



## NHS Wales Planning Framework 2022/2025

### Cluster Annual Plans 2022/2023

### Frequently Asked Questions guide

This Frequently Asked Questions sheet (FAQ) has been produced for Cluster Leads, Health Board Officers and members of the clusters / NCNs across Wales to help answer some of the questions relating to the development of the 2022/2023 Cluster Annual Plans.

Primary Care Cluster Integrated Medium Term Plans / Annual Plans:

- Should visibly inform (and be informed by) health board IMTPs
- Are typically informed by assessment of population health needs
- Provide an important assurance function
- Are based on an agreed national guidance template for submission to WG and publication on health board websites

The 2022/2023 Primary Care Cluster Annual Plan template / documents should be:

- Minimalist, noting ongoing pandemic-related pressures on services
- Light touch, noting 2022-2023 will be a period of transition as pan-cluster planning groups (PCPGs) are established in line with accelerated cluster development (ACD) proposals
- Pragmatic, demonstrating accountability for delivery against anticipated results / benefits and highlighting shared challenges
- Be aligned to the NHS Wales National Planning Framework for 2022/23 and local service priorities

If you have further questions that are not addressed in the FAQ, or comments please contact: [SPPC@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:SPPC@wales.nhs.uk)

Links to NHS Wales Planning Framework 2022-2025:

<https://gov.wales/nhs-planning-framework-2022-2025>

<https://llyw.cymru/fframwaith-cynllunio-blynyddol-gig-cymru-2022-i-2025>

### 1. Do clusters need to produce a three year Cluster IMTP from April 2022/2025?

**No.** 2022/23 is seen as a 'transition year' for clusters across Wales as we move towards Pan Cluster Planning arrangements therefore a 'light touch' approach is being take across Wales. *Clusters only need to produce a simple one year plan to cover 2022/23.* Clusters can develop a three year forward look plan from 2022 onwards is they wish to do so.

### 2. Do clusters need to undertake a needs assessment to inform the 2022/23 cluster plan?

**No.** There is no requirement for clusters to refresh their cluster needs assessment in 2021 to inform their 2022/23 plans, however clusters may choose to do this to help shape and inform local priorities.

Regional Partnership Boards (RPB) are developing population Needs Assessments by March 2022 to inform the development of their Area Plans by March 2023. Public Service Boards (PSB) also in the process of developing local assessments of wellbeing by May 2022 to support the development of their Wellbeing Plans to be published in May 2023.

The RPB population needs assessment document and the PSB wellbeing assessment report will help to inform future Pan Cluster Planning Group / cluster priorities over the course of 2022 and beyond.

### 3. Should the Cluster Plan for 2022/23 inform the development of the Health Board IMTP / Annual Plan?

**Yes.** The Cluster Plans and look forward approaches are essential for Clusters to work towards addressing challenges for their population whether they be issues of sustainability and access, health inequality or disease specific conditions and the wider determinants.

Health Board IMTPs have in general used a summation of such local planning within their IMTP submissions to Welsh Government and demonstrated how they intended to respond to the challenges within the local primary and community health and care systems. Health Board plans must continue to do this and address specifically how to rebalance funding, workforce and other resources across the system to support primary and community care.

### 4. What should the cluster plan for 2022/23 include?

Cluster plans should focus on their confirmed / existing activities that will operate in 2022/23 alongside their plans to respond to the Welsh Government Programme for Government and Ministerial priorities as set out by the Director General in July 2021.

These would expect as a minimum to focus upon;

- The response to COVID Recovery (including vaccination, access and backlogs) for all independent contractor professions;
- Developing relationships with stakeholders (including Local Authority Social Care and Tier 0/1 mental health providers) to increase capacity and reach;
- Instigate robust population health approaches with specific reference to obesity, diabetes, mental well-being and the wider health inequality agenda; and
- Outlining their proposed approach to the Accelerated Cluster Development programme.

**5. Does the cluster annual plan for 2022/23 need to reflect the core priorities of the Strategic Programme for Primary Care?**

**Yes.** There is also an expectation that cluster plans across Wales will include their local actions in relation to the 4 core Strategic Programme priorities:

- Accelerated Cluster Development;
- Urgent Primary Care;
- Community Infrastructure and
- Mental Well-being.

