

**NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION CABINET BOARD**

**24<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF BUSINESS STRATEGY AND PUBLIC  
PROTECTION – A. THOMAS**

**SECTION B – MATTER FOR INFORMATION**

**WARDS AFFECTED: ALL**

**THE SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELL-BEING (WALES) ACT 2014**

**Purpose of Report**

To inform Members of the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014, to be implemented from April 2016.

**Background**

The Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 received Royal Assent and became law in May 2014.

The Act provides the statutory framework to deliver Welsh Government's commitment to integrate social services to support people of all ages as part of families and communities.

The intention is to transform the way social services are delivered by promoting people's independence and giving them a stronger voice and control. By integrating and simplifying the law this will lead to greater consistency, promoting equality, improved quality and enhanced access arrangements. Further, given the changes in demography the Act encourages an emphasis on prevention and early intervention.

**Legal Framework:**

The new legal framework has 3 parts:

- **The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act:** One law setting out the powers and duties for local authorities and other bodies
- **Regulations:** This is secondary legislation, where the Act needs more detail
- **Codes of Practice:** This is guidance with the force of law, clarifying how people and organisations must work within the new framework

### **Content of the Act**

The Act is made up of 11 Parts:

- Part 1 – Introduction
- Part 2 - General Functions
- Part 3 - Assessing the Needs of Individuals
- Part 4 - Meeting Needs
- Part 5 - Charging and Financial Assessment
- Part 6 - Looked After and Accommodated Children
- Part 7 – Safeguarding
- Part 8 - Social Services Functions
- Part 9 - Co-operation and Partnership
- Part 10 - Complaints, Representations & Advocacy Services
- Part 11 - Miscellaneous and General

### **Key Principles contained within the Act:**

The key principles contained within the Act are:-

- Voice and control
- Prevention and early intervention
- Well-being
- Co-production
- Multi Agency

with the focus being on ‘outcomes’ for people ie. adults, children and carers.

### **Aim of the Act:**

- Engage with and empower citizens
- Promote independence and well-being
- Give people who receive support and their carers control over their lives and the support they receive to maximise independence.

### **New duties of the Act:**

- Prioritise improved well-being of citizens and greater access to support
- Work across service boundaries in partnership
- Provide Adult at Risk with legal protection
- Reduce outdated bureaucratic systems in respect of assessment

The Act affords enhanced duties on local authorities and Local Health Boards to take steps to prevent and reduce the needs for care and support of people in their area.

These 'preventative' services would be available potentially to the population of 3 million in Wales.

It will further strengthen collaboration and provide a framework for integration of key services and place new duties on LA's LHB's and other public bodies to improve the well-being of people with care and support needs.

### **Impact on Partner Organisations**

The Local Authority will be required to further promote the integration of care and support with health and health related provision with a view to improving well-being, prevention and raising quality. Partnership arrangements will be presented through legislation and include:- Health, the Independent Sector, Voluntary Sector and others eg. Community Services, Support Groups, Housing Benefits and Leisure Services.

### **Impact on day to day Working**

The Act places great emphasis on a cultural shift towards minimum appropriate intervention where there is less emphasis on prescribed ways of doing things and a shift towards intervening earlier in the lives of people and promoting prevention strategies. Further, the Act aims to help people achieve their desired outcomes rather than assessing suitability for services.

### **Current Position**

The regulations, codes of practice and statutory guidance that underpin the Act have been developed and consulted on in two phases.

The first phase of consultation on Parts 2, 3, 4, 7 & 11 have concluded.  
The second phase of consultations on the Act covering Parts 5, 6, 9 & 10  
is now open and will close on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015.

### **Wards Affected**

All

### **Officer Contact**

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