

GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Wednesday 14 June 2023
Report Subject	Audit Wales Review of Commissioning Older People's Care Home Placements by North Wales Councils and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
Cabinet Member	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing
Report Author	Chief Officer (Social Services)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of Audit Wales' programme of work in 2020, they undertook a review of Commissioning of Older people's Care Home Placements by North Wales Council and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board.

A first report was brought to this committee on the 28th September 2022 to provide details of the audit, Flintshire' response to the report and the agreed actions.

This report provides an update on the work undertaken across North Wales, including Flintshire County Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Members note the completed actions in response to the Audit Wales report.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE AUDIT WALES REVIEW REPORT
1.01	As part of Audit Wales programme of work for 2020, it undertook a review of Commissioning of Older People's Care Home Placements by North Wales Councils and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board.
1.02	The Audit Wales team undertook fieldwork, document reviews, meeting observations and interviews with staff and service users from November 2020 to February 2021.
1.03	Audit Wales issued the draft final report to Local Authorities and the Health Board to comment on matters of accuracy and balance in July 2021. Following discussion between Audit Wales and the 7 statutory partners feedback and key objections were discussed and a revised version of the report was issued in November 2021.
1.04	<p>The Audit Wales report made 5 recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• R1 - North Wales councils and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board needs to ensure the consistent use of pre-placement agreements across the region.• R2 - The current approach for commissioning care home places can cause tensions between partners and result in poor value and poor service user experience. North Wales councils and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board need to work together to review local arrangements for commissioning care home placements to eliminate avoidable adverse impacts on service users, and each other.• R3 - Accountability is a cornerstone of public sector decision making. Governance arrangements need to scrutinise decisions and hold decision makers to account. North Wales councils and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board need to strengthen their partnership governance arrangements to ensure proper accountability and effective scrutiny.• R4 - North Wales councils and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board through the Regional Commissioning Board need to develop a regionally agreed care home commissioning strategy and following this, develop an associated delivery plan.• R5 - North Wales councils and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board needs to review their commissioning arrangements for care home placements to ensure they fulfil their statutory responsibilities around the Welsh language, and the Well-being of Future Generations Act.
1.05	PROGRESS ON EACH RECOMMENDATION
1.06	R1 - The pre-placement agreement has now been agreed and will be circulated to all providers for signature in early June 2023 (date is May in the appendix but translation has delayed release to early June). This will be supported by several webinars to inform providers of the PPA and

provide them with an opportunity to seek clarification on any aspect of the agreement.

Completion date – 30th September 2023

R2 - A workshop was held in September 2022 to consider the following:

- reviewing arrangements for commissioning care home placements to eliminate avoidable adverse impacts on service users, and each other; and also
- how we can develop a regionally agreed care home commissioning strategy and associated delivery plan.

It was agreed that:

- a Task and Finish Group be established to look at improving the discharge to assess process across North Wales and developing a consistent progress between BCUHB and all 6 Local Authorities.
- A Task and Finish Group be established to further develop the Regional Care Home Commissioning Strategy to identify key regional themes and actions e.g. ensuring we have sufficient Nursing and EMI homes

This work was completed in September 2022

R3 – As part of the Council’s Scrutiny process the Audit Wales report and update has been presented to this Governance and Audit Committee. A report will be presented to the Flintshire Social and Health Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee providing further detail of Flintshire’s involvement in the Regional Commissioning Board, giving an overview of the care fee setting process, the work undertake to deliver a revised PPA and the joint working with the health board regarding the commissioning of nursing care packages.

Completion date 30th September 2023

R4 – A task and finish group has been set up to develop a Regional Commissioning Strategy for Care Home Commissioning

Work has commenced through the Regional Commissioning Board and is due to be completed in September 2023.

R5 - This work is on-going through the North Wales Mwy Na Geiriau Steering Group and the delivery of the Mwy Na Geiriau Forum Plan 2022-2027. Flintshire is represented by the Senior manager for Safeguarding and Commissioning and is working with the Flintshire Rhwydwaith Iaith group to ensure delivery of the Mwy Na Geiriau Plan as well as the requirements laid down by the Welsh Language Commissioner.

Recruitment of Welsh speaking staff is also a priority for the national WeCare Wales Campaign.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	Local and regional officer time will be required to ensure that the recommendations and management response actions are implemented.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Audit Wales consulted with service users and providers in the research for the report. They also consulted with Local Authorities and Health Board officers on the circulation of the draft reports and took on board their feedback to inform revised drafts of the report.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	<p>Officer capacity and time to implement the actions in the Management Response may delay meeting the deadlines given Mitigation: Allocated regional leads with dedicated time to undertake the work require have been put in place.</p> <p>Relationship between local commissioning plans and the required regionally agreed care home commissioning strategy and associated delivery plan. Mitigation: Regional mapping of the relationship between local and regional plans and clarity on which aspects of the delivery plan are implemented locally and which are implemented regionally have been put in place.</p> <p>Failure to ensure that all partners fulfil statutory responsibilities around the Welsh language, and the Well-being of Future Generations Act in our care home placement provision. Mitigation: Mwy na Geiriau Framework implementation is in place for all partner agencies. The Local Wellbeing Assessments and 7 Wellbeing Goals inform our local and regional commissioning plan for the future as part of the Population Needs Assessment and Market Stability Report.</p>

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	North Wales Update on Action Plan

6.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
6.01	Contact Officer: Jane Davies Telephone: 01352 702503 E-mail: jane.m.davies@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	Audit Wales – is the trademark of two legal entities, the Auditor General for Wales and the Wales Audit Office. It's role is to assure the people of Wales that public money is being managed well as well as explaining how public money is being used and how it meets people's needs.
7.02	Mwy Na Geiriau Framework - A Strategic Framework for Promoting the Welsh Language in Health, Social Services and Social Care. It was published in 2016.
7.03	WeCare Campaign – An All Wales online Social Care Recruitment Programme advertising posts in care as well as providing useful information, case studies and stories about how working in care can make a difference.