



PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON THURSDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER 2018 AT 5.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor J. Pritchard – Chair
Councillor G. Kirby – Vice-Chair

Councillors:

M. Adams, K. Etheridge, Mrs C. Forehead, L. Harding, C. Mann, J. Ridgewell, J. Taylor and L.G. Whittle.

Outside Bodies:

A. Hussey (South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority), J. White (Office of Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner), H. Fletcher (NRW)

Together with:

R. Kyte (Head of Planning and Regeneration), K. Peters (Corporate Policy Manager), S. Mutch (Early Years Manager), Ian Evans (Contracts Manager), M. Williams (Interim Head of Property Services), A.thom Palmer (CCBC/GAVO), C. Forbes-Thompson (Interim Head of Democratic Services), K. Houghton (Committee Services Officer)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs E. Aldworth, K. Dawson, Mrs E. Forehead, Mrs D. Price, Mrs M.E. Sargent, and R. Saralis together with S. Curley (Office of Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner), M. Diggle (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 – 20TH FEBRUARY 2018

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 20th February 2018 (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 Scrutiny Manager presented the report, which outlined details of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme (FWP) for the period September 2018 to July 2019 and sought suggestions, from Members, for any change to its contents.

The Scrutiny Manager confirmed to Members that meeting dates going forward had been moved to January and July each year, in order to align with the Public Services Board meetings and therefore allow the Committee to receive the most up to date performance reports.

It was unanimously agreed that subject to changes that may arise as a result of the meeting, the Partnership Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme be published on the Council's website.

5. PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK – CAERPHILLY PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD

The Corporate Policy Manager presented the report, which informed Members of the Performance Accountability Framework of the Caerphilly Public Services Board (PSB), in order to assist Members to fulfil their duties and powers under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 which are to review, or scrutinise, the governance arrangements of the Caerphilly PSB. Members were also advised that the information provided in the report aimed to assist Members in formulating the Forward Work Programme for the Committee.

The Corporate Policy Manager informed Members that the Caerphilly Public Services Board (PSB) published the Wellbeing Plan "The Caerphilly We Want 2018 – 2023" in May 2018 and the Performance Accountability Framework is the overarching framework that supports the Delivery Plan against the Wellbeing Plan.

It was highlighted to Members that the Delivery Plan has been divided into four "Enablers" and five "Action Areas" as detailed in the report with the champion, lead and policy support roles outlined. It was further highlighted that 6 monthly scorecard reports with a single page for each Enabler and Action Area would go to the PSB who would be looking to discuss areas with particular issues in need of particular action.

Members were advised that they may wish to consider carefully what and who they would want to see come to the Committee to provide evidence to support or challenge the delivery arrangements as they develop. It was noted that the scheduling of future Partnership Scrutiny Committees to January and July reflected the December and June meetings of the PSB where the 6 monthly scorecards would be reported.

A query was raised as to whether there was any overarching overview and scrutiny provision to monitor the work of the 'Enablers' and how the work is co-ordinated between each topic area. Officers explained that the Plan is so wide ranging that lead officers felt the reporting and monitoring process should be as simple as possible and therefore it would be incumbent on the lead officers to work together and co-ordinate their activities. The Officers also highlighted that there was a lot of cross linkage between the topic areas and lead officers meet on a quarterly basis to co-ordinate work and report through the Champions who in turn report through to the PSB.

Further information was sought on the previous reporting process. It was clarified by Officers that the reporting process had involved detailed quarterly reports on each Action Area, to the PSB. However it was considered that this approach did not produce robust data and the reporting was not succinct enough to properly identify issues. The new reporting methodology takes into account both quantitative and qualitative data with more targeted reporting on issues. Members raised concerns that evidence of delivered outcomes would not be reported and enquired as to how qualitative data would be collected. Officers explained that the move to using both quantitative and qualitative data gave the information greater validation and would encompass evidence of delivered outcomes. It would be up to the Lead Officers as to how the data was collected.

