



This guidance note provides advice on how to fulfil the need for effective governance and accountability in relation to the preparation and delivery of the plan. It is important because the concept of a joint area plan under the auspices of the RPB presents new challenges in terms of governance and requires careful consideration.

The statutory guidance should be read alongside the Part 9 statutory guidance on partnerships. Clearly, the governing body for directing the creation and implementation of the joint area plans is the Regional Partnership Board. The RPB must ensure that the local authority and LHB partners work together effectively to respond to the population assessment and implement the joint area plan.

## **Guidance**

We offered guidance on partnerships and governance in the population assessment toolkit and would refer to that here. For a copy of the toolkit, please see [https://socialcare.wales/cms\\_assets/hub-downloads/Population\\_Assessment\\_Toolkit.pdf](https://socialcare.wales/cms_assets/hub-downloads/Population_Assessment_Toolkit.pdf)

The important principles to adopt in relation to governance are that the RPB knows precisely what its responsibilities are and the decision it is being asked to make, including its accountability and the risks involved. Similarly, each of the partners need to be clear about the extent to which they have agreed for the RPB to make decisions on behalf of all the partners with or without referring back to constituent bodies.

It may be that the Regional Partnership Board has adopted a structure of sub-divisions to undertake specific pieces of work. If this is the case, sub-groups must be equally clear about their delegated powers and expectations in terms of reporting back.

Similarly, the Regional Partnership Board is likely to nominate lead partners for different aspects of the plan. This also has implications for governance and where lead partners are nominated, the expectations on them in respect of responsibilities, accountabilities and reporting must be crystal clear from the outset.

## Reflective questions

- ◆ Are you clear what the respective governance arrangements are for your
  - a) Regional Partnership Board?
  - b) Individual organisations that Board members represent?
- ◆ Have you set out a clear structure of reporting and monitoring delivery of the plan?

## Useful resources

<https://www.local.gov.uk/stepping-place-integration-self-assessment-tool>



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