Analysis of

Local Authority Area Plans

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Funded by the National Centre for Population Health and Wellbeing Research
The National Centre for Population Health & Wellbeing Research (NCPHWR) has been funded by Health and Care Research Wales to increase the amount of ground-breaking research being carried out in Wales.

NCPHWR do this by bringing together researchers and research services, the NHS, policy makers, the third sector, and members of the public to carry out cutting edge research across areas such as public health improvement.
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Purpose of this report

This report is the result of analysis which took place between May and December 2018. The goal of this exercise was to use the local authority area plans to identify common pan-Wales priorities for social service needs which may then inform research gaps.

The authors a) located the reports, b) compared the themes covered in each report based on chapter headings, and c) analysed the texts to identify priority areas and gaps around social care and health needs which would be of interest to the NCPHWR.

Background

The Social Services and Well-being Act (Wales)\(^1\), in Part 2, section 14A, requires that local authorities and local health boards must “prepare and publish a plan setting out:

(a) The range and level of services the body proposes to provide, or arrange to be provided, in response to the assessment of needs under paragraphs (a) to (c) of section 14(1);

(b) In the case of a local authority, the range and level of services the authority proposes to provide, or arrange to be provided, in seeking to achieve the purposes in section 15(2) (preventative services);

(c) In the case of a Local Health Board, anything the Board proposes to do in connection with its duty under section 15(5) (Local Health Boards to have regard to the importance of preventative action when exercising functions);

(d) How the services set out in the plan are to be provided, including the actions the body proposes to take to provide, or arrange to provide, the services through the medium of Welsh;

(e) Any other action the body proposes to take in response to the assessment under section 14(1);

(f) The details of anything the body proposes to do in response to the assessment jointly with another relevant body;

(g) The resources to be deployed in doing the things set out in the plan.”

The Local Authority Approach

Geography

The 22 Local Authorities in Wales have approached this in partnership with appropriate other organisations and have combined with neighbouring local authorities where this makes sense, often into the appropriate Regional Partnership Board territories.

In total, seven sets of area plans have been produced. The following table outlines the geographies and the local authorities involved. Appendix 1 details weblinks to the English and Welsh (where available) downloads or download pages of the report.

Table: Plans produced

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report Area</th>
<th>Local Authorities</th>
<th>Other key partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan</td>
<td>City of Cardiff Council, Vale of Glamorgan Council</td>
<td>Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, C3SC, GVS, Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Integrated Health and Social Care Partnership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cwm Taf</td>
<td>Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council</td>
<td>Cwm Taf University Health Board, Interlink Rhondda Cynon Taf, Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Gwent</td>
<td>Monmouthshire County Council, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Caerphilly County Borough Council, Newport City Council, Torfaen County Borough Council</td>
<td>Aneurin Bevin Health Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Wales</td>
<td>Conwy County Borough Council, Denbighshire County Council, Flintshire County Council, Gwynedd Council, Isle of Anglesey County Council, Wrexham County Borough Council</td>
<td>Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, Public Health Wales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powys</td>
<td>Powys County Council</td>
<td>Powys Teaching Health Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Wales</td>
<td>Carmarthenshire County Council, Ceredigion County Council, Pembrokeshire County Council</td>
<td>Hywel Dda University Health Board plus other regional partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Bay</td>
<td>Bridgend County Borough Council, City and County of Swansea, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council</td>
<td>ABMU Health Board, Third Sector Partners</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Plan Structure

Each report follows, to a greater or lesser extent, a different structure making direct comparisons complex.

Most reports include sections that can be summarised in the following way:

- Background/context
- Regional priorities
- Specific themes
- Additional information such as enablers, monitoring, partnership etc.

The language used to refer to the different activities very from plan to plan:

- Cardiff and Vale = Key Priorities
- Cwm Taf = Key Actions
- Gwent = Action
- North Wales = Issues
- Powys = Priorities
- Western Bay = Priorities
- West Wales = Gaps and Areas for Improvement.

