



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Building an Integrated Community Care System

A joint 2024/25 position statement for Welsh
Government funds supporting early intervention,
prevention and integrated community support.

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Foreword

As Ministerial colleagues, we are pleased to present this updated position statement, reflecting the progress made over the past year in our collective efforts to transform health and social care in Wales. This position statement reaffirms our commitment to a collaborative, whole-system approach to investment and reform, with a clear focus on delivering an Integrated Community Care System (ICCS) for Wales.

Over the past year, continued strategic investment totalling more than a quarter of a billion pounds annually – through the Allied Health Profession investment, Further Faster funding, Housing with Care Fund (HCF), the Integration and Rebalancing Capital Fund (IRCF), and the Health and Social Care Regional Integration Fund (RIF) – has enabled significant strides toward our shared ambition. These funds are central to reshaping how care is delivered, ensuring it is person-centred, preventative, and rooted in communities. While this statement focuses on these major funds, we also acknowledge the vital contributions of other national programmes such as the Urgent and Emergency Care Six Goals programme, the Strategic Primary Care Programme, and the Social Prescribing Framework. Together, these initiatives are helping to embed the principles of the ICCS across Wales.

A central aim of the ICCS is to keep people well and out of hospital wherever possible. Prevention and early intervention must be at the heart of our approach. The duty to co-operate applies equally to local authorities and health boards, ensuring shared responsibility for early intervention and integrated service delivery. ‘A Healthier Wales’ sets out our national vision for transformation, with a strong emphasis on prevention, early intervention, and community-

based care. All of the funds are designed to support this shift, enabling people to live well at home or in their communities, reducing pressure on hospitals. The newly announced £30 million Pathways of Care Transformation Grant will further support community capacity, helping to prevent escalation of need and avoidable hospital admissions. This new investment must be seen alongside wider Regional Partnership Board (RPB) and Health Board efforts to build community capacity. Strategic alignment across health and social care is essential to maximise impact and value for money.

We want to be clear that RPBs are not simply vehicles for managing Welsh Government cross sector grants. They are driving system collaboration and service integration. It is essential that all partners engage meaningfully with their RPBs, recognising their strategic role in shaping the future of care in Wales. Under the revised Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act Part 9 guidance, each Health Board and Local Authority has been asked to identify a ‘responsible person’ for integration. As Ministers, we will meet annually with these individuals and RPB Chairs to strengthen focus, accountability, and alignment with our integrated approach.

The work of the Care Action Committee and the winter planning arrangements through the 50-Day Challenge has shown the power of cross-sector collaboration in delivering better outcomes for people. Over the past 12 months, we've seen excellent examples of innovation and partnership that we must now deepen, extend, and embed. Through the 50-Day Challenge, we've shared good practice examples from across Wales. Wales is too small a nation to justify the level of variation we currently see. We must share, learn, and adapt to deliver greater consistency and public confidence in our health and care system.

We are also proud to have announced that Wales will become the world's first 'Marmot Nation', committing to tackling health inequalities. Local authorities and health boards, as statutory partners on both RPBs and Public Service Boards, have a vital role in delivering services that support the wider determinants of health and wellbeing - such as housing, employment, and social inclusion.

As we look ahead, we will continue to work closely with RPBs and statutory partners to share, scale, and spread good practice. Our goal is a consistent and equitable integrated community care offer across Wales, ensuring that wherever people live closer to home, they can access effective, joined-up support. We also remain committed to supporting our front-line workforce by simplifying processes and fostering collaboration across organisational boundaries. This will help teams work more effectively together and provide holistic support to people in their communities.

We acknowledge the continued progress made to date, but we are clear that further focus and effort are needed. By deepening partnerships, strengthening accountability, and accelerating integrated service delivery, we will continue to transform our system and realise the ambition of an Integrated Community Care System for Wales.



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Cabinet Secretary for
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Jayne Bryant MS
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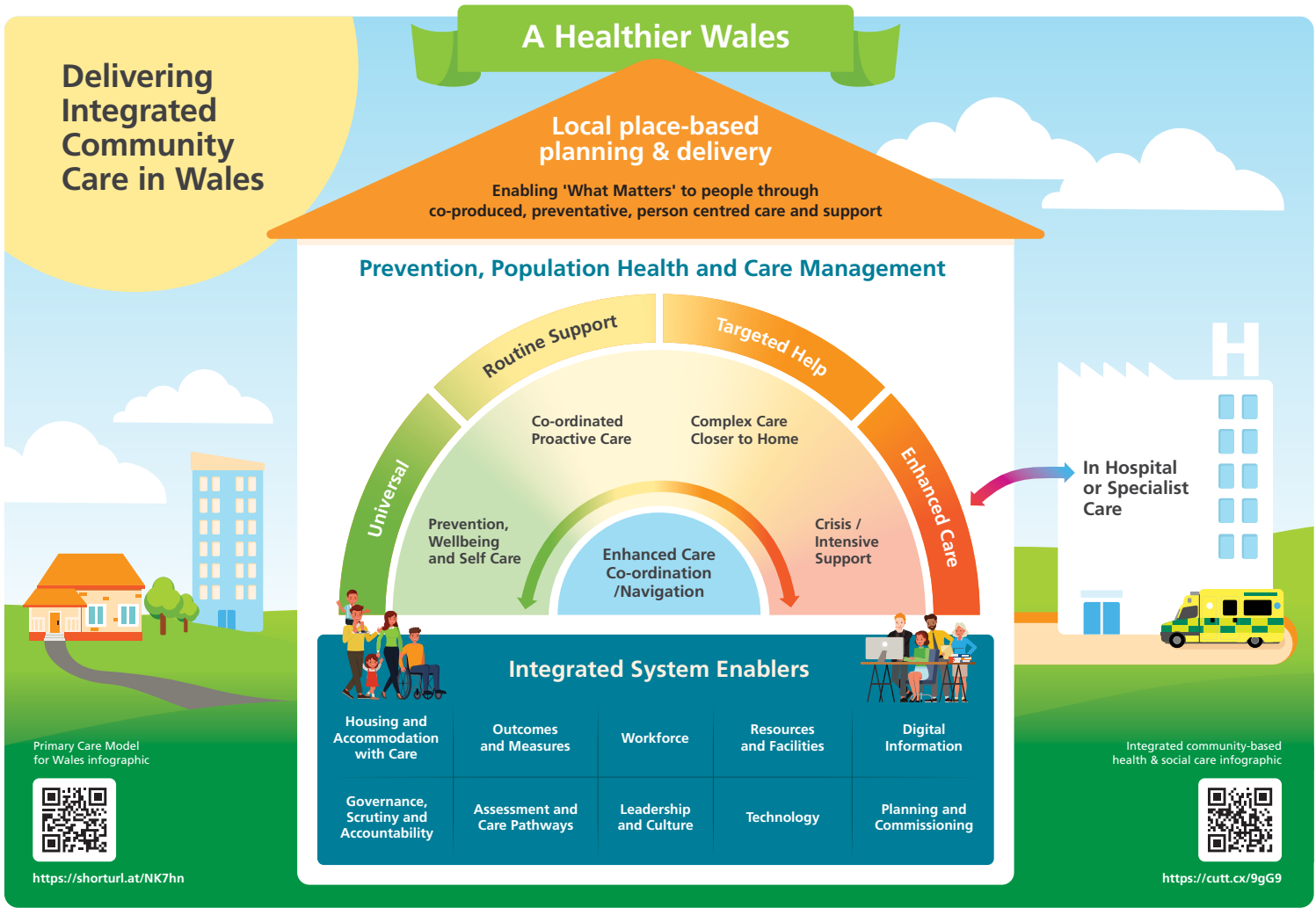
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Realising a Seamless Health and Care System: The Integrated Community Care System for Wales (ICCS)

Figure 1: Integrated Community Care System blueprint V4 2025



Our commitment to creating an Integrated Community Care System (ICCS) for Wales is a significant step towards achieving the goals of **A Healthier Wales** as well as responding to some of the findings of the Darzi report 2024.

Fundamentally it is our approach to developing a preventative and integrated community/place-based care offer that is nationally enabled (by Welsh Government), regionally facilitated (by Regional Partnership Boards) and locally delivered (by cluster and community level arrangements).

The ICCS is a strategic transformation framework. It aligns policy, funding, and delivery across sectors to create a seamless, integrated care experience that enables people to live well at home, avoid unnecessary hospitalisation, and access timely, joined-up support when needed.

From Vision to Delivery: A Maturing System

Now in its second year of development, the ICCS blueprint (figure 1) has evolved from concept to implementation. It is underpinned by a clear ambition to deliver “*what matters*” most to people through a system that is:

- Proactive in promoting health and preventing escalation of need.

- Person-centred in supporting independence and wellbeing at home.
- Integrated in delivering care and support closer to home.
- Responsive in ensuring safe, timely transitions (discharge) from hospital back into the community.

Integrated System Enablers: Building the Conditions for Success

To deliver this transformation at scale, we are investing in the critical enablers of system change:

- Shared **outcomes and measurement frameworks** to drive accountability and learning.
- A confident, capable **workforce** operating across organisational boundaries.
- Interoperable **digital infrastructure** to support real-time information sharing.

- **Integrated governance and accountability** to enable joint decision-making.
- Pooled resources and **joint planning and commissioning** to maximise value and impact.
- Collaborative **leadership and culture** that champions innovation and partnership.
- **Technology-enabled care** that empowers people to manage their own health and wellbeing.

Progress so far

The winter pressures of 2023/24 and 2024/25 prompted a range of collaborative responses across Wales, that have helped us to accelerate some of the key building blocks for our ICCS. Among these, the Ministerially led Care Action Committee (CAC) played a significant role in accelerating improvements in discharge and flow, contributing to a broader shift toward integrated, preventative care and support, as part of the vision of delivering an ICCS for Wales.

Initially convened to address urgent winter pressures, the CAC helped test and accelerate integrated care approaches and saw some notable successes through the 50-Day Integrated Care Winter Challenge and the additional £19m resources provided to help build capacity and improve system flow. Its work informed the continued development of the ICCS approach, which now provides an evidence base for the model and ongoing system improvement, as well as prompting a system wide approach to planning for winter 2025/26.

The 50-Day Integrated Care Winter Challenge marked a turning point in Wales' approach to integrated winter resilience and care delivery.

This year, we have worked collaboratively with health, social care, and other partners to develop a number of core infrastructure elements intended to advance new ICCS model. These efforts include mapping and aligning shared outcomes and measures and creating the Integrated Care governance arrangements with associated terms of reference, the new Integrated Care meeting arrangement are described below.

Through the seven Regional Partnership Boards, we have seen the positive development of ICCS strategic planning approaches and will support regions to maximise the opportunity to fully embed the ICCS principles.

Strategic Alignment and Investment

Welsh Government has strengthened the governance architecture to support ICCS delivery, building on the groundwork laid by the former Care Action Committee. This includes the establishment of:

- The Integrated Care Strategic Leadership Group, chaired by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care.
- The Integrated Care Delivery Group, bringing together senior responsible officers.
- Annual Regional Integration Accountability meetings with each Regional Partnership Board (RPB).

These structures ensure alignment across a wide range of programmes, including the Strategic Programme for Primary Care, 6 Goals for Urgent and Emergency Care, Regional Integration Fund (RIF), Health and Care Fund (HCF), Integration and Rebalancing Capital Fund (IRCF), Further Faster, and Allied Health Professional investment – collectively representing over **£300 million in annual investment**. This alignment is enabling a strategic consolidation of Wales' policy and funding landscape, ensuring that resources are targeted toward integrated, sustainable models of care in the community.

Regional Leadership and Local Innovation

Regional Partnership Boards and Pan Cluster Planning Groups remain pivotal in shaping and delivering the ICCS. Their role is to ensure that national ambition is translated into locally responsive, person-centred delivery. To support this, Welsh Government has revised the Part 9 Statutory Guidance on Partnership Working,

clarifying the relationship between RPBs and Pan Cluster Planning Groups and reinforcing the shared responsibility for building an integrated community care system.

Looking Ahead: A System with Purpose and Momentum

The ICCS represents a bold, long-term commitment to transforming care in Wales. It is a system designed not just to meet today's challenges, but to anticipate tomorrow's needs, anchored in prevention, driven by outcomes, and powered by collaboration.

As we move forward, the focus must remain on furthering integration, scaling good practice, and embedding innovation, ensuring that every person in Wales can access the right care, in the right place, at the right time.

Allied Health Professions (AHP) Investment supporting an Integrated Community Care System

The recurrent £5 million additional AHP Investment, launched in April 2023, marks a significant step forward in strengthening Wales' community and primary care workforce. This funding is strategically targeted to expand the presence of registered Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) and support worker roles within community settings ensuring timely, person-centred care that supports people to live independently and well.

This investment is a cornerstone in building a resilient, sustainable, and Integrated Community Care System for Wales, aligned with the ambitions of Accelerated Cluster Development and the broader health and

social care transformation agenda. Under the leadership of Executive Directors of AHPs and Health Science, and Directors of Primary and Community Care, Pan Cluster Planning Groups (PCPGs) have played a pivotal role in shaping local delivery, with endorsement through Regional Partnership Boards ensuring a truly collaborative, system-wide approach to developing an ICCS for Wales.

The Strategic Programme for Primary Care (SPPC) continues to provide national leadership, oversight, and assurance, with robust reporting to Welsh Government demonstrating the value and impact of this investment.

Key Achievements to Date

- **102.6 WTE** additional posts created across Wales.
- **Substantive transformation** of AHP services, enabling:
 - A strategic **shift to community-based care**, improving access and responsiveness.
 - Enhanced **community capacity**, reducing avoidable hospital admissions and supporting safe, timely discharge.
 - Strengthened **cluster working**, with a focus on prevention and population health.

This investment is not only delivering immediate benefits it is also laying the foundation for a more integrated, proactive, and sustainable model of care across Wales. To access detailed mid-year and end-of-year reports, showcasing the impact and learning from across regions, click on links below:

[Additional Allied Health Professions Investment – Primary Care One](#)

[Buddsoddiad Ychwanegol mewn Proffesiynau Perthynol i Iechyd – Gofal Sylfaenol Un](#)

Further Faster Programme: Accelerating Integrated Community Care System in Wales

Further Faster was launched to help accelerate some of the key workforce components as part of developing an ICCS for Wales. With an annual investment of £11.95 million, Further Faster focuses on three priority areas to increase community capacity, in line with the ICCS aim to:

- Shift care closer to home and avoid hospital admissions.
- Build community capacity and reduce reliance on acute services

- Deliver 'what matters' to individuals through proactive personalised care and improving population outcomes.

Whilst investment is issued to health boards across Wales, the funding comes with a requirement for health and social care partners to work together through Regional Partnership Boards, to ensure investment is strategically aligned.

2024/25 Priorities

Targeted actions and timelines were identified to deliver tangible improvements for:

1. Community Nursing Capacity

- **Community Nursing Specification:** Prioritising universal Registered Nursing at home, with enhanced weekend District Nursing capacity (targeting 80% of weekday levels).
- **Specialist Palliative Care Access:** Expanding 7-day access, including partnerships with commissioned third sector and hospice providers.

2. Community Services Capacity

- **Allied Health Professions:** Increasing workforce capacity to meet growing community needs.
- **Enhanced Community Care:** Aiming for a 20% increase in capacity by March 2025, as guided by the Care Action Committee.

3. Future Care Planning for people at high risk of hospitalisation

- **Future Care Planning:** Developing anticipatory/future care plans for the 0.5% of individuals at highest risk, with a Once for Wales approach under active development.

2024/25 Progress

In 2024/25, the full £11.95 million Further Faster investment was allocated across all regions, with notable examples of good practice and emerging opportunities reported across each priority area, particularly for initiatives that support an expansion of Enhanced Community Care.

Going forward work will continue to develop and strengthen a consistent approach to Future Care Planning for our high-risk populations.

Community Nursing Specification

By March 2025, national progress toward achieving 7-day District Nursing service improved. Most regions demonstrated meaningful improvement, driven by targeted recruitment, strategic planning, and enhanced data reporting. Weekend activity levels increased across the board, supported by workforce expansion and integrated training initiatives. Month-on-month growth in weekend coverage was evident, with some areas doubling their weekend

workforce and embedding new roles to support service delivery.

These collective efforts reflect a strong commitment to strengthening weekend community nursing services. Continued investment in workforce development, education, and strategic planning will be essential to closing the coverage gap and ensuring equitable access to care across all regions.

Specialist Palliative Care Access

Weekend access to specialist palliative care has been strengthened across Wales through Further Faster funding, with most regions implementing new roles, expanding coverage, and enhancing coordination. Improvements include consistent specialist presence in acute settings, uplifted community support, and targeted initiatives for non-cancer diagnoses. These developments have enabled earlier interventions, improved symptom management, and supported timely discharges and home-based end-of-life care.

Patient and carer feedback has been positive and continuity of care has improved. Continued investment in workforce development, service integration, and data capture will be essential to ensure equitable access and further progress, particularly in regions where expansion is still pending.

Enhanced Community Care – Community Capacity

Enhanced Community Care received the largest share of Further Faster investment across Wales, with most regions using the funding to expand urgent response capacity, embed virtual ward models, and strengthen community-based alternatives to hospital admission. Services such as Safe@home, acute frailty response teams, and integrated equipment services have enabled timely care at home, reduced emergency pressures, and supported discharge and recovery. Initiatives also included workforce expansion, rapid response logistics, and digital upgrades to improve flow and coordination.

Community-led projects were supported through small grants, promoting wellbeing, reducing isolation, and enhancing anticipatory care planning. While data integrity is still developing, early indicators show significant bed day savings, high patient satisfaction, and improved system flow. Continued alignment of investment with strategic priorities and robust regional planning will be key to sustaining and scaling these gains.

Future Care Planning (FCP)

Investment in Future Care Planning (FCP) was limited across most regions during 2024/25. However, a one-off allocation of £5 million by Welsh Government in December 2024, as part of the 50-Day Integrated Care Winter Challenge, provided a catalyst for accelerated development. Several areas used this funding to enhance multidisciplinary working, strengthen anticipatory care planning for high-risk cohorts, and improve data systems to support outcome tracking. While some regions opted not to use Further Faster funding for FCP, existing services such as virtual wards and cluster-based models continued to support delivery.

Collectively, these efforts signal a growing recognition of the importance of proactive care planning in reducing hospital admissions and supporting person-centred care. Continued development and integration of FCP into community and primary care pathways will be essential to ensure consistency and sustainability across Wales.

Further Faster Summary

Overall, Further Faster investment throughout 2024/25 supported the development and introduction of increased community capacity provision, with the aim of supporting more people closer to home, with initiatives introduced not only to help avoid hospital admission but also to further integrate and streamline existing ways of working to ensure future service efficiency and sustainability.

Further work and focus are undoubtedly required, particularly in respect of Future Care Planning work and Third Sector involvement across Wales.

[Welsh Government – Further Faster Statement of Intent](#)

Housing with Care Fund (HCF) Overview and Spotlights

The primary objective of the Housing with Care Fund (HCF) is to increase the stock of housing to meet the needs of people with care and support needs.

The HCF is a preventative programme, building on the previous Integrated Care Fund (ICF) capital programme and underpins the Programme for Government Commitment (PfG) to ‘support innovative housing to meet care needs.’

The programme contributes to the commitment to ‘fund regional residential services for children with complex needs ensuring their needs are met as close to home as possible and in Wales wherever practicable’ and also contributes to the PfG commitment under the same theme to ‘Eliminate private profit from the care of children looked after’.

Finally, in producing new homes, HCF programme activity also contributes to delivering the PfG commitment to deliver 20,000 new low carbon homes for social rent during the 2021-2026 Senedd term.

The purpose of the HCF is to support independent living in the community for people with care and support needs, and to provide intermediate care settings in the community so that people who need care, support and rehabilitation can return to living independently or maintain their existing independence.

As well as larger strategic projects, HCF capital investment is also being used to provide specialised equipment such as assisted technology and aids and adaptations for people’s homes. These are all critical in reducing unnecessary hospital admissions, inappropriate admissions to residential care, and delayed transfers of care.

Priorities for Investment

The three-year HCF programme budget has been in place since 2022-23 with £60.5m available per annum. A further year of indicative funding for 2026-27 is also expected. Priority Groups include:

- older people, including people with dementia
- children and young people with complex needs

- people with learning disabilities, neuro-diverse and neurodevelopmental conditions
- unpaid carers
- people with emotional health and mental well-being needs.

HCF delivers three types of accommodation:

- **Objective 1:**

Long term tenured housing with care, such as extra care for older people and supported living for adults with a learning disability. These schemes may be funded entirely from HCF or through a blend of HCF funding and Social Housing Grant.

- **Objective 2:**

Short and medium-term settings, such as step up / step down, rehabilitation settings in the community, transitional accommodation for young people leaving care, and residential care for children with complex needs.

- **Objective 3:**

Minor projects that meet the HCF aims. RPBs are responsible for determining how to allocate the discretionary funding for minor projects in their region.

Progress to Date

Tables 1 and 2 provide an overview of spend by client group and project type for the HCF programme over the past two financial years, and demonstrates an increase in spend as the programme has bedded in.

HCF has provided a level of programme resource funding at a regional level, which several regions are utilising. This has helped with the delivery of projects and will continue to do so during 2025/26.

Table 1: Priority Group

	2022/23		2023/24		2024/25	
	Projects	£	Projects	£	Projects	£
Children and Young people with complex needs	21	£7,272,879	35	£13,504,896	34	£18,344,357
Older people including people with dementia	5	£5,469,028	6	£9,243,013	8	£13,003,799
People with emotional health and mental well-being needs	3	£1,548,756	4	£2,074,746	2	£671,013
People with learning disabilities, neurodiverse and neurodevelopmental conditions	15	£7,683,054	24	£7,007,678	25	£8,033,325
Unpaid carers	0	0	1	£48,000	1	£168,000
Objective 3	-	£8,724,980	-	£9,267,060	-	£11,246,925
Total	44	£30,698,697	70	£41,145,393	70	£51,467,419

Table 2: Project Type

	2022/23		2023/24		2024/25	
	Projects	£	Projects	£	Projects	£
Extra care	2	£5,090,208	4	£8,234,627	7	£12,739,836
Children’s Home	4	£1,443,030	3	£1,284,247	3	£2,350,679
Children’s Residential	17	£7,011,478	27	£10,241,543	23	£12,692,997
Intermediate care	2	£549,000	2	£152,000	1	£975,000
Other	4	£446,618	3	£96,651	2	£815,905
Transitional Accommodation	1	£632,256	-	-	-	-
Independent Living	-	-	1	£208,184	-	-
Sheltered Housing	0	0	0	0	1	£334,158
Supported Living	14	£6,612,114	31	£11,661,081	33	£10,421,893
Objective 3	-	£8,913,993	-	£8,997,206	-	£10,895,520
Programme resource	-	-	-	£269,854	-	£234,189
Total	44	£30,698,691	70	£41,145,393	70	£51,467,419

Joined up working

Alongside HCF, the Integration and Rebalancing Capital Fund (IRCF) programme supports the development of community hubs and rebalancing of the residential care sector. The two funds are complementary and are supported by Regional Integration Fund (RIF) revenue funding to support new models of preventative care.

Together the two capital funds and the revenue fund represent a significant increase in funding to accelerate the move towards independent living and care closer to home, as set out in *A Healthier Wales*.

Looking forward

Since its inception, the annual commitments made through the HCF programme have increased, with 2024-25 being the most successful year yet. The HCF team will continue to engage with the Regional Partnership Boards and partners to facilitate the delivery of accommodation-based solutions to meet the needs of the population of Wales.

The funding will continue to be invested in housing designed to ensure people with care and support needs can continue to live independently in a home which meets their needs whilst allowing them to maintain their independence.

CASE STUDY

Region: **Powys**

Project: **Neuadd Maldwyn, Welshpool**

Neuadd Maldwyn is a new extra care scheme providing high-quality, safe, warm homes for elderly people from the Welshpool area developed by Clwyd Alyn Housing Association (CAHA) in partnership with Powys County Council.

The first residents began to move into their homes on April 25. The new apartments offer a supportive environment for residents, with the opportunity to live alongside like-minded people and socialise in a community setting. As well as the 66, one-and-two-bedroom modern apartments, the scheme features a large restaurant, multi-activity room, landscaped gardens, communal lounge, laundry, buggy store, separate assisted bathroom, and a variety of other communal spaces for the residents to use and enjoy.

CAHA received approx. £3m through the ICF capital programme (predecessor to HCF) to deliver a 60-bed extra care scheme in the centre of Welshpool. This was a jointly funded project with SHG.

Neuadd Maldwyn is a grade II listed building which was previously Council offices/chamber, and this has been extended to deliver the 60 beds with many of the features maintained.



CASE STUDY

Region: **West Wales**

Project: **Clynfyw Care Farm Supported Living Scheme**

Clynfyw Care Farm in North Pembrokeshire provides supported accommodation for adults with learning disabilities and neurodevelopmental conditions.

In March 2025, £270,000 of Welsh Government HCF funding enabled the acquisition of four cottages, securing ten long-term tenancies and two staff units. Located on a 395-acre organic farm, the scheme offers day services, education, and work opportunities, promoting independence and inclusion.

The acquisition safeguarded a vital service in an area with limited provision and ensured residents could remain close to their communities. The scheme supports regional housing needs and maintains stable placements in line with the wishes of current occupants, helping preserve continuity of care and community connection.



CASE STUDY

Region: **Gwent**

Project: **Ty Ash, Newport**

At Ty Ash, Action for Children (AFC) will support children and young people between the ages of 8–18 years with complex needs and challenging behaviours, who live under the care of Local Authorities and are likely to have experienced repeated placement breakdowns. The scheme will provide four bed spaces for children and young people.

The property is owned by AFC, having been used as a school in recent years. The property was vacated by previous tenants in October 2022. The Housing with Care Fund (HCF) has invested just over £1m to refurbish the property into a children's home.

This will be a Gwent wide project and offer long-term placements for children/young people looked after by local authorities across the region.



Integrated Rebalancing Care Fund (IRCF) Overview and Spotlights

The Integrated Health and Social Care Hubs (IHSCCH) Programme was established to deliver the Programme for Government (PfG) commitments to ***‘Invest in a new generation of integrated health and social care centres across Wales’*** and ***‘Develop more than 50 local community hubs to co-locate front-line health and social care and other services’***.

The IHSCCH programme covers a wide range of activities including the development and implementation of a capital funding programme delivered via the Health and Social Care Integration and Rebalancing Capital Fund (IRCF) established to directly support the PfG commitments and has three priority programme areas:

1. a coherent approach to planning the co-location and integration of health and social care services within the community across Wales
2. the rebalancing of adult residential care provision by increasing delivery from within the not-for-profit sector
3. support the elimination of profit from the provision of children’s residential care (incentives to support a change of business model in children’s residential care towards a not-for-profit model).

Regional Partnership Boards lead a joined-up approach to planning health social care and housing capital investment to enable seamless service delivery closer to home; and manage use of the IRCF fund across Wales.

Each RPB has developed a 10-year Strategic Capital Plan which also sets out a list of prioritised health and social care projects forecasting the necessity of IRCF investment over the short to medium-term.

IRCF has a capital ringfenced budget of up to £70m in 2025/26 and 2026/27.

Alongside this Capital funding, Welsh Government has made specific revenue funds available for RPBs to aid programme delivery:

- £200,000 – Resource capacity which should include capital project managers whose primary role will be to deliver the regional integrated Health and Social Care strategic capital plan but may also provide strategic support to partner organisations in project development.
- £250,000 – Co-ordinate and facilitate the development of seamless, integrated delivery of services through health and social care hubs.

Progress

At date of publication, 38 schemes across Wales have been awarded funding up to a total of £114.4 million through IRCF.

In terms of the 3 priority areas, 30 of the schemes will deliver integrated hubs, 6 schemes support the rebalancing of the adult residential care provision and 2 support eliminating profit from looked after children (HCF also fund proposals for Eliminate). All RPB regions have secured funding for schemes in their region and, 16 of the 22 Authorities have had IRCF projects approved to date.

We continue to work with the RPB Capital Teams to develop a programme of work for the funding period up to April 2027 and beyond. New guidance was published in May 2025 in line with the funding programme.

[Health and social care integration and rebalancing capital fund: guidance 2025 to 2027 | GOV.WALES](#)

Over the course of the programme to date, there has been a wide range of applications received from large complex investments, requiring outline and full business cases (OBC/FBC) to smaller lower value schemes (both new build and refurbishment) based on a business justification case (BJC).

The integrated nature of the schemes approved highlight the reach of the schemes in terms of health, social care and well-being.

The IRCF process is based around the five-case business model with projects submitted subject to a multi staged application and approval process; the number of stages is determined by the scale and risks of the project. IRCF funding covers a mix of proposals from small scale refurbishments, bringing buildings back into use and larger scale new build health and social care hubs.

All schemes are based on being multi-agency developments with a lead organisation and are at varying stages of development with significant builds to date including 5 IRCF hub schemes have already been completed and it is anticipated that 7 more will be completed this year. The completed schemes are from across Wales and range in scale and type from Type B hubs to Type E hubs.

Identifying key success factors and demonstrating impact

Having been established in 2022, the IRCF is still in the early stages in terms of the outcomes and successes of the programme. It has however, made significant progress through the RPBs approach of enabling partners across sectors to work together to develop and implement 10-year Integrated health and social care strategic capital plans. These plans have and will continue to demonstrate the investment needed to make the PfG commitments a reality over the short, medium and longer term.

As identified within the revised 2025-27 guidance, RPBs need to align their benefits register to the RIF Outcomes Framework and the Model of Care high level outcomes that relate to, for example community-based care and accommodation based solutions, and to the other Models of Care outcomes where there is interface and relevance to provide the story of intended change for the priority population groups.

Having only been established in 2022, the IRCF From the perspective of the model of care high-level outcomes of RIF, the establishment of hubs across Wales aligns to:

- People's needs are improved through accessing co-ordinated community-based solutions through the services delivered from a hub.
- Local prevention and early intervention solutions support people to avoid escalation and crisis interventions from the range of provision based within communities that are accessed through the front door of health, social care and well-being hubs.

An IRCF Benefits (Social value) Framework is being developed to capture the benefits identified for the Programme in meeting its objective to help people to remain active and independent in their own homes and to live longer, healthier and happier lives, reducing the need for hospital care; deliver at a local level a future-proofed, whole system Operating Model for a more accessible and integrated approach to health and social care service and deliver services closer to home, designed around people's needs in the locality.

Working Towards Whole Life Net Zero Carbon

The Welsh Government is committed to a carbon neutral public sector by 2030 and a 100% reduction in emission of greenhouse gases in Wales by 2050. The NHS in Wales adopted the NHS England Net Zero Standard on 1st October 2023.

IRCF has adopted the Net Zero Standard for all projects.

The IRCF programme presents a unique opportunity, right at the very heart of our communities, to make significant advancements towards a net zero whole life carbon health and social care infrastructure in Wales.

CASE STUDY

Region: **North Wales**

Project: **Coed Y Ddraig**

Coed y Ddraig is an innovative integrated service hub supporting adults with learning disabilities, autism and mental health support needs.

Located in a rural woodland setting, a short walk from Mold town centre, Coed y Ddraig provides a purpose-built hub offering day services and work opportunities for adults with profound or complex learning disabilities through horticulturally-based activities. The hub will be managed by Hft, with integrated service provision from social services and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board teams.

This new hub will offer adults of working age with learning disabilities the chance to develop life skills, gain confidence, increase their independence and engage in training to help gain employment.

The facility will be Flintshire's first building that operates at net-zero, with all carbon emissions generated by the use of the building offset by a series of innovative carbon-reducing measures.

A £4.8m project, £2.9m of financial support has been provided by the Welsh Government's Health and Social Care Integration and Rebalancing Capital Fund (IRCF) with the remaining funds provided by Flintshire County Council's capital programme.

The hub is planned to be operational in the Autumn of 2025.



CASE STUDY

Region: **North Wales**

Project: **Llanrwst Family Centre**

Conwy County Borough Council acquired and refurbished Llanrwst Family Centre to extend the services offered to families and increase opportunities for partnership working.

The Llanrwst Family Centre Project included the purchase and refurbishment of the building that has housed the family centre for the previous 23 years. The property was previously owned by the Church in Wales, with the Family Centre occupying via a lease. In 2023 the Church in Wales advised the property was no longer viable for them and were seeking to sell. The acquisition by Conwy CBC enabled the authority to safeguard and continue to provide this essential service, whilst the refurbishment offered the ability to grow and improve the early intervention and prevention service provision.

Conwy CBC purchased the building in July 2024 and in October 2024 commenced a programme of refurbishment work. This included reconfiguring the layout to make better use of the space, improving accessibility, and replacing windows to improve energy efficiency.

Services were relocated during the 34-week refurbishment and the centre re-opened on 9 June 2025.

More services can be delivered at the same time in the upgraded space, saving rural families repeated long journeys to the centre. The centre offers a range of support, including weekly baby clubs co-delivered with health visitors, young carers groups, and domestic abuse support for people of all ages.

The project has received £600,000 investment through the Welsh Government's Health and Social Care Integration and Rebalancing Capital Fund (IRCF).



CASE STUDY

Region: **West Wales**

Project: **Pembroke Hwb – South Quay**

The Pembroke Hwb – South Quay will when completed be a modern, accessible social care, health and community hub in Pembroke.

The Hwb supports the region's aim to build active, resourceful, connected, sustainable and creative communities.

The Hwb was awarded £6.5 million from the Integration and Rebalancing Capital Fund (IRCF), with additional match funding from Pembrokeshire County Council and the Levelling Up Fund, bringing the total project value to £12,075,811.

Aligned with the regional integration plan developed by Hywel Dda University Health Board, the Hwb will co-locate a range of services including health clinics, social care assessments and community prevention services.

Flexible, bookable spaces will accommodate ad hoc services, while dedicated areas for dementia care and independent living will support delivery by occupational health, physiotherapy, and speech and language therapy teams.

Construction started in August 2024 and is due to be completed in April 2026.



Regional Integration Fund (RIF): Driving Transformation in Health and Social Care

As we step into the fourth year of the **£146.8 million per annum Regional Integration Fund (RIF)**, we're building on a strong foundation laid since its launch in 2022.

This five-year programme (2022–2027) is a cornerstone of our commitment to delivering the vision set out in *A Healthier Wales* for a truly seamless health and care system for everyone.

The RIF was shaped by lessons learned from the Integrated Care Fund, Transformation Fund,

and insights from Audit Wales. It's designed to be bold, responsive, and future-focused, supporting the development of an Integrated Community Care System (ICCS) across Wales.

We're now at a pivotal moment in our mission to move from local innovation to national impact. The challenge ahead is to scale up successful regional models and embed them nationally, ensuring that every citizen, wherever they live, benefits from consistent, high-quality, integrated care.

RIF Core Values and Strategic Priorities

- Prevention and early intervention at the heart of care.
- National models of integrated care that are scalable and sustainable.
- Communities of Practice to share learning and foster innovation.
- Long-term investment to mainstream new approaches.
- Pooled funding arrangements to support collaboration.
- Robust regional planning and partnership infrastructure.

What Success Looks Like: Six National Models of Care

By 2027, six integrated care models will be fully established and embedded across Wales, transforming the way services are delivered:

1. Community-based care – prevention and coordination.
2. Complex care closer to home – reducing reliance on hospital settings.
3. Emotional health and well-being – proactive and person-centred support.
4. Family support and therapeutic care – keeping families together safely.
5. Home from hospital – smoother transitions and recovery.
6. Accommodation-based solutions – tailored support for independent living.

Tracking Progress: Evidence, Impact, and Learning

Over the past three years, we've seen significant progress across all six models, with many success stories emerging from regional initiatives. The RIF's unique design has enabled cross-sector collaboration and shared learning, helping us identify and amplify what

works. A national learning conference was held in September 2024 with Regional Partnership Boards to share good practice. Each of the RPBs presented a best practice model to support wider adoption and upscaling of successful programmes.

National Evaluation: A Deeper Dive into Impact

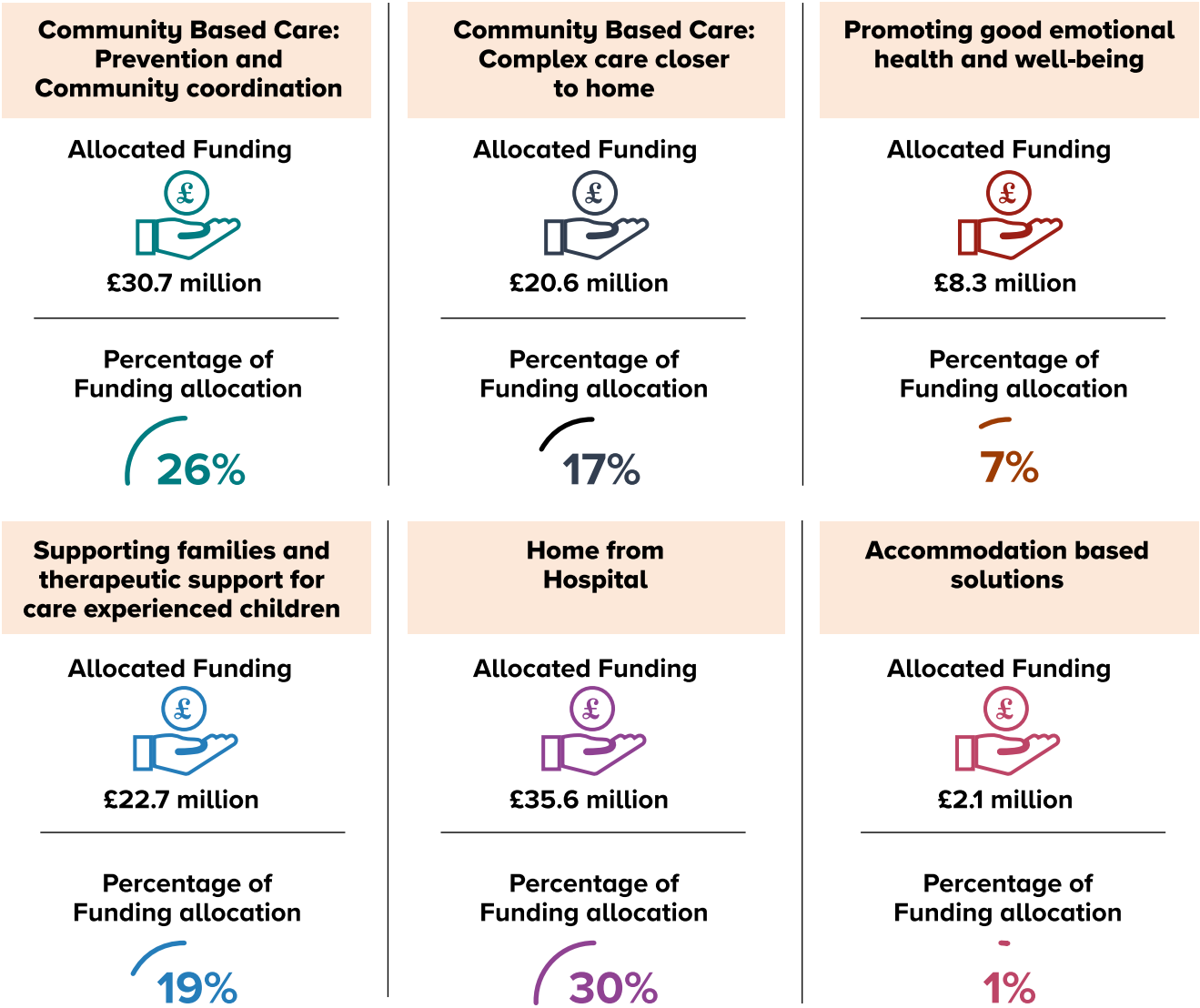
Commissioned in 2022, the independent national evaluation is led by the Welsh Institute for Health and Social Care (WIHSC) at the University of South Wales, in partnership with Swansea University and Old Bell 3 Research, supported by Welsh health economists.

Using an innovative methodology, the evaluation explores how RIF principles are understood and applied and most importantly, how they're improving people's lives.

- Phase 1 reports are being published and will inform ongoing development.
- Phase 2 will analyse 20 core performance measures, delve into health economics, and gather qualitative insights from staff and service users to ensure a rich, inclusive understanding of impact.

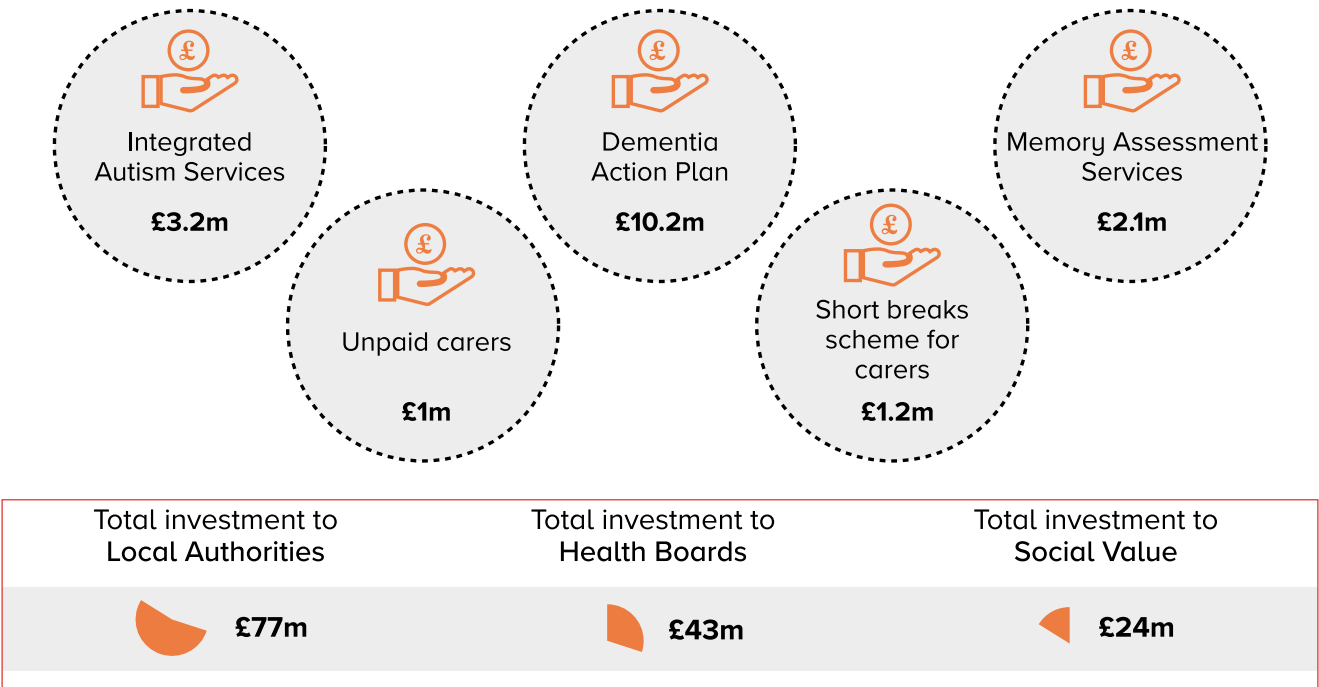
A Year In Review

Total regional allocated funding by model of care



Total regional allocated ringfenced funding

Regional Partnership Boards were allocated ringfenced funding to deliver against national ministerial commitments.



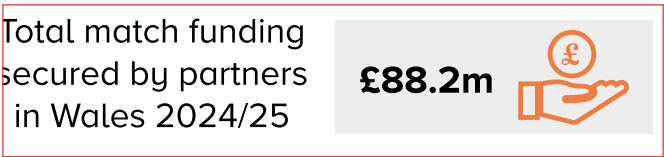
Tapering and Match funding

One of the original design principles of the Regional Integration Fund (RIF) was to encourage the alignment of core resources from partner organisations, with a view to gradually reducing the RIF’s contribution over time. This tapering approach aimed to achieve a balanced 50:50 funding model to support the long-term sustainability of successful projects and services.

Regional Partnership Boards (RPBs) continue to demonstrate a strong commitment to this principle and recognise the importance of working collaboratively to draw in local resources that build on the success of the RIF helping more people to live well and stay well at home.

Since the RIF was first established, the economic landscape and the complexity of health and social care needs have evolved significantly, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. In recognition of these challenges, and following engagement with RPBs and delivery partners, Ministers agreed in January 2024 to remove the tapering requirement from the fund to prevent destabilisation of investment to date.

Importantly, RPBs have continued to secure match funding for the three National Models of Integrated Care – Community Co-ordination, Complex Care Closer to Home, and Home from Hospital – which are central to building community capacity. These efforts demonstrate the enduring value of partnership working and the shared commitment to delivering integrated care that meets people’s needs in the right place, at the right time.



Understanding The Data:

How much we did and what difference it made for people

A bespoke outcomes-focused reporting mechanism, with its own person-centred outcomes framework, was developed for the RIF and based on following principles:

1. Intentional Developmental Approach

The RIF's reporting framework was designed to evolve over time. In its early years, the focus has been on building capacity and embedding consistent practices across regions. The current data reflects a natural and expected phase of maturation.

2. Qualitative Evidence Adds Depth

The mechanism does not rely solely on quantitative data. The robust collection of qualitative evidence – including feedback, case studies, and stories of change – provides rich context and insight alongside the difference made measures for individuals and communities. This mitigates any temporary gaps in numerical consistency.

The data presented offers a valuable indication of performance and progress across regions. Regional Partnership Boards are continuing to strengthen the statistical validation and comparability of data, helping to build a more robust and consistent evidence base throughout

3. Core Measures Provide a Strong Foundation

The core set of 20 performance measures ensures a shared national framework. Regions are aligned in their focus, and current data contributes to a meaningful national picture of progress.

4. Indicative Data Demonstrates Value

The data available at the end of year three offers clear examples of impact and the scope of RIF activity. This proves the system's potential and effectiveness, whilst data consistency is achieved.

5. Continuous Improvement Is Built In

The RIF reporting mechanism is iterative by design. Lessons learned from early implementation are actively shaping improvements across the fund.

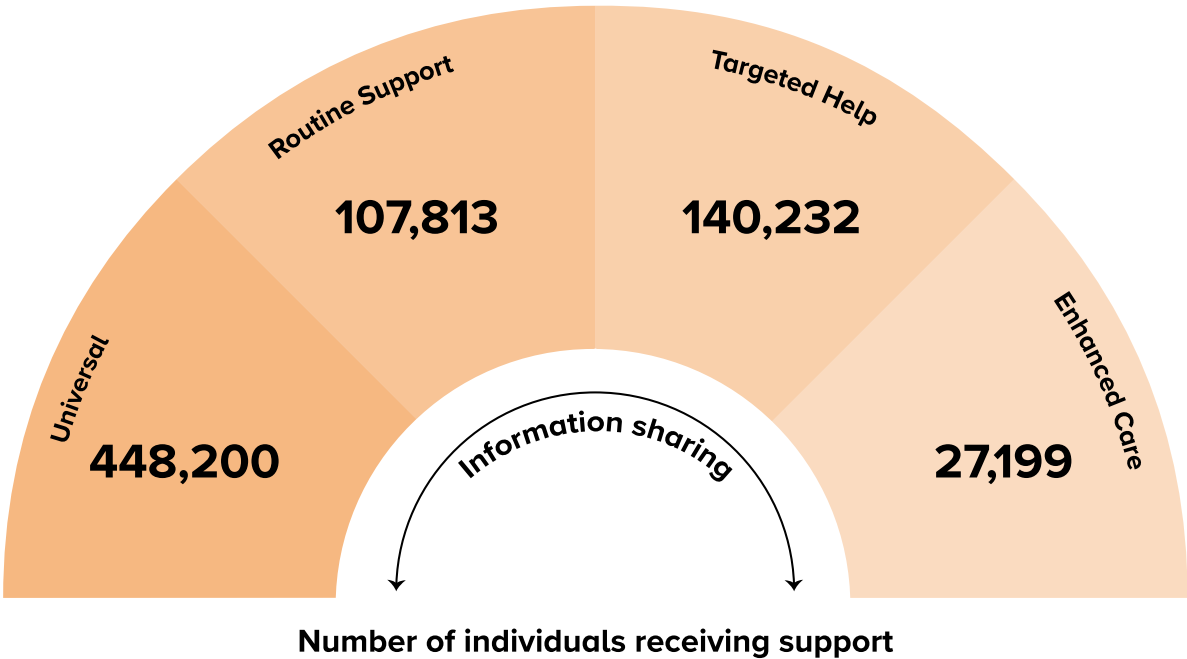
the duration of the RIF. The data supports ongoing learning, dialogue, and improvement, and is considered as part of a wider set of evidence produced by RPBs such as case studies, research and external evaluations.

National Core Performance Measures

Measures of how much we did



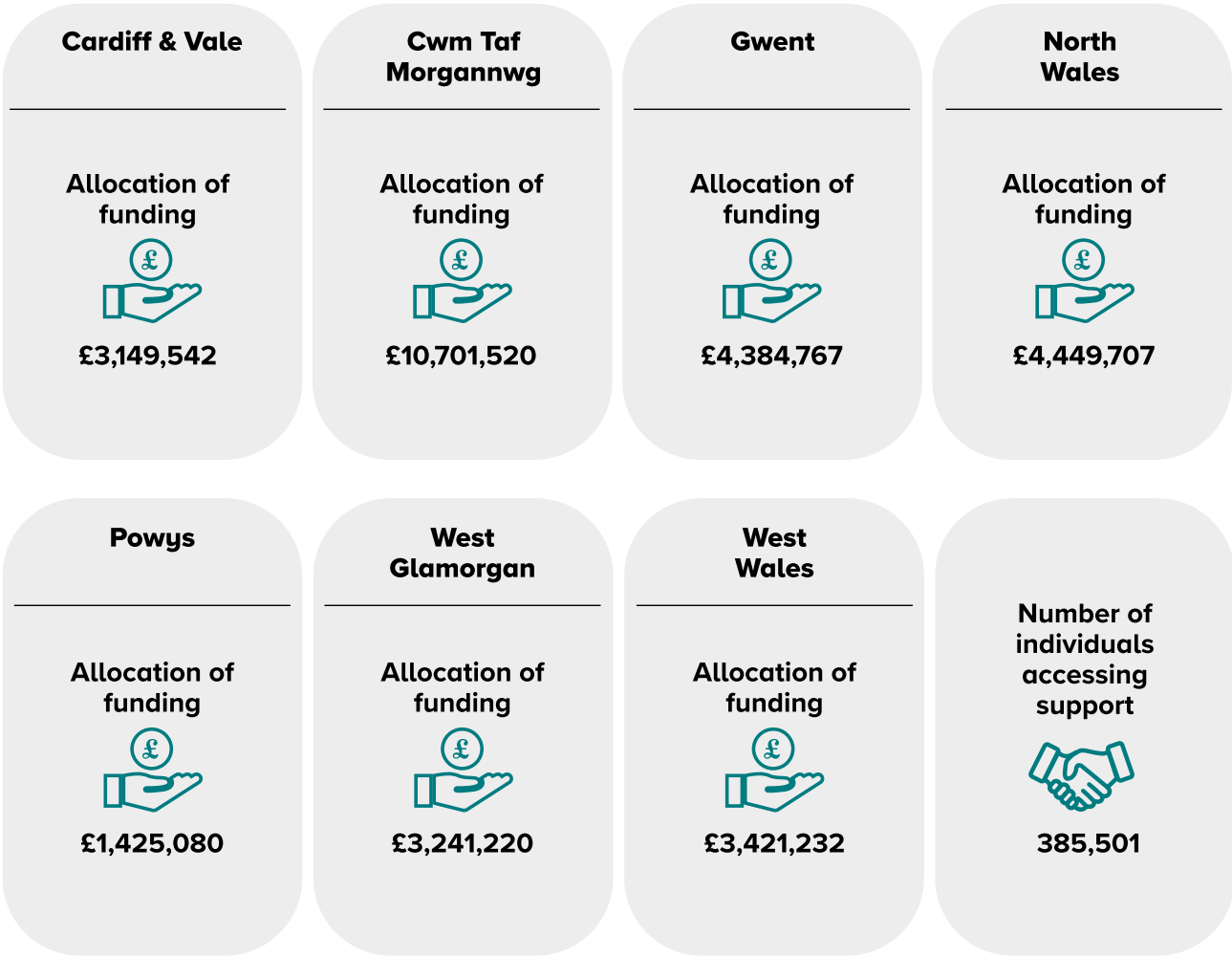
Projects and models of care developed by the RIF range right across the spectrum of intervention, from universal through to specialist. The diagram below illustrates the spread of activity across the four levels of intervention by showing how many people were supported at each level.



All Wales Model of care level data - Difference Made (of this people surveyed)



Community Based Care Prevention and Community Coordination Model of Care 2024/2025



Community Based Care Complex Care Closer to Home 2024/2025



Cardiff & Vale

Allocation of
funding



£3,639,424

Cwm Taf Morgannwg

Allocation of
funding



£1,701,157

Gwent

Allocation of
funding



£7,825,049

North Wales



£6,151,292

Powys

Allocation of
funding



£78,585

West Glamorgan

Allocation of
funding



£79,325

West Wales

Allocation of
funding



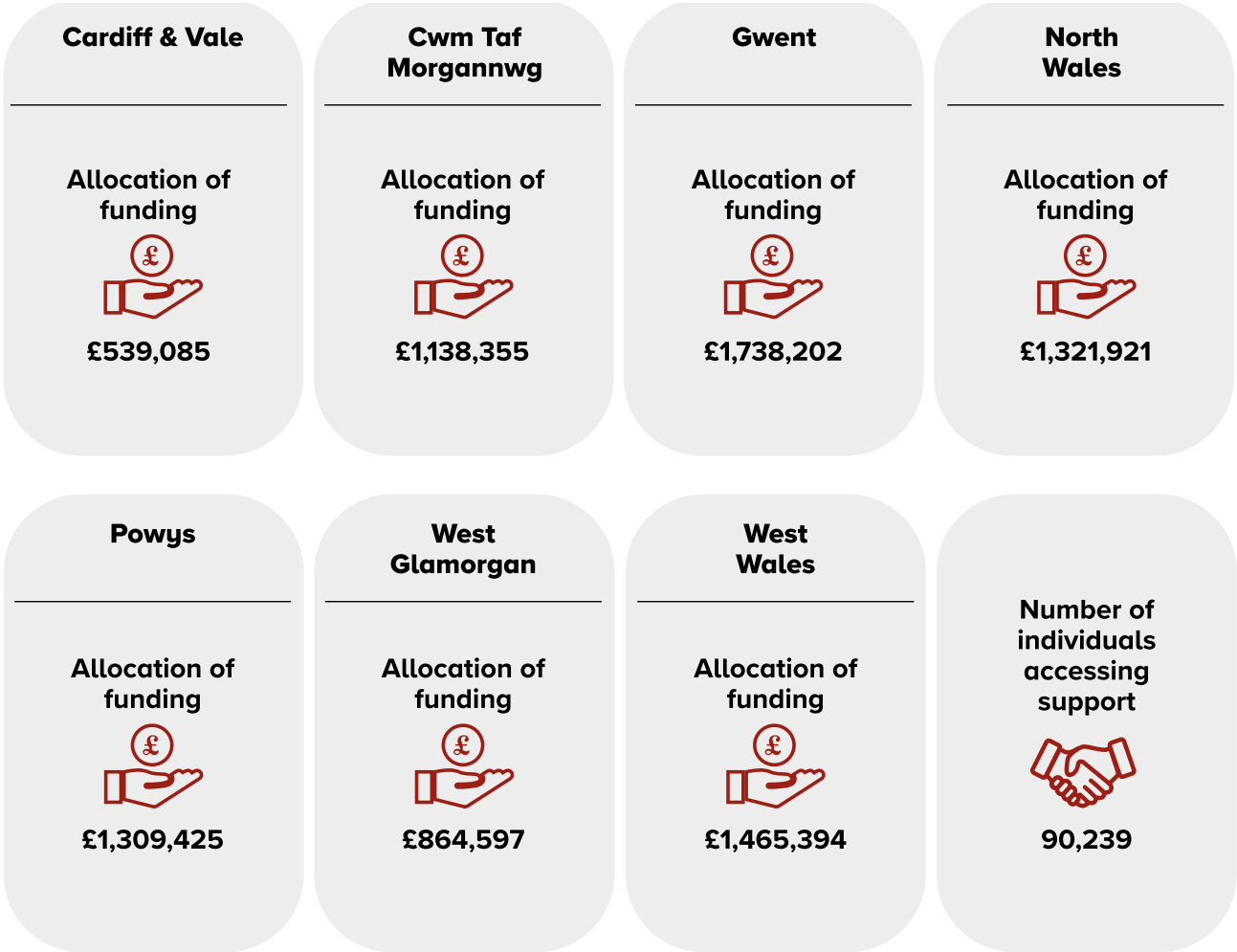
£1,130,327

Number of
individuals
accessing
support



57,091

Promoting Good Emotional Health and Wellbeing Model of Care 2024/2025



Supporting Families and Therapeutic Support for Care Experienced Children Model of Care 2024/2025



Cardiff & Vale

Allocation of
funding



£2,114,884

Cwm Taf Morgannwg

Allocation of
funding



£945,271

Gwent

Allocation of
funding



£3,030,371

North Wales

Allocation of
funding



£10,498,021

Powys

Allocation of
funding



£1,675,572

West Glamorgan

Allocation of
funding



£2,419,828

West Wales

Allocation of
funding



£2,026,561

Number of
individuals
accessing
support



43,404

024/2025

Home from Hospital Model of Care 2024/2025



Cardiff & Vale

Allocation of
funding



£6,444,077

**Cwm Taf
Morgannwg**

Allocation of
funding



£4,026,135

Gwent

Allocation of
funding



£6,159,574

**North
Wales**

Allocation of
funding



£3,454,244

Powys

Allocation of
funding



£800,702

**West
Glamorgan**

Allocation of
funding



£8,409,994

**West
Wales**

Allocation of
funding



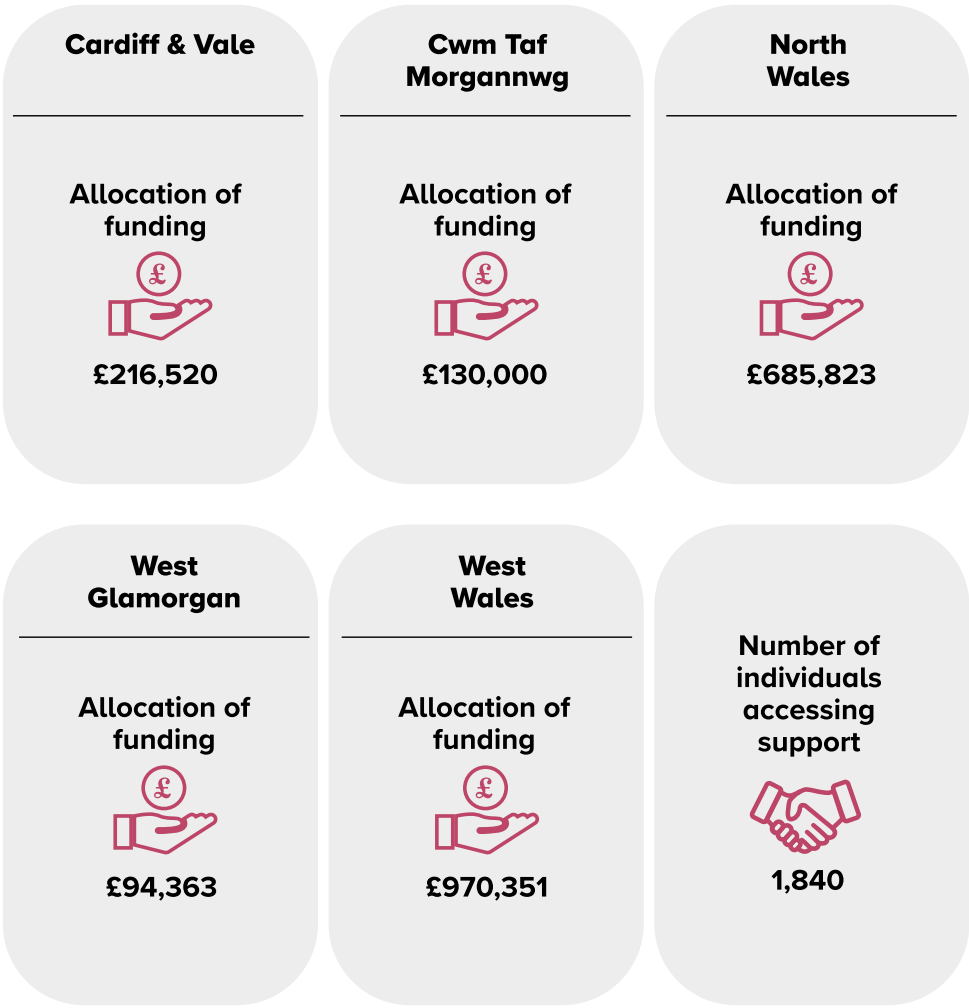
£6,306,966

Number of
individuals
accessing
support



169,878

Accommodation Based Solutions Model of Care 2024/2025



Six Goals for Urgent and Emergency Care

Older people represent a significant proportion of those accessing urgent and emergency care in Wales. The Six Goals for Urgent and Emergency Care provide a strategic framework to deliver timely, person-centred, and integrated care, reducing avoidable hospital admissions and improving outcomes.



Aligning these goals with integrated care pathways for older people is essential to meet the challenges of an ageing population and ensure sustainable health and social care services.

The Six Goals and relevance to an Integrated Community Care System for Wales

Goal 1: Coordination, planning and support for people at most risk of needing urgent or emergency care

Goal 2: Signposting people with urgent care needs to the right place, first time

Goal 3: Safe admission avoidance

Goal 4: Rapid response in crisis

- Older people often experience complex health needs and uncertainty about where to seek help.
- Work has been undertaken to enhance access to 24/7 clinical advice and triage via the WAST clinical contact centre, NHS 111 and LHB Single Points of Access intended to support early intervention and prevent unnecessary escalation of care to ambulance response and transport to hospital.
- Enhancing falls response services is critical to reducing avoidable harm and hospital admissions among older people. The [National Community-Based Falls Response Framework for Wales](#) aims to improve outcomes and experience for those who fall by improving the initial response times and reducing the risk of long lies which can result in an increased length of stay in hospital. The framework sets out the requirement for all local health boards to have Level 1 and Level 2 falls response services operational 12 hours a day, 7 days a week, with full geographical coverage and an urgent care response within 2 hours.

- Increasing access to Same-Day Emergency Care services and increasing direct access from community services and WAST is a priority – these services and acute frailty services at the front door of hospital can reduce hospital admissions for older people with acute but manageable conditions.

Goal 5: Optimal hospital patient care and discharge practice from the point of admission

- Preventing hospital-acquired deconditioning is essential to maintaining function and quality of life for older people. Integrated discharge models such as Discharge to Recover then Assess (D2RA) and visual management systems like Red2Green support timely transitions from hospital to home, minimising risk and promoting recovery.

Goal 6: Home first approach and reduce the risk of readmission

- Older people are disproportionately affected by pathways of care delays. Streamlined discharge planning and integrated care coordination are critical.
- Older people often present with multimorbidity and social vulnerabilities. Coordinated care pathways improve safety and experience and implementing discharge-to-assess models across health and social care is a key priority.

Outcomes in 2024/2025

- The national programme led the development and launch of the SDEC strategy for Wales to ensure consistency of services and robust clinical pathways are in place to enable direct access from key services/health professionals.
- Services are being developed to support the integration of frailty services across the ‘front door’ hospital-based services, including emergency departments, ambulatory or short stay units and SDECs - seeing around 9,500 patients a month with more than 80% being discharged without needing a hospital stay.
- 105 care homes received falls lifting equipment and 1000 care home staff across Wales have received Level 1 falls management and response training, delivered by St John Ambulance Cymru.
- To assess the impact of the Optimal Hospital Flow Framework, four key measures are now reportable at aggregate level for every health board. A national database and dashboard have been developed to support D2RA metrics.
- The National Preventing Patient Deconditioning Summit took place on the 4 of November 2025 where the Six Goals programme formally launched the DEWI tool which allows the measurement of deconditioning syndrome, reducing harm in hospitals improving discharge through supporting people to remain as independent as possible.
- A Fracture Liaison Service (FLS) has been established in six health boards, with agreements in place between Powys and adjacent general hospitals to ensure Powys communities have access to FLS.

Conclusion

Embedding the Six Goals within integrated care models for older people will improve access, reduce delays, and enhance quality of life. This approach supports the vision of a seamless

health and social care system in Wales, ensuring older people receive the right care, in the right place, at the right time.

Strategic Programme for Primary Care (SPPC)

The Strategic Programme for Primary Care (SPPC) continues to drive transformation across Wales, focusing on integrated models that improve access, prevention, and sustainability.

Urgent Primary Care Centres and the 24/7 model have expanded access to care outside traditional hours, improving responsiveness for patients. Digital and data improvements have advanced shared platforms and analytics, while workforce initiatives have introduced new training pathways and flexible roles to enhance recruitment and retention. Prevention and wellbeing remain central, with increased emphasis on obesity prevention and mental health support.

A key enabler of this progress has been the £3.8 million SPPC Fund, of which £2.1 million supported the ACD programme, providing essential resources for governance and integrated planning. The fund also backed obesity prevention projects, including the All Wales Diabetes Prevention Programme, aligned with the Healthy Weight Healthy Wales strategy. These investments accelerated transformation, ensured continuity of services, and fostered community engagement and digital innovation.

Recruitment and training needs are a key enabler and present opportunities to strengthen workforce planning and develop innovative solutions for future resilience. The overall impact to workforce has been positive, embedding learning across health boards and reinforcing evaluation frameworks.

Looking ahead, there is a strong opportunity to build on achievements by:

- **Enhancing workforce resilience** through expanded training and flexible roles.
- **Further integration between health and social care**, ensuring seamless services for communities.
- **Reviewing digital infrastructure** to unlock the full potential of data-driven care.
- **Scaling successful innovations** and embedding cluster working as a foundation for sustainable transformation.
- **Increasing public engagement and co-production** to shape services that reflect local needs and priorities

Conclusion and Next Steps

The Integrated Community Care System (ICCS) for Wales is being actively advanced through the strategic alignment and use of funding and transformation programmes, which has optimised Welsh Government investment and sustained synergy between revenue and capital investment projects. Regional Partnership Boards have a key role in developing and delivering an ICCS for Wales, growing cross sector support and ensuring policy collaboration.

The priorities for 2025/26 will ensure further alignment, clarity and greater learning opportunities from across the funding programmes and will focus on:

- 1

Deepening Alignment Across Funding Streams

Strengthen integration across funding programmes, ensuring greater synergy between revenue and capital investments to support cohesive service delivery.
- 2

Scaling and Sharing Impactful Practice

Expand the reach of successful projects across Regional Partnership Board (RPB) areas, while actively promoting best practice and innovation to drive system-wide improvement.
- 3

Enhancing Qualitative Insight and Storytelling

Advance the collection and use of qualitative data by embedding person-centred engagement throughout the project lifecycle, capturing the evolving ‘story of change’.
- 4

Strengthening Quantitative Performance Measurement

Improve consistency and depth in the reporting of the 20 core quantitative measures to better understand impact at both individual and system levels.

5

Building National Models Through Shared Learning

Continue to foster Communities of Practice to share learning and co-develop national specifications for integrated models of care and their key components.

6

Showcasing Integrated Delivery at Scale in development of ICCS for Wales

Established Communities of Practice will continue to identify and highlight integrated service models that leverage resources across all funds, demonstrating tangible benefits for people and communities.

7

Advancing Strategic Capital Planning

Further develop and refine regional Strategic Capital Plans to support integrated, long-term capital investment aligned with service transformation goals.