

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COUNCIL

28 FEBRUARY 2018

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING

PROPOSED HEALTH BOARD BOUNDARY CHANGE – CONSULTATION: EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP WORKING IN BRIDGEND

1. Purpose of Report.

- 1.1 To inform Council of the joint working with Abertawe BroMorgannwg University (ABMU) Health Board and how this has helped to shape sustainable services for the future.
- 1.2 To ensure that Elected Members are aware of the implications of the Bridgend area of ABMU Health Board moving into the Cwm Taff University Health Board.
- 1.3 To seek Council approval of the BCBC formal response to Welsh Government on the consultation document, 'Effective Partnership Working in Bridgend, regarding the proposed health board boundary change to align decision-making across health and local government'.
- 1.4 A presentation by the Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing will accompany this report to Council.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities

2.1 This report links to all the improvement priorities in the Corporate Plan:

- Supporting a successful economy
- Helping people to be more self-reliant;
- Smarter use of resources.

3. Background.

- 3.1 The Local Authority Chief Executives and Social Services Directors, together with the Chief Executive of the Health Board and Executive Directors of the Health Board across Western Bay have worked together under the auspices of the Western Bay programme since 2012. The Western Bay programme has evolved and is now managing and overseeing a range of collaborative services and activities across the region.
- 3.2 There are a number of regional services and collaborative projects currently in existence which are working successfully e.g. Community Services Programme (older people services), Contracting and Procurement Project, prevention and wellbeing initiatives including Local Area/ Community Coordination, Workforce Development training implementation, the Wales Community Care Information System implementation, support for carers, as well as 'business as usual'/ Tier 2

initiatives including the Western Bay Adoption Service, regional Safeguarding Boards, Area Planning Boards for Substance Misuse, Integrated Family Support Service, Regional Collaborative Committee for Supporting People, Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service.

- 3.3 In 2017, Welsh Government transferred the Delivering Transformation Grant funding to the Revenue Support Grant to continue to support the regional joint working activity and new requirements around partnership working, as required within the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWBA). The Integrated Care Fund is held by the ABMU HB for the Regional Partnership Board.
- 3.4 The regional partnership arrangements and work programmes are supported by the Western Bay Programme Office, hosted by the City & County of Swansea. A small team of staff is employed to coordinate and support a set of programmes and projects that progress health and social care integration. The funding for this arrangement has to date been through different Welsh Government funding streams (Regional Collaboration Fund, Delivering Transformation Grant and Integrated Care Fund (formerly Intermediate Care Fund)).
- 3.5 The Programme Office works across partner organisations to deliver on the Regional Partnership Board priority areas of work and provides business support to the Regional Partnership Board and to the transformational Programme and Project Boards which support the Regional Partnership Board. To date the posts (staffing), work programmes, meetings and activities have been funded from the Delivering Transformation Grant combined with the Integrated Care Fund. The Partnership (S33) Agreement will formalise the arrangements for the Programme Office and establish a pooled fund arrangement drawing on the Revenue Support Grant and the Integrated Care Fund.
- 3.6 The Delivering Transformation Grant has previously supported the development of the population assessment, the Social Enterprise support programme delivered by three County Voluntary Councils, costs associated with the Regional Citizen panel and communication and engagement activities, including the Western Bay website, as well as the commissioning of expert advice when required.
- 3.7 Skills and capacity to deliver regional working arrangements across health and social care and across local authority and sectoral boundaries are limited and the experience which has been built up among the Western Bay Programme Office staff and BCBC senior officers over the past 3-4 years is invaluable to the programme going forward.

Legislation

- 3.8 The SSWBA brought about new requirements on partners in the way that services are delivered and the outcomes for citizens. Part 9 of the Act specifically brings legislative requirements on partners relating to partnership arrangements. It requires Local Authorities and the Health Board to make arrangements to promote co-operation with their relevant partners and others, in relation to adults with needs for care and support, carers and children. It also provides Welsh Ministers with regulation making powers in relation to formal partnership arrangements, resources for partnership arrangements (including pooled funds) and partnership boards.

