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**NORTH WALES** SOCIAL CARE AND WELL-BEING  
SERVICES IMPROVEMENT COLLABORATIVE

# North Wales Regional Partnership Board

## Annual Report

### 2020/21



This report has been produced to meet the requirements set out by the Welsh Government in the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014

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(Photo taken April 2019)

## Foreword by the Chair of North Wales Regional Partnership Board (NWRPB)

Teresa Owen, Executive Director Public Health,  
Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board



As Chair of the North Wales Regional Partnership Board, I am pleased to present our 20/21 report, and what a year it has been since the new form of coronavirus entered our lives.

We were all touched by the COVID 19 pandemic in so many different ways. Tragically, too many people have lost their lives to COVID19, and it has disrupted all our lives in so many ways, and especially so the most vulnerable. Similarly, from a system wide perspective, COVID 19 has been a huge challenge for health and social care services, although the dedication of our health and care workers, volunteers, and communities has shone

through.

As a Regional Partnership Board, we rightly focussed on 'people' - both patients and staff, our joint working arrangements, the partnership approach and providing seamless care. Over the past twelve months we've reacted and responded differently, adapted and innovated.

I saw extraordinary contributions from staff, teams, organisations, communities, groups, and especially volunteers, and feel proud as I reflect on the collaborative activity undertaken at all levels - whether they be strategic, tactical and operational. All with one aim - to make a difference.

Like thousands of people, shielding and isolating for various reasons, we've also embraced digital technology to aid communication with each other as partners, leaders, and providers. As a whole system, we need to learn from this extraordinary year, and ensure coordinated action to tackle the inequalities which have sharpened in focus. Indeed, it was a year of significant service transformation, and now it is time to build on the innovation of the last 12 months, and drive forward our workforce developments.

Going forward our focus must now turn to restoration, recovery and renewal, whilst still being vigilant for the potential next wave of the virus. Working in partnership at the regional and local level must be the focus so that we can seize further opportunities for positive change.

Best wishes - Teresa Owen

# 1. Partnerships Governance

This section of the Annual Report sets out the purpose, role, membership, operating structure and key priorities of the Regional Partnership Board. It outlines the key partnership development over the last year and progress on implementing changes in the revised Part 9 Guidance

## 1.1 Purpose, Role, Membership, Operating Structure and Key Priorities

The NWRPB meets on a monthly basis and is now holding a mix of business meetings along with development sessions. In December 2020 the Board reviewed and updated its Terms of Reference

### Vision statement

*Working together to improve the wellbeing of people and communities*

### Guiding principles

The NWRPB agreed its guiding principles in November 2016 and these remain fit for purpose:

- Whole system change and reinvestment of resources to a preventative model that promotes good health and well-being and draws effectively on evidence of what works best
- Care is delivered in joined up ways centred around the needs, preferences and social assets of people (service users, carers and communities)
- People are enabled to use their confidence and skills to live independently, supported by a range of high quality community based options
- Embedded co-production in decision making so that citizens and their communities shape services
- We recognise the broad range of factors that influence health and well-being and the importance of the links to these areas (including education, housing, welfare, reduced homelessness, economic growth, regeneration, leisure and the environment).

“During the Covid Pandemic I have learnt how to use a tablet. This has helped me a lot, as I can now keep in touch with friends, family and support group online. I don't feel as lonely, and it has helped with my mental health as well”

Will lives alone and did not have the funds to purchase a tablet, so LAC applied to the Council project, who were offering I-Pads to community members to keep them connected.

**ICF Funded Local Asset Coordinator Asset Coordination (LAC) a new model of working with communities developed on Ynys Môn**

