
CONWY AND DENBIGHSHIRE PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD

Monday, 26 September 2016 at 1.00 pm
Welsh Government Buildings, Llandudno Junction

PRESENT:	Bethan Jones (Chair)	Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
STAUTORY MEMBERS	Iwan Davies	Conwy County Borough Council (CCBC)
	Mohammed Mehmet Simon Smith	Denbighshire County Council (DCC) North Wales Fire and Rescue Service (NWFRS)
	Euros Jones	Natural Resources Wales (NRW) – in attendance on behalf of Sian Williams
INVITED PARTICIPANTS	Wendy Jones	Community and Voluntary Support Conwy (CVSC)
	Mark Pierce	North Wales Police (NWP)
	Tracey Owen	Wales Community Rehabilitation Company (WCRC)
	Sioned Rees	Welsh Government (WG)
	Stephen Hughes	Police and Crime Commissioners Office
	Dr Kathrin Thomas	Public Health Wales
In attendance:	Mark Bowler	Principal Research and Information Officer
	Sally Baxter	Assistant Director of Planning
Officers:	Vicki Robarts	Strategic Planning Team Manager
	Nicola Kneale	Strategic Planning and Performance Officer
	Fran Lewis	Corporate Performance and Improvement Manager
	Hannah Rigby	Public Services Board Development Officer
	Shân Morris	Corporate Planning Manager
	Siwan Jones	Principle Public Health Officer

11. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Dilwyn Roberts (Leader of Conwy County Borough Council), Councillor Hugh Evans (Leader of Denbighshire County Council), Andrew Jones (National Probation Service), Dr Evan Moor (BCUHB), Helen Wilkinson (Denbighshire VSC) and Sian Williams (NRS).

12. **LETTERS FOR THE BOARD**

13. **NATIONAL PROBATION SERVICE - CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD**

A letter had been received confirming attendance and detailing the contribution to be made to the PSB by the National Probation Service.

RESOLVED-

That the information be noted.

14. **ARTS COUNCIL FOR WALES - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

A request requesting a registration of interest in the work of the PSB had been received and a meeting would take place with the Arts Council in relation to how they could input most efficiently.

RESOLVED-

That the information be noted.

15. **EMBEDDING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS FOR FUTURE GENERATION**

The aims and of the programme were outlined, as follows:

- Develop a resource to assist public bodies to embed a children's rights approach.
- Work with PSBs to ensure that consideration of children's rights was central to their agendas.
- Highlight the benefits of a rights-based approach.

16. **LAUNCH OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE RISK ASSESSMENT FOR WALES**

Members considered a letter from the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales on the launch of the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) for Wales, which outlined CCRA Evidence Report and summary for Wales.

The key climate risks included periods of too much or too little water impacting on flooding and food production, rising sea levels and increasing average and extreme temperatures affecting health and wellbeing.

The representative for Natural Resources Wales (Euros Jones) stated that he would send the key messages from the Climate Change Summary Evidence Report to the Conwy's Public Services Board Development Officer.

17. **MINUTES**

18. **DENBIGHSHIRE PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD**

RESOLVED-

That the minutes of the meeting of the Denbighshire Public Services Board held on 11 April, 2016 be approved.

19. **CONWY PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD**

RESOLVED-

That the minutes of the meeting of the Conwy Public Services Board held on 11 April, 2016 be approved.

20. **CONWY AND DENBIGHSHIRE PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD**

RESOLVED-

That the minutes of the meeting of the Conwy and Denbighshire Public Services Board held on 11 April, 2016 be approved.

21. **MATTERS ARISING**

None.

22. **EUROPEAN UNION REFERENDUM FEEDBACK**

Members considered feedback from the Welsh Local Government Association in relation to outcome and implications of the European Referendum and the following key points were noted:

- WLGA hoped that a dialogue could be established as soon as possible with Welsh Government and WEFO to ensure that structural funds were drawn down for the viability of Wales.
- The lack of UK regional policy was highlighted problematic
- Review of Barnett Formula for a Fair Funding Formula for Wales.
- Volatility of the stock market and potential impact on the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Board Members were concerned at the lack of clear hard data. The Chief Executive for Conwy (Iwan Davies) stated that he had attended a recent meeting with the Wales Office Director in relation to the EU Referendum and the next steps. It was noted that a great deal of work was being carried out in Westminster by the Department for Exiting the European Union (DEXEU) in order to inform the government's negotiating position.

