

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO AUDIT COMMITTEE

8 AUGUST 2019

**REPORT OF THE INTERIM HEAD OF FINANCE AND
SECTION 151 OFFICER**

WALES AUDIT OFFICE INTEGRATED CARE FUND REPORT

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to submit the Integrated Care Fund report produced by Wales Audit Office (WAO), attached as **Appendix A**, for noting.

2. Connections to Corporate Improvement Objectives / Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate priorities:

- Helping people to be more self-reliant – taking early steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services.
- Smarter use of resources – ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities.

- 2.2 The Integrated Care Fund was established by Welsh Government to drive and enable integrated and collaborative working between social services, health, housing, the third and independent sectors.

3. Background

- 3.1 Wales Audit Office undertook this piece of work to examine whether the fund is being used effectively to deliver sustainable services that achieve better outcomes for service users. It focuses on whether the Welsh Government is effectively managing the fund to deliver against its intentions, as well as understanding whether Regional Partnership Boards (RPBs) are demonstrating effective use of the fund. The report also considers whether the projects supported by the fund are making a clear difference at a local level.

4. Current Situation / Proposal

- 4.1 The Integrated Care Fund is allocated by the Welsh Government across Wales. The aim of the fund is to drive and enable integrated working between social services, health, housing and the third sector and independent providers to develop sustainable services.
- 4.2 The fund can be used to support new initiatives (or projects), as well as the extension of existing initiatives to a broader area. The Welsh Government's intention is that successful initiatives are sustained but mainstreamed into organisations' core business and supported by other funding streams.
- 4.3 The report sets out a number of recommendations which are intended to help support the Welsh Government and RPBs to improve the arrangements for managing the fund.
- 4.4 Alongside the national report, there will also be a local report which draws on the feedback to each of the Regional Partnership Boards and this will be presented to Audit Committee at a later date once it has been finalised.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedural rules

- 5.1 None

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 There are no equality implications.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Implications

- 7.1 As the report is for information it is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of wellbeing goals/objectives as a result of this report. However, the Integrated Care Fund is a combination of capital and revenue funding, and in allocating this funding the RPBs must demonstrate how the proposed projects complement key policies/legislation, including the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 There are no financial implications regarding this report.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 It is recommended that Audit Committee:
 - Note the WAO Integrated Care Fund Report (**Appendix A**)

Gill Lewis CPFA
Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer
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Contact Officer : Gill Lewis

Telephone : (01656) 643302

E-mail : Gill.Lewis@bridgend.gov.uk

Background Papers: None