

Development of the Public Services Board's Well-being Plan

Wellbeing Impact Assessment Report

This report summarises the likely impact of a proposal on the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Denbighshire, Wales and the world.

Assessment Number:	311
Brief description:	The Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 requires that Public Services Boards develop a local Well-being Plan for their area. The statutory publication date is May 2018. The development of the plans requires a collaborative approach with partners across Conwy and Denbighshire. The project also contains the following work streams: engagement and consultation, needs assessment, joint priority setting.
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Completed by:	Nicola Kneale
Responsible Service:	Business Improvement & Modernisation
Localities affected by the proposal:	Whole County,

IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Before we look in detail at the contribution and impact of the proposal, it is important to consider how the proposal is applying the sustainable development principle. This means that we must act "in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Score for the sustainability of the approach

Could some small changes in your thinking produce a better result?

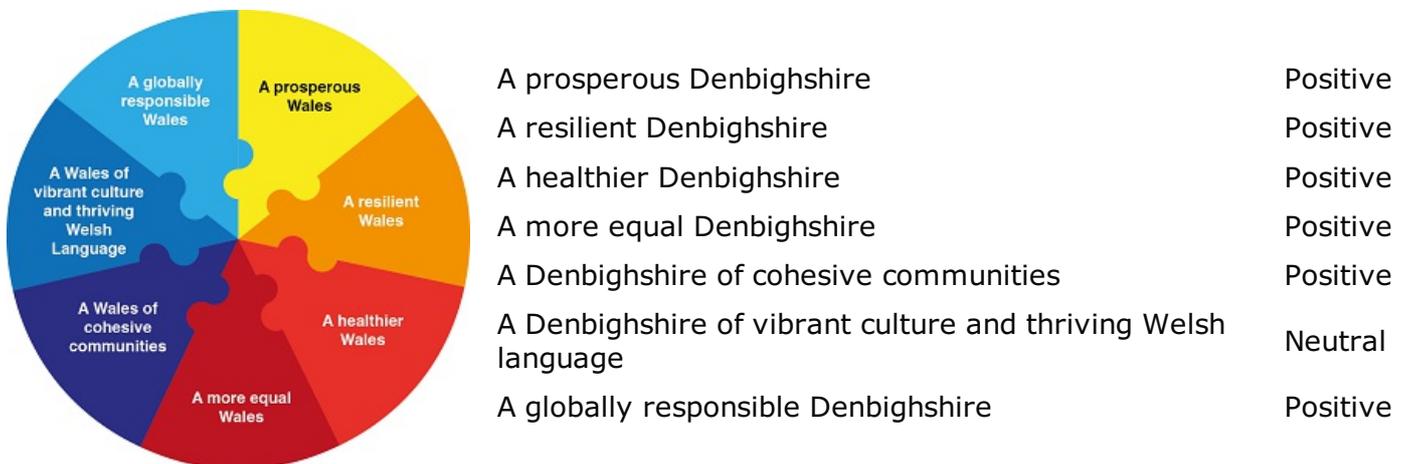


(3 out of 4 stars)

Actual score : 22 / 24.

Summary of impact

Wellbeing Goals



Main conclusions

This impact assessment considers the impact of our approach to developing the Conwy & Denbighshire Public Services Board's local Well-being Plan for the area. We have engaged our residents and worked with stakeholders to shape three priorities, and considered the kinds of steps we might take in support of each. Our Sustainable Development score is strong, but also tells us there are some further considerations that need to be made as the detail of the plan is developed and delivered by the Board. The local Well-being Plan will seek to improve the mental well-being of the population, promote community resilience, and protect the environment while seeing that we balance its protection with its potential to support our personal, social and economic well-being. We have particularly considered the young and the old demographic in this plan - we want to lay the foundations to address basic needs for the next generation (adequate housing, fulfilling jobs for which they are prepared, etc.), and we recognise the importance of good health and networks for ageing well so want to promote this. We also recognise the environment and (physical and digital) infrastructure as important ingredients for well-being, and see that those living in rural areas and/or poverty are most likely to be deprived of these to some extent. We feel that the focus of the priorities is over the medium term at the moment, certainly in relation to the actions we'll take. We need to ensure communities and stakeholders have continued opportunity to be involved in the development of the plan, and in its implementation, and assessing the impact that our early interventions have on communities in the longterm will be a challenge, but one that might be shared across Wales. The proposed priorities are focussed on resilience for everyone and will prompt alternative approaches to prevent problems from occurring. However, we must be careful not to replicate good work already taking place elsewhere. We have found there to be a neutral impact on

