

Report to	Partnerships Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting	12 September 2024
Lead Member / Officer	Cllr Elen Heaton / Nicola Stubbins
Head of Service	Nicola Stubbins, Corporate Director
Report author	Gethin Morgan, Head of Regional Collaboration
Title	North Wales Regional Partnership Board Annual Report 2023/24

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. This report is the Annual Report of the North Wales Regional Partnership Board for 2023/24 (Appendix 1). It is a requirement within the Part 9 of the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 that each Regional Partnership Board prepares, publishes and submits its annual report to Welsh Government.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1. This report is to provide information to partners with regard to the North Wales Regional Partnership Board and its activities during 2023/24.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1. That the Committee confirms that it has read, understood and taken into account the work that is required to be undertaken by the Regional Partnership Board.
- 3.2. That the Committee provides observations on the work and progress in 2023/24 on the work areas that are being taken forward through the North Wales Regional Partnership Board.

4. Report details

- 4.1. The Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 requires that each Regional Partnership Board produces and publishes an annual report on its work and submits this to Welsh Government.
- 4.2. In March 2018 the Welsh Government issued Guidance for the completion of the Regional Partnership Board Annual reports and Boards were to use this guidance for the completion of its report. The attached report contains all the information which was required to be included within that Guidance. The North Wales Regional Partnership Board report is written in a format that captures all information required. The report also includes views of a number of members of the Board.
- 4.3. The Regional Partnership Board is the Board which has been set up to meet the requirements of Part 9 of the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014. The Act requires that local authorities 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 purposes of their social services functions.
- 4.4. Part 9 of the Act also provides for partnership arrangements between local authorities and Local Health Boards for the discharge of their functions. The Act also provides Welsh Government Ministers with regulation making powers in relation to formal partnership arrangements, resources for partnership arrangements (including pooled funds) and partnership boards.
- 4.5. The purpose of Part 9 of the Act is to improve outcomes and well-being of people, as well as improving the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery. The key aims of co-operation, partnership and integration can therefore be described as:
 1. To improve care and support, ensuring people have more say and control
 2. To improve outcomes and health and wellbeing
 3. Provide co-ordinated, person centred care and support
 4. Make more effective use of resources, skills and expertise.

- 4.6. The purpose of the Annual Report is to set out the progress that Regional Partnership Boards have made and reflect on how boards are achieving the principles of the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Plan 2022 to 2027: The Denbighshire We Want?

- 5.1. Working in partnership across health and social care services will help support a healthier and happier, caring Denbighshire and also ensure a seamless service for individuals that require care and support.

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

- 6.1. The 6 Local Authorities and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) in North Wales pool funding to support regional working across the region, this also funds the Regional Collaboration Team and there is a formal partnership agreement to underpin this.
- 6.2. Through the Regional Partnership Boards, Welsh Government is channelling grant funding streams such as the Regional Integration Fund for Health and Social Care and the Housing with Care and Integrating and Rebalancing capital funds. Where it is possible to charge regional partnership activity to these grants this is being actioned.

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

- 7.1. An overall Well-being Impact Assessment has not been completed for the Annual Report but Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) will have been completed for the individual elements contained within.

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

- 8.1. Members will be aware of the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 and will have received information about Part 9 of the Act and the development of Regional Partnership Boards. There has been no formal consultation, other than with members of the Regional Partnership Board which includes a wide range of membership and includes Lead Members, citizens and carers.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1. There is no direct financial impact to this report.

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

10.1. There is a risk ensuring compliance with the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 and with the Guidance on regional partnership board annual reports issued in March 2018 in producing the annual report. The main risk is that the North Wales Regional Partnership Board is able to progress the various requirements as required in the Part 9 Guidance and that the partnership develops to enable further partnership working and integration of services in the future.

11. Power to make the decision

11.1. Social Services and Well-Being Act 2014, Part 9

11.2. Scrutiny's powers in relation to this matter are set out in Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and Section 7 of the Council's Constitution