

3. Strategic Considerations

During the development of this Strategy, the Partnership has reflected upon many national and local strategies, local strategic partnership priorities and consultation responses some of which are outlined below.

3.1 Statutory Requirements

Section 40 of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006 requires local health boards and local authorities in Wales to jointly develop and implement a strategy for the health and well-being of its local population and to consider the strategy when exercising their functions. The new regulations known as the ***Health, Social Care and Well-being Strategies (Wales) (amendment) Regulations 2007*** came into force on the 1st of April 2007 set out the procedure for developing local strategies.

This Strategy is therefore a statutory document aiming to respond to the health, social care and well-being issues in a strategic manner. The second round of Health, Social Care and Well-being strategies are seen as an opportunity to further collaboration and joint partnership working resulting in improved health and well-being. The strategies are expected to focus on high quality service citizen-focused services, built on open engagement with users, carers, staff and the general public.

3.2 Plan Rationalisation

In 2005 the Welsh Assembly Government agreed plan rationalisation proposals which means that ultimately the number of plans local authorities have to submit to the Welsh Assembly Government will reduce significantly from 32 to 4. The four plans to be submitted are: the Community Strategy; the Health, Social Care and Well-being Strategy; the Children and Young People's Plan; and the Local Development Plan (planning document). It is also proposed that these 4 major documents should be interlinked and cross-refer to one another.

3.3 Children and Young People's Plan

As previously stated, the Health, Social Care and Well-Being Strategy must be coherent with and reflect the priorities of the Gwynedd Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership to be published in September 2008.

The Children and Young People's Plan will seek to ensure that all children and young people have a flying start in life and enjoy the best possible health and well-being. Indeed, health is an important resource that enables children and young people to achieve educationally, to participate positively in their communities and to enjoy economic well-being. The Health, Social Care and Well-being Partnership and the Children and Young People's Strategic

Partnership will continue to work together, therefore, to enable children and young people to experience good health and positive well-being.

This co-operation and partnership working has been very evident in the development of both this Strategy and the Children and Young People's Plan (**CYPP**). Both partnerships worked in tandem on the Needs Assessment process for both documents and the consultation work for the CYPP was jointly funded by both partnerships and some of the results are noted in Section Six which addresses lifestyle issues.

As part of the development process of the CYPP, key issues within Strategic Partnership's Strategic Aims for Children and Young People were identified and subsequently prioritised using a risk and influence assessment matrix. Four levels of priority were recognised:

- Critical priorities
- High priorities
- Medium priorities
- Low priorities

Mental health and the emotional well-being of children and young people has been recognised as a **critical** priority as well as the needs of young carers. These priorities will be addressed by the CYPP Partnership in close association with the HSCWB Partnership.

Responsibility for a number of the high priorities identified lies within the remit of The Health Challenge Gwynedd Alliance and the Healthy Schools Project which is led by the National Public Health Service. They include:

- Obesity
- Diet and Nutrition
- Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Smoking
- Alcohol
- Substance Misuse

The Health Challenge Gwynedd Alliance will work closely with the Children and Young People's Partnership to develop actions to address these issues and will monitor and evaluate progress. This is discussed more fully in Section 6 of this Strategy.

3.4 The Gwynedd Community Safety Partnership

The Gwynedd Community Safety Partnership is a statutory partnership required under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Partnership consists of five statutory members, these being the Local Authority, Police, the Police Authority, the Local Health Board and the Fire and Rescue Authority. The Partnership has responsibility for producing two strategies namely the Crime and Disorder Strategy and the Substance Misuse Strategy. The Community Safety Partnership is committed to working with all other services and all other partnerships that have a contribution to make to the Crime and Disorder Agenda. Likewise, the Partnership is committed to working with others towards achieving their outcomes on crosscutting themes such as health.

3.5 Modernisation Agenda

Over the coming years, public service provision will undergo some major changes in response to the Welsh Assembly Government-led modernisation agenda, as well as the local recognition that changes to services are inevitable if we are to deliver the vision we have set ourselves. Services need to be developed which are more responsive to the needs of our population, wherever possible delivered closer to people's homes and in their local communities, and which also support people to live as independently as possible.

3.6 National Service Frameworks for Wales (NSFs)

NSFs were originally developed as a means of addressing variations in standards of care. By setting national standards and defining service models, these frameworks require the development of local implementation plans and establish performance measures aimed at raising standards and ensuring consistency of standard. There are 6 NSFs to date:

- Children, Young People & Maternity Services
- Coronary Heart Disease
- Diabetes
- Adult Mental Health Services
- Older People
- Renal Disease

The implementation of these standards is led and arranged on a local basis by the Gwynedd Local Health Board in partnership with the NWW Trust, Gwynedd Council and other organisations including the voluntary sector.

In addition the Welsh Assembly Government has published 'Improving Health and Management of Chronic Conditions in Wales', May 2007 which outlines the requirements to improve the care of people with long term conditions.

3.7 Joint Review of Social Services

A Joint Review of Social Services in Gwynedd was carried out by the Wales Audit Office and the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales during the summer of 2007. The final Report is not expected until the summer of 2008. An improvement plan is currently being developed and the Partnership will support and implement the identified actions and incorporate the plan in the HSCWB Strategy Action Plan.

3.8 Fulfilled Lives, Supportive Communities

This Strategy for Social Services in Wales proposes a vision for social services and social care. It sets out the key themes and the future direction for services. The Strategy argues that services must provide earlier support to improve outcomes and opportunities for prevention. It also recognises the need for local authorities to work closely with local health boards and the NHS as well as the voluntary and independent sectors.

3.9 Designed for Life

Designed for Life, May 2005, provides the current strategic framework of the Welsh Assembly Government for health and social care, which should be considered in the local planning, commissioning and delivery of care services. Within the document there is an emphasis on the need for local government and the NHS, together with other key stakeholders (such as the voluntary sector), to work more closely in strengthening and modernising services.

Of equal importance is the need to tackle the causes of poor health and improve general well-being. This is nationally driven under the banner of 'Health Challenge Wales'.

In addition, the **Annual Operating Framework** for the NHS sets out the Welsh Assembly Government's annual requirements derived from Designed for Life. Although this framework is primarily issued to NHS organisations, a partnership approach to the delivery of the outlined improvements is emphasised.