

Scrutiny Report

Performance Scrutiny Committee - Partnerships

Part 1

Date: 24th February 2021

Subject Public Services Board Well-being Plan 2020-21 Q2 Performance

Author Overview & Scrutiny Officer

The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

| Invitee: | Area / Role / Subject |
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Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

1 Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked:

- To consider the Wellbeing Plan Quarter 2 Performance Dashboards attached to this report and determine if it wishes to make any comments to the Public Services Board.
 - **Appendix 1:** The Newport Offer;
 - **Appendix 2:** Strong Resilient Communities;
 - **Appendix 3:** Right Skills;
 - **Appendix 4:** Green and Safe Spaces;
 - **Appendix 5:** Sustainable Travel.
- To note the minutes of the Public Services Board held on 8th December 2020.

2 Context

Background

Well-being Assessment

- 2.1 The statutory guidance on the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WFG Act) 'Shared Purpose – Shared Future' sets out a requirement for each Public Services Board (PSB) to prepare and publish an assessment of the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in its area no later than a year before it publishes its local well-being plan. One Newport PSB published its Local Well-being Assessment (called the Community Wellbeing Profile) on 3 May 2017 and Members may recall that the Committee received it for information on 26 July 2017, as required by the statutory guidance.

Well-being Plan

- 2.2 The Guidance also requires that the Local Well-being Plan must be published no later than 12 months following each local government ordinary election. The Committee received the Consultation draft of the Local Wellbeing Plan on 10 January 2018 and submitted its consultation response. Following the consultation, proposed amendments were presented to the PSB and agreed on 13 March 2018. The PSB agreed the final version of the Well-being Plan 2018-23 at the meeting on 1 May 2018 and in accordance with the statutory requirement that the PSB sent a copy of the final report to the Council's designated Scrutiny Committee for Partnerships. The Committee received the final Plan at its meeting on 20 June 2018 (*A link to the Well-being Plan 2018-23 is provided in Section 7 of this report in the Background Papers*).

The Public Services Board developed the Local Well-being Plan in accordance with the Act's five ways of working of the Sustainable Development Principle.

In the Well-being Plan, the Public Services Board pledged to work differently by:

Working together with local communities towards the common goals and objectives set out in this plan. To work to improve the economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being of the city and to be:

- *Ambitious;*
- *Serious about working in partnership;*
- *Firmly focused on people;*
- *Focused on outcomes;*
- *Not solely driven by data.*

This will be achieved by:

- **Looking to the long term:** *Being aware of and addressing, the well-being of future generations whilst addressing the needs of the people we currently serve.*
- **Prevention:** *Exploring how to break cycles and dig deeper to better understand the causes and effects of key issues that people and communities face. Finding enabling solutions and intervening at the right time to prevent problems getting worse or arising in the future.*
- **Taking an integrated approach:** *Fully considering the connections between the well-being goals, the PSB well-being objectives and the well-being objectives of individual organisations. Taking steps which maximise the collective impact to the well-being goals rather than just meeting the objectives.*

- **Collaborating with others:** *Strengthening joint working across the city's public service. No single organisation is able to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Newport on its own. Taking a collaborative approach ensures that actions are complementary and therefore maximise the collective impact.*
- **Involving People:** *Developing solutions in partnership with local people and communities and ensuring they are involved in the decisions that affect them.*

The PSB's Well-being Objectives published in the Well-being Plan are:

1. People feel good about living, working, visiting and investing in Newport
2. People have skills and opportunities to find suitable work and contribute to sustainable economic growth
3. People and communities are friendly, confident and empowered to improve their well-being
4. Newport has healthy, safe and resilient environments

(These Well-being Objectives apply to the reporting period April to September 2020. However, at its meeting on 8th December, the PSB agreed some revisions to the Well-being Objectives going forward. The proposed changes were made in the light of Covid-19 impacts and advice from the Future Generations Commissioner on setting Well-being Objectives. The proposed changes are shown in the minutes of the PSB meeting held on 8th December attached at Appendix 6 to this report).

Mid-Year / Quarter 2 Performance

- 2.3 The Public Services Board noted the Quarter 2 Update reports from Intervention Leads on progress in delivering the Local Well-being Plan at its meeting on 08 December 2020. *A link to the Agenda of the PSB meeting held on 08 December 2020 is provided in Section 7 of this report in the Background Papers. The minutes are attached as **Appendix 6** to this report for noting.*

The Chair of the Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships attended the PSB meeting on 8th December as an observer. This follows amendment of the PSB's terms of reference in June 2020 to allow attendance of the Scrutiny Chair as an observer at all meetings of the PSB. The change to the terms of reference formed part of the PSB's Board Development Plan agreed in December 2019 and is to facilitate feedback from Scrutiny on how effectively PSB members challenge each other and engage in strategic debate. *A link to the PSB's Board Development Action Plan is provided in Section 7 of this report in the Background Papers.*

- 2.4 The PSB reports progress on delivery of the Well-being Plan to this Scrutiny Committee at the Mid-Year point and Year End.

The Committee is reminded that attendees have been invited as Public Services Board Members and scrutiny questions should focus on the Q2 performance dashboards and not on individual organisations.

Performance Reporting

- 2.5 The PSB has a Delivery and Performance Framework in place to monitor performance and ensures the sustainable development principle (long term; prevention; integration; collaboration;

Involvement) of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act is being considered in the reporting process.

There are five crosscutting interventions in the Plan, which are reported on a quarterly basis. However, due to Covid-19 the Q2 update report covers the full period Apr – Sept 2020:

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

3.1 The following are attached to this report for the Committee's consideration:

a) The Public Services Board Well-being Plan Progress Summaries for Quarter 2:

- **Appendix 1:** The Newport Offer;
- **Appendix 2:** Strong Resilient Communities;
- **Appendix 3:** Right Skills;
- **Appendix 4:** Green and Safe Spaces
- **Appendix 5:** Sustainable Travel;

b) The Minutes of the Public Service Board Meeting held on 08 December 2020

- **Appendix 6.**

4. Suggested Areas of Focus

4.1 Role of the Committee

The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:

- Take a look back at how the Partnership has performed in its delivery of the Well-being Plan to the end of Quarter 2
- Assess and make comment on:
 - How well the PSB is delivering as a collaborative partnership on its objectives;
 - How effectively the Partners on the PSB worked together to deliver the Well-being Plan;
 - Mitigating actions put in place to address risks and not achieving objectives;
 - How the public were engaged with on the Well-being Plan, and how feedback has been used?
- In drawing its conclusions, the Committee should assess:
 - What was the overall conclusion on the information contained within the reports?
 - Is the Committee satisfied that it has had all of the relevant information to base a conclusion on the delivery of the Well-being Plan at the mid-year point?
 - Does the Committee wish to make any Comments to the Public Services Board?

4.2 Suggested Lines of Enquiry

Scrutiny's role in receiving the Q2 dashboards is to hold the PSB to account for how it is taking steps to meet its objectives within the Well-being plan, and ensure that it is demonstrating the sustainable development principle in everything it does.

When considering the Q2 Performance dashboards and determining what questions it may wish to ask of the PSB, the Committee should consider the following:

1. How much progress has been made towards delivery of the Well-being Plan? How far have the PSB's expectations been met?
2. How effectively has the partnership worked together to deliver the interventions?
3. Have there been any barriers that have affected delivery of the plan that need further exploration and explanation?
4. Can the PSB demonstrate how it is delivering the interventions in accordance with the five ways of working?
5. How has the PSB evaluated its own progress?
6. What have been the resource implications of delivering on the Well-being Plan? How has working as a partnership maximised the resources available?
7. How effective are PSB members in challenging each other and engaging in strategic debate? (feedback from the Scrutiny Chair as a PSB observer)

4.3 Sustainable Development Principle

The Committee's consideration of the Well-Being Plan delivery up to Quarter 2 should consider how the Public Services Board is maximising its contribution to the five ways of working. The following are examples of the types of questions to consider:

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| <u>Long-term</u> | How is the PSB thinking long term and seeking to balance short-term needs while safeguarding the ability to also meet long-term needs? What long-term trends will impact upon the delivery of the Well-being Plan? |
| <u>Prevention</u> | How is the PSB addressing issues facing Newport communities in order to prevent a future problem? How is the PSB preventing problems getting worse? |
| <u>Integration</u> | How are the interventions delivering against all of the PSB's Well-being objectives and how is the PSB considering how its work impacts on each of the well-being goals? |
| <u>Collaboration</u> | Who has the PSB been working with to deliver the interventions in the Well-being Plan? How is the PSB using the knowledge / good practice of others to inform / influence delivery of the Well-being Plan? |

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| <u>Involvement</u> | <p>How is the PSB involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals?</p> <p>How has the PSB sought the views of those who are impacted by the delivery of the Wellbeing Plan?</p> <p>How has the PSB taken into account the diverse communities in Newport in its decision making?</p> |
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Section B – Supporting Information

5 Supporting Information

- 5.1 The Guidance for Local Authority Scrutiny Committees on the scrutiny of Public Services Boards issued by Welsh Government in August 2017 states that:

“Research into the practice of collaborative or joint scrutiny in England and Wales identifies that arrangements are effective when they demonstrate the following characteristics:

Characteristics of effective partnership scrutiny:

- Scrutiny regards itself as a form of ‘critical friendship with positive intent’ in which scrutiny practitioners act as advocates for the success of joint working.
- Collaborative performance is evaluated from the citizen’s perspective.
- Strong efforts are made to understand the complexity of partnership arrangements and to facilitate learning about the culture and assumptions of different organizations.
- Scrutiny creates positive expectations by focussing on issues regarded as useful to the partnership or where there is consensus that ‘things need to change’.
- Scrutiny demonstrates intellectual independence and investigative rigour in all of its activities.
- Scrutiny demonstrates a positive impact by developing clear, timely, evidence-based recommendations aimed at enhancing collaborative performance.
- Scrutiny critically evaluates its own performance utilising partnership perspectives.

- 5.2 *A link to the full Welsh Government Guidance is included in Section 7 of this report in the Background Papers for Members’ information.*

6. Well-being Goals

The PSB has four Well-being Objectives listed in paragraph 2.2 above. The objectives were developed to maximise the PSB's contribution to the seven Well-being Goals for Wales.

7. Background Papers

- [Agenda for the PSB meeting held on 8th December 2020.](#)
- [Newport's Well-being Plan 2018-23](#)
- [Cynllun Llesiant Casnewydd 2018-23](#)
- [PSB Board Development Action Plan](#)
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 guidance
 - [The Essentials](#)
 - Shared Purpose: Shared Future – Statutory guidance on the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
 - [SPSF 1: Core guidance](#)
 - [SPSF 2: Individual role \(public bodies\)](#)
 - [SPSF 3: Collective role \(public services boards\)](#)
 - [Guidance for Local Authority Scrutiny Committees on the scrutiny of Public Services Boards](#)

Report Completed: February 2021

