



## **PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH  
ON TUESDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY 2018 AT 5.30 P.M.**

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### **PRESENT:**

Councillor J. Pritchard – Chair  
Mrs D. Price – Vice-Chair

### **Councillors:**

M. Adams, K. Etheridge, G. Kirby, C. Mann, J. Ridgewell, R. Saralis, Mrs M.E. Sargent,  
J. Taylor. L.G. Whittle

### **Outside Bodies:**

A. Hussey (South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority)

### **Together with:**

R. Hartshorn (Head of Public Protection), S. Tiley (Assistant Chief Executive - GAVO),  
D. Whetter (Interim Head of Regeneration), K. Peters (Corporate Policy Manager),  
S. Mutch (Early Years Manager), C. Forbes-Thompson (Interim Head of Democratic  
Services), R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer)

### **Also present:**

G. Jones (Wales Audit Office)

## **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs E. Aldworth, K. Dawson,  
Mrs C. Forehead, Mrs E. Forehead and L. Harding, together with S. Curley (Office of  
Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner), M. Diggie (Caerphilly Youth Forum) and  
Ms L.C. Jones (Menter Iaith Sir Caerffili).

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### **3. MINUTES – 14TH SEPTEMBER 2017**

Subject to it being noted that Chief Inspector P. Staniforth had attended part of the meeting, it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 14th September 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**

Cath Forbes-Thompson (Interim Head of Democratic Services) presented the report, which outlined details of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme (FWP) for the period September 2017 to December 2018, and which asked Members to suggest any changes to its contents.

The Scrutiny Committee were also asked to consider proposed changes to the meeting dates going forward (to be moved to January and July of each year), in order to align these with the Public Services Board meetings and allow the Committee to receive the most up to date performance reports. Members were in agreement with this change and agreed for potential dates to be emailed to them following the meeting.

It was unanimously agreed that subject to the foregoing changes, the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme be published on the Council's website.

### **5. 'THE CAERPHILLY WE WANT' WELL-BEING PLAN**

Kath Peters (Corporate Policy Manager) presented the report, which updated the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee on its role as statutory consultee on the final draft version of the Caerphilly Public Services Board Well-being Plan 'The Caerphilly We Want 2018-2023'

The draft Well-being Plan, has been subject to a public and stakeholder consultation that ended on 18th December 2017. It must be published within 12 months of a local government election (i.e. by 3rd May 2018) and be agreed by the Board's statutory partners (the local authority, Natural Resources Wales, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, and South Wales Fire and Rescue Service). It was intended to present the Plan to full Council for approval on 6th March 2018 before ratification by the Caerphilly Public Services Board at its meeting on 13th March 2018.

Officers provided an outline of the draft Well-being Plan, which has been developed through collaborative partnership activity and has been based upon the local assessment of well-being for the area. It sets out how the PSB has developed its local objectives of well-being (the Well-being Objectives) and the steps it intends to take to meet them. The draft Plan (appended to the report) includes 4 high level objectives that place an emphasis on positive change and bringing about improvements in well-being for both current and future generations, empowering and enabling all residents to achieve their own potential, and enabling communities to be resilient and sustainable. It also includes a Delivery Plan that sets areas for collaborative activity under 4 Enablers and 5 Action Areas that together will lead these objectives.

Sitting beneath the Delivery Plan will be the groups of staff and resources that the individual Board members wish to dedicate to the delivery aims, and the Board have also agreed on the lead organisation for each aspect of the plan. Within each Action Area and Enabler, groups of staff, community members and the private and third sector partners have begun to be identified. Each theme will have a lead officer who will be expected to set programmes of activity for the duration of the plan. These action plans are currently being developed in more detail and will be in place in time to commence delivery by the statutory deadline.

It was explained that activities and actions will 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 (such as 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 (such as the Lansbury Park Coalition for Change).

