



CYDWEITHREDFA GWELLA GWASANAETHAU  
GOFAL A LLESIANT **GOGLEDD CYMRU**  
**NORTH WALES** SOCIAL CARE AND WELL-BEING  
SERVICES IMPROVEMENT COLLABORATIVE

# North Wales Regional Plan 2023 to 2028

Working together to ensure the health and wellbeing of people of all ages in North Wales

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg. This document is available in Welsh.



Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Betsi Cadwaladr  
University Health Board



Iechyd Cyhoeddus  
Cymru  
Public Health  
Wales



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YNYS MÔN  
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COUNTY COUNCIL



CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL  
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Sir y Fflint  
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wrecsam

This document is the joint area plan required by the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) 2014 Act and the Care and Support (Area Planning) (Wales) Regulations 2017.

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# Introduction

## North Wales Regional Partnership Board

This plan sets out how the North Wales Regional Partnership Board (NWRPB) will respond to the findings of the North Wales Population Needs Assessment published in April 2022 and Market Stability Report published in November 2022.

The Population Needs Assessment brings together information about people's care and support needs and the support needs of carers in North Wales. It aims to show how well people's needs are being met and the services we will need to meet them in future. Councils in North Wales worked together with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) supported by Public Health Wales to produce the assessment, which is a requirement of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

The Market Stability Report helps us to understand the social care market in North Wales so that we can effectively commission and support providers of health and social care services to meet the needs of the population effectively.

A range of evidence was used to identify what is needed. We asked people what they think is important including people who currently use care and support services and staff who deliver services in the local authorities, health, private and voluntary sectors.

The main themes are an increasing need for care and support, particularly an increase in complex needs and the support needs of carers. While commissioners and providers are working hard to provide excellent care in many areas, challenges around recruitment and retention of health and social care staff are seriously affecting the ability of the sector to meet people's needs. The reports are available on our website:

- [North Wales Population Needs Assessment](#).
- [North Wales Market Stability Report](#)

The focus of this plan is on the Regional Partnership Board priorities for integrated working between health and social care at a regional scale. Many of the findings of the population assessment are being addressed by partners as part of their core

business or by existing partnerships between agencies across a variety of geographical boundaries. The plan briefly describes where this is taking place and links to further information. The Population Needs Assessment, Market Stability Report and Regional Plan can be used to support other local and regional planning. When planning services, we recommend referring to the original documents for full details about what care and support is needed.

For information about services in your area please see [Part D: For more information](#).

## What the regional plan does

- The plan sets out high level principles, outcomes and priorities for **regional working** across health and social care in North Wales.
- It is a starting point for **formal** regional working under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and sets a framework for health and social care partners to work together to a common agenda.
- It focusses on priorities that have been highlighted by citizens.

## What the regional plan does not do

- It does not contain all health and social care priorities as the plan would be too large, instead it focusses on areas of work that require **partnership** working.
- It is not a huge collection of detailed actions lifted from partner's work plans as this would be duplication, instead the plan 'signposts' to other plans.

## Progress since the 2017 regional plan

Since the regional plan was published, we have developed and implemented the following regional strategies and plans:

- [Carers strategy](#)
- [Learning disability strategy](#)
- [Workforce strategy](#)
- [Dementia strategy](#)
- [Care homes for older people: market shaping statement](#)
- [Market position statement for children and young people's residential care and fostering](#)
- [Rapid review of care homes: North Wales Care Home Action Plan](#)
- [Engagement strategy](#)

We completed a full review of the [Population Needs Assessment](#) and our first regional [Market Stability Report](#) to assess the care and support needs of people in North Wales and whether enough support is available to meet those needs.

The Regional Partnership Board established a [Children's Sub-Group](#) to make sure there is a regional focus on issues affecting children and young people.

We successfully delivered a transformation programme as part of the Welsh Government Strategy, A Healthier Wales. The programme successfully promoted the use of digital technologies; developed tools, policies and training to support integrated working and achieve 'what matters' to individuals; implemented new models of care to support children and young people; improved support for people with learning disabilities; and set up iCAN Community Hubs and other support for people with mental health issues, including employment support. For more information, see our [transformation fund evaluation summary](#).

We also delivered a range of projects through the Integrated Care Fund to help integrate services and improve the lives of vulnerable people in North Wales. This included a falls prevention project which reduced pressure on health and social care services and support to prevent children from needing expensive residential care outside of the region. In addition to Discharge to Recover and Assess (D2RA) pathways as part of the Winter Plan.

We established a [Regional Innovation Coordination Hub](#) to better coordinate research, innovation and improvement activity and inform the new models of care being developed by the Regional Partnership Board. Our regional partnership structures are now well-established including the [social value forum](#).

The board also provided a crucial role in coordinating responses to the Covid-19 pandemic.

More information is available about progress against the plan in our [Regional Partnership Board Annual Reports](#).

## How we developed the plan

The plan is structured following Welsh Government guidance and the template developed for the first regional plan produced in 2017. It has been updated to include a summary of the board's achievements in the past 5 years and the priorities

emerging from the recently published Population Needs Assessment and Market Stability Report.

The Regional Partnership Board held a workshop on 14 October 2022 to review the boards progress to date, reflect on the evidence presented about care and support needs in North Wales and set priorities for joint working over the next 5 years. The North Wales planning cycle diagram and project timeline for developing the regional plan are included below.

**Figure 1: Regional planning cycle diagram**



**Figure 2: Regional plan project timeline**

|                      | 2022 | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar |
|----------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Project planning     |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| RPB workshop         |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Social Value Forum   |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Write first draft    |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Consultation         |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Write second draft   |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Final approval       |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Publication / launch |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |

The plan was developed by the Regional Partnership Board made up of the following members (as of 27 March 2023).

- Alwyn Jones, Wrexham County Borough Council
- Alwyn Williams, North Wales Police (Co-opted)
- Ann Woods, North Wales VSC's (Co-opted)
- Catrin Roberts, Head of Regional Collaboration
- Cllr Elen Heaton, Denbighshire County Council
- Cllr Christine Jones, Flintshire County Council
- Cllr Dilwyn Morgan, Gwynedd Council
- Cllr John Pritchard, Wrexham County Borough Council
- Cllr Alun Roberts / Cllr Gary Pritchard, Isle of Anglesey County Council
- Cllr Liz Roberts, Conwy County Borough Council
- Dave Hughes, North Wales Fire and Rescue Service (Co-opted)
- Estelle Hitchon, North Wales Ambulance Service (Co-opted)
- Ffion Johnstone, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
- Fon Roberts, Isle of Anglesey County Council
- Gill Harris, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
- Jenny Williams, Conwy County Borough Council
- Libby Ryan-Davies, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
- Dr Lowri Brown, Local Authority Education representative
- Karen Higgins, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
- Mary Wimbury (chair), Provider Representative



- Meinir Williams-Jones, Third Sector Representative
  - Michelle Greene, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
  - Neil Ayling, Flintshire County Council
  - Nicola Stubbins Denbighshire County Council
  - Ricki Owen, Service User Representative
  - Sian Tomos, Third Sector Representative
  - Liz Grieve, Local Authority Housing representative
  - Steve Gadd, Chief Finance Officer (section 151) (Co-opted)
  - Teresa Owen, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (Co-opted)
  - Chair of NW Leadership group (if not already a member)
- 
- Vacant Housing Representative
  - Vacant Carer representative
  - Vacant Carer representative

## Consultation and engagement

Area plans are strategic documents, and as such engagement with citizens (people who use care and support services and unpaid carers) in their production will not need to be as far reaching as the extensive engagement carried out around population needs assessments. We have relied in the main on the information gathered during the development of the Population Needs Assessment and Market Stability Report.

We also shared a draft version of the plan in March 2023 for comments on our website and shared the link with partner organisations. We received 48 responses from people working for a range of different organisations, people with experience of using care and support services or providing unpaid care. The plan was then updated to take account of this feedback and more detail is available in the consultation report available as an appendix to this plan.

## Equality and human rights

The Equality Act 2010 introduced a public sector equality duty which requires all public bodies including the council to tackle discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and promote good relations. An equality impact assessment was undertaken to identify any potential inequalities arising from the development and

delivery of this plan, including the new socio-economic duty. A key element of the assessment is the consultation and engagement undertaken to inform the plan.

When developing services in response to the regional plan additional equalities impact assessments **must** be undertaken. Each chapter in the population assessment includes information about the issues that may affect people with protected characteristics and a summary is included in this plan. The summary of issues is far from comprehensive and is there to act as a prompt to consider the full range of issues. Additional information is available in the consultation reports and the literature searches that informed the Population Needs Assessment.

The Regional Partnership Board is committed to co-producing services with people who use them and their carers. The board recognises that carers are key partners in providing care throughout this plan.

The board is committed to strengthening Welsh language services and providing an active offer through the [Mwy na geiriau/More than just words](#) framework.

All public sector partners represented on the Regional Partnership Board are required to publish [strategic equality plans](#) which set out their equality objectives and action plans. The regional plan supports the objectives set out in these plans and many of the actions will contribute to addressing inequalities in health and well-being.

Every effort has been made to use appropriate language to describe people with different needs and protected characteristics within the plan. We acknowledge that preferred terms change over time and that people may have different opinions about the language they prefer to describe themselves. The debate will be welcome and hopefully helps us towards a common understanding about the use of language.

The Human Rights Act 1998 sets out the basic rights we all have because we are human. They help protect people by giving public services, including health and social care services, a legal duty to treat people with fairness, equality, dignity, respect and autonomy. Services developed in response to this plan also need to be based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the UN Principles for Older Persons (UNPOP).

## What works: using research evidence

We worked with the [Developing Evidence Enriched Practice \(DEEP\) programme](#) and other partners to develop the following definition of effective evidence.

“Effective evidence helps develop an understanding of phenomena and answers questions. It is contextual, relevant, and timely, drawing on different sources of knowledge (such as research, lived experience, practitioner, and organisational knowledge). Effective evidence is accessible, and all relevant individuals can engage with it. It is useful and can lead to improvement, but it is also open (transparent) about its limitations.”

The Regional Innovation Coordination Hub identifies and summarises a range of evidence to support the work of the Regional Partnership Board. This includes producing reports like the [Population Needs Assessment](#) and [Market Stability Report](#) as well as access to a Specialist Librarian to carry out literature searches to explore available evidence around health and social care. We work closely with Social Care Wales around their [research, data and innovation](#) work programmes. As part of the population needs assessment, Public Health Wales carried out a [review of the evidence available for early intervention and prevention services](#).

The Regional Innovation Coordination Hub has also been working with the RPB Children’s Sub-Group and the DEEP programme to look at innovative methods to support the use of research evidence in practice, such as a Community of Enquiry. For more information, see our [Focus on children and young people](#).

