

PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2019

- PRESENT:** Councillor Gwilym O Jones (Chair)
Councillor Glyn Haynes (Vice-Chair)
- Councillors K P Hughes, Vaughan Hughes, Alun Roberts, Dafydd Roberts, Margaret Murley Roberts and Nicola Roberts.
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive,
Deputy Chief Executive,
Head of Democratic Services,
Scrutiny Manager,
Committee Officer (MEH).
- APOLOGIES:** Councillor Glyn Haynes.
- Mrs Anest Frazer – The Church in Wales,
Mr Keith Roberts – The Roman Catholic Church,
Mrs Llio Johnson – Parent Governor – Secondary Schools Sector and ALN,
Mr Dyfed W Jones – Parent Governor – Primary Schools Sector,
Mr Dafydd Gruffydd – Managing Director – Menter Môn.
- ALSO PRESENT:** Community Safety Senior Operational Officer for Gwynedd and Anglesey (CR) (in respect of item 4),
Programme Manager, Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board (NH) (in respect of item 5).
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1 APOLOGIES

As noted above.

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 September, 2019 were confirmed.

4 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted – a report by the Community Safety Senior Operational Officer for Gwynedd and Anglesey.

The Community Safety Senior Operational Officer for Gwynedd and Anglesey reported that it is a statutory duty on Local Authorities, in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and subsequent amendments of the Police and Criminal Justice Act 2002 and 2006, to work in partnership with the Police, the Health Service, the 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 re-offending
- 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)

It was noted that the Community Safety Partnership works to an annual plan which is based on a three year regional plan (*the 2018/19 end of year performance report and the 2019/20 plan were attached to the report*). The following seven priorities were identified by the Partnership which are based on a regional strategic assessment, Police and Crime Commissioner's plan, and the regional Safety Communities Board plan :-

- 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 Community Safety Partnership for 2018 were included within the report.

The Community Safety Senior Operational Officer for Gwynedd and Anglesey referred to crime statistics within the report. She noted that the Home Office compares the offences within areas that are similar; Anglesey crime statistics is viewed with seven similar areas within the UK. There has been a change during this year with recording practice of the Police with one incident can now lead to more than one crime being recorded. The Portfolio Holder for Housing & Supporting Communities) referred that when a person break into a dwelling, outbuildings or shed it is now categorised as domestic burglary within Police statistics. The Community Safety Senior Operational Officer for Gwynedd and Anglesey said that burglary incidents is low on Anglesey.

The Committee considered the report and the scrutiny questions within the report and raised the following matters:-

- Clarification was sought as to whether there is adequate resource within the Community Safety Team to carry out the work the Community Safety Partnership has identified. The Chief Executive responded that at present there is only one Officer working within the Community Safety Team but discussions are ongoing in terms of replacing the project and monitoring role within the team following the departure of the post holder in December 2018. The Chair questioned as to whom will be deciding whether project and monitoring role will be replaced. The Chief Executive responded that Gwynedd Council leads on the Community Safety Team but both Anglesey and Gwynedd Councils provide a financial contribution towards the Team; however this authority must secure value for money. The Community Safety Senior Operational Officer for Gwynedd and Anglesey said that the Community Safety Team has been reduced from 7 members in 2014 but whilst further resources toward the Community Safety Team would be welcomed, however it was noted that some of the work had been transferred to the regional structures;
- Clarification was sought whether all the partner organisations had equal priorities within the Community Safety Partnership. The Community Safety Senior Operational Officer responded that the partner organisation have agreed to the work plan and priorities of the Community Safety Partnership. Questions were raised as to whether the partner organisations have themselves the resource to carry out the priorities of the Partnership. The Community Safety Senior Operational Officer responded that the partner organisations within the Community Safety Partnership work closely to achieve the priorities of the Partnership and the attendance levels is high from all the partner organisations;
- Reference was made that the statistics for Antisocial Behaviour seems to be relatively low within the report; it was considered that Antisocial Behaviour is increasing within communities. The Community Safety Senior Operational Officer noted that there has been a notable reduction in Antisocial Behaviour, particularly personal Antisocial Behaviour over the last ten years, and that the multi-agency framework for responding to Antisocial Behaviour was well established, which contributed to the number of incidents reducing. However, it was also noted that any incident should be reported to the Police. This opened up a debate on the effectiveness of the 101 system, which it was suggested might be an issue to discuss with the Police and Crime Commissioner;
- Clarification was sought that information gathering had been identified as a 'red indicator' within the report. The Community Safety Senior Operational Officer responded that the 'red indicator' referred to an action not completed within the year, which related to a Public Spaces Protection Orders. This action has been carried forward to this year and is progressing;
- The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Supporting Communities said that he considered that there is no avenue as a representative on Community Safety Partnership and other organisations to report back to a Committee on the discussions and priorities within these partnerships. The Scrutiny Manager responded that this Committee has agreed to invited relevant Elected Member representatives on partner organisations to address this meeting in due course.

