

SUBJECT: Progress report - Regional Gwent Public Services Board

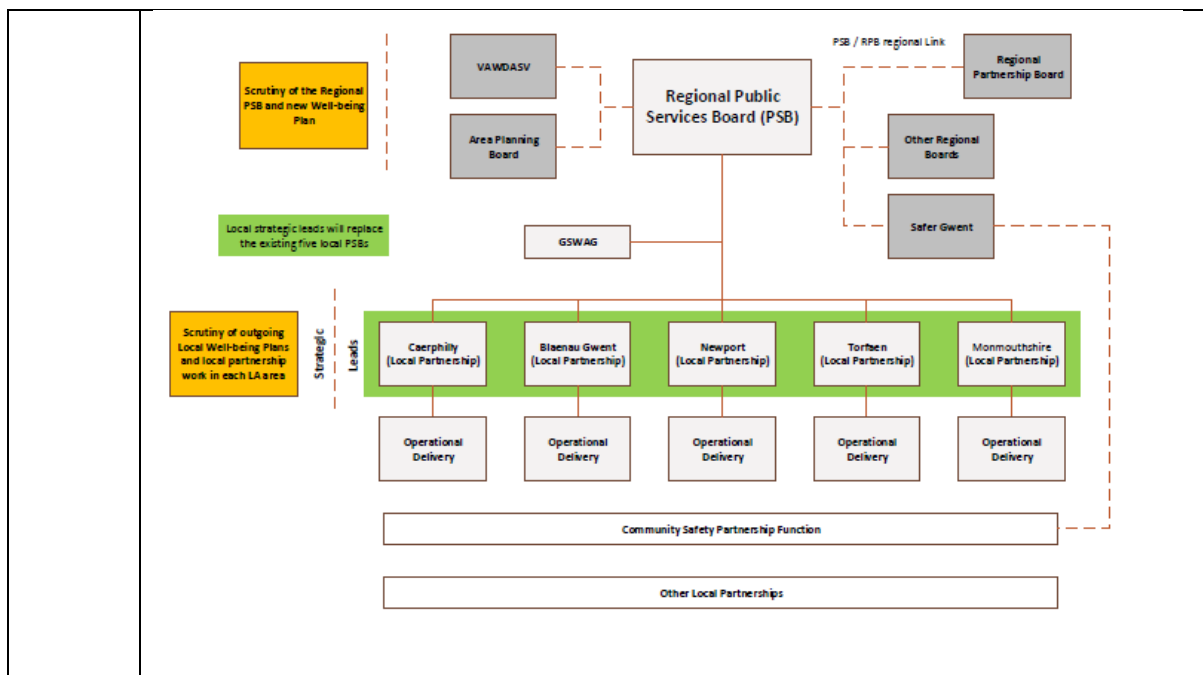
Report written and submitted by: Gwent Strategic Well-being Action Group- Governance Group for G10

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1	Areas Affected
1.1	Gwent
2	Purpose of Report
2.1	<p>To update members on the development of a regional 'Gwent' Public Services Board, and the next round of the Assessment of Local Well-being and Local Well-being Plans and to note any relevant governance changes required for the local authority and its committees.</p> <p>The report is being received by partnership Scrutiny Committees across Gwent for awareness and Cabinet/ Council for note and decision making as appropriate.</p>
3	Background
3.1	<p>The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act sets out a collective well-being duty on specified public bodies to act jointly via public services boards (PSBs) to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of their area by contributing to the achievement of the well-being goals.</p> <p>As part of this collective well-being duty, the PSB must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare and publish an assessment of the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in each community, and in the area as a whole, to be published no later than a year before its local well-being plan. • Prepare and publish a local well-being plan setting out its local objectives and the steps it proposes to take to meet them, published no later than 12 months after each local election. <p>The first local well-being assessments were published in May 2017. The first local well-being plans were published in May 2018 for Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen. The next round of the well-being assessment and well-being plan are due to be published in May 2022 and May 2023 respectively.</p> <p>Existing PSB partnership structure:</p>

