding in a way that promotes independence. This can include people with learning disabilities being involved in their community so that there are people around who know them and can look out for them and the potential uses of technology.

The [Safe Places scheme](#) is now running in some parts of North Wales. A safe place helps vulnerable if they feel scared or at risk while they are out and about in the community and need support right away.

Criminal justice system

An estimated 20 to 30% of offenders have [learning disabilities or difficulties](#) that interfere with their ability to cope within the criminal justice system (Talbot, 2008). This group is at increased risk of reoffending where support services and programmes don't meet their needs and can be targeted by other prisoners when in custody (Talbot, 2008). At least 60% of young people in the youth justice system have communication needs (Bryan and Mackenzie, 2008).

A multi-agency task and finish group in Wales have developed a guidebook called 'Access to Justice' (2013) to support the 'responsive and appropriate management of adults with a learning disability in the criminal justice system in Wales. This work aims to take forward the recommendations of the Prison Reform Trust No One Knows programme. Resources available to support professionals working with young people in the youth justice system include Sentence Trouble (The Communication Trust, 2010) and [The Box learning journey](#) developed by the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists.

The North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner (2017) is working with the health board to improve the response to vulnerable people that present to criminal justice agencies and target services and support to help people in crisis.

Being safe summary: the change we want to see

- More people with learning disabilities will be involved in their local community.
- More people with learning disabilities will use technology safely to help them be more independent.

Being healthy

People with a learning disability are living longer. This is something to celebrate as a success of improvements in health and social care. For example, there has been a dramatic change in life expectancy for people with Down's Syndrome since the 1930s rising from age 10 to around age 50 over the course of 70 years (Holland, 2000).

However, people with learning disabilities are still at more risk of dying early compared to the general population and are more likely to die from causes that could have been prevented (Mencap, 2012, Hosking et al., 2016). The causes of health inequalities include:

- social factors such as poverty and poor housing;
- an increased risk of health problems associated with specific conditions;
- difficulties with communication and understanding of health issues;
- individual lifestyles such as poor diet and lack of exercise; and,
- the way healthcare is delivered (Learning Disabilities Observatory, 2011).

Annual health check

Annual health checks help people with learning disabilities to stay well by finding any problems early so they can get the right care. In North Wales 2,900 people with learning disabilities aged 18 and over are eligible for an annual health check and around 1,700 people (57%) had the health check in the last year.

There are 116 GP practices in North Wales, of which 71 are signed up to delivering the learning disability annual health check.

Screening programmes

National screening programmes available in Wales include specific cancer, non-cancer and maternal and child screening programmes ([appendix 1](#)). Data collected by the North Wales Health Liaison Team suggests that people with learning disabilities are less likely to engage with the national screening programmes when invited. For example, data from annual health checks suggests around 10% of eligible women with learning disabilities took up the offer for breast screening during 2017-18. The take-up rate for all eligible women in North Wales for 2016-17 was 73%.

Healthy lifestyles

There is evidence that people with learning disabilities are less physically active than the general population and that their diet is often unbalanced and does not include enough fruit and vegetables (Learning Disabilities Observatory, 2011). In addition,

people with learning disabilities often find it hard to understand the consequences of their lifestyle on their health.

Figures suggest around 39% of the population of people with learning disabilities in North Wales have a Body Mass Index (BMI) in the obese range ([appendix 1](#)). In the population as a whole, around 20% of people in North Wales have a BMI in the obese range (Welsh Health Survey, 2015). This suggests that we need to do more to make sure that people with learning disabilities have opportunities for physical activity and healthy eating.

Although rates of tobacco smoking and drinking alcohol are lower for adults who use services compared with the general population, rates of smoking among young people with a mild learning disability are higher than among their peers (Learning Disabilities Observatory, 2011).

People with learning disabilities may also be more likely to have problems with their oral health, such as tooth decay (Naseem et al., 2016). Many oral health problems are preventable. Recommendations include:

- Promoting healthy eating
- Good oral hygiene with the use of fluoride toothpaste and regular visits to the dentist
- Practical information about oral health care available for people with learning disabilities, parents and carers
- Good commissioning of oral health care services for people with a learning disability focussing on prevention
- Training for health care professionals and carers about how to provide oral health care for people with learning disabilities
- Working together with voluntary organisations who support people with learning disabilities
- Following national policy and guidelines around consent and clinical holding (British Society for Disability and Oral Health, 2012).

Transition from children's to adults' health services

Children's and adults' health services are structured in different ways. Children with learning disabilities may receive most of their health care from an acute paediatrician, community paediatrician or school nurse rather than their GP. This has implications for young people's transition between children's and adults' services.

Other issues can include young people aged 16 to 18 being treated as adults in hospital. Children's health liaison is available in some parts of North Wales which can help address this.

Mental health and well-being

Children with learning disabilities are more likely to have mental health needs than the general population and these can start early in life (Toms et al., 2015). An estimated 30% to 50% of children who have a learning disability will also have mental health needs (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, 2016). Research suggests that there's a high level of unmet need for mental health services for children with learning disabilities (Toms et al., 2015). This was highlighted in the consultation where people commented that access to mental health needed to be quicker for children with learning disabilities and also that more support is needed for parents.

Research suggests that the prevalence of mental health needs in adults with learning disabilities was 41% or 28% when behaviours that challenge were excluded (Cooper et al., 2007). There is a risk that mental health needs in people with learning disabilities may not be identified due to assumptions that behaviour and symptoms are because of their learning disability (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, 2016).

The Children's Commissioner for Wales (2018) identified a persistent and serious gap in mental health provision for young people with a learning disabilities. They found that continuity of care issues are often address by child services continuing to work with young adults, although this creates issues around suitability of services and costs. They also found that joint clinics between children's and adult health care providers were perceived as positive by young people and their families.

The Together for Mental Health in North Wales strategy sets out how we plan to improve mental health services in North Wales (Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, 2017). This includes improving public mental health, such as making sure that individuals build the ['Five Ways to Well-being'](#) into their lives.

Dementia

People with learning disabilities are more at risk of developing dementia as they get older (Ward, 2012). The prevalence of dementia among people with a learning disability is estimated at 13% of people over 50 years old and 22% of those over 65 compared with 6% in the general older adult population (Kerr, 2007). The Learning Disability Health Liaison Service in North Wales report that people with learning disabilities are four times more likely to have early onset dementia. People with Down's Syndrome are particularly at risk and can develop dementia 30-40 years earlier than the general population with rates of 40% at around age 50 (Holland and others, 1998).

Chronic conditions

Children, young people and adults with learning disabilities may also have a chronic condition such as coronary heart disease; diabetes; asthma; dysphagia (swallowing problems) or epilepsy. The data we have about the number of people who have a chronic condition and a learning disability in North Wales is incomplete. A study of GP records of adults with learning disability in England found that people with learning disabilities had higher prevalence of epilepsy, severe mental illness and dementia as well as moderately increased rates of underactive thyroid and heart failure (Carey et al., 2016). They found that the prevalence of chronic heart disease and cancer were approximately 30% lower than in the population as a whole. This is surprising as people with learning disabilities have a higher prevalence of risk factors for chronic heart disease, so researchers think it may be that these conditions aren't being identified as well. They also suggest that lower rates of smoking and alcohol use among people with learning disabilities may contribute although there isn't any evidence to confirm this at the moment.

Sensory impairments

Adults with learning disabilities are 10 times more likely to be blind or partially sighted than the general population and nearly 1 in 10 adults with learning disabilities are blind or partially sighted (RNIB, 2010). People with severe or profound learning disabilities are most likely to have sight problems. Nearly 6 out of 10 people with learning disabilities need glasses (RNIB, 2010).

People with learning disabilities are more likely to have a hearing loss than the general population but are less likely to have their hearing problem diagnosed or managed. Hearing loss is estimated to be present in around 40% of adults with learning disabilities but much of this is undiagnosed (McShea, 2014).

The consultation highlighted that sensory loss in people with a learning disability can often be often overlooked. This may be due to the accessibility of the tests that are performed or because a carer may not notice the sensory loss and put issues with communication down to the person's learning disability. We need to make sure that more people are able to access tests for sensory loss, to make sure that the tests are explained fully and that carers are made aware of the signs of a sensory loss and the prevalence within the learning disability community.

Admissions to an Acute Hospital

Hospital passports (traffic lights) include information about a person and their health needs including their interests, likes, dislikes and preferred method of communication. These are available to be used across North Wales to help staff meet the needs of people with learning disabilities in the Emergency Department or when admitted to hospital.

There is a North Wales shared care agreement for carers supporting patients with a learning disability in hospital for use when the ward has identified that there is a need for additional support. Some people with learning disabilities will benefit from having their own familiar support while in hospital which can reduce anxiety, prevent diagnostic overshadowing and help support the hospital to make reasonable adjustments.

Communication standards

The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (2013) have produced five good communication standards, which are reasonable adjustments to communication that individuals with learning disability and/or autism should expect in specialist hospital and residential settings. The document includes links to useful resources. The standards are:

- **Standard 1:** There is a detailed description of how best to communicate with individuals.
- **Standard 2:** Services demonstrate how they support individuals with communication needs to be involved with decisions about their care and their services.
- **Standard 3:** Staff value and use competently the best approaches to communication with each individual they support.
- **Standard 4:** Services create opportunities, relationships and environments that make individuals want to communicate.
- **Standard 5:** Individuals are supported to understand and express their needs in relation to their health and well-being.

Being healthy: the change we want to see

- People with a learning disability will engage more in healthy lifestyle behaviours such as healthy eating and mental well-being interventions such as the five ways to well-being.
- It will be easier for people with learning disabilities to take up health screening opportunities.
- All GP surgeries will be signed up to the delivering the learning disability annual health check and change their services to make them easier to use. These changes are called 'reasonable adjustments'.
- It will be easier for people with learning disabilities to have an annual health check.
- Reduced demand on specialist learning disability services.
- Any health inequalities are reduced.
- Fewer people will fall between the gaps in services.

Having the right support

We want to provide the right support at the right time to the right people in the right place. To provide support that helps people to do what they want, gives them choice and control over their own lives and promotes positive risk taking.

Having the right support with changes and transitions

The services people need will change throughout their lives. These changes, or times of transition, can include:

- support for parents as their child begins pre-school;
- moving through school from pre-school to primary to secondary;
- moving from school to college;
- moving from school or college into work; or,
- moving from living with parents into their own place;

The services available to support people may also change at specific times, for example, moving from children's services to adult services at age 18. Some services in North Wales co-produce transition plans to support young people age 14 to 17 with this change and others have a lifetime disability service so they don't use formal transition plans. In this case the outcomes (what matters to people) in relation to the transition are recorded in the statutory care and support plans. The changes being introduced with the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 may help improve some transitions.

Transitions also provide an opportunity to support people to achieve the maximum level of independence to which they aspire and provide the least intensive support model possible. It is important to match the services response to current need but also to work to reduce them over time, helping individuals gain confidence and skills, and so reduce long term needs. This is known as a 'progression model'.

The Children's Commissioner for Wales (2018) has spoken to young people, parents and carers and professionals throughout Wales about their experiences and views about transitions to adulthood for young people with learning disabilities. The key messages from young people and their families were:

- Young people's participation in planning and decision-making appears to be very low – this means that their different priorities and specific interests can get missed.
- Parents play a crucial role and are relied upon to do so, but often feel overwhelmed and anxious about the future – they need support and recognition.

- Some young people face a considerable change in how much support they receive after the age of 18 due to different thresholds rather than a sudden change in need – contrary to the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.
- Every service has different ways of transferring to over-18s services. Having a key worker or transition service is very valuable.
- Social isolation is a problem for many – even though friendships are rated as young people’s top priority.
- There are very limited opportunities for work and apprenticeships, with no supported employment opportunities – despite evidence suggesting this is particularly effective.
- Young people, parents and professionals all agree that young people with learning disabilities are still expected to slot into services that already exist, with limited options if that doesn’t fit their needs.
- Where young people and their families reported good experiences, they had been involved, they were clear about the process, they felt well supported by a keyworker, lead professional or dedicated transitions service and they often had access to a youth-centred provision that helped young people prepare for adulthood and expand their social and community networks.

Having the right support when moving area

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act says that people should have portable assessments so if people move from one part of Wales to another they will not require their needs to be re-assessed if these haven't changed.

A recent report about the needs of children in Armed Forces families highlights the impact that frequent moves can have on children with additional learning needs (Llewellyn et al., 2018). All six local authorities have signed an Armed Forces Community Covenant to support in service and ex-service personnel and their families and take part in the North Wales Armed Forces Forum.

Carer breaks

Each county has respite services which give families a break. The arrangements vary from county to county but include respite ‘beds’ in Care Homes, Adult Placements for respite, short breaks and use of Direct Payments.

There is a [North Wales Carers’ Strategy](#) and carers journey mapping carried out to inform the strategy highlighted how important it was to have the right support in place for the person cared for in order to support the carers. We have reviewed the provision of respite/short-term break resources for individuals with a learning disability or complex needs and their carers in North Wales (Hay, 2017) and developed a set of recommendations which we will implement as part of the strategy.

Carer breaks have traditionally been referred to as 'respite' although the term has also been associated with respite from something that is a burden so we are starting to use the term 'carer breaks' in preference.

See the [early years section](#) for more information about short breaks for children with learning disabilities.

Crisis response

Where possible we want to provide early intervention and prevention services and avoid the need for a crisis response. Where a crisis response is needed we want to see a joined up response for children and adults with learning disabilities.

Crisis intervention may be needed because of a mental health crisis, challenging behaviour or other needs that might lead to family/service breakdown; admission to an inpatient setting; or an out of area placement. It's important to understand the reasons behind challenging behaviour. It may be a way for a person to control what is going on around them and to get their needs met or they may be ill or in pain.

The consultation highlighted the need to review the challenging behaviour and crisis pathways for children and adults.

There is not currently an assessment and treatment facility for children and young people in North Wales. We want to make sure the right facilities are in place for North Wales, linking in with fostering and residential commissioning strategies.

The inpatient learning disabilities services at Bryn y Neuadd within Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Division provides highly specialised person centred care for adults with learning disabilities within a safe environment. They provide a range of specialist services, inclusive of assessment and treatment; rehabilitation; assessment and treatment for people with profound and multiple needs and therapeutic support services in a specialist learning disability hospital setting. There are currently three wards within the Learning Disability Inpatient Service at Bryn y Neuadd hospital. During 2016-17 there were around 50 admissions to these units due to mental health needs, challenging behaviour and/or physical health needs.

Support for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD)

People with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD) need a high level of support to lead good lives as described in this strategy. A group of family members, education, health and social care professionals have developed a set of Service Standards to be used by commissioners and providers of services for people with PMLD (Doukas et al., 2017). The standards have been developed to be used as an internal auditing tool and they recommend that they are used as part of an annual self-assessment process with action plans developed to address areas that need

improving. They include standards for organisations around leadership, quality, staff development (skills and confidence), physical environment, communication, health and well-being, social, community and family life.

Additional resources on how to improve services for adults with PMLD are available in the Raising Our Sights guides available from www.bit.ly/raising-our-sights-guides.

End of life care

The [lifespan pathway](#) included at the start of the report highlights how end of life care may be needed at any point in the pathway.

A report by the Care Quality Commission (2016) identified inequalities in end of life care for people with learning disabilities. This included a lack of understanding of people's individual needs; not identifying people who are approaching the end of life at an early enough stage because of poor access to physical healthcare; poor communication, for example, health and social care staff making assumptions about people's ability to 'cope' with discussions about end of life. The Welsh Government (2017a) has published their Palliative and End of Life Care Delivery Plan which sets out how they plan to improve the delivery of all aspects of palliative and end of life care including support for people of all ages and the needs of those experiencing bereavement.

The service standard for people with PMLD is that 'The organisation ensures each person has an End of Life Plan in place, in consultation with the person, their family and other appropriate members of the circle of support' (Doukas et al., 2017).

Advocacy

The Welsh Government describes advocacy as having two main themes:

“speaking up for and with individuals who are not being heard, helping them to express their views and make their own informed decisions and contributions, and, safeguarding individuals who are at risk”.

There are different forms of advocacy which include:

- **Self-advocacy** when individuals represent and speak up for themselves.
- **Informal advocacy** when family, friends or neighbours support an individual to have their wishes and feelings heard, which may include speaking on their behalf.
- **Independent volunteer advocacy** involves an independent and unpaid advocate who works on a short term, or issue led basis, with one or more individuals.

- **Formal advocacy**, which can refer to the advocacy role of staff in health, social care and other settings where professionals as part of their role consider the wishes and feelings of an individual and help make sure they are addressed properly.
- **Independent professional advocacy** involves an independent professional advocate who is trained and paid to undertake the role. They must make sure individuals' views are accurately conveyed irrespective of the view of the advocate or others as to what is in the best interests of the individuals.

The Part 10 Code of Practice sets out the access to advocacy that local authorities must provide under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. Local authorities may also identify a duty to provide an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA) under the Mental Capacity Act 2005, for example when a decision needs to be taken about the person's long-term accommodation.

There are self-advocacy groups for people with learning disabilities in each county in North Wales.

It is important to involve and 'listen to' people with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD). Advocacy for people with PMLD may involve 'representational advocacy' where an independent advocate speaks on their behalf and families are also important advocates for people with PMLD. When commissioning advocacy services for people with PMLD we need to take into account the observational and listening skills of the advocate and ability to communicate in a variety of ways with the individual and family members, a good understanding of human rights as well as giving the right amount of time (Mencap and PMLD Network, 2013).

It is also important to recognise what the individual wants and to support them. Sometimes this may be against the wishes of their parents/carers. We need to take make sure that children and adults with learning disabilities have access to their rights as set out in UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the UN Principles for Older Persons (UNPOP) and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Support for parents with a learning disability

The research suggests that best practice for supporting parents with a learning disability should include the following (Stewart and McIntyre, 2017).

- Early identification of parents with learning disabilities so that appropriate support can be put in place. This will need to address concerns parents may have about discrimination and assumptions about their ability to parent.
- Good partnership working to make sure parents with learning disabilities don't fall between services. For example, a person may not have been eligible for learning disability services before having parental responsibility. Also need to make sure

staff are aware of the needs of people with learning disabilities, how to support them and make reasonable adjustments. This includes GPs, midwives and health visitors, social workers working in child protection and family support services and advocates and others working in family courts.

- Early assessment of parenting skills that identifies strengths as well as support needs and gives people time to develop their skills. For example, by using the Parents Assessment Manual (PAMS). Multi-disciplinary support should be available to help people address any issues identified.
- Make sure information is accessible including information about pregnancy and childcare and especially any information about child protection proceedings.
- Support should be family focussed, adapted to the family's needs and take a strengths-based approach. Some families will need on-going or long-term support.
- Promote the use of independent advocacy and self-advocacy. In child protection proceedings generic advocacy may not be sufficient as advocates will need knowledge of child protection law and the needs of people with learning disabilities. In our consultation parents with a learning disability said it was important that they get to have their say too.

One of the childcare sufficiency assessments mentioned the importance of access to childcare for parents with learning disabilities.

As part of the Improving Outcomes for Children Ministerial Advisory Group phase 2 work programme (Welsh Government, 2018b), *Workstream 2: Assessment of Risk and Edge of Care Services* includes actions to:

- Undertake research to identify the number of children who have parents with a learning disability who no longer live at home and the reasons behind their change of status.
- Develop guidance for reducing the number of looked after children taken from parents with a learning disability.

Looked after children are also a priority in the Welsh Government (2018c) Improving Lives Programme which aims to 'improve the outcomes of parents with a learning disability and their children to ensure a good quality of life'.

There is a network for parents with a learning disability in North Wales supported by [Learning Disability Wales](#). It is open to parents whether their child lives with them or not and provides an opportunity to share experiences and stories with each other with each other and also with social services and Welsh Government.

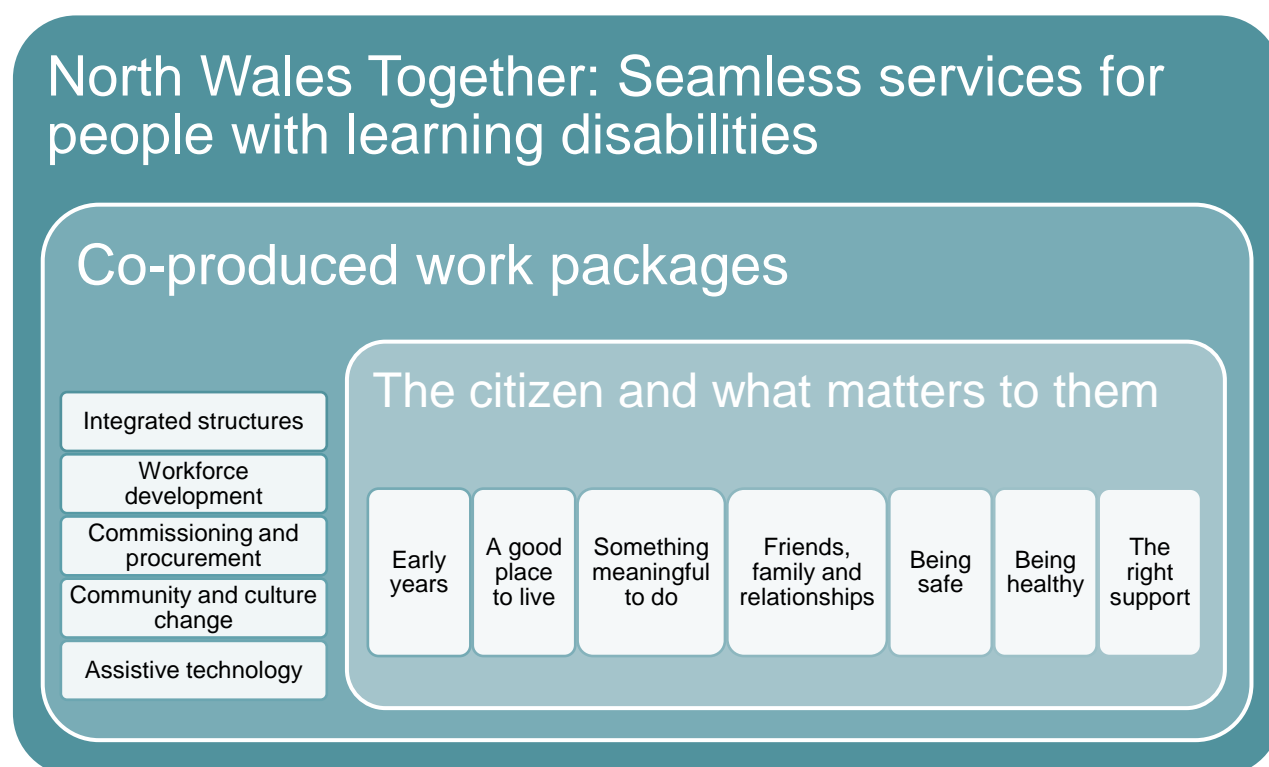
The right support: the change we want to see

- Fewer people will fall between the gaps in services.
- No-one will experience delays in support due to disagreements between services.
- Increased take-up of support budgets / direct payments.
- People with learning disabilities and their parents/carers will have access to good, consistent and accessible information and advice.

Putting the strategy into action

To achieve our vision and provide services based on what matters to people (a good place to live, something meaningful to do and so on) we have planned five work packages that will set out *how* we will change things in order to achieve good lives for people with learning disabilities. The work packages will include actions to improve support throughout people’s lives and meet the needs of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities. They will take an asset-based approach to build on the skills, networks and community resources that people with learning disabilities already have. The diagram below shows how the different parts of the project will fit together.

Putting the strategy into action will include not just people who provide specific learning disability services. To achieve our vision we need to co-produce services with people with learning disabilities and their parents/carers and share power and responsibility for making these changes. We also need to work closely with staff in the six local authorities and health services outside of specific learning disability services to improve communication and understanding of the reasonable adjustments that people with learning disabilities may need to access health care and other public services. The key to achieving our vision will be to work with local communities to make sure people with learning disabilities are truly valued and included in their communities.



Integrated structures

Making sure health and social services work together better to support people with learning disabilities.

We want an integrated service where no citizens fall between the gaps in services with seamless transitions through changes in life. We will build on current good practice across North Wales with integrated health and social care teams and lifespan approaches to disability services to develop models and structures that provide seamless care to the individual.

Actions

- Review current models of integration and share best practice across the region.
- Reduce any duplication of record systems so people only have to 'say it once'.
- Make sure there is sufficient support for the health issues of older people with learning disabilities, including people with dementia.
- Review the systems and the support available for individual and their families around diagnosis and assessment.

How we will know if we've made a difference

- New integrated structures will be in place.
- Fewer people will fall between the gaps in services (identified through consultation and engagement, feedback and complaints).
- No-one will experience delays in support due to disagreements between services.

Workforce development

Making sure staff know how to communicate well with people with learning disabilities and change services to make them easier to use. This will help people get the health care they need. Make sure people who want support in Welsh can get it without having to ask.

We want to see more awareness of disability issues among the wider public sector workforce including the reasonable adjustments that can be made to provide people with learning disabilities fair and equitable access to services and other community resources.

Actions

- Bring different parts of the workforce together to share best practice.
- Develop a consistent value-based skill set for staff across the region.
- Provide support for the wider workforce, including GPs and healthcare assistants about reasonable adjustments and preventative measures.

- Work in partnership with people with learning disabilities, health professionals, carers and screening programmes to make it easier for people with learning disabilities to take up screening when invited.
- Raise awareness of healthy lifestyles and mental well-being with people who have learning disabilities, their families and support workers in an accessible way.
- Tackle health inequalities.