Welsh language and culture, but note that the Welsh Language Strategies of partner organisations underpin all that we do. Overall the impact on the 7 well-being goals is positive. We would expect that any projects taken forward to realise the ambition outlined within it are individually impact assessed, to check that the impact remains on track to be a positive one.

THE LIKELY IMPACT ON DENBIGHSHIRE, WALES AND THE WORLD

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	There is plenty of scope to have significant positive impact on the prosperity and green credentials across Conwy and Denbighshire. If there is regional PSB support for prosperity and carbon reduction initiatives, there is potential for us to further scale up our ambition and potential.

Positive consequences identified:

Specific detail around our commitments is yet to be agreed, but suggested goals under the Environment priority include a reduction in carbon from public sector assets, development of renewable energy opportunities, and higher energy efficiency ratings across social housing. Carbon reduction was very important to the community.

The proposed priorities around community resilience and personal mental well-being include reference to developing skills and opportunities (for young people in particular), support future prosperity of our counties.

Younger people are a particular focus in this plan, which aims to ensure that people in Conwy and Denbighshire have skills to work and access jobs. A focus on the environment could result in green job opportunities.

Within the proposed next steps for this plan there are explicit references to ensuring young people are skilled not just academically but also practically: 'life skills'. Some initiatives to be delivered, e.g. digital literacy, could become valuable volunteering opportunities for all age groups, particularly for those doing Welsh Bacc and/or DofE.

The priority around community Resilience will be critical in ensuring the long term sustainability/resilience of communities (socially and economically). There are proposed actions to be explored under sustainable travel to key sites, mixed use of public assets, and delivery of a top class digital infrastructure.

Unintended negative consequences identified:

We would need to work with communities to understand their aspirations for our environment. Some solutions can be divisive, e.g. reduced waste collections to deter people from producing waste.

More jobs could put pressure on the local housing market, and/or more housing could put pressure on public services such as schools, hospitals, GPs, etc.

There could be a focus on young people at the expense of other age groups.

We are not clear how the proposed priorities will impact on childcare. If working patterns in the area change, our childcare provision locally may not meet the needs of parents and carers.

Mitigating actions:

Ensure that any proposals are developed through the involvement of our communities.

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
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Justification for impact	The overall impact is estimated to be positive. Public bodies have not really prioritised the environment before, so there is great potential both in terms of contributions to the green agenda as organisations (reducing carbon emissions, for example) and in terms of how communities could be encouraged to change behaviour.
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Positive consequences identified:

There are no significant capital projects current proposed in this plan, but there are plans to preserve the environment. Hopefully this value will run through all activities so that we are sensitivity to biodiversity.

Discussions under the environment priority include plastic use (internally and as residents), plastic use by supermarkets, and the amount of waste produced overall. Although steps to reduce this have yet to be agreed upon, it's likely that some public sector pledges to reduce waste will be an outcome. Some communities in south Wales have declared themselves 'Plastic Free' and this is an initiative that could be explored.

Green technology for carbon reduction is highlighted in the current set of proposed priorities. Although nothing is yet confirmed, there has been talk of electric cars and requirement for a charging infrastructure. If services are taken to communities (under Resilient Communities) this could indirectly contribute to reduced fuel consumption.