The Welsh Government Representative (Sioned Rees) stated that she would request an update on the latest position for the next meeting.

RESOLVED-

That the information be noted and that an update be provided by the Welsh Government at the next meeting on the latest position in relation to outcome and implications of the European Referendum

23. **VOTING RIGHTS**

Following the last meeting (minute 5) Board Members considered a revised terms of reference in relation to paragraph 13 Decisions. The following options were considered:

- Option 1 – of a consensus
- Option 2 – that only statutory members have a vote

- Option 3 – that all have a vote unless the item relates to the PSB’s statutory duties

It was noted that in some PSBs matters were agreed by consensus and if consensus could not be reached, then reverted to a vote of all the Statutory Members.

The Board should aim to make all non-statutory decisions by consensus and in the event of a disagreement, the decision will revert back to all the Statutory Members (not just the Chair) to vote on.

Members requested that the final bullet point under paragraph 7.1 “Possessing the casting vote if a vote is taken” be removed from the responsibilities of the Chair of the Board.

RESOLVED-

- (a) That the PSB should aim to make all non-statutory decisions by consensus and in the event of a disagreement, the decision will revert back to all the Statutory Members to reach a resolution by vote (one vote per organisation).**
- (b) That the final bullet point under paragraph 7.1 “Possessing the casting vote if a vote is taken” be removed from the Terms of Reference.**

24. **SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS**

Members considered a report on potential options for joint scrutiny arrangements between Conwy and Denbighshire to examine the work of their Joint PSB and on the feasibility of establishing regional arrangements for the scrutiny of the four PSBs in North Wales.

Presently, both Conwy and Denbighshire Authorities have designated their Partnerships Scrutiny Committees as their designated PSB scrutiny committees. However, in light of Local Government re-organisation not taking place following the Local Elections in 2017, both Authorities would be asked whether they wished to consider reviewing their arrangements

It was noted that the Welsh Government had commissioned Public Governance Wales to undertake a research project and develop a guidance on the scrutiny of PSBs, to be launched during January/February 2017.

Discussion took place on the following:

- Chairs of PSBs determine what items should be scrutinised
- Improve the way items were co-ordinated
- Regional scrutiny was regarded as too complicated
- Preferable to wait for the publication of the guidance and continue with the existing arrangements

RESOLVED-

That Option 2 – ‘Continue with utilising separate Local Authority Scrutiny arrangements, but introduce closer working relations

between the Committees' be the PSB's preferred interim model, pending further guidance from Public Governance Wales. LEAD Denbighshire CC to make necessary arrangements for a report to go to the relevant scrutiny Chairs & Vice Chairs for further discussion.

25. PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD WORKSHOP OVERVIEW AND INTERIM PRIORITY PROPOSALS

26. SKILLS AND VOLUNTEERING

Members considered a report on an overview of the current situation in Conwy and Denbighshire with regard to volunteering and skills.

This report followed the PSB Workshop held in June 2016, where Members discussed the opportunities of volunteering on keeping people active, addressing isolation and wellbeing generally, together with the potential to develop local skill sets. The report proposed a potential project, which looked to increase the number of volunteers across Conwy and Denbighshire to address digital exclusion generally and by focussing on hot spots.

Ofcom's report 'Connected Nation 2015' estimated the likelihood of digital exclusion in Conwy and in Denbighshire as 'extremely high', having lower internet take up rates than the national average, nearly 19% of all residents aged 16+ had either never used the internet or had not used it for over 3 months. The benefits to low income households of being able to access the internet, together with the barriers were also highlighted.

The funding of a Digital Volunteer Co-ordinator role or similar, at a cost of approximately £35,000 (requiring contribution from partners) would be key to taking this project forward. There were resources that could be used to be operational quickly and which would produce tangible outcomes.

Whilst Members of the Board supported volunteering, they considered that the voluntary and digital link was not clear and that volunteering was about how it was carried out.

