

# GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET



## Report for Gwynedd Council Cabinet meeting

<b>Date of meeting:</b>	14 February 2017
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Gareth Roberts and Councillor Mair Rowlands
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Rhion Glyn (Senior Business Manager, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Department)
<b>Contact number:</b>	01286 679074
<b>Item Title:</b>	North Wales Population Needs Assessment report

### 1 DECISION REQUESTED

- 1.1 Recommend that the Full Council approves the North Wales Population Assessment report produced as a requirement of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

### 2 REASON FOR THE DECISION

- 2.1 To ensure compliance with the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

### 3 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 On the request of the North Wales Social Care and Wellbeing Services Improvement Collaborative, a Regional Steering Group has been responsible for co-ordinating a North Wales Population Assessment report. This was done by strategically leading engagement and establishing technical and specific groups according to the need.
- 3.2 Even though the statutory requirement to produce an accessible, regional report in a short timescale has limited what can be included, it is presumed that this assessment will be an important evidence base for future services and strategies, and also central to service integration developments well as supporting collaboration arrangements.
- 3.3 There is specific statutory guidance regarding the requirement that each local authority in a Local Health Board area should produce a joint Population Needs Assessment.

- 3.4 To produce a joint Population Needs Assessment report and respond to the statutory requirement, the six local authorities across North Wales had to combine their individual assessments. This has meant frequent collaboration between officers across the region and this good practice will need to continue into the future.
- 3.5 This is the first Population Assessment across North Wales and, with a statutory requirement to review the assessment regularly, the process is considered as a continuous process that will develop and improve over time. Even though the report in question is reporting on the current situation, it is expected that we will be regularly consulting and trying to improve the information and understanding we have.
- 3.6 The work was led and steered by the local engagement work undertaken by the six authorities, based on feedback from staff, partner organisations, service users and the general public to identify strategic needs for care and support. The assessment also includes information from existing commissioning strategies and needs assessments. The project team that co-ordinated the North Wales Population Needs Assessment report were responsible for collecting evidence to challenge these hypotheses through data analysis, background literature reviews, service reviews and additional focussed engagement work.

#### **4 LOGIC AND JUSTIFICATION FOR RECOMMENDING THE DECISION**

- 4.1 Section 14 of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act (2014) requires local authorities and health boards to jointly assess:
- a) The extent to which there are people in a local authority's area who need care and support
  - b) The extent to which there are carers in the local authority's area who need support
  - c) The extent to which there are people in a local authority's area whose needs for care and support are not being met
  - d) The range and level of services required to meet the care and support needs of people in the local authority's area
  - e) The range and level of services required to achieve the purposes in Section 15(2) (preventative services) in the local authority area
  - f) The actions required to provide the range and level of services identified in accordance with paragraphs (d) and (e) through the medium of Welsh.
- 4.2 There is an expectation that the assessment must cover as a minimum the following themes: 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. In North Wales the following themes have also been included: homelessness, veterans and people in the secure estate, along with a link to the Area Planning Board Substance Misuse Needs Assessment.
- 4.3 A single report must be produced for the North Wales Region and be approved by the Board of the Local Health Board and by the Full Council in each Local

Authority. It should be published on 1 April 2017 on each local authority and health board website in Welsh and English, with a copy sent to Welsh Ministers.

- 4.4 A summarised version of the assessment has been included as Appendix 1. A copy of the full Population Assessment report has been included as Appendix 2.
- 4.5 It is considered that the full report presented in Appendix 2 meets the required needs as noted in 4.1 above. But to add to this, and respond specifically to Gwynedd's priorities as a local authority area, it is assumed that the data that we have with respect to a more local assessment helps us to further meet these needs.

