



**PWYLLGOR STRATEGAETH A CHYNLLUNIO
STRATEGY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

DYDDIAD Y CYFARFOD: DATE OF MEETING:	01 July 2025
TEITL YR ADRODDIAD: TITLE OF REPORT:	West Wales Regional Partnership Board Update Report
CYFARWYDDWR ARWEINIOL: LEAD DIRECTOR:	Jill Paterson, Director of Primary Care, Community and Long Term Care
SWYDDOG ADRODD: REPORTING OFFICER:	Linda Jones, Regional Partnership Board Manager

Pwrpas yr Adroddiad (dewiswch fel yn addas) Purpose of the Report (select as appropriate)
Ar Gyfer Trafodaeth/For Discussion

**ADRODDIAD SCAA
SBAR REPORT**

Sefyllfa / Situation

This report has been requested as an update and clarification of the role of the Regional Partnership Board.

Cefndir / Background

Regional Partnership Boards (RPBs) were established by the Social Services and Well-being Act (SSWBA) 2014, specifically Part 9.

The main objective of the regional partnership arrangements is to help to improve the provision and integration of community-based services ensuring service users experience a seamless health and social care offer that delivers better outcomes and system efficiency. As part of this the partnership bodies (Local Authorities and Health Boards) have an equal **duty to co-operate** and **must** both assure themselves that they are effectively discharging this duty through the partnership arrangements. This includes enabling the RPB to access information and sufficient resources to meet its objectives.

The Partnership Bodies (PBs) are responsible for determining the most appropriate structures for ensuring effective strategic planning and the provision of integrated services, including structures which will best support the RPB in delivering their key functions, including implementation of the joint area plan. These structures **should** position the RPB as an effective collaborative vehicle through which the PBs exercises its duty to co-operate; facilitate engagement with citizens, especially service users and carers (i.e. through the RPB citizen engagement panel); allow for more rapid operational decision making when required without undermining the strategic role of the RPB (integrated executive group); and make clear connections with pan-cluster planning groups ('healthier' groups).

RPBs are intended to provide the appropriate forum and environment to enable health, social care and wellbeing partners to come together and share information and resources to develop integrated approaches to planning, commissioning and organising community health, care and well-being services for their population.

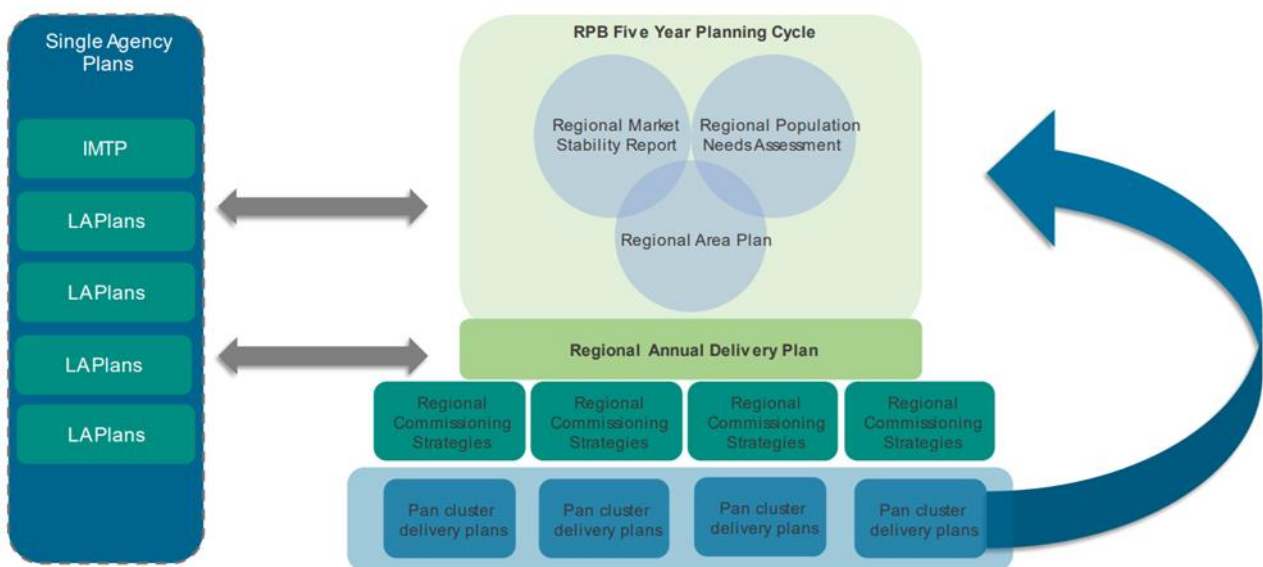
RPBs **are not** responsible for the production, planning or development of core work undertaken by the PBs (Local Authorities and Health Boards). However, the regulations state RPBs should recognise the interfaces between their functions and other key areas such as the planning and delivery of emergency care, integrated secondary care and unscheduled/planned care solutions, and that the responsible partnership body may consult or engage with the RPB in their production as an interested body.

