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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Welsh Government Consultation – summary of response

Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014

Amendments to Partnership Regulations under Part 9 of the Act

February 2019

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.

Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014: Amendments to Partnership Regulations under Part 9 of the Act – Consultation Summary

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Section 1

Introduction

This consultation report covers proposed amendments to the Partnership Arrangements (Wales) Regulations 2015 (“the Partnership Regulations”) under Part 9 of under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

The Welsh Government announced in June 2018, following a three month public consultation, that healthcare services in the Bridgend County Borough Council area will transfer to Cwm Taf University Health Board from Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board, moving the health board boundary accordingly. This change will align economic, education, health and social services partnership arrangements for Bridgend County Borough firmly within the Cardiff Capital Region. This will take effect on 1 April 2019.

As a result, there is a need to amend the Partnership Regulations and the Care and Support (Partnership Arrangements for Population Assessments) (Wales) Regulations 2015 (“the Population Assessment Regulations”) to take account of the health board boundary change. This presented an opportunity to simultaneously undertake a general review of these regulations, including specifically in relation to the requirement to establish pooled funds and to require a housing representative to be included in the membership of each regional partnership board.

There will also be a need for minor amendments to the Part 2 Code of Practice and the statutory guidance in relation to area plans and more substantial changes to the Part 9 Statutory Guidance.

Background

Part 9 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (‘the Act’) provides Welsh Ministers with powers to ensure appropriate structures and resources are in place to enable the provision of integrated care and support services. The Partnership Regulations provide for the establishment of seven regional partnership boards on the health board footprint. Their objectives include ensuring partners:

- respond to the population assessment required by the Act;
- implement area plans produced in response to that assessment: and
- promote the establishment of pooled funds where appropriate.

The Partnership Regulations set out that the membership of each regional partnership board must include:

- At least one elected member of a local authority;
- At least one member of the local health board;
- Directors of social services from each local authority;
- A representative of the local health board;
- At least one person to represent people with needs for care and support;
- At least one person to represent carers;
- At least one person who represents the interests of care providers; and
- Two people who represent the interests of the third sector (one representing local and one national third sector organisations).

Regional partnership boards may co-opt other persons to be members as appropriate.

The Partnership Regulations include requirements for partners to establish and maintain pooled funds. Specifically, regulation 19(1)(a) says that “Partnership bodies for each of the partnership arrangements are required to establish and maintain pooled funds in relation to their adult care home accommodation functions.” This requirement commenced in April 2018.

The Population Assessment Regulations set out partnership arrangements for population assessments of care and support needs, required under section Part 2 of the Act.

The Proposal

The proposed amendments set out in the consultation were to:-

- Change the partners included in both the Cwm Taf and Western Bay Regional Partnership Board areas to take account of the change to the boundaries of Abertawe Bro Morgannwg and Cwm Taf health boards;
- Clarify requirements for regional partnership boards to establish pooled funds in relation to care home accommodation for older people;
- Require housing representation on regional partnership boards;
- Require regional partnership boards to produce regional commissioning strategies in relation to care homes for older people; and
- Clarify when regional partnership boards must produce annual reports.

We also sought your views on the proposed approach to amending the Part 9 Statutory Guidance to take account of the changes to regulations set out above. We intend to publish revised guidance in April 2019, taking account of consultation responses and further discussion with stakeholders.

Consultation

The draft Partnership Arrangements (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2019 (“The Amendment Regulations”) and the proposed approach to amending the Part 9 Statutory Guidance to take account of the changes to regulations were subject to an eight week formal consultation between 31 August and 26 October 2018.

We received 44 responses to the consultation from a wide range of statutory organisations, third sector groups and professional bodies from the health, social care and housing sectors. This included Regional Partnership Boards, individual health boards and local authorities; both the Children’s and Older People’s Commissioners, the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and a number of housing associations.

The changes in relation to health board boundaries were consulted upon between December 2017 and March 2018. The proposed changes in relation to pooled funds and housing representation have been discussed with a wide range of stakeholders.