	<pre> graph TD G10[G10] --- GSWAG[GSWAG] G10 -.-> PSB1[Public Services Board - Caerphilly] G10 -.-> PSB2[Public Services Board - Blaenau Gwent] G10 -.-> PSB3[Public Services Board - Newport] G10 -.-> PSB4[Public Services Board - Torfaen] G10 -.-> PSB5[Public Services Board - Monmouthshire] PSB1 --- SF1[Strategic Functions] PSB2 --- SF2[Strategic Functions] PSB3 --- SF3[Strategic Functions] PSB4 --- SF4[Strategic Functions] PSB5 --- SF5[Strategic Functions] SF1 --- OD1[Operational Delivery] SF2 --- OD2[Operational Delivery] SF3 --- OD3[Operational Delivery] SF4 --- OD4[Operational Delivery] SF5 --- OD5[Operational Delivery] LA[LA Scrutiny x5] RPB[Regional Partnership Board] CSP[Community Safety Partnerships x5] APB[Area Planning Board] ORB[Other Regional Boards] </pre>
3.2	<p>The Act also provides for two or more PSBs to be able to merge if it would assist them in contributing to the achievement of the well-being goals. There have been discussions at the Gwent wide leadership group ‘G10’ and at each PSB about the merger of the Gwent PSBs to form a single regional PSB. The decision to do this must be agreed by each of the individual PSBs as the statutory bodies.</p> <p>Each PSB in the Gwent region has agreed this in principle. The PSBs and G10 have also considered the importance of maintaining strong local partnerships in each area to support delivery of the Well-Being Plan and also other partnership work.</p> <p>Future regional partnership structure:</p>



3.3 The drivers for the change to a regional approach and Plan considered by the G10 leadership were:

- improving the well-being of people across Gwent by strengthening governance, accountability, improving collaborative working and supporting a clearer partnership landscape.
- providing the catalyst for a regional well-being assessment and well-being plan that maintains local accountability.
- opportunities to align partnership legislation and PSB statutory duties for a more strategic overview of areas such the Crime and Disorder Act, Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) and the Children’s Act.
- opportunity to develop regional scrutiny arrangements.
- opportunity of aligning the focus of both the Regional Partnership Board (RPB) and PSB that will reduce duplication of activity, align strategic priorities and much closer collaboration over assessment, planning and delivery functions.
- The approach supports the Welsh Government review on ‘strategic partnerships’ and specifically recommendation 3 of the recent Audit Wales Review of Public Services Boards¹.

There is a range of effective partnership work which takes place through the G10 leaders group and subgroup GSWAG (Gwent Strategic Well-being Action Group) which has also attracted funding through Welsh Government and delivery of work such as ‘climate ready Gwent’ however there is not one strategic direction for this work that a regional assessment and plan would provide.

¹ Recommendation 3 of the WAO Review of Public Services Boards includes ‘.....that Welsh Gov enables flexible models for merging, reducing and integrating their work with other forums such as Regional Partnership Boards; and – giving PSBs flexibility to receive, manage and spend grant monies’

3.4	The current Well-Being Plans (2018-2023) form the delivery arrangements for the next two years and these will continue to be delivered by the local partnerships (One Newport; The Blaenau Gwent We Want; The Caerphilly We Want; Our Monmouthshire; Torfaen Public Services Board) supported by the regional PSB, and scrutinised by partnership Scrutiny Committees in each of the local areas.
3.5	A timeline for this activity can be found at Appendix 1 to this report.
4	Progress
4.1	Each of the five PSBs Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouth, Newport, Torfaen have discussed the proposal and agreed to disband the local PSB and form a regional PSB.
4.2	<p>Officer groups across Gwent have been reviewing and developing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms of Reference • Progress towards a Gwent well-being assessment and plan, including engagement • Local Delivery Partnership arrangements • Membership of the Gwent PSB • Regional scrutiny arrangements • Performance • Links to other regional boards • Openness, transparency and identity of the Gwent PSB <p>Local Delivery Partnerships will need to include senior officers, with the ability to take decisions and direct resources, from all the Gwent PSB member bodies, and any local partners who are currently represented on the 5 PSBs but will not be at the Gwent PSB.</p> <p>The Local Delivery Partnership arrangements may differ in membership and scope but as a minimum will need to provide for the delivery of local priorities set out in the Gwent well-being plan and any local contribution to regional priorities.</p>
4.3	<p>The current thinking is that, for the new Gwent Well-being Plan 2023-2028, there are likely to be a set of overarching well-being objectives which will be met by regional and local activity. There are likely to be local actions which will be particular to a locality and determined by more local data and assessment. The Local Delivery Partnerships will be tasked with contributing to the regional actions as well as delivering any specific local activity.</p> <p>In order to meet statutory deadlines for the next iteration of the well-being assessment and well-being plan the engagement work has commenced and there are regional subgroups in place to develop this work and support delivery of the Gwent Well-Being Assessment.</p>
4.4	The Gwent PSB inaugural meeting is proposed for September 2021 and the members will set their terms of reference and membership at that meeting.
4.5	All statutory and invited G10 member organisations (Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Blaenau Gwent CBC, Caerphilly CBC, Gwent Police,