How will we know if we've made a difference

- People with a learning disability will engage more in healthy lifestyle behaviours such as healthy eating and mental well-being interventions such as the five ways to well-being.
- It will be easier for people with learning disabilities to take up health screening opportunities.
- All GP surgeries will be signed up to the delivering the learning disability annual health check and change their services to make them easier to use. These changes are called 'reasonable adjustments'.
- It will be easier for people with learning disabilities to have an annual health check
- Reduced demand on specialist learning disability services.
- Any health inequalities are reduced.
- People with learning disabilities and their parents/carers will have access to good, consistent and accessible information and advice.

Commissioning and procurement

Work with other organisations to make sure we have the types of housing and support people need.

We want to move towards person-centred, outcome models of commissioning where the process is led by the person to deliver services that develop self-reliance, improve quality of care, reduce demand and re-invest in new forms of care.

Actions

- Explore and pilot pooled budgets between health and social care in a locality.
- Provide sustainable models of support jointly by health and social care to meet the needs of individuals with complex needs. This should include addressing the unmet need for high end jointly funded nursing placements for adults with severe learning disabilities who have health related needs.
- Continue to explore and develop housing options to meet the needs of people with learning disabilities in partnership with other organisations.

- Improve the use of and support available for support budgets / direct payments.
- Support older carers and make sure they have the support and carer break (respite) services they need. This should include 'planning ahead' services for families which includes work to identify hidden carers and assess their needs for support.
- Implement the recommendations of the *Development of Respite/ Short-term Break Resources across North Wales for Individuals with a Learning Disability or Complex Needs and their Carers* report (Hay, 2017)

How will we know if we've made a difference

- There will be fewer out of area placements.
- More people with learning disabilities will have choice and control over where they live and how they are supported.
- Increased take-up of support budgets / direct payments.
- Carers will have access to a range of flexible carer breaks.
- Any health inequalities are reduced.

Community and culture change

Work with the local community to make sure people with learning disabilities can access lots of different activities and meet new people if they want to. Help more people with learning disabilities to get paid jobs.

We want to raise awareness and build friendships and relationships within an inclusive community to make the most of the assets, resources and skills available.

Actions

- Work with local employers to develop employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities as well as other day opportunities.
- Work with community navigators, local area coordinators and social prescribing models to help people find out about the community groups and activities available in their area and support them to get involved.
- Work with support workers to facilitate friendships and relationships for people with learning disabilities and promote positive risk taking.

How will we know if we've made a difference

- More people with learning disabilities will be involved in their local community.
- More people with learning disabilities will have paid jobs.
- The rights of people with learning disability to engage in relationships are recognised.

- Support workers and carers are supported to facilitate relationships and positive risk taking.
- People with a learning disability will engage more in healthy lifestyle behaviours such as healthy eating and mental well-being interventions such as the five ways to well-being.

Assistive technology

Find ways to use technology like alarms and mobile phones to support people to be more independent.

Actions

- Developing skills, knowledge and training about the potential of existing technologies (such as mobile phones and voice controlled personal assistants like Alexa) to support people with learning disabilities.
- Develop the provision of assistive technology and communication aids for people with learning disabilities.
- Provide more support for people with staying safe when using the internet.

How will we know if we've made a difference

- More people with learning disabilities will use technology safely to help them be more independent.

References

- Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board 2017. Together for Mental Health in North Wales.
- British Society for Disability and Oral Health 2012. Clinical Guidelines and Integrated Care Pathways for the Oral Health Care of People with Learning Disabilities. *In: Faculty of Dental Surgery, T.R.C.o.S.o.E. (ed.)*.
- Bryan, K. and Mackenzie, J. 2008. Meeting the Speech, Language and Communication Needs of Vulnerable Young People.
- Care Quality Commission 2016. A different ending: Addressing inequalities in end of life care.
- Carey, I. M., Shah, S. M., Hosking, F. J., DeWilde, S., Harris, T., Beighton, C. and Cook, D. G. (2016) 'Health characteristics and consultation patterns of people with intellectual disability: a cross-sectional database study in English general practice', *British Journal of General Practice*.
- Children's Commissioner for Wales 2014. Full Lives: A study of short breaks provision for children and young people with disabilities and their carers in Wales.
- Children's Commissioner for Wales 2018. 'Don't hold back' Transitions to adulthood for young people with learning disabilities.
- Community Care (2015) *Decisions to safeguard adults with learning disabilities can make them less safe*. Available at: <http://www.communitycare.co.uk/2015/04/21/decisions-safeguard-adults-learning-disabilities-can-make-less-safe/>.
- Conwy Connect (2014) *Reducing Stigma*. Available at: <http://www.conwy-connect.org.uk/category/engagement-service/reducing-stigma/>.
- Conwy County Borough Council (2013) *Families First Research*. Available at: <http://www.conwy.gov.uk/doc.asp?doc=31283&cat=10032&Language=1>.
- Cooper, S.-A., Smiley, E., Morrison, J., Allan, L. and Williamson, A. (2007) 'Prevalence of and associations with mental ill-health in adults with intellectual disabilities', *British Journal of Psychiatry*, 190, pp. 27-35.
- CSSIW 2016. National inspection of care and support for people with learning disabilities.
- Department of Health 2001. Valuing People: A new Strategy for Learning Disability in the 21st Century. London: Department of Health.
- Doukas, T., Fergusson, A., Fullerton, M. and Grace, J. 2017. Supporting people with profound and multiple learning disabilities.
- Emerson, E. and Heslop, P. 2010. A working definition of Learning Disabilities. Improving health and lives: Learning Disabilities Observatory.
- Emerson, E., Malam, S., Davies, I. and Spencer, K. 2005. Adults with Learning Difficulties in England 2003/4. NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre.
- Hay, A. 2017. Development of respite/short-term break resources across North Wales for individuals with a learning disability or complex needs and their carers.
- HM Government 2006. Working Together to Safeguard Children. *A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children*. London: TSO.
- Holland, A. J. (2000) 'Ageing and learning disability', *The British Journal of Psychiatry*, 176, pp. 26-31.
- Holland, A. J., Hon, J., Huppert, F. A., Stevens, F. and Watson, P. (1998) 'Population based study of the prevalence and presentation of dementia in adults with Down's syndrome.', *British Journal of Psychiatry*, 172, pp. 493-498.
- Hosking, F. J., Carey, I., Shah, S. M., Harris, T., DeWilde, S., Beighton, C. and Cook, D. G. (2016) 'Mortality among adults with intellectual disability in England: comparisons with the general population', *The American Journal of Public Health*, 106(8), pp. 1483-1490.
- Isle of Anglesey County Council, Gwynedd Council, Conwy County Borough Council, Denbighshire County Council, Flintshire County Council, Wrexham County Borough Council and Betsi

- Cadwaladr University Health Board 2016. North Wales population assessment: Analysis of feedback from organisations.
- Jones, E., Perry, J., Lowe, K., Allen, D., Toogood, S. and Felce, D. 2014. Active Support: A handbook for supporting people with learning disabilities to lead full lives. ARC Cymru.
- Kelly, A. 2002. Working with adults with a learning disability. Oxon: Speechmark.
- Kerr, D. 2007. Understanding Learning Disability and Dementia: Developing Effective Interventions. London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers.
- Learning Disabilities Observatory 2011. Health inequalities and people with learning disabilities in the UK.
- Llewellyn, M., Duggan, B., Graham, S. and McDonald, M. 2018. Research on experience of service families with children with additional learning needs in education in Wales. *In: Welsh Institute for Health and Social Care, U.o.S.W. & Arad Research (eds.). SSCE Cymru.*
- McShea, L. (2014) 'Hearing loss in people with learning disabilities', *British Journal of Health Care Assistants*, 7(12).
- Mencap 2012. Death by indifference: 74 deaths and counting. *A progress report 5 years on.*
- Mencap and PMLD Network 2013. Raising our Sights guides.
- Mobius UK (2008) *Developing 'citizen centred' services for people with learning disabilities*: North Wales Social Services Improvement Collaborative. Available at: http://www.asdinfo.wales.co.uk/resource/q_s_NWSSIC_-_Final_report.pdf.
- Multi-agency task and finish group 2013. Access to justice. *In: Royal College of Psychiatrists, Public Health Wales, Welsh Government, Learning Disability Wales, Mencap Cymru, NHS Wales, HM Prison Service, National Offender Management Service, CPS, All Wales Criminal Justice Board, North Wales Police, South Wales Police, Gwent Police, Dyfed Powys Police, Prison Reform Trust, Wales Probation & Service, H.C.a.T. (eds.).*
- Naseem, M., Shah, A., Khiyani, M., Khurshid, Z., Zafar, M., Gulzar, S., AlJameel, A. and Khalil, H. (2016) 'Access to oral health care services among adults with learning disabilities: a scoping review', *Annali di Stomatologia*, 7(3), pp. 52-29.
- National Commissioning Board 2017. Commissioning Services for People with a Learning Disability: Good Practice Guidance. *In: Institute of Public Care (ed.).*
- National Commissioning Board Wales 2018. Good Practice Guidance for Regional Partnership Boards on Integrated Commissioning of Services for Families, Children and Young People with complex needs.
- National Institute for Health and Care Excellence 2016. Mental health problems in people with learning disabilities: prevention, assessment and management.
- North Wales Learning Disability Partnership 2015a. Evaluation report: North Wales Learning Disabilities Event 26 March 2015.
- North Wales Learning Disability Partnership 2015b. Participation Strategy.
- North Wales Safeguarding Board 2017. Safeguard People with Learning Disabilities from Forced Marriage - 7 Minute Briefing.
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner North Wales 2017. Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021.
- Public Health England 2016. Making reasonable adjustments to dysphagia services for people with learning disabilities.
- RNIB 2010. Research briefing: Estimates of the number of adults in the UK with learning disabilities and visual impairment.
- Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists 2013. Five good communication standards. *Reasonable adjustments to communication that individuals with learning disability and/or autism should expect in specialist hospital and residential settings.*
- Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists 2017. Supporting people with learning disabilities.

- Stewart, A. and McIntyre, G. 2017. Parents with learning disabilities. Glasgow: Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services.
- Talbot, J. 2008. Prisoners' voices: Experiences of the criminal justice system by prisoners with learning disabilities and difficulties. *No One Knows: Report and final recommendations*. Prison Reform Trust,.
- The Communication Trust 2010. Sentence Trouble.
- Toms, G., Totsika, V., Hastings, R. and Healy, H. (2015) '**Access to services by children with intellectual disability and mental health problems: Population-based evidence from the UK**', *Journal of Intellectual and Developmental Disability*, 40(3), pp. 239-247.
- Wales Audit Office 2018. Strategic Commissioning of Accommodation Services for Adults with Learning Disabilities.
- Ward, C. 2012. BILD Factsheet: Older people with a learning disability. British Institute of Learning Disabilities.
- Welsh Government 2015. Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014: Part 9 Code of Practice (Partnership Arrangements).
- Welsh Government 2017a. Palliative and End of Life Care Delivery Plan.
- Welsh Government 2017b. Prosperity for All: the national strategy.
- Welsh Government 2018a. A Healthier Wales: our Plan for Health and Social Care.
- Welsh Government 2018b. Improving Outcomes for Children Ministerial Advisory Group.
- Welsh Government 2018c. Learning Disability: Improving Lives Programme.
- Welsh Government 2018d. Parliamentary Review of Health and Social Care in Wales. *A Revolution from Within: Transforming Health and Care in Wales*.

Appendix 1: Baseline data

This appendix includes the baseline data gathered to inform the strategy.

Children and young people

There are reliability issues with much of the data collected about children with learning disabilities due to differences in the definitions used and the way data is collected. In place of data about the number of children who have a learning disability we have used data about the number of children who have a [learning difficulty](#), which is a broader term which includes people with specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia. We have also used data about the total number of disabled children which includes children who have a physical impairment but not a learning disability as a proxy in places.

There are around 102,000 pupils in North Wales, the total school-age population. Table 2 below shows the number of pupils who have a learning difficulty. The way education services define learning difficulties as moderate, severe or profound is different to the way social services assess whether someone needs support from learning disability services. These figures can't therefore be used to tell how many young people are likely to need support from learning disability services as adults.

Table 1: Number of pupils with a learning difficulty, 2016-17

	Moderate	Severe	Profound	ASD
Anglesey	335	135	20	125
Gwynedd	820	130	50	115
Conwy	360	45	30	325
Denbighshire	250	85	30	375
Flintshire	885	95	40	245
Wrexham	695	115	30	295
North Wales	3,345	605	200	1,480

Source: PLASC, Welsh Government, [Stats Wales](#)

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5.

Table 2: Estimated number of children aged 0-17 with a learning difficulty

	Moderate	Severe	Profound
Anglesey	777	100	25
Gwynedd	700	91	22
Conwy	1143	148	36
Denbighshire	818	106	26
Flintshire	494	64	16
Wrexham	1,095	142	35
North Wales	5,027	651	160

Source: Daffodil, estimates based on prevalence in the population

Table 3 shows the number of children receiving care and support who have a disability or Statement of Special Educational needs.

Table 3: Number of children receiving care and support with a disability or Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) (2017)

	Children with a disability	Children with a Statement of SEN
Anglesey	75	65
Gwynedd	245	175
Conwy	155	120
Denbighshire	90	35
Flintshire	65	40
Wrexham	65	75
North Wales	695	505

Source: Children Receiving Care and Support Census, Welsh Government, StatsWales

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5.

Table 4: Number of children aged 0-17 with a moderate learning difficulty, 2017 to 2035

	2017	2020	2025	2030	2035	Predicted change between 2017 and 2035
Anglesey	490	505	505	480	450	-46
Gwynedd	820	820	830	840	860	38
Conwy	780	790	780	750	700	-76
Denbighshire	700	720	730	710	690	-15
Flintshire	1,140	1,150	1,140	1,080	1,030	-120
Wrexham	1,100	1,130	1,150	1,130	1,120	29
North Wales	5,030	5,100	5,130	4,980	4,840	-190

Source: Daffodil, estimates based on prevalence in the population

Numbers have been rounded so may not sum.

Table 5: Number of children under 16 in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) February 2018

	Age under 5	Aged 5 to under 11	Aged 11 to under 16	Total
Anglesey	50	190	180	420
Gwynedd	70	300	290	660
Conwy	80	410	410	900
Denbighshire	100	380	480	960
Flintshire	120	490	490	1,100
Wrexham	100	510	620	1,230
North Wales	510	2,270	2,460	5,240

Source: ONS (from Nomis)

Numbers have been rounded so may not sum.

There is no consistent data available about the number of children with a learning disability in foster placements. The number of children in North Wales on the learning disability register in foster placements is 23 in 2016-17 which seems like an undercount. The table below shows the total number of looked after disabled children.

Table 6: Number of disabled children looked after at 31 March 2017

	2014-15
Anglesey	15
Gwynedd	25
Conwy	15
Denbighshire	30
Flintshire	30
Wrexham	<5
North Wales	120

Source: Children receiving care and support census, StatsWales.

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5

Table 7: Number of special schools and pupils in North Wales, 2017-18

	Number of schools	Number of pupils
Anglesey	1	92
Gwynedd	2	215
Conwy	1	221
Denbighshire	2	277
Flintshire	2	209
Wrexham	1	295
North Wales	9	1,309

Source: Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC), Welsh Government, Stats Wales

Adults

Table 8: Number of adults aged 18 and over predicted to have a learning disability, 2017 to 2035

	2017	2020	2025	2030	2035	Predicted change between 2017 and 2035
Anglesey	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	-20
Gwynedd	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,500	2,500	170
Conwy	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200	20
Denbighshire	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,900	1,900	120
Flintshire	2,900	2,900	2,900	2,900	2,900	60
Wrexham	2,600	2,700	2,800	3,000	3,100	440
North Wales	13,100	13,300	13,400	13,700	13,900	780

Source: Daffodil

Table 9: Number of adults aged 18 and over predicted to have a moderate or severe learning disability, 2017 to 2035

	2017	2020	2025	2030	2035	Predicted change between 2017 and 2035
Anglesey	260	260	250	250	250	-20
Gwynedd	480	490	490	500	510	30
Conwy	430	430	420	420	420	-10
Denbighshire	360	360	360	370	370	10
Flintshire	590	590	580	580	580	-10
Wrexham	550	560	580	610	630	80
North Wales	2,680	2,680	2,690	2,730	2,750	80

Source: Daffodil, estimates based on prevalence in the population

Note: The number of adults aged 18-64 is predicted to decline by around 25 people, which is why the increase in the total adults aged 18 and over is lower than the increase in the total adults aged 65 and over.

Table 10: Number of adults aged 65 and over predicted to have a learning disability, 2017 to 2035

	2017	2020	2025	2030	2035	Predicted change between 2017 and 2035
Anglesey	370	390	420	440	460	90
Gwynedd	580	590	620	660	690	120
Conwy	660	680	730	790	840	190
Denbighshire	480	500	540	590	630	150
Flintshire	680	720	770	850	920	240
Wrexham	570	600	660	730	800	230
North Wales	3,330	3,490	3,730	4,060	4,350	1,010

Source: Daffodil, estimates based on prevalence in the population

Table 11: Number of adults aged 65 and over predicted to have a moderate or severe learning disability, 2017 to 2035

	2017	2020	2025	2030	2035	Predicted change between 2017 and 2035
Anglesey	50	50	50	60	60	10
Gwynedd	80	80	80	90	90	10
Conwy	90	90	90	100	110	20
Denbighshire	60	70	70	80	80	20
Flintshire	90	100	100	110	120	30
Wrexham	80	80	90	90	100	30
North Wales	450	470	490	520	550	110

Source: Daffodil, estimates based on prevalence in the population

Expenditure on services

Local authorities had spent around £85 million a year in North Wales on services for people with learning disabilities as shown in table 4 and 5 below. This increased to £96 million in 2016-17 due to transfers to meet the cost of providing support to former Independent Living Fund (ILF) recipients.

Table 12: Social services revenue expenditure, adults aged under 65 with learning disabilities

	£ thousands					
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Anglesey	8,134	6,936	6,812	7,180	7,763	8,373
Gwynedd	12,733	12,223	13,105	13,386	14,931	15,911
Conwy	16,791	16,095	16,401	16,362	16,729	18,676
Denbighshire	11,685	12,001	12,045	12,781	9,993	14,230
Flintshire	18,676	17,650	17,697	17,959	20,194	21,814
Wrexham	16,368	16,096	15,811	15,163	14,440	17,122
North Wales	84,387	81,001	81,871	82,831	84,050	96,126

Source: Revenue outturn data collection, Welsh Government, StatsWales

Table 13: Social services capital expenditure on personal social services

	£ thousands					
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Anglesey	21,619	25,428	24,105	21,288	43,976	36,640
Gwynedd	35,752	42,470	41,461	32,417	35,534	29,309
Conwy	28,009	28,704	38,630	27,966	19,426	30,478
Denbighshire	39,733	38,345	42,003	35,662	88,562	42,964
Flintshire	43,026	39,821	38,058	40,401	140,301	63,493
Wrexham	56,042	42,250	45,144	54,847	219,453	84,208
North Wales	224,182	217,018	229,401	212,581	547,252	287,092

Source: Capital outturn (COR) data collection, Welsh Government, StatsWales

Continuing health care

There are 280 people with learning disabilities in receipt of continuing health care funding in North Wales. Of these, 224 are jointly funded between health and social services and 56 are fully funded by health.

Compliments and complaints

Overall during 2016-17 local council and health services received around 40 formal complaints about learning disability services. Most complaints are resolved informally. The numbers are too few to identify any trends or issues developing across North Wales.

The number of formal complaints received by local authority learning disability services is listed in the table below. The numbers can't be compared against each other or year

to year as they are counted differently. For example, some services include children and adults while others include adults only and some figures are for a whole disability service rather than the learning disability service. The data shows how the number of complaints increases when services change or are reduced.

Table 14: Number of formal complaints received, Learning Disability, 2016-17

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Anglesey	<5	<5	<5
Gwynedd	10	<5	<5
Conwy	5	5	10
Denbighshire	5	5	5
Flintshire	20	60	10
Wrexham	30	10	10
BCUHB	<5	10	<5
North Wales	80	90	40

Source: Local authority data collection

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5.

Local authorities and health services also receive compliments about the work they are doing well.

Community based, residential services and nursing care

Please note, the data is not available for 2015-16 due to reduced data collection.

Table 15: Number of adults (over 18) with a learning disability who receive community-based services

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Anglesey	170	126	154	172	174
Gwynedd	246	255	275	203	332
Conwy	324	358	393	398	381
Denbighshire	222	256	277	288	295
Flintshire	422	368	398	418	424
Wrexham	281	271	268	285	276
North Wales	1,665	1,634	1,765	1,764	1,882

Source: StatsWales

Table 16: Number of adults (over 18) with a learning disability who receive residential services

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Anglesey	37	37	29	34	28
Gwynedd	15	23	34	41	49
Conwy	73	83	74	75	69
Denbighshire	55	50	49	49	52
Flintshire	44	42	46	42	52
Wrexham	43	39	40	36	34
North Wales	267	274	272	277	284

Source: StatsWales

Table 17: Number of adults (over 18) receiving nursing care (Independent sector care homes)

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Anglesey	2	2	3	4	3
Gwynedd	0	0	0	2	2
Conwy	10	15	16	17	15
Denbighshire	0	0	0	0	1
Flintshire	1	3	4	7	4
Wrexham	16	4	2	1	1
North Wales	29	24	25	31	26

Source: Stats Wales

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards

The table below shows the number of DoLS referrals made by each local authority for people with learning disabilities during 2016-17.

Table 18: Number of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) referrals, 2016-17

	2016-17
Anglesey	14
Gwynedd	25
Conwy	65
Denbighshire	27
Flintshire	21
Wrexham	8
North Wales	160

Source: Local authority data collection

Safeguarding

The table below shows the numbers of crimes in each county although the numbers are not large enough to show any trend over time or significant differences between counties.

Table 19: Number of crimes linked to victims with learning disabilities

2012-2016		North Wales	
Anglesey	5	2012	5
Gwynedd	5	2013	10
Conwy	10	2014	15
Denbighshire	10	2015	5
Flintshire	10	2016	20
Wrexham	10		
North Wales	50	Total	50

Source: North Wales Police

Numbers have been rounded so may not sum.

The table below shows the number of safeguarding concerns in each county in North Wales.

Table 20: Number of adult safeguarding concerns concerning adults with learning disabilities

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Anglesey	20	30	20	25
Gwynedd	20	35	15	30
Conwy	55	60	60	50
Denbighshire	20	30	15	40
Flintshire	30	55	50	35
Wrexham	30	30	30	50
North Wales	180	240	190	230

Source: StatsWales

Numbers have been rounded so may not sum.

Out of area placements

Data collected for the strategy found that there were around 20 children and young people aged under 18 who were placed out of county or region. Fewer than five of these were placed out of county by choice, for example, because they are closer to family or because have been placed with family (connected person) out of county for safeguarding reasons. Ten of the children had a severe learning disability. The most common need was around challenging behaviour followed by autism, physical disability and hearing impairment. Most of the out of county placements were in foster placements or specialist residential schools. The most common placement length was for between 2 to 4 years with fewer than 5 placements for over 10 years.

For adults there were around 160 people placed out of county or region, with 20 of these placed out of county by choice, for example to be closer to family. Around 60 of the people placed out of county have severe learning disability, 50 have a moderate learning disability and 35 have a mild learning disability. Around half of the people placed out of county had needs around challenging behaviour. The next most common need was autism followed by mental health (dual diagnosis), forensic and physical

disability. Fewer than 5 people were placed out of county with needs relating to visual and hearing impairments and dementia in each category. The majority of placements (115) were residential and around 30 were in hospital. Around 10 of the placements were tenancy based with fewer than 5 placements in each of shared lives and specialist residential school. There were a range of placement lengths with no real differences in placement lengths between people in placements by choice and others. There were around 30 people who had been in a placement out of county for 10 years or more.

Screening programmes

The Screening Division of Public Health Wales invites the eligible screening population to take part in screening programmes operating in Wales. Eligibility for programmes is based on age, gender and residence. The Division does not currently capture information on whether a person has a learning disability or any other protected characteristic however programmes are continually striving to improve programme performance through working collaboratively with partners.

Current Programmes in Wales include:

- Breast Test Wales
- Cervical Screening Wales
- Bowel Screening Wales
- Wales Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Programme
- Diabetic Eye Screening Wales
- Antenatal Screening Wales
- Newborn Hearing Screening Wales
- Newborn Bloodspot Screening Wales

For more information about the screening programmes in Wales visit:

<http://www.screeningforlife.wales.nhs.uk/home>

Each year, Screening Division produces, by programme, a series of annual statistical reports which give an overview of screening performance in Wales. These reports include a variety of national statistics including information on the number of people who take part in screening, what the results are, and how many people need to go on for further investigation. At a local level, the Division also produces GP Cluster, Health Board and Local authority data.

For more information in relation to national and local statistical reports visit:

- Annual Statistical Reports: <http://www.screeningforlife.wales.nhs.uk/statistical-reports-1>
- Uptake and Coverage by health Board and Local Authority: <http://www.screeningforlife.wales.nhs.uk/uptake-coverage-by-health-board-and-loca>
- GP Cluster: <http://www.screeningforlife.wales.nhs.uk/uptake-by-gp-cluster>

Data collected by the North Wales Health Liaison Team suggests that people with learning disabilities are less likely to engage with the national screening programmes when invited. Screening questions form part of the annual health check. The data on screening take-up from the health check data is included in the table below. Please note this only includes information available to the health liaison team and may be an undercount as this section is not always filled in.

