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Thursday 1st July 2021

Notice of Reports Received following Publication of Agenda.

Public Services Select Committee

Monday, 5th July, 2021 at 10.00 am
County Hall, Usk with Remote Attendance

Attached are reports that the committee will consider as part of the original agenda but were submitted to democratic services following publication of the agenda.

Item No	Item	Pages
6.	<p>Appendix - Public Service Board Well-being Plan Annual Report</p> <p>Purpose: To provide the Select Committee with the opportunity to scrutinise the draft Public Service Board Annual Report which describes progress made towards delivering the board's well-being objectives during 2020-21.</p> <p>Authors: Richard Jones, Sharran Lloyd</p>	1 - 42

Paul Matthews
Chief Executive

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SIR FYNWY

MONMOUTHSHIRE



Monmouthshire
Public Services Board
Well-being Plan
Annual Report 2021



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Public Services Board Well-being Plan

In May 2018, the Public Services Board, Monmouthshire’s strategic partnership of public bodies, adopted their Well-being Plan in line with the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act. They agreed the shared purpose of **building sustainable and resilient communities**, three cross-cutting aspirations that would apply to all objectives and steps, and four well-being objectives – two about people and two about the place, as shown in the following table:

Purpose	Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities	
Our aspiration is to:	Reduce inequalities between communities and within communities Support and protect vulnerable people Realise the benefits that the natural environment has to offer	
Our Well-being Objectives are:	<i>People / Citizens</i>	<i>Place / Communities</i>
	Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life	Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change
	Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change	Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.

This is the third annual report, reporting on the progress of the PSB towards delivering the objectives set out in the Well-being Plan.

The ‘steps’ within the well-being plan will address some of the most significant challenges and opportunities for well-being in Monmouthshire. As a result, they are often complex and there are no quick solutions to address them. Each of the 19 steps was allocated a lead partner organisation whose responsibility has been to explore the step further, identify more specific action plans and oversee delivery of these.

The Coronavirus pandemic has posed an unprecedented challenge to our way of life. Public services have been at the forefront of efforts to preserve life, reduce the spread of the virus while continuing to provide vital support to communities in Monmouthshire. Public services in Monmouthshire have continued to deliver services and adapt and establish new services that support residents and businesses, assist community activity and support well-being.

With a substantial focus of PSB partners on the pandemic there has been a lessened focus on progressing the PSB’s well-being objectives. This report provides an update on the activity delivered by the PSB during 2020/21 on the steps in its well-being plan, this includes activity partners have delivered to address the challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic to support residents in Monmouthshire through these unprecedented times.

Applying the five ways of working

The five ways of working described in the well-being of Future Generations Act have continued to be used to shape the development of actions.

Long term

By their very nature, the steps set out in the Well-being plan are often complex issues that cannot be solved in the short-term. The Well-being plan aims to focus on these longer-term challenges whilst ensuring the ability of future generations to meet their own needs is not compromised. While this has been a challenge for PSB partners as they have had to respond immediately to the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, planning to address long term challenges remains the focus of the PSB.

Involvement and Collaboration

Involvement is key to developing the steps in the Well-being Plan. All of the steps require partners to involve communities, service users and organisations. 2020 saw the establishment of Community Support Networks (CSNs) in each of the five areas of Monmouthshire. Monmouthshire PSB agreed to formally adopt a place-based partnership working model of CSNs across the county as a mechanism that would aim to deliver the aspirations of the well-being plan, “to build sustainable and resilient communities” and “to promote active citizenship across the county” by building on the overwhelming response of community action and participation during the pandemic. Partners have been working in a place-based way with our communities and active citizens across the county, via our CSNs which have been established across Monmouthshire in the five main town and surrounding areas, following the geographical footprint of the well-being assessment. The CSN model has allowed us to engage directly with communities, centred around ‘place’ and to have open and meaningful conversations about what matters to them, bringing a rich and ‘real time’ understanding of issues, challenges and opportunities across the county. CSNs are centred on action, asset based community development and working with our communities as equal partners to bring about change.

Prevention

Prevention is fundamental to the steps in the Well-being Plan. Partners have explored and sought to understand the root causes of issues in each step, to aim to prevent them from occurring or to prevent escalation of the issues. It is vital that that solutions are instigated at the right time, seeking early action rather than waiting for crisis trigger points to be reached. The PSB has spent a great deal of time understanding organisational operations and systems, which aims to give insight into where practice change can maximise impact and outcomes for individuals across the county.

