

SUBJECT: Gwent Regional Partnership Board (RPB) Annual Report 2024/25

MEETING: COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: 4TH DECEMBER 2025

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: Regional Report. All Wards.

1. NON-PUBLICATION

Not applicable. Public documents.

2. PURPOSE:

To update Members on the work of the Gwent Regional Partnership Board (RPB) in fulfilling local authority statutory duties required under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.

Ensure that Members have the opportunity to review the RPB Annual Report 2024/25 and progress made against the objectives set out in the Area Plan 2023-2027.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS:

To receive and endorse the RPB Annual Report 2024/25.


4. KEY ISSUES:




The Social Services and Wellbeing Act (2014) places several statutory duties on local authorities and health boards, including:


- 4.1. To jointly prepare and publish a population needs assessment (PNA) to assess the care and support needs of people in Gwent, which is the foundation of planning of provision and future needs for the Regional Partnership Board (RPB).
- 4.2. To develop and publish a Market Stability Report (MSR), developed alongside the PNA, which determines the overall shape and balance of the care market and helps support planning and commissioning of quality care and support.
- 4.3. To develop and publish an Area Plan reflecting the needs of the PNA, setting out the integrated priorities and actions needed, to improve health and social care services across the region. The ***Gwent Area Plan 2023-2027 (appendix 1)*** was developed in partnership with Monmouthshire, Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly,


Newport, and Torfaen local authorities, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and Third Sector partners.

- 4.4. The Area Plan sets out the actions required to achieve the priorities identified in the PNA and closely aligns and shares similar principles of working to the Gwent Public Service Board (PSB) Well-being Plan. The Area Plan is reviewed quarterly through the relevant strategic partnerships within the sub structure of the RPB and is reviewed annually through the **Regional Partnership Board Annual Report (appendix 2)** to ensure we are meeting the needs of our population.
- 4.5. The Statutory Gwent Area Plan was previously approved by Monmouthshire County Council in 2023 and is a commitment to working in partnership. The RPB Annual Report is presented at full council each year to provide assurance to members that we are meeting our statutory duties, highlight progress against the Area Plan and provide democratic oversight.
- 4.6. The following is a selection of the “**Key Developments of the last Year**” taken from the report.

	<p>Carers Annual Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• More than 1,760 carers have been supported across hospital discharge programmes. <p>The following projects were delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In 2024/25 we provided 469 small grants to carers across the region.• Young Carers in Schools Programme: In 2024/25 100 schools engaged in this programme, and 1,681 young carers were identified. In addition, a young carer’s identification scheme operates across the Gwent region.• In Gwent we have a Bridging the Gap model which operates across the region and includes 72 providers of short breaks through the project, available to adult and young carers. In 2024/25 the project supported 982 adult carers and 37 young carers. Additionally, each local authority was provided with funding towards the end of the year to deliver local short breaks in their area supporting 2,330 carers across the region• Projects delivered community support, providing information, advice, and assistance (IAA), activities, individual and peer support to 3,389 carers.• Hospital Hubs to support carer: 1,385 carers accessed the hubs. 1,056 people were satisfied with the support received. 864 individuals felt less isolated. 923 carers became more aware of their need to look after themselves. There were 183 referrals for carers assessment. 1,064 carers were advised on benefit entitlements. 918 carers advised to
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	register with their GP. 597 carers signposted to other support avenues.									
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MY Support Team (MyST) is an intensive mental health service for children, young people and their families involved in children’s social care. It was previously a pilot scheme in one local authority and has now been rolled out as a core funded programme, across the 5 local authorities in Gwent. MyST effectively provides intensive mental health support to young people with complex needs arising from early and compounded trauma, notably through the reduction of tier 4 care placements.• Platform Gwent 4YP has delivered a wide-reaching, youth-led mental health and wellbeing service for young people aged 14 to 18 across Gwent. The project provides one-to-one support, check-in sessions, school-based workshops, and community activities shaped by young people's voices. Despite capacity challenges, the team worked with over 800 young people this year and saw measurable improvements in wellbeing. Many reported they felt less isolated (96%) and more confident (94%).									
	<p>Dewis Cymru:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dewis Cymru is a website that serves as a central place to go if you want information and resources related to well-being – or want to know how you can help somebody else. Dewis has information that can help you think about what matters to you, and about people and services in your local area that can help you. <table><tr><th colspan="3">Number of times people have viewed and accessed resources</th></tr><tr><th>2022</th><th>2023</th><th>2024</th></tr><tr><td>31,227</td><td>40,795</td><td>43,000 +</td></tr></table> <p>Dewis was promoted across 24 events in 2024/25 and has over 1,800 published resources. Dewis report 2024/25 can be reviewed in the background papers.</p>	Number of times people have viewed and accessed resources			2022	2023	2024	31,227	40,795	43,000 +
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	<p>Dementia Friendly Gwent Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dementia Hubs implemented in each local authority across Gwent providing access to information, advice and support for people concerned about their memory, living with dementia or caring for someone with dementia. Partners from across 27 organisations have supported and worked from the hub spaces, engaging with community visitors and fellow professionals. 679 people were supported through the Dementia Hubs between December 2024 and March 2025• In 2023/24 there were 270 multi agency networks members, including both paid professionals, volunteers, carers, and people living with dementia. In 2024/25, there are now 330+ members.• Significant engagement has been undertaken across all areas of Gwent, reaching over 1,500+ individuals through									

	<p>70 + group visits, events, online and in person sessions to find out ‘what matters’ to people around dementia care. We are continuously working to strengthen links and engagement with seldom-heard voices and ensure their needs are addressed in service planning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnered with Dementia Friendly Swansea to deliver 10 Dementia Aware sessions across community locations. 110+ people attended, with sessions receiving positive feedback about the content. Attendees completing the session reported an increase in knowledge at the end of the session. 2,187 Dementia Friends over the course of the year. In addition, the Dementia Experience Tour hosted by ABUHB and Training2care delivered sessions to 36 staff. A series of Bitesize sessions across a range of specialist areas including Mental Capacity Act, Audiology, Oral Health Care, Hydration & Nutrition, and more was delivered to 232 participants.
	<p>Citizen Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2023/24 the Gwent Citizen Network had just over 100 members. During 2024/25, membership has grown to over 200 members, from a diverse range of backgrounds. 4 community-based events were hosted through the year, 87 people attended our Coproduction Luncheons from across the region, providing an opportunity for people to share their thoughts, ideas and expertise on the work of the RPB Work continues to implement the recommendations from the Coproduction and Engagement event, ‘Decisions Made Together: Inclusion and Experience’ which was attended by over 150 professionals and citizens in 2024.
	<p>Workforce & College Consortium:</p> <p>The Gwent College Consortium aims to develop and strengthen relevant work placements and experiential learning opportunities for health and social care learners across Gwent.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In 2024 the consortium supported 30 health and social care students to secure placements with social care teams across the 5 local authorities. 8 health and social care students secured clinical placements with ABUHB, and 7 independent living skills students secured internships with ABUHB to support work-based learning. Additional Social Care Wales Workforce Development Programme (SCWWDP) funding has played a vital role in the region’s ability to sponsor internal staff towards qualifying as social workers. 2024/25 sponsorship figures for Gwent are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Services Practitioner First Year: 26 Second Year, including First Year Masters: 17 Final Year: 29