The approach to the core themes (as used in the Population Assessment Reports) also varies between areas with some plans narrowing their focus and others expanding the focus. The table below outlines the themes addressed in each plan. The original eight core themes (as specified in the guidance for the Population Assessment Report process) are in bold.
Table: Specific themes outlined

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Cardiff &amp; VG</th>
<th>Cwm Taf</th>
<th>Gwent</th>
<th>North Wales</th>
<th>Powys*</th>
<th>West Wales</th>
<th>Western Bay+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children and young people</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Older people</td>
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<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Y</td>
<td>Y joint %</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y joint #</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>‘other’</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning disability and autism</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y split</td>
<td>Y split</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental health</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y joint $</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sensory impairment</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y joint %</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y joint #</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>‘other’</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carers who need support</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>gone</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>‘other’</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asylum seekers and refugees</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing and homelessness</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safeguarding adults and deprivation of liberty safeguard</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>‘other’</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance misuse</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Y joint $</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The secure estate (offenders)</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>‘other’</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated family support services</td>
<td>new</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* the structure of the Powys report does not reflect the specific themes.
+ the Western Bay report dedicates chapters to its core themes but includes the others indicated above in Appendix 4 entitled ‘Other Themes/Chapters’.

Plans variously refer to other existing delivery plans and reference the complementary work being carried out by the Public Service Boards in relation to the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act. Links between the health and social care sector are acknowledged throughout, as is the complexity of the issues being addressed.

Some plans detail the working groups taking forward action in priority areas and provide the names of the lead for that group.

Key Findings of relevance to the NCPHWR
The two main areas of research for the NCPHWR are:

1) Healthy Development – Children and Young People
2) Healthy Ageing – Maintaining Health and Well-being & Vulnerable Adults

This analysis looks at the Area Plans against the above themes.

Healthy Development – Children and Young People
All the plans include a section on Children and Young People with the exception of the Powys plan which refers to Early Help and Support or ‘Start Well’. Plans list key action areas or priorities for their area in different ways but some areas of particular interest to NCPHWR researchers are detailed below. Many of these themes overlap but are separated here for ease of analysis.

[Picture from Cardiff and Vale plan].
Adverse Childhood Experiences

Four of the plans specifically mention priorities around addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). These are: Cwm Taf, Gwent, North Wales and Powys.

Three of these plans highlight the need to develop resilient communities and community assets to combat and mitigate ACEs through early intervention or enhanced mental health support. The Powys plan provides more detail on the areas for exploration and specifically mentions the need to focus on ACE prevention in the first 1,000 days of life.

PRIORIT Y 1 TACKLING ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPER IENCES

Working with families to make the maximum positive impact within the first 1000 days of a child’s life, focusing on preventing adverse childhood experiences. Development and implementation of a Powys multi-agency ACE plan will promote early detection, intervention and prompt action to ensure happy, nurturing environments for all Powys children.

This will implement good practice guidance:

- Focus efforts in communities and areas where multiple ACEs are likely to be present.
- Ensure the workforce is ACE-informed.
- Provide programmes which seek to improve parenting skills.
- Screen for ACEs in the antenatal and early years settings.
- Screen for ACEs among adults in contact with public services.
- Ensure local implementation of national programmes designed to address ACEs.
- Deliver resilience programmes in schools and youth settings.

Powys Area Plan

Looked After Children

Four of the plans specifically mention Looked After Children (LACs) in their priority areas: Cwm Taf, Gwent, North Wales and West Wales. Each plan has a slightly different angle from general improvement and review of services and processes for LACs to specific details looking at reducing the number of placement moves and the reliance on residential care (West Wales) to improving outcomes including for those placed from outside the area (North Wales).

Mental Health

Five of the plans specifically mention mental health (or, in one case, enabling children and young people to be happy). These plans are: Cardiff and Vale, North Wales, Powys, Western Bay and West Wales. Actions here refer to improving, reviewing and promoting mental well-being in addition to improving integration between children’s services and mental health services.

Children and Young People

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CYP.P1</th>
<th>Develop a better range of services for all children with emotional difficulties and well-being or mental health issues, including transition and single point of access to services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Western Bay report

Complex Needs

Five of the area plans reference the need to improve the understanding of and an integrated approach to dealing with children with complex needs. These plans are: Cardiff and Vale, Gwent,
North Wales, Western Bay and West Wales. Priorities range from reviews of existing services to improved integration of services and reconfiguring commissioning.

**Support for Families**
Support for families as a route to improving the lives of children and young people is specifically outlined in four of the plans: Cardiff and Vale, Cwm Taf, Powys and West Wales. These priorities focus on improving support for families to enable them to be more resilient and on providing improved integration between different services that are offered.

> Developing community-based, user-led, co-produced services that support families with children and young people to become more resilient and develop a range of skills including life skills

**Transition**
Transition from child services to adult services or from childhood to a happy, healthy and socially productive adulthood is referenced in four of the plans: Cardiff and Vale, North Wales, Powys and Western Bay.

**Protection**
In addition to measures suggested concerning ACEs and LACs, three plans make general statements about implementing actions designed to protect children at risk of sexual exploitation (Cardiff and Vale), those suffering from sexting or online bullying (North Wales), and for improving access to sexual health services (West Bay).

**Welsh Language**
Two of the plans specifically mention the need to supply Welsh language provision within the Children and Young People section (Cardiff and Vale and West Wales). Other plans mention Welsh language delivery as an aspect that affects all of their core themes.

**General**
The plans include a wide variety of priority areas some of which are outside the main remit of the NCPHWR such as accommodation support. The general language of the plans focuses on the desire to improve, integrate, review and reconfigure services to enable children and young people to be happier, healthier and more resilient through access to either direct interventions, family-based support or community-based assets.

**Healthy Ageing – Maintaining Health and Well-being & Vulnerable Adults**
Analysis for this section is more complicated as the different plans have various ways of organising information about health and well-being challenges for adults. The format of this report broadly picks out the following priority themes from the population needs assessments:

- Older People
- Health/ Physical/ Sensory Impairments
- Learning Disability & Autism
Older People
As with other sections, there is a wide variety of areas for improvement or development in this targeted group. The most common, or highlighted, areas follow.

Communities
Ensuring that there are resilient and cohesive to provide Older People with place-based mechanisms for support is seen as both a positive for the Older Person and potentially as a resource-reducing initiative. Five of the areas (Cardiff and Vale, Cwm Taf, Powys, Western Bay and West Wales) specifically mention the need to develop resilient and supportive communities in order to provide a wider range of support services for Older People. The angle from which the plans discuss communities varies.

- Resilient communities as an aid to support sustainability given financial pressures (Cardiff and Vale)
- Supportive communities and family networks to support targeted health and wellbeing initiatives such as Falls Awareness (Cwm Taf)
- Reducing loneliness and social isolation by encouraging active participation in the community (Powys and Western Bay)
- Community based, user-led, co-produced services (West Wales).

Dementia Care
Dementia is widely acknowledged as an issue of increasing relevance to Older People’s services because of the expected demographic shift in much of Wales and an increasing awareness of the effects of dementia on residents, their families, carers and communities. All the plans apart from Gwent specifically mention Dementia and several (Cardiff and Vale, Cwm Taf and Western Bay) specifically mention the desire to develop Dementia Friendly Communities.

Social Isolation and Loneliness
This is mentioned in several of the plans (North Wales, Powys and Western Bay) as a key issue to address – partly through some of the initiatives above such as developing resilient communities but also through mechanisms such as increased technology (Powys), telehealth and telecare (West Wales). This also feeds in to several areas outside the NCPHWR direct remit such as accommodation and transport.

The most common specific issues, mentioned in the plans, facing Older People were Dementia and Social Isolation/Loneliness. However, initiatives around Fall Prevention were also discussed in the Cwm Taf and Western Bay plans.

Partnership Working
This includes ensuring integrated and effective systems for professional partnership working such as inter-agency relationships but also the need to develop and deliver co-produced services that genuinely allow the older person to have their voice heard in any service setting. Four of the plans specifically talk about partnership or better integrated working between different areas: Cwm Taf,
Gwent, North Wales and West Wales. Most of these refer to a general need for better integration however the West Wales plan suggests two specific areas to address: one around a consistent and integrated approach to frailty, and the second to have consistent and integrated procurement and commissioning processes.

**Care Homes**
Discussed in several of the plans is the need to balance the desirability to care for people in their homes with the need to provide effective domiciliary care for those who need it. Four of the plans specifically talk about Care Homes (Cwm Taf, North Wales, Western Bay and West Wales). They mention the need for provision (Cwm Taf, North Wales), commissioning (Western Bay), as well as quality assurance and contract monitoring (West Wales). Although it is implicit in most of the plans, West Wales is the only plan to spell out specifically a desire to reduce reliance on residential and nursing care where possible in favour of lower level, preventative and wellbeing services.