We evaluate the projects we deliver to identify what works and to learn how to improve integrated care, for example, of the Transformation Programme, Integrated Care Fund and others. From these evaluations, we have identified ways we can make the evaluation process more effective and will be implementing a new framework over the 12 months.

More information about what works to improve health and social care is available from the [North Wales Regional Innovation Coordination Hub](#).

## How will we know we have made a difference?

We will monitor, evaluate and publish progress against this plan through the Regional Partnership Board annual report. The annual implementation plan, which

will set out how this 5-year regional plan will be put into action, will be a regular item on the Regional Partnership Board agenda and be discussed quarterly.

Each of the regional priorities identified in this plan contribute to the outcomes set in the National Health and Social Care Outcomes Framework and Regional Integration Fund Outcomes Framework, which we will use as a framework for measuring outcomes.

Our new evaluation framework will include story-telling methods, such as Most Significant Change, to help identify what matters to people and help us understand how and why some models deliver good integrated care. It will also include improving the way we measure and quantify what is being delivered, how well and the difference made.

## Governance

The Regional Partnership Board have agreed the [structures in figure 4](#) to deliver health and social care integration.

### Regional Partnership Board

This North Wales Regional Partnership Board was established to meet Part 9 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

The guiding principles of the Regional Partnership Board are that we are committed to the delivery of sustainable and improved health and well-being for all people in North Wales. This means:

- 1 Whole system change and reinvestment of resources to a preventative model that promotes good health and well-being and draws effectively on evidence of what works best
- 2 Care is delivered in joined up ways centred around the needs, preferences and social assets of people (service users, carers and communities)
- 3 People are enabled to use their confidence and skills to live independently, supported by a range of high quality, community based options
- 4 Embedding co-production in decision making so that citizens and their communities shape services

- 5 We recognise the broad range of factors that influence health and well-being and the importance of the links to these areas (including education, housing, welfare, reduced homelessness, economic growth, regeneration, leisure and the environment)

The Regional Partnership Board's priorities are based on the principles of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014:

- The act supports people who have care and support needs to achieve well-being.
- People are at the heart of the new system by giving them an equal say in the support they receive
- Partnership and co-operation drives service delivery
- Services will promote the prevention of escalating need and the right help is available at the right time

The board is committed to strengthening Welsh language services and providing an active offer through the [Mwy na geiriau/More than just words](#) framework.

### **RPB Children's sub-group**

The purpose of the group is:

- To provide strategic direction in respect of supporting families with health and social care needs across the region
- To improve regional integration and collaboration across and between health, adult social care, children's services and education
- To ensure children and families with complex care and support needs receive seamless, integrated care and support that helps them achieve what is important to them
- To improve outcomes for children and to ensure that activity delivered across the region supports this aspiration
- To support preventative action to address the escalation of health and social care needs

The sub-group have established governance structures for the children's work programme including an Integrated Children's Services Board and area sub-groups and a Children's Stakeholder Group ([see figure 4](#)).

## North Wales Regional Leadership Board

The Regional Partnership Board reports to the Regional Leadership Board which includes:

- The Council Leaders and Chief Executives of the six local authorities
- The Chair and Chief Executive of the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB)
- The Chief Constable of the North Wales Police
- The Chair and Chief Fire Officer of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority.

The Regional Leadership Board aims to provide strategic leadership by strengthening relationships across public services in North Wales.

## Addressing other report findings

Governance will be through each organisation's own structures and a series of regional meetings that take place once a month including:

- Regional Leadership Group (Directors of Social Services and health board representatives)
- North Wales Children and Young People's Leadership Group (Heads of children's services from social care, health, education, police and probationary services).
- North Wales Heads of Adult Services (NWASH)

The North Wales Safeguarding Board (NWSB) including the North Wales Safeguarding Children's Board (NWSCB) and North Wales Safeguarding Adults' Boards (NWSAB) provide governance of some elements of the plan.

Individual programme boards oversee specific regional areas of work including:

- Integrated Learning Disability Board
- Integrated Dementia Services Board
- Integrated Autism Services Board
- Together for Mental Health Board (Regional Integration Fund element)
- Capital Fund Board
- Regional Commissioning Board
- Regional Workforce Board

## Accelerated Cluster Development

The Accelerated Cluster Development Programme is the Primary Care component of Place Based Care, delivered through Professional Collaboratives and Clusters.

### Professional Collaboratives

These are the mechanisms by which, GMS practices, Dental practices, Community Pharmacies, Optometry practices, Community Nurses, Allied Health Professions, Social Services and others come together within their profession specific groups across a cluster footprint to consider how they respond to Regional Population Needs Assessments [RPNAs], consider the quality of their service offer and look at how they respond to national strategy for their respective profession, designing local solutions based upon their detailed knowledge and expertise.

### Clusters

These are the mechanisms by which representatives of the individual Professional Collaboratives come together to assess the wider health and wellbeing needs of their population (typically of between 25,000 and 100,000 people) and respond to RPNAs to produce a prioritised 3-year cluster plan. This plan also sets out how any funding allocated for decision at cluster level.

Successful Cluster working enables health and care professionals to work across service boundaries and to influence the development of services for their patients. Cluster arrangements form the local footprint for the strategic aims of Regional Partnership Boards. Primary care clusters bring together GPs and other local services involved in health and care across a geographical area. There are 14 clusters across North Wales. The regional plan informs and is informed by cluster and pan-cluster needs assessments and plans from across the region. More information is available on the Primary Care One website:

[Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board: Cluster Plans and Reports](#)

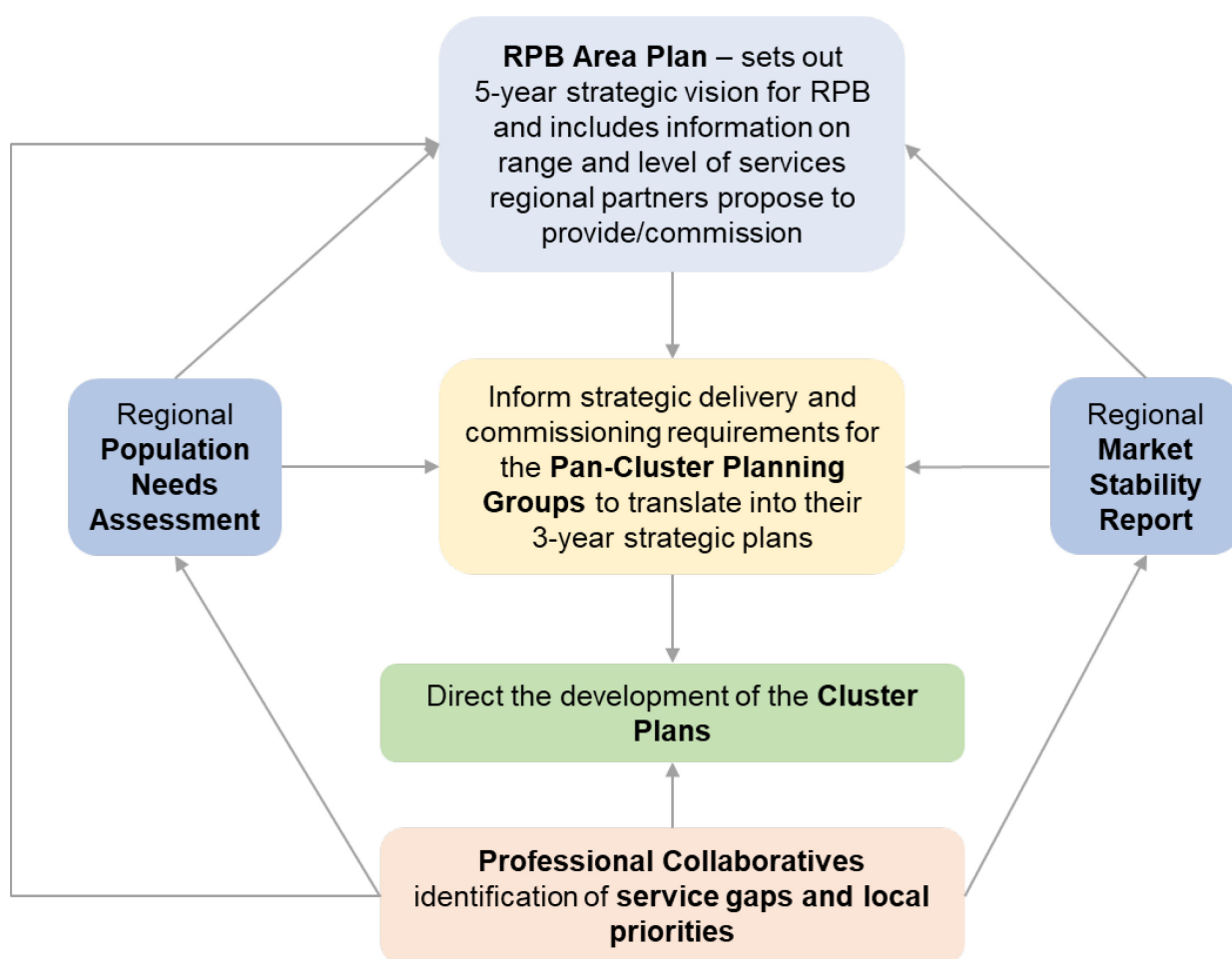
The Accelerated Cluster Development Programme Planning Guidance (2022) describes the programme as:

“fundamentally about a clear line of sight from the local front-line health and care services through to the Regional Planning Board in terms of understanding the needs of the local population and translating such

knowledge into strategic priorities at a Regional Planning Board/County and Cluster level”

In this model the role of the Regional Partnership Board is to provide oversight of Pan-Cluster Planning Group funding, planning and commissioning activity and to manage information flow between the clusters, health board and social care. These linkages are shown in the diagram below.

**Figure 3: Relationship between RPBs and Pan-Cluster Planning Groups**



The local governance structures for each area are shown in [figure 5](#) below.

Accelerated Cluster Development, and the establishment of Professional Collaboratives, multi-profession Clusters and strategic-level Pan-Cluster Planning Groups will continue to be a priority for 2023/24.

Work here will include the further development of the required infrastructure to support collaboration, but also the strengthening of cluster planning and



development work. Early conversations will commence with regards primary care/ cluster commissioning as well as the development of primary care delivery vehicles (Community Interest Companies)

## Links with other regional governance structures

### **Public Services Boards and Well-being Plans**

There are four Public Services Boards (PSBs) in North Wales established by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The purpose of the PSBs is to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in their area by strengthening joint working across all public services in North Wales. Each PSB prepared a well-being assessment in parallel with the population assessment and is preparing a well-being plan in parallel with this regional plan. More information is available on the PSB websites.

[Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board](#)

[Conwy and Denbighshire Public Services Board](#)

[Flintshire Public Services Board](#)

[Wrexham Public Services Board](#)

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires us to think about the long-term impact of our decisions, work better with people, communities and each other and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.

