

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL Scrutiny Report Template	
Committee:	Partnership & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
Date:	9th November, 2021
Subject:	Governance Structure and Delivery Arrangements of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board, and progress report on the Well-being Assessments.
Purpose of Report:	To review the Governance arrangements of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board and provide an update on the work of the sub-groups. To report on the progress of the well-being assessments.
Scrutiny Chair:	Cllr Gwilym Owen Jones
Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Llinos Medi
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Local Members:	Not relevant to any specific ward.

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1 - Recommendation/s

The Scrutiny Committee is requested to note and offer observations on the governance arrangements of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board and note the progress made.

The Scrutiny Committee is also asked to note the recommendation in paragraph 5.5.4 to scrutinise the work of the Public Services Board twice a year instead of three times a year. The reasons for the recommendation are listed below.

2 – Link to Council Plan / Other Corporate Priorities

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 [focus on customer/citizen]

3.2 A look at the efficiency & effectiveness of any proposed change – both financially and in terms of quality [focus on value]

3.3 A look at any risks [focus on risk]

3.4 Scrutiny taking a performance monitoring or quality assurance role [focus on performance & quality]

3.5 Looking at plans and proposals from a perspective of:

- Long term
- Prevention
- Integration
- Collaboration
- Involvement

[focus on wellbeing]

3.6 The potential impacts the decision would have on:

- protected groups under the Equality Act 2010
- those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage in their lives (when making strategic decisions)
- opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language

[focus on equality and the Welsh language]

4 - Key Scrutiny Questions

1. What specific observations does the Committee have on the Public Services Board governance arrangements?
2. What specific risks are there in endeavouring to deliver on the work-streams of the sub-groups?
3. Are there any challenges to the review of the Wellbeing Assessment?

5 – Background / Context

5.1 Introduction and context

5.1.1 The Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board was established in 2016, in accordance with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The aim of the Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015) is to improve the economic, 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 made by Anglesey Council's Executive was to establish a Public Services Board. (PSB) for Anglesey which would *collaborate* with the Gwynedd Public Services Board.

5.1.2 In order to set priorities for the Public Services Board, Well-being assessments were undertaken across Gwynedd and Anglesey Well-being areas and, as a result, a series of engagement and consultation sessions were held. All this work contributed towards the publication of the Well-being Plan in 2018.

5.1.3 The Well-being Plan confirms the two objectives and six priority fields for which it was agreed that the Board could collaborate in order to ensure the best outcomes for the residents of Gwynedd and Anglesey. Therefore, priority fields common to both Counties were agreed upon and the Board is responsible for responding to these matters jointly across both Counties.

5.1.4 Every five years, in accordance with one of the statutory requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015), Public Service Boards must prepare and publish an assessment of the state of the economic, social, environmental and

cultural well-being of their areas. The Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board has started the process of reviewing the Well-being Assessment.

5.1.5 Once again the Assessments will draw together a range of information about the communities of Anglesey and Gwynedd. This means that we will examine research, gather data and engage with our residents to ascertain what is good about our communities, and which aspects are not so positive. This will also be an opportunity to consider the challenges and opportunities facing our communities, and to consider the impact of Covid-19 and Brexit on them. A progress report on the work is below.

5.2 The Governance Arrangements of a Public Service Board

5.2.1 As highlighted in the Terms of Reference of the Public Services Board, the Board has four statutory members, along with guest participants who contribute towards the duties of the Board.

5.2.2 The Board has established sub-groups to support it to implement its functions. An update on the work of the sub-groups is provided below. It was reported last time to the scrutiny committee that the Board has four sub-groups, namely the Welsh Language, Climate Change, Health and Social Care and Homes for local people.

5.2.3 At the Board's meeting held in June, it was agreed to wind-up the homes sub-group as its work did not add further value to the current schemes of the individual bodies. It was confirmed that the housing associations and Local Authorities were continuing with the work of developing innovative houses. It has been noted that there is a desire and enthusiasm to continue with the relationship of collaboration created by the sub-group, to enable discussion and the sharing of ideas / knowledge and good practice in the field of housing development for the future.

5.2.4 An update on the work of the sub-groups is provided below.

5.2.5 Objective 1 – Communities that thrive and flourish in the long term

Priority	Update on the work of the sub-group	What does the sub-group deliver that adds value to the current schemes of public bodies?	Proposed Timescale
The Welsh Language	During the Board's meeting in September, approval in principle was granted to a project to promote the use of the Welsh language when the public use our first contact services.	Collaboration on this project could lead to an increase in the use of the Welsh language (and the desire to use it from choice) when engaging with us as public organisations.	Part 1 of the work to be completed summer 2022.

Climate Change	During the Board's meeting held in September, it was agreed to support the work of Natural Resources Wales to engage with the residents of Porthmadog on climate change issues. The sub-group will prioritise Porthmadog as one of the first areas to work with, with the intention of moving forward to work with other communities in Gwynedd and Anglesey that are at risk of flooding in future.	The anticipated outcomes of collaboration are to: Develop communities that are able to adapt, manage and mitigate climate change. Change the focus to wider Climate Change rather than solely Flooding. Various groups of people / agencies / organisations / partners collaborating. Establish two-way communication arrangements between members of the community and public bodies	Porthmadog will be the priority for the sub-group for the next six months, and then continue to work with the other areas during 2022/23
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5.2.6 Objective 2 – Residents that are healthy and independent with a good standard of living

Two priority fields, namely 'Health and Care of adults' and 'Welfare and success of children and young people' address objective 2. It was agreed to establish one sub-group to address both priorities, namely the Integrated Health and Care of the West Group.

