

Caerphilly Local Service Board



Bwrdd Iechyd
Aneurin Bevan
Health Board



Heddlu
Gwent
Police



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Notes of Meeting

Held at 9:00am on Tuesday, 1st September, 2015
Core Room 1.3, Ty Penallta

Present:-

Cllr Keith Reynolds (Chair)	Chair of Caerphilly LSB and Leader of Caerphilly County Borough Council
Chris Burns	Interim Chief Executive, Caerphilly County Borough Council
Judith Paget	Judith Paget, Chief Executive, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
Marc Budden	Superintendent, Gwent Police (representing Chief Constable Jeff Farrar)
Jon Goldsworthy	Group Manager Blaenau Gwent/Caerphilly, Natural Resources Wales

In attendance:-

Mark Jennings	Housing Strategy Officer
Howard Rees	Programme Manager, CCBC
Alison Palmer	Community Planning Coordinator (Notes)

Apologies:-

Jeff Farrar	Chief Constable, Gwent Police
Ian Johnston	Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner
Martin Featherstone	Chief Executive, Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations
Shelley Bosson	Chief Executive, Office of the Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner
James Owen	Deputy Director, Expert Services & People Division, Welsh Government

Point	Matter	Action
1.	<p>Welcome: Cllr KR welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked JP for hosting the meeting in YYF for the first time.</p> <p>He noted that in preparation for the change to Public Service Board Jon Goldsworthy was attending for the first time representing the Chief Executive of Natural Resources Wales, Superintendent Marc Budden was attending for the first time representing the Chief Constable, and Mark Jennings, Housing Strategy Officer, CCBC to deliver the Prosperous Caerphilly presentation.</p>	
2.	<p>Previous Notes and Matters Arising: The notes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record.</p> <p>Page 4: CB gave an update on the Cardiff Capital Region/City Deal initiative. He explained that the submission from the ten local authorities had now been made to the</p>	

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	<p>Cabinet Office for consideration following some weeks of intensive work. The outcome was not expected before November. It was too early to say what the project would entail in full but there were hopes it would be geared towards economic growth and worklessness, including the economic impact of health. Larger infrastructure projects could include the electrification of the valley lines or possible light railway proposals which could include improvements to stations in the area, increasing trains and possible direct access on the Ebbw line to Newport. It was hoped to include the Caerphilly LDP plan for the Maesycwmmmer by-pass and infrastructure investment in the Upper Rhymney Valley to support businesses on the Capital Valley business park. Cllr KR had signed off the outline proposals along with the other nine local authority leaders and KPMG consultants had been appointed to do the modelling work on the proposal. Jane Hutt AM had met with the 10 leaders and it was noted that the project would require WG backing.</p>	
<p>3.</p> <p>a.</p>	<p><u>Update on ‘Caerphilly Delivers’ - the LSB Single Integrated Plan:</u></p> <p><u>Presentation on progress on the Prosperous Caerphilly Outcome:</u></p> <p>CB introduced the presentation in the absence of Pauline Elliott (Lead Officer for the Prosperous Caerphilly Outcome theme) by noting the drop in Jobseekers Allowance claimants in the county borough, following the national trend, to 3,700 down from 5,500 two years ago. However, that was overshadowed by the 11,500 people claiming Incapacity Benefit. He hoped the City Deal if successful would mirror the opportunities created in Glasgow to address the issues of those who were economically inactive.</p> <p>Mark Jennings (Housing Strategy Officer, CCBC) then gave the Prosperous Caerphilly Outcome presentation focussing on Priority 2 – “Improve standards of housing and communities giving appropriate access to services across the County Borough”. He highlighted the work being undertaken in the rents section to work proactively with tenants to mitigate the impact of welfare reform. This was a change in the way of working with an emphasis on support and advice, including partnership work with JCP and CAB, and he reported that there had been no evictions to date by the authority as a result of welfare reforms. He noted the ARBED 2 schemes in the borough in Fochriw which had provided overcladding to 200 homes to improve insulation and address issues of fuel poverty and the and ARBED 3 programme in Phillipstown to do the same.</p> <p>Looking at the supply of low cost/affordable homes he reported on the work with housing associations to provide smaller 1 and 2 bed homes to try to address the mismatch between supply and demand for smaller accommodation. MJ also highlighted the work of the homelessness team in focussing work, with a small pot of additional money, on supporting five families to prevent homelessness.</p> <p>He reported on the successful return to use of 42 long term empty properties and the work of the private sector team to provide grants to improve private sector rental properties for tenants.</p> <p>MJ then outlined the changes contained in the Housing Act 2014 that had seen local authorities have to increase the number of people assessed for homelessness and the pressure to provide more housing requiring closer working with housing associations to increase provision. There was also work being undertaken by the private sector team as a result of the legislation affecting the private rental sector which required all private landlords to be licensed to ensure minimum standards of conditions and management processes are met. It was agreed that MJ working with colleagues would need to revise the housing actions in the SIP.</p> <p>CB also noted the work being undertaken to open a new managed facility in Nelson to reduce/eradicate the need for bed and breakfast accommodation for homeless people</p>	

