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| <b>Committee</b>      | <b>Communities Scrutiny Committee</b>   |
| <b>Date</b>           | <b>13<sup>th</sup> July 2021</b>  |
| <b>Title</b>          | Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board's Annual Report 2020/21              |
| <b>Cabinet Member</b> | <b>Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn</b>  |
| <b>Purpose</b>        | To outline the progress of the work of the Public Services Board during 2020/21 |

## **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 made in North West Wales was to establish a Public Services Board for Gwynedd that would collaborate with the Anglesey's 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:

- The Welsh language
- Homes for local people;
- The effect 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** Consideration was given to the work undertaken to address the impact of poverty on the communities of Gwynedd and Anglesey. The Board decided that they did not need to undertake a definite role in this area at present but receive regular updates on the work taking place and consider whether there is a role for the Board to step in in the future. In order to address the other priorities, the Board established four operational sub-groups, and updates on the progress of those sub-groups are included in the Annual Report.

**1.5** As outlined in the public services Board's terms of reference the Board has four statutory members, together with invited participants who contribute to the Board's duties. In relation to any latest change to the membership of the PSB Dafydd Gibbard since his appointment as the Chief Executive of Gwynedd Council, is now a statutory member of the Board.

## **2. The Annual Report of the Public Services Board**

**2.1** Enclosed is the PSB's annual report for the period 2020/21.

Several reports on the progress of the work of the Public Services Board have been presented to the scrutiny committee in recent months, and this is the report which looks back on achievements during 2020/21.

**2.2** Since March 2020 we have faced a global health crisis and very challenging times. The report has been used to self-reflect on the Board's work during the past year taking into account the impact of the crisis on the Board's work and progress. The report is structured to refer to the progress of the work of the four sub-groups of the Board.

**2.3** The leaders of the PSB sub-groups are members of the PSB, and it has been their responsibility to report on progress during the period 2021/21. They reported that progress had slowed as responding to the crisis and addressing the recovery of our communities had taken priority. However all the sub-groups are now resuming their work.

**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 organisations of the Board have focused on the recovery of our communities during the last year. The Regional recovery Group asked Public Services Boards to consider their role in recovery, focusing on community resilience. We therefore asked all Board members to undertake a situational analysis to improve our understanding of the issues that are increasingly affecting our communities since the crisis. A workshop was held in September 2020 to discuss these issues further, considering how we can work together to respond to them. It was decided that a number of the Board's organisations were already working together to respond to them and that the Board's role would therefore be to keep an overview of the work and to seek assurance that we as public bodies were responding appropriately.

## **3 Scrutiny arrangements**

**3.1** In order to have democratic accountability to 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 Gwynedd and Anglesey's PSB is therefore scrutinised by the Scrutiny Committees of both 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 guidance<sup>1</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> Guidance for Local Authority Scrutiny Committees on the scrutiny of Public Service Boards

- Monitor the progress of the PSB's efforts in implementing the Well-being Plan.

**3.2** This means that scrutiny committees have the opportunity to scrutinise the performance and impact of the Public Services Board. The option of establishing a single scrutiny panel was considered, to operate across the two counties to scrutinise the Board's work. Different options were evaluated by the scrutiny teams of the two Authorities, and they concluded that they did not recommend establishing a panel at this time but would focus on aligning the timetables and continue with the current scrutiny arrangements. These arrangements between the two Authorities will be subject to further review in due course.

#### **4. Equality Impact Assessment**

The delivery sub-groups will prepare equality and language impact assessments, where relevant, to accompany their action plans. The impact assessments will be live documents that will change and develop according to the delivery.