
CONWY AND DENBIGHSHIRE PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD

Wednesday, 26 July 2017 at 1.00 pm
Elidir Room, Rhyl Community Fire Station, Rhyl,

PRESENT:	Bethan Jones (Chair)	Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
	Iwan Davies	Conwy County Borough Council
	Councillor Bobby Feeley	Denbighshire County Council
	Wendy Jones	Community Voluntary Support Conwy
	Rebecca Masters	Public Health Wales
	Mohammed Mehmet	Denbighshire County Council
	Dr Evan Moore	BCUHB
	Jeff Moses	North Wales Police
	Sioned Rees	Welsh Government
	Simon Smith	North Wales Fire and Rescue Service
	Sian Williams	Natural Resources Wales
Officers:	Hannah Edwards	Public Services Board Development Officer
	Dawn Hughes	Senior Committee Services Officer
	Nicola Kneale	Strategic Planning Manager - Denbighshire County Council
	Fran Lewis	Corporate Performance and Improvement Manager
	Megan Vickery	Engagement Officer – Central
In attendance:	Marianne Jackson	Head of Community Development Service
	Nicola Stubbins	Director of Social Services
	Libby Duo	Community First Cluster Manager
	Rhys Burton	Communities First Programme Manager
	Melanie Williams	North Wales PSB Research and Development
	Steve Price	Democratic Services Manager

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

It was proposed and seconded that Bethan Jones (Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB)) be re-appointed as Chair of the Conwy and Denbighshire Public Services Board (PSB) for 2017/18.

RESOLVED-

That Bethan Jones (BCUHB) be re-appointed as Chair of the Conwy and Denbighshire PSB for 2017/18.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

It was proposed and seconded that Iwan Davies (Conwy County Borough Council (CCBC)) be re-appointed as Vice-Chair of the Conwy and Denbighshire Public Services Board (PSB) for 2017/18.

RESOLVED-

That Iwan Davies (CCBC) be re-appointed as Vice-Chair of the Conwy and Denbighshire PSB for 2017/18.

3. **TO RECEIVE FORMAL ACCEPTANCE OF INVITED PARTICIPANTS TO JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD**

In accordance with its Constitution, the Conwy and Denbighshire Public Services Board (PSB) was required to formally accept Invited Participants to join the PSB.

In relation to the Statutory Members, the PSB acknowledged that Councillor Gareth Jones, was the new Leader of Conwy County Borough Council and that Councillor Bobby Feely was representing the Leader for Denbighshire County Council for this meeting.

With regard to the Invited Participants, the PSB formally accepted the following participants to join the PSB:

- Community and Voluntary Support Conwy – Wendy Jones
- Wales Community Rehabilitation Company – Judith Magaw
- Denbighshire Voluntary Service Council – Helen Wilkinson
- Public Health Wales – Rebecca Masters and Teresa Owen
- North Wales Police – Sian Beck
- National Probation Service – Andy Jones
- Welsh Government Representative – Sioned Rees
- Office to the Police and Crime Commissioner – Stephen Hughes

RESOLVED-

That the PSB Development Officer writes to the Invited Participants, as listed above to confirm their acceptance to join the Conwy and Denbighshire Public Services Board and reiterate the importance of regular attendance.

4. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Sian Beck (North Wales Police), Councillor Hugh Evans (Denbighshire County Council), Stephen Hughes (Office of the North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner), Andy Jones (National Probation Service), Councillor Gareth Jones (Conwy County Borough Council) and Helen Wilkinson (Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council).

5. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Conwy and Denbighshire Public Services Board (PSB) held on 27 March 2017 were presented for approval.

Minute 48 – Welsh Government White Paper: Reforming Local Government – Response to the PSB related questions: It was confirmed that the PSB's response to the White Paper had been submitted to the Welsh Government.

Minute 49 – Partnership Landscape in Conwy and Denbighshire and Partnership Funding: The Partnership Landscape diagram was currently being populated with the feedback received and it would be presented to a future meeting of the PSB.