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	<p>and the work to identify issues of rough sleepers in Blackwood.</p> <p>JP noting Priority 3 asked for clarification of the areas covered by the LIFT programme which HR agreed to investigate, all noting the success of the now finished Caerphilly Passport programme and CB hoped that a successful bid for the City Deal might see a revival of the Passport programme in future.</p> <p>Cllr KR thanked MJ for his presentation.</p>	<p>HR (Actioned 2/9/15)</p>
	<p><u>Other Outcome Highlight/Exception Reports:</u> HR reminded members that as well as the full presentation from one of the Outcome theme Lead Officers at each meeting, highlight/exception reports from all Outcome theme Lead Officers are also circulated. He noted that scorecards had also been circulated.</p> <p>Safer Caerphilly: The Safer report had been previously circulated. MB commented on the significant reduction in anti-social behaviour noting the 4 Strike incremental process for dealing with young people was working well allowing issues to be dealt with earlier. He noted the work with the local authority and partners on Public Spaces Protection Orders, particularly at bus stations.</p> <p>KR thanked MB for the update noting that the Positive Futures programme was making an impact providing diversionary activities for young people, particularly in Caerphilly town. He noted the recent tournament at the Sporting Centre of Excellence at Ystrad Mynach. CB noted that it was encouraging that crime and disorder was not as high on the agenda, although car parking problems in valley towns remained an issue for the police and the authority as well as for local businesses.</p> <p>Learning Caerphilly: HR noted that the circulated report had outlined some innovative and unique work between the main anti-poverty programmes in the county borough working collaboratively which had now been taken up by WG nationally. Caerphilly was now one of seven pilot areas developing the collaborative approach which will be evaluated by WG. It was noted the report makes a request to amend some of the points in the action plan.</p> <p>CB reported on the GCSE and A Level results published recently which were disappointing, A Levels remaining static and Caerphilly county borough being placed 20th in Wales for GCSE A-C attainment. He noted the creation of the Gwent-wide EAS and the transfer of school improvement staff to the Gwent-wide body. Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen and Monmouthshire had all been in special measures previously and expressed concern that there might not be the same local emphasis in future. He reported that Keri Cole (Chief Education Officer, CCBC) and Christina Harrhy (Corporate Director - Communities, CCBC) would be meeting with the EAS. He noted that this was just one indicator but a critical one for young people entering the labour market. He expressed concern that some school result predictions were way off, particularly from Ysgol Cwm Rhymni, the fastest growing comprehensive in the borough. JP offered ABUHB support to investigate the difference in predicted and actual results as they had already done some work with Torfaen to provide family support and to look at the emotional wellbeing of young people and families to encourage young people to engage with education.</p> <p>The LSB agreed the action points and amendments to the action plan.</p> <p>Healthier Caerphilly: HR reminded members of the request at the previous meeting to renew the action plan and to absorb the delivery into the work of the Wellbeing Network. He noted they had</p>	<p>KC</p> <p>KC</p>

