

# Minutes



## Performance Scrutiny Committee - Partnerships

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Date: 20 January 2022

Time: 5.00 pm

Present: Councillors J Clarke (Chair), M Linton, S Marshall, M Spencer, T Suller and K Whitehead

In Attendance: Rhys Cornwall (Strategic Director - Transformation and Corporate Centre), Sally Ann Jenkins (Strategic Director - Social Services), Tracy McKim (Partnership Policy & Involvement Manager), Mary Ryan (Head of Adult Services), Arabella Calder (Senior Policy & Partnership Officer), Neil Barnett (Scrutiny Adviser) and Felicity Collins (Governance Officer)

Apologies: Councillors F Hussain and R Mogford

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### 1 Declarations of Interest

None.

### 2 Gwent Local Assessment of Well-being Consultation

#### Invitees:

Tracy McKim – Policy, Partnership and Involvement Manager  
Rhys Cornwall - Strategic Director – Transformation and Corporate  
Arabella Calder - Senior Policy and Partnership Officer

The Policy, Partnership and Involvement Manager gave a brief overview on the Gwent Public Service Board and that they are required to conduct a wellbeing assessment ahead of the well-being plan. The first part is analysis, a review of the current situation. Members were advised that it is not about answers to issues, as that is for the response analysis stage, so the focus is on what it looks like. The Officer advised that the presentation will be circulated to the Committee and that they have until Monday 31 January to provide a response to the report. Members were reminded that it is the first time the well-being assessment has been done, against a backdrop of tight timelines and during a pandemic, therefore the officer explained there is more work to be done but it will grow over a period of time. It was noted it is commendable to get to this stage to make the statutory requirement.

The Policy, Partnership and Involvement Manager gave an outline of the presentation and highlighted the key areas of impact and what the data tells them so far. The assessment looks into the well-being of the local area and what makes people vulnerable and resilient. It covers five areas of the local authority which highlights both the inequalities and the opportunities in the area. The officer covered the timeline of the assessment that it has been to the Gwent PSB, the Newport Partnership can tell them their response in two ways; one being if the equalities factors enough in the assessment and if they are looking at the assets enough. It is now in formal consultation and explained it would go into an anonymous block then to the response analysis.

Beneath the Gwent profile is a Newport Profile which has statistical comparisons split into five to compare the areas. The five supporting the Newport City profile will look at population, deprivation, economic well-being, environmental well-being and cultural well-being. Therefore, it would take forward what the priority would be for Newport and for Gwent.

Committee asked the following:

- A Committee Member referred to the timetable of the assessment work and expressed concern if the elections could affect the work.

The Policy, Partnership and Involvement Manager explained that the legislation is written around the election cycle. It has to be published around a certain timetable so therefore around an election is when they would expect to see a well-being assessment published.

- The Member asked if the Officer thinks the Council would have everything in place to pass the assessment on.

The Policy, Partnership and Involvement Manager confirmed it would be and that it is the first Gwent region assessment - so it will get better despite it needing more but it will definitely meet the statutory deadline. A lot of work has gone into it but that also depends on the consultation. Given the time available and challenges from COVID-19 and the fact that six months ago the Gwent PSB did not exist; it is a solid start but the consultation is a part of that in order to listen to what people have to feedback about it.

- A Member noted the disproportionate wealth in the city centre, and queried if the reason was from shops being closed down.

The Manager could take it away and look at that more but it could be likely that it is an area with lower cost for housing close to the city centre as many are rented accommodations, not linked to the city centre as such but lower cost housing and rental properties tend to be closer to city centres.

- A Member asked in terms of climate change issues, if anything is going to be done to protect Newport. For instance, the risk of flooding could cause businesses to close.

The Lead Officer explained that at the point they are within the assessment, they know there is a climate change plan for Newport City Council being formed which will be out for consultation at the end of December to come to Cabinet to include all aspects of climate change. The One Newport Partnership has a climate change group as it is something that the council cannot sort on its own without support. It was noted that the council has a pilot with the Welsh Government around the local area energy plan which will be coming up for a proposal in the area. On how everyone can use energy in a way that is better for the environment; reflecting that climate change continues to be an issue and is factored into the plans.

- A Member queried if the condition of housing could be an area to be focused on as the plan develops.

From a regional perspective, other authorities have different types of partnerships; Newport City Homes is different from the council and Caerphilly still have their housing stock. Therefore the Member asked if the council could look at partnerships which are developing with different ways of working and how to adapt to that as conditions of housing might be an area to consider. This is because other areas of

Wales could have other concerns from Newport's issues. Usually it is the ones who cannot afford house insurance who are affected the most.

The Policy, Partnership and Involvement Manager advised that in some areas such as Newport, they have registered social landlords but Caerphilly have their own stock who voted for a different route. In Newport; the housing will always be part of the PSB and One Newport Partnership. The RCL represent Newport City Homes and at the Gwent PSB level, there is a housing representative on the Gwent Board which will seek the housing requirements for the sector.

The Officer's understanding is an overreliance on the wind data and in the housing sector it relies a lot on the Welsh Index Data. Perhaps not on the local understanding which might be something to feed back to the partners.

The officer agreed they could check that on the outside of the meeting. It intersects with climate change. As it is the beginning of the process, it is to identify things so that could bring more in to be considered.

- The Member also noted it would be important to discuss access to health professionals. It is important to understand the ability to travel to see health professionals as some people have to travel further out of the area. The Member queried if the new plan could determine where the needs and support is and if the partners could help the Health Board in supporting the citizens to get to the healthcare needs.

The Policy Manager explained that some of the deprivation data alludes to the health services as it is a deprivation to those services; therefore it is included in the health data. The officer highlighted one issue of the plan which is what extend is the partnership plan going to fix, for example recycling can be fixed by the council. However, it would not make a partnership plan as lots of complexities for the partners to work on. The Well-being Assessment is used by not just the council but with statutory purposes with very successful grants. Things intersect with the partnership where you expect to see the activity.

- Discussion ensued on the positives of the work such as the Fflecsi buses for access but if there is a potential problem, the Member asked if the partnership could address issues around the access to solve it.

The Officer explained that the team are not yet focusing on the solutions but collecting the evidence at this stage.

- A Member asked how they will use the data and the partnership, and fully recognised the partnership working and the challenges of the different levels. Therefore the Member asked how they will feed into this information moving forward to include the voices of each different group.

The Lead Officer confirmed that future trends will be added to the assessment. In the document, it is noted that they need to do more work with future trends with predictions of where to go and access to services in that. It is also on how they can intersect with different partnerships. The officer noted that the Newport Youth Council sit on the Newport board so the voices are fed into the Gwent PSB. Therefore in the planning stages, the Committee may want to mention how important it is to include young voices at the planning stage.

- The Member mentioned if the partnership is very new and that they have statutory bodies who are co-opted onto it the board; they asked if there would be a similar

format on the Gwent level. It was also queried if they use similar data collection methods.

The Policy Manager stated that on the Gwent PSB; each local authority has an equivalent to One Newport. Generally, that is chaired by a Leader/Deputy Leader with senior partnership focusing on local issues. The document could become the source of all planning for local partnership who will receive this data and will utilise it for their planning as they all need to contribute and deliver the well-being plan.

The partnerships mentioned by the Member are outside of the PSB but will later on hear about the population needs assessment in the meeting. The data is from the Welsh Index and cut in a particular way as the data is universally used for planning with the additional local acknowledge.

- The Member queried if there is a Gwent Board that mirrors what the City has locally and if it feeds back to local groups.

The Officer confirmed that the PSB is the parent board and have a statutory set of partners with extras such as for housing. For example, at the PSB, they would have the University of South Wales for the education sector on the One Newport Board. They would have a range of colleagues from Gwent as they are very important in the Newport area and they also have GAVO and the Third Sector represented whereas only one of them would be represented at the PSB. There is quite a defined structure around that but it is important to keep those links.

- The Member then queried if the different organisations are focusing on different data information or if they are feeding in from different data to balance the document. It was then queried what would be the main preference of data.

The Policy, Partnership and Involvement Manager stated that they explain the work of the PSB but are not members of the PSB. Therefore they advised it would be likely that the individuals at the PSB in considering the Gwent level data make sure that Newport's needs are properly represented in that data. This is via the profiles more than likely to be used at a local level. There will be projects at a Gwent level i.e. Active Travel Project might seek out local data and do particular things in a local area; where the officers would prioritise. In all the officers would prioritise both types of data.

- A Member queried if there are any areas that require more in-depth review by the committee and if in-depth review will be required soon.

The Policy, Partnership and Involvement Manager advised the Committee that the team are asking the Committee to take a view and a few of the comments have already shown that some things are missing. It was highlighted that the housing section needs more work and it is about hearing the voice of communities within the data to understand what people think. Which can often be different to the data, and the data could tell something else but both are very important to have. With future trends, the officer believes that some of the questions could be answered by future information being included as it would be relevant to trends.

The officer recognised that the housing definitely needs to be looked into, with the condition of housing; the officers questioned whether it would be good enough to create a plan from it. It would also represent a big step forward and during the life of the next five years of the document; the team would like to see and other colleagues within the service to see much more online use of the data rather than the PDFs and

to be able to overlay the data and the success of it. The question is whether the council has a plan and is it delivering the right things; and would it be reviewed as they go.

- A Member asked if the partners are all working well together.

In response, the Policy, Partnership and Involvement Manager confirmed that in any partnerships, there are different priorities in different areas. But however from difference comes very good understanding and useful information. The officer stated they have not been privy to any discord as it is all about what the evidence is telling them. Therefore there is no agenda and therefore people cannot push their own direction and thoughts.

The Committee thanked the team for their time and for their presentation and asked the officers to pass on their thanks to their colleagues for the work they have done so far.

### **Conclusions**

The Committee wished to make the following comments and recommendations:

- The Committee praised the officers and their teams for the quality of information received, and thanks them for the hard work undertaken for the consultation. The Committee felt that the partnerships are working together well and that there is a strong partnership as it is good to see the clear overlap between the two assessments. The Committee also wished to compliment the partners on their clear vision and that resources will be addressed.
- The Committee understand that the document is still fresh and in a developmental stage, and are interested to see the document as it grows. Members asked to be kept updated on any future movements and also link or documents that will be of interest.
- Members queried about disproportional wealth in the city centre, and asked does this mean because some of the shops are closed and they are not earning enough to keep the shops going?
- The Committee noted the officer's comment about future trends being missing from the report, and also how more work needs to be done with future trends. Members would like to see more of this information in future updates. Members also queried whether the housing data from the report takes account of housing condition?

### **3 Regional Population Needs Assessment - Social Services and Wellbeing Act**

#### **Invitees:**

Phil Diamond – Service Manager – Gwent Regional Partnership Board

Sally Jenkins – Strategic Director – Social Services

Mary Ryan – Head of Adult Services

The Service Manager provided an overview to the Committee, despite it being different from the Well-being Assessment, the partner highlighted that there are touching points between the two and ensured there would be no duplication. Members were informed that this assessment is set in the statute by the Well-being Act for Social Care and it is focused on three particular areas. It was highlighted that children looked after in terms of the population needs assessment remains a high importance across the local authorities as those children

have the most complex circumstances. Welsh Government prioritises that area and it has had grant funding.

The Committee were provided with examples of joint collaborative solutions from Newport such as the Mental Health Service Team whose role is to support others and children with emotional or mental health circumstances. There is a multi-agency panel which work together with the families to support the children. There has been work done for emergency accommodation; some children in crisis point where they have to look out of county to keep children safe. The officers also covered the work gone into the Carers' UK survey which has found issues have exacerbated for local carers.

The third theme was the Population Needs Assessment on Dementia. They predict to see a large number of those with dementia. With an aging population will come with different opportunities and challenges. Within the Population Needs Assessment, it was highlighted that the aging population is a theme that is discussed often.

Committee asked the following:

- A Member asked about legislation around Health and Social Services, as this type of work is always changing and adapting through data monitoring changes; how the council could catch up with the information they have now against what the Government might do.

The Strategic Director responded, that it is entering a new programme with the Welsh Government on their aims and prioritisation areas. They have previously mentioned the commitment within the programme to eliminate profit from children in care and that will be for the next 5 years. In terms of the planning within their Population Needs Assessment (PNA), the council are in quite a good place to do it as it is right at the start of the government programme. Considerable work has been done with members and the PSB and other boards. Members were assured they are very in tune as there is consultation in Risca for a Regulatory Inspection Framework. The PNA is rooted in that knowledge that the Welsh Government has a long term priority for dementia, looked after children and carers.

- A Committee Member asked for confirmation on the situation with education on it all in other local authorities and if they will experience policy conflicts due to differing priorities; and if so, what the remedy would be.

In response, the Strategic Director clarified that with children and adult services, they have been working for a considerable amount of time with five other local authorities and have good working relationships in the social care area. There is a very effective partnership board; there may be policy differences but some are due to the difference in demographics. There are sometimes times of grit but major conflicts are very unlikely. Plenty of joint working examples mentioned such as MIST and children's services have taken a pragmatic approach.

The Service Manager added that the regional partnership board was made to avoid those types of situations, the local authority and the health board were previously not under legislation to work together. They naturally did it and are producing a joint needs assessment plan and the Joint Action Plan which will be a similar plan to the well-being plan that the Policy, Partnership and Involvement Manager outlined prior to this agenda item. It was noted there was a regional children and families board established well before the health and social care colleagues came together. There are differences but they work through them.

- A Member expressed concern for those impacted by long COVID; for instance, they knew people have had to leave employment because of it. Although hopefully the

community are starting to see the end of the pandemic, it was noted that they still have individuals that will need to be cared for in a different way and asked if the report could consider how to help and support those people.

The Service Manager confirmed that the impact of COVID is of huge importance to the Regional Partnership Board. There was a mental health survey completed across Wales during the first and second wave (June 2020 and March 2021). The respondents in Gwent were the highest across Wales with 33% of the people responding from the Gwent region. From that, they gathered there is a lot of psychological distress. Most of Gwent saw an increase in that which has to be addressed. During the last year, when they missed the annual report they had to produce a preliminary penalty on the impact of COVID as well. There was a huge amount of research as the reference. It was recognised that the impact of COVID-19 cannot be ignored as it will heavily impact on not just mental health. It will be well documented access to services and the backlog is going to be an increasing priority for the health and social care sector. The partner agreed to circulating the information provided that was referred to, so Members can have sight of the same.

- The Member went on to ask the partners what kind of organisations or communities do the teams speak with to help look at the reports and if they incorporate any of the other bodies and with that, what kind of things may have been adopted because of that.

The Service Manager confirmed that the voices of the citizens are paramount. Without the whole process, they have set up a number of reference groups and citizen panels since the start of the original partnership. They were the first RPB to set up a citizen panel and the chair of the panel actually attend the AARP to issue the voices of citizens as a standard item in each meeting. They link in the Youth Council and have a regional carers' board. The carers sit on the board and feedback their voices. One group the partners have been thinking about is the parents of children with autism. They are feeding in this group so it will be wide and varied to hear their voices. This has been highlighted by the Policy, Partnership and Involvement Manager that this and the Well-being Assessment will demonstrate clearly with the voices of the people included to influence the design.

On the theme of dementia, one of the services developed from the last time was a peer to peer support for people with dementia, retired people and what their carers were telling the partners, to access that information and support. They met with people with a recent diagnosis of dementia with a carer and they were able to speak to that person taking on the care responsibilities. It is a difficult diagnosis and they have to go speak to people from all walks of life to show the voice of the person most affected to influence the design of the services.