**RPB Membership**  
 Health, Social Care, Education, Housing,  
 Third Sector, Carers, Citizens.

**PSB Membership**  
**Statutory members:** Local Authority(ies), Local Health Board, Natural Resources Wales, Fire and Rescue.  
**Statutory invitees:** Welsh Ministers, Police and Crime Commissioners, Police, Probation services, Third sector.



There is clear overlap in the work of both the RPB and PSBs – partners are similar; both are required to undertake an assessment of the population and engage with citizens and therefore it is important that they work closely together. However, the remit of the PSB is wider than that of the RPB and applies to the whole population whilst the RPB is contained to the health and care services and the sections of the population needing health and care support.

The governance structure needs to consider overlaps with Public Services Board priorities and how these will be managed. Where issues can be resolved locally by partners this will be through the PSBs and health and social care issues that require a regional solution will be brought to the Regional Partnership Board.

## Resources

The plan will be delivered using resources from all partners including core budgets from BCUHB and Local Authorities and additional Welsh Government grant funding for specific projects.

To deliver the broad aims of the plan we will need to make the best use of the resources we have - not just health and social care budgets but local businesses, charities, community organisations, families and friends.

## Health and Social Care Regional Integration Fund

The Health and Social Care Regional Integration Fund is a five-year fund from April 2022 to March 2027. It builds on the progress made under the previous Integrated

Care Fund and Transformation Fund. The fund is a major resource for the Regional Partnership Board to help integrated health and social care services.

The Regional Integration Fund (RIF) is based around 6 models of care as shown in [figure 6](#) and in the description of the North Wales plans below.

- **Community based care – prevention and community coordination:** Community services that help to protect residents from longer term health or wellbeing problems, including befriending groups, community hubs, support for carers and access to well-being services.
- **Community based care – complex care closer to home:** Help to improve recovery following a period of ill health and to be more independent in the long term. Includes help at home from specialist teams who work in the community and community rehabilitation.
- **Promoting good emotional health and well-being:** Creating and improving services for both adults and young people who need emotional health and wellbeing support, for example, iCAN services across North Wales and community activities to help improve mental wellbeing.
- **Supporting families to stay together safely and therapeutic support for care experienced children:** Health, social care and education partners will work together with families to help them stay together safely and prevent the need for children to become looked after by the local authority. This includes early intervention projects; projects to build family resilience such as family group conferences, LIFT (Local Integrated Family Team) and MST (Multisystemic Therapy) and intensive residential support, support teams and specialist support for children with complex needs.
- **Home from hospital:** Some people will always need treatment in a hospital environment, so this will help people to be discharged and recover at home safely and quickly. It also ensures those who do need acute care can access it easily.
- **Accommodation based solutions:** providing warm, safe and supportive living environments. This includes providing support to children and adults with disabilities and complex needs and a progression service to support young adults with physical and/or learning disabilities to increase their independence in their own home.

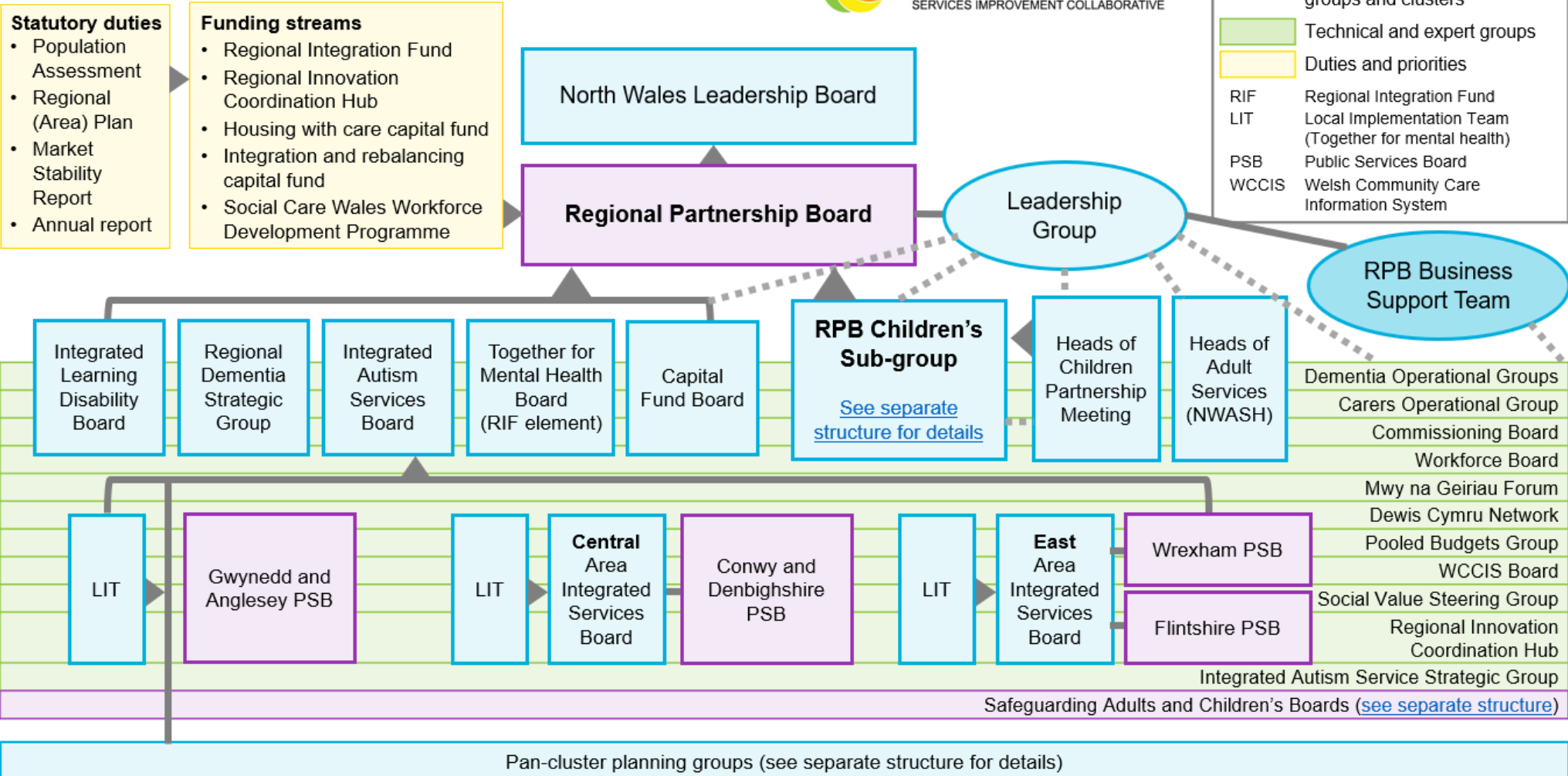
Figure 4: North Wales Regional Partnership Board Governance Structures

**North Wales Regional Partnership Board (RPB):**  
Delivering health and social care integration

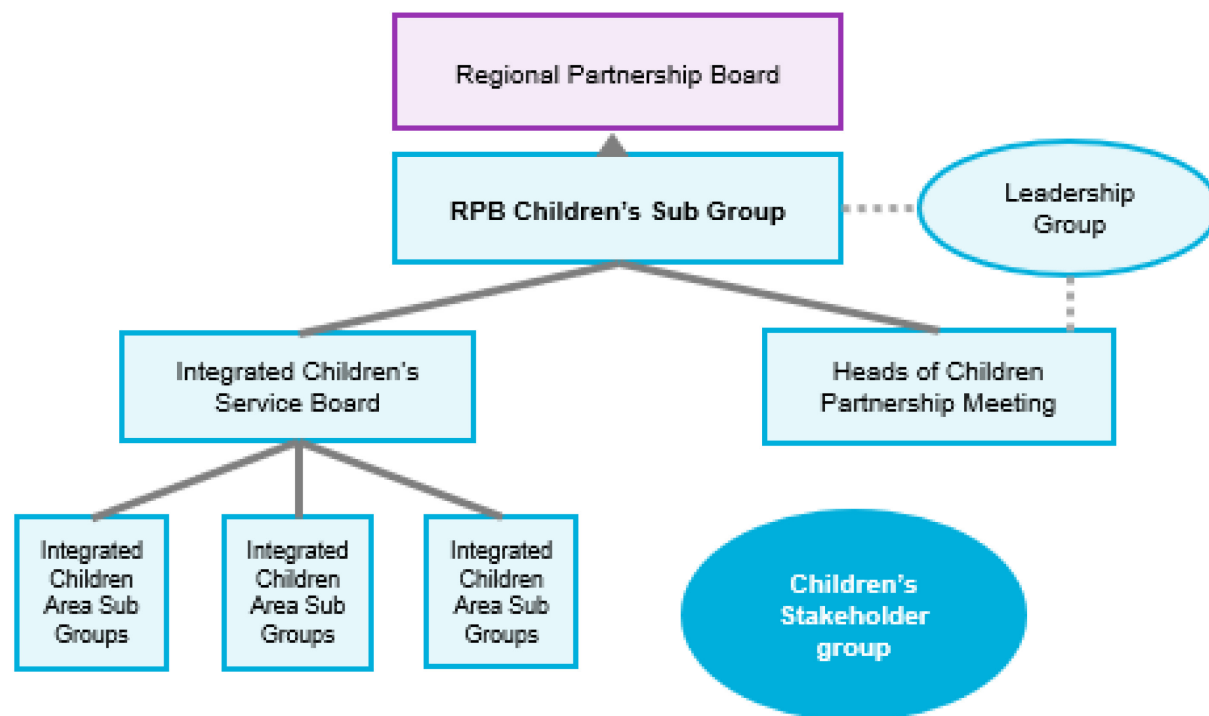


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SERVICES IMPROVEMENT COLLABORATIVE**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:lightblue; border:1px solid black;"></span>  | Statutory boards                                       |
| <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:lightgreen; border:1px solid black;"></span> | Non-statutory boards, teams, groups and clusters       |
| <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:yellow; border:1px solid black;"></span>     | Technical and expert groups                            |
| <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:lightblue; border:1px solid black;"></span>  | Duties and priorities                                  |
| RIF   | Regional Integration Fund                              |
| LIT   | Local Implementation Team (Together for mental health) |
| PSB   | Public Services Board                                  |
| WCCIS   | Welsh Community Care Information System                |