Integration

The Programme Board is a group of senior officers that sits below, and reports to, the PSB. The Programme Board are well placed to see integration across well-being objective steps and if there are any conflicts, how will these be resolved, managed and mitigated. Work to progress each of the steps will impact on other steps, and some of the steps are being progressed together to ensure a joined-up approach. The table on the following page shows how each of the steps integrates with other steps:

	ACES	Obesity	Well-being in Schools	Mental Health	Housing	Intergenerational living	Active citizenship	Model of care	Networks of support	Ecosystem resilience	Design and Planning	Renewables	Active/Sustainable travel	Sustainability education	City Deal	Education business links	Rural transport	Business networks	Centres of excellence
ACES	■		■	■															
Obesity		■								■	■		■	■					
Well-being in Schools	■		■	■										■		■			■
Mental Health	■		■	■										■					
Housing					■	■		■	■		■	■	■		■				
Intergenerational living					■	■	■	■	■		■								
Active citizenship						■	■	■	■	■				■		■	■		
Model of care					■	■	■	■	■										
Networks of support					■	■	■	■	■										
Ecosystem resilience	■						■			■	■	■	■	■					■
Design and Planning	■				■	■				■	■	■	■				■		
Renewables					■					■	■	■	■	■			■	■	
Active/Sustainable travel	■				■					■	■	■	■	■	■		■		
Sustainability education	■	■	■				■			■		■	■	■	■	■			
City Deal					■								■		■	■	■	■	■
Education business links			■				■							■	■	■			■
Rural transport							■				■	■	■		■		■		
Business networks												■			■			■	■
Centres of excellence			■							■					■	■		■	■

Well-being Objectives – Progress so far

The PSB Well-being objectives and steps are set out in the tables below and detail of progress made on each of these steps is provided. The Well-being plan sets out in detail the evidence that was used to “discover” the evidence for each objective and “define” the response.



Well-being Objective 1 - Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life

Well-being goals contributed to						
Prosperous Wales (1)	Resilient Wales (2)	Healthier Wales (3)	More equal Wales (4)	Wales of cohesive communities (5)	Vibrant culture & thriving Welsh language (6)	Globally responsible Wales (7)
<p>It is crucial that young people are able to develop the skills they need for the future to secure employment and contribute to Prosperous Wales. Their physical and mental health are key to them developing their potential and becoming healthy adults as part of a Healthier Wales, whilst increasing participation in sport contributes to a Vibrant Culture. It is essential all children and young people have equal access to education, opportunities and the best possible start in life. This will help young people to contribute to their community positively as they become adults, helping to develop Cohesive Communities.</p>						
Delivering the Solution						
The PSB will focus on:			Objective links	Goals	Impact	
Tackling the causes of Adverse Childhood Experiences and the perpetuation of generational problems in families.			 	1, 3, 4, 5	Long Term	
<p>Progress Summary: The impact of Adverse Childhood experiences (ACES) undoubtedly influences the patterns of offending behaviours in young people, and also the likelihood that young people will become victims of crime and criminal exploitation. A partnership approach continues in Monmouthshire to understand the impact and reduce the risk associated with ACES.</p> <p>The Monmouthshire Youth Offending Service (YOS) have received training and are adopting trauma-informed approaches to all of the interventions conducted. The YOS now has access to CAMHS support to assist in identifying any incident of ACES in the life of that young person, identifying the most suitable method of engagement. The interventions predominantly focus on supporting wellbeing and healthy relationships.</p> <p>The COVID 19 pandemic has had a monumental impact on the ability of each of our partners to continue providing services, as often the work with young people is very much face to face. However, partners have adapted a virtual approach, which has strengthened over the last 18 months, making use of virtual modes of engagement such as teams and Zoom video calls.</p>						

The YOS “Out of Court disposal panels” have become virtual, predominantly held over Teams, resulting in a significant increase in attendance levels by the young people; it negated the need to travel and attendance at physical appointments, which many young people find daunting. YOS partners assisted families with the technology to access virtual appointments, and where this hasn’t been feasible due to lack of IT equipment, have been able to facilitate meetings within the office, often providing transport to and from. In cases where risk was identified, a COVID safe home visit was arranged to provide the young person and family with the required support, and continue engagement, this has proven invaluable for the mental health of some of our most isolated and vulnerable young people. This has also assisted in the prevention of re-offending.

The partnership approach ensured that parenting support and education/training support continued virtually during the pandemic. The Parenting approach focused on a holistic family approach to the prevention of offending, and the education/training approach assisted to ensure young people remained engaged in training or education to ensure they were engaged in a positive activity, thus reducing the risk of the young person becoming involved in risky or criminal behaviours.

