

Public Document Pack

Conwy and Denbighshire Public Services Board

by video conference

Monday, 17 May 2021

10.00 am

STATUTORY MEMBERS	
Conwy County Borough Council Councillor Goronwy Edwards (Deputy Leader of the Council) Iwan Davies (Chief Executive)	Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board Bethan Jones (Area Director) Jo Whitehead (Chief Executive)
Denbighshire County Council Councillor Hugh Evans (Leader of the Council) TBC (Chief Executive)	Natural Resources Wales Siân Williams (Head of Local Delivery North) Mark Hughes (Team Leader North East Wales)
	North Wales Fire and Rescue Service Helen Macarthur (Assistant Chief Officer)

INVITED PARTICIPANTS	
Community and Voluntary Support Conwy Wendy Jones (Chief Officer)	North Wales Police Simon Williams (Superintendent)
Wales Community Rehabilitation Company Judith Magaw (Head of North Wales Local Delivery Unit)	National Probation Service Sam Owen (Conwy Team Manager)
Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council Lisa Williams (Chief Executive)	Welsh Government Representative Vicky Poole (Deputy Chief Inspector of Care Inspectorate Wales)
Public Health Wales Teresa Owen (Executive Director of Public Health)	Office of the North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner Stephen Hughes (Chief Executive)
Town & Community Councils Councillor Carol Marubbi (Representing Conwy) Councillor Gordon Hughes (Representing Denbighshire)	Adra (Representing housing sector) Sarah Schofield (Director of Customers and Communities)

Hannah Edwards, PSB Development Officer

Conwy County Borough Council, Bodlondeb, Conwy, LL32 8DU

01492 574059 hannah.edwards@conwy.gov.uk

AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (Pages 5 - 14)

To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 16 November 2020 (copy enclosed).

3 MEETING ACTION TRACKER (Pages 15 - 16)

The Chair will lead on this item (copy enclosed).

4 MATTERS ARISING

The Chair will lead on this verbal item.

5 CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR NOMINATIONS

The Chair will lead the discussion on this verbal item to review the Chair and Vice Chair in line with Section 7 of the Terms of Reference.

10.10 am – 10.20 am

6 APPROVAL OF THE PSB'S 2020/21 ANNUAL REPORT (Pages 17 - 26)

Nicola Kneale (DCC) and Fran Lewis (CCBC) to present the annual report 2020/21 for approval (copy enclosed).

10.20 am – 10.30 am

7 MENTAL HEALTH WELL-BEING PRIORITY - REVIEW OF LEAD ORGANISATION

Hannah Edwards, PSB Development Officer to provide a verbal update.

10.30 am – 10.45 am

8 WELL-BEING ASSESSMENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (Pages 27 - 52)

To provide members with an update on the approach and progress to refreshing the assessment (copy enclosed).

10.45 am – 11.15 am

9 WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS PROCUREMENT REPORT (Pages 53 - 58)

Nicola Kneale (DCC) to present the report on the recommendation for PSBs and the offer from CLES about community wealth building and progressive procurement (copy enclosed).

Link to Appendix 1:

[ENG-Section-20-Procurement-Review.pdf \(futuregenerations.wales\)](#)

11.15 am – 11.35 am

10 WELSH PARLIAMENT'S BARRIERS TO THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015 REPORT (Pages 59 - 62)

Fran Lewis (CCBC) to present the report to provide members with an overview of the findings and recommendations for PSBs.

Link to report: [Delivering for future generations: the story so far \(senedd.wales\)](#)

11.35 am – 11.55 am

11 FORWARD WORK PLAN (Pages 63 - 68)

The Chair will lead on this item (copy enclosed).

11.55 am – 12 noon

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CONWY AND DENBIGHSHIRE PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD

Minutes of a meeting of the Conwy and Denbighshire Public Services Board held by video conference on Monday, 16 November 2020 at 9.30 am.

PRESENT

Siân Williams (Chair) – Natural Resources Wales
Judith Greenhalgh (Vice Chair) – Denbighshire County Council
Councillor Goronwy Edwards (substitute for Councillor Sam Rowlands) – Conwy County Borough Council
Councillor Julian Thompson (substitute for Councillor Hugh Evans) – Denbighshire County Council
Gareth Evans (substitute for Bethan Jones) – Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
Wendy Jones – Community and Voluntary Support Conwy
Lisa Williams – Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council
Richard Firth – Public Health Wales
Jason Devonport – North Wales Police
Vicky Poole – Welsh Government Representative
Councillor Carol Marubbi – Conwy Town and Community Council Representative
Councillor Gordon Hughes – Denbighshire Town, Community and City Council Representative
Helen MacArthur – North Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Emma Lea – Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
Helen Millband – Natural Resources Wales
David Powell – Natural Resources Wales

ALSO PRESENT

Nicola Kneale – Denbighshire County Council
Fran Lewis – Conwy County Borough Council
Shannon Richardson – Denbighshire County Council
Steve Price – Democratic Services Manager Denbighshire County Council
Kath Jones – Committee Administrator Denbighshire County Council
Sandra Williams – Translator/Interpreter

OBSERVERS

Councillor Meirick Davies (Denbighshire County Council) and David Wilson (Audit Wales)
Jez Hemming – Local Democracy Reporter (Press)

1 APOLOGIES

Bethan Jones – Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
Councillor Hugh Evans – Denbighshire County Council
Councillor Sam Rowlands – Conwy County Borough Council

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Conwy and Denbighshire Public Services Board meeting held on 27 July 2020 were submitted.

Matters Arising – Page 9, Item 5 Offers of Support: PSB’s Civic Mission, Glyndwr University – the Chair reported on her discussions with Nina Ruddle, Glyndwr University regarding their offer to facilitate a workshop to review the PSB’s priorities and how best to take them forward. Flintshire and Wrexham PSBs had participated in a similar workshop which had been well received. The Board considered that there would be merit in taking up the offer and that a separate workshop session be arranged for that purpose. An informal meeting of the Board had been scheduled for 25 January 2021 and it was agreed to use that date for the workshop session if possible. The Chair agreed to contact Nina Ruddle, Glyndwr University to ascertain their availability to facilitate the workshop on 25 January 2021.

RESOLVED that –

- (a) *the minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2021 be received and approved as a correct record, and*
- (b) *the Chair contact Glyndwr University with a view to them facilitating a workshop session for the Board on 25 January 2021.*

3 UPDATE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE PRIORITY

A report was submitted (previously circulated) from Natural Resources Wales (NRW) providing an update on progress and a review of the five work areas in the Environmental Resilience priority by the Supporting Environmental Resilience Sub-Group as requested by the PSB in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, and also outlined two projects submitted to the NRW Strategic Allocating Funding grant process.

Helen Millband reported upon the findings of the review together with the Sub-Group’s recommendations. Whilst all five areas of work were still considered relevant it was recommended that the following projects be paused due to capacity or during a pandemic being the wrong time (1) working with communities to develop environmental pledges and green changes, (2) looking at the procurement process to maximise community benefits from building developments, and (3) working with planning teams to ensure environmental issues were looked at when planning new developments. It was also recommended that one new priority be developed about green and blue spaces for communities and discussion around home working and travel had identified two new sub actions under the reduction of carbon action. A summary of those work areas had been detailed in the report. Project ideas for spending NRW £25k had also been discussed by the Sub-Group and two projects had been taken forward after the meeting relating to (1) Coastal electric bike empowerment programme (12k), and (2) Glan Morfa Community Woodland (13k).

During debate the capacity issues were acknowledged but there was some reluctance for the identified priorities to be paused, particularly given the environmental benefits which had been inadvertently created by the pandemic and the continuing momentum and public enthusiasm in that regard. Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill reported that Denbighshire had recently changed its constitution to

ensure all decisions must have regard to the environmental impact and were also shortly to consider their community benefits policy and he was concerned that pausing those priorities may prove counterproductive. That view was shared by Councillor Gronowy Edwards given that much work had been carried out in engaging with residents and town/community councils within Conwy and there was an appetite from communities to be involved which he felt should be further developed. By way of further explanation Helen Millband reported that the feeling of the Sub-Group had been that capacity was limited and they had also questioned whether it was appropriate to drive forward those environmental pledges when communities were dealing with many other issues. However the views of the Board would be reported back to the Sub-Group. Helen MacArthur also acknowledged the hard work carried out in terms of community engagement but in the event those priorities were to be paused she highlighted the importance of understanding the impact of that action and the likely timescales to progress them in the future. Judith Greenhalgh referred to the wealth of community engagement arising from the current consultation on Denbighshire's Climate and Ecological Strategy and whilst statutory organisations may be struggling for capacity the communities were very receptive and she felt the PSB could capture public imagination on this issue.

The Board also discussed the proposed new priority around green and blue spaces. Helen Millband elaborated upon the opportunity to build on the renewed enthusiasm for the local environment during the first lockdown and their potential to help recovery and links to develop in relation to the "Supporting Good Mental Well-being for all ages" priority. She also reported further on the two projects which had been taken forward and links with the work as part of the area statements NRW were working on. There was much support for the new priority and benefits to communities but it was also noted that there may be a resource impact for maintaining outdoor areas and maximising their use for the benefit of all. The Chair reminded the Board of the links between the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act and the Environment Act and welcomed the partner organisations involvement in those online engagement sessions on the area statements work facilitated by NRW. Details of those sessions would be circulated following the meeting.

In bringing the debate to a close the Chair summed up the Board's views that, rather than pausing the priority areas immediately, some connection needed to be made with communities with a view to building on the positive engagement and progress that had already been made. It was agreed that some work be carried out as to how best to continue to engage with communities and harness that enthusiasm, whether it be through community pledges or the new priority green and blue spaces, and to work with those that had an appetite for environmental change and some capacity at present, with a view to delivering positive changes within their areas, rather than the onus being on statutory organisations to deliver it for them.

RESOLVED that –

- (a) *the progress report and review carried out by the Supporting Environmental Resilience Sub-Group be received and noted;*
- (b) *the current priorities be revisited and some community work be carried out with a view to progressing some of those work areas;*

- (c) *a new priority be developed recognising the importance of local green and blue space for communities;*
- (d) *two additional sub-work actions about PSB partners' staff working practices and establishing links with the transport and regional energy strategy are relevant, and*
- (e) *the suggested shared responsibility for reporting and monitoring actions be agreed across the PSB partners.*

4 UPDATE ON COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT PRIORITY - DIGITAL EXCLUSION

Nicola Kneale submitted the report (previously circulated) detailing the opportunities for improving digital infrastructure in Conwy and Denbighshire following the Board's agreement at their meeting in July that a focus was needed on digital exclusion and digital skills. [A report on digital skills was proposed for a future meeting.]

Members were advised of the current position in relation to digital connectivity and the support in place for improving digital infrastructure. Both counties had many rural areas with a lot of "white" premises (properties receiving less than 30Mbps). BT Openreach had a plan for rolling out full fibre connections across some parts of the counties by June 2022 but many properties would not be covered. Funding from the Rural Gigabite Voucher scheme was available for those not on the rollout scheme and another government scheme LFFN (Local Full Fibre Networks) would roll out full fibre connections to public buildings currently to March 2021 (although there may be some slippage). However even after those planned rollouts many rural areas would still have poor connectivity. Denbighshire had invested in a Digital Officer (February 2020 – March 2021) and Conwy planned to appoint a Digital Officer (January – December 2021) with slightly different approaches to address the issue. An analysis of the digital infrastructure had led to a number of recommendations to effect improvement which included a prioritisation process for communities; longer term funding for the Digital Officer posts, and a joint working approach given the number of "white" premises bordering the counties.

