

## CWM TAF PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Cwm Taf Public Services Board held on  
Tuesday, 12 October 2021 at 9.00 am.

<b>PRESENT</b>	
<b>Mark Brace (MB) Chair</b>	Assistant Police & Crime Commissioner & Chair of Bridgend PSB
<b>Cllr Lisa Mytton</b>	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
<b>Cllr Rhys Lewis (RL, for Cllr A. Morgan)</b>	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
<b>Chris Bradshaw (CB)</b>	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
<b>Paul Mee (PM)</b>	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
<b>Ellis Cooper (EC)</b>	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
<b>Deb Ryan – Newton (DRN)</b>	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
<b>Steve Jones (SJ)</b>	South Wales Police
<b>Mr Emrys Elias (EE)</b>	University Health Board, Cwm Taf Morgannwg
<b>Kelechi Nnoaham (KN)</b>	Public Health Wales
<b>Pauline Richards (PR)</b>	Interlink RCT
<b>Simon James (SJa)</b>	Interlink RCT
<b>Richard Baker (RB)</b>	Welsh Government
<b>Huw Jakeway (HJ)</b>	South Wales Fire & Rescue
<b>Mike Evans (ME)</b>	Natural Resources Wales
<b>Eirian Evans (EE)</b>	National Probation Service
<b>Richard Baker (RB)</b>	Welsh Government
<b>Sian Davies (SD)</b>	Dept. Work and Pensions
<b>IN ATTENDANCE</b>	
<b>Kirsty Smith</b>	PSB Senior Officer
<b>Lisa Toghill</b>	PSB Senior Officer
<b>Sarah Handy</b>	RCT Democratic Services
<b>Ceri Ford</b>	CTM Area Planning Board (for Item 5)
<b>Sophie Jones</b>	Brecon Beacons National Park
<b>Nikki Kingham</b>	CTM Safeguarding Board (for Item 5)
<b>Helen Roderick</b>	Brecon Beacons National Park
<b>Rhian Allen</b>	Practice Solutions Ltd (for Item 4)
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	
<b>Cllr Andrew Morgan</b>	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
<b>Cllr Isaac ()</b>	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council & Vice Chair Chair of the CTPSB Joint Scrutiny Cmt.
<b>Chief Constable J Vaughan</b>	South Wales Police
<b>Paul Mears</b>	Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB
<b>Linda Prosser</b>	Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB

No	Outcome. Example: Decision/Direction/Approval/Next Steps
1.	<p><b>WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS &amp; APOLOGIES</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed Members of the PSB to the meeting and apologies of absence were also provided.</p>
2.	<p><b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest pertaining to the agenda.</p>
3.	<p><b>ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING - FOR APPROVAL BY PSB</b></p> <p>The Action Notes of the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2021 were approved as an accurate reflection of the meeting.</p> <p>Members were provided with updates on the actions from the previous meeting:</p> <p>Item 4 (Assessment work) Members were thanked for contributions to date and asked to continue this support particularly in terms of promotion and engagement. Members were advised progress would be further covered under Item 4.</p> <p>Item 7 (Wellbeing Objectives) Members were updated that the draft delivery plans from July's meeting have been shared with the Board's Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) and will need to be regularly monitored and updated. A request to provide an update on the 'Vulnerability Profile' work has been postponed.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Update on the Vulnerability Profile carried forward to January 2022 meeting.</p>
4.	<p><b>WELL-BEING ASSESSMENT: UPDATE AND REQUIREMENT</b></p> <p>Rhian Allen provided the Board with an update on the work following the first draft of the Data Report.</p> <p>The Chair praised the work to date and noted that it allows the Board to focus on areas of need. The Chair requested for Members to send any information to representatives from the Community Assessment Action Group by the end of the month. The Board would particularly welcome attention being co-occurring issues.</p> <p>Members were asked to contribute their thoughts. Discussion ensued in respect of obesity and the challenges faced when trying to tackle this issue. Members agreed that many factors can be outside the control of the individual and identifying the issues is key, particularly when resources are limited, and healthy behaviours can be challenging. The Board acknowledged their organisations have a degree of control over structural and environmental plans that do influence healthy behaviours. The Board also considered the conflicts in that we want people active, we want investment through tourism but attractions like Bike Park Wales can place a strain on hospitals and by people who aren't local residents.</p> <p>Discussions continued and Members discussed the unprecedented weather</p>

over the past 18 months and the importance of connecting people with nature. Members agreed that each pillar of wellbeing is not mutually exclusive and that it is as important to get to the root cause and target resources, as well as making sure the Assessment emphasises the nature emergency and our depleted biodiversity.

A Member also noted the importance of adult digital literacy and the importance of increasing adult digital literacy in households to improve employment prospects and positively impact on household income. The Assessment should help to understand and develop local skills and opportunities to meet local need. Infrastructure, including broadband and internet availability, also needs to be considered in terms of ability to access work. Members noted their agreement and also noted the importance of arts and culture in the community and in increasing attendance at local theatres, particularly in the context of recovery from Covid.

Members also noted the importance of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and the need to be ACE aware of both behaviours and drivers. Board Members discussed the need to get children excited about their future and aspirations, growth industries, careers and skills needed in carbon neutral industries, and the barriers facing people getting back into work. Board Members noted that a key difficulty is tackling the generational culture and the importance of working with individuals to identify key barriers, including myth busting.

Following discussion, Board Members **RESOLVED** to note the update and will consider how they will confirm priorities, including opportunities to collaborate with the Regional Partnership Board (RPB).

**ACTION:** Ellis Cooper to confirm and information gathered in Merthyr in relation to Broadband.

**ACTION:** Board Members to send relevant information to representatives from the Community Assessment Action Group by the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

5. **DELIVERY BOARDS AND FUTURE PSB ARRANGEMENTS**

Board Members were provided with the opportunity to discuss the relationship between the (future) PSB and the delivery boards operating in the areas:

- Community Safety Partnership Board
- Area Planning Board
- Safeguarding Board

The Group Director, Community & Children's Services RCTCBC provided the Board with an update on the Community Safety Partnership Boards and noted the focus of the Board on serious violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence. As things currently stand, there are two separate Boards for

Cwm Taf and Bridgend. It was noted that the Board is very dependant on the good will of partners in terms of resources and that this can be a challenge for the Board, particularly at a time of increasing pressures and expectations.

Ceri Ford provided Members with an update in terms of the Substance Misuse Area Planning Board (APB) which already covers the regional footprint, i.e., RCT, Merthyr and Bridgend. The structure of Board comprises of an Operational Board and Executive Board and that various sub-groups meet on a quarterly basis. The Board is accountable to each Local Authority, and Cabinet approval to approve changes such as the incorporation of Bridgend. Of significant focus was information sharing and progress is starting to be made but it's in the early stages.

It was emphasised that a Cwm Taf Morgannwg PSB would be advantageous from an APB perspective.

The Group Director, Community & Children's Services RCTCBC together with Nikki Kingham provided Members with an update on the Safeguarding Board. The Board has been operating on a regional footprint since April 2019 and Members were reminded that the work of the Board is set out in legislation. Members were also informed that a cross party steering group has been formed to develop a joint statutory plan and that the focus is preventing modern slavery and human trafficking. Other priorities for the Board include strengthening safeguarding links across the partnerships.

Following the updates, the Chair thanked each officer and noted that the way forward needs to be based on a foundation of information and suggested discussion with the RPB in terms of alignment and delivery mechanisms. It was also noted that Bridgend PSB are happy to align with the Cwm Taf PSB. Board Members noted that they fully support the direction for one Cwm Taf Morgannwg PSB operating with strategic intent.

Following discussion, Members **RESOLVED** to note the update.

**ACTION:** Representatives to get together to discuss a timeline.

6. **PSB, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND VOLUNTEERING**

The Chair advised Members that Item 6 on the Agenda had been postponed.

7. **UPDATE FROM CWM TAF PSB JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The Chair of the Cwm Taf Public Service Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor G. Caple, thanked the Board for the opportunity to attend and provide Members with an update on progress in respect of the JOSC over the last year and the year ahead.

Councillor Caple noted that Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council has the Chair and will provide the necessary support for the year ahead.

Councillor Caple thanked Members of the Committee for electing him as Chair for the 2021-22 Municipal Year and congratulated Councillor Isaac on being elected Vice Chair of the Committee.

Members of the Board were referred to the Interim Annual JOSC Report for the 2020-21 Municipal Year. Councillor Caple passed on his thanks and admiration to our outgoing Chair, Councillor Bonetto, and for all her hard work and dedication to the Committee as well as the support provided by the outgoing Vice Chair, Councillor Skinner. It was noted that the Interim Report it stands as testament to the dedication and commitment of Committee Members, Co-opted Members and Officers over the last 12 months. Councillor Caple noted that a key recommendation in the report is that Members of the JOSC felt that over the medium term the Public Service Board must demonstrate its value and role in improving the delivery of public services and that its purpose makes a positive difference to the residents of Merthyr and Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Looking forward to the year ahead, the Chair of JOSC noted that the Committee will continue to monitor the key performance areas of the PSB with robust oversight and scrutiny. Our effective scrutiny will seek to review key areas of performance, improve outcomes and to ultimately add value to the work of the PSB. On the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021 the JOSC met and welcomed Dr Tom Powell, Chair of the Community Assessment Action Group. Dr Powell provided Members with an overview of progress and work achieved to date as well as proposed work going forward. It was suggested by the Committee that a representative from the Scrutiny Committee sit in on the Action Group and to then feed back to Members in terms of progress and outcomes.

Councillor Caple thanked Members for voting for him to be a representative on the Action Group. The Chair informed the Board that he recently attended his first meeting of the Action Group, which he found to be extremely useful and productive. Councillor Caple noted the importance of the mental health of our Armed Forces and recommended to the Group that particular attention is given to this vulnerable group in our society.

Councillor Caple congratulated Dr Tom Powell for running such a successful meeting and emphasised that this two way process will strengthen the relationship between Scrutiny and the Board.

Members of the JOSC noted a number of key recommendations in their last meeting in respect of the work being done by the Community Assessment Action Group including the need for the availability of Welsh Language Engagement tools. Dr Tom Powell listened to the recommendations and Members were pleased to note that these recommendations have been put into action. For the Population Needs Assessment being conducted by the Regional Partnership Board, a number of engagement tools relating to the priority population groups have already been created and these are currently being translated into Welsh.

Next month, Members of the JOSC will undergo Scrutiny training with Dr Dave McKenna. This training will hopefully strengthen Members knowledge and expertise. It was felt that a joint scrutiny training session would benefit

members twofold; to emphasise the important role our Joint Committee has in undertaking effective challenge of the PSB and to remind us that we can bring added value as well as constructive feedback; new ideas and solutions.

The JOSC Forward Work Programme for the 2021-22 Municipal Year has been agreed by Members of the Committee and it provides Members of the JOSC with the opportunity to scrutinise and challenge the work of the Board. Going forward, the JOSC will receive regular updates on the work of the Community Assessment Action Group as well as being involved as consultees in the Well-being Assessment Consultation 2022.

In conclusion, Councillor Caple noted that he felt confident and reassured that the JOSC is well placed to tackle difficult issues and maximise the opportunities for our Cwm Taf community. Councillor Caple thanked the Board for inviting him to speak today and for allowing him the time and opportunity to provide Members with an update on the work and recommendations of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- **Early Years Transformation Group**

Board Members were provided with an update on the Early Years Transformation Group. The Group Director, Community & Children's Services

RCTCBC updated the Board on the progress made across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region towards the delivery of an integrated early years system as

part of the Welsh Government's Early Years Transformation Programme. Following discussion, Members **RESOLVED** to:

- Note the content of the report;
- Note the findings of the Stage 1 external evaluation of the new delivery model being piloted as set out in section 4.3 of the report; and,
- Agree the proposed governance and reporting structure as set out in section 5 of the report.

- **Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan**

Board Members were then provided with an update on the Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan. Board Members received a presentation and were advised that the draft plan is going out for consultation at the beginning of November 2021 and will be reviewed every five years. It was agreed that copies of the plan would be circulated to Board Members once it was out for consultation in November.

Discussions ensued and Members noted the importance of working with the Welsh Government to ensure that the Brecon Beacons remains as a natural wildlife landscape. Members also discussed the challenges of second home

	<p>ownership and the consequences of this on local heritage sites. Board Members agreed that it's a huge challenge and that more needs to be done to tackle the issue.</p> <p>Following discussion, Members <b>RESOLVED</b> to note the update</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> The PSB Senior Support Officers to work with Helen Roderick and Sophie Jones to explore opportunities around the Well-being Assessment.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> The PSB Senior Support Officers to circulate the Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan to Board Members when it goes out for consultation in November.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Update from Ellis Cooper</u></b></li> </ul> <p>Ellis Cooper provided an update on behalf of Alyn Owen and the 'Participating in good, fair work for health, well-being and Equity Panel'. Members will receive a copy of the Terms of Reference from the Panel for comment and have also been invited to be part of an interview process to support the work.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Members to provide comments and register interest via the PSB Officers</p>
9.	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>The Chair noted that the next meeting of the Board will be on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022.</p>
10.	<p><b>INFORMATION REPORTS</b></p> <p>The Chair referenced the information reports (as listed below), which were available through the 'Our Cwm Taf' website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well-being Objective Delivery Plans 2021-22</li> <li>• First year report: CHOICE project</li> <li>• NEST framework: A Birds Eye View / What you need to know / If you need to know more</li> <li>• Roadmap from the Office of Future Generations Commissioner</li> </ul>

**The meeting closed at 11.14 am**

**Mr M Brace  
(Chairman)**