

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.

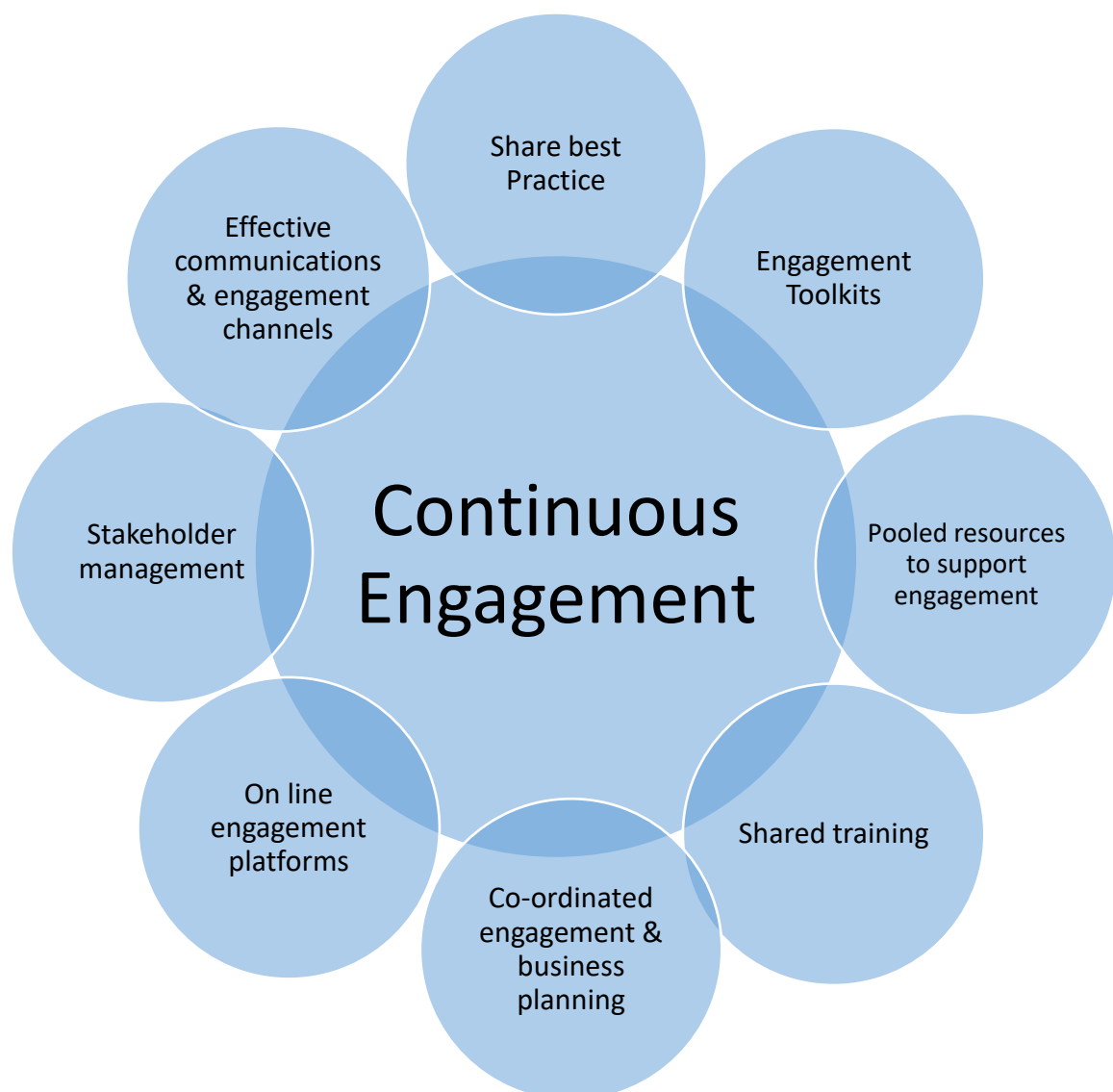
- [The Equalities Act 2010,](#)
- [Welsh Language \(Wales\) Measure 2011,](#)
- [The Social Services and Well Being \(Wales\) Act \(2014\), The Health & Care Standards 2015,](#)
- [The Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015,](#)
- [A Healthier Wales: Our Plan for Health and Social Care](#)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