	Monmouthshire CC, Natural Resources Wales, Newport CC, Office of the PCC, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Torfaen CBC) are taking reports as appropriate within their own governance and this report forms part of the decision making for this local authority.
4.6	The development of regional scrutiny arrangements for the Gwent PSB and its assessment and planning will continue over the coming months and will need to be collaborative in the approach to membership and interaction with the local Scrutiny Committees, particularly during the interim period ahead of the new Well-Being Plan.
	<p>Recommendation 1: To note the proposal to move to a regional PSB as outlined in the report and the importance of maintaining strong local delivery partnerships.</p> <p>Recommendation 2: To note the requirement to establish regional Scrutiny and to receive further details on this as appropriate.</p>
5	Timeline
5.1	The initial meeting of the Gwent PSB is proposed as September 2021. Each organisation is responsible for reports to members and any necessary governance changes.
5.2	The regional well-being assessment will need to be complete and signed off by the statutory members individually, and by the PSB collectively, by the 5 th May 2022. The development of the well-being assessment also requires the input of the Future Generations Commissioner and Welsh Government. All groups are working to the assessment timeline attached at Appendix 2.
	Recommendation 3: The local assessment of well-being to be agreed by 5th May 2022 will be added to the forward work programme for sign off.
6	Terms of Reference
6.1	The draft Terms of Reference at Appendix 3 have been developed based on the 5 existing terms of reference, Schedule 3 to the Act, the reported discussions at the meetings to dissolve the existing PSBs and the discussions at G10.
6.2	The terms of reference must be agreed at the first meeting of the Gwent PSB (Schedule 4 Article 4 to the Act). However, further development is needed to support the proposed Local Delivery Partnerships. This is an important concern raised by each local authority area.
6.3	The terms of reference of the PSB can be agreed by the four statutory partners acting together, however given the 'collaboration' element of the sustainable development principle they will be agreed by the full set of members of the new board at its first meeting. It has been agreed in principle that all members of the regional PSB, whether statutory or invited, will have equal voting rights.

6.4	<p>The terms of reference and membership of the Local Delivery Partnerships have not yet been drafted but will also need to be agreed at the first meeting of the Gwent PSB to ensure continuity of delivery of the 5 existing well-being plans which run until 2023. Local Delivery Partnerships will need to include senior officers, with the ability to take decisions and direct resources, from all the Gwent PSB member bodies, and any local partners who are currently represented on the 5 PSBs but will not be at the Gwent PSB e.g., individual Registered Social Landlords, tertiary colleges, community councils, youth forums etc.</p> <p>The Local Delivery Partnership arrangements may differ in membership and scope but as a minimum will need to provide for the delivery of local priorities set out in the Gwent well-being plan and any local contribution to regional priorities.</p>
6.5	<p>The current thinking is that, for the new Gwent Well-being Plan 2023-2028, there are likely to be a set of overarching well-being objectives which will be met by regional and local activity. There are likely also to be local actions which will be particular to a locality and determined by more local data and assessment. The Local Delivery Partnerships will be tasked with contributing to the regional actions as well as delivering any specific local activity.</p>
6.6	<p>Administering PSBs is a responsibility that falls to the local authority members. To ensure that this is shared equally there is in principle agreement that this rotates around the five local authority members but on a two-year rotation to provide some continuity. The draft terms of reference suggest that the Chair holds the role for a period of two years. Where a local authority holds the position of chair the administration role should move with that chair.</p> <p>Although other organisations may Chair a PSB, a local authority must chair the first meeting of the PSB and every mandatory meeting (after a local government election) thereafter.</p>
	<p>Recommendation 4: To note the proposed changes to terms of reference, and to make any relevant changes to committee structures and constitution.</p> <p>Recommendation 5: To support the development of Local Delivery Partnerships and ensure that these are considered in local Scrutiny work programmes.</p>
7	Regional Scrutiny
7.1	<p>Officers are working with the Scrutiny Managers in each of the five local authorities to work through how the proposed Regional Scrutiny will function in terms of its membership, terms of reference, continued scrutiny of the 5 existing well-being plans until 2023, community safety scrutiny (Police and Justice Act 2006), scrutiny of local delivery under the new Gwent Well-being Plan 2023-2028, host authority etc.</p>
7.2	<p>Ongoing Scrutiny of the current Well-Being Plans continues within the local partnership Scrutiny arrangements.</p>