The Board stressed the importance of good connectivity which had become even more apparent during the pandemic with more people working from home and businesses moving some or all of their operations online, and which also provided a lifeline for many rural communities. Councillor Gronow Edwards suggested a dialogue be established with BT Openreach given the fragmented approach undertaken in order to provide an opportunity for them to work together on a cohesive approach to better address the needs of communities. The recommendation to work with Welsh Government to agree a definition of 'rural communities' with BT was also supported in order to prioritise those communities most lacking connectivity. Judith Greenhalgh confirmed that digital connectivity had been recognised by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (NWEAB) as a high priority. To ensure no duplication of work she suggested an update be sought from the NWEAB in that regard to enable the PSB to ascertain how they could best supplement those work plans. It was agreed to invite Alwen Williams from the NWEAB to a future meeting to discuss the matter in more detail. It was also agreed

to ascertain whether the issue had been raised as a priority in other PSBs with the potential for a collective approach in order to exert greater influence in any future dialogue with Welsh Government or BT Openreach.

RESOLVED that –

- (a) *members note the current position in relation to digital connectivity (as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report) together with the analysis of Strengths, Limitations, Weaknesses and Threats for each topic;*
- (b) *Alwen Williams from the NWEAB be invited to a future meeting to discuss work streams being undertaken to address digital connectivity in the area, and*
- (c) *other PSBs be contacted to ascertain whether they had identified digital connectivity as a priority area with the potential of providing a collective response in any future dialogue with BT Openreach and Welsh Government.*

At this point (10.40 a.m.) the meeting adjourned for a short refreshment break.

5 UPDATE ON THE MENTAL WELLBEING PRIORITY

A report was submitted (previously circulated) from Public Health Wales (PHW) providing a background to mental well-being together with identified actions and potential projects to address mental well-being and support the PSB priority of improving mental well-being for all. PSB had requested a review of priorities in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and a focus on the well-being of young people.

Richard Firth provided some background to the priority area leading to the latest review and guided members through the work carried out around mental well-being in Conwy and Denbighshire and the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. The review had found that the four identified potential projects for the PSB Mental Well-being priority remained extant and also recommended an option specifically related to children and young people also be incorporated into the proposed projects given the considerable impact of the pandemic on that group which could focus on educational settings. Although the five potential areas could be considered as separate entities there were significant areas of overlap and a recap was provided for each of the identified potential project areas listed below –

- Farming Community/Rural mental well-being
- Libraries for mental well-being
- Refresh of the Five Ways to mental well-being
- Local Implementation Teams / ICAN
- Mental Well-Being in Education Settings

Members acknowledged the validity of all the potential projects and discussed which projects they wished to take forward and where the PSB could most add value to the significant work that was already taking place. During debate support was expressed to progress the new project area identified relating to children and young people given the evidence highlighted in the report together with farming

community/rural mental well-being which had also been severely affected by the pandemic together with future challenges such as Brexit. As part of those discussions it was also noted that aspects of the three other projects could be integrated in those two priority areas given the cross cutting nature of that work. The links between the work of the Environmental Resilience Sub Group and benefits of green space with the supporting good mental well-being priority were highlighted and members noted that a meeting was being arranged between NRW and PHW to further discuss the issue. The potential for PSB to provide support and connections for the third/voluntary sector was raised but Wendy Jones felt that those community groups worked best without outside intervention or direction. However the importance of partner organisations making themselves available to provide assistance to community groups when contact was made was highlighted in order to build those positive connections and relationships. Given the lack of capacity at PHW it had been recommended that members nominate appropriate personnel within their organisations to participate in delivering the agreed projects.

RESOLVED that –

- (a) *the projects for the PSB Mental Well-being priority be confirmed as follows –*
- *Farming Community/Rural mental well-being*
 - *Mental Well-being in Educational Settings, and*
- (b) *each PSB partner organisation nominate a person to sit on the Mental Well-being Priority Project Sub-Group by the end of November 2020.*

6 WELSH GOVERNMENT PSB GRANT AND WELLBEING ASSESSMENT

Nicola Kneale provided a verbal update on the Welsh Government Grant to PSB and Wellbeing Assessment.

The annual PSB grant (worth around £85k for the North Wales region) had not been made available to PSBs in the last financial year due to Covid-19. Given the substantial statistical and engagement exercise on the Wellbeing Assessments due to be carried out it was hoped that funding would be made available to PSBs in the next financial year to help progress that work. Members were also advised of a Working Group set up by the Welsh Government to discuss the grant and criteria and also how else they could support PSB's in delivering the Wellbeing Assessments given the significant capacity pressures on partner organisations. Discussions included whether the grant could be used to help commission some analytical or editorial capacity to deliver the assessments and whether some economies of scale could be gained from using national research and testing those conclusions at a local level.

The Board agreed that in the event a grant was received from Welsh Government the focus for spend should be on the Wellbeing Assessments given their importance for developing strategic plans in the future. The Board also noted the Working Group discussions and supported the approach taken in that regard and the case made for funding. It was noted that officers would shortly be starting to put

a plan in place for producing the Wellbeing Assessments and the Board agreed to receive a report back to their next meeting on progress in that regard.

The Chair reported upon the Welsh Government's review of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and a stakeholder session she had recently attended on behalf of the PSB. It was noted that public organisations falling under the regulations would be asked for their input with further sessions over the coming months. A number of issues raised by organisations included lack of funding and the expectation that delivery was part of the day job together with the level of support received and balance between challenge and scrutiny. Other issues were raised around procurement and funding of joint projects. Organisations had been invited to future sessions with the Senedd Committee to provide feedback from an organisation perspective and the Chair would be attending a session in January with a report back expected in February/March 2020

RESOLVED that –

- (a) *the verbal report on the PSB Grant and Wellbeing Assessment be received and the approach of the Working Group in making the case for funding and to delivery of the Wellbeing Assessment be supported, and*
- (b) *a progress report on the latest position including plans for producing the Wellbeing Assessment be submitted to the next meeting of the PSB.*

7 PSB RISK REGISTER ANNUAL REVIEW

Nicola Kneale introduced the report (previously circulated) presenting the Risk Register for annual review.

Amendments since the last review had been highlighted as follows –

PSB 1 – The risk that the PSB had insufficient funding, resources and capacity to deliver the priorities identified in the Well-being Plan. The inherent and residual risk scores had been downgraded from A2 to B3 and D3 to C3 respectively.

PSB 3 – The risk that the PSB failed to maximise the potential impact it could achieve through a collaborative approach. The residual risk score had been downgraded from B2 to C2.

PSB 5 (new risk) – The risk that there were further Covid-19 waves which required PSB members to focus their attention on response.

Members considered the risks, scores and mitigating actions included in the full Risk Register together with the amendments highlighted since the last review.

RESOLVED that the PSB's Risk Register be approved.

8 FORWARD WORK PLAN

A copy of the PSB forward work programme was presented and the following matters were discussed –

- the items agreed earlier on the agenda for inclusion in the forward work programme were reaffirmed including (1) an invitation to Alwen Williams, NWEAB to attend a future meeting, (2) an update on the Wellbeing Assessment and plan from officers, and (3) the usual update on each of the PSB priorities
- the Chair confirmed she would contact Glyndwr University with a view to them facilitating a workshop session (to be opened up to all Sub-Groups) in January
- agreed to include the offshore wind farm development as a potential future item and to assess its relevance to the PSB at the appropriate time, particularly in terms of any community benefits that could be derived from that project
- agreed to include an item to provide an update in terms of the action plan relating to the PSB Audit Wales Report at the next meeting.

***RESOLVED** that, subject to the above, the work programme be approved.*

9 MEETING ACTION TRACKER

A copy of the meeting action tracker was presented for consideration.

Members noted that most actions had been discussed earlier in the meeting and were currently ongoing or had since been completed. With regard to future Conwy and Denbighshire Joint Scrutiny meetings it was noted that the next meeting would be held on 8 January 2021 – the forward work programme for that meeting included an update from North Wales Fire and Rescue Service and the Annual Report.

***RESOLVED** that progress made on the actions arising from meetings be noted.*

10 MATTERS ARISING

Members noted the main matters arising from the meeting –

- action for partner organisations to provide Richard Firth (PHW) with details of their nominations to sit on the Mental Well-being Priority Project Sub-Group
- Supporting Environmental Resilience Sub-Group to revisit the current priorities and undertake some community work in that regard.

11 OLD COLWYN SEA DEFENCES UPDATE

For information only.

12 TEST, TRACE, PROTECT IN NORTH WALES

For information only.

13 CONWY FLEXIBLE FUNDING REPORT

For information only.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution.

Meeting concluded at 11.42 a.m.

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Conwy and Denbighshire Public Services Board

Action Tracker



Meeting	Action		Action Owner	Progress Update	Deadline	Status Open / Closed / Not started
March 2019	1.	Apply the rural proofing tool to the three priority areas.	PSB Officers	The tool has been applied to the environment and community resilience priority. However, need to consider where the tool can be applied in future.	Ongoing	Ongoing
	3.	When undertaking the impact assessment review, consider if there are any equality areas the Board needs to be made aware of.	PSB Officers	PSB officers have drafted revised impact assessment ready for discussion at March 2020 PSB. March meeting cancelled discussion will pick up when business as usual returns.	On going	Open
Page 15 Nov 2020	1.	January 2021 meeting to be a workshop with Glyndwr University. The Chair is going to speak to Nina from Glyndwr to arrange this.	Chair	Completed – workshop took place in January 2021. A follow workshop with Glyndwr University to take place in June 2021.	January 2021	Closed
	2.	Helen to discuss with Environmental Resilience Sub-group to look at how we can work with communities to deliver priorities.	Helen Millband	Sub-group meeting arranged for June 2021. A regional decarbonisation officer group has been established, currently seeking clarification on membership & remit and linkages with PSBs.	On going	Open
	3.	Check what the Growth Deal is working on in regards to Digital Infrastructure so we don't duplicate work. Alwen Williams to be invited to the next meeting.	Nicola Kneale	Following discussion with the Chair, will seek advice from the PSB at the next meeting as to whether members want an overview of local connectivity projects (as well as NWEAB) to identify gaps.	March 2021	Open
	4.	Mental Health and Well-being sub group to be set up to lead on 2 agreed priorities. Each organisation is to send a nominated person to sit on the sub-group to Richard Firth by the end of November.	PSB Officers	Sub-group held in April 2021. However further refinement of membership is required. Also the PSB need to review the lead organisation as Richard Firth has moved roles within PHW – to be discussed at next meeting.	27 th November 2020	Open
May 2021						

Agenda Item 3

Future Conwy & Denbighshire PSB Meetings

Conwy and Denbighshire Public Services Board

Action Tracker



- 17th May 2021 – 10 to 12pm (virtual meeting)
- 16th June 2021 – 10 to 12pm (virtual workshop)
- 15th September 2021 – 2 to 4pm (virtual meeting)
- 13th December 2021 – 10 to 12pm (virtual meeting)
- 31st January 2022 – 2 to 4pm (virtual meeting)
- 23rd March 2022 – 2 to 4pm (virtual meeting)

Future Conwy & Denbighshire Joint Scrutiny Meetings

- Friday, 11 June 2021 - 10.00am (virtual meeting)
- Friday 12 November 2021 - 10.00am (virtual meeting)



Conwy and Denbighshire Public Services Board

Annual Report 2020/2021 - A Self-reflection on the year.

Welcome to our third Annual Report. This report is our self-reflection about the difference we have made in the third year of our 5 year [well-being plan](#). An annual report is essential to make sure that as a Board, we are accountable to the public and can self-assess what we have achieved, challenge ourselves as to whether we are making a difference and consider what we can learn to improve for the future. All our work is aligned with the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the [5 ways of working](#).

You can visit our website to find out more [about us as a Board](#) and to learn more about our progress in the [first](#) and [second](#) year of our plan.