RESOLVED-

That the minutes of the Conwy and Denbighshire PSB held on 27 March 2017 be approved.

6. EUROPEAN UNION REFERENDUM - WELSH EUROPEAN FUNDING OFFICE FEEDBACK ON FUNDING GAPS

Sioned Rees (Welsh Government) advised Members that the scoping work being undertaken to identify the effect of Brexit on EU funding streams was proving extremely complex.

The PSB would be provided with feedback at a future meeting.

7. PUBLISHING THE PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD AGENDA AND REPORTS ON THE PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD WEBSITE

The Public Services Board Development Officer (Hannah Edwards) advised Members that she had received an email from the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) asking if the PSB published its agendas and reports on its website.

Currently, the PSB only published the minutes, however, Members felt that the PSB should be open and transparent and that meetings should be open to the public, with agendas and reports also publically available.

There could be occasions when reports would need to be exempt from public disclosure, therefore it was suggested that such reports should be subject to the public interest test, which Local Authorities used to identify if reports should be made exempt.

It was requested that a copy of the public interest test form be presented to the next meeting of the PSB for consideration.

RESOLVED-

In order for the PSB to consider whether agendas and reports should be publically available, that a copy of the Local Authority public interest test form be presented to the next meeting for consideration.

8. COMMUNITY FIRST - ENDORSEMENT AND TRANSITION PLANS

Following the announcement by the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children that the Communities First programme would be phased out by the end of March 2018, the Public Services Board (PSB) was presented with the transition plans for both Denbighshire and Conwy for formal endorsement.

Denbighshire Transition Plan

Rhys Burton, the Programme Manager (Co-op) presented the Public Services Board (PSB) with the approach being taken by the Co-op for the closure of the Communities First programme in Denbighshire by 31 March 2018.

The report also highlighted the arrangements between the Co-op and Denbighshire County Council (DCC), as the Local Authority prepared to lead and manage the Communities for Work (CfW) programme, the Legacy Fund and the Employability Grant within the Denbighshire County.

The Co-op was only one of three Lead Delivery Bodies for the Communities First programme, which was not a local authority and was further distinguished by being the only Lead Delivery Body with programme commitments across more than one local authority area. The Co-op had supported the Communities First programme in Denbighshire, Pembrokeshire and parts of Blaenau Gwent for a number of years.

Following guidance and discussions with Welsh Government (WG), recognising the more complex consideration of the Co-op in closing the Communities First programme across three local authority areas, an Outline Transition Plan was submitted to WG in April 2017 and was followed by a more Detailed Plan in June 2017. The WG accepted that many variables would still have influence on the final transition approach of the Communities First programme and on the proposals for the Legacy Fund and Employability Grant – both of which are due to be funded from April 2018.

In all Communities First areas, the WG had made a 30% cut to programme budget for 2017/2018, with immediate consequences for cluster team staff numbers and project funding. In Denbighshire, the Co-op had seen two Lead Officers leave their roles and has had to terminate externally commissioned services.

DCC had been approached by WG to lead the CfW programme, with work due to begin in this financial year (2017/18) and provided an opportunity during the remaining period of the Communities First programme to collaborate on community based services and thereby access / reach existing residents.

In relation to the Employability Grant, the programme would focus on wrap around provision to the CfW programme and had the intention of supporting a wider base of clients with development towards employment and work ready capability. There was an increased flexibility within the programme to respond to a local approach and its geographic area was not constrained to the CfW area.

Initial guidance on the Legacy Fund had recently been shared by WG and it would seem apparent that there would be sufficient flexibility within the applications to enable further support for key works, which were valued in the Communities First programme.

Conwy Communities First

Marianne Jackson, the Head of Community Development Services (CCBC) presented the Public Services Board (PSB) with an update on the transition from Conwy Communities First to the new Welsh Government (WG) Employability Programme, and following a period of consultation, the proposed Communities First Legacy Projects for April 2018 onwards.