A discussion took place regarding Action Area 5 – Protect and Enhance the Local Natural Environment. Through the course of the discussion, Members considered the potential conflict between local development strategies and the preservation and removal of barriers to people accessing green spaces, the impact of renewable energy developments on green spaces and rural crime.

Having full considered the report and familiarised themselves with the Performance Accountability Framework of the Caerphilly Public Services Board, Members thanked Officers for responding to the queries raised during the course of the discussion and noted the contents of the report.

6. 'THE CAERPHILLY WE WANT 2018-2023' WELLBEING PLAN – DETAILED ACTION PLANS

The Corporate Policy Manager presented the report which informed Members on the more detailed action plans that support the Delivery Plan for 'The Caerphilly We Want 2018-2023' Wellbeing Plan.

Members were advised that the action plans were agreed at the Caerphilly Public Services Board meeting on 11th September 2018 and the Committee were provided a verbal update of amendments made by the Board but not encompassed in the report. The Corporate Policy Manager informed the Members that the Chair of the PSB had requested more explicit timeframes around 'short', 'medium' and 'long' term targets for the action areas and the representative from Gwent Police had asked that the action areas better reflect on codes of practices within goods and services supply chains in relation to addressing modern slavery.

Updates to the Committee followed from the Lead Officers for each of the Enablers and Action Areas with Members putting questions to the Lead Officer after each update:

'Working Together' and 'Communications and Engagement'

As the representative for the 'Working Together' Enabler and as the Lead Officer for the 'Communications and Engagement' Enabler, the Corporate Policy Manager referred Members to Appendix 2 to the report which detailed the priority areas of activity, the outcomes being worked towards and Officer assigned key tasks which have been identified to achieve these outcomes. In relation to 'Communities and Engagement', Members were advised that there will be a PSB Annual Conference in July 2019 and all Members would be invited to this.

Members discussed the potential impact of resource pressures on activities and outcomes and their achievability. Particular concern was raised regarding lack of resources in policing resulting in a reduction in their public engagement activities, increased response times and ability to deliver plan outcomes. The representative for Gwent Police explained that this was an issue across all Partners however from a policing perspective public engagement was being reviewed as part of a national strategy and locally, programmes to train Officers in problem solving crime prevention approaches was being undertaken. The outcomes are considered achievable with effective targeting of resources.

The representative from Natural Resources Wales informed Members that the organisation was restructuring around the delivery of the Well-being Plan to the PSB and that by planning through the Well-being goals NRW could ensure resources were available to deliver on the Plan.

The Early Years Manager summarised that engagement in the 'Best Start in Life' Action area was considered as a continuation of works already taking place where systematic change was being made with an emphasis on joint working and extending the reach of the work being undertaken and the funding streams supporting it.

Members discussed the benefits of early intervention and collaborative working across Partners particularly in the reduction of youth offending. Concerns were raised regarding the impact of reduced resources to support Community Safety Wardens and Police Community Support Officers. The representative for Gwent Police explained that the traditional 'bobby on the beat' role was no longer feasible but different ways of engaging with youth and approaches to crime prevention were being used including the formation of Crime Prevention Panels. These techniques are also being rolled into training for new Police recruits and volunteers.

A member asked if Police School Liaison Officers still existed. It was confirmed to the Members that this role did still exist and those Officers went into schools to particularly target youths on the edge of criminality and co-ordinate a multi-agency approach in supporting young people and diverting them away from offending. The Members were also informed that a pilot scheme to form Mini Police clubs at Primary level was being considered.

'Procurement and Commissioning'

As one of the Lead Officers for the 'Procurement and Commissioning' Enabler, the Contracts Manager referred Members to Appendix 3 to the report which detailed the priority areas of activity, the outcomes being worked towards and Officer assigned key tasks that have been identified in order to deliver the outcomes. The Officer confirmed that the resources were already in place to deliver the outcomes.

Members queried how the work being undertaken as part of this Plan tied in with the Cardiff Capital City Deal. It was confirmed to Members that the work was being linked to the objectives of the Cardiff Capital City Deal and there will be a particular focus on the approaches to spending being used, the findings of which will then be reported back to the PSB.

