

The Health and Social Care Regional Integration Fund (the RIF)

1. Introduction

The Health and Social Care Regional Integration Fund (RIF) is a 5 year fund from April 2022 to March 2027 and will seek to create sustainable system change through the integration of health and social care services.

The aim of the RIF is to build upon the excellent work undertaken through the Integrated Care Fund (ICF) and the Transformation fund (TF). It is not a continuation of those schemes. It is a new programme with distinctly different architecture and objectives. The fund brings together several existing funding streams to provide a renewed focus on community based care, emotional health and well-being, supporting families to stay together safely, care experienced children, home from hospital services and accommodation based solutions.

The expectation is that the utilisation of the RIF will closely align to other key strategic programmes in West Wales to help create a whole systems approach. In particular, the Accelerated Cluster Development and the Unscheduled and Emergency Care Policy Goals as well as our regional priorities.

The ICF and TF deliver a significant level of resource to health and social care in West Wales. Many projects have been in place a number of years and are integrated within the health and social care system. However, the grant funding has often been delivered on an annual basis, split by specific population groups or areas, making it difficult to plan, deliver and evaluate strategically. The move towards a 5 year programme of funding is welcome as it gives the opportunity to move away from this approach and allow the Regional Partnership Board (RPB) to plan on regional basis to meet the strategic priorities for West Wales.

Whilst RIF Guidance was issued to RPBs on 21st January 2022 <https://gov.wales/health-and-social-care-regional-integration-fund> in West Wales preparations began for the transition to RIF in 2021.

Reviews of projects funded under ICF and TF were undertaken by local partners with support from the West Wales Care Partnership Team (WWCP). This was done largely on a locality or population group basis to establish which projects had delivered good outcomes and may need to continue under the RIF.

However, the ability of partners to undertake a comprehensive review on a regional basis and in advance of the guidance being issued was impacted as a result of COVID, severe operational pressures and staff changes during the Winter 2021.

The strategic priorities of the RPB do require further development. This will follow the publication of our Population Needs Assessment (PNA) and Market Stability Report (MSR). These will be published in the first quarter of 2022-2023 and will assist in identifying our shared strategic priorities and shape our future investment plans, including RIF which will be reflected in our West Wales Area Plan for 2023. In that context this 2022-23 will be a transitional year.

This paper will:

- Explain the Key Features of the RIF, including the allocations
- Summarise the approach taken to developing RIF Investment Proposals
- Provide detail of the West Wales Programmes that will be part of our investment proposal for agreement.
- Identify outstanding issues and a plan for the implementation phase during the first year of RIF

2. Key features of the RIF

Hywel Dda University Health Board will hold the RIF funding on behalf of the RPB but will not make decisions on behalf of the RPB. A Memorandum of Understanding will be developed for this purpose.

The allocations in West Wales are as follows:

Regional Infrastructure Fund 75% up to £750K	National Priorities 100% WG Funding				New Model Development 90% WG Funding	National Embedding Fund 70% WG Funding	Total WG Contribution
	IAS	Dementia	Memory Assessment	Carers Hospital Discharge			
£750,000	£398,000	£1,249,000	£384,000	£121,000	£4,731,912	£11,041,128	£18,675,040

There are 4 separate components to the RIF. These are set out below:

i. Regional Infrastructure Fund

It is essential that all RPBs have adequate resources and infrastructure arrangements to support delivery against the collective duties and expectations placed on them under the Part 9 duties of the SS&WBA

Under this guidance the RIF can fund up to £750,000 (at a maximum of 75% intervention rate) towards the costs of the RPB infrastructure with statutory partners needing to match this by investing £250,000 (at a minimum of 25% intervention rate.)

ii. National Priorities Fund

Under this section of the fund RPBs will be allocated 100% funding to deliver against national ministerial commitments with no match funding required. The allocations will be issued in year on receipt of, and subsequent approval of, investment proposals.

iii. New Model Development Fund

This funding is to develop and test new models of care. It should be used for a new idea or a project that has not moved beyond initial concept phase, which needs further development and testing of proof of concept. This is not intended for any models that have been developed and tested previously under the ICF, TF or any other funding stream. However, it is recognised that some projects may have started under previous funding streams and have not yet concluded their testing phase.

