

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

DYDDIAD Y CYFARFOD: DATE OF MEETING:	18 December 2025
TEITL YR ADRODDIAD: TITLE OF REPORT:	Regional Integration Fund Future Funding Update
CYFARWYDDWR ARWEINIOL: LEAD DIRECTOR:	Andrew Carruthers
SWYDDOG ADRODD: REPORTING OFFICER:	Linda Jones

Pwrpas yr Adroddiad (dewiswch fel yn addas)

Purpose of the Report (select as appropriate)

Er Gwybodaeth/For Information

ADRODDIAD SCAA

SBAR REPORT

Sefyllfa / Situation

The Regional Integration Fund (RIF) operates from April 2022 to March 2027, supporting innovative, integrated health and social care across Wales. As the RIF period concludes, there is no confirmed grant funding for projects post-2027. There have been several discussions with the Partnership and Integration Team (P&I) in Welsh Government (WG), and an option paper will be presented by the WG P&I Team through the appropriate governance. What is clear is that the future direction is towards an Integrated Community Care System (ICCS) and any funding will be to build and develop this.

Although we do not have firm commitment as to the detail of future funding, from discussions with WG we are basing our planning on two assumptions:

1. That future funding will be for building on the work of the current Models of Care to further develop ICCS
2. That the funding will be utilised to resource both the 50:50 'mainstreaming' element of current RIF portfolio and projects and any future projects to develop ICCS. Therefore, if the majority of funding is used to maintain existing projects, there will be limited resources to develop services to meet the needs of the population and the challenges identified in both the Market Stability Report and the Population Needs Assessment.

In light of the above, the West Wales Regional Partnership Board (WWRPB) has established a structured Future Funding Process to ensure robust governance, manage transitions, and minimise risks to services, staff, and finances. The process has been agreed at Integrated Executive Group (IEG) /RPB and is designed to:

- Ensure we adequately plan for the end of RIF and prepare for any subsequent funding
- Provide an objective and transparent process which can be consistently applied across the region
- Provide stakeholders with the information required to support future funding decisions, supporting a regional strategic direction for ICCS.

- Enable partners and programme leads to make timely planning decisions for those projects (and accompanying staff) that will not be part of our future portfolio.
- Manage Project / Programme Lead expectations

The process is structured around four key “Gateways,” each with specific requirements and decision points. The WWRPB team have undertaken a number of workshops and briefing sessions with project/programme leads and key personnel to work through this process, as well as drop-in sessions and individual support. This will continue throughout the process.

	Purpose	Approach	Outcome
Gateway 1	Adherence to the Welsh Government's Checklist	1. Regional Review panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Projects deemed as meeting the WG criteria will progress to subsequent process gateways ▪ Projects failing to meet criteria will no longer be eligible for WG Funding
Gateway 2	Integration, Staffing, Right Sizing & Strategic fit in Region	1. Project prepare Gateway review pack. 2. Regional / County Stakeholder panel (budget holders)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Compatibility with other services ▪ Addresses the requirements of our community ▪ Staffing structures and agreements ▪ Project can show that resource levels correspond to demand ▪ Project is considered to align with the Regional and system's vision
Business Case Preparation	Business Case & benefits Preparation	1. Project Team prepare Business case in preparation for Gateway 3	<p>A comprehensive business case is prepared covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Return on investment / Value for money ▪ Dependencies on other systems ▪ Regional and long-term activity strategy ▪ Plan for sustainability
Gateway 3	Business Case Review	1. Regional / County stakeholder business case review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Projects have presented business case ▪ Stakeholders understand the investment required and the associated risks
Gateway 4	Future Funding Review	1. Regional / County stakeholder funding review	<p>Stakeholders need to agree on one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Projects which can be taken into core funding, including the funding of match funding ▪ Projects applying for continued WG funding (Mainstreaming), including the funding of match funding ▪ Projects no longer supported and to be ceased

Gateway 1: Welsh Government Eligibility

- Projects are assessed against the WG's eligibility checklist, covering Population Level, Operational Level, Continuation of Funding, and Additional Questions.
- Projects will be assessed by a panel made up of all partners and an independent person.
- Only projects meeting the criteria progress to the next stage.

Gateway 2: Integration, Staffing, Strategic Fit

- Focuses on how well projects align with regional strategies, population needs, and demand/capacity.
- Assesses integration, right-sizing, and strategic fit within the region.

Gateway 3: Business Case Review

- Projects prepare a comprehensive business case, including return on investment, value for money, dependencies, sustainability, and population outcomes.

Gateway 4: Future Funding Review

- Final review by leaders and budget holders.
- Panel will be made up from senior partners/exec and financial decision makers.
- Projects are either approved for core funding, put forward for WG mainstreaming funding (requiring 50% match funding), or removed from the portfolio.

The submission date for Gateway 1 is 31 October 2025 and the Panel was held.14^t November 2025. A full update report will be presented to Integrated executive Group on 5 December 2025.

Cefndir / Background

This Future Funding Process was agreed to enable clear strategic and financial decision making to support the transition from RIF to future funding and the development of Integrated Community Care Services.

Asesiad / Assessment

The current RIF portfolio consists of almost £19m invested across the six Models of Care and the ring-fenced projects (e.g. Dementia). Within those projects, 363 FTE staff are funded through RIF, including 132 FTE employed through RIF by the Health Board. It is important to note that there are on-going discussions between the RPB's and WG as to how any redundancy costs that may be incurred through RIF ending or a project being discontinued could be met - and whether RIF (or any future funding) would contribute at all to this. The need to effectively plan is one of the major drivers of this process as we go into the last 18 months of funding. One of the main outcomes of this process should be that as a region we have a clear understanding of our resources and services and how this matches the demand and challenges that the Population Needs Assessment and the Market Stability Report are evidencing, many of which will need a clear strategic vision and partnership approach to resolve

Argymhelliad / Recommendation

The Committee is asked to:

- **NOTE** the West Wales Regional Partnership Board Update 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	Not Applicable

Quality and Engagement Act (sharepoint.com)	
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 Termau: Glossary of Terms:	Not Applicable
Partïon / Pwyllgorau â ymgynhorwyd ymlaen llaw y Pwyllgor Strategaeth a Chynllunio Parties / Committees consulted prior to Strategy and Planning Committee:	Integrated Executive Group Regional Partnership Board

Effaith: (rhaid cwblhau) Impact: (must be completed)	
Ariannol / Gwerth am Arian: Financial / Service:	Not Applicable
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