

Support Grant for Public Services Boards 2019-20

Progress Report – November 2019

Description of the target key milestones & activities	Date by when it should be achieved	Progress during reporting period
Community Engagement	31/12/19	<p>Environment</p> <p>A North Wales Public Services Board Environment Networking Event on 18th September attracted nearly 50 attendees from the PSB member organisations and others including National Trust, Snowdonia National Park, North Wales Wildlife Trust, Keep Wales Tidy and National Farmers Union. The event included a presentation from NRW on the Carbon Positive project, an overview of environmental priorities from Gwynedd and Mon, Conwy and Denbighshire, Wrexham and Flintshire PSBs and workshop sessions to discuss how we could approach the climate emergency and what is already going on that can contribute to the agenda. There seemed to be general consensus that a North Wales regional approach would be beneficial.</p> <p>A follow up meeting was held in October and the following proposals have been made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish a regional environment programme board for North Wales comprising of professional leads. • Environment programme board to provide updates to the Regional Leadership Board & Economic Ambition Board. • To establish a sub-group for each of the 5 themes identified (<i>fleet, assets, procurement, land management & adaptation</i>) - either from existing groups or from new. • Sub-groups to report directly to the environment programme board, but will also feed in to PSBs.

		<p>The Green Pledges pilot was approved by the Conwy & Denbighshire PSB in July 2019. The purpose of the pilot is to engage communities to make green changes to reduce their environmental footprint. The marketing department in Conwy County Borough Council has been commissioned to support the launch and engagement of the scheme. As part of this a toolkit will be developed, that will be shared with other PSB organisations and outline the messages we want to communicate, branding and imagery. An engagement plan is in development for engaging and raising awareness of the scheme with communities. We are aiming to launch the scheme in December 2019.</p>
Consolidating gaps in evidence base	31/01/20	<p>Barriers to Travel</p> <p>A contract has been awarded to Glyndwr University to provide travel barriers to employment research. We have held an inception meeting and the contract is being finalised.</p> <p>The allocated PSB budget was £22k. The Glyndwr fee was £32,990 – nearly £11k over our allocation. Owing to the strength of their tender – and issues with the other tender – we have managed to identify top-up funding internally to pay the remaining £11k. However, we urge the North Wales group to allocate any potential underspend in the PSB research fund as a top up to this research.</p> <p>The approach that has been outlined by the research team includes desktop research, qualitative interviews, a survey and some quantitative research. There is a wealth of experience and talent in the research team, and includes a Welsh speaking academic.</p> <p>The geography is wide so they are advocating focusing their efforts on key areas within each of the PSB areas that have declared an interest in the research. This means we might not get specific data for all of the employment sites we listed for instance (which makes sense, because otherwise we would be spreading the research too thinly with poor sample sizes)</p>

	30/03/20	Equalities – Research brief produced and circulated to partners for comment, draft data and evidence report has been produced and will be finalised in the coming months.
	30/03/20	Poverty – on hold until the equality work is finalised in order to decide whether a separate study is required.
	30/03/20	<p>Environment/Climate Change – Workshop sessions held at the Environment Event in September to discuss how we could approach the climate emergency and what is already going on that can contribute to the agenda. There seemed to be general consensus that a North Wales regional approach would be beneficial. It is proposed that some of this year's grant will be used to commission a consultant to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Research evidence base, explore what work is already taking place & where are the gaps ➤ Scope what groups are already in existence in relation to 5 themes ➤ Propose a work plan / actions for each of the sub-groups ➤ Propose membership options for the regional programme board ➤ Produce Terms of Reference for the environment programme board ➤ Develop solutions for how the Board will link in with the regional architecture
Real-time data availability	30/09/19	Work to stabilise the assessment website for Conwy & Denbighshire has been completed.
Scoping of collaborative projects	31/03/20	It is proposed that some of this year's grant will be used to commission a consultant to explore what work is already taking place and where there are gaps in relation to the Environment/Climate Change agenda.

Overall Project Progress

Work has progressed well during Q2 in relation to the Travel Research Project, with the contract awarded to Glyndwr University and work commencing beginning of October. The Environment/Climate Change work has also seen progress in relation to community engagement and agreeing next steps. As previously reported, the Equalities research is near completion and will inform whether the NW PSB Network progress with further research around Poverty.

General / Other comments

As previously highlighted, the grant criteria remains inflexible for supporting project delivery, and should support expenditure not only regionally but on a PSB footprint as well.

Community Engagement <i>£20,000 Allocated</i>		Current Spend = £7,412.50		Underspend/Overspend = £12,587.50	
Project	Owner	Organisation	Spend	Invoiced Denbighshire County Council	Paid in Full
Gwynedd & Anglesey Annual Report – Graphic Design	Nonn Hughes	Gwynedd County Council	£880	Yes	Yes
Environment/Climate Change Engagement Workshop 18/09/19	Hannah Edwards	Conwy County Borough Council	£967.50	Yes	
Workshop Translation 18/09/19	Hannah Edwards	Conwy County Borough Council	£135	No	
Green Pledges Development & Communication	Hannah Edwards	Conwy County Borough Council	£5430	No	
Consolidating Gaps in Evidence Base <i>£42,117 Allocated</i>		Current Spend = £32,990* <i>See comments in update above</i>		Underspend/Overspend = £9,127	
Travel Research Brief	Emma Horan	Denbighshire County Council	£32,990	No	
Real-time data availability <i>£1,000 Allocated</i>		Current Spend = £0		Underspend/Overspend = £1,000	
Scoping of Collaborative Projects <i>£20,000 Allocated</i>		Current Spend = £0		Underspend/Overspend = £20,000	