

Report to: Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 2 March 2017

Lead Member / Officer: Leader of the Council and Public Service Board (PSB)
Member
Strategic Planning Team Manager

Report Author: Strategic Planning Team Manager

Title: Launch of consultation on Conwy & Denbighshire PSB's Well-being Assessment

1. What is the report about?

The launch of the consultation on the Conwy/Denbighshire Public Services Board's (PSB's) Well-being Assessment, produced in line with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

A first draft of the Conwy/Denbighshire PSB's Well-being Assessment is now complete. Statutory guidance states that consultation on its content must take place, and the local authority's scrutiny committee is a statutory consultee. This report describes the process that's been undertaken to produce the report, its structure and availability, and the ongoing process for its maintenance.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That the Committee:

- 3.1 notes the approach to developing the Well-being Assessment, and ideas for how it might be used.
- 3.2 considers whether the data is accurate, and whether there any topics or pieces of data missing. Feedback is requested by the consultation deadline date of Friday 24 March.
- 3.3 has read, understood and taken account of the Well-being Impact Assessment (Appendix 1) as part of its consideration.

4. Report details

- 4.1 Wales faces a number of challenges now and in the future, such as climate change, poverty, health inequalities and jobs and growth. To tackle these we need to work together. To give current and future generations a good quality of life we need to think about the long term impact of the decisions we make.

4.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 gives a legally-binding common purpose – the seven well-being goals – for national government, local government, local health boards and other specified public bodies. It details the ways in which specified public bodies must work, and work together to improve the well-being of Wales.

4.3 The Act states that an Assessment of Local Wellbeing must be produced to support these public bodies in the setting of wellbeing objectives and in the production of any plans set in motion to improve the wellbeing of the people who live in their area. This report is the first part in producing that Wellbeing Assessment.

4.4 **How has this assessment been produced?**

To describe all aspects of wellbeing would be an enormous task, so this Assessment aims to provide only an outline of the more strategic issues affecting the counties of Conwy and Denbighshire. In producing the Assessment we have taken an ‘engagement led’ approach. The journey has not started with pre-conceived ideas or abstract data analysis, but with extensive engagement both with local communities and the staff who work in the different public sector organisations. People were encouraged to talk about the strengths and weaknesses of living in the area or providing public services to the people.

4.5 We have grouped what people were saying into strategic topics and looked into the data and available supporting research papers to see where there is sound evidence to support the perceptions and feelings. In particular we have tried to consider the implications of each topic on the wellbeing of the individual and how it contributes to the seven wellbeing goals set out in the Act.

4.6 As well as providing an analysis of the current situation, where possible, data has been collected to track progress over time and consider how the future may look if current trends continue.

4.7 **Consultation & Engagement**

The aim at the onset was to make this assessment engagement led. Staff working within the public sector, members of the public, community groups and local businesses have all contributed their experiences of visiting, living or working in Conwy and Denbighshire counties. They discussed the strengths and weaknesses of living in the area or providing public services to the people. Some of the engagement that has informed this assessment includes:

- The county conversation with the public in Conwy and Denbighshire, which received around 500 detailed responses and engaged 30+ community groups;
- Engagement commissioned with harder to reach groups through the North Wales Race and Equality Network and through Wrexham council including: Physical disability Group, Carer’s Group, Alzheimer’s Society, BAWSO, Portuguese community representatives, Polish Community representatives, Visually Impaired Support Group, LGBT Group, and the Deaf Association;
- The engagement work under the Social Care and Wellbeing Act 2014 included responses from over 120 third sector organisations and workshops with Social Care and Health staff across North Wales;
- Representatives from all internal Council Services and all partner organisations listed as part of the PSB below have had the opportunity to contribute to this

assessment, including: Denbighshire County Council, Conwy County Borough Council, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, North Wales Fire & Rescue Service, Natural Resources Wales, North Wales Police, Welsh Government, Public Health Wales.

4.8 Limitations of this Assessment and next stages

We know that this Assessment will only provide a strategic outline or framework for public sector bodies to produce their wellbeing objectives. It gives a broad but quite shallow analysis of each of the topic areas it covers. It is intended only as the first step in the process and will evolve as an assessment over time.

4.9 The Public Services Board will use the information in this Assessment to identify topics that it might want to address. These topics will then be subject to further 'response' analysis, which is likely to evaluate current interventions, best practice elsewhere, etc.

4.10 Structure of this Assessment

The Wellbeing Assessment needs to provide accessible information for a range of users who require differing levels of detail. To facilitate this we produced a website (<http://conwyanddenbighshirelsb.org.uk/en/home/english-wellbeing-assessment/>)

4.11 We will implement a 'live assessment' approach, with partners able to provide updated content as and when it becomes available.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

This Assessment is a rich source of information for Denbighshire County Council, as well as the Conwy/Denbighshire Public Services Board, and its own Well-being objectives will be based on facts contained within this Assessment.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

Costs associated with producing this Assessment have been absorbed by partner organisations so far, and it is the plan that associated costs will continue to be funded from existing revenue budgets.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

See Appendix 1. As a piece of research, the Well-being Assessment website is a good piece of work that will hopefully lead to well-informed decisions on service delivery by Public Service Board partners, and other organisations, that will benefit Conwy and Denbighshire residents.

The assessment being online is a sustainable approach to sharing information on long-term trends and predictions for Conwy and Denbighshire's future. There has also been a good level of involvement by residents and partners in helping develop its content. Any improvement activities that emerge from the Well-being plans that the Well-being Assessment informs will themselves require a separate impact assessment.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

Consultation has been carried out with many residents, partners, community groups and colleagues, as outlined in paragraph 4.7

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

None required

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

There is a risk that this information is not kept up-to-date by partners, thus undermining the site's usefulness, and also meaning that a large scale review will be required in the future. Regular communication between PSB supporting officers, supported with clear direction from the PSB, should mitigate against this risk.

11. Power to make the Decision

11.1 Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015

11.2 Section 7.15 of the Council's Constitution sets out Scrutiny's powers with respect of the Public Service Board.

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