

Committee	Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date	10th December 2020
Job Title	Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board Governance Structure and Delivery Arrangements
Cabinet Member	Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn
Purpose	Review the Governance arrangements of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board and an update on the work of the sub-groups

1 Introduction and context

1.1 The Anglesey and Gwynedd Public Services Board was established in 2016, in line with Wellbeing of the Future Generations Act (2015). The aim of the Well-being of the Future Generations Act (2015) is to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act highlights seven well-being goals and five ways of working in order to give public bodies a common purpose. The decision undertaken was to establish a Public Services Board (PSB) for Gwynedd that would *collaborate* with the Public Services Board for Anglesey.

1.2 During 2017 the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board divided our communities into 14 smaller areas in order to carry out detailed research, and learn more about the well-being of those areas. The information was published in the form of the Well-being Assessments. The information gathered from the assessments was used to shape the PSB's priorities which have been confirmed in the Well-being Plan (2018). The following priorities were agreed:

- The Welsh language
- Homes for local people;
- The effect of poverty on the well-being of our communities;
- The effect of climate change on the well-being of our communities;
- Health and care of adults and the wellbeing and achievement of children and young people

1.3 Since March 2020 we have faced a global health crisis and very challenging times. The regional co-ordinators group has agreed on areas that needs focus in the recovery of our communities from the pandemic. Public Service Boards across North Wales were asked to look at recovery from the perspective of community resilience. A workshop for the Gwynedd and Anglesey PSB was therefore held on 17th September. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the role of the Public Services Board in the recovery of our communities from the pandemic.

1.4 During the workshop a number of issues were discussed that are of importance / affect our communities at present, and a discussion on whether the PSB had a role to play in response to them, and what that role might be. The PSB also considered how the individual bodies are already responding to the issues. Following the workshop it was agreed that the priorities of the PSB moving forward will to continue with the PSB's core work as the current objectives and

priorities of the Well-being Plan remain relevant. There will be an opportunity to revise the workstreams of the existing subgroups by taking into account the findings of the workshop. The sub-groups have started to revise their work programs and agree on milestones. It was also agreed to undertake further research in some areas, in order to ascertain the current situation such as financial poverty and youth unemployment. Those reports will be presented to the Public Services Board on the 16th December.

2 Public Services Board Governance Arrangements

2.1 As highlighted in the Public Services Board's Terms of Reference the PSB has four statutory members namely The Local Authorities, Health Board, Natural Resources Wales and the Fire Service – together with guest participants who contribute to the Board's duties.

2.2 The PSB has established sub-groups to support the delivery of its sub-groups. An update on the work of the sub-groups is outlined below.

2.3 Objective 1 – Communities which thrive and are prosperous in the long-term

Priority area	An update on the arrangements of the sub-groups	What does the sub-group achieve that adds value to the current plans of the public bodies in the field.
<p>The Welsh Language</p>	<p>The subgroup does not have a lead at present. A successor to Bethan Williams, Mantell Gwynedd will be discussed in the PSB on December 16th.</p> <p>The sub-group includes representation from the Local Authorities, the Health Board and Bangor University but also invites other PSB representation to contribute to the group's work at specific points e.g. the Fire Service and the Police.</p>	<p>The sub-group has focused specifically on the ARFer project. Gwynedd Council has identified a department that would benefit from participating in the ARFer project. The purpose of ARFer is to change language practices to enable colleagues who can speak Welsh (but who have established a habit of using English) to use more Welsh at work. This will lead to improved consistency in the citizen experience when dealing with Gwynedd Council.</p> <p>The ARFer project has been ongoing for the past few months. It was not possible for researchers to visit workplaces to observe staff language practices but work is continuing on developing the toolkit.</p> <p>The sub-group were due to conduct a study to increase the use of Welsh in public sectors reception areas. A project proposal paper had been approved by the PSB. However, the sub-group will now revise its work plan following the crisis.</p> <p>The group will work with the office of the Welsh Language Commissioner, which is conducting a review of the challenges and opportunities presented by Covid-19, in relation to the Welsh language.</p>

Climate Change	A sub-group has been established and is operational under the leadership of Sian Williams, Natural Resources Wales.	<p>A meeting of the sub-group has recently been held, with some of the PSB's statutory partners. The group acknowledged that we are still in the midst of the pandemic that has had a devastating impact on our communities. It was noted that the lock-down period had offered a few positive opportunities as we had slowed down, traveled less, enjoyed our local environment and re-engaged with nature. However it has been realised that some of our communities may have to deal with the effects of Covid_19 and the impact of climate change at the same time. The group will therefore revisit their work program focusing on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Learn from the lessons learned from public bodies that worked together to tackle flooding in our communities▪ Engage, communicate and raise awareness of the communities that will be mostly affected by future climate change▪ Provide an opportunity for our communities to contribute to our vision for action and response to climate change▪ Encourage the commitment of our partners and strengthen our accountability arrangements and governance structures (local and regional).
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<p>Homes for local people</p>	<p>A subgroup has been established and operates under the leadership of Ffrancon Williams, Adra. A core group has been set up to plan and keep an overview of the project. A wider representation of board members contributes to the sub group's activity through the innovative Housing group meeting.</p>	<p>Gwynedd Council is working with other PSB partners and Housing Associations on an innovative programme of building new and affordable homes in the county. Subject to confirming the financial viability of the development sites concerned, and confirming that those sites can be developed out in a timely manner, the procurement process to appoint a partner to develop the programme will take place jointly.</p> <p>It is hoped that this will lead to economies of scale and more effective use of public money while at the same time developing innovative housing with a very small carbon footprint, as opposed to traditional housing.</p> <p>Using innovative housing models will respond to the challenge of climate change (energy efficient), develop homes with low running costs for our residents, and offer training and employment opportunities for local people.</p>
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2.4 Objective 2: Healthy and independent residents with a good quality of life

