

# **PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

## **Minutes of the hybrid meeting held on 26 September 2022**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Dylan Rees (Chair)  
Councillor Gwilym O Jones (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Nonn Dafydd, Paul Ellis, Jeff Evans, Derek Owen, Margaret M Roberts and Ken Taylor

Mr John Tierney (The Roman Catholic Church)

### **Portfolio Members**

Councillors Dafydd Rhys Thomas (Portfolio Member for Highways, Waste and Property); Alun Roberts (Portfolio Member for Adults' Services – Social Services); Ieuan Williams (Portfolio Member for Education and the Welsh Language).

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive,  
Deputy Chief Executive,  
Director of Social Services,  
Director of Education, Skills and Young People,  
Head of Adults' Services,  
Scrutiny Manager (AD),  
Committee Officer (MEH).

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Trefor Lloyd Hughes MBE, John Ifan Jones, Euryrn Morris and Pip O'Neill.

Councillors Llinos Medi (Leader), Carwyn Jones (Portfolio Member for Economic Development, Leisure and Tourism); Gary Pritchard (Portfolio Member for Children – Social Services and Youth Services); Nicola Roberts (Portfolio Member for Planning).

**ALSO PRESENT:** Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board Programme Manager (for item 5).

Mr John R Jones (Chair of the Standards Committee)  
Mrs Sharon Warnes (Member of the Standards Committee)

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The Chair expressed his deepest sympathy to Mrs Mairwen Hughes, Committee Officer on the loss of her mother recently.

The Chair welcomed Mr John Tierney who will be representing the Roman Catholic Church on this Committee.

The Chair welcomed Mr Marc B Hughes, the newly appointed Director of Education, Skills and Young People, to his first meeting of this Committee.

The Chair also welcomed Mr John R Jones, Chair of the Standards Committee and Mrs Sharon Warnes a Member of the Standards Committee as observers to the meeting.

## **1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None received.

## **2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee held on 21 June, 2022 were confirmed as correct.

## **3 MARKET STABILITY REPORT (SOCIAL CARE)**

Submitted – a report by the Director of Social Services in relation to the above.

The Head of Adults' Services reported that the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 introduced a new duty on local authorities and health boards to develop a joint assessment of the sufficiency and sustainability of the Social Care Market. The report enables the authority to understand the social care market in North Wales, so that the authority can effectively commission and support providers of health and social care services to meet the needs of the population effectively. However, local authorities must ensure that the market stability report also contains an assessment of the market for care and support within each local authority area as well as across the RPB area as a whole. The report will inform both regional and local decision making around commissioning care and support, feeding into the strategic plan for the RPB area and helping shape local and regional commissioning strategies. He noted that there is a strong link between the Market Stability Report and the Population Needs Assessment where the population needs assessment sets out current and projected need and demand for care and support, and the range and level of services that will be required to meet that demand. Both the Population Needs Assessment and Market Stability Report documents will be used to plan local and regional delivery plan and service development plans going forward.

He further reported that Home Care Service has seen an increase in demand for the service of 33% over recent years and the demand is projected to grow. There has been a fall in providers affording the Home Care service and it is concerning that recruitment into the Care Sector is decreasing and especially within the Home Care provision with the average age of Home Carers being over 50 years of age. He referred to Residential Care and concerns regarding the growth in the ageing population requiring these services and especially when individuals require specialist care; greater provision is required especially in Dementia Services.

The Head of Adults' Service further said that the demand for specialist care is also required within Children Services and the local authority has established the

Cartrefi Clyd provision on the Island. The Fostering and Adoption Services has seen an increase in Foster Carers with 80% of children in care being located on the Island which compares favourably with areas.

