



Powys Regional Partnership Board

Annual Report

April 2023 to March 2024



Bwrdd Partneriaeth
Ranbarthol Powys
Iechyd a Gofal
Cymdeithasol



Powys Regional
Partnership Board
Health and
Social Care



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Powys Regional Partnership Board (RPB) is pleased to introduce its annual report which highlights achievements from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. The RPB continues with a strong commitment to transforming health and social care services that improve lives for people in Powys.

This has been the first delivery year of our refreshed Joint Area Plan following our mid-term review of our ten-year Health and Care Strategy “A Healthy, Caring Powys” and first Joint Area Plan. It has been another challenging year, with ongoing pressures put on the health and care system, particularly in terms of the workforce, across the year. The RPB however continue to play an important role in fostering strong relationships and a space to plan and co-ordinate a response across partners and emphasise the importance of working together to address shared challenges. There is still much progress to celebrate again this year as we continue to aim to support people in Powys to Start Well, Live Well and Age Well.

The Start Well Partnerships continues to focus on transforming services for children and young people, with notable achievements including the embedding of a comprehensive mental health and well-being framework, NEST/NYTH model, and expansion of emotional health support services. Efforts this year have also emphasized preventing family breakdowns and providing safe accommodation options for children with complex needs. The Live Well Partnership continues to strive to create a supportive environment promoting good health outcomes and access to timely support services. Key highlights include extensive community engagement initiatives to identify and address the needs of diverse populations, particularly focusing on day opportunities, supported living, and initiatives supporting autism and neurodiversity. The Age Well Partnership remains dedicated to supporting older individuals to live independently, combatting isolation, physical and mental frailty. The work of the Unscheduled Care Programme continues to tackle challenges around the discharge and flow of people from hospital.

Co-production practice remains an important underpinning value for how the partnership operates. Work this year has been undertaken to collectively define across both the Regional Partnership Board and Public Service Board a shared definition of co-production. This co-productive practice itself will help determine how we further embed co-productive practice across all partners in a more consistent and meaningful way.

Cross-cutting work encompasses initiatives addressing various issues across partnerships, such as ensuring support for unpaid carers, Welsh language, improving the cancer journey, and workforce development. The North Powys Wellbeing Programme remains our flagship programme to support integrated health and care services, including the development of a health and wellbeing campus in Newtown.

Due to the breadth and depth of the work through the Regional Partnership Board, this Annual Report can only highlight some of the key work that has taken place and spotlight specific areas of good practice for wider sharing, learning and adoption. Whilst there is clearly much to be proud of, work must continue at pace as we move into the second year of our refreshed Joint Area Plan.

THE BOARD'S ROLE AND PURPOSE

Powys Regional Partnership Board (RPB) brings together a range of public service representatives and other key people, including citizens, to ensure that organisations work better together to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Powys. The RPB Terms of Reference contains a statement of intent which sets out what it is trying to accomplish:



- » Create a momentum for critical improvements, by identifying key priorities for Powys citizens and concentrate efforts to ensure those are being addressed
- » Increase the focus on early intervention and prevention by encouraging citizen control and ownership in health and wellbeing matters to minimise the escalation of need
- » Ensure the voice of the citizen is not only heard but acted upon to improve services
- » Utilise intelligence on existing and future needs of citizens in the planning of services throughout the spectrum of need and ensure resources are maximised through judicious engagement with other bodies undertaking similar activity
- » Ensure quality services are delivered efficiently and effectively through a skilled and motivated workforce and volunteers
- » Promote the integration of care and support between Social Services and Health
- » Ensure co-production and the commissioning of services with the public, private and voluntary sectors that promotes connected and seamless services working effectively together
- » Foster innovative new practices and promote a learning culture ensuring effective mechanisms are in place to bridge the gap between organisational and public communication on the planning and achievements of services.

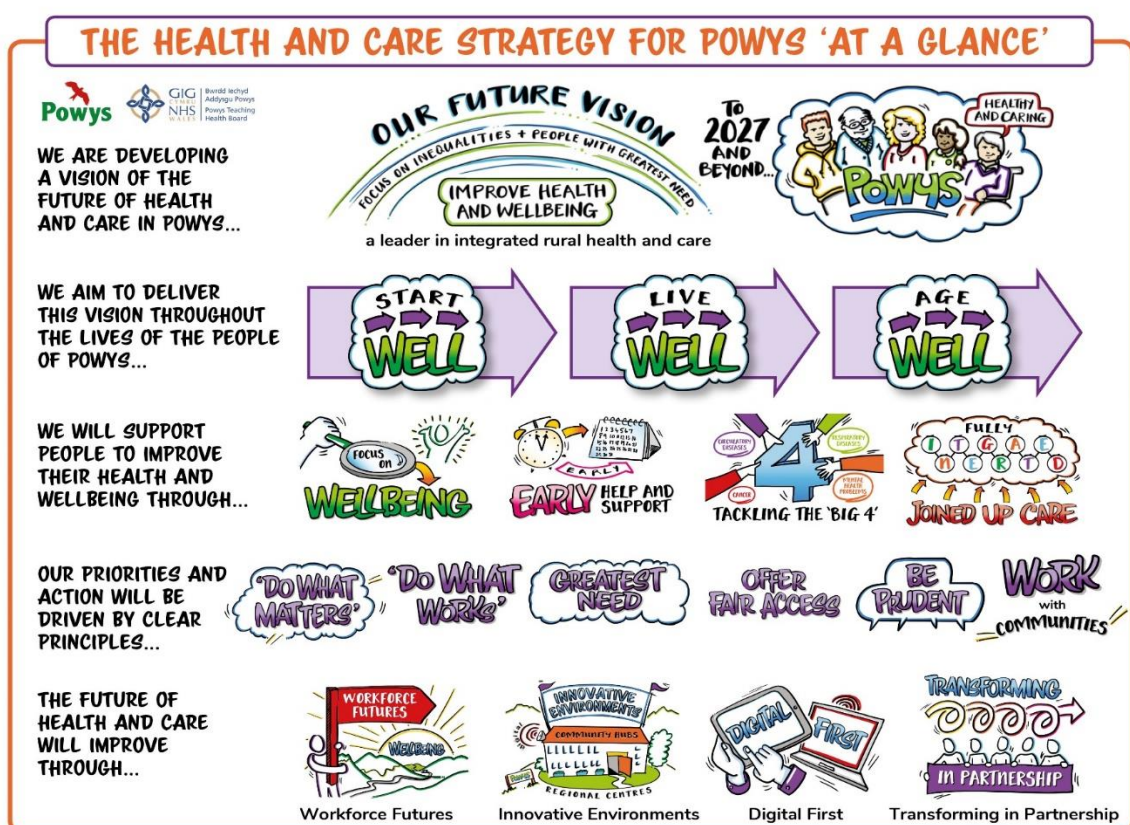
HEALTH AND CARE STRATEGY

The RPB's work is driven by Powys' Health and Care Strategy, "A Healthy Caring Powys" which sets out the priorities for transforming health and care in Powys up to 2028. All partners came together to review and refresh these priorities and to produce our second Regional Partnership Board Joint Area Plan.

