

PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2024

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

Councillors Non Dafydd, Jeff M Evans, Pip O'Neill, Derek Owen, Margaret Murley Roberts, Ken Taylor and Sonia Williams

Portfolio Member

Councillor Alun Roberts – Portfolio Member for Adults' Services and Community Safety

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive,
Deputy Chief Executive,
Director of Social Services,
Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer (for item 4),
Head of Adults' Services (for item 5),
Head of Regulation and Economic Development (for item 4),
Head of Housing Service (for item 3),
Head of Democracy,
Levelling Up Programme Manager (EM) (for item 4),
Scrutiny Officer (EA),
Committee Officer (MEH),
Support Assistant (Democratic Services) (CH).

APOLOGIES: Councillors John Ifan Jones and Euryrn Morris

Mrs Wenda Owen – The Church in Wales
Mrs Gillian Thompson – Parent Governor – Primary Schools Sector,
Mr John Tierney – The Roman Catholic Church,
Scrutiny Manager (AD).

ALSO PRESENT: Ms Daron Owens – Community Safety Senior Operational Officer for Gwynedd and Anglesey (for item 3).

Portfolio Members

Councillor Neville Evans – Portfolio Member for Leisure, Tourism & Maritime;
Councillor Gary Pritchard – Leader of the Council and Portfolio Member for Economic Development;
Councillor Dafydd Roberts – Portfolio Member for Education and the Welsh Language,
Councillor Nicola Roberts – Portfolio Member for Planning, Public Protection & Climate Change;

Councillor Dafydd R Thomas – Portfolio Member for Highways, Property & Waste;
Councillor Robin Williams – Deputy Leader and Portfolio Member for Finance and Housing Services.

The Chair expressed his deepest sympathy with the families of Mr Tony Jones and Mrs Catherine Roberts who were both Senior Officers within the Community Safety Section of Gwynedd and Ynys Môn who have passed away recently.

1 APOLOGIES

As noted above.

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received.

3 GWYNEDD AND YNYS MÔN COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT - 2023/2024

The report of the Deputy Chief Executive was submitted for consideration by the Committee.

The Portfolio Member for Adults' Services and Community Safety said that there is a statutory duty on Local Authorities, in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and subsequent amendments within the Police and Criminal Justice Act 2002 and 2006, to work in partnership with the Police, Health Service, the Probation Service and the Fire and Rescue Service which are the main agencies that make up the Community Partnership Safety Partnership. The Annual Report give an opportunity to view the statistics, and the challenges faced and ensure that working in partnership is fundamental to community safety.

The Community Safety Senior Operational Officer for Gwynedd and Anglesey reported that the areas of responsibility of the Community Safety Partnership Board was originally Crime and Disorder, Substance Misuse and Reducing re-offending. She noted that additional responsibility has been included as regards to Serious Crime and Domestic Homicide Reviews that are reported to the Home Office. She highlighted that the Community Safety Partnership does not have specific budgets for local projects and grants must be applied for through the Regional and National Level. The priorities of the Board are based upon the Safer North Wales Board's Strategy which are :-

- Preventing Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Tackling Violent Crime
- Tackling Serious Organised Crime

- Protecting and building resilient communities and maintaining public safety

She further noted that the Partnership Board receives data on crime levels by the Police on a quarterly basis which were highlighted within the report. One of the goals of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund is to build resilient, safe and healthy communities, which includes targeted improvements to the built environment and innovative approaches to crime prevention. Projects under this funding has resulted in the upgrading and installation of a new CCTV in Holyhead and Llangefni, with the aim of improving perception of safety and reducing neighbourhood crime. £250k has been awarded to Anglesey under this project and will be completed by the end of February 2025. Continued work is undertaken as regards to ongoing Domestic Homicide Reviews and several awareness sessions were convened to share good practice.