Responses to the consultation were broadly supportive but did reflect some constructive concerns in relation to the proposals. This consultation summary report, which sets out the details of the responses to each of the questions and the Welsh Government’s response, is published at this location:-

<https://beta.gov.wales/amendments-partnership-regulations-under-part-9-act>

Summary of questions and consultation responses

Question 1

	1. Do you agree that the requirement that pooled funds must be established regionally between a health board and all the local authorities within that health board area is clear?				
	Agree	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Disagree	Not ticked
Total -	16	11	1	3	13

Summary

Most respondents felt that the requirement that pooled funds must be established regionally between a health board and all the local authorities within that health board area was clear.

The regional partnership boards represented a mixture of ‘agree and ‘tend to agree’ responses, with comments acknowledging that it was sensible for the revised guidance to provide greater clarity on the approach of pooled funds. However, some highlighted concerns over the practicality of the approach and the risk of one authority cross-subsidising the activities of another. For example, one regional board welcomed the clarification that the requirement relates only to care home functions for older people, but highlighted that the consultation did not resolve concerns in relation to cross subsidisation across local authorities or the inherent differences caused by free care to NHS patients and a charge being applied for care from Social Services.

The Older People’s Commissioner welcomed the requirement to create pooled funds for care homes, adding that jointly commissioned care home accommodation must be accompanied by an integrated approach to contract monitoring from both commissioners and regulatory bodies.

Further organisations which reflected a ‘tend to agree’ response included the Care Forum Wales and a number of third sector organisations such as the WCVA, who acknowledged that the requirement was relatively clear and felt it was helpful that the regulation did not preclude pooled funds for other aspects of health and social care.

Those that agreed primarily reflected the view of third sector organisations, who reiterated concerns in relation to the current inequity in relation to regional partnership board budgets and their distribution. The Care Inspectorate Wales agreed but with a note of caution around the complexity of putting the approach into practice. The Welsh NHS Confederation confirmed that their Members’ view was that all statutory partners should be included.

The WLGA disagreed highlighting that Council Leaders and Cabinet Members were not persuaded that this was the best approach. They suggested some flexibility at the level at which pooled funds are established so that localities and regions can make decisions that best reflect their circumstances and enable pooled funds to be expanded at the pace and scale that is right for them.

Welsh Government response

The consultation responses mostly agreed that the requirement that pooled funds must be established regionally between a health board and all the local authorities within that health board area is clear.

We acknowledge that some responses also raised concerns in relation to the complexity of putting regional pooled fund into practice.

To help support this approach, we have asked the Association of Directors of Social Services Cymru to develop some practical support tools by April 2019, in relation to how a regional pooled fund should operate.

This will address specific concerns raised in this consultation, e.g. a list of practical questions from Conwy County Borough Council and a list of risks from Western bay Regional Partnership Board.

The Welsh Government is clear that pooled funds are an essential element of integrated and collaborative commissioning arrangements. They will enable public funds to collectively be used to improve well-being outcomes and achieve better value for money through collaboration and economies of scale. This can be achieved more effectively with regional, rather than local pooled funds.

Pooled funds must operate and be governed regionally. Decisions that can be taken regionally in order to achieve greater economies of scale and value should be taken regionally. We envisage that each region will have a scheme of delegation in place to enable local decision making for local commissioning needs. This is in the context of the requirement for integrated commissioning arrangements.

The Welsh Government commissioned the Institute of Public Care (IPC) to review recent literature, to assess the potential benefits of pooled funds between local authorities and health organisations. The report identifies learning on key factors, which can make pooled funding arrangements successful in helping to secure better health, care and wellbeing outcomes. The report is available here:

<https://ipc.brookes.ac.uk/publications/Better-Outcomes-through-Pooled-Funds.html>

Question 2

	2. Is the requirement that a pooled fund should apply to care homes for older people clear?		
	yes	No	Not ticked
Total -	27	3	14

Summary

The majority of responses agreed that it was clear that a pooled fund should apply to care homes for older people. A number of the regional partnership boards confirmed that the requirement was clear and the proposed amendment enabled a focus on embedding and consolidating current arrangements and that the clarity was welcome and would promote regional consistency.