Achievements this year

The last year has been dominated by the global coronavirus pandemic. The outbreak has been described as the biggest challenge for the world since World War Two. COVID 19 has for most people, been the most difficult and emotional circumstances they have ever experienced. Never before have the lives of so many people around the world been affected at this scale or speed. As a result, we cancelled some of our Board meetings and project work as strategic and operational focus shifted to emergency planning and business continuity. All PSB Member organisations have spent this period of time responding to the pandemic - supporting communities and businesses, as well as adapting and creating new services to continue delivering public services.

Through these extremely challenging times, we have continued to collaborate and work closely together, however in line with the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, collaboration and delivery of emergency response took place via the North Wales Local Resilience forum. We all played an integral part in the response to the pandemic and underpinning Strategic Coordination Group and Tactical Coordination Group structures. As such, a number of PSB Well-being Plan actions were put on hold whilst services dealt with frontline response and staff from other services were redeployed to assist with service and pandemic related pressures. This included:

- Caring for people hospitalised by COVID
- Ensuring fire safety considerations / fire risk assessments were included to help keep patients safe in the new field hospital sites
- Rolling out the COVID vaccine programme
- Supporting vulnerable people in care homes and at home
- Providing keyworker childcare and online education
- Providing local communities with key information about COVID rules
- Providing a community support service delivering food and prescriptions
- Issuing business grants on behalf of Welsh Government
- Implementing Trace and Trace locally

- Monitoring and educating about compliance with COVID Rules and issuing fines where necessary
- Seconding our staff across services and organisations as needed

The Conwy and Denbighshire PSB are committed, and stand ready, to playing a key role in the regions recovery from the pandemic as the Strategic Coordination Group idles and hands primacy to the Recovery Coordination Group.

Our meetings did recommence online when the response to the pandemic permitted. As soon as we were able to provide simultaneous translation the meetings were made open to the public and we have continued to publish minutes online. Going forward, we will continue to hold some meetings virtually. This is a better use of senior manager's time, makes meetings more accessible for the public to observe and reduces our carbon footprint – contributing to our environmental resilience priority.

Our priorities

As the first lockdown eased, we held a workshop to review our priorities to ensure they were still relevant to the local community and the seismic shift in people's day to day needs. We concluded that our priorities still hold true, with elements of the current priorities being even more important and relevant in the current climate. We have also added some new focus areas that we think will help communities recover from the pandemic. Below is an overview of our current position.

1. People – Supporting Good Mental Well-being

What difference have we made?

The PSB work on this priority has been paused owing to the pandemic. However this does not mean that there is no support in this area. There are a number of groups and charities that are working in this field such as:

- DPJ Foundation
- Tir Dewi
- Mind Cymru
- ICAN
- Bwrdd Iechyd Betsi Cadwaladr
- Farm and Community Network
- RABI

Both farming unions and young farmers also have been doing great work in this field over the years to raise awareness on the topic. Projects include:

- [Ffit I Ffermio](#) – A 40 page booklet has been developed by a team with experience of farming and men's health - in Welsh and English. Originally written by Dr Ian Banks, himself a farmer, it has been revised and redesigned in partnership with several farming and rural organisations and has been distributed to all farm holdings in Conwy.

- It's Good to Talk – a night to raise awareness of Mental Health
- Mental health first aid – which was run by DPJ with around 25 individuals attending. This was to showcase the symptoms so they could acknowledge any problem / issues / concerns
- Mart Llanrwst – Nurses from BETSI and ICAN officers planned to visit and test cholesterol and blood pressures of the farmers and to support their mental wellbeing – however due to COVID this project was postponed.
- Yr Eisteddfod – A session was held at the Conwy Eisteddfod to raise awareness and Alun Elidiyr shared his experience of dealing with Mental Health.
- ICAN Centres – Two drop-in ICAN community hubs opened in Rhyl and Prestatyn in February and March 2020, which can be accessed on a drop-in basis, without a referral or appointment. The community space offers people a chance to talk through their problems and to be listened to without judgement, and access the services and support.

Are we making a difference and what can we learn to progress in the future?

There are some excellent good practice examples for this priority but there is more we can do collaboratively. Owing to the pandemic the PSB area of work has not progressed and as COVID pressures ease, we plan to establish a sub group with the aim of bringing multiple work strands together to maximise the effect in addressing the two focus areas below (which were agreed by the Board in November 2020) -

- **Farming / rural community**
 - Build upon good practice to raise awareness around Mental wellbeing and support targeted to the farming / rural communities in Conwy and Denbighshire counties.
 - Increase mental health literacy amongst support agencies.
 - Partnership working in the area to integrate mental wellbeing across farm agencies and develop further outreach programmes.
 - Invite Samaritans (Cymru) to do one of their 'rural workshops' in the area, which delivers the 'working with compassion' toolkit. The workshop places a focus on mental health.
- **Mental well-being of children (in educational setting)**
 - Building upon Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) work and use as a platform for training and development for school staff in supporting children's mental wellbeing
 - Work with local partners to support educational settings to access specialist mental health and wellbeing support as required –early help hubs, single points of access for children's mental wellbeing, adopt 'no wrong door' model.
 - Support Welsh Government in embedding a whole-school approach to mental health and emotional wellbeing.
 - Link with libraries and their provision of Emotional Literacy Support.

2. Communities – Supporting Community Empowerment

What difference have we made?

- **Dementia support** – Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council are leading on this through their Dementia Aware community led programme. The programme delivery has been repurposed to consider the COVID-19 landscape, such as online networking events and e-learning training.

DVSC has continued to deliver its services online with the Network meetings and online training. They have also been working closely with the local Action Groups and community to re-develop or provide alternative delivery of existing programmes, services, and activities so they can continue to support the local communities, along with delivering regular Dementia Friends awareness sessions across Denbighshire.

- **Social prescribing** – looking at a whole-system support pathway for residents on clinical weight management programmes, so that they are also offered support to engage with community activities that should improve overall physical and mental health, therefore making the interventions more sustainable.
- **Digital connectivity** – this is a new topic area that was identified by the PSB as a priority area in light of the impact of COVID-19 on increased home working and schooling. The situation has highlighted the importance of good digital infrastructure both for enabling community resilience during the pandemic and also for the new world that will develop post-pandemic (in anticipation of increased levels of home working in the future. A report on the situation in Conwy & Denbighshire was brought to PSB in November, and further discussions are to take place with the Lead for the North Wales Economic Ambition Board.

Are we making a difference and what can we learn to progress in the future?

The Dementia Aware Denbighshire Network has grown in strength and attendance offering a safe space for people to share concerns or information, get advice and learn more about Dementia and services available in Denbighshire. The Network allowed for opportunity to meet with people from other local organisations working with the same aims which has been valuable - especially in lockdown when they continued on Zoom. The Dementia Aware Denbighshire Grant Programme has been an enormously successful opportunity for the whole community, where it has inspired and will continue to inspire everyone across Denbighshire to become involved and spread the news. The programme in Denbighshire has influenced and inspired local communities to work together and explores ways of creating Dementia Friendly Groups across the county, by sharing information through meetings and stimulating initiatives in the county's towns. The next steps are to continue to work with local communities to influence and support them to become Dementia Friendly groups and to continue to support local Dementia projects and activities to become sustainable.

There is great scope for cross-sector collaboration within the projects above. With the social prescribing/weight management initiative in particular, good working

relationships were established between partners and there was much enthusiasm pre-pandemic. However, the work was paused during the pandemic due to a shift in priorities and limitations in terms of the social prescribing opportunities on offer during lockdown. It has potential to be effective again, if resource to facilitate and coordinate collaboration can be identified by PSB.

In terms of digital connectivity, Denbighshire and Conwy's strategies for improving infrastructure differ, though there is likely to be useful good practise learning to be shared. In-depth understanding of the strategies, challenges and opportunities could help PSB to progress this agenda across the region's footprint.

3. Place – Supporting Environment Resilience

What difference have we made?

- [Community Green Pledges](#) – We launched this scheme in January 2020 and we had started to gain momentum, celebrating 4 green pledges with a few weeks of launching the scheme. The scheme aims to encourage communities to reduce their environment impact and celebrate their success when they do so. Owing to COVID, the scheme was paused during 2020 but is now being relaunched in 2021 and at the time of writing we had received our 5th green pledge.

Case Study



We are delighted to announce that in 2020 Community Green Pledges were achieved by

1. **Llanfairfechan Town Hall** (Silver Status)
2. **Denbigh in Bloom** (Platinum Status)
3. **Friends of Kinmel Bay Library** (Bronze Status)
4. **Rhyl Community Fire Station** (Bronze Status)



Between them, these community groups have pledged to make a difference by upgrading their lighting to LED, swapping energy supply to renewable energy, insulating buildings, swapping to reusable party crockery, growing local food, planting drought tolerant & native wildlife friendly plants (so they don't need much watering in the summer), composting, recycling, providing a terracycle scheme, reducing paper use, and using a skills swap scheme to repair items.

Llanfairfechan Town Hall Committee said -

"We're so pleased to receive our Silver pledge status. The changes we have made have helped our budget as well as the environment. We've seen a reduction in our bills and the hall is more attractive now it's warmer and sound proofed, so we're seeing an increase in bookings".



Their top tips for making a pledge are:

- Make sure you have a place where people can drop items off easily
- Network – learn from others
- Make sure you have a team who are keen to help you
- Educate people on what you have on offer – use social media

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MAKE THE PLEDGE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- **Common organisational environment framework** – developing common steps/goals all PSB organisations can work towards to address the carbon reduction agenda. The framework has been revised to expand biodiversity and include the benefits from home working, the regional energy strategy and environmental certifications.
- **Green & Blues Spaces** – this is a new identified focus area looking at building on communities' re-connection and enthusiasm for their local environment during the 2020 and 2021 lockdowns and the role green and blue spaces have in our recovery from the pandemic, and in developing healthy communities.
- **Local Wellbeing Projects** – we are delighted that owing to a £25,000 Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Public Services Board grant to support delivery of the well-being objectives, we have supported two projects to promote sustainable travel via E-bikes in Colwyn Bay and community access to green spaces via a community woodland in Rhyl.

➤ **Coastal electric bike empowerment programme (E-bikes)**

We have funded £10,000 to purchase additional E bikes for the Coastal electric bike empowerment programme in Conwy.

The Rural Leisure Development team has used this money to expand their existing programme. Prior to lockdown, the team had been providing outreach sessions (within targeted areas) to support communities to engage more with the outdoors. They have been running specific electric bike activities to support people with mental health challenges, obese or weight management challenges and people who have been made homeless. To most people in this demographic riding a traditional bike may be difficult and they may have many barriers to overcome such as the cost of the equipment and the lack of confidence or experience in cycling. There is a great deal of evidence to demonstrate that electric bikes along with the support of qualified and experienced instructors, can help people become more active, healthy and have a better sense of wellbeing. This project brings together communities in the outdoors and encourages physical activity, and so supports all three of the PSB's priority areas.

The additional bikes will support the expansion of the project to the coastal area (based from Colwyn Bay/Porth Eirias area) utilising the paths from Conwy – Mostyn to encourage people from many communities to use cycling as a tool for both health, wellbeing and as a mode of transport. The team have supported many individuals to change their lifestyle. Some have changed their mode of transport from car to ebike after having a number of supported sessions. Others have joined local cycling clubs and some have gained qualifications in the sector and contributed back to the sport. In all cases participants have experienced a better sense of wellbeing.

When permitted, the project will deliver weekly sessions along the coastal path. The team are currently working with The National Trust and other partners on a similar project in the heart of Rural Conwy. As part of the project the instructors will teach road safety elements to help riders understand the Highway Code and best practice. Cycling has been shown to be a very positive and safe activity during these times. The need to socially distance and being outdoors in a well ventilated area both reducing the risk of infection compared to most other sports and activities. There is also no sharing of equipment making this activity one of the safest.

Work is developing with NRW to offer stopping points along the coastal bike routes that will raise environmental awareness. The Scheme is also hoping to develop other routes such as using Llyn Brenig and Lon Las Cefni. The team are also collaborating with Cartrefi Conwy to promote the project.

