

NAME OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
DYDDIAD	19.7.12
TITLE	Community Strategy
PORTFFOLIO LEADER	Cllr Dyfed Edwards

A. Provide examples where the work has resulted in reducing duplication of work by more than one organization e.g. Children and Young People, Health and so on.

One of the main aims of Gwynedd Together Partnership is to increase collaboration among partnerships in the county. It has done so by promoting partnership working across a range of different partnership areas, Health, Children and Young People, Community Safety, Housing, Economy and the Environment by supporting the work of the partnerships in those areas.

However, attention is drawn to a number of specific activities under the auspices of the Local Service Board which has reduced duplication directly.

a. Gwynedd Carbon Reduction Project

This project has brought together activities to reduce the carbon footprint of the public sector.

This project has fused activities to reduce the carbon footprint of public sector practice in the county through collaboration between the organizations.

Rather than each organization working in isolation, this project manages joint activities to reduce carbon emissions of individual institutions with a suppliers group from each organization.

To date the project has led activities in the fields of energy, waste and transport.

There was a 15% reduction in energy emissions from non-domestic buildings by mid 2012. This has led to financial savings as well as environmental improvements. In the case of Gwynedd Council this has saved at least £500,000 and has also contributed to the Council's Outcomes Agreement which has secured £ 1.3m of additional grant funding to the Council, reducing the pressure for further savings on core services.

b. Partners in Care Project

This project reduces duplication through coordinating care services and health care locally, with a view to improve services, reduce the incidence of emergency admission to hospital, especially for patients with chronic conditions. This work was initiated as a pilot in Gwynedd, and is already being extended across the north by Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board in conjunction with Social Services and the voluntary sector. The establishment of

integrated teams is central to this work e.g. adult social services, a single point of access to services.

c. Partnership Rationalisation Project Gwynedd Together has also led a project to rationalize partnerships and to further improve efficiency and reduce duplication across Gwynedd and Anglesey in the areas of Community Safety, Health and Wellbeing and Children and Young People. The project is about to become operational during the autumn months and will decrease the number of key strategic partnerships across the two counties from 8 to 1 and also to ensure a 10% reduction in the costs of supporting the new structure.

B. Please provide any examples where there has been no success in working more strategically by removing structures. What were the barriers and how were these dealt with?

The LSB has attempted to identify other areas where local collaboration could be possible – work has been undertaken in several areas to look for collaboration and include sharing expertise, recruitment and use of property and joint advertising. The work on the use of property remains in place, with information being shared with a view to rationalize the property requirements of different organizations. In terms of advertising in the press, the business case weakened despite the will of the partners to achieve savings in this area. The Board continues to look for any other opportunities that would lead to effective collaboration between the main public institutions.

It would probably be fair to say that the following points are responsible for failure to drive forward more opportunities: -

- The fact that all the different bodies reporting to different funding bodies and are accountable to different directions means that we could not get the same level of agreement because of short-term priorities of individual organizations. It is hoped that the new guidelines for Community Planning will enable partners to overcome this.
- Lack of Capacity to be able to work together in driving forward collaboration plans. Partners have been involved in contributing staff time; however day to day priorities were always going to conflict with this.

C. Show how did you identify the outcomes in the first place? Are you comfortable that these are the right outcomes for the people of Gwynedd?

A research and consultation project called Gwynedd Tomorrow was conducted in 2006/07 to identify the main outcomes in the first place. It was decided to revisit the research and consultation in 2010-11 to review the evidence for these outcomes and produce the document "Improving Gwynedd Together". Therefore, based on evidence, statistics, trends and rigorous engagement a consensus was built on the need to take action in seven intervention areas:

- Innovative Services

- Climate Change
- Economy and Skills
- Housing
- Environmental Assets
- Demographic Change
- Culture and Welsh Language.

These outcomes need to be reviewed regularly as the evidence changes, especially in an era of constant change in the economic, social and environmental landscape. It was decided to update the Community Strategy in 2011 and this was done at the same time as the Council's current Three Year Plan. Through this process, the following outcomes were identified. Again, this was done through consultation and consensus building across the county.

- Area where the economy is flourishing
- Area with a Sustainable Environment
- Area where children and young people succeed
- Area to life with exciting vibrant communities
- Area with good health and best care in the community.

Clearly, we need to continue to keep a close eye on this area, and as the Council reviews its strategic plan and as we work towards priorities across Gwynedd and Anglesey, we will continue to look at the evidence about what needs attention

D. Please give clear evidence of how the progress on key targets Gwynedd Together 2008-12 has made a difference to the people of Gwynedd.

Progress on the key targets of Gwynedd Together 2008/12 can be summarized as follows:

Partners in Care Project is providing more integrated care locally. Local teams to manage chronic conditions are in place in three areas in Gwynedd as well as leaders in place in the Health Service and Social Services.

Numbers of patients with chronic conditions receive urgent treatment: Reduction of 9% since 2008. Number of days in hospital: Decrease of 22.8% since 2008.

Gwynedd Carbon Footprint Reduction Project

In the field of energy, it is estimated that the project has led to a reduction of 15% in carbon emissions from non- domestic buildings by the Local Service Board partners by 2012

Projects led by Gwynedd Council and the Gwynedd Economic Partnership.

Skills Strategy for Gwynedd and Anglesey. Action Plan for the strategy includes a programme of activities and projects to strengthen the skills of the workforce.

Additional support for businesses. E.g. Llwyddo'n Lleol, Galluogi Enterprise Fund, Productive Communities, promoting change in the rural economy through innovation.

Affordable Housing

426 units between 2007 and 2012

Gwynedd Environmental Partnership Campaigns

e.g. Promote local products and projects to grow food, energy metering project, campaigns to raise awareness about energy conservation and waste reduction.

"Take your Bag" Project

Information Sharing - Environmental Directory

Culture and Language

Gwynedd Language Charter was established in 2008, supporting the use of Welsh in public sector across the county.