

Committee	Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date	22nd April 2021
Job Title	A progress report on the delivery of the Wellbeing Plan by the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board
Cabinet Member	Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn
Purpose	Provide a report on the progress of the work of the Anglesey and Gwynedd Public Services Board

1 Introduction and context

1.1 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.

1.2 The Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board (PSB) was established in 2016, in accordance with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (the Act). Indeed, a PSB has been established for all Local Authorities in Wales to ensure collaboration among public bodies to create a better future for the people of Wales. The decision undertaken in North West Wales was to establish a Public Services Board (PSB) for Gwynedd that would *collaborate* with the Public Services Board for Anglesey.

1.3 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

2. An update on the progress of the work of the PSB

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 sub-groups to support it in carrying out its functions. Below is an update on the work of the sub-groups. It is fair to say that the pandemic has slowed the progress of the sub-groups in recent months, but now all of the sub-groups are resuming their work plans. The PSB has continued to hold meetings during the pandemic which demonstrates the commitment of our members to the work.

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

Priority	What the PSB has achieved to date
<p>The Welsh Language: We will work together to increase the use of the Welsh language within public bodies in Gwynedd and Anglesey. We will promote the use of the Welsh language as the language of choice for public organisations across both counties</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In relation to the promotion of the use of Welsh as the language of choice for public organisations, the sub-group had begun to address the issue. Before the pandemic the sub-group had submitted a project to look at how the use of Welsh in public bodies' reception areas could be increased. Grant funding had also been identified to support the project. Unfortunately the project had to be postponed due to the pandemic. ▪ There is now a new leader for the language subgroup, Aled Jones Griffith of Coleg Llandrillo Menai. The sub-group is looking to revise its terms of reference, clearly defining the purpose and scope of the sub-group. During the next 6-12 months they will focus on 2/3 projects, considering the following: revisiting the reception project, IT issues, the use of apps and the linguistic expectation when establishing Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs).
<p>Homes for local people: We will work with the housing sector to secure more suitable and affordable homes in the right places to meet local needs. We will work together to ensure that homes are of high quality that meets the needs of residents</p>	<p>The purpose of the sub group is to look for opportunities to develop innovative housing, which complement and not duplicate the work arising from Gwynedd's housing strategy.</p> <p>The group has established collaboration arrangements and sharing of good practice between Anglesey County Council, Gwynedd Council, Snowdonia National Park and Adra. An evaluation of different innovative housing models and their financial viability was undertaken, and an evaluation of different sites and their suitability for innovative housing development. This process has demonstrated the willingness of partners to share information on financial assumptions and assets with</p>

	<p>the subgroup. This shows the benefit of working in collaboration.</p> <p>The subgroup evaluated a large number of sites as part of their work, and their suitability for different models. The exercise was used to rule out unsuitable or viable sites and if there is any opportunity for joint procurement (if their timescales match). As a result sites have been identified for the development of innovative housing.</p> <p>The sub group believe that their work is coming to an end, as continuing the work would duplicate what is already being done by the individual organisations. The focus for the 6 months it to look at opportunity of joint procurement on the identified sites.</p> <p>On an issue related to the work of the homes subgroup (but not part of their action plan) Dafydd Gibbard was invited to the PSB meeting in December to give an update from Gwynedd Council on the impact of second homes on the housing market. The availability of housing for local people continues to be a concern for the PSB, and the individual organisations. It was agreed that the PSB would write a letter to the Welsh Government to support the views of Gwynedd Council and the Isle of Anglesey County Council on the matter, who have already contacted the Government to ask for their cooperation. The letter from the PSB specifically referred to well-being issues from a housing perspective, and the long-term impact of the issue on the well-being of our residents.</p>
<p>The effect of poverty on the well-being of our communities: We will develop a detailed understanding of how poverty affects the area and look to ensure that the work happening across public bodies is more</p>	<p>The Public Services Board has given considerable thought to how they might respond to this priority, without duplicating the work already undertaken by the public bodies in this field of work. It was agreed that</p>