As mentioned before, they have some power with the citizen panel chair as they attend every AARP holding them to account to ensure the voices will be featured in every meeting.

- Discussion ensued on the importance of people and families having information on how to fully understand dementia as it affects lots of families. A Member asked if there has been any further help from medical professionals on the diseases.

The Service Manager explained how there is a large amount of research around dementia and in terms of pharmaceuticals being developed; they know it will slow down the symptoms of dementia. But the understanding study was done and over in the Caerphilly Borough where 200 – 300 ex-miners were involved and they worked

with them for over a ten year period. Their findings showed that there are public health messages on how they can protect themselves from potentially living with dementia and similar messages of health life styles.

One of the interesting messages was about social contact which is useful for those with dementia as the approach could help those diagnosed with dementia, as they could continue walking their dog, going to the library etc. That is part of a dementia friendly city approach and they have worked with many businesses so that people with dementia can feel supported to carry on doing that's which are important to them. The Gwent Police have developed the Herbert Protocol to identify those with dementia who go missing and could go somewhere where they have worked in the past. They have delivered dementia awareness to schools also to support grandchildren as the most important factor is understanding. The partner highlighted that they developed Dementia Friends Awareness for elected Members and members of staff as well. It was agreed that the officer could point the members in the right direction if they would like to find out more information and complete a 45 minute awareness course which was recommended to all of the Committee.

Members confirmed they would be interested and asked for the information and the course to be passed on to the Committee for information.

- A Committee Member commended the partners on the work they have done so far and asked if they have any real concerns.

The Strategic Director confirmed that the single issue that she has is the unknown impact of Covid and how it will impact the population. Life experience could impact all of the society and they can see the immediate impact in social care and adult mental health services. They are conscious that the impact goes across the Members and officers so hopes that the partnerships going forward will be able to give support and meaningful change going forward in the face of the impact from the pandemic.

- A Member asked the partners on where they see the challenges and where elected Members could support on that. It was noted that the report is looking at crossovers identified with the access to needs and children and young people and not in education but employment training. The Member then went on to query if there are any other places that the partners think there will be a natural crossover or if there will be any potential new ones incorporated from their findings.

The Service Manager stressed they would like to see a societal change on how health and social care workers are viewed. They have worked above and beyond during the pandemic, and that goes for all members from medical settings. And unfortunately the domiciliary staff are some of the lowest paid workers within society. There was an AP meeting prior to this committee from a college where they were looking at 700 health and well-being students looking at how to use their experience as currency. This is being led by a GP within the health board who is concerned at the lack of number of applicants from Wales and South Wales valleys, this is not good to link for the well-being for future generations act. The focus

The Committee thanked the partners and officers for their time and for the presentations, they appreciated the work that has been done so far and asked for them to take their teams on behalf of the Committee.

## **Conclusions**

Members noted the content of the Regional Population Needs Assessment and wished to make the following comments and recommendations:

- The Committee again wish to praise the officers and their teams for the level of detail and information in the report. The Committee were pleased with the information provided, and were also happy to see the clear overlap in their work. Members are interested in seeing how the assessment progresses.
- Members would like to have more inclusion of those who have Covid and are still suffering from Long-Covid, as their quality of life has been diminished and are not economically active.
- Members requested to have the details of the 40 minute Dementia information to be passed onto them.

#### **4 Scrutiny Adviser Reports**

Invitees:

- Neil Barnett (Scrutiny Adviser)

The Scrutiny Adviser provided the committee with details of the next meeting to be held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 at 5pm. The agenda items are:

- One Newport Wellbeing Plan 2021-22 Q2 Performance
- Education Achievement Services (EAS) Business Plan 2022-25

#### **5 Minutes of the previous meetings held on 17 November 2021 and 1 December 2021**

The minutes of the previous meetings held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

The Chair raised about what the Members have done from the Committee to hand out posters on the topics discussed from the previous meeting. The Adviser agreed that will be looked into and will re-publish the edited minutes to update them.

The meeting terminated at 6.48 pm