Although the Social Services and Well-being Act 2014, Part 9 does not specify how RPBs should tailor their approach, it does provide a set of minimum standards and principles that the partnership bodies and RPBs must adhere to. This includes specific instructions in terms of RPB membership (and responsibilities) and statutory duty to produce key documents (in partnership), which, aligned to partnership bodies' strategic plans (including Pan-cluster and Integrated Medium-Term Plans constitute key building blocks of an integrated planning framework:

- A 5-year population needs assessment
- A 5-year market stability report
- A 5-year joint area plan – based on intelligence gathered through the Population Needs Assessment (PNA) market stability report
- An annual delivery plan - linked to delivery of the area plan
- The RPB's Annual Report
- Joint regional commissioning strategies – to support integrated service design and delivery for key population

In addition to this, RPBs have a duty to strategically plan the development of local community infrastructure by developing and implementing a 10-year Capital Strategic Plan.

The Guidance gives an example of how such integrated planning should work and places an emphasis on the roles of the RPB and the partnership bodies in ensuring that this alignment is achieved.



This involvement of RPB's in core work has been strengthened over the last 18 months, with Welsh Government pulling the RPB closer to operational delivery - e.g., Further Faster/ 50-day challenge. The updated regulations, and the draft Integrated Community Care System (ICCS) plans identify that Welsh Government see RPB playing an increasingly key role in integration and partnership working.

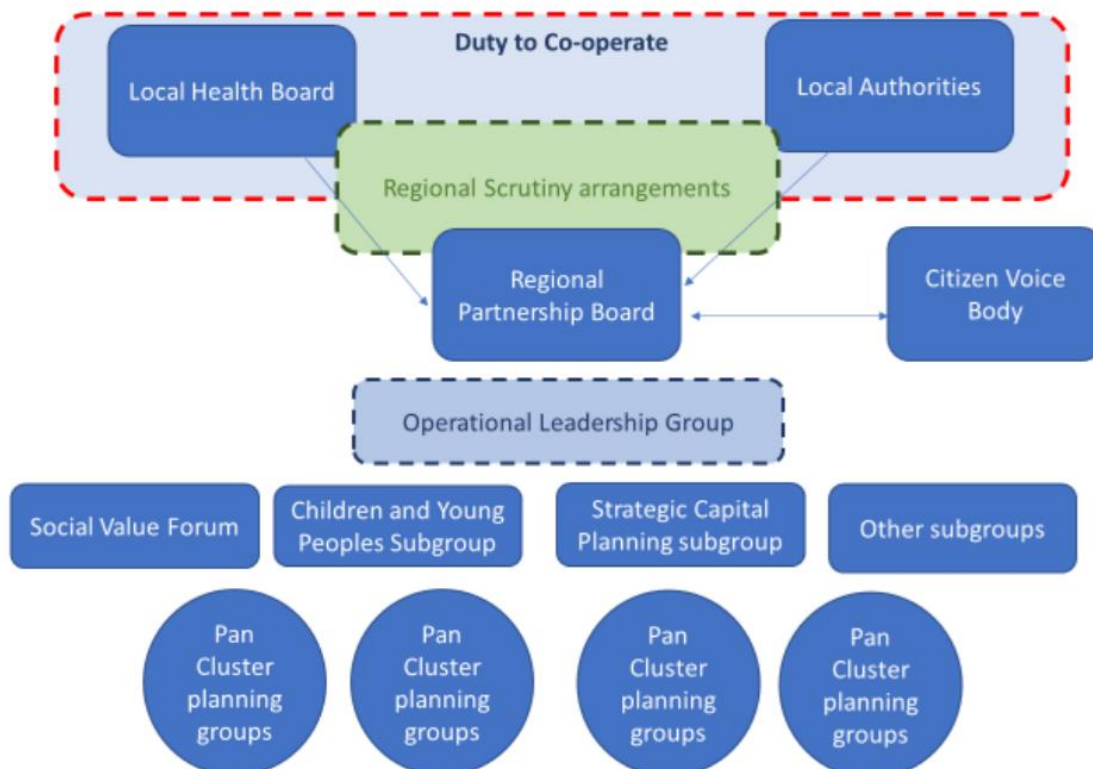
Asesiad / Assessment

The revised Part 9 guidance reflects how RPB's have evolved over time, and the maturity of planning arrangements required to ensure the RPBs have maximum reach and impact in terms of enabling change and the integration of Health and Social Care services. Integrated planning arrangements are now expected, linking with other wider but related planning structures.

The A Healthier Wales Plan for Health and Social Care (2018) positions the Part 9 regional partnership arrangements and the Regional Partnership Boards as key drivers of integration at a regional level, able to pool resources and expertise to deliver seamless, preventive models of care. The RPB (usually with the Health Board acting as 'banker') is responsible for overseeing the strategic investment and administration of WG resources allocated to partnership bodies. The revised part 9 guidance strengthens the links between RPB and Pan-cluster planning groups to facilitate whole system synergy. It states that RPBs **should** inform and be informed by more local population community needs and service delivery arrangements. Pan-cluster planning groups and cluster groups **should** provide local intelligence, resources and intelligence in line with RPB priorities. It also states that RPBs **should** work closely and coherently with other Boards and organisations, including Public Service Boards, Mental Health Partnerships and Area Planning Boards.

Close alignment with clusters and the pan-cluster planning groups (PCPGs) are specifically highlighted, as without carefully designed and described alignment between cluster, pan-cluster and regional planning and delivery mechanisms there is a potential risk of duplication of effort and even tension between partnership arrangements

The guidance provides an example of development of effective regional structure:



One of the questions raised during the 50-Day Challenge, and the shift of RPB's into a more operational space, was how, in practice, the different strategies, policies, steering groups and governance interlinked, specifically around Models of Care, Preventions and the Six Goals

programme. Although these questions remain, the most recent Minister/Chair meeting, held on 9 June 2025 confirmed that WG are committed to aligning the RPB strategic function and involvement in operational delivery together; and there will be a governance restructure to support this. Although not finalised, it will involve a new national leadership group of which the RPB will be a significant partner.

The SSWBA (2014) Sec 9 revised guidance now specifically identifies ICCS as a priority. It recommends that PBs **should** focus on developing their regional and local responses to the national blueprint for an ICCS for Wales, focusing on planning and commissioning community health, care and support services. The RPB would be utilised to its fullest capacity to meet its objective of working together to secure the best outcomes for citizens and priority population groups, where a seamless and/or integrated approach to delivering health, social care and wellbeing services can have the greatest impact.

The regional and local responses to the ICCS **must** include:

- Preventative services in the community
- Health and care services in the community
- Services that promote and facilitate good emotional health and wellbeing
- Services that support families to stay safely together
- Services that support better health and wellbeing outcomes for care experienced children
- Services that can support effective discharge from hospital
- Housing and accommodation-based solutions for promoting better health and wellbeing.

In Summary, the Health Board, alongside the Local Authorities as Partnership Bodies, have clear responsibilities in terms of the governance, scrutiny, and ensuring the RPB meets its objectives. There is a requirement that individual statutory and partnership strategic plans align and contribute to the RPB statutory plans (and vice versa). Welsh Government has identified the RPB as key to the delivery of ICCS and are undertaking a governance review to extend the use of the RPB as a key resource in integration and the development of seamless community services.

Argymhelliad / Recommendation

The Committee is asked to:

- **NOTE** the West Wales Regional Partnership Board Update Report
- **CONSIDER** the implications of the report.

Amcanion: (rhaid cwblhau)

Objectives: (must be completed)

Committee ToR Reference:
Cyfeirnod Cylch Gorchwyl y Pwyllgor:

3.1.3. That, wherever possible, Health Board plans are aligned with partnership plans developed with Joint Committees, Local Authorities, Universities, Collaboratives, Alliances and other key partners, such as the Transformation Group who form part of A Regional Collaboration for Health (ARCH).
3.1.6. Consider the development of strategies and plans developed in partnership with key strategic partners and monitor work undertaken with partner

	organisations and stakeholders to influence the provision of services to meet current and future population need.
Cyfeirnod Cofrestr Risg Datix a Sgôr Cyfredol: Datix Risk Register Reference and Score:	Not Applicable
Parthau Ansawdd: Domains of Quality Quality and Engagement Act (sharepoint.com)	Not Applicable
Galluogwyr Ansawdd: Enablers of Quality: Quality and Engagement Act (sharepoint.com)	Not Applicable
Amcanion Strategol y BIP: UHB Strategic Objectives:	2. Healthier communities
Amcanion Cynllunio Planning Objectives	Not Applicable
Amcanion Llesiant BIP: UHB Well-being Objectives: Hyperlink to HDdUHB Well-being Objectives Annual Report 2021-2022	9. All HDdUHB Well-being Objectives apply

Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol:

Further Information:

Ar sail tystiolaeth: Evidence Base:	Not Applicable
Rhestr Termiau: Glossary of Terms:	Not Applicable
Partion / Pwyllgorau â ymgynhorwyd ymlaen llaw y Pwyllgor Strategaeth a Chynllunio Parties / Committees consulted prior to Strategy and Planning Committee:	Not Applicable

Effaith: (rhaid cwblhau)

Impact: (must be completed)

Ariannol / Gwerth am Arian: Financial / Service:	Not Applicable
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Ansawdd / Gofal Claf: Quality / Patient Care:	Not Applicable
Gweithlu: Workforce:	Not Applicable
Risg: Risk:	Not Applicable
Cyfreithiol: Legal:	Not Applicable
Enw Da: Reputational:	Not Applicable
Gyfrinachedd: Privacy:	Not Applicable
Cydraddoldeb: Equality:	Not Applicable