Table 21: Number of screening opportunities taken up, 2017-18

	Number eligible	Number who took up the opportunity	Percentage take up
Breast screening	100	10	10%
Bowel screening	65	5	9%
Cervical screening	305	20	6%

Source: North Wales Health Liaison Team

Numbers have been rounded so may not sum.

Healthy lifestyles

There is a record of Body Mass Index (BMI) for 454 adults with learning disabilities in North Wales (excluding Conwy) and 178 of those had a BMI in the obese range (30 or higher). No adults had a BMI in the underweight range. The data was not available from Conwy GPs.

In-patient units at Bryn y Neuadd

- Mesan Fach Assessment and Treatment Unit
- Tan y Coed rehabilitation provision
- Foelas assessment and treatment unit for people with PMLD.

The number of admissions of people with learning disabilities who were admitted to in-patient units in Bryn y Neuadd in 2016-17 were as follows.

- 16 admissions to Mesen Fach due to challenging behaviour.
- 22 admissions to Mesen Fach due to mental health needs.
- Less than 5 admissions to Mesen Fach with additional physical health needs and 5 admissions to Foelas with physical health needs.
- 5 people were admitted once or more to both in-patient and mental health and learning disability care for management of challenging behaviour during the year.



North Wales Learning Disability Strategy v1

Wellbeing Impact Assessment Report

This report summarises the likely impact of a proposal on the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the region, Wales and the world.

Assessment Number:	302.1								
Brief description:	<p>The North Wales Learning Disability Strategy sets out how we will work towards integrated learning disability services in North Wales.</p> <p>Support for people with learning disabilities is a priority in the North Wales Regional Plan (Area Plan) based on what people told us was important to them as part of the population assessment produced by the Regional Partnership Board.</p> <p>The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 includes a statutory duty for Regional Partnership Boards to prioritise the integration of services in relation to people with learning disabilities.</p>								
Date Completed:	August 2018, Version: 1								
Completed by:	<table><tr><td>Sarah Bartlett</td><td>Regional Collaboration Team</td></tr><tr><td>Neil Ayling</td><td>Flintshire County Council</td></tr><tr><td>Claire Lister</td><td>Conwy County Borough Council</td></tr><tr><td>Lesley Singleton</td><td>BCUHB</td></tr></table>	Sarah Bartlett	Regional Collaboration Team	Neil Ayling	Flintshire County Council	Claire Lister	Conwy County Borough Council	Lesley Singleton	BCUHB
Sarah Bartlett	Regional Collaboration Team								
Neil Ayling	Flintshire County Council								
Claire Lister	Conwy County Borough Council								
Lesley Singleton	BCUHB								
Key stakeholders and consultation	<p>The plan will affect people with children, young people and adults with learning disabilities and their parents/carers.</p> <p>We consulted with people through established groups, face to face interviews, workshops and an online questionnaire. The questionnaire was also available in easy read.</p> <p>For details see the strategy consultation report.</p>								

Policies that may affect the proposal	<p>Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014</p> <p>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015</p> <p>Regulation of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016</p> <p>Children Act 1989</p> <p>Childcare Act (2006)</p> <p>Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal Bill 2015</p> <p>United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child</p> <p>Play Sufficiency Duty</p> <p>Strategy for Older People in Wales 2013-23</p> <p>United Nations Principles for Older Persons</p> <p>Welsh Government Declaration of the Rights of Older People in Wales</p> <p>Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010</p> <p>Mental Capacity Act 2005</p> <p>Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015</p> <p>Serious Crimes Act</p> <p>Housing (Wales) Act 2014</p>
Responsible Service:	Regional Partnership Board
Localities affected by the proposal:	North Wales

IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Before we look in detail at the contribution and impact of the proposal, it is important to consider how the proposal is applying the sustainable development principle. This means that we must act "in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Score for the sustainability of the approach

Could some small changes in your thinking produce a better result?



(3 out of 4 stars)

Actual score : 20 / 24.

Summary of impact

Wellbeing Goals



A prosperous region	Positive and negative
A resilient region	
A healthier region	Positive
A more equal region	Positive and negative
A region of cohesive communities	Positive
A region of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	Positive
A globally responsible region	Positive

Main conclusions

The aim of the plan is to show how we will integrate services for people with learning disabilities in North Wales. If the plan's aims are achieved it should have a positive impact on people's health, reduce inequalities and support the development of cohesive communities in North Wales.

There are potential negative impacts which may result, particularly from difficult choices about where to prioritise investment which may disadvantage some groups over others. There are also potential positive and negative impacts from the way we will commission, procure and use and develop physical assets in the region to meet care and support needs.

The impact assessment has highlighted some potential impacts of the Learning Disability Strategy and we recommend that the impacts continue to be assessed as further strategic and operational decisions are made about how to implement the plan.

The approach taken to completing the Well-being Impact Assessment was to discuss the assessment at a meeting of the project leads.

THE LIKELY IMPACT ON THE REGION, WALES AND THE WORLD

A prosperous region

Overall Impact	Positive and negative
Justification for impact	There are potential negative impacts on progress towards a low carbon society as the focus on meeting care and support needs may not lead to the most energy efficient model of service provision. There may be a negative impact on economic development as there is a risk that integration and new service models will mean fewer jobs available. There also may be positive impacts on economic development from including more people with learning disabilities into the workforce. The models chosen may also have positive impacts on progress towards a low carbon society and economic development.

Positive consequences identified:

Providing services closer to home and making the most of support available from friends, family and within local communities can be more efficient and reduce the need to travel. There may be positive impacts from the development of extra care and shared housing which use energy efficiently, for example, for heating.

The social care and health sectors can have a positive impact on the local economy by providing employment and business opportunities for providing care as well as providing products and services to care providers. Improving employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities can also have a positive impact on the local economy.

Developing the health and social care workforce is a key element of delivering the strategy which will contribute to quality jobs in the region. The choice of service model and provider could have a positive impact on the number, quality and length of jobs available. See the regional workforce strategy for more information.

Will need to consider best use of communications, infrastructure and transport when choosing where to base services.

The plan may affect the workforce's childcare needs and childcare may be needed to make services accessible and to support parent carers.

Unintended negative consequences identified:

There may be negative impacts on energy efficiency of service models that support people in their own homes instead of shared housing or care homes. These models may also increase the distances support workers travel. Working regionally to develop the strategy creates more car journeys as people travel to meetings.

Working regionally to use buying power to reduce costs can have negative impacts on the economy if it leads to low paid, insecure employment and reduces the ability of providers to invest in their businesses. Commissioning larger scale contracts can make it more difficult for small, local providers to compete in the market.

Making services more efficient may mean reducing the number of jobs. The choice of service model and provider could have a negative impact on the number, quality and length of jobs available.

Will need to consider best use of communications, infrastructure and transport when choosing where to base services.

The plan may affect the workforce's childcare needs and childcare may be needed to make services accessible.

Mitigating actions:

Considering the impacts when more is known about the specific models will help mitigate the impacts. We can look at ways to reduce the carbon footprint of developing the Learning Disability Strategy by looking at the number of meetings held and the way people travel to them, for example, meeting in places accessible by public transport or encouraging car sharing. We have tried to make use of existing meetings wherever possible including the Learning Disability Partnership, North Wales Managers of Services for Disabled Children Group and Learning Disability Regional Participation Group.

A resilient region

Overall Impact	
Justification for impact	The impact will need to be considered when more is known about building projects which may result from the regional plan.

Positive consequences identified:

Learning disability services developed in response to strategy will need to consider how they can reduce waste, reuse and recycle. This could be considered as part of the commissioning process.

Services developed will need to consider how they can reduce energy/fuel consumption. This could be considered as part of the commissioning process.

People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity may not be affected directly but there may be specific projects, for example, to improve well-being by making the most of the natural environment, which will have a positive impact.

Unintended negative consequences identified:

The strategy may lead to building projects which could have a negative impact on biodiversity and the natural and built environment.

Developing a regional strategy does lead to increased fuel consumption due to travelling to meetings. The strategy may lead to building projects which could have a negative impact on flood risk management.

Mitigating actions:

The energy/fuel consumption of developing regional projects can be minimised by making use of technology to reduce the number of meetings and encouraging people to use public transport, car share and use fuel efficient vehicles to travel. We have tried to make use of existing meetings wherever possible including the Learning Disability Partnership, North Wales Managers of Services for Disabled Children Group and Learning Disability Regional Participation Group. There may be opportunities to promote awareness of the environment and biodiversity when developing projects to improve well-being.

A healthier region

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Overall the regional plan aims to improve health and should have a positive impact.

Positive consequences identified:

'Being healthy' is one of the main themes in the strategy which aims to improve the health and well-being of people with learning disabilities and address health inequalities. This includes improving take-up of cancer screening services.

Access to good quality, healthy food: the consultation identified concerns that people in supported living accommodation may not have access to good quality, healthy food. The strategy should help to address this.

Providing support based around 'what matters' to people should help increase participation in chosen leisure opportunities along with the strategies aims to include people with learning disabilities in local community activities.

The strategy is closely linked to the North Wales Together For Mental Health Strategy and should promote mental well-being and support people who have a learning disability and mental health needs.

The strategy includes recommendations for improving access to health care.

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Access to good quality, healthy food: services delivered in response to the regional plan do provide food which may have a negative impact. Will need to be considered by each service.

Mitigating actions:

To minimise any negative impacts the specific health impacts of services should be considered as they are developed.

A more equal region

Overall Impact	Positive and negative
Justification for impact	<p>We can say the impact on tackling poverty will be positive more confidently than the impact on people with protected characteristics. The plan promotes advocacy which can help to improve the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The impact assessment will need to be revisited as plans progress.</p> <p>Implementation of integrated services, including a workforce plan, will need to ensure we collectively alleviate poverty. Any issues around workforce pay and conditions will be considered further along in the process. Due to the higher than average proportion of people from ethnic minority groups employed in health and social care employed in North Wales changes to the workforce may have a disproportionate impact on these groups.</p>

The protected characteristics considered are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage or civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- *For Welsh Language, please see [a region of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language](#)*

Using a screening tool we identified potential positive and negative impacts of the plan on all protected groups (appendix 1). The areas we considered were:

- Does the proposal relate to an area where there are known inequalities?
- To what extent will service users, employees or the wider community be affected?
- How will you know the needs of people with protected characteristics? What about individuals who have multiple protected characteristics? Does it relate to an area where there is a lack of published research or other evidence?
- Does it relate to an area where your organisation has set equality outcomes?
- Is there any evidence of higher or lower take-up or satisfaction by any of the identified groups?
- If there are limitations or barriers to access, do these amount to unlawful discrimination or is there potential for reducing inequalities or improving outcomes?

Positive consequences identified:

Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics

The strategy aims to improve the well-being of people with learning disabilities based around what matters to them. This should have positive impact on people with protected characteristics related to disability. People with learning disabilities may have other protected characteristics and experience additional disadvantage because of these. For example, older people with learning disabilities and people with profound and multiple disabilities and the use of the Welsh language. In the Criminal Justice System people may face additional disadvantage due to race/ethnicity in addition to disadvantage faced due to their learning disability. The strategy aims to take account of these different needs by providing person-centred services which should help to address inequalities.

Because the strategy is being produced on a regional basis it's easier for people with protected characteristics to get involved which may have financial benefits, avoid duplication and so on.

There is more information in the population assessment which includes an equalities and human rights section in each chapter which summarises the evidence available about the needs of people with protected characteristics and any gaps. The evidence used included research reports and consultation. A full consultation report is available.

Addressing/reducing health inequalities

A key theme of the strategy is around reducing health inequalities which will look at improving take up of cancer screening services, supporting wider health services to make reasonable adjustments for people with learning disabilities and promoting healthier lifestyles.

Tackling poverty

The strategy aims to tackle poverty by increasing the number of people with learning disabilities in paid employment. There are many factors that could affect poverty outside the control of the plan, such as changes to the benefits system and the introduction of Universal Credit. These were highlighted as concerns in the consultation.

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics

Raised expectations as a result of consulting.

Raised expectations of the third sector to deliver and meet needs.

The capacity of the public sector to meet the needs identified in the strategy.

The strategy may not identify cumulative impacts, for example, on people with a number of different protected characteristics, or combined with other needs such as poverty or caring responsibilities.

There is more information in the population assessment reference library and population assessment consultation report about issues facing these groups.

Feedback from the consultation for the population assessment highlighted concerns that the ethnic minority and migrant population in North Wales is exposed to conditions of rising hostility and is vulnerable to the harassment that has been

identified as contributing to mental health problems, especially in rural locations. It also highlighted the need to take account of the different needs of women and men.

One in four people from a BAME background employed in North Wales are employed in the health and social care sector. Any changes from the plan that affect the workforce could have a disproportionate impact on these groups.

Tackling poverty

Services are increasingly accessed online – a reduction in alternatives could have a disproportionate impact on people who don't have access to the internet due to poverty or protected characteristics. The strategy includes an aim to increase the use of technology to support people with learning disabilities to live independently.

Mitigating actions:

The strategy includes a section on equality and human rights which highlights the importance of taking into account additional disadvantage people who have more than one protected characteristic may experience.

Some groups representing people with protected characteristics responded and engaged but we have less detailed information/engagement with groups/people representing other people with protected characteristics. As services are developed we need to talk to people about the detail, for example, moving some services can have a positive impact on some and negatively impact others. However, a more strategic regional approach has to improve service provision and reduce/remove gaps.

We will take a co-productive approach to putting the strategy into action which means that where possible individuals will become more involved in the design and delivery of services. This will help make sure that the different needs of individuals with protected characteristics are met.

Equality principles to be considered: Equality of opportunity and equality of access, for example, education, housing, access to outdoor space, transport and connectivity between areas, public amenities, access to the natural environment, information technology, health care and leisure, the cost of participation. Equality monitoring and analysis - commitment to on-going engagement each area to refer to its own Strategic Equality Plan and take necessary steps. We need to make an ongoing commitment to co-production.

During the equality impact assessment process the strategy has been amended to include findings from the consultation about the impact on people with protected characteristics.

The progress against the plan and outcomes will be monitored through the Regional Partnership Board's annual report.

Evidence documents

North Wales Learning Disability Strategy Consultation Report

North Wales Regional Plan Consultation Report

North Wales Population Assessment

North Wales Population Assessment Consultation Report

Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 Part 2 Code of Practice (General Functions)

Population assessment toolkit (Social Care Wales)

Area plan template (Social Care Wales)

Welsh Government Part 2 Equalities Impact Assessment

Strategic Equality Plans of the six local authorities and BCUHB

Population Assessment reference library (see Endnote database). The library includes:

- research reports, for example, on developing inclusive residential care for older LGBT people;
- findings from other consultations with people with protected characteristics, such as a report on access to statutory services from the perspective of Minority Ethnic Elders in North Wales;
- links to statistics measuring inequality in North Wales.

A region of cohesive communities

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	If the aims are achieved the Learning Disability Strategy should have a positive impact on community cohesion. The impact will depend on what mitigation we put in place and the links with the other strategies. It may change over time as people are involved and projects develop.

Positive consequences identified:

Links with North Wales Safeguarding Adults and Children's Boards; Area Planning Board.

Plan to continue participation as the strategy is put into action. The strategy includes information about advocacy and an active offer of services in Welsh as well as promoting the role of the third sector and social enterprises.

More appropriate housing for vulnerable groups in safe areas. Links to LDP and housing strategies and transport strategies.

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Supporting some communities at the expense of others can cause problems. Promoting independent living - can be risks around safeguarding, victims of crime, fraud

Focus on people who are engaging or have an advocate means we can miss people who are not. Other groups may see housing for vulnerable people having a negative effect on their area.

Mitigating actions:

Clear communication to bring people along with us and make sure they are included. Engage with hard to reach groups and support hard to reach groups to engage with us, including people with one or more protected characteristics. Changing the way we do engagement to make it more accessible, go to places where people are. Challenges around resourcing this. Respond to engagement, make sure it helps shape services. Independent living - consider safeguarding, isolation issues, transport, social groups participation - what matters conversations. If the 'what matters' approach is working, these issues will be mitigated. Think about how we collate the information from 'what matters' conversations to inform services.

A region of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The Learning Disability Strategy aims to improve services available in the Welsh language.

Positive consequences identified:

The population assessment included a Welsh language profile and identified that there is a need for more services in Welsh and the consultation supported this finding.

The Learning Disability Strategy regional plan supports the requirement to make an 'active offer' of Welsh language services. This needs to be considered further when developing services.

The consultation identified opportunities to use culture and heritage to support well-being, for example, through social prescribing. Focussing on what matters to people should help access to culture and heritage they choose.

Unintended negative consequences identified:

If we are not able to recruit enough Welsh speaking staff our services could have a negative impact on the number of people using Welsh.

Mitigating actions:

See the regional workforce strategy and 'More than Words' project for more information.

A globally responsible region

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	There are benefits to working together as a region to write the strategy. Need to make sure we recognise the differences between areas and take the differences into account when designing services to meet local needs rather than regional structures.

Positive consequences identified:

Local, national and international supply chains are something to be considered as part of the projects when they reach the purchasing stage. Good commissioning will help providers plan services in future. We need to be clear about what's needed.

Integration of services done well should help. The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 requires us to support social enterprises.

The strategy puts a spotlight on specific human rights issues that can affect people in receipt of services, such as prisons, children's and older people's rights, trafficking. Making support available for people who are vulnerable can help uphold people's rights, such as support to stay at home and right to family life.

Coproduction approach - people's right to have a say and advocacy.

Should help to inform other provision. It should also make us more aware of what other organisations are doing and help us be more consistent which will help other organisations and service users navigate the systems.

Unintended negative consequences identified:

The more you integrate services, they become larger which makes larger national/international providers more likely to bid for them which can have a negative impact on local organisations. This can affect the market. Larger organisations may be more likely to buy from international suppliers which can have negative impact on local businesses. Need a coordinated approach to community benefits. Make sure local people can access jobs that are being created and we don't exclude accidentally, for example, with training requirements. If we don't get the engagement correct we may miss out picking up on human rights issues affecting hard to reach groups. If we don't get advocacy or coproduction right or people can't access services it will have a negative impact. Decisions around allocation of resources may have negative impacts. Regional working could make it less obvious how to engage. Who's delivering or leading on what, loss of local relationships, learning from other regionalisation projects. Impacts on smaller organisations who don't have capacity to work at local level. Standardising services may mean loss of good practice in some areas.

Mitigating actions:

Support other stakeholders and partners to form consortiums and partnerships so they can work more effectively at a regional level. Support small organisations to expand or increase capacity to work at a regional level.

Appendix 1: Screening tool

	Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Marriage or civil partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual orientation	Welsh language
Does the proposal relate to an area where there are known inequalities?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Will the proposal have a significant effect on these groups?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
How will you understand people's needs?	See population assessment and consultation reports	See population assessment and consultation reports	See population assessment and consultation reports	See population assessment and consultation reports	See population assessment and consultation reports	See population assessment and consultation reports	See population assessment and consultation reports	See population assessment and consultation reports	See population assessment and consultation reports	See population assessment and consultation reports
Evidence of higher or lower take-up or satisfaction?	See population assessment and consultation reports	See population assessment and consultation reports	See population assessment and consultation reports	See population assessment and consultation reports	See population assessment and consultation reports	See population assessment and consultation reports	See population assessment and consultation reports	See population assessment and consultation reports	See population assessment and consultation reports	See population assessment and consultation reports
Does the proposal discriminate against these groups?	Positive and negative effects	Positive and negative effects	Positive and negative effects	Positive and negative effects	Positive and negative effects	Positive and negative effects	Positive and negative effects	Positive and negative effects	Positive and negative effects	Positive and negative effects
Is there potential for reducing inequalities or improving outcomes?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes



CYDWEITHREDFA GWELLA GWASANAETHAU
GOFAL A LLESIANT **GOGLEDD CYMRU**

NORTH WALES SOCIAL CARE AND WELL-BEING
SERVICES IMPROVEMENT COLLABORATIVE

North Wales Learning Disability Strategy

Consultation report

August 2018



Contact us

North Wales Social Care and Well-being Improvement Collaborative

County Hall, Wynnstay Road, Ruthin, LL15 1YN

Email: sarah.bartlett@denbighshire.gov.uk

Phone: 01824 712432

www.northwalescollaborative.wales

Contents

Introduction	4
Background	4
Public sector equality duty	4
Consultation principles.....	5
Consultation and engagement	6
Consultation process	6
Consultation methods	7
Promotion plan	7
Consultation and engagement review.....	8
Organisations represented in the online survey.....	13
Local authorities and health	13
Service user groups and organisations	13
Consultation findings.....	15
Consultation survey	15
Research methods	15
Findings	15
Services that work well.....	16
What needs to be improved	17
A good place to live.....	20
Something to do.....	21
Friends, family and relationships.....	23
Being safe	23
Being healthy	23
The right support.....	25
Conclusion	28
‘Going Forward Together’ Event.....	29
Provider forum	30
Staff engagement event.....	30
Event findings.....	30
References.....	32

Introduction

An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken to identify potential inequalities arising from the development and delivery of the North Wales Learning Disability Strategy. The information gained through this process has been used to develop the North Wales Learning Disability Strategy.

This report provides details of the consultation undertaken as part of the Equality Impact Assessment and provides evidence of how we are meeting the requirements of the public sector equality duty.

Background

Support for people with learning disabilities is a priority in the [North Wales Regional Plan \(Area Plan\)](#) based on what people told us was important to them as part of the [population assessment](#) produced by the [Regional Partnership Board](#).

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 includes a statutory duty for Regional Partnership Boards to prioritise the integration of services in relation to people with learning disabilities (Welsh Government, 2015).

The Learning Disability Strategy sets out how we will work towards integrated learning disability services in North Wales. It has been developed jointly by the six North Wales councils and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) supported by Public Health Wales.

Actions and plans developed to implement the strategy will need an Equality Impact Assessment to assess their potential impact.

Public sector equality duty

The Equality Act 2010 introduced a new public sector duty which requires all public bodies to tackle discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and promote good relations. The table below outlines the duties of public bodies.

Public bodies must have due regard to the need to:	Having due regard for advancing equality means:
Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited under the Act.	Removing or minimising discrimination, harassment or victimisation suffered by people due to their protected characteristic.
Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.	Taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.

Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.	Taking steps to build communities where people feel confident that they belong and are comfortable mixing and interacting with others.
---	--

Councils in Wales also have specific legal duties set out in the Equality Act 2010 (Wales) regulations 2011 including assessing the impact of relevant policies and plans – the Equality Impact Assessment.

In order to establish a sound basis for the Learning Disability Strategy we have:

- reviewed the performance measurement and population indicator data recommended in the data catalogue provided by Welsh Government, along with other relevant local, regional and national data
- consulted as widely as possible across the North Wales region including with the general public, colleagues and people with protected characteristics;
- reviewed relevant research and consultation literature including legislation, strategies, commissioning plans, needs assessments and consultation reports.

Details of the local, regional and national data, the literature review and a summary of the consultation findings is provided in the [population assessment report](#) and the [regional plan consultation report](#).

This report sets out the additional consultation carried out for the Learning Disability Strategy:

- who we have consulted with;
- how we have consulted; and
- the consultation feedback.

Consultation principles

A key part of the Equality Impact Assessment is consulting with people who may be affected by the Learning Disability Strategy and in particular people with protected characteristics. The protected characteristics are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion and belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Welsh language

Case law has provided a set of consultation principles which describe the legal expectation on public bodies in the development of strategies, plans and services. These are known as the Gunning Principles:

1. Consultation must take place when the proposal is still at a formative stage.
2. Sufficient reasons must be put forward for the proposal to allow for intelligent consideration and response.
3. Adequate time must be given for consideration and response.
4. The product of the consultation must be conscientiously taken into account.

Local councils in North Wales have a regional citizen engagement policy (Isle of Anglesey County Council et al., 2016) This is based on the national principles for public engagement in Wales and principles of co-production which informed our consultation plan.

Consultation and engagement

A significant amount of consultation and engagement had taken place with children, young people and adults with learning disabilities and their parents/carers for the population assessment and regional plan. This included work undertaken by the North Wales Learning Disability Participation Group which includes representatives from self-advocacy groups across North Wales. This work has been used to inform the development of the strategy alongside the additional consultation and engagement work that took place specifically to inform the strategy.

Consultation process

We developed a draft set of themes for the strategy based on the engagement findings so far which we consulted on with the North Wales Learning Disability Participation Group and the regional provider network. These were then shared widely as part of the consultation along with a vision for learning disability services in North Wales (developed as part of regional work by Mobius in 2008). We asked people the following questions.

Consultation questions

1. Do you think these are the right areas to look at?
2. What do you think works well at the moment?
3. What do you think needs to be improved? Please include your ideas for improving services and ways to make the most of the resources already in our communities, including people with learning disabilities, friends and family, community groups, voluntary organisations and professionals.

We also produced an easy read version of the questionnaire in consultation with the Learning Disability Participation Group.

The timetable for the development of the Learning Disability Strategy was as follows.

Month	Actions
January 2017	Initial visioning event (Going Forward Together).
September 2017	Scoping of capacity to develop the strategy.
October 2017 to March 2018	Project plan agreed. Baseline data collected to inform the strategy.
April to July 2018	Engagement and co-production with people who use services, carers, providers, front-line staff and other stakeholders.
August to September 2018	Revise the strategy, agree priorities and draft action plans.
October to December 2018	Consult on revised strategy and produce the final draft. Final draft strategy to appropriate boards and committees for approval.
January 2019	Put the strategy into action.

