

Cluster Plan 2025-2026

MID Powys PCPG Powys RPB (Regional Partnership Board) Executive Group

Cluster Executive Summary:

Continuing to build on the foundations of previous years, partnership working has continued to be strengthened throughout 2024/25, with continued greater engagement and collaboration between independent contractors, PAVO, Community Services and wider health board representation bringing greater benefits to the Mid Cluster population.

As a Cluster, there continues to be a need to work more collaboratively, to affect and influence real change for the development and planning of services. As a Cluster, we also recognise to be able to meet the wider continued demands on services, a Pan Powys approach working collaboratively with the South and North Cluster will help facilitate and support the development of longer-term sustainable Cluster service solutions. This will be a key focus for the cluster for 2025/26.

Sustainability of all Primary Care services continue to be a Priority for the Cluster, with the Third Sector continuing to remain an important partner in the provision of services across the Mid, supporting patients in accessing both planned and acute care providers, whilst also supporting them to live more independently within their own homes. The importance and value that their services provide continue to be essential for all our communities and patients across the Mid.

After the successful implementation and piloting of the Musculoskeletal (MSK) First Contact Practitioner Service, 2024/25 has seen this service be adopted to become a long-term service solution for the Mid Cluster. Embracing and supporting innovation continues to be a priority for the Cluster members.

Building on the success of this pilot, 2024/25 has seen the introduction of a new digital technology platform within GP Practices to support the day-to-day delivery of services for patients, providing more timely access and signposting to services, whilst bringing new ways of working and providing efficiencies to 'back office' functions.

2024/25 has also seen the Cluster support the development of a Pan Powys targeted childhood obesity intervention programme for children and young people, providing a series of nutrition and health eating education sessions, including cooking skills and overcoming obesogenic barriers.

As in 2024/25, there continues to be workforce and service challenges across all healthcare professions within the Mid Cluster, exploring new recruitment models, developing strong links with the 'Primary and Community Care Academy', to facilitate student and Pre Reg Pharmacist rural placements, strengthening links with the local Universities, to develop Student Nurse education modules and placements, to delivering focused skills development sessions to all professionals, investing in education and skills development of our workforce continues to be a Cluster priority.

Key Cluster Outline priorities and actions 2025/26:

Improving Access to Primary & Community Services

- **Allied Health Professionals** – supporting frail patients, Meds Management dietician services, and expanding Diabetic Retinopathy clinics.
- **Digital & Patient Access** – providing alternative access to services utilising the use digital apps and software to support day to day service delivery & long-term condition management and continue promotion of NHS Wales App.
- **Vulnerable & disadvantaged groups** – proactively identifying groups across Cluster, scoping the services provided, and pathways for access.
- **Improving provision and access** to prevention and ill health services provided within the Community – increasing education of 3rd sector services and community groups via PAVO Community Connector Service, Pharmacy Common Ailment scheme, Optometry and Dental services, to support the treatment and prevention of illness by supporting patients to adopt improved healthy behaviours.
- **Pharmacy Professionals within GP Practices** – supporting the PCMW & frailty priorities to medicines management.

Pathways of Care, essential services, and business continuity

- Building **collaborative service development relationship with Cluster & Collaborative members, Commissioners and Secondary Care** providers – to improve pathways of care across cluster providers & services.
- **Supporting the development & design of 'in' county services** – Diagnostics, Cardiology, Dermatology, Transgender services
- **Review of the provision of services** which are essential to Cluster providers in meeting the needs of the population supporting a 'Sustainable model of Care' for Powys patients, including Virtual Wards, Respiratory, Cardiology, Cancer, Obesity, Diabetes prevention, Falls, Frailty, Transgender, Refugees, Women's, and Children's services including Refuge services.
- **Waiting List Patient Support services** – supporting patients awaiting surgery.
- Supporting the implementation of the **All-Wales Social prescribing framework** through building on existing Powys provision and digital solutions to support the health and wellbeing of patients. (PAVO Community Connectors is the funded social prescribing services covering all of Powys).

Urgent & Emergency Care

- **Frailty Services & virtual wards** – supporting the mapping & reviewing of current service provision and programme work, improving care across the cluster to those with most vulnerable needs, learning from existing services and pilots, identifying solutions– including

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There continues to be many priorities and challenges across the Cluster, and wider health and social care organisations, the Cluster will continue to work collaboratively throughout 2025 and beyond, with all partners and patients to improve the health and wellbeing of the local populations.

Sue Lewis – Cluster Development Manager (In absence of Cluster Lead)

Virtual Wards, Dental, Optometry, Community Pharmacy, Community services, and the development of Powys wide Comprehensive Geriatric Assessments, and Anticipatory Care planning tools.