In considering the report, the Committee discussed the following main matters:-

- Questions were raised as to what extent is the Action Plan sufficiently robust to deal with aspects of the priority areas for the benefit of the Anglesey's communities. The Community Safety Senior Operational Officer responded that she was confident that the Action Plan is sufficiently robust as all the responsible partner organisations work in partnership within the Partnership Board with the resource available. Whilst local grants have ceased the Board must take advantage of any funding available through the Safer Street Fund and Shared Prosperity Fund. The Chief Executive said that there has been improved working relationship within the partners of the Partnership Board recently.
- Questions were raised as to the processes in place to deal with the consistent anti-social behaviour as it seems that there is an increase in anti-social behaviour especially in the Holyhead area and reports of Social Housing Tenants anti-social behaviour whilst the report highlights that there has been a decrease in anti-social behaviour. Concerns were also raised as regards to illegal drug use and homelessness. The Community Safety Senior Operational Officer responded that the data included within the report are reported police incidents. She accepted that there are incidents of anti-social behaviour with Holyhead which may not have been reported to the Police. The Police, using PCSO's to target the areas that are experiencing consistent anti-social behaviour to reduce these offences. She further said there is a specific Anti-Social Behaviour Officer within North Wales Police to tackle the repeated offenders. Significant partnership work is undertaken with the Education Department within the Council, Youth Justice and Trading Standards. She said that Trading Standards have targeted a shop selling vapes in Holyhead which was a good example of partnership working in the area. The PCSO's and the Schools Liaison Officers have been attending local schools to reduce barriers and to make contact with children/young people and parents. There is a policing plan in Holyhead and significant funding has been received through the Safer Streets funding, Shared Prosperity Fund and the Home Office to tackle problems in Holyhead. The Community Safety Senior Operational Officer said that she would be willing to arrange a meeting between the Elected Member for the Holyhead area and the Police to afford further discussions and to give assurances on the work undertaken in response to the problem areas. The

Deputy Chief Executive said that there are added pressures on services within the Local Authorities and the work undertaken by the Partnership Board has been to get all the key agencies together in respect of partnership working to tackle the problems faced by local communities.

In response to comments made regarding reports of Social Housing Tenants anti-social behaviour, the Head of Housing Services said that the data within the report does not coincide with the Housing Services data. He noted that there are two Senior Anti-Social Behaviour Officers working within the department and it must be considered that the highest proportion of social housing exist in the Holyhead area.

With regard to Homelessness, the Head of Housing Services said that the number of people sleeping on the streets of Anglesey is low according to the data by the Housing Department. However, there may be more people sleeping on the street that the service is unaware of; there is an app called 'street-link' that the public can report any person that is sleeping on the streets and the information is forwarded to the Council and other agencies to enable them to visit the person to ascertain if they require help and assistance, however, it is up to the individual to accept the assistance afforded. There is danger to their health especially during cold weather and they are vulnerable to experience unacceptable crime against them whilst sleeping on the streets.

Councillor Pip O'Neill said that an 'youth hub' is currently being considered for the Holyhead area for youngsters over the age of 13 to attend and to get them to engage in activities rather than causing anti-social behaviour in the town and to engage more positively within the community.

- Reference was made that there is an increase in anti-social behaviour and drug issues in the Llangefni area. It was noted that the installation of the CCTV cameras is welcomed in Llangefni but there is a need for collaboration with different agencies to tackle the problem as young children are affected by the issues of drugs within their home environment which can affect their education. The Community Safety Senior Operational Officer responded that an application has been submitted to the Share Prosperity Fund to install new CCTV equipment in Llangefni and the link from these cameras will be linked to the police directly. She further said that a multi-agency meeting is to be arranged to discuss issues in Llangefni and an update will be afforded thereafter. Llangefni is part of the 'Restore' project which attracts funding from the Home Office to tackle issues of anti-social behaviour and drug taking issues. Comments were made that there is a need for financial resources to tackle crime with additional Police Officers and CCTV cameras in every area of the communities.
- It was further said there is an increase in hate crime and especially religious hate crime on Anglesey, which is not referred to within the report. The Chair of the Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) said that she has invited a representative from the Police to attend the next meeting of the SAC. The Community Safety Senior Operational Officer responded that she would discuss the matter of hate crime with the Police and would update the Members thereafter.

- Reference was made to the increase of suicide cases. The Community Safety Senior Operational Officer responded that there is a Regional Working Group in place which is driven by the Self-Harm and Suicide Co-Ordinators as part of the Health Board, and she assured the Committee that she would raise the issues of concern with the Regional Working Group. The Chief Executive said that the Committee could request the Executive to seek an update from the Regional Group, led by the Health Board, on the work and discussions regarding the prevention of suicides.
- Reference was made that the report refers to the decrease in sexual offences, however it was considered that maybe some of these offences are not reported and that there are considerably more cases than is reported to the police.
- Reference was also made that there is an increase in vehicle crime on Anglesey which is concerning.
- Reference was also made to 'civil crime' with people entering peoples home and taking pictures of people's possessions and posting them on-line. The Community Safety Senior Operational Officer responded that she would raise the matter of 'civil crime' within the Partnership Board at its next meeting.
- Reference was made that there are no statistics as regards to issues of crime within rural areas within the report. It was noted that there is a need for mobile CCTV cameras to tackle issues of anti-social behaviour within rural communities on Anglesey.
- Questions were raised as to how accurate the data as regards to shoplifting is within the report and whether shops do not report incidents to the Police. The Community Safety Senior Operational Officer responded that whilst accepting that there are increase in incidents of shop lifting that are not reported to the Police, she noted that the data included within the report are the incidents that have been reported. She said that there has been an increase in reported shoplifting within a store in Holyhead recently which is due to change of management within the store and National Policies are being adhered to within this store. The local Police force in Holyhead have also been working with this store to develop a strategy to tackle shoplifting incidents.

