



A Quick Guide to the Social Services and Wellbeing Act

Feedback to the Partnership has been that whilst some of the detail of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act has been communicated, it would also be good to have a 'short and simple' guide to the Act, so here goes!

- It received Royal Assent 1st May 2014. Implementation started in April 2016.
- It can be considered very simply as being about '**3P's**' – firstly **Parts** of the Act (11 in total) placing 68 duties ('must do's) on Local Authorities. Secondly it is about **People**, covering Adults, Children, Carers. Thirdly it has a set of common **Principles**, which are wellbeing; prevention and early intervention; voice and control; multi-agency working and co-production.

So what is in there?

Part 1 is just an introduction, and sets the scene.

Part 2 covers overarching duties to promote the well-being of people in

need and carers. It includes a definition of what 'wellbeing' means (in the context of social care), and puts duties on local authorities to work together and with other partners to do a regular 'population needs assessment' (referred to as PNA). There are other duties too, including a duty to promote prevention and early intervention; to promote social enterprises, co-operatives and third sector, and to provide Information, Advice and Assistance (IAA)

Part 3 covers assessment. It sets out a duty for adults and children to be assessed for care and support and for carers to be assessed for support, if they ask for this. The aim is to simplify the current assessment process. An assessment covers five things – personal circumstances; the outcomes a person wants; the barriers to meeting those outcomes; the risks to the person if their outcomes are not met, and finally the strengths a person has – what they can do.

Part 4 covers meeting needs and care planning. This is summed up by asking 'what matters to you' rather than, as often before the Act, 'what is the matter with you'. It is a subtle but important difference.

Part 5 covers a single duty – for local authorities to undertake a financial assessment, and the circumstances in which a local authority may charge for providing or arranging care, as well as how those charges are set, paid and enforced.

Part 6 – this covers the range of duties that the local authority has in relation to Looked After Children (LAC), and picks up directly from much of what was in the Children’s Act of ... - whilst bringing this up to date.

That is probably enough to start with – the next newsletter will cover the remaining Parts 7 to 11 of the Act.

Dementia Friends update

The development of Dementia Friendly Organisations and rollout of dementia friends awareness continues with the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and Gwent Police the latest to be awarded logos. Dementia Friends awareness was delivered to over 800 Police Officers and staff at the OPCC. Gwent Police has also adopted a missing person protocol – called the Herbert Protocol – to reduce the risk for people living with dementia. Phil Diamond from the Transformation Team and Ian Thomas from Alzheimer’s Society were on hand to help present logos to Police Crime Commissioner, Jeff Cuthbert and the Gwent Chief Constable, Jeff Farrar. Also pictured is Stephanie Blakemore who has helped develop the Herbert protocol.



From left to right – Ian Thomas, Jeff Cuthbert, Jeff Farrar, Phil Diamond, Stephanie Blakemore

Citizen Panel – Introduction from new Chair

The role of the Citizen's Panel is to collect, collate and pass on the views of people affected by the Act to the Welsh Government via the Regional Partnership Board – it was formed in July 2015 and meets every six weeks. The Panel is made up of representatives of citizen's organisations from across the five localities of Gwent. Members are drawn from a wide range of groups, including Over 50 Forums, Parent's Network, People's First, the Stroke Association, Disability Wales and many more organisations who all contribute to the work of the Panel. The Engagement Officers of the Health Board and Local Authorities regularly attend Panel meetings.

Like most new groups, the Panel took some time to settle down, understand the legislation and develop its role. A Chair and Vice Chair were recently elected and the selection of these officers was designed to ensure that the voice of carers was specifically represented. Chris Hodson was elected as Chair and Lorraine Morgan as Vice Chair. Chris has recently retired from the NHS where he was a Communications Officer working particularly with the patient experience and Lorraine has expertise in ageing and housing. Lorraine is also the Carers Rep on the



Board of Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and is the strong voice of Carers for the Panel. Other Panel members are delegates to other linked groups, such as Adult Safeguarding.

Next steps involve forging relationships with young people, who have not yet been well represented on the Panel, by working with local Youth Forums. Our upcoming visiting speakers will include the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent and the Senior Nurse for Primary Care of Aneurin Bevan University Health Board who will talk about loneliness and wellbeing.

The Panel moves its meetings around Gwent to make attendance easier and is keen to attract new members. If you are interested in joining, contact

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