➤ **Glan Morfa Community Woodland**

Glan Morfa is a former landfill of 85 acres. Historically, the site has always been used by local people but not in sufficient numbers because they were deterred by its derelict appearance and issues with illegal motorbike access and extensive fly tipping. When Denbighshire Countryside Service were asked to take over the management of the site it was important that we had a vision that eclipsed the obvious environmental quality issues. We quickly picked up on its strategic location immediately adjacent to some of the more disadvantaged wards in Wales and the opportunity to address the shortage of good quality public open space in this part of Rhyl. It is an area to take in fresh air and exercise and to learn about the environment – essentially to connect communities with nature. The challenge is to encourage positive use of the site and to change people’s perceptions. This will only be possible by working with a variety of partners.

The funding made available via the PSB grant has allowed us to reconfigure the numerous access points and install signage. This will allow ‘access for all’ whilst making it difficult for “off road” motorbikes to gain access to the site. The output will result in increased usage by young families with prams, wheelchairs/disabled buggies and cyclists who once at the site are safe in the knowledge that they can

enjoy the flat and surfaced paths without the danger and annoyance of off - road motorbikes. North Wales Police receive many complaints relating to illegal/unauthorised access at Glan Morfa and fully support the proposal.

Additional benefits are that the 13,000 trees that have been planted to date as part of the PLANT project will be given additional protection. Other funding spent at the site in 2020/21 is £18,000 via DCC Commuted Sums and £33,000 via the PLANT project.

The project contributes to the following 3 themes and as set out in the Area Statement for NE Wales:

- Develop and improve urban/rural Green Infrastructure
- Increase woodland cover for social, environmental, and economic benefits
- Promote the resilience of ecosystems in maintaining and enhancing biodiversity

Are we making a difference and what can we learn to progress in the future?

At a national and local scale, the Climate Emergency and Nature emergencies are recognised by many members of the PSB. The last twelve months have reminded us all how valuable the local environment and communities have been in lockdown and how important they will be in taking us forward.

We cannot work towards healthy places for people without resilient ecosystems and cannot make our ecosystems resilient without safeguarding stocks of natural resources. The regenerative economy safeguards and restores those stocks and is the route to the transformational change needed to achieve wellbeing.

Although COVID put our projects on hold, as we return to a new normal we must build upon the positive behavioural changes which COVID lockdowns have brought about (such as less commutes resulting in a reduction in air pollution and our carbon footprint). Looking ahead we will develop opportunities with communities to link climate and nature action with local wellbeing.

Other Areas of Work

We're still working collaboratively with other partnerships and national bodies, to avoid duplication and to share ideas. This year we have -

- reviewed key risks in the area and discussed what we can all do to help each other. We've developed a risk register to help us monitor our local risks.
- reviewed our website to ensure that is accessible to people with sensory loss.
- developed and implemented an action plan to address the recommendations from Wales Audit Office's review into PSBs.
- contributed to the Welsh Parliament Public Accounts Committee review into the [*Barriers to the successful Implementation of the Well-Being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015.*](#)

- participated in Welsh Government’s working groups to discuss support for developing well-being assessments.
- reported our progress to the Joint Conwy and Denbighshire PSB scrutiny committee, who after a resumed meeting virtually in January 2020.

Reflecting on this year

Whilst this report looks back on a most extraordinary year, we must also look forward and consider what aspects of service change we want to retain as we move into a ‘new normal’. We have been working in partnership with Wrexham Glyndwr University to review our purpose and how we can work as a Board going forward.

The PSB sits amongst a number of collaborations across North Wales and we have used workshops with Glyndwr University to consider how we can continue to make a meaningful contribution to the partnership landscape without duplicating the work of other partnerships. We will continue to work on our future purpose and relationships and to ensure we learn and build upon the findings of the Public Accounts Committee Report.

Looking Forward

This year we started a review of our [Well-being Assessment](#). A Well-being Assessment seeks to capture the strengths and assets of its people and communities. It also seeks to describe the challenges and opportunities faced both now and in the future. The review of the Well-being Assessment will be informed by new data, updated national and local research and most importantly feedback provided to us from residents, visitors and businesses across Conwy and Denbighshire. It will give us insight into what the new pressures are and whilst it is too early to fully comprehend, it will give some insight into the impact of COVID and Brexit. A first draft will be available by October 2021.

The feedback we receive from communities is vitally important. Those communities of interest who have lived experience are best placed to inform what are the challenges and opportunities, and what are the best ways to address them. Trying to engage during lockdown is a challenge in itself, but we also want to review our approach to engagement to ensure that we hear and listen to the voices of the seldom heard and that we feedback to people about what we have changed as a result of their contribution. To this end we are also reviewing our approach to engagement and developing a North Wales engagement network so that we can share community feedback and listen to new ideas whilst avoiding repeatedly asking communities the same questions. We will use the Wellbeing Assessment and community feedback to inform the development of a new PSB Wellbeing Plan which will be drafted by 2023.

Get Involved

We want you to stay in touch & get involved in our work. You can:

- Come to one of our meetings, all the [dates and agendas](#) are published on our website
- Follow us on social media through [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)
- Stay involved and share your views through our [website](#)
- Email us at countyconveration@conwy.gov.uk
- Write to us at C/O Corporate Improvement and Development Team, Conwy County Borough Council, PO Box 1, Conwy, LL30 9GN
- Call us on 01492 574059 (BT Relay Service Customers with hearing or speech impairments can contact any Council service by dialling **18001** before the number they require).
- British Sign Language users can contact Conwy County Borough Council using a Sign Language interpreter, through the InterpretersLive! service, provided by Sign Solutions – visit www.conwy.gov.uk/Contact-Us/sign

We are happy to provide this document in large print, audio and braille.

This document is also available in Welsh.



REPORT TO:	Conwy and Denbighshire Public Services Board
DATE:	17 May 2021
LEAD OFFICER & ORGANISATION:	Sian Williams, Conwy & Denbighshire PSB Chair
CONTACT OFFICER & ORGANISATION:	Nicola Kneale, DCC and Fran Lewis, CCBC
SUBJECT:	Well-being assessment & community engagement update

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide members with an update on progress to develop the Conwy and Denbighshire well-being assessment.
- 1.2 To update members on the North Wales PSB grant and seek approval for the regional proposals in support of research and engagement.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)/OPTIONS

3.

- 2.1 That members approve the progress made within the project plan for the development of the well-being assessment.
- 2.2 That members support the North Wales PSB grant submission.
- 2.3 That members support the partnership model proposal from Glyndwr University to support the well-being assessment regionally.
- 2.4 That members support the draft alternative service delivery model agreement.
- 2.5 That members support the regional engagement proposal.
- 2.6 That members support the North Wales expression of interest to Co-production Network for Wales.

3. REPORT DETAILS

- 3.1 It is a statutory requirement of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, for PSBs to prepare and publish a well-being assessment every 5 years. This must be published a year before it publishes its local well-being plan. The assessments also contribute to the creation of public bodies' well-being plans.
- 3.2 A well-being assessment working group has been set up with PSB partners in Conwy and Denbighshire to begin this process. Fortunately due to the work involved in developing the structure for the initial iteration we can use this as a basis for revising the assessment.

Officers are also referring to the feedback received from WG and the Future Generations Commissioner on the initial assessment as well the letter of expectation for assessments issued recently (please see appendix A).

- 3.3 To date 'rapid reviews' have been undertaken for the topic areas identified in the existing [well-being assessment](#) to determine which require either a refresh of data and analysis, a more in depth update and analysis, gaps in data or data that can be removed. Topics identified as needing a refresh have been allocated to appropriate partners to act as an 'editor' to oversee and revise (both in terms of data and analysis). Topic's requiring a more in-depth review along with any gaps identified have been referred regionally (for consideration as a research priority area).
- 3.4 The well-being assessment group are also mapping any recent engagement undertaken against the identified topic areas. Community engagement activities will take place over the summer, to inform the assessment and vice versa.
- 3.5 The statutory deadline for the well-being assessment is 5th May 2022. However to align with public bodies strategic planning cycles it is proposed that a consultation ready draft will be published in October 2021.
- 3.6 Welsh Government have reinstated the PSB support grant for 2021/22. The funding is offered on a health board footing, with £87,273 being made available for the North Wales region. Gwynedd Council are hosting the grant and have worked with the North Wales PSB officer group to submit the proposal for 2021/22 (please see appendix B).
- 3.7 The funding has a clear criteria and is intended to assist PSBs to build their strategic capacity and capability to support the preparation of the well-being assessments as well as consolidate work on the well-being plans. The group propose to use the grant for the collation of research and subsequent analysis on themes of regional and sub-regional relevance. It is also proposed to use it to fund engagement with seldom heard groups and communities of interest, to ensure they have their say to inform our assessments.
- 3.8 To support the research side of the funding, Wrexham Glyndwr University (a PSB Member) have developed a proposal to adopt a partnership model . In this model, the role of Wrexham Glyndwr University, as the lead research body, will be to focus on the priority research topics identified by the PSBs, to summarise the data we have on the subject and draw conclusions about what it is telling us. As a region, we need the lead research body to draw accurate conclusions on the impact of these topics on well-being across North Wales as a region and highlight any differences that may be apparent across the four PSB footprints.
- 3.9 Denbighshire County Council are leading on developing [an alternative service delivery model agreement to ensure the proposal comes to fruition, delivers in the short term, and provides a framework for continued collaborative research beyond our initial October deadline.](#)
- 3.10 In terms of supporting engagement, the North Wales PSB officer group (led by Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board) have developed a proposal for taking a regional approach (please see appendix C). Although some collaboration between the four PSBs to support engagement

does currently take place, the aim of the regional approach would be to formalise these arrangements and to -

- Share resources, best practice and experience
- Ensure more continuous and meaningful engagement with communities and wider stakeholders
- Build public confidence in both public sector organisations and the partnerships they are responsible for
- Create different and innovative approaches to engagement

3.11 Furthermore the Co-production Network for Wales has secured 5 years of funding from the National Lottery Community Fund to work with PSBs on their implementation of co-production and involvement, with an initial focus on well-being assessments (please see appendix D). As part of this project they are offering to work hands-on with 3 PSBs or clusters of PSBs in which collaborative relationships are well established.

3.12 The North Wales PSB officer group have submitted an expression of interest to work with the Co-production Network for Wales as a cluster. If the bid is successful the Co-production Network for Wales can provide free external support and advice to take our engagement proposal forward through –

- Helping to develop and deliver the engagement and communications plan for the Well-being Assessments
- Supporting engagement with local stakeholders and residents to shape the Well-being Plans
- Co-produce local responses to the priorities identified in the Well-being Plans
- Build capability and confidence with co-production, facilitation, and associated skills

BACKGROUND PAPERS	LOCATION
Letter of expectation for local well-being assessments.	Appendix A
North Wales PSB funding proposal 2021/22	Appendix B
Regional approach to engagement proposal	Appendix C
Co-production Production Network for Wales PSB support project overview	Appendix D

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Welsh Government and Future Generations Commissioner's Expectations: Public Services Boards and the second round of Assessments of Local Well-being (2021-22)

Overarching messages

- This is about **purpose not process**. Your assessments are significant because they have an important role in determining what your boards' priorities should be, and what will be in the local well-being plan.
- We would like to see boards operating within the spirit of the Act and we are looking for your approach to be **ambitious but achievable**. We want your PSBs to *aspire* to produce an excellent assessment, but also recognise the time and data available to you may limit what you can deliver. As a minimum, it is expected that:
 - The assessment covers the four dimensions of well-being (i.e. economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being) rather than focusing too heavily on one aspect, and draws out the links between pieces of data rather than viewing them in isolation.
 - The assessment takes account of the long term needs of the area as well as the short term.
 - The assessment looks at both the PSB area as a whole and at smaller communities and localities within the PSB area.
 - The approach taken to preparing the assessment reflects the 5 ways of working¹.
- The assessment is the **foundation on which everything else is** built. Boards should have a robust, objective understanding of their area to inform decisions on where they should focus their combined efforts. It is the point at which you *consider everything* to enable you to prioritise and not *cover everything* in your local well-being plan.
- We would like to see **leadership and buy-in** from organisations across the PSB, and a clear collaboration and connection between the executive/senior members of the PSB and support teams/officers.
- Ideally, the PSB members would **collaborate** to inform the development of the assessment.
- The assessments are important as a **wider resource** for partners, communities and others to draw on for the next five years. We encourage you to factor this thinking into their design, use and function.
- You should see the assessments as part of an **ongoing journey** on the use of evidence and analysis – continuing to build on their assessment of your area beyond the formal publication of a product to meet the legal requirement.
- There is **complete local (or regional) flexibility over how PSBs (plus RPBs and other partnerships) organise themselves to produce these**

¹ Long term, Prevention, Integration, Collaboration, Involvement

assessments, plans and how they deliver them. For example, using the last assessment as a starting point for update and refinement may be reasonable, if it incorporates and builds on all of the learning from the first round.

