

CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 18 th January 2022
Report Subject	North Wales Population Needs Assessment and Market Stability Report
Cabinet Member	Deputy Leader of the Council (Partnerships) and Cabinet Member for Social Services
Report Author	Chief Officer (Social Services)
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an overview of the North Wales Population Needs Assessment 2022 which has been produced as a requirement of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

The report is an assessment of the care and support needs of the population and the support needs of carers, covering the North Wales footprint.

The development of the document is led by the North Wales Social Care and Well-being Services Improvement Collaborative, with information from the six North Wales councils and the health board, supported by Public Health Wales

The report is to be approved by all partners and published by 1 April 2022.

In June 2022, a Market Stability Report must also be published. This document follows on from the Population Needs Assessment and provides an assessment of the sufficiency of care and support in meeting the needs and demand for social care, as set out in the population needs assessment, and the stability of the market for regulated services providing care and support.

Together the two documents should provide those commissioning care and support, at the regional and local level, with a comprehensive picture of current and projected demand and supply.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Cabinet supports the North Wales Population Needs Assessment, prior to submission to Full Council in February 2022.
2	To agree the process for the approval of the Regional Market Stability Report as outlined in 1.12

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE POPULATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND MARKET STABILITY REPORT
1.01	<p>Section 14 of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act (2014) requires local authorities and health boards to jointly assess:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) The extent to which there are people in a local authority's area who need care and supportb) The extent to which there are carers in the local authority's area who need supportc) The extent to which there are people in a local authority's area whose needs for care and support are not being metd) The range and level of services required to meet the care and support needs of people in the local authority's areae) The range and level of services required to achieve the purposes in Section 15(2) (preventative services) in the local authority area <p>The actions required to provide the range and level of services identified in accordance with paragraphs (d) and (e) through the medium of Welsh.</p>
1.02	<p>The report must cover as a minimum the following themes / groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Children and young people- Older People- Health, Physical Disability and Sensory Impairment- Learning Disabilities (Children and Adults)- Autism- Mental Health- Carers
1.03	<p>Within the assessment regard has also been given for secure estate, homelessness and veterans. The assessment has been guided by the requirements set out in the code of practice for population needs assessment and has given due regard to other duties and policies that have a significant impact on the groups listed. Each chapter contains an assessment of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Welsh language (the 'active offer')- Equalities and Human Rights- Socio-economic considerations- Impact of COVID-19 pandemic- Safeguarding considerations

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence - Social Value
1.04	<p>The population assessment report was engagement led. The key issues and themes identified are based on feedback from staff, partner organisations, service users and the general public to identify strategic needs for care and support. This included information from existing commissioning strategies and needs assessments. The project team collected evidence to challenge these hypotheses through data analysis, background literature reviews, service reviews and additional focussed local engagement work.</p>
1.05	<p>Flintshire Social Services have contributed to the development of the regional document by providing a comprehensive outline of the services available to each population group in Flintshire. Local feedback has also been submitted from senior colleagues, staff teams and individuals on what is working well, as well as areas for improvement. Information from past consultations and monitoring has also been shared, as well as recommendations based on local agreed actions and areas of focus.</p> <p>Colleagues have also widely shared links to an online questionnaire, which received a total of 350 responses, of which 135 (39%) were from Flintshire residents, staff and partner organisations, including the Third Sector. Social Services Senior Management Team have also scrutinised the information and data produced by the regional team to ensure that a true picture of Flintshire is presented in the report.</p>
1.06	<p>The requirement to produce an accessible, regional report in a short timescale has limited what can be included. The report provides an evidence base to support organisations and services across the region, specifically it is to be used for strategic planning cycles underpinning the integration of services and support partnership arrangements.</p>
1.07	<p>The report takes a regional focus but will be a useful tool for planners and commissioners in local authorities and health. There is still a need for a local vision and plan for services in each area. Going forward the partnership would seek to continue the work of the needs assessment to ensure that assessing the needs of our populations is an ongoing process.</p>
1.08	<p>A single regional report must be produced for the North Wales Region and be approved by Full Council for each of the local authority areas (Gwynedd, Ynys Mon, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham) and the Board of the Local Health Board.</p>
1.09	<p>The report must be published no later than April 2022 and be published on all local authority websites, the health board website and the regional partnership website in both English and Welsh. Summary reports, children and young people and other accessible formats will also be made available. A copy of the report will be submitted to Welsh Ministers.</p>
1.10	<p>The population needs assessment contributes to regional and local level strategic planning cycles, consequently this will support the local authorities corporate priorities that are linked to the health and social care needs of its resident population.</p>