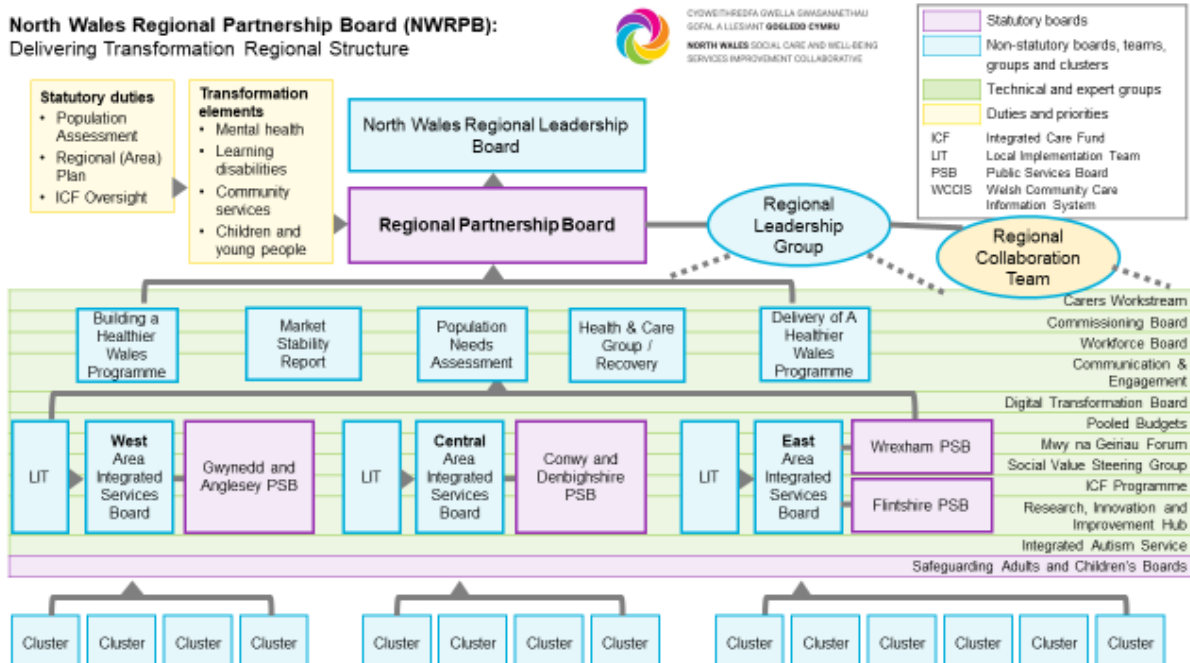
## 1.2 Role of the NWRPB

The NWRPB's Terms of Reference is reviewed annually however, the crucial role for the Regional Partnership Board will be to:

- Ensure that there is an agreed shared vision and a clear direction of travel for service development and integration of health, care and wellbeing in line with the SSWB Act 2014 and A Healthier Wales
- Ensure that there are shared plans and strategies in place (supported by appropriate business cases) for delivering on the vision
- Ensure that the strategic plans are evaluated and reviewed against agreed and understood outcomes and performance indicators
- Lead a strategic approach to communicating and publicising the direction of travel and the progress made
- Ensure that the principles of the board are upheld
- Maintain an effective overview of the resources allocated to deliver on its objectives
- Report to the Regional Leadership Board on progress, key issues and exceptions, escalating any barriers to progress within the Regional Partnership Board for resolution
- Ensure that an annual report on progress is prepared and delivered as required to the Welsh Government.

The NWRPB formally reports to the North Wales Leadership Board. The NWRPB's business and the business of the regional sub-groups is managed by the Head of Regional Collaboration and members of the Regional Collaboration Team.

The updated governance structure of the NWRPB was formalised in January 2021 and the structure is shown below. Our Terms of Reference were reviewed in November 2020. The membership of the NWRPB (as at end of March 2021) is attached in Appendix 1.



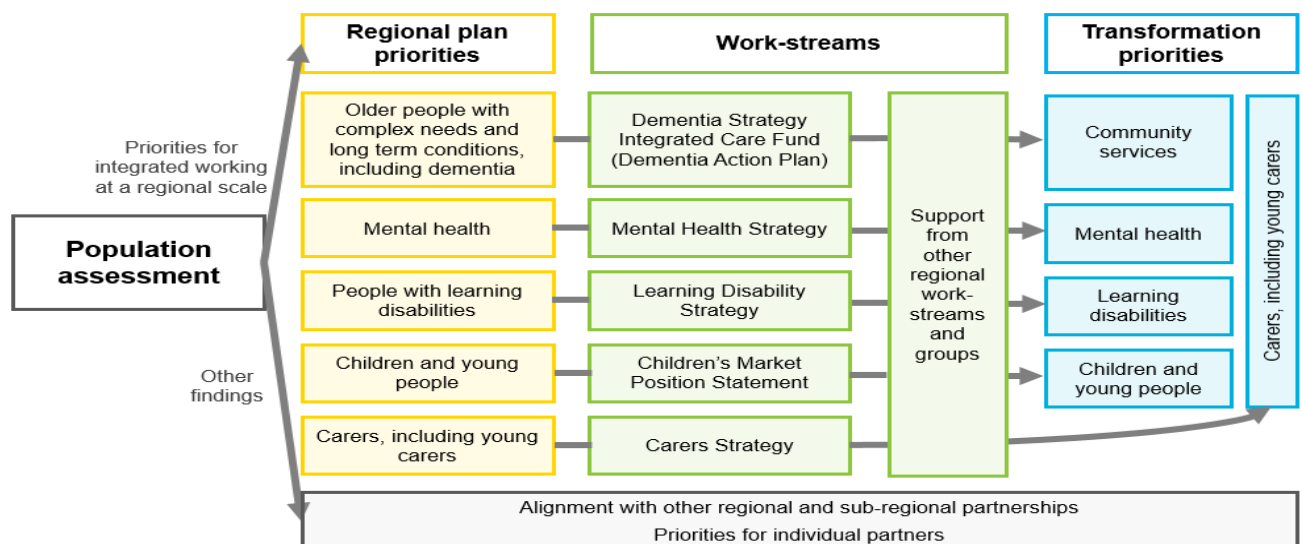
### 1.3 Key Partnership Development

Due to Covid-19 Pandemic, all planned partnership developments, were postponed. We have engaged with and participated in all the Welsh Government learning events and meetings with the Minister during 2020 as part of our partnership development.

The RPB continues to work with the Public Services Board to provide a coherent local and regional response to the wellbeing needs of individuals.

We attend conferences and seminars to showcase the work of the RPB at a local, regional and national level e.g. the National Social Care Annual conference – however, in 2020, due to the NSCA Conference being held virtually, it was not possible to showcase the work of the RPB.

We have finalised our priorities and focus document for the short term and longer term. This links to our Area Plan and the current priorities for the RPB.



### 1.4 More Than Just Words Forum

The aim of the More than Just Words strategic framework is to lead on a number of improvements to ensure that Welsh speakers receive health services, social services and social care in their mother tongue, without having to ask. The membership of the More than Just Words Forum includes Local Authorities, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB, Social Care Wales, Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust, Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) and Bangor University's School of Health Care Sciences.

Of course, the Covid-19 pandemic has had an enormous impact on our work as a Forum. We were unable to meet face to face during 2020-21, and so we have decided to report on the 2019-21 period in order to provide a comprehensive update of the work that has been in progress in each organisation.

Despite the pandemic, a broad range of good work has been in progress by all partners, on matters such as integrated working, training, working through the medium of Welsh and a variety of plans and programmes. Of course, the partners achieve so much within this field of work independent of the Forum, but this report is

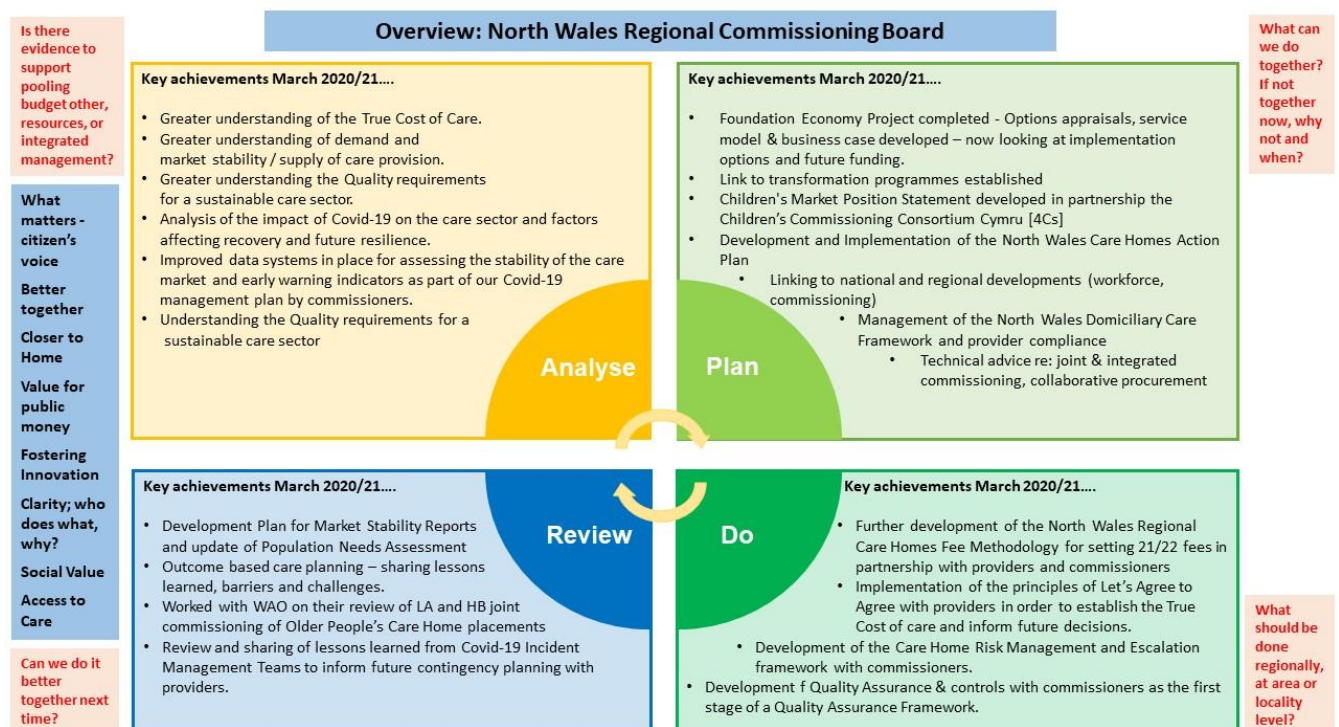
an opportunity to share and disseminate good practice further, whilst also noting the aims and objectives for the future.

## 1.5 Progress on implementing changes in revised Part 9 guidance

Following receipt of the updated Part 9 Codes and Guidance in January 2020, the NWRPB was due to discuss the required changes at its meeting in March, but due to COVID-19, this had to be deferred. Registered Social Landlord representatives joined the RPB in December 2018 and February 2019 respectively; the Chair of the RPB will seek nominations for the Education and Local Authority Housing representatives via the regional Chief Executives Forum.