The Portfolio Member for Adults' Services and Community Safety said that he would appreciate comparable data with Gwynedd included within the next Annual Report.

The Deputy Chief Executive assured the Committee that he, as the previous Chair of the Gwynedd and Ynys Môn Community Safety Partnership, would raise the issues of concerns by this Committee at the next meeting of the Partnership Board.

It was RESOLVED :-

- **to note the contents of the report and attached documents and to support the priorities and future direction of the work of the Gwynedd and Ynys Môn Community Safety Partnership;**
- **to request that the Executive seeks an update from the Regional Group, led by the Health Board, on the work and discussions regarding the prevention of suicides.**

ACTIONS : As noted above.

4 YNYS MÔN LEVELLING UP PROGRAMME - MEASURE PROGRESS

The report of the Head of Regulation and Economic Development was submitted for consideration by the Committee.

The Leader and Portfolio Member for Economic Development said that the new UK Government has chosen to remove the term 'Levelling Up' with all funding now promoted as 'Funded by UK Government'. He said that the report focuses on the UK Government Funded programme being delivered by the Diocese of Bangor at the St Cybi's Church in Holyhead. He further referred to the successful opening of the refurbished kiosks at Newry Beach, Holyhead with four businesses operating from these kiosks.

In considering the report, the Committee discussed the following main matters:-

- Questions were raised as to whether the Levelling Up programme can impact on the Isle of Anglesey's economy and local communities be quantified. The Levelling Up Programme Manager responded that it is premature to consider the impact of the change in government at present. He noted that the refurbishment of the kiosks at Newry Beach, Holyhead has opened with 4½ posts been created and 7 construction posts were afforded during refurbishment of the kiosks. Construction materials were also purchased mostly from local builders' merchants.
- Questions were raised as to the measures currently in place to promote and increase awareness of the effective local partnership work behind the programme. The Levelling Up Programme Manager responded that it is considered that community engagement is paramount to inform the residence of Holyhead as to work undertaken in the area. He further noted that a PR company, Ateb Cyntaf Cyf has been appointed to promote the programme and raise awareness of key milestones. The Programme Delivery Team works closely with each of the Delivery Partners to progress their projects and a monthly meeting is convened to monitor key issues and risks. He considered that working collaboratively with the Delivery Partners has set a foundation for island wide projects.
- Questions were raised as to what degree does the recent change in UK Government have an impact on the current Programme and prospects for future funding/programmes in other local communities. The Levelling Up Programme Manager responded that there is no change to the Programme due to the recent change in government with only the name of the programme been changed to 'Funded by UK Government'. He noted that the Arfor and SPF projects are still ongoing, however, beyond 2026 it is uncertain whether there will be funding available towards these projects. The Chief Executive said that additional funding for an additional year was announced in the Budget in October. However, it will be awaited as to what funding arrangements will be in place thereafter towards such programme and it is hoped that funding will be awarded directly to the Council to decide on its expenditure.
- Reference was made that several projects have had to be re-tendered as the tendered costs were much higher than the available budget. Questions were raised as to the risks that the projects will not be able to be delivered. The

Levelling Up Programme Manager responded that financial and the delivery timeframe set out by UK Government are a risk factor in delivering these projects. However, the Officers are confident that the current projects can be delivered and the Partner organisations have also been actively securing grant funding towards for their projects. The Head of Regulation and Economic Development said that the Levelling Up Team have engaged continuing with the partner organisations to ensure that scopes of some projects are adapted to ensure that they are affordable and achievable.

- Questions were raised whether funding will be available for rural communities to be able to submit projects within the 'Funded UK Government' scheme. The Head of Regulation and Economic Development responded that it is uncertain, at present, as to the grant funding that will be available. The SPF funding is used to cover projects within rural areas that can be addressed in the short-term whilst awaiting whether further funding will be available to address the needs of rural areas.
- Reference was made that the report highlights that one of the strategic objectives of the St Cybi project is to establish a social enterprise café and foodbank facilities. Questions were raised as to what extent will the proposed foodbank operate in partnership with the existing Anglesey Foodbank in Holyhead or will this be a new independent initiative. The Levelling Up Programme Manager responded that there are uncertainties at present as to whom will be delivering the social enterprise café and foodbank facilities as the Diocese of Bangor have recently appointed a new Rector of St Cybi Church.

It was RESOLVED to :-

- **Note the progress in the delivery of the UK Government funded Programme for Holyhead;**
- **Note the implementation of the UK Government funded Programme for Holyhead in line with UK Government guidance;**
- **Recognise the on-going role of the Council in supporting the Programme's Delivery Partners.**

ACTION : As noted above

5 MODERNISING ADULTS' SERVICES STRATEGIC PLAN

The report of the Director of Social Services was submitted for consideration by the Committee.