A Member raised a query around how much co-operation from procurement partners was taking place in terms of scepticism of the PSB and whether this was affecting progress. The Lead Officer advised Members that the Procurement Commissioning Group had met and provided comments on the Action Plan, there will be a wider group meeting in September to identify Task Leads which will include a mixture of CCBC and Partner Leads.

A Member requested that in relation to the following outcome to be worked towards under this Action Area/Enabler - 'Develop an understanding of an strengthen procurement and commissioning capability and capacity to realise the value of utilising sustainability strategies in the way we do business', the number of contracts awarded be not only recorded by number but also by percentage to provide a more informative measure The Contracts Manager agreed to include this.

'Asset Management'

As one of the Lead Officers for the 'Asset Management' Enabler, the Interim Head of Property Services informed the Committee that the Asset Management Group will meet on 25th September 2018 where the following will be discussed – building assets, strategy for the

future, in-house teams and collaboration, from this a list of actions will be produced to include the mapping of assets.

Members enquired as to whether there was an up to date list of Council land assets. The Officer informed the Members that current land assets maps were good however the asset mapping needed to be expanded and this would begin with the mapping of land and building assets followed by other assets such as vehicles.

Members discussed potential housing development infill on Council land to increase housing stock. Members were advised that considering land assets in relation to development was not the core purpose of the Asset Management Group, its main focus was on collaborative working with partners to fully maximise the joint use of land to increase its value and to deliver on the Wellbeing Plan.

Further discussion took place regarding the use of renewable technology and the level of collaboration between Partners in place to ensure the installation of electric vehicle charging points across the County Borough. Members were informed that this was going to be explored by the Asset Management Group. The representative from NRW confirmed to Members that there was Gwent wide work being undertaken looking at the feasibility of local authority use of electric vehicles. Officers also highlighted that there was an overlap between Procurement and other Regional Strategic Plans such as Cardiff Capital City Deal. It was agreed that consideration of working with other Partners to develop the Electric Vehicle provision in the County Borough would be placed on the agenda for the Procurement Group to explore.

‘Best Start in Life’

As Lead Officer for the ‘Best Start in life’ Action Area, the Early Years Manager updated the Members that the three priorities as detailed in Appendix 5 to the Officer’s report have been met. The Officer informed the Members that the focus of the Officer assigned key tasks were in relation to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and looking at the ‘first 1000 days’ of a child’s life. This involves a process of mapping the current services available, conducting training sessions for key partners on ACEs and encouraging a cultural change in the approach to tackling ACE’s and providing multi-service support throughout a person’s life.

Members discussed the impact of unsecure housing tenancies, unregistered Landlords and low reporting of poor landlords by families. The Lead Officer acknowledged that low reporting was an issue and there was a good cross agency relationship in place to address this. A Member raised concerns about the health issues affecting children in deprived areas particularly regarding air quality. Officers clarified that although they are not involved in air quality strategies they are involved in programmes which encourage walking to school and getting out and about without using a vehicle.

A further comment was made from a Member in relation to the main focus of community engagement being on the Lansbury Park area. Officers advised that work in Lansbury Park was a starting point and it was a pilot area to establish best practices which could be then rolled out to other areas within the County Borough.

‘Volunteering’

On behalf of the Lead Officers for the ‘Volunteering’ Action Area, the representative from GAVO updated Members on work being carried out towards the Wellbeing Plan. Members were informed that a workshop had taken place, which was attended by a wide range of Council Officers, Partners, Volunteers and Third Sector representatives. This workshop looked at the golden thread through a now greatly expanded list of Partners and refining the four outcomes as detailed in Appendix 6 of the Officer’s report. The Officer outlined that moving forward, work will be undertaken to map the volunteering opportunities in the County Borough, seek out examples of good practices for volunteer policy and linking volunteering opportunities with PSB Partners and the Third Sector. Members were informed that the core

delivery group would have a comprehensive delivery plan to report on at the January 2019 Partnerships Scrutiny Committee meeting.

Members discussed the positive work the volunteering sector was doing in the County Borough and enquired as to the volunteering opportunities within the Local Authority not just in terms of employing volunteers to support the Local Authority's work but also corporate volunteering in the form of staff members using their skills to volunteer with external organisations. The Corporate Policy Manager informed Members that corporate volunteering was being explored. The representative from GAVO also advised Members that GAVO liaise with the Council's Community Connector Officer to encourage a range of volunteers of different ages and skill sets to take part in volunteering opportunities.

'Apprenticeships'

On behalf of the Lead Officer for the 'Apprenticeships' Actions Area, the Head of Planning and Regeneration provided the Committee with an update. She updated Members that £138million had been allocated to Welsh Government to fund 19 'Prime' contractors who deliver the apprenticeship offer across Wales. Members were advised that Cardiff and Vale College were the lead provider for the South Wales region in partnership with A.C.T and A.L.S Training with approximately 21 contractors (including the 19 prime contractors) covering the majority of trades and professions. Members were further informed that a number of scoping and exploratory meetings with key stakeholders had taken place to understand both the national and regional context of apprenticeships. This has fed into work being undertaken to better align the Apprenticeship model to the needs of the Welsh Economy which sets out the Welsh Government's vision for addressing the needs of Welsh business and the wider economy. This work will provide opportunities for new apprenticeships and those already employed by the PSB partners to undertake an apprenticeship to upskill and progress as part of the workforce development.

Members were advised that the first meeting of the PSB Apprenticeship Group is due to take place in October which will include key individuals from the lead providers contracted by Welsh Government to deliver the apprenticeship offer.

'Good Health and Well-being'

There was no representative for this action area present at the meeting however the Interim Head of Democratic Services advised that if Members were minded, the focus of the next meeting of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee could be focussed on Health and relevant witnesses could be invited to answer questions and inform the Scrutiny discussion. The Committee agreed to focus on Health at the 17th January 2019 meeting.

'Safer Communities'

As Lead Officer for the 'Safer Communities' Action Area, the representative from Gwent Police gave a brief outline of the key tasks to be tackled by the team supporting this Action Area as outlined in Appendix 9 to the Officer's report. Members were informed that current crime statistics indicate that Anti-Social Behaviour is down however recorded crime has increased particularly cybercrime. This could be partially due to changes in how crimes are categorised, recorded and reported.

The representative from Gwent Police outlined the key Outcomes of the delivery teams as being to respond effectively to crime and disorder offences, more consistent and effective measurement of crime and disorder offences, reduce the instances of people ending up in the Criminal Justice System and improving community cohesion. Members were advised that alongside these Outcomes there are also the overarching aims of tackling serious organised crime and developing Community Safety Hubs.

Members discussed the scope of capacity for Partners to work with the Police to tackle crime and disorder, particularly organised crime and the role the Council can play. The representative from Gwent Police explained to Members that Partnership working would be achieved by information sharing and providing wrap around services to aid early intervention approaches and build community confidence in the Police and supporting services. The Corporate Policy Manager also highlighted to Members that there was a statutory Community Safety Partnership that ward member representatives, alongside Council Officers, Police and other key partners, sit on, which has a responsibility to deliver a Community Safety Action Plan to Caerphilly and the wider Gwent region.

A Member queried the length of time that Policing resources were taken up in hospitals escorting offenders and vulnerable people or obtaining statements. The representative from Gwent Police advised Members that this was a pressure on resources but served a duty of care however there has been consideration given to establishing bespoke Police stations in hospitals. He highlighted the successful recruitment of 5 mental health care professionals to sit in the control room and provide advice and support to frontline Officers when required.

‘Resilient Communities’

As Lead Officer for the ‘Resilient Communities’ Action Area, the Head of Planning and Regeneration outlined the priorities and outcomes for the Action Area as detailed in Appendix 10 to the Officer’s report. She explained to the Members that Lansbury Park was identified as the most deprived area in Wales in 2014 and reducing deprivation in this area is a key priority for both the Council and the PSB and therefore a focus of initial work towards meeting the outcomes

Members were advised that the Action Area would be seeking solutions to the issues facing Lansbury Park running a pilot project to develop approaches that can be used in other areas of the County Borough facing similar issues. Therefore Priority 2 of the three priority outcomes identified in the Officer’s report will be the main focus of the initial work with Priorities 1 and 3 to follow.

