



PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN PENALLTA HOUSE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY 21ST JULY 2022 AT 5.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor G. Johnston - Chair

Councillors:

M.A. Adams, Mrs. E.M. Aldworth, D. Ingram-Jones, A. McConnell, D. Preece, J. Taylor, C. Thomas, A. Whitcombe, L.G. Whittle, and C. Wright.

Cabinet Members: Councillors C. Andrews, J. Pritchard, and C. Morgan.

Together with:

K. Peters (Corporate Policy Manager), H. Delonnette (Senior Policy Officer), S.J. Irish (Development and Monitoring Manager), A. Griffiths (Employment Manager), P. Massey (Policy Officer), C. Forbes-Thompson (Scrutiny Manager), R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer), J. Thomas (Committee Services Officer) and J. Lloyd (Committee Services Officer)

RECORDING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chair reminded those present that the meeting would be live-streamed and a recording made available following the meeting via the Council's website, except for discussions involving confidential or exempt items – [Click Here to View](#). It was noted that voting on decisions would take place via Microsoft Forms.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors C.J. Cuss, G. Enright, C.P. Mann, B. Miles (Vice Chair), J. Reed, and Cllr A. Hussey (South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES – 27TH JANUARY 2022

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 27th January 2022 be approved as a correct record and by way of Microsoft Forms (and in noting there were 5 for, 0 against and 6 abstentions) this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee held on 27th January 2022 (minute nos. 1 – 8) be approved as a correct record.

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 July 2022 to January 2023. Members were asked to consider the FWP and suggest any changes prior to publication on the Council's website.

It was moved and seconded that the report recommendation be approved. By way of Microsoft Forms this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the Forward Work Programme as appended to the meeting papers be published on the Council's website.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

5. GWENT PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD RESPONSE ANALYSIS UPDATE.

The Senior Policy Officer presented the report to Members which provided an update on progress of the development of the Gwent Public Services Board's outline well-being objectives. Members were advised that the Gwent PSB is required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act to produce a well-being plan, setting out local objectives and reasonable steps to meet those using the evidence from the well-being assessment. Work has been undertaken to further develop the Gwent well-being plan with the Gwent PSB agreeing their broad outline objectives.

Members were advised that the final Gwent well-being plan, detailing the PSB's well-being objectives and the steps it will take to meet them, must be published by 5th May 2023.

Members were informed that as part of the development in March the Gwent PSB identified three broad areas to be considered in more detail as part of the response analysis phase:

- Community Cohesion (including Community Safety and Substance Misuse)
- Environment (Climate and Nature emergencies)
- Health and Well-being/Inequalities – (including housing)

Members were advised that at their last meeting in June, the Gwent PSB reviewed the response analyses and confirmed that these were broadly the areas that they wanted to have as outline objectives. Further work will continue to refine and develop the outline objectives to ensure that they are cross-cutting, holistic and collaborative. The Future

Generations Commissioner's office will be providing advice and support to do this as part of their statutory function.

Members were also advised that the Gwent PSB will agree the consultation draft of the well-being plan at their meeting at the end of September, followed by a 12- week statutory consultation period.

The Scrutiny Committee noted the contents of the Response Analysis Update report provided to the Gwent PSB.

6. JOB GROWTH AND EMPLOYABILITY SUPPORT (PRESENTATION).

The Development and Monitoring Manager, together with the Employment Manager, gave a presentation to Members on the job growth and employability action area, which was previously referred to as the apprenticeship action area. Members were advised that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the action area had been expanded to include all levels of unemployment and not just apprenticeships.

Members were advised that the overall aims of the action area were to grow the potential for residents of the county borough to access employment through the provision of local jobs and to ensure that socially and economically disadvantaged individuals are able to access training and apprenticeship opportunities that will increase their employment prospects. There are 18 tasks in the action area which include effective engagement with local communities and residents to promote placement, apprenticeship and employment opportunities, maximise resident qualifications and skills, develop a shared apprenticeship programme within the local authority, provide support to businesses, maximise apprenticeship and training opportunities from the Cardiff Capital Region and engage with schools at the earliest possible opportunity in a child's life to highlight the positive benefits of apprenticeships as a realistic alternative to university.

Members were provided with the following statistical information from 2021/22 to show the progress within employability support:

- 700 participants supported
- 344 job entries
- 285 participants gained qualifications

Members were advised of the challenges faced by employability support, including, Covid-19 pandemic, increased participant barriers, restrictions on engagement and the crowded market of employment support.

Members were informed of the progress made within the CCBC Workforce Development which included:

- £0.75 million approved for development of apprenticeships within CCBC
- Alignment of apprenticeships, work placement and employment pathways to workforce demands and engagement with Heads of Service
- Targeted work with Transformation team to consider hard to recruit areas
- Targeted apprenticeship recruitment campaign
- Targeted partnership promotion work with Coleg y Cymoedd
- New media and digital content

Members were given information on the progress of Caerphilly Academy which is the CCBC 'Gateway to Employment' and creates links between jobseekers and opportunities within CCBC. Members were also advised of additional mentoring to ensure greater

retention and success of opportunities, apprenticeship support with Caerphilly Homes Apprenticeships, and paid placements. Members were informed of the progress of the Kickstart programme, which is funded by the DWP, and the progress of Procurement, which includes the engagement between the Supplier Relationship Officer and the Procurement team, and the links with Caerphilly CBC Employment Support team.

