

CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 18 th October 2016
Report Subject	North Wales Regional Social Care/Health Partnership Board
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Social Services
Report Author	Chief Officer (Social Services)
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report has been compiled to inform Cabinet of the requirements within Part 9 of the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 that came into force on 6th April 2016 and which requires the establishment of a Regional Partnership Board in each health board region in Wales. The Regional Partnership Board will be a statutory body with functions defined by the Act and in subsequent regulations with the force of law. This report will also inform North Wales partners of the steps which are being taken to establish this Regional Partnership Board.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	It is recommended that the Council endorses the establishment of the Regional Partnership Board as described in 1.09 and 1.10 and nominates its Cabinet Member for Social Services and Chief Officer of Social Services to sit on the board.
---	--

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING NORTH WALES REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD
1.01	<p>The North Wales Region has operated a regional forum bringing together key partners in Social Care and Health (principally Councils and the Health Board) for many years. This regional body has worked with the Social Services Directors and Health Board Officials to manage grants made available on a regional basis by the Welsh Government to improve joint working between councils, the health service and independent care providers. The Act has transferred this activity to the new, statutory Regional Partnership Boards which will take an overview of the Intermediate Care Fund and other regional funding streams as directed by the Minister.</p>
1.02	<p>The new Regional Partnership Board will also take an overview of the promotion of integrated working. It is proposed that the delivery of integrated working and the implementation of pooled budgets are undertaken at the area level in partnership with the Area Directors of the BCUHB. In order to help meet the statutory timetable a Shadow Board has been established to enable work on the final terms of reference, priorities and work programme of the new Board in a two way dialogue with the constituent members of the Board.</p>
1.03	<p>Part 9 of the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 requires local authorities to 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 purpose of planning and delivering their social services functions. This information will be fundamental to compiling a regional needs assessment which will guide the work of areas in delivering integrated working locally.</p>
1.04	<p>Part 9 also provides for partnership arrangements between Local Authorities and Local Health Boards for the discharge of their functions. It also provides Welsh Ministers with regulation making powers in relation to formal partnership arrangements, resources for partnership arrangements (including pooled funds) and partnership boards.</p>
1.05	<p>The purpose of Part 9 is to improve outcomes and well-being of people as well as improving the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery. The key aim of co-operation, partnership and integration are described the Statutory Guidance as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to improve care and support, ensuring people have more say and control • to improve outcomes and health and well-being • provide co-ordinated, person centred care and support • make more effective use of resources, skills and expertise.
1.06	<p>The objectives of the Regional Partnership Boards are to ensure the</p>

	<p>partnership boards work effectively together to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • respond to the population needs assessment carried out in accordance with section 14 of the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act • implement the plans for each of the local authority areas covered by the board which local authorities and local health boards are required to prepare and publish under section 14A of the Act • Ensure the partnership bodies provide sufficient resources for the partnership arrangements, in accordance with their powers under section 167 of the Act <p>Promote the establishment of pooled funds where appropriate.</p>
1.07	<p>Regional Partnership Boards will also be required to prioritise the integration of services in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older people with complex needs and long term conditions, including dementia • People with learning disabilities • Carers, including young carers • Integrated Family Support Services • Develop integrated services for children with complex needs due to disability or illness and for children and young people with mental health problems. This includes transition arrangements from children to adult services • Ensure that pooled funds are established and managed for the exercise of care home accommodation and family support functions as well as for functions that will be exercised jointly as a result of an assessment carried out under section 14 of the Act. Pooled funds in relation to care home accommodation are required from 6th April 2018.
1.08	<p>The North Wales Partnership Board will bring together for the first time on a full statutory basis all the statutory agencies, Local Authority, Health, Third and Independent Sector to develop services in the region. The development of pooled budgets as required by the Social Services and Wellbeing Act by April 2018, will be an early priority for the board, as will the most effective commissioning of care homes and home care services across the region, in a very pressured time for the sector.</p>
1.09	<p>Statutory guidance lists those who must be members of the Regional Partnership Board as follows however, regions can co-opt other persons to be members of the board as appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least one elected member of a local authority which established the regional partnership board • At least one member of a Local Health Board which established the regional partnership board • The person appointed as director of social services under section 144 of the Act in respect of each local authority which established the regional partnership board, or his or her nominated representative • A representative of the Local Health Board which established the regional partnership board • Two persons who represent the interest of third sector organisations in the area covered by the regional partnership board

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least one person who represents the interests of care providers in the area covered by the regional partnership board • One person to represent people with needs for care and support in the area covered by the regional partnership board • One person to represent carers in the area covered by the regional partnership board.
1.10	With regard to North Wales each local authority will be represented by its statutory director and Cabinet/Executive Member for Social Services. It has also been agreed by the Shadow Body that the North Wales Board will invite representatives of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the North Wales Police, the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority and the Fire Service to be co-opted onto the Board.
1.11	Appropriate arrangements should be made at a strategic level to engage with other boards and organisations as needed. There is also a need to foster engagement through existing networks or forums wherever possible. In North Wales there is a desire to ensure that existing forums such as Public Service Boards are connected to the North Wales Regional Partnership Board and able to influence its work. The new Board will have a reporting arrangement to the North Wales Regional Leadership Board.
1.12	The main risks of the Partnership Board include there could be duplication with existing boards, such as the Public Services Boards, and that the large regional footprint means a clear focus for the Board maybe more difficult. These risks will be addressed in workshops being held in October, 2016, to ensure the Board starts with an appropriate pace and direction. The benefits of the board include that it is required by statute as a key part of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act. It also allows a formal statutory oversight of key activities and links well to existing mechanisms with a reporting relationship to the Regional Leadership Board.
1.13	There is a requirement that the Regional Partnership Board prepares and submits to Welsh Ministers an annual report on the extent to which the board's objectives have been achieved. The first report must be prepared and submitted by 1 st April 2017 and must include information on the membership of the Regional Partnership Board; information on how the board has met its objectives including financial information and details of the partnership arrangements in place.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	No resources required apart from the time of the Officer and Cabinet Member.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	A workshop with current members of the Partnership Forum and Leadership Group was held on 14 th March 2016; this was a facilitated session led by the Institute of Public Care, Oxford Brookes University.

3.02	Directors of Social Services and the Head of Regional Collaboration have presented on the Act to Chief Executives and to the Regional Leadership Board and highlighted the requirements around Part 9 of the Act.
3.03	The draft report has been shared and commented on by representatives of each authority, including the Health Board.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	Whilst it is a requirement to have a Regional Partnership Board, there are risks associated with the ambition, pace and prioritised areas for integration of services as required within the Act.
4.02	Ongoing funding to support the Regional Partnership Board from April 2017 onwards.
4.03	Whilst the Regional Partnership Board is a statutory body it has no decision-making powers.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None Contact Officer: Neil Ayling Telephone: 01352 704511 E-mail: neil.j.ayling@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	None.