**Information and access to services**
This is mentioned in the plans for Cardiff and Vale and for West Wales. Both plans specifically mention Dewis Cymru. Improved information is described as a foundation for improved access to current and existing services and for notifying people of changes, as well as providing a route for preventative and self-led initiatives. The means for this could be digital but there is also an ongoing need for telephone and face-to-face access to information and services. Furthermore, there is a need (identified in the Cardiff and Vale report) to understand any potential unmet demand for services and how to target those people.

**General**
Throughout the plans there is an ambition to provide services which assist Older People to prevent, delay or mitigate the challenges that face them if their physical or mental health deteriorate over time. The key aim is to enable Older People to be as independent as possible for as long as possible but also to ensure that specialist services are available when required.

**Health and Physical Disabilities and Sensory Impairment**
In the original templates there are two separate topics here, sensory impairment being a category of its own. Three of the seven plans have integrated these two areas and that is how they are presented here.

**General promotion of health and wellbeing**
Five of the plans (Cardiff and Vale, North Wales, Powys, Western Bay and West Wales) talk about the importance of supporting initiatives that promote healthy lifestyles generally to improve health across the board for all residents. This can be through information, advice and guidance or through specific campaigns. The promotion of the Five Ways of Wellbeing is one example.
Partnership and Integrated Working
This is raised in four of the plans (Cardiff and Vale, Cwm Taf, Powys and Western Bay). Initiatives include:

- Establishment of partnership delivery mechanisms to meet the wider needs of those with Sensory Impairment (Cardiff and Vale)
- Setting up a Multiagency Working Group (Cwm Taf)
- Working with partners to safeguard residents (Powys)
- A multi-agency approach to consider a communication strategy to make information, communications, technology and public spaces more accessible to those with Sensory Impairment (Western Bay).

Access to Services
Six of the plans specifically mention the issue of access to services (Cardiff and Vale, Gwent, North Wales, Powys, Western Bay and West Wales). This is most frequently discussed in terms of equitable access to services and information sources for those with Sensory Impairment and other health issues (Cardiff and Vale, Gwent, Powys, Western Bay and West Wales). The North Wales plan has several aspects to ideas around access to services: allowing residents to access services closer to home, developing services that are quicker to access and more holistic, and using the social model of disability (see below) to provide support that facilitates participation, respect for individual needs and inclusivity.

Further Reviews
Following on from current and previous work, most of the plans specified in this section the need for further reviews of services or specific queries. For example, Cwm Taf describes an action to review information from the Population Assessment work, best practice and statutory guidance; North Wales specify the need for a review of specialised services; Powys aims to review existing services; and Western Bay plans to gain a better understanding of needs within certain target groups (for Sensory Impairment) and to do an audit of locality groups. Some of these aims are perhaps surprising considering much of this needed to have been done to produce this Action Plan.

Specific Health Issues
Certain health issues or forms of sensory impairment have specific actions in the plans.

- Eye Care is mentioned by Cardiff and Vale and by Gwent
- Hearing is mentioned by Gwent
- Stroke rehabilitation is mentioned by Cwm Taf
Chronic health issues such as respiratory, cancer and circulatory diseases are specified by North Wales and Powys.

Obesity is mentioned only in the West Wales plan though it is discussed more in the Population Assessment reports.

Other
There are a few other areas that might be of interest but that are not easily categorised with the above.

- Social Prescribing – North Wales plan
- Developing statements of intent or joint statement around health, physical disabilities and sensory impairment – Cardiff and Vale and Powys plans
- Ensuring public understanding of issues in this area – North Wales and West Wales plans
- Increasing use of Direct Payments – West Wales plan.

Learning Disability and Autism
Two of the plans (Gwent and North Wales) have separate chapters for Learning Disability and Autism. As the majority of the plans address the issues in the same place then this analysis follows that pattern.

Community
Five of the plans specifically have actions in place to enable people with learning disabilities or autism to be more integrated into their local communities.

- Support to play an active role in society (Cardiff and Vale)
- Promote a sense of belonging to and inclusion in their local community (Cwm Taf)
- Community-based support including work and friendships (North Wales)
- Move away from establishment-based care to community-based care (Western Bay)
- Strengthening pathways back to local communities through local education, volunteering and work opportunities (West Wales).