- We recognise the challenges locally in making sense of the requirements on the same organisations to produce similar assessments and plans under different national legislation e.g. the Population Needs Assessments. We would encourage partnerships to seek to **join up and avoid duplicating** work.
- In the context of the current expected timescales of local government elections, your Board must publish its assessment no later than **5 May 2022**.

Key differences from the first round of assessments

- There should be **learning from the first iteration**. We encourage you to reflect on your first round of the assessment process and your own experiences, and working as a Board, decide collectively what you're going to be doing and what you'll put most focus into. Consider any feedback on the first cycle of well-being assessments from members of the public, other organisations within your area, the formal feedback from Welsh Government and the [Future Generations Commissioner](#), to **consider what you may wish to improve upon or do differently this time round**.
- There is an opportunity to **reflect on the new sources of data and information which are available to the Board** since the last assessments were produced, e.g.:
 - Your experience of delivering the Act;
 - Local involvement exercises;
 - National data and information, e.g. core data sets from Data Cymru; NRW's Area Statements; Data Cymru's data catalogue; national briefings, and Audit Wales and other inspectorate reports.

Welsh Government will update you on sources available to support you.

- We continue to encourage **local variation** in how the assessments are approached. Your Boards have (deliberate) flexibility in how they are structured, provided they meet the core requirements set out in the Act and statutory guidance. You may wish to structure and present differently this time based on your own views of the last cycle.

Challenges and limitations

- We recognise there may be challenges and limitations to the assessments and would **encourage honest self-reflection** on these in the assessment. It is better to be honest about barriers that have been encountered in the assessment process than to hide them. Telling us about such issues may enable us to support you overcoming these issues.
- Where there are constraints, we would like you to reflect on how you might overcome them – either on your own, or with support from other PSBs and us.

What makes a strong well-being assessment

Data and analysis

Reflecting on the last cycle of assessments and feedback, we generally found that stronger well-being assessments:

- **Demonstrated a critical analysis and interpretation of the data**, and didn't just set out the data collected.
- Were '**honest**' in their assessments, and open/reflective about what the assessment doesn't tell you as well as what it does. For example, where there isn't data available or where the implications are unclear.
- Evidenced how they were **using and understanding the data** sets prepared by Data Cymru.
- Took a **collaborative approach** to the interpretation of data and evidence, drawing on the resources and expertise across PSB members.
- Demonstrated a **good understanding and interpretation** of what national and regional level data/evidence means for the local area.

For the second cycle, you now have information and evidence from the [Area Statements](#) and [State of Natural Resources Report](#) to inform assessments. Your Natural Resources Wales representative can help you interpret these for your area.

Guidance on use of evidence and analysis

- The [guidance on use of evidence and analysis](#) is available to help PSBs prepare assessments.
- It is expected that the assessments will draw largely on quantitative data, supplemented by qualitative data.
- Assessments can be strengthened by moving beyond broad descriptive analysis, and by identifying priorities to be analysed in more depth at a later date to inform local wellbeing plans.

Ways of working - Long-term thinking

Analysis from the [Future Generations Commissioner](#), [Audit Wales](#) and others (e.g. [Cardiff University](#)) has highlighted that generally, futures and long-term thinking is an under-developed area. Stronger assessments of local well-being will:

- Undertake **sophisticated planning for the future**, informed by a rounded understanding of current needs, future trends and multi-generational policy challenges. Future techniques can help here.

- **Make use of the second Future Trends Report**, interpreting what these mean for your local area. There will be support sessions in conjunction with Welsh Government on this in 2021.

This is an area where we hope to provide tailored network support through 2021-22, in conjunction with the second Future Trends report, and building on the futures / long-term webinar we held with coordinators in December 2020.

Ways of working - Involvement

Due to the pandemic, community involvement looks and feels different to before. However, this has opened the door to new opportunities and a way for both organisations and people to learn new skills. Strong well-being assessments will:

- **Build on the base-lining involvement exercises undertaken during the first round** which sought to establish what the issues were (as opposed to starting again). For example, involving people around your existing objectives with a focus on what has improved, and what still needs doing.
- **Apply a range of involvement methods, tools and approaches** – as was discussed during the ‘involvement’ webinars in October 2020 and February/March 2021.
- Evidence the **work undertaken with other organisations and networks** that has helped influence and inform your involvement.
- **Build on some of the great examples of collaboration with the voluntary sector and local communities** we’ve seen through the pandemic, and how you are using that information to inform your thinking, planning and delivery. For example, the [Blaenau Gwent Locality Response service](#) redeployed staff from departments across the local authority to coordinate an emergency response in partnership with third sector organisations, ensuring people could access the support they needed in their community.

Feel free to **be creative** in how you’re approaching involvement in your area. For example, Brecon Beacons National Park authority have been using Minecraft as an involvement tool for their [town centre plan](#).

As outlined below, we will use the network meetings, bulletins, online webinars and other means to **share good/best practice** on this theme. Looking at ways of being creative when approaching involvement is also an area we can explore if this would be helpful.

Support from Welsh Government and the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner

Timescales

What we will do:

We have considered in detail your feedback from the Coordinator meetings, PSB Assessment Survey and online sessions held in November ('Involvement') and December ('Futures/long-term') 2020.

Through these, you shared what you believe are the key challenges and opportunities for working better together as we head into the second round of well-being assessments. To help you develop your second well-being assessment, we are:

- **Continuing to run the national network meetings, topic focused webinars and online meetings** through 2021 with other organisations and networks, building on the 'involvement' and 'long-term' events held in November and December 2020 ([WG/FGC](#))
- Running a **Future Generations Xchange** event in March 2021 to share best practice and demonstrate the impact of PSBs ([WG](#)).
- Using the network meetings, bulletins, online webinars and other means to **share good/best practice** on themes such as 'data analysis', 'community involvement' and 'futures and long-term'. This is particularly powerful when hearing from PSBs who feel they're delivering aspects such as these well ([WG/FGC](#)).
- Offering regular '**drop-in clinics**' to offer advice (including commissioning analysis of wellbeing data), test ideas, and clarify requirements on the well-being assessments and well-being plans ([WG](#)).
- Preparing a **core data set**, through Data Cymru, containing approximately 75 indicators that would be used by most, if not all, PSBs as part of the well-being assessments ([WG](#)).
- Preparing a **data catalogue**, through Data Cymru, which will identify data and information not readily accessible e.g. from public bodies named in the Act and other national organisations such as Sport Wales, Arts Council of Wales, National Museum of Wales, Police Services and Commissioners. Data Cymru could then support and simplify the data requests to avoid overwhelming those sources ([WG](#)).
- Working **with the Welsh Government team leading on the Future Trends Report to ensure alignment and integration** between your work and theirs, as it develops. We are looking to improve the timeliness of the report for use in the assessments ([WG/FGC](#)).
- Welsh Government and Future Generations Commissioner recognise the challenges in developing these assessments under the current circumstances. **Welsh Government support, including regional funding**, has been designed for the coming year with the involvement and consultation of coordinators.

We are also exploring:

- Working with research expertise to prepare national briefings on high priority topics of common interest e.g. impacts of Brexit and people with protected characteristics (WG).
- The potential for **small, online communities of PSB practice (peer networks) on particular themes** (e.g. futures, involvement, data, etc.), if you think this would be beneficial (WG/FGC).
- Tailoring our approach to **provide practical advice and information and shorter feedback**, building on the comments you've provided on our advice and support during the last round of well-being assessments (WG/FGC).
- Sharing the best way for enabling you to have **clear, direct contacts within our respective offices**. This has been a consistent ask in your feedback (WG/FGC).
- **Sharing the work the Future Generations Commissioner does to seek to reduce the complex landscape public bodies and PSBs operate in and** to try to make implementation of the Act easier, through publishing Ministerial letters and providing transcripts of Senedd Committee evidence hearings etc (FGC).
- Setting out how we (and Data Cymru) could potentially **support you on data analysis and interpretation**, stepping up from just providing data (WG/FGC).

Roles

- **Welsh Government** has an **operational** role in supporting PSBs in undertaking the assessments – providing clarification on the requirements; facilitating the sharing of learning between PSBs, providing specific support to ensure that PSBs are able to deliver effectively. Please direct any queries to lgpartnerships@gov.wales
- **The Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales** (in addition to commenting on individual assessments) has a **strategic** role in identifying and seeking to address common issues/draw out the broader learning from the exercise for achieving the ambitions of the Act e.g. common challenges or gaps. Currently, please direct any queries to contactus@futuregenerations.wales using ref: 'PSB Well-being Assessments' and it will be assigned.

Resources

Key reports

- [Well-being in Wales: Planning today for a better tomorrow](#)
- Audit Wales: [So, what's different?](#)
- The Future Generations Report: Ch 2 - [Welsh Government](#) and [public bodies](#) and Ch3 [Well-being Goals](#).
- [Implementing the Sustainable Development Principle](#): Public Health Wales and Kingston University produced a report on the five ways of working.
- The Future generations Commissioner's '[Journey to involvement](#)'.
- [The 2020 assessment of sustainable management of natural resources in Wales](#)

Implementing longer-term planning and decision making

- [Government Office for Science](#) and the '[Futures toolkit for policy makers and analysts](#)'. A set of tools to help embed long-term strategic thinking within the policy process, and explains how to ensure they have real impact.
- [FGC Three Horizons Toolkit](#): to help you think and plan long-term.
- [Futures for Wales Report](#) (2018). In partnership with Public Health Wales, this report identifies tools and approaches for long-term planning.
- [A shift in governance, policy and delivery for future generations? Well-being planning in Wales \(Cardiff University\)](#)

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Proposal Form

PSB Region	North Wales (Ynys Môn & Gwynedd PSB, Conwy & Denbighshire PSB, Wrexham PSB, and Flintshire PSB)
Lead	Nonn Hughes, Cyngor Gwynedd, Stryd y Jêl, Caernarfon. Gwynedd. LL55 1SH. e-mail: NonnGwenllianHughes@gwynedd.llyw.cymru 01286 679906
Period of Claim	1 April 2021 – March 2022

Summary of Proposal	Expected Timescale	Amount bid for (up to a maximum of £xx,000)
<i>Community Engagement</i>	01/04/21-09/2021	£0.00
<i>Well-being Assessment Research</i>	01/04/21-10/2021	
Total Grant Application		£87,273