- **Point of Care Testing** – supporting the development of POCT models across the Cluster.
- **Planning and modelling for Winter** to meet **increasing system demand** across all Primary & Community services – including the role of MIU’s and Minor illness services. Improving awareness of services and pathways of care across Cluster members and services, through education and communication campaigns.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

- **NHS 111 press 2 service** – continue to support the development of this service, support the education and awareness among patients and communities.
- Increasing awareness of **3rd sector Mental Health provision** among patients through **Powys Mental Health Information Service**. (Commissioned PTHB project)

Workforce & Wellbeing

- Supporting the developing of alternative recruitment models and career pathways across the cluster for all professions.
- **Wellbeing services for cluster and collaborative employees and independent contractors**, raising awareness of the provision of services and identifying routes of access.
- Working in partnership with the **Primary and Community Care Academy** for the provision of education, training, and development of the workforce, enabling portfolio careers, facilitating stronger links with universities, and expanding opportunities for greater rural placements and enabling development of portfolio careers and alternative recruitment models.
- Supporting development, **skills, and knowledge of professionals**, both clinical and non-clinical to support the delivery of **agreed Cluster priority projects**.

Key achievements/successes related to the 2024/25 Cluster Plan:

- Musculoskeletal (MSK) First Contact Practitioner Service, has been adopted by the Health Board to become a long-term service solution for the Mid Cluster.
- Successful implementation and adoption of digital technology, Accurx, to support the sustainability and delivery of day-to-day services.
- Supporting a Pan Powys approach to the development and piloting of a CYP Childhood obesity programme, providing a series of nutrition and health eating education sessions, including cooking skills weight and nutritional skills course.

Key reflections / challenges related to the 2024/25 Cluster Plan:

- 2024/25 has continued to see engagement with the wider health board, services, programme teams and the RPB.
- Cluster has recognised to meet wider service demands, to affect and influence real change for the development and planning of services, a Pan Powys approach working collaboratively with the North and South Clusters to share priorities, ideas and learnings will be beneficial.
- Demonstrating successful outcomes and values, for some pilot projects has been challenging in 2024/25 - this has seen some pilots end, as long-term sustainable funding was unable to be secured from across the system. 2025/26 will see Cluster working with Project leads to ensure reporting is reflective of wider system priorities and value/outcomes are more clearly defined.
- 2024/25 has continued to see the transition of Clusters, with the role and voice of continuing to be established within the wider organisational planning landscapes.

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Emerging alignment with PCPG Plan / RPB Area Plan 2023/2028

Health and Social care organisations across Powys have a shared vision of creating sustainable services that meet the needs of the population, which highlight the importance for people to 'Start Well', 'Live well' and 'Age Well' through a focus on well-being, early help and support, the big four challenges and joined up care.

There is continued emerging service development alignment with RPB Executive group and Area Plan priorities, through the following key areas:

Early help and prevention models of care – improving access to Primary Care, though, First contact Practitioner services, Frailty service provision, Diabetes Prevention, GP Dermatology services.

Integrated Joined up Care – provision of care closer to home, the development of Frailty services across the Cluster teams, a community approach to the coordination and delivery of care for severely frail patients.

Workforce Futures - collaborating with the Health and Care Academies for the provision of education, training, and development of the workforce, enabling alternative recruitment models and portfolio careers, and expanding opportunities for greater rural placements.

Continued Transforming in partnership – collaborating across Cluster and collaborative boundaries, to support innovation and improvement to models of care, through a multi professional and organisational approach to the provision of frailty services.

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Funding Project Title	New or Existing Project	Brief Project Description	Results/ benefits expected by end March 2026	Strategic Alignment: Ministerial Priorities	Project End Date
Digital & Patient Access	New (2024-25)	Developing alternative access to services utilising the use digital apps and software to support day to day service delivery & long-term condition management. Through using AccurX.	Improved alternative access to services for patients. Improved efficiencies with back-office functions.	Joined up Care / Transforming in partnership	Sept 2025
AHP Frailty Professionals	Existing (2023/24)	Multiprofessional AHP's supporting Frailty – within community, Meds Management, Home first, diabetic screening.	To support delivery of services to frail patients, completion of CGA's, CRT integration, falls prevention and early help and support.	Population health	March 2026
Pharmacy Professionals - Frailty	Existing (2024/25)	Focus on the management of medication for the most vulnerable and frail patients.	Improved pathways of care for patients, reduction in Medicines related admissions.	A healthier Wales	March 2027
Pre-Reg Optometrist	Existing (2022-23 plan)	Development of a new Optometry recruitment model for Powys.	Strengthening and attracting a new work force to Powys.	Supporting the health and care workforce	December 2026
Optometry Hypertension Pilot	Existing (2022-23 plan)	To establish the usefulness of a Hypertension service.	Reduce unnecessary referrals to general practice & reduce waiting time before systemic investigations.	A Healthier Wales	Spring 2025
CYP L2 weight Management	New (2024/25)	Supporting the development & delivery of tier 2/3 CYP weight management services.	Improve lifelong health through improved eating habits Increased confidence to increase activity levels/ habits through face-to-face family education.	Joined up Care / Transforming in partnership	Spring 2025
Virtual Ward Reporting Improvements	New (2024/25)	Develop a Pan Powys digital method of recording and reporting virtual ward activity.	Improved data capture and consistency of reporting across Powys, supporting development of a standard service.	Joined up Care / Transforming in partnership	April 2025