The Scrutiny Committee were reminded that whilst considering an earlier version of the Plan at their September 2017 meeting, they requested that the Board reconsider an earlier decision to remove an aim to 'develop suitable, sustainable housing to meet the variety of people's needs, including affordable housing'. The Board's consideration was that this area of activity did not necessarily reflect partnership collaborative activity and had taken the decision to focus on resilient communities using the Lansbury Park 'Coalition for Change' as a pilot. The Board discussed the Committee's recommendation at its meeting on 5th December and agreed to reinstate the aim within Action Area 4 of the Well-being Delivery Plan as follows: *"Support housing partners to deliver appropriate, affordable and sustainable homes"*.

The report also highlighted two specific responses received by the Board that it felt should be brought to the attention of the Committee. These responses from the Future Generations Commissioner and Welsh Government (WG) for the precursor local assessment of well-being were appended to the draft Well-being Plan for Members' information. The advice from the Commissioner was particularly detailed and the Corporate Policy Unit have provided a response on behalf of the Board (also appended to the draft Plan) to detail how the extensive advice is being addressed. However, the consultation response from WG was based on the September 2017 version of the Plan, and since that time, considerable progression has been made, and so the recommendations of WG have been met in the final draft.

Members thanked the Officers for the concise and detailed document and also extended their thanks to the Public Services Board for addressing the Committee's concerns in relation to the inclusion of affordable housing in the document.

During the course of the ensuing debate, a Member sought clarification on the number of consultation responses received for the draft Plan. It was explained that 34 written responses were received during the extensive consultation process and a summary of these are available on the PSB's website. The consultation also included a series of targeted engagement events and community workshops across the 5 community areas of the county borough, work with a number of agencies (including the Caerphilly Youth Forum and Valleys Voices networks), events held with partnerships and stakeholders, as well as a Board workshop to consider the Action Areas for the Plan. Both the written responses and face-to-face meetings provided a wide range of comments and suggestions in relation to the Action Areas that will be taken forward via the Well-being Delivery Plan.

Discussion took place on Objective 1 (Positive Change – a shared commitment to improving the way we work together) and a Member expressed a need to remove the barriers that are causing difficulties for joint working across authorities and other agencies.

Officers confirmed that although the specifics have not yet been explored, it is intended to examine this area to determine how joint working arrangements can be strengthened, such as improving IT compatibility between partner agencies. A Member requested a report in this regard and Officers confirmed that arrangements would be made to progress this accordingly.

A Member advised the Committee that he was having difficulty in finding out the intended locations for new health centres in the area. Officers confirmed that they would raise this with the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and respond to the Member in due course. In response to a query on how it is planned to establish and achieve the National Well-being Goal relating to "A Healthier Wales", it was confirmed that this forms part of the 'Caerphilly We Want' Action Plans and that scorecards reporting on this area will be reported to the March meeting of the Public Services Board.

The Scrutiny Committee sought confirmation that the PSB has representation at an appropriate level in order to bring about positive collaboration. Officers explained that the Board consists of high-level representatives from a wide range of agencies who have specialist knowledge and the authority to make decisions on behalf of their organisation.

A Member expressed a need for PSB meetings to be opened up to public observers in order to maximise transparency. Officers confirmed that the Board's terms of reference were set in 2015 (and revisited in 2017) and that although consideration had been given to the matter, the nature of the Board is such that it does not meet any requirements for the meetings to be held in public session. Members were also asked to note that PSB meetings are Officer-led and fall outside the remit of the Council, and it would not be expected for these to be subject to the same level of scrutiny as a committee meeting. However, Members were advised that they could make a recommendation to the PSB in this regard if they were minded to do so.

It was suggested that an independent person should be appointed to sit on the PSB outside of its membership in order to drive direction and accountability. Officers explained that the reports presented at their meetings which cover these areas are publicly available and that these already display a high level of accountability and transparency. It was added that the Future Generations Commissioner will be closely monitoring the delivery of the Well-being Plan and that the Wales Audit Office will also be involved in this regard.

A query was received on how the Well-being Objectives join up with each other and how their performance will be measured and evaluated. Officers explained that they are keen for this to be taken forward and that the actions relating to these objectives place an emphasis on collaborative working. In order to evaluate and monitor performance, Officers are looking at accountability measures with dashboards and key performance areas against each objective.