Discussion took place on the following:

- Improved integration and communication through technology and the huge benefits that could be realised in a short timescale.
- Potential opportunity to investigate this topic further once priorities emerge from the local wellbeing assessment.
- CVSC stated that digital projects had been carried out previously by their organisation, including focussing on young families in danger of poverty; smart phones not being used to their full potential in order to realise savings on free food deliveries etc. and project evaluations have been completed.
- Digital and voluntary were both priorities in light of the need for 95% of the population to be digitally competent. The need for a clear idea and measurement of success and the need to build capacity was highlighted, with the commission of specialist digital services.
- In relation to benefits and goals under the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, it was noted that most of the goals would be attained through improved resilience and collaboration and would be a finite resource. The key was to build on a sustainable model to carry forward. It was further

noted that digital exclusion affected all organisations and there was a willingness to push forward. The Future Generations Commission is positive in this area.

- In relation to Policing, investment had been made in cyber-crime, trolling, advice on fraud shopping etc. The idea was good but it would need to be scoped out and clear achievements identified.

RESOLVED-

That volunteering be reconsidered once priorities from the local wellbeing assessment begin to emerge.

27. **FIRST 1000 DAYS**

Members of the Board considered a proposal for an interim priority: Giving every child 'a best start', with a focus on the first 1000 days.

The first 1,000 days of life sought to prevent adverse childhood experiences occurring, by ensuring families were well equipped to deal with the stresses of everyday life, especially during pregnancy and early parenthood. Should these not be available to the child, all aspects of later life including job prospects and the likelihood of developing long term mental and physical health problems may be impacted. Later remedial work can be less effective and more costly than early intervention.

The aim of the initiative was to implement an optimum 'whole system improvement pathway/programme' for the first 1000 days of life from conception to the second birthday, recognised as the highest impact period that sets the health destiny of a person's life.

Discussion took place on the following:

- There was an overlap with the Social Services Wellbeing Plan. However, the focus on 1,000 days was targeting immediate early prevention.
- Possible duplication of gathering evidence.
- United for Health Movement, WLGA and Public Health Wales looked at what could be done.
- Pathfinder sites (Torfaen and Wrexham) found that there were many healthy families and investing services universally was a problem.
- Fragmented information relating to early years.
- Mapping Workshop as a first step to add value and look for alternative actions and strategies for prevention
- There was a likelihood that the Local Wellbeing Assessment could recognise this matter as a future area of need.
- Funding in relation to Tackling Poverty would change next year and the key priority was to access funding.
- Links with GPs and the reduction of teenage pregnancies which impacted on other services.

RESOLVED-

(a) That the content of the report be noted.

(b) That the proposal be considered an interim priority and that mapping be carried out immediately (using existing mapping format) with a view to feeding into the Local Wellbeing Assessment.

- (c) That the Board receive an update on progress at the December meeting. LEAD Public Health Wales**

28. **COMMUNICATION**

Members considered a report which provided an overview across PSB partner organisations with regard to communication approaches, flexible working policies and the type of information sharing protocols in place.

The following key points were highlighted:

- A separate PSB brand and form of communication overcomplicated the landscape which meant very little to the public.
- The need to share and re-tweet messages.
- The need to move away from a PSB logo and approach.
- Feedback from the public had been that organisations should work together.

The need to address any blockages to sharing information was highlighted and the following were examples.

- In relation to the Police, information sharing was not available to address organised crime, protocols etc. Everyone had standard levels data protection and it was noted that Local Authorities held on to knowledge.
- The need for a unified approach to digital inclusion. The direction of Public Services in relation to digital inclusion, e.g. prescriptions on line, text message appointments.
- North Wales Victim Centre and Hate Crime addressed digitally.
- The need to identify an individual in each organisation to carry out work on a digital interface and to map out current practice of partner organisations.
- Social media and the need for partner organisations to 'like' each other's Facebook pages in order to reach a wider audience and to increase the use of Twitter and Instagram.