**North Wales Regional Partnership Board (RPB):**  
Children's governance structure



## North Wales Safeguarding Boards

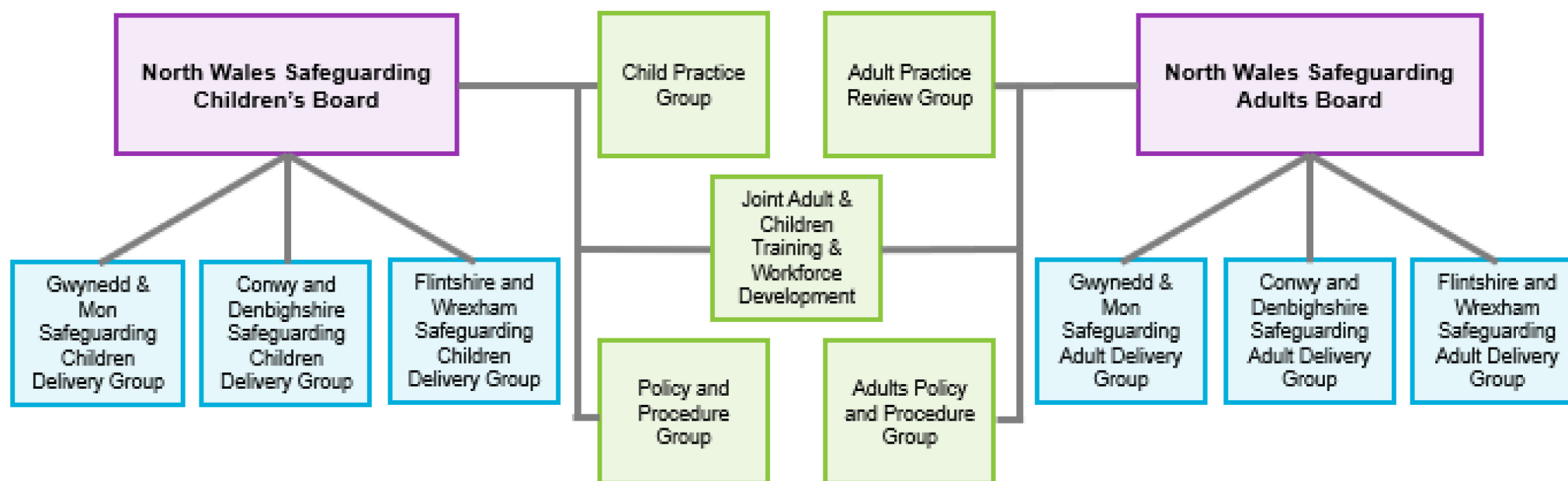
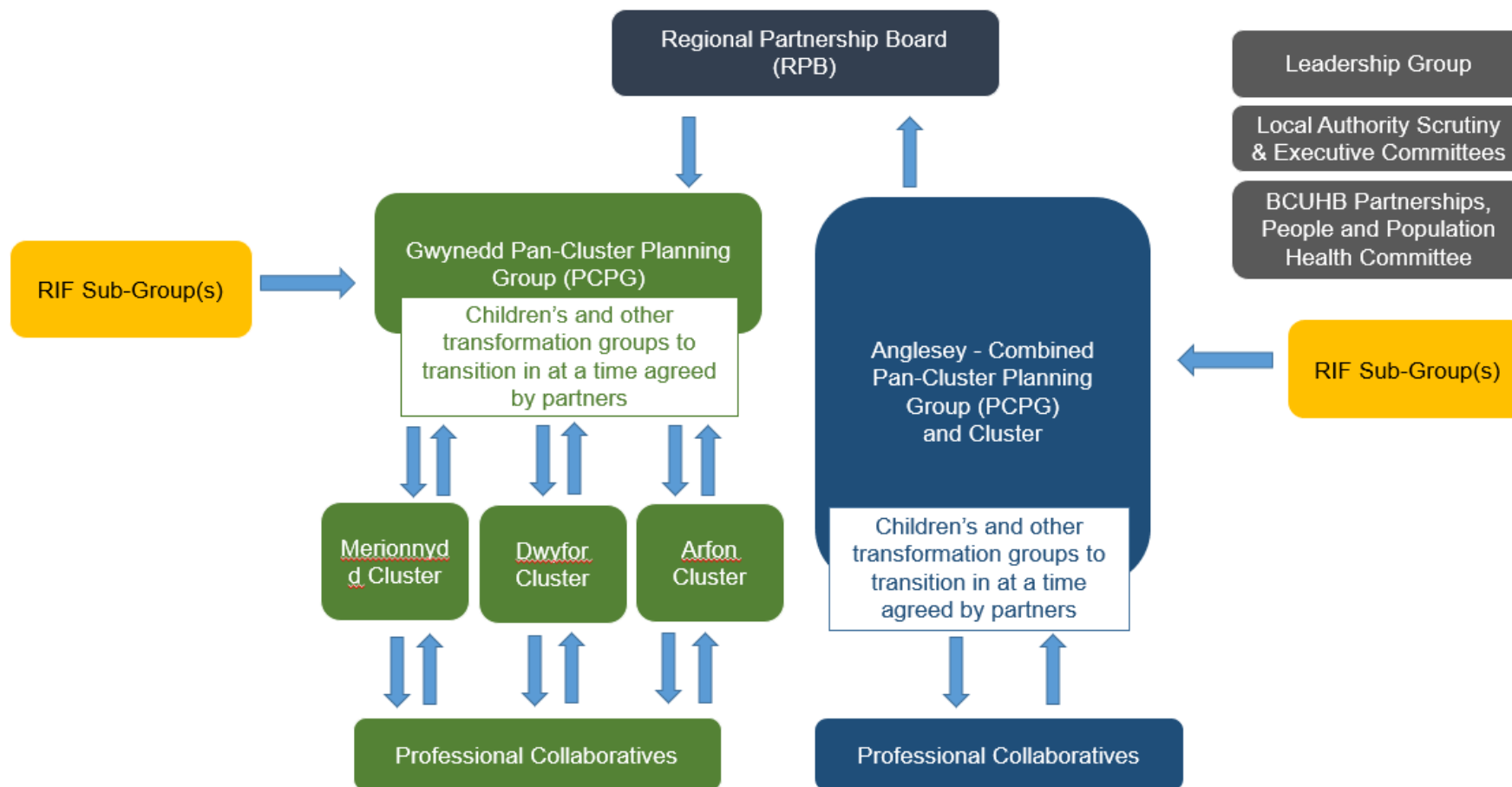
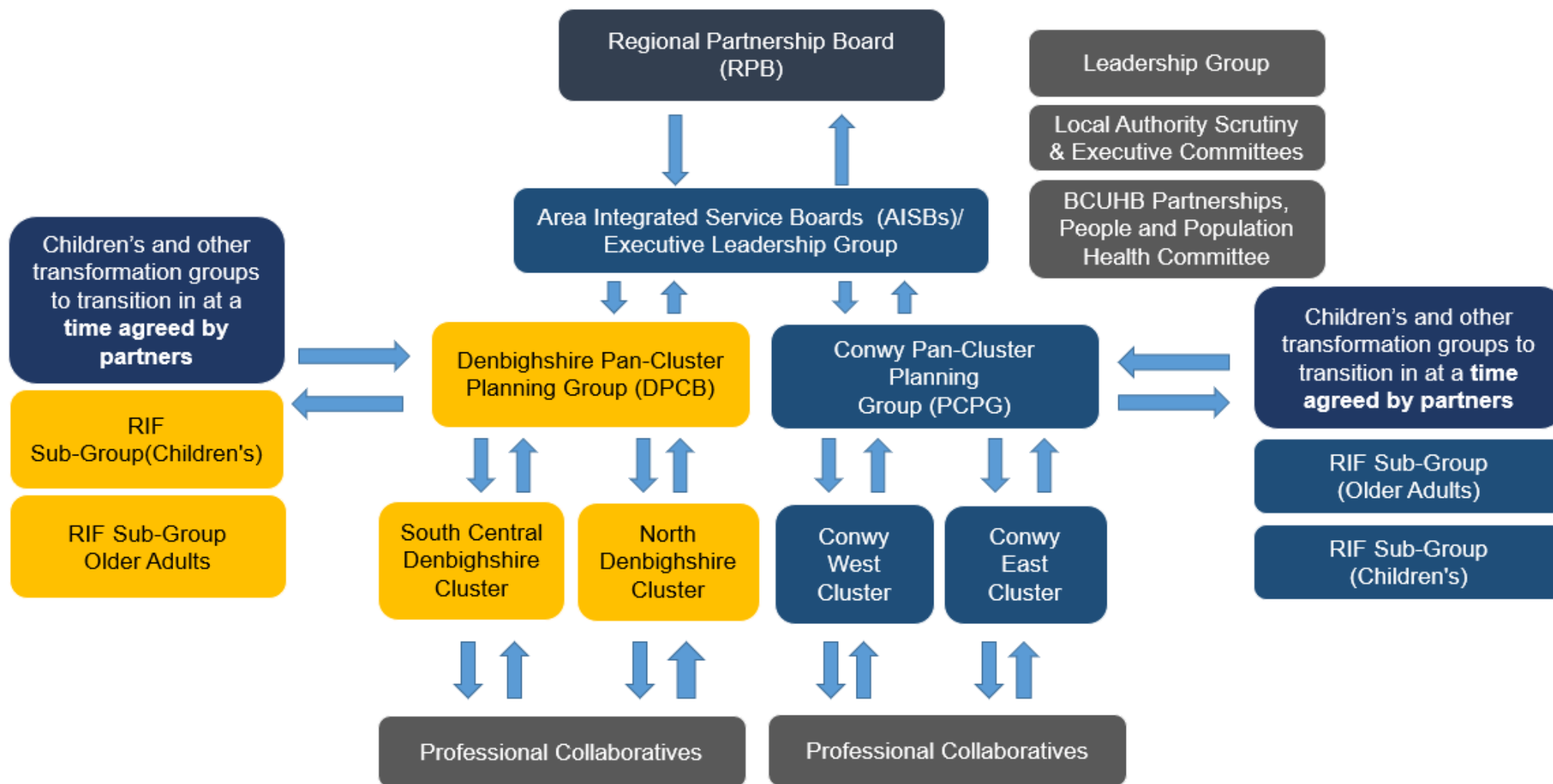


Figure 5: Local governance structures linking primary care clusters and the Regional Partnership Board

