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## SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT

Date Written	November 2021
Report Author	Brendan D'Cruz, Chair of Data Sub-group, Community Assessment Action Group and PSB Support
Service Area	Public Services Board (partnerships)
Committee Date	19 November 2021

*To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen*

### **Update Report on the work of the Community Assessment Action Group**

#### **1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT**

1.1 This report is to provide Members of Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) with an update of work undertaken in relation to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Well-being Assessment through the Community Assessment Action Group and the sub-groups focused on data and engagement.

#### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that:

- i. The Committee acknowledges the work undertaken to date and discusses the approach in line with the sustainable development principles.
- ii. The Committee considers and comments whether the outlined Assessment process has met the requirements and expectations placed on Public Services Boards.
- iii. The Committee considers how it wants to remain involved and contribute in the Assessment and the consultation process.

#### **3.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

3.1 It is proposed that Members of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee have the opportunity to consider the work undertaken to produce the statutory Well-being Assessment for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region covering both Bridgend and Cwm Taf Public Services Boards.

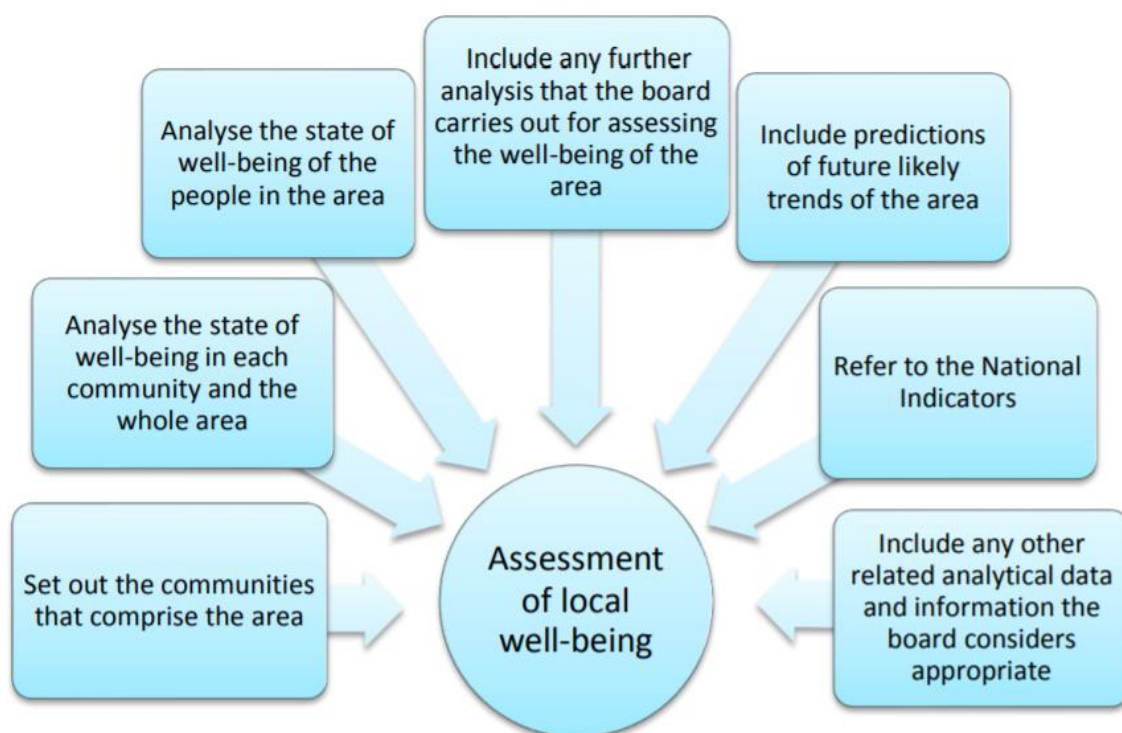
3.2 It is proposed that Members of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee have the opportunity to contribute and influence the Assessment process in line with sustainable development principles.