	<p>Newly Qualified Social Workers: 19</p> <p>7. WeCare Wales has been promoted through the Regional Integrated Schools Programme. Since 2024 the programme has been successfully implemented across 11 secondary schools and one local training provider, making a significant impact on the educational landscape. The programme has engaged and inspired over 1,000 learners, creating a passion for learning and personal development. Its success and innovative approach have been recognised with a nomination for an Outstanding Achievement Award at the 2025 Careers Wales Awards.</p>
	<p>AskSARA</p> <p>AskSARA is a Self-Assessment Rapid Access tool available in Gwent. It offers impartial advice on assistive technology, products, and equipment for older or disabled individuals and children, to support independent living.</p> <p>8. During 2024/25, 2,227 individuals accessed the platform, with 1,641 being first-time users. 8 training sessions were conducted with the Disability Living Foundation, reaching 136 professionals and community members, to raise awareness of the tool.</p>

4.7. Conclusion

The report demonstrates the RPB's ongoing commitment to improving health and social care outcomes for the people of Gwent, through integrated and collaborative working. The Board will continue to monitor progress, adapt to emerging challenges and assess any emerging themes, to ensure we can effectively support people in the region with health and social care needs.

- 4.8. The Regional Partnership Board is constantly reviewing how it does business to ensure that we are looking at what matters to people, are person centred and provide integrated care that evolves with citizen needs. We are faced with rising health and social care demands and there are ongoing challenges with recruitment and retention, so to help support a sustainable system, we are working in partnership to integrate service models, provide strategic alignment across core themes and further improve our prevention and early intervention focus, to improve wellbeing and population outcomes.

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

- 5.1. Promoting equalities is a fundamental requirement of the Social Services and (Wales) Wellbeing Act 2014 and integral to the development of the Area Plan. An equality impact assessment was developed under the Population Needs Assessment and linked to the Public Service Boards (PSB) Wellbeing

Assessment. Further monitoring and review will be ensured, during the lifetime of the Area Plan.

6. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Not applicable

7. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Area Plan progress is evaluated annually via the RPB annual report to highlight key milestones and achievements made.

8. REASONS:

- 8.1.** The Regional Partnership Board complies with the Social Services and Wellbeing Wales Act to improve the wellbeing of the population and improve how health and social care services are delivered.
- 8.2.** The Gwent Regional Partnership Boards Annual Report 2024/25 meets the statutory requirements set by Welsh Government and details progress made against the Area Plan.
We review the layout of the report annually to ensure we are maximising transparency, accessibility and citizen engagement. The report is published on the Regional Partnership Board website and has also been developed into an Easy Read document. We are committed to Coproduction in the RPB and appreciate the complexities and range of the work we do and work together with citizens to constantly adapt how we report and provide information to citizens. This is done through the RPB Citizen network and themed engagement events.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1.** There are no direct financial implications related to this report.
- 5.2.** However, there are considerable Welsh Government grant funding streams supporting projects and staff across health and social care in Monmouthshire; and grant requirements and implications will need to be monitored closely. This funding is due to cease on March 31st, 2027, and discussions are underway regarding the post Regional Integration Fund landscape.
- 5.3.** The Regional Integration Fund is a five-year fund running from April 2022 to March 2027 and aims to transform and integrate health and social care services. The Revenue funding allocation in Gwent is £26.415 million, and the Capital funding allocation is £26.458 million.

6. CONSULTEES:

Cllr Ian Chandler – Cabinet member for Social Care, Safeguarding and Accessible Health Services.

Jane Rodgers – Strategic Director of Social Care and Health, Monmouthshire.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Gwent Regional Partnership Board website: [Home - Gwentrpb](#)

Gwent Population Needs Assessment: [Population Needs Assessment - Gwentrpb](#)

Gwent Market Stability Report: [Market Stability Report - Gwentrpb](#)

Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014: [Principles-Resource-Guide_March-17.pdf](#)

Dewis Cymru (IAA) Report 2024/25:



2024-2025
Regional National Dev

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9. CONTACT DETAILS:

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10. Appendices:

1. Gwent Area Plan: [Area Plan - Gwentrpb](#)

2. RPB Annual Report 2024/25.



RPB Annual Report
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