The Portfolio Member for Adults' Services and Community Safety said that the Social Services Department continues to face significant challenges, with the demand increasing and resources decreasing. The Council Plan confirms the commitment to social care and wellbeing, and it is timely to recognise as to how to modernise the service to fulfil the Council's duties effectively and efficiently. The aim of the Strategic Plan is to confirm the pathway towards developing elements of the service and to ensure they are appropriate and affordable for the future, whilst continuing to become an Age Friendly Island. As the pressure and demand continues to increase, and the Island's population getting older along with persons with learning and physical disabilities, consideration must be given as to how

Authority can modernise the services provided. Whilst the Adult's Modernisation Strategy is challenging there will be a need to work with key partners, the Health Board, the third sector and other organisations to realise the vision within the Strategy for the benefit of the residents of the Island.

In considering the report, the Committee discussed the following main matters:-

- Questions were raised as to what extent can the Service achieve all the objectives within the Strategy and what are the risks and the financial obstacles to the Service. The Director of Social Services responded that it must be recognized that it is not the older generation that require the services afforded but young people also require the services of the Social Services Department which is a significant part of the demand for the services and addressing the need will be challenging. He further said that options will need to be considered whether the service provided can be delivered at a lower cost to the Council as the funding is not increasing even though the demand for the service is increasing. Working in partnership with the third sector and other organisations will be paramount to the success of the Adults' Service Modernisation Plan.
- Questions were raised that due to increase in demand for the services provided by the Social Services Department, what assurances can the Service provide to ensure that sufficient capital funding is available to meet the demand and how will the Service attract grants and external financial support. The Director of Social Services responded that whilst it is accepted that Adults' Services is overspending the demand for the services must be addressed. He noted that the service will need to adapt to ensure a better service by working in partnership with the third sector and other organisations.
- Reference was made that it is a challenge in attaining accommodation for a couples when they are faced with having to have care within a residential home. The Director of Social Services accepted that there is a challenge in accommodation for couples within a residential home sector due to costs associated with the demand for such a double room within the residential home. The Chief Executive said that whilst the collaboration between the Housing Service and the Social Services Departments is good, further work needs to be undertaken to strengthen affordable and social housing to address the needs of the ageing population. He noted that both Governments needs to address the Health and Social Care system. Further questions were raised as to when local authority will be funded fairly to address the ageing population of the Island. The Chief Executive said that the methodology within Welsh Government settlement identifies the ageing population rather than a growing population on Anglesey. He noted that the issue was raised with the Older People Commissioner when she visited Anglesey recently and the formula for funding by Welsh Government needs to be adapted to address this issue.
- Questions were raised as to whether the private care sector has adequate staffing. The Director of Social Services responded that there are similar staffing challenges within the private and public sector. He noted that there has been a shift with more people wishing to work within the care as they see the Care Service as a career prospect. The Council is working closely with Coleg Menai where there is a Special Care course available for students; work experience is afforded within the Authority's Care Homes for these students.

- Reference was made that the Strategic Plan mentions raising awareness of age-friendly initiatives through partnerships with social enterprises and local businesses. Questions were raised as to what arrangements are in place to enable this partnership working to succeed for the benefit of the Island's communities. The Director of Social Services responded that the age-friendly initiative is grant funded. Work has been undertaken with cafés and taxi/bus drivers to promote the age-friendly initiative. He further said that work is undertaken with the Dementia facilities provided on the Island in partnership with the third sector.
- Reference was made that the Strategic Plan discusses the need to find suitable facilities for the purpose of relocating the respite service for individuals with learning disabilities. Questions were raised as to what key challenges the Council faces when trying to realise this objective and what strategy will the Service use to address and overcome these challenges as people with learning disabilities are having to be accommodated in other County's to receive respite care. The Director of Social Services responded that he acknowledged that there is a lack of facilities on the Island to offer respite care and supported living for people with learning disabilities. He noted that capital funding is sought to enable the Authority to buy private properties to enable facilities for people with learning disabilities. He further said that there is an initiative to buy properties for respite care on the Island.

It was RESOLVED to recommend to the Executive that the 'Adult Service Strategic Modernisation Plan 2024-2029' be adopted.

6 COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2024/2025

The report of the Scrutiny Manager setting out the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee's indicative Forward Work Programme for 2024/2025 was presented for consideration.

It was RESOLVED to :-

- **Agree the current version of the forward work programme for 2024/2025;**
- **Note progress thus far in implementing the forward work programme.**

The meeting concluded at 4.00 pm

**COUNCILLOR DYLAN REES
CHAIR**