The new Joint Area Plan builds on the progress and learning of the previous five years and responds to what people of Powys have said about their health and care, and what matters to them.

We've drawn extensively on our refreshed understanding of life in the county with the updated views and evidence gathered as part of the [Powys Population Needs Assessment \(2022\)](#), [Wellbeing Assessment \(2022\)](#), [Powys Market Stability Report \(2022\)](#) as well as other new research, feedback and policy.

The new Area Plan sets out how we can improve the health and wellbeing of people in Powys and will deliver the final stages of our ten-year ambition. To see the updated Area Plan along with reviewed priorities visit www.powysrpb.org



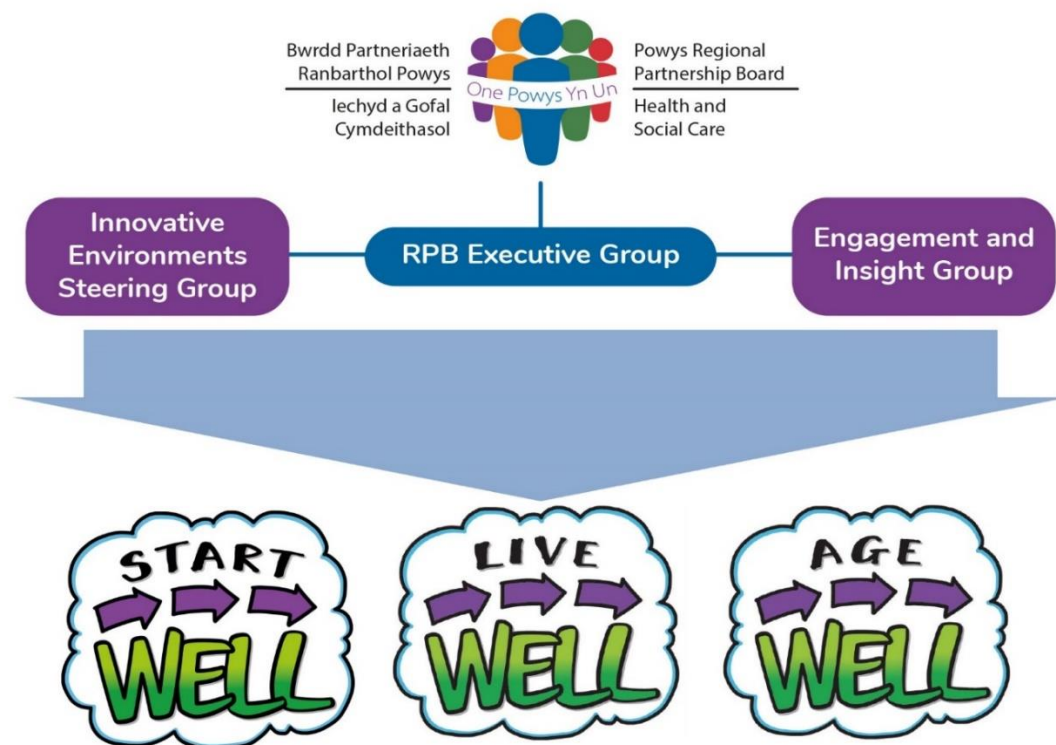
HOW THE WORK OF THE BOARD GETS DONE

The Regional Partnership Board sets the strategic direction for health and care in Powys and the joint priorities for working together. Key to delivering on the ambition and priority areas, are the four subsidiary partnerships: Start Well, Live Well, Live Well (Mental Health) and Age Well. They each involve a much wider group of people and have their own sub-groups that carry out more detailed work.

Each has a particular focus on a specific population group – children, young people and families (Start Well), Adults (Live Well), and Older People (Age Well). Some areas of focus are relevant to all these age groups and therefore are cross-cutting. These include unpaid carers for example, as well as the requirement to provide relevant information, advice and assistance.

Wider engagement with people is crucial and the partnerships and subgroups have various ways in which they can involve people to help shape decisions. Start Well for example have a Junior Start Well Board made up of young people who can discuss key issues and feed these in.

The RPB Executive Group helps drive the work of the RPB forward across partners and offers support and challenge for key decisions. The Boards' work is co-ordinated through the RPB Team which provides high level support and co-ordination across all this.



THE BOARD'S MEMBERSHIP

RPB Chair, Vice Chair of Powys Teaching Health Board

RPB Co-Vice Chair, Cabinet Member for a Caring Powys, Powys County Council

RPB Co-Vice Chair, Chief Executive Officer, Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations

Director of Social Services and Housing, Powys County Council

Chief Executive of Powys Teaching Health Board

Director of Education and Children, Powys County Council

Head of Commissioning and Partnerships, Powys County Council

Policy Advisor, Care Forum Wales

Head of Adult Social Care, Powys County Council

Director of Partnerships and Engagement at Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust, Powys Teaching Health Board

Executive Director of Primary, Community and Mental Health, Powys Teaching Health Board

Carer Members

Citizen Members

Social Value Landlord Representative, Barcud

Cabinet Member for Future Generations, Powys County Council

RPB Autism Champion, Action for Children

Assistant Director of Woman and Children's Services, Powys Teaching Health Board

Observer - **Health and Social Care Citizen Voice. Regional Director (Powys)** Llais

