

PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2017

- PRESENT:** Councillor Gwilym O Jones (Chair)
Councillor Robert Llewelyn Jones (Vice-Chair)
- Councillors Glyn Haynes, Vaughan Hughes, Eric Wyn Jones, Alun Roberts, Dafydd Roberts, Margaret Murley Roberts, Nicola Roberts and Robin Williams.
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive,
Assistant Chief Executive (Partnerships, Community and Service Improvements),
Head of Housing Services (In respect of Item6),
Community Safety Delivery Manager for Gwynedd and Anglesey (In respect of Item 4),
Public Services Board Programme Manager (Anglesey and Gwynedd) (In respect of Item 5),
Service Manager – Community Housing (In respect of Item 6),
Scrutiny Officer (GR),
Committee Officer (MEH).
- APOLOGIES:** Anest Gray Frazer and Mr Keith Roberts (The Roman Catholic Church) – Co-opted Members
- Leader of the Council – Councillor Llinos M. Huws,
Portfolio Holder (Housing & Community Support) – Councillor Alun Mummery.
- ALSO PRESENT:** None

The Chair extended his best wishes for a speedy recovery to the husband of Councillor Margaret M. Roberts who was hospitalised recently.

1 APOLOGIES

As noted above.

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 June, 2017 were confirmed.

4 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Submitted – a report by the Community Safety Delivery Manager for Gwynedd and Anglesey which provided an overview of activities of the Anglesey and Gwynedd Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

The Assistant Chief Executive (Partnerships, Community & Service Improvements) reported that the Community Safety Partnership is required to present an overview of its activities to this Committee annually. This ensures that the Partnership delivers its obligations in accordance with Sections 19 and 20 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2006. There is a statutory duty on Local Authorities in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and subsequent amendments because of the Police and Criminal Justice Act 2002 and 2006, to work in partnership with the Police, Health Service, Probation Service and the Fire and Rescue Service, to address the local community safety agenda. The Partnership has a duty to deal with :-

- Crime and Disorder
- Substance Misuse
- Reducing reoffending
- Delivering a strategic assessment to identify priorities (work that is now undertaken on a regional basis)
- Putting plans in place to deal with these priorities (a plan now exists on a regional and local basis)

The Community Safety Delivery Manager for Gwynedd and Anglesey reported that the Partnership has existed on Anglesey and in Gwynedd since 1998 but a joint Partnership has operated for the past five years. The partnership works to an Annual Plan, which is based on a three year regional plan. The 2016/17 end of year performance report, 2017/18 Annual Plan and the 2017/18 expenditure plan was attached as Appendices 1, 2 and 3 to the report. The following seven priorities are the Partnerships focus for 2016/17 and 2017/18 :-

- Reducing victim based crimes (acquisitive crimes only)
- Reducing Antisocial Behaviour
- Supporting vulnerable people to prevent them becoming victims of crime
- Raising confidence to report incidents of domestic abuse
- Raising confidence to report sexual abuse
- Addressing substance misuse in the area
- Reducing Re-offending

The main messages deriving from the activities of the Partnership for 2016/17 were included at Page 11 and 12 of the report.

The Officer wished to amend the report before the Committee as regard to the grant provision from the Police and Crime Commissioner towards Domestic Homicide Review as it reports that the funding was to come to an end. The Police and Crime Commissioner has indicated that the grant funding will now continue until the next financial year towards this project.

She further stated that the Wales Audit Office has carried out a review of Community Safety across Wales and in light of the review findings, the Welsh Government has commissioned a further in-depth review of Community Safety and has also established a Board to lead on the work undertaken. The results of the review is awaited at the end of this year and it is anticipated that further changes to the way the Community Safety Partnership operates will be enforced.