<p>effective in mitigating the long-term effects of poverty.</p>	<p>the role of the PSB would be to keep an overview of work going on in the field of poverty by Gwynedd Council and the Isle of Anglesey County Council in the first instance. Local Authorities have their arrangements and plans in place for tackling poverty.</p> <p>Gwynedd Council is working together on a Supporting Families' Program with the aim of providing the right support, at the right time to support the Well-being of the People of Gwynedd.</p> <p>Other partners of the Board also have their own arrangements and plans to tackle poverty. This became even more apparent during the pandemic, where everyone worked together to look after our most vulnerable communities.</p>
<p>The effect of climate change on the well-being of communities: We will work together locally to mitigate the effects of climate change on our communities.</p>	<p>A series of workshops have recently been held to work together on updating the sub-group's action plan. The group encourages input from other partners, and Cyngor Gwynedd in particular. They have agreed on the following vision "Empower our communities to adapt, manage and reduce the impact of climate change: building on lessons learnt during Covid about the value of access to local places/ spaces to our lives."</p> <p>Work will commence in 3 pilot areas within the next 6-12 months. The subgroup are also awaiting guidance on a regional level on climate change issues. Natural Resources Wales commissioned Alan Netherwood to produce a report on a regional approach to Climate Change. The report recommends that North Wales moves towards a transformational approach to the climate crisis and identifies three priority areas where regional cooperation should be developed over a three year period. This would address climate change as a strategic issue critical to the future well-being of the region.</p> <p>Alongside the work of the sub-group Natural Resources Wales has been holding consultation / engagement sessions linked to their work on the Area Statements. The</p>

	evidence and findings of the area statements will be woven into the work of the sub group.
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2.4 Objective 2: Healthy and independent residents with a good quality of life:

Priority	What the PSB has achieved to date
<p>Health and care of adults: We will work with the Regional Partnership Board to ensure that the services planned for the older population meet local needs. We will collaborate locally to plan a wide range of preventative activities for adults to enable them to live healthy and independent lives.</p>	<p>To deliver against these two priorities a Health and care sub group has been established. The purpose of this group is to establish joint working arrangements among public organisations in the field of Health and care. The work streams reporting to the subgroup are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults • Children • Learning Disabilities • Mental health • Community Transformation <p>Money from the transformation bids are used to deliver mental health, child and community transformation programs. Arrangements are in hand for integrating health and care at the most local level across the county. The past year has been a time of uncertainty and the need to work together, share information and ensure easy access to our services is more important than ever. The subgroup demonstrates a willingness to work in flexible, different ways that has emerged in recent months. The pandemic has impacted on the progress of each work stream, but plans to revisit and review the terms of reference are under way. It is intended to consider how the work of this particular subgroup adds value to other health and care plans and to align the work with regional health and care arrangements.</p>
<p>The welfare and achievement of children and young people: We will plan preventative services and activities together to support families before the need for intensive intervention arises. We will encourage children, young people and their families to improve their health so that they can live healthily and independently within their communities in the long-term.</p>	

3. Wellbeing Assessments

3.1 The first wellbeing assessments were published by the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board in 2017. Every 5 years, and as a statutory requirement of the Well-being of Future

Generations Act, Public Service Boards must prepare and publish an assessment of the state of economic well-being, social, environmental and cultural activities in its area, not more than a year before they publish their local well-being plan. We have started discussions in Gwynedd and Anglesey on how best to carry out the assessments, and carry out the PSB duties.

3.2 We know that the communities of Anglesey and Gwynedd are tired of receiving requests to contribute to a number of recent consultation and engagement sessions. It is hoped that the PSB will contribute to a comprehensive piece of work, which demonstrates the willingness of public bodies to work together, ensuring that the outputs of the assessments are of use to the partner organizations and residents of Anglesey and Gwynedd.

3.3 Internal and regional discussions with other Public Service Boards are already underway for the well-being assessments. As an initial step we have considered the engagement work that will take place in the communities of Gwynedd and Anglesey over the next 6-12 months. Work will be linked to the following main areas: Well-being Assessments, Population Assessment (required by the Councils and Health Board), and individual Council plans such as the Regeneration Framework in Gwynedd. We are also aware of work associated with the Area Statements by Natural Resources Wales already underway. A role of co-ordinating the work associated with the above plans is envisaged by the PSB support team.

4. Delivery

4.1 The four sub-groups listed above are accountable to the Public Services Board in relation to the delivery of any commissioned work. It is expected that the sub group leaders will report on progress on a quarterly basis to the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board. Meeting the objectives will be an opportunity for PSB partners to demonstrate their willingness and commitment to work collaboratively and innovatively on achievable plans.

4.2 The PSB operates in accordance with seven principles, namely the five national sustainable development principles above, plus two which have been added by the Board namely 'Welsh Language' and 'Equality'. This means acting in a way that seeks to ensure that today's needs are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

4.3 In order to respond to the timetable within the Well-being of Future Generations Act the PSB will publish an annual report by July 2021. The PSB will present the annual report to Gwynedd Scrutiny Committee, for comment.

5. Scrutiny Arrangements

5.1 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 guidance set out three roles for Local Authority scrutiny committees:

- Review the governance arrangements of the PSB
- 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.

5.2 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.

6. Equality Impact Assessments

6.1 The PSB support team has already considered and recognised the need for impact assessments (eg Language and Equality) and assessments will be developed and used when the Board engages with our communities on 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 on behalf of the subgroups made by the Public Services Board.