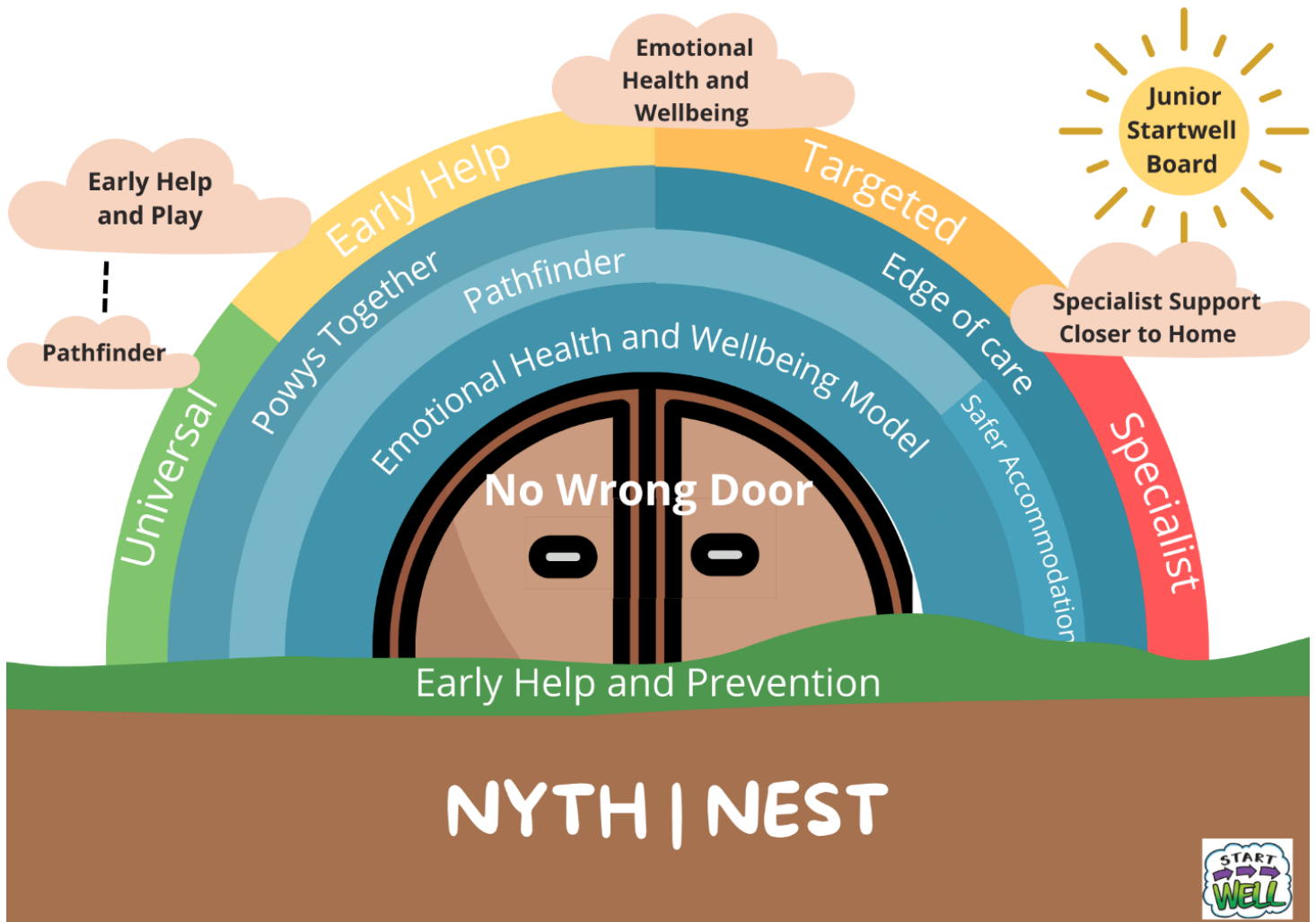
START WELL



The Start Well Partnership works to strengthen and transform services for children and young people in Powys. The Partnership works to meet key priorities across the spectrum of need including children with complex needs.

The Start Well Partnership Members have been working to develop a NEST/NYTH model for Powys. This framework aims to ensure a 'whole system' approach for developing mental health, well-being and support services for babies, children, young people, parents, carers and their wider families across Wales.

NEST / NYTH in Powys cuts across the workstreams that sit under Start Well and underpins the development of key priorities such as Pathfinder project, Powys Together, Edge of Care, Safer Accommodation and the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Model.



Start Well Highlights

Emotional Health and Wellbeing

Powys has developed an Emotional Health and Wellbeing Model, which brings together all elements of children, young people and families' emotional health and wellbeing. The project provides support across a range of needs by addressing the gaps in emotional health and wellbeing services.

The project primarily works with children, young people, families, and staff who require additional emotional health and wellbeing support. This year the project has been able to expand capacity in services providing emotional health support, as well as develop new services such as Year 5 and 6 therapeutic group work in primary schools.

The project has worked with over 5,000 young people through 1:1 support, group work and universal sessions.

Overall young people have reported a 95% improvement rate following support from the project. The Emotional Health and Wellbeing Project has therefore been key to delivering an enhanced service to children and young people in Powys.

Specialist Services Closer to Home

The partnership continues to provide intensive support to improve the current living arrangements for children and young people so that they can remain living with their families rather than entering care, where it is safe to.

The *Edge of Care Project* works with children, young people and their families to support children on the "Edge of Care".



Through evidence-based interventions and an early intervention approach, the project supports families to stay together and keep children at home safely. Trained and experienced staff have provided a rapid response to children and families in crisis, enabling them to address and overcome the difficulties that have led to the family being at risk of breakdown, and prevent further escalation and referral to care proceedings.

From January to March this year 99% of children and young people referred to the service for work around family breakdowns remained with the parent, and 100% of children and young people referred to intervention and prevention for placement stability remained in their placement.

The Partnerships *Residential Developments* have created flexible, diverse, high-quality placements for children and young people who are looked after Closer to Home. This has included registration of Ty'r Orsaf, a therapeutic residential multi agency provision providing

Safe Accommodation for children and young people with complex needs in Powys. Capital funding has also allowed for the purchase of property in South Powys which will provide 4 placements for 16+ Accommodation and Support.

Pathfinder



The project is running in the two pilot areas of Knighton and Llanfyllin and surrounding villages, with a new Early Years Model driving a strong focus on Early Intervention and Prevention. The project offers access to groups, activities and support for children and families in the foundation years (0-7years).

The project has developed open and accessible pathways for children and families through collaboration of services, providing the right level of service at the right time.

Integrated Children's Home



Deputy Minister for Social Services Julie Morgan joined the team in Powys in February to find out more about the newly opened children's home in the north of the county.

Powys County Council and Powys Teaching Health Board have joined together to create this additional support for local children and young people with complex emotional and behavioural difficulties.

