

Briefing: Integrated housing, health & social care funds

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Introduction

This is a briefing for our members on the new integrated housing and care funding streams as set out by the Welsh Government. These new funding streams aim to provide more community based care with a focus on prevention and early intervention.

Previously, the Integrated Care Fund (ICF) and Transformation Fund (TF) have been the key mechanisms for driving integration through the Regional Partnership Boards (RPBs). RPBs facilitate the partnership arrangements made between a local health board (LHB) and one or more local authorities (LA), and play a key role in these funds.

The new funds replacing the ICF and TF are:

- Regional Integration Fund (RIF)
- Housing with Care Fund (HCF)
- Social services capital fund (title TBC)

The Welsh Government intends that these three funds will work together towards mainstreaming integrated health and social care throughout Wales. Both the Welsh Government and the RPBs will have an overarching view of all these funds, to ensure join up across the various projects.

It is important to note that the RIF funding proposal is the most fully developed of these funds at this stage, with the guidance due to be published in the coming weeks.

Overview table

Funding stream	Funding type	Purpose of fund	Available funding (£)
RIF	Revenue	Deliver integrated and innovative health and social care models throughout Wales	144m for five years
HCF	Capital	Increase housing stock with care over the next 4 years	60.5m over the next three years
Social services fund	Capital	Precise details still being decided	50/60/70m over the next three years



Regional Integration Fund (RIF)

Purpose

The RIF is a five year fund to deliver a programme of change from April 2022 to March 2027. This fund aims to create sustainable system change through the integration of health and social care services, building on the learning and progress made under the ICF and TF.

Key features of the fund include:

- A focus on prevention and early intervention
- Developing and embedding models of integrated care
- Sharing learning across Wales
- Sustainable long term resourcing
- Consistent investment in regional planning and partnership infrastructure.

The aim of the RIF is that, by the end of the five year programme, **six national models of integrated care** will be mainstreamed. This will ensure that residents from all over Wales have access to effective services.

These models are:

1. Community based care – *prevention and community coordination*
2. Community based care – *complex care closer to home*
3. Promoting good emotional health and well-being
4. Supporting families to stay together safely, and therapeutic support for care experienced children
5. Home from hospital services
6. Accommodation based solutions

Communities of practice (CoPs)

Six communities of practice (CoPs) will be established to share learning and actively support the development and embedding of these integrated models of care. RPBs will have the flexibility to determine which projects and services align to which model of care.

While the RIF will provide opportunity to support the further creation of new models of care, it will also enable the RPBs to mainstream and embed effective models of delivery tried and tested under the ICF/TF and will also support the strategic alignment and integration of existing services.

Funding arrangements

The RIF will be delivered by RPBs, and funding allocations will be issued at the beginning of each financial year rather than being retrospectively claimed. RPBs will be expected to invest a **minimum of 20%** of their RIF allocation in delivery through social value sector organisations (as



defined in the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014). The Welsh Government expects RPBs to be connecting closely with their social value forums to ensure the wider sector can be engaged in the planning, design and delivery of these models of care.

The RIF funding model has **four distinct areas**, each with its own eligibility and match funding expectations.

Regional Infrastructure Fund

Under this guidance the RIF can fund up to £750,000 (75% intervention rate) towards the cost of RPB infrastructure, with statutory partners needing to match this by investing £250,000 (the remaining 25%)

National Priorities Fund

Under this section of the fund, RPBs will be allocated 100% funding to deliver against national ministerial commitments, with no expectation for match funding. These allocations will not be subject to tapering.

Projects falling under this category include:

- Integrated Autism Service (IAS)
- Dementia projects and supporting the DAP and its companion project

Acceleration Change Fund

This fund provides RPBs with the opportunity to develop and test new models of care. As a guide, no more than 30% of an RPB's overall allocation should be allocated to models of care in this area. Projects funding under this fund will receive a 90% intervention rate with statutory partners being expected to match the remaining 10%.