In accordance with WG guidance, the Outline Transition Plan and Detailed Plan had been submitted to WG, both documents set out the approach and timescales for the closure of the Communities First programme and the proposed transition to the new approach utilising the Communities First budget for 2017/18.

Communities' First staff had been supported through the redeployment process and this would continue until end of July when the fixed term contracts of 4 staff members would cease. Four members of staff had already left following the Cabinet Secretary's announcement to phase out the programme.

The 70% funding of the current Communities First budget was welcomed and given the flexibility for the use of the transitional funding, it would allow the Lead Delivery Bodies to utilise the resource to ensure proper close-down of the Communities First programme, and would provide an opportunity to undertake appropriate community engagement and to engage with colleagues involved in complementary programmes within Conwy.

The PSB welcomed the transitional arrangements, however it was acknowledged that there would be a need to carefully manage the arrangements, in order to minimise the impact on clients and communities.

Discussion also took place on the following:

- Whilst the Communities First programme had not seen a positive impact on poverty levels, there had been some areas of success, which needed to be built upon.
- The need to ensure that clients had access to Public Services within the new programmes.
- The need for clarity and developing links with all other employability programmes to ensure a holistic approach.
- The need to assess the impact of the transitional arrangements, particularly around health, learning and prosperity.

The Chair extended her thanks for the updates on the Transition Plans for both Counties.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Public Services Board note the Co-op Communities First Transition Plan and approach being taken by the Co-op towards the closure of the Communities First programme in Denbighshire and the working relationship towards the delivery of the Communities for Work, Employability Grant and Legacy Fund programmes.**
- (b) That the transitional arrangements from Conwy Communities First to the new Welsh Government Employability Programme be noted.**
- (c) That further reports on the transitional arrangements be provided to the Public Services Board in the future.**

9. PRIORITISING WELLBEING OBJECTIVES

The Conwy and Denbighshire Public Services Board had held Stakeholder Workshops in June 2017, in order to propose and develop Well-being Objectives for inclusion in the Conwy and Denbighshire Well-being Plan, which needed to be published by April 2018.

The PSB had held four workshops, which were themed around the following:

- Environment – led by Sian Williams (Natural Resources Wales).
- Economic – led by Iwan Davies (Conwy County Borough Council).
- Cultural – led by Mohammed Mehmet (Denbighshire County Council).
- Health and Social – led by Bethan Jones (BCUHB) and Rebecca Masters (Public Health Wales).

The workshops were well-attended, with over 180 delegates in attendance and thanks were extended to PSB Officers for organising the events.

Members were presented with a document, which listed 13 common themes/priorities identified from the Workshops. For each of the themes, the document identified:

- Links to the 7 Well-being Goals.
- Links to the topics identified in the Well-being Assessment.
- Links to the partners' corporate priorities.
- Proposed activities for the short, medium and long term.
- Links to the 5 ways of working and whether there was any work taking place on the proposals elsewhere.

Members of the PSB were asked to consider, which of the 13 priorities should be included within the Conwy and Denbighshire Well-being Plan.

In considering each of the following themes/priorities, Members assessed the level of risk and what would happen if the priority was not addressed in the long term; considered how the PSB could work with the community to make a tangible difference; and the potential for partners to collaborate on the priority.

- Objective 1: To continue with the interim priority of ensuring the first 1000 days of a child's life is safe, healthy with the opportunity to develop their full potential.
 - It was **AGREED** to include this as a priority within the Well-being Plan, as it was felt that by investing in the first 1000 days would have a positive impact and could realise a higher return on investment across the public sector.
 - This objective had previously been agreed as an interim priority of the PSB and therefore activities were already underway.