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	<p>struggled in the early stages to get the appropriate data from within the complexities of the health service and other partners to populate the scorecard. There would be a meeting this week to resolve this issue.</p> <p>The report identified the great deal of work going on, highlighting the work around smoking cessation and the primary mental health team and its stress programme. Mental health and wellbeing was still one of the biggest issues in deprived areas. It was noted that the Living Well, Living Longer programme was due to start in the Upper Rhymney Valley soon. JP was pleased to see the extension of the Living Well, Living Longer programme into the URV noting that over 1000 people in Blaenau-Gwent had been encouraged to take up preventative screening through the programme. JP noted the progression of the draft Gwent Childhood Obesity Strategy through ABUHB processes which would come out for consultation and noted it would be good to get sign-up to it from the five authorities in Gwent. JP explained the role of the NCNs (Neighbourhood Care Networks) across Gwent in being the main delivery mechanism for primary care with partners in communities.</p> <p>CB gave an update on the work being undertaken in Lansbury Park noting that it was part of the catchment area for St Martin’s Comprehensive School and referring to the attainment and family issues previously discussed. He noted that the next focus for the Board would be health and it was agreed that it could provide an opportunity for joint work with ABUHB and the NCN partners.</p> <p>In answer to a question JP noted that ABUHB did not encourage the use of E cigarettes as an alternative to other nicotine replacements in smoking cessation as the long term effects were yet unknown. She acknowledged the WG initiative to look into it but the use was discouraged locally.</p> <p>Greener Caerphilly:</p> <p>HR noted the Greener report contained a lot of positive stories for the past quarter. The Greener Caerphilly Outcome theme had been presented at the last but one meeting and the annual report mentioned then had now been published which detailed the work undertaken within the priorities. JG noted that until recently he had been the NRW representative on the Delivery Group and acknowledged the long association with the county borough as CCW. The report noted, as with Health, the difficulty in accessing the right statistical data/information. The report highlighted activities undertaken such as fly-tipping issues and the Big Spring Clean promoted again this year and the importance of education for the long term and getting children and young people involved through green flag and eco-schools work. It also noted the links with other themes and the overlap with the health agenda in particular where both delivery groups were working to strengthen the links. JG highlighted the issues around funding with WG taking some funding previously distributed by NRW back in-house and the Nature Fund money which had been used by Local Authorities and the third sector coming to an end. He noted that the RDP funding would become increasingly important to fulfil environmental project agenda. HR noted the collaborative approach being taken in Caerphilly to bring together small pots of funding by partners to use it more effectively on environmental projects.</p> <p>CB reported on preparatory work being undertaken by consultants on behalf of WG on renewable energy funding. He had asked PC to look at the work being done e.g. Oakdale wind turbines in order to develop a plan to present on potential invest to save energy projects. He noted the importance of ideas from partner organisations being fed into the process and agreed to report back on progress at a future meeting.</p>	
	<p><u>Voluntary Sector and GAVO Update:</u></p> <p>Apologies for the meeting due to annual leave had been received from MF. The circulated report was noted. HR asked for any comments or questions on the content to be forwarded to him and he would pass them on.</p>	

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<p>4.</p> <p>a.</p>	<p><u>LSB Anti Poverty Priority:</u></p> <p>Update Report:</p> <p>The update report from Rob Hartshorn had been previously circulated. HR noted RH had presented the draft Anti-Poverty Strategy previously, which had now been approved by CCBC and presented to partners/stakeholders at the June Standing Conference. The newly formed Anti-Poverty Board had had its first meeting and was working on the programme of actions. CB noted that the strategy could not be delivered by the authority alone and they would be looking at ways to strengthen partners' involvement in delivery. Members noted the range of services being provided through Hafod Deg for the URV area, which still remained one of the most deprived in Wales. The presentation to the ABUHB Public Health and Partnership Committee challenging them on how they could support delivery had been well received.</p> <p>JP congratulated Rob Hartshorn on the energy and effort he had put into the development of the strategy and the anti-poverty programme and confirmed ABUHB support for Anti-Poverty Board work. CB acknowledged it was a practical and down to earth strategy. The LSB agreed that thanks to RH for the anti-poverty work be recorded.</p> <p>Lansbury Park:</p> <p>CB, noting previous discussion, reported on the establishment of the Lansbury Park Board which included local people and local elected members as well as other partners to oversee work. It had looked at the employment related work being undertaken by the Communities First team and the WHQS work on overcladding the housing to improve energy efficiency was noted. He also reported on the plan to demolish the old community centre to improve the environment and hoped that there would be opportunities to improve employment on the estate as a result, including through social enterprise. There was a focus on education in the area and the Board had challenged the Families First and CF programmes in the area to see if they were working with the right families, noting the work with the school to add family liaison support. He noted that the next Board meeting would focus on health, which was one of the statistics that was reflected in the WIMD.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Welsh Government LSB Bulletin and “Effective Services for Vulnerable Groups updates:</u></p> <p>HR had previously circulated the updates and highlighted the article in the LSB bulletin regarding the Blaenau-Gwent performance framework, reminding LSB members that Caerphilly LSB had been using a Ffynnon based performance management framework since the development of the SIP, which aimed to keep the reporting process simple and straightforward. MB reported on the Anti-Slavery paper and the successful partnership working helping to identify and support what is a difficult group of vulnerable people to find. HR noted the focus on Childhood Obesity and WG/ESVG recruitment of a researcher. It was suggested that there may be future opportunities for LSB pilots to work on childhood obesity and it was agreed that any further reports be brought back to the LSB.</p> <p>CB commented that one of the issues for the future would be the affordability of public services noting that a growing proportion of the budget was being spent on a smaller number of people e.g. social services. Research showed that a relatively small number of people were big consumers of all services e.g. Police, health, social services. JP highlighted the Gwent Missing Children project and the Team around the Family approach as examples of focussed work on a small number of people by a number of agencies and it was agreed that the LSB should consider looking at other groups which they were all individually spend time and resources on to identify better joint working. It was agreed to consider it at a future meeting.</p>	

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6.	<p><u>The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015:</u> HR reported that the draft guidance was expected to be published for a 12 week consultation process shortly. The final version was expected prior to 1st April 2016 but concern was expressed that there appeared to be little collaborative work between the WG teams working on the Social Services and Wellbeing Act guidance and the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act guidance and whilst similar the guidance was not complimentary making it difficult to implement. The recent G7 CEO's meeting looked at the Need/Well-being assessments required under both Acts, and whilst it was early days there was the potential for both to be resource intensive. The handover from Peter Davies to a new Future Generations Commissioner prior to the Act coming into force was noted.</p> <p>HR highlighted the Conference on the 26th November in Cardiff for LSB/PSB partners to bring them together with support staff to emphasis from WG's perspective what the expectations of WG are. The event would include workshops.</p> <p>In response to a question from JG it was agreed that the current LSB would be forming the basis of the new PSB. He reflected that it was useful to attend LSB meetings in advance of the transition in April 2016. HR noted that the PCC had already been included in the membership and asked members to consider if they wished to extend an early invitation to other PSB members. It was agreed that the LSB extend an invitation to both the Probation Service and Fire and Rescue Service.</p>	<p>HR <i>(Invites sent 20/10/15)</i></p>
7.	<p><u>Standing Conference 12th June 2015:</u> HR noted that the Standing Conference report had been prepared and circulated with the LSB papers for information. AP noted that it contained a summary of the workshop comments and the full text would be sent to workshop leaders and RH for any further action. Cllr KR thanked AP for the preparation of the report.</p> <p>The theme for the next standing conference was discussed HR noting that the last three conferences had had an anti-poverty theme. It was agreed that the opportunity should be taken to look at another area of work that would draw in other partners. CB noted that it was important to ensure there was a benefit to organising the event as well as the networking opportunity. It was agreed that the current half day was about right. JP agreed that it needed to focus on collective priorities and there was also a need to look forward to see what might be coming up. A number of suggestions were made including childhood obesity; educational attainment and how we might collectively support vulnerable families.</p> <p>CB suggested that with the forthcoming legislation (Social Services and Wellbeing/Future Generations Acts) and the move to Public Service Boards the opportunity should be taken to consider future challenges. He suggested that depending on timing, an invitation be made to the new Future Generations Commissioner to speak. Cllr KR also suggested that it would be useful to hear the Welsh Government view of the PSB role and provide an opportunity to feedback to them on the legislation. It was agreed that the next conference should take place at the end of this year/early 2016 dependent on the appointment of the FG Commissioner and members were welcome to feed-in any ideas or thoughts on suggested themes.</p>	<p>All</p>
8.	<p><u>Information Items:</u> Items circulated for information were noted. HR highlighted through the LSB Forward Work programme that the Older People's Commissioner for Wales would be attending the December meeting and suggested the agenda be focussed on the Healthier theme outcome of supporting people in their own homes, the Ageing Well work and the work of Mandy Sprague and the 50+ Forum on the Older Person's Strategy.</p>	

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9.	<p><u>Any Other Business:</u></p> <p>JG noted that Torfaen LSB had a presentation on the work of NRW and it was agreed that it would be useful to arrange that for a future meeting.</p> <p>It was noted that the Ministerial paper on the future of local government in Wales was due out soon including the proposal expected for a Gwent-wide authority.</p> <p>There was no further business. Cllr KR closed the meeting with thanks to JP for hosting the meeting and thanks to those who had attended.</p>	
10.	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting:</u></p> <p>At 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday 1st December 2015 in the Sirhowy Room, CCBC Offices, Ty Penallta.</p>	