### Anglesey and Gwynedd Governance



## Conwy and Denbighshire Governance





## Wrexham and Flintshire Governance

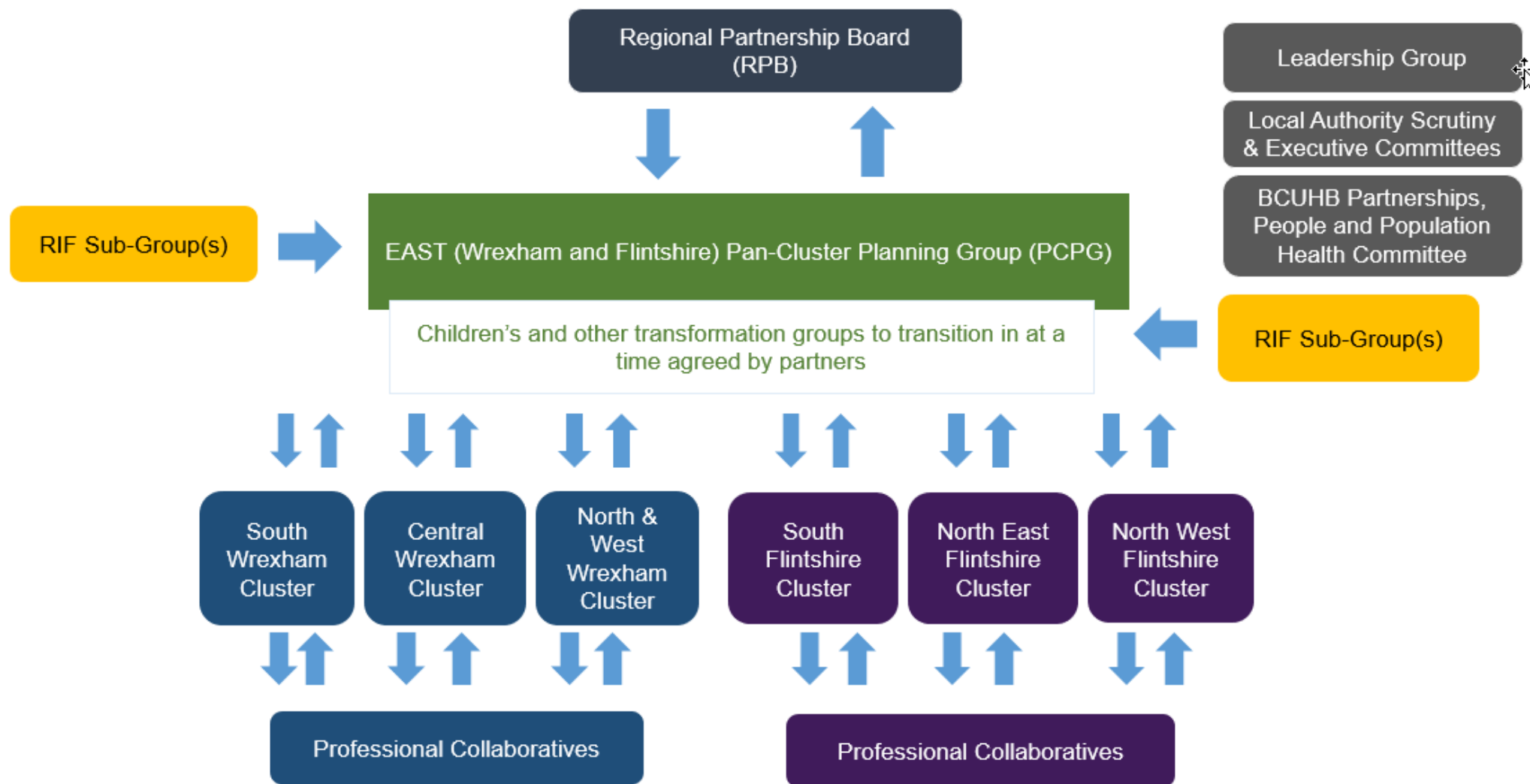
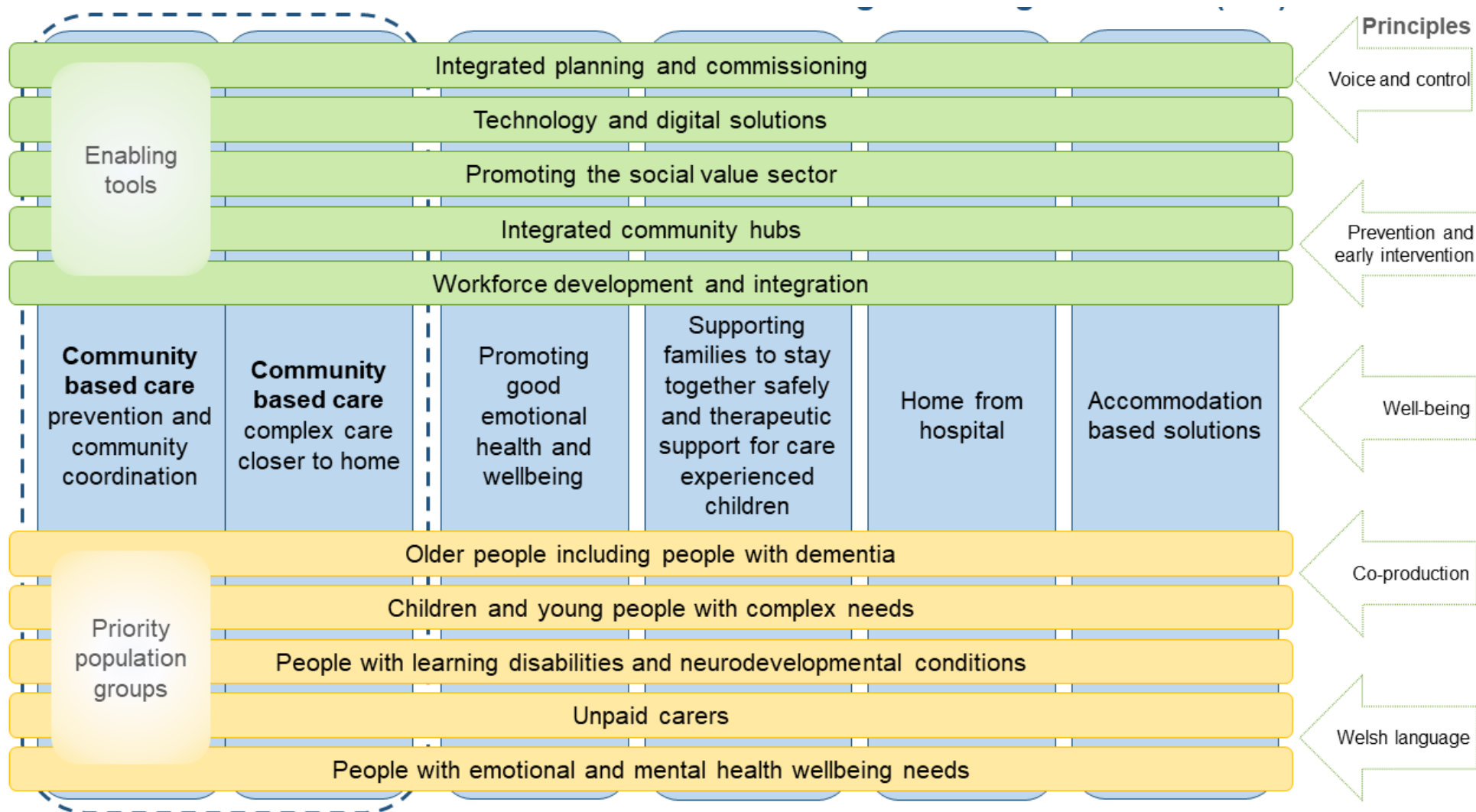


Figure 6: National models of care for the Health and Social Care Regional Integration Fund (RIF)



## Part A: Regional priorities

The priorities that the Regional Partnership Board have chosen to deliver in partnership are integration of services in relation to:

- Children and young people with complex needs
- Older people including people with dementia
- People with learning disabilities and neurodevelopmental conditions
- Unpaid carers
- People with emotional and mental health wellbeing needs

These are based on the priorities for integration to meet the statutory duties for integration of services in Part 9 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and the Regional Integration Fund priority population groups. They are also reflective of the needs identified in our Population Needs Assessment.

They were agreed by the Regional Partnership Board at a workshop on 14 October 2022.

This section describes the Regional Partnership Board's plans for integrated working in their priority areas. More detail is available in the annual work programmes and progress against these plans will be included in the [board's annual report](#).

More information about other activities taking place regionally and locally are available in [part B](#) which summarises the wider response to the issues identified in each population assessment chapter.

### Children and young people with complex needs

The sub-group have written a strategy in response to the [No Wrong Door report](#) written by the Children's Commissioner for Wales. The vision for the strategy is:

“We want the children and young people of North Wales to enjoy their best mental health and well-being. We will do this by ensuring the organisations that support them are easily accessed, work effectively together, and aim to deliver outcomes in a timely way, based on children and young people's choices and those of their families.”

They are working with children and young people to produce a name and communication materials to support implementation of the strategy. The sub-group will deliver the strategy through the Integrated Children's Services Board and area sub-groups, which also provide governance for Regional Integration Fund (RIF) children's projects including the RIF model of care 'Supporting families to stay together safely and therapeutic support for care experienced children'. The sub-group also provides oversight of regional programmes and plans to address the priorities for children and young people identified in the Population Needs Assessment.

The sub-group's work programme includes an in-depth focus on one of their priorities at least once every quarter. Before the meeting the Regional Innovation Coordination Hub pull together an information pack including statistics and data, feedback from children and young people and examples of what's working well in other areas. This information is presented as a prompt for a Community of Enquiry, which is a method where a group of people come together to reflect on evidence and generate questions together about what they have learned for them to discuss as a group. For more information, see our [Focus on children and young people](#).

The sub-group works closely with the children's stakeholder group to involve a wide range of people who support children and young people across the region, including voluntary organisations. The group is currently reviewing structures for children and young people to participate in decision making to ensure that the voices of children and young people are at the heart of all they do.

There's more information about the board's priority map and work plan in [part B](#).

## Older people including people with dementia

Key to supporting older people including people with dementia are the development of the Regional Integration Fund models of care. In particular:

- Community based care – prevention and community coordination
- Community based care – complex care closer to home
- Home from hospital

## Dementia

There is a legal duty in the Social Services and Well-being Act 2014 for Regional Partnership Boards to prioritise the integration of services in relation to older people with complex needs and long-term conditions, including dementia.

Support for people living with dementia continues to be a priority for the NWRPB based on what people told us was important to them as part of the population assessment.

The Regional Partnership Board published a [North Wales Dementia Strategy](#) in 2020. Delivering this strategy continues to be a priority for the board.

The strategy sets out how we will work towards integrated dementia services in North Wales. It has been developed jointly by the six North Wales councils and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) supported by Public Health Wales, Bangor University and other partners.

The work is overseen by the North Wales Dementia Strategic Group who also oversee the All Wales Dementia Standards and the Memory Assessment Service project.

## People with learning disabilities and neurodevelopmental conditions

### People with learning disabilities

The North Wales Learning Disability Strategy was implemented through the North Wales Together Project: Seamless Services for People with Learning Disabilities, funded through the Transformation Programme. This programme will continue, supported by the Regional Integration Fund and overseen by the Regional Integrated Learning Disability Board. Based on stakeholder feedback from across the region it was agreed at the 'Next Steps Consultation' held in October 2021 that:

“Co-production should remain the underpinning feature of the programme with a continuing focus on promoting and ensuring that citizens, families and/or carers have voice and control and the programme builds on their lived experience. With the priority areas being for the next 5 years being:

- Communities and cultural change

- Accommodation
- Assistive technology
- Employment
- Children and young people ”

## People with neurodevelopmental conditions

The Regional Partnership Board have workstreams around neurodevelopmental conditions for children and adults. The aim of the children’s workstream is to develop a seamless pathway and programme for a joined-up coproduced needs-based service by using investment wisely and providing good value for money. The aim of neurodevelopment improvement programme for adults is to move towards a sustained service integration.