As a guide no more than 30% of the RPBs overall allocation for the RIF should be allocated to models of care in this area.

Projects funded under this part of the fund will receive a 90% intervention rate from Welsh Government with statutory partners being expected to match the remaining 10%.

iv. National Embedding Fund

This section of the fund is for projects that have been tested and evaluated as having had good impact and are agreed by all partners as meeting regional needs and ready for embedding as key a service to support embedding the national models of care.

It is anticipated that several evaluated projects or services developed under the ICF and the TF will move directly into this fund from April 2022

As a guide 70% of the RPBs overall allocation for the RIF should be allocated to models of care in this area.

Projects funded under this part of the fund will receive a 70% intervention rate from Welsh Government with statutory partners being expected to match the remaining 30%.

- **Carers and Social Value Sector**

RIF guidance states that RPBs will be expected to invest a minimum of 5% to provide direct support to carers and 20% into social value in 2022/23. Although social value is not clearly defined it is anticipated that our continued investment into third sector provision will achieve this.

- **Match Funding**

Match resources are a key principle of the Regional Integration Fund (RIF) and are intended to assist with leveraging sustainable change across our health and social care system.

Match resources can be made up of two key elements, monetary and wider resources. Monetary match funding consists of direct financial contributions from core funds or other non-Welsh Government grant sources. The wider resource contribution consists of staff time, volunteer time, and use of premises and / or facilities.

RIF is a tapered fund and partners must agree and commit resources to ensure that the project or model of care will be sustained long term.

After the 5 years of the RIF Welsh Government's vision is for an 'Integrated Mainstreaming Fund' This fund will take the shape of a recurrent pooled fund with partners contributing 50% and Welsh Government contributing the remaining 50%.

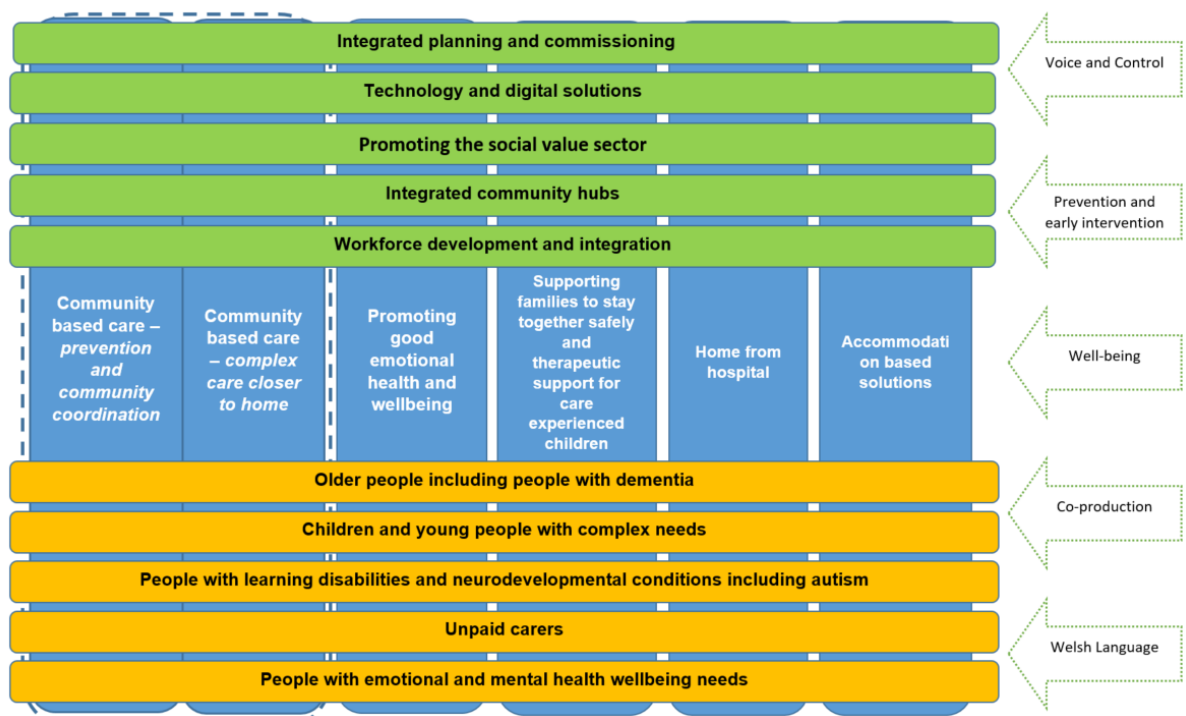
All projects within our programmes are required to evidence match funding based on the intervention rate outlined above.