The Children’s Commissioner for Wales attended to discuss the work of the RPB in delivering the priority to establish integrated services for ‘children with complex needs due to disability or illness and for children and young people with mental health problems’. There is a sub-group of the RPB already established which currently over-see the delivery of our partnership Children and Young People Transformation programme.

We have a long standing Strategic Commissioning Hub within the region which is underpinned by a partnership agreement and funded by partners. The work programme is aligned to the work of the Transformation Boards, identifying where it could add value / support the transformation agenda:



## Regional Workforce

The Regional Workforce Board has continued to support the delivery of the North Wales Community Health and Social Care Workforce Strategy, whilst also making provision to support the national strategies and priorities.

The development and delivery of a work programme that is focussed but flexible has

proven to be the foundation for continuous improvement and achievement in a 12month period of challenge and uncertainty.

The impact of the coronavirus pandemic accentuated the need to provide a suitable support mechanism for care providers across the region. Early discussions with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) resulted in the development and implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), enabling care providers to access BCUHB bank staff to cover staff shortages. As the pandemic continued, continuous improvement to the MOU was required. The criteria for need was refined, responsibilities of those involved have been clarified and the administrative support process made leaner. All six Local Authorities (LA) opted to sign up to the agreement with BCUHB, to use the facility as and when required. The MOU will again be revisited as part of the forward work programme. Lessons learned will be identified and the MOU will be reviewed to ensure that the criteria, responsibilities and processes remain valid, with improvement being introduced wherever possible.

The national WeCare campaign for attraction, recruitment and retention of care workers has been supported through the development of a regional Facebook page. platforms reach was intensified during the run up to the virtual careers fair and WeCare week in November 2020.

The registration of residential care work force is a requirement of RISCA which should be met by 2022. Due to the pandemic this has not been subject to emphasis. To address this, regional briefings across the six LA's are being arranged to explain the four routes to registration that are available for care workers and to emphasise that this is the responsibility of the employer. A review of data from Social Care Wales (SCW) concerning registrants will be monitored to identify service risk. The regional provider portal will be utilised to send reminder messages and action will also be taken through the commissioning teams.

A Task and Finish Group has been established to identify and implement key actions that will address the challenges and barriers to a Children's Social Work workforce in North Wales. Three strands of work have been identified; Recruitment; Development; Retention. Work will be undertaken between January and June 2021 - recommendations presented to the Workforce Board in July 2021.

The 'Step into Work Programme' provided by BCUHB is an adult volunteer programme that provides work placement opportunities for a range of people including, workless households, long term unemployed, Scope, higher and further education students to name but a few. A working group has recently been established and although at a very early stage the indications are that collaborative working may be able to develop a programme that satisfies both the health and care sector.

The Foundation Economy Project has identified a locality based, not-for-profit staffing agency as a potential solution to supply staff and other services to add value to the social care and health care sector in North Wales. The model can be flexible to meet local need and assets whilst helping to recruit and retain staff within the locality, providing workers who understand local cultures and speak the Welsh language. Initial meetings have now been planned with Ynys Mon/Gwynedd (West), Conwy CBC/Denbighshire CC (Central) and Flintshire CC/Wrexham CBC (East) to establish how the findings from the project may be utilised to the advantage of each area.

## 2. General Progress Update on Delivery of Area Plan

This section of the Annual Report sets out progress against key objectives from the area plan and priority areas for integration under Part 9 guidance including outcomes achieved for service users and carers. It considers specifically the priority groups set out in the Population Needs Assessment.

In line with the requirements of the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 during 2020-21 the NWRPB continued to develop its approaches to integrated services for its priority areas.

### 2.1 North Wales Area Plan

The Area Plan sets out the priority areas for integration of services between health and social care and this sets out the direction of travel for the Board. The Area Plan sets out how the region will address the priority areas identified in the Population Needs Assessment, this remains the golden thread to specific areas of work within the region.

### 2.2 A Healthier Wales

The NWRPB priorities for 2020/21, whilst being impacted by Covid-19, the delivery of its 4 transformation programmes for 'A Healthier Wales' which was designed to see the rapid development of integrated community based services across the region, has been successful in bringing positive outcomes to the people.

#### 2.2.1 Community Services Transformation Programme

Community Services Transformation is an ambitious programme of work that aims



to better integrate health and social care services at a locality level for older people including those living with dementia, people with physical disabilities and unpaid carers.

At the heart of this place-based model is a determination to deliver enhanced integrated governance arrangements as well as develop operational delivery structures that ensure a seamless and co-ordinated approach to the delivery of health

and social care.

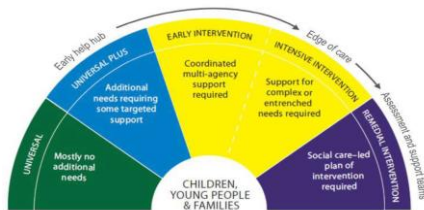
Considerable work has been undertaken in order to build a robust programme for change.

Transforming the way in which community health and social care services work together is a long-term piece of work. Progress has been made to place partners in a strong position to deliver real change.