Further information was sought in regards to the commissioning of the Happy City consultants (who will be developing a number of projects for the PSB). Officers explained that funding was made available for this purpose by WG on a regional basis and that Happy City met the requirements of the project brief following a competitive procurement process. They are currently developing the Happiness Pulse for Gwent which will measure key areas of personal well-being, and will also develop A Thriving Places Index to report on the local conditions for well-being across Gwent and will provide an effective mechanism by which to benchmark and measure wellbeing.

It was noted that a Member had further questions on the Well-being Plan that he would pass to Officers following the meeting, and it was confirmed that the responses would be relayed to all members of the Scrutiny Committee.

Discussion took place regarding work on the Deep Place Plan being carried out at Lansbury Park, which is aiming to tackle the issues affecting the estate and identify opportunities for positive change. Officers explained that a key element of this Plan places an emphasis on culture and identity, and that work is being carried out with children and their families to change the perception of the area and remove the barriers and stigmas associated with living in Lansbury Park.

Following consideration and detailed discussion, and in noting the contents of the final draft Well-being Plan, it was moved and seconded that a recommendation be made to the PSB for their meetings to be held in public, and that the PSB also consider the appointment of a “critical friend” to scrutinise and drive the direction of the Board. By a show of hands (and in noting there were 4 against) this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that for the reasons outlined at the meeting, a recommendation be made to the Public Service Board for their meetings to be open to the public, and that the Board also give consideration to the appointment of a “critical friend” to scrutinise and drive the direction of the Board.

The Scrutiny Committee also requested an invitation to attend future meetings of the PSB if these are opened up to the public.

The Chair thanked all participants for their contributions on this item.

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

Consideration was given to the report, which provided a summary of performance under the current Single Integrated Plan, ‘Caerphilly Delivers’, of the Public Services Board.

It was noted that at its meeting on 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 the end of September 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 on 5th December 2017.

Members were referred to the cycle of performance meetings for 2017/18 as set out in the report for the Delivery Group, Leads Groups, Public Services Board and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee. A summary of progress against each of the five delivery themes of the Single Integrated Plan were set out in the report, and Officers highlighted key performance for each of the themes.

Under the ‘Greener Caerphilly’ exceptions, Members noted work being carried out by the Healthy Rivers Project to remove or reduce barriers to fish migration. 87% of schools across the county borough now have Green Flag status. The Sirhowy Valley Honeybee Company continues to deliver their Interactive Hive project with schools and produce honey via hives located on top of the Council’s Penallta House building. The Groundwork Green Team/Routes 2 Life project has developed an area of land that provides horticultural, countryside based and carpentry skills to socially excluded individuals and groups.

Under the 'Healthier Caerphilly' exception summary, Members noted that adult smoking rates in the county borough continue to reduce (to 18% in 2016/17). This is a considerable achievement, which is lower than the Welsh average, and supports a continued concerted effort by partners to work towards the national target (16% by 2020). 47% of the county boroughs infant/primary schools are engaging with The Daily Mile, which means that over 8000 pupils are completing exercise every day.

Under the 'Learning Caerphilly' exception summary, the Supporting Family Change (SFC) team are continuing to work with families where school attendance and attainment is an issue, together with professionals in Inclusion Services/Education Welfare and with Head Teachers to develop multi-agency plans to improve attendance and performance. The Childcare Offer for Wales is being expanded to cover three Community Well-being Areas from January 2018- Mid-Valleys East, Lower Islwyn and Caerphilly Basin. There is also an increasing interest in volunteering and community engagement and some third sector projects are reporting an increase in volunteers moving into paid employment positions.

Under the 'Prosperous Caerphilly' exceptions, data indicates that the claimant count for Jobseekers Allowance and Universal Credit has plateaued (around 3000 claimants), but the number of young people claiming has risen by 5.6% since June 2017. This will be monitored carefully into the New Year and will be considered by the Caerphilly Training and Education Forum.