- Objective 2: The potential to develop community hubs, to foster greater local community activity by bringing residents and key organisations/services together to improve the quality of life and creating resilient communities.
 - Members **AGREED** to merge Objectives 2, 3 and 4 together and include as a priority within the Well-being Plan, with the focus on community planning and hubs. The PSB felt that all partners could contribute and directly influence the objective.
- Objective 3: The need to work alongside individual communities at a local scale to develop community plans, which would encompass elements of climate change adaptability (better designed buildings), green infrastructure for outdoor recreation, sustainability and other socio issues.
 - Members **AGREED** to merge Objectives 2, 3 and 4 together and include as a priority within the Well-being Plan, with the focus on community planning and hubs. The PSB felt that all partners could contribute and directly influence the objective.
- Objective 4: To further develop community planning in terms of democracy to ensure our communities are sustainable, resilient and engaged.
 - Members **AGREED** to merge Objectives 2, 3 and 4 together and include as a priority within the Well-being Plan, with the focus on community planning and hubs. The PSB felt that all partners could contribute and directly influence the objective.
- Objective 5: To further develop social/green prescribing across Conwy and Denbighshire that supports a wide range of social, emotional and practical needs enabling people of all ages to thrive.
 - Whilst the PSB supported the proposals, Members felt that it should not be included as a priority in the Well-being Plan. However, as the statutory partners were some of the largest employers in the area, the PSB could look at how it could influence social/green prescribing across the two Counties.
 - Sian Williams (Natural Resources Wales) **AGREED** to provide a presentation to a future meeting of the PSB on the Keep Moving Project.
- Objective 6: Good mental health and well-being is experienced by all ages.
 - Members **AGREED** that this objective should be included as a priority within the Well-being Plan, as all partners could work together to improve mental well-being by prevention and early intervention. This would bring significant benefits for health and quality of life for individuals and communities and could lead to a reduction in the demand and use of support services.
 - It was suggested that as one of the activities, all statutory partners could participate in the Corporate Health Award.

- Objective 7: Preparing for and maintaining older people's independence and well-being.
 - It was **AGREED** that this should be included as a priority within the Well-being Plan.
 - There was a need for Services and individuals to plan appropriately for independent living and consider suitable supported housing options, otherwise older people would remain in long-term care.
 - It was suggested that the narrative could be reworded to also promote resilience.
 - It was **AGREED** that further information be sought from the Part 9 Board on the work they were undertaking.

- Objective 8: The potential to further develop and promote the use of 'natural' solutions to water management and associated environmental issues e.g. natural flood risk management.
 - The PSB acknowledged the importance of raising awareness and promotion of flood risk management. The PSB could influence and provide leadership for future generations and therefore it should be considered as a priority within the Wellbeing Plan.

- Objective 9: The idea of a bespoke environmental standard across all PSB Members and its promotion amongst other organisations in Conwy and Denbighshire.
 - Whilst the PSB did not feel it was a priority for the Well-being Plan, the PSB could support the objective by encouraging partner organisations to sign up to an environmental standard, such as the Green Dragon Award, which would educate the workforce and make organisations more sustainable and prepared for the future in regards to reducing energy usage and carbon emissions.
 - It was **AGREED** that Officers from Conwy County Borough Council to provide a presentation to a future meeting of the PSB on the Green Dragon Award.

- Objective 10: The potential to explore different behavioural change approaches to support our citizens to make positive lifestyle changes and choices to become more resilient.
 - The PSB felt that the principle of the objective could be linked into all the other priorities and therefore, it should not be included as a separate priority in the Well-being Plan.

- Objective 11: The need to improve access to efficient and affordable transport options.
 - Whilst the PSB acknowledged the importance of this objective, it was felt that the PSB would be unable to influence this priority to make a tangible difference and that work was being undertaken at a regional level, by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (NWEAB). Therefore, it was felt that this objective should not be included as a priority within the Well-being Plan.
 - The PSB requested that further information be provided in relation to the new duties under the Transport Act (specifically the need to improve access to efficient and affordable transport options).