Independence and Control
Five of the plans (Cardiff and Vale, Cwm Taf, Gwent, Powys and West Wales) discuss the need for strategies or interventions that maximise independence for people with learning disabilities and increase their ability to have control and a voice over decisions and services. In two of the plans (Cardiff and Vale and Powys) there is specific mention of advocacy as a means to support this ambition. Three of the plans mention access to education or some form of lifelong learning as a facilitator here: Cardiff and Vale, Gwent and West Wales.

One mechanism mentioned is the Orange Wallet Scheme for travel. The ‘Orange Wallet’ is one of a range of collaborative regional projects funded by the Welsh Government as part of the All Wales ASD strategy. It is intended to help people, especially those on the Autism Spectrum, to cope more easily with public transport.

Being Healthy and Safe
As a potential complication to the previous section on independence and control, four of the plans (Cardiff and Vale, Cwm Taf, Gwent and North Wales) discuss the need for initiatives to ensure the health and safety of people with learning disabilities. For healthcare this revolves around access to
healthcare services or good health promotion. For safety this includes providing services that minimise the escalation of risk and need as well as other safeguarding services.

**Strategy**

Two of the plans will be developing (Cardiff and Vale) or reviewing (Gwent) their strategies in this area to provide improved support which is multi-agency and integrated and covers areas such as: domiciliary care, access to information and advice, direct payments, range of respite opportunities, remodelling of specialist services, housing, new Supported Living Schemes, transition for young to adult services, advocacy, access services closer to home (Cardiff and Vale).

The development of services in various plans will also ensure that access to services is easy and appropriate (Cwm Taf and Gwent) and that the services provided are flexible enough to enable personalised care and personal development for the individuals involved (Cwm Taf and West Wales).

**Autism**

Four of the plans (Cardiff and Vale, Cwm Taf, Gwent and North Wales) have an action to develop Integrated Autism Services that are multi-disciplinary and cover all the variety of services that might be relevant to people with autism to tackle challenges such as providing post-diagnostic support and interventions (Gwent), or by overcoming barriers between health and social care (Cwm Taf).

The North Wales plan additionally suggests action around developing training and awareness around autism as well as developing ways to address the high suicide rate among autistic people.

**Transition**

This is covered in the Children and Young People section also but there are specific issues around the transition from Children to Adult services for people with learning disabilities and autism.

**Mental Health**

The two key areas of action in the field of mental health are ‘prevention and early intervention’ and ‘treatment and recovery’. Other issues that will be familiar from sections above are also discussed, including integration and the importance of community.

![Image from the West Wales plan](image)

**Prevention and Early Intervention**

All the plans have different suggestions revolving around the concept of preventing mental health issues or illnesses from developing or progressing.

Examples from the plans include:

- West Wales
  - Improving prevention and early intervention services, alternatives to hospital admission and access to services, especially for those in crisis
Improving access to advice and support for service users and carers, including welfare rights and involvement in care and treatment
• Developing co-produced services and community networks to support people in building confidence and skills using peer support and/or mentoring

• Powys
  o Improving prevention and early intervention services, alternatives to hospital admission and access to services, especially for those in crisis
  o Improving access to advice and support for service users and carers, including welfare rights and involvement in care and treatment
  o Developing co-produced services and community networks to support people in building confidence and skills using peer support and/or mentoring

• North Wales
  o Promote health and wellbeing for everyone - prevention and early intervention
  o Treat common mental health problems in the community as early as possible
  o Assess and treat the full range of mental health problems - working along services for people with physical health needs
  o Promote mental wellbeing including befriending, to access social activities and employment
  o Better identification of mental health needs and early intervention
  o Reduce suicides and self-harm in the population.

Treatment and Recovery
Similarly, all the plans have some discussion of initiatives around treatment and recovery for people with mental health issues or illnesses. Some plans have named plans to implement (Cwm Taf has the co-occurring mental health and substance misuse framework and a new Integrated Substance Misuse Service Model) whereas other plans have initiatives that are more generic:

• Cardiff and Vale – that people are treated with dignity and respect
• Gwent – to undertake a holistic mapping exercise to determine at what level services are best delivered
• North Wales – to manage acute and serious episodes of mental illness safely, compassionately and effectively
• Powys – to support families and carers of people living with mental health issues that impact daily living and quality of life
• Western Bay – to ensure placements for people with complex needs are effective, outcome-based and appropriate
• West Wales - developing an outcome focused and ‘risk-enablement’ approach to service provision to support a flexible approach.

