



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Population Needs Assessments – Supplementary Advice for Regional Partnership Boards

March 2021

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

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Key Messages

K1	The supplementary advice in this document is not statutory. It should be considered additional to the statutory provisions within Part 2 of the Code of Practice supporting the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 (“The Part 2 Code”).
K2	Population Needs Assessments (PNAs) contain two elements: an assessment of need, and an assessment of the range and level of services required to meet those needs. Findings must be forward looking and consider the whole period up until the next PNA’s publication (April 2027).
K3	The clear focus of the PNA is to assess the health, care and support needs of the population and is the foundation on which RPB planning and commissioning is built. The PNA will inform regional planning and decision-making through a reliable, clear and specific evidence base of needs and service provision. Your approach to assessing population need should be ambitious, but achievable.
K4	Undertaking the PNA should not be viewed as an exercise to solely satisfy Welsh Government but as key instrument to inform the integrated planning and delivery of health and care services for the region. PNAs require clear leadership and buy-in across the RPB membership and the RPB is responsible for ensuring the PNA meaningfully informs integrated planning and delivery and to ensure its relevance, regularly reviewing and refreshing it against any changes or anticipated changes.
K5	Collaboration and professional judgement is key. Evidence and findings should be informed through the full array of expertise across the RPB and its partners, not drafted by individuals in isolation.
K6	Meaningful engagement of the public and providers is also vital. Individuals, groups and organisations must be given the opportunity to fully articulate their perceptions of services and need.
K7	We are mindful of the wider partnership landscape in which RPBs operate across which several of the core themes set out in the statutory guidance for the PNA are relevant. RPBs retain flexibility over how they organise themselves and their work, including the interface with other partnership structures such as Public Service Boards and Primary Care Clusters. We would encourage partnerships to seek to clarify and agree areas of responsibility and where possible join up and avoid duplicating work.
K8	PNAs should be considered part of an ongoing journey, building on, refining and adding to established intelligence including that amassed in the first assessment round.

General Expectations around PNAs

How to use this advice

- This advice supplements the statutory requirements set out in the Part 2 of the Code of Practice on PNAs. It does not add to the eight specific core themes required as a minimum within the Code. It does, however, reflect on some broader areas, such as housing assessments, which may enhance and inform the evidence you produce.
- Following our conversations with RPBs, we are clarifying expectations around the following policy areas: children and young people, autism, VAWDASV and sufficiency and range and level of services (and the relationship with Market Stability Reports, specifically the 'sufficiency assessment').
- We will be supporting RPBs in the coming months through a suite of events, conversations and wider resources, some of which are set out in Annex E

Context

1. We appreciate the challenges of undertaking PNAs in the coming months, not least against the complexities presented by Covid-19. A considered approach will nevertheless result in an invaluable tool to aid future planning and to ensure that we are able to plan effectively for our recovery from the pandemic.
2. We want to see RPBs operating within the spirit of the 2014 Act and your approach to be ambitious but achievable. RPBs should aspire to produce a robust assessment, but also recognise the time and data available to you may limit what you can deliver.
3. RPBs and partners must meet the requirements within the Part 2 Code, however how you satisfy them is a matter for regional determination. You should not view this PNA round as starting anew, but build on established intelligence and experiences, including the previous PNA, where it is relevant. Your PNA can build on such evidence along with that you will subsequently collect to inform your assessment in a meaningful way that informs commissioning and planning.
4. Ongoing review, assessment and planning is vital to ensure services remain current and effective in delivering better outcomes for people. Your RPB should ensure it can support its PNA as a living resource, rather than a time-and-finish exercise. The intelligence and evidence within it must be regularly reviewed. This in turn will make future PNA exercises a refresh of readily available evidence, rather than focussed on capturing data.

Considerations of Themes and Policy Areas

Policy Areas

5. For this second PNA round we are not adding to the eight existing core policy themes within the Part 2 statutory Codes of Practice. You will nevertheless need to consider any revised legislative or policy requirements around them. The following are an illustrative, but not exhaustive list of examples;
 - Learning Disability – accounting for the Learning Disability Improving Lives Programme and the No Wrong Door report in relation to adult services for children with learning disabilities.
 - Sensory Impairment – the need for Rehabilitation Officers for the Visually Impaired (ROVIs). There has been some work done by the Wales Vision Forum and Wales Council of the Blind about this, which could potentially be drawn upon.
 - Older People - Being mindful of the commitment to uphold and protect rights for Older People as enshrined in the United Nation’s Principles for Older Persons, and the SSWB 2014 Act. The publication and implementation of a [Strategy for an Ageing Society](#), together with practical steps to embed those principles at an LA level are some of the actions being taken forward by the Welsh Government from this autumn.
 - Unpaid Carers – The Welsh Government’s Strategy for Unpaid Carers commits to improving the recognition of, and support for all ages of unpaid carer in Wales. [It has four national carers’ priorities](#), which are identifying and valuing unpaid carers, provision of information, advice and assistance, supporting a life alongside caring, and supporting unpaid carers in education and the workplace.
 - Disability – Building on the June 2020 a Report on the Impact of Covid-19 on disabled people in Wales commissioned through the Welsh Government’s Disability Equality Forum. It is the intention that this report will inform a refresh of the “Action on Disability” framework and action plan which brings together a range of actions across Welsh Government and in conjunction with our partners across the public, private and voluntary sectors.
 - Mental Health – When considering this area please take into account the priorities laid out in current [Together for Mental Health Delivery Plan 2019-2022](#) and the [Together for Children and Young People Plan](#).
 - Dementia – To take into account the clear vision for Wales to be a dementia friendly nation that recognises the rights of people with dementia to feel valued and to live as independently as possible in their communities, as referenced within the [Dementia Action Plan 2018-2022](#).

