

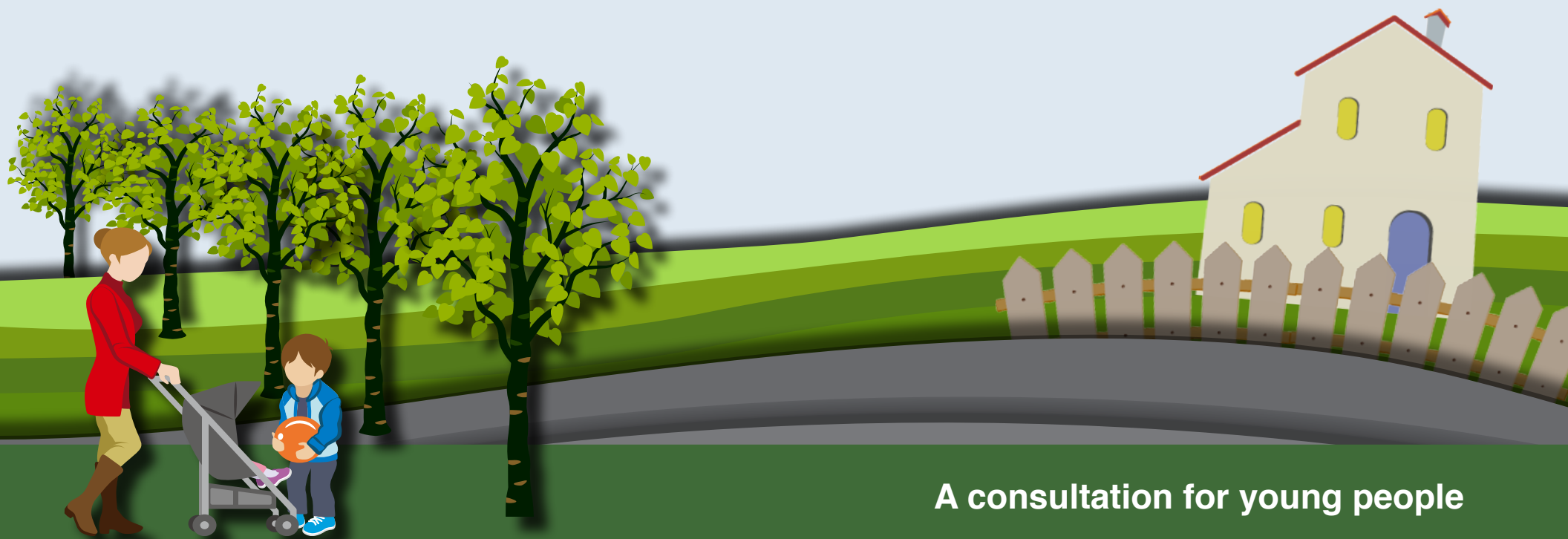


Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

[www.gov.wales](http://www.gov.wales)

# Making Social Services Better

Putting **part 9** of the  
Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014  
into action



A consultation for young people

## We've got good social services in Wales but the Welsh Government is making them even better.

Social services help families and individuals when they need help.

They also help children and young people:

- when they're in danger of being hurt
- when they have family problems
- when they have a disability
- when they're in trouble with the law or police
- when they're looked after in care
- when they aren't being looked after as they should be by their families
- when they leave care and are supported to become adults.

## A new way of doing things.

In 2014 we made a new  
**Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act.**

*(An Act makes changes to the law.)*

This new Act sets out everything that local authorities (councils) have to do to help people in their area.

It has 11 parts that cover everything social services do and this booklet is about part 9.

To read about the whole new Act  
- [click here:](#)



## Getting ready

Everyone working in social services will be changing the way they work and using this new Act from April 2016.

We're putting together the new arrangements (steps) now so everyone understands what the new Act means and what they need to do.

The arrangements will include:

- The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act itself
- New rules (regulations) that can be made because of the Act
- Codes of Practice (guides) for everyone who works in social services to follow.

This booklet tells you about some of the new rules and the statutory guidance that we have developed for part 9 of the Act.

We have already asked some people working in social services, and some children and young people, about these - but now we want to know what you think.

After this we'll send the codes and the regulations to the National Assembly for Wales for them to agree in time for everyone to start working to them from April 2016.



## What is Part 9 about?

Part 9 of the Act covers social services issues that aren't covered in the other 10 parts.

These include what local authorities have to do to:

- work together with Local Health Boards better
- work with other partners who deliver care and support services.