The fully refurbished home, funded by Welsh Government has a dedicated team of therapeutic and care staff to support young people in the county.

The home will provide stability to children and young people with the most complex needs in their own communities, enabling children to stay closer to home

LIVE WELL

The Live Well Partnership works to create a supportive, empowering environment in Powys that will enable people to “Live Well” and achieve good health outcomes, through being healthy and active and by being able to access the right help and support, at the right time.

The Partnership addresses the wider determinants of health and wellbeing of the working age population in Powys, through a public health and community development approach, including strengthening and transforming services for people with disabilities.

Live Well links with other strategic partnerships in Powys, including the Area Planning Board and the Live Well Mental Health Partnership, where there is an overlap with complex care and mental health. They also partner with the Housing Support Grant Board where support for homelessness prevention intersects with supported living.



There are a number of subsidiary partnership groups, particularly to engage with and hear the voice of service users and their carers, and also to engage with Third Sector Providers of mental health services. This year the Partnership has worked to improve its governance and particularly focussing on engagement and co-production with service users and carers.

Live Well Highlights

Day Opportunities

The Day Opportunities Engagement delivered as part of the *Work, Leisure and Learning* project was a large-scale public engagement about what people with learning disabilities, older people, and their families and carers, as well as staff and professionals, value in a day opportunity.

The engagement began with 472 survey response. There were 33 live events held, with 357 people attending.

The engagement and subsequent reports will produce a robust evidence base of what matters to people in day opportunities in the county and will be the basis of recommendations for future day opportunities. The scale of the engagement has enabled the team to gain greater depth and breadth of insight into the day opportunities that make a good life, including looking at diverse and innovative delivery options.

Closer to Home

The aim of the *Closer to Home* project was to develop the systems to enable more people to stay in the communities they consider to be their home. The project has run for the past five years, and over that time has supported individuals to return or remain within their communities, thus supporting with their sense of belonging and promoting a fulfilled life and listening to their requirements and choices.

The project is now moving into core services, so that people in Powys can continue to live with the care and support they need without having to leave their home communities. Learning from the project is being carried into a new Complex Care initiative, focusing on the needs of people with complex, multiple and profound disabilities whose support offer in Powys requires focus and strengthening.

This year the Supported *Living* developments has included the purchase and refurbishment of a four-bedroom house in Welshpool to provide accommodation for three young adults with learning disabilities, and the purchase of property in Ystradgynlais to provide more appropriate accommodation for three adults in their local community.

Autism and Neurodiversity

Powys have created a Neurodiversity (ND) Strategic Group over the last year in response to the creation of the Autism Code of Practice. The group are working towards a local strategic plan for ND and Autism which is being influenced by the results of the recent evaluation report.

Based on the evaluation, key areas for the strategy will be raising awareness of services and workforce development. There will also be focus on leadership and enabling change, settings, and services. An action plan has been created to track and give direction to the work on the wider ND strategy. The agenda is all age and pan-Powys.



The Age Well Partnership works to support older people, including those with frailty and frailty of memory, to live a thriving and independent life, maximising opportunities in the community, reducing isolation and loneliness, and providing care closer to home through an early intervention and prevention approach.



Where individuals' care and support needs cannot be met within a community setting or within the home, emphasis is on increasing capacity and capabilities to ensure people are supported in the most appropriate setting for their needs with an emphasis on a 'home first' ethos, ensuring seamless patient flow across the health and care system whilst maximising opportunities for care closer to home.

The partnership also recognises the importance of addressing wider issues too, such as food poverty and homelessness.

Age Well Highlights

Supporting older people to remain independent at home.

Providing support and practical assistance to older people who need a little extra help in their day-to-day lives can keep people living at home, safely and independently, for longer. The partnership's *Early Intervention and Prevention (Home Support) Service* continued to provide early help and support in the form of welfare visits, telephone calls, essential shopping, collecting prescriptions, assisting carers, signposting to community services, as well as 24/7 cover for emergencies through community alarms. Results of a survey for

people using the service revealed that 100% of individuals felt more confident accessing services following support from the project.

The service helps prevent and or delay the need for additional care and support and reduces feelings of isolation and loneliness.

The Partnership's [Community Connector Service](#) has continued to support people to access community-level services and activities. The service has developed its delivery over a number of years to meet the changing needs of the population and health and care priorities. The service has a focus on:

- Supporting people to access the right community services at the right time
- Working with health and social care and the third sector to prevent admission to hospital to support people to go home from hospital
- Prevention and Early intervention

This year 2,545 people have accessed the project, helping people to maintain independent lives and prevent the need for higher level health or social care services.



Over 1,400 referrals were received from health and social care professionals and departments, highlighting the close and trusted working relationships the service has developed and built.

“I’ve been keeping very busy (since being in contact with the Community Connectors) I’m now attending singing, dancing, lunch at church. All down to the information from the Community Connector - thank you!”

Community Connector Feedback

This year *Technology Enabled Care Project* prescribed 776 items of technology to residents, to provide care and support at home. The service continues to use cost-effective technology to help keep people safe in their own homes for longer, whilst also reducing the demands on carers. The technology can trigger automatic calls for assistance and allow family members to keep a remote eye on loved ones.

Dementia

Community Engagement events took place across the county as part of the Listening Campaign including the Dementia Matters in Powys summer games and events in Mid Wales led by the Alzheimer's Society and an county wide conference.

Over 100 people attended the Powys Dementia conference held in May 2023.



Frances Isaacs, who has been living with dementia spoke at the conference about her experiences. She said that it felt like being a statue under the chisel of a sculptor, where bits kept getting knocked off. Frances also shared a joyful sense of humour.

This picture shows her with an electronic cat used as therapy on dementia wards. She said: *"We've been expecting you, Mr Bond!"*

The Listening campaign surveys feedback highlighted five key themes. Access to statutory care and support, Access to community-based support, Awareness raising on dementia and support services, Access to support in Welsh and Day centres.

The Alzheimer's Society led an event at a local primary school in December with adults and children aged 9-11years old. The children were asked: 'Imagine you are a person affected by dementia or having bad memory problems or helping to care for someone with dementia. What do you think you would like to help you?' Here are some of the responses:

Someone to talk to

Learning about what's happening, like a book or a leaflet

Someone to make them a cup of tea – my nan has dementia and she likes my mum making her a cup of tea and talking to her

Places to go that I like

Nice food to eat as I might not be able to make nice food or go out and get

Powys is now a testbed for the Diagnosing Advanced Dementia Mandate project started with a care home in Powys in collaboration with Improvement Cymru. The tool can be used by carers to support people living in care homes who have a diagnosis of dementia.

