



Report of the Cabinet Member for Care Services

Council – 6 October 2022

West Glamorgan Regional Market Stability Report 2022

Purpose:	To approve the regional market stability report, which is a tool to assist the Regional Partnership Board in planning and commissioning quality care and support for their populations.
Policy Framework:	Section 144B of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 The Partnership Arrangements (Amendment) and Regulated Services (Market Stability Reports) (Wales) Regulations 2021.
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that Council: 1) Notes that the Regional Partnership Board approved the regional market stability report on 7 th July, 2022. 2) Approves the regional market stability report attached in Appendix A.
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Market stability reports are a tool to assist Regional Partnership Boards (RPB's) in planning and commissioning quality care and support for their populations. The reports should help RPBs to determine the overall shape and balance of the market for care and support within the region. This is the first year that market stability reports have been required.
- 1.2 The primary audience for the market stability report is local authorities and Local Health Boards, in their role as statutory partners of RPBs. The report will also be of interest to other partner agencies and sectors represented on RPBs including the third sector, care and support providers, housing representatives, citizens who need care and support, and their families and carers.

2. Background

- 2.1 Section 144B of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 requires local authorities to prepare and publish market stability reports, and make provision for regulations setting out the form these must take. These matters are set out in the Partnership Arrangements (Amendment) and Regulated Services (Market Stability Reports) (Wales) Regulations 2021.
- 2.2 In preparing their market stability reports (MSR), local authorities are required to consult with the Local Health Board. The preparation and publication of market stability reports must be carried out on a regional footprint. From the individual reports the RPB must consolidate into a Regional MSR.
- 2.3 The West Glamorgan MSR was approved at the Regional Partnership Board meeting on the 7th of July. Following formal approval at RPB, the report requires approval by full council and similar decision-making body within the Health Board.
- 2.4 The market stability reports are the next step in the development of long term commissioning strategies for the care and support needs of local communities, including the development of accommodation that is fit for the future.

3. Findings

- 3.1 There are 12 chapters in the West Glamorgan Market Stability Report which is attached at **Appendix A**.
- 3.1.1 **Care Home Services – Older Adults**
 - There are sufficient numbers of available residential and dual registered beds in the area, however it is not always possible to place in the beds available

- There are relatively few homes offering specialist/complex dementia nursing care
- There is instability in the sector due to severe workforce issues combined with the current cost of living crisis
- Monitoring visits and Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) inspection reports demonstrate an overall high quality of care home provider
- There is good partnership working between providers and commissioners
- Demand for care home beds reduced over the pandemic but is now returning to pre-pandemic levels
- More work is required with providers to support them to adapt to be able to meet the needs of the future population of the region, and to gain a better understanding of the type of support that will be required

3.1.2 Care Home Services – Children

- The Children's Social Care Market Study by the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA)'s concluded that the residential (and fostering) market is challenging. This is an issue shared by many local authorities across Wales and England
- Partners will review its strategic and commissioning plans in 2022 and continue to work with regional and national partners to support market wide developments
- The independent residential care market is at risk from the potential implementation of Welsh Government policy commitments. This will need to be monitored closely

3.1.3 Care Home Services – Younger Adults

- The specialist care homes market across the region is considered to be stable
- There have been increases in the number of placements for both learning disability & mental health over the 5-year period
- Monitoring visits and CIW inspection reports demonstrate an overall high quality of care home providers
- Workforce pressures and rising costs present stability risks
- Work is being undertaken by each Local Authority to redevelop the market so that it better reflects the preferred wishes of individuals

3.1.4 Secure Accommodation - Children

- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council own and operate Hillside Secure Children's Home
- Hillside is the only secure children's home in Wales and has been assessed as providing sufficient levels of provision to meet previous, current, and future local demand
- Hillside is currently reviewing its service model to 'future proof' its service to ensure it is able to accommodate the future demands of the provision as well as being financially sustainable in the long term

3.1.5 Fostering

- Foster carer retention/recruitment is a problem across the region – as it is across Wales and England - as the numbers entering fostering each year is struggling to keep up with demand
- The most notable market gap is the limited availability of local placements for children aged 11+
- Overall, service quality is good across the foster care market

3.1.6 Adult Placement – Shared Lives

- Demand has differed with each Local Authority
- Over the last 5 years there has been only a small number of unsuccessful placements
- Monitoring visits and CIW inspection reports demonstrate an overall high quality of provision
- The number of carers has grown steadily over the period
- Expansion of services to promote use amongst other population groups is being explored