Project funding under this part of the fund can expect to receive a maximum of two years funding. Those that are deemed not successful or appropriate for onward investment from the RIF should be managed to safely exit the fund.

National Delivery Model Embedding Fund

This section of the fund is for projects that have been tested and evaluated as having good impact and are agreed by all partners as meeting regional needs. Projects funded here will receive a 70% intervention rate, with statutory partners expected to match the remaining 30%.

All projects moving into this fund will be expected to have a clear business case for sustainability. It is anticipated that several projects or services developed under the ICF and TF fund will move directly into this fund in April 2022.

Projects under this fund can receive funding for up to three years before moving to be fully mainstreamed; following robust evaluation and clear evidence of impact these models of care can be considered to move into the Integrated Mainstreaming Fund.



50/50 Integrated Mainstream Fund

After a project has received three years funding under the embedding fund it should be ready to be mainstreamed. However, the model of care can move to this fund before the three year point.

This fund is a recurrent pool fund with partners and the Welsh Government contributing 50% each. If partners are still using non-monetary match resourcing at this stage this must be separately ring fenced and accounted for to support the sustainable delivery when regional tapering is applied.

Match resourcing

A key principle of the RIF is match resourcing, which will be used to replace Welsh Government funding as it tapers over the course of the programme. This can be made up of two elements: **monetary and wider resourcing**. Monetary match funding consists of direct financial contributions from core funds or other non-Welsh Government grant sources. The wider resource contribution consists of staff time, volunteer time, and use of premises and/or facilities.

The RIF aims for a 50/50 intervention rate each from the Welsh Government and RPBs by the end of the five year fund. The Welsh Government acknowledges that this must be a collective commitment and endeavour.

The Welsh Government has set different expectations on match resources across different sectors. This means that LAs are expected to work closely with third sector providers to develop longer term sustainability and mainstreaming plans, which could include the allocation of match funds from statutory partners. The Welsh Government acknowledges that third sector providers may have limited access to core funding, and such providers will be encouraged to encourage community facilities and access to charitable funds and grants instead.

Risks for the sector

- An inadequate or insufficient commitment to the long term goals of investing match funding to support the embedding of new systems could lead to a suspension or withdrawal of Welsh Government funding until the matter is resolved.
- The potential that allocations of match funding from LAs will detract from other priorities.

Opportunities for the sector

- Promoting the social value of the sector
- A minimum 20% of RPBs' RIF allocation must be invested in delivery through social value organisations.



Housing with Care Fund (HCF)

This is a capital funding programme responding to the ageing population of Wales and seeks to support this population of people to continue to live independently and at home.

Further capital funding into the sector will allow opportunities for:

- the development of community health and social care centres and hubs
- the development of accommodation that is able to meet the needs of those requiring care and support
- the rebalancing of the residential care sector.

This funding stream aims to:

- increase the stock of housing with care significantly over a four year period (NB the fourth year is subject to budget decisions)
- increase the stock of intermediate and short-medium term care settings
- provide a small fixed element of discretionary funding to support the other aims.

Social Services Capital Fund

The Welsh Government has stated that there will be a social services capital fund relating to integrated health and care centres, community hubs and other Programme for Government commitments. The precise details for this fund are still being developed.

Opportunities for the sector

- Both the HCF and Social Services Capital Fund are early on in their development and no guidance has been released for either fund. This presents an opportunity for the sector to input into the guidance and influence how these funds will be delivered.

Next steps

Guidance for the RIF is due to be published very soon. Welsh Government officials will continue to work with the RPBs and other stakeholders to develop the HCF and social services capital programmes over the coming months, and the Minister hopes to be able to publish new guidance by March 2022.

CHC are arranging a session with Welsh Government officials and housing associations to discuss the new funds. This will take place in the coming weeks, and details will be shared with members as soon as possible.

For more information, please contact Sarah Scotcher, Policy & External Affairs Manager:
sarah-scotcher@chcymru.org.uk.