Collaborative working with Welsh Government and other authorities has brought progress on the Navigation Colliery and Caerphilly Miners projects. Urban Renewal and Strategic Planning are producing a number of City Deal strategic scheme proposals that will provide the focus for City Deal bids and activity. A successful Valleys Taskforce event recently took place to identify the priorities for the Caerphilly/Ystrad Mynach economic hub.

The Scrutiny Committee noted that Cardiff Capital Region City Deal will be an important contributor to the objective to improve local employment opportunities, and similar objectives are emerging as part of the Well-being Delivery Plan and will be captured more fully through the move to the new Partnership Plan. Additionally, a combination of external EU funding bids and collaborative working with Welsh Government has enabled the progression of local employment opportunities at both Lawn Industrial Estate and Ty Du, Nelson.

Members were advised that the affordability of accommodation for single people under 35 remains a challenge and so the use of existing underutilised council owned blocks and the development of supported accommodation is being explored. Communities For Work Employment Officers have begun to transition to the future Employability Fund structures, and so far the transition has been a smooth one and outcomes have been positive.

Under the 'Safer Caerphilly' exceptions summary, it was noted that 1392 incidents of ASB were recorded by Gwent Police in this quarter and ASB referrals continue to receive a multi-agency response. Over the long term the trend is markedly downwards. PREVENT counter-terrorism training continues to be rolled out to front line Council staff. A large scale community engagement event was recently held in Cwmcarn due to long-standing ASB in the area, which resulted in residents reporting that they now had more information on who to report issues to, and more confidence that their issues would be dealt with. Existing Designated Public Place Orders were converted to new Public Spaces Protection Orders before October 2017 as a requirement of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and signage is in the process of being changed which is focussing on the most problematic areas of street drinking. Gwent Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner also arranged a series of meetings with Head Teachers to discuss a shared action plan to address substance misuse.

Members were also provided with a summary of the Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO) exception report for the second quarter of the year which noted a number of highlight areas. 78 volunteers were placed, £129,197 of funding was obtained and notified to GAVO, 90 funding advice enquiries were responded to, and 70 trustee enquiries were received which exceeded expectations. The Youth Volunteering Officer has made good links with CCBC Youth Service and the number of Millennium Volunteers is rising. Whilst third sector funding is becoming more difficult, there is still enthusiasm within the sector, with 35 new groups registered. GAVO are currently negotiating the management of a third solar farm community benefit scheme. There has been an increase in the requests for support for third sector organisations to become either Community Interest Companies or Community Interest Organisations. Business Planning sessions have been identified as an area of emerging need.

Discussion took place on the contents of the report, and in regards to the 'Safer Caerphilly' objective, a Member queried whether the lack of exceptions reported for domestic abuse meant that this particular level had reduced. Officers explained that the report only highlights both positive and negative developments against the priorities and that there was no updated information to report in this regard. It was explained that this data is being superseded by a Regional Board which is developing a strategy for Gwent.

A Member sought further information on the outcomes of the meetings between Gwent Police, the Commissioner and Headteachers to develop the action plan to address substance abuse, and he suggested that a report should be presented to the Education for Life or the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee in this regard. He also requested that the action plan be shared with the Partnership Scrutiny Committee. Officers explained that Gwent Police are the lead agency for this delivery theme and would be best placed to respond in this regard.

Discussion took place regarding the use of CCTV across the county borough, and Officers explained that consideration will need to be given to this moving forward in view of savings challenges in future years and new privacy assessments. In response to a Member's query, it was confirmed that the data source for adult smoking rates is derived from a Welsh Health Survey. Members were pleased to note the sustainable work being carried out by the Sirhowy Valley Honeybee Company and noted the potential for developing the scheme to other schools.

Having fully considered the report, Members thanked the Officers for responding to the queries raised during the course of the debate and noted the summary performance under the Performance Management Framework of the Caerphilly Public Services Board.

The meeting closed at 7.17 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 13th September 2018, they were signed by the Chair.

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CHAIR