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## **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Date Written	9 <sup>th</sup> November 2021
Report Author	Mark Brace, Chair, Cwm Taf PSB
Service Area	Cwm Taf PSB
Committee Date	19 <sup>th</sup> November 2021

*To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen*

### **Update on Quarter 1 PSB Work Programme**

#### **1.0 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This is a standing item on the Cwm Taf JOSOC, in order that members receive timely and relevant updates on the progress of ongoing work of the Cwm Taf PSB. Mark Brace, Chair of Cwm Taf PSB will present the main points.
- 1.2 The Report will include:
- Key progress against the Objectives set out in Delivery Plans 2021-22;
  - Emerging priorities in light of COVID-19 and the work of the Wellbeing Assessment; and,
  - Future governance arrangements

#### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 The Committee discusses and comments on the content of the report; and,  
2.2 The Committee identifies any further information relating to the content of the Report that it would like to consider and makes the request to the PSB.

#### **3.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 For the committee to have an overview and offer scrutiny to the work programme of the PSB, in order that any questions and recommendations are made to the Board for the benefit of the work and implementation of the Act.

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The work of the Cwm Taf PSB must be designed and delivered to meet the statutory requirements as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015. The Act requires public bodies to carry out sustainable development. Section 2 of the Act defines this as: “Sustainable development” means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals. The Seven Well-being Goals are: A prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal, more cohesive, more vibrant culture and Welsh language, and a more globally responsible Wales.

4.2 In the Welsh Government Statutory Core Guidance on the implementation of the Act, ‘Shared Purpose, Shared Future: 1, the following guidance is given for Overview and Scrutiny Committee function and purpose:

*The Overview and Scrutiny Committees will not have a role in relation to the accountability of individual public bodies (apart from the Local Authority itself). The role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees designated to scrutinise decisions made or actions taken by the public services board, will be focused on the shared well-being objectives included in public services boards’ Local Well-being Plans, rather than the individual well-being objectives of a public body.*

4.3 **Progress Against the Well-being Objectives** – the work and progress against the four objectives set out in the Well-being Plan continue to be impacted upon by the recovery efforts of COVID-19, and the effects of Brexit. Outline delivery plans for 2021-22 were presented to PSB at the July meeting, and were included as information reports for the October PSB meeting. The draft plans have been developed by the Objective Leads for each of the four objectives:

- Healthier People (Angela Jones, CTMUHB);
- Thriving Communities (Paul Mee, RCTCBC);
- A Strong Economy (Alyn Owen, MTCBC),
- Tackling Loneliness and Isolation (Sharon Richards, Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil)

Board members were asked for input/suggestions for reviewing the Objectives and the draft plans for the year. This will be reviewed in subsequent meetings.

Key highlights from the first quarter include:

- **Healthier People** – the Vulnerability Profile project, which was piloted in RCT by CMUHB and RCTCBC is near completion and PSB are awaiting the final analysis report on the pilot and plans for rollout across the region. This is expected to be presented to the Board by April 2022.
- **Thriving Communities** – the work of the hubs were transformed during the pandemic to meet the needs of the communities. RCT’s 7 Community Resilience Hubs were mobilised to provide essential services during lockdown, including food and medication delivery services, befriending and to meet organisational challenge. The Gurnos Hub also acted as a central resource in response to community needs. The ongoing work to support vulnerable residents is still in place, but planning for the development of

the hubs has resumed, and work is currently being carried out to establish and develop the neighbourhood networks around the locality of each hub building. The integration of services based in the hubs is also developing, with a range of partners now delivering either virtually or physically from the centres. One main identified risk factor for both local authorities is the financial sustainability of the facilities. This is something which was highlighted to the Board in the July meeting. Mark Brace, Chair has since attended the implementation group meeting of the Gurnos hub, by invitation, and the main focus of the discussion was around sustainability, in terms of financial and integrated service provision. Mark has agreed to raise this for discussion/action at the January PSB.

- **A Strong Economy** – a regional approach to strengthening the foundational economy, with the support of the Centre for Local Economic Strategies has progressed, despite the challenges of service delivery throughout the pandemic. This innovative approach has brought together key public organisations, to act as ‘anchors’ in their areas, and this work has begun with a focus on progressive procurement. A regional plan for Cwm Taf Morgannwg is in development, and development work has concentrated on understating procurement barriers and supporting collaboration on funding bids. Further support for this will be resumed after this round of the Assessment work is completed.
- **Tackling Loneliness and Isolation** – this objective has been greatly impacted upon as a result of the impact of COVID-19. The community and voluntary sector response and mobilisation was, and continues to be, an enormous effort, and widely publicised. A new Tackling Loneliness and Isolation Development Officer has been appointed for Cwm Taf, and she has been working to re-establish a Befriending Services Network. The need for essential befriending services has been highlighted over the last 20 months, with sustaining support and funding the key priorities. The new round of funding which will replace the current ICF programme is expected to be shared with partners imminently. PSB Support Officers have been attending Neighbourhood Networks across RCT and Merthyr Tydfil speaking with groups and partners, as part of our engagement work, to understand feelings of loneliness and isolation in our communities. Links have also been made with the ‘Mind our Futures’ project across Cwm Taf, which has a specific focus on children and young people, and the ways in which loneliness and isolation impacts their lives.