Having a priority around environmental issues could contribute to greater awareness and personal ownership of biodiversity and renewable technology.

There is a pledge to manage flood risk and encourage communities to take responsibility for their environment.

Unintended negative consequences identified:

As projects are scoped to deliver the Well-being Plan, a loss of habitat could be a risk factor and should be monitored.

Increased use of our environment may pose challenges in terms of safeguarding species.

An opportunity to influence overall consumption may risk being missed if it's considered difficult to influence communities. we must remember many of our staff live in our communities too.

As the technology is new, it could be expensive initially and quickly become outdated.

Mitigating actions:

This well-being impact assessment is a key tool for helping us evaluate likely impacts. Ensuring we seek to work with key stakeholders and secure good advice in this emerging, important theme should help us to identify opportunities for integration, funding, and sustainable technology.

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The priorities are focussed on personal and community resilience and will contribute to improved health outcomes (physical and mental). There is potential to tackle health inequality (see "a more equal Conwy and Denbighshire"). However, we must be careful not to increase dependence on services.

Positive consequences identified:

Our priorities around mental well-being, and promoting resilience in all should contribute to an improved social and physical environment. The inclusion of the environment has led to discussion of

how the natural world supports physical and mental well-being.

The draft plan proposes to promote the consumption of local produce, which should have positive health benefits (as well as environmental benefits).

The draft environment priority encourages greater community participation with the environment, which should bring health benefits in terms of engagement with leisure activity and exercise.

Teaching young people life skills should also help enforce positive behaviours when it comes to eating, exercising and the consumption of drugs and alcohol. Advice on money management may also help reduce levels of stress and anxiety among young people.

Opportunities to change the way health care is delivered will be explored in the plan, aiming for communities and services that work better together.

Unintended negative consequences identified:

We could risk creating a dependence on services. WE're also making interventions at an early stage and it's possible that the interventions we take don't have the intended impact.

Mitigating actions:

It's potentially difficult - and a different approach - to demonstrate the impact of early intervention and its effect on communities. This is a national challenge, due to the long-term nature of well-being priorities, so we must engage in national and academic conversation and support to help us evaluate the effectiveness of interventions.

A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The overall impact is positive, though we recognise there may be areas of inequality that are not directly addressed through the PSB's plan. Poverty, for example, could continue to be a primary factor in inequality if the local economy grows/develops at a slower pace. Promoting access to housing or education for any one age group may limit access for others. We need to do some work to assess the impact of any proposed activities on people with protected characteristics, and this would happen as projects are developed.

Positive consequences identified:

The emerging priorities are addressing some known inequalities and issues in our counties (e.g. housing and young people, digital inclusion and those in poverty, access to services for people in rural areas) and the intention is to have a positive impact on people with protected characteristics.

We know that supporting people with protected characteristics to access services will benefit their lives. For instance, supporting access to housing for the young and old could help with improved health outcomes. Making better use of our assets and community groups can have a recognised positive impact on disabled people, or people with limited access to goods and services.

A better range of stable jobs could result in better incomes and could lead to healthier lifestyles, and a reduction in ill-health (physical and mental). The emerging priorities intend to increase engagement/interaction with our natural environment, and to support children and young people with life skills and resilience. Where there is discussion about access to outside space, we must ensure everyone is able to access (for example, those living in deprived areas need access to green space).

A better range of stable jobs could result in better incomes. Supporting younger people to be "work ready" could help, and providing accessible information to support well-being should reduce inequalities that often accompany deprivation. We want to ensure everyone is financially literate.

Unintended negative consequences identified:

A focus on young people's skills could be to the detriment of other age groups (for example, older people). We need to ensure that our priorities are underpinned by 'accessibility' - making best use of different approaches and technologies. There is a risk that projects do not take into account people's needs, and could have limited impact, for instance, if digital services are not designed to meet people's needs. If alternative service delivery models are developed, they would need to ensure that there is understanding and inclusion of people with protected characteristics. We don't know if there could be a disproportionate negative impact on people with protected characteristics, other than age/disability and those living in deprivation.

