

DYMA WŶS I CHI I GYFARFOD O Gyd-Bwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cwm Taf YN CAEL EI GYNNAL YN rhithwir AR Dydd GWENER, 11EG MEDI, 2020 AM 2.00 PM.

Dolen gyswllt: Sarah Handy – Swyddog Graddedig – Ymchwil a Materion Craffu (01443424099)

AGENDA

1. 5 SWYDDOGAETH STATUDOL GRAIDD CYDBWYLLGOR TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU BWRDD GWASANAETHAU CYHOEDDUS CWM TAF

Atgoffir aelodau'r Cydbwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu, fel y nodir yn ei gylch gorchwyl, bod eu swyddogaethau statudol craidd yn cynnwys: -

- Adolygu neu graffu ar y penderfyniadau sy'n cael eu gwneud gan y Bwrdd neu'r camau mae'r Bwrdd yn eu cymryd;
- Adolygu neu graffu ar drefniadau llywodraethu'r Bwrdd;
- Paratoi adroddiadau neu wneud argymhellion i'r Bwrdd ynghylch ei swyddogaethau neu'i drefniadau llywodraethu;
- Ystyried materion sy'n ymwneud â'r Bwrdd fel y gall Gweinidogion Cymru gyfeirio atyn nhw, ac adrodd i Weinidogion Cymru yn unol â hynny;
- Cyflawni swyddogaethau eraill mewn perthynas â'r Bwrdd sydd wedi'u gosod arno gan Ddeddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol (Cymru) 2015.

2. DATGANIAD O FUDDIANT

Derbyn datganiadau o fuddiannau personol gan Aelodau o'r Pwyllgor yn unol â gofynion y Cod Ymddygiad.

Nodwch:

1. Mae gofyn i Aelodau ddatgan rhif a phwnc yr agendwm y mae eu buddiant yn ymwneud ag e, a mynegi natur y buddiant personol hwnnw: a
2. Lle bo Aelodau'n ymneilltuo o'r cyfarfod o ganlyniad i ddatgelu buddiant sy'n rhagfarnu, mae rhaid iddyn nhw roi gwybod i'r Cadeirydd pan fyddan nhw'n gadael.

3. COFNODION

Cadarnhau cofnodion y cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd ar 7 Chwefror 2020 yn rhai cywir.

5 - 10

4. CADEIRYDD BWRDD GWASANAETHAU CYHOEDDUS CWM TAF

Derbyn y Cynghorydd Kevin O'Neill, Cadeirydd Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cwm Taf (PSB), a fydd yn rhoi diweddariad am gynnydd y Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus i'r Pwyllgor.

5. ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL CYDBWYLLGOR TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU BWRDD GWASANAETHAU CYHOEDDUS CWM TAF AR GYFER 2019-20

Derbyn Mr Christian Hanagan, Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth, Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf, a fydd yn rhoi trosolwg i'r Aelodau o Adroddiad Blynyddol Cydbwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cwm Taf ar gyfer Blwyddyn y Cyngor 2019-20.

11 - 30

6. UNRHYW FATER ARALL

Trafod unrhyw faterion eraill y mae'r Cadeirydd yn eu gweld yn briodol.

7. ADOLYGIAD Y CADEIRYDD A DOD Â'R CYFARFOD I BEN

Adlewyrchu ar y cyfarfod a'r camau gweithredu i'w dwyn ymlaen.

8. ADRODDIADAU ER GWYBODAETH

D.S. Mae modd gweld Adroddiadau er Gwybodaeth trwy'r dolenni canlynol:-

- [Cofnodion Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cwm Taf.](#)
- [Adroddiad Blynyddol y Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus dros dro;](#)
- Cofnodion Drafft y BGC - Gorffennaf 2020 (ddim wedi'u cymeradwyo gan y Bwrdd eto);
- 'Llythyr Adfer Gwyrdd' Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru i Weinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig;
- Llythyr gan y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol at Gadeiryddion Byrddau Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus;
- [Crynodeb Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Powys o Adroddiad Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol 2020;](#) ac

- [Adroddiad Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol 2020](#)

(Mae hyn fel bod modd i'r Aelodau gydnabod yr wybodaeth sydd wedi'i chynnwys yn yr adroddiad, ond dylid anfon unrhyw ymholiadau sy'n ymwneud â'r eitem at Craffu@rctcbc.gov.uk)

Cylchrediad:-

Yn cynrychioli Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Merthyr Tudful

Cynghorwyr y Fwrdeistref Sirol: T. Skinner (Is-Gadeirydd), K. Gibbs, J. Davies, D. Issac, D. Sammon.

