

**Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on Friday, 24 November 2023 at 10.30 am.

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

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

Councillor R Bevan (Chair)

**Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Councillors**

Councillor J Bonetto  
Councillor S Evans

**Bridgend County Borough Councillors**

Councillor A Williams  
Councillor A Williams  
Councillor F Bletsoe  
Councillor R Granville  
Councillor S Griffiths

**Officers in attendance**

Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication RCTCBC  
Mrs S Handy, Members' Researcher & Scrutiny Officer RCTCBC  
Ms M Lawrence, Senior Scrutiny Officer BCBC  
Ms R Keepins, Democratic Services Manager BCBC  
Ms H Hammond, Senior PSB Support Officer  
Ms L Toghill, Senior PSB Support Officer  
Mrs K Williams, Partnership Community Safety Partnership Manager BCBC  
Ms S Davies, Partnership Support and Data Assistant

**Co-opted Members in attendance**

Ms C Board, BCBC Citizen Representative  
Ms A Lewis, RCTCBC Citizen Representative  
Councillor A Roberts, SWFR Representative  
Mr A Robinson, NRW Representative

**Guests in attendance**

Mr M Brace, Chair of the CTM PSB  
Ms E Howells, Chair of the Workforce Wellbeing Sub Board

**Apologies for absence**

Councillor K Morgan    Councillor B Stephens  
Councillor M Ashford    Councillor C Jones

## **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the 2023/24 Municipal Year and thanked Members for attending. The Chair also welcomed Mr Brace, Co Production Network, Ms Emma Howells and Senior PSB Support Officers to the meeting.

## **12 WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015**

The Chair reminded Members to note the 5 Ways of Working.

## **13 Declaration of Interest**

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

## **14 Apologies**

Apologies of absence were received from County Borough Councillors M. Ashford, B. Stephens, C. Jones, M. Hughes and Co Opted Members M. Jehu and Mr Maguire.

## **15 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023 were **APPROVED** as an accurate record of the meeting.

## **16 Co-production network for Wales**

Members received a Power Point Presentation from Becky Lythgoe, Co Production Network for Wales, in respect of the work they are undertaking with the PSB on the ways of working, particularly collaboration and involvement.

Following the presentation, Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions.

A Member noted that the young people who attended the Young Persons event on the 17<sup>th</sup> November had expressed that they felt there was a gap in communication with them and that their views were not counted. The Member sought information as to what the plan would be to take forward all the comments made on the post it notes to ensure that we take any concerns forward and feed back to the young people who attended the event. Becky Lythgoe advised Members that the information collated from the day will be compiled into a video. It was emphasised that Co Production Network were there to support the PSB to take on these views in a way that makes sense to young people. The importance of relationship building, and timely feedback was also emphasised as important tools to take forward and build upon.

Discussion ensued and another Member stressed the importance of working with younger people long term and not just young people in college but also young people from sixth forms and apprenticeships etc. The Member suggested that the PSB could put a plan in place for some of those things to then come to

fruition so that Scrutiny can measure the success of the PSB in this area going forward. Becky Lythgoe noted her agreement to this. It was emphasised that this was just a starting point that will hopefully lead to wider engagement with young people.

Mr Brace, the Chair of the CTM PSB, thanked Becky and PSB Support Officers for the work they have been doing with young people. It was noted that the desire of the young people to get involved in the event last week was inspiring. Mr Brace emphasised the importance of the PSB facilitating that long term involvement from young people. Mr Brace acknowledged that it can be difficult for young people to attend a Board meeting and that therefore as Chair of the PSB he intends to go out and meet young people in their own environment. Mr Brace also suggested the creation of a young person's sub board as well for the PSB. It was also noted that we should strike a balance between understanding young people as a broad and diverse group with wide and varying views and needs but also as an integral part of our communities with potential shared priorities and concerns.