- Children and young people with complex needs including emotional and mental wellbeing – take into account the expectations set out in the early help and enhanced support framework for children and young peoples emotional and mental needs, including those around multiagency working, laid out in the [Framework on embedding a whole school approach to emotional and mental wellbeing](#).
 - RPBs should also seek to consider the Children’s rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and implement the recommendations of the ‘No Wrong Door’ report from the Children’s Commissioner for Wales. You should also take into account access for Mental Health support for care experienced young people. It is still an issue that Local Authorities outsource therapies and broader support, if there is insufficient access to CAHMS or other services. Sufficient planning around these needs is therefore vital.
6. We have added wider considerations around Children and Younger People, Autism, VAWDASV and Market Stability/Sufficiency. These are set out separately in Annexes A – D.

Wider Themes

Impact of Covid-19

7. Your PNA will build on some of the intelligence you gathered in reviewing your plans over the last year in light of the pandemic. It will need to distinguish the impact of Covid on the population and on service delivery, including the workforce.
8. It is clear that Covid-19 has impacted on the whole population but has had greater health and wellbeing impacts on certain groups more than others – for example, older people, ethnic minority communities, people with a learning disability, disabled people, people with underlying health conditions and children and young people.
9. Those who have been shielding and those in care homes and supported living arrangements, for example, have experienced significant impacts on mental health, physical and wellbeing due to lockdown restrictions and prolonged periods of isolation.
10. Your PNA should also reflect the impacts of ‘Long Covid’ on your population and the range and level of services available to meet these enhanced levels of need. Within this context, you should start to consider how your planning will support recovery from the pandemic.

Socio-economic duty

11. When preparing your PNAs, you will need to consider the new Socio-economic Duty, which comes into effect in Wales on 31 March 2021. The Duty will require relevant public bodies, to give due regard to socio-economic disadvantage when making strategic decisions which includes planning and evidence gathering. The [Socio-economic Duty webpages](#) contain further co-produced resources which have been used to support public bodies prepare for the duty.

Welsh language care and support needs

12. Feedback from the last round of PNAs indicated the need for better profiling of the need for care and support provided in Welsh, and for a more robust assessment of the range and level of services that RPBs will need to provide in order to meet that need. This includes identifying where there are gaps in provision. Further advice is set out in Annex D.

Linking across to wider areas

13. Whilst your assessments are focused on health and social care needs, they will link to wider policy areas that cut across other partnership arrangements such as Public Service Boards, Regional Collaborative Committees (housing) and Primary Care Clusters. It is important that you consider the broader work underway to inform your needs assessment and also ensure that your assessments inform theirs.
14. RPBs should discuss with other partnership structures how they will collectively ensure a robust and comprehensive assessment of need for their shared population. How you do this is up to you, but there are clear benefits in terms in pooling resources, reducing duplication, sharing practices and intelligence. The mutual drawing on the intelligence and work of others will provide a holistic evidence base and ultimately inform joined-up planning and shaping of services to produce a truly holistic evidence base.
15. In practical terms your PNA does not need to duplicate what is included in other needs assessment documents but where there is interconnectivity or impact with data held in other assessments these should be clearly referenced and interpreted in relation to care and support needs of the population within your PNA. Your considerations should include:
 - The promotion of wellbeing (defined in Section 2 of Part 1 of the 2014 Act). You will need to consider how you work with PSBs as they undertake their Wellbeing Assessments being undertaken by PSBs.
 - Health needs including the requirements on NHS Wales through the NHS Planning Frameworks issued annually in relation to the Integrated Medium Term Planning process.

- Cluster plans are a source of very locally sensitive information on a community's health and wellbeing needs, the resources available and the development needs of health and care services for that population. A Healthier Wales expects strong links between cluster and RPB level population needs assessment and service planning and delivery.
- Housing needs. You will need to look at the specialist housing and accommodation needs of the core priority groups (as a minimum), so that capital investment in models of housing supported care can be planned effectively. This includes supported accommodation, such as extra care housing, supported living for adults with a disability, and small unit residential care for children with higher needs. It can also include additional investment in adaptations to support people in the priority groups to continue to live independently and safely in their own home.

16. RPBs should draw on the Programme Plans and Objectives (PPO) being undertaken for the ICF Capital Funding programme. The PPO is a high level assessment of accommodation need for priority groups, and the RPB's strategy for addressing that need. Local authorities new Local Housing Market Assessments (LHMAs) are also likely to be an important source of information.

Undertaking and producing your PNA

17. The following sections cover activities we are keen to continue to support you with in the coming year in undertaking and producing your PNA. There is a wealth of data and material already available for you to draw from and more in development. These include evidence gathered through Research, Improvement and Innovation Hubs, datasets held by Data Cymru and the SCW Toolkit.
18. Welsh Government will also support you with the PNA process in the months to come. A series of conversations, scheduled master classes and drop-in sessions are being planned to provide clarity where needed, promote shared learning and identify, signpost and develop resources e.g. toolkit. Annex E covers some of these in further, though not exhaustive, detail.
19. There will, no doubt, be challenges and limitations in undertaking and producing your PNA which will require honest self-reflection around the barriers you have encountered. Sharing these reflections openly with us and other RPBs will enable us to support you to overcome them.

Engagement, Involvement and Participation

20. The experience of living and working through the Covid-19 pandemic has required a different approach to be taken in delivering services and in engaging with stakeholders. Covid-19 restrictions have meant that traditional face to face 'in person' engagement activities have not been possible. However society as a whole has embraced the opportunities and benefits provided through digital solutions and social media which has provided arguably further reach and engagement opportunity than before the pandemic. In developing your engagement, involvement and participation approach;

- you can build on established intelligence. This includes base-lining the involvement exercises undertaken during the first PNA round which sought to establish what the issues were.
- you will employ a range of involvement methods, tools and approaches that will encourage and support engagement from a wide range of service user and population groups. You will be flexible and creative in your engagement approaches to maximise participation. Your approach which will require careful consideration of the specific communication needs of individuals and population groups, for example children and young people ([taking account of National Participation Standards](#)), people with learning disabilities, people with sensory impairment (including British Sign Language Users) and older people.
- you will harness the entire array of your RPB membership and those they represent. Person centred, outcomes focused services require input and ideas from all partners,. They must be encouraged and actively supported to speak up for themselves and contribute their views and experiences.
- you will build on your continued engagement with the third sector, service providers and local communities in a meaningful way. Their intelligence, skillsets and links to wider networks, enable them to reach out into the population at large. Ensure you communicate with them in an accessible, rather than overly technical way in order to encourage mutual understanding and create an informed picture.

Considering Data and Evidence to inform your Assessments

21. It is vital not to view PNAs as a data collection exercise, nor to shape the evidence you amass to fit a predetermined narrative. RPBs must be bold, honest and open in their findings, establishing where information is strong, weak, conflicting or unavailable.

22. This will require practical, innovative approaches, building on established intelligence, reflecting on new sources, and ensuring you have adequate structures to capture data and experiences. For example feedback and engagement arising from the previous PNA, including from other organisations and communities, as well as public correspondence. It will also include national data and information sets, working with organisations such as Data Cymru (and their wider data catalogues) and the [Social Care Wales data portal](#).
23. Your main focus will be on analysis and interpretation of this information, showing how you have understood it, how it will be used, and how it links to the regional and national landscape. Where information 'gaps' arise in key areas these must be highlighted, along with steps to remedy these in future reviews. You will be moving beyond broad descriptive analysis and prioritising those areas for more in-depth analysis at a future date, to inform your planning and commissioning activity.

Forecasting, Trends and Longer Term Thinking

24. PNAs should be viewed as a living repository of information to review, build on and inform your wider planning and commissioning of services. Doing so will require them to be built with future and longer-term thinking in mind.
25. Analysis from the Future Generation's Commissioner, Audit Wales and others have highlighted that more needs to be done to develop future thinking. This thinking is in line with the emerging Stabilisation and Reconstruction Agenda and the [White Paper on Rebalancing Care and Support](#). You will also need to consider the linkages to the health and social care recovery plan '[Health and Social Care in Wales – Covid 19: Looking Forward](#)' which was issued in March 2021.
26. This will require more sophisticated planning within your RPB, as well as a broader understanding of current needs, future trends and multi-generational policy challenges. For example, showing evidence of exploring future trends and using futures-techniques to consider connections between them, identifying the implications and impact on your region, its people and the services that support them.
27. [The Future Trends report](#) identifies the key social, economic, environmental and cultural trends that could affect Wales in the future and some of the factors that could influence the direction of those trends. The next Trends Report is due to be published this year. A recent [Ministerial Statement](#) outlined plans for the development and engagement around the report. Links to other toolkits are contained within Annex E. Resources such as these will demonstrate a good understanding and interpretation of national and global trends and how they may affect your area.

28. This is an area in which we are keen to support you in the coming year, through shared learning events and linking with PSB colleagues and the support network they have developed.

Producing Assessments and Informing Planning

29. We recognise the challenges locally in making sense of the various requirements to produce similar assessments. Whilst there is no statutory requirement, Ministers have long made clear their expectation that PNAs should be produced no later than April 2022. This will allow time for the evidence presented to inform Regional Area Plans, due in April 2023. It will also align to statutory timescales set for Well-being Assessments and Market Stability Reports also due next year.

30. We recognise there may be opportunities to fully align PNAs with those wider exercises. Where circumstances require, it may be reasonable to seek a small adjustment to your assessment timescales as and when required. However we would expect any revisions to the timing to be minimal, no more than a few weeks and only where it is absolutely necessary with due justification. In any case, we would welcome regular dialogue with yourselves to see how your exercise is going and to offer any support where we can.

31. As required under the Part 2 Code, local authorities and Local Health Boards are required formally to approve the population assessment report assessment reports and make available on their websites. A copy of the population assessment report must also be sent to Welsh Ministers at the time of publication.

32. Time must therefore be built in to your assessment timeline to ensure it has gone through the appropriate corporate structures and demonstrate this has the statutory approvals required. It is for you to demonstrate how this will be practically achieved.

ANNEX A Children and Young People's Needs

Context

1. Amendments to Part 9 of the Act last year introduced a number of revisions to the definition of Children and Young People (CYP) with complex needs. These now include children and young people;
 - with disabilities and/or illness
 - who are care experienced
 - who are in need of care and support
 - who are at risk of becoming looked after, and,
 - those with emotional and behavioural needs.
2. The CYP theme includes supporting effective, integrated transition arrangements from childrens' to adults' services. It should also include support for children and families related to neurodevelopmental assessment services and for post diagnostic support where a diagnosis has been received and for multidisciplinary therapeutic interventions which best meet the child's needs.

Broad-ranging considerations

3. The needs of CYP people span a range of considerations and require a multidisciplinary, person-centred, rather than service-led approach. RPBs must work within a shared strategic context which comprises of and works to achieve local authorities' children's services priorities.
4. Considerations include interrelated and broader priorities. These include the Children's rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (see the five principles of CCFW's [The Right Way framework for implementing a children's rights approach](#)) and the Wellbeing requirements (Annex B) of the FGW Act. You will need to consider the principles within [A Healthier Wales](#). Principally the need to push for services closer to home, addressing the demand for Out of Area Placements.
5. You should also fully consider the findings and recommendations of the [No Wrong Door](#) report by the Childrens Commissioner for Wales and the work underway through the Together for Children and Young People, the NEST Framework and the Neurodevelopment Support agenda. Families with children with a range of needs should experience holistic, seamless care and support that helps them achieve what is important to them including emotional and mental wellbeing.

6. Whilst RPBs should not shape any evidence to suit the narrative, it is important to reflect on the value and importance of integrated care and support services and where applicable for them to be closer to home.
7. You will need to reflect on links to Mental Health more broadly. Akin to the need for person centred, closer to home services, there is a corresponding need to de-medicalise Mental Health pathways for all people and particularly children and young people where they are not always appropriate. Many of the emotional and mental health issues faced by children and young people relate to social and environmental circumstances.
8. You should also consider the impacts of Covid-19 on children and young people and those that support. You can draw on information gathered through the [Coronavirus and Me](#) survey by the Children's Commissioner for Wales, to help inform your approach to assessing impact and need within your region.

Key Groups to include within this theme

- Children with Complex Needs

Families with children with a complex range of needs should experience holistic, seamless care and support that helps them achieve what is important to them including physical, emotional and mental wellbeing in line with the No Wrong Door recommendations of the Children's Commissioner for Wales and from her annual reports.

It is essential that Children and Younger People do not fall through gaps in terms of service provision. There should be a seamless transition of care and support needs, for example between Children's Continuing Care and Continuing NHS Healthcare, something clearly stipulated across the frameworks which define both sets of arrangements.

The Together for Children and Younger People and the Welsh Government perform a vital role in bringing RPBs together to learn from each other. There will need to be continued shared learning in order to respond effectively to the needs of these children and the use of shared learning events to explore these issues would be beneficial in informing this agenda.

- Safe accommodation for children with complex, high end emotional and behavioural needs

This is a new Welsh Government priority for 2021-22 and aims to both prevent individuals being unnecessarily escalated to, and facilitate de-escalation from, secure or inpatient care.

RPBs estimate there are around 200 children across Wales that require residential and specialist care and support to meet 'high end' needs (i.e. severe emotional and behavioural needs that may or may not have a diagnosis that requires intensive therapeutic interventions).

These needs are best met via jointly commissioned, integrated health and social care provision, therapeutic in its approach and with other disciplinary input as required to meet the child's needs. RPBs should familiarise themselves in the National Commissioning Board guidance for [Integrated Commissioning of Services for Families, Children and Young People with Complex Needs](#).

- Looked After Children and the increasing numbers going into care/adoption

Local Authorities have a specific duty under Section 75 of the Act to ensure they have sufficient accommodation to meet the needs of looked after children, and RPBs should be mindful of this and any particular accommodation needs. RPBs will be mindful of the focus on families to help them stay together safely and prevent the need for children to either become looked after or require more intensive forms of support.

This requires integrated services on a regional basis to supporting families. Local education and housing services, health boards, the Social Value Sector and wider preventative interventions, such as Parental Advocacy and Family Group Conferences play key roles in informing the need for these services. Particular attention should also be given to therapeutic support for adopted children, those on the edge of care and care experienced children. This includes those adopted. For example, developing provision for children with complex needs / challenging behaviour who are at risk of going into secure accommodation.

Preventative Services to promote good mental health and wellbeing

9. The NEST (Nurturing, Empowering, Safe, Trusted) Early Help and Enhanced Support National Framework shows the benefits of a whole-systems approach to promoting good mental health and emotional wellbeing for children and young people (Fig.1). The assessment and understanding of the population needs of these children and younger people will facilitate a multidisciplinary, person-centred, rather than service-led approach.
10. Embedding this framework will require a multidisciplinary collaboration, making use of the expanded RPB membership, linkages across to the wider wellbeing assessments carried out by PSBs (Fig. 2) and the expertise of the public and Third Sector. You will also need to be mindful of the statutory provisions to promote the integration of services for the well-being for children and young people with care and support needs within both Codes of Practice

(Parts 2 and 9) within the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act, together with those that apply more broadly across the wellbeing agenda to public bodies within the [Wellbeing and Future Generations Wales Act](#) (Shared Purpose: Shared Future 3).

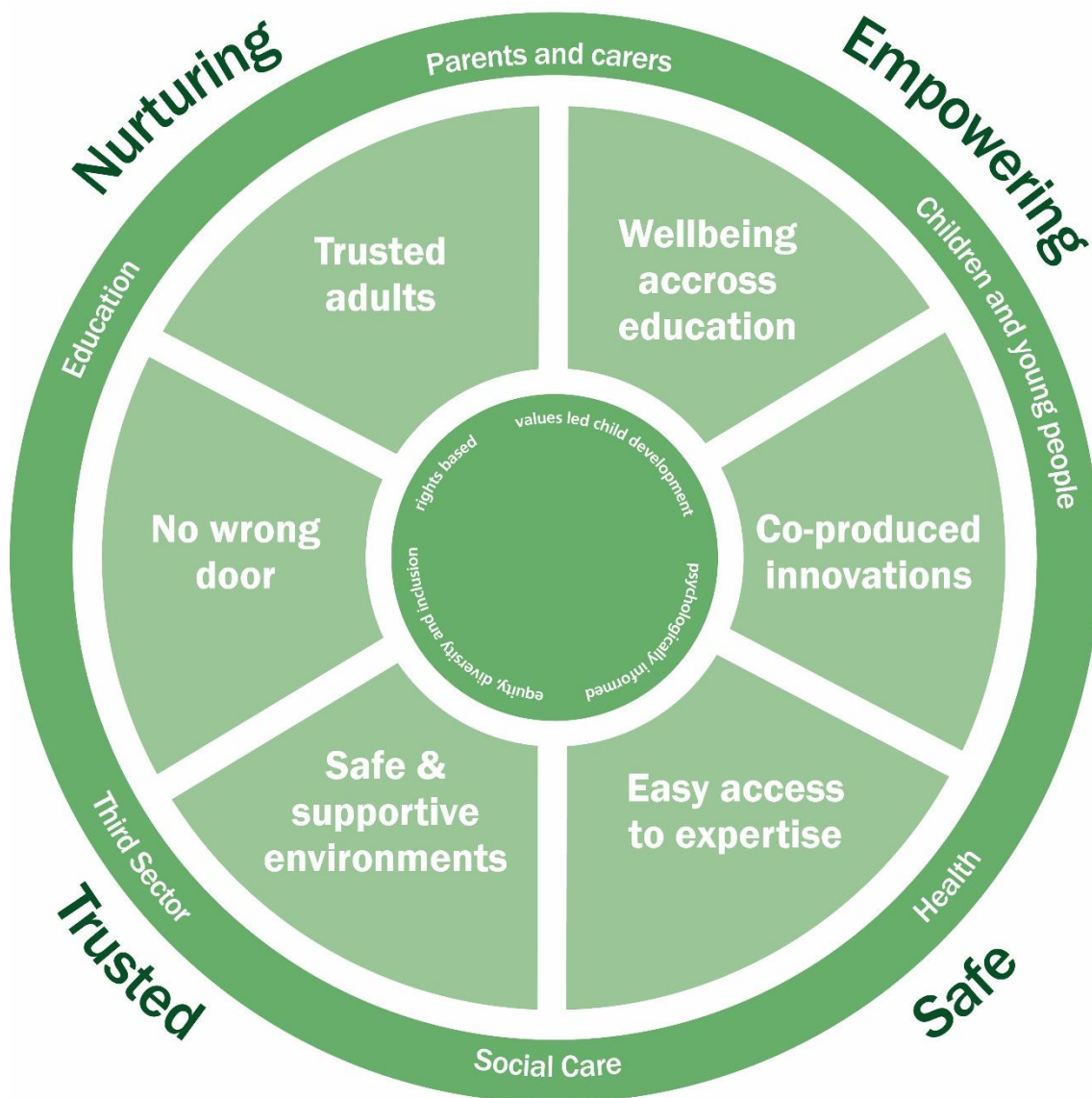


Figure 1 NEST diagram showing key areas, stakeholders and themes around early support and prevention.

11. Figure 2 below is intended to help RPBs consider their distinct focus, role and contribution in considering the needs of children and young people alongside the focus, role and contribution that PSBs can distinctly make. It is not included here as a definitive explanation but you should use this as a helpful example which could be used to provide a starting point for RPBs and PSBs to consider their distinct focus as well as the areas on which they can closely collaborate.

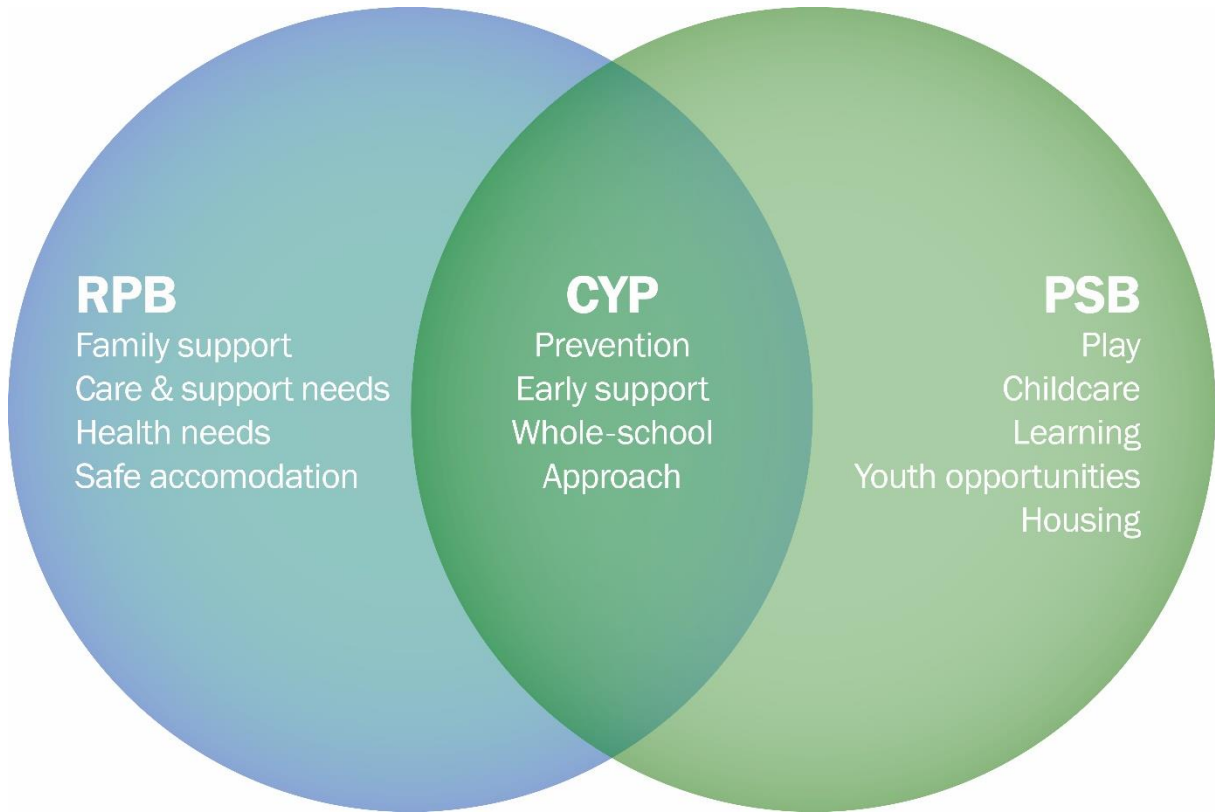


Figure 2 The relationship between Regional Partnership boards and Public Service Boards around Children and Younger People.

ANNEX B Autism Needs

1. Part 2 of the Code of Practice within the SSwB Act places autism under a joint core theme with learning disabilities. However, there are distinct requirements around Autism which require full consideration in your assessments across the autism agenda. Therefore your PNAs should consider people with autism as a distinct population group within the statutory themes of people with learning disabilities and children and young people, recognising that individuals may have other co-occurring conditions and needs.
2. When considering the provision of integrated care and support for autistic people, you should be particularly mindful of the Code of Practice on the Delivery of Autism Services. The Code clarifies the range of services and support required to meet the needs of autistic people and their carers around assessment and diagnosis, accessing health and social care, awareness raising and training, planning and monitoring and stakeholder engagement. Part four of this Code requires that there is a regional autism lead within the governance structure of the RPB Board and to develop strategic and operational teams which include autistic people to inform service development.
3. You will also need to be mindful of the T4CYP Neurodevelopment Support agenda which will include provision for those CYP with Autism. This workstream will support the development of a whole system approach for children and young people with neurodevelopmental conditions. It aims to develop a future vision and policy for neurodevelopmental support services in Wales, which includes an approach recognising neurodiversity and the various behavioural issues associated with it, and supporting families. This is key to steering the work to ensure the needs of all children (whether within or below the current threshold for specialist services) can be met. This will link with the implementation of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018.
4. RPBs must ensure they collect local information on the needs of their local autistic population, including children their parents and carers. In supporting the information required for your PNA you may need to consider the relevance of areas such as housing and education needs. You will also need to consider how an assessment of autism needs also aligns and complements with your CYP assessment information and the NEST early help and support framework

5. A range of autism-based sources and services will be able to support you in your PNA. These include Autism Champions, a requirement in the autism code of practice, local ASD leads and intelligence from ongoing work including the demand and capacity review of neurodevelopmental services. Other data sources include:
- SAIL Databank (Swansea University) contains datasets ranging from GP records, hospital data and emergency services, through to mental health, social services, education and national survey data
 - WCCIS – Welsh Community Care Information System. The Code will inform the fields that would need to be set in the system to collate evidence on Autism.
 - Welsh Government workforce data will be used to inform demand and capacity.
 - Code of Practice on the Delivery of Autism Services and accompanying guidance
 - Autismwales.org provides information, advice and resources on autism and service development.
 - Neurodevelopmental 26 week waiting time standard – children.
 - SHRN data sets for local authorities.
 - Schools – Pupil Level Annual School Census.
 - Wales Children Receiving Care and Support Census.
 - Outcomes based and throughput data from IAS.
 - NHS Planning Framework.
 - National Autistic Society.
 - Autism Connections Cymru.

ANNEX C VAWDASV

Key Issues

1. The Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual violence (Wales) Act 2015 places a duty on local authorities and Local Health Boards to prepare, publish and implement joint local strategies for tackling violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence. The VAWDASV guidance for local strategies was published to assist local authorities, Local Health Boards and their partners to develop local strategies that comply with the requirements, and further the purposes, of the VAWDASV Wales Act.
2. With Regional VAWDASV boards leading this agenda and with Public Service Boards focusing on related areas such as community safety, RPBs need to be clear about their contribution and response to the wider VAWDASV agenda. Figure 3 provides an example of how each of the partnerships can make a distinct contribution to the wider VAWDASV agenda. Similarly to figure 2 it is not included here as a definitive explanation but you should use this to provide a starting point for RPBs, PSBs and regional VAWDASV boards to consider their distinct focus as well as the areas on which they can closely collaborate.
3. Information and analysis contained within PNAs should focus on the health, care and support needs of those individuals (adult and child) impacted by violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence. Consideration will also need to be given to the accommodation needs of those fleeing abuse linking the PNA across to the work of the Local Housing Strategy and Regional Collaborative Committee.
4. This information may be helpful in informing the development of local strategies and provision for VAWDASV prevention and service delivery.
5. VAWDASV therefore remains a core theme within the Code, but it is recognised that a number of the characteristics and factors relating to VAWDASV around it lie outside the remit of the PNA and the RPB.

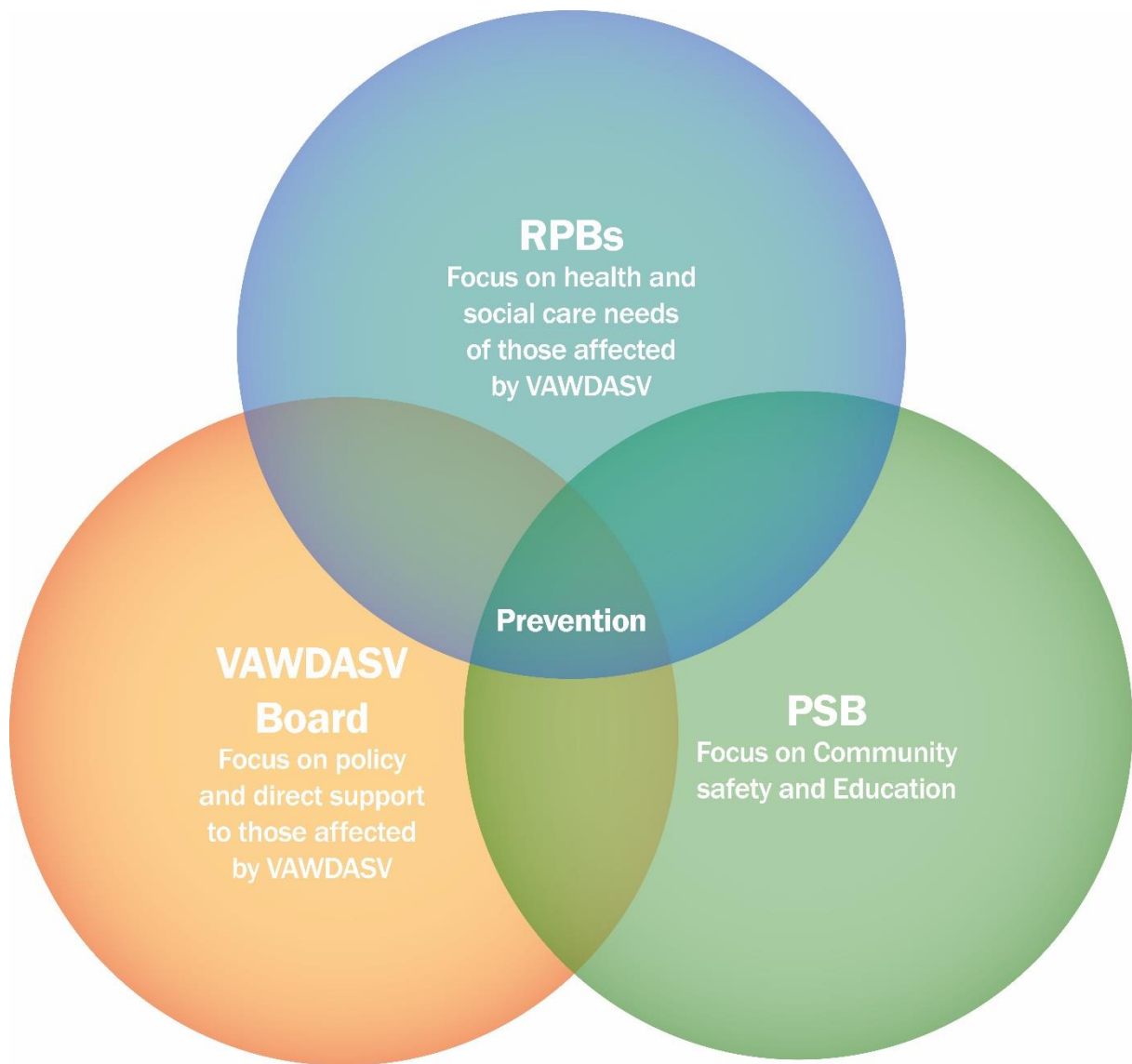


Figure 3 The relationship between Regional Partnership Boards, Public Service Boards and Regional VAWDASV Boards around the VAWDASV agenda.

ANNEX D The relationship between PNAs and Market Stability Reports

Sufficiency, range and level of care and support services

1. When undertaking their PNAs, RPBs will need to take into account the new requirements around market stability reports (MSRs), and how these relate to the PNAs and Area Plans. RPBs will need to refer to the code of practice and statutory guidance on MSRs, published in March 2021.
2. MSRs consist of two elements
 - an assessment of the sufficiency of care and support in meeting the needs and demand for social care, as set out in the PNA (the sufficiency assessment), and,
 - an assessment of the stability of the market for regulated services providing care and support (the market stability assessment).
3. Generally speaking, PNAs and MSRs deal, respectively, with the demand and supply side of the social care market, and both will help inform and shape the strategic Area Plan for the RPB area. The relationship between PNAs, MSRs and Area Plans is explained in paragraphs 3.10 to 3.12 of the MSR code of practice.

The Sufficiency Assessment

4. There is a particularly strong connection between the 'range and level' assessment within PNAs and the sufficiency assessment within MSRs. RPBs should consider how these dovetail together, and how best to ensure a consistent and efficient approach to undertaking these two assessments.
5. The sufficiency assessment will contain the following elements:
 - an overview of sufficiency measured against the previous PNA, drawing upon any reviews undertaken and focusing upon lessons learnt
 - an assessment of how current levels of care and support meet existing demand, linking to the range and level of services identified in the current PNA, and,
 - a consideration of issues likely to affect sufficiency of provision over the next five year period, linking both with the current PNA and market stability assessment.

6. This is explained in further detail in paragraphs 4.5 to 4.13 in the MSR code of practice.
7. It should be noted that the sufficiency assessment within MSRs covers care and support, not just regulated services. This mirrors the requirement in PNAs to assess the range and level of care and support, including preventative services. The market stability assessment must cover regulated services (as a requirement), but the MSR code makes it clear that it should also cover other relevant non-regulated services providing care and support (see paragraphs 4.29 to 4.31 of the MSR code of practice).

PNAs, MSRs and strategic commissioning

8. PNAs and MSRs will be undertaken to the same general timetable i.e. produced on a five yearly cycle, with both due in the first half of 2022, so that they can inform and shape the next set of Area Plans due in 2023. This is explored in more detail in the MSR code of practice.
9. The first MSRs must be published by 1 June 2022, reflecting the fact that the PNA will need to be undertaken before the sufficiency assessment can be completed and the market stability assessment undertaken. However, the first two elements of the sufficiency assessment (especially the review of sufficiency over the previous PNA period, but also the assessment of how current levels of care and support meet existing demand) will need to be undertaken concurrently with preparation of the new PNA.
10. RPBs will need to consider how best to integrate and streamline the two assessment processes, for example, with respect to engagement with citizens and providers.

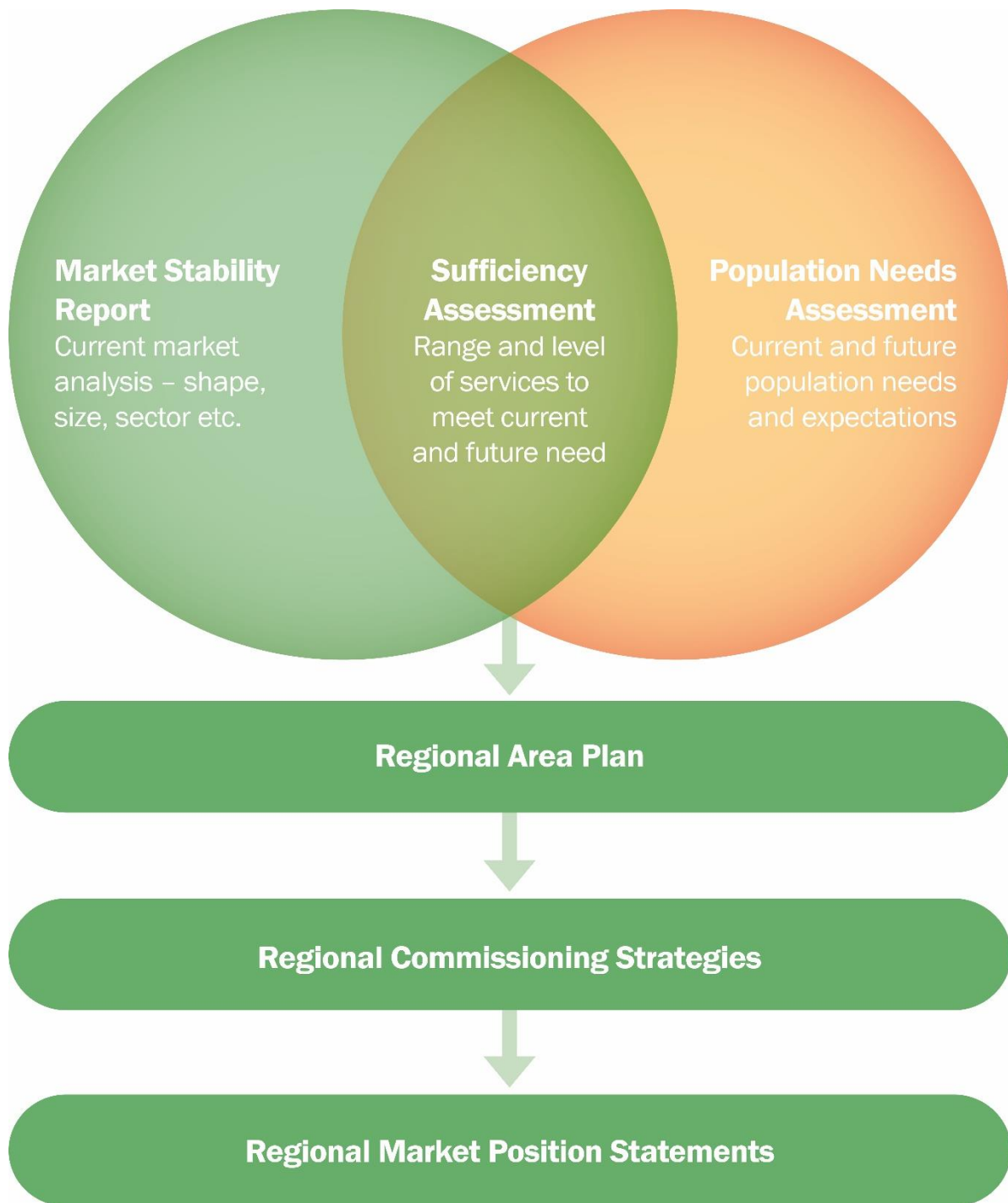


Figure 3 The relationship between Market Stability Reports and Population Needs Assessments regarding regional commissioning and planning.

ANNEX E Further Advice and Support

1. Based on conversations between officials and RPB leads, you have shared what you believe are the key challenges and opportunities for working together as we head into the next round of PNAs.

Signposting and Advice

2. To help you develop themes we and wider partners are offering a wide-ranging suite of support, engagement and other measures over the coming months. These include:
 - Tailoring our approach to provide practical advice and information and shorter feedback, building on the views and feedback from the last round of well-being assessments.
 - Sharing the best way for enabling you to have clear, direct contacts within our respective offices. This has been a consistent ask in your feedback.

Online Support

- Social Care Wales PNA Toolkit – This contains links to many data sources whose links been updated.
- Social Care Wales will be developing an online SharePoint resource. This will be populated with additional support materials in coming weeks.

Sharing Good Practice

- Network Planning Event (facilitated by Social Care Wales).
- Continuing our pan-Wales network meeting of RPB Leads.
- Shared learning / good practice around key areas, to include the following;
 - Engagement
 - Data Analysis
 - Forecasting/ Future Trends
 - Presentation, and,
 - Thematic Events – planned to cover key policy areas. Further details to be confirmed.

Data and Research

- The [Social Care Institute for Excellence \(SCIE\)](#).
- Research and Innovation Hubs.
- Social Care Wales site contains general guidance on [research and data](#) and a [National Social Care Data Portal](#).
- There is also a [Care Home Cymru Resource Platform](#). This is a new online resource platform for Care Home and Domiciliary Staff to ensure easy access to vital, up-to-date information.
- The Future Generations Commissioner has developed a [Three Horizons Toolkit](#).
- The UK Government has developed [additional guidance on futures and foresight planning](#).
- Wider work is underway to develop a Wellbeing Data Set and Data Catalogue, being developed by Data Cymru. This will primarily be utilised by PSBs in their Wellbeing Assessments.

Covid-specific Data and Research

- [A living map of the evidence around Covid-19](#). This includes data studies and wider information around socio-economic and mental health impacts.
- [The Social Care Wales Covid-19 Evidence Base](#) contains wide-ranging information, signposting and resources to those in the social care sector.

Wider Support

- We will be linking in with the Future Generation & Wellbeing national network meetings, topic-focussed webinars and online meetings. Building on the 'involvement' and 'long-term' events held in November and December 2020.
- We will also be offering regular 'drop-in clinics' to offer advice (including commissioning analysis of wellbeing data), test ideas, and clarify requirements on the well-being assessments and well-being plans.