Yn cynrychioli Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf

Cynghorwyr y Fwrdeistref Sirol: J. Bonetto (Cadeirydd), G. Caple, W. Jones, M. Powell a A. Cox.

Aelodau cyfetholedig:

Mr M. Jehu OBE – Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol

Mr J. Jenkins – Cyngor Iechyd Cymuned

Ms M. Lewis – Cynrychiolydd Dinasyddion RhCT

Mr M. J. Maguire – Cynrychiolydd Dinasyddion Merthyr Tudful

Tudalen wag

Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on Friday, 7 February 2020 at 2.00 pm at the Lido Pontypridd, Ynysangharad War Memorial Park, Pontypridd CF37 4PE.

County Borough Councillors - Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee Members in attendance:-

Councillor J Bonetto (Chair)

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councillors

Cllr D Sammon

Cllr C Davies

Cllr K Gibbs

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Councillors

Councillor W Jones Councillor A Cox

Officers in attendance

Dr Kelechi Nnoaham – Director Public Health Cwm Taf Health Board

Ms W Edwards, Service Director – Community Services

Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication

Mr A Mogford - Head of Corporate Services Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

Ms K Smith, Cwm Taf PSB Support Officer

Ms L Toghill PSB Support Officer

Mrs S Daniel Senior Scrutiny Officer

Mrs S Handy Graduate Scrutiny Officer

Co-opted Members in attendance

M A Lewis

M J Maguire

1 THE 5 CORE STATUTORY FUNCTIONS OF THE CWM TAF JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, there were no declarations made pertaining to the agenda.

3 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 27 September 2019 as an

accurate reflection of the meeting.

4 Forward Work Programme Report

The Service Director Communications and Democratic Services presented the report to members and asked Members to consider and discuss items to include on their FWP taking into consideration the draft Forward Work Programme that was appended to the report.

He added that as previously agreed the Committee would have a particular focus on thriving communities.

A Member asked if it was possible to schedule a visit in and possibly hold a meeting at the Gurnos Hub once the works had been completed

The Chairperson agreed that it could be added to the Forward Work Programme.

RESOLVED: Members considered the Forward Work Programme and noted the items due to be considered at the next meeting.

5 Live Lab Update

The Director Public Health, Cwm Taf University Health Board provided members with an update of the role and work undertaken by the Board in relation to ACE's in Cwm Taf

Following agreement from the PSB two and a half days of workshops were held in Rhondda Fach sports centre on 8, 9 and 11 July. The event was opened with a key note address from Dame Louise Casey.

He informed members that there were discussions held around Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) and how it is a complex problem that affects many aspects of life. The group focussed on how communities experience it and how they challenge it and access the right services to prevent and tackle ACE's.

Following the workshops a Task and Finish group was created and endorsed by the PSB to identify the best ways of undertaking community development as a mechanism for preventing and mitigating the impact of ACE's. He advised that they had already met twice and will be meeting again on 3rd March 2020.

A Member commented that in Treherbert ward they have a "create your space project" where they work in partnership with community and they become part of the voluntary hub, he stated that the project is designed for the community and they become partners. He stated that the project were always looking for support from partnership organisations to play a part in the project.

The Director Public Health, Cwm Taf University Health Board stated that there were lots of experience of this way of working within our communities and Communities were learning how to improve their mental health and wellbeing within their environments instead of being prescribed traditional medicines.

A Member stated that there is a need to look at the underlying structures as short term and community initiatives were great but there was a need to ensure

that access was available to those that need it to the gyms and playing fields etc. The PSB Support Officer stated that this would be discussed in the next item on social prescribing.

A Member welcomed the bottom up approach and noted the need to do things differently and asked how this would be resourced through the PSB and how will we deliver our commitments.

The Director of Public Health, Cwm Taf University Health Board advised that Regional Partnership Boards (RPBs) receive Integrated Care Funding (ICF) to undertake their work whereas the PSB does not have dedicated resources which is a risk for the initiatives they have set out. The PSB Support Officer added that detailed on pages 28 and 29 of the report was a broad wish-list of the initiatives that they would like to be undertaken. Some of these had been explored with partnership organisations but some had not.

The Director Public Health, Cwm Taf University Health Board added that the role of the PSB was to create a more enabling environment and moving away from consultation and into engagement with communities by recognising what we can do better and owning the problem and therefore enabling to create solutions.

A Member added that his opinion was that the public sector were adverse to change and not good at listening to their communities. He said this needed to change so we all work together as partners to support each other.

RESOLVED: Members noted the content of the report

6 Social Prescribing Update

The Director Public Health, Cwm Taf University Health Board presented the report to Members which detailed the concept of Social Prescribing and how it could contribute towards the reduction of social isolation and loneliness and improve individual emotional and physical wellbeing. He advised that social prescribing was a referral to something other than traditional medication.