- 3.9 Furthermore the Code of Practice for Part 8 of the SSWBA states: *'The director of social services must lead on the development of effective arrangements, including at regional partnership level, to promote co-operation to achieve the following purposes:*
- a) *Improve the well-being of people with care and support needs, including carers who need support;*
 - b) *Improve the quality of care and support for people, including support for carers;*
 - c) *Protecting adults with care and support needs who are at risk of experiencing abuse or neglect; and*
 - d) *Protecting children who are at risk or experiencing abuse or neglect'.*
- 3.10 There is therefore a statutory requirement for Directors of Social Services to ensure that partnership working arrangements are in place and are delivering improved effectiveness and efficiency in relation to the delivery of care and support services to address care and support needs, and support needs for carers, identified in the population needs assessment.
- 3.11 A Partnership (S33) Agreement has been agreed in principle by all four statutory partners. It includes the following principles:
- the provision of high quality, efficient and cost effective arrangements to meet the needs of the partners, service users and other authorised users;
 - the establishment of an initial budget and the contributions to be made by each of the partners for 2017/18, together with the budget setting arrangements for future years;
 - the provision of detailed financial governance arrangements for the pooled fund;
 - transparency in relation to risk sharing arrangements including a provision for any redundancy costs to be shared by the parties in the event of termination of the agreement.

4. Current situation / proposal.

- 4.1 On 13th December 2017, Welsh Government issued a consultation entitled 'Effective Partnership Working in Bridgend, Proposed Health Board Boundary Change to align decision-making across Health and Local Government'. The consultation closes on the 7th March 2018 and the consultation document is attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 4.2 The proposed health board boundary change set out in the consultation has been developed, following the responses to White Paper 'Reforming Local Government-Resilient and Renewed'.
- 4.3 The consultation seeks views on a proposal that healthcare services for people in the area of Bridgend County Borough Council should be provided by Cwm Taf University Health Board instead of Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board to align decision-making across health and local government.
- 4.4 The Welsh Government states that in order to best meet people's needs and expectations, to secure the best outcomes for people local, regionally and in Wales, public services need to be able to work together effectively. While boundaries should not be a barrier to delivering the outcomes Wales needs, unnecessary complexity, especially in decision-making, can make this more difficult and limit opportunities to serve the public even better.

4.5 The intention for the proposed change is to provide clarity and consistency for more effective leadership and partnership; supporting the ambitions of Bridgend CBC in its strategic partnership arrangements for local authority functions as part of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal. It is set in the context of ongoing ambitions for effective, efficient and high quality health services across South Wales and consistent with broader ambitions for resilient and renewed local government.

4.6 The consultation asks the following questions:

- **Question 1:** Do you agree that changing the health board boundary would strengthen partnership working arrangements for Bridgend County Borough Council, local authorities and other partners across both the Cardiff Capital Region and the Swansea Bay area?
- **Question 2:** Are there any issues, benefits or risks particular to the proposed boundary change that are not considered in this consultation or that you would like to comment on?
- **Question 3:** If the boundary change is implemented, regulations under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 will also need to be revised to re-align regional partnership boards and partnerships safeguarding children and adults at risk. Are there any issues you would like to raise about consequential changes to Regulations under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act?
- **Question 4:** Are there other Regulations or provisions under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act or other legislation which should be considered for amendment if the proposed Health Board boundary change is implemented?
- **Question 5:** Do you consider that the 1 April 2019 for the boundary change to take effect is realistic and achievable?
- **Question 6:** The Welsh Language Impact Assessment published alongside this consultation paper outlines the Welsh Government's view of the effect of the proposal on the opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language. In relation to the proposals set out in this consultation:
 - a) Are there any positive or adverse effects?
 - b) Could the proposal be re-formulated so as to increase the positive effects or
 - reduce any possible adverse effects?
- **Question 7:** The Equality Impact Assessment published alongside this consultation paper outlines the Welsh Government's view of the effect of the proposal on the opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language. In relation to the proposals set out in this consultation:
 - (a) Are there any positive or adverse effects?
 - (b) Could the proposals be re-formulated so as to increase the positive effects or reduce any possible adverse effects?

4.7 The consultation response, attached at **Appendix 2**, has been developed following discussions with Cabinet, the Corporate Management Board and other senior managers.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.

5.1 There is no impact on the policy framework and procedure rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

7. Financial Implications.

7.1 There are no direct costs associated with the consultation. However, if the boundary changes were approved then there could potentially be costs associated with disaggregating and realigning pooled budgets. Discussions are ongoing with Welsh Government in relation to funding for this.

8. Recommendation.

8.1 Council is recommended to approve the consultation response attached as **Appendix 2** and receive further information following Welsh Government announcements.

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10 Background documents

None.