The focus of the PCLA Project (Protocol for Children who are Looked After) has changed. Face to face briefings and training are now being delivered over TEAMS, Residential Care Homes and Foster Carers have received the PCLA briefing during the period. A new work plan has been developed by the PCLA All Gwent Group and the tasks reflect the changes to the project as a result of the COVID pandemic. Training with Police Call Handlers and Custody Staff is being completed via TEAMS. Good collaborative working continues across the Gwent region for the project.

There are several good news stories with most young people engaging well with the new digital approach. One case study of note identifies a young person becoming involved in a serious first offence of a violent burglary. The partnership approach to engaging with this young person identified several key generational issues within the family. The partnership intervention adopted ensured that the young person received appropriate support and has since not re-offended, they are now receiving additional support to seek employment.

Working to tackle physical inactivity and obesity in order to increase the health and well-being of future generations		3, 5, 6	Long Term
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Progress Summary:
Our collective efforts to tackle physical inactivity and obesity during 2020/21 have been anchored in the development of national, regional and local policy stances. The consultation version of the Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales strategy formed the basis of a workshop for the Creating an Active and Healthy Monmouthshire partnership, which provided a welcome opportunity not only to contribute to national discussions but also to reflect upon the Monmouthshire approach.

A Healthier Gwent

In July 2019 the Director of Public Health Annual Report ‘Building a Healthier Gwent’ drew attention to the health inequalities gap across Gwent and proposed the ambition that by 2030 it will be easier for people in our communities to live healthy, fulfilled lives.

In February 2020, the development of 2020/21 Building a Healthier Gwent Delivery Plan was suspended due to the need to mount a public health response to the fast-developing COVID-19 pandemic.

The scale of the system disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has created opportunities for the scale of system-level transformational change that will be necessary to achieve A Healthier Gwent.

In September 2020, an update report to G10 assessed the likely impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on health inequalities in Gwent and concluded that each of the 4 harms arising from the pandemic is likely to have widened health inequalities.

In 2020-21, A healthier Gwent project work continued on all identified priority areas including the implementation Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales Strategy.

Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales Strategy:

Welsh Government published a 10 years Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales (HW:HW) Strategy in October 2019. It committed to publishing a 2-years delivery plan after every two years. The first 2-year delivery plan 2020-20 was published in February 2020. The implementation of this delivery plan was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In October 2020, Welsh Government allocated £550K to the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) as part of its Obesity Pathway Transformation Fund for 2021-22. The Health Board was asked to develop its plan to develop obesity pathway services and submit its proposal by 31st March 2021.

ABUHB developed its proposal that was centred on the current gaps in the obesity path services. It was submitted to The Welsh Government and was approved in April 2021. It has the following key components:

- Level 1 Children and Families programme will offer nutrition and dietetic led service to support the timely introduction of solid foods, good nutrition in early years and attainment of healthy weight. It will support good nutrition in the first 1000 days of life and help children to be a healthy weight by the time they start school. It will be delivered across a range of settings within a community.
- Level 1 Foodwise programme will offer a Foodwise 8 week community weight management programme developed by public health dietitians in Wales for adults with BMI 25-30 kg/m² without co-morbidities. The participants can learn to adopt eating habits, increasing physical activity and using basic behaviour change strategies to facilitate weight loss.
- Level 1 Sustainable Food Communities programme will develop a whole systems approach to food poverty that will include access to, education and skills to support healthy diets and greater equity in Blaenau Gwent, our local authority with the highest levels of obesity. With learning and products shared across Gwent.
- Level 2 Maternity Weight Management will offer Brief Intervention and support for Healthy Eating and Physical Activity to all women with BMI >30 kg/m² in 5 local authority areas. It will provide 1:1 clinics following the Doncaster model (for women with BMI >35 kg/m²) that would run alongside existing antenatal care provided by midwives for those at highest risk.
- Level 2 Commercial Weight Management will offer a multi-component programme delivered by a commercial provider that includes advice and support on food intake, physical activity and behaviour change. With several options offering additional online resources, an app and peer support. Adults with BMI 30–35 kg/m² without co-morbidities will be eligible for this programme and will get vouchers to attend a community based or virtual group for 12 weeks, and follow up at 6 and 12 months.