Aim (50 words)	<p>In 2021-22, North Wales Public Service Boards will seek to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ commission the collation of research and subsequent analysis on themes of regional and sub-regional relevance.▪ to commission a project to engage with seldom heard groups and communities of interest, to ensure they have their say to inform our assessments.
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<p>Objectives (max 250 words)</p>	<p><i>[An outline of the objectives that can be measured by the PSBs – i.e. a breakdown of the key elements of the aim. These should be clear, concise statements indicating the requirements and expectations of the funding, should describe the 'outcome' rather than the process, and how the group of PSBs will work collectively to achieve these objectives]</i></p> <p>Comissioning of the collation of research:</p> <p>North Wales PSBs to make use of the latest intelligence and analysis on the themes identified under each well-being goal to help them understand how it might apply in their area. PSBs seek to know the most up-to-date and relevant information, where it is available. Where not available, providers of the research will make this clear.</p> <p>The key analytical commentary will focus on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <u>What is happening now?</u> What do statistics and experiences of those living/working in this field tell us about the current situation?2. <u>What do we know about the past and what have we learnt?</u> Has this situation changed significantly recently, for better or worse? Are there new issues? Are there persistent issues that have been being addressed for some time? What's worked? What hampers progress?3. <u>What do we know or predict about the future?</u> Are there long-term trends we can predict (e.g. rises in sea temperature), and/or are there events in the external environment that provide pressure and/or opportunity (i.e. Brexit, Covid).4. <u>What do people tell us?</u> Engagement exercises will take place with key stakeholders, including residents, businesses, service providers, etc. This is out of the scope of this research work, and will be conducted by local authority leads. It will add context to the commentary in terms to help us understand pressures/frustrations people face and their aspirations. As well as adding depth to our research, this exercise could help us with the prioritisation process.5. Opportunities for improving well-being in relation to this topic What's worked elsewhere? What outcomes do people want to see? <p>Engaging with the seldom heard groups, tasks will include:</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying key stakeholders (enabling PSBs to continue the conversation around the ongoing development of our Well-being Objectives, in particular around the delivery of next steps). • Developing an engagement plan, outlining approach, timescales and communication preferences (e.g. via specific existing groups, via third parties, digital platforms, face to face, easy read, written material or phone call/text etc.). This will need to be agreed by the North Wales PSB office group. • Undertake engagement on behalf of the 4 PSBs with seldom heard group and communities of interest to - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ find out what matters or is important to them (in their local area) ○ if/what anything needs to change ○ what’s important for public services to deliver ○ how can they help / get involved • To share interim findings with the research stream of the well-being assessment project on an ongoing basis. • Collating and analysing the feedback received. • Reporting the findings / recommendations to the PSBs.
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Planned Costs	<i>[forecast of expenditure]</i>
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Milestones and timescales	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #cccccc;">Focus area</th> <th style="background-color: #cccccc;">Start date</th> <th style="background-color: #cccccc;">End date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Research</td> <td>April 2021</td> <td>October 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Engagement</td> <td>April 2021</td> <td>September 2021</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Focus area	Start date	End date	Research	April 2021	October 2021	Engagement	April 2021	September 2021
Focus area	Start date	End date								
Research	April 2021	October 2021								
Engagement	April 2021	September 2021								

Deliverable and Measurable Benefits (max 250 words)

[To include any financial benefits and any direct/indirect benefits e.g. through the joint application approach. These must be measurable.]

Research –Expand our knowledge and understanding and commission a co-produced report for each PSB area that:

- Provides an overview of key messages of interest to the PSBs e.g. general impacts, impacts on specific groups, and affected areas of well-being for each well-being goal
 - Provides an overview of potential actions (i.e. what works) in addressing those impacts
 - Provides a brief summary to support these
 - Summary of the known evidence base i.e. what is known, including references; and
 - Summary of evidence needs i.e. what is not yet known and any upcoming work in these areas.
 - Also a summary of indicative findings that are likely to change as medium-term Brexit/Covid-19 impacts emerge
- The report must be prepared in a clear, accessible and concise manner. The format could be a Word document, a Powerpoint (or similar) document, or it might be published via a website.

Engagement – We would expect to see an increase in the number of people actively engaged with the work of the PSB. Against this measure we would expect to see an increase in the number of people actively engaged with the work of the PSBs. This may be captured through a range of engagement methods.

Engagement with PSBs in the area	<p><i>[How has the proposal been tested by the PSBs involved and confirmation that they have signed up to the proposal. This will also serve as a collaboration agreement for purposes of the grant.]</i></p> <p>The aforementioned PSB's have been meeting regularly at the North Wales Public Services Board Network meeting since January 2021 to discuss the proposal. A draft proposal was shared for feedback with each of the Public Service Board. Finally, it has been shared with all of the Public Services Board chairs.</p>
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Key Risks / Issues:	
Risk/Issue Description	Impact
The risk of duplication between the Population Assessment, other consultation exercises and the well-being assessments.	Wasted effort and conflicting priorities
The risk that the well-being assessments become too heavily focussed on data and do not involve local citizens sufficiently.	That the well-being assessments do not sufficiently address the expectations of local communities and are overly restricted to the available data.
The risk that stakeholders do not engage with the work of public service boards.	Lack of involvement or engagement by stakeholders could lessen the impact of delivery against well-being plans.

<p>The risk that the focus is too heavy on the social care and health agenda and does not take account of the economic, environmental and cultural risks and opportunities.</p>	<p>The effectiveness of the initiatives will be limited and some partners will become alienated from the process. Some key areas of concern will be missed and some important assets will not be developed.</p>
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DECLARATION AND UNDERSTANDING

Please read this carefully before signing

Please confirm that your organisation has the power to enter into and to perform the activities for which funding is being applied for.

YES NO

I am content for information supplied in this application, including the declaration and understanding to be shared in confidence with any individuals who may be involved in considering the case for application or who are involved in any part of the administration or evaluation of the scheme. This may include accountants, external evaluators and other organisations or groups involved in delivering the project.

I understand that if I give any information that is incorrect or incomplete, funding may be withheld or reclaimed and action taken against me. I declare that the information that I have given on this application form is correct and complete. I also declare that, except as otherwise stated on this form, I have not started the project which forms the basis of this application and no expenditure has been committed or defrayed on it.

I understand that any offer may be publicised by means of a press release giving brief details of the project and amount of funding award.

I understand the Department may use data collected to investigate cases of alleged fraudulent use.

I understand that applications must be signed by an authorised signatory. I confirm that I am authorised to sign this application.

<p>Signed</p>	
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Support for Public Services Boards 2021-22
Annex 2

Date	
Name (<i>block capitals</i>)	
Position in organisation	
Telephone	
Email	

Please return your form to:

Kevin Griffiths / Hilary Maggs, Local Government Partnerships Policy Team

(LGPartnerships@gov.wales) by **Friday Xx March 2021**

Regional Engagement – Decision Paper

Introduction

The North Wales PSB Officer Group is exploring opportunities to develop a collaborative engagement model that would benefit all PSBs and other strategic partnerships such as The North Wales Regional Partnership Board.

This will build on the collaboration between the four PSBs to support engagement that already takes place, and we are embedding the approach in the current round of wellbeing assessments and the potential to commission engagement with harder to reach and seldom heard groups living across North Wales.

The objectives of creating a regional engagement approach however would be to formalise these arrangements and to:

- Share resources, best practice and experience.
- Ensure more continuous and meaningful engagement with communities and wider stakeholders
- Build public confidence in both public sector organisations and the partnerships they are responsible for.
- Create different and innovative approaches to engagement
- Work with communities, stakeholders and young people to co-produce our future

Why Engagement is Important

Involving people in the planning, design and delivery of services helps to build partnerships with communities and identify areas for service improvement. Continual and open dialogue builds a culture of transparency, trust and credibility, which is a critical element of what PSBs aim to achieve.

Being open about the challenges facing public sector organisations and involving local people, stakeholders and staff in identifying solutions is fundamental in providing high quality, safe and sustainable services that meet the community's needs both now and into the future.

The duty to engage

All public services in Wales have a duty to engage and consult with citizens. This has been strengthened through a range of UK and Welsh Government policies and legislation, e.g.

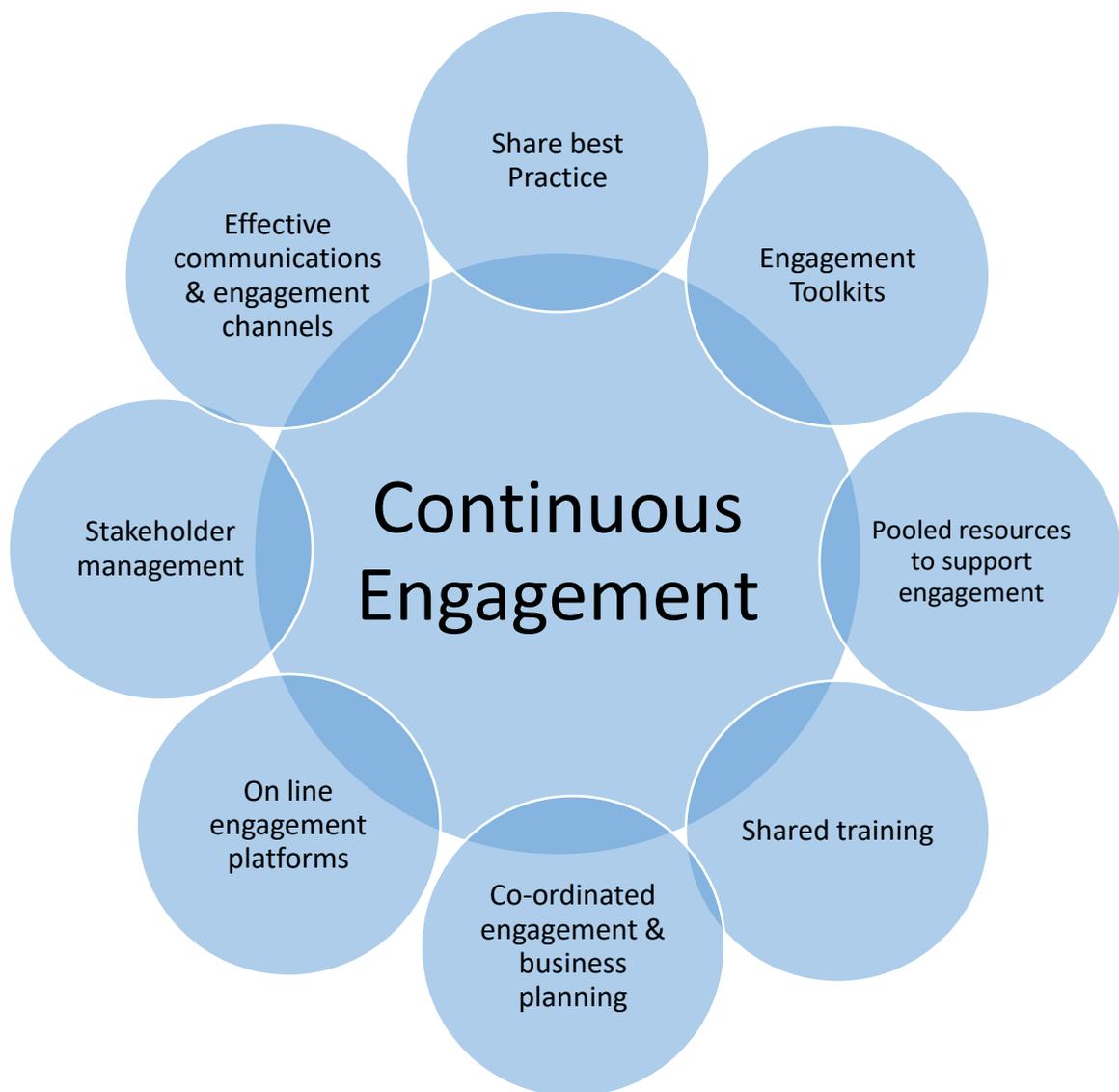
- [The Equalities Act 2010](#),
- [Welsh Language \(Wales\) Measure 2011](#),
- [The Social Services and Well Being \(Wales\) Act \(2014\)](#), [The Health & Care Standards 2015](#),
- [The Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#),
- [A Healthier Wales: Our Plan for Health and Social Care](#)
- [NHS \(Wales\) Act 2006](#)
- [Health and Social Care \(Quality and Engagement\) \(Wales\) Act](#)

- [The Socio-economic Duty 2021](#)
- [Local Government & Elections \(Wales\) Act 2021](#)

Whilst public bodies and strategic partnership like PSBs should ensure that they comply with relevant legislation, these duties should not be the reason they want to engage and involve people. This should be driven by a real commitment to work together with communities and partners to achieve shared outcomes.