Consultation methods

The consultation methods we used were:

- Online questionnaire and easy read questionnaire circulated widely to staff, partner organisations, the citizen's panel, service users and other members of the public.
- Discussion groups and interviews with children, young people and adults with learning disabilities, parents/carers and parents with learning disabilities. This element was led by the North Wales Citizen's Panel.
- Consultation events for service providers and local authority and health staff.

Promotion plan

Details of the consultation including an online questionnaire and easy read version of the questionnaire were made available on our website

www.northwalescollaborative.wales/. We promoted the link through the Learning Disability Partnership members (representing the six local authorities and health) and to people on the learning disability strategy mailing list which included members of the regional provider forum. Initial emails were sent out on 23 April 2018 with a reminder on 11 June 2018. A press release was sent out through each of the six local authorities and health board.

North Wales Citizens Panel Citizen Panel shared the survey through Facebook, the website (www.laisygogledd.wales/), letters and phone calls and face to face meetings. The majority of responses came from fact to face meetings.

In addition the link to the online survey was sent to the county voluntary councils below, asking them to circulate it to their networks:

- Mantell Gwynedd (Gwynedd)
- Medrwn Mon (Anglesey)
- CVSC (Conwy)
- DVSC (Denbighshire)
- FLVC (Flintshire)
- AVOW (Wrexham)

To help reach people with protected characteristics the link was circulated by the North Wales Regional Equality Network to their members with a request to circulate widely.

Information was sent to members of the:

- Regional Partnership Board
- North Wales Leadership Group,
- North Wales Adult Social Services Heads (NWASH),
- North Wales Heads of Children's Services (NWHoCS)
- North Wales Citizen's Panel

Presentations on the strategy were given at the following meetings:

- North Wales Learning Disability Partnership
- North Wales Managers of Services for Disabled Children
- North Wales Regional Event for Self-Advocacy Groups
- BCUHB Strategy, Partnerships & Population Health Committee
- BCUHB Stakeholder Reference Group
- Conwy COG4 Partnership Group
- North Wales Adult Services Heads (NWASH)
- North Wales Heads of Children's Services (NWHoCS)
- North Wales Leadership Group
- Regional Partnership Board

We also attended a meeting of a regional network for parents with learning disabilities.

Social Care Wales circulated to the third sector representatives on the regional population assessment leads network and Learning Disability Wales have shared details on their Facebook pages.

Consultation and engagement review

There were 175 responses in total to the consultation and around 200 views of the regional plan page on the website.

Table 1 below shows the breakdown by members of the public and representatives of the organisations and table 2 shows the number of people with different protected characteristics who took part in the survey.

Table 1 and table 2 show that the majority of responses were from people with a learning disability including parents with a learning difficulty. We reached people in all age groups, people who have a disability or long standing illness/health condition and carers, Welsh and English speakers. We had responses from women and men although there were not as many responses from men. We also had a small number of responses from people with different marital statuses, ethnic identity, sexuality and gender identity. We did not get many responses from people with protected characteristics of national identity (other than from the UK and Ireland) or religion. We did make sure the survey and reminders were sent to groups and networks of people with these protected characteristics. We will also make the people responsible for implementing the strategy aware of these gaps in the consultation so they can take any additional action needed to eliminate potential discrimination.

Please note, the tables below only reflect the answers given to the equality questionnaire. For a full picture of the engagement with people with protected characteristics these figures should be considered alongside the list of organisations who responded to the consultation as well as [organisations](#) who responded to the regional plan consultation and the [organisations and service user groups](#) who responded to the more in-depth engagement carried out for the population assessment that informed the regional plan.

We used this data to monitor the responses while the consultation was open and encouraged groups representing under-represented groups to share the survey and take part.

Table 1: Number of responses by members of the public and organisations

Type of response	Number	% of responses
Person with a learning disability	70	
Representative of an organisation	65	
Parent or carer of a person with a learning disability	30	
North Wales Citizen Panel Member	60	
Parent with learning difficulties	<5	
Total	175	

Some people may have ticked more than one box. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5 to prevent disclosure of personal information and may not sum.

Table 2.1: Age

Age	Number
0-24	<5
25-34	5
35-44	20
45-54	40
55-64	20
65 and over	5
Prefer not to say	15
No information available	75
Total	175

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5 to prevent disclosure of personal information and may not sum.

Table 2.2: Sex

Sex	Number
Female	70
Male	30
Prefer not to say	<5
No information available	75
Total	175

Table 2.3: Ethnic identity

Ethnic identity	Number
White	100
Black or mixed heritage	<5
Prefer not to say	<5
No information available	75
Total	175

Table 2.4: Preferred language

Preferred language	Number
Spoken English	80
Spoken Welsh	10
Spoken English and Welsh	15
No information available	75
Total	175
Written English	90
Written Welsh	5
Spoken English and Welsh	10
No information available	75
Total	175

Table 2.5: Disability

Disability	Number
Learning disability / difficulty	70
Long standing illness/health condition	15
Physical impairment	<5
Mental health condition	<5
Sensory impairment	<5
Total number of people	75

The total above does not sum as some people had more than one disability.

Table 2.6: Religion

Religion	Number
Christian	45
None	30
Other	<5
Prefer not to say	25
No information available	75
Total	175

Table 2.7: Sexuality

Sexuality	Number
Heterosexual / straight	85
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual	<5
Prefer not to say	15
No information available	75
Total	175

Table 2.8: Carers

Carer	Number
Yes	35
1-19 hours	15
20-49 hours	10
50 hours or more	10
No	60
Prefer not to say	10
No information available	75
Total	135

Table 2.9: Marital status

Marital status	Number
Married or in a same sex civil partnership	60
Single	10
Divorced or legally separated	5
Widowed	<5
Prefer not to say	20
No information available	75
Total	175

Organisations represented in the online survey

Below is a list of organisations whose staff took part in the online consultation. We also held engagement events for providers and local authority and health staff so more individuals and organisations took part in the consultation than are listed here. In addition the draft strategy was shared widely to provide a further opportunity for individuals and partner organisations to influence and shape the strategy.

Local authorities and health

- Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
- Isle of Anglesey County Council
- Gwynedd Council
- Conwy County Borough Council
- Denbighshire County Council
- Flintshire County Council
- Wrexham County Borough Council

Responses from health staff included the Community Learning Disability Team, Learning Disability Nurses, Occupational Therapy, children's learning disability services, in-patient services for people with learning disabilities.

Responses from local authority staff were mainly from within social services departments, from both children's and adults' services.

Service user groups and organisations

- AVOW (County Voluntary Council)
- Cartrefi Cymru Coop (Not for profit domiciliary care agency)
- Centre of Sign-Sight-Sound (Supporting people with a sensory loss)
- Clwyd Alyn Housing Association (Housing provider)
- Community Transport Association (Supporting inclusive and accessible community transport across Wales)
- Conwy Connect (An independent voluntary organisation working on Conwy county promoting the rights of adults with a learning disability to have equal choices and opportunities)
- Grange Residential Care Ltd (Residential care home for adults with learning disability and/or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in St Asaph.
- Flintshire Learning Disability Planning Partnership (a group including service user representatives, advocacy, service user providers and parents)
- Home Instead Senior Care (Health care provider)
- Job Centre Plus (Delivering a service with the aim of supporting people into work or coaching them to understand the services that are available for people who have disabilities and health conditions).

- Lifeways (Supported Living Provider for adults with learning disability/mental health).
- Mencap (Support individuals with a learning disability).
- MHC (Social Care) UK Limited (Provide residential services for people with learning disabilities, autism, and co morbid diagnosis and people with functional mental health)
- NWAAA Self Advocacy Groups
- Potens (Private limited company providing support to younger adults in Wales, England and Northern Ireland. We support adults with learning disabilities and mental health issues.
- PSS (Shared Lives Adult Placement)
- Stand North Wales CIC (Parents support)
- Voyage Care (Provide support to individuals)

Consultation findings

Consultation survey

Research methods

The survey was carried out between 23 April 2018 and 20 July 2018, see above for details of how it was promoted and who took part. The answers to the open ended questions were coded using the Catma software. In the analysis we have tried to give a sense of how often themes were mentioned by saying whether comments were by one person, a few people or by many people. This is not to say that just because one person raised an issue that it's not important and it may also reflect the views of many other people, which we can check and investigate further.

Potentially identifying information such as names of people and organisations has been removed from the quotes used.

Findings

Overall 93% of respondents agreed with the themes for the strategy. Comments in support of the themes include:

“The areas are perfect, they cover many aspects of daily living and are concise”

“They are all important to make me happy”

Suggestions for additional themes or expanding the themes included:

- The need for real voice, choice and control with a focus on rights and equality. One person said we need to go beyond questionnaires or consultation towards a truly co-produced strategy and co-produced services.
- More inclusion and integration of people with learning disabilities into the wider community. Including the need for staff training about specific learning difficulties and an awareness that not all disabilities are visible.
- Advocacy support for individuals.
- Support for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities, complex health needs and/or challenging behaviour.
- Support for people who also have other needs such mental health needs, who have autism or involvement in the criminal justice system and forensic needs.
- Carer breaks (respite) – including for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities; jointly commissioning breaks for people with challenging behaviours and additional health needs; and, access for people with learning disabilities to

holidays without their parents. Need to consider the impact on carers of providing care and support.

- Having enough money to live on.
- Early intervention, for example “listen when a family is crying out for help before it reaches crisis point’.
- Early years and having the right start in life.
- The importance of transport.
- The needs of older people with learning disabilities and older carers.

There were 7 people with learning disabilities (4%) who commented that they were not sure that some of the things were important to them including being healthy, being safe, a good place to live and the right support. Other things that were important to people were the way they were treated, for example support workers that understood that they ‘like a clean house’.

Services that work well

- The support people receive from family and providers was the most often listed as something that works well, for example, “being supported by people who know me, my routines and my behaviours” and “I get good help from my advocate and the support workers that come and see me”.
- In addition to good support workers other staff were mentioned for example “I have a good social worker” and “some places work well where you have good staff teams”.
- Some people mentioned joint working between local authority colleagues, co-located teams and multi-agency teams, social services working well with third sector organisations.
- People’s work was also mentioned as working well for example “I am supported in my work at [name of workplace]. I really like it there” “I work in [name of workplace] 2 days a week. This is very good for me as I am learning basic living skills”.
- Carer breaks (respite) for example “Respite has also been an important factor for us as a family and [name of provider] have been a major part in this and have provided us with support we could only dream of”.
- A few people mentioned support budgets, direct payment and person centred approaches as working well.
- Good education was mentioned by a couple of people, including a residential college.
- Charities that provide activities such as swimming.

- The acute liaison service with additional comments that it needs to be used and improved.

A couple of people also said that nothing works well at the moment.

What needs to be improved

The feedback on what needs to be improved is broken down by theme below. In addition to this there were issues that can prevent people from experiencing good outcomes under all of the themes, which are:

- **Support for carers:** Carer breaks (respite) was mentioned by many people in the consultation. Some of the specific issues include a lack of short breaks for families, respite provision for people with more complex needs such as challenging behaviour and autism and regular and predictable respite that is open all year round. Someone also mentioned the need for safe places and activities in the community where support workers can take young people with complex needs to give families a break. For example “There is a lack of short breaks for families and without this we have seen many families going into crisis resulting in out of county placements that are far away” and “without regular breaks families cannot survive”. People mentioned the importance of considering the impact on families, including the needs of siblings of children with learning disabilities. Also the importance of listening to parents and supporting parents/carers to building resilience and develop coping mechanisms. People also mentioned the needs of older carers, for example:

“Something needs to be done about the huge number of elderly carers to: a. Ensure that they are physically fit enough to continue caring b. To gradually introduce their adult sons/daughters to services so that it won’t be such a shock for them when their parents are no longer able to care. To estimate the likely cost of providing services to this group of clients in the future.”

- **Funding:** having enough funding available for services, for example “Budget cuts are hitting statutory services and this will impact on individuals, groups and families” and “The government needs to fund services for vulnerable people!”. A few people mentioned the need to work together and consider merging budgets to try and address these issues and one person mentioned the issue that providers and direct payment recipients may have to pay back pay for sleep-ins. Another person mentioned that we need to make better use of technology.
- **Transport:** people mentioned how important transport was to them for inclusion in activities including having someone who can drive them, bus passes and subsidised transport. People also mentioned the orange wallet system that helps people with using public transport. One person said: “I miss out on evening activities as none of my family drive so I rely on taxis which are expensive”.

- **Access to information:** A few people mentioned the need for more information about the services that are available, details of who is able to access support from them and availability of services in Welsh. One person suggested sharing information about offers available at local facilities such as the leisure centre or theatre.
- **Workforce development:** Some people talked about the importance of training and support for staff, particularly support workers. Also the importance of training the wider workforce, such as training for GPs about the needs of people with learning disabilities and how to access community teams. Some of the feedback and suggestions included:

“Often support workers are low paid and are not given training and support”

“Thorough inspections and better recruitment for services who provide care for people with complex needs, people need to be free from abuse, services must act on staff poor practices.”

“Most [staff] have no understanding of impact on people’s lives, assuming because they can do something everyone can.”

“Ask individuals and their families to input into training for professionals - especially for decision-makers.”

“Adequate training for support staff: up to date information about the needs and rights of people who have a learning disability; respect for people with learning disabilities; mental capacity act and making choices/decisions; communication/ learning/wishes and feelings of people - identifying the needs of each individual and adapting approach; losing labels and 'seeing' the person; enabling as opposed to doing for; people with learning disabilities trained to deliver training; limiting the use of support staff mobile phones while they are working; encouraging support staff to join in with activities rather than just taking a person to a venue and sitting on the side-lines, observing.”

“Good supportive management style for the service provider is important as is regular audit/ supervision interviews”

Many people mentioned the importance of **joint working between health and social care** and other partners to provide good services and to address funding issues. A few also suggested better information sharing systems between health and social care. Comments included:

“Maybe it would help if health and social care budgets were merged for some services to stop health and social care fighting over who pays for what.”

“I find that a lot of the work the community nurses are doing now is focused around assessment for funding and funding applications, this takes time away from nursing interventions and a lot of the hands on work that used to be done by community nurses. It would be good to have a specific role or link nurse for

completing health funding applications, and this to be separate from the community nursing role to free up the role for doing specific health interventions.”

“There needs to be more understanding of what other areas can provide and look at replicating that in the local area.”

“working across teams and organisations e.g. CAMHS and disability services, child and adult disability.”

“I think all local authorities should all be working in the same way so... you know you are giving information that is up to date and consistent.”

“Managerially, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board and Social Services need to work better together, shared targets etc”

We also asked people for **ideas to improve services that would make the most of resources already in our communities**, including people with learning disabilities, friends and family, community groups, voluntary organisations and professionals. There was a lot of support for the idea that we should ‘help each other’ as well as for the improving inclusion within the wider community, for example,

“We need to access all services from all sectors, community groups and voluntary organisations”

“Clearly there is a need to reduce the number of organisational services and to get more community-based activities that people with learning disabilities attend / contribute”

“It should be remembered that the biggest steps need to be taken by society, not by the individual. A simple example of this is as follows - a person sits at the doorstep of a building, sitting in a wheelchair. The 'problem' is not the person. The problem is the lack of a ramp.”

“I believe that the contribution of individuals to communities is important as well as taking action, whether they are small or large towards greater independence.”

But there were also some concerns about the pressures this could put on people. For example,

“What things could people do to help each other? People could share experiences of Direct Payments, form co-operatives, pool Direct Payments etc. However, at [over 60] years of age I have had enough and am very disillusioned. I just want to retire and be my son’s mum – not his care manager! The SS&WB Act talks a lot about co-production and using “natural

supports". Whilst I am not against these things you can't rely on the good will of volunteers. Families like ours have spent years fighting for services for our sons/daughters. We can't be expected to have the time and energy to form co-operatives or social enterprises or charities to set up alternative services for our sons/daughters. Generally speaking I think that Adult Social Care is an inefficient bureaucratic organisation which is not really focussed on the best interests of people with learning disabilities (although there are individuals working within Adult Social Care who are really dedicated and doing their best for people.) I think we need an alternative model of support."

"Voluntary groups are always trying to find money to support their work and this can often fall on a small group of volunteers ~ could some work together and share the load?"

A good place to live

A few people mentioned where they live as one of the things that is working well. For example,

"I have a good life with my adult placement, I have my own room and a dog and a proper family"

"I live in a supported living house we have a support worker with us at all times so we know that we are safe, we enjoy living together in a girls house and going out together."

Another person said advocacy was important in helping them find a place that suited them. For example,

"I got a lot of help from advocacy to move house because I wasn't happy and I didn't feel safe in my old house so I moved to a better flat, I got to choose my flat and I decorated it and put what furniture I wanted in it."

People wanted to have more choice about who they live with. Some people said that having pets was important to them.

One person suggested that,

"Local Authority and Health need to be looking at purchasing pre-built houses to accommodate individuals with a learning disability that is in their county whilst staying away from the typical 'learning disability community'"

A few people said that their needs to be more investment in accommodation and accommodation-related support particularly for young people.

Out of county

A few people mentioned issues with out of county placements. One person said there were problems with timely decision making and that some of their cases had been to panel 4 or 5 times. Another that,

“We hit a lot of housing issues due to certain counties refusing to place people from out of county. If a person wants to live in a particular place they should be able to.”

Something to do

A few people mentioned the importance of having something meaningful to do, not just something to do. Making a difference was really important to a number of the people we spoke to. For example:

“I like to go to meetings to tell people what is important to other people in other counties.

“I like to help people in the shop, I think people need more jobs.”

“I like making a difference to people and talking to people.”

Many people mentioned their jobs as something that works well. Work was often mentioned by people as important because it's a chance to spend time with friends and people they get on well with.

There were a lot of different leisure activities that people mentioned as important to them including: volunteering, snooker, tennis, wheelchair basketball, ten pin bowling, playing pool, Men's Sheds, magazines, star wars figures, art and art classes, cinema, shopping, watching TV and films, swimming, colouring, computer games, newspapers, ironing, watching and playing football, music, theatre, dancing, going out every night, sports clubs, buzz club, curry night, going out for meals, walking and holidays. A few people mentioned that there need to be more leisure activities and opportunities for people with learning disabilities, more integrated community-based activities and mixed groups.

There were some concerns about day services and suggestions that we should move to a more inclusive and integrated model, for example:

“I do not believe that the "day service" model is sustainable, it is institutionalised and focuses on containment rather than community integration. We should be focusing on liaising with private sector companies as employers for individuals - giving individuals purpose and reducing social stigma.”

“Why do we still have day centres where people sit around drawing and painting when they could be integrated into society as a positive member of the community?”

“More access to supported employment and movement from that to paid employment.”

There were other concerns about a lack of jobs and suitable activities, for example:

“I think I’m going to struggle to find work when [work placement] closes.”

Some suggestions included:

“Leading by example, coming from both Health and Social Services by employing people with learning disabilities”.

“More collaboration with Disability Advisers in Jobcentre as we have access to the benefits of the people who access all our services and as a requirement to receive benefits we have an obligation to meet the carers and the people with health conditions and disabilities (where possible of course) to ensure they are informed of their rights and provision available to them.”

Children, young people and families

People spoke about the importance of disabled children attending sessions with their friends and including children in existing local groups in the community such as leisure centres or theatres. Need to encourage local groups to support children with learning disabilities and understand that not every disabled child will need one to one support. Need a wider range of activities and also to better share information about the activities available.

Education

A couple of people mentioned issues with the process of statementing, requesting a statement and delays. One person said we needed to review residential schools to see if we are “getting value for money, appropriate support and quality support”. Another said that educational settings need to provide ‘consistency, routine and structure’. And another that,

“I think everyone with a need should have access to laptops in school as a given extended time automatically for exams and if a one to one support is recommended by professionals then it should be implanted without question by the place of learning.”

Friends, family and relationships

Many people said that friends, family and relationships were important to them. People also talked about good relationships with staff and work colleagues. A few people also mentioned that having pets was important to them. For example,

“I think family is important, I live with an adult placement with other people and she is lovely and helps me a lot.”

“My boyfriend is important to me”

When asked what needs to happen a few people mentioned being involved in the community and more support to access community activities as well as meeting friends and partners. For example,

“I would like a relationship, to get married and live with my husband”

“People need to be supported to maintain and develop relationships with friends and partners in a way that puts their own interests first and not the needs of their parents/carers and support workers first.”

“We live in an area where more can be done to access the outdoors we need more accessibility to outside organisations and with this I believe people with learning disabilities will gain trust friendships”

“More support for friendships and relationships - why can't someone pop in to a friend's shared house for a coffee? Why do they always have to do things with the people they live with?”

“Individuals should be encouraged to work based on their ability. They need to be empowered by friends and family to become citizens within their own community.”

Being safe

People commented on the importance of safeguarding vulnerable people so that they can feel safe when accessing their communities. This includes treating people with respect so they don't feel looked down on. One suggestion was having more police on the beat so that they can get to know their community and community members can get to know them. Another person said that more help is needed for people when they get teased for having a disability, they said “me and my girlfriend used to get teased a lot but now we just ignore them”.

Being healthy

People highlighted the need to look at the mental health needs as well as the physical health needs of people with learning disabilities and the need to reduce stigma around mental health. A few people commented that people may not think about mental health when they think of 'being healthy'.

Some people mentioned the need for improving support for people with learning disabilities in hospitals. For example,

“Improvement is needed in hospital settings when people with a learning disability are admitted onto general wards.”

“Learning disability acute liaison nurses need to be available in hospitals at all times to support people. Not just Monday to Friday between the hours of 9am and 5pm. An effective system to flag people with learning disabilities who may need extra support/reasonable adjustments when they arrive at hospital needs to be introduced.”

“Responsibility and awareness needs to be shifted into the community - in an ideal world, we wouldn't need learning disability nurses.”

“Sometimes in our experience health professionals are excellent and are willing to work collaboratively with providers (who after all know the individuals we support best). I would single out GP practices, District Nurses and Ambulance staff here. However, hospital staff often seem too busy or just unwilling to take the time to listen and develop an understanding of how people communicate, what their general needs are, and how our staff can assist them in providing the best possible service.”

One person highlighted the need to improve acute health services and highlighted the need to use the resources developed by the Paul Ridd foundation to improve care in hospitals.

One person mentioned the need for better communication between medical professionals, health visitors, midwife and patient and their family. Another mentioned the need for more consistency when young people move to adult services and gave the example of different CHC funding guidance. A few people mentioned difficulties accessing services and getting doctor's appointments, for example:

“I would like for hospital letters to be easier to read as they are complicated”

“Access to GP appointments – I have to ring at 8 o'clock in the morning for an appointment”

One person mentioned the need to improve services between acute services and community services, including the need for additional Occupational Therapists,

“The link between inpatient and community needs to be bridged better with more services in the community to aid in managing and support people to reduce placement break downs and to better care for people in placement and in their own homes.”

Another person mentioned the need to be aware of sensory loss,

“Many, many people with a Learning Disability also have a sensory loss which is often overlooked, whether that be because of the tests that are performed or because their carer simply misses the loss and puts issues with communication down to the Learning Disability. We need to ensure that more people are able to access the tests, making sure the tests are explained fully, and that carers are made aware of the signs of a sensory loss, and the prevalence within the Learning Disability Community.”

Children, young people and families

People commented that access to mental health needed to be quicker for children with learning disabilities and also more support for their parents.

The right support

People highlighted the importance of having the right support with changes in life and transition but also said that this theme needs to cover more than that. This includes supporting people to be independent, to have choices, good communication and being treated well by support workers. One person reiterated a point from the ‘Going Forward Together’ Event that a key principle is ‘delivering the right care at the right time by the right people’.

Good support was often mentioned as something that works well for people. A few people mentioned how important it was to be independent, have choices about the support they receive and have the right amount of support.

“If I could choose my hours to have support so I can have a social life”

“Would be better if we had more support workers so we could do more and gain more independence.”

“[it’s important to me] to make my own decisions, to be treated as an individual, to live independently as long as possible”

People talked about the importance of people being nice to each other, being treated with respect and also being supported by people that they know and work well with. Example of where this isn’t working well include:

“[Support worker] is a nice man but doesn't work well for me.”

“I'm not happy with my support workers I don't like them being rude.”

Good communication and team work and helping each other were also very important to people. For example,

“listen, teamwork, explain things clearer”

“We also need to ensure that the communication needs of people are met at all times, and that parents and/or carers are not the sole people able to assist with communication.”

One person mentioned the importance of helping people to understand what the right support is, for example:

“Do people have choices in their support in order to differentiate between good and less good?”

There were ideas about how to improve the support available, including:

“We need to look at how resources can be better utilised, for example, transportation to events and staffing ratios.”

“Providers need to liaise with each other, get together, re-unite individuals.”

“Thinking outside the box and even working with staff from another shared house to enable people to do something they would otherwise not be able to do.”

“We need more services for these high-end individuals to prevent them from having to go out of county/ a long way from home for support, as often the families want to support them within their homes and in the community but feel unable to due to without increased support and without feeling more able to integrate in the community”.

“We also inform groups of holiday dates and he is always offered a service within the time frame that it can't be utilised, and are never offered a last minute cancellation, when we have asked. Kids don't show up and there is no consequence for those parents. Aware can be for health reasons, but if the LA is paying for a service for 10 kids and only 5 show, call parents and see if they are local. Even an hour can save a parent's sanity.”