These significant national and regional strategic developments have heavily influenced our approach in Monmouthshire and our local decision to concentrate our focus on tackling obesity through the promotion of active travel throughout the county. Creating an Active and Healthy Monmouthshire partnership has agreed on a strategic focus for active travel in Monmouthshire geared around education, key employment sites (including town centres) and bus / train stations. Within Monmouthshire Council, this has been accompanied by a refreshed officer delivery structure which

recognises the importance of developing behaviours as well as supporting infrastructure. Alongside the renewed focus on active travel, we have continued to deliver our existing programmes of sports development, healthy eating and health promotion in schools via our Flying Start and Early Years support programmes. We also work alongside partners to promote physical activity through play including the promotion of and support for closed road street play and the summer holiday enrichment programme.

Working to ensure that schools and services for children focus on well-being and a more rounded approach than purely academic results.		1, 3, 4	Medium Term
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Progress Summary:
 The Well-being Sub Group was established in January 2019 as an action group to address the findings in the School Health Research Network (SHRN) Local Authority Student’s Health and Well-being Report. The group reports to the CYP Strategic Partnership and contributes to the above well-being objective. The focus of the group is to identify key health areas of development using the data from the most recent SHRN (2019/20) report and bring key LA services together with school representatives to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people.

The Welsh Government Well-being Grant has been used to enhance the school-based counselling service to offer support to learners who are unable to attend school due to medical reasons or because their families have elected to home educate. The Monmouthshire.gov.uk website has been updated to include links to useful resources for schools, young people and their families to support their wellbeing. We are currently working with schools to link to this website and to develop their websites to include useful information and support.

The Educational Psychology Service has developed a range of professional development training materials, many in collaboration with partners including Family Support Services, Community Psychology and Health Schools. This is available on their Training Portal for all LA and school-based staff. Much has a specific focus on wellbeing and examples include recorded workshops on ‘staff WB’, ‘Well-being in the Classroom’, ‘Surviving the Pandemic’ and ‘Emotionally Based School Anxiety’.

A secondary school working party has been established to support the schools in the development of their Relationships and Sexuality Curriculum, in preparation for the phased statutory introduction from September 2022. The most recent Monmouthshire Youth Service ‘Make your Mark’ ballot in November 2020 also highlighted RSE as a key priority for young people and the youth service are supporting this work.

Schools have participated in Active Travel consultations and the engagement phase has been seen as sector-leading across Wales, particularly the level of engagement with Education. Well-being sessions have taken place at one of the secondary schools and have targeted girls. Physical activity and fitness sessions, supported by wider wellbeing messages in partnership with Community Psychology have supported physical and emotional wellbeing. 10 primary schools utilised the ‘From Lockdown to Listening and Learning’ resource pack that included activities to support children on the return to school in March as well as a session to support and promote staff well-being.

Supporting the resilience of children and young people in relation to their mental health and emotional well-being.		3, 4	Short Term
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Progress Summary:

Children and Young People's Emotional Well-being and Mental Health continues to be the top priority for the Health Board and the RPB. In the last 3 years many services have been developed through partnership funding and core funding. The partnership has adopted a whole system approach. Best practice services and pilots have been extended to the whole region.

As part of the Iceberg Model Transformation Programme (TP), a Third Sector organisation has been commissioned across the region to deliver Peer Support Services for young people (Platform for YP). Evidence-based preventative services with psychological formulation and therapeutic intervention for C&YP and their families, such as the Family Intervention Team (Action for Children), has been extended from one locality within Gwent to the whole region. Recent WG core funding to Education and Health to implement the Whole School Approach will enable to extend existing services, such as counselling, as well as replicate the School In-Reach services from pilot areas to the whole region. The TP framework for schools to support them in developing a whole school approach will also continue.

Specialist CAMHS have implemented an improvement programme in the last 3 years, including Early Help and Enhanced Support in the community; SPACE and Well-being multi-agency Panel that ensures a single point of access for all referrals and the right help from the right organisation is provided first time (no bouncing back). New intensive wrap-around services to families to prevent breakdown has also been established (ISET). The partnership is developing a regional 4-bed accommodation to keep C&YP in crisis out of hospital S-CAMHS are developing an early intervention eating disorder service embedded in the community. The partnership has also been able to extend to the whole region an intensive service aimed at keeping LAC in the county and bringing back children from out of the county in stable placements (MyST). Emotional Well-being and Mental Health intervention for families with children with complex needs have been extended from one county in Gwent to the whole region (Helping Hands).

The Gwent Attachment Service has embedded transformed practice in education and social services through trauma-based and attachment training. The Gwent Community Psychology service aims to help support the development and maintenance of relationships across communities that nurture children's psychological wellbeing. The service is working towards increasing professionals, families and communities knowledge, confidence, skills and reducing anxiety/stuckness within systems by taking their psychological expertise out of the clinic and into communities.



