

Item	Date
	13.06.23
Title	For
Maternity and Early Years Strategy	Information
Summary of Issues	
<p><u>BACKGROUND:</u></p> <p>In 2018, Welsh Government invited bids from Local Authorities and Health Boards to become pathfinders for the Early Years Integration Transformation Programme. An application was submitted by Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion Local Authorities alongside Hywel Dda Health Board to become Pathfinder areas. Funding was secured (2019 - 2024) to pilot and test approaches to Early Years Integration Transformation and a Maternity and Early Years Steering Group was formed. In January 2021, Pembrokeshire successfully applied to join the Pathfinder Programme and therefore all Local Authorities in the Hywel Dda footprint have been involved in the Programme.</p> <p>In 2021 / 2022 representatives of the three Local Authorities and Hywel Dda Health Board worked together to formulate a Maternity and Early Years Strategy for West Wales.</p> <p><u>CURRENT SITUATION:</u></p> <p>The Maternity and Early Years Strategy for West Wales is guided by the Welsh Government's agenda for providing better integrated public services as iterated in the Wellbeing and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The strategy focusses on support in the first 7 years of a child's life, recognising the importance of these formative years in shaping the child's future health and wellbeing.</p> <p>The draft strategy was widely consulted upon with professionals and service users throughout the region and amendments were made on the basis of feedback received. The consultation was open between the 1st of July and 30th September 2022 and response were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Consultation – 54 responses • Parent focus groups – 55 participants • Professionals Focus groups – 28 participants • Responses received from: Childcare Team; School Nurses; Midwifery Team; Health Visiting Team; Designated Education Clinical Lead Officer; Speech and Language Therapy Team • In addition, within Ceredigion, meetings were held with the 	

Corporate Director and Cabinet Member for Through Age Wellbeing to consider the draft strategy.

The strategy and website development has been overseen by the Maternity and Early Years Steering Group.

The Strategy aims to promote collaboration between support services both at pre-birth and Early Years stages. The strategy is located within the Maternity and Early Years Strategy for West Wales Website, which is a collaboration between Ceredigion, Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire local authorities, Hywel Dda University Health Board and third sector partners.

(The strategy section of the website is also available in PDF format).

Based upon extensive consultation with Service Users and Early Years Professionals, the Strategy for West Wales was written with the intention of promoting excellent services at every stage of Maternity and Early Years. The strategy aims to deliver:

- Positive engagement/ early intervention with families at the ante-natal stage.
- Positive Engagement with Families during Early Years
- Positive transition from Childcare to Early Years education

Furthermore, five strategic themes are identified as vehicles for achieving the above aims:

- Integrate our services
- Take a person-centred approach to service design
- Develop technology infrastructure and systems to enable collaboration
- Develop our Workforce
- Provide accessible information.

Financial Implications

While there are no direct financial implications for the PSB, future funding for the Maternity and Early Years Integration Pathfinder Programme is insecure after March 2024 and further funding will need to be sought to support the transformation agenda.

Recommendations

That the PSB lends its support to the Maternity and Early Years Strategy

Attachments

[Maternity & Early Years Strategy for West Wales – Working together to give children the best start in life \(earlyyearsstrategywest.wales\)](#)
[Strategaeth Mamolaeth a'r Blynyddoedd Cynnar ar gyfer Gorllewin Cymru – Working together to give children the](#)

[best start in life](#)
[\(strategaethblynyddoeddcynnargorllewin.cymru\)](#)



MaternityEarlyYearsS Strategaeth-ar-gyfer-
trategyForWestWales Gorllewin-Cymru.pdf

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