The Welsh NHS Confederation confirmed that the requirement was clear and the proposed amendment would enable Health Boards to focus on embedding and consolidating the arrangements currently in place for older people in their area.

The Older People's Commissioner agreed that the requirement was clear but commented that she felt that the consultation did not explain the decision behind narrowing the care home reference to care homes for older people, and saw the decision as a contradiction to the aspirations of 'A Healthier Wales'.

One local authority felt the rationale for applying the pooled funds system to care homes generally was unclear.

Welsh Government response

Under the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act, there is no definition of older people's care homes; there are simply "care homes", each of which having a purpose statement. We recognise that some care homes will have a mixture of people with different needs e.g. older people, adults with learning disabilities, etc. Therefore, we will amend the regulations to clarify that the minimum requirement here is that regional partnership boards must establish a regional pooled fund in relation to care home places for older people (i.e. the care home places rather than the care home). We also still want to be clear that this requirement does not prevent regional partnership boards from establishing wider pooled funds if they choose to.

Question 3

	3. Do you agree with the definition of older people as those aged 60 and over in relation to care homes for older people?				
	Agree	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Disagree	Not ticked
Total -	7	13	7	6	11

Summary

The responses were mixed, with most in agreement, but a significant number disagreeing. Despite this, the feedback provided was similar. Primarily, the responses highlight the fact that there are a number of different references being applied to define the older population in Wales.

Age Cymru were supportive of this minimum requirement in regulations with nothing to prevent regional partnership boards from commissioning care home places for people younger than 60 if they needed them. It also noted that the guidance on the regulations includes an expectation that regional partnership boards will do so.

The Older People's Commissioner while acknowledging the age definition of 60 aligns with the Commissioner's Act highlighted that the age definition of the Welsh Government's Older People's Strategy and that used by the housing sector was 50. The Commissioner also highlighted the need to apply a flexible approach if a specific age definition was agreed, in light of particular circumstances, such as the potential early onset of dementia

The Commissioner did reference the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016, stating that the Act confirms that a person will move to residential care because their needs have changed as opposed to specifying an age range.

A number of regional partnership boards suggested that an age definition of 65 and over would be preferable and current progress in pooled funds for older people was on this basis. Local authorities were already reporting financial information to Welsh Government in the Revenue Outturn, using a definition of 65 and over. This also aligned with categories in the data projection tool, Daffodil Cymru.

Welsh Government response

A number of respondents to the consultation raised potential issues with the definition of older people in the Amendment Regulations. Welsh Government had proposed the age of 60 to align with the remit of the Older People's Commissioner. However, local authorities already submit financial information in relation to people aged 65 or over and most of the regional partnership boards are working to this criterion in terms of the pooled funds they are developing. In order to support regions with the practical implementation of pooled funds we feel this age bracket would be more appropriate. Therefore the regulations will be amended to define older people as 65 or over, for the purposes of pooled funds for care home places for older people.

The wording of the Amendment Regulations will not prevent regional partnership boards from establishing pooled funds in relation to people under the age of 65.

Question 4

	4. Is the requirement for regional commissioning strategies and how it relates to the pooled fund clear?		
	yes	no	Not ticked
Total -	23	8	13

Summary

The majority of responses agreed the requirement was clear. However, a number of responses highlighted a need to clarify how a commissioning strategy would overlap with the population assessment, area plan, market position statements and forthcoming market stability reports. The need to consider the capacity of regional partnership boards in relation to developing a regional commissioning strategy was also highlighted.

Cymorth Cymru welcomed the continued commitment to regional commissioning plans and confirmed they saw this as vital to ensuring housing, care and health services work together effectively.

The Older People's Commissioner felt it was clear in relation to pooled funds for care homes for older people, but it wasn't so clear whether a commissioning strategy is required in relation to creating pooled funds in the exercise of family support functions that partnership bodies wish to create. It was suggested that more detailed directions or separate guidance on what robust regional commissioning should look like in terms of population assessments, market position statements and local market stability reports.

Further comments were noted from third sector representatives including the need to consider how community-based services could benefit: A question was posed around how regional pooled funds and regional commissioning strategies would fit with section 16 of the Act and promotion of alternative models and the third sector, stating that commissioning and procurement can appear to favour large providers.

The WLGA highlighted the number of plans and strategies required of regional partnership boards and the capacity to produce these and the resources required to support this work.

Welsh Government response

While some respondents supported the proposal for regional commissioning strategies, there were a number of questions about their content and how they would relate to other requirements on regional partnership boards to produce population assessments, area plans and market stability reports. Later this year Welsh Government will be consulting on new arrangements to align all of these requirements. We have therefore removed the requirement for commissioning strategies from the Amendment Regulations so that we can consider how they might fit into the wider framework.

In light of these considerations, the proposal for regional commissioning strategies has been removed from the Amendment Regulations. In recognition that the intention for regional commissioning strategies was to inform the pooled fund, the Amendment Regulations instead set out that partners must provide sufficient contributions into the pooled fund to meet anticipated costs for care home places for older people in the region.

However, regional partnership boards may produce regional commissioning strategies to inform pooled funds if they determine that it would be beneficial.

Question 5

	5. Do you agree that the requirement for regional commissioning strategies should commence in April 2020?				
	Agree	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Disagree	Not ticked
Total -	13	12	5	0	14

Summary

The majority of responses around this question fall between 'agree' and 'tend to agree' – with only four falling between 'tend to disagree' and 'disagree'.

A number of comments suggest regional commissioning strategies would demand a considered and coordinated approach and would require time to do this effectively. Some of the feedback mirrors that received for Question 4.

The Welsh NHS Confederation agreed and also noted that the time could be dependent on the number of statutory partners within a specific regional partnership board area. They acknowledged that this process will require the review and coordination of existing local commissioning arrangements, including contract terms, monitoring arrangements and agreed lead roles. Care Forum Wales agreed the timescale as realistic.

Most regional partnership boards agreed with the commencement date. However, there were concerns similar to Question 4 about how these strategies would interact with the wider population assessment and planning framework.

Of those that disagreed the comments reflected a need for further clarity that the requirement for commissioning strategy only applies to care homes for older people, but does not preclude regions developing commissioning strategies for wider policy areas.

Bridgend County Borough Council tended to disagree explaining the difficulties they would face to meet the commencement deadline in light of the fact that their council are entering a new regional arrangement from April 2019.

Welsh Government response

As explained in Question 4, the requirements for regional commissioning strategies has been removed from the Amendment Regulations.

Question 6

	6. Do you think that number of housing representatives proposed is appropriate and from the right organisations?				
	Agree	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Disagree	Not ticked
Total -	11	10	10	1	12

Summary

Overall there was genuine support for the inclusion of a housing representative; however a number of the responses did reflect concerns in relation to ensuring the representatives appropriately represented the sector. Some respondents outlined concerns that additional members would result in the size of the regional partnership boards becoming more difficult to manage.

Regional partnership boards' responses supported the principle of including a representative from the housing sector, but included some concerns about the practicalities of adding members to the boards. There was a suggestion that regional partnership boards' should determine representation locally, recognising the need to cover both LA and Registered Social Landlord (RSL) perspectives and contributions.

Some felt that two RSL representatives would be disproportionate given the broader range of services and interests such as leisure which could also require regional partnership board representatives. Some respondents also felt that regional partnership boards should have flexibility to determine the number of housing representatives.

The Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations (PAVO) reflected concerns over the size and manageability of the regional partnership boards. They highlighted that housing/accommodation would inevitably need to be discussed at a sub-group level and suggested that thought therefore needed to be given to representation at that level. PAVO also highlighted a possible risk that regional partnership boards' RSLs could be seen to have an unfair commercial advantage through this process.

The WLGA supported housing representation but suggested the 1:2 weighting of local authority to RSL representatives was the wrong way around.

Other comments included that the private housing sector should be represented and that housing representatives would benefit the future use of ICF.

Welsh Government response

The majority of respondents supported housing representation on regional partnership boards and most agreed that there should be local authority and RSL representation. There were differences of opinion about the number of representatives, with concerns about too many members on regional boards, the balance between these sectors and a wish for flexibility for regional boards. For these reasons we will keep the requirement for at least one local authority housing representation but we will require at least one RSL representative; rather than two. This is the minimum requirement and regional boards will still be able to add further members dependent on the needs and priorities of the region. We will also consider amending the Part 9 Guidance, including adding a recommendation for sub-groups covering housing and accommodation led solutions to health and social care.

Question 7

	7. Do you agree with the proposal to clarify in the regulations that regional partnership board annual reports will be required by 30 June each year?				
	Agree	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Disagree	Not ticked
Total -	22	8	1	0	13

Summary

The majority of the responses agreed with this proposal.

The CIW welcomed the requirement and suggested that it would also be a good idea if this requirement applied to Annual Directors reports.

The Older People's Commissioner supported the requirement and added that reports should reflect the work that the regional partnership boards had undertaken in response to population assessments in relation to partnership arrangements, pooled funds and with regards the Social Services and Well Being Act regarding advocacy and IAA.

The regional partnership boards who responded agreed the requirement. The reporting deadline was seen as both helpful and sensible allowing sufficient time to review work. A proposal was made for the Area Plan annual report to be part of the regional partnership board annual report and raised concerns over potential duplication of reporting between the annual Integrated carer Fund report and the regional partnership board annual report.

One of the local authorities did state that the deadline was tight in order to allow for the inclusion of all the required financial information, while highlighting the fact that regional partnership boards' collection of financial information will increase with the regional partnership boards' increasing agenda.

Welsh Government response

In response to the overwhelming support from respondents, this amendment will remain.

Question 8

8. Do you have any comments on the proposed amendments to the part 9 guidance?

Summary

27 of the 44 responses took the opportunity to comment on the proposed guidance. A number of the responses made references to the membership of the regional partnership boards, the process to recruit members, and parity between statutory bodies, providers, third sector, carers etc. on the board. Also a number of responses commented on the fact that the proposal within this amendment related to pooled funds being established regionally between a health board and LAs within health board area; however, it was noted that practice does go beyond those sectors, for example the education sector.

The Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) and the Older People's Commissioner (OPC) all referenced concerns in relation to regional partnership board membership. They expressed apprehension with the term 'represent' in relation to those members expected to represent those using care and support and third sector members representing third sector. The point was raised that these members are unable to fully represent all users or the full third sector.

The OPC talked about inconsistencies between regional partnership boards (RPBs) and the fact that work could be undertaken at sub group level. This left some members of the RPBs feeling disengaged. The OPC highlighted the importance of supporting all RPB members so they feel fully engaged.

The Children's Commissioner felt that the consultation missed the opportunity to formalise the governance process between regional partnership boards and Public Services Boards (PSBs).

The Children's Commissioner also made three key recommendations:-

- There should be a requirement for Regional Partnership Boards to set up specific multiagency planning structures for children and young people.
- There should be a requirement for Regional Partnership Boards to integrate social care and health services to respond to the complex needs of their local population of children and young people.
- Creating a statutory duty for Regional Partnerships would align with the current policy landscape, particularly the ambition of 'seamless local health and social care' as set out in A Healthier Wales.

The Western Bay Regional Partnership Board suggested an Education representative be added to the regional partnership boards as the work with Children and Young People as prescribed by Area Plans and ICF Funding generally include involvement from Education Partners.

West Wales Regional Partnership Board proposed that Chapter 3 of the Part 9 Guidance required review in relation to the role and duties of regional partnership boards (16-25) to ensure that they reflected the future role of boards and their required interaction with other forums at national, regional and sub-regional level as set out in 'A Healthier Wales: Our Plan for Health and Social Care'.

The Welsh NHS Confederation commented that the proposed guidance did not evaluate or consider the impacts on equality and human rights and felt that this could be achieved by working more closely with the NHS Centre for Equality and Human Rights. The Royal College of Nursing Wales also commented that membership of regional partnership boards should reflect diversity such as BAME and gender balance.

Welsh Government response

We are very grateful for the helpful comments in relation the Part 9 Guidance. We will consider all of these comments as we revise the guidance.

In relation to some of the specific comments:

In response to the comments on the support for non-statutory members of regional

partnership boards – We will continue to work with third sector, citizens, carers, etc. to consider how we can better support their contribution to regional partnership boards. We are already considering how we can better support board members and have engaged with the Wales Carers Alliance to understand and develop the best approach to supporting carer representatives on the RPBs in the future. By developing a model of support for carers we hope that this can then be used/adapted to support further members of the RPBs such as citizen representatives.

This consultation also emphasised the view that regional partnership boards need to place a strengthened emphasis in relation to children and young people going forward and that education representation on the regional boards would strengthen this. We have considered these comments, which have proved timely in light of the Ministerial decision to award additional funding of £15m in 2019/20 under the Integrated Care Fund to support early intervention and support to children and their families. We have considered these comments with Welsh Government Education Directorate colleagues and sought views from stakeholders in the education sector. **We have agreed that we will amend the regulations so that each of the regional partnership boards have at least one local authority education representative.** This person would give their perspective on improving the well-being outcomes of children with care and support needs, or at the edge of care.

To strengthen the connections between Public Services Boards and regional partnership boards, we have commissioned Social Care Wales to analyse the commonalities between area plans and wellbeing plans and we will be arranging an event in March 2019 to bring together members of both boards to better understand and support their interrelationship.

To address the feedback in relation to impacts on equality and human rights, we intend to revise the Part 9 Guidance to help ensure that the regional partnership boards reflect a diverse membership.

Question 9

9. We would like to know your views on the effects that the proposed amendments to Partnership Regulations 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.

What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

Summary

18 comments were received on this question. The comments acknowledged that the requirement for regional commissioning strategies would provide a further opportunity for partners to plan and deliver services through the medium of Welsh, in addition to population assessments and area plans. It was noted that these strategies would need to be in line with Welsh Government's 'More than Just Words' framework for health, social services and social care.'

Gwynedd Council commented that making decisions regionally rather than locally could reduce opportunities for people and staff to use the Welsh language.

Welsh Government response

As set out previously in the response to questions 4 and 5, we will not be requiring regional

commissioning strategies in the Regulations at this time. However, as discussed we will be considering regional commissioning strategies as part of a wider review of the population assessment and planning process. This will include considering the impacts on the Welsh language.

In relation to the comment on regional decision making, we will continue to assess the impacts of regional collaboration and integration, including in relation to the Welsh language.

Question 10

10. Please also explain how you believe the proposed amendments to Partnership Regulations 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.

Summary

Ten comments were received on this question the majority of which came from regional partnership boards.

Comments acknowledged that Regional Commissioning will support a more consistent approach to service development including delivery of Welsh Language services, which could save money by sharing resources.

One of the regional partnership boards noted that there would have to be sections in the agreed contract specifications across all agencies to cover the Welsh Language and clarifying the requirements under the Welsh Language Standards.

It was also proposed that Welsh Government and regional partners could consider investment in workplace Welsh Language training and how this could make a difference within health and social care.

Welsh Government response

Although there were no specific recommendations referenced in terms of the amendments to the Partnership Regulations, we will give further consideration the other suggestions, including investment in Welsh language training.

Question 11

11. We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them

Summary

There were 15 responses to this question, which are summarised below:-.

Both Conwy local authority and Western Bay regional partnership board shared a number of specific considerations in relation to the practicalities of pooled budgets. These included:

- calculation of contributions into pooled funds;
- how potential overspends or insufficient contributions would be managed,
- the potential for cross subsidisation;
- concern in relation to organisational and workforce development; and
- potential impacts on market stability, where system changes may need to be carefully planned to avoid negative market impacts.

The Alzheimer's Society Cymru highlighted the need for the Welsh Government to ensure that the National Dementia Action Plan is taken into account to ensure that the best possible care is provided for those who the pooled funds and commissioning strategies are there to help .

The Cardiff 3rd Sector Council flagged the fact that the importance of Social Value was lacking in regards to Partnership Working and this needed to be addressed in view of the importance of Social Value in the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and the need for each region to have a Social Value Forum (SVF).

A number of responses referred to the Integrated Family Support Service (IFSS). West Wales Regional Partnership Board detailed their views on revisions they would like to be considered for chapter 8 of the part 9 statutory guidance (partnership arrangements) in relation to the role of regional partnership boards and IFSS.

Welsh Government response

To address some of the practical concerns raised in relation to pooling funds the Welsh Government has asked ADSS Cymru to develop a range of tools and operational pathways to support regional partnerships in the management and use of pooled funds.

We confirm that supporting people with dementia in care homes is part of the Welsh Government dementia action plan and that the £9m funding allocated to regional partnership boards in 2019/20 would be eligible to support this work.

We will consider the proposed revisions to Chapter 8 of the part 9 statutory guidance (partnership arrangements) in relation to the role of regional partnership boards and IFSS.

We acknowledge the feedback received in relation to the vital importance of Social Value to partnership working and we will consider strengthening references to social value in the guidance, to encourage and promote that approach as set out through the principles of the Social Services Well Being (Wales) Act 2014.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO THE AMENDMENT REGULATIONS FOLLOWING CONSULTATION	
Name changes for health boards and regional partnership boards	<p>The regulations will be amended to reflect the changes of Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board to Swansea Bay University Health Board and Cwm Taf University Health Board to Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (amended by separate legislation).</p> <p>Western Bay Regional Partnership Board will change to West Glamorgan Regional Partnership board and Cwm Taf Regional Partnership Board will change to Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Partnership Board.</p>
Age definition in relation to care home places for older people	<p>In response to the views of the consultation it has been agreed that the regulations will be amended to define older people as 65 or over (rather than 60 or over), for the purposes of pooled funds for care home places for older people.</p>
Regional Commissioning Strategies	<p>Following consideration of the views from the consultation, we will remove requirements for regional commissioning strategies from the Amendment Regulations.</p>
Housing representatives on regional partnership boards	<p>The views of the consultation informed the decision to keep the requirement for at least one local authority housing representative and to require at least one RSL representative (rather than two).</p>
Education representative on regional partnership boards	<p>The consultation views supported the need for representation on the regional partnership boards from the education sector. In response to this the regulations will be amended to require at least one senior local authority officer who has responsibility for education.</p>

ANNEX A

Consultation Responses

R1 – Andrew Belcher, Mirus Wales - **Mirus wales**

R2 - Clare Budden, Pennaf Housing Group - **Grŵp Tai pennaf**

R3 – Imants Privacy

R4 – Peter Lathbury, PAVO Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations - **Cymdeithas**

Mudiadau Gwirfoddol Powys

R5 – Richard Davies, Linc Cymru – **Linc Cymru**

R6 – Shan Lloyd Williams, **Grwp Cynefin**

R7 – Vicky Poole, Care Inspectorate Wales – **Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru**

R8 – No name given

R9 – David Williams, Gwent Regional Partnership Board – **Bwrdd partneriaeth rhanbarthol**

Gwent

R10 – Matthew Lloyd - **Cymru yn coop**

R11 – David Hawker

R12 – Chris Grey, South Wales Police – **Heddlu De Cymru**

R13 – Claire Stevenson, Care & Repair Cymru - **Gofal a Thrwsio Cymru**

R14 – Kelly Gillings, Western Bay Regional Partnership Board – **Bwrdd partneriaeth**

rhanbarthol Bae'r Gorllewin

R15 – Matthew Kennedy, Chartered Institute of Housing Cymru – **Tyfu Tai Cymru**

R16 – Older People's Commissioner for Wales – **Comisiynydd Pobl Hyn Cymru**

R17 – Steve Vaughan, Retired Civil Servant, Former Policy Lead Integration

R18– Martyn Palfreman, West Wales Care Partnership – **Bwrdd partneriaeth rhanbarthol**

Gorllewin Cymru

R19 – Helen Evans, Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service - **Cyngor Gwasanaeth**

Gwirfoddol Castell Nedd Port Talbot

R20 – Sally Rees, Wales Council for Voluntary Action – **Cyngor Gweltthredu Gwirfoddol Cymru**

R21 – Rachel Jones/Susan Elmore, Cardiff and Vale Regional Partnership Board – **Bwrdd partneriaeth rhanbarthol Caerdydd a'r Fro**

R22 – Stewart Blythe, Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) **Cymdeithas Llyodraeth Leol Cymru**

R23 – Nick Dennison,/ Susan Cooper Bridgend County Borough Council – **Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-Bont ar Ogwr**

R24 – Kirrin Davidson, Children's Commissioner for Wales – **Comisiynydd Plant Cymru**

R25 – Stephen Allen, Cardiff & Vale Community Health Council – **Caerdydd A Bro Morgannwg Cyngor Iechyd Cymuned**

R26 – Bethan Jones – Edwards, North Wales Regional Partnership Board – **Bwrdd partneriaeth rhanbarthol Gogledd Cymru**

R27 – Christala Sophocleous, Wales Institute of Social & Economic Research, Data &Methods (WISERD) - **Sefydliad Ymchwil Gymdeithasol ac Economaidd, Data a Dulliau Cymru**

R28 – Clare Jenkins, Aertawe Bro Morgannwg Community Health Council (**Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Community Health Council**)

R29 – Llinos Edwards, Gwynedd Council – **Cyngor Gwynedd**

R30 – Callum Hughes, Welsh NHS Confederation – **Conffederasiwn GIG Cymru**

R31 – Jean Carter, Citizen rep on Powys Regional Partnership Board - Unpaid Carer

R32 – Nicola Stubbins, Denbighshire County Council – **Cyngor sir ddinbych**

R33 – Oliver Townsend - **Cymorth Cymru**

R34 – Nicola Davies, Cwm Taf Regional Partnership Board – **Bwrdd partneriaeth rhanbarthol Cwm Taf**

R35 – Carol Walker, Conwy County Borough Council – **Conwy Cygnor Bwrdeistref Sirol**

R36 – Valerie Billingham, Age Cymru – **Oedran Cymru**

R37 – Rosie Raison, Royal College of Nursing - **Coleg Nyrsio Brenhinol**

R38 – Peter Williams, Swansea Council Housing Service – **Cyngor Abertawe Tai**

R39 – Phil Richardson, Cadwyn Housing Association - **Cymdeithas Dai Cadwyn**

R40 – Huw Owen, Alzheimers Society Cymru - **Cymdeithas Alzheimers Cymru**

R41 – Joe Frampton, Community Housing Cymru – **Cartrefi Cymunedol Cymru**

R42 – Mary Wimbury., Care Forum Wales – **Fforwm Gofal Cymru**

R43 – Dusty Kennedy – Police and Partners ACEs Programme Early Action Together

R44 – Sarah Capstick, Cardiff 3rd Sector Council C3SC - **Cyngor 3Y trydydd sector Caerdydd C3SC**