“A "state of the art safe house" facility, NOT a hospital, in times of crisis or emergency for people on the spectrum. A place where they feel supported and understood, NOT a place where they feel they are being punished for some unknown crime.”

“Good support that is known and trusted by the individual that can help them to grow by teaching some basic skills towards greater independence. This involves the service member being there from the interview stage and selecting the appropriate candidate. It also means consistency whereby the support is not chopped and changed to suit the providing agency. By consistency it allows the individuals chance to build a trusting relationship which is important for the well-being of the individual.”

There were also concerns about people who may not be eligible for services or who fall between services eligibility criteria, for example, between learning disability services and mental health.

“Some individuals do not meet the 'formal' threshold for services and can potentially miss out on receiving assessment and services if their IQ is deemed not to identify them as having a learning disability.”

Children, young people and families

Parents mentioned challenges around waiting for assessments, the time taken and needing to wait for a certain age for an assessment. Parents also said they needed better support and understanding from professionals while waiting for an assessment. For example “not try to blame the parents about their child’s behaviour while waiting for an assessment... they sent me on parenting courses and making me believe it was all my fault”.

For parents with a learning disability, one person said that it’s important that they get to have their say too.

Suggestions for improving services included:

“We need more services that are going to support children and their families with complex needs and there needs to be more understanding of what other areas can provide and look at replicating that in the local area”

Support budgets, direct payments and person-centred support

These were mentioned as working well by a few people who took part in the survey, for example,

“Direct payments present an opportunity for people on the margins of society to take back control of the support they need and exercise genuine choice over the life decisions that the majority of us take for granted. Some people are benefitting from these opportunities and in turn, are shaping the types of support that they need.”

There were also some concerns about Direct Payments including comments that people need much more support to use them and difficulties finding a direct payment worker. One person gave an example of the difficulties they had had with direct payments:

“Son currently gets Direct Payments and we employ his PSAs ourselves. We have been doing this for 3 years. We had no support from Social Services apart from the DP Support provided by [name of provider]. This support was inadequate. Running and managing a service for my son is akin to running a

small care company. There was too much work and too many responsibilities. So we decided to give up last July and asked for extra funding to buy in a service from a Provider. Social Services agreed to this but more or less left it up to us to find the Provider and arrange a TUPE transfer. In the end there was only one Provider who could offer a service and we are still struggling with the TUPE transfer. So we have been struggling for 10 months with not enough staff because a part-time member of staff left and we were unable to replace her and the situation still is not resolved... People with severe learning disabilities and their families need a lot more support to use Direct Payments. The DP set-up also needs to be sustainable as parents will not be able to do all the management of staff themselves for ever. Maybe having an organisation (e.g. a co-operative) to be the employer would be better”

Support with changes in life and transition

A few people mentioned the importance of good transition from children's to adults' services. Comments included:

“More consistency across health services when young people move to adult services e.g. CHC funding guidance is different”

“Looking at the needs as a whole of the children growing up within mainstream and special schools before they enter adult services should be a priority to assist with the needs and services for the future, adult services can then develop their services according to the needs locally.”

A few people mentioned the needs of older carers and supporting people to be ready for changes, for example,

“Important to discuss realistic future care plans with carers for their loved ones sooner rather than later.”

“Earlier planning and interventions required, but also creativity around service provision in order for people to continue to live in what are often loving environments - shared care, downsizing accommodation, extra care where the parent and person can continue to live together with their differing and changing needs and outcomes being well accounted for.”

Conclusion

Overall the vast majority of people consulted were supportive of the themes. Based on the feedback received we have amended them to clarify what we mean by ‘right support’, add ‘family’ to the ‘friends and relationships’ theme, change ‘something to do’ to ‘something meaningful to do’, include a separate ‘early years’ theme and make sure that a lifespan approach and the needs of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities are included throughout the strategy. The other findings and

ideas for improving support will be incorporated into the strategy and action plans. This report will also be made publically available so that the details can be used to inform other work.

‘Going Forward Together’ Event

The event was an initial staff/partner engagement session on ‘Developing our Learning Disability Strategy’ that took place on 17 January 2017 involving 28 staff from across BCUHB and the six local authorities. The event was facilitated by BCUHB to inform the development of this strategy. The discussions looked at current strengths and challenges and what needed to change.

The event identified the following key themes for the development of a strategy:

- Joint working through a shared vision/shared values
- Service user and co-production
- Leadership, governance and accountability
- Commissioning
- Staffing (including links to North Wales Workforce Development Strategy)
- Staff involvement in the development of the strategy

The guiding principles discussed were:

- Shared responsibility to implement the legislation.
- Person first, learning disability second.
- Right support at the right time to the right people in the right place.
- No-one to experience delays in support due to disagreements between services. Shared responsibility to ‘fix it’.

The key observations and actions were:

- The staff that attended understood the need to work together to build a robust strategy for learning disabilities – they all contributed to the whole event with very few delegates having to leave early.
- The overall consensus was that a shared vision and values would need to be developed to underpin the strategy. This work commenced during the session but would be further enhanced
- The core capabilities of the Learning Disabilities service was not as easy to describe by the delegates and therefore some further analysis/discussion would lead to a better understanding of the current state.
- It was acknowledged that this was a starting point and further continuous engagement would be required in order to develop the Learning Disability Strategy for North Wales.
- Involving people with lived experience was agreed as a critical next step.

- Programme of work to be developed following the lessons learnt from the Mental Health strategy development.
- Agreement that the LD Partnership Group was key but work was required on Terms of reference and membership.

Provider forum

The first North Wales provider forum was held on 9 April 2018 and around 60 people attended from across the region. The full report is available at <https://www.northwalescollaborative.wales/learning-disability-provider-forum-9-april-2018-event-feedback/>.

Based on the feedback from the day the themes for the strategy were updated before they went out to wider consultation. Other findings included more detailed definitions of the themes, principles and values (including Welsh language and culture, advocacy and self-advocacy) and the barriers faced (including transport issues). There was discussion about the wide range of people who needed to be involved in the development of the strategy which informed the project's communication and consultation promotion plans.

Staff engagement event

The local authority and health staff event was held on 18 July 2018 and over 100 people attended from across the region. The full report is available at: <https://www.northwalescollaborative.wales/learning-disability-strategy-local-authority-and-health-staff-event/>

Event findings

The event provided more information about what needed to be included under each of the strategy themes as well as ideas for actions under each theme. Overall findings were:

- Make sure we include people with profound and multiple learning disabilities in the strategy – consider a 'sub-strategy' focussing on this group. Also include people currently living in a 'hospital environment' and people who need support due to pre-offending behaviour or offending behaviour.
- Continue to promote and develop [Dewis Cymru](#) as a source of information about the services and support available in local communities.

The event highlighted importance of:

- Working together, joint commissioning and planning, pooling resources and sharing skills and good practice across North Wales. Shared responsibility and addressing of shortfalls when things change.

- Culture change - raising awareness and building friendships and relationships within an inclusive community to make the most of the assets, resources and skills available.
- Taking a person-centred approach.
- Workforce development. Suggestions included a clear pen portrait / skills for staff providing support and training for the wider workforce, including GPs and healthcare assistants, about reasonable adjustments and preventative measures.
- Making links between the different themes, for example, having the right support is key to good outcomes in all of the themes and all the themes contribute to good health.

References

Isle of Anglesey County Council, Gwynedd Council, Conwy County Borough Council, Denbighshire County Council, Flintshire County Council and Wrexham Council 2016. North Wales Regional Citizen Engagement Policy. NWASH.

Welsh Government 2015. Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014: Part 9 Code of Practice (Partnership Arrangements).

Report To:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	22nd January 2019
Lead Member / Officer:	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Jamie Groves Head of Facilities, Assets & Housing
Report Author:	Geoff Davies, Lead Officer – Community Housing / Richard Weigh, Head of Finance
Title:	Housing Rent Setting & Housing Revenue and Capital Budgets 2019/20

1. What is the report about?

To seek approval from Cabinet for the Denbighshire Housing annual rent increase, the Housing Revenue Account Capital and Revenue Budgets for 2019/20 and Housing Stock Business Plan.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

It is a statutory requirement to set budgets and rent levels before the start of the new financial year. The budget must be consistent with the assumptions within the Housing Stock Business Plan (HSBP) which has been designed to maintain Welsh Housing Quality Standard throughout the 30 year business plan.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That the Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2019/20 (Appendix 1) and the Housing Stock Business Plan (Appendix 2) be adopted.

That rents for Council dwellings be increased in accordance with the Welsh Government Policy for Social Housing Rents to an average weekly rent of £89.77 with effect from Monday 1st April 2019.

4. Report details.

The latest forecast outturn for the HRA for 2018/19 is detailed in Appendix 1, in line with the monthly monitoring report. Balances, at year end, are forecast to be £1,162m.

The proposed budget for 2019/20 is also detailed in Appendix 1. The budget has been calculated on the following basis:

- There have been 2 Right to Buy (RTB) Sales in 2018/19. Whilst the RTB no longer exists in Wales, these are pre-suspension applications that have completed and the Business Plan has been tested with the assumption of no sales in future and there is no detrimental effect on the plan.

- 3 former council homes have been purchased during the year.
- A programme of 170 additional homes has been incorporated within the HSBP, 160 of which are anticipated to be new build.

Welsh Government Rent Policy

Welsh Government developed a policy for social housing rents that will be applied consistently by all social landlords and reflect the type; size; location and quality of the Landlord's properties.

The current policy ended in 2018/19 and the increase for 2019/20 is a one year interim policy only. We expect an announcement from Welsh Government on future rent policy in April 2019 as part of the Affordable Housing Supply Review.

In December 2018 the Welsh Government confirmed the uplift for the next financial year only would be CPI only. This is 2.4%.

Comparative rent levels are detailed below along with the Council's target rent bands:

	2018/19	2019/20
Average Weekly rent (from the previous year)	£82.00	£87.81
Plus: Uplift (2.4%)	£3.69	£1.96
Adjusted Average Weekly rent	£85.69	£89.77
Plus: £2 uplift if below Target rent	£1.94	N/A
Average Weekly Rent	£87.63	£89.77

For information target rent levels are:

	Target Rent 2018/19	Target Rent 2019/20
Low End	£86.42	£88.06
Mid Point	£90.96	£92.70
High End	£95.51	£97.33

For this year, as our average weekly rent entered the target rent band we are now considered to be within target rent levels and we are unable to charge the additional £2.00 to support individual properties to achieve target rent.

Overall the 2.4% increase will leave 40% of our homes at target rent levels.

Housing Stock Business Plan (HSBP)

As part of the budget process it is necessary to review the Housing Stock Business Plan and this is achieved through a due diligence exercise on an annual basis to review the assumptions used and to validate the robustness of the financial model. In addition the review undertakes a sensitivity analysis.

The current Housing Stock Business Plan assumes a balance of £1m is maintained over the mid-term to mitigate against any future risks.

Maintaining the balance at a manageable level reduces the need to extend the current level of borrowing with the resultant savings in annual capital financing costs. This strategy also allows for further scope in future years of the Plan to extend the borrowing requirement if needed but at the same time ensuring the Authority remains within the HRA Limit on Indebtedness as set by the Welsh Government.

Service Charges

Service chargeable income collects actual costs for specific services and overall shows a slight increase over last year to £364k. Individual properties may be subject to a varied charge. The average charge per property is £2.00 per week.

Garages

Garages are not dealt with in this report as they are not subject to Welsh Government Rent Policy. The charges and use of garage sites will be reviewed by the Head of Facilities, Assets & Housing.

Heating Charges

At 3 schemes with a communal heating boiler, the council collects charges for fuel usage. We are anticipating an increase in fuel costs in 2019 / 2020 however there is sufficient surplus on the accounts to be able to avoid an increase in the weekly charge which will mitigate the impact of the increase on customers.

Welsh Housing Quality Standard

The Council achieved the Welsh Housing Quality Standard to all the Housing Stock in September 2014. Capital spend has been included in the HSBP which ensure sufficient resources are available to continue to maintain and exceed this standard over the 30 year plan. Denbighshire Housing is investing in our stock and our neighbourhoods going above WHQS where we think it is appropriate for the benefit of our customers and the longer term improvement of our housing stock.

The stock condition survey has identified repairs, maintenance and improvement costs for the next 30 years which have subsequently been built into the business plan and shall inform the developing asset management plan.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

Housing is a Corporate Priority and the 5 year capital program will provide a boost to the local economy by maximising the local employment, training and supply chain opportunities for local people and businesses.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

The Housing Revenue Account is ring fenced and costs of implementation are covered by income through rents and service charges.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision

The Council appreciates that any increase in weekly rent could have an impact on some of our customers' ability to meet their weekly commitments.

The Income Collection service will continue to offer advice and support to all customers to ensure that customers can manage their finances effectively and maximise their income. Rent collection performance remains excellent and arrears are amongst the lowest in Wales.

8. What consultations have been carried out?

The Denbighshire Tenants and Residents Federation (DTARF) have been consulted and the reason for the rent increase and the impact on the HRA business plan has been fully explained to the group.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

A full review of the Housing Stock Business Plan (HSBP) has confirmed that the Plan remains robust and financially viable. There are sufficient resources to support the management and supervision of the housing service and the investment needs of the stock. Balances are at a prudent level while allowing the funding of new capital expenditure to be provided in the most cost effective way.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

The risk is a failure to follow the Housing Stock Business Plan and to set budgets accordingly could lead to financial concerns and potential intervention by Welsh Government.

11. Power to make the Decision

Rent policy is determined by the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. The Housing Revenue Account is ring-fenced by statute.

APPENDIX 1

Housing Revenue Account ~ 2019/20 Budget Setting				
2017/18		2018/19		2019/20
Final		Original	Forecast	Proposed
Outturn	Latest Forecast 2018/19	Budget	Out-turn	Budget
			M9	
£	EXPENDITURE	£	£	£
2,475,186	Supervision & Management - General	2,627,955	2,636,007	2,720,121
384,628	Supervision & Management - Service Charges	447,089	435,389	449,282
0	Welfare Services	0	0	0
4,354,470	Repairs and Maintenance	4,585,000	4,749,849	4,835,000
7,214,284	Total Housing Management	7,660,044	7,821,245	8,004,403
5,995,269	Item 8 Capital Charges	6,757,956	6,473,000	6,991,697
1,709,824	Capital Funded from Revenue	1,750,000	2,314,000	1,374,000
0	Subsidy	0	0	0
96,307	Provision for Bad Debts	141,000	171,000	243,000
15,015,684	Total Expenditure	16,309,000	16,779,245	16,613,100
	INCOME			
14,154,215	Rents (net of voids)	15,140,000	15,198,863	15,899,499
334,815	Service Charges	352,000	352,000	364,000
172,306	Garages	180,000	178,207	188,000
10,001	Interest on Balances & Other Income	7,000	10,000	5,000
14,671,337	Total Income	15,679,000	15,739,070	16,456,499
	Surplus / Deficit (-) for the Year:			
1,365,477	General Balances	1,120,000	1,273,824	1,217,399
2,547,099	Balance as at start of year ~ General	2,202,275	2,202,275	1,162,099
-1,709,824	Earmarked Balances	-1,750,000	-2,314,000	-1,374,000
2,202,275	Balance as at end of year ~ General	1,572,275	1,162,099	1,005,499

This page is intentionally left blank

APPENDIX TWO	HOUSING STOCK BUSINESS PLAN				
	0	1	2	3	4
SUMMARY	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	M9 Outturn				
WHQS Improvements & Maintenance	6,229	5,377	5,256	4,959	6,251
New build	0	7,514	9,394	7,910	0
Acquisition of existing properties	595	609	256	0	0
Acquisition of Land	4355	0	0	0	0
Other Improvements	399	770	781	736	822
	11,579	14,270	15,688	13,605	7,073
CAPITAL FUNDING					
Major Repairs Allowance	2,412	2,412	2,412	2,412	2,412
Usable Capital Receipts	71	1,820	1,200	2,150	0
Other Capital Receipts	6,701	8,093	11,267	8,638	4,484
Capital Funded From Revenue	81	570	135	135	135
Prudential Borrowing	2,314	1,374	674	270	42
	11,579	14,270	15,687	13,604	7,073
REVENUE EXPENDITURE					
Management	3,071	3,169	3,281	3,394	3,484
Repairs & Maintenance	4,751	4,835	4,929	5,024	5,162
Interest	3,588	3,803	4,118	4,423	4,535
Capital Financing Charge	2,885	3,189	3,572	4,134	4,565
	14,295	14,996	15,900	16,976	17,745
REVENUE INCOME					
Gross Rental Income	15,391	16,180	16,525	17,189	17,719
Garages	178	188	197	207	217
Service Charges	352	364	375	387	398
Voids	-246	-280	-285	-296	-305
Bad Debts	-171	-243	-244	-246	-247
Interest on Balances	10	5	5	5	5
Other Income	54	0	0	0	0
	15,567	16,214	16,573	17,245	17,787
BALANCES					
Surplus / Deficit (-) For Year	1,272	1,218	673	270	42
Capital Expenditure funded by HRA	2,314	1,374	674	270	42
Balance Brought Forward (HRA Reserve)	2,203	1,162	1,005	1,005	1,005
Surplus / - Deficit after CERA	-1,041	-156	-0	-0	-0
Balance carried forward	1,162	1,005	1,005	1,005	1,005

This page is intentionally left blank

Council Housing Rent Increase 2019/20

Well-being Impact Assessment Report


This report summarises the likely impact of the proposal on the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Denbighshire, Wales and the world.

Assessment Number:	586
Brief description:	This is the annual rent increase for Council Owned social rented homes
Date Completed:	18/12/2018 15:36:16 Version: 1
Completed by:	Geoff Davies
Responsible Service:	Facilities, Assets & Housing
Localities affected by the proposal:	Whole County,
Who will be affected by the proposal?	Current and future Council Housing Tenants
Was this impact assessment completed as a group?	No

IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Before we look in detail at the contribution and impact of the proposal, it is important to consider how the proposal is applying the sustainable development principle. This means that we must act "in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Score for the sustainability of the approach

 (3 out of 4 stars) Actual score : 27 / 30.

Implications of the score

The approach considers the impact of the annual rent increase on the forthcoming year 2019/20 but feeds into our whole approach towards the provision of Housing and the development of the associated business plan for the next 30 years. Each annual increase has an impact on future years service provision and delivery of quality services and homes that remain sustainable well into the future.

Summary of impact

Well-being Goals

A prosperous Denbighshire

A resilient Denbighshire

A healthier Denbighshire

A more equal Denbighshire

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Positive

Positive

Positive

Positive

Positive

Positive

Positive



Main conclusions

Overall the provision of quality, social housing and the investment delivered by the HRA contributes significantly to the local economy, health and well being and safety of communities. The annual rent increase enables us to keep up with inflationary pressures and continue to invest in stock, neighbourhoods and projects. The negative impact of increasing rents is the impact on individual households however the increase is in line with Welsh Government policy and CPI inflation. Detailed work is being undertaken to support all household's to mitigate against financial exclusion issues and significant developments are underway to promote resilient communities well into the future.

Evidence to support the Well-being Impact Assessment

- We have consulted published research or guides that inform us about the likely impact of the proposal
- We have involved an expert / consulted a group who represent those who may affected by the proposal
- We have engaged with people who will be affected by the proposal

THE LIKELY IMPACT ON DENBIGHSHIRE, WALES AND THE WORLD

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	This will have a positive impact because a sustainable HRA will support the provision of quality social housing for people in Denbighshire into the long term. Whilst any increase in weekly out goings could have an impact on households failure to invest could jeopardise our future growth.
Further actions required	We have a Financial Inclusion Action Plan which will help mitigate the impact on households through a series of actions. The increased income will enable us to increase our investment in our stock, neighbourhoods and support services.

Positive impacts identified:

A low carbon society	We need to increase our income at least with CPI to enable us to invest in our stock to improve energy efficiency of our homes
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	Increasing our income will allow us to investigate and invest in better ways to provide homes and the surrounding infrastructure
Economic development	A sustainable HRA business plan will support local businesses into the future.
Quality skills for the long term	This will enable us to continue to invest in skills through improvement works and community benefits.
Quality jobs for the long term	This will enable us to continue to invest in skills through improvement works and community benefits.
Childcare	Our financial inclusion work supports families to get back into work.

Negative impacts identified:

A low carbon society	
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	
Economic development	
Quality skills for the long term	
Quality jobs for the long term	
Childcare	An increase in weekly rent could have an adverse effect on families weekly income and ability to manage their childcare and work balance

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	A sustainable HRA will lead to investment and will enable us to develop more modern, innovative and resilient homes and neighbourhood environments.
Further actions required	Positives will be assessed through Community Benefit tool kits

Positive impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	Investment in lower quality stock will enable us to demolish and replace homes and consider biodiversity in this process.
Biodiversity in the built environment	Investment in housing stock including new build will enable us to consider community benefits including these factors
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	Investment in housing stock including new build will enable us to consider community benefits including these factors
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	Investment in housing stock including new build will enable significantly improve energy efficiency of our stock which will reduce energy use and increase resilience with our tenants by reducing fuel poverty
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	Investment in housing stock including new build will enable us to consider community benefits including these factors
Flood risk management	Investment in housing stock including new build will enable us to consider flood risk factors factors

Negative impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	
Biodiversity in the built environment	
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	
Flood risk management	

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Positive because if we are able to grow and meet our costs we are able to invest in promoting healthier communities for our tenants and residents.

Further actions required	We are able to invest in additional services such as community development staff to significantly increase our work to promote health and well being. The negative is increased rent could increase arrears / debt issues but our resources allow us to invest in projects to mitigate this and far reaching actions to tackle financial exclusion and debt.
---------------------------------	--

Positive impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	This will allow us to continue to invest in health and well being including physical assets such as play areas and also working with our communities
Access to good quality, healthy food	We have staff resources to help our communities develop resilience and promote healthy lifestyles including projects to support healthy eating
People's emotional and mental well-being	We have staff resources to help our communities develop resilience and promote health and well being. We have a Financial Inclusion action plan to tackle debt and financial exclusion issues which will support emotional well being.
Access to healthcare	Through having staff resources available we are supporting a Public Health Wales project on Tackling health inequality and can continue with similar work
Participation in leisure opportunities	This will allow us to continue to invest in health and well being including physical assets such as play areas and also working with our communities to enhance access to leisure activities. Being part of FAH is strengthening our joint working on increasing leisure opportunities for council tenants.

Negative impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	
Access to good quality, healthy food	
People's emotional and mental well-being	Increase in weekly housing costs could increase pressure on households
Access to healthcare	
Participation in leisure opportunities	

A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Continued investment in line with inflation will support our business plan to able to continue to offer social housing and related services to those who are not served by the private housing market.

Further actions required	We will mitigate the negatives of the rent increase, which could disproportionately effect households with the protected characteristics through investment in financial inclusion initiatives and support services which will also benefit wider tenant population.
---------------------------------	--

Positive impacts identified:

Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation	Continued investment in line with inflation will support our business plan to able to continue to offer social housing and related services to those who are not served by the private housing market.
People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	Continued investment in line with inflation will support our business plan to able to continue to offer social housing and related services to those who are not served by the private housing market.
Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes	A sustainable HRA will enable us to continue to provide quality housing and also related services that will tackle health inequalities.
People in poverty	A sustainable HRA will enable us to continue to provide quality housing and also invest in support initiatives that tackle poverty.

Negative impacts identified:

Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation	A rent increase could have a disproportionate effect on low income households or people reliant on benefits. In many cases benefits will cover any increase but actions are in place to support households.
People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	

Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes	
People in poverty	An increase in rent could have an adverse effect on households but the rise is on line with CPI inflation and will be offset by significant investment in support services in this area.

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	A sustainable HRA business plan will enable us to maintain adequate resources to support communities.
Further actions required	The Business Plan has enabled us to recruit 3 staff to focus on additional areas of work which will support community participation and resilience in the long term.

Positive impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	A sustainable HRA business plan will enable us to maintain adequate resources to promote safe communities and tackle issues and individuals. These resources can support partnership working to work together to take a strategic approach to promoting safe neighbourhood's and also joint working to tackle issues.
Community participation and resilience	The Business Plan has enabled us to recruit 3 staff to focus on additional areas of work which will support community participation and resilience. We are developing this through a Community Investment strategy and related work plans.
The attractiveness of the area	We are able to invest significantly in improving the appearance of our neighbourhoods through the HRA
Connected communities	We have developed a Digital Inclusion plan to ensure our tenants can be connected and not suffer digital exclusion and the related issues.
Rural resilience	Our services support investment in our rural stock and community development projects including support for a rural transport project.

Negative impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	
Community participation and resilience	
The attractiveness of the area	
Connected communities	
Rural resilience	

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The service adheres to the Welsh language standards but a sustainable HRA will enable us to consider opportunities to further promote the Welsh Language.
Further actions required	This work can include providing community development activities through the Welsh language will be integral with in our Community Development Strategy.