7.3	The work to develop regional scrutiny is ongoing and will need to be taken through Council decision making processes so that the new regional scrutiny can be formed to begin its role of scrutinising the Gwent PSB.
7.4	The first formal activity the regional scrutiny will be involved in will be as a consultee to the new regional well-being assessment (Section 38 of the Act). Given the timeline at Appendix 1 this is likely to be in February 2022. Thereafter, the proposed Regional Scrutiny will take oversight of the Gwent Well-being Plan from 2023.
7.5	The discussions with Scrutiny Managers are considering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of the regional scrutiny • The continued scrutiny of the current well-being plan • Ongoing scrutiny of local level PSB activity once the new PSB is formed
7.6	To strengthen the relationship with the Regional Scrutiny Committee the Chair and Vice-chair should be aware of the Boards work and should be sent all agendas, minutes, and papers. It is proposed that the Chair of the Regional Scrutiny would also be invited to all regional PSB meetings.
	<p>Recommendation 6: To note the developing arrangements to establish Regional Scrutiny.</p> <p>Recommendation 7: To continue to support Scrutiny of the current Well-Being Plans to 2023 through existing local partnership Scrutiny arrangements.</p>
8	Links to other regional boards
8.1	<p>There are a multitude of partnership boards across the Gwent region that have been established in line with policy, programme or legislative drivers.</p> <p>This is outlined in a diagram at Appendix 4 which shows the Gwent PSB & RPB partnership landscape with statutory duties</p> <p>Connectedness and alignment of these boards could be improved and maximised under the Gwent PSB, particularly where boards are delivering activity in-line with the PSB statutory duties, as specified in the PSB statutory guidance.</p> <p>The Gwent PSB, working closely alongside the Gwent RPB, has the opportunity to reduce duplication, maximise resources, identify shared priorities and achieve closer alignment of policy, programme and legislative agendas, which would potentially improve outcomes for citizens across Gwent.</p> <p>Further work is required to map the various boards, key drivers and governance across Gwent.</p>

9	Performance and Reporting
9.1	A robust performance framework is essential in facilitating the PSB to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Gwent. A framework is being developed to provide an integrated mechanism that focusses on the performance of partnership and collaborative activity that delivers the statutory duties, objectives and priorities of the PSB.
9.2	The framework will facilitate the regional PSB to hold the performance of delivery of its priorities and responsibilities to account and be accountable for its own performance. This will be closely linked to the development of other parts of the PSB governance arrangements including scrutiny arrangements, terms of reference, other Regional Boards and Local Delivery Partnerships.
9.3	The performance framework will need to be driven by a range of qualitative and quantitative data, experiences, research and evidence to allow the PSB to evaluate progress and impact. The PSB will need to have the skills and capacity to support the provision of up-to-date information, analysis and insight on well-being of people and places in Gwent.
9.4	Each of the current PSBs has an online presence, with their own websites that host all meeting papers, performance reports, member profiles, the local assessment of well-being, data sets, the well-being plan, action plans, statutory annual reports, public contact points etc. It will be important that this is replicated for a Gwent PSB to ensure openness and transparency.
9.5	In addition, several PSBs have a social media presence through Twitter and Facebook. This includes social media guidance for partners in the use of the PSB identity and logos. The Gwent PSB will need to consider its own openness and transparency and potentially develop a Gwent identity, certainly this will be need for the next round of well-being planning. This will be an early consideration of the new PSB.
10	Conclusion
10.1	<p>Good progress is being made by officers of the PSB member organisations and development of the local assessment of well-being is on track to meet statutory timelines. Subject to reports passing through internal governance structures the Gwent PSB should be able to form from September this year. The provisional first meeting date is set.</p> <p>Each individual Council will need to consider changes to its constitution and committee terms of reference.</p> <p>Arrangements for Regional Scrutiny are being discussed among democratic services leads and the aim is to conclude this to meet the approval requirements of the local assessment of well-being needs. The scrutiny of the existing well-being plans is continuing through local Scrutiny in each individual area until 2023.</p>