- **Models of Care**

RIF has identified six models of care based on experiences and learning from the ICF and TF and through extensive engagement and co-design work with RPBs and key partners.

The 'models of care' are set out by Welsh Government in the six blue pillars in the diagram below:

Models of care, enablers and population groups



In designing each of the national models of integrated care, RPBs must consider how they will meet the specific needs of the above population groups. Some models of care will inevitably support some population groups more than others but most of the model should be developed to meet the needs of all of these population groups.

All investment proposals under RIF must fit within one of the 6 models of care set out in the above framework. In West Wales we have taken the approach of developing our programmes around each model of care. This approach has been welcomed by Welsh Government.

This will be an opportunity to align the programmes of work that already deliver good outcomes in West Wales within a framework that maximises benefits across population groups.

3. Progress

In January we established a Funding Transformation Steering Group. The group comprised of representation from all partner organisations, including third sector leads, to oversee the transition to and implementation of the RIF in West Wales.

The group has met weekly and aimed to deliver the key objectives including:

1. Evaluate all projects funded via TF/ICF in West Wales.
2. Identify the continuation or exit strategy for all projects funded via TF/ICF.
3. Develop investment proposals in line with Welsh Government Guidance for the RIF for 2022-2027
4. Identify or Develop a Memorandum of Understanding and suitable governance arrangements to support the implementation of this new funding agreements.
5. Secure match funding requirements from partners
6. Ensure there are robust business plans in place to support the development, implementation and review of new investment proposals
7. Identify new proposals for investment
8. Advise the Integrated Executive Group and RPB of risks and mitigating actions

The group has acted as the regional coordination point for activities that have been undertaken on a county basis and those undertaken by the following regional groups:

1. West Wales Carers Development Group
2. Regional Improving Lives Partnership
3. Children's Group
4. Dementia Steering Group

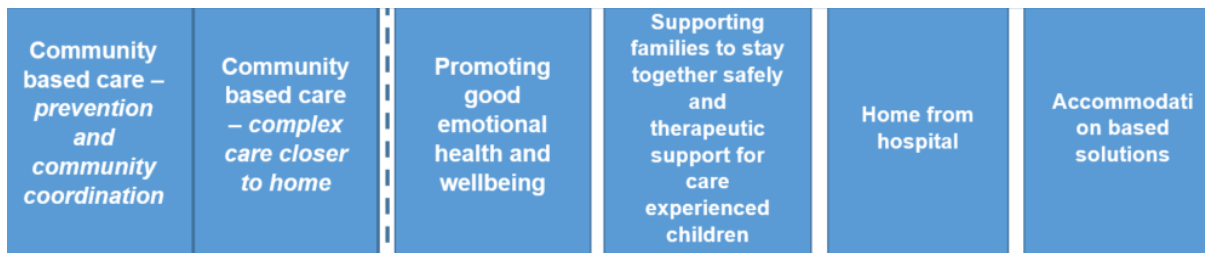
Work has been undertaken to develop a 'Key Features' financial guide with the Health Board finance team and establish a schedule for reporting. A Memorandum of Understanding is also under development.

The group has coordinated the development of **6 programmes** comprising of existing projects that have been remodelled to fit within RIF and new projects for investment.

Each Programme has a lead 'author' who will complete the investment proposal template for Welsh Government.

The following is a summary of the composition of the programmes which, subject to agreement by RPB, will be further refined for submission to Welsh Government.

5. Summary by Programme



Programme 1

Community based care – prevention and community coordination

This is our Prevention programme and will help to build the resilience of people and communities, moderating demand for acute health and social care needs, and thereby ensuring when more complex needs arise they can be met.