Positive impacts identified:

People using Welsh	The service adheres to the Welsh language standards but a sustainable HRA will enable us to consider opportunities to further promote the Welsh Language. This work can include providing community development activities through the Welsh language.
Promoting the Welsh language	A sustainable HRA enables us to continue to promote the Welsh Language in our communities and will be integral with in our Community Development Strategy.
Culture and heritage	A sustainable HRA enables us to continue to promote the Welsh culture and heritage and support organisations and projects in our communities

Negative impacts identified:

People using Welsh	
Promoting the Welsh language	
Culture and heritage	

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The HRA commits significant invest through stock and neighbourhood improvement programmes. In addition new build will add significantly to this. This supports the local economy
Further actions required	The HRA commits significant invest through stock and neighbourhood improvement programmes. In addition new build will add significantly to this. This supports the local economy

Positive impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	The HRA commits significant invest through stock and neighbourhood improvement programmes. In addition new build will add significantly to this. This supports the local economy. Community Benefits are integral to all contracts to ensure employment and training opportunities are mandatory and the impact is captured as evidence.
---	--

Human rights	<p>The HRA investment enables us to provide jobs and opportunities which promote excellent employment practices and working conditions. Good quality social housing is key to ensuring that the local economy in Denbighshire and North Wales is sustainable and supports the economic activity of the area by providing affordable housing options in the area. In addition the provision of social housing with increasing stock numbers will support a number services which seek to support households with settled and secure accommodation in safe neighbourhoods.</p>
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	<p>Good quality social housing is key to ensuring that the local economy in Denbighshire and North Wales is sustainable and supports the economic activity of the area by providing affordable housing options in the area.</p> <p>Good quality social housing is key to ensuring that the local economy can thrive in Denbighshire and North Wales. The continued growth of the business plan will support future provision to meet growing need.</p>

Negative impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	
Human rights	
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	

This page is intentionally left blank

Report To:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	22 January 2019
Lead Member / Officer:	Julian Thompson-Hill/Richard Weigh
Report Author:	Richard Weigh
Title:	Recommendations of the Strategic Investment Group

1. What is the report about?

Block Allocation capital bids received for inclusion in the 2019/20 Capital Plan.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1 The Strategic Investment Group, which includes representatives from the three scrutiny committees, has met on a number of occasions to consider bids prepared by each service.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That Cabinet supports the projects shown in Appendix 1 for inclusion in the 2019/20 Capital Plan, and recommends accordingly to full Council.

4. Report details

- 4.1 The Final Local Government Settlement issued in December includes a general capital grant allocation of £2.8m. This is an increase of £1.008m from the Provisional Settlement, which takes account of recent additional funding announced by the Welsh Government. Confirmation is awaited on an anticipated further additional Welsh Government general capital grant of £1.680m for 2018-19. Given the timing of this, it is anticipated this will release an equivalent sum for 2019-20 but may be subject to grant conditions. Assumptions around how this may contribute to the Plan are set out below.
- 4.2 The Council is aiming to dispose of a number of sites over the next three years. The total available funding in 2019/20 includes £70k from assets that are currently proceeding to disposal. The allocation of these funds to schemes is provisional until the funds are received from disposals.

4.3 The available funding for 2019/20 is shown below:

Source	Amount £000
General Capital Grant	2,822
General Capital Grant – 2018-19 additional (subject to confirmation)	1,680
Un-hypothecated Supported Borrowing	2,982
Prudential Borrowing – Highways	1,970
Capital Receipts	330
Future Capital Receipts – Disposal of assets on-going	70
Contribution from capital financing budget	766
Total Funds Available 2019/20	10,620

4.4 The Capital Plan spends money on two types of project. Firstly there are one-off projects such as a new school; the second type is a 'block allocation'. These are on-going programmes of work that stretch over several years (and may never be complete) e.g. schools maintenance. Elements of this work may be paid for from repair and maintenance budgets but a significant part is funded through the Capital Plan.

4.5 Appendix 1 shows the projects listed with the recommended funding source for each highlighted in the appropriate column. For additional clarity, the following points should be noted:

- PB Highways column - £1.750m. This is supported from the revenue budget as a corporate priority, which is subject to Council approval on 29th January 2019. In addition, a proposed £220k application for Salix funding is included.
- Council Funds column - these are funds such as general grants, and capital receipts.

4.6 A narrative to support the recommendations of the Strategic Investment Group is included as Appendix 2

4.7 The membership of the Strategic Investment Group is as follows:

- Cabinet Member – Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets (Chair)
- Cabinet Member – Leader of the Council and Lead Member for the Economy and Corporate Governance
- Cabinet Member – Lead Member for Developing Community Infrastructure
- Representative from each Scrutiny Committee
- Corporate Director – Economy and Public Realm
- Head of Finance/S.151 Officer

- Head of Facilities, Assets and Housing (County Landlord)
- Business Information Team Manager

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

Projects have been reviewed to ensure that they satisfy the Council's corporate objectives.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

6.1 Cost Implications

The costs of the schemes are shown in Appendix 1. The Prudential Borrowing costs will be met through the 2019/20 revenue budget.

6.2 Staffing/ICT/Accommodation Implications

Each new project is required to complete a Project Proposal or Business Case form and any specific implications are discussed at that stage.

6.3 Assessment of impact on Climate Change – Mitigation and Adaptation:

New capital projects are subject to scrutiny by the Strategic Investment Group. Each business case will show, where relevant carbon tonne emission pre and post project, thus identifying whether the project is carbon emission positive, negative or neutral. In addition, it is necessary to ensure new capital projects are future proof and able to adapt to climate change.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

A full Impact Assessment has been completed for each capital bid reviewed by the Strategic Investment Group. A copy of each individual Wellbeing Assessment is available in the members' library on the Modern.gov system.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

Heads of Service approved the submission of the bids. Representatives of Cabinet and Scrutiny committees have been involved in the process.

This report has been shared with scrutiny committee chairs for comment.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The Council must continue to invest appropriately in its assets. Not to do so can incur more significant costs in the long term. With the continuing reduction in the real value of Welsh Government supported borrowing, the Council must rely on its own resources more and more.

The recommendations presented include prudent assumptions of known capital receipts. The total funding position assumed is reliant upon confirmation of further

government grant support. The recommendations and the allocations are clearly caveated to show the level of funding that is confirmed and what might be available once confirmation of additional funding is received. Service capital spending plans should therefore be prioritised on this basis and not assume the full allocation until the additional funding is confirmed.

The funding position is less certain for the 2019/20 Capital Plan until confirmation of various external funding streams identified in the report has been received. The Strategic Investment Group should revisit the funding position during 2019/20 to confirm the position and assess whether there may be further investment opportunities.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

- 10.1 Possible risks would include schemes not progressing, loss of grant and disruptions to services. The condition of assets would continue to deteriorate if investment is not made, and this may lead to the loss of important services.
- 10.2 No capital project is without risk. However all schemes are reviewed by the Strategic Investment Group and also subject to on-going monthly monitoring and reporting.

11. Power to make the Decision

- 11.1 Local Authorities are required under section 151 of the Local Government Act (1972) to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs.

2019/20 Capital Bids - Proposed Block Allocations

APPENDIX 1

Ref	Project Name	Head of Service	Total Project Cost £000	Capital Plan Requirement 2019/20 £000	P B Highways £000	Council Funds £000	Subject to WG approval - General Capital Grant £000	Subject to Capital Receipts £000	TOTAL 2019/20 £000	Brief Description
D01	Private Sector Housing Assistance	Emlyn Jones	1,200	1,200		974	226		1,200	Housing Improvement works to private sector dwellings
D02	Minor Adaptations; Community Equipment, Telecare	Phil Gilroy	220	220		122	98		220	Minor Adaptations and Equipment
D03	Agricultural Estate Capital Works	Jamie Groves	100	100		41	9	50	100	Address Health & Safety issues including Asbestos surveys & removal
D04	Schools Capital Maintenance Works	Jamie Groves	7,769	7,769		2,274	890		3,164	Works to a range of work streams in schools.
D05	Non School Public Buildings Capital Maintenance Works	Jamie Groves	5,758	5,758		1,137	188	20	1,345	Works to a range of work streams for Public Buildings
D06	Traffic Works	Emlyn Jones	1,195	186		126	60		186	Road Safety Improvement Schemes.
D07/D08/D09	Highways works	Tony Ward	3,585	3,585	1,750	826	209		2,785	Improvements to roads and bridges. Coastal Protection
D10	Sustainable LED Lighting (Salix)	Tony Ward	220	220	220				220	Application for loan to Salix to replace street lighting lanterns - see Note 1
	Capital Contingency					500			500	
	Queens Market Development	Jamie Groves				900			900	Set aside to fund demolition and associated fees pending external grant awards.
	TOTALS		20,047	19,038	1,970	6,900	1,680	70	10,620	

For Information Only:

Note 1 Sustainable LED Lighting (Salix) - Application for loan from Government funded Salix initiative

This page is intentionally left blank

The Strategic Investment Group decided to invite bids in line with previously agreed block allocations from services. The Strategic Investment Group has reviewed 10 bids over a number of meetings.

Each bid was submitted with approval of the relevant Head of Service. The proposed allocations are detailed in Appendix 1 and in summary are as follows:

- It is proposed to allocate £1.2m in support of Private Sector Housing Assistance. Of this, £226k will be provisional subject to confirmation of Welsh Government additional general capital grant. The funding will be used in the main on the provision of Disabled Facilities Grants.
- An allocation of £220k is recommended for Minor Adaptations, Community Equipment and Telecare. Of this, £98k will be provisional subject to confirmation of Welsh Government additional general capital grant. This funding is targeted at enabling the elderly and disabled to remain in their own homes.
- It is proposed to allocate £100k to the Agricultural Estate to support the rationalisation of the estate and address Health & Safety issues including Asbestos surveys and removal. Of this, £59k will be provisional, subject to confirmation of Welsh Government additional general capital grant (£9k) and future disposal of assets (£50k).
- Both the school and non-school capital maintenance bids include provision for essential maintenance such as Asbestos Removal, Fire Risk Assessment Work, Equalities etc. It is recommended that £3.164m be allocated to Schools Capital Maintenance Works. Of this, £890k will be provisional, subject to confirmation of Welsh Government additional general capital grant. It is also proposed to allocate £1.345m to non-schools capital maintenance work. Of this, £208k will be provisional subject to confirmation of Welsh Government additional general capital grant (£188k) and future disposal of assets (£20k). It is further recommended that the appropriate Heads of Service determine the precise allocations to works required, in order of priority. The full allocations proposed (with the additional grant funding assumed) meet the highest priority works identified across the schools and non-schools estate.
- Council on 29th January 2019 will be requested to approve £100k for Highways as part of the 2019/20 Corporate Plan allocation. This will allow £1.750m of capital expenditure.
- In addition to this, it is proposed to allocate £710k block allocation for structural and other repairs including highway maintenance, street lighting and bridges. Of this, £166k will be provisional, subject to confirmation of Welsh Government additional general capital grant. Also included within this recommendation is a

further £325k for repairs to bridge structures. Of this, £43k will be provisional, subject to confirmation of Welsh Government additional general capital grant. This is third year of a proposed ten year Highways Structure Backlog Project.

- An allocation of £186k is recommended to carry out road safety improvements. Of this, £60k will be provisional, subject to confirmation of Welsh Government additional general capital grant.
- The Strategic Investment Group considered a proposal for the continuation of a six year programme of replacement of all the street lighting lanterns within Denbighshire with new LED lanterns. The programme commenced in 2015/16 and will cost £1.5m in total, providing significant savings on energy costs and on-going maintenance costs. The scheme is funded through the Government Salix funding initiative which provides interest free loans for energy efficient projects and will be repaid using the savings generated. Applications for Salix funding are required on an annual basis, and the strategic Investment Group recommends the submission of an application to take out a Salix loan for year five costs of up to £220k repayable over 6 years.
- The Strategic Investment Group recommends maintaining the allocation set aside for any contingencies at £0.5m, in line with 2018/19.
- Cabinet on 20th November 2018 approved the acceptance of a grant offer from the Welsh Government to acquire the former Savoy Hotel and Queens Market, Hotel and Theatre in Rhyl. The acquisitions and subsequent demolition works are 100% externally funded. However, due to the timing of the grant awards, it is recommended £900k is set aside until such time as the external funding is confirmed.

Report To: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 22nd January 2019

Lead Member / Officer: Julian Thompson-Hill/Richard Weigh

Report Author: Richard Weigh, Head of Finance

Title: Budget 2019/20 - Final Proposals

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1 The report sets out the implications of the Local Government Settlement 2019/20 and proposals to finalise the budget for 2019/20.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1 The Council is legally required to set a balanced and deliverable budget before the start of each financial year and to set the resulting level of Council Tax to allow bills to be sent to residents.
- 2.2 To provide an overview of the budget process and the impact of the Local Government Settlement and to approve the budget for 2019/20, including the level of Council Tax.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1 To note the impact of the Local Government Settlement 2019/20.
- 3.2 That Cabinet supports the proposals outlined in Appendix 1, which are in line with the proposals presented at the member budget workshop held on 1th January 2019 and accordingly recommends them to the full Council in order to finalise the budget for 2019/20.
- 3.3 To approve the savings totalling £223k listed in Appendix 2 as part of the budget package.
- 3.4 To recommend to Council the average Council Tax rise of 6.35%, which recognises a range of significant pressures, including the increasing cost pressures in adults and children's social care and supports the allocation of £2.0m of additional funding to across the two services.
- 3.5 That Cabinet confirms that it has read, understood and taken account of the Well-being Impact Assessments submitted as part of this report.

4. Report details

- 4.1 The Final Local Government Settlement for 2019/20 was received by the council on 19th December and resulted in a cash-flat funding position, compared to the Welsh average position of +0.2%. The Provisional Settlement received in October indicated a reduction of -0.5% (Wales average -0.3%). For the funding position to have been neutral in terms of *minimum* funding pressures in the Medium Term Financial Plan, the Settlement would have to have been closer to +5%.

- 4.2 The change between the two settlement figures reflects an additional £14.2m allocated to local government as part of the Welsh Government's final budget proposals, as a consequence of the UK Government budget in November and a new responsibility, funded at £7m across Wales, to provide for an increase in the capital limit for those paying for residential care to £50k. The allocation to Denbighshire is £250k.
- 4.3 Also included in the Settlement are 'transfers in' of £426k relating to grant transfers for part year costs of the latest teachers' pay award and support for free school meals to recognise the impact of Universal Credit on eligibility criteria. The Final Settlement gives no forward indication of the level of funding councils might expect in 2020/21.
- 4.4 The final proposals to balance the 2019/20 budget are shown in the extract from the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) in Appendix 1. The main points are:
- Cash flat Settlement
 - Pay, pension and National Living Wage pressures are funded (£1.9m)
 - Price and energy inflation (£250k)
 - Fire Service Levy (£237k)
 - Allowances for increases to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme costs, reduction in DWP Administration Grant and central contingencies (£537k)
- 4.5 In addition, the council continues to support schools by funding pay and related inflation and movement in pupil numbers. This amounts to £3.7m (5.4% in total) in 2019/20. This figure includes pay and pension increases for teaching staff. The recent national teachers' pension scheme revaluation resulted in an increase in employers' costs which amounts to a cost pressure next year of £1.4m. It is assumed because of the decision being part of a national agreement that this will be funded by government. Negotiations are ongoing between Welsh and UK governments.
- 4.6 The budget proposed also recognises pressures in other priority areas, specifically:
- A further £1.5m to recognise existing pressures in Children's & Education Services (in addition to £750k allocated last year)
 - £500k to recognise demand pressure in Community Support Services as part of the council's long term strategy to manage care budgets
 - £600k to recognise increased demand on school transport budgets
 - £150k to support the recently agreed change to the council's waste and recycling service
 - £500k additional investment in the council's Corporate Plan and
 - £500k contingency to recognise the risk in delivery of the saving package and wider risks affecting the budget
- 4.7 In order to fund the pressures identified, savings of £5.67m have had to be identified.
- 4.8 These are made up of:
- Corporate savings identified in 2018/19 (£0.5m)
 - Service efficiency savings (£1.3m)
 - Service savings (£2.5m)
 - Schools savings of 2% (£1.32m)

4.9 An analysis of the service savings is set out in the table below:

Alternative Service Delivery Model	873	23%
Change to service level received by public	247	6%
Increase in Fees & Charges or additional external income contribution	725	19%
Procurement	88	2%
Service Reduction/withdrawal	517	13%
Technical Budget Reductions – no effect on service levels	48	1%
Efficiency Saving	1354	35%
Grand Total	3,852	100%

4.10 In February 2018, as part of the budget approval for 2018/19, the summary MTFP was presented which indicated a budget gap, before any mitigations or rise in Council Tax of £10.5m, with a similar position shown for future years. In this context, a new budget process for 2019/20 was established and led to the creation of a strategic board to oversee the process and to endorse the key assumptions within the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

4.11 The Reshaping the Council Board comprises members of CET, the Leader of the council and the Lead Member for finance and performance. It is also advised by officers from Finance, HR and Communications. The Board is tasked with delivering a budget process annually but within the context of a longer term strategic view. As has been the case for most of the last eight years, there is no reliable forward or indicative settlement figure for future years, meaning informed assumptions are calculated locally. As the funding from Welsh Government accounts for three-quarters of the net funding received, it is the most significant element of the council's budget and therefore minor changes to it have a significant impact (every 1% change equates to £1.431m).

4.12 Service budgets were scrutinised by the Board and services were required to model a range of savings options. The Board assessed these and directed services to progress proposals in line with strategic priorities. The result was to attempt, as far as possible, to minimise the impact on service delivery. The proposals in the budget for 2019/20 demonstrate that there has been relative protection to social care, education and highways and environment budgets, as highlighted in the table overleaf.

SAVINGS DISTRIBUTION TO SERVICES	18/19 BUDGET	TOTAL %
CUSTOMERS, COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING	2,831	8.0
EDUCATION AND CHILDREN SERVICES	14,127	1.1
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AND MODERNISATION	4,573	6.6
LEGAL, HR & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES	2,624	5.8
FACILITIES, ASSETS AND HOUSING	7,805	16.9
FINANCE	3,140	8.7
HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT	18,408	2.7
PLANNING & PUBLIC PROTECTION	2,961	14.2
COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES	35,034	1.4
SCHOOLS	68,166	2.0
TOTAL	159,668	

- 4.13 Details of all saving proposals were circulated to elected members in December and posted on the library section of Modern.gov. The majority of the proposals are delegated decisions, either to heads of service or lead members and total £3.629m. However, two have been determined as decisions requiring cabinet approval. These total £223k and are listed in Appendix 2 and where required, a Wellbeing Impact Assessment for the proposal is also attached. As school budgets are devolved, it will be for each governing body to determine how the savings targets for schools are delivered.
- 4.14 The council's MTFP assumptions are regularly reviewed and cost pressures reassessed. During the year, pressures in Children's & Education Services have grown in response increasing high cost placements and reduced income from external placements within the council's specialist provision. While the pressure on adult social care is in line with projections, the risk is still being offset by the careful use of specific cash reserves to smooth the impact. 2018/19 also saw the first full year impact of changes to the school transport policy and, alongside an increase in the number of pupils with specific transport requirements has led to a budget pressure of £600k (in addition to the £300k increase funded in 2018/19).
- 4.15 As the nature of these pressures is ongoing, it is unsustainable to manage the pressures without permanently increasing the council's funding base. As financial support from Welsh Government reduces annually in real terms, the burden has to be addressed locally, through a balance of savings and Council Tax. In calculating the total level of funding required by local authorities in the Settlement from Welsh Government, assumptions in the amount of Council Tax raised are made. In the 2019/20 settlement details, the difference between the 2018/19 and 2019/20 figures suggests an increase of 7%.
- 4.16 To address the immediate pressures highlighted in this report, it is recommended that the Council Tax increases by 6.35%. This is a higher figure than was assumed in earlier versions of the MTFP but recognises the challenging settlement from Welsh Government and the unavoidable pressures faced locally, particularly in social care, schools and transport. At 6.35%, an additional £797k will be raised compared to the Council Tax rise in 2018/19. This additional amount will be used as part of the overall package to address the budget deficit, which includes an additional allocation to social care of £2.0m. The proposed increase would add £79.24 per year to the average Band D property charge (£1.52 per week) and is £19.96 per year (38p per week) higher than the rise applied last year. This is set out in Appendix 3.
- 4.17 The budget proposals continue to include an element of cash funding to support the overall position. This is never an ideal position and reflects the ongoing financially difficult position the council faces. The cash identified for 2019/20 has been generated from previous savings and is drawn from a specific reserve. This helps to smooth the impact next year but is not a permanent solution.
- 5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?**
- 5.1 Effective management of the council's budgets and delivery of the agreed budget strategy underpins activity in all areas, including corporate priorities. The proposals include allocations to continue to support priorities.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

6.1 As set out above.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment? The completed Well-being Impact Assessment report can be downloaded from the [website](#) and should be attached as an appendix to the report.

7.1 Wellbeing assessments for the savings proposals in Appendix 2 and the Council Tax rise are attached.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

8.1 Members were briefed on the financial position in June, October and January. SLT have been part of the budget process. Trade unions have been consulted on the process. The Schools Budget Forum have been consulted on the schools' proposals. The Corporate Governance Committee has an oversight role in respect of the budget process.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1 The aim of the budget process is to ensure that the council delivers a balanced budget. The uncertainty over the level financial settlements in recent years has made financial planning in already difficult circumstances even more challenging.

9.2 Significant real terms funding reductions to local authorities in Wales have continued while costs continue to grow. Schools and social care represent the most significant elements of the council's budget and the cost of these is growing beyond the resources available. Pressures are also growing in other areas. While the council will always endeavour to be more efficient to save money, given savings of over £35m have been made in the last six years, it is no longer possible to address the funding gap through efficiency savings alone and a careful balance between service savings and local taxation has to be struck. The current MTFP extract shows a saving requirement of over £7m in 2020 and £4.5m the following year. This will have a significant impact on the future shape of the council and the services it delivers.

9.3 The budget proposed for 2019/20 builds the funding base to the level required for the year and allows the council time to develop a budget programme and proposals for the following two financial years. The MTFP and financial strategy will be updated and published early in 2019 and will underpin the budget process for the following two years.

9.4 Social care pressures are an ongoing risk for this and all other councils. The proposals in 2019/20 help to mitigate pressure but it is not sufficient to fully fund all of the underlying pressures permanently. Cost pressures in other service areas are being contained in 2019/20 but pose a risk to future years.

9.5 With a Council Tax rise of 6.35%, the council is still carrying a number of financial risks and uncertainties. For example, the teachers' pension issue is unresolved at the point of setting the budget and will have to be addressed in-year if government support is not forthcoming. Additionally, the council is continuing to dampen the demand growth in adult social care through the managed use of base budget increases and cash reserves. If in-year expenditure next year is higher than forecast, the amount of cash available to fund ongoing pressures will of course reduce. There are also risks beyond

items highlighted in this report or items already provided for through reserves that may crystallise during the year and if so, would have to be addressed.

- 9.6 The budget proposal includes the use of cash reserves of £2m. This reduces the requirement for further savings or Council Tax rise beyond that recommended for 2019/20 but is not a permanent solution and is recommended on the basis that the cash has already been identified.
- 9.7 If the proposals in this report are not accepted, alternative proposals must be submitted to balance the budget.
- 10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**
- 10.1 The budget process itself is a risk management measure with the aim of identifying, assessing and agreeing budget proposals in a planned and timely way. Failure to agree these proposals without viable alternatives will risk achieving a balanced budget for 2019/20.
- 10.2 The contingency identified helps to underwrite some risks. The contingency would be applied in the event the teachers' pension increase is not funded by government. Other measures would also have to be applied, including further in-year cuts.
- 10.3 As well as the specific risks and uncertainties highlighted in this report, further risks will emerge or crystallise in 2019/20 and so it is important the council's funding base is as resilient as it can be in the circumstances.
- 11. Powers to make the Decision**
- 11.1 Local authorities are required under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs.

Appendix 1 Final Proposals 2019/20

	2018/19 £'000	2019/20 £'000	2020/21 £'000	2021/22 £'000
Funding				
Revenue Support Grant & NNDR (RSG)	143,119	143,637	141,482	139,360
Council Tax	49,299	52,901	55,203	57,603
SSA / Budget Requirement	192,418	196,538	196,685	196,962
Use of Balances	2,000	2,000		
Total Funding	194,418	198,538	196,685	196,962
Expenditure				
Base Budget	189,252	194,418	198,538	204,294
Inflation / Pressures:				
Pay	1,611	1,587	519	519
Pensions		350	350	350
Living Wage			500	500
Price - targeted	100	100	100	100
Price - NSI Energy	150	150	150	150
CTRS / Contingency	740	537	350	350
Fire Levy	44	237	100	100
Social Services	750	500	500	500
Childrens Service	750	1,500		
Waste Pressures		150	900	
School Transport		600		
Schools Inflation	1,502	1,780	1,000	1,000
Schools Demography Adjustment	290	625	787	787
Contingency		500		
Other known items:				
Investment in Priorities	500	500	500	500
Transfers into/out of Settlement	2,934	426		
New Responsibilities	406	250		
EFFICIENCIES / SAVINGS:				
Capital and Corporate Savings	(2,000)	(500)		
Other Corporate Savings	(1,000)			
Service Efficiency Target	(1,200)			
Service Savings Target	(411)			
Service Savings Phase 1		(823)		
Service Savings Phase 2		(599)		
Service Savings Phase 3		(1,221)		
Service Savings Phase 4		(333)		
Service Savings Phase 5		(376)		
Schools Efficiency Target		(1,320)		
Social Care Savings Target		(500)		
Total Expenditure	194,418	198,538	204,294	209,150
Funding Shortfall / (Available)	(0)	(0)	7,609	12,187
Annual increase/(decrease) in shortfall	(0)	(0)	7,609	4,578

This page is intentionally left blank

SERVICE PROPOSALS AGREED TO PROGRESS BY BUDGET BOARD

Ref	Service	Description	RAYG Status (drop down)	Saving Category (drop down list)	2019/20 £000
HES RTC001	Highways and Environmental Services	Streetscene: Reduction in revenue budget for highways element of Streetscene. £200k per annum of preventative highway maintenance works (currently funded by Streetscene) will instead be funded using Capital Highways funding. This will result in £200k per year less being spent on highways maintenance. However, the impact of this can be partly mitigated by the formal provision of a base capital budget for highways, enabling the service to plan more strategically over a longer period of time.	GREEN	Service Reduction/withdrawal	200
FAH RTC002	Facilities, Assets and Housing	Handover Denbigh Town Hall to Denbigh Town Council - saving made on removing the running costs.	GREEN	Alternative Service Delivery Model	23

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 3 Council Tax Impact

2019/20	Increase %	Increase in Band D £	Proposed Band D £	Total Funding £000	Inc/Dec in Funding £000
	0.00%	0.00	1,247.84	49,739	0
	0.50%	6.24	1,254.08	49,988	249
	1.00%	12.48	1,260.32	50,237	498
	1.50%	18.72	1,266.56	50,486	747
	1.75%	21.84	1,269.68	50,611	871
	2.00%	24.96	1,272.80	50,735	996
	2.25%	28.08	1,275.92	50,860	1,120
	2.50%	31.20	1,279.04	50,984	1,245
	2.75%	34.32	1,282.16	51,109	1,369
	3.00%	37.44	1,285.28	51,233	1,494
	3.25%	40.55	1,288.40	51,358	1,618
	3.50%	43.67	1,291.52	51,482	1,743
	3.75%	46.79	1,294.64	51,607	1,867
	4.00%	49.91	1,297.76	51,731	1,992
	4.25%	53.03	1,300.88	51,856	2,116
	4.50%	56.15	1,304.00	51,980	2,241
2018/19 Increase	4.75%	59.27	1,307.12	52,105	2,365
	4.95%	61.77	1,309.61	52,204	2,465
	5.00%	62.39	1,310.24	52,229	2,490
	5.25%	65.51	1,313.36	52,354	2,614
	5.50%	68.63	1,316.48	52,478	2,739
	5.75%	71.75	1,319.60	52,603	2,863
	6.00%	74.87	1,322.72	52,727	2,988
	6.25%	77.99	1,325.84	52,852	3,112
Current Assumption in MTFP	6.35%	79.24	1,327.08	52,901	3,162
	6.40%	79.86	1,327.71	52,926	3,187
	6.50%	81.11	1,328.95	52,976	3,237

This page is intentionally left blank

Council Tax 2019/20

Well-being Impact Assessment Report


This report summarises the likely impact of the proposal on the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Denbighshire, Wales and the world.

Assessment Number:	360
Brief description:	It is a proposed rise in Council Tax of 6.35% in order to support the 2019/20 budget.
Date Completed:	15/01/2019 12:12:11 Version: 2
Completed by:	Richard Weigh
Responsible Service:	Finance
Localities affected by the proposal:	Whole County,
Who will be affected by the proposal?	Council Tax payers in Denbighshire
Was this impact assessment completed as a group?	No

IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Before we look in detail at the contribution and impact of the proposal, it is important to consider how the proposal is applying the sustainable development principle. This means that we must act "in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Score for the sustainability of the approach


 (3 out of 4 stars) Actual score : 25 / 30.

Implications of the score

The impacts are broadly neutral. This is because the Council Tax rise proposed supports a budget that protects existing service levels and increases investment in social care, schools and in new priorities. Clearly the impact is the increased tax paid by residents. The main mitigation is that around 25% of tax payers receive financial support through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. However, it is recognised that for some taxpayers, the proposed rise will create an additional financial burden, particularly for those with relatively fixed incomes or little disposable income.

Summary of impact

Well-being Goals

A prosperous Denbighshire	Neutral
A resilient Denbighshire	Positive
A healthier Denbighshire	Neutral
A more equal Denbighshire	Neutral
A Denbighshire of cohesive communities	Positive
A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	Neutral
A globally responsible Denbighshire	Neutral



Main conclusions

The focus of the proposal is on the short-medium term to maintain vital services in 2019/20. The impacts are broadly neutral. This is because the Council Tax rise proposed supports a budget that protects existing service levels and increases investment in social care, schools and in new priorities. Clearly the impact is the increased tax paid by residents. The main mitigation is that around 25% of tax payers receive financial support through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. However, it is recognised that for some taxpayers, the proposed rise will create an additional financial burden, particularly for those with relatively fixed incomes or little disposable income. For such residents, the Council works closely and proactively with Citizens Advice to offer support with personal budgeting and benefit maximisation.

Evidence to support the Well-being Impact Assessment

- We have consulted published research or guides that inform us about the likely impact of the proposal
- We have involved an expert / consulted a group who represent those who may be affected by the proposal

proposal

We have engaged with people who will be affected by the proposal

THE LIKELY IMPACT ON DENBIGHSHIRE, WALES AND THE WORLD

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	Whilst the Council Tax rise will increase the amount paid, it also allows the council to increase funding to provision in key areas such as social care and schools and maintain service levels broadly (there are some reductions but are not significant in terms of the size entire package) throughout other areas during 2019/20.
Further actions required	There will be an impact on the personal budgets of those who will not qualify for support: residents will pay more Council Tax - however there is support via the Council Tax reduction scheme for those who qualify for such support.

Positive impacts identified:

A low carbon society	
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	
Economic development	Allows the council to continue an appropriate financial provision in 2019/20.
Quality skills for the long term	
Quality jobs for the long term	
Childcare	

Negative impacts identified:

A low carbon society	
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	
Economic development	
Quality skills for the long term	
Quality jobs for the long term	
Childcare	

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
-----------------------	----------

Justification for impact	The Council Tax rise proposed supports a budget that includes continued support in key priority areas highlighted such as biodiversity and flood risk management.
Further actions required	Residents will pay more Council Tax - however there is support via the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for those who qualify for such support. For those who do not qualify for Council Tax Reduction Scheme support, the Council works closely and proactively with Citizens Advice to provide help and support with personal budgeting to those residents who may require it. Flexible payment options are available over ten or twelve months.

Positive impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	The Council Tax rise supports a budget that includes new priorities, including enhancing biodiversity, the natural environment and flood risk management.
Biodiversity in the built environment	
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	
Flood risk management	

Negative impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	
Biodiversity in the built environment	
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	
Flood risk management	

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	The proposal to raise Council Tax supports a budget that allows service eligibility criteria to be maintained as much. Not implementing the proposed rise would inevitably lead to reductions in service provision.

Further actions required	Residents will pay more Council Tax - however there is support via the Council Tax reduction scheme for those who qualify for such support. Help to those who do not qualify for Council Tax Reduction Scheme support, flexible payment options are available. Also, the Council works closely and proactively with Citizens Advice to provide help and support with personal budgeting to those residents who may require it.
---------------------------------	--

Positive impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	
Access to good quality, healthy food	
People's emotional and mental well-being	The Council Tax proposal supports a budget that maintains activity and service eligibility criteria in 2019/20 and provides increased funding for social care.
Access to healthcare	
Participation in leisure opportunities	

Negative impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	
Access to good quality, healthy food	
People's emotional and mental well-being	In some circumstances, where residents have relatively fixed incomes or little disposable income and do not qualify for support, the additional cost may cause a degree of anxiety or stress.
Access to healthcare	
Participation in leisure opportunities	

A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	The proposal to raise Council Tax supports a budget that avoids significant cuts to services received by the public in 2019/20. There are no known negative impacts on people with protected characteristics, there is an assumption that some people with protected characteristics will be eligible for council tax relief

<p>Further actions required</p>	<p>Residents will pay more Council Tax - however there is support via the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for those who qualify for such support. If someone is eligible for Council Tax support, the support applies immediately and so there would be no delay in accessing the support. For those who do not qualify for Council Tax Reduction Scheme support, the Council works closely and proactively with Citizens Advice to provide help and support with personal budgeting to those residents who may require it. Flexible payment options are available over ten or twelve months.</p>
--	--

Positive impacts identified:

<p>Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation</p>	<p>The proposals allow for additional funding to be allocated to social care budgets. There are no known negative impacts on people with protected characteristics, there is an assumption that some people with protected characteristics will be eligible for council tax relief.</p>
<p>People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage</p>	
<p>Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes</p>	
<p>People in poverty</p>	

Negative impacts identified:

<p>Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation</p>	
--	--

People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	
Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes	
People in poverty	Residents will pay more Council Tax. Those who qualify will be supported by the Council Tax reduction scheme. There will be some residents who do not qualify and for whom the tax rise will be an additional burden.

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The proposal to raise Council Tax supports a budget that protects front line services and protects the investment in new priority areas to enhance community resilience.
Further actions required	Residents will pay more Council Tax - however there is support via the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for those who qualify for such support. For those who do not qualify for Council Tax Reduction Scheme support, the Council works closely and proactively with Citizens Advice to provide help and support with personal budgeting to those residents who may require it. Flexible payment options are available over ten or twelve months.

Positive impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	
Community participation and resilience	The proposal avoids significant cuts to service levels during 2019/20 and builds in priority investment in connecting communities and resilience as part of the priority funding for 2019/20.
The attractiveness of the area	
Connected communities	
Rural resilience	

Negative impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	
Community participation and resilience	
The attractiveness of the area	
Connected communities	
Rural resilience	

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	The proposal to raise Council Tax supports a budget that helps to maintain services received by the public.
Further actions required	The negatives are managed through Council Tax relief being available for those who qualify for the support, though clearly this does not address the impact on all residents.

Positive impacts identified:

People using Welsh	
Promoting the Welsh language	
Culture and heritage	

Negative impacts identified:

People using Welsh	
Promoting the Welsh language	
Culture and heritage	

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	The proposal to raise Council Tax supports a budget that allows service levels to be broadly maintained in 2019/20 and so should not therefore adversely impact supply chains.
Further actions required	Residents will pay more Council Tax - however there is support via the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for those who qualify for such support. For those who do not qualify for Council Tax Reduction Scheme support, the Council works closely and proactively with Citizens Advice to provide help and support with personal budgeting to those residents who may require it. Flexible payment options are available over ten or twelve months.

Positive impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	The proposal allows for service levels to be broadly maintained during 2019/20.
Human rights	
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	

Negative impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	
Human rights	
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	

Asset Transfer - Denbigh Town Hall

Well-being Impact Assessment Report


This report summarises the likely impact of the proposal on the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Denbighshire, Wales and the world.

Assessment Number:	503
Brief description:	The proposed asset transfer of Denbigh Town Hall, including two associated commercial units, to Denbigh Town Council at an undervalue. A transfer to Denbigh Town Council would ensure the continued use of the building for the community and Denbigh Town Council who currently reside from the property.
Date Completed:	28/08/2018 15:17:18 Version: 1
Completed by:	Sion Goldsmith
Responsible Service:	Facilities, Assets & Housing
Localities affected by the proposal:	Denbigh,
Who will be affected by the proposal?	Denbighshire County Council - Facilities Management Unit staff, Denbigh Town Council and groups / organisations that currently hire the town hall for events or activities.
Was this impact assessment completed as a group?	No

IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Before we look in detail at the contribution and impact of the proposal, it is important to consider how the proposal is applying the sustainable development principle. This means that we must act "in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Score for the sustainability of the approach

 (3 out of 4 stars) Actual score : 21 / 30.

Implications of the score

A working group has been established to look at the feasibility of an asset transfer and provide all of the relevant information to Denbigh Town Council so they can make an informed decision on the offer of an asset transfer. The group is made up of Denbighshire County Council officers, three Denbigh Town Councillors, the Local Member and the Town Clerk. These meetings have been very productive and officers have been co-opted onto the group as and when required to advise and ensure any proposals are sustainable.

Summary of impact

Well-being Goals

A prosperous Denbighshire

A resilient Denbighshire

A healthier Denbighshire

A more equal Denbighshire

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Positive

Neutral

Positive

Neutral

Positive

Positive

Neutral



Main conclusions

The proposal will have a positive impact on each of the well-being goals with the biggest impact being seen in the prosperous, healthier and cohesive communities goals. The transfer of the property to Denbigh Town Council will ensure that the benefits that the current occupier (Denbighshire County Council & Denbigh Town Council) brings to the Town will continue and any future uses / occupiers can be selected by Denbigh Town Council to best suit the needs and aspirations of the local community.

Evidence to support the Well-being Impact Assessment

- We have consulted published research or guides that inform us about the likely impact of the proposal
- We have involved an expert / consulted a group who represent those who may be affected by the proposal
- We have engaged with people who will be affected by the proposal

THE LIKELY IMPACT ON DENBIGHSHIRE, WALES AND THE WORLD

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The asset transfer of Denbigh Town Hall to Denbigh Town Council will have a positive impact overall. Denbigh Town Council will have the freehold interest of the hall, continue to manage and operate the activity and events programme and make decisions at a local level rather than a county level. The transfer of the property to Denbigh Town Council will ensure that the benefits that the current occupier (Denbighshire County Council & Denbigh Town Council) brings to the Town will continue and any future uses/occupiers can be selected by Denbigh Town Council to best suit the needs of the local community and ensure the sustainability of the programme and property going forward.
Further actions required	N/A

Positive impacts identified:

A low carbon society	Unknown - Property is currently energy performance rated as B. Asset transfer would not have any impact on this rating unless further energy initiatives are implemented post transfer.
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	Unknown
Economic development	The proposed asset transfer will ensure the town hall remains operational and services or activities that are delivered from the venue are sustainable going forward. Decision will be made by Denbigh Town Council at a local level rather than a county level. Remaining operational will also ensure the continued vitality and viability of the town centres and town market.
Quality skills for the long term	Denbigh Town Hall is currently used as a venue for training, exercise referral, conferences and other life long learning experiences in the community. The asset transfer would ensure the long term sustainability of the hall and its offer.
Quality jobs for the long term	The proposed asset transfer would secure employment positions at Denbigh Town Hall and develop more opportunities for volunteering during town events.
Childcare	None

Negative impacts identified:

A low carbon society	Unknown - Unknown - Property is currently energy performance rated as B. Asset transfer would not have any impact on this rating unless further energy initiatives are implemented post transfer.
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	Unknown

Economic development	None
Quality skills for the long term	None
Quality jobs for the long term	None
Childcare	None

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	The proposed asset transfer of Denbigh Town Hall to Denbigh Town Council would have an overall neutral impact on a resilient Denbighshire although the town council maybe able to adopt and introduce more energy efficient systems that could improve the energy performance rating from a B to an A. Further grants maybe available to the town council to improve the property.
Further actions required	N/A

Positive impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	None
Biodiversity in the built environment	Unknown
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	Unknown
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	Unknown
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	None
Flood risk management	None

Negative impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	None
Biodiversity in the built environment	Unknown
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	Unknown
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	Unknown

People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	None
Flood risk management	None

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The proposed asset transfer of Denbigh Town Hall to Denbigh Town Council will result in an overall positive impact on 'a healthier Denbighshire'. The existing range of activities that support participation in leisure activities and encourage and support health and well-being will continue with opportunities to grow the range of events and activities focused on the needs of the local community rather than the County.
Further actions required	N/A

Positive impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	The proposed asset transfer would ensure the long term sustainability of the hall as a venue that hosts various health initiatives including the NERS (National Exercise Referral Scheme), operated by Denbighshire County Council, various exercise classes, dance, drama, choir and a range of educational / lifelong learning experiences.
Access to good quality, healthy food	Unknown
People's emotional and mental well-being	The proposed asset transfer would ensure the long term sustainability of the hall as a venue that hosts various health initiatives including the NERS (National Exercise Referral Scheme), operated by Denbighshire County Council, various exercise classes, dance, drama, choir and a range of educational / lifelong learning experiences.
Access to healthcare	None
Participation in leisure opportunities	The proposed asset transfer would ensure the long term sustainability of the hall as a venue that hosts various leisure and health related initiatives including the NERS (National Exercise Referral Scheme), operated by Denbighshire County Council, exercise classes, dance, drama, choir and a range of educational / lifelong learning experiences. The hall is a valuable community asset and also hosts a range of town and community events such as the Plum Festival, CADW Open Doors events, Beer Festival, Christmas light switch on, memorial events and many other activities and celebrations.

Negative impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	None
Access to good quality, healthy food	Unknown

People's emotional and mental well-being	
Access to healthcare	None
Participation in leisure opportunities	None

A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	The proposed asset transfer of Denbigh Town Hall to Denbigh Town Council will have an overall neutral impact. The transfer will ensure that the benefits that the current occupier (Denbighshire County Council & Denbigh Town Council) brings to the Town will continue and any future uses/occupiers can be selected by Denbigh Town Council to best suit the needs of the local community and ensure the sustainability of the programme and property going forward.
Further actions required	N/A

Positive impacts identified:

Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation	The proposed asset transfer of Denbigh Town Hall to Denbigh Town Council will ensure that services continue to be available to all members of the community irrespective of their protected characteristics.
People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	The proposed asset transfer of Denbigh Town Hall to Denbigh Town Council will ensure that services continue to be available to all members of the community irrespective of their protected characteristics.
Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes	The proposed asset transfer would ensure the long term sustainability of the hall as a venue that hosts various health initiatives including the NERS (National Exercise Referral Scheme), operated by Denbighshire County Council, various exercise classes, dance, drama, choir and a range of educational / lifelong learning experiences.
People in poverty	None

Negative impacts identified:

Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation	None
People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	None
Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes	None
People in poverty	None

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The proposed asset transfer of Denbigh Town Hall to Denbigh Town Council will have an overall positive impact. The transfer will ensure that the benefits that the current occupier (Denbighshire County Council & Denbigh Town Council) brings to the Town will continue. The property will continue to be maintained and remain open and operational to support local events.
Further actions required	N/A

Positive impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	Unknown
Community participation and resilience	The transfer will ensure that the benefits that the current occupier (Denbighshire County Council & Denbigh Town Council) brings to the Town will continue and any future uses/occupiers can be selected by Denbigh Town Council to best suit the needs of the local community and ensure the sustainability of the programme and property going forward.
The attractiveness of the area	The asset transfer proposal will ensure that this Grade II listed building, located in the town square, remains open and operational for community use. The internal and external elements of the property will continue to be maintained.
Connected communities	The transfer will allow Denbigh Town Council to make local decisions on the operation of the building rather than decisions for the County as a whole. The hall will continue to be used to support local events and activities that are important to the town.

Negative impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	Unknown
Community participation and resilience	None
The attractiveness of the area	None
Connected communities	None

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The proposed asset transfer of Denbigh Town Hall to Denbigh Town Council will have an overall positive impact. The transfer will ensure that the benefits that the current occupier (Denbighshire County Council & Denbigh Town Council) brings to the Town will continue. The property will continue to promote Welsh language and culture and offer activities and events that support people using Welsh in the community.
Further actions required	N/A

Positive impacts identified:

People using Welsh	Denbigh has a high percentage of Welsh speaking residents and Denbigh Town Council will continue to promote the Welsh culture and language.
Promoting the Welsh language	Denbigh has a high percentage of Welsh speaking residents and Denbigh Town Council will continue to promote the Welsh culture and language.
Culture and heritage	Denbigh Town Hall plays host to a number of events throughout the year around culture and heritage, particularly local history. The hall is also used for Eisteddfod and other Welsh cultural events.

Negative impacts identified:

People using Welsh	None
Promoting the Welsh language	None
Culture and heritage	None

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
-----------------------	---------

Justification for impact	The proposed asset transfer of Denbigh Town Hall to Denbigh Town Council will have an overall neutral impact. The proposed transfer will see us working with and through others to not only sustain the current offer, but to enhance provision where possible in partnership with others, empowering and building capacity within communities to devolve more responsibility from the Local Authority. Key decisions on services will be made locally rather than nationally meeting the needs and aspirations of that community rather than the authority as a whole.
Further actions required	N/A

Positive impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	Unknown
Human rights	Unknown
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	Unknown

Negative impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	Unknown
Human rights	Unknown
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	Unknown

This page is intentionally left blank

£200,000 per annum reduction in highway preventative maintenance revenue

Well-being Impact Assessment Report


This report summarises the likely impact of the proposal on the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Denbighshire, Wales and the world.

Assessment Number:	599
Brief description:	Streetscene: Reduction in revenue budget for highways element of Streetscene. £200k per annum of preventative highway maintenance works (currently funded by Streetscene) will instead be funded using Capital Highways funding. This will result in £200k per year less being spent on highways maintenance. However, the impact of this can be partly mitigated by the formal provision of a base capital budget for highways, enabling the service to plan more strategically over a longer period of time.
Date Completed:	10/01/2019 16:23:49 Version: 1
Completed by:	Tony Ward
Responsible Service:	Highways & Environmental Services
Localities affected by the proposal:	Whole County,
Who will be affected by the proposal?	Residents and Road users
Was this impact assessment completed as a group?	No

IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Before we look in detail at the contribution and impact of the proposal, it is important to consider how the proposal is applying the sustainable development principle. This means that we must act "in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Score for the sustainability of the approach

 (2 out of 4 stars) Actual score : 19 / 30.

Implications of the score

This proposal is a straight cut in the provision of funding currently being used to sustain a shared asset and therefore must be detrimental to many aspects of accessibility and sustainability across the county

Summary of impact

Well-being Goals

- A prosperous Denbighshire
- A resilient Denbighshire
- A healthier Denbighshire
- A more equal Denbighshire
- A Denbighshire of cohesive communities
- A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
- A globally responsible Denbighshire

- Negative
- Neutral
- Negative
- Negative
- Negative
- Neutral
- Negative



Main conclusions

The conclusion, perhaps not unsurprisingly given that it involves a cut in provision, is that the outcomes will be negative and even if the cut can be supplemented from other funding streams it will still be a cut

Evidence to support the Well-being Impact Assessment

- We have consulted published research or guides that inform us about the likely impact of the proposal
- We have involved an expert / consulted a group who represent those who may be affected by the proposal
- We have engaged with people who will be affected by the proposal

THE LIKELY IMPACT ON DENBIGHSHIRE, WALES AND THE WORLD

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Negative
Justification for impact	The negative outcomes from this proposal far outweigh any positive benefits
Further actions required	Increased reactive maintenance - but this is expensive and usually less effective

Positive impacts identified:

A low carbon society	Less work using bituminous material will be done
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	
Economic development	
Quality skills for the long term	
Quality jobs for the long term	
Childcare	

Negative impacts identified:

A low carbon society	Poor quality roads increase wear and tear on vehicles makes them less efficient
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	This proposal will result in a poorer quality infrastructure
Economic development	Poor roads are known to be detrimental to transport links and therefore impair economic development
Quality skills for the long term	
Quality jobs for the long term	
Childcare	

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	There are pros and cons which could mean that the outcome on the whole is neutral

Further actions required	Increased reactive maintenance - but this is expensive and usually less effective
---------------------------------	---

Positive impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	This proposal may mean less vegetation is disturbed
Biodiversity in the built environment	N/A
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	Less surfacing produces less waste
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	There is a negligible benefit in that less energy will be expended in doing the reduced workload but increased energy is likely from the inefficiency of vehicles
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	N/A
Flood risk management	

Negative impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	N/A
Biodiversity in the built environment	N/A
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	N/A
Flood risk management	Poor maintenance will result in increased potential for blocked drainage systems

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Negative
Justification for impact	This aspect is overwhelmingly negative
Further actions required	Increased reactive maintenance - but this is expensive and usually less effective

Positive impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	
Access to good quality, healthy food	
People's emotional and mental well-being	
Access to healthcare	
Participation in leisure opportunities	

Negative impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	Poor roads and footways inhibit the desire to use them
Access to good quality, healthy food	N/A though distribution may be affected to an extent
People's emotional and mental well-being	The level of complaints will rise thus showing residents concerns about poor quality
Access to healthcare	There is a chance that this could be compromised but not only that, there is less incentive for people to walk and therefore health issues may increase
Participation in leisure opportunities	Poor roads and footways inhibit the desire to use them

A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Negative
Justification for impact	On the whole this proposal is likely to create a negative bias in some areas
Further actions required	Increased reactive maintenance - but this is expensive and usually less effective

Positive impacts identified:

Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation	
People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	
Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes	
People in poverty	

Negative impacts identified:

Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation	For disabled people and pregnant women the risks are increased, For other groups the changes could be negligible
People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	N/A
Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes	N/A
People in poverty	N/A

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

Overall Impact	Negative	Page 200
-----------------------	----------	----------

Justification for impact	The proposal is likely to be overwhelmingly negative
Further actions required	Increased reactive maintenance - but this is expensive and usually less effective

Positive impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	
Community participation and resilience	
The attractiveness of the area	
Connected communities	
Rural resilience	

Negative impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	Poor quality roads and paths create hazards
Community participation and resilience	Poor surfaces can mean that resilience is reduced - especially in bad weather
The attractiveness of the area	Poor surfaces and reduced maintenance invariably makes areas look worse
Connected communities	A poor highway network must be detrimental to effectively connecting communities
Rural resilience	The effect of these changes, though evenly spread, may well be felt most in rural areas where the highway network is sparser

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	This proposal is neutral
Further actions required	Increased reactive maintenance - but this is expensive and usually less effective

Positive impacts identified:

People using Welsh	
Promoting the Welsh language	
Culture and heritage	

Negative impacts identified:

People using Welsh	N/A
Promoting the Welsh language	N/A
Culture and heritage	N/A

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Negative
Justification for impact	On the whole this proposal is likely to be negative - especially over a number of years
Further actions required	Increased reactive maintenance - but this is expensive and usually less effective

Positive impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	
Human rights	
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	

Negative impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	Supply chains could be compromised - especially over time as the quality of the network reduces
Human rights	N/A
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	

Report To: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 22nd January 2019

Lead Member / Officer: Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Richard Weigh, Head of Finance

Report Author: Steve Gadd, Chief Accountant

Title: **Finance Report (December - 2018/19)**

1. What is the report about?

The report gives details of the council's revenue budget and savings as agreed for 2018/19. The report also provides a summary update of the Capital Plan as well as the Housing Revenue Account and Housing Capital Plan.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the council's current financial position and confirm the agreed service budgets for 2018/19.

3. What are the Recommendations?

It is recommended that Cabinet Members note the budgets set for 2018/19 and progress against the agreed strategy.

4. Report details

The report provides a summary of the council's revenue budget for 2018/19 detailed in **Appendix 1**. The council's net revenue budget is £194.418m (£189.252m in 17/18). The position on service and corporate budgets is a forecast overspend of £0.756m (overspend of £0.964m in last report). Narrative around the current risks and assumptions underlying this assessment are outlined in Section 6.

The 2018/19 budget required savings and efficiencies of £4.6m to be identified and agreed. The table below gives a break-down of how the savings target was achieved. It can be confirmed that the £2m due to changes in the Minimum Revenue Provision and the £1m from wider corporate savings have both already been achieved. Service efficiencies of £1.2m and savings of £0.4m were agreed as part of the budget. As the efficiencies form part of 'business as usual' for services it is assumed these will all be delivered. Any exceptions will be reported to Cabinet if required.

Savings/Efficiencies Agreed for 2018/19	£000	%age
Changes to Minimum Revenue Provision	2,000	43%
Corporate Savings identified in 2017/18	1,000	22%
Service Efficiencies (see Appendix 2)	1,200	26%
Service Savings (see Appendix 2)	411	9%
Grand Total	4,611	100%

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

Effective management of the council's revenue and capital budgets and delivery of the agreed budget strategy underpins activity in all areas, including corporate priorities.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

Significant service narratives explaining variances and risks are shown in the following paragraphs.

Customers, Communications and Marketing is currently projected to overspend by £61k (£40k reported last month). The pressure is largely due to higher than anticipated

staff costs relating to maternity cover. The increase in overspend of £21k is due to £11k increase in the in-house cleaning / caretaking recharges for Libraries and £10k additional Contact 360 CRM corporate project costs relating to software licence fees.

Legal, HR and Democratic Services is currently projected to underspend by £91k (£88k underspend last month) largely due to staff vacancies which will contribute to the services saving proposals for next financial year.

Highways and Environment is currently projected to overspend by £818k (£806k reported last month). The following should be noted:

- **Major Projects** – Following a presentation and discussion of the issues at the Reshaping the Council Board it was proposed that an in-year budget allocation of £140k is released from centrally held contingencies in order to resolve this historic pressure on an ongoing basis.
- **School Transport** – additional funds have now been allocated to fund the full impact of the revised transport policy relating to hazardous routes which was agreed last year. Although it was hoped that this would be sufficient to deliver the service the following pressures have also been identified:
 - Changes to the policy relating to housing Denbighshire children in the Denbighshire special schools has resulted in an increase in special transport costs. These costs are especially high as they involve taxis and escorts. The overall impact of this change in approach which is not within the control of the Highways and Environment Service has led to an increase in costs of approximately £300k.
 - The overall increase in contracts agreed from September now amounts to £318k which largely relates to an increase in the overall number of pupils and contractors passing on inflationary pressure to the council. A number of contracts are still out to tender which may impact on future projections.

The new ongoing pressures identified in 2018/19 has been factored into the current budget proposals as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2019/20.

- **Streetscene** – The service has identified a statutory requirement to remedy an issue with 'Legacy Tips'. The overall one-off cost of this is estimated to be in excess of £200k. Further pressures within the service relate to additional time worked by staff in order to address issues raised by the public / Members (eg additional bin emptying in Rhyl during the hot summer months).
- **Waste** – A number of pressures are effecting the Waste service and the issues have been raised at the Budget Board. The majority of the pressure relates to new contract fees for the co-mingled waste contract. The pressure in 2018/19 and 2019/20 will be funded from the Waste Reserve and a budget pressure of £900k has been included in the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2020/21.

Education and Children's Service is currently projected to overspend by £1.476m (£1.669m reported in December). The main reasons for the decrease in overspend relates to:

- A refund of £107K relating to Denbighshire's annual contribution to the Conwy and Denbighshire Joint Youth Offending Team. The refund relates to the identification of a balance held by Conwy from unspent funds from previous years.
- A further £98k relates to the application of the children's services element of the Sustainable Social Services Grant. This is a new Welsh Government grant for which we have just received formal notification of DCC's allocation.

Some of this decrease has been offset by small increases in projections elsewhere in the service.

Children's Services continues to be an area of high risk due to the volatility in case numbers and inflationary pressures on placement costs. Each individual placement can be extremely expensive so any increase in numbers can have a large effect on the budget. The projected outturn includes all current out of county predicted placements to realistic timeframes. Education Out of County placements and recoupment income is less than budgeted due to the decrease in the numbers of pupils from other Local Authorities attending the Council's special school provision. The reported overspend takes account of a £750k budget contribution agreed as part of the 18/19 budget process. The financial implications of these pressures on the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2019/20 have been considered and an additional base budget allocation of £1.5m has been included in the current budget proposals which are also on this agenda.

Facilities Assets and Housing is projected to overspend by £42k (£87k overspend reported last month) largely due to an increase in the projected set up costs relating to the SC2 project. The total pressure of £277k has been mitigated by the service through the proposed re-focusing of £138k carried forward from 17/18 and the allocation of £54k from the income received from the Alliance Leisure Procurement Framework Agreement. The further reduction from last month largely relates to a review of all commitments and close control of spend by the Head of Service. There remains the option to capitalise some of the expenditure if further in year contributions cannot be identified.

Community Support Services is projected to break-even following an additional budget of £750k being allocated for 2018/19 and the planned use of reserves (amounting to a further £800k contribution in 2018/19). This now takes into account Community Support Services share of the Sustainable Social Services Grant which amounted to £366k. Overspends within the Mental Health Service and In-House Provider Services remain areas of greatest pressure. The Medium Term Financial Plan includes an assumed budget requirement of an additional £500k per year although further work is ongoing to assess the full financial implications and the identification of actions to help mitigate the effect of these pressures.

Schools - The position with School Balances will continue to be carefully monitored and reported to Members on a monthly basis. Not only are Education Finance working closely with schools to help develop robust plans, but chief and senior officers in Education and Finance meet regularly to review those plans and take remedial action if necessary. The budget agreed by Council for 2018/19 included a total additional investment in schools delegated budgets of £1.8m. The level of school balances carried forward into 2018/19 was a net deficit balance of £0.343m, which was an improvement of £0.713m on the balances brought forward from 2016/17. At the end of December the projection for school balances is a net deficit balance of £1.342m, which is an increase in the projected deficit of £0.999m on the balances brought forward from 2017/18. The non-delegated budget is currently projected to underspend by £9k due to minor underspends.

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The latest revenue position assumes a decrease in balances at year end of £1.050m which is £410k more than the budgeted decrease of £630k. The movement from last month is largely a result of a decision to increase the revenue contribution to the Capital programme therefore reducing the overall borrowing requirement. HRA balances are therefore forecast to be £1.162m at the end of the year. The Capital budget of £10.2m is allocated between planned improvements to existing housings stock (£6m) and new build developments (£4m).

Corporate – It is currently estimated that corporate contingencies amounting to £1.55m will be available to be released to help fund the service overspends (£1.55m projected last month). Further work is ongoing in areas, such as the projection on the cost of council-

wide energy bills, the Capital Financing Budget, an in-year review of earmarked reserves and projections around the Council Tax Yield in order to help ensure that the call on General Balances are kept to a minimum.

Treasury Management – At the end of December, the council's borrowing totalled £224.884m at an average rate of 4.24%. Investment balances were £10.3m at an average rate of 0.52%.

A summary of the council's **Capital Plan** is enclosed as **Appendix 2**. The approved capital plan is £56.8m with expenditure to date of £30.8m. **Appendix 3** provides an update on the major projects included in the overall Capital Plan.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

Well-being Impact Assessments for the savings included in Appendix 2 and the Council Tax rise was presented to Council on 30 January. An assessment for the MRP policy change was included in the report to Council in September 2017.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

In addition to regular reports to the Corporate Governance Committee, the budget process has been considered by CET, SLT, Cabinet Briefing and Council Briefing meetings. There were regular budget workshops held with elected members to examine service budgets and consider the budget proposals. All members of staff were kept informed about the budget setting process and affected staff have been or will be fully consulted, in accordance with the council's HR policies and procedures. Trade Unions have been consulted through Local Joint Consultative Committee.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

It is important that services continue to manage budgets prudently and that any in-year surpluses are considered in the context of the medium-term financial position, particularly given the scale of budget reductions required over the coming two or three years.

Specific pressures remain evident in social care budgets (both Adults' and Children's) despite additional investment of £1.5m in total for 2018/19. A similar situation is now evident in relating to School Transport despite additional investment of £0.6m in 17/18 and 18/19. Provision for these pressures have been included in the budget proposals contained within the Medium Term Financial Plan.

School balances will continue to be kept under close review. Not only are Education Finance working closely with schools to help develop robust plans, but chief and senior officers in Education and Finance meet regularly to review those plans and take remedial action if necessary.

Despite the release of further corporate contingencies the Council's overall overspend remains an area of concern. There may be additional corporate items which will further help the position such as indicated in Section 6. However it is possible that an in year overspend will need to be funded from General Balances (which would need to be replaced next financial year) unless in year cost saving initiatives across the Council can help bring the overspend on services down.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

This remains a challenging financial period and failure to deliver the agreed budget strategy will put further pressure on services in the current and future financial years. Effective budget monitoring and control will help ensure that the financial strategy is achieved.

11. Power to make the Decision

Local authorities are required under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs.

Appendix 1

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REVENUE BUDGET 2018/19

Dec-18	Net Budget	Budget 2018/19			Projected Outturn							Variance
	2017/18 (Restated)	Expenditure	Income	Net	Expenditure	Income	Net	Expenditure	Income	Net	Net	Previous Report
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	£'000
Customers, Communications and Marketing	2,971	3,461	-634	2,827	3,997	-1,109	2,888	536	-475	61	2.16%	40
Education and Children's Service	12,955	27,616	-13,436	14,180	27,091	-11,435	15,656	-525	2,001	1,476	10.41%	1,669
Business Improvement and Modernisation	4,613	5,353	-806	4,547	5,402	-855	4,547	49	-49	0	0.00%	0
Legal, HR and Democratic Services	2,623	3,962	-1,328	2,634	4,042	-1,499	2,543	80	-171	-91	-3.45%	-88
Facilities, Assets and Housing	6,931	24,252	-16,294	7,958	24,944	-16,944	8,000	692	-650	42	0.53%	87
Finance	2,914	5,370	-2,206	3,164	5,897	-2,733	3,164	527	-527	0	0.00%	0
Highways and Environmental Services	17,514	31,560	-12,601	18,959	32,766	-12,989	19,777	1,206	-388	818	4.31%	806
Planning and Public Protection	3,001	5,964	-2,996	2,968	5,925	-2,957	2,968	-39	39	0	0.00%	0
Community Support Services	32,356	51,836	-16,809	35,027	54,136	-19,109	35,027	2,300	-2,300	0	0.00%	0
Total Services	85,878	159,374	-67,110	92,264	164,200	-69,630	94,570	4,826	-2,520	2,306	2.50%	2,514
Corporate	18,942	54,582	-36,524	18,058	53,032	-36,524	16,508	-1,550	0	-1,550	-8.58%	-1,550
Precepts & Levies	4,525	4,569	0	4,569	4,569	0	4,569	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Capital Financing	12,965	11,361	0	11,361	11,361	0	11,361	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Total Corporate	36,432	70,512	-36,524	33,988	68,962	-36,524	32,438	-1,550	0	-1,550	-4.56%	-1,550
Council Services & Corporate Budget	122,310	229,886	-103,634	126,252	233,162	-106,154	127,008	3,276	-2,520	756	0.60%	964
Schools & Non-delegated School Budgets	66,942	76,083	-7,917	68,166	76,981	-7,825	69,156	898	92	990	1.45%	990
Total Council Budget	189,252	305,969	-111,551	194,418	310,143	-113,979	196,164	4,174	-2,428	1,746	0.90%	1,954
Housing Revenue Account	315	16,309	-15,679	630	16,779	-15,739	1,040	470	-60	410		165

This page is intentionally left blank

Denbighshire County Council - Capital Plan 2018/19 - 2021/22

APPENDIX 2

Position to end December 2018

Capital Expenditure

Total Estimated Payments - Other

Total Estimated Payments - Major Projects:

Housing Improvement Grants

Rhyl, New 3-16 Catholic School

Ysgol Llanfair, New School

Ysgol Carreg Emlyn, New School

Highways Maintenance

East Rhyl Coastal Defence Scheme

Rhyl Waterfront and Waterpark

Contingency

Total

Capital Financing

External Funding

Receipts and Reserves

Prudential Borrowing

Unallocated Funding

Total Capital Financing

2018/19 ORIGINAL ESTIMATE £000s	2018/19 LATEST ESTIMATE £000s	2019/20 LATEST ESTIMATE £000s	2020/21 LATEST ESTIMATE £000s	2021/22 LATEST ESTIMATE £000s
9,355	19,350	4,191	8,190	0
1,416	1,556			
	12,636	9,313	373	
	4,137	703		
	3,663	697		
3,070	4,222	500		
2,634	693	2,417		
10,721	10,545	530		
500	0	500	500	500
27,696	56,802	18,851	9,063	500
12,184	19,106	12,428	8,699	4,834
2,908	10,017	306	664	
12,604	27,679	10,451	4,034	0
0	0	(4,334)	(4,334)	(4,334)
27,696	56,802	18,851	9,063	500

Note: 2018-19 Original Estimate is the position as approved by Council on 20th February 2018

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 3 - Major Capital Projects Update – January 2019

Rhyl Harbour Development	
Total Budget	£10.624m
Expenditure to date	£10.624m
Estimated remaining spend in 2018/19	£ 0.000m
Future Years estimated spend	£ 0.000m
Funding	WG £2.545m; WEFO £5.899m; Sustrans £0.700m: RWE £155k; WREN/NRW £83k and DCC £1.242m
<p>Narrative:</p> <p>Now that the bridge has been operational for a few years, the maintenance schedule needs to be revised to ensure that the bridge is properly maintained for the longer term. The Corporate Executive Team (CET) have previously considered a report regarding the maintenance regime and agreed in-principle to amend the maintenance schedule, pending a decision about the long term funding.</p> <p>When the revised bridge maintenance contract has been agreed with Dawnus Construction Ltd, the final account for the bridge will be negotiated and this will complete the project. In the meanwhile the necessary maintenance is being undertaken to keep the bridge in working order. Additional costs were incurred during 2017/18 for both reactive maintenance and breakdowns. The new maintenance regime needs to be agreed and implemented so changes can be made and future breakdowns avoided.</p> <p>Options were presented in an updated report to CET on 30th April 2018 and further information was supplied to CET for their meeting on 11th June 2018 where approval was given to proceed with the new bridge maintenance arrangements.</p> <p>Additional maintenance and improvements to reduce future costs are being considered along with changes in reporting procedures to reduce staff time required to administer the contract.</p> <p>The Bridge Final Account has been settled at £45k rather than £60k originally requested by the Contractor.</p>	
Forecast In Year Expenditure 18/19	£0.045m

21st Century Schools Programme - Rhyl New School	
Total Budget	£23.824m
Expenditure to date	£23.761m
Estimated remaining spend in 18/19	£ 0.063m
Future Years estimated spend	£ 0.000m
Funding	DCC £10.135m; WG £13.689m
Narrative:	
<p>The project has provided a new school building for Rhyl High School to accommodate 1,200 pupils in mainstream education and approximately 45 pupils from Ysgol Tir Morfa, the community special school in Rhyl. The works have also included some extensive refurbishment to the exterior of the Leisure Centre.</p> <p>There are now just a couple of defects to be completed by the Contractor which are in hand, and an updated record of the community benefits derived from the project to be provided.</p>	
Forecast In Year Expenditure 18/19	£0.063m

21st Century Schools Programme – Glasdir	
Total Budget	£11.306m
Expenditure to date	£11.280m
Estimated remaining spend in 18/19	£0.026m
Future Years estimated spend	£0.000m
Funding	DCC £2.658m; WG £8.648m
Narrative:	
<p>This project has delivered a new shared school building site for Rhos Street School and Ysgol Penbarras at Glasdir, Ruthin.</p> <p>Since April 2018, the schools have been using their new site. The new facilities have been received very positively by pupils, parents, teachers and governors of both schools.</p> <p>The Council's Design, Construction and Maintenance team are supervising the de-snagging of defects as part of the overall project programme. Snagging work is ongoing and will remain ongoing until the end of the defects period in April 2019. Work to de-commission the old site is complete with the asset managed by the Council's Estate department.</p>	
Forecast In Year Expenditure 18/19	£0.878m

21st Century Schools Programme – Ysgol Carreg Emlyn	
Total Budget	£5.059m
Expenditure to date	£2.353m
Estimated remaining spend in 18/19	£2.009m
Future Years estimated spend	£0.697m
Funding	WG £0.221m; DCC £4.838m
Narrative:	
<p>This scheme is within the Band A proposals for 21st Century Schools Programme. The project will provide a new school building on a new site in Clocaenog and allow the two existing sites to be declared surplus.</p> <p>Work continues to progress on the internals and mechanical and electrical works, including second fix within the building and first stage of the decoration.</p> <p>The easement for the Scottish Power H Pole to supply power to the new site is still ongoing between Scottish Power and the third party land owner.</p> <p>In the coming weeks, progress will continue on the internals of the building, painting, start of the flooring and installation of the schools kitchen as well as works to form the school car park and improvements to the Highway will commence.</p> <p>It is envisaged the new school will open in the Spring of 2019.</p>	
Forecast In Year Expenditure 18/19	£3.663m

21st Century Schools Programme – Ysgol LLanfair	
Total Budget	£5.369m
Expenditure to date	£2.889m
Estimated remaining spend in 18/19	£1.776m
Future Years estimated spend	£0.704m
Funding	WG £0.180m; DCC £5.189m
Narrative:	
<p>This scheme is within the Band A proposals for 21st Century Schools Programme. The project will provide a new school building on a new site in Llanfair DC.</p> <p>Work continues to progress on site, with works to the internals and mechanical and electrical works continuing. The cladding and roofing has been completed and the building is now watertight.</p> <p>Discussions are currently on going with the Council, Welsh Water and interested parties of the village hall to agree an easement for connection to the foul drainage chamber in the village hall car park. This will continue to be progressed over the coming weeks.</p> <p>In the next period, works will continue on the plaster boarding and plastering and works will commence on the forming of the external areas of the new site.</p> <p>It is envisaged the new bilingual church school will open in the summer term of 2019.</p>	
Forecast In Year Expenditure 18/19	£4.137m

21st Century Schools Programme – Ysgol Glan Clwyd

Total Budget	£16.763m
Expenditure to date	£16.449m
Estimated remaining spend in 18/19	£0.161m
Future Years estimated spend	£0.153m
Funding	WG £11.461m; DCC £5.302m
Narrative:	
<p>This scheme is within the Band A proposals for 21st Century Schools Programme. The project has delivered an extended and refurbished Ysgol Glan Clwyd to accommodate a long term capacity of up to 1,250 pupils via a new three storey extension, partial demolition of existing buildings and refurbishment of the retained buildings. The project has also seen extensive landscaping, with creation of new outdoor hard and soft landscaped areas including a new sports field, extended and rationalised car park and coach parking area.</p> <p>Phase 1, a new three storey extension was completed and handed over for occupation by the school from January 2017.</p> <p>The first two sections of the old buildings following remodelling and refurbishment, comprising Phases 2a and 2b were handed over on 9th May 2017 and 28th June 2017 respectively. Part of Phase 2b included the new Visitors Car Park and the new Main Reception.</p> <p>The final main section of remodelling and refurbishment of the old buildings, Phase 2c, was completed on 4th September 2017 and handed back to the school ready for the start of the new academic year.</p> <p>Remaining internal works to create the new Leisure Centre facility and the final three rooms for the school were completed and handed over on 13th October 2017; at the same time the new Car Park and Coach Area and remaining external landscaping were also completed and handed over.</p> <p>The final activities saw the old Tennis Courts resurfaced and fenced to create a Multi-Use Games Area and clearance of the Contractors site offices and compound; this work was completed and a final handover occurred on Friday 10th November 2017.</p> <p>The School and Leisure Centre have returned to business as usual.</p> <p>As part of dealing with any Defects in association with the 12 month Defects Periods for each of the Phase/Sub Phase sectional completions, Phase 2 internal defects were rectified over the summer school holidays along with the bulk of the Phase 2 external defects. A small number of remaining defects will be addressed in the coming months subject to agreement on access to the school.</p> <p>The final issue of the BREEAM Certification associated with the project is still awaited and is anticipated within the next couple of months following an update from the Contractor. It is hoped the Final Account will be settled in the next few weeks.</p>	
Forecast In Year Expenditure 18/19	£0.200m

21st Century Schools Programme – Rhyl 3-16 Faith School	
Total Budget	£23.813m
Expenditure to date	£8.775m
Estimated remaining spend in 18/19	£5.352m
Future Years estimated spend	£9.686m
Funding	WG £5.541m; DCC £18.272m
Narrative:	
<p>This scheme is within the Band A proposals for 21st Century Schools Programme.</p> <p>Work on site continues to progress well and the programme remains on target. Prior to Christmas, the installations of the windows to the school continued with this element of the build scheduled for completion during January. The cladding has progressed for the sports hall and this will be scheduled for completion in the coming weeks.</p> <p>The first fix for partitions and Mechanical and Electrical work continues and are scheduled for completion by mid-February, with the second fix scheduled to start at the end of January.</p> <p>Recent figures received from the contractor show that throughout November 34% of the workforce travelled less than 10 miles from home to site, and a further 18% travelled less than 20 miles.</p> <p>Meetings with the school have been taking place over the last few months regarding furniture and internal decoration, and these will be confirmed shortly.</p>	
Forecast In Year Expenditure 18/19	£12.637m

Rhyl Waterfront and Waterpark	
Total Budget	£23.467m
Expenditure to date	£19.422m
Estimated remaining spend in 18/19	£ 3.515m
Future Years estimated spend	£ 0.530m
Funding	WG £5.354m; DCC£16.113m; Rhyl Town Council £2.000m
Narrative:	
<p>Construction work on SC2 is nearing completion. The Waterpark is still on schedule to be handed over to the Council in January 2019 and to open prior to Easter 2019.</p> <p>Travelodge is on schedule to complete in January 2019.</p> <p>Proposals for the footprint of the former Unit C on the Children's Village are still being considered along with plans for the relocation of the Tourist Information Centre and refurbishment of Unit A.</p> <p>Major refurbishment of the Children's Village (Underground) car park is on schedule to complete by late March 2019.</p>	
Forecast In Year Expenditure 18/19	£10.545m

Rhyl Queens Market Redevelopment	
Total Budget	£5.000m
Expenditure to date	£0.000m
Estimated remaining spend in 18/19	£3.000m
Future Years estimated spend	£2.000m
Funding	WG £5.000m (subject to formal confirmation)
Narrative:	
<p>Approval from Cabinet has been given to accept a Welsh Government grant offer in respect of the Queen's Market Redevelopment. Once an update valuation is received, a grant offer letter will be received from the Welsh Government and the properties can be acquired. The aim is to complete the acquisitions by the end of January 2019.</p>	
Forecast In Year Expenditure 18/19	£3.000m

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
26 Feb 2019	1	Denbighshire's Replacement Local Development Plan – Draft Pre Deposit (preferred strategy) for consultation.	To consider a recommendation to Council.	Tbc	Councillor Brian Jones / Angela Loftus
	2	Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) Write-Offs	To seek Cabinet approval to write off irrecoverable NDR (Business rates) as detailed within the report	Yes	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Richard Weigh
	3	North Wales Construction Framework 2	To appoint contractors for the project	Yes	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Tania Silva
	4	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Richard Weigh
	5	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator
26 Mar 2019	1	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Richard Weigh
	2	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
30 Apr 2019	1	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Richard Weigh
	2	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator
28 May 2019	1	North Wales Growth Bid Governance Agreement 2	To approve the governance arrangements in relation to the implementation of the growth deal.	Yes	Councillor Hugh Evans / Graham Boase / Gary Williams
	2	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Richard Weigh
	3	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator
25 Jun 2019	1	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Richard Weigh
	2	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
30 July 2019	1	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Richard Weigh
	2	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Scrutiny Coordinator

Future Issues – date to be confirmed

<i>Item (description/title)</i>	<i>Purpose of report</i>	<i>Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)</i>	<i>Author – Lead member and contact officer</i>
Rhyl Regeneration Programme re-launch	To support the future arrangements regarding the regeneration of Rhyl	Yes	Councillor Hugh Evans / Graham Boase

Note for officers – Cabinet Report Deadlines

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
<i>February</i>	12 February	<i>March</i>	12 March	<i>April</i>	12 April

Updated 09/01/19 - KEJ

Cabinet Forward Work Programme.doc

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 12, 14, 15 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 12, 14, 15 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 12, 14, 15 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 12, 14, 15 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank