

## ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL Scrutiny Report Template

<b>Committee:</b>	Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
<b>Date:</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	The Governance structure and delivery arrangements for the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board
<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	The review of the Public Services Board governance arrangements and an update on the sub-groups
<b>Scrutiny Chair:</b>	Cllr. Gwilym O Jones
<b>Portfolio Holder(s):</b>	Cllr. Llinos Medi
<b>Head of Service:</b>	Annwen Morgan, Chief Executive
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<b>Local Members:</b>	Not relevant to any specific ward.

### 1 - Recommendation/s

It is asked that the Scrutiny Committee notes and submits comments on the Gwynedd and Anglesey's Public Services Board governance arrangements.

### 2 – Link to Council Plan / Other Corporate Priorities

The Isle of Anglesey County Council is committed to the principles within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Council provides a range of services which will fulfil its individual well-being objectives, as well as contributing to supporting the well-being objectives of the Public Services Board.

### 3 – Guiding Principles for Scrutiny Members

**To assist Members when scrutinising the topic:-**

**3.1** Impact the matter has on individuals and communities

**3.2** A look at the efficiency & effectiveness of any proposed change – both financially and in terms of quality

**3.3** A look at any risks

**3.4** Scrutiny taking a performance monitoring or quality assurance role

**3.5** Looking at plans and proposals from a perspective of:

- Long term
- Prevention
- Integration
- Collaboration
- Involvement

#### 4 - Key Scrutiny Questions

1. To what extent are the reporting and monitoring processes on the work of the sub-groups sufficiently structured and robust, and ensure the accountability of the sub-groups and hold them to account in terms of the implementation of the work programmes?
2. In what ways are the risk management arrangements of the Public Services Board effective, and what mitigation measures are in place?
3. How does the Public Services Board's governance arrangement ensure that the 7 wellbeing objectives are achieved in the best interests of Anglesey's residents?
4. How does the Board make decisions as a strategic Partnership, and thus successfully achieves its work programmes for the benefit of Anglesey's residents?
5. To what extent are the arrangements to amend the work programmes' of the Public Services Board as a result of Covid 19 sufficiently robust in order to respond to current and possible future challenges?

#### 5 – Background / Context

##### 5.1 Introduction and context

**5.1.1** The Anglesey and Gwynedd Public Services Board was established in 2016, in line with Wellbeing of the Future Generations Act (2015). The aim of the Well-being of the Future Generations Act (2015) is to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act highlights seven well-being goals and five ways of working in order to give public bodies a common purpose. The decision undertaken by Anglesey's meeting of the Executive was to establish a Public Services Board (PSB) for Anglesey that would *collaborate* with the Public Services Board for Gwynedd.

**5.1.2** 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 effect of climate change on the well-being of our communities;
- Health and care of adults and the wellbeing and achievement of children and young people

**5.1.3** Since March 2020 we have faced a global health crisis and very challenging times. The regional co-ordinators group has agreed on areas that needs focus in the recovery of our communities from the pandemic. Public Service Boards across North Wales were asked to look at recovery from the perspective of community resilience. A workshop for the 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.

**5.1.4** During the workshop a number of issues were discussed that are currently important / affecting our communities, and a discussion on whether the PSB had a role to play in addressing them, and what that role would be. Following the workshop it was agreed that the PSBs 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. Over the coming months all the sub-groups will give due consideration to adapting their work programmes and milestones. It was also agreed to undertake further research in some areas, to ascertain the latest position such as financial poverty and unemployment.

## **5.2 Public Services Board Governance Arrangements**

**5.2.1** As highlighted in the Public Services Board's Terms of Reference the PSB has four statutory members namely The Local Authorities, Health Board, Natural Resources Wales and the Fire Service – together with guest participants who contribute to the Board's duties.

**5.2.2** The board has established sub-groups to support the delivery of its sub-groups. An update on the work of the sub-groups is outlined below.

### **5.2.3 Objective 1 – Communities which thrive and are prosperous in the long-term**

Priority area	An update on the arrangements of the sub-groups	What does the sub-group achieve that adds value to the current plans of the public bodies in the field.
<b>The Welsh Language</b>	<p>The sub-group does not have a lead at present, and discussions are underway to fill this role.</p> <p>The governance arrangements of the sub-group ensure that they have a core group which includes representation from the Local Authorities and Bangor University. Further representation from the PSB can also contribute to the work of the group at specific points e.g. the Fire Service and the Police.</p>	<p>The sub-group has focused specifically on the ARFer project. The Isle of Anglesey County Council has identified a department that would benefit from participating in the ARFer project. The purpose of ARFer is to change language practices 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 in the citizen experience when dealing with the Isle of Anglesey County Council.</p> <p>The ARFer project has been ongoing for the past few months. It was not possible for researchers to visit workplaces to observe staff language practices but work is continuing on developing the toolkit.</p> <p>The sub-group were due to conduct a study to increase the use of Welsh in reception areas. A project proposal paper had been approved by the PSB. However, the sub-group will now revise its work plan following the crisis.</p>
<b>Climate Change</b>	<p>A sub-group has been established and is operational under the leadership of Sian Williams, Natural Resources Wales. The sub group includes a wide representation from different organisations.</p>	<p>The sub-group will re-convene, since the beginning of the crisis, during November. The sub-group will continue to focus on working together and supporting communities locally, on adapting to climate change.</p> <p>Prior to the crisis the group was considering the importance of regional arrangements and its influence on their local plans. An update on the regional work is planned for the next PSB meeting on 16th December.</p> <p>In addition a Task and Finish Group will meet during November to discuss how to take the work forward.</p>

<b>Homes for local people</b>	<p>A subgroup has been established and operates under the leadership of Ffrancon Williams, Adra. A core group has been set up to plan and keep an overview of the project. A wider representation of board members contributes to the sub group's activity through the innovative Housing group meeting.</p>	<p>The Isle of Anglesey County Council is working with other PSB partners and Housing Associations on an innovative programme of building new and affordable homes in the county. Subject to confirming the financial viability of the development sites concerned, and confirming that those sites can be developed out in a timely manner, the procurement process to appoint a partner to develop the programme will take place jointly.</p> <p>It is hoped that this will lead to economies of scale and more effective use of public money while at the same time developing innovative housing with a very small carbon footprint, as opposed to traditional housing.</p>
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#### **5.2.4 Objective 2: Healthy and independent residents with a good quality of life**

Two priority areas 'Health and Adult Care' and 'Children and young people's well-being and success' address objective 2. It was agreed to establish one sub-group to address the two priorities in the West integrated Health and Social Care Group.

Priority area	An update on the arrangements of the sub-groups	What does the sub-group achieve that adds value to the current plans of the public bodies in the field
<b>Health and Care of adults, and the welfare and achievement of children and young people.</b>	An Integrated Health and Social Care Group for the West has been established, and is under the leadership of Ffion Johnstone Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board. The sub-group keeps an overview and ensures that the developments and changes we want to see in the West are introduced.	Innovative work has been undertaken in health and care which focuses on transforming services by integrating our health and care services. An example of the work in South Anglesey is to submit a business case—to provide Nurses with Information Technology resources to facilitate their work.

### 5.3 Monitoring

**5.3.1** The four sub-groups mentioned above are accountable to the Public Services Board in relation to any work commissioned. The sub-groups update the Board on progress quarterly, and during the meetings of the Board the update reports are challenged and discussed in detail. The leaders of the PSB sub-groups are members of the PSB, and it is their responsibility to submit an action plan and details about delivery.

**5.3.2** There is also a role for the Board's support team to support and maintain the work of the sub-groups between meetings of the Board. In addition an annual report is published by the Board that summarises the progress as the Board works towards achieving its strategic objectives.

### 5.4 Scrutiny Arrangements

**5.4.1** 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 guidance 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.

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

### **5.5 Risks**

**5.5.1** The PSB manages risks in relation to projects and the work of the sub-groups. For example the homes sub-group has a risk register which is reviewed during meetings of the sub-group. The sub-groups also present their main risks to the PSB on a quarterly basis, and propose measures to mitigate them.

### **5.6 Lessons learned**

**5.6.1** 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 taken. It is intended to build on these lessons and continue to encourage collaboration in our communities.

**5.6.2** During the workshop for the PSB on 17th September it was learned that a number of the partners were responding to the 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 invite other partners to deliver presentations about their work such as the Skills Partnership and Community Safety Partnership.

## **6 – Equality Impact Assessment [including impacts on the Welsh Language]**

**6.1** The Public Services Board support team has already given consideration to the need for impact assessments (e.g. language and equality). Assessments will be developed and used when the board engages with our communities on specific stages and for updating the well-being assessments. In addition impact assessments will be used when projects are submitted by the

sub-groups recommends a policy/service change. Impact assessments will therefore be developed in order to measure and understand the impact of the decisions made by the Board, on behalf of the sub-groups.

**7 – Financial Implications****8 – Appendices:****9 - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):**

1. Gwynedd and Anglesey's Well-being plan
2. The Annual report of the Gwynedd and Anglesey's Public Services Board 2019-20
3. Minutes of the Anglesey Partnership and regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 12th November 2019 (Governance arrangements for the PSB)