Social prescribing was a different way of thinking and a move away from socially and environmentally conditioned thinking to thinking that people's problems are always medical and a way of recognising that there are more options available than what the doctor can prescribe. He added that Social prescribing had been considered by the RPB with consultation from the PSB and Community representatives.

He described community gyms as one way of contributing to the community staying healthy and a preventative measure of illness. However one of the issues that communities faced with this option was the availability of these assets. He explained that in Cwm Taf one of two Health boards put in place health checks in GP practices where a risk assessment of patients was undertaken of those that were at a higher risk of developing heart disease in the next 10 years and those were invited in for further evaluation. Those that attended underwent further evaluation to determine their risk and were referred on to relevant schemes where necessary. When the programme was evaluated it identified that a number of people would have only been identified further down the line when they had a stroke or heart attack etc. Once the patients risk was evaluated, there were many community assets that they were able to be referred

into. He added that in order to ensure these programmes were sustainable that significant resources would be invested from the early prevention fund to invest in the sustainability of the assets.

The Chairperson agreed that traditional methods of prescribing medications such as antidepressants with no further intervention needs to be reviewed.

A Member stated that investment was needed in this area to enable the sustainability of the resources such as exercise facilities which are proven to have excellent physiologic benefits and were great initiatives that should be available to all and not just those that were able to afford membership to traditional gyms.

A Member commented on the absence of these assets in some of the more deprived areas and stated that we need to tackle this problem, particularly in isolated communities.

Another member added that if you look back at the coal mining era there were social activities made available for the workers as colliery owners didn't want people to have physical and mental health issues so they put assets in place such as Social and workingman's clubs, OAP Halls. He stated that whilst these still exist, they lack support and financial injection needed. He added that social prescribing needs to be local so all people could access them and not just those that had the privilege of access to a vehicle etc.

A Member stated that as an alternative treatment, a 5 week physiotherapy course was given to a constituent in their ward which progressed well but when the course ended he had to reapply for further sessions. By the time he was given more sessions his condition had worsened to the point it was when he first started the sessions so there had been no overall improvement to his condition, he questioned whether there were sufficient resources in place to support these initiatives to have the desired outcomes.

The Director Public Health, Cwm Taf University Health Board stated that in some areas there is no take up of such initiatives but there was concern over diverting resources out of one community and directing them to another and the potential consequences this would have and the public perception this would receive.

A Member stated that he was unaware of social prescribing until receiving the report and stated that better communication was needed so people were made aware of initiatives that are available to them. He also raised concern that in Merthyr Tydfil there used to be 30 football teams but due to the increase in fees for using pitches and playing fields they were now down to just 7 teams.

RESOLVED: Members noted the contents of the report

7 Progress Update- Ferndale Hub

On behalf of Cllr Gareth Caple, The Service Director Community Services gave an update on the informal visit to the Ferndale Hub that took place on the 22 November 2019

She advised Members that the tour of the hub was interesting and engaging and part of the visit included the visiting the childcare facility, the outdoor area was undercover. The sensory room was great and has been booked out since the

facility opened. There was recognition that there was nothing similar available locally and therefore there was a demand for it. She added that members also had an opportunity on the day to meet with the employment services team, Fern Partnership, South Wales Police who held a Cyber-Crime Stand and the Arts Factory

There was now a library facility available in the hub after a consultation revealed that many were not happy with the library as it was as there was no meeting room and the small children's area did not meet demands. She added that the book prescription scheme works very well there.

Since the opening of the library it has seen a 30% increase in visitors and different providers were using the facilities such as resilient families, creative writing and gardening groups. She advised there was a community programme available detailing all the classes and groups that were available for people to participate in which could be circulated to members. She stated that the Hub was providing an environment where the community can thrive.

The Scrutiny officer informed members that at the visit to the Hub she met with a young business person who runs her debt management company from the hub which had given her opportunity to work locally and engage with people in the area. She advised members that there would be a further opportunity to visit the hub again at the end of February where all members would be invited to attend.

