

<b>Meeting of:</b>	<b>CABINET</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>11 MARCH 2025</b>
<b>Report Title:</b>	<b>HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE REGIONAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING</b>
<b>Report Owner / Corporate Director:</b>	<b>CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>JACKIE DAVIES HEAD OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE</b>
<b>Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:</b>	<b>There is no effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules.</b>
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	<p><b>Continuity and coordination of health and social care provision is increasingly important in the context of the growing number of people living with frailty. Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has been at the forefront of integrating health and social care for more than a decade. The development of a regional Integrated Community Care System is an opportunity to build on this and improve how all partners work to deliver better outcomes for our population.</b></p> <p><b>This report recommends that BCBC becomes a signatory to a Memorandum of Understanding which commits the Council in principle to progress, with partners, a new Regional Partnership Agreement as a legal framework for integrated health and social care in the Cwm Taf Morgannwg (CTM) region. In practical terms this approach enables multi-disciplinary working, sharing resources and integrated management roles necessary for achieving an optimum model.</b></p>

### **Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To seek approval from Cabinet for Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) to be signatories to a Health and social care Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) covering the local authorities of BCBC, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC), Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (MTCBC) and Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTMUHB). This MoU will commit BCBC to be party to the development of a Regional Partnership Agreement (RPA) and a supporting measurement framework to drive delivery for older people, people living with frailty and their carers across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region. The RPA, when developed, will be brought to Cabinet for agreement.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 The CTM Regional Partnership Board (RPB) Population Needs Assessment 2022-2025 sets out the demographic challenge facing the CTM region. The older population, age 65 and above, is growing and this growth is set to continue, especially for those over the age of 85. Supporting older people, people living with frailty, and their carers, to live as independently as possible requires considerable input from health and social care services. Person-centered care, within a context of ongoing budgetary pressures, requires seamless, accessible and joined-up support delivered in new and innovative ways. Acting here reflects the Council's Wellbeing Objectives of supporting our most vulnerable citizens, enabling people to reach their full potential and ensuring everyone feels valued.
- 2.2 BCBC has for many years led practice in Wales on integrated health and social care. As founding members of the Western Bay Intermediate Care Service, multi-disciplinary teams have operated in the county borough for ten years. This model was transferred into a new health board footprint, CTMUHB, in 2019. The characteristics of the integrated model (i.e. multi-disciplinary working, pooling resources, matrix management) have been identified through the RPB as a basis for shaping an optimal model for the CTM region.

## **3. Current situation / proposal**

- 3.1 Figure 1 describes an Integrated Community Care System (ICCS) which the three local authorities and health board in the region have agreed to work towards. The ICCS will be based on two new community pathways – Urgent Community Response and Population Health Management, where the Urgent Response Pathway may be accessed primarily through a Navigation Hub. The Navigation Hub is a centralised service that coordinates care and enhances access to appropriate care pathways for a person. An integrated management model – comprising integrated management roles and shared resources - is seen as necessary to deliver integrated services effectively.
- 3.2 The CTM RPB is strategically leading and overseeing this work, but it does not, in itself, provide a legal basis for integrated operating arrangements between bodies. This requires those individual partners in the CTM region to formally consider and enter into legal agreements.

Figure 1: A frailty-attuned Integrated Community Care System for Cwm Taf Morgannwg



- 3.3 A MoU has been drafted under the provisions of Part 9 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 to ensure there is a shared vision and clear purpose and commitment between partner organisations about how to make progress towards the fully integrated regional services. As a demonstration of wide support for the implementation of the ICCS, the RPB has endorsed the draft MoU text for consideration by statutory organisations. The MoU is included as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 3.4 The MoU sets out the ambition of partners to develop a RPA, which will be in place from mid-2025 and reviewed annually, for services within the ICCS. It also commits to the development of a measurement framework to drive delivery and monitor outcomes as part of the RPA.
- 3.5 Subject to final legal advice, a Section 33 Agreement is the appropriate legislative vehicle for establishing the RPA. A legislative framework is necessary because without it there will be limitations on multidisciplinary working and integrated management and the potential of the ICCS will not be fully realised.
- 3.6 As above, Bridgend residents already benefit from this way of working with the integrated community resource team and community network teams. This integrated arrangement is expressed through the existing bilateral Section 33 agreement between CTMUHB and BCBC for the delivery of adult and older people services. This bilateral agreement will be superseded by the RPA which will cover RCTCBC and MTCBC as well as CTMUHB and BCBC. Other existing collaborative frameworks in the region, specifically the agreement between RCTCBC, MTCBC and

CTMUHB for the provision of a Stay Well at Home service, and the agreement between the four organisations for the management of a pooled fund for care homes will also be brought under the RPA.

- 3.7 Formal ratification of the MOU will enable work to be undertaken on the development of the RPA. The RPA will be presented to the Cabinet for consideration and approval in due course.

#### **4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)**

- 4.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh Language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

#### **5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives**

- 5.1 The development of an Integrated Community Care System through a partnership approach fits with our Corporate Wellbeing objectives as described in paragraph 2.1. It also puts the ways of working into practice as follows:
- Long-term – the focus on older people and frailty reflects the projected growth in the increase in the number of people aged over 65 for the next two decades. The focus on an ICCS is intended to create a sustainable model of care that reduces reliance on crisis interventions;
  - Prevention – this is the focus of the Population Health Management pathway in Figure 1, strengthening and scaling the Network team model that the Council and Health Board jointly provide. The intention is to identify frailty consistently through proactive screening and to provide targeted interventions;
  - Integration – the main purpose of the MoU and RPA to follow is to improve outcomes by enhancing integration. The RPA will strengthen a multi-disciplinary team around the person approach in order to provide holistic care;
  - Collaboration – the RPA will deepen partnership working between local government and the NHS. It will align funding and other resources across organisations to improve efficiency and impact. It will also provide for a shared approach to workforce training and development to improve understanding between front-line staff; and
  - Involvement – fundamentally ‘what matters’ to people, as surfaced for example through recent RPB ‘hackathons’, is steering pathway and services development in this new framework.

#### **6. Climate Change Implications**

- 6.1 This proposal does not have any climate change implications.

## **7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications**

- 7.1 This proposal will have positive implications for safeguarding and corporate parenting. The access to a multi-disciplinary team around the person approach will reduce risk and enhance safeguarding support.

## **8. Financial Implications**

- 8.1 There are no financial implications that arise directly from the Council endorsing the MoU. BCBC already has a Section 33 agreement with CTMUHB, and the annual budget considerations for that agreement will be rolled into the new RPA which is to follow.

## **9. Recommendation**

- 9.1 It is recommended the Cabinet agrees that BCBC becomes a signatory to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg health and social care MoU as set out in Appendix 1.

## **Background documents**

None