It was RESOLVED to note the report and attached documents and to support the priorities and future directions of work within the Community Safety Partnership.

ACTION: As noted above.

5 PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD - GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Submitted – a report by the Programme Manager, Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board.

The Leader of the Council said that the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board was established in 2016 in line with the Well-being of the Future Generations Act 2015. The aim of the Well-being of the Future Generations Act 2015 is to improve economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. In order to determine the priorities for the Public Services Board a well-being assessment was carried out across well-being areas in Gwynedd and Anglesey which resulted in a series of engagement and consultation sessions. The Public Services Board has agreed on priority areas to achieve the objectives as noted within the report. The following Sub-Groups have also been established under Objective 1 – Communities which thrive and are prosperous in the long-term:-

- **Welsh Language Sub-Group** – The sub-group has decided to focus primarily on a specific project ‘Arfer’ which looks at behavioural changes within the workplace and can lead to greater use of the Welsh language by those individuals who do not feel confident to use the language. The ‘Arfer’ project is scheduled to run for 12 months in the first instance;
- **Climate Change Sub-Group** – The sub-group has focused on understanding the data and evidence available from the group membership’s organisations so that it can be used to shape future projections and models of climate change. This sub-group will also focus on communities and assets most at risk of flooding in Gwynedd and Anglesey. The sub-group has also used ‘Fairbourne’ as a case of good practice and in order to learn lessons on aspects such as engagement and better collaboration for the well-being of communities;
- **Homes for local people** – Gwynedd and Anglesey Councils are at present planning to develop innovative housing. The sub-group is proposing to bring together the plans of public bodies and to put in place arrangements to work together to consider smaller number of innovative models. A Project Management Officer, on a part-time basis, has been appointed to drive the work forward;
- **Poverty** – Poverty remains a priority for the Board but there is no sub-group leading on the work at present. It has been agreed that there was an opportunity through the Board to address the work already underway within both authorities before considering options for the Board to work in a more integrated and cohesive way.

The Leader of the Council further said that within Objective 2 a **Health and Social Care Group for the West** has been established. The sub-group keeps an overview and ensures that the developments and changes that is required are introduced. The sub-group also provides the leadership and governance required for the sub-groups associated with the work namely children, adults, mental health’ learning disability and community transformation. She noted that the Board has received funding from the ‘Healthier Wales’ transformation budget. The Leader of the Council also referred to work undertaken, as a result of the funding, within a

Ward in Ysbyty Gwynedd to identify the problems and challenges that exist within the Hospital. The Board is also in the process of establishing Integrated Teams to work within the communities of both authorities.

It was reported that the Public Services Board is subject to scrutiny by both Gwynedd and Anglesey's Scrutiny Committees and during the establishment of the Board it was agreed that a joint scrutiny panel should be considered to undertake the work. Scrutiny Officers from both Authorities have evaluated both options of continuing with the existing local authority scrutiny arrangements or establishing a joint scrutiny panel but it has been concluded that the current arrangements of reporting to both authorities scrutiny committees is considered a better arrangement and to focus on aligning timetables and consistency of scrutiny arrangements across both counties.

With reference to the Board's resources it was reported that the Public Services Board has agreed to co-fund a resource for supporting the work of one of the sub-groups and it is anticipated that the need for resources will continue as the sub-groups mature and develop.