In the West, Multi-disciplinary meetings are being held in all areas. This integrated working will be supported through a SharePoint site which will function as a platform available to all partners to share information about all CRTs and the entire Transformation Programme. This includes 'sprint boards' for all CRT areas, which ensures momentum is driven and that all key stakeholders have access to relevant information. An electronic blockage board is now operational, with the removal of blockages featuring as part of 4-weekly senior management progress meetings.

## 2.2.2 Children and Young People Transformation Programme

Children and Young People Transformation embraces an overall objective to achieve better outcomes for children and young people.



There are three strands to the programme:

- A multi-agency drive to improve the emotional health, wellbeing and resilience of children and young people through integrated early intervention

and prevention including the development / further refinement of locality early help hubs

- To research and develop evidence-based 'rapid response' (crisis outreach) interventions for children and families on the edge of care
- To develop short term residential services

This last year has seen significant developments within the programme; two new sub-regional multi-disciplinary teams being established and have delivered services to 36 children, young people and their families. A strategic training programme created to support a third sub-regional MDT has delivered 341 training sessions.

Two separate short term residential provisions have been initiated to support the established MDT's. Both projects aim to deliver the services within the next year and a half.





The emotional health wellbeing and resilience workstream has delivered a regional pilot framework for 8 – 11 year olds, producing guiding principles for supporting the healthy development of emotional health, wellbeing and resilience of children and young people encompassing the 5 ways to wellbeing. Another workstream has established an early intervention team to focus on early help and adopting a 'No wrong door approach' for children and young people experiencing emotional behavioural difficulties.

In direct response to the pandemic the Children and Young People Transformation programme have been able to support community resilience projects that supported children and young people through this challenging times as well as deliver on the objectives set out in this programme.

## 2.2.3 Learning Disability Transformation Programme



The foundation of the programme is the North Wales Learning Disability Strategy. The strategy is being implemented by the team through five workstreams: integrated structures, workforce development, commissioning and procurement, community and culture change and assistive technology.

 <b>TREAT ME WELL</b>	 <b>LET ME BE IN CHARGE OF MY OWN LIFE</b>	 <b>HELP ME BE THE BEST I CAN BE</b>	 <b>ALWAYS BE HONEST</b>
<p>Everyone is an individual and should be treated with dignity and respect.</p> <p>"respecting me includes respecting my space, my things, my decisions and my relationships"</p> <p>"listen to me and take the time to get to know me!"</p> <p>"Be kind"</p> <p><b>TOP TIPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate in an open, accurate and straightforward way</li> <li>• Don't use jargon</li> <li>• Protect and respect peoples confidential and personal information</li> <li>• Use humour appropriately</li> <li>• Check how people want to be addressed</li> <li>• Be on time and do what you say you will do</li> </ul>	<p>Voice, choice, control and independence is at the heart of everything we do</p> <p>We embrace coproduction</p> <p>"I want to have choice about where I live and who I live with"</p> <p>"support me to do what I want to do and listen to me"</p> <p>"I want to feel important and be able to make my own decisions"</p> <p><b>TOP TIPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empower, encourage and enable people who need care and support to do things for themselves and to make their own decisions.</li> <li>• Support individuals to maximise their decision making and have control over their own lives</li> </ul>	<p>We deliver person centred care, putting the person at the heart of everything we do and helping them achieve their potential</p> <p>"learn from me and recognize what I am good at"</p> <p>"help me learn new things"</p> <p>"give me just enough support"</p> <p><b>TOP TIPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be prepared to take positive risks, clearly explaining the consequences to others</li> <li>• Look at tackling new and emerging problems creatively.</li> <li>• Don't see mistakes as a bad thing, see them as an opportunity to learn and grow</li> <li>• Be warm, kind, empathetic, reliable and compassionate in your actions</li> </ul>	<p>We are always honest and transparent and not afraid to say when something goes wrong</p> <p>We are self-aware and regularly reflect on the work we do, how we do it and the impact we have on those being supported.</p> <p>"I want people to just be honest with me and tell the truth"</p> <p><b>TOP TIPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We learn from others and share knowledge and best practice</li> <li>• Seek, reflect on and learn from feedback from colleagues, individuals and families</li> <li>• Have the courage to speak up and challenge others when you have concerns about the quality or safety of care being provided</li> </ul>

2020/2021 was very busy for **The North Wales Together Learning Disability Transformation Programme**, the continued impact of the pandemic interrupted work plans, some lead officers returning to their substantive posts to help during the crisis. All team members continued to work remotely and developed strategies to overcome the difficulties to get projects delivered virtually while supporting project partners to deliver their objectives in a different way.

**Despite this setback there were some great successes: All in all there were of 52 pilot co-commissioned projects established across North Wales to support the delivery of the programme.**

Please follow this link to watch a video of some of the highlights:  
<https://northwalestogether.org/>

2020/2021 priorities document can be found on our website:  
[www.northwalestogether.org/project-information/](http://www.northwalestogether.org/project-information/)

## 2.2.4 Together for Mental Health Transformation Programme



Before Covid-19, significant progress had been made for example in embedding ICAN Unscheduled Care service and developing ICAN hubs in eight towns across the North Wales Region.

The Covid-19 pandemic has created a surge in demand from people who need support with their emotional health and well-being. Developments in the Programme were significantly curtailed as social distancing restrictions reduced the opportunity for the delivery of any face-to-face services. Programme Team staff were also required to redirect priorities to support the BCUHB response to the pandemic. In

spite of this, the Programme respond rapidly, robustly and sensitively to these exceptional circumstances, enhancing and consolidating its volunteer workforce to provide a telephone support service which has proved to be a vital lifeline for a significant number of people.

The ICAN Programme has a clear plan for continued implementation of its Programme during 2021/2 and has secured sustained funding from BCUHB.

### **2.2.5 Research, Innovation and Improvement Coordination Hub**

The hub aims to coordinate research, innovation and improvement activity in North Wales to inform new integrated models of health and social care as part of the commitment in A Healthier Wales.

Highlights from 2020-21 include completing a rapid review of the impact of COVID-19 on people who need care and support, including innovation in services. We supported transformation projects to use evidence by carrying out literature searches, such as into resources to support children’s wellbeing, and provided advice and support with setting up on-line surveys, data analysis and story-telling research methods. We worked with Integrated Care Fund (ICF) projects to consider the themes of scale, good practice and innovation. We supported better coordination by identifying similar projects in different sectors/agencies and linking them up. We worked with national projects to avoid duplication locally and developed strong networks with other regional hubs. For example, working with Social Care Wales to look at evidence use within social care, sharing our COVID-19 literature searches with other regions and using our website to highlight the different approaches to promoting innovation (Living Labs, Health Hacks, Innovation Labs) within different sectors. We organised a Social Care Innovation Lab with Bangor University with a focus on digital technology. We also worked with the Innovation Agency to develop the concept of a Living Lab and bring together health and social care practitioners and researchers to better understand the research, innovation and improvement landscape in North Wales.

We continued to promote events, funding opportunities and the work of the team through the website, Twitter account and regular email newsletters. This include live tweeting key regional events. By the end of the year we had over 170 followers of the Twitter account and 130 subscribers to the RIIC hub mailing list.

Please follow us on Twitter @NW\_RIICH\_ / @NW\_RIICH and/or sign up to our newsletter for more information.

### **2.3 North Wales Dementia Strategy**

During 2020-21 the North Wales Dementia Strategy was finalised and agreed by the RPB and the Strategy was shared widely with partners for adoption and implementation. The RPB Dementia Steering Group reformed following the initial impact of the global pandemic and invested in a Regional Dementia Project Manager to support with the implementation of the Dementia Strategy in the region. Since January 2021, the



steering group has adapted its Terms of Reference for implementation of the strategy, taken action to review and consider the impact of the pandemic on the strategy and developed an implementation action plan for the region for 2021-22.

**Achievements in 2020-21 include:**

- The review and inclusion of the Welsh Government published All Wales Dementia Care Pathway of Standards within our Dementia Strategy Implementation plan
- Development of an Engagement Dementia Forum to support the RPB Dementia Steering Group in correct and impactful implementation of the strategy
- Mapping exercise of the opportunities to identify priorities for implementation within the Dementia Strategy Implementation Action Plan for 2021/22
- Investment in supportive projects and resources that support the implementation of the Dementia Strategy
- Developments to deliver a virtual Memory Assessment Service within the region to tackle waiting list created due to the pandemic
- Distribution of Wellbeing Rainbow packs within Memory Assessment services waiting lists to support those awaiting assessment
- Successful bid for funding from Welsh Government for a Project Manager to look specifically at the issues of Rurality and Welsh Language in the North Wales and Powys regions
- Implementation developments of 11 of 31 actions within the Dementia Strategy with partners.

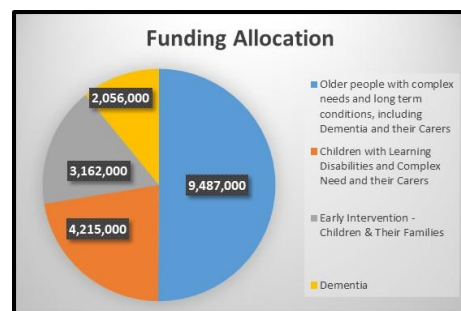
The North Wales Dementia Steering Group will be further developing its programme of work to enable the implementation of the Strategy and All Wales Dementia Care Pathway of Standards across the region within 2021-22.

**2.4 Integrated Care Funding**

During 2020-21 a total of £18.92m Integrated Care Fund (ICF) revenue funding was invested in 120 projects across our region. Just over £5.2m was spent on projects that directly supported carers and £2.6m investment went to support projects run by third sector organisations.