## Unpaid carers

There is a North Wales Carers Strategy which sets out the offer for carers across North Wales including personal well-being outcomes for carers and that individual carers’ needs, including language needs, are met in the best way and that carers come to mind as soon as the person cared for.

The North Wales Carers and Young Carers Operational Group will continue to deliver on the North Wales Regional Carers Strategy through the provision of local authority, health and third sector unpaid carer support services across the region.

The group’s priorities are:

1. Identifying and valuing unpaid carers
2. Providing information, advice and assistance
3. Supporting life alongside caring
4. Supporting unpaid carers in education and the workplace

## People with emotional and mental health wellbeing needs

In 2017 the Together for Mental Health North Wales (TfMWNW) Partnership Board coproduced an all-age mental health strategy and action plan for 2017-22. The process was led by BCUHB involving partners and stakeholders from across the system including local authorities, voluntary sector, police and service users. This

was a response to the national strategy for mental health “Together for Mental Health” (2012) which identified 6 high level outcomes.

The next iteration of the national strategy is now expected during 2023.

Covid-19 has had a major impact on the mental wellbeing of the population of North Wales. A third of adults reported that their mental health had worsened during the Covid-19 pandemic compared to pre-March 2020. Research from the University of Bangor in 2022 found that the impacts of lockdowns did not have uniform effects across populations. Poorer mental health outcomes were generally reported by women, younger people, those living in deprived areas and those with chronic health conditions. When developing responses to improve population mental health it will be vital to understand how inequalities within the population affect different individuals and groups.

In anticipation of a new national iteration of the strategy in 2022 the TfMWNW partnership Board commissioned a review of the situation in North Wales with a desire to adopt a whole systems approach. Improving population mental health and wellbeing is not something that one organisation can achieve on its own hence the need for an approach that incorporated the principles of systems leadership.

## Capital plans

Each RPB is required to develop a 10-year Strategic Capital Plan (SCP) that brings together health, social care, housing, third sector, education and regeneration partners to develop integrated service delivery facilities and integrated accommodation-based solutions.

The plan will set out a shared vision and framework within which infrastructure development can be co-ordinated across partner organisations to meet the assessed needs of their local population.

Regional Partnership Boards (RPBs) have been identified as critical vehicles to lead the development of a joined-up approach to planning [health, social care and housing capital investment](#) that can enable seamless service delivery closer to home.

Two significant Capital funds, Housing with Care Funding (HCF) and Health and Social Care Integration and Rebalancing Capital Fund (IRCF), will be overseen by the seven RPB' in Wales.

## **Housing with Care Fund (HCF)**

The primary purpose of the [Housing with Care Funding \(HCF\)](#) is to support independent living in the community for people with care and support needs, and to provide intermediate care settings in the community so that people who need care, support and rehabilitation can return to living independently or maintain their existing independence. The HCF programme focuses on the same priority population groups identified above (RIF revenue programme) and is driven by the following priorities:

- The ageing population.
- Care Closer to home.
- Intermediate health and care services in the community.

## **Integration and Rebalancing Capital Fund (IRCF)**

The Health and Social Care Integration and Rebalancing Capital Fund (IRCF) is a new programme set up to directly support the Programme for Government (PfG) commitments of developing 50 integrated health and social care hubs across Wales and to support rebalancing the residential care market. It has been established to:

- support a coherent approach to planning the co-location and integration of health and social care services within the community across Wales.
- support the rebalancing of adult residential care provision by increasing delivery from within the not-for-profit sector.
- support the elimination of profit from the provision of children's residential care.

Each RPB is required to develop a 10-year Strategic Capital Plan (SCP) that brings together health, social care, housing, third sector, education and regeneration partners to develop integrated service delivery facilities and integrated accommodation-based solutions.

The plan will set out a shared vision and framework within which infrastructure development can be co-ordinated across partner organisations to meet the assessed needs of their local population.

The RPB will ensure that synergies with other capital funds are recognised and maximised to deliver the programme priorities. A regional planning and governance architecture which will further enable better alignment between various revenue and capital programmes and ensure engagement of wider partners and stakeholders with



the necessary expertise to support the development of integrated hubs and accommodation-based solutions.

## Part B: Response to population assessment chapters and core themes

The population assessment was structured into chapters based on the core themes listed in the [Part 2 Code of Practice](#). These are listed below. Although the plan is split into chapters there are many overlaps between them and individuals with multiple care and support needs.

Clicking on the links will take you to the equivalent chapter in this plan.

- [children and young people](#)
- [older people](#)
- [health, physical impairment and sensory loss](#)
- [learning disabilities](#)
- [autism](#)
- [mental health \(adults\)](#)
- [unpaid carers](#)
- [veterans](#); and
- [refugees and asylum seekers](#).

Part A of this plan listed the integrated working that the Regional Partnership Board has planned in response to the population assessment. Parts B and C list other activities planned in response to the population assessment findings from each chapter.

To save space and avoid duplication we have provided links to more information wherever possible. When planning services we recommend going back to the relevant [population assessment chapter](#) and consultation reports for full details about what care and support is needed.

# Children and young people

## Population assessment: what we found out

- In 2020, there were around 123,700 children aged 0 to 15 in North Wales. The total number of children is predicted to fall by 7% over the next 15 years.
- An estimated 11,500 children and young people have a limiting long-term illness, with support also needed for many parents and carers. The number of children receiving care and support with a disability supported by social services has fluctuated.
- There were almost 2,900 children receiving care and support across North Wales. With around 1,500 looked after and 580 on the child protection register. There has been an overall increase for all North Wales local authorities in terms of looked-after children and the services they need.
- Many people are concerned about children's mental health including a rise in self-harm and eating disorders.
- There are around 1,750 young carers supported across North Wales and the numbers are increasing.
- Services for children and young people must take a child-centred and family-focused approach that considers the different needs of people with protected characteristics.

## How the report findings will be addressed

| Issue                               | Lead organisation        | What's being done  | Regional Partnership Board role        |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| Prevention and early intervention   | RPB Children's sub-group | Focus on early years (information pack and community of enquiry) | Governance by RPB Children's sub-group |
| Children receiving care and support | RPB Children's sub-group | RIF programme edge of care, assessment and support teams         | Governance by RPB Children's sub-group |

| Issue  | Lead organisation        | What's being done  | Regional Partnership Board role        |
|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| Disability and illness   | RPB Children's sub-group | Focus on disability and illness (information pack and community of enquiry)<br><a href="#">No Wrong Door Strategy</a>  | Governance by RPB Children's sub-group |
| Children with learning disabilities and neuro-developmental conditions | RPB Children's sub-group | <a href="#">No Wrong Door Strategy</a><br><a href="#">North Wales Together (seamless services for people with learning disabilities) Programme</a><br>BCUHB<br>Neuro-developmental programme | Governance by RPB Children's sub-group |
| Mental health and wellbeing  | RPB Children's sub-group | <a href="#">No Wrong Door Strategy</a><br>Children and adolescent mental health (CAMHS) targeted improvement programme)<br>North Wales Substance Misuse Area Planning Board (APB)            | Governance by RPB Children's sub-group |
| Young carers   | RPB Children's sub-group | <a href="#">Focus on young carers (information pack and community of enquiry)</a>  | Governance by RPB Children's sub-group |

| Issue  | Lead organisation        | What's being done  | Regional Partnership Board role        |
|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| Refugees and asylum seekers                                | RPB Children's sub-group | <a href="#">Focus on refugees and asylum seekers (information pack and community of enquiry)</a> | Governance by RPB Children's sub-group |
| Safeguarding   | RPB Children's sub-group | <a href="#">North Wales Children's Safeguarding Board</a>  | Governance by RPB Children's sub-group |
| Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence | RPB Children's sub-group | North Wales Vulnerability and Exploitation Board   | Governance by RPB Children's sub-group |

# Older people

## Population assessment: what we found out

- There were around 164,700 people aged 65 and over in North Wales in 2020. This could rise to 207,600 by 2040.
- The counties with the highest proportion of people aged 65 and over are Conwy, Anglesey and Denbighshire.
- The number of people aged 85 and over has increased by 15.6% between 2010 and 2020.
- The number of people aged 65 and over receiving services from local councils has decreased until now but is expected to increase from 7,800 in 2015 to 13,300 in 2035.
- In North Wales, around 14% of people aged 65 and over provide unpaid care.
- The number of people admitted to hospital following a fall is likely to increase. Reducing falls and fractures is important for maintaining the health, wellbeing and independence of older people.
- Reducing loneliness and isolation is one of the main challenges identified in our consultation and engagement.
- Making housing, communities, and environments accessible to older people can ensure they are able to continue to participate in society. For example, maintaining pavements and incorporating dementia friendly measures into new developments.
- More services are moving online. Providing older people with a range of support to develop digital skills is crucial to help them access services and reduce isolation.
- There are estimated to be between 10,000 and 11,000 people living with dementia in North Wales.

## How the report findings will be addressed

| Issue  | Lead organisation   | What's being done  | Regional Partnership Board role  |
|--|---|--|--|
| Supporting people to live well with dementia                                       | Regional Partnership Board  | <a href="#">North Wales Dementia Strategy</a>  | Regional Partnership Board priority  |
| Working together to support people at home   | Local authorities<br>BCUHB<br>Third sector, voluntary and community organisations<br>Housing associations and Registered Social Landlords | <a href="#">RIF model of care</a><br>Community Resource Teams<br><a href="#">Accelerated Cluster Development</a> | Regional Partnership Board priority  |
| Workforce: recruitment and retention (complex needs)                               | North Wales Workforce Board   | <a href="#">Workforce board work programme</a>   | The RPB receives reports from the workforce board  |
| Falls prevention   | BCUHB   | BCUHB Falls prevention teams (East, Central and West)  | Aligns with RPB priorities and will be taken forward by partner agencies as part of their core business. |
| Supporting people to be more active (active travel and inclusive leisure services) | Local authorities<br>BCUHB<br>Third sector, voluntary and community organisations<br>Public Services Boards (PSB)                         | Active travel action plans<br>Gogledd Cymru Active North Wales Strategy<br><a href="#">PSB Well-being Plans</a>  | Aligns with RPB priorities and will be taken forward by partner agencies as part of their core business. |

| Issue  | Lead organisation  | What's being done   | Regional Partnership Board role                                      |
|--|--|---|--|
| Digital inclusion  | Digital, data and technology board<br>Public Services Boards (PSB)<br>Ambition North Wales | Digital, data and technology board workplan<br><a href="#">PSB Well-being Plans</a>   | The RPB receives reports from the digital, data and technology board |
| Housing and accommodation: new and adapted homes suitable for changing needs | Local authorities<br>Housing associations and Registered Social Landlords                  | <a href="#">Local development plans and policies</a><br><a href="#">Regional Integration Fund</a><br><a href="#">Housing with Care Fund (HCF)</a> | Regional Partnership Board priority                                  |