What will it look like?

The scope of the engagement model would need to be agreed including the resource considerations but the diagram below outlines some of the key areas that could support PSBs in ensuring meaningful and continuous engagement at both a local and regional level.



Co-production and involvement

The PSB officer group is submitting an expression of interest to the Co – production Network for Wales. If the bid is successful the Co-production Network can provide free external support and advice to take our engagement proposal forward through:

- Helping to develop and deliver the engagement and communications plan for the Well-being Assessments
- Supporting engagement with local stakeholders and residents to shape the Well-being Plans
- Co-produce local responses to the priorities identified in the Well-being Plans
- Build capability and confidence with co-production, facilitation, and associated skills.

Next steps

Agreement is requested by the four PSBs to;

1. Support in principle the establishment of a regional engagement framework for the four PSBs,
2. Ask the PSB Officer Group to prepare a detailed proposal for future consideration and approval.

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Rhwydwaith
Cydgynhyrchu
Cymru

Co-production
Network
for Wales

Pawb gyda'i gilydd
All in this together



Co-production and involvement in PSBs

Mes Yn Dderw: Co-production acorns for public service oaks

The Co-production Network for Wales has secured 5 years of funding from the National Lottery Community Fund to work with Public Services Boards (PSBs) on their implementation of co-production and involvement, with an initial focus on well-being assessments.

We are an independent non-profit, and the leading organisation in Wales with specialist expertise in these areas. We support a cross-sector community of practice, and we offer training, advice and consultancy in both strategic and delivery organisations.

We know [there is a gap](#) between the aspirations of our (still young) devolved legislation in terms of involving citizens and communities in the co-production of public services, and the reality of implementation on the ground. We believe that only by getting enough co-production and involvement happening across our Welsh public services, will we achieve the scale of impact that is required for sustainable change.

“Public bodies should be embedding a culture of citizen and stakeholder involvement...This means having meaningful conversations with people in communities, finding out what matters to them, and reflecting their views before decisions are reached.” ~ Future Generations Report, 2020



We propose to work hands-on with 3 PSBs (or clusters of PSBs in which collaborative relationships are well established), and build on the first round of well-being assessments to deepen your engagement and involvement practice. We will:

- **Work alongside your teams** to support practical implementation and develop their capabilities, capacity and confidence. We are not consultants who take the work away and do it *for* you, instead we work *with* you; through experiential learning and working on relevant and immediate issues, we shift behaviours and cultures.
- **Create the conditions for sustainable relationships** between organisations and with communities and citizens through an ongoing involvement infrastructure; relationships are fundamental to co-producing and operating in complexity, and contribute to the long-term sustainability of this work.
- **Develop meaningful engagement opportunities** including with seldom heard voices, that will lead to the involvement of communities in the co-production of local solutions, where both people and professionals leverage their strengths and resources to effect positive change.

Work will begin in June 2021 with a focus on the well-being assessments, and carry through planning and implementation. We are fortunate to have been granted funding that will enable us to support PSBs throughout the entire 5-year cycle, and through them affect the broader public services landscape in Wales.

Each of the 3 PSBs or clusters we work with will access **an average of one day (8 hours) per week** of consultancy, advice and support from our co-production consultants who bring to the table a broad range of skills and experience. You will have a primary team of two consultants, and the support of the rest of our co-production team as relevant and appropriate. With 50 days of collaborative support per year for 5 years, we can achieve a significant shift in practice and behaviours. Of course we will develop specific work plans and timings around your needs, but broadly speaking, we will work with you to:

- **Develop and deliver** the engagement and communications plan for your Well-being Assessments, utilising remote and in person approaches as applicable.
- **Consolidate relationships** of trust and continue to engage with local stakeholders and residents to shape the Well-being Plans that are informed by the assessments
- **Co-produce local responses** to the priorities identified in the Well-being Plans (through the continued involvement of communities, community-led organisations, statutory and third-sector partner organisations).
- **Build capability and confidence** with co-production, facilitation, and associated skills.

While we will be working hands-on with 3 PSBs or clusters, in order for all the other PSBs to also benefit from the programme **we will connect with the PSB network** and share findings, experiences and lessons learnt. This will also fit within the wider context of the Co-production Network's existing cross-sector community of practice. We are therefore looking to work with a range of 3 PSBs or clusters whose variety of contexts and learnings will benefit the greater number.



To let us know you're interested, email Rachel Wolfendale, programme manager, by close of play **Friday 7th May 2021** (rachel@copronet.wales). Please tell us:

1. Who you are, and which PSB (or cluster) you are writing on behalf of?
2. Which other members of the PSB (or cluster) have you discussed this opportunity with, and who is on board? Does anyone have any questions or concerns?
3. What are you already doing in terms of engagement and involvement? What has your approach been so far, specifically with regards to the Well-being Assessments?
4. What value would this programme add to your existing work, and how would it increase your impact?
5. Who would be part of the team we would be working directly with? Will they have capacity (of time, and of focus) to take on this work?
6. Is there buy-in and permission at senior leadership level to support and advance this work?
7. If you're a cluster, what are your arrangements and how well embedded are your collaborative practices?

We will get in touch to arrange meetings in the following week, so we can answer your questions and discuss this further. We will decide through these conversations which combination of 3 PSBs or clusters we will be working with, with a view to begin in early June.

We look forward to hearing from you.



REPORT TO: Conwy and Denbighshire Public Services Board

DATE: 17 May 2021

LEAD OFFICER & ORGANISATION: Alan Smith, Head of Business & Improvement
Denbighshire County Council

CONTACT OFFICER & ORGANISATION: Nicola Kneale, Denbighshire County Council

SUBJECT: Procuring Well-being in Wales - A Review into how the Well-being of Future Generations Act is informing procurement in Wales and an offer of support from the Centre of Local Economic Strategies.

1. What is the report about?

The report by the Well-being of Future Generations (WFG) Commissioner's Office in respect of their review into procuring Well-being in Wales, and an offer from the Centre of Local Economic Strategies (CLES) and Welsh Government (WG) for Conwy and Denbighshire PSB to participate in its programme to access the expertise and support to explore community wealth building approaches, with a focus on progressive procurement.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

Though the report is aimed at public bodies, because the PSB is largely comprised of public bodies, and because Denbighshire County Council was subject to the review, it's prudent for PSB to consider the WFG Commissioner's recommendations together with CLES's offer of support.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1 That the Committee considers the detail within the report and the offer of support from CLES, and whether it would like to participate in the programme.

4. Report details

- 4.1 The Commissioners' report is attached at Appendix 1. It contains specific recommendations both for Welsh Government (p39) and public bodies (p44). There are 3 recommendations for public bodies, paraphrased as:
- a) Better identify opportunities for maximising the social, economic, cultural and environmental impact of procurement;
 - b) Shift the emphasis to better consideration of long-term outcomes associated with procurement, rather than the current focus on process and short-term costs of contracts.

- c) Public Bodies could collaborate more effectively to share learning, capacity & skills.
- 4.2 Details of the offer of support from CLES are contained in Appendix 2. Discussions about the practical arrangements, opportunities for collaboration, and where CLES might add value have begun with colleagues in Conwy & Denbighshire, but are still in progress. A verbal update will be provided at PSB, due to report deadlines being prior to meeting dates. It should be noted that CLES are funded by WG up to December 2021, so there is a time pressure.
- 5. How does the decision contribute to the PSB Priorities?**
This work should support the public bodies who are members of PSB to secure wider and long-term well-being benefits from their procurement activity. There is an idea in place to marry the offer of support from CLES with the PSB's environmental objective of contributing to carbon output reductions, though discussions are at an early stage and a verbal update will be provided at PSB.
- 6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**
The offer of support from CLES is funded by WG, but will require capacity commitment from public bodies' procurement colleagues in order to deliver an effective project in line with the funding end date of December 2021.

Appendix 2

Briefing for Conwy and Denbighshire

23/03/21

Community Wealth Building and Progressive Procurement

Purpose

This briefing note provides a summary of the Welsh Government funded Community Wealth Building / Progressive Procurement work being delivered by CLES (The Centre for Local Economic Strategies) – to inform discussions on the potential for Conwy and Denbighshire PSB to act as the North Wales cluster for the project.

Background

CLES has been appointed as Community Wealth Building partner to Welsh Government and commissioned to support anchor institutions in selected PSB areas across Wales to explore community wealth building approaches, with a focus on **progressive procurement**.

This project, which is being delivered by CLES and The Wales Cooperative Centre, began in March 2019 and will run until December 2021.

Community Wealth Building is a people-centred approach to local economic development, which redirects wealth back into the local economy, and places control and benefits into the hands of local people.

This aligns with the broader Foundational Economy agenda and the policy frame of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. Delivery of the programme has intentionally been tailored to be appropriate to the local and national policy context and to dovetail effectively with existing initiatives in this space – for example, Foundational Economy Challenge Fund projects which have a procurement dimension.

The intent of the programme is to support the anchor organisations within participating PSBs to pursue progressive procurement approaches — maximising the impact of anchor spending for local businesses, jobs and wellbeing and increasing local economic multipliers. In the current context, this includes how procurement spending can support vulnerable or at-risk businesses and enhance economic recovery and reform efforts. The approach intends to align with and enhance your existing priorities rather than being another additional or stand-alone initiative – using procurement to support your ambitions for economic, environmental, social, and cultural wellbeing – with support and expertise from CLES, the Wales Cooperative Centre and Welsh Government.

Project Aims

The aims of the project are:

*To effect **systemic change in local economies** across Wales by working with **anchor institutions** in selected Welsh **Public Service Board areas** to introduce and embed the **community wealth building** concept in these areas and disseminate policy and practice lessons across Wales, with a specific focus on **progressive procurement approaches**.*

Participating PSBs

Five PSBs or clusters of PSBs were selected to participate.

- North: **tbd**

- Mid: **Ceredigion** and Powys
- Gwent Strategic Well-being Assessment Group (GSWAG)
 - Blaenau Gwent
 - Torfaen**
 - Caerphilly
 - Newport
 - Monmouthshire
- **Cwm Taf** and Bridgend
- Swansea Bay City Deal Region
 - Neath Port Talbot
 - Swansea
 - Pembrokeshire
 - Carmarthenshire**

Conwy and Denbighshire PSB was initially put forward as the North Wales cluster and preparations were in hand for CLES to deliver a presentation and facilitate a workshop at the PSB meeting in March/April 2019. However, the arrival of the pandemic and subsequent lockdown saw this session cancelled and in response to the circumstances, the project was reprofiled, with early efforts being put into analysis of procurement data and local economic vulnerabilities, followed by workshop activity later in the process.

In the meantime, discussions have been taking place as to the most suitable geography in North Wales for this initiative, including consideration of working with a wider geographical footprint across the North Wales Economic Ambition Area. However, our experience of the work to date in Wales, is that benefits can be most easily realised in a short time-frame, in a more targeted geography where there are existing and established relationships between anchor institutions – indeed, this was the rationale for PSBs being involved.

General approach

Participating PSBs have followed the general approach outlined below:

Spend analysis – CLES produce an analysis of the major anchor organisations spend: where spend is going geographically and in sector terms, the profile of suppliers (e.g. by business size and type) and an assessment of the vulnerability of different business sectors in the context of Covid.