The following groups are priority areas of integration and all regional ICF programmes must address them in line with their regional population assessments and area plans:

- Older people with complex needs and long term conditions, including dementia;
- People with learning disabilities;
- Children with complex needs; and
- Carers, including young carers



The development of projects to support older people with complex needs and long term conditions has continued. 26 projects support people with dementia and their

families, 36 projects to support people with learning disabilities and 21 projects that provide early intervention to young people and their families.

24 projects were modified in order that they could still be delivered safely during the Covid epidemic. A number were paused as it was not possible to deliver them safely and funding was flexed to projects which had been modified and need additional resource.

In addition to revenue funding, the North Wales region also received £9.41m of ICF Capital funding which supported 70 projects in 2020/21. Welsh Government allowed RPB's to pivot capital funding to schemes to support Covid-19 efforts and there were 35 Covid schemes funded through this route. 17 main capital schemes were progressed using ICF Capital funding during the year. These included a well-being hub in Wrexham, an integrated Dementia Centre in Pwllheli and a Children's Residential Assessment Centre in Colwyn Bay.

## 2.5 Winter Funding

Welsh Government allocated £2.05m funding to NWRPB to support the delivery of Discharge to Recover and Assess (D2RA) pathways as part of the Winter Plan.

The D2RA pathways are shown below and the NWRPB had 44 schemes to support delivery of these pathways.

The schemes included

- CRTs 7 day working and additionality to teams to enable Home from Hospital when ready
- Rapid response stepdown and providing additionality in the domiciliary service
- Additional Social Worker, Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist, Community Nursing including Psychiatric Nurse Capacity to support assessment and discharge  
Increased Dementia Support Worker capacity

PATHWAY 0	PATHWAY 1	PATHWAY 2	PATHWAY 4	PATHWAY 3
				
Admission avoidance through short-term third sector support	Is this person fit to admit?	Why not home? Why not today?	Home first when your home is a care home	Support to recover in a bedded intermediate care facility
Preventative services delivered in collaboration with third sector organisations.  Aim to avoid further referral and admission.	Multidisciplinary Team assessment within hospital 'front door' units to avoid full admission.  Arrange treatment and supported recovery at home, whenever it is clinically safe to do so.	Initiated as soon as treatment, which can only be delivered within an acute hospital environment, is completed.  Supports people to recover at home before being assessed for any ongoing need.	Similar to Pathway 2, but acknowledges specific considerations to be addressed in the existing care home environment.  Individuals should be allowed a period of recovery, followed by assessment in their usual environment.	Should only be considered where the needs of the individual rule out recovery & assessment at home.  Review and transfer to Pathway 2 wherever, and as soon as, possible.

### 3. Communication, Engagement and Social Value

This section of the Annual Report sets out how the Board engaged directly with service users or citizen panels and promoted co-operation and participation with relevant partners and others. It outlines how the Board has engaged with stakeholders from the third and independent sectors and has progress to establish social value forums to promote social value and share good practice

#### 3.1 North Wales Engagement

As a result of Covid-19, engagement activities; forums; group sessions; public or face to face events etc. was not possible, however, the NWRPB continues to engage with citizens through different platforms eg social media; on line; via Teams/Zoom etc; telephone; partners and stakeholders.

In 2020, the NWRPB was successful in a bid for funding from Welsh Government for an Engagement Officer to work with existing communication and engagement officers of partner organisations to strengthen the current arrangements for engagement and communication relating to Board and its work. Having a dedicated Engagement Officer for the NWRPB is enabling the communication and engagement activities to be accelerated and build upon the work that has been progressed to date.

#### 3.2 North Wales Social Value Steering Group

The SVFSG has unfortunately not met since February 2020 as we have been unable to identify a Chair for the group, and during the pandemic several members had been redeployed to support other services. However, an interim Chair has now been assigned and the group will be relaunched and reinvigorated.

The steering group will reconvene to share experiences, lessons learnt and to identify collaboration opportunities to ensure a regional and consistent approach is developed. There have been several changes since the group last met, not only in new and updated legislation that places further duties on the public sector to embed social value into their ways of working, but also through Welsh Government's endorsement of the National TOMs (Themes, Outcomes & Measures) for Wales reporting framework. The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales has also recently published the Procuring Well-being for Wales Report which provides recommendations for local authorities to follow in applying the Act.

Current membership of the SVFSG represents a cross-sector of relevant networks. However, as the group has not met since February 2020 now will be a timely opportunity to identify the key contacts/social value leads in each LA, BCUHB, third and voluntary sector organisations to ensure representation is appropriate and accurate and broaden SVFSG's membership to include those whose resources and services who can support social value and community benefits across North Wales.

Following an action from a recent RPB meeting to take forward third sector proposals, the Regional Collaboration Team is now working with the CVC and

Citizen RPB representatives to work on compiling third sector proposals in preparation for any available funding. The six CVCs will be involved in this project to ensure a regional approach is adopted.

In order to get a wider perspective on the development of these proposals for the third sector; the ideas identified with CVCs will be passed through the North Wales Social Value Network (NWSVN) and the North Wales Social Value Forum Steering Group (SVFSG); as well as RPB, to agree which proposals to prioritise based on current and future demand.