The Committee considered the report and raised the following main matters :-

- Clarification was sought as to the increase in people reporting domestic and sexual violent crimes and whether increase is attributed to enhanced support and information now available to support victims. The Community Safety Delivery Manager responded that the Police Authority has been subject to an audit review by the HM Inspectors which investigated how the Police across England and Wales reported incidences of domestic and sexual violence crime. The findings of the HM Inspectors review of North Wales Police has identified that there was a need to enhance the recording of domestic and sexual violence be enhanced and thereafter it came to light that higher number of such crimes were reported recently. The Assistant Chief Executive (Partnerships, Community & Service Improvements) said that training as regard to domestic violence is to be statutory for all staff Members of the Council through the E-learning portal;
- Reference was made to the annual International White Ribbon Day which is held on the 25th November to raise awareness of domestic abuse amongst the public. A successful campaign was held at Ysbyty Gwynedd last year;
- Reference was made to a statement within the report that there has been a decrease in incidents of young offending under the age of 17 years old; questions were raised as to whether this was a result of the police and identified agencies visiting school to raise awareness of youth offending. The Community Safety Delivery Manager responded that Welsh Government commissioned relevant agencies to attend every school to raise awareness of different categories of offending. She noted that sexual violence towards young people is on the increase and a lot of work has been targeted in this field by different agencies. It was also noted that an increase has been seen in young children offending against children of the same age.
- Clarification was sought as to whether facilities were in place to protect older people from fraudulent 'scams' either through social media or through the post. The Community Safety Delivery Manager responded that the Trading Standards Department of the Council and Age Cymru have recently had a campaign to raise awareness of potential fraudulent materials;
- Reference to Welsh Government capital grant towards the improvement of the building in Holyhead currently used for substance misuse services. The Community Safety Delivery Manager said that the grant will enable improvement to the premises at William Street, Holyhead which offer assistance and guidance to people who use the services at the centre;
- Reference was made to possible sexual exploitation of young people using social media and questions were raised as to whether any resource can be sought to protect these young people from pornography and exploitation. The Community Safety Delivery Manager responded that a vast amount of

information and guidance is available for parents but it is a complex field to stop such material being access on the internet.

It was RESOLVED :-

- **To note the report and attached documents;**
- **To support the priorities and future direction of work of the Community Safety Partnership.**

ACTION : As noted above.

5 PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD

Submitted – a report by the Anglesey and Gwynedd Public Services Board Programme Manager in relation to the above.

The Public Services Board Programme Manager reported that the Anglesey Public Services Board was established in accordance with the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015. It was agreed to collaborate with the Gwynedd Public Services Board and it's a partnership which includes the main public sector organisations across both counties. The main focus of the work of the joint Pubic Service Board between April 2016 and May 2017 was to produce an Assessment of Well-being for both counties. This work will lead to the production of a Well-being Plan that will be published in May 2018. The initial consultation took place in the autumn of 2016 and a number of activities were organised as noted within the report.

A draft Well-being Assessment was presented to the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee in January 2017 and to the Executive in March 2017 and work has now started to prepare for the publication of the Well-being Plan. Workshops were arranged during August 2017 with officers from a number of different organisations and agencies attended. There will be a 12 week statutory consultation period on the draft Well-being Plan and will be submitted to this Committee at its meeting to be held on 14th November, 2017 for consideration.

The Committee considered the report and raised the following main matters :-

- Clarification was sought if there was evidence to show that all the organisations associated with the Public Services Board have worked efficiently together to produce an assessment of local Well-being for the Anglesey area. The Programme Manager responded that a Well-being Sub-group was established to lead the work of producing the assessment and every member of the Public Service Board ensured that Officers from their establishment attended the Sub-group. There was collaboration on collecting the required data for the assessment. She noted that the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board has divided the region into 14 smaller areas rather than a regional area with 6 of these areas on Anglesey and 8 in Gwynedd;
- Clarification was sought as to whether the data collected saw profound differences in different part of the Island. The Programme Manager responded

that no significant differences were seen across the identified area as regard to the questions asked to residents. However, she gave an example that over the last 30 years, Aethwy and Seiriol Wards have seen an increase in Welsh speakers moving into the area. Members said that Llandegfan Primary School has seen an increase of intake of pupils whose first language is Welsh;

- Reference was made as to whether residents have expressed concerns to the lack of toilet facilities on the Island. The Programme Manager responded that responses seemed to focus on the facilities available within residents communities and how their town centre are viewed;
- Clarification was sought as to the cost and advantages of joint working with Gwynedd Council as regard to the Public Services Board. The Chief Executive said that there are numerous advantages in joint working on projects between neighbouring authorities and especially the requirement for expertise in specific statutory legislation being enforced by Welsh Government. He further said that efficiency savings between both neighbouring authorities is also an advantage as the Well-being of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015 is a statutory requirements by all the 22 Welsh local authorities.

It was RESOLVED :-

- **To note the progress made by the Public Services Board in relation to producing and publishing the Local Well-being Assessment and the work of preparing the Well-being Plan;**
- **To receive further updates from the Public Services Board while the Well-being Plan is being developed.**

ACTION : As noted above.

6 HOUSING TENANTS PARTICIPATION STRATEGY - PROGRESS REPORT

Submitted – a report by the Head of Housing Services in relation to the above.

The Service Manager – Community Housing reported that the Tenants Participation was first introduced on Anglesey in 1998 which gives tenants and leaseholders the opportunity to have a say into how their home is managed. As a social landlord in Wales, Isle of Anglesey County Council is required ‘to maximise tenants’ rights to participate and promote excellence in tenant participation in order to comply with the Welsh Government’s National Tenant Participation Strategy which was published in 2007. She noted that the Authority’s Tenants Participation Strategy 2015 – 2018 is the third strategy of its type for the Housing Service. The aim of the Strategy is to consult and involve tenants within the service. The Service Manager reported the key success during 2016 – 2017 as noted within the report.

The Committee considered the report and raised the following main matters :-

- Clarification was sought as to the potential impact on people on low income as regard to the changes to the benefits system due to the introduction on the new Universal Credit system. The Service Manager – Community Housing responded that deep concerns are expressed due the impact on the most

vulnerable people in society with the rollout of the Universal Credit system and potentially young families being without money to pay for basic essential as they will have to wait for a number of weeks for the Universal Credit to be administered. She noted that Foodbanks will be under extreme pressure following the introduction of the Universal Credit and a campaign 'Bring a Tin a Week' has been launched for public sector workers to contribute towards local foodbanks;

- Concerns were expressed as to tenants being unable to pay their rent during awaiting benefits through the new Universal Credit; it was expressed that people should not be at risk of losing their home. The Head of Housing Services responded that the Council will be supportive of tenants who are awaiting Universal Credit before any action is taken through Court for repossession of local authority property. She noted that private tenancies and people who are self-employed will also be affected by the introduction of the Universal Credit system;
- Members referred to the Housing Service campaign as regard to the 'estate clean-up days' at the local authority's housing estates recently. The Service Manager – Community Housing responded that 22 estate clean-up days occurred during 2016/17 which included estates at Llangefni, Holyhead, Moelfre, Llanfairpwll, Aberffraw, Newborough, Pentraeth, Llanddeusant, Llansadwrn, Benllech and Cemaes;
- Clarification was sought as to the working relationship with North Wales Police as regard to antisocial behaviour on housing estates. The Service Manager – Community Housing responded that a good working relationship exists with the Police Authority with monthly meetings held with the Island's Inspector to share information of incidents of antisocial behaviour which occurs on the housing estates. She further noted that the local Police Support Officers are working with young people on housing estates to drive forward community initiatives to try and reduce incidents of antisocial behaviour;
- Reference was made to the Môn Tenants and Officer Voice Group and questions were raised as to the success of this Group. The Service Manager – Community Housing said that the Môn Tenants and Officer Voice Group continues to meet on a quarterly basis which incorporates tenants from across the Island. She noted that a number of the tenant representatives resides in the Holyhead area and it is considered that increase in tenant participation from other areas needs to be addressed;
- Reference was made to the 'Community Hubs' bases across sheltered housing schemes on the Island and questioned the success of such a venture. The Service Manager – Community Housing said that the 22 communal lounges are used almost daily and have been viewed by tenants as an excellent base for community hubs to be formed.

The Chief Executive suggested that this report be forwarded to the monthly briefing sessions for Elected Members so as to allow all the Members the opportunity to be aware of the work done by the Housing Service.

It was RESOLVED :-

- **To accept the progress report for 2016/17 and to thank the Officers for their work;**

- That Elected Members and the Senior Leadership Team to play an active role in promoting tenants' participation and ensuring all tenants have a voice and has a part to play in future housing and corporate developments.

ACTION : As noted above.

7 WORK PROGRAMME

Submitted – the report of the Scrutiny Officer on the Committee's Work Programme to May 2018.

It was reported that an Observer from the Welsh Audit Offices will attend the 14th November, 2017 meeting to evaluate the scrutiny process of the Authority.

It was RESOLVED to note the Work Programme to May 2018.

ACTION : None

The meeting concluded at 3.50 p.m.

**COUNCILLOR G.O. JONES
CHAIR**