The Committee considered the report and made the following main points:-

- Questions were raised as to how the authority has attracted Foster Carers and whether they have been sourced through private companies. The Director of Social Services responded that the package afforded to Foster Carers has been improved and the authority has been able to attract 6 new Foster Carers every year over the last 3 years. He further said that prospective Foster Carers showed an interest whilst visiting the County Council's facility at the Anglesey Show recently. The Director of Social Services also referred to the Cartrefi Clyd facility afforded on Anglesey which allows children in care to be looked after within their communities;
- Questions were raised as to regional collaboration and as to how the authority ensure that local needs are addressed. The Director of Social Services responded that regional collaboration is undertaken as regards to specific project and it can be advantages to share information between local authorities. He further referred that due to the cost of living crisis and fuel costs, people will not travel to work from a distance and regional collaboration will not work as regards to this issue. The Authority is advertising for Care Staff on Councils vehicles so as to encourage the interest of prospective applicants for vacant posts with the local authority. The Portfolio Holder for Adults' Services – Social Services expressed that he considered that collaboration between the 6 North Wales local authorities needs to be undertaken and that one local authority should not decide not to participate with the other 5 local authorities. He further said that there is added value in regional collaboration between the local authorities but Anglesey should ensure that the best possible services are afforded to the residents. He noted that he has visited the Local Authority's Residential Care Homes recently and the provision and care the residents are afforded is of the highest quality. The Committee referred to the decision by the Isle of Anglesey County Council and Gwynedd Council to deviate from the regional model on Care Homes and questions raised as to whether this will cause problems in the future. The Head of Adult's Services responded that whilst accepting that there are advantages in working regionally within different services afforded through Social Services, some aspect needs to be balanced and this Authority wishes to target specialist services where there are shortfalls. The Chief Executive said that there is a commitment to continue to collaborate within a framework but it is acknowledged that there are local issues due to the geographical location of the Authority and different service needs of residents;
- Reference was made that the report refers to a number of gaps in the Care Market. Questions were raised as to how the Authority intends to prioritize the work that is required to address these gaps. The Head of Adults' Services responded that the Authority is currently preparing a work programme which is in response to the Market Stability Report (Social Care) and the need to address the Dementia Services, support for Unpaid Carers, Learning Disabilities and Recruitment of staff within the Care Facilities. He noted that the care needs of residents have changed over the years together with the ageing population of the Island;

- Questions were raised as to the difficulties of recruiting and the retention of staff within the Care Sector and the current staff expressing that they feel undervalued and overworked and the current wages are below other job opportunities. The Head of Adult's Services responded that a National solution is required to address the recruitment and retention of staff within the Care Sector. He said that financial recognition and the terms of conditions should be addressed as the work undertaken by domiciliary care staff is often more complex and they are expected to assist with a wider range of care needs. Further questions were raised as to the requirement of bilingual staff to undertake the work and especially within Residential Homes. The Head of Adult's Services responded that Care Sector staff are encouraged to learn Welsh. He specifically referred that it is important that people with Dementia are able to communicate with the staff in their first language;
- Questions were raised as to whether the Authority engage with schools, the local college and Bangor University to attract staff to work in the Care Sector and to attract specialist Therapist. The Director of Social Services responded that the services encourages young people to consider working in the Care Sector within the local schools and colleges. He noted that the Authority afford opportunities internally to staff within Social Services to train to become Social Workers and Occupational Therapist.

**It was RESOLVED to accept the regional and local Market Stability Report (Social Care).**

**ACTION : As noted above.**

#### **4 EDUCATION SCRUTINY PANEL PROGRESS REPORT**

Submitted – a report by the Scrutiny Manager in respect of the above.

The Chair of the Education Scrutiny Panel, Councillor G O Jones, gave an oversight of the work of the 3 scrutiny panels established. He noted that in terms of local context, the membership of the Education Scrutiny Committee comprises of Members newly elected in May. It will therefore be necessary for the Council to create the conditions for all Members to participate fully in the Panel's scrutiny work e.g. skills for effective scrutiny, effective questioning, understanding of the Education system, raise awareness of national education work streams etc. It is therefore the intention to make full use of the forward work programme to ensure appropriate and timely inputs to support members of the Education Scrutiny Panel. The Chair of the Education Scrutiny Panel said that it is an intention that the Education Scrutiny Panel shall met monthly and report quarterly to the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee. The next meeting of the Panel will focus on the Estyn Inspection report on the Education Authority received in June, 2022 and the post inspection action plan. He noted that the Estyn Inspection report received by the Authority is highly commendable of the Education Service on Anglesey.

