

Report To: Full Council

Date of Meeting: 14th February 2017

Lead Member / Officer: Councillor Bobby Feeley/ Nicola Stubbins

Report Author: Gwynfor Griffiths/James Wood (based on a North Wales version produced by Jenny Williams, Director of Social Services, Conwy County Borough Council)

Title: North Wales Population Assessment

1. What is the report about?

1.1 This report provides general information regarding the draft Population Assessment for North Wales, which has been produced in partnership with; the other five North Wales Local Authorities, Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board and Public Health Wales.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.1 To seek the County Council's approval of the draft North Wales Population Assessment before the final version is produced by 1st April 2017. The Assessment is expected to make a significant contribution to a greater understanding of; the needs of our communities, what services are in place to meet those needs and what gaps exist in provision.

3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1 That Members consider the draft Population Assessment and approve it pending the final versions being produced. A summary of the assessment is attached to this report (Appendix 2) and the full version, which is approximately 350 pages, has been e mailed to individual members of the Full Council.

4. Report details

4.1 The Population Assessment has to be produced on a legal basis under Section 14 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and the Care and Support (Population Assessment) Wales Regulations 2015. It must be jointly produced by the six North Wales local authorities and the Local Health Board. Once completed, it has to be published on our website and be submitted to the Welsh Government.

4.2 A toolkit produced by the Social Services Improvement Agency and commissioned by the Welsh Government describes the purpose of the Population Assessment as follows;

"The population assessment will ensure services are planned and developed in an efficient and effective way by public sector partners to promote the well-being of people with care and support needs. The assessment will... enable both local

authorities and Local Health Boards to focus on approaches to care and support which prevent needs occurring or escalating. It will provide the information required to support resources and budgeting decisions; ensuring services and outcomes are targeted, sustainable, effective and efficient”.

- 4.3 Section 14 of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act (2014) requires local authorities and health boards to jointly assess:
- a) The extent to which there are people in a local authority’s area who need care and support
 - b) The extent to which there are carers in the local authority’s area who need support
 - c) The extent to which there are people in a local authority’s area whose needs for care and support are not being met
 - d) The range and level of services required to meet the care and support needs of people in the local authority’s area
 - e) The range and level of services required to achieve the purposes in Section 15(2) (preventative services) in the local authority area
 - f) The actions required to provide the range and level of services identified in accordance with paragraphs (d) and (e) through the medium of Welsh
- 4.4 The report must cover as a minimum the following themes: children and young people; older people; health / physical disabilities; learning disability/autism; mental health; sensory impairment; carers who need support; and, violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence. In North Wales the following themes have also been included: homelessness, veterans and people in the secure estate, along with a link to the Area Planning Board Substance Misuse Needs Assessment.
- 4.5 A single report must be produced for the North Wales Region and be approved by the Board of the Local Health Board and by the full council in each Local Authority. It should be published on 1 April 2017 on each local authority and health board website in Welsh and English, with a copy sent to Welsh Ministers.
- 4.6 The North Wales Social Care and Wellbeing Services Improvement Collaborative set up a regional steering group to lead the work with technical, engagement and theme-based groups to lead on specific tasks. The steering group is chaired by Jenny Williams, Director of Social Services and Education, Conwy County Borough Council. Membership of the groups is from each North Wales local authority, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) and Public Health Wales. A governance structure is attached in appendix 1.

Report scope and structure

- 4.7 The Population Assessment report was engagement led. It was based on feedback from staff, partner organisations, service users and the general public to identify strategic needs for care and support. This included information from existing commissioning strategies and needs assessments. The project team collected evidence to challenge these hypotheses through data analysis, background literature reviews, service reviews and additional focussed engagement work.

4.8 The requirement to produce an accessible, regional report in a short timescale has limited what can be included. The report will provide an evidence base for services and strategies and underpin the integration of services and support partnership arrangements. It should be a useful tool for planners and commissioners in local authorities and health, however, there is still likely to be a need for commissioning strategies and market position statements to set out the local vision and plan for services in an area and the support available for providers.

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

4.9A Well-being Assessment must be produced as a requirement of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 by each Public Service Board in a similar timescale to the Population Assessment. The Population Assessment considered the care and support needs of the population while the Well-being Assessment covers prosperity, health, resilience, equality, vibrant culture, global responsibility and cohesive communities. There is overlap between the two so the project team are providing highlight reports to the four Public Services Boards in North Wales about the progress of the Population Assessment and are working with officers responsible for the Well-being Assessment to avoid duplication and maximise the use of resources. An example is joint engagement work carried out for both assessments.

Area plan

4.10 The next phase of the project will involve using the Population Assessment to develop an Area Plan for the region and we are currently awaiting the guidance about this from Welsh Government. Due to the tight timescales for producing the population assessment work on the area plan may involve further research and consultation to explore priority areas in more depth before agreeing which areas to prioritise for regional work.

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

5.1 The preparation of the Population Assessment will provide the authority with a much greater understanding of the needs of the specific population groups that it has to address and help us to identify the priorities for future planning and commissioning of services.

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

6.1 The North Wales Social Care and Wellbeing Services Improvement Collaborative funds a Regional Project Manager to support the project and associated costs including translation and specialist engagement.

6.2 There is a cost to the local authorities, BCUHB and Public Health Wales in staff time to support the project. This includes staff to carry out engagement work with the public, service users, staff and elected members and staff to support the analysis and writing of the report. The majority of this work took place between April and November 2016.

6.3 The main cost identified relates to staffing resources. Currently, two service managers represent the authority in taking this work forward and another manager is involved in planning the engagement processes that need to be in place with the target population groups.

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 The final report will have an impact on anti-poverty strategies by improving the way social care and health needs are met. There are strong links between poverty and health inequalities which the population assessment should help address. There are links with crime and disorder through the chapter on violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence. The report will also consider the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 including sustainability.

7.2 A full Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out and is attached to this report. (Appendix 3)

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

8.1 Engagement for the Population Assessment included: a questionnaire for organisations that asks for their views and evidence; a facilitator's guide for partners to use to run discussion groups with service users; a questionnaire for the public available on the Citizen's Panel website along with interviews with Citizen's Panel members and workshops with staff and councillors organised by each local authority.

8.2 A stakeholder map has been produced and reviewed listing all the population groups who may need care and support services to ensure that as many people as possible have the opportunity to have their say. This includes engagement with hard to reach groups.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The assessment will help inform strategic planning and priorities for care and related support across the region. Careful consideration will have to be given to determining priorities how resources are prioritised to support them.

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

10.1 That regional partners do not have enough capacity or local governance structures to deliver the project or engage with the process effectively. To mitigate any issues will be raised with the regional steering group.

10.2 That it will not be possible gain approval from all six councils and the Board of BCUHB in time to publish on the 1 April 2017. To mitigate the project team aim consult as widely as possible before the approval process begins in December 2016.

11. Power to make the Decision

11.1 It is essential to gain the approval of the Full Council to the Population Assessment before it is adopted as the final version .The final version will need to be shared with the Welsh Government and made available on the County Council's website.