# Health, physical impairment and sensory loss

## Population assessment: what we found out

- Around 80% of people in North Wales say they are in good health. This is better than the Welsh average although it varies from place to place.
- People who live in more deprived areas in North Wales tend to have poorer health than people living in less deprived areas.
- Around one third of people in North Wales are living with a chronic condition, such as high blood pressure, asthma or diabetes.
- The number of people living with a limiting long-term illness is predicted to increase by nearly 22% over the 20-year period to 2035.
- Recent estimates show that there were 415,600 disabled people in 2020 aged 16 to 64 in Wales, representing 21.9% of the 16 to 64 population.
- The number of people who have visual or hearing impairments is expected to increase as people live longer.
- In Wales, there are approximately 100,000 people living with a neurological condition that has a significant impact on their lives such as Parkinson’s disease, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis or motor neurone disease.
- Long-covid is a key issue emerging as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

## How the report findings will be addressed

| Issue                             | Lead organisation                                | What’s being done   | Regional Partnership Board role  |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Prevention and early intervention | Public Services Boards and partner organisations | <a href="#">PSB Well-being Plans</a><br><a href="#">RIF model of care</a> | Part of RPB work programme and will be taken forward by partner agencies as part of their core business. |

| Issue                                     | Lead organisation   | What's being done                    | Regional Partnership Board role  |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| Accessibility of public services / spaces | Public Services Boards and partner organisations  | <a href="#">PSB Well-being Plans</a> | Aligns with RPB priorities and will be taken forward by partner agencies as part of their core business. |
| Accessible information                    | Local authorities<br>BCUHB<br>Third sector, voluntary and community organisations<br>Housing associations and Registered Social Landlords |                                      | Aligns with RPB priorities and will be taken forward by partner agencies as part of their core business. |
| Social model of disability                | Local authorities<br>BCUHB<br>Third sector, voluntary and community organisations<br>Housing associations and Registered Social Landlords |                                      | Aligns with RPB priorities and will be taken forward by partner agencies as part of their core business. |
| Co-production of services                 | Local authorities<br>BCUHB<br>Third sector, voluntary and community organisations<br>Housing associations and                             |                                      | Aligns with RPB priorities and will be taken forward by partner agencies as part of their core business. |

| Issue | Lead organisation           | What's being done | Regional Partnership Board role |
|-------|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
|       | Registered Social Landlords |                   |                                 |

# Learning disabilities

## Population assessment: what we found out

- The number of people with a learning disability has increased across all local authorities in North Wales.
- The number of people with learning disabilities needing support is increasing and people with learning disabilities are living longer due to improvements in health care. These trends are likely to continue.
- People with learning disabilities still tend to experience worse health, have greater need of health care and are more at risk of dying early compared to the general population.
- People with learning disabilities often experience barriers to accessing health care and employment opportunities.
- It is expected that the number of people with learning disabilities needing support will continue to increase.
- People with learning disabilities may have other protected characteristics and experience additional disadvantage because of these. For example, older people with learning disabilities and people with profound and multiple disabilities.

## How the report findings will be addressed

Underpinned by co-production, voice and control for citizens, families and carers and their lived experience.

| Issue                           | Lead organisation          | What's being done  | Regional Partnership Board role   |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|
| Communities and cultural change | Regional Partnership Board | <a href="#">Integrated Learning Disability Programme</a> | The RPB leads on this priority through the work of the Learning Disability Transformation Programme |

| Issue                     | Lead organisation          | What's being done   | Regional Partnership Board role   |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|
| Accommodation             | Regional Partnership Board | <a href="#">Integrated Learning Disability Programme</a><br><a href="#">RIF model of care</a><br>Housing with Care Fund (HCF) | The RPB leads on this priority through the work of the Learning Disability Transformation Programme |
| Assistive technology      | Regional Partnership Board | <a href="#">Integrated Learning Disability Programme</a>  | The RPB leads on this priority through the work of the Learning Disability Transformation Programme |
| Employment                | Regional Partnership Board | <a href="#">Integrated Learning Disability Programme</a>  | The RPB leads on this priority through the work of the Learning Disability Transformation Programme |
| Children and young people | Regional Partnership Board | <a href="#">Integrated Learning Disability Programme</a>  | The RPB leads on this priority through the work of the Learning Disability Transformation Programme |

# Autism

## Population assessment: what we found out

- It is estimated that 1.1% of the population are on the autism spectrum. This is an estimated 6,160 people over 18 in North Wales. This is predicted to increase.
- Autism is more commonly identified in school age children than in adults so there may be more autistic adults who don't have a diagnosis.
- Services need expanding and improving and must take a person-centered approach.
- Services for autistic children and young people must take a child-centered and family-focused approach. Especially for services provided through schools.

## How the report findings will be addressed

| Issue                                | Lead organisation           | What's being done  | Regional Partnership Board role  |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Code of practice for autism services | Local authorities and BCUHB | <p>Implementation of the code of practice</p> <p><a href="#">The statutory code of practice on the delivery of the Autism Services Delivery Plan 2021-22</a></p> <p><a href="#">Integrated Autism Service Supporting Guidance</a></p> <p>Review of evidence towards codes of practice across North Wales</p> <p>Local implementation plans being</p> | <p>The RPB will receive reports from the Strategic Autism Group</p> <p>RPB will support implementation through provision of regional resources to share good practice and learning</p> |

| Issue                        | Lead organisation   | What's being done  | Regional Partnership Board role  |
|------------------------------|---|--|--|
|                              |   | <p>developed by partners which detail the actions required to meet the codes of practice.</p> <p>Regional Baseline assessment being produced</p> <p>Identification of good practice/gaps in implementation</p> <p><a href="#">Autism Wales: links to further resources</a></p> |  |
| Co-production of services    | <p>Local authorities<br/>BCUHB</p> <p>Third sector, voluntary and community organisations</p> | <p>Commitment to embed coproduction in service design</p> <p>North Wales Integrated Autism Service</p> <p>Commissioning of third sector organisations to ensure engagement with families and carers to co-produce services</p>   | RPB will support through provision of regional resources to share good practice and learning |
| Mental health and well-being | <p>Local authorities<br/>BCUHB</p> <p>Third sector, voluntary and community organisations</p> | <p>Review T4MH strategy for North Wales</p> <p><a href="#">RIF model of care</a><br/>iCan Models</p>   | Approve the strategy and monitor progress.   |

| Issue                    | Lead organisation   | What's being done  | Regional Partnership Board role   |
|--------------------------|---|--|---|
| Raising awareness        | <p>Local authorities<br/>BCUHB</p> <p>Third sector, voluntary and community organisations</p> | <p>Access to information and navigation of support for autistic individuals, families and carers across is integral within the codes of practice. Partners are working towards meeting requirements.</p> <p>North Wales Local Authorities are delivering an Autism Bus Experience to targeted audiences including families, education, the secure estate and health and social care staff.</p> | <p>RPB will support through provision of regional resources to share good practice and learning</p> |
| Education and employment | <p>Local authorities<br/>BCUHB</p> <p>Third sector, voluntary and community organisations</p> | <p>ALN Act being implemented regionally with work across social services departments and education in progress to ensure that local processes are clear and accessible.</p> <p>Pilot projects delivering across the region</p>   | <p>RPB will support through provision of regional resources to share good practice and learning</p> |



| <b>Issue</b> | <b>Lead organisation</b> | <b>What's being done</b>   | <b>Regional Partnership Board role</b> |
|--------------|--------------------------|--|--|
|              |                          | providing placements and employment opportunities for autistic people. |  |

# Mental health (adults)

## Population assessment: what we found out

- Covid-19 had a significant impact on the population’s mental health.
- There is an estimated 93,800 of people aged 16 and over predicted to have a common mental health problem and 9% of adults report being treated for a mental illness.
- People in North Wales report slightly better mental health than in Wales as a whole, but the number of people with mental health needs is likely to increase.
- The most common mental illnesses reported are anxiety and depression.
- Research suggests a high number of people with mental health needs are not seeking help.
- People with mental health problems are more likely to have poor physical health. They are also more at risk of substance misuse, self-harm and suicide.
- Services need expanding and improving and must take a person-centered approach that supports people throughout different stages of their mental health, not just focused on prevention or crisis.
- Waiting times for services were already very long and have only gotten longer since the start of the pandemic.
- Risk factors for mental health needs disproportionately affect people from marginalized groups. For example, BAME groups, LGBTQ people, people with physical disability, sensory impairments or long-term health conditions; refugees and asylum seekers.

## How the report findings will be addressed

| Issue                           | Lead organisation          | What’s being done                    | Regional Partnership Board role            |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Recovery from Covid-19 pandemic | Local authorities<br>BCUHB | Review T4MH strategy for North Wales | Approve the strategy and monitor progress. |

| Issue                          | Lead organisation   | What's being done   | Regional Partnership Board role   |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|
|                                | <p>Third sector, voluntary and community organisations</p> <p>Housing associations and Registered Social Landlords</p>                                    |   |   |
| <p>Early intervention</p>      | <p>Local authorities<br/>BCUHB</p> <p>Third sector, voluntary and community organisations</p> <p>Housing associations and Registered Social Landlords</p> | <p>Review T4MH strategy for North Wales</p>   | <p>Approve the strategy and monitor progress.</p>   |
| <p>Addressing inequalities</p> | <p>Local authorities<br/>BCUHB</p> <p>Third sector, voluntary and community organisations</p> <p>Housing associations and Registered Social Landlords</p> | <p><a href="#">PSB Well-being Plans</a></p> <p>Inverse Care Law Programme</p>                               | <p>Part of RPB work programme and will be taken forward by partner agencies as part of their core business.</p> |
| <p>Co-production</p>           | <p>Local authorities<br/>BCUHB</p> <p>Third sector, voluntary and</p>   | <p>Citizen Voice Body for Health and Social Care</p> <p><a href="#">North Wales Engagement Strategy</a></p> | <p>Part of RPB work programme and will be taken forward by partner agencies as part of</p>                      |

| Issue | Lead organisation   | What's being done  | Regional Partnership Board role |
|-------|---|--|---------------------------------|
|       | community organisations<br>Housing associations and Registered Social Landlords | Membership of the Co-production Network for Wales<br><a href="#">Good practice examples through the Integrated Learning Disability Programme</a> | their core business.            |

# Unpaid carers

## Population assessment: what we found out

- Carers Wales states that there are more than 370,000 unpaid carers of all ages in Wales providing care worth around £8.1 billion each year.
- Around 79,000 people provide unpaid care in North Wales according to the 2011 census, which is about 11% of the population.
- The number of carers in North Wales is increasing, particularly in north-west Wales.
- People aged 50 to 64 are the most likely to provide unpaid care.
- Half of all carers in North Wales are in employment: for carers in employment the support of their employer and colleagues is vital to helping them continue in their caring role.
- In November 2020, there were 18,250 people in North Wales claiming Carers' Allowance.
- There is a focus on improving access for respite care to allow unpaid carers to take breaks from their caring roles to help with their physical health, mental health and wellbeing.
- The increase in need for social care identified in other chapters of the population assessment report is likely to lead to greater numbers of people providing unpaid care and providing care for longer.
- The number of young carers is increasing. There are over 1,750 young carers identified across North Wales.
- People with protected characteristics may experience multiple disadvantages due to their caring role and additional barriers to accessing support.
- Early identification of carers is key in order to ensure that they are considered on an equal basis to the person cared for.
- As all carers' situations are unique, they have needs for tailored packages of support, taking into account their personal circumstances and the emotional impact of their caring role.