CROSS-CUTTING WORK

Carers

The partnership's carers service is delivered by CREDU, a registered Carers charity in Powys. In the last year CREDU have supported 1,479 Carers across the county through a range of 121 intervention support and peer groups. It continues to provide high-quality support which enables Carers to have a space to feel truly listened to and to understand what supports them with their own personal outcome, feel more connected to others, and feel valued. The number of Carers who have received support with the core contract is slightly less than last year as we have had more projects which support respite for Carers.



The number of respite opportunities increased from 559 Carers last year to 1183 Carers this year.

Unpaid Carers of all ages are supported to represent themselves and others in Powys and CREDU are continuing to listen to Carers on what respite looks like to them, providing creative and innovative respite opportunities. They have also developed tools to reach more Carers, this year they identified 504 new Carers previously unknown to them.

CREDU's social media and email engagement has reached over **50,000** people this year, raising awareness and knowledge of the information and support available for Carers. Their Raising Awareness project has also supported organisations to help identify and support Carers.

A successful Carers Conference hosted by CREDU was held in November 2023; the event was hosted across three venues in Powys to enable a wide number of Carers to meet face to face, those who could not attend in person were enabled to contribute to the event virtually.

Strategic Reset

The Powys Strategic Carers Steering Group (CSG) has undergone a recent reset as a key part of ensuring that the priorities of Carers in Powys are delivered against and that system (and other) barriers are unblocked. The CSG brings together partners and Carers into a strategic alliance to provide strategic oversight, guidance, and drive forward improved outcomes for all unpaid Carers in Powys across all related unpaid Carers activity. The reset has included a review of the governance arrangements, and this has been captured within an up-to-date Terms of Reference document.

The CSG members have also co-produced a fit for purpose Unpaid Carers Plan on a Page linking all carer related activity, including RIF funded projects, into one document to capture the strategic intent of the carers offering in Powys and is aligned with the Powys Health and Care Strategy and National Priorities for Unpaid Carers as outlined by Welsh Government. The CSG is currently in the process of identifying the actions, timeframes, and measures to

track and report on the true impact/difference made to allow young and adult Carers to live a good life alongside caring.

Carers' Voice

Unpaid Carers play a vital role in looking after some of our most vulnerable citizens in Powys. Much work is underway locally and nationally to recognise and support young and adult unpaid Carers to live their best life whilst caring for a friend or family member.

Two key priorities have been identified by Powys Carers. They are to:

- **Raise the profile of carers in Powys**
- **Provide creative respite opportunities to support unpaid Carers to carry on caring**

Local charity Credu, are leading on two Regional Integration Funded projects to address these priorities.

The Raising Awareness project has enhanced the way hidden Carers are identified and supported in Powys. Complementing this work, the Co-producing Respite Project has enabled creative community-based respite opportunities within the county.

This creative approach to respite has provided opportunities and spaces for Carers to think about what respite means to them. To provide numerous individual grants to Carers to have a break as they define it. This supported Carers to continue to have a good life alongside caring.



Credu has held some of these events, for example a Carers book launch in Hay-on-Wye, but for the most part Credu workers have attended events organised by a range of project partners both within and outside the third sector.

You can find stories on the [Credu Carers You Tube channel](#).

Welsh Language

The Active Offer helps organisations with their use of Welsh as set out in Welsh Government's 'Mwy na Geiriau / More than Just Words' policy.



The partnership offers help to third sector organisations with the Active Offer. The project offers a support package which includes covering one-off translation costs, helping organisations to develop a Welsh language action plan, as well as delivering training. More information is available on the [PAVO website](#)

This year, new Active Offer resources, including flash cards have been created to support organisations. Support was provided to a number of organisations through awareness sessions, resources, follow-up sessions, and support to develop Welsh language action plans.

The project has helped organisations to understand the importance of the Active Offer and to gain confidence in offering services in Welsh. In addition, a video has been created that captures the positive impact of the support to provide the Active Offer has had on organisations. You can view the video on the [PAVO Google drive files](#)



“One of our Welsh speakers absolutely lit up and was really happy that someone was trying to learn to speak Welsh. It’s good to know that the Active Offer is there and it’s an absolutely invaluable service and so important.”

Service feedback

“The session gave me a better insight into the problems faced by Welsh speakers.” Active Offer session feedback

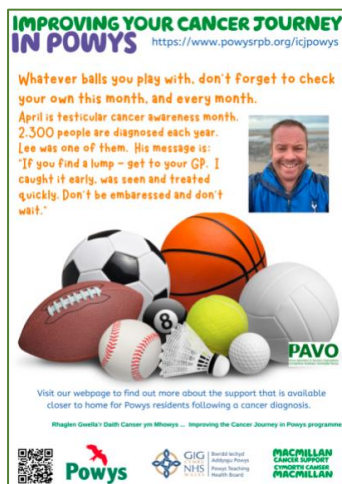
Improving the Cancer Journey

Over the last year, the Improving Cancer Journey (ICJ) programme in Powys has transitioned from the end of phase 1, to the early days of phase 2 of the programme.

ICJ delivery partners, Ceredu, Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations' (PAVO) Community Connector Service, the Bracken Trust Cancer Support Centre, and the Health Board's Specialist Palliative Care Team support people living with cancer to access a tailored package of support through a 'what matters conversation' and, where appropriate, the offer of a Macmillan Cancer Support 'holistic needs assessment' (HNA). The programme also continued to offer residents of Powys living with cancer the opportunity to have their voices heard as part of the patient and carer Journeying Together Forum.

ICJ representatives attended four public events to promote the support available to people living with cancer, in particular the benefits of completing an HNA to receive a tailored, person-centred care plan. Events included Brecon Military Fair, Men's Shed and Men's Mental Health events.

A member of the Journeying Together Forum, along with partners also attended a Tenovus Cancer Care event at the Senedd in Cardiff to raise the profile of the programme with delegates from across Wales.



Posters were produced to showcase the ICJ. One promoted the benefits of the ICJ Peer Support Group approach. Another poster was displayed at the Macmillan Cancer Support Professionals Conference and highlighted how linking with local community assets like parkrun and a series of canal towpath walks supported people living with cancer by helping to boost their wellbeing.