8 To consider any items, which the Chair deems appropriate.

None

9 Information Reports

The Scrutiny Officer advised members of the links made available to members on the information reports which were the Wales Audit Office Review of Public Service Boards and the minutes of the Cwm Taf Public Services Board. She advised that if members had any queried in relation to the reports can be directed to scrutiny@rctcbc.gov.uk

Meeting closed 15:30

**J. Bonetto
Chair**

Tudalen wag

CWM TAF PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD JOINT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



11th September 2020

CWM TAF PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To present to Members the JOSC Annual report which details the work undertaken by them during the period March 2019- March 2020

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note the contents of the Annual report and work of the Cwm Taf Morganwg Public Service Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee

3. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To keep members fully informed of the work undertaken by the JOSC and to publicise the work of the JOSC

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee is made up of representatives from Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough council and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council.
- 4.2 Within the JOSCs Terms of Reference the Committees core statutory functions are set out as follows:
 - The JOSC are to review and scrutinise the decisions made or actions taken by the Board;
 - To review the Boards Governance arrangements;
 - To make reports or recommendations to the Board regarding its functions or governance arrangements;
 - To consider matters relating to the Board as the Welsh Ministers may refer to it and report to the Welsh Ministers accordingly; and
 - To carry out other functions in relation to the Board that are imposed on it by the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

4.3 In addition to these functions the JOSC's Lines of Inquiry can include (but not be limited to), the following:

- The effectiveness of the Wellbeing Assessment;
- The effectiveness of the Wellbeing Plan;
- The effectiveness of performance measurement arrangements;
- The level of commitment from individual partners to the work of the Public Services Board;
- The effectiveness of the Public Services Board in communicating its work, objectives and outcomes to its stakeholders; and,
- The effectiveness of the Public Services Board in addressing the issue of pooled funding to tackle priorities

5. CURRENT SITUATION

5.1 Attached at **Appendix 1** is the Cwm Taf Public Service Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report which provides detail on the outcomes and achievements from the JOSC in 2019-20, as well as identifies areas for improvement to ensure the JOSC continues to develop and achieve positive outcomes for the residents of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough and Rhondda Cynon Taf

5.2 The report also states how members and officers have addressed the areas for development previously identified

6. EQUALITY OR DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no Equality or Diversity implications aligned to this report

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 There are no consultation implications aligned to this report

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no financial implication aligned to this report.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no legal implications aligned to this report.

11. **LINKS TO PSB'S WELL-BEING OBJECTIVES**

- 11.1 The recommended approach set out supports the PSB Wellbeing objectives by ensuring progress of thw JOSC is robustly scrutinised by the Committee, the public and others with a vested interest.
- 11.2 The proposed approach will also support the requirements set out in the 'Statutory guidance on the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015' which states:
- A public body must take account of the importance of involving other persons with an interest in achieving the well-being goals and ensure those persons reflect the diversity of the population;
 - Effective involvement of people and communities in decisions that affect them is at the heart of improving well-being currently and in the future; and,
 - It is vital to factor people's needs; ensuring engagement is meaningful and effective.

Contact Officer: Sarah Handy, Scrutiny & Research Officer

Contact address: RCTCBC, The Pavilions, Clydach Vale, Tonypany, CF40 2XX

Contact number: 01443 424 099

Email: Sarah.handy@rctcbc.gov.uk

Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee



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Foreword



It is with great pleasure that I present to you the Cwm Taf Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee's Annual Report for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

I am grateful to everyone who has helped contribute to our efforts in shaping the results outlined in this report.

Particular thanks must go to my Vice Chair, **Councillor T. Skinner**, who has supported me throughout a very busy year.

It has been an extraordinary time in which our Forward Work Programme has been suspended by the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. This report therefore considers our progress up until the end of February 2020. Our two Councils have faced unprecedented challenges in maintaining vital public services during this period. It is testament to the dedication, professionalism and bravery of staff from both Councils that we have continued to support our most vulnerable residents and deliver key public services in these difficult circumstances. We hope to carry over and continue our Forward Work Programme in the next municipal year and we will continue to build upon the success that we have seen to date.

I would also like to express my gratitude to **Dr Dave McKenna** for his valued guidance and input in delivering joint scrutiny training to our Committee Members during this period. Dr McKenna's session reminded us of the important role our Committee plays in providing effective challenge, constructive feedback, novel ideas and key recommendations to the **Cwm Taf Public Service Board (PSB)**.

Effective scrutiny seeks to review key areas of performance, improve outcomes and to ultimately add value to the work of the PSB. The outcomes set out in this report demonstrate how these principles are integral to the work undertaken by this Joint Scrutiny Committee.

Aligning with recommendations of the **Wales Audit Office 'Fit for the Future'** Scrutiny review, we streamlined our **Forward Work Programme** for the 2019/20 Municipal Year, developing a more efficient and focused approach to the joint scrutiny process.

Consequently, the Committee decided to focus our efforts on Objective One of the **Cwm Taf Well-Being Plan: Thriving Communities**. In line with the Committee's **Terms of Reference**, Members agreed to undertake detailed scrutiny of the PSB's decisions and actions regarding this particular objective and our recommendations are clearly set out within this report.