Discussion continued and a Member noted that transparency of the decision making process is crucial. A Member queried whether the PSB will be going further than the 'How' and queried if the PSB will be producing regular reviews, community focused outcomes and key performance indicators to review project goals/milestones to regularly review progress. The Member queried what Co Production Wales has done to date to support the PSB in actually achieving collaboration rather than just focusing on the broader questions of 'How'. Becky Lythgoe advised Members that this is still a 'work in progress'. In terms of the measuring, Becky advised that this could be a specific piece of work for the PSB and could be of real value. Members were advised that this is always at the forefront of everyone's mind and perhaps the PSB and Co Production Network could look at who's speaking at the Board, how are different things coming about and are there projects in the pipeline. Co Production Network would be happy to support in these conversations with the PSB. Becky also advised to look at other practices from other PSB's while this is a work in progress.

Another Member queried if other forms of communication are being used with young people as some young people do not particularly like meeting up face to face. Mr Brace agreed with this and noted that last week's event was only a starting point and agreed on the importance of engaging with other young people. He noted for example that not all young people are in education and that a lesson learned from last week is how they want to be engaged with and how best we can engage with them. In terms of performance data, Mr Brace noted that this was a lesson learned from the last cycle of the PSB and that something the PSB has to learn is how can we measure ourselves as a Board to make sure that the PSB provides a level of reassurance. Mr Brace advised that the PSB is trying to reach priority areas to understand and use resources more effectively and avoid duplicating efforts. The measuring of this is how the Board performs better in terms of addressing the issues. Mr Brace acknowledged that their key issue is how we justify our existence as a Board.

Discussion ensued and another Member suggested that the Board went out into towns and communities to get a wide spectrum of views across the board and not just in colleges and sixth forms. Mr Brace acknowledged this point and noted that getting a spectrum of views is a part of the Board's engagement model. Mr Brace also noted the importance of taking on board locally Elected Members views and how they engage with their constituents. Mr Brace also referenced

getting young people on the Scrutiny panel too in terms of getting that young person's voice to be heard.

The Chair advised that there are established practices within Local Authorities in terms of engagement that perhaps the PSB could learn from. In terms of the Youth event, the Chair stated that he attended the event and commented how well organised it was. However, the Chair also noted that his engagement with Young people showed that they didn't realise what the PSB was and what it was there to achieve. The Chair noted that there is a clear issue with communication and how it is managed. The Chair therefore queried if the PSB intended to look at social media platforms as a means of communication. Mr Brace noted his agreement and noted that feedback from the event was to use the expertise within the colleges to promote the PSB and how we can do that through the mechanisms and channels that they have got. In respect of communication, another Member suggested that the PSB creates a web page on each Local Authorities individual web page so that residents can read all about what the PSB is doing and therefore create transparency of the Board. The Chair asked if Officers could take this back to the Board and collate a document for Scrutiny to view. Mr Brace noted that there is already a PSB website and that a link can go on the Local Authority sites to refer to the PSB page, and would welcome any suggestions or ideas from Members on content and style. Mr Brace acknowledged that an opportunity to look at what the PSB does and to provide as much information as possible to the Scrutiny Committee needs to be looked at.

Following discussion, Members **RESOLVED** to note the update from Co Production Network For Wales and for PSB Officers to share information on the 3 Horizon Tool with Scrutiny Members.

## 17 **REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE CWM TAF MORGANNWG PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD (CTM PSB)**

Mr Mark Brace, Chair of the CTM PSB, provided Members with an overview in respect of the work ongoing at the CTM PSB to date. There were two aspects to the report; the Young Persons Event and the Workforce Well-being Sub Board. Emma Howells, the Chair of the Workforce Well-being Sub Board, provided an overview of the purpose and ongoing work of the Sub Board.

Following the overview, Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions and scrutinise the work of the Board. A Member sought further information about the 'Three Horizons Model'. The Chair of the Sub Board explained that it's a tool to generate ideas and planning; Horizon one would be to look at the evidence for change, Horizon two is what we are going to do and Horizon three is about the outcomes. The Member queried the timescales involved and when the action plan could be shared with the Scrutiny panel. The Chair of the Sub Board advised that the idea is that topics are being picked out and taken forward and at the moment that's the stage the Sub Board is working towards.

