



ADSS Cymru

Yn arwain Gwasanaethau
Cymdeithasol yng Nghymru
Leading Social Services in Wales

Rebalancing Care and Support – A consultation on improving social care arrangements and strengthening partnership working to better support people’s well-being

ADSS Cymru Key Issues Paper

Overview

ADSS Cymru is responding to the consultation on the Welsh Government White Paper to ensure that the voice of professional leadership in social care contributes to the thinking around the proposals in this document, offers a view as to what needs to be done and how it should be delivered. This is a significant opportunity to influence the direction of some big strategic issues in the delivery of social care, and the outcome of this work will potentially set the scene for the foreseeable future.

In addition to the ADSS Cymru paper summarising the consultation document the purpose of this paper is to set out the key issues which we will need to discuss and provide a response to. There are standard questions which we need to answer but this is also an opportunity to offer additional views where needed, based on our experiences of the challenges in delivering social care services and what would make the big differences if we are to shape the future.

What does the Welsh Government want to do?

The Welsh Government believes that the changes in our population profile with a growing number of older people living longer with different needs, the public finance challenges and pressure of austerity, the fragility and nature of the care market, and the complexity of commissioning are some of the reasons why Ministers believe there is a case for change.

In their view three critical areas emerge where action is needed to deliver improvement:

1. refocusing the fundamentals of the care market – away from price towards quality and value
2. reorientation of commissioning practices – towards managing the market and focusing on outcomes
3. evolution of integration mechanisms – simplifying joint planning and delivery.

The actions set out in the White Paper will be in these three areas, with the aim of rebalancing the care and support market based on a clear national framework where services are organised regionally and delivered locally. There are clear concerns about the complexity of the market, and the intention is to reduce the risk of an overreliance on any one sector.

The intended outcome by will be a system that is:

- More simplified
- Based on quality and social value, and not on price
- More managed, and not reactive

- Outcome based, and not task based
- Rooted in effective partnership and integration, and not on organisational focus

How does the Welsh Government intend to deliver it?

Essentially the plan is to introduce a new law which creates a new national body to oversee the delivery of a national framework to commission services for children and adults, and places Regional Partnership Boards (RPBs) on a statutory footing, able to hold budgets and employ staff. There is no intention to make structural changes to health boards and local authorities.

Key issues to consider

As a leadership body ADSS Cymru wants to support and influence how reform is taken forward and in doing so offer its' expertise and experience to place social care on a more stable footing as we plan for the future.

In addition to the standard consultation questions which we encourage you to answer (in the table below) there are some issues which ADSS Cymru members might want to consider as we formulate a response to the consultation, such as:

1. Whether we agree with the case for change - has the government missed anything which ought to be included, and are the policy objectives likely to make a big difference to the challenges they have set out?
2. If we were identifying the three biggest strategic issues to resolve for the next 5 to 10 years what would they be and are they covered in the Welsh Government's proposals as set out in the summary paper?
3. The paper talks about delivering an integrated health and care system – what does integration mean, has it been correctly articulated and essentially what should it look like?
4. If you agree that the market needs to be rebalanced, to reduce the risk of the over reliance on one sector, and to ensure that services are better planned are there other ways to do it, other than through a national commissioning route?
5. Partnership working is strongly referenced in the document. If partnership working is essential, is the RPB the vehicle to deliver this, or is there an alternative model that ought to be articulated?
6. Finance – the proposals appear to be about making better use of existing resources, unless more money is available through a specific social care tax for example. With changes to our demographic picture, and the demands placed on services, what view would ADSS Cymru members argue.

Standard questions – please answer as many of these questions as you can and refer to the summary paper for the background.

Question 1	Do you agree that complexity in the social care sector inhibits service improvement?
Question 2	Do you agree that commissioning practices are disproportionately focussed on procurement?

Question 3	Do you agree that the ability of RPBs to deliver on their responsibilities is limited by their design and structure?
Question 4	Do you agree a national framework that includes fee methodologies and standardised commissioning practices will reduce complexity and enable a greater focus on service quality?
Question 4 a	What parts of the commissioning cycle should be reflected in the national framework?
Question 5	Do you agree that all commissioned services provided or arranged through a care and support plan, or support plan for carers, should be based on the national framework?
Question 5 a	Proposals include NHS provision of funded nursing care, but do not include continuing health care; do you agree with this?
Question 5 b	Are there other services which should be included in the national framework?
Question 6	Do you agree that the activities of some existing national groups should be consolidated through a national office?
Question 6 a	If so, which ones?
Question 7	Do you agree that establishing RPBs as corporate legal entities capable of directly employing staff and holding budgets would strengthen their ability to fulfil their responsibilities?
Question 7 a	Are there other functions that should be considered to further strengthen regional integration through RPBs?
Question 8	Do you agree that real-time population, outcome measures and market information should be used more frequently to analyse needs and service provision?
Question 8 a	Within the 5 year cycle, how can this best be achieved?
Question 9	Do you consider that further change is needed to address the challenges highlighted in the case for change?
Question 9 a	What should these be?

Question 10	What do you consider are the costs, and cost savings, of the proposals to introduce a national office and establish RPBs as corporate entities?
Question 10 a	Are there any particular or additional costs associated with the proposals you wish to raise?
Question 11	<p>We would like to know your views on the effects that a national framework for commissioning social care with regionally organised services, delivered locally would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.</p> <p>What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?</p>
Question 12	Please also explain how you believe the proposed policy to develop a national framework for commissioning social care with regionally organised services, delivered locally could be formulated or changed so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.