1.11	<p>In addition to the requirement to assess the care and support needs of the population there is a further requirement for local authorities and health boards to assess the sufficiency of the care and support provide to meet the needs of the population in the form of a Market Stability Report. This includes an assessment of the stability of the market for regulated care and support services. Following the publication of the population needs assessment a market stability report will be prepared and published by June 2022.</p> <p>Together the two documents should provide those commissioning care and support, at the regional and local level, with a comprehensive picture of current and projected demand and supply.</p>
1.12	<p>In the lead up to publication, all Local Authorities will be undertaking local elections. Therefore, the Market Stability Report may not be able to go through the usual political processes in time for publication. Attempts are being made by the North Wales Social Care and Wellbeing Services Improvement Collaborative to change the date of publication with Welsh Government.</p> <p>If the original date stands, it is suggested that the report is approved via Delegated Powers with an information item through the committee process following the elections.</p> <p>We will continue to gather the information needed and engage with our local providers to inform the regional Market Stability Report.</p>
1.13	<p>These documents will also support the development of the local Well-being Assessment which must be produced as a requirement of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 by each Public Service Board in a similar timescale to the Population Assessment. The population assessment considered the care and support needs of the population while the Well-being Assessment covers prosperity, health, resilience, equality, vibrant culture, global responsibility and cohesive communities. There is overlap between the two so the project team for the population needs assessment are liaising with officers for the Public Service Boards (PSBs) about the progress of the needs assessment and Well-being assessments and sharing information where necessary.</p>
1.14	<p>The next phase of the project will involve using the population assessment to develop an area plan for the region. Future work on the area plan may involve further research and consultation to explore priority areas in more depth before agreeing which areas to prioritise for regional work. The area plan is to be developed and published in 2023.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>The North Wales Social Care and Wellbeing Services Improvement Collaborative has funded the regional project which has included 2 x regional project managers to support the development of the population needs assessment. Associated costs, such as translation and for specialist engagement was also funded by the partnership.</p>

	<p>There has been a cost to the local authorities, BCUHB and Public Health Wales in staff time and resource to support the project. This includes staff to carry out engagement work with the public, service users, staff and elected members and staff to support the analysis and writing of the report. The majority of this work took place between April 2021 and December 2021 for the population needs assessment. This cost has been met through existing resources, with social services staff contributing the necessary information and data to ensure Flintshire's activities is well represented in the final draft report.</p>
2.02	<p>Going forward the population needs assessment will identify regional and local priorities, it may be the case that these priorities require some level of investment at either regional or local level. The report will allow us to focus our resources on the areas of greatest need and ensure our portfolio plan is fit for purpose. As part of the process, areas identified as key priorities for Flintshire have been contributed to the regional plan.</p>

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT	
3.01	<p>Welsh Government have removed the requirement for an EQIA/IIA on the needs assessment as a report in itself. The needs assessment is inclusive of equalities, human rights and socio-economic analysis and research pertaining to each of the groups included within the needs assessment.</p>	
3.02	<p>The information from the Population Needs Assessment will support the development of the next Flintshire Wellbeing Plan.</p>	
3.03	Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact	
	Long-term	<p>The report aims to improve our understanding of our population and how it might change over the coming years to help us provide better public services in North Wales.</p>
	Prevention	<p>The assessment will look at data where trends will be identified, where responses can be put in place. This will include preventative services.</p>
	Integration	<p>This document has been jointly developed by the Local councils and the health board in North Wales, who have responsibility to make sure that they have arrangements in place to enable effective strategic planning, delivery and purchasing of services to deliver their statutory responsibilities.</p>
	Collaboration	<p>A needs assessment is a way to review the health and social care issues in a population. It can help agree priorities and the way resources are allocated to improve health and social care and reduce inequalities.</p>