Discussions ensued and another Member queried what budget is being used to do this work. The Chair of the Sub Board confirmed that as yet there is no financial input but its about how the organisations collaborate and how this is pulled together to impact the workforce. The Member then further queried if Members could be provided with written detail about the Horizon Model and how

it came about that CTM PSB use this facility. Mr Brace confirmed that this could be shared with Scrutiny Members following the meeting.

Following discussion, Members **RESOLVED**

- i. To scrutinise the current work of the CTM PSB, primarily against two of the 'Five Ways of Working'; collaboration and involvement; and,
- ii. To receive further information and timely updates on the work of the Wellbeing Sub Group; and,
- iii. To recommend a more focused and wide ranging approach in the work of the CTM PSB with Young People.

## **18 THE DRAFT CWM TAF MORGANNWG JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2023-24**

The Members' Researcher & Scrutiny Officer RCTCBC provided Members with an overview of the draft CTM PSB JOSC Forward Work Programme for the 2023/24 Municipal Year and invite Members to comment and provide further input for Scrutiny.

Discussion ensued and a Member commented that the Board needs to be a more strategic Board and suggested that we look at the evidence base for the wellbeing assessment which formed the wellbeing plan. The Member noted that there are a number of different areas to focus on; mental health, physical health, community, housing and loneliness and cultural and economic wellbeing. The Member suggested incorporating these into the Work Programme and to ask for reports looking at risk factors and take a more thematic and strategic approach. The Member emphasised that the reports from the PSB need to be more thematic so that Scrutiny can add value to the PSB work at a more strategic level.

The Chair referred Members to crisis management and to look at the wider impact of the Pandemic on public services and would like to see emergency planning addressed on the Scrutiny Work Programme. Another Member also referenced the impact on Schools and Children in Education. The Member emphasised that if we are looking at wellbeing of future generations then we need to consider education. The Member raised concerns in respect of cuts and austerity measures in Education in order to balance budgets. The Member noted that there are children now that require support following the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Discussion continued and a Member suggested the production of a heat map so that Scrutiny can monitor Key Performance Indicators, taking a strategic approach to scrutiny against the seven pillars of well-being, using the Well-being Assessment as the evidence base to measure the success of the delivery of the Well-being Plan .I. It was The Chair agreed that this will support Scrutiny in being a critical friend to the Board providing appropriate challenge.

Another Member voiced their agreement with future planning being a part of the work of the PSB and Scrutiny, particularly with mental health. Mr Brace emphasised that we are here because of the Future Generations Act so we therefore need to think long term in our planning. Mr Brace agreed with a Member's earlier comments in terms of following a strategic approach and

agreed that this would give the PSB a focus of things to look at. It was referenced that the next Scrutiny meeting will look at the work of the Board in terms of Climate Change and that this is an example of long term planning. Mr Brace said that the emphasis should be on thinking long term and acting together for the future. The PSB must take a strategic approach and the panel acting as a critical friend will give a focus on what the Board need to be looking at.

Following discussion, Members **RESOLVED**:

- i. To approve the draft Forward Work Programme for the 2023-24 Municipal Year; and,
- ii. To recommend that the PSB provides further information in respect of its strategic themes and further performance data to enhance scrutiny and transparency of its work to meet its duty under the Future Generations Act.

## **19 Any Other Business**

There was no other business to report.

## **20 Chairs Review and Close**

The Chair summarised the ongoing commitment to the newly merged PSB and Scrutiny Panel would require planning and exploration to ensure good scrutiny of the work of the CTM PSB. He stated that information provided needs to be constructive and timely, and that the Committee is able to effectively measure and challenge the delivery of the Well-being Plan. The Chair thanked everyone for attending and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## **21 Information Reports**

The Chair asked Members to note the information reports and to email any queries to the Scrutiny RCT Inbox.

**This meeting closed at 12.10 pm**

**Cllr R. Bevan  
Chair**