Cluster plans for 2022/23 should reflect the ambition and specific actions needed to build infrastructure and capacity across primary and community care at the cluster [and pan-cluster level], to support the full implementation of the Primary Care Model for Wales so that the aim of care closer to home in Wales can be realised.

**6. Does the cluster need to consider the Primary Care Model for Wales to inform its work over the next twelve months?**

[The Primary Care Model for Wales](#) sets out how primary care will work within the whole system to deliver a place based approach (note primary care is defined as primary and community health care services). Cluster working is at the core of this as it brings together local health and care services to ensure care is better co-ordinated to promote the wellbeing of individuals and communities.

Primary Care Cluster Planning should continue to be taken forward through the multi-disciplinary, multi-agency cluster planning teams and reflect all partner contributions to improving cluster population health and wellbeing. The cluster should be continuing to focus its resources on delivering the aims and aspirations of the Primary Care Model for Wales

**7. When does the cluster plan for 2022/23 need to be completed?**

The cluster plans for 2022/23 should be completed in line with the deadline published in the NHS Planning Framework for 2022/25 – submission by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Health board teams may set internal deadlines before the official submission date to allow sufficient time for the plans to be considered within the health board planning and governance processes. It is suggested that you also check with the Primary Care / Cluster / Locality managers in the health board as to your local timescales.

**8. Where does the cluster plan for 2022/23 need to be submitted?**

Submission of your Cluster plans should be alongside your IMTPs. Cluster planning milestones will be referenced in, and contribute to, the IMTP. Submission of the cluster plans should be via your Directors of Planning who will submit the IMTP to Welsh Government on behalf of the organisation.

**9. Is a template being issued to capture the content of the cluster plan for 2022/23**

**Yes.** To support the 'light touch' approach a simple guidance template of the minimum requirements for cluster plans is provided and will be included in the data set requirement submitted by the Health Board as part of their IMTP.

Health Boards and clusters are free to add additional information to the template to reflect their own local planning arrangements.

## 10. Do the cluster plans for 2022/23 need to be published?

**Yes.** It is expected that the cluster plans for 2022/23 will be published on Health Board websites alongside the Health Board IMTP by the deadline set out in the NHS Planning Framework for 2022/23.

## 11. Will there be any form of monitoring of the cluster plans in 2022/23

**Yes.** Clusters will be expected to monitor progress on the delivery of the cluster plans through the course of 2022/23 reporting into their existing health board performance monitoring arrangements including reporting through to Welsh Government through health board IMTP scrutiny processes. In addition, as the Pan-cluster Planning Groups are established across Wales, local arrangements will be put into place for clusters to report their activity into the pan-cluster planning group

## 12. Does the cluster team need to do anything to inform the key actions it will include in the cluster plan for 2022/23?

**Yes.** Cluster teams should;

- Look back to consider and capture *what has gone well* and what has gone less well over the 2021/22 period.
- Look forward to consider and capture *potential challenges* in delivering their 2022/23 cluster plan and
- Consider and capture the *key actions they plan to progress* over the 2022/23 period.

## 13. Will this be the last year the cluster has to produce an annual plan?

In line with the Accelerated Cluster Development Programme, Pan Cluster Planning Groups (PCPGs) will start to be established across Wales during 2022.

The PCPGs will be responsible for the production of future cluster plans to run from April 2023 onwards. Further guidance in relation to the future cluster / pan-cluster planning arrangements will be discussed with clusters / RPBs and guidance will be released in 2022.

## 14. What will happen to all of the planned activity within the cluster plans and the cluster funding investment from April 2023 when we move into Pan-cluster Planning arrangements?

2022/23 will be seen as a 'transition year' as the planning system in Wales moves from cluster to pan-cluster planning arrangements. Over the course of 2022 the PCPGs will be reviewing the existing clusters plans and working with all stakeholders to agree the future strategic delivery and investment priorities for the PCPG area based on RPB population needs assessments and PSB wellbeing assessments and other local intelligence.

It is expected that services and posts funded through Cluster Funds or SPPC Funds in 2022/23 (or in previous years) would continue to be funded and included in the PCPG plans from April 2023 in line with agreed priorities.

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