

Gwent Regional Partnership Board annual report

What we did in 2024 to 2025



October 2025

How to use this document



This is an Easy Read version of: **Gwent Regional Partnership Board Annual Report 2024/2025.**



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About us



We are the Gwent Regional Partnership Board.



We work together to help make health and social care services better for everyone.



This is a report about the work we did from April 2024 to March 2025.

Checking what we do



We check our how we are doing every year.



We found that we are working well together.

In 2024 and 2025 we have been working to:



- Improve care across Gwent.



- Working with people to improve health and social care services together.



- Checking what difference our work makes.

Working with people



We are always trying to improve how we work with people.



We have a group made up of people who live in Gwent. This group is called the **Gwent Citizen Network**. There are over 200 members.



They work with us and tell us what matters to them.



Their views help to improve what we do. They help make sure we have services that people need.



We held an event called **Decisions Made Together**.
We learnt that we should:

- Make working with people a priority.
- Make sure different people can have a say.
- Support people to be involved.
- Have good communication.
- Check how we are working.



You can watch a video about the event on YouTube:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-Ot7WMqrK8



The **Gwent Citizen Network** held different meetings and events to get people involved.



We will have more events online so more people can take part.

Information, advice and help



We want to make sure we communicate clearly with everyone.



We will work together better to improve our communication. We have a group that works on this.



We share our work through:

- Our website
- Social media
- Newsletters



We check the website often to make sure it is easy for people to find and use.



There are other useful websites that have information about services in our area. Like [Dewis](#).

Social Value Forum



We want to help people in the community. We work with **third sector** organisations, charities and community groups.

Our forum is looking at new ways to use funding, to support services like:



- Day services.



- Services in the community.



- Helping people leave hospital safely.



- Stopping people from going into hospital when they don't need to.



The **Welsh Government** gave money to help with this.



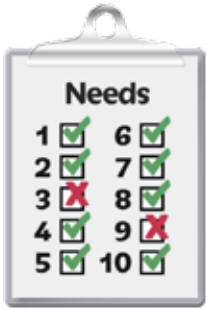
In Gwent, some of this money was used for a Small Grants Scheme.



This money helped **72 community projects**. The projects supported people through things like:

- Youth clubs
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Help for carers

Planning and funding



We did a Population Needs Assessment in 2022.



It gives an overview of people's health and wellbeing in Gwent.



It looks at what is working well and where services are needed.



We use this information to make plans, like the Gwent Area Plan.



Our Area Plan shows what is important for Gwent and what is needed to improve support services.



It is important that people receive the right services at the right time. Also, in the right place.



We check funding is going to the right services. We look at how funding can be used better through working together.

Workforce



We have a group that helps make sure there are enough health and social care staff.



They are working to make sure there are more student placements in health and social care.



They also promote working in health and social care through a campaign called WeCare Wales.



WeCare Wales has been a big success. It was nominated for an award at the 2025 Careers Wales Awards.



You can watch a video about Social Care Work Placements here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=rbBOIvE55lo

Adults



Our main goals are to:



- Support older people to live in their own homes for longer.



- Support people to return home after hospital.



- Support their wellbeing.



- Support access to care services. For example, appointment waiting times.

In 2024 to 2025 we:



- Improved the use of equipment and support.



- Provided more carers to adults who need extra support.



- Took steps to make sure people were supported earlier on.



- Checked how well systems worked in hospitals and worked to improve them.



- Looked at the best new ways of working.

Health, disabilities and sensory loss



Our main goals have been to:



- Support disabled people to live independently and get support in their community.



- Make sure people can get good information.



- Support people moving into new services.

In 2024 to 2025 we:



- Ran hearing loss drop-in sessions as part of the **Dementia Hub** project.



- Improved information to help people make decisions.



Our next steps are to:

- Get more workers trained to use home aids and adaptations, like stair rails, ramps and hoists.
- Make sure people are supported to get information in a way that meets their needs.
- Get more trained staff who can support people with sight loss.
- Keep developing services for people with a sensory impairment. Like sight loss and hearing loss.

Wellbeing and stopping problems early on



We have a project called **Integrated Wellbeing Neworks**. It has done a lot of work to help improve people's wellbeing.



For example, we worked with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. We looked at how being in nature can support people's wellbeing.



We supported many people through our Information, Advice and Assistance services.



We have a service to help people get the health care they need.



We have training for health and social care staff – to help them work together better.



We have different projects working to keep people safe at home through winter, and to return home from hospital safely.



We will keep working on these things to keep improving.

Direct Payments



Direct Payments is money social services can give you, instead of a service. You can use it to buy your own support services.



You can watch our video about Direct Payments here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=IW5NvrNG_Rc



A big goal has been to improve how we use Direct Payments.



Teams have worked together to help share costs and resources. This has helped improve services.

In 2024 to 2025 we:



- Made public information guides.



- Trained staff.



- Set up meetings between different staff teams.

Our next steps are to:



- Get more staff to complete Direct Payments training.
- Look for more chances for teams to work together.
- Develop and grow Direct Payments teams.

Children and families



We want to give better support to children and young people with complex needs.



Complex needs mean you need a lot of support because of disability, health or sensory loss.



Our goal is to work with children and young people early on. And provide more support closer to home.

In 2024 to 2025 we:



Made it easier for young people to get support for their mental health through:

- **SPACE Wellbeing**
- **Platform Gwent 4YP**
- **MY Support Team**



Provided mental health services for children and young people through the **Family Intervention Team (FIT)**.



We have followed the guide for improving mental health services for children and young people. It is called the **NEST Framework**.



We set up a Young People's Board. So young people can share their views about health and social care needs.



Our next steps are to:

- Keep working on the NEST Framework.
- Listen to the views of more children and young people.

Mental health and learning disability



Our main goals are to:



- Make sure Information, Advice and Assistance services are easy to use.



- Give more emotional support in schools and communities.



- Give support and training to staff.

In 2024 to 2025 we:



- Worked on the website **Melo Cymru** www.melo.cymru . This has lots of mental health and wellbeing resources.



- Gave lots of staff learning disability awareness training.



- Gave mental wellbeing training to over 500 people.



- Supported disabled people to develop friendships through the **My Mates** project.



- Supported adults with learning disabilities to use day services through **My Day My Life**.



Our next steps are to:

- Keep working on the things we have done so far.
- Give more training.
- Improve Information, Advice and Assistance services.
- Look at the new Welsh plan called the Mental Health Strategy and use it.
- Keep working with people to develop services and get people's views.

Neurodivergence



Neurodivergence describes people whose brains work differently to others. For example, because of conditions like autism and ADHD,



Our main goals have been to:



- Make sure people get a quicker Autism diagnosis. And advice and support after a diagnosis.

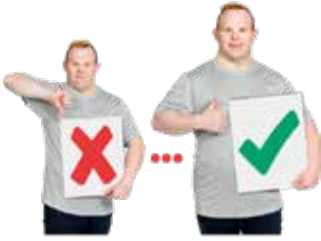


- Help more people understand things like autism and ADHD.



- Offer more chances for people to learn, work, volunteer and have support.

In 2024 to 2025 we:



- Worked to improve services for neurodivergent people through **The Neurodivergence Improvement Programme (NDIP)**.



- Reduced waiting times for diagnosis.



- Run training called **Autism Reality Experience**.



- Started research into supported employment for people with learning disabilities and autism.



- Blaenau Gwent has opened the Independent Living Skills service called **PODS**. It supports young people and adults with a physical or learning disability.



Our next steps are to:

- Look into new projects and ideas.
- Raise awareness.
- Start an early support hub.
- Improve online services.
- Create more chances for people to learn, work and volunteer.

Carers



Our main goals have been to:



- Support unpaid carers.



- Improve the wellbeing of carers.

In 2024 to 2025 we:



- Worked with young carers in schools It has involved over 100 schools and over 1600 young carers.



- Provided short breaks to carers.



- Supported Carers when the person they care for leaves hospital. More than 1700 carers in Gwent have been supported.



- Supported carers for 6 weeks after hospital. This helps carers settle back into home life.



- Involved Carers in decisions about services.



Our next steps are to:

- Work together to help recognise unpaid carers.
- Look into how projects and services can be run longer term.
- Check how well services run and how they can be improved.

Dementia



Dementia is an illness that affects the brain. It makes it hard to remember, think and do things.



Our main goals have been to:



- Make sure more people are assessed, diagnosed and supported.



- Make sure there is more information, advice and help.



- Help more people learn about dementia.

In 2024 to 2025 we:



- Set up **Dementia Hubs** in each area of Gwent. They offer information, advice and support.



- Gave more appointments for **Memory Assessment Services**.



- Provided lots of chances to learn about dementia.



- Grew our **Dementia-Friendly Gwent Network**. It has over 330 members.



- Gave courses to Carers.



- Provided activities for people living with dementia.



- Over 1500 people have shared their views about dementia care.

Our next steps are to:



- Keep running the **Dementia Hubs** – we have funding for the next 12 months.
- Find funding for a new dementia trainer job role.
- Offer more chances for people to learn about dementia.
- Keep growing the **Dementia Friendly Gwent Network**.
- Make sure there are high standards in dementia care.
- Offer more activities and support to people in hospital who live with dementia.

Health, social care and housing



Our main goals have been to:



- Work together to make sure older people, and people with other needs, have the right housing



- To make sure **Disabled Facilities Grants** are used well – this is money to help with the costs of adapting your home



- Reduce homelessness.

In 2024 to 2025 we:



- Used our **Rapid Housing Plan** to reduce homelessness.



- Gave over a million pounds to care services to help stop people being in hospital when they don't need to be.



- Gave people housing support.



- Worked with people to improve services, and asked people for their views.



Our next steps are to:

- Get more staff to support housing needs.
- Give mental health support to staff supporting people with housing.
- Stay up to date with Welsh Government plans for housing services.

Using technology



We want to use technology and online services that help people be independent and improve quality of life.



For example, easy to use websites, hearing aids, wheelchairs, smart devices.

In 2024 to 2025 we:



- Gave out devices to support people.



- Checked what difference we made.



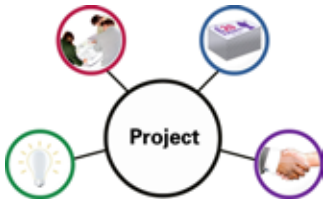
- Made sure people using technology can keep using it.



Our next steps are to:

- Keep developing how we use technology across Gwent.
- Set up the **Gwent Assistive Technology Network.**

Gwent Regional Innovation Coordination Hub



This group ran 6 community projects. They reached almost 5000 people.

They were:

- **4Minds** – improving men’s mental health.
- **Warm Wales** – improving homes to make them warmer.
- **Thriving Communities** -improving health and wellbeing.
- **WISE KIDS** – online support for parents and carers.
- **Torfaen County Borough Council** – supported health issues like heart health.
- **Monmouthshire**- shared an app to support the views of children who are not able to talk.

What next

Some other things we will be doing in the next year are:



- Working with people to improve health and social care services together.



- Checking what difference our work makes.



- Developing our work on getting involved in health issues early on.



- Shortening hospital stays.



- Focussing on children with complex needs



- Finding new ways to support people waiting for assessments.



- Providing more support for people with dementia.



- Finding ways to employ more staff in health and social care.



- Working to stop people being lonely.



- Supporting unpaid carers.



- Working together well to achieve our goals.