Children
Three of the plans (Cardiff and Vale, Cwm Taf and Powys) make specific reference to Children and Young People (CYP).

• Cardiff and Vale discusses: the need to give children the best start possible by providing mental health support for parents and carers, actions to make CYP more resilient, and ways to help CYP with mental health problems get better sooner.
• Cwm Taf describes the need to develop a CYP mental health and wellbeing strategy including aspects such as transition to adult services, crisis support, early intervention and
preventative services, behavioural interventions, and ensuring an overall fit to the ACE Agenda.

- Powys aims to implement the key findings from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) review.

Community
Four of the plans (Gwent, North Wales, Powys and West Wales) mention the importance of community for mental health interventions and services. This is primarily around ensuring services are based in communities to make them more accessible both geographically and mentally but also in terms of enabling positive mental wellbeing at a community level.

The Gwent supplies examples of what sort of services would be required: consistent community based services such as community connectors or social prescribers, befriending, community counselling, information advice and assistance, community wellbeing interventions.

Strategy and Planning
Four of the plans discuss the development or implementation of relevant strategies or plans.

- Cardiff and Vale – delivering the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Mental Health Plan
- Cwm Taf – developing a 10 year strategy for adult mental health services
- North Wales – developing an integrated Mental Health Strategy
- Powys – delivering the priorities of the mental health delivery plan.

Additionally, three of the plans (Cardiff and Vale, Cwm Taf and Powys) mention initiatives around Dementia as relevant in the mental health theme.

Integration
Similar to many of the other areas, better and more effective integration with other services and agencies is described as necessary for improvement in the delivery and development of mental health services. In particular the link between primary care and other physical care pathways was mentioned (North Wales) along with links with Substance Misuse (Cwm Taf and North Wales).

Carers

Population assessment: what we found out

- Carers provide a crucial role in the provision of care and support, providing between 70% and 95% of care, saving £7.72 billion every year in Wales. There is therefore a case for developing and preparing services for carers first.

 [North Wales plan]

Support
Unsurprisingly, all the plans agree that more support should be provided to carers. One aspect of this is through providing information (Cardiff and Vale, Cwm Taf, Gwent, Western Bay and West Wales). Another common suggestion was increased access to flexible (planned and emergency) respite care for carers (Cardiff and Vale, Gwent, North Wales and Powys). Improved community support, either through formal local services or through informal or third sector links was also mentioned several times (Gwent, Powys and West Wales), this included one mention of the
potential involvement of community connectors/social prescribers (Gwent), and of the role of befrienders (also Gwent). Other physical and emotional support examples included: support for carers in employment (North Wales), increasing the use of Direct Payments (West Wales), access to leisure and social opportunities for carers.

One important suggestion from North Wales pointed out that one way of making life easier for carers was to better meet the needs of the cared for person.

Identification and recognition
All of the plans noted the need to ensure that carers were identified as soon as possible so that appropriate support could then be offered. This could be approached in various ways by promoting early recognition of carers through education of the public and of professionals who may encounter carers outside of the healthcare environment. The role of the wider community in identifying carers was also mentioned.

Engaging
Once carers are identified, several of the plans aspire to ensure that carers are given a voice in the decisions that are made and can feel some level of control over any choices they face. The Cardiff and Vale plan gives the specific example of involving carers more in hospital admission and discharge of carer for people. Cardiff and Vale also plan to identify and implement a carer engagement model based on best practice.

The Western Bay plan lays out their aim to co-produce support with all Carers on an individual and strategic basis so that their contribution is acknowledged and their voices are heard.

In the West Wales Plan (only) is a specific mention of ensuring services for carers and families are accessible through the medium of Welsh if required.

Strategy
Two plans refer to specific strategies.

- Gwent - implementation of care closer to home strategy to increase the community level support
- Powys - review and update the Powys Carers Joint Commissioning Strategy to ensure Carers are supported, and their caring role does not impact negatively on their health and well-being, and for young Carers their educational attainment.

Next steps
This report provides information that will be of use to the ongoing strategic development and operation of the National Centre for Population Health and Wellbeing Research.
Appendix 1 – Weblinks to Area Plans

Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan


Cwm Taf


Gwent region

English  https://www.blaenaugwentpsb.org.uk/media/29086/Area_Plan - Publisher_Final.pub

North Wales


Powys


West Wales


Western Bay