In West Wales this will include the following projects:

1. TEC Solutions
2. Transformative Day Opportunities
3. Innovative Communities
4. Dream Team & LD Charter
5. Assist My Life
6. Accessible Health Checks
7. Investors in Carers
8. Regional Innovation Fund

This programme represents approximately 20% of our investment

Programme 2: Community based care – complex care closer to home

This programme aims to maximise recovery following a period of ill health or other life events and reduce reliance on long term care, reducing admission and long-term care dependence.

This will support our integrated coordinated care and support at home for individuals with more complex care and support needs.

In West Wales this will include the following projects:

1. Integrated Community Networks
2. Workforce Development
3. Collaborative Care Sector
4. Knowing Your Rights-Income Maximisation

This programme represents approximately 21% of our investment

Our Complex Care Closer to Home Programme and P5 Home from Hospital will be closely aligned and developed together with the Urgent and Emergency Care Framework: [6 goals for urgent and emergency care: policy handbook for 2021 to 2026 | GOV.WALES](#)

This will ensure that in West Wales we develop coherent systems, avoid duplication wherever possible and maximise our use of the available resources.

Programme 3: Promoting good Emotional Health and Well-Being (EH&WB)

This aim of this programme is to complement, not replace, Welsh Government investment in acute mental health services including the child and adolescent mental health service

This programme will support individuals to take more responsibility for their own EH&WB. It will allow organisations to support individuals across all priority population groups with EH&WB needs including children and young people

In West Wales this will include the following projects:

1. Pathways to Employment
2. Exercise Buddies
3. Positive Behavioural Support
4. Citizen Champions
5. Carers Breaks
6. Children's Emotional Health including NEST

This programme represents approximately 7% of our investment.

Programme 4 Supporting families to stay together safely, and therapeutic support for care experienced children

In keeping with the principle of prevention and early intervention this programme will work with families to help them stay together safely and prevent the need for children to become looked after. This programme will complement the statutory functions of partner organisations.

In West Wales this will include the following projects:

1. Edge of Care
2. Step Up Step Down
3. Parent & Baby
4. SGO Support Service
5. Integrated OT Service
6. Grow Your Own
7. Safeguarding within Education

This programme represents approximately 11% of our investment

Programme 5 Home from Hospital

This programme will allow us to develop and build on models of care to support with Home from Hospital planning and delivery and implementation of the D2RA framework. This refers to care and support offered to patients to leave hospital for ongoing recovery then assessment with an aim of limiting unnecessary time in hospital setting and improving outcomes.

In West Wales, this will include the following projects:

1. Community led 3rd Sector Support
2. Integrated Community Based Support
3. Carers Discharge Support Service

This programme represents approximately 30% of our investment

Our Home from Hospital Programme and Programme 2: Complex Care Closer to Home will be closely aligned and developed together with the Urgent and Emergency Care Framework: [6 goals for urgent and emergency care: policy handbook for 2021 to 2026 | GOV.WALES](#)

This will ensure that in West Wales we develop coherent systems, avoid duplication wherever possible and maximise our use of the available resources.

Programme 6 Accommodation Based Solutions

Developing accommodation that can support people's independent living and meet their care and support needs is an important part of our health and care system.

In West Wales our programme will:

- Develop accommodation solutions that can support people's independent living.
- Ensure the accommodation needs of our priority groups, both in the community and in supported settings are met.
- Ensure people are actively involved in developing accommodation options and have opportunity to choose where they live.
- Link accommodation solutions to existing and new capital funding opportunities.

In West Wales, this will include the following projects:

1. Progression to Independent Living
2. Housing Development for Independence
3. Intermediate and Step-Down Accommodation
4. Children's Safer Accommodation

This programme represents approximately 6% of our investment

National Priorities

Carers

RIF guidance states that RPBs will be expected to invest a minimum of 5% of the RIF into direct support for unpaid carers in 2022/23. In addition, a further £121,000 has been allocated as a ring-fenced National Priority to specifically fund activity to improve the involvement of unpaid carers in hospital discharge processes.

In addition to the national priority funding, the West Wales Carers Development Group have developed the following RIF projects:

- Carers breaks: Promoting good emotional health and wellbeing
- Income Maximisation
- Investors in carers
- Discharge Support Service

These are incorporated within the 6 Programmes and reach the 5% target of £788,652 set within the guidance and the plan also supports the investment in services delivered via third sector partners. This approach will allow us to deliver on the priorities within the West Wales Carers Strategy [Carers-Strategy-Final-20.10.20-Eng.pdf](https://www.wwcp.org.uk/Carers-Strategy-Final-20.10.20-Eng.pdf) ([wwcp.org.uk](https://www.wwcp.org.uk)) and will ensure the needs of carers are considered across each of our programmes, avoid duplication and maximise the impact of RIF investment.