Members were shown a video of a case study with Transcend Packaging Ltd, which gave information on the recruitment process.

Members were advised of the progress of the School Engagement, the engagement and work experience of year 11-13, links with Youth Progression, local Colleges, and also the Cardiff Capital Region, Regional Skills Partnership – Labour Market Intelligence, skills gaps, and Shared Prosperity Fund: Regional Employability bid.

A Member queried whether the Armed Forces were included in the employability support and whether any contact had been made. Members were advised that there was a dedicated Officer working within CCBC who dealt with apprenticeships in this area and also to support veterans seeking employment.

A Member sought clarification on the apprenticeships route via local colleges and the restrictions that may be in place as they have contracts with other organisations to provide potential apprentices to these organisations. Members were advised that quarterly meetings are held with other organisations to clarify where there are any 'gaps' in the apprenticeship opportunities that can potentially be fulfilled by CCBC.

A Member queried whether the Job Centre had any involvement with the CCBC employment programme. Members were advised that there was a close working relationship with the Job Centre, with around 50% of the referrals to CCBC coming from the Job Centre. Clarification was also sought on college graduates and whether they would also be eligible to receive support from CCBC. Members were advised that support is provided, where necessary, prior to graduation to avoid unemployment when they leave college.

A Member queried whether employability support was age-limited and could it also be applicable for people with disabilities. Members were advised that some programmes were age specific, such as Inspire to Work, but that in general, all people of all ages can receive support if needed, including apprenticeships.

A Member queried the length of the Kickstart placements and how frequent the recruitment occurred. Members were advised that the Kickstart programme offered 6-month placements which ended on 31st March 2022. The programme is currently finished with DWP, but CCBC is looking to continue a similar style programme with future funding.

Members sought clarification on those persons who had not completed their placements or apprenticeships. Members were advised that there was no limit on assisting those persons who may have previously failed or not completed one of these schemes. It is acknowledged that personal circumstances may have changed during their time of placement/course, and they would be supported in the future should they wish to be involved in the scheme again.

The Chair thanked the Officers and wished to pass on thanks to their wider teams.

The Scrutiny Committee noted the content of the presentation.

7. CAERPHILLY PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022.

The Policy Officer presented the report which provided Members with an update on the fourth and final annual report for the Caerphilly PSB in its current guise, covering activity under the 'Caerphilly We Want Well-being Plan 2018-2023' for a seven-month period from 1st October 2021.

Members were advised that this years' report covers a seven-month period, as opposed to the previously reported annual update. This alteration in reporting timescales is as a result of delays to previous reporting timelines due to the Covid pandemic. Members were informed that the Caerphilly PSB agreed to act as a residual body and to continue to drive and monitor progress against the current wellbeing plans' conclusion, and until it is superseded by the newly developed Gwent well-being plan in May 2023.

Members were informed that while the creation of a Gwent PSB provides a simplified and streamlined regional model, as well as closer alignment to other existing regional boards, Local Delivery Groups are established within each local authority area and will continue to deliver against the well-being objectives for Gwent at a Caerphilly specific, local level in future. Local Delivery Groups reflect the PSB membership, and the Caerphilly Local Delivery Group will be chaired by the Deputy Leader.

A Member sought clarification on information in the report relating to women having more health issues than men, and the postcode you lived in having more of an effect on health issues than genetics. The Policy Officer advised Members that he would refer the queries back to the group, following the meeting, and provide the information requested.

The Chair thanked the Officer and wished to pass on thanks to their wider team.

The Scrutiny Committee noted the contents of the report and the progress made by the Caerphilly PSB.

8. PROGRESS UPDATE – THE CAERPHILLY WE WANT WELL-BEING PLAN 2018-2023 (OCTOBER 2021 TO APRIL 2022).

The Corporate Policy Manager presented the report to Members which provided an update on the performance updates for delivery against the Caerphilly Public Services Board – Caerphilly We Want Well-being Plan 2018-2023 for the period from October 2021 to April 2022.

Members were referred to details in the report which provided information of the continued delivery under the action areas and enablers in the current well-being plan for the county borough up until April 2022. Members were advised that all reports had been agreed by the residual Caerphilly PSB and were available on the Caerphilly PSB website. Delivery of the existing well-being plan will continue until May 2023.

Members were informed that the report explained the lead officer working group, the Local Delivery Group, will continue to provide updates to Members, and the next set of reports will run from May 2022 to November 2022 and will be provided to Scrutiny Committee at the January 2023 meeting.

Members were advised that the report sets out which areas of the current well-being plan have been scrutinised in depth throughout the five-year lifetime of the plan. Members were advised that the performance reports are circulated to Committee Members 3 to 4 weeks prior to the Scrutiny meetings, to allow Members time, if they wished to do so, to request

witnesses from the partners to attend the meeting to answer questions. The Chair noted that there had been no requests for attendance at this meeting.

The Chair thanked the Officer and wished to pass on thanks to their wider team. Members also wished to request that 'Caerphilly Cares' could be reported on in the next Partnerships Scrutiny Committee in January 2023, and also suggested some information be provided in relation to the background areas not yet examined.

The Scrutiny Committee noted the contents of the report.

The meeting closed at 6.59 p.m.

Approved as a correct record, subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 26th January 2023.

CHAIR