## **5 NEXT STEPS AND TIMESCALE**

- 5.1 The next phase of the regional project will involve using the population assessment to develop an area plan for the region and we are currently awaiting the guidance about this from Welsh Government.
- 5.2 More locally, and during the next few months, we will start to ensure that we have the most appropriate evidence for commissioning appropriately in the future.
- 5.3 Following the Cabinet's approval, the Population Assessment report (Appendix 1 and 2) will be presented to the Full Council on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March.

## **6 ANY CONSULTATIONS HELD BEFORE RECOMMENDING THE DECISION**

- 6.1 A full Equality Impact Assessment has been completed as part of the project. Please see Appendix 3.
- 6.2 The engagement as a whole 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; a questionnaire for the public available on the Citizen's Panel website along with interviews with Citizen's Panel members; workshops with staff and councillors organised by each local authority. It is anticipated that further engagement will be undertaken as part of the next step of the project and priority given to any aspects that could be strengthened.
- 6.3 The North Wales Population Needs Assessment report was presented to the Services Scrutiny Committee on the 26<sup>th</sup> January where acknowledgement was given to the detailed work that has been done regarding collating all the information, as well as an appreciation that the evidence forwarded is key for developing future plans. There was a full understanding also that this new process is a continual one where frequent engagement will be held to ensure that the assessment is current and always tries to reflect the actual situation across the north.
- 6.4 The Services Scrutiny Committee gave useful proposals to consider when we develop the assessment specifically for Gwynedd e.g. population projections such as age profiles, immigration, the value of the contribution of unpaid carers and the

extra costs of providing services in rural areas. The Committee offered comments on fields such as Learning Disability, Autism and Domestic Abuse and it was agreed that these will be shared regionally to ensure that they receive attention in any review of the assessment.

- 6.5 Also, the Committee expressed real concern specifically regarding the Mental Health field and emphasised the need to give priority to this field as soon as possible.
- 6.6 A Well-being Assessment 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 have worked jointly and communicated frequently with the Public Services Boards in North Wales. An example is joint engagement work carried out for both assessments.

#### **Statutory Officers comments:**

##### **Chief Executive:**

The Regional Board, and the staff of the various organisations who make up the Board, have managed to do sterling work in trying to establish a population assessment in an extremely tight timescale and within quite complex governance arrangements.

However we must ask the question whether the assessment is clear on the answer to the 6 issues it is required to address **in relation to the Gwynedd area** bearing in mind the wording of Section 14 of the Act. In reading through the whole report one can find elements which do so but perhaps the assessment in relation to Gwynedd could have been clearer. I believe that this is a reflection of how legislation and statutory guidance which tries to go into too great a level of detail does not help us improve the services to the people of Gwynedd, but merely creates a confusing environment for officers which in turn result in sub optimal outcomes. Having said as much, I would suggest that we need to adopt the assessment as it stands but to ask for a clearer report as soon as possible detailing the findings in relation to the Gwynedd area.

##### **Chief Finance Officer:**

It was confirmed by the author of the report that there is no departmental request for additional resources for the purpose of meeting these needs at the moment, so there are no financial implications arising directly from the receipt of this report. The information contained in the regional 'Assessment' gives the Council evidence, which will underpin the county's future service commissioning. Therefore, consideration will be given to any financial implications in the future when the Department introduces any subsequent developments and commissioning strategies specifically for Gwynedd.

**Monitoring Officer:**

The report notes that this “Report” has been prepared to meet a statutory requirement stemming from the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 to prepare a joint plan with the Health Board. The statutory guidance in relation to Part 2 of the Act also directs the Authority to prepare a joint plan regionally with other relevant authorities as well as placing the document before the full Council for adoption.

**Appendices:**

Appendix 1 – Summary of the Population Needs Assessment report

Appendix 2 – Full report of the Population Needs Assessment

**Background papers:**

	<b>Website information</b>
Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014: Code of Practice	<a href="http://www.ccwales.org.uk/codes-of-practice-and-statutory-guidance/">http://www.ccwales.org.uk/codes-of-practice-and-statutory-guidance/</a>