In late 2019, Members had the pleasure of visiting 'Yr Hwb' in Ferndale. It was clear from our visit that the hub is playing a key role in connecting our communities with improved public services that are joined up and accessible. This holistic approach is both engaging and forward thinking and will unlock benefits for the most vulnerable members of our communities and for future generations.

This year, we also welcomed the Chair of the PSB, **Professor Marcus Longley**, to our Scrutiny Committee. Alongside the PSB Support Officers, the Chair provided the Committee with an update on the progress of the PSB, its associated work programme and future direction. Open communication between the Chairs has strengthened our scrutiny process through early identification of pre-scrutiny opportunities. We look forward to continuing this close working relationship with the Chair of the PSB in the forthcoming year.

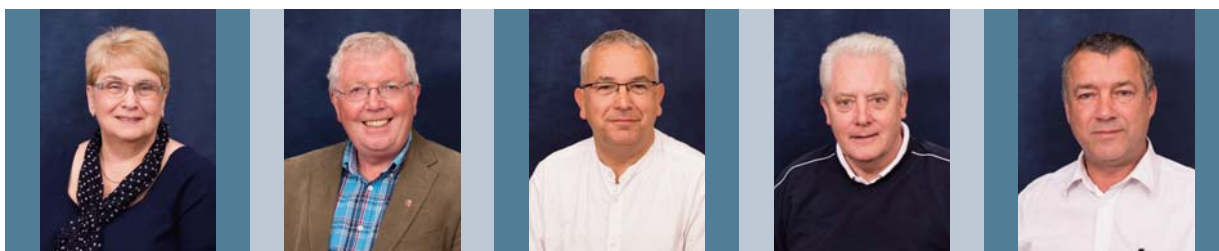
We were joined at our February 2020 meeting by **Professor Kelechi Nnoaham**, Director of Public Health at Cwm Taf University Health Board. As Chair, I was particularly pleased to see how the work of the Board has contributed to the reduction of social isolation and loneliness in our communities, and improved our residents' emotional and physical wellbeing. I would like to extend my thanks to the Director of Public Health Wales for his continued hard work and commitment to tackling these key social issues.

Going forward, we will continue to produce valuable and outcome focused recommendations and ensure that decisions are made in the best interests of our communities. I would like to thank all the Members, Co-opted Members and Citizen Representatives of the Committee for their continued dedication and professionalism throughout the Municipal Year 2019/20, they have laid a solid foundation for the future and I am confident that we can carry this momentum into next year and beyond.

Councillor J. Bonetto (Chair)

Membership of the Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Members



Cllr J Bonetto
(Chairperson)

Cllr G Caple

Cllr A Cox

Cllr W Jones

Cllr M Powell

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Members



Cllr T Skinner
(Vice Chair)

Cllr K Gibbs

Cllr J Davies

Cllr D Isaac

Cllr D Sammon

Co-opted Members

Mr Melvin Jehu - Local Health Board

Mr John Jenkins - Community Health Council

Ms Anita Lewis - RCT Citizen Representative

Mr Michael J Maguire - MT Citizen Representative



Training

Members of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertook a joint scrutiny training session in July 2019 with **Dr Dave McKenna**. The session was designed to equip Members with the skills, knowledge and confidence to carry out their role in effectively scrutinising and challenging the decisions and actions of the PSB. Members were referred to the **‘Guidance for Local Authority on the scrutiny of Public Service Boards’** for further reference.

During the training session, Members discussed developing a more streamlined Forward Work Programme so that the Committee could ensure an outcome focused approach was taken forward, with clear goals and milestones identified as part of the scrutiny process.

Consequently, Members agreed that fewer items should be included on the Forward Work Programme and it was anticipated that the JOSOC would measure progress against the Cwm Taf Well-being Plan’s objective of ‘Thriving Communities (developing Community Zones in RCT and Merthyr Tydfil)’. Members found the training session to be “very useful” and commented that it helped improve the Joint Scrutiny Process by allowing Members:-

- ⊙ To come together as a Committee;
- ⊙ To develop an effective team working strategy;
- ⊙ To effectively scrutinise the PSB;
- ⊙ To get a clear sense of how the Committee will operate during the 2019/20 Municipal Year;
- ⊙ To gain a clear sense of the role and purpose of the Committee; and,
- ⊙ To understand how the JOSOC can really make a difference to the community.

It is anticipated that this training will mean that Members are better placed and suitably skilled to assess the social, economic, environmental and cultural impacts of the PSB’s actions on the communities of Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Function of the Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The aim of the JOSOC is to scrutinise the overall effectiveness of the Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The core statutory functions of the JOSOC are:

- ⊙ To review or scrutinise the decisions made or actions taken by Board;
- ⊙ To review or scrutinise the Board's governance arrangements;
- ⊙ To make reports or recommendations to the Board regarding its functions or governance arrangements;
- ⊙ To consider matters relating to the Board as the Welsh Ministers may refer to it and report to the Welsh Ministers accordingly; and
- ⊙ To carry out other functions in relation to the Board that are imposed on it by the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

In addition to these functions, the JOSOC's Lines of Inquiry can also include:

- ⊙ The effectiveness of the Wellbeing Assessment;
- ⊙ The effectiveness of the Wellbeing Plan;
- ⊙ The effectiveness of performance measurement arrangements;
- ⊙ The level of commitment from individual partners to the work of the Public Services Board;
- ⊙ The effectiveness of the Public Services Board in communicating its work, objectives and outcomes to its stakeholders; and,
- ⊙ The effectiveness of the Public Services Board in addressing the issue of pooled funding to tackle priorities.



Wellbeing Objectives: Thriving Communities

“Promote safe, confident, strong and thriving communities improving the wellbeing of residents and visitors and building on our community assets.”

This year the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to scrutinise the development of one strand from the **Cwm Taf Wellbeing Plan**. The agreed objective for scrutiny was “Thriving Communities”. Limiting the focus to only one objective gave Members the opportunity and time to conduct a thorough, detailed and informed review to produce a meaningful outcome at the end of the year.

Members of the JOSC decided to pursue this strand of the Cwm Taf Wellbeing Plan due to its cross cutting themes of sustainability, integration, partnership and evaluation, which Members agreed were key issues in measuring progress of the objective:-

- ⊙ **Sustainability:**
To consider how we ensure the long term viability of the ‘Community Zones’;
- ⊙ **Integration:**
To consider how this approach is integrated with the other wellbeing objectives;
- ⊙ **Partnership:**
To consider what other public services might be able to contribute to further the development of this approach; and,
- ⊙ **Evaluation:**
To consider how we evaluate the impact and outcomes of this approach.

Members of the JOSC evaluated the PSB’s decisions and actions against the desired outcomes set out within the objective criteria, to ensure the PSB was taking all reasonable steps to meet its objectives; to accurately monitor progress made and to consider the extent to which these decisions were making a positive difference to the communities of Cwm Taf and contributing to the improvement of the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of the area.



Wellbeing Objectives: Thriving Communities

“Promote safe, confident, strong and thriving communities improving the wellbeing of residents and visitors and building on our community assets.”

On the **27th September 2019**, the Committee welcomed the Director Public Health, Protection and Community Services (RCT); the Head of Community Wellbeing & Prevention (Merthyr Tydfil CBC); and the Service Director, Community Services (RCT) to a meeting of the JOSC to present their joint report on the implementation of the delivery plan for the Cwm Taf Well-being Plan's Objective One (Thriving Communities).

Members heard about the development of the new Community Hubs, which had been born out of the realisation that a novel and innovative approach was needed to tackle the entrenched social problems of the most disadvantaged communities. The location of the two Community Hubs had been identified based on need, community size and the provision of existing support services. Consequently, two Community Hubs had been established in Ferndale in the Rhondda Fach (RCT) and the Gurnos (Merthyr Tydfil).

In line with the decision of the JOSC to focus on one strand of the Cwm Taf Wellbeing Plan Thriving Communities', Members agreed to hold future site meetings at the two Community Hubs; Ferndale and the Gurnos respectively.

Members of the JOSC commended the progress of the Community Hubs in their first year and concluded that case studies of service users would be key to evaluating the success of the initiative. Members accepted an invitation to visit the Ferndale project, which would provide an opportunity to meet with service users and partnership organisations working from the Hubs.

09





Community Hubs

Appropriate locations for the two new Community Hubs had been identified based on need, community size and existing service provision in the locality. Two community hubs were established in Ferndale in the Rhondda Fach (RCT) and the Gurnos (Merthyr Tydfil).

Progress in the first year saw the opening of **'Hwb Glynrhedynog'** at Ferndale in July 2019 and **'Calon Lâs'** in the Gurnos in September 2019, both of which have been led by anchor organisations and have made significant progress in delivering outcomes for their respective communities.

A number of important services are co-located within the respective hubs, such as the library service, which shares the Hwb space in Ferndale; and health visitors and employment support in the Gurnos community hub. The co-location of the library has had a positive impact on staff feeling more valued within their community: whereas staff working in standalone library buildings had previously felt isolated and disconnected from the local community, integrating with other services had allowed for closer working relationships with colleagues from other service areas, fostering a feeling of being valued and part of a larger whole.