A multi-media testicular cancer awareness campaign was promoted on social media and on community posters.

In September 2023, the ICJ staff and partners were featured in an episode of the [Cancercast Cymru podcast series](#). The series, hosted by the Moondance Cancer Initiative, showcases examples of innovative improvements to cancer services across Wales.



Regional Innovation Coordination Hub

The Regional Innovation Co-ordination (RIC) Hub in Powys has been supporting and coordinating projects in research, innovation and improvement over the last year.

Powys Health & Care Eco-System Collaborative

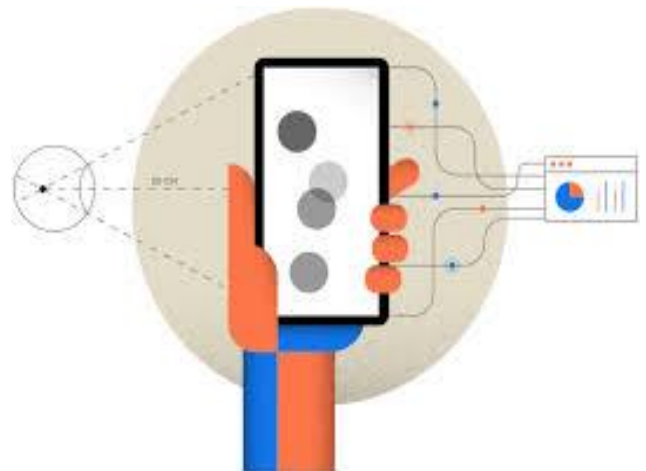
The Eco System event was the first of its kind to be hosted in Powys and was well attended by 40 representatives from across key partnerships in Wales.

The event focused on challenges faced across Powys and looked to identify collaborative solutions. Technology, education, research and innovation were key themes and seen as opportunities for health and care in a rural area. The event set a foundation for an All-Wales approach to utilising research, innovation and improvement.



The RIC Hub continues to consider innovative ways to improve health and care across Powys, this can be done by testing and implementing technology. Here are some examples of technology being tested and implemented by the RIC Hub:

The team have begun testing a smart phone app which measures visual acuity. Visual acuity is the measurement of the eyes ability to distinguish shapes and detail of objects from a given distance. The hub is comparing the app against current pathways for individuals diagnosed or receiving treatment for WET Age-related Macular Degeneration. This enables us to better understand how people experience using an app like this in their own homes.





HoloLens is an augmented reality (AR)/mixed reality (MR) headset which allows users to view and interact with varying types of content that can be displayed in the headset. The Hub hosted workshops to identify where HoloLens could provide benefit to health and care.

The Bright Ideas app, developed by the RIC Hub, allows users to search for projects that have been undertaken across Powys. The app hosts details such as the purpose of the project, when it was opened, what strategic priority it might align to. The app currently has over 500 projects uploaded from across the RPB.

The hub co-ordinates research, innovation and improvement and an element of this is improving staff engagement or increasing the opportunity for staff to participate in research, innovation or improvement.

Think BIG! is an innovation and improvement community of practice which brings together members of staff from the health and care system who have an interest, passion or would like to know more about innovation and improvement. The community of practice acts as a safe place for individuals to share ongoing projects, learn from each other and asks experts or other members for guidance and support.

Individuals or teams can now bid for financial contribution to implement research, innovation or improvement across Powys. The new grant scheme was launched in collaboration with Powys Charitable Funds.

If you would like to find out more about the work being undertaken by the RIC Hub or how we can support you in your research, innovation or improvement journey email at Bright.IdeasPowys@wales.nhs.uk.

North Powys Wellbeing Programme



The North Powys Wellbeing Programme was established as a key priority to deliver the county's joint Health and Care with a vision to **“assess and deliver a new integrated model in North Powys, and to support effective learning and transfer across Powys.”**

This programme will address the biggest causes of ill health and poor wellbeing through partnership between professionals and communities, offering early help and technology-enabled health and provision to ensure residents have a more seamless service when they need it.

A major strand of this programme is a proposed multi-agency health and wellbeing campus in the centre of Newtown. The campus' Programme Business Case was endorsed by Welsh Government in 2022 and the Strategic Outline Case is currently awaiting endorsement by Welsh Government.

Proposals for the campus site include:

- » A new school for pupils of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen.
- » Health and care facilities, including the transfer of the town's hospital facilities from their current home on Llanfair Road as well as introducing more diagnostic equipment and facilities to undertake day surgery. Repatriation of services from outside Powys is a key ambition of the programme, helping to save travel time and cost for local patients as well as introduce additional capacity into the system.
- » A Health and Care Academy, building on the model introduced at Bronllys Hospital in the south of the county.
- » Library and information services, including a new Academic library
- » Community space for wellbeing activities to take place, working alongside the voluntary sector

The programme team has undertaken continuous engagement throughout the life of the programme and will continue to do so up to and after the campus opens to make sure that the citizen voice is at the heart of the programme's plans.



Photo caption: The Programme team meet with residents to discuss plans for the programme.

More information about the Programme can be found at www.powyswellbeing.wales

Workforce Futures

Many resources have been developed in the last year to support and encourage local people to take up a career in health and social care.

New interactive digital graphics showing different routes that people can take into careers in health and social care were created and published in the autumn. These resources are available on the RPB website www.powysrpb.org/careers-in-health-and-social-care



A series of **Day in the Life of** videos produced to inform and inspire young people across Powys to consider various careers have been shown across schools in the county.

Emily, a Reablement Worker from Ystradgynlais shares her passion for the role. She loves that “every day is different.” Karen, a Dietician based in Newtown says, “it’s just great when you feel like you’ve made a difference.” It’s why she came into the job and is still a highlight of the role.



Earlier this year the team produced a video featuring students talking about their experiences and how the academy is helping them make decisions about and progress in their health and care careers. You can view the video on the RPB You Tube channel <https://youtu.be/pIPQRRSbzLs>

In 2023/24 it was decided to rename the Academy the Powys Health, Care and Social Care Academy. You can find out more information about the work of the Academy by visiting the RPB website: <https://www.powysrpb.org/powyshealthandcareacademy>

Participation

Much of the work relating to Participation have been woven into the report but it is worth highlighting here some key pieces of work and our approach. We recognise the importance of involving Powys citizens across RPB partners, making best use of resource, and maximising voice and impact for people.

