

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Maternity and Early Years Transformation: Maternity & Early Years Strategy West Wales

Background

Carmarthenshire County Council are working in partnership with Hywel Dda University Health Board (H DUHB), Ceredigion County Council and Pembrokeshire County Council in response to Welsh Government's Early Years Integration Transformation Programme. This programme focuses on the need for a 'joined up and responsive early years' service to ensure that every child has the best start in life'.

As part of the transformation programme, we are required to test and pilot innovative ways of working and as a result in Carmarthenshire we have worked closely with H DUHB in developing a pilot Early Years Integrated Team in Cwm Gwendraeth. This is a multi-disciplinary team of:

- *Health professionals (Midwives, Health Visitors and Speech and Language Therapists)*
- *Local Authority professionals (Family Support Officers and a Community Connector).*
- *The team is led by an Early Years Integration Co-ordinator and the systems for the team are developed and monitored by a Performance and Finance officer, of which both are H DUHB employees.*

The team has been developed utilising the good practice examples learnt from the Flying Start model of delivery.

On a regional level a Maternity and Early Years Steering Group has been set up since 2019 and work has been underway in developing a **Maternity and Early Years Strategy** for the region, setting out an agreed vision, objectives and priorities for all services working within the Maternity and Early Years sector across H DUHB, Local Authority and third sector organisations. By July 2022 the strategy was in its final stages of development and the consultation period for the strategy ran from July 2022 to 30th September 2022. A cross section of professionals and families from across the region took part in the consultation via focus groups and an online survey was available. This is a strategy with a difference as it is web-based, interactive and concise allowing professionals with limited time to access the strategy and read all or sections of it when needed. Following the consultation period, amendments have been agreed by the Regional Maternity and Early Years Steering group and these will be implemented with the support of Panda. Following full sign off across the region the intention is then to launch the strategy across the region.

Challenges/barriers and strategic implications

- Varying systems being used across services and the differing ways of collecting, storing, and sharing information about children and their families.
- Cultural norms of organisations, service capacity and years of silo working are challenges that need to be addressed and changed over time and with sensitivity.
- Funding
- Flying Start Expansion

OTHER OPTIONS AVAILABLE AND THEIR PROS AND CONS- N/A

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	YES Please see link to Maternity and Early Years Strategy for West Wales https://earlyyearsstrategywest.wales/
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IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: Jan Coles

Head of Children Services

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	YES	YES	YES	NONE	NONE	YES

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Carmarthenshire’s Corporate Strategy outlines the counties Well-being Objectives and Key Improvement priorities. There are fifteen Well-being Objectives under the headings of Start Well, Live Well, Age Well and Healthy, Safe and Prosperous Environment. Each objective feeds into the seven well-being goals for Wales. The table below shows which Wales and Carmarthenshire well-being objectives the Maternity and Early Years Strategy for West Wales feeds into.

Carmarthenshire’s Well-being Objectives			The seven Wellbeing Objectives for Wales							Maternity And Early Years Strategy for West Wales	
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
Start Well	1	Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	Wales Well-being Objectives 3,4,5
	2	Help children live healthy lives	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
	3	Continue to improve learner attainment for all	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
	4	Reduce the number of young people that are Not in Education, Employment or training (NEET).	✓		✓	✓	✓				
	5	Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, help people into work and improve the lives of those living in poverty.	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	
Live Well	6	Create more jobs and growth throughout the county.	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			
	7	Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	8	Help people live healthy lives (tackling	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	

		risky behaviour and obesity)									
Age Well	9	Support good connections with friends, family and safer communities			✓	✓	✓				✓
	10	Support the growing numbers of older people to maintain dignity and independence in their later years.	✓		✓	✓	✓				
	11	A Council wide approach to support Ageing Well in Carmarthenshire.	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			
In a Healthy, Safe & Prosperous Environment	12	Look after the environment now and in the future.	✓	✓	✓						
	13	Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity.	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	14	Promote Welsh Language and Culture	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓
	15	Building a better Council and making better use of resources – Corporate Objective									

In essence the Maternity and Early Years Strategy for West Wales sets out how we will ensure that all families across the region have access to excellent universal and targeted services that support their health and wellbeing and develops their skills and resilience, which will last a lifetime and enable them to cope well with the challenges and pressures that they may face. We will have a system that will:

- Support those at a disadvantage and those who encounter challenges; and
- Safeguard and nurture the most vulnerable.

Through this the strategy directly contributes to the following Carmarthenshire Wellbeing Objectives:

Start Well :

- Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences
- Help children live healthy lives
- Continue to improve learner attainment for all
- Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, help people into work and improve the lives of those living in poverty.

Live Well

- Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour and obesity)

Age Well

- Support good connections with friends, family and safer communities

In a Healthy, Safe & Prosperous Environment

- Promote Welsh Language and Culture

The section related to Equality and Welsh Language of the Integrated Impact Assessment report has been completed and has identified that the strategy will have a positive impact on:

Disability: The strategy sets out how improvements can be made to Maternity and Early Years Services and as a results these improvements will have a significant impact on children with disabilities and their families.

Pregnancy and Maternity: Services will look to develop better ways of identifying support for families in the antenatal stage and making these services more accessible for families

Welsh Language: All work completed will be in compliance with the requirements of the Welsh Language Policy and every opportunity will be taken to promote the Welsh language. We will ensure that children and their families are able to access services through their language of choice and that the 'active offer' through the Welsh medium is available.

2. Legal

Due to the regional nature of the Maternity and Early Years Transformation Programme and the requirement to work across Health, Local Authority and Third sector organisations Welsh Government have requested that formal Collaboration Agreements are signed between Hywel Dda University Health Board and the three Local Authorities (Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion).

Locally Carmarthenshire County Council has a legally binding agreement with Hywel Dda University Health Board for the funding of the health posts located within the Cwm Gwendraeth Early Years Integration Team.

To implement the vision and priorities within the Maternity and Early Years Strategy for West Wales, a key area of work which will need to be reviewed is the way in which information is shared across services via Information Sharing Protocols. This will have legal implications and require the signing of legal agreements.

1. Finance

For the period of 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2024 funding of **£1,360,605** is awarded to Ceredigion County Council to fund Maternity and Transformation Work in collaboration with Carmarthenshire County Council and Pembrokeshire County Council. Of the total allocated to the region, Carmarthenshire County Council has been allocated £325,326 for 22/23 and £315,582 for 23/24. This is Welsh Government funding and the purpose of the funding is:

- To test the core components for a single integrated early years service.
- To consider what it will take to develop a fully integrated and responsive early years service in their area, focussed on the coordination of services locally, their planning and commissioning and how best to identify and address needs.

The funding enables us to:

- improve service integration across the statutory and voluntary sectors
- improve access to services for children and families
- improve population health and reduce inequalities
- improve service quality and safety

Part of this funding is utilised for local strategic co-ordination and part is used to fund the Cwm Gwendraeth Early Years Integrated Team.

We have no funding commitment from Welsh Government from 1st April 2024.

4. ICT

To implement the vision and priorities within the Maternity and Early Years Strategy for West Wales, a key area of work which will need to be reviewed is the way in which information is shared across services via differing ICT systems.

The strategy acknowledges that there are deficits currently in the ICT Systems utilized across Maternity and Early Years services which are prohibiting effective partnership working and sharing of information. Families are becoming increasingly frustrated as they are having to tell their stories numerous times to numerous professionals.

6. Physical Assets

The vision for Carmarthenshire is to develop co-located teams within communities to deliver maternity and Early Years services to families. We are currently working in partnership with Hywel Dda University Health Board in ensuring that the Hubs being developed in both Crosshands and Carmarthen include an Early Years wing for delivery of family support services. It is hoped that this approach can be implemented county wide with the development of other hubs.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed Jan Coles Head of Children's Services

(Please specify the outcomes of consultations undertaken where they arise against the following headings)

1. Scrutiny Committee request for pre-determination

N/A – Delete as appropriate

If yes include the following information: -

Scrutiny Committee

Date the report was considered:-

Scrutiny Committee Outcome/Recommendations:-

2. Local Member(s)

N/A

3. Community / Town Council

N/A

4. Relevant Partners

The Strategy was open for consultation across the region for a period of 3 months. Comments have been collated and amendments will be made accordingly

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

The Strategy was open for consultation across the region for a period of 3 months. Comments have been collated and amendments will be made accordingly

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED YES	Include any observations here: Fully Supportive
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Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Maternity and Early Years Strategy for West Wales	T	https://earlyyearsstrategywest.wales/