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Public Services Boards, as established under the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 are required to undertake and publish an assessment of the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in its area no later than a year before it publishes its local well-being plan. The Act provides that the local well-being plan must be published no later than one year after an ordinary election, as defined in section 26 of the Local Government Act 1972, in practice this means the assessment of local wellbeing would be published within the 12 months preceding each ordinary local government election.

The Assessment must provide an accurate analysis of the state of well-being in each community and in the area as a whole.

4.2 In preparing and publishing as assessment, guidance states that a Board must:



4.3 The approach being taken in is to jointly undertake the work with both Bridgend PSB and the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Board (RPB) so that we collaborate in how we engage with the communities that we all serve. To that end we have established one joint Community Assessment Action Group to oversee the work needed for both the PSB's Well-being Assessment and the RPB's Population Needs Assessments.

Both Assessments have similar timeframes and have a statutory requirement around engaging and co-producing. The PSBs in the region were also successful in securing support from Co-Production Network Wales so this goes some way to strengthening our commitment to working differently and adopting the sustainable development principles.

4.4 Members will remember an update from Dr Tom Powell, Chair of the Community Assessment Action Group, at the last JOSOC meeting in September. Work has continued as

planned since then, and we welcomed Councillor Caple to the group.

The Engagement Group has continued to meet on a weekly basis and have been making sure that they involve the specific client groups as set out under the Social Services and Well-being Act (Wales) 2014 as well as the wider communities. Toolkits have been developed and shared to support colleagues and groups with carrying out engagement work.

PSB grant money has also been used to support community level engagement activity through the region's county voluntary councils, namely Interlink RCT, Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil (VAMT) and Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO).

The Data Group met four times, each time focussing on a different pillar of well-being. Public sector bodies supplied information to an external analyst procured to undertake parts of the Assessment work. Practice Solutions have been working to produce a data report that will form part of the Assessment. The Data Group are next meeting on 26 November to consider a draft of this report, and initial findings will also be discussed as part of the engagement process and 'sense checking'.

- 4.5 Engagement work, including a survey, will continue until 17 December 2021. Learnings from the engagement report will be analysed and added to the data report in order to produce a draft Assessment which will be used as part of the statutory consultation process, which we are planning to start in February 2022.

## **5.0 INVOLVEMENT**

- 5.1 Involvement and capturing 'lived experience' or 'citizen voice' is at the heart of the assessment work and we are looking at a range of ways to engage people, including workshops, 'hackathons', roadshows, surveys and focus groups. Crucially, we are going to where people are to improve our engagement.
- 5.2 We are looking to engage a broad and diverse range of people from communities across RCT, Merthyr Tydfil and Bridgend.
- 5.3 Engagement work, including a survey, will continue until 17 December 2021.

## **6.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required as the contents of the report are for information purposes only.

## **7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

## **8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 The report has been prepared in accordance with paragraph 12.1 (Part 4) of the Council's Constitution.

## **9.0 LINKS TO THE PSB'S WELL-BEING OBJECTIVES**

**9.1** The update is focused on the next iteration of the Wellbeing Assessment which moves on from the Well-being Objectives laid out in the 2018-2023 Plan. The Objectives previously identified are being considered as a measure of progress made since the previous Assessment.

**9.2** The approach outlined for the Assessment 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.

**10.0 CONCLUSION**

**10.1** Members are asked to acknowledge the work undertaken in support of the Well-being Assessment for Bridgend and Cwm Taf Public Services Board and consider whether the approach meets the requirements and expectations as set out under the Act and in Shared Purpose Shared Future 3.

**10.2** Members are asked to consider how it wants to remain involved and contribute in the Assessment and the consultation process.

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<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>		
<b>Title of Document(s)</b>	<b>Document(s) Date</b>	<b>Document Location</b>
Our Cwm Taf		<a href="#">Our Cwm Taf Plan</a>
Shared Purpose Shared Future 3: Collective Role		<a href="#">SPSF 3</a>
<b>Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?</b>		<b>No</b>