**It was RESOLVED to note the initial progress to date regarding the work of the Education Scrutiny Panel.**

**ACTION : None**

## 5 GWYNEDD AND YNYS MÔN PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

Submitted – a report by the Chief Executive in relation to the above.

The Chief Executive reported that the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) 2015 places a duty on public bodies to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The act is based on the principle of sustainable development and places a duty on public bodies to set and publish well-being objectives and to take all reasonable steps to achieve those objectives. The Act also established Public Service Boards with representation from key public bodies. Every five years the Public Services Boards must prepare and publish an assessment of the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in their areas and use this as the basis of the Well-being Plan for the following five years. He noted that working in partnership has focused on six key areas over the 2017-2022 Well-being Plan for Gwynedd and Anglesey i.e. The Welsh language, Homes for local people, the effect of poverty on the well-being of our communities, the impact of climate change on the well-being of communities, Health and Care of Adults and the Welfare and achievement of children and young people. The Chief Executive said that it is accepted that a monitoring framework is required to highlight that the Public Services Boards and the partnership working within the Boards add value in the main areas that the partnership has focused upon over the last 5 years.

The Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board Programme Manager reported on the membership of the Public Services Board. The work of the Public Services Board is subject to scrutiny by the designated Scrutiny Committees of both Gwynedd and Anglesey local authorities and a report is submitted twice yearly. She noted that with the support of the team at Co-production Wales, workshops have been held to enable the members of the Public Services Board to reflect on whether current priorities are still relevant and to review the role and purpose as a Board going forward. The Board members are eager to make a meaningful contribution to the partnership landscape without duplicating the work of other partnerships and so the next Well-being Plan will be clear about whether the Public Services Board has a leadership or delivery role in relation to the Well-being priorities. It is intended to publish the final Well-being Plan with detailed goals in May 2023.

The Committee considered the report and made the following main points:-

- Reference was made that previously it has been reported that the partner organisations have not been regularly attending the Public Services Board. Questions were raised as to whether the attendance at the Board has increased recently. The Programme Manager responded that there are statutory representatives that have to attend the Board meetings and it is intended to revisit the membership of the Board to ascertain whether other representatives from other organisations can be invited to attend. The Chief Executive said that both the Leader of the Isle of Anglesey County Council and

the Leader of Gwynedd Council attend the Board meetings and moving to virtual meetings has increased attendance at the Board meetings;

- Reference was made that the Public Services Board does not wish to duplicate the services provided by other organisations. Questions were raised as to the numerous other established organisations that publish strategic development plans and whether there is going to be added value in the Public Services Board publishing its own strategic development plans. The Chief Executive responded that the Public Services Boards should be viewed from a community perspective and the public services needed by the residents of the Island and Gwynedd. He said that he was confident that there is a focus by the Board to improve the well-being of residents of Anglesey and Gwynedd and the partnership working with the voluntary sector creates opportunities especially in the current climate of poverty and the costs of living crisis;
- Questions were raised as to the added value the Public Services Board gives to the residents of Anglesey. The Chief Executive responded that it is an intention by the Public Services Board whilst establishing the next Well-being Plan to measure the priorities and targets within both local authorities and to ensure that there is a framework to measure the impact the Board can achieve in the future.

**It was RESOLVED to accept the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board Annual Report 2021/22.**

**ACTION : AS noted above.**

## **6 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The report of the Scrutiny Manager setting out the Partnership and Regeneration Committee's indicative Forward Work Programme for 2022/23 was presented for consideration.

**It was RESOLVED :-**

- **To agree the current version of the Forward Work Programme for 2022/2023.**
- **To note the progress thus far in implementing the Forward Work Programme.**

The meeting concluded at 11.15 am

**COUNCILLOR DYLAN REES  
CHAIR**