

Committee	Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date	22nd October 2020
Title	The Annual Report 2019/20 of the Gwynedd and Anglesey's Public Services Board
Cabinet Member	Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn
Purpose	To provide a progress report on the work of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board

1. Introduction and context

1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015) aims to improve the economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act highlights seven well-being goals and five ways of working to give public bodies a common purpose.

1.2 The Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board (PSB) was established in 2016, in accordance with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (the Act). Indeed a PSB has been established for each Local Authority in Wales to ensure collaboration amongst public bodies to create a better future for the people of Wales. The decision undertaken in North West Wales was to establish a Public Services Board for Gwynedd which *collaborates* with the Anglesey Public Services Board.

1.3 During 2017 the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board divided our communities into 14 smaller areas in order to carry out detailed research, and learn more about the well-being of those areas. The information was published in the form of the Well-being Assessments. The information gathered from the assessments was used to shape the PSB's priorities which have been confirmed in the Well-being Plan (2018). The following priorities were agreed:

- Welsh language
- Homes for local people;
- The impact of poverty on the well-being of our communities;
- The impact of climate change on community well-being;
- Health and care of adults and the welfare and achievement of children and young people

1.4 As noted in the Public Services Board's Terms of Reference the Board has four statutory members namely the Local Authorities, Natural Resources Wales, The Fire Service and the Health Board, together with invited participants who contribute to the Board's duties. In relation to any latest change to the membership of the PSB - Aled Jones-Griffith of the Llandrillo and Menai Group and Andrew Edwards of Bangor University are now invited participants.

2. Public Services Board Annual Report

2.1 Enclosed is the PSB's annual report for the period 2019/20. Since March 2020 we have faced a global health crisis and very challenging times. The report was used to self-reflect on the work of the PSB up to the crisis, and reference is briefly made to the PSB's work in the recovery our

communities from the crisis. The report is structured to refer to the progress of the work of the four sub-groups of the PSB. The PSB now has four sub-groups, they have showed their commitment to the poverty priority by agreeing to keep an overview of the work undertaken to address poverty matters by Gwynedd Council and the Isle of Anglesey County Council, in the first instance. Local Authorities have their arrangements and plans for dealing with poverty. They have previously worked with a number of partners on key poverty programmes, and continue to work with a wide range of organisations.

2.2 The leaders of the PSB sub-groups are members of the PSB, and it has been their responsibility to submit their action plans and update on their delivery during the meetings of the PSB in 2019/20.

2.3 Below are some examples of what has been achieved in the last year:

- Changing the linguistic habits of the workforce - Gwynedd Council has identified a department that could benefit from participating in the ARFer project. The purpose of ARFer is to change language habits to enable colleagues who can speak Welsh (but who have established a habit of using English) to use more Welsh at work. This will lead to improved consistency of citizen experience when dealing with Gwynedd Council.
- Gwynedd Council is working with other partners on an innovative programme of developing new and affordable homes in the county. The process of procuring to appoint a partner to develop the programme will take place jointly. This will lead to economies of scale and more effective use of public money.
- Innovative work has been undertaken in health and care which focuses on transforming Services through the integration of our health and care services. Domiciliary care projects have been set up in Gwynedd to test a new way of working, providing support that's specifically tailored to meet the needs of individuals. The project brings together all the people and agencies involved in the services to work more effectively. The project aims to encourage older people to live their lives according to their choice.

2.4 During the past year the Public Services Board and sub-groups have operated in accordance with the five national sustainable development principles. The PSB agreed through the Well-being Plan that they wanted to add two principles that are important to the residents of Gwynedd and Anglesey namely the Welsh Language and Equality. Each of the sub-groups has ensured that the Welsh language is a golden thread that runs through their work. The sub-groups will also continue to address inequality and disadvantage through the relevant impact assessments.

2.5 The annual report was circulated to members of the Public Services Board during July 2020, for comment and the Anglesey Scrutiny Committee has had the opportunity to scrutinise it on 21st September 2020. In accordance with the requirements of the Act the report was published in July, on the following website: <https://www.llesiantgwyneddamon.org> It was decided during the crisis to publish the report prior to scrutiny. The legislation does not require boards to scrutinise their annual reports prior to publication, but that it is good practice to do so.

2.6 The regional recovery coordinating group has agreed on 4 areas of focus needed for the recovery of our communities from the pandemic. Public Service Boards across north Wales have been asked to look at one area - the recovery in terms of community resilience. A workshop for Gwynedd and Anglesey PSB was therefore held on 17th September. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the role of the Public Services Board in the recovery of our communities from the pandemic. During the workshop a number of issues were discussed that are important / affecting our communities at present. The workshop then considered whether the PSB had a role to play in responding to these issues, and determine what that role is. Following the workshop it was agreed that the PSB's priorities moving forward will be to continue with the core work of the PSB, as the current objectives and priorities of the Well-being Plan remain current. There will be an opportunity to revise the work streams of existing sub-groups by taking into account the findings of the workshop. The PSB will continue to encourage compliance with the measures and directions to reduce the risk of the spread of infection, as we all move towards the "new normal".

3. Lessons learned

3.1 The PSB continually learns lessons. We learned during the crisis about the willingness of public bodies to work together, the speed of their response, and the decisions made, all by focusing on the needs of the customer / resident.

3.2 During the workshop for the PSB on 17th September it was learned that a number of the partners were responding to well-being needs of our communities as individual organisations. The PSB is firm that they want to avoid duplication, as the purpose of the PSB is to add value to existing schemes. To avoid further duplication the PSB also invites other partners to deliver presentations about their work such as the Skills Partnership and Community Safety Partnership.

4. Scrutiny Arrangements

4.1 In order to gain democratic accountability for the progress of the work of the PSB the Act has placed a requirement on councils to designate an Overview and Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the work of the PSB. The work of the Gwynedd and Anglesey PSB is therefore scrutinised by the Scrutiny Committees of Gwynedd Council and the Isle of Anglesey County Council on specific points during the year. The Well-being of Future Generations Wales Act (2015) and associated national guidance¹ set out three roles for Local Authority scrutiny committees:

- Review the governance arrangements of the PSB
- Be a statutory Consultee on the Well-being Assessment and Well-being Plan
- Monitor the progress of the PSB's efforts in implementing the Well-being Plan.

4.2 This means that scrutiny committees have the opportunity to scrutinise the performance and impact of the Public Services Board. During the past year discussions have been held between Gwynedd Council and the Isle of Anglesey County Council on the option of establishing a single scrutiny panel, to operate across the two counties to scrutinise the work of the PSB. The scrutiny managers of both councils evaluated different options and concluded that they did not recommend the establishment of a panel at this stage but rather wanted to focus on aligning timescales and consistency of scrutiny arrangements across the two Counties and continuing

¹ Guidance for Local Authority Scrutiny Committees on the scrutiny of Public Service Boards

with the current scrutiny arrangements. It will be possible to review these arrangements between the two councils again in due course.

5. Equality Impact Assessment

5.1 The Public Services Board's support team has already considered and recognised the need for impact assessments (e.g. Language and Equality) and assessments will be developed and used when the Board engages with our communities at specific points and for updating the Well-being Assessments. In addition impact assessments will be used when projects are submitted by the sub-groups recommending a change in policy / service. Impact assessments will therefore be developed to measure and understand the impact of the decisions on the part of the sub-groups that will be made by the Public Services Board.