

SUBJECT:	POPULATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT
MEETING:	Council
DATE:	3rd March 2022
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	All

NON-PUBLICATION

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To seek approval of the Population Needs Assessment which identifies the care and support needs of the people in the area and their carers in line with the requirements of The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
- 1.2 To demonstrate how the PNA aligns to the regional Wellbeing Assessment required Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Population Needs Assessment be approved by Council prior to publication.
- 2.2 Once the Population Needs Assessment has been agreed by all local authorities s to share and upload to the council's website.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 As set out in the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, local authorities and local Health Boards must enter into a partnership to produce one population assessment report per local government electoral cycle. The Act also stipulates:
 - the Regional Partnership Board is required to produce the Population Needs Assessment (PNA) and
 - local authorities and local health boards are required formally to approve the PNA report and make available on their websites. A copy of the population assessment report must be completed by April 2022 and also be sent to Welsh Ministers at the time of publication.
- 3.2 The first regional Population Needs Assessment (PNA) was overseen by the Gwent Regional Partnership Board (RPB) in April 2016. The PNA aligned to Wellbeing Assessment completed by Public Service Boards as required under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. The 2022 PNA report (APPENDIX 1) will also align, integrate and cross reference the Gwent Wellbeing Assessment to avoid duplication and create a joint population wellbeing assessment for the region (this section can be read alongside the regional Wellbeing Assessment or as an individual document).

- 3.3 The first PNA was approved and signed off across the region on 1st April 2017(follow link to RPB website Population Needs Assessment [Home - Gwentrpb](#)) The identified need was used to develop the regional Area Plan. Following the publication of the regional report each local authority and health board was required to prepare and publish a plan setting out the range and level of services they proposed to provide, or arrange to be provided, in response to the population needs assessment. The plans are formally referred to as Area plans and a statutory requirement under the SSWB Act. The first regional Area Plan was published 1st April 2018 and set out the partnership working and delivery of services in response to each core theme identified in the population assessment.
- 3.4 In March 2021, Welsh Government released supplementary advice for Regional Partnership Boards to support development of Population Needs Assessments (PNAs). There were no changes to the guidance, however, some additional information and definition of core themes were included but the statutory PNA themes have not changed and are set out below.
- 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
- 3.5 In Gwent we took an approach to produce a separate Area Plan section for autism, and WG have advised that separate PNA sections should be produced for the next PNA. An additional section in relation to Housing is also appropriate and can provide a clear link to the national strategies and partnership working with Registered Social Landlords (RSLs).
- 3.6 The PNA has identified and reinforced existing areas of need and priorities for action including:
- Continued support to children looked after and reduction of out of county placements
 - Ageing population, loneliness amongst older people and increase in people living with dementia
 - Carers and the need for access to information, respite and mental health support
 - The need for emotional wellbeing and mental health support across the region
 - To mitigate impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and long covid
 - Support to vulnerable groups including people living with learning disabilities, physical disabilities and autism
- 3.7 It will be unrealistic for the PNA to include all the identified needs across health and social care but the regional report will highlight the joint priorities to be progressed across public services, the health board and voluntary sector.
- 3.8 Engagement with citizens is a key requirement under the SSWB Act and the PNA has been developed and includes qualitative data from a range of citizen groups.
- 3.9 As required with the first PNA, the Regional Partnership Board will have to develop a regional Area Plan – publication 1st April 2023 – and will set out how the identified need will be met through partnership working and collaboration. The RPB will once again work alongside Public Service Board partners to ensure alignment with Wellbeing plans required

under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, as well as linking to LA Corporate Plans and ABUHB Integrated Medium Term Plan.

4. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

- 4.1 The PNA is predicated on the same principles as Wellbeing Assessments required under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and will also include a full impact assessment. The needs highlighted, and subsequently delivered the Area Plan will contribute to various legal requirements and statutory duties.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 5.1 MCC are required under the Social Services and Wales (Wellbeing) Act 2014 to consider and agree a regional PNA.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 6.1 There is no formal need to evaluate the PNA but an indication of effectiveness will be through the development of the regional Area Plan and subsequent delivery of partnership priorities, as well as innovating current service models to meet future demands.

7. REASONS:

- 7.1 MCC are required under the Social Services and Wales (Wellbeing) Act 2014 to consider and agree a regional PNA.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 8.1 There are no direct financial implications to developing and approving the PNA, but maximising public service budgets and reinvesting into preventative programmes is a key requirement under the SSWB Act. However, development of the action plans that underpin the population assessments will require officer time.

9. CONSULTEES:

- 9.1 Jane Rogers, Chief Officer Social Care & Health, MCC
Strategic Leadership Team
Cabinet
Public Services Select Committee
- 9.2 The PNA has been developed with all RPB partners including local authorities, ABUHB, voluntary sector and private providers of care; as well as our regional citizen panel, carers forum, older people forums, parent groups and young people forums.
- 9.3 The voice of citizens, third sector partners and service providers are key to developing this PNA. Citizen voices have been included in each PNA section and coordinated through the

regional Citizen Panel and Chair who sits on the RPB. There has been extensive engagement across the region using various methodologies such as Snap surveys, social media and established forums (Carers forum, Youth Council, Dementia Friendly cafes etc).

9.4 The Public Services Select Committee concluded the following in conducting pre-decision scrutiny on the Population Needs Assessment:

- Mental health support for young people is a key concern and the committee was reassured to hear the work is beginning in schools.
- The Looked After Children figure is high across Wales and the committee was reassured about the improvement in services for people living with disabilities.
- The increase in people living longer highlights that care needs are likely to increase. The Committee recognised the huge strain that dementia places on families trying to care for loved ones and raised concerns about the staff shortages in the profession and the remuneration of staff who are undertaking very challenging work.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

11. AUTHOR:

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12. CONTACT DETAILS:

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