Commencement workshop – with procurement and economic development leads from each of the anchors on the PSB.

The workshop introduces the theory and practice of Community Wealth Building and progressive procurement and provides an opportunity to share and discuss the spend analysis. Using this information and the specific local context and priorities of the anchors, CLES facilitate a discussion to identify one or more priority themes or areas of focus where progressive procurement approaches could be explored.

Working Groups – for each identified theme, or area of focus, CLES facilitate further workshops with procurement and economic development leads from participating anchors, to develop practical implementation plans.

Anchors work together on implementing the plans, with ongoing support from CLES, the Wales Cooperative Centre and Welsh Government.

The broad timeline for the other clusters has been:

Milestone	Date
Initial engagement work and desktop analysis – spend data and sector vulnerability	July 2020 – August 2020
Action planning workshops – agreeing areas of focus	Sept 2020 – Jan 2021
Developing implementation plans (working group of PSB procurement and economic development leads)	Sept 2020 – Feb 2021
Implementing the workplans	Feb 2021 onwards

In addition to the above, CLES is on hand to attend and present to formal meetings of the PSB, or individual anchor institutions Cabinet, Board, or senior leadership team meetings.

It is recognised that for the North Wales cluster, the timeline is now condensed. However, much can be achieved in a 6-month period and this work can positively contribute to the immediate need for recovery and reform, as well as help develop thinking more broadly on the Foundational Economy agenda in anticipation of any new national funding or support activities aligned to this agenda post elections.

Areas of focus in other PSB clusters

Below are the headline areas of focus agreed by the other PSB clusters participating in this programme:

Swansea Bay Cluster

- Maximising social value in construction procurement including opportunities associated with the zero carbon emissions / retrofit agenda.
- Food procurement
- Enhancing opportunities for local SMEs
- Enhancing procurement opportunities in health and social care for local, socially generative businesses

Mid Wales Cluster

- Enhancing the local supplier base
- Increasing local opportunities in the construction sector
- Enabling cooperative and third sector suppliers to compete on a level playing field
- Business start-ups
- Food procurement

Gwent Cluster

- New build construction and green retrofit

- Simplifying and sharing best practice in terms of procurement policy / contract procedure rules
- Food procurement and strengthening local supply chains
- Manufacturing deep dive – to explore potential to re-localise spend currently outside of Wales

Cwm Taf and Bridgend

- Enhancing the local supplier base
- Reviewing procurement processes and approaches with respect to lower-value contracts
- Develop practice in relation to support for generative businesses, including joint bidding

Considerations for Conwy and Denbighshire

The 'offer' for Conwy and Denbighshire as participants in this programme is access to the expertise and support from CLES, the Wales Cooperative Centre and Welsh Government – including data analysis, facilitation, support with implementation planning etc. for the period from now until December 2021.

The 'asks' are - a commitment to working collaboratively across the PSB anchors, with time and capacity from anchor procurement and economic development leads, and willingness to both develop thinking on progressive procurement and to action/delivery in terms of implementing policy and practice changes in relation to the chosen theme(s)/area(s) of focus.

John Heneghan
Associate Director, CLES

Welsh Parliament's Public Accounts Committee - Delivering for Future Generations: The story so far

Recommendation Overview – Recommendations 2, 4 and 10 are directed related to PSBs.

- **Recommendation 1.** The Welsh Government should carry out of a review of how it can provide longer-term financial security to the public bodies that are subject to this Act. This review should be completed in time to inform funding decisions in relation to the 2023-24 financial year

- **Recommendation 2.** The Welsh Government should carry out a review of how the work of Public Service Boards is funded. The review should begin no later than six months after the next Senedd election, with its conclusions implemented in time for them to inform funding allocations for the 2023-24 financial year. The review should be undertaken with the following principles in mind:
 - PSBs should be able to access pooled funds, drawn from the resources of their statutory members, which they could either hold as formal corporate entities, or via informal arrangements.
 - PSB budgets should be determined by clear, consistent guidelines set out by the Welsh Government.
 - PSB budgets should be informed by the role that the Welsh Government has set out for them.
 - The contributions that each organisation is required to make to finance PSBs should recognise wider commitments that they have to other partnerships (including to other PSBs).

- **Recommendation 3.** The Future Generations Commissioner and Welsh public bodies should ensure that they develop constructive relationships. The inconsistency in their relationships has limited the impact of the Commissioner's work.

- **Recommendation 4.** The Future Generations Commissioner should prioritise supporting public bodies and Public Services Boards to deliver this legislation.

- **Recommendation 5.** The Welsh Government must continue with plans to set and publish milestones as required by section 10 of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 no later than six months after the 2021 Senedd election.

- **Recommendation 6.** The Welsh Government must continue with plans to review and publish revised national well-being indicators no later than six months after the 2021 Senedd election. The review should recognise the challenges and opportunities presented by the Covid-19 pandemic and take into account the views of public bodies, the public, and key stakeholders of the private and voluntary sectors.

- **Recommendation 7.** The Welsh Government must carry out a review of the public bodies that are subject to the Act. The findings of that review should be implemented in sufficient time for any newly added public bodies to receive their funding allocations and associated remit letters for the 2022-23 financial year. The review should:
 - take into account the impact on the implementation of the Act at a national level that including/omitting any particular public body would have;
 - acknowledge that the inclusion of any additional public bodies will result in additional reporting, monitoring and auditing requirements that will inevitably have financial/resourcing implications;
 - clearly set out the expectations of public bodies that are not formally subject to the Act in relation to sustainable development, and how those expectations will be monitored and enforced; and
 - clearly set out the criteria against which inclusion/exclusion decisions were made and the process or timeframes by which future reviews will be initiated.

- **Recommendation 8.** The Welsh Government must continue with plans to frame remit letters around the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, following consultation with the Future Generations Commissioner. The new Delivering for future generations: the story so far 10 remit letters should be in use no later than in relation to the 2022-23 financial year.

- **Recommendation 9.** The Welsh Government must not create any new partnership or collaborative structures to fulfil any functions unless it has fully explored whether:
 - existing partnership structures could undertake those functions instead;
 - the new structure could replace existing ones;
 - the functions can be carried out by existing public bodies; and
 - after consultation with public bodies affected by the proposed changes, can demonstrate support for the new structures from a majority of public bodies affected by them.

- **Recommendation 10.** The Welsh Government must publish guidance no later than six months after the next Senedd election that sets out:
 - how the work of Regional Partnership Boards, Public Services Boards, Corporate Joint Committees, alongside other major partnership structures, interact with each other within the framework of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, with examples of good practice;
 - what flexibility partnerships have to make decisions to better and more efficiently organise themselves;

- where partnerships and organisations can take action to simplify or consolidate the governance and reporting structures to reduce repetition and duplication; and
 - the Welsh Government's view of the landscape of partnership structures over the next reporting period (2020-25), including any proposals to abolish or consolidate those structures.
- **Recommendation 11.** Public bodies subject to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 must ensure that the five ways of working are Delivering for future generations: the story so far 11 embedded in their plans for recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. We recommend that any gains they have made in their immediate response to the pandemic are not lost, and that they shift their focus from the day-to-day to long-term and prevention.
 - **Recommendation 12.** As we enter the second reporting period, the Auditor General for Wales must raise his expectations of public bodies and not hesitate to highlight poor adoption of the sustainable development principle.
 - **Recommendation 13.** The Business Committee of the Sixth Senedd should ensure that the Senedd's Committee structure facilitates effective scrutiny of legislation such as the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and other matters that cross policy areas and Ministerial portfolios.
 - **Recommendation 14.** The Business Committee of the Sixth Senedd should give specific consideration to how post-legislative scrutiny of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 should be undertaken, and refer that body of work to an appropriate Committee or forum accordingly.

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CONWY AND DENBIGHSHIRE PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

2021 / 2022

Chair:

Sian Williams, Natural Resources Wales

Vice Chair:

Judith Greenhalgh, Denbighshire County Council

Co-ordinators:

Emma Lea (Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board)

Fran Lewis & Hannah Edwards (Conwy County Borough Council)

Nicola Kneale & Shannon Richardson (Denbighshire County Council)

Justin Hanson & Helen Millband (Natural Resources Wales)

Pippa Hardwick (North Wales Fire & Rescue Service)

Committee Responsible:

Denbighshire County Council

For Queries:

01824 706516 / shannon.richardson@denbighshire.gov.uk

Meeting Date	Topic	Purpose	Responsible Officer
17 th May 2021 (10 – 12pm)	Decisions Items (Assurance)		
	Chair and Vice Chair Nominations	To review the chair and vice chair in line with section 7 of the terms of reference.	Chair
	PSB Annual Report 2020/21 – approval	To seek approval of the 2020/21 annual report.	Chair
	Mental Well-being Priority – Review of lead organisation	To agree on a lead organisation for this priority.	Hannah Edwards
	Well-being assessment & community engagement - update on approach and progress	To provide members with an update on the approach and progress to refreshing the assessment.	TBC
	Well-being of Future Generations Procurement Report	<i>To consider the recommendation for PSBs and the offer from CLES about community Wealth building and progressive procurement.</i>	Nicola Kneale
	Welsh Parliament’s Barriers to the successful Implementation of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 report	To provide members with an overview of the findings and potential recommendations for the Board.	TBC
	Discussion Items (Improvement)		
	For Information		Date circulated
Letter of expectation from WG and Future Generations Commissioner			
Key Communication Messages			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Green Pledges - Relaunch, raising awareness & encouraging take up of scheme (in accordance with WG’s Coronavirus (COVID-19) rules) 			
Headline Community Feedback			

	n/a
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16 June 2021 10am – 12pm (Workshop – closed meeting)	Decisions Items (Assurance)		
	n/a		
	Discussion Items (Improvement)		
	Workshop session	To follow on from the January workshop and reflect upon the plan, its purpose, content and governance considering the experiences gained since March 2020.	Ken Perry and Nina Ruddle Glyndwr University
	For Information		Date circulated
	PSB grant quarter 1 update.		
	Feedback from Joint PSB scrutiny committee		
	Key Communication Messages		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well-being assessment engagement 		
	Headline Community Feedback		

15 September 2021 (2 – 4pm)	Decisions Items (Assurance)		
	Well-being Assessment approval for consultation	To approve the well-being assessment for consultation.	
	PSB risk register – annual review	To consider the risk register and updating as necessary.	
	Discussion Items (Improvement)		
	Update on Mental Well-being priority		
	Update on Community Empowerment priority		
	Update on Environmental Resilience priority		
	For Information		Date circulated
PSB grant quarter 2 update			

	Key Communication Messages	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well-being assessment engagement 	
	Headline Community Feedback	

13 December 2021 (10 – 12pm)	Decisions Items (Assurance)	
	Well-being Assessment – PSB approval?	
	Discussion Items (Improvement)	
	Update on Mental Well-being priority	
	Update on Community Empowerment priority	
	Update on Environmental Resilience priority	
	For Information	Date circulated
	PSB grant quarter 3 update	
	Feedback from Joint PSB scrutiny committee	
	Key Communication Messages	
	Headline Community Feedback	

31 January 2022 (2 – 4pm)	Workshop / Informal Meeting
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23 March 2022 (2 – 4pm)	Decisions Items (Assurance)	
	Well-being Assessment – PSB approval?	
	Discussion Items (Improvement)	
Update on Mental Well-being priority		

	Update on Community Empowerment priority			
	Update on Environmental Resilience priority			
	For Information		Date circulated	
	PSB grant quarter 4 update.			
	Key Communication Messages			
	Headline Community Feedback			

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Standard Agenda Items	
Apologies for Absence	
Minutes of last meeting	
Matters Arising	
Meeting Action Tracker	
Priority Area Progress Update	
Forward Work Programme	
AOB	
To be confirmed	
North Wales Economic Ambition Board – digital connectivity update	Alwen Williams
Offshore Windfarm Development	TBC

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