Dementia & Memory Assessment

The Dementia Steering Group oversees an established programme of work. This has delivered a number of projects, including:

- Expanding community-based memory assessment services
- Establishing a team of Admiral Nurses
- Establishing a regional community dementia well-being team
- Developing a regional dementia strategy
- Developing a regional dementia training framework
- Co-designing a person centred community-based wrap around care and support pathway

The West Wales Dementia Strategy is in the process of being approved by partners. The strategy will ensure that we focus on further refinement of integrated service model/ care pathway delivering community-based person-centred, wrap-around, diagnosis, care and support, particularly post-diagnostic support and coordination for people living with dementia, their family and carers. There will also be a further refinement of initiatives to encourage early diagnosis and improve diagnosis rates by 3% per annum

These projects will continue and be aligned and incorporated within our 6 Programmes to avoid any duplication and maximise investment. The Dementia Programme will be overseen by a dedicated Programme and Change Manager who will be in post early in the first quarter of 22-23

Integrated Autism Service

The Integrated Autism Service (IAS) is a joint service delivered by Hywel Dda University Health Board and the 3 Local Authorities. The services provide adult autism diagnostic assessment, support and advice for autistic adults, parents/ carers, and professionals.

The delivery of the service is overseen by the West Wales Strategic Autism Group. The group also oversees the implementation of the Code of Practice for Autism in West Wales and provides a report to the RPB twice each year.

The IAS will continue to be overseen and delivered in this way.

Project and Programme Management

RIF recognises that it is essential that all RPBs have adequate resources and infrastructure arrangements to support delivery against the collective duties and expectations placed on them under the Part 9 duties of the SS&WBA

The West Wales Care Partnership Team has been funded originally via local authority Regional Collaboration Fund. In addition, a 'top slicing' of ICF and TF funds has been used to provide capacity to deliver new initiatives. This has established a core team of staff.

In addition, the West Wales the Transformation Programme developed the programme management capacity in establishing the Transformation lead role in each County. These posts have held a local lead role as well as having regional responsibility for particular aspects of the Transformation Programme.

RIF also allows for Project Management costs which can be supported from within RIF to be funded at 100%.

In order to support the delivery of change, Transformation Lead posts have been extended initially until March 31st2023. The Regional Partnership Programme Manager Post is a secondment for up to 12 months from December 2021.

The WWCP Team continue to oversee and support Programme Management for some 'Enabling' workstreams including integrated commissioning, workforce and capital programmes. They will also provide Project Management capacity for a number of initiatives, including capital projects and NEST.

WWCP have wider responsibilities beyond RIF to support the work of the RPB, including the commissioning and production of the Population Assessment and Market Stability Reports, the Annual Report and in March 2023 the West Wales Area Plan.

The focus of the Local Transformation Leads will be supporting the implementation of the RIF programmes and supporting other partnership activity as required. These details are set out below.

WWCP Team	Local Transformation Leads
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finance and Performance Management 2. Partnership Governance 3. Engagement 4. Programme Management and Project Support 5. Service Improvement 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local Implementation 2. Project Management and partner support 3. Financial Management 4. Alignment with local priorities developments

These arrangements will continue and fall within the available budget of RIF and LA contributions. A detailed review of the functions of the WWCP will be undertaken by June 2022, which will allow a permanent structure to be confirmed and agreed by partners.

5. Outstanding Issues

At the time of writing, final proposals are being prepared for sign off by IEG prior to submission to Welsh Government.

It is recognised that further work is required to agree our shared strategic objectives for the RPB. There is already a commitment to undertake this early in 22-23. This will take account of the findings of the PNA and MSR.

It is proposed that the RIF programme is therefore interim for 12 months. This will allow for further evaluation, remodelling and reprogramming of RIF to take place in Year 1 if required. This will also ensure that RIF programmes can support the outcomes of the PNA and MSR that will be published later in the year. This will inform the West Wales Area plan.