The Board also manages risks in relation to projects and the work of the sub-groups to ensure that they operate in accordance with the well-being plan and proposed timetable. A draft risk register will be submitted to the Board for approval in December 2019.

The Leader of the Council said that a review of the Public Services Boards was undertaken on behalf of the 19 Public Services Boards in Wales in October 2019 by the Wales Audit Office to examine how the Boards operate. A paper outlining a summary of the main recommendations and proposals on how the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board could respond to them, has been prepared and will be submitted to the Board at its next meeting in December 2019. The paper will be shared with the Scrutiny Committees of both Councils thereafter.

The Committee considered the report and the scrutiny questions within the report and raised the following matters:-

- Clarification was sought as to whether the Public Services Board has an agreed terms of reference. The Programme Manager, Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board responded that the Board has a terms of reference and it is a standing item on the Board's agenda and will be on the Public Services Board website (www.llesiantwgywneddamon.org);
- Reference was made that the Conwy and Denbighshire Public Services Board has a joint Scrutiny Panel to scrutinise the work of the Public Services Board. The Leader of the Council responded that during the establishment of the Public Services Boards across Wales it was an option that the local authorities could establish a joint working Board or to collaborate the work between the authorities; Gwynedd and Anglesey agreed to collaborate the work of the Board. The Programme Manager, Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board said that whilst the current scrutiny model is working well at present it is the intention of the Board to revisit the model of working in the future;

- Reference was made that there is no sub-group at present dealing with poverty. Members suggested that more focus needs to be given to poverty before the matter escalates and especially as Universal Credit has been implemented on the Island. The Programme Manager, Gwynedd and Anglesey responded that the Board did have a Poverty Sub-Group and that the sub-group had not agreed on work streams that could add value to the work already undertaken by the Board's partners with reference to poverty. There was also the added risk that the sub-group did not have a member of the Board leading the work at present. She said that the Board has agreed to keep an overview of the progress made by local authorities as regards to addressing poverty and thereafter the Board will agree where to focus its resource to add value to the work undertaken by the local authorities;
- Questions were raised whether there are lessons to be learnt from the review undertaken as regards to Public Services Board held recently. The Programme Manager, Gwynedd and Anglesey responded that due consideration has been given to the recommendations within the review of the Public Services Board. She said that one of the recommendations is that the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board needs to be publish the Board's papers and update the Board's website and to ensure that residents of both Counties are engaged and involved in the work of the Board. The Programme Manager further said that every five years the Board will need to review and update its wellbeing assessments;
- Clarification was sought as to what assurances are given that the Public Services Board will deliver key milestones in a timely manner. The Programme Manager, Gwynedd and Anglesey responded that each sub-group has identified key milestones within the work of the sub-groups and it is an intention that the Public Services Board challenges the focus of the sub-groups. The Sub-Groups will continue to submit progress reports to the Board and to assure that progress is made;
- Reference was made to the 'Homes for Local People' scheme and that a draft project plan has been developed for publication in July 2020. Questions were raised whether there would be an impact on the scheme due to this Authority having its own housing stock and Gwynedd Council having transferred it housing stock to Adra (Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd). It was further raised whether the 'Homes for Local People' scheme would comply with policies within the Joint Local Development Plan. The Leader of the Council responded that housing needs within both authorities are similar. She noted that other housing associations are members of the 'Homes for Local People' Sub-Group; discussions are undertaken also with the Health Board with regard to land availability for such housing schemes. She said that the Joint Planning Policy Unit will be working closely as regards to this scheme. The Chief Executive said that the 'Homes for Local People' scheme needs to add value to the dire need for homes for young local people.

It was RESOLVED to note the progress of the work of the joint Public Services Board.

ACTION : As noted above.

6 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Submitted – a report by the Scrutiny Manager on the Committee’s Work Programme and attachments of items scheduled for Scrutiny until December, 2019 and from January to April 2020.

The Scrutiny Manager noted that the schedule meeting to be held on 12th December, 2019 has been rescheduled to 21st January, 2020.

It was RESOLVED to note the Forward Work Programme.

ACTION : As above.

**COUNCILLOR GWILYM O JONES
CHAIR**