

Report To: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 12 December 2017

Lead Member / Officer: Nicola Stubbins: Corporate Director – Communities
Councillor Bobby Feeley, Lead Member for Well-being and Independence

Report Author: Heidi Roberts, Solicitor

Title: Integrated Care Fund Agreement 2017-2020

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1 To update Members about the approach being adopted to formalise the regional funding and governance arrangements in respect of the Integrated Care Fund (“ICF”).
- 1.2 To seek authorisation to the ratification and signature of the ICF legal agreement that has been produced on behalf of the region in response to the requirements of Welsh Government’s Integrated Care Fund Guidance dated April 2017.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1 To advise on the recent guidance issued by the Welsh Government regarding the ICF.
- 2.2 A decision is required endorsing the regional approach to ICF funding arrangements and authorising the Local Authority to ratify and enter into the agreement prepared to regulate our relationships with our Partners.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1 That Cabinet notes the contents of this report.
- 3.2 That Cabinet gives approval to the Council entering into a legal agreement between Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board and the six local authorities across North Wales, regulating the governance and processes surrounding expenditure and reporting requirements in respect of the ICF.
- 3.3 That Cabinet Members confirm they have read, understood and taken account of the Well-being Impact Assessment attached at Appendix 1 as part of their consideration.

4. Report details

- 4.1 The Intermediate Care Fund was established in 2014 to support initiatives which prevented unnecessary hospital admission, inappropriate admission to residential care, and delayed discharges from hospital. From April 2017, the Fund has been rebranded as the Integrated Care Fund to better reflect an expanded scope.

- 4.2 Part 9 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 provides for Regional Partnership Boards to be established. These Boards bring together health, social services, the third sector and other partners to take forward effective integration of health and social services. Members will be aware that an Integration Agreement has already been endorsed by Denbighshire. The aim of the Integration Agreement is to set out partners' willingness to integrated working and to provide a framework outlining how integration will be achieved (including the pooling of funds). ICF is one potential area for integration included within the Integration Agreement
- 4.3 Regional Partnership Boards are required to utilise the ICF to support schemes and activity that provide an effective integrated and collaborative approach in relation to the following areas of priority:
- (a) Older people with complex needs and long term conditions, including dementia;
 - (b) People with learning difficulties;
 - (c) Children with complex needs due to disability or illness; and
 - (d) Carers, including young carers.
- 4.4 There are also two ring-fenced initiatives; namely the Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS) and the Integrated Autism Service.
- 4.5 ICF statutory guidance issued by Welsh Government in April 2017 sets out the objectives ICF is intended to achieve, but also sets out conditions which states that the funding must be used to support new or additional provision of services and ways of working and to increase the scale of integration across the region.
- 4.6 There is no capacity to overspend as there is no end of year flexibility, and funds cannot be carried over.
- 4.7 The funding is allocated to health boards within Regional Partnership Boards, but spending decisions must be taken collaboratively by the wider Regional Partnership Board. The Board must have oversight and ensure the effective use and delivery of the ICF.
- 4.8 The statutory guidance stipulates that the governance of the fund and decision making on the spend must be robust; there shall be an ICF revenue investment plan and a legal agreement between the parties.
- 4.9 A written agreement covering the matters specified within the statutory guidance has therefore been developed. All six North Wales local authorities and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board are parties to the Agreement which also has to be signed by the Chair of the Regional Partnership Board. A copy of the agreement needs to be provided to Welsh Government.

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

Partnership arrangements emanating from the ICF could support the following corporate priorities:-

- (a) Everyone is supported to live in homes that meeting their needs;
- (b) The Council work with people and communities to build independence and resilience; and
- (c) Younger people want to live and work here and have the skills to do so.

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

There are no direct costs associated with signing up to the ICF agreement as the agreement provides the regulatory and governance framework for regulation of ICF monies across the region.

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

Two impact assessments have been completed to date with respect to the partnership and pooled fund arrangements mandated by Part 9 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

A copy of the current well-being Impact Assessment is attached at Appendix 1.

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

- 8.1 A regional pooled budgets working group was established in early 2017. All six North Wales local authorities and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board are represented at this working group. The group, which is responsible for driving forward the pooled budgets requirements, has been involved in the development of the ICF agreement.
- 8.2 The proposed ICF agreement, as endorsed by members of the pooled budgets working group has been circulated to each partners' legal representatives for consideration.
- 8.3 The Regional Partnership Board endorsed the proposed ICF agreement at its meeting in September 2017.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The agreement will strengthen existing regional arrangements and helps to support the wider agenda of regional health and social care integration.

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

The Council is required in law to have a legal agreement setting out its obligations and those of its partners in respect of ICF monies. There is a risk of breaching statutory guidance if this agreement is not signed up to. Moreover, the agreement provides a framework which offers consistency, clarity and protection for all partners in respect of governance of the fund and decision-making in relation to it.

11. Power to make the Decision

- (a) Sections 166-167 Social Services and Well-being (wales) Act 2014
- (b) The Partnership Arrangements (wales) regulations 2015
- (c) Welsh Government's Integrated Care Fund Guidance: April 2017

- (d) Part 9 Statutory Guidance (Partnership Arrangements)
- (e) Section 2 Local Government Act 2000