	Involvement	Please see section 4 for details of engagement
3.04	Well-being Goals Impact	
	Prosperous Wales	Neutral – no impact
	Resilient Wales	Neutral – No impact
	Healthier Wales	Positive – information and data will contribute to regional and local planning of health and social care and wellbeing services
	More equal Wales	Positive – Supporting people to meet their objectives and full potential
	Cohesive Wales	Neutral – no impact
	Vibrant Wales	Neutral – no impact
	Globally responsible Wales	Neutral – no impact

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT	
4.01	The North Wales Social Care and Wellbeing Services Improvement Collaborative set up a regional steering group to lead the work for the technical, engagement, data and other theme-based groups to lead on specific tasks. Membership of the groups is from each North Wales local authority, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB), Public Health Wales and other parties with an interest in the needs assessment such as officers for the Public Service Boards.	
4.02	Engagement for the population assessment included: a questionnaire for organisations that asks for their views and evidence; a facilitator's guide for partners to use to run discussion groups with service users; workshops with staff and councillors organised by each local authority. A total of 350 questionnaire responses were received during the consultation, the feedback received is included within the needs assessment. A full consultation report is also available and is appended to the main report.	
4.03	A stakeholder map has been produced and reviewed listing all the population groups who may need care and support services to ensure that as many people as possible have the opportunity to have their say. This includes engagement with hard to reach groups.	
4.04	Local feedback has also been submitted from senior colleagues, staff teams and individual on what is working well, and areas for improvement. Information from past consultations and monitoring has also been shared, as well as recommendations based on local agreed actions and areas of focus. Colleagues also widely shared links to an online questionnaire, which received a total of 350 responses, of which 135 (39%) were from Flintshire residents, staff and partner organisations, including the Third Sector.	

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 - DRAFT - North Wales Population Needs Assessment
5.02	Appendix 2 - Engagement Report
5.03	Appendix 3 - North Wales Population Assessment Governance structure

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014: Code of Practice http://www.ccwales.org.uk/codes-of-practice-and-statutory-guidance/

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Neil Ayling, Chief Officer, Social Services Telephone: 01352 704511 E-mail: neil.j.ayling@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
	<p>Carers: A carer is anyone, of any age, who provides unpaid care and support to a relative, friend or neighbour who needs care and support.</p> <p>Market Stability Report: This document follows on from the Population Needs Assessment provides an assessment of the sufficiency of care and support in meeting the needs and demand for social care, as set out in the population needs assessment, and the stability of the market for regulated services providing care and support.</p> <p>North Wales Social Care and Wellbeing Services Improvement Collaborative: The North Wales Social Care and Well-being Improvement Collaborative includes the six local authorities in North Wales, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board and other partners. The aim is to improve services, make the most of the resources available, reduce duplication and make services more consistent across North Wales.</p> <p>Population Needs Assessment: The report is an assessment of the care and support needs of the population and the support needs of carers, covering regional footprint. It is produced a requirement of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 requirement.</p> <p>Public Service Board (PSB): The Flintshire PSB is a statutory body which was established on 1st April 2016 following the introduction of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Flintshire PSB replaces the Flintshire Local Service Board (LSB).</p> <p>Regional: The 6 Counties in the North Wales region and the Health Board</p>

Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014: The Act provides the legal framework for improving the well-being of people who need care and support, and carers who need support, and for transforming social services in Wales.

Well-being: Reference to well-being in the Act means the well-being of an individual who needs care and support or carer who needs support in relation to any of the following aspects:

- Physical and mental health and emotional well-being
- Protection from abuse and neglect
- Education, training and recreation
- Domestic, family and personal relationships
- Contribution made to society
- Securing rights and entitlements
- Social and economic well-being
- Suitability of living accommodation

In relation to a child, “well-being” also includes:

- physical, intellectual, emotional social and behavioural development
- “welfare” as that word is interpreted for the purposes of the Children Act 1989

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015: The Well-being of Future Generations Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. It will make the public bodies listed in the Act think more about the long-term, work better with people and communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach. This will help us to create a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future.