Two priority areas 'Health and Adult Care' and 'Children and young people's well-being and success' address objective 2. It was agreed to establish one sub-group to address the two priorities in the West integrated Health and Social Care Group.

Priority area	An update on the arrangements of the sub-groups	What does the sub-group achieve that adds value to the current plans of the public bodies in the field
<p>Health and Care of adults, and the welfare and achievement of children and young people.</p>	<p>An Integrated Health and Social Care Group for the West has been established, and is under the leadership of Ffion Johnstone Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board. The sub-group keeps an overview and ensures that the developments and changes we want to see in the West are introduced.</p>	<p>Innovative work has been undertaken in health and care which focuses on transforming services by integrating our health and care services.</p> <p>An example of the work undertaken in Gwynedd is that: Gwynedd Council and the Health Board have decided to establish a new home care service model in Gwynedd, with an emphasis on helping people to live their lives as independently as possible.</p>

3 Monitoring

3.1 The four sub-groups mentioned above are accountable to the Public Services Board in relation to any work commissioned. The sub-groups update the Board on progress quarterly, and during the meetings of the Board the update reports are challenged and discussed in detail. The leaders of the PSB sub-groups are members of the PSB, and it is their responsibility to submit an action plan and details about delivery.

3.2 There is also a role for the Board's support team to support and maintain the work of the sub-groups between meetings of the Board. In addition an annual report is published by the Board that summarises the progress as the Board works towards achieving its strategic objectives.

4 Scrutiny Arrangements

4.1 In order to gain democratic accountability for the progress of the work of the PSB the act has placed a requirement on councils to designate an Overview and Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the work of the PSB. The work of the Gwynedd and Anglesey PSB is therefore scrutinised by the Scrutiny Committees of Gwynedd Council and the Isle of Anglesey County Council on specific points during the year. The Well-being of Future Generations Wales Act (2015) and associated national guidance¹ set out three roles for Local Authority scrutiny committees:

- Review the governance arrangements of the PSB

¹ Guidance for Local Authority Scrutiny Committees on the scrutiny of Public Service Boards

- Be a statutory consultee on the Well-being Assessment and Well-being Plan
- Monitor the progress of the PSB's efforts in implementing the Well-being Plan.

4.2 This means that scrutiny committees have the opportunity to scrutinise the performance and impact of the Public Services Board. During the past year discussions have been held between Gwynedd Council and the Isle of Anglesey County Council on the option of establishing one scrutiny panel, to operate across the two counties to scrutinise the work of the PSB. The scrutiny managers of both councils evaluated different options and concluded that they did not recommend the establishment of a panel at this stage but rather wanted to focus on aligning timescales and consistency of scrutiny arrangements across the two Counties and continuing with the current scrutiny arrangements. It will be possible to review these arrangements between the two councils again in due course.

5 Risks

5.1 The PSB manages risks in relation to projects and the work of the sub-groups. For example the homes sub-group has a risk register which is reviewed during meetings of the sub-group. The sub-groups also present their main risks to the PSB on a quarterly basis, and propose measures to mitigate them.

6 Lessons learned

6.1 The PSB continually learns lessons. We learned during the crisis about the willingness of public bodies to work together, the speed of their response, and the decisions taken. It is intended to build on these lessons and continue to encourage collaboration in our communities.

6.2 During the workshop for the PSB on 17th September it was learned that a number of the partners were responding to the well-being needs of our communities as individual organisations. The PSB is firm that they want to avoid duplication, as the purpose of the PSB is to add value to existing schemes. To avoid further duplication the PSB also invite other partners to deliver presentations about their work such as the Skills Partnership and Community Safety Partnership.

7. Equality Impact Assessments

7.1 The PSB support team has already considered and recognised the need for impact assessments (e.g. Language and Equality) and assessments will be developed and used when the Board engages with our communities at certain points and for updating the Well-being Assessments. Impact assessments will also be used when projects are submitted by the sub-groups that propose policy / service change. Impact assessments will therefore be developed in order to measure and understand the impact of decisions of the subgroups, on behalf of the Public Services Board.