The Head of Planning and Regeneration informed Members that key tasks had been identified and would be considered by the Coalition for Change Board on 24th October 2018, whose responsibility it is to develop the action plan for reaching the Outcomes identified in the Wellbeing Plan.

She advised Members that a Graduate had been recruited for a period of one year. Their work would focus on mapping current services delivered to residents of Lansbury Park and evaluate the effectiveness of these services.

Members welcomed the Action Areas primary focus being on Lansbury Park and appreciated the work already begun in the area with improvements beginning to make a visible difference; this was particularly attributed to the roll out of the Welsh Housing Quality Strategy programme. The Chair requested that an update on progress in Lansbury Park be reported back to the Committee at the July 2019 meeting.

A Member enquired about engagement with residents to improve educational attainment and employability and whether this was being directed at both adults and children. Due to the overlap between this Action Area and the ‘Best Start in Life’ area, the Early Years Manager advised that this was geared more towards children but families are also being targeted with an emphasis on early intervention. She highlighted to Members that a Family Support Worker has been employed full-time to focus on Lansbury Park, looking at young people and families from anti-natal to 11years at which point youth workers take over support provision.

‘Protect and Enhance the Local Natural Environment’

As Lead Officer for ‘Protect and Enhance the Local Natural Environment’ Action Area, the representative from Natural Resources Wales updated Members that the Action Plan was still being developed as key tasks are cross referenced with other Action Areas.

She informed Members that two workshops had been held in order to understand and refine the priority objectives as set out in the Officer’s report. In the course of these workshops it was identified that more work was required on putting measures in place to judge the effectiveness of the work being carried out. Three broad themes have been identified to direct the focus of the work; these are the provision, maintenance and use of green spaces, understanding the natural environment and reinforcing the link between the use of the local natural environment with health and wellbeing.

Members debated the challenges of encouraging the use of green spaces and gaining buy in from Partners. Members discussed approaches such as green space mapping, signposting promotion and linking of the green space network. The representative from NRW advised Members that work was being undertaken to map Caerphilly green spaces in the context of encouraging residents to use green spaces within a 6 minute walking radius of their homes with physical and mental health benefits in mind. She highlighted that increased working with the PSB had opened doors for developing and promoting the benefits of health and wellbeing in the natural environment.

7. FORMAL RESPONSE FROM THE PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD – RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Corporate Policy Manager provided a verbal update to the Committee which outlined the formal response from the Public Services Board to the recommendation ‘that the Public Services Board make their meeting open to the public and the Board also give consideration to the appointment of a “critical friend” to scrutinise and drive the direction of the Board’, which was made by the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee on 20th February 2018.

The Members were informed that in response to the recommendation to appoint a ‘critical friend’, an invitation had been extended to the Chair of the Partnership Scrutiny Committee to attend meetings of the Public Services Board.

The Members were advised that the Board considered the recommendation to make the meetings of the PSB public and although the agendas and minutes of the meetings are published on the PSB website, the Board deferred further consideration of allowing public access to the meeting for 12 months. Members expressed disappointment that this decision would be deferred for a year. Officers explained that the Board’s decision to defer consideration of this matter for 12 months was to allow time for the Board and Lead Officers to further understand delivery and reporting arrangements and challenge Partners on these arrangements during the ‘bedding in’ period.

Members discussed the changes to the Committees’ meeting schedule to better align with the Public Services Board performance reporting schedule and how this would assist with priority setting for future meetings

Members thanked the Corporate Policy Manager for the update on the PSB’s response.

8. INFORMATION ITEM - CAERPHILLY PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD MINUTES – 13TH MARCH 2018

The minutes of the Public Services Board held on the 13th March 2018 were received and noted.

The meeting closed at 20.08pm.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2019, they were signed by the Chair.

CHAIR