- Objective 12: Promoting Conwy and Denbighshire as a place to live, work and enjoy.
 - The PSB felt that this objective should be an underpinning principle for all priorities and therefore, should not be included as a separate priority within the Well-being Plan.
 - It was requested that further information be provided to the PSB, so it could understand how the work of the NWEAB and the Growth Deal would impact on the two Counties and how the PSB's partner organisations, as large employers could take advantage of this.

- Objective 13: Creating aspirational and emotional literacy amongst young people.
 - The PSB felt that this was an important objective and the PSB had a role to play in identifying the barriers. It was suggested that the title be amended to read: Creating Confidence, aspirational and balanced young people and that it be included as a priority within the Well-being Plan.

The PSB identified 6 high level priorities and Officers would now start developing the Well-being Plan to include these priorities.

The Chair requested that agreement be sought for a high level plan to be published, so that proper consideration could be given to the activities to be delivered.

RESOLVED-

(a) That the following 6 priorities be included within the Conwy and Denbighshire Well-being Plan:

- **Objective 1 – To continue with the interim priority of ensuring the first 1000 days of a child's life is safe, healthy, with the opportunity to develop to their full potential.**
- **Objectives 2, 3 and 4 – To be merged together, with the focus on community planning and hubs.**
- **Objective 6 – Good mental health and well-being is experienced by all ages.**

- **Objective 7 – Prepare for and maintaining older people’s independence and well-being.**
- **Objective 8 - The potential to further develop and promote the use of ‘natural’ solutions to water management and associated environmental issues e.g. natural flood risk management.**
- **Objective 13 - Creating aspirational and emotional literacy amongst young people (consideration to be given to amending the title).**

(b) That the draft Well-being Plan be presented to the next meeting of the Public Services Board.

(c) That Sian Williams (Natural Resources Wales) provides the PSB with a presentation on the Keep Moving Project.

(d) That further information be sought on the work of the Part 9 Board.

(e) That officers from Conwy County Borough Council provide a presentation on the Green Dragon Award

(f) That further information be sought from Welsh Government on the duties under the Transport Act.

10. FIRST 1000 DAYS OF LIFE - PROGRESS UPDATE AND ACTION PLAN

Rebecca Master (Public Health Wales) presented the Public Services Board (PSB) with an update on the progress of the First 1000 days work undertaken by Public Health Wales on behalf of the PSB.

The PSB had identified that the First 1000 Days as an interim priority.

Following a workshop, three priorities for action were identified as follows:

- Enable professionals to come together on an informal basis to share information about families as a multi-disciplinary team.
- Support a clearer and more consistent approach to data collection and sharing between services.
- Review the referral threshold across the system to identify pressure points and gaps.

A Working Group had been set up to progress the work of the First 1000 Days agenda. The Working Group identified a significant amount of work underway locally and highlighted the differences in approach between the two Counties. Both informal and formal data sharing arrangements between partner agencies were identified as challenges in supporting families fully. Review thresholds were also noted as an issue and would be discussed in more detail at the next meeting of the Working Group.

Members were informed that the offer from Public Health Wales regarding joining the First 1000 Day Collaborative had been solidified and it was now appropriate to consider whether formally joining the national collaborative would be appropriate for the PSB.

RESOLVED-

(a) That the activity since March 2017 be noted.

(b) That the proposals for joining the national First 1000 days collaborative be endorsed.

11. WELL-BEING PLAN TIMESCALE AND PLANNING

The Public Services Board was presented with the draft Conwy and Denbighshire Wellbeing Plan template for information.

12. UPDATE FOLLOWING LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARRANGEMENTS

This item was deferred.

13. COMMUNICATION UPDATE

This item was deferred.

14. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Forward Work Programme was presented and the following addition was noted:

- Consideration of the Future Generations Commissioners Report – Well-being in Wales: Planning today for a better tomorrow (learning from the Well-being Assessments 2017).

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

(The meeting ended at 4.45 pm)