Citizen and Carer Representatives

The Regional Partnership Board is proud of the work it does in supporting citizens and carers to get involved with the work of the partnership. The Board has two citizen representatives and two carer representatives who are full members of the RPB and equal to all other members.

The involvement of these representatives not only informs and shapes decisions, but it continues to provide a better way to identify and tackle ‘what matters’ to people.

There are a diverse range of people who are involved in the work of the Board, and they do this through commenting on proposed work, helping to recruit key roles, and informing various processes and procedures. Over the course of the year citizen/carers representatives took part in 40 RPB meetings and Carers Steering Group meetings.

A huge thank you to the Carer and Citizen members for their valued work on the board and beyond. Kim Spelman stepped down this year after three years as a carer member, giving generously of her time, energy and passion to improve things for others.

And we are fortunate to welcome our latest members Nick Lancaster who joined as a Citizen member in June 2023 and Jean Carter as a carer member in January 2024.

The members have been able to share their experience to influence the work of the board. Also taking an active part in workshops such as the Defining Co-production in Powys session.



Helen | Hayley | Nick | Kim

Engagement and Insight Network

The Powys Engagement and Insight Network was established to ensure that how we engage with Powys citizens across the partnership is joined up and to enable citizens to be more meaningfully involved in shaping policy, service design and delivery. The group meets monthly to share information on engagement activities, good practice and training.

The network has started to strengthen co-productive practices by developing and driving a set of actions to improve participation practices. This work has been carried out collaboratively with the Public Service Board. Developing a shared definition of what we mean by co-production in Powys has been the first step.

Co-production

There are some good examples of Co-production working across the partnership— doing 'with' local communities and not doing 'to' which have been highlighted in this report. Looking forward, we will learn from these good examples and support a more consistent approach to citizen involvement. Building more equal relationships of shared power and shared responsibility with our communities, based on understanding and respect.

There will be a focus on embedding best practice methods such as those established by the [Coproductioin Network for Wales](#)



Workshops to define co-production in Powys took place in January and March 2024 to bring together a group of people with different lived experiences and also professionals from across the health board, council services and third sector reps.

Out of these sessions which involved wider feedback from a range of fora and networks a definition of co-production in Powys has been established:

“Working together as equals for positive change in Powys”

Further sessions with the group will now follow to finalise and agree a set of principles that will guide our work.

Wider engagement with people is hugely important and the partnerships and subgroups have various ways in which they can hear the voice of people to help shape decisions. Start Well for example have a Junior Start Well Board made up of young people who can discuss key issues and feed these in.

Llais, the Citizen Voice Body for Health and Social Care in Wales

Llais, the new statutory Citizen Voice Body for Health and Social Care Wales, was established in April 2023. The Llais Regional Director for Powys joined the Regional Partnership Board as an observer in 2023.

The RPB and its member bodies have continued to work with Llais during the year as they establish their new working arrangements, and this has included Llais attending the Powys Engagement and Insight Network to help bring citizen voice to the heart of our plans to strengthen engagement and participation in the county.

A Llais representative took part in all 13 [Sustainable Powys](#) and [Better Together](#) engagement workshops in February and March 2023.

Llais in Powys has been piloting a locality approach to engagement to understand people's experiences of health and social care services, to share this feedback with local partner organisations, and to identify actions and improvements to address the issues raised. This focuses on each of the 13 locality areas adopted by the RPB and the PSB as the basis for our service insight, engagement, planning and delivery.

Examples of this work are available from the Llais website:

- Llanidloes: [Llais Powys - Executive Summary - Llanidloes Engagement | LLais \(llaiswales.org\)](#)
- Builth Wells & Llanwrtyd: [Report What We Heard Builth Wells Engagement | LLais \(llaiswales.org\)](#)
- Welshpool and Montgomery: [Llais Powys - Report on What We Heard in Welshpool and Montgomery Locality | LLais \(llaiswales.org\)](#)

Junior Start Well

Powys Junior Start Well Board are a group of young people aged 11 – 17 years old who meet regularly to discuss issues facing children and young people across the county.

Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing, Lynne Neagle met with members in December 2023 to talk about their work and how they have helped to set up the Youth Café in Newtown. The café came about in response to the Junior Start Well Board's consultation about mental health with young people across the county.



Junior Start Well Board Member Ffion said: "We are all passionate about the Youth Café project. It was created to be a safe space where young people can go for a drink and low-cost food to just sit and talk to friends or use as a quiet space for homework or revision if there is nowhere suitable at home.

"We are trying to create links with local services to provide a relaxing atmosphere for young people to access support services for emotional wellbeing if it is needed."

The Deputy Minister said: "These are fantastic facilities which are making a real difference to communities in Powys, by prioritising mental health and wellbeing, and helping people to get the help and support they need.

"The brilliant work of the Junior Start Well Board, highlighted how the NYTH / NEST Framework is working in practice to put the voice of users at the forefront of services to ensure they provide the right help at the right time and in a way that is right for the individual."

Live Well Forum

The Live Well Forum, has been strengthened and membership significantly increased this year. There has been a positive shift towards the Forum being for the individuals and hearing their voice, as well as being heard by different partners around the table. The group have worked co-productively to create an identity for the group and promotional materials to help recruit others to join.

Older People Forum

The Powys Older People Forum was reviewed and reinvigorated last year to increase the number of residents of Powys aged 60+ represented, recruiting from each of the 13 locality areas.

Members include people from across the county with representation from specific areas of interest including those living in supported housing or care homes, unpaid carers, those in current employment, LGBTQ+ and Welsh language.

Eighteen Older People Forum engagement events have been held throughout the county in the last year, speaking to over 400 older people to determine what people think of services and any issues affecting them in their local communities.

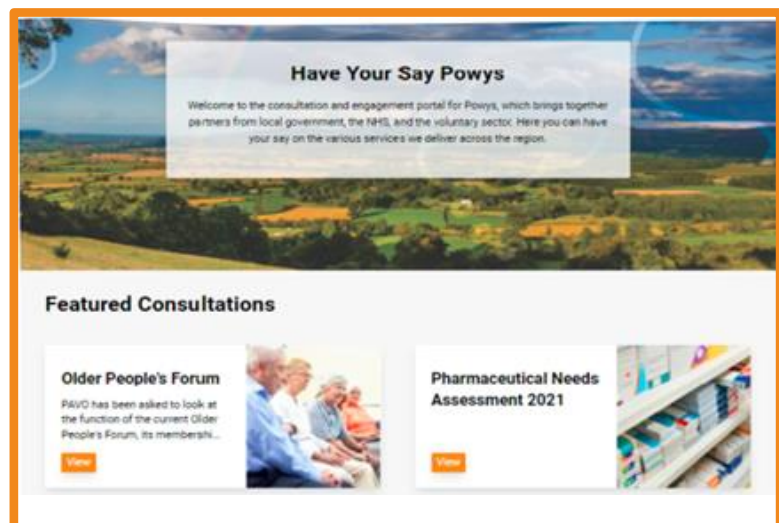
As a result of this engagement, breast cancer screening will now return to the Knighton area and older people with mobility issues can access COVID-19 vaccination boosters in their local areas.

