

Scrutiny Report

Performance Scrutiny Committee - Partnerships

Part 1

Subject **Gwent Public Services Board – Draft Well-being Plan 2023-2028**

Author Scrutiny Adviser

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

Invitee:	Area / Role / Subject
Rhys Cornwall	Strategic Director – Transformation and Corporate
Tracy McKim	Head of People, Policy and Transformation
Janice Dent	Policy and Partnership Manager

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

1 Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked

1. To consider and comment on the consultation Draft Gwent Public Service's Board Wellbeing Plan as part of the statutory consultation.

2 Context

Background

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 came into force in April 2016 and is about improving the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales. It is designed to support and deliver a public service that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. As one of the 44 bodies named in the Act, the council must consider the Act in everything it does.

The Act mandated the creation of Public Service Boards (PSBs) for each Local Authority area in Wales. Each public services board must improve the economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being of its area by contributing to the achievement of the 7 National Well-being goals:

- 1) A prosperous Wales
- 2) A resilient Wales
- 3) A healthier Wales
- 4) A more equal Wales
- 5) A Wales of cohesive communities
- 6) A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language
- 7) A globally responsible Wales



The PSB achieves this through assessing the state of economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being in its area and setting objectives that are designed to maximise its contribution to achieving these goals. These objectives must be presented as part of a Well-being Plan which must be published within one year of Local Authority Elections being held. This means that a new Plan must be published by May 2023.

2.1 Gwent Public Services Board

In October 2021 One Newport PSB merged with the PSBs for Caerphilly, Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent, and Monmouthshire to create a regional Gwent PSB. Discussions had been ongoing for several years about the advantages of taking a regional approach to the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act within Gwent. The One Newport Partnership is continuing its valuable work in delivering the current Wellbeing plan 2019-23 and will be responsible for delivering the Gwent Well-being Objectives locally from June 2023 through a Local Action Plan as detailed below. In its work to support the Gwent Well-being Plan, One Newport is a sub-group of the Gwent PSB.

Well-being Assessment

- 2.2 The Gwent PSB carried out a Regional Assessment of the Social, Economic, Environment and Cultural Well-being of Gwent in late 2021/early 2022. This was supported by the creation of Local Well-being Assessments for each of the five areas. The Regional and Local Well-being Assessments were published in May 2022 and are linked to in the background papers section below.

Well-being Plan

- 2.3 The Regional Well-being assessments led to the creation of potential focus areas for the Well-being objectives. These were initially assessed by members of the officer Gwent Strategic Well-being Assessment Group (GSWAG) which sits underneath the PSB and contains representatives of all organisations that constitute the PSB. Following this assessment, the PSB identified 3 areas of focus for the Well-being Plan:

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

- 2.4 A detailed analysis of these 3 areas was carried out by suitable Partner organisations and this informed the development of draft Objectives and 'Steps' which provide the framework for how these objectives will be achieved. These are as follows and are the subject of a statutory consultation which runs until December 31st, 2022:

We want to create a fair and equitable Gwent for all

- By reducing the gap in the number of years lived in good health between the most and least deprived communities in Gwent
- By ensuring that our communities feel empowered, healthy, and safe.
- By creating equitable opportunities in education and by reducing the gaps in achievement.
- By reducing the impacts of child poverty.
- By improving low and no carbon transport links that enable access to employment, education, culture, and leisure.
- By supporting the creation of meaningful employment and training opportunities that enable everyone to receive fair pay for the work they do.
- By working with housing providers and other stakeholders to ensure good quality, energy efficient and appropriate housing for all.

We want to create a Gwent that has friendly, safe, and confident communities

- By creating a safer Gwent by reducing anti-social behaviour, preventing crime as much as possible, improving road safety and enhancing our green spaces.
- By ensuring that Gwent is a welcoming, diverse, and thriving place to live and visit by being inclusive and creating cultural opportunities for all.
- By creating volunteering opportunities across the region which will empower residents to have control over their own communities.
- By creating access to good quality, healthy and affordable food with secure supply chains and opportunities for local growth.
- By reducing digital exclusion and embracing digital innovation.
- By enabling access to valuable work for everyone by enhancing skills and education opportunities and taking advantage of emerging sectors.