There is a lot of work taking place in support of Tackling Poverty. We must be careful to ensure governance is simple so that it is effective.

Mitigating actions:

The PSB has discussed its role and the fact that it doesn't want to add 'layers' to existing activity, but that it wants to offer leadership, challenge, promotion, and opportunity to streamline governance arrangements for existing initiatives (especially where there is complexity). In impact assessing any individual projects, the PSB should consider the key areas of inequality highlighted in the Well-being Assessment and seek the advice of hard to reach groups and equality expertise.

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	People being active in their communities and participating emerged as big themes for our communities. The attractiveness of the environment was important to some people as well. Safe communities for children to play and safe facilities/safe places to live emerged to a limited extent, and was more important to some areas than others. We cannot foresee any negative impacts but this needs to be revisited as projects are developed.

Positive consequences identified:

There is a draft priority around promoting community resilience, which it is hoped will help create communities that are strong, caring, safe and resilient. Our priority around mental well-being also supports a preventative approach to addressing health issues.

We want a continual conversation with our communities and we want them to get involved and have a say in improving services. We hope teaching young people life-skills, providing volunteer and work opportunities will lead to greater community participation. We also want to empower our communities so that they can become self-organising in support of the well-being agenda, and will provide advice, support, and assistance to them in doing so.

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Promotion of one community or community group over another. is there sufficient capacity to meet demand?

Mitigating actions:

It can be difficult to gain participation from certain communities of interest or place. The Public Services Board's plans around engagement and participation will hopefully help with community cohesion.

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	Some older people were concerned about not being able to access services/support through the medium of Welsh. Many people said they valued Welsh language and culture as an asset. The current set of priorities have the potential to make rural communities more attractive places in which to live and work - this could stem the outward migration of young (welsh-speaking) people, and also attract people into the communities. The overall impact remains to be seen and is, therefore, neutral.

Positive consequences identified:

Offering more opportunity and better infrastructure in our communities may mean some of our local Welsh speakers stay in the area, and may also attract others.

Support for the Welsh language is a principle that will underpin all the work that we do, and our commitment to providing a bilingual service is captured in the Welsh Language policies of partners. At present there tends to be an outward migration of young people, particularly from rural communities. It is hoped that work to support communities, business and housing will improve the viability of our rural communities as places to live and work. It remains to be seen whether this can affect the outward migration of young (Welsh speaking) people, but the work has the potential to reverse the decline.

Unintended negative consequences identified:

If the area's a more attractive place to live and work it's possible that non-Welsh speakers will move to the area. If they do not use Welsh the language risks being diluted.

Mitigating actions:

The impact of our work must be monitored as we progress. Any projects taken forward should be impact assessed for their impact on the Welsh language.

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Some people were interested in hub/satellite services and using assets so that they are multi-functional (e.g. a building could be a health clinic on a Monday, a court on a Tuesday), and using assets, like school mini-buses, when they are out of use during holidays. The potential for this is less clear although work on community resilience will involve better understanding of how community assets are used. Our work to reduce carbon will have an impact on global plans to reduce carbon consumption and increase energy generation. Plans to promote local produce will also contribute positively here.

Positive consequences identified:

We need to find out if there could be positive impacts for local/national/international supply chains. There could be potential as the priorities develop, particularly if the scale to which we are working (e.g. pan NOrth Wales) scales up.

We might also consider potential positive impacts around employment practices and employer's responsibilities.

A greater focus on well-being could impact on health services, housing, education, welfare, and environmental groups. Approaching these issues as a partnership will bring benefits.

Unintended negative consequences identified:

None currently identified, but this will be reviewed as projects develop.

Mitigating actions: