



Conwy and Denbighshire Public Services Board

Well-being Plan 2023 to 2028:

Well-being Impact Assessment

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

Well-being Impact Assessment

Assessment Number: 1115

Brief description: This document outlines the Conwy and Denbighshire Public Services Board's Well-being Plan (2023 to 2028) under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, which seeks to make Conwy and Denbighshire a more equal place with less deprivation.

Localities affected by the proposal: Conwy and Denbighshire Counties

Who will be affected by the proposal? The Plan covers both the counties of Conwy and Denbighshire and will affect communities, businesses, visitors, public sector partners (regional and local), including children and young people and people with protected characteristics.

Was this impact assessment completed as a group? Yes

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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: 3 out of 4 stars**
- **Actual score: 32 / 36**

Summary for each Sustainable Development principle

Long term

The Plan is aspirational and its development has stretched our thinking around many of the key issues it seeks to address. Our prioritisation work has maintained a focus on addressing the long-term root-causes to deprivation. However, the Plan's success will be hampered by capacity and resource to deliver meaningful long-term change, and the suggested steps will need further scoping and agreement by the PSB to make progress; this includes arrangements for securing the legacy of any action.

Prevention

The Plan actively seeks to promote the resilience of individuals and communities against the impacts of Climate Change. The promotion of the well-being and safety of individuals and communities is also prevalent throughout, particularly where inequality currently exists.

Integration

This is a partnership plan that integrates the objectives of members of the Conwy and Denbighshire Public Services Board, and has been developed with their input throughout. Steps to be taken in the future will be delivered through the agreement of the collective PSB.

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Collaboration

Considerable work has been undertaken with partners throughout 2021 and 2022 to develop the current Well-being Plan, with excellent contributions being made through multiple prioritisation workshops, and particularly in the later stages of developing the final draft. It is hoped that the energy that has brought this Plan together will now continue through to the development of our steps and their implementation.

Involvement

We are confident that we are applying all ten principles, and the commissioned work to engage seldom heard groups continues to be an important part of our approach and evidence base. Our engagement has faced challenges (social distancing, online meeting fatigue), but the quality of feedback received has been excellent. It is a firm principle in the new Plan that the PSB will build on its engagement work and involve people in the delivery of its steps.

Summary of impact

Well-being Goal	Overall Impact
A prosperous Wales	Positive
A resilient Wales	Positive
A healthier Wales	Positive
A more equal Wales	Positive
A Wales of cohesive communities	Positive

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Well-being Goal	Overall Impact
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	Neutral
A globally responsible Wales	Positive

Main conclusions

We should continue to revisit the impact assessment on a regular basis and review our findings to inform the approach to further development, engagement and consultation on our Well-being Plan. Engagement with seldom heard groups (serving and ex-armed forces, offenders and ex-offenders, in addition to people with protected characteristics), across the region, should continue. We should also use the impact assessment as an aide memoir, using the topics and the tooltips to inform our engagement and well-being assessment.

The opportunities highlighted at the end of each sustainable development principle and each of the seven well-being goals should be noted and considered thoroughly. It is also important to note that our level of influence and control varies across some of the steps that we have identified, and this will affect our ability to bring about positive impacts in some areas. So too will the economic climate and capacity of partners to deliver impact on the success of our Plan.

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The likely impact on Conwy, Denbighshire, Wales and the world

A prosperous Wales

Overall Impact

Positive

Justification for impact

We are estimating a positive impact because the Well-being Plan is proposing more focussed work to support a green economy, remove barriers to work, and to support people to secure better employment. The Wales Centre for Public Policy has produced research on the impact of Covid-19 and Brexit on economic well-being and this is included in our well-being assessment.

Further actions required

We will need to work with businesses more closely, and link into regional work via the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (NWEAB). There is the potential to maximise skills development around a low carbon economy in particular.

Positive impacts identified:

A low carbon society

Supporting a green economy is a core part of the Plan. The extent of positive impacts will need to be assessed once detailed actions are agreed and projects scoped. However, following the leadership set by NWEAB should lead to positive outcomes.

Quality communications, infrastructure and transport

Support for sustainable and active travel schemes is identified within the Plan.

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Economic development

Sustainable tourism, green economy, social economy, and the growth deal feature within the Plan.

Quality skills for the long term

Ensuring that we have the right skills for the future is an important aspect of our Plan in support of the Economy. If we do this well, our skills base will attract new businesses, whilst helping the prosperity of individuals.

Quality jobs for the long term

Again, our Plan pledges support for the economy and removing barriers to work for those with protected characteristics, or who are at a socio-economic disadvantage.

Childcare

There is no support directly offered in support of childcare within our Plan, but this may be something that the PSB considers when considering steps that it can take to remove barriers that people face to attend work, employment, education or healthcare. In taking forward any steps the PSB must consider any disproportionate impact that may incur in that regard.

Negative impacts identified:

A low carbon society

There should be no negative impacts as a result of our work, but the PSB must remain vigilant of any potential increases in Carbon as a result of its work.

Quality communications, infrastructure and transport

None identified at present (this should continue to be reviewed).

Economic development

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None identified at present (this should continue to be reviewed).

Quality skills for the long term

There is widespread recognition, which has been highlighted in our well-being assessment, that women and people with protected characteristics and people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage are less likely to benefit from opportunities from the green sector.

Quality jobs for the long term

The draft well-being assessment still lacks up to date analysis about local jobs.

Childcare

The draft well-being assessment includes some analysis of how childcare can be a barrier for women in particular, who may disproportionately arrange and ferry children to/from providers (this could impact active travel and visibility in the workplace).

The new childcare provision cited above brings with it questions around sustainability, for carbon, and overall provision across the sector. These should be assessed in more detail within each individual well-being impact assessment.

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A resilient Wales

Overall Impact

Positive

Justification for impact

Environmental well-being is a key feature of our Well-being Assessment, the engagement feedback that we have received, and the content of the Well-being Plan as a consequence.

Further actions required

Further work is needed to understand the risks that are faced by our communities. Most recently we have had to adjust our thinking around climate risk resilience to include resilience to hotter, drier summers, for example.

Positive impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment

The Well-being Plan has made a commitment to mitigating the impacts of Climate Change and the Nature Emergency.

Biodiversity in the built environment

The Well-being Plan has made a commitment to mitigating the impacts of Climate Change and the Nature Emergency.

Reducing waste, reusing and recycling

The Plan does seek to encourage a circular economy, but currently has no defined plans around reducing, reusing or recycling waste.

Reduced energy/fuel consumption

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Energy efficient housing, alleviating fuel poverty, and choosing sustainable / active travel feature in the Plan. It is also worth noting that this was a consideration throughout our engagement and consultation. We didn't print excessive paper copies of our surveys, due to the environmental impacts.

People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity

From our engagement, we have found that people feel strongly about being empowered to tackle climate change, and were particularly vocal about active travel. We want to keep people involved and harness their enthusiasm as we take this plan forward.

Flood risk management

The plan will seek to identify those communities most at risk of the impacts of climate change and encourage / support their resilience against future climate events.

Negative impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment

There should be no negative impacts as a result of our work, but the PSB must remain vigilant of any potential increases in Carbon as a result of its work.

Biodiversity in the built environment

There should be no negative impacts as a result of our work, but the PSB must remain vigilant of any potential increases in Carbon as a result of its work.

Reducing waste, reusing and recycling

None identified at present (this should continue to be reviewed).

Reduced energy/fuel consumption

Our well-being assessment shows that some people, particularly those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, may be less likely to benefit from schemes to reduce

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their carbon footprint and reduce their energy bills. EV cars are likely to remain within the reach of those with a sizeable disposable income for a while yet.

People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity

Some people are vocal about wildflower meadows and see these as an eyesore. This needs to be resolved.

Flood risk management

None identified at present (this should continue to be reviewed).

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A healthier Wales

Overall Impact

Positive

Justification for impact

The Well-being Plan is pledging to support happier, healthier and more resilient communities and should positively contribute to all of the above areas.

Further actions required

Topics such as mental-well-being should be kept under review as we continue to emerge from the pandemic, but move into a space with increased stresses around cost of living. There may be new evidence to consider. Constantly reviewing and assessing our intelligence is, however, a core part of the Plan.

Positive impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being

This now features strongly in the Plan and cuts across many, if not all, of the themes. There are also a range of steps that aim to secure better health and well-being outcomes for disadvantaged or marginalised groups.

Access to good quality, healthy food

There are specific steps identified within the Plan that seek to alleviate food poverty.

People's emotional and mental well-being

The Plan specifically focusses on securing better well-being outcomes for people, particularly those dealing with the emotional burden of living with the effects of poverty and social exclusion.

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Access to healthcare

Access to health advice and services is a focus within the Well-being Plan. Waiting lists, and the impact these have on service delivery, staff well-being, in addition to the health and well-being of patients is likely to be subject to further analysis.

Participation in leisure opportunities

Sustainable and active travel features, as does increasing access to green countryside spaces and blue coastal spaces.

Negative impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being

None identified at present (this should continue to be reviewed).

Access to good quality, healthy food

None identified at present (this should continue to be reviewed).

People's emotional and mental well-being

Some groups may be at risk of worse emotional and mental well-being as a result of the social distancing measures of Covid-19. The plan, as it is worked up into more detail, will need to consider how some interventions will need to be targeted to be effective.

Access to healthcare

None identified at present (this should continue to be reviewed).

Participation in leisure opportunities

Some people may be less likely to participate either because of access issues (cost, transport, living in a rural area) or perhaps due to accessibility barriers for people with protected characteristics.

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A more equal Wales

Overall Impact

Positive

Justification for impact

Overall there is a greater focus in Well-being Plan around mobilising collective resources to tackle poverty, hence the overall impact being positive. However, it is not clear currently how any proposed areas of focus will truly reduce poverty (increase household incomes) given the turbulence of the geopolitics and the global economy.

Further actions required

There has been considerable discussion about how experiences of Covid-19, and now the cost of living crisis will have exacerbated inequality – although the consequences are not yet fully understood. We will need to continually review our intelligence as we take our Plan forward.

Positive impacts identified:

Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation

The Well-being Plan has a particular focus on addressing the inequalities faced by those with protected characteristics, or who are at a socio-economic disadvantage. Above all it seeks to remove barriers and reduce harms, exploitation and abuse experienced by people, ensuring that their voices are heard and that we act on intelligence informed by lived experiences.

People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage

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The Well-being Plan includes proposals to support marginalised or seldom heard groups. The draft well-being assessment includes analyses to consider the well-being of (some) marginalised groups, such as refugees for example. There is also, while limited, a little more understanding of the long-term resilience of people who suffer discrimination and disadvantage due to climate change for example.

People affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes

Deprivation and tackling poverty is featuring strongly in the Well-being Plan, with a particular focus on reducing the impacts of poverty (e.g. hunger and rising fuel costs) and improving opportunities for skills.

Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage

The draft well-being assessment includes analysis at a smaller local area level (both in terms of data and engagement feedback). There is no specific geographic area of focus at present, although one will likely emerge as specific steps are developed.

Negative impacts identified:

Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation

The well-being assessment specifically highlighted disabled people has having poorer well-being. We will need to critically review our steps to see whether they will enhance or pose further challenges to people with protected characteristics as actions are developed further.

People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage

The draft well-being assessment includes analyses to consider the well-being of (some) marginalised groups, such as refugees. However, this is limited, and reflects, in part, challenges we faced with engagement. There is also, while limited, a little more understanding of the long-term resilience of people who suffer discrimination and disadvantage to climate change, for example.

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Some of our steps may not be able to partly, let alone, fully alleviate poverty and disadvantage given the turbulence in the wider global economy.

People affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes

As already stated, the impacts of the pledges may not be able to partly, let alone, fully alleviate poverty and disadvantage given the turbulence in the wider global economy.

Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage

There is no specific geographic area of focus at present, although one will likely emerge as specific pledges are developed. As stated elsewhere, some interventions will need to be targeted to ensure the benefits are felt by the people/places needing them most.

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A Wales of cohesive communities

Overall Impact

Positive

Justification for impact

There are a great many positive contributions within the above headings as a result of commitments made within this Plan. Although community cohesion is not directly addressed, many of the steps we will take should lead to tangential benefit.

Further actions required

These aspects may need more extended discussion as we go forward to determine any negative impacts, as well as opportunities to maximise collective efforts to support cohesive communities over the longer term. We must too better understand how the experiences of Covid-19 and the current cost of living crisis have exacerbated inequality that may lead to poor community cohesion.

Positive impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals

The Well-being Plan emphasises the ongoing commitment of partners to safeguarding vulnerable in our counties. Homelessness, and good housing also features, alongside steps that focus on supporting community initiatives and resilience.

Community participation and resilience

Again, this is a key principal that can be found in the How We Will Work section of the plan, and throughout we reference our desire to work with communities to maximise the benefits from the steps we take, particularly with regard to community resilience.

The attractiveness of the area

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The steps we have pledged in support of our natural environment and the improvement of access to green countryside spaces and blue coastal spaces should have a positive impact.

Connected communities

The Well-being Plan does not want to isolate or exacerbate inequalities. We want to better understand where there are barriers to connected communities and address the reasons why. The plan also pledges to support sustainable and active travel schemes to help improve connectivity.

Rural resilience

Again, addressing inequalities is a key aspect of the plan, and this includes rural inequality and poverty.

Negative impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals

None identified at present (this should continue to be reviewed).

Community participation and resilience

None identified at present (this should continue to be reviewed).

The attractiveness of the area

Wildflower meadows remain contentious with some residents regarding them as an eyesore. There will be work that needs to be done here to bring people along with us on our journey to environmental good health and sustainability.

Connected communities

Our control in securing better phone signal and broadband is limited and likely to fall outside the scope of this Plan.

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Rural resilience

There will be no negative impacts as a result of this Well-being Plan on the longer term resilience of rural areas, and should seek to safeguard vital rural assets where possible.

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A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact

Neutral

Justification for impact

The overall impact is expected to be neutral as the Plan's focus is on addressing inequality, not advancing language or cultural strategies. However, as noted, there are opportunities for partners to integrate their Welsh language strategies and continue to support the promotion of the language.

Further actions required

Further discussion needed, particularly at a North Wales Economic Ambition Board level. There could be tensions across the region with some areas wanting to limit tourism and others wanting to stimulate more tourism. We may need to pay more attention to the rural economy and the importance of agriculture to culture. The PSB must be wary not to clash with cultural regeneration work being undertaken by partners elsewhere and should seek to integrate where possible with the steps that it takes forward.

Positive impacts identified:

People using Welsh

The Well-being Plan contains within the How We Will Work section a principle that the PSB will support and promote the Welsh Language in all that we do. This will be key in particular as we ImpactAssess our decisions going forward.

Promoting the Welsh language

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As stated above, the Well-being Plan contains within the How We Will Work section a principle that the PSB will support and promote the Welsh Language in all that we do. The PSB should proactively consider this requirement as it takes its steps forward.

Culture and heritage

The new Plan does not give specific focus to Culture and Heritage, but these things could play a part within the work we take forward to enhance our natural assets, and support the well-being of individuals through community initiatives.

Negative impacts identified:

People using Welsh

None identified at present (this should continue to be reviewed).

Promoting the Welsh language

None identified at present (this should continue to be reviewed).

Culture and heritage

The PSB must be wary not to clash with cultural regeneration work being undertaken by partners elsewhere and should seek to integrate where possible with the steps that it takes forward.

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A globally responsible Wales

Overall Impact

Positive

Justification for impact

The Well-being Plan sets out clearly the steps that the PSB can take in support of adaption and mitigation against Climate Change, including socially and environmentally responsible procurement.

Further actions required

The PSB's Well-being Plan has been produced through collaboration. There should be no conflict between the plans and strategies of our partner organisations and that of the PSB, integrating well our collective ambition to address deprivation and inequality as a partnership body. We must continue to foster the environment and networks that promote meaningful engagement and communication with our partners and communities, supporting a culture where co-production and involvement thrives.

Positive impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains

In line with the draft social partnerships Bill, the latest draft of the Well-being Plan makes a specific pledge around procurement and securing community benefits.

Human rights

Preservation of Human Rights are a core part of partner procurement and HR policies currently. Our commitments around equalities within this Plan emphasises ongoing support as part of Wales's declaration as a Nation of Sanctuary.

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Broader service provision in the local area or the region

The Well-being Plan will set out our commitment as partners within the Conwy and Denbighshire sub-region to address deprivation and inequality. There are also strong ties between PSBs across the region. It will support a shared analysis and narrative around long term trends, opportunities and aspirations in this important area of work.

Reducing climate change

Reducing climate change is a core part of the well-being assessment, and was a particular feature of engagement feedback. As a consequence, our Well-being Plan has a clear focus on mitigating the impacts of Climate Change.

Negative impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains

We will need to work seamlessly with partners and Welsh Government to support small and medium sized businesses to ensure they are prepared and well-positioned for the changes.

Human rights

None identified at present (this should continue to be reviewed).

Broader service provision in the local area or the region

In terms of our evidence base, there are some gaps across topics, which are identified very clearly in our well-being assessment. These gaps are often due to partners experiencing capacity issues while they deliver business as usual in addition to the additional demands placed upon them by Covid-19. These capacity issues may also hamper the success of our delivery.

Reducing climate change

None identified at present (this should continue to be reviewed).