We want to create a Gwent where the natural environment is protected and enhanced to maximise the well-being benefits that nature provides to current and future generations.

- By reducing the environmental impact of production and consumption.
- By declaring a nature emergency in Gwent.
- By responding to the climate emergency and protecting and preparing communities for the risk associated with climate change.
- By exploring and promoting community energy projects.
- By transforming food, transport, and energy in Gwent.
- By recognising biodiversity as an asset, addressing the root causes of biodiversity loss, and better managing the pressures on natural environments

2.5 Committee members are asked to note that the Gwent PSB is working with the Institute of Health Equity, based at University College London, on the region becoming a Marmot Region. Becoming a Marmot region involved embedding activity aimed at reducing inequality and inequity between populations under eight principles. These have been linked to the Well-Being objectives in the Gwent PSB Plan.

2.6 The full consultation draft of the Gwent Well-being Plan is attached at Appendix 1 and includes an explanation of why each of the Well-being Objectives has been

chosen. As part of the consultation, Gwent PSB has published a survey questionnaire which can be found [here](#) and is also attached at Appendix 2.

- 2.7 Scrutiny Committees are statutory consultees for PSB Well-being Plans; since a Gwent Regional Scrutiny Committee is yet to be established to scrutinise the work of the Gwent PSB, local scrutiny committees for partnership work, established by local authorities, are being consulted.
- 2.8 Following the statutory 12-week consultation period the Plan will be amended and a final version will be presented to Council for adoption and approval in February 2023. All other partner organisations will also need to sign off the Plan and final sign-off from the Gwent PSB is planned for mid-April 2023. The report will then be finalised and translated before publication in May 2023; with the new objectives coming into effect from June 2023.

Local Action Plans

- 2.9 To ensure that the move to a regional PSB did not detrimentally impact on the local nature of well-being delivery that has been built up since the inception of the Act, the decision was made by the Gwent PSB to have the regional Plan underpinned by Local Action Plans for each of the 5 Gwent Regions. These Local Action Plans will serve two purposes – to identify specific actions which will contribute at a local level to the achievement of the Regional Well-being Objectives and Steps; and to identify priorities and actions which are applicable to Newport which may be relevant at a regional level. Workshops involving organisations in the wider One Newport Partnerships, including Newport City Council, are planned to develop a Draft Local Action Plan

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

- 3.1 Appendix 1: Draft Consultation Well-being Plan for Gwent
Appendix 2: Consultation Questionnaire for the Well-being Plan for Gwent

4. Suggested Areas of Focus

Role of the Committee

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

1. To consider and comment on the consultation draft of the Draft Gwent Public Service's Board Wellbeing Plan.
 2. To consider and comment on the Well-being objectives and associated steps.
- Conclusions:
 - What was the overall conclusion on the information contained within the draft Well-being Plan?
 - Is the Committee satisfied that it has had the relevant information to base a conclusion?
 - Do the Committee wish to make any Comments / Recommendations?

Suggested Lines of Enquiry

4.1 In evaluating the report, the Committee may wish to consider:

- Would achieving the objectives in the consultation improve well-being in Gwent?
- Has anything important in the Objectives and Steps been missed?
- How can any of the Objectives and/or Steps be made better?
- Do members have a view on how important each of the objectives are based on the published questionnaire at Appendix 2?
- How will the PBS know if it is doing a good job? How could overall performance be managed, reported, and escalated?

5. Background Papers

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Consultation Draft Well-being Plan for Gwent 2023-28](#)
- [Consultation Questionnaire](#)
- [Regional and Local Wellbeing Assessments](#)
- [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#)

Report Completed: 30th November 2022