RESOLVED-

- (a) Members agreed to the sharing of messages/information on each other's websites and social media pages and that Conwy and Denbighshire's Public Services Board Co-ordinator Group develops a distribution list in relation to social media.**
- (b) To investigate opening up Wi-Fi in each partner organisation (where not done so already) in order for our workforce to be able to connect to their corporate system when attending meetings in partner's buildings.**
- (c) To investigate/develop arrangements for extending 'hot desking' provision where available in each PSB organisation to other PSB partners and to explore options with the Welsh Government.**
- (d) That the problems associated with data sharing be noted.**
- (e) That the Board receive an update on progress at the December meeting. LEAD Conwy County Borough Council**

29. UPDATE ON ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL WELL-BEING

Members reviewed an update of the Assessment of Local Wellbeing, as follows:

Engagement:

- Natural Resources Wales and responsibility for maps, flooding, and water quality.
- There was a 3 pronged approach – staff, public engagement
- Key priorities, to include data/statistics list.
- Links to wellbeing organisations.
- BCUHB – 4 cluster engagement in primary care and community services.
- National Probation Service to be included in the list.
- The importance of including organisations with something to offer and colleges were not featured.
- The need for a broader perspective.
- It was acknowledged that Health would be included in the final version.
- Sports Council and the Arts Council – these would be cross referenced.
- Coastline – was covered by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) also fisheries
- The Welsh Government also covered areas of the Coastline.
- Inclusion of: National Trust, RSPB, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, North Wales Advice and Advocacy, Land and Farming Unions.
- Organisations would be contacted over the next month to six weeks and engagement was planned with Transport Operators, Arriva (for inclusion on roads, infrastructure, buses and trains).
- Carers Association came under Social Services and Wellbeing Act. Engagement had also been carried out with Town and Community Councils.
- In relation to large Private Sector Companies, those listed on the database had been approached and Welsh Government should be contacted in relation to problems with those listed in the Act.

Topics for discussion within the Assessment

Key strategic topics for consideration by the PSB when formulating their Wellbeing Plan.

Social

- 2. Outward migration of young people and younger people as assets. It was considered crucial to provide opportunities for young people to remain and return and the importance of jobs to return to was highlighted.
- 3. Supporting an ageing population – increased fire casualties and dementia, use of volunteers and the implications of an increasing population. The need to keep this at a high level was highlighted. The point was made that the Fire Service should not be automatically involved.
- 10. People make healthy lifestyle choices – choices was considered the wrong description and that promoting healthy behaviour, bringing in exercise, smoking, sexual health, increased life expectancy was more appropriate and that there were inequalities of outcomes relating to those in poverty.

To be included:

Resilient Communities and baseline figures for published statistics – this was not captured but included in different areas.

Preventative Agenda – managing chronic conditions more effectively and the problems faced in emergency departments. It was noted that this was addressed in the Social Services Assessment, particularly in relation to older people.

Economy

15. Local employment opportunities – these were reliant on the Public Sector, Health, Education and social care. Within the School Environment, a host of strategies achieved and there was a need to break it down.

17. Improving skills for employment – this data would be taken from the Local Ambitions Board.

18. Large number of small businesses – the growth in emerging technologies was highlighted.

21. Key Employment Sector – social care and health – included doctors and other medical professionals. Private Sector care was also included as opportunities and challenges for the economy.

The point was made that the opportunities at Wylfa, meant that due to the focus on the local economy, there could potentially be a shortage of young people entering other professions to the detriment of public services in the area.

Businesses in the green sector (Economic Ambition Board – strategy and vision) these were cross cutting to Environment also.

Food economy was cross cutting – access to agricultural local produce and prosperity for Conwy and Denbighshire. The Food economy was a big issue and pulled many partners together. Healthy eating was key and there were many small businesses producing food.

Environment

22. Key asset – the natural environment and biodiversity to include habitat. Also, food, flood management which were a different set of benefits. Energy, hydro power and nuclear power – coming from the landscape. Also, public access to the environment. NRW were working on county level summaries of environmental information. Euros Jones (NRW) added that the county level summaries would describe the local situation for natural resources and draw on the national State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) Report for Wales for context.

23. Key asset – promoting and protecting local heritage and there were rich links to tourism and the Arts Council.

24. Climate change – how to narrow down the key issues for the area.

Culture

33. Promoting the Welsh Language and Culture – the inclusion of cinema, arts and fun. It was considered that the culture was wider than the language. Workshop addressed the matter and it was noted that Welsh culture was an opportunity for community cohesion. A 'Thriving Culture' was suggested, to include sport, theatre, arts and leisure.

34. Equality and Diversity / community cohesion – this was stronger in the rural areas. Social isolation and engagement via the strength of schools, libraries etc.

