

COMMITTEE	Care Scrutiny Committee
DATE	30 September 2021
TITLE	Gwynedd Population Needs Assessment
CABINET MEMBER	Councillor Dafydd Meurig
PURPOSE	To submit the approach for preparing the needs assessment

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To submit the approach for preparing the Population Needs Assessment 2022-2027 and the Market Stability Report for scrutiny by the committee.

2 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 It is necessary for local authorities and the health board in the north to produce a population needs assessment in each electoral cycle. In accordance with Section 14 of the Social Services and Well being Act (Wales) 2014, the local authority and local health board are required to work together in order to assess:
- What are the care and support needs of the local population
 - What are the support needs of carers
 - To what extent these needs are being met
 - The range and level of services needed in order to meet the care and support needs which have been identified
 - The range and level of preventative services needed
- 2.2 It is expected that the next assessment for the region will be published by 1 April 2022.
- 2.3 There is also a new statutory requirement this year for us to publish a Report on the Stability of the Market.
- 2.4 In order to ensure that the regional needs assessment reflects the care and support needs of local people, each local authority in the north is preparing a local assessment which will feed into the regional assessment. The same procedure will be followed with the report on the stability of the market.
- 2.5 The population needs assessment will demonstrate to us the needs of Gwynedd's population today as well as in the future and it will also assist in taking decisions relating the planning and provision of services in Gwynedd and in the north. It will also be a basis for local, regional and national decisions relating the funding of services. Our report on the stability of the market will also help to make sure that we have a stable market which can provide services to meet the needs of the population as they have been identified in the needs assessment.

3.0 APPROACH

- 3.1 In order to produce a full assessment of the needs of the population, and the report on market stability, we will need to:
- engage with communities, individuals receiving services and staff
 - collate data, e.g. population trends, service provision
 - consider the legislative requirements and policy
 - analyse the evidence
 - prepare conclusions
- 3.2 The themes in the assessment are broad, and include the following as core matters:
- Children with disabilities or illness
 - Children with experiences of care
 - Children in need of care and support
 - Children at risk of being taken into care
 - Children with emotional and behavioural needs
 - Older people
 - Health
 - Physical disabilities
 - Learning disability
 - Autism
 - Mental health
 - Sensory impairment
 - Carers who need support
 - Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence.

It is also necessary to give specific support to safeguarding issues, equality, the socioeconomic duty and the Welsh language.

- 3.2 We are working with the Council's Regeneration Team to share the work of engaging with communities, and making sure that we are making the most of evidence which is available to us regarding engagement activities which have been held by the Council, the health board and the third sector over the past few years.
- 3.3 We are working with officers in the Health Board and Public Health Wales in order to collate relevant data regarding the characteristics of the population and the services which they receive. We will also work with them on the analysis and the preparation of conclusions before we circulate the final assessment for consultation amongst stakeholders.

4.0 TIMETABLE

- 4.1 It cannot be overemphasised how challenging the timetable is for all stakeholders involved in preparing the assessment and the market stability report. Providers continue to be under significant pressure as a result of the pandemic, and workers in the health board, the Council and third sector are under pressure to prioritise operational issues in order to ensure the day to day continuity of service.

4.2 We are asked to submit Gwynedd information to the regional team by the end of October, and the intention is to prioritise information from engagement activities, since the work of collating data, and its analysis and preparation of conclusions will not have been completed within the time available. The regional report will be submitted for Council approval in March 2022. Following this, we will continue with the work of assessing the needs of the population in Gwynedd, and discussions are taking place with partners to agree on the timetable of the local work.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

Members are asked to approve this approach and what we aim to achieve within the timetable.