**This part of the act is about working together and cooperation.**

## Working together

Local authorities and Local Health Boards will come together across Wales and form six new Regional Partnership Boards:

**North Wales Regional Board**

**Mid and West Regional Board**

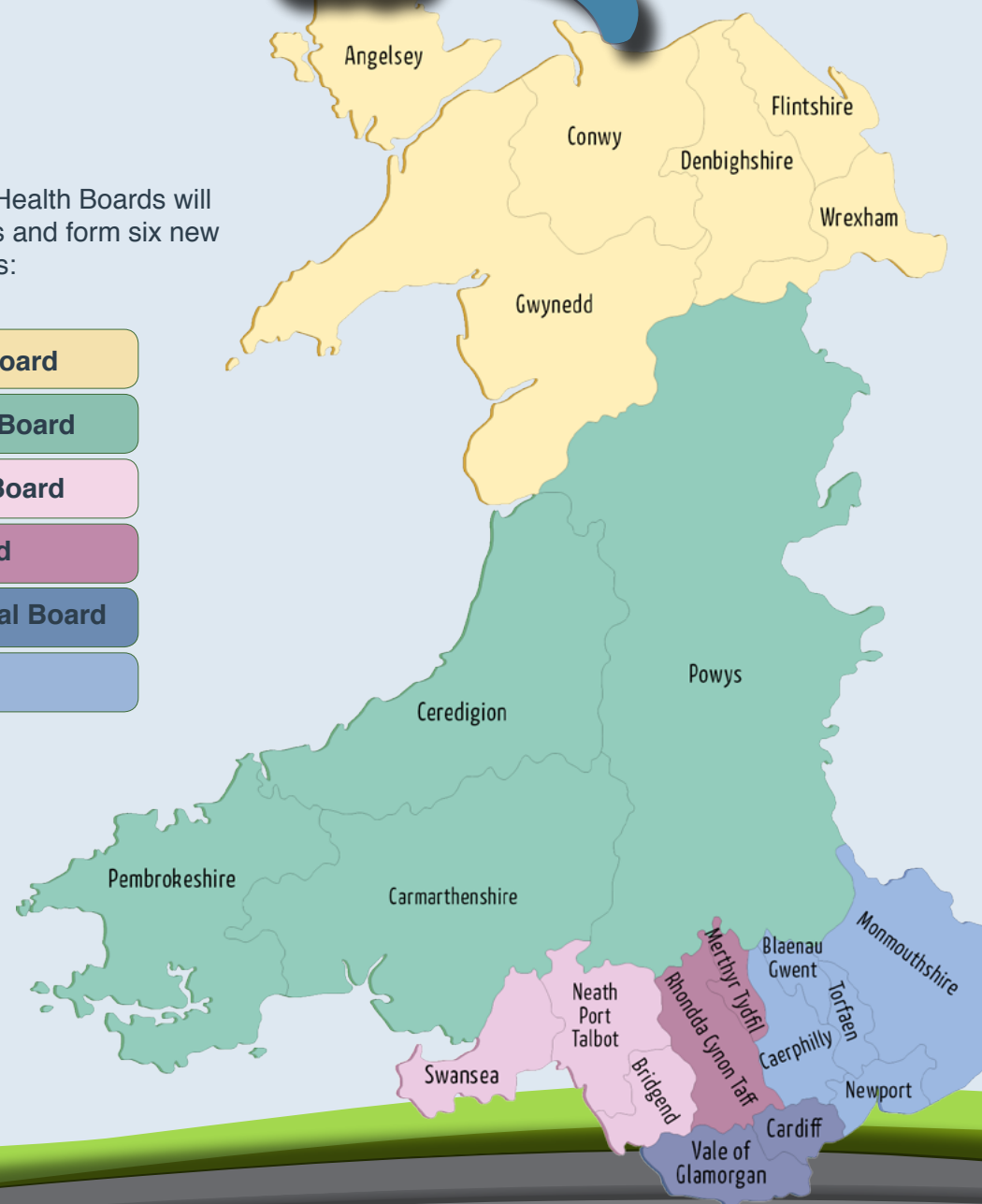
**Western Bay Regional Board**

**Cwm Taf Regional Board**

**Cardiff and Vale Regional Board**

**Gwent Regional Board**

**Local Health Boards**  
run hospitals, doctor's surgeries, care homes and other NHS health services.



## Regional Partnership Boards

### Who should be on them.

The statutory guidance sets out that each Regional Partnership Board must have:

- one member of each local authority
- one member of each Local Health Board
- the director of Social Services of each local authority
- the Chief Executive of each Local Health Board
- at least one person from organisations and charities that work together with local authorities and Local Health Boards
- a member of the public chosen by the Welsh Minister.

However, Regional Partnership Boards can involve more people if they want to.

### What they need to be focussing on first.

The first services they must change are services for:

- older people
- family support services
- people with learning disabilities
- children with complex needs and disabilities
- carers including young carers.

## Reporting

Showing how they meet their goals.

The new guidelines mean each Regional Partnership Board must report to Welsh Ministers.

## Other things

Funding, information, advice and support.

There are other parts of the Act that have guidelines and codes of practice on how Regional Partnership Boards need to co-operate and work together.



## Thanks for reading this.

Please fill in the questions and send your answers to:

[sswbimplementation@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:sswbimplementation@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

or:

Sustainable Social Services  
Implementation Branch  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

by 31 July 2015



### Questions:

Do you think the new rules and the statutory guidance that we have developed for Part 9 of the Act are a good idea?

Yes

No

Don't know

Do you think we have left anything important out when making these plans?

Yes

No

Don't know

Comment:

Comment: