



## **PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH  
ON THURSDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 5.00 P.M.**

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PRESENT:

Councillor J. Pritchard – Chair

Councillors:

Mrs E. Aldworth, K. Etheridge, Mrs C. Forehead, L. Harding, C. Mann, J. Ridgewell, R. Saralis and L.G. Whittle.

Together with:

R. Hartshorn (Head of Public Protection), S. Ead (Solicitor), C. Forbes-Thompson (Interim Head of Democratic Services), K. Peters (Corporate Policy Manager) and C. Evans (Committee Services Officer)

Outside Bodies: M. Diggle (Caerphilly Youth Forum) and A. Hussey (South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority)

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. Adams, K. Dawson, Mrs E. Forehead, G. Kirby, Mrs D. Price, Mrs M.E. Sargent and J. Taylor.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received at the beginning or during the course of the meeting.

### **3. MINUTES – 15TH FEBRUARY 2017**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 15th February 2017 (minute nos. 1 - 6) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

Consideration was given to the following reports.

#### **4. PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Interim Head of Democratic Services briefed Members on forthcoming areas of activity that could be considered for inclusion on the committee's forward work programme and it was suggested that, in order for the Committee to have consideration of the final Public Services Board Well-Being Plan – 'The Caerphilly We Want', it was recommended that the next meeting be held on 20th February 2018.

In addition, the Committee requested that the Chair and lead Officers from the Public Services Board (PSB) be invited to a future Committee.

It was moved and seconded that the next Committee date be moved to the 20th February 2018 and the Chair and Lead Officers of the PSB be invited to the next meeting. By a show of hands, this was unanimously agreed.

Members were also reminded to make any report requests to Democratic Services, so they can be scheduled accordingly.

#### **5. PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD DRAFT WELL-BEING PLAN – 'THE CAERPHILLY WE WANT'**

The report provided the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee, as a statutory consultee, the first draft Caerphilly Public Services Board Well-being Plan, 'The Caerphilly We Want 2018-2023' for consideration and comment.

The Caerphilly Public Services Board has developed its draft well-being plan for the area, which was presented to the PSB at its meeting of the 5th September 2017. The draft well-being plan is subject to a formal 12-week public and stakeholder consultation, commencing in October 2017 and the final version of the well-being plan would be provided to Partnerships Scrutiny Committee at its next meeting.

The activities and actions are subject to change throughout the lifetime of the 5-year Well-being Plan and it has already been established that some issues may be better delivered by regionalised arrangements, either because partners operate at a higher geographical level, work is funded at a regional level, or other external drivers dictate that a regionalised delivery makes more sense e.g. the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal. Other activity will need to be local at the county borough area, or smaller geographies, because delivery partners operate at that level, or community action is required e.g. the Lansbury Park Coalition for Change.

The local assessment of well-being identified a total of 37 issues. At the meeting on the 6th June 2017 the PSB agreed that consideration should be given to how each of the 37 issues would be responded to. Some of these would be tackled collaboratively as part of the PSB Well-being Plan. The remaining issues would also be addressed but separate to the Plan.

The draft Well-being Plan – 'The Caerphilly We Want' includes 4 high level objectives which include Positive Change - A shared commitment to cross-sectoral change; Positive Start - Giving our future generations the best start in life; Positive People - Empowering and enabling all our residents to achieve their own potential; and Positive Places - Enabling our communities to be resilient and sustainable.

The Committee noted that a G7 Gwent Priorities Project Group has been established, which comprises of the 5 Gwent local authorities, Gwent Police, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent, ABUHB and SWFRS. The Group have agreed a project to examine the 5 local assessments of well-being and derive any commonalities to be lifted to a set of Gwent well-being priorities, or objectives. A commissioned provider has undertaken this work, which has

been funded by Public Health Wales and is being facilitated by SWFRS. Members were asked to note that a set of Gwent priorities would have no legal status while there continue to be 5 individual Public Services Boards, however, the work will undoubtedly have some value in planning delivery of any regional issues across borders. Each Public Services Board would need to determine what, if any, resources it devoted to delivering Gwent priorities given commitment to local Well-being Plans. Further reports would be brought forward to the Public Services Board as the project progresses. The Gwent Strategic Well-being Assessment Group is assisting and working with the commissioned provider. Importantly the work is considering the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal.

The Scrutiny Committee thanked the Officers for the detailed report and discussion ensued.

In considering the Plan, a Member sought further information on how the actions were to be funded. Officers explained that there has not been any specific budget or monies allocated to the Plan, which is posing a challenge, however, the intention is to use resources more intelligently, along with working in collaboration with the partners within the PSB.

Members discussed the Cardiff Capital Regional City Deal (City Deal) and queried whether the City Deal was the main driver for the plan. Officers explained that, whilst the City Deal wasn't the main driver, it would be a cross cutting and key project in assisting to deliver the plan, in that the City Deal aims to bring additional employment and training to the borough, which will close the skills gap, in addition, it is imperative to prevent duplication of projects and services, which could be provided through the City Deal.

The Committee discussed the issues identified within the Assessment of Well-being and the six priority areas identified for consideration by the Board. Members noted that one of the priorities identified as part of the assessment was developing suitable, sustainable housing to meet the variety of people's needs, including affordable housing. However, the report outlined that the Board had considered the areas and felt that this priority was too narrowly focussed and therefore agreed to replace it with "Sustainable communities with a focus on our most disadvantaged areas". It was noted that the Board aims to move away from the compartmentalisation that characterised some of the work under the Single Integrated Plan. Members discussed this point at length and, whilst it was felt that a focus is required into sustainable communities, there is a need across the borough to provide sustainable and affordable housing and it was felt that a stronger focus on this area is required.

Following consideration and detailed discussion, it was moved and seconded that "developing suitable, sustainable housing to meet the variety of people's needs, including affordable housing" should remain a key priority. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that, for the reasons outlined at the meeting, a recommendation be made to the Public Services Board that the Draft Well-being Plan – 'The Caerphilly We Want' be amended to include the priority "developing suitable, sustainable housing to meet the variety of people's needs, including affordable housing".

## **6. PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD PERFORMANCE – SUMMARY OF LATEST EXCEPTION REPORTS**

The report provided the Committee with a summary of performance under the current single integrated plan, 'Caerphilly Delivers', of the Public Services Board.

The Caerphilly Public Services Board performance management framework was presented to Partnerships Scrutiny Committee at its meeting of the 15th February 2017. The Committee requested that a performance report be provided at each meeting summarising, on an exception basis, the performance against the current public sector partnership plan. The performance summary is provided against the current single integrated plan, pending the PSB's first well-being plan for the county borough area.

The Caerphilly Public Services Board operates under a performance management framework that sets out and monitors the performance of partners against the current partnership plan. The report provided the performance to end June 2017 and has been considered by the PSB's Delivery, and Leads Groups and reflects the exception reporting provided to the PSB at its meeting of the 5th September 2017.

The report outlines some of the key performance to the end June 2017, which included a summary of the 'Greener Caerphilly' exceptions. Members noted that the first ever home nations international fly fishing competition took place on the River Ebbw in June. 251 trout were caught by 20 competitors, with Wales taking the team win. The competition was possible due to significant regeneration of the river in recent years. In contributing towards the reduction of climate change, it was noted that 87% of Caerphilly CBC schools now have Green Flag Status and electric vehicle charge points have been installed at Ty Penallta and Tir-y-Berth, and a trial vehicle has been used by a number of services to allow consideration of a switch to electric vehicles.

Under the 'Healthier Caerphilly' Exception Summary, Members noted that the 'Living Well Living Longer' programme, delivered by ABUHB and Public Health Wales has contributed positively to improving lifestyles of the population in the county borough. The programme invited in 3939 people, aged 40-64, not currently on a chronic disease register in key areas within the borough and have made a number of referrals to Stop Smoking Wales, Adult Weight Management, National Exercise Referral, Living Well Living Longer Advisory Service, and Gwent Drug and Alcohol Service.

Under the 'Learning Caerphilly' exception summary, a priority was to ensure children, young people and families have the skills and resources to access job opportunities. It was noted that Caerphilly CBC is an early implementer area for the 30 hours free childcare offer for Wales. Parents in the mid-valleys east area (Argoed, Blackwood, Cefn Forest, Crumlin, Newbridge, Pengam, Penmaen, Pontllanfraith) working more than 16 hours per week, at minimum wage, with a child aged 3 or 4 in foundation phase could be eligible for 20 hrs free top up childcare. The offer will be rolled out across Wales by 2021. 47 providers have registered their interest in joining the scheme.

The report detailed the exceptions for 'Prosperous Caerphilly' which included a priority to improve local employment opportunities including access to opportunities across a wider geographical area. The Scrutiny Committee noted that figures from the Department of Works and Pensions (DWP) indicate that the claimant count for Jobseekers Allowance is at its lowest level for several years. However those remaining on benefit are the hardest to help. 19,510 residents are claiming benefits with 11,180 claiming Employment Support Allowance.

The Scrutiny Committee noted that the 'Safer Caerphilly' exceptions included the priority for reducing incidents of anti-social behaviour and reducing fear of becoming a victim of anti-social behaviour. It was noted that 1426 incidents of ASB were recorded by Gwent Police in the first quarter of the year. This was a slight reduction (26 incidents) on the same period last year. ASB referrals continue to receive a multi-agency response. Over the long term the trend is markedly downwards.

The Scrutiny Committee thanked the Officer for the detailed report and discussion ensued. Members were asked to note that the report highlights both positive and negative developments against the priorities only, as other areas are performing as expected.

A Member raised queries around the 'Living Well Living Longer' programme and the areas in which were selected. Officers outlined that the areas that were selected were targeted due to the level of deprivation within these areas, work continues within Lansbury Park, including interventions from Police to tackle the substance abuse issues within the area, which was recently highlighted within a "Deep Place" Study of the area.

The Committee discussed the implications to the Communities First programme being withdrawn, and a number of concerns were raised throughout the meeting for the impact on service users across the Borough. Officers explained that discussions are still underway regarding the programme and where, if possible, programmes can continue. Members were assured however, that where possible, regular updates would be provided.

The meeting closed at 7.00 p.m.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 20th February 2017, they were signed by the Chair.

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CHAIR