

Good Practice Guide Appendices Appendix 11

Addressing Population Needs

The *Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014* introduced a duty on Local Authorities and Local Health Boards to prepare and publish an assessment of the care and support needs of their population, and of carers who need support. Organisations should also identify assets which benefit and support wellbeing in the community including people, buildings, organisations and services that contribute to enhancing or maintaining well-being.

Population Needs Assessments (PNAs)

There is a legal duty on health and social care statutory bodies for population needs assessments to inform routine planning, e.g. through Cluster Action Plans, Health Board Integrated Medium Term Plans and local Homelessness Strategies. The Act requires Local Health Boards and Local Authorities to publish the findings of their PNAs under certain core themes, e.g. children and young people, older people, etc., with further themes added as relevant to the population. Sources of information for PNAs are listed in Box 22. Population needs assessments should also be undertaken at a 'regional' level, with Regional Partnership Boards (RPB) set up to oversee implementation of the Act.

The Act requires that as part of the PNA process and subsequent planning, Welsh language needs are taken into account and plans are put in place for Welsh medium provision of services as required. The Act also requires that an Equality Impact Assessment is undertaken on the process of the assessment and subsequent planning. An assessment of the impact of specific plans will be undertaken as part of the subsequent area planning process.

Description of operational mechanisms to ensure cluster plans are fed into health board IMTPs, Wellbeing plans, LA Plans, etc

Well-Being Assessments

Local areas are also required to produce a Well Being Assessment (WBA) in support of the *Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015*. WBAs have a wider focus than the PNA, including a broader social, environmental, cultural and economic assessment, and consider a longer time period of 10-20 years. WBAs are overseen by Public Services Boards (PSBs).

There will be some overlap between the WBA and the PNA, and each should inform the other. Wherever possible, processes for the PNA and WBA should be aligned to reduce duplication of effort. *What is the position of cluster planning in relation to WBAs?*

Information Sources for Population Needs Assessments

- Public surveys, for adults and for young people
- Focus group interviews with local residents
- Survey for local professionals and organisations providing care or support
- Service and population data
- Information from key documents and previous work
- Workshops for professional leads

Proposal for Integrated All-Wales Primary Care Needs Assessment (IAWPCNA)

Work is underway on an Integrated All-Wales Primary Care Needs Assessment (IAWPCNA), led by the Primary Care Hub team (PHW). The IAWPCNA has the potential to support evidence-informed cluster planning and increased strategic alignment, helping to drive quantifiable cluster population health improvements. IAWPCNA would do this through the use of integrated data from sources that reflect wider primary care needs, activities and services.

The data captured by IAWPCNA would include a range of prioritised health indicators, effective interventions and local lessons in service implementation, quality and safety. User-friendly systems promote engagement and the use of standardised templates on a once-for-Wales basis aim to minimise duplication of effort.

The anticipated benefits of the proposal include:

- Cluster plans informed by data and assessments reflecting wider primary care
- Standardised templates that give a measure of quality assurance and a baseline against which to measure cluster variation
- Data products feeding into IAWPCNA can be better aligned to the timeframes to inform cluster planning
- Shared health intelligence on best-value interventions will help to align health & well-being goals and health improvement approaches
- IAWPCNA can increase the visibility of whole-system concerns, e.g. antimicrobial resistance
- Facilitates the joining up the intelligence of population health (e.g. PHW) and healthcare public health (e.g. LHB) to tell a coherent story

The project plan is designed in four stages and more details can be found at Res Pack x

Assessment into Action

Needs assessments identify priority areas for suggested action and there will be consideration of the best mechanisms for delivering action against each of these. Some actions may sit with the Regional Partnership Board, while others may be better delivered through the Public Services Boards or other partnership mechanisms. This will feed into corporate planning processes, area plans, and other mechanisms as appropriate.

Each area must agree their plans by April 2018 in response to the assessments. It is necessary to determine what is achievable, within what time frame, for each issue and to prioritise the actions taking into account capacity and resources available. The assessments present a new opportunity for health and care organisations to work more closely with third sector organisations and communities, building on their assets to jointly meet the needs of the population.

Explanation of how local PNAs and WBAs work in practice, linking with overarching Primary Care plans, informed by Cluster Planning. Strategic alignment between LHB / LA/ other partnership plans through PSB processes.