Members of the JO SC discussed and commended the progress of the community hubs in their first year and concluded that examining case studies of the service users would be key to evaluating the success of the initiative.





Social Prescribing

On the **7th February 2020**, Members of the JOSC were given the opportunity to consider the work undertaken by the PSB on 'Social Prescribing'. Social prescribing, sometimes referred to as 'community referral', is a means of enabling GPs, nurses and other primary care professionals to refer people to a range of local, non-clinical services. Social prescribing aims to contribute towards the reduction of social isolation and loneliness, improve individual emotional and physical wellbeing and reduce the demand on statutory health services.

It challenges the commonly held perception that GPs and hospitals are the only sources of medical support and treatment, empowering residents to seek out alternative and appropriate methods of looking after their health and wellbeing. Referring a patient to a community gym was cited as an example of how social prescribing can contribute to the community staying healthy, prevent illness and improve emotional wellbeing.

Members challenged the PSB to ensure that community gyms were sufficiently resourced and funded so that this service was available to all residents of Cwm Taf, and not those with private gym membership or access to services out of the area.

Members agreed to continue to support social prescribing initiatives and encourage the expansion of available services in the health care sector.

“a means of enabling GPs, nurses and other primary care professionals to refer people to a range of local, non-clinical services”



ACEs Live Lab

On the **7th February 2020**, Members were informed of the role and work undertaken by the PSB in relation to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in the Cwm Taf area. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) have a significant negative impact on health and wellbeing later in life and the effects can be felt for several generations.

Members of the JOSC were informed that the PSB had established a Task & Finish Group with the objective of identifying community development opportunities to prevent and limit the impact of ACEs.

Following a lengthy discussion, Members of the JOSC praised the work of the Board in this area and agreed that Cwm Taf was proactive and progressive in recognising ACEs and mitigating their effects.

Some of the comments made by Members of the Committee include:-

- ⊙ In the Treherbert ward they have a "create your space project" working in partnership with the community and they have become part of the voluntary hub;
- ⊙ There is a need to ensure that gyms and playing fields are available and accessible to those that need them; and,
- ⊙ The public sector is adverse to change and ...[there is a need]... for local organisations to work together in partnership.

Going forward, Members of the JOSC will continue to monitor the implementation of this Strategy and monitor feedback on an on-going basis.



Visit to the Ferndale Hub

Community Hubs bring together a range of key services from across the public sector, private/voluntary organisations and community groups, providing a safe environment for people to access the support and advice they need both quickly and conveniently.

A number of benefits can be derived from Community Hubs, including:

- ⊙ Helping to build more cohesive and resilient communities;
- ⊙ Closely aligning and integrating services;
- ⊙ Transforming existing unused buildings; and,
- ⊙ Providing a focus for community-led regeneration.



On the 22nd November 2019, Members of the Cwm Taf Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee had the opportunity to visit **'Yr Hwb' in Ferndale**.

The visit had been arranged following discussions at our **September 2019** meeting on the delivery plan for Objective 1 of the Cwm Taf Well-Being Plan - Thriving Communities.

Yr Hwb at Ferndale opened in July 2019. It is operated by the **Fern Partnership** and is home to a number of key facilities and services, such as:

- ⊙ Little Ferns - registered childcare provision;
- ⊙ Library services with an ICT suite and meeting room;
- ⊙ Sensory Room,
- ⊙ Adult Learning Classes; and
- ⊙ Community Gardening Project

It was clear from our visit that the hub is well established and on its way to achieving its key outcome of developing a connected community that offers its residents improved public services that are joined up and accessible.

During the tour, we had the opportunity to sit and chat with service users, whose praise for the project was clear evidence that the Hub was successfully providing opportunities for communities to access key information and advice.

We spoke with members of the Creative Writing and Gardening Group, as well as service providers such as the **Resilient Families Service** and **Communities for Work**. This gave us an insight into the collaboration opportunities provided by the hub and the way in which this allows partner organisations and the voluntary sector to pool resources, work in parallel with each other and avoid any unnecessary overlap in service provision.



A key aim of this initiative is to provide services to the most vulnerable groups in our communities and to encourage investment in the local economy. During our visit, we met with a young business person who rents a desk space at Yr Hwb from where she runs her debt management business. Her aim was to expand her business and to provide employment opportunities for local people. Highlights of the discussion included the benefits of working within her own community and with local providers.



As Chair, I would like to thank this inspirational young woman for sharing her story with the group and to congratulate her on her achievements. It was a privilege to hear her story and Members found it to be both inspiring and further confirmation that the Hub is having a tangible impact on the lives of our residents.



It was also evident that local schools have also tapped into the hub's central provision within the wider network of the Ferndale community, where they can access local resources and signpost families to services such as job clubs, speech therapy and **Child Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAHMS)**.



From our insightful visit, we learned that Yr Hwb is a space where people can meet, share interests and talk to each other; an enormous step forward in tackling the growing issue of loneliness and social isolation. It showcased the real value of the facility to the local community and gave us an insight into the potential opportunities that exist for the future.

It is evident that the Ferndale Hub is providing many opportunities for communities to access key information and advice. It is both a safety net for vulnerable persons to access support services and a spring board for aspiring and determined people to contribute to the social well-being of their community and the local economy. It is clear that Community Hubs will benefit future generations in our communities, a fundamental principle of the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**



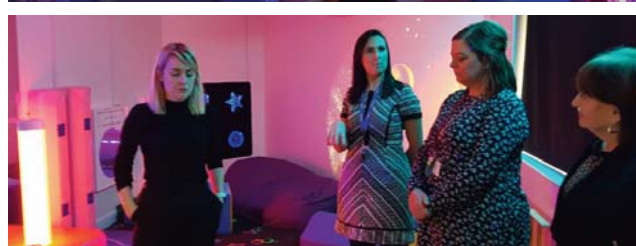
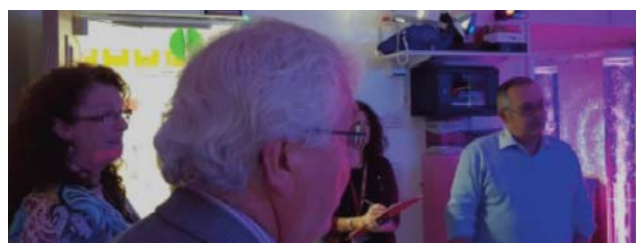
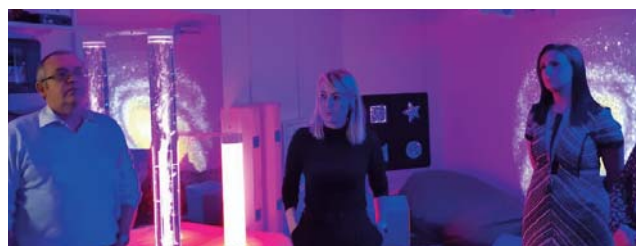
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As Chair, I would like to thank the staff at Yr Hwb for organising the visit, which enabled us to understand the importance of their role in bringing all the services together under one space and how they are fundamental to the Hub's success. I also want to extend my thanks to the service users and community groups who willingly engaged with visiting Members; their words were vindication of the hard work that has gone into making Yr Hwb an important community space and one that we can be proud of.



Visit to Yr Hwb, Ferndale: Capturing the Day

The following
photographs were
taken throughout
the day:



Moving Forward



As I reflect on the hard work undertaken by the Cwm Taf Joint Scrutiny Committee this municipal year, I take enormous pride in the valuable contribution we have made to improving our communities and the well-being of our residents. We play a key role the decision making process and I am grateful to everyone who has helped contribute to the work and results outlined in this report.

I think it is important to recognise the great strides we have made in the short time since the formation of this Joint Committee, and we should rightly view our contribution as a success. We have grown in both confidence and ability over this last year and I am certain that we will continue to maintain this high standard into the next municipal year and beyond, paving the way for future generations to build upon the foundations that we have laid.

As enjoyable as it is to look back on another successful year, we must turn our attention to the opportunities before us as we continue to strive to achieve for the best for our residents.

Going forward, we hope to visit to the Calon Lâs Hub in Merthyr Tydfil as we continue our focus on the 'Thriving Communities' objective set out in the Cwm Taf Well-being Plan. Our recent visit to Hwb Glynrhedynog in Ferndale highlighted the social and economic benefits of the new community hubs. We must exploit this momentum and will continue to monitor feedback from the Ferndale hub to refine the services it delivers and support its continued success.

A flexible work programme will be designed in order to react to any number of referrals which we will need to address on behalf of our residents.

We will also continue to monitor the key performance areas of the PSB with robust oversight and scrutiny. I would like to thank all the Members, Co-Opted Members and Citizen Representatives of the Cwm Taf Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee who have been involved with our work over the past year; their dedication, professionalism and commitment have helped contribute to our success.

Next year will bring opportunities and challenges in equal measure, but I feel confident and reassured that we are well placed to tackle difficult issues and maximise the opportunities for our Cwm Taf community.

Councillor J. Bonetto (Chair)

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