

Report To: **Cabinet**

Date of Meeting: **26 July 2016**

Lead Member / Officer: **Cllr Bobby Feeley; Nicola Stubbins; Bethan Jones Edwards**

Report Author: **Nicola Stubbins; Bethan Jones Edwards**

Title: **Part 9 of the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 – Regional Partnership Board**

1. What is the report about?

This report sets out the requirements within Part 9 of the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.1 This report has been compiled to inform partners of the requirements within Part 9 of the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 that comes into force on 6th April 2016 and which requires the establishment of a Regional Partnership Board in each health board region in Wales. The Regional Partnership Board will be a statutory body with functions defined by the Act and in subsequent regulations with the force of law.

2.2 This report will also inform North Wales partners of the steps which are being taken to establish this Regional Partnership Board.

3. What are the Recommendations?

It is recommended that the Council: -

- a) Endorses the proposals of the Shadow Regional Partnership Board the establishment of the Regional Partnership Board subject to a continuing two way dialogue between the Board and partners on the work programme and operating arrangements for the Board
- b) Nominates its statutory Director and lead member for Social Services to sit on the Board
- c) Supports the structural option where: -
 - i) The Leadership Group of Officers supports the Board by providing strategic advice and directing operational work.
 - ii) The Board works in partnership with area arrangements to deliver integrated services and pooled budgets (where appropriate)

4. Report details

4.1 The North Wales Region has operated a regional forum bringing together key partners in Social Care and Health (principally Councils and the Health Board) for many

years. This regional body has worked with the Social Services Directors and Health Board Officials to manage grants made available on a regional basis by the Welsh Government to improve joint working between councils, the health service and independent care providers. The Act has transferred this activity to the new, statutory Regional Partnership Boards which will take an overview of a range of regional funding streams as directed by the Minister.

4.2 The new Regional Partnership Board will also take an overview of the promotion of integrated working. It is proposed that the delivery of integrated working and the implementation of pooled budgets (if any) are undertaken at the area level in partnership with the Area Directors of the BCUHB. In order to help meet the statutory timetable a Shadow Board has been established to enable work on the final terms of reference, priorities and work programme of the new Board in a two way dialogue with the constituent members of the Board.

4.3 The Shadow Board has the same membership as that proposed for the formal Board and required by statute. It will prepare for the establishment of the Board in the period between now and the agreement to form the Board by each statutory partner. (The six Local Authorities and the BCUHB). The formal establishment of the Board will be achieved by each statutory partner receiving and agreeing this report and nominating members to serve on the Regional Partnership Board. There will be further discussion of how the operational arrangements might work with an emphasis on local and area delivery within the region led by the Shadow Regional Partnership Board. However, if the issue in question is best dealt with regionally then a North Wales approach will be adopted. The Shadow Board will prepare a consultation pack for the constituent members detailing its proposed work programme, priorities, reporting relationships, operating arrangements and undertake an Equalities Impact Assessment.

4.4 Part 9 of the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 requires local authorities to make arrangements to promote co-operation with their relevant partners and others in relation to adults with needs for care and support, carers and children. It places a duty on relevant partners to co-operate with, and provide information to, the local authorities for the purpose of planning and delivering their social services functions. This information will be fundamental to compiling a regional needs assessment which will guide the work of areas in delivering integrated working locally.

4.5 Part 9 also provides for partnership arrangements between local authorities and Local Health Boards for the discharge of their functions. It also provides Welsh Ministers with regulation making powers in relation to formal partnership arrangements, resources for partnership arrangements (including pooled funds) and partnership boards.

4.6 The purpose of Part 9 is to improve outcomes and well-being of people as well as improving the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery.

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

5.1 The Regional Partnership Board's work will contribute to the following areas within the Council's Corporate plan:

- Vulnerable people are protected and are able to live as independently as possible
- modernising the council to deliver efficiencies and improve services for our customers.

- 5.2** The work of the Regional Partnership Board will also contribute to the Denbighshire Well-Being Plan 2014-2018 specifically in relation to the following areas:
- people are active, connected and contribute to their community
 - people take notice of what is going on around them, and in doing so, keep learning about their world
 - people prioritise their wellbeing and actively plan to maintain their independence.

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

- 6.1** During this financial year any costs associated with the Regional Partnership Board, its development, work programme and secretariat is funded from the Delivering Transformation Grant which comes to the region from Welsh Government. From April 2016 onwards this funding will be distributed into the Revenue Support Grant and the Board will need to consider how the Board, its work programme and secretariat are funded from 2016/17 onwards.
- 6.2** With regard to current services in the areas of priority as listed above, there will be a need to integrate these and this could include the provision of pooled budgets.
- 6.3** There is however, a requirement to have a pooled budget **in** relation to care home accommodation from 6th April 2018.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report

- 7.1** See attached EqIA.

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

- 8.1** A workshop with current members of the Partnership Forum and Leadership Group was held on 14th March 2016; this was a facilitated session led by the Institute of Public Care, Oxford Brookes University. From Local Authorities this included the Directors of Social Services and the Lead Member for Social Care.
- 8.2** Directors of Social Services and the Head of Regional Collaboration have presented on the Act to Chief Executives and to the Regional Leadership Board and highlighted the requirements around Part 9 of the Act.
- 8.3** The draft report has been shared and commented on by representatives of each authority, including the Health Board.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

- 9.1** The impact of the Delivering Transformation Grant transferring into the RSG will have to be monitored though it should not create a cost pressure. The wider impact of integration of social care and health services, particularly the requirement to pool resources, is a significant undertaking in a relatively short time. It is crucial that the organisational, governance and financial arrangements to support this are properly considered and meet the requirements of all partners. There is clearly an opportunity to improve integration and services to people but risks if the arrangements are not

robust. The Partnership Board has co-opted S151 Officer representation to assist with the development of the process.

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

10.1 Whilst it is a requirement to have a Regional Partnership Board, there are risks associated with the ambition, pace and prioritised areas for integration of services as required within the Act.

10.2 Ongoing funding to support the Regional Partnership Board, its work and secretariat from April 2017 onwards.

10.3 Whilst the Regional Partnership Board is a statutory body it has no decision-making powers.

11. Power to make the Decision

S168 Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2014

Partnership Arrangements (Wales) Regulations 2015