Co-operation and partnership

1. **What is the 'footprint' for the Regional Partnership Boards?**

New Regional Partnership Boards are being established to drive the effective delivery of integrated health and social services. Regulations require the establishment of seven regional partnership boards on the health board footprint.

1. **What is the membership of the Regional Partnership Boards?**

The regulations prescribe a core membership for Regional Partnership Boards. These include at least one elected member of a local authority and a member of the local health board. Two individuals representing the third sector must be members.

The regulations also require boards, which must include one person to represent people with needs for care and support and one person to represent carers. It is recognised that the boards will have to work with regional citizens’ panels, or other relevant groups, to ensure the citizen voice is heard to inform the development and delivery of integrated services.

While the regulations prescribe a core membership, they also allow for regional partnership boards to co-opt other persons to be members as appropriate.

1. **How will the Regional Partnership Boards be formed?**

The Regional Partnership Boards will be formed out of the existing arrangements for the regional level leadership groups and regional level partnership fora. Regional partnership arrangements have been established on a non-statutory basis to support the delivery of Sustainable Social Services for Wales and the implementation of the Act. The new statutory regional partnership boards will have specific functions in relation to the leadership, planning and delivery of integrated health and social services, as prescribed in the regulations. The existing arrangements are the starting point for the new boards. Current partnership groups should be planning now how they will build on the good work to date to reshape their arrangements to ensure a smooth transition to the new statutory requirements following implementation in April 2016.

1. **What is the relationship between the population assessment and the Regional Partnership Boards?**

Section 14 of the Act requires that local authorities and local health boards jointly undertake a population assessment of care and support needs, including the support

needs of carers. That population assessment will produce the clear and specific evidence base to inform the work of Regional Partnership Boards.

1. **What are the requirements in relation to pooled funds?**

Pooled budgets are required in relation to family support functions and, from 2018, care homes. Partnerships can also decide to pool funds to respond more fully to their population assessments and we will be expecting them to use this power effectively to make a difference.

This is not the only way to drive integration – pooled budgets are an important tool not a solution in themselves. What must underpin this approach is a real and genuine understanding of the needs of the population and an absolute commitment to deliver services through integrated approaches.

1. **As the Safeguarding Boards are organised on a different footprint to the Regional Partnership Boards, how will they work with each other?**

The Act also provides for a coherent, common footprint in relation to the establishment of Safeguarding Boards.

Safeguarding Boards and the new Regional Partnership Boards have different statutory roles and memberships. Safeguarding Boards enable and support multi-agency working to prevent the abuse or neglect of children and adults. The new Regional Partnership Boards support operational delivery of integrated care and support services.

Work is well advanced to reconfigure existing Safeguarding Children Boards on the public service delivery footprint. In response to the consultation exercise on Regional Partnership Boards, there is a consensus view that there should be a separate Regional Partnership Board for Powys.

1. **What is the relationship of new Regional Partnership Boards with Public Service Boards required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales)   
   Act 2015?**

Regional Partnership Boards are being established at a local health board area level to drive the integration of health and social services to plan and ensure the delivery of integrated, innovative care and support services to best meet the needs of people in response to the population assessment. They will be ideally placed to ensure prudent approaches to care and support. Public Service Boards sit at the local authority area level and will involve a broader range of partners to look strategically at the wider economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of the area. They will identify locally a small number of priorities for collective action across the area, which may or may not include care and support issues.