Priority	Update on the work of the sub-group	What does the sub-group deliver that adds value to the current schemes of public bodies?	Proposed Timescale
Health and Care	The purpose of the sub-group is to bring together key partners in the field of health and care to collaborate on responding to obstacles that prevent integrated working.	Collaboration arrangements continue to be developed	Due to the pressures that have been facing organisations in the field due to the pandemic it is likely that

	<p>We have already reported that the sub-group has specific work streams, namely adults, children and mental health. The work of updating the remits of the work streams is in progress. The transformation work within the work streams is funded by the Integrated Care Fund (ICF) and the Transformation Fund (TF). The funds come to an end in 2022. Senior leaders have received information from the Government that a further five-year funding programme will replace it, although this has yet to be confirmed. There is acknowledgement that the community transformation programme that has started is long-term and ambitious, that will require significant resources and capacity for many years to ensure that the work is delivered. Planning work will happen jointly between the key partners in preparation for the work of making applications for the new funding programme.</p>		<p>these workstreams will not re-establish themselves / organise their plans until the new year.</p>
<p>5.2.7 The pandemic has had an impact on the progress of all the sub-groups. It is anticipated that the sub-groups will recommence the work by focussing solely on</p>			

one or a few projects initially.

5.2.8 During the last board meeting in September, a discussion was held on resources, where it was agreed to jointly fund the language sub-group's reception area project, as the partners considered that the project would add value to the organisations' existing schemes. Over the next 6-12 months, it is anticipated that the Board's work programme will be the Well-being Assessments, publishing them and recommencing the work of the sub-groups.

5.3 Well-being Assessments

5.3.1 As noted above, there is work in progress to update the well-being assessments. The work of analysing the engagement work and the findings of our partners is ongoing. Anglesey's well-being questionnaire was circulated amongst our partners and was live until 11 October. Additionally, the work of updating the data for the well-being assessments is being completed by Gwynedd Council research team.

5.3.2 The regional PSB grant was used to commission Glyndŵr University to collaborate on the well-being assessments in north Wales. In addition, a regional workshop has been arranged in order to hear from under-represented groups, in relation to matters that affect their well-being.

5.3.3 The timetable for the Well-being Assessments is as follows: The assessments will be published by May 2022 and the Well-being Assessment by May 2023. Draft versions of the assessments will be published by October/November 2021. A 12-week consultation period on the well-being assessments will begin in December 2021.

5.4 Monitoring

5.4.1 The four sub-groups noted above are accountable to the Public Services Board in relation to delivering any commissioned work. The sub-groups will update the Board on progress every quarter, and their submitted progress reports will be challenged and discussed at Board meetings.

5.4.2 The Board's support team also has a role to play between Board meetings to support and maintain the work of the sub-groups. In addition, an annual report to summarise progress will be published by the Board as it works towards achieving its strategic aims.

5.5 Scrutiny arrangements

5.5.1 The Board's work will be checked regularly by the Scrutiny Committees of Gwynedd Council and the Isle of Anglesey County Council.

5.5.2 The Well-being of Future Generations Act and associated national guidelines¹ note three roles for scrutiny committees of Local Authorities when

¹Guidelines for Scrutiny Committees of Local Authorities on Public Services Board

providing democratic accountability for the Public Services Board:

- Reviewing the governance arrangements of the PSB
- Statutory consultee on the Well-being Assessment and the Well-being Plan
- Monitoring progress of the efforts of the PSB in the implementation of the Well-being Plan

5.5.3 The Public Services Board is currently subject to scrutiny by the designated Scrutiny Committees of Gwynedd and Anglesey local authorities. At the inception of the PSB it was agreed that a joint scrutiny panel between the two counties would be developed to undertake this work across Gwynedd and Anglesey, and consideration was given to establishing a joint scrutiny committee. It was concluded that they did not recommend establishing a panel at present but rather to focus on aligning timetables and reconciling scrutiny arrangements across both Counties. It would be possible for both Councils to jointly review these arrangements again in due course.

5.5.4 It is recommended that the scrutiny committees scrutinise the Board's work twice a year. It is anticipated that the six months in the timetable will allow for the Board to make significant progress and to submit more detailed reports for scrutiny.

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

6.1 Potential impacts on protected groups under the Equality Act 2010

6.2 Potential impacts on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage in their lives (strategic decisions)

6.3 Potential impacts on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language

The Public Services Board's support team has considered and identified the need for impact assessments (e.g., Language and Equality) and assessments will be developed and used when the Board engages with our communities on specific points and to update the Well-being Assessments. The first version of the impact assessment for the well-being assessments was submitted to the Board during its meeting in September.

7 – Financial Implications

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8 – Appendices:

9 - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):

1. Gwynedd and Anglesey Well-being Plan
2. Public Services Board Annual Report 2018
3. Minutes of the Anglesey Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee 13

November 2018 (PSB's Governance Arrangements)