3.1.7 Advocacy - Adults

- There is one provider that covers the region, and provision is currently stable
- Further promotional work is underway to increase use of advocacy services for hard to reach groups
- Demand is expected to increase over the next 5 years
- Monitoring reviews demonstrate an overall high quality of provision

3.1.8 Advocacy - Children

- The Independent Professional Advocacy (IPA) Service is commissioned on a regional basis. It has been assessed as sufficient to meet previous, current and future demand
- Young people have provided positive feedback on the quality of the IPA Service and their achievement of personal advocacy outcomes
- Monitoring reviews demonstrate an overall high quality of providers

3.1.9 Domiciliary Care – Older Adults

- Domiciliary care demand continues to exceed supply
- Future longer-term demand is expected to increase in line with population growth
- Workforce issues, coupled with increased demand, is making it difficult for the region to meet current demand
- Monitoring visits and CIW inspection reports demonstrate an overall high quality of provider
- There is good partnership working between providers and commissioners
- Alternatives to traditional domiciliary care are required to keep pace with demand for services

3.1.10 Domiciliary Care - Children

- The domiciliary care market has seen a substantial growth in demand throughout the COVID-19 pandemic

- In response, the market has demonstrated flexibility and growth to meet levels of demand but at times this has led to maximised market capacity
- Overall, the market is delivering good quality services

3.1.11 Domiciliary Care – Younger Adults

- Services are of a good quality with low incidence of formal contract compliance or breaches in regulatory standards
- Since the pandemic, staffing has become one of the key risks to market to market stability and sufficiency
- Increased future demand for specialist services and care at home is anticipated and more accurate demand forecasting is needed

3.1.12 Adoption

- The Western Bay Adoption Service (WBAS) is a regional service across Swansea, Neath Port Talbot and Bridgend
- The number of children coming through for adoption has reduced
- The number of adopters has increased demonstrating that the process is working effectively
- Working regionally has supported resilience and quality
- Entry to the market is highly regulated and the arrangements are working well

3.1.13 Conclusion

- The sector across the region is currently under severe pressure. The lack of available staffing is at crisis point across both health and social care. This coupled with the cost of living crisis is compounding the situation for external providers. Health and Social Care have historically worked in isolation, however now more than ever, a joint response and closer working together is required.
- Throughout the COVID19 pandemic, partners within the West Glamorgan Region demonstrated that when working together with the same goals, it was possible to overcome the challenges presented. New models of care now need to be considered to support individuals and communities, and working as a region will enable this challenge to be met, where working in isolation making unilateral decisions can unwittingly impact on the other partners.
- Under the West Glamorgan Region, there are nine programmes of work that can take responsibility for their areas of work to look at where having a regional response would be beneficial. This work will be started as a matter of urgency, with the aim of establishing a sufficient and stable market that promotes outcomes for individuals and communities.

4. Integrated Assessment Implications

- 4.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

4.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

4.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

4.2 An IIA Screening Form has been completed with the agreed outcome that a full IIA report was not required at this stage. The reason for which is that the market stability report is a tool to assist RPB's in planning and commissioning quality care and support for their populations and the report includes the data collated. The next stage of the process will be to ensure the development of long-term commissioning strategies for the care and support needs of local communities, including the development of accommodation that is fit for the future.

4.3 The IIA screening document is included in **Appendix B**.

4.4 The market stability report covers the long term implications, in line with the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 as outlined below:

Long term: Development of long term commissioning strategies to support local communities with their accommodation needs

Integration: Development of care and support that is fit for the future of our local communities

Involvement: Commissioning strategies will have involvement from individuals that require care and support at the moment and in the future, along with providers currently delivering services

Collaboration: This is a regional piece of work, developed in collaboration with other RPB partners

Prevention: Developing care and support to have the least restrictive option available when required, preventing the escalation into higher levels of support

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 Whilst there are no direct financial implications associated with this report, the amendment of commissioning strategies to respond to the issues raised is likely to result in increased costs to the Council. Any future decisions will need to consider the overall financial position of the Council and the Medium-Term Financial Plan at that time.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 The market stability report code of practice is issued under sections 145 and 169 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. The matters set out within the West Glamorgan Market Stability Report are in accordance with Partnership Arrangements (Amendment) and Regulated Services (Market Stability Reports) (Wales) Regulations 2021. The market stability report covers the long term implications, in line with the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 as outlined above.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

- Appendix A Regional Market Stability Report
Appendix B IAA Screening Form