35. What the community thinks of public services – Road safety and the recent fatal incidents. Many accidents and injuries were preventable (accessible data to highlight this). There were no issues causing problems to the Fire Service. The link to mental health and fires was highlighted.

Increase independence and less reliance on public services was highlighted.

In terms of the length of the document, this may become detailed. A process of prioritisation and adding value was needed and to build on what makes a difference.

It was advised the Assessment focussed on the current situation, not aspirations and identifying need.

Denbighshire's Strategic Planning and Performance Officer provided an outline of the key dates from consultations to the statutory deadline for publishing the Wellbeing Assessment and PSB approval of the draft plan, as follows:

- Published by April 2017 – Statutory and Consultation
- Agreed to produce Wellbeing Plan by the end of October 2017
- 1st Draft of Wellbeing Assessment by end of October 2016
- December 2016 – agreement on assessment for circulation (8 week consultation)
- Workshop on Wellbeing objectives by Early January (once published, 14 weeks for response analysis for draft plan also)
- January to April 2017 – feedback and first draft of Wellbeing Plan. Consult with Scrutiny and allow 12 weeks
- End to late July 2017 – final draft (8 weeks)
- Mid September 2017 – take to various Boards before the PSB.

Members discussed the governance timetable of various organisations, corporate plans and timescales and the importance of obtaining PSB approval, and endorsement from PSB partners where necessary. It is essential and that the Conwy and Denbighshire PSB officer Group look at the detail and update the Board at the next meeting.

Questions for the Board -

Whether the frequency of meetings was sufficient, with the project management approach and working groups, to meet the deadlines?

The next meeting was in December and Members agreed that an Informal meeting was needed before the March PSB meeting in January / February.

Assessment would be done based on information collected and it was anticipated that a first draft would be formally signed off at the next Conwy and Denbighshire PSB meeting. The draft assessment would be circulated in mid-November for consideration by the Board prior to the December meeting.

It was agreed that half of the December meeting would be in the form of a workshop to consider the draft Local Wellbeing Assessment.

In relation to resources and capacity, it was noted that developing a plan would involve professional input and there was a need to debate resource.

RESOLVED-

- (a) **That the Assessment of Local Wellbeing: PSB update be amended, as outlined.**
- (b) **That an informal PSB meeting is set up for January/February.**

30. **BETSI CADWALADR UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD - STRATEGY PROCESS**

Members were provided with an overview of the initiative; Living Healthier Staying Well - Building a Plan for the Future which focussed on the following areas:

- Improving health and wellbeing and supporting the most vulnerable
- Providing care and support closer to home
- Developing hospital services including planned and emergency care and cutting waiting lists

The initiative was an internal programme which built on the Wellbeing Assessment. However, the timescales did not match in relation to sign off in early 2018. The need to engage in all areas was highlighted. It was noted that there was an opportunity to review the initiative within the locality plans, prior to going out to communities.

The need to put plans for sick people above prevention was highlighted and to work into other areas of primary care. A vision of health in North Wales was considered important and BCU was focussed on health and wellbeing with sustainable development principles.

RESOLVED-

That the information be noted.

31. **NORTH WALES CONVERSATION**

Members were informed of a Welsh Government initiative; Delivering a Healthy North Wales, whereby various sectors were being contacted to discuss better health outcomes. A survey, to include on line was currently live and available on the BCU website. A company had been commissioned to carry out the work.

Members considered that the initiative would inform Building a Plan also. However, it was cross linked and there was a need for improved communication between the two organisations in order to capitalise on the wealth of information.

The reason why there were 2 initiatives was unclear and the need to ensure a connection to instil public confidence.

RESOLVED-

That the information be noted.

32. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

1 December, 2016

Partnership Landscape in Conwy and Denbighshire.

Agree principles for prioritisation and update of interim priorities.

33. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Welsh Government Workshop on the Wellbeing Assessment to be held in Wrexham on the 7th of November. The event is open to both PSB Members and Officers, with an allocation of 8 delegates per PSB. The Public Services Board Development Officer would circulate the time of the event.

34. **KINGS FUND COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP AND TEAM BUILDING**

Board Members considered whether informal session should be scheduled and facilitated by a respected professional body.

RESOLVED–

That informal sessions, in relation to leadership and team building, facilitated by a respected professional body be pursued. LEAD Bethan Jones

(The meeting ended at 5.00 pm)