4.4 **Emerging Priorities** – in this first quarter of the PSB reporting year, and following on from the previous year’s cycle, the PSB have spent time considering changing and emerging priorities, particularly in light of the impact of COVID-19 and Brexit. Partners have agreed that the Board need to take an approach which is more focussed, with fewer priorities, in an attempt to produce greater impact on some of the long standing, systemic issues faced by all our partners in the public sector. Some of the broader priorities have been identified from the impact data which has emerged from the pandemic from various partners, such as mental health, climate change / green recovery and economic recovery. However, the Board are committed to fully utilising the analysis of the data and engagement activities from the Well-being Assessment process before confirming specific areas of focus, in line with the 5 Ways of Working.

4.5 **Future Governance Arrangements** – the PSB have been developing strategic direction and focus to ensure alignment with the work of the Regional Partnership Board, which has resulted in two strategic conferences for members of the two strategic boards in the region. The first took place in 2019 prior to the pandemic,

and a virtual conference was held in April 2021. In the October meeting, the PSB considered the roles of the strategic delivery boards, such as the Community Safety Partnership, the Area Planning Board for Substance Misuse, the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board. The PSB agreed that there needs to be an alignment of the work of these boards with the PSB and RPB, which will ensure robust information sharing and accountability. It will also enable the identification of any gaps in provision or data to be more easily identified. Therefore it was agreed that a discussion with the RPB should take place to agree a way forward. It was reported that Bridgend PSB agreed to align with the Cwm Taf PSB. Board Members fully supported the direction for one Cwm Taf Morgannwg PSB operating with strategic intent. A timeline is to be developed for this work by the January meeting.

## **5.0 INVOLVEMENT**

5.1 Through the work the Well-being Assessment and the setting up of the Community Assessment Action Group, the PSB have committed to the involvement of its wider partners and people in our communities. This will be further developed after the Assessment is completed with support from the Co-production Wales Network project, which will support Cwm Taf and Bridgend PSB to embed the practices of co-production over the next 5 years.

## **6.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 No equality and diversity implications to report.

## **7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no direct financial implications for the Board, however, there are financial responsibilities placed on individual public bodies to deliver against the objectives set out in the well-being plan. There may also be financial considerations in respect of the changes to governance and structure over the next 18 months.

## **8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERATIONS**

8.1 There are no legal implications to consider in this report. The legislation is considered and reviewed throughout the development of all PSB work.

## **9.0 LINKS TO PSB's WELL-BEING OBJECTIVES**

9.1 The report focus is on the progress of the well-objectives.

## 10.0 CONCLUSION

- 10.1 The PSB's work against the delivery of its well-being objectives set out in the Well-being Plan has been significantly affected by the impact of COVID-19 on partners' services. The Joint Scrutiny Committee is requested to acknowledge this disruption when undertaking its duties to scrutinise the delivery plans. The request to provide a RAG reporting system may not be effective under the current circumstances and given that we are working towards long term (5-10 years) objectives, in a partnership context, not as individual public bodies does not lend itself to short term performance measurements.
- 10.2 The PSB have identified broader priorities, which have emerged from the data of partners' recovery programmes in response to the pandemic. This work will be further developed by the Well-being Assessment and its findings. The PSB are committed to using the data and intelligence to shape the iteration of the Well-being Plan, with a tighter focus on fewer priorities.
- 10.3 The structure and governance arrangements of the current Cwm Taf PSB will undergo significant changes during this existing reporting year and beyond. Both Cwm Taf and Bridgend PSBs have agreed and committed to a merger, which will create a new Cwm Taf Morgannwg PSB, in time for the preparation of the new Well-being Plan in 2023. Therefore, is requested that the committee acknowledge the programme of work that this will create.

**Mark Brace**  
**Chair, Cwm Taf PSB**

<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>		
<b>Title of Document(s)</b>	<b>Document(s) Date</b>	<b>Document Location</b>
Delivery Plans attached.		<a href="#">Our Cwm Taf Plan</a>
<b>Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?</b>		<b>No</b>