

Key Local Messages for Denbighshire PNA

1. An increasingly ageing population with more complex needs combined with a recruitment and retention crisis across social care is leading to longer waiting times and inability to commission all requested care and support for adults

Actions required:

- i. Optimise use of resources through better partnership working with neighbouring LAs, Health and providers.
- ii. Supporting new local, small scale provision through Community Catalysts.
- iii. Increasing use of preventative services to maintain independence.

1. Deepening poverty & deprivation giving potential increase in demand for services while LA income is reduced

Actions required:

- i. Focus on rural areas with most problems in terms of available services and affordable transport for people to access them.
- ii. Prepare for increased numbers of households requesting support due to high energy costs and rising inflation rates. Fewer people self-funding care and support.
- iii. Prepare for increase in homelessness / housing requests, including for those aged 16 – 18.
- iv. Prepare for increased applications for school uniform grants and changes to free school meals applications – note that free school meals are expected to be offered to all foundation phase pupils by September 2022 and all primary school pupils by September 2023. Concern around how deprivation levels will be measured in the future.

2. Need for improved support for unpaid carers

Actions required:

- i. Respite opportunities must be increased and reflect choice and control needs.
- ii. Increase numbers of unpaid carers who identify to and engage with the LA.
- iii. A Task & Finish Group will commence early in 2022 to work on this.

3. Need for help in early stages of dementia

Actions required:

- i. Work underway on improving dementia pathways to facilitate access and support people and their families pre, during and post diagnosis.
- ii. Ensure adequate provision through medium of Welsh.
- iii. Ensure existing provision of services adequately meets the needs of people with early stage dementia to maintain a degree of independence for as long as possible.

4. Short term funding impacts on planning ability, service stability and viability (essential staff leave for permanent posts)

Actions required:

- i. Full engagement with RPB regarding scope and use of grant funding, paying particular attention to sustainability for individual projects.
- ii. At Director level, engaging with WLGA and WG on securing longer term core funding settlements.

5. Increasing loneliness and mental health issues following on from Covid-19 pandemic

Actions required:

- i. Implement the Framework on embedding a whole school approach to emotional and mental well-being
<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-03/framework-on-embedding-a-whole-school-approach-to-emotional-and-mental-well-being.pdf>
- ii. To have busy Talking Points across Denbighshire in places and settings that work for local communities
- iii. Single Point of Access and Community Navigator Service continue to connect more people to resources and support in their local communities.
- iv. To grow our Edge of Care Team within Community Support Services, seeing more volunteers active in their local communities supporting adults' independence and combating loneliness.
- v. Work is ongoing with partner LAs and BCUHB to implement joint practices designed to support the mental and emotional health of children and young people, ensuring access to both emergency and longer term support. This includes children and young people with complex behaviour due to attachment and trauma issues.