### **3.3 North Wales Carers Groups**

The North Wales Carers Operational Group (NWCOG) and North Wales Young Carers Operational Group (NWYCOG) have continued to deliver on the North Wales Regional Carers Strategy through the provision of local authority, health and third sector carer support services across the region.

Last year the decision was made to merge both operational groups to ensure support services for adult and young carers are mainstreamed across the sector, and since then they have met together on a quarterly basis. Feedback from the group has highlighted that this has provided members with the opportunity to identify areas of work where both adult and young carer leads and partners can collaborate on projects and workstreams.

NWCOG/NWYCOG's Action plans are currently being reviewed in line with WG's recently published Strategy for Unpaid Carers and the four national priorities, to monitor the progress of individual partners within the operational groups to measure themselves against the strategy's core standards.

Our regional Investors in Carers: Working Together to Support Carers primary and secondary care facilitation service commenced in April 2021, funded through WG's Annual Carers Grant. This approach is being delivered through our third sector partners who will work closely with primary and secondary care settings to encourage the early identification of carers and young carers and raise awareness of carers and their rights. Carers Outreach and NEWCIS as a joint partnership across North Wales will support GP practices, hospital settings and further afield in the carers' communities to develop initiatives that offer information and advice for carers, including an accredited Investors in Carers scheme. This year's contract is outcome-focused and fundamentally a person-centred approach, recognising that each carer is unique and will have different needs. Both Providers will deliver on outcomes and key deliverables to achieve the goals, aspirations or priorities of the individuals they support.

## 4. Forward Look

This section of the Annual Report outlines the identified priorities the RPB will focus on in 2021-22 and beyond, referencing where Covid-19 has impacted and prompted a change in direction or priority.

### 4.1 Covid Impact

COVID-19 remains amongst us, however, the RPB meetings continued to take place virtually on a monthly basis.

To ensure that RPB members, partners, stakeholders and the people remained informed, a newsletter was produced in February 2021 and circulated to highlight successful delivery of services on its programmes throughout 2020/21. A temporary governance arrangement endorsed by the RPB put in place March 2020, continued throughout Covid. Prior to being able to re-convene virtual RPB meetings, and when urgent agreements were required, the temporary governance arrangements enabled RPB business to continue virtually by email.

### 4.2 Priorities for 2021/22 and beyond

We have finalised our priorities and focus document for the short and longer term. This links to our Area Plan and the current priorities for the RPB. This is shown in section 1.1.

## Appendix 1 – Membership of the NWRPB

As at end of March 2021

Name	Title
Bethan Jones Edwards	Head of Regional Collaboration
Bethan E Jones	Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
Fon Roberts	Isle of Anglesey County Council
Alwyn Jones	Wrexham County Borough Council
Dr Chris Stockport	Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
Cllr Bobby Feeley	Denbighshire County Council
Cllr Christine Jones	Flintshire County Council
Cllr Joan Lowe	Wrexham County Borough Council
Cllr Louise Emery	Conwy County Borough Council
Cllr Llinos Medi Huws	Isle of Anglesey County Council
Cllr Dafydd Meurig	Gwynedd Council
Roma Hooper (Action for Children)	Third Sector Representative
Estelle Hitchon	WAST (Co-opted)
Ffion Johnstone	Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
Jenny Williams	Conwy County Borough Council
Judith Greenhalgh	NWRLB/CEO Representative
Kevin Roberts	North Wales Fire and Rescue Service (Co-opted)
Lucy Reid	Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
Mark Wilkinson	Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
Mary Wimbury	Provider Representative
Morwena Edwards	Gwynedd Council
Helen Corcoran (from Nov 2019)	North Wales Police (Co-opted)
Neil Ayling	Flintshire County Council

Nicola Stubbins	Denbighshire County Council
Rob Smith	Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
Steve Gadd	Chief Finance Officer (Section 151) (Co-opted)
Shan Lloyd Williams	Housing Representative
Teresa Owen	Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
John Gallanders	North Wales VSC's (Co-opted)
Ruth Whittingham	Regional Collaboration

## Appendix 2 Statutory provisions

The partners of the NWRPB have entered into an 'Integration Agreement which is a legal agreement which enshrines their commitment to working together on key identified projects that lend themselves to integrated services and pooled budget arrangements.

The following statutory provisions are permitted to be used to underpin the NWRPB's work:

- Part 9 of the Social Services & Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 – in particular sections 166 and 167 and associated regulations (the Partnership Arrangements (Wales) Regulations 2015).

Other legal powers relied upon in support of regional partnerships entered into include:

- The National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006 – in particular sections 1, 2, 10, 33 and 38, 82.
- S9 Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 powers in respect of collaboration with other local authorities.
- Local Government Act 1972 - in particular s2 which gives local authorities powers to do anything which it considers is likely to achieve any one or more of the following benefits: the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of the area and section 113 which enables one local authority to place its staff at the disposal of another or health authority or Health Board.

S111 Local Government Act 1982 provides for a local authority to have the power to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of their functions.