11	<p data-bbox="339 237 788 266">Full set of Recommendations</p> <p data-bbox="339 309 1318 409">Recommendation 1: To note the proposal to move to a regional PSB as outlined in the report and the importance of maintaining strong local partnerships.</p> <p data-bbox="339 450 1358 517">Recommendation 2: To note the requirement to establish regional Scrutiny and to receive further details on this as appropriate.</p> <p data-bbox="339 557 1377 624">Recommendation 3: The local assessment of well-being to be agreed by 5th May 2022 will be added to the work programme for sign off.</p> <p data-bbox="339 665 1362 766">Recommendation 4: To note the proposed changes to terms of reference, and to make any relevant changes to committee structures, terms of reference and constitution.</p> <p data-bbox="339 806 1289 907">Recommendation 5: To support the development of Local Delivery Partnerships and ensure that these are considered in local Scrutiny work programmes.</p> <p data-bbox="339 947 1302 1014">Recommendation 6: To note the developing arrangements to establish Regional Scrutiny.</p> <p data-bbox="339 1055 1358 1122">Recommendation 7: To continue to support Scrutiny of the current Well-Being Plans to 2023 through existing local partnership Scrutiny arrangements.</p>

Appendices

Appendix 1

The proposed timeline for a Gwent PSB will mean that a new PSB is in place by September 2021 to develop the next phase of the Well-Being Plan as outlined below (**statutory deadlines**).

Date	Item
Mar 2021	Gwent PSB approach agreed by G10
Mar/ Apr 2021	<p>Paper taken to each PSB which will detail the decision to move to a regional PSB and how this will be done.</p> <p>Plans for local arrangements discussed.</p> <p>Agreement from each PSB for this to go ahead.</p>
Apr/ Jul 2021	<p>Report to each LA scrutiny committee.</p> <p>Regional scrutiny process agreed.</p> <p>Formally agreed by each Local Authority/ organisation as required</p>
Apr – Oct 2021	PSB to draft Well-being Assessment
May – Aug 2021	PSB to undertaken a public engagement process for the Well-being Assessment
Jun – Jul 2021	<p>Final PSBs are held in each area.</p> <p>Paper on local arrangements agreed and signed off by each PSB.</p> <p>ToR for the regional PSB is formally signed off by each individual PSB.</p> <p>Date for first regional PSB is set.</p> <p>Lead Local Authority agreed.</p>
Sep 2021	<p>Regional PSB is created</p> <p>First meeting must be held within 60 days (30th October).</p> <p>The first meeting will need to be chaired by a LA.</p> <p>Local boards established.</p>
Nov 2021	Consultation Draft Assessment agreed by PSB
Dec 2021 – Jan 2022	Consultation Period for the Well-being Assessment for all stakeholders
Feb 2022 – Mar 2022	Redrafting Well-being Assessment in light of consultation

Apr 2022	Final version of Well-being Assessment agreed by Gwent PSB
May 2022	Publish Regional Well-being Assessment Copy of Assessment to Welsh Ministers, Commissioner, Auditor General for Wales, Scrutiny Committee
May 2022 – Oct 2022	PSB to develop response analysis to inform the Local Wellbeing Plan Seek advice from the Future Generations Commissioner PSB to develop Local Well-being Plan
Nov 2022 – Jan 2023	Statutory Consultation of the Well-being Plan
Feb 2023 – Mar 2023	Redrafting Well-being Plan
Apr 2023	Final version of Well-being Assessment agreed by Gwent PSB
May 2022	Publish Regional Well-being Plan - copy of Plan to Welsh Ministers, Commissioner, Auditor General for Wales, Scrutiny Committee

Appendix 2 – Regional PSB Assessment Planning