## How the report findings will be addressed

| Issue                                      | Lead organisation   | What's being done  | Regional Partnership Board role      |
|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| Early identification and awareness raising | Local authorities<br>BCUHB<br>Third sector, voluntary and community organisations<br>Housing associations and Registered Social Landlords | <a href="#">North Wales Carer and Young Carers Operational Group Work Plan</a> | The RPB receives reports on progress |
| Carer breaks (respite)                     | Local authorities<br>BCUHB<br>Third sector, voluntary and community organisations<br>Housing associations and Registered Social Landlords | <a href="#">North Wales Carer and Young Carers Operational Group Work Plan</a> | The RPB receives reports on progress |
| Improving unpaid carer assessments         | Local authorities<br>BCUHB<br>Third sector, voluntary and community organisations<br>Housing associations and Registered Social Landlords | <a href="#">North Wales Carer and Young Carers Operational Group Work Plan</a> | The RPB receives reports on progress |

| Issue  | Lead organisation   | What's being done  | Regional Partnership Board role      |
|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| Wider social care workforce recruitment and retention leading to additional demands on unpaid carers | Local authorities<br>BCUHB<br>Third sector, voluntary and community organisations<br>Housing associations and Registered Social Landlords | <a href="#">North Wales Carer and Young Carers Operational Group Work Plan</a> | The RPB receives reports on progress |
| Digital inclusion  | Local authorities<br>BCUHB<br>Third sector, voluntary and community organisations<br>Housing associations and Registered Social Landlords | <a href="#">North Wales Carer and Young Carers Operational Group Work Plan</a> | The RPB receives reports on progress |

# Veterans

## Population assessment: what we found out

- A veteran is defined as someone who has served in Her Majesty's Armed Forces (Regular or Reserve) or Merchant Mariners who have seen duty on legally defined military operations (Ministry of Defence Website, 2019).
- The estimated veteran population, all persons aged 16 years and over, for North Wales is 39,110.
- The Department of Health (2008) has predicted that overall, the health and wellbeing needs of veterans is broadly similar to that of the civilian population. However, as a result of their occupation differences occur as a result of occupational injuries and the psychological impact of deployment.
- A full assessment of the needs of Veterans is contained within the Health and Wellbeing Needs of Armed Forces Veterans published by Hywel Dda and Public Health Wales 2020.

## How the report findings will be addressed

Report findings will be addressed through the North Wales Armed Forces Forum and by partner agencies as part of their core business.



# Refugees and asylum seekers

## Population assessment: what we found out

- Refugees and asylum seekers represent around 0.5% of the population in Wales.
- From 2017 to 2021, 241 asylum seekers have been resettled across the North Wales local authorities.
- Wrexham and Conwy are asylum dispersal areas.
- Due to the small numbers, the published statistics for unaccompanied asylumseeking children is limited for North Wales. Services will be needed to support their needs. They often arrive with little known about their health and wellbeing needs.
- Asylum seekers in dispersed accommodation are directly supported by services.
- A key issue flagged for asylum seekers and refugees is the need for improved mental health support.
- Engagement work with those with lived experience will be further explored when the regional Area Plan is developed in 2023.

## How the report findings will be addressed

See also [Children and young people's section](#).

| Issue                 | Lead organisation   | What's being done | Regional Partnership Board role  |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------|--|
| Mental health support | Local authorities<br>BCUHB<br>Third sector, voluntary and community organisations<br>Housing associations and Registered Social Landlords |                   | Aligns with RPB priorities and will be taken forward by partner agencies as part of their core business. |

| Issue  | Lead organisation   | What's being done  | Regional Partnership Board role  |
|--|---|--|--|
| Partnership working between health, various council departments, voluntary and community organisations and other public services | Local authorities<br>BCUHB<br>Third sector, voluntary and community organisations<br>Housing associations and Registered Social Landlords | <a href="#">RPB Children's Sub-Group Focus on refugees and asylum seekers.</a> | Aligns with RPB priorities and will be taken forward by partner agencies as part of their core business. |

## Part C: Overall findings

### Population assessment: what we found out

All the chapters identified needs in relation to the following cross-cutting themes:

- Welsh language - 'Active Offer'
- Equality and human rights
- Socio-economic disadvantage
- Housing
- Homelessness
- Loneliness and isolation
- Social value
- Co-production and citizen voice
- Prevention
- Safeguarding
- Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence
- Covid-19

### How the report findings will be addressed

The cross-cutting themes are all being addressed by partners as part of their core business. All these cross-cutting issues need to be considered when developing regional priorities and fully integrated services.

More information can be found in each partner's plans and reports including corporate plans, strategic equality plans and local development plans below.

| Organisation                            | Strategies and plans  | Director of Social Services Annual Report                                |
|---|---|--|
| Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board | <a href="#">Strategies and plans (BCUHB)</a><br><a href="#">Strategic equality plan (BCUHB)</a>               |  |
| Isle of Anglesey County Council         | <a href="#">Strategies and plans (Anglesey)</a><br><a href="#">Strategic equality plan (Anglesey)</a>         | <a href="#">Director of social services annual report (Anglesey)</a>     |
| Gwynedd Council                         | <a href="#">Strategies and plans (Gwynedd)</a><br><a href="#">Strategic equality plan (Gwynedd)</a>           | <a href="#">Director of social services annual report (Gwynedd)</a>      |
| Conwy County Borough Council            | <a href="#">Strategies and plans (Conwy)</a><br><a href="#">Strategic equality plan (Conwy)</a>               | <a href="#">Director of social services annual report (Conwy)</a>        |
| Denbighshire County Council             | <a href="#">Strategies and plans (Denbighshire)</a><br><a href="#">Strategic equality plan (Denbighshire)</a> | <a href="#">Director of social services annual report (Denbighshire)</a> |
| Flintshire County Council               | <a href="#">Strategies and plans (Flintshire)</a><br><a href="#">Strategic equality plan (Flintshire)</a>     | <a href="#">Director of social services annual report (Flintshire)</a>   |
| Wrexham County Borough Council          | <a href="#">Strategies and plans (Wrexham)</a><br><a href="#">Strategic equality plan (Wrexham)</a>           | <a href="#">Director of social services annual report (Wrexham)</a>      |

There are also regional and local initiatives underway by all partners to address these priorities, as shown in the table below.

| Issue                           | What's being done   | Regional Partnership Board role  |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Welsh language - 'Active Offer' | Mwy na Geriau Forum   | The RPB leads on this priority through the work of the forum                                 |
| Equality and human rights       | Equality strategies and equality impact assessments on new policies and practices | Ensure due regard to equality and human rights in regional plans, strategies and policies.   |
| Socio-economic disadvantage     | <a href="#">PSB Well-being Plans</a>  | Ensure due regard to socio-economic disadvantage in regional plans, strategies and policies. |
| Housing                         | Local Authority Housing Strategies.<br>Local Development Plans                    | Key principle of the RPB approach.   |
| Homelessness                    | Local authority homeless prevention teams.  | Key principle of the RPB approach.   |
| Loneliness and isolation        | <a href="#">PSB Well-being Plans</a>  | Key principle of the RPB approach.   |
| Social value                    | <a href="#">Social Value Forum</a>  | The RPB leads on this priority through the work of the forum                                 |

| Issue  | What's being done  | Regional Partnership Board role  |
|--|--|--|
| Co-production and citizen voice                            | Citizen Voice Body for Health and Social Care<br><a href="#">North Wales Engagement Strategy</a><br><a href="#">Membership of the Co-production Network for Wales</a><br><a href="#">Good practice examples through the Integrated Learning Disability Programme</a> | Key principle of the RPB approach.   |
| Prevention   | <a href="#">RIF model of care</a><br><a href="#">Public Health Wales</a><br><a href="#">PSB Well-being Plans</a>   | Key principle of the RPB approach.   |
| Safeguarding   | <a href="#">North Wales Safeguarding Boards</a>  | The RPB leads on this priority through the work of the safeguarding boards         |
| Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence | North Wales Vulnerability and Exploitation Board   | Key principle of the RPB approach.   |
| Covid-19   | BCUHB including BCUHB Long COVID Service<br><a href="#">Public Health Wales</a><br>Environmental Services support for care homes   | All partner organisations have prevention, mitigation and recovery plans in place. |

## Part D: For more information

How to access the services available to support people with care and support needs and their carers in North Wales.

### Children and young people

#### **Information, advice and assistance for children and families**

For other support for families including childcare, contact Family Information Services.

[Isle of Anglesey County Council \(children\)](#)

[Gwynedd County Council \(children\)](#)

[Conwy County Borough Council \(children\)](#)

[Denbighshire County Council \(children\)](#)

[Flintshire County Council \(children\)](#)

[Wrexham County Borough Council \(children\)](#)

#### **Concerned about a child?**

If you know a child who is at risk of abuse or is being abused, it's very important that you let the council or police know.

If the individual is in direct danger, call the Police immediately on 999. If not, phone Social Services as soon as possible to share your concerns.

[Phone numbers for Social Services in North Wales.](#)

### Adults

#### **Information, advice and assistance for adults and carers**

Or contact the Single Point of Access (SPoA) at your local council for information about services available to support people's health and well-being.

[Isle of Anglesey County Council \(Adult\)](#)

[Gwynedd Council \(Adult\)](#)

[Conwy County Council \(Adult\)](#)

[Denbighshire County Council \(Adult\)](#)

[Flintshire County Council \(Adult\)](#)

[Wrexham County Borough Council \(Adult\)](#)

### **Concerned about an adult?**

If you know of an adult who is at risk of abuse or is being abused, it's very important that you let the council or the police know.

If the individual is in direct danger, call the Police immediately on 999. If not, phone Social Services as soon as possible to share your concerns.

[Phone numbers for Social Services in North Wales.](#)

### **For information about support available**

For information about support for your well-being, including local community groups and activities see [Dewis Cymru.](#)

To find out where to get the right health advice and/or treatment visit the [BCUHB Local Health Services webpages.](#)