Digital Tools

We have continued to build on digital opportunities around engagement.

There have been 26,626 visits to the 'Have Your Say' Powys Engagement HQ site with 7,700 visitors taking part in engagement activities.

(1 April 2023 - 31 March 2024)



Through the Engagement HQ platform, the partnership can access the latest engagement tools such as quick polls, social subscribing, and online focus groups, to help capture people's thoughts in a timely manner.

Social Value

The Powys Social Value Forum enables community organisations to help decide where best to target resources to improve health and wellbeing in Powys. The forum aims to:

1. Identify need in Health and Care provision in the area and target funding and other resources to fill those gaps
2. Increase the capacity of the sector by supporting the creation of new organisations and developing the capacity of existing ones

We worked a group that have benefitted from a Social Value Forum scheme to produce this a short film – you can watch it on our [You Tube channel](#) to hear more about the forum, the development fund and how it's working.



This year much progress has been made by and via Powys' Social Value Forum

- » Over 500 third sector organisations involved in the forum
- » 303 activities related to Social Value initiatives were developed
- » 85% reported that new or developed initiatives have helped to improve well-being.

For further information on the Powys Social Value Forum visit the RPB webpage www.powysrpb.org/cross-cutting-work

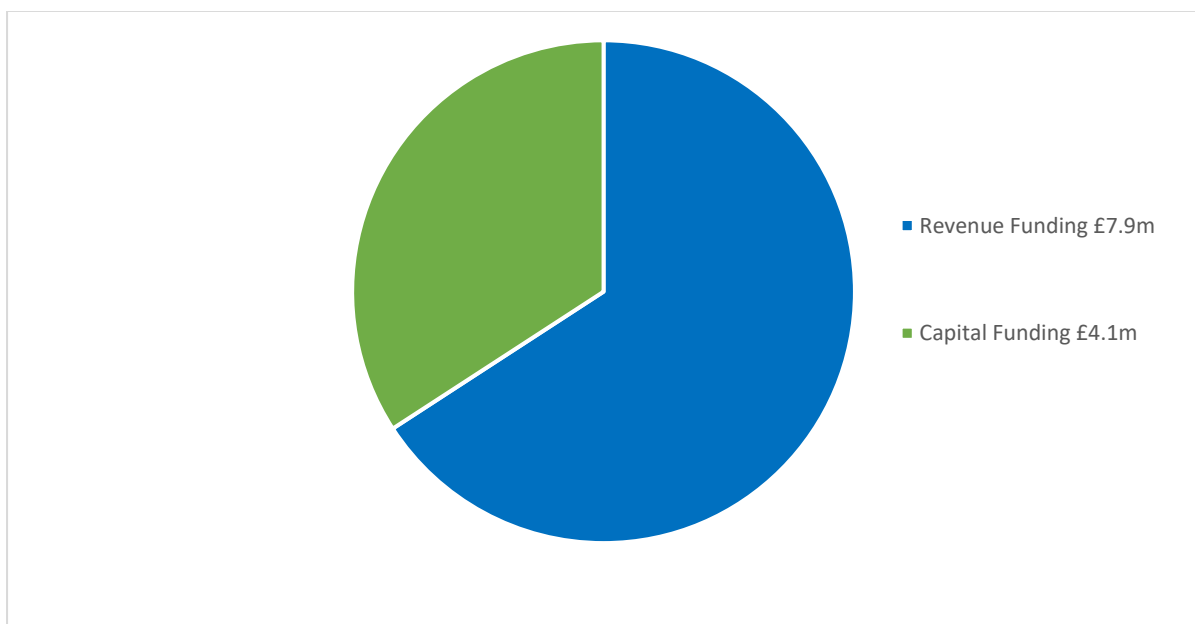
HOW THIS WORK WAS RESOURCED

The Board uses its allocations from Welsh Government revenue and capital funds as a key resource. The largest proportion of revenue funding comes from the *Regional Integration Fund* (RIF). The *Housing with Care Fund* (HCF) is also accessed to resource the Boards capital work.

Decisions around the use of funding are made collectively by the Board's Members. Proposals for how it is used are put forward by the Board's partnerships (Start Well, Live Well, Age Well) which involves the input of other stakeholders and citizen/carer representatives.

Spend is closely monitored to ensure good financial management of the funding and to maximise the benefits from it. Additional funds are also committed for some projects and there continues to be significant contributions of time and staff resource.

As the RPB continues to develop it will continue to seek opportunities to access other funding to maximise the reach and impact of its work. Here is a breakdown of revenue and capital funding utilised by Powys Regional Partnership Board in 2023-24:



FORWARD LOOK

As we move into the next year, it is clear the landscape remains challenging for health and care delivery across all partners, and therefore, the emphasis on working together in the face of these shared challenges remains paramount to improving the lives of people in Powys. Partners clearly remain committed to partnership working and delivering on our collective ambition detailed within our Health and Care Strategy.

Our focus over the next year includes:

- Reviewing our Delivery and Resource Plans across partners to ensure these remain fit for purpose and offer best value.
- Continuing to improve how we measure impact to have a stronger evidence base through intelligence-led approaches to data, engagement and insight.
- Further embed innovative reporting approaches that will bring a stronger and shared understanding of what works well and demonstrate impact through a mixture of quantitative and qualitative information.
- Continue to share best practice and learning from across the work of partners as part of developing sustainable models of health and wellbeing in the region and influencing national developments too.
- Further strengthening our participation approaches across partners, with a specific focus on improving co-productive practice.

A huge amount has been progressed, despite the challenges, and yet there is clearly more that is needed. We look forward to continuing our journey to deliver on the health and care strategy and Joint Area Plan in the forthcoming years.



For more Information contact the Powys Regional Partnership Team

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