

Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on Friday, 20 January 2023 at 10.00 am.

This meeting was recorded, details of which can be accessed [here](#)

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

Councillor R Bevan (Chair)

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councillors

Councillor C Jones
Councillor L Mytton

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Councillors

Councillor S J Davies Councillor K Morgan
Councillor B Stephens

Officers in attendance

Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Ms L Toghill, Cwm Taf PSB Support Officer

Co-opted Members in attendance

Ms Anita Lewis

Apologies for absence

Councillor D Parkin Councillor J Thomas

20 Welcome & Apologies

The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting. Apologies of absence were noted from County Borough Councillors D. Parkin (RCTCBC) and Cllr J Thomas (MTCBC). Mr M Jehu, co opted Member, also provided his apologies.

21 The 5 core statutory functions of the Cwm Taf Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Member Researcher and Scrutiny Officer advised Members to note the 5 core statutory functions of the Cwm Taf Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

22 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, the following declarations of personal Interests were made:

- County Borough Councillor K Morgan and County Borough Councillor SJ Davies: "I work for Cwm Taf Morgannwg".

23 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 28th October 2022 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

24 Draft Well-being Plan

The Service Director, Democratic Services & Communications (RCTCBC) presented the report to Members and Members were advised that they had the opportunity to pre scrutinise the draft Well-being plan prior to its consideration and adoption by the future Cwm Taf Morgannwg PSB.

Following this, the Senior PSB Officer presented the draft Well-being plan to Members and by way of a power point presentation, Members were shown the timeline in respect of the roll out of the plan.

Members were then provided with the opportunity to ask questions.

A Member praised the plan and emphasised that this plan is exactly what is needed in the valleys. The Member noted that she was pleased to see that the increase in mortality rates and obesity were also being addressed. The Member emphasised that we need more police on the streets and stressed that the police need further resources. The Member also noted that more community hubs are needed throughout Merthyr Tydfil. The Member also emphasised the importance of communities coming together and to make residents responsible for their own community resources. She also stressed that the Plan needs to be 'owned' by all partners, as this is the only way to make a significant impact, by collaboration and accountability for the delivery against the objectives.

Unfortunately, at this point, the Vice Chair gave her apologies and left the meeting.

Due to insufficient attendance at this juncture the meeting was inquorate. The remaining members continued discussions but no formal decisions were taken

At this point, the recording stopped and the Chair duly closed the formal meeting (10.30am)

Informal discussions ensued and a Member thanked the Senior PSB Officer for the presentation and noted that the 2 objectives within the plan address what is needed in our communities. The Member also noted that she was impressed with the elements of activities and engagement in the community that has taken place. The Member referred to the strategic document and noted the sentence “by working together”, emphasising that it is key to the success of the overarching objectives.

The Member argued that decisions made in one priority within the plan could impact negatively on a priority in another objectives. Members emphasised that the issues faced daily in the community are reflected in the plan and so much work needs to be done to improve local services. Members agreed on the importance of the involvement of wider groups and organisations in the development of action plans to demonstrate how they are meeting the objectives.

Another Member pointed out a typographical error on page 19 that should include the word “For”. The Senior PSB Officer agreed to amend this. The Senior PSB Officer also confirmed that the PSB must demonstrate how they are delivering against the objectives. Members were advised that this is the second iteration of the Well-being plan and it is renewed every 5 years. Members were advised that the previous plan also included delivery action plans. It is the PSBs responsibility to develop delivery plans to meet the objectives. The Senior Officer stated that with the merging of the two current PSB boards, there will be an ongoing development of the structures and governance arrangements in the coming year, to establish the new CTM PSB, which will develop alongside the delivery mechanisms for the Plan. The Chair emphasised that PSB and Scrutiny are looking to improve collaboration between partners.

The Service Director, Democratic Services & Communications (RCTCBC) commented on the challenges and complexities of delivering against a broad Plan. He gave an example, whereby a planning committee would need to take into account the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 when making a planning decision, but this can sometimes conflict with the Act. For example, closing a leisure facility may have a positive impact on budget priorities but may also have a negative impact on the health and well being of residents, thereby going against the Act. The Service Director emphasised that there is still a long way to go regarding the implementation of the Well-being of Future Generations Act. The Senior PSB Officer agreed and noted that it’s a complex landscape.

A Member agreed with these points and emphasised the key words of “working differently”. The Member felt that we need to think outside the box and focus on getting outcomes.

Following discussion, Members **AGREED** that their feedback would be fed in to the Well-being plan consultation.

The Chair provided Members with an update on the merger of Cwm Taf PSB to become one Cwm Taf Morgannwg PSB.

Following the last JOSC on the 28th October, where the Committee were given a brief update on the merger by Mark Brace, Chair of Cwm Taf and Bridgend PSBs, it was reported that several workshops were undertaken over the summer and autumn of 2022 to develop the Well-being Plan, including a '3 Horizons' session with NRW, to look at future priorities for the new Plan and the future merged PSB.

The Chair also highlighted that a session was scheduled for the 15th November for both PSBs, it's sub boards and the Chair of the RPB, and that session took place in the Waterton Centre in Bridgend. The Chair and Anita Lewis both attended from the JOSC. The session was well attended and facilitated by Keith Moultrie of Oxford Brookes University. He challenged participants to be clear about why they are creating the new partnership, what is its purpose, what will be its priorities, how will these priorities be delivered, what performance management arrangements will be in place and how will they measure its success. He took members through a series of discussions on how they define a successful partnership, its purpose, analysing the current position, and future proposals and next steps.

Members were informed that many partners felt that the purpose of the PSBs has often been unclear and that has impacted on progress and direction in improving well-being in any significant way. There was a view that more immediate service delivery issues could also be addressed by the PSB where they could make improvements to longer term well-being.

The Chair reported the challenge for the PSB is to balance the long-term focus of the Board detailed in the Act in relation to shorter term service delivery issues faced by the statutory partners, particularly in a time of growing budget pressures.

The session particularly highlighted the importance of:

- Communication both within partner organisations on the work of the PSB and with wider partners and local people, showing what the PSB is working on and how it is making a difference.
- Engaging with communities and ensuring an understanding of the issues facing communities
- Having performance management systems linked to shared outcomes to demonstrate impact.

A written proposal by Chris Bradshaw, shared in the session, proposed an 'Executive Group' of chief officers from the main commissioning bodies of CTM UHB, the three local authorities and South Wales Police for the

purpose of improving the quality of public services and to improve local outcomes. This would be supported by a wider membership PSB, which would meet annually, for the purpose of the annual report.

There was support for an executive board of statutory bodies as it was recognised that this structure worked well during Covid and built on good relationships between executives. There was concern however that this approach could forfeit challenge, not consider the view of issues affecting local people in the area, and also impact on buy in from other partners, including statutory partners, if it was felt to be too local authority led and opportunities to influence direction too limited.

It was felt that the board should be made up of decision makers, who have influence and ability to drive action at pace.

Following the workshop, both boards have received a follow up report, outlining the main points from the session, and have been asked to consider the structure and governance arrangements moving forward based on 2 models, which came from the working groups at the session and Chris Bradshaw's proposal. Responses have been requested by the 13th January.

It was agreed that the boards would work to an April 2023 deadline to merge as one board, ahead of the publication of the Well-being Plan in May.

The Chair, members and support teams will agree a structure and support arrangements by this date and will hold an initial Shadow Board meeting at the end of February to sign off the Well-being Plan 2023-2028.

Members thanked the Chair for the update.

26 Urgent Items

There were no urgent items to report.

27 Chairs Review & Close

The Chair thanked Members for attending and reminded Members of the next meeting date on the 28th March. Several Members advised that they would be on holiday on this date. Members were advised that a survey will be issued following the merger with Bridgend to ascertain Members preferences regarding the most appropriate date for the next meeting.

This meeting closed at 11.22am

**Cllr Bevan
Chair**