Well-being Objective 2 - Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change

Well-being goals contributed to

Prosperous Wales (1)	Resilient Wales (2)	Healthier Wales (3)	More equal Wales (4)	Wales of cohesive communities (5)	Vibrant culture & thriving Welsh language (6)	Globally responsible Wales (7)
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To have Cohesive Communities with equal opportunities for people of all ages to be able to live and work in Monmouthshire, it is crucial that there is suitable and affordable housing for all. A Cohesive Community will have facilities in place to look after all ages. Although paid employment is key for a Prosperous Wales, volunteering and active citizenship also have a key role to play and contribute to building communities and improving health.

Delivering the Solution

The PSB will focus on:	Objective links	Goals	Impact
Readdressing the supply and mix of housing stock to ensure suitable and affordable housing is available to all demographic groups	  	1, 3, 4, 5	Long Term

Progress Summary:

In 2020-2021, 419 new dwellings were completed, of which 71 (17%) were affordable dwellings. This was done within the existing Local Development Plan (LDP) framework. Other developments include applications for additional innovative housing projects in Caldicot and Chepstow, building on the success of the award-winning MHA schemes in Caldicot and Abergavenny last year. Permission has been granted by Planning Committee for 24 older peoples bungalows in Llanfoist. Work is progressing well on phase 1 of the Rockfield Farm site in Undy, which has commenced on 130 homes in Caldicot (45 affordable) and 106 homes at Grove Farm, Llanfoist (37 affordable).

Addressing the County's increasingly imbalanced demography is recognised as a key objective of the Replacement Local Development Plan. This requirement has been emphasised by the corrected population projections published in August 2020.

Consultation on the Preferred Strategy for the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) commenced in March 2020. However, it had to be paused due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the public engagement events, and following advice from the Minister for Housing and Local Government, the consultation was ended. A review of the sensitivity of the foundations to the RLDP issues, vision, objectives to the consequences of the Coronavirus pandemic concluded that the Plan's Issues, Vision and Objectives and evidence base remain relevant, with several issues and objectives considered to have increased emphasis and importance consistent with the priorities identified in the Welsh Government Building Better Places Covid-19 recovery document published in July 2020.

In October 2020 Council agreed to a revised Delivery Agreement, which provides the timetable for the RLDP. A revised Growth and Spatial Options Paper, based on the new population projections, was endorsed by Council in December 2020 for non-statutory consultation for four weeks in January-February 2021. Work on the RLDP is progressing following the revised

timetable, the next key stage being consultation and engagement on the Preferred Strategy in Summer 2021.

The primary considerations continue to be the delivery of affordable housing, housing mix and climate change mitigation. The Preferred Strategy seeks to deliver 7605 homes within Monmouthshire of which approximately 2,450 will be affordable homes. This includes identifying affordable-housing led sites that will deliver 50% or more affordable housing which will be available to all demographic groups. The type of affordable housing delivered on housing sites will be outlined by the Council’s affordable housing officer based on the need within the area. Within the development of the RLDP, we are also reviewing the type of dwellings that the council seeks to see provided within the private market to deliver a range of housing options for all age ranges including from one and two-bedroom starter homes, family homes and bungalow-style properties. Discussions are ongoing to develop a policy framework to assist the delivery of these ambitions.

Learning from good practise elsewhere to explore the potential for intergenerational living, now and for the future		4, 5	Medium Term
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Progress Summary:

The work focused on three areas:

- Community development: creating the conditions; people find their solutions
- Sharing homes: pilot home-share style solutions
- Building homes for all ages: shaping the built environment and creating spaces where people of all generations can come together

An action plan was developed to address the three strands identified above. There were some obstacles to overcome in terms of being able to identify potential action leads and acknowledging that additional resources would need to be identified to carry out the feasibility elements of the plan as well as commission work around creating a home-share pilot.

Steps were taken to identify where there may be opportunities within the local development plan taking into account the constraints of the Wales spatial plan. Further progress was prevented particularly in pushing forward greater collaboration and targeting through community development and in exploring the home-share concept by the restrictions introduced to control COVID-19.

Learning as step leads in order to progress this work:

- It would help to have a commitment of resources alongside the shaping of an action plan as attempting to secure those resources following the scoping of the problem and potential solutions can be restrictive.
- It would also be helpful to secure more firmly a degree of engagement in delivering the progress from key teams and staff/officers who sit under the PSB.

Promoting active citizenship through volunteering, time-banking, person to person skill swap and corporate social responsibility		1, 3, 5	Short Term
Developing a model of care built on well-being and looking after each other rather than through formal care provision		3, 4, 5	Medium Term
Developing networks for all ages that support people's well-being in their local communities, including social prescribing		1, 3, 4, 5	Short Term

Progress Summary:

Subject to further review and update by the step leads

The desire to build, grow and strengthen networks of care across the county in 2020/21, was presented with a unique opportunity that arose out of the pandemic. The lockdown in March 2020 in response to COVID 19, saw an unbelievable response from the citizens of Monmouthshire. With over 60+ volunteer groups convening almost instantly across the county, made up of multiple residents who recognised a fundamental ‘need to help others’ and to help sustain life at all costs. Showing overwhelming levels of kindness towards neighbours, strangers and those in most need, residents stepped forward to offer help and support, some via informal arrangements at a street level within their own community and some who approached us, as public sector bodies to help steer them in the right direction safely; providing both support and permission for them to act.

As the pandemic started to ease and as we slowly emerged from lockdown, the challenges we faced pre-Covid had not gone away. The incredible active volunteer groups/active citizens across the county remained active and were keen to continue to help others in their communities. The dialogue shifted from food and medicine collections to the challenges that were witnessed by our volunteers at a grassroots level. To name a few; poverty, mental health, anti-social behaviour, safeguarding, loneliness and isolation, were all raised by our citizens and those who wanted to know what they could do to help. In addition to this, we also had citizens who had already started taking the initiative and developing localised solutions to help small pockets of people within communities who were struggling.

In July 2020 the Monmouthshire PSB agreed to formally adopt the place-based partnership working model of Community Support Networks across the county as a mechanism that would aim to deliver the aspirations of the well-being plan, “to build sustainable and resilient communities” placing communities and active citizens across the county, at the heart of what ‘we do’ through leading a relational place-based, multi-agency support structure; namely Community Support Networks (CSNs).

Joint working at a local level via the Monmouthshire PSB and the Regional Partnership Board, also facilitated the opportunity to develop a ‘proof of concept’ model, placing individual well-being needs within the wider context of asset-based community development via CSNs. This is an innovative whole system approach to place-based preventative work. As we know, working alongside individuals can be a fragile and nuanced process requiring not only the traditional interpersonal skills of reflective and active listening but those that enable us to arrive at bespoke solutions based upon interdependency and friendship.

- Natural associations and connections provide a structure of support for people to live enjoyable and fulfilled lives.
- Bringing people together via shared interests/circumstances, they begin to support one another independently of external support or interventions. In other words, people make people happy.
- The need to be occupied attached and included are fundamental to an individual's well-being.
- People want to be active participants, not passive recipients; it is through contribution and involvement that people achieve a greater sense of purpose and identity.
- People will volunteer to build better communities.
- Having the right conversations with the right people recalibrates relationships, creates new opportunities and develops new responses.
- The wider community is already part of the solution but one size does not fit all, people are different, and communities are different so solutions will have to be different.

This model is built on a wealth of learning through our social care and health colleagues, who inspired the Integrated Networks of Care model, which evidences, *‘Increased resilience and the sustainability of preventative approaches is gained if we regard ourselves as a place, not an organisation by creating place-based well-being teams designed to develop creative ways of working, which overcome departmental or agency silos to make the best use of the resources available within the area in question.’*

In Monmouthshire we are now aiming to prove this concept through this approach, which is based upon all our organisations elements working together from a shared understanding of well-being and with the unifying feature being that of place. It is not exclusive to specific individuals, services, organisations, funding streams, or policy drivers and is being co-ordinated to deliver the key principles of the Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFGA) and the Social Services and Well-being Act (SSaWBA) namely;

- Changing the way people's care and support needs are met (putting an individual, and their needs, at the centre and giving voice, choice and control over the way personal outcomes are achieved)
- helping people to maximise their well-being
- rebalancing the focus of care and support to earlier intervention
- increasing preventative services within the community
- developing strong partnership working and collaboration between organisations

By adopting a place-based early intervention and prevention approach, via CSNs, to partnership working (as organisations and community as equal partners) we will be able to embed the sustainable development principles of WFGA Act and align practice to the SSaWB Act, and put our residents and communities at the heart of this practice, with the aim of building sustainable and resilient communities for current and future generations.



Well-being Objective 3 - Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change

Well-being goals contributed to

Prosperous Wales (1)	Resilient Wales (2)	Healthier Wales (3)	More equal Wales (4)	Wales of cohesive communities (5)	Vibrant culture & thriving Welsh language (6)	Globally responsible Wales (7)
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As well as being key to environmental well-being, a Resilient Environment is essential to the local economy, to physical and mental health and building Cohesive Communities. To be Globally Responsible, we need to work together to reduce the carbon and pollution we emit by tackling sustainable transport and our energy use and generation. Key to this objective is working with children and young people to help them understand their role in looking after our environment, reducing our environmental impact and recognising the importance of “thinking globally and acting locally”.

Delivering the Solution

The PSB will focus on:	Objective links	Goals	Impact
Improving the resilience of ecosystems by working at a larger scale (landscape) to manage biodiversity and maximise benefits such as natural flood risk management		1, 2, 3	Long Term

Progress Summary:

The PSB successfully applied for £25,000 from Natural Resources Wales to fund several projects which help to further this step. This included:

- Valuable Natural Flood Management (NFM) work has been carried out in Kingswood, Monmouth to identify measures that can be carried out in 2021/22. This work also paves the way for a wider programme of work to be carried out on natural flood management across the whole county in 2021/22
- Detailed action plans have been produced across the following Gwent Green Grid Project theme areas for Monmouthshire: 1) Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy & Pollinator Friendly Gwent Projects, 2) Gwent Green Corridor Projects, and 3) Gwent I tree Eco Projects. These plans will inform measures to be taken in 2021/22 funded by the Enabling Natural Resources and Well-being (ENRaW) Scheme.

The Linking Our Landscapes theme is about identifying local opportunities for our protected sites, natural and built environments to contribute to the resilience of wider priority habitat networks in the region. These opportunities for improving ecosystem resilience should support ecological connectivity between sites, across boundaries and at a landscape scale.

The Resilient Greater Gwent (RGG) project is a collaborative partnership across the 5 Gwent PSBs, local authorities Gwent Wildlife Trust, Buglife, SEWBReC, Technical Ecology and other partners across Gwent. The project aims are to enhance biodiversity and ecological networks across the region by tackling the 5 main drivers of biodiversity loss, placing biodiversity at the heart of decision making and connecting people with nature. Projects undertaken in 2020/21 by partners working together to tackle the “nature emergency” in Gwent have included.

- Invasive Non-Native Species project aims to survey 80ha and to treat 1400 sites for not native species. To date, 40 ha have been surveyed and 1700 sites have been treated
- Publication of RGG’s Greater Gwent ‘State Of Nature’ Report has been co-produced by the RGG Partnership including the 5 Gwent Local Authorities, Buglife, Gwent Wildlife Trust (GWT), SEWBReC, Natural Resources Wales and others. The report provides an evidence base to inform the Gwent Nature Recovery Action Plan (2021-30) that will be produced to identify collaborative action across the region.
- Resilient Greater Gwent’s review of all sites of importance for nature conservation: Aims to review 700 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and to create 70 Local Wildlife Sites (LWS). To date, 341 SINCs have been reviewed and 40 LWS have been created
- Gwent Green Grid: has now been given the go ahead and awarded Welsh Government ENRaW funding to deliver a consistent approach to Green Infrastructure management across Gwent.

Ensuring design and planning policy supports strong, vibrant and healthy communities that are good for people and the environment.



1, 2, 3, 5, 7

Long Term

Progress Summary:

Placemaking and green infrastructure is at the forefront when reviewing sites as per Planning Policy Wales (ed10) (PPW). Officers have developed a report structure that is based on PPW and fully takes into account the Well-being of Future Generations Act. The local authority is developing a new planning policy framework that will focus on delivering sustainable homes, employment (circa 4,695 jobs) and takes into account climate change. The preferred strategy is currently out for consultation. There is continued discussion with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) on how the RLDP will impact on health infrastructure to ensure development proposals are sustainable.

Developing Section 106 supplementary planning guidance that will ensure that the correct infrastructure is in place for development proposals. The Green Infrastructure Strategy was adopted in December 2019 and the Area Statements were published March 2020. The PSB expressed concern over the National Development Framework that Welsh Government consulted on last year, regarding the implications of the allocation of a green belt within the area and the potential lack of ambition that the policy framework has for the South East Wales region. Work is underway to identify employment land requirements that fit the council’s economic ambition to ensure we have the right land in the right places to create jobs.

Work is complete on the Landscape study and this is to be published shortly, similarly work on renewable energy has commenced and is ongoing. Evidence work on green wedge review is to be undertaken, and work will also commence during 2020/21 on the Local Transport Plan. Active travel routes are currently being scoped, with both routes to schools and employment being priority.

Enabling renewable energy schemes, especially community-owned schemes, and developing new solutions including storage, smart energy, heat and local supply.



1, 5, 7

Short Term

Progress Summary:

There is increased understanding of the climate change risks and opportunities and of the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Gwent specific Carbon Literacy training was co-developed and rolled out across public sector. 220 individuals across the Gwent public sector, including chief executives and elected members, received training. This will be expanded through a “train the trainer” programme in 21/22. Several cross-border initiatives and pledges have emerged, through participant conversation which Climate Ready Gwent will continue to support. See further information in the case study provided on Carbon Literacy Training arranged in Monmouthshire.

We have increased the capacity of organisations and individuals by ensuring that they have the tools, skills and guidance necessary to allow them to adapt to the impacts of climate change and reduce and eliminate greenhouse gas emissions across Gwent. A second Carbon Positive workshop has been delivered. Sharing best practice, advice and guidance, promoting a peer to peer learning opportunity and using the network to help set its own agenda.

The Climate Ready Gwent network, initiated through the Gwent Strategic Well-being Action Group (GSWAG) and led by Natural Resources Wales, continues to facilitate change on the regional scale. By working together, this diverse network aims to accelerate public sector activities around collaborative decarbonisation and climate adaptation, equipping people and places with the means to overcome the challenges ahead. By prioritising Climate Action in this way, public bodies in the Gwent area have chosen to approach this challenge in a way that contributes to multiple well-being goals and objectives, seeking to ensure the needs of future generations are not compromised by the actions or inaction of today. Action undertaken in 2020/21 include:

- Climate Ready Gwent supporting the Centre for Local Economic Studies (CLES) project on progressive procurement. This has been funded by Welsh Government to work with a cluster of public sector “anchor institutions” to effect systemic change in local economies across Wales with a specific focus on progressive procurement approaches. Officers have supported this work and two of the areas of focus also incorporate decarbonisation outcomes e.g. decarbonisation of housing stock and localising food supply chains.
- 62 new dual electric vehicle 22kw fast charging units have been installed at 34 sites across Gwent. Delivered in partnership between the five Gwent local authorities. A grant of £465,000 was provided for the project from the UK Government’s Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV), with match funding provided by each local authority. Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales both contributed funding towards a feasibility study to support development of the project. Monmouthshire’s charging units went live in December 2020, and data on usage has been extremely positive

In 2019/20 the PSB identified the need for all partners to be more ambitious and to demonstrate what work is currently being done to mitigate and adapt to climate change following the declaration of a Climate Emergency within Monmouthshire. Natural Resources Wales commissioned JBA Consulting to undertake this review, to help understand the further collective

action that all PSB partners can take which will reap the most rewards to help drive activity and outcomes at a local level.

The scope of this project was to focus on initiatives that will address the climate crisis, reduce carbon emissions, improve resource efficiency, minimise partner organisation's/PSB's environmental footprint. This work has now been completed and the report has been produced and approved by the PSB. Arrangements are currently being put in place to implement the recommendations of the report under the governance of the Environment Partnership Board.

Enabling active travel and sustainable transport to improve air quality and give other health benefits.



1, 5, 6, 7

Medium Term

Progress Summary:

Considerable work has been undertaken to progress the Active Travel agenda in Monmouthshire during 2020/21. Covid restrictions saw a significant reduction in driving and increased walking within areas local to home. The last 12 months have seen Monmouthshire County Council, as PSB lead, develop an approach to Active Travel with clear governance, accountability and a strategic focus for future aspirations. Over 2,700 responses and 772 hours were given to the Active Travel Network Map engagement phase in the summer of 2020 with 370 suggested routes and 101 new desire lines investigated. This detailed consultation continues and takes us towards the December 2021 deadline for submission to Welsh Government with continued clear input from children, young people and adults right across Monmouthshire. Our consultation has been praised for the level of detail and reaches, with some of our subsequent work being used on a national level in the new Active Travel Guidance. Monmouthshire has designed and piloted the legal statutory consultation on the digital platform Commonplace, the first local authority in Wales to do so.

Eight strategic projects have been supported in Monmouth and Caldicot to improve the Active Travel offer in the county. Two of these have moved to construction and significant progress on all other projects has been made to move these forward to future implementation. A total of £1.4m was awarded this financial year, the biggest investment into Active Travel in Monmouthshire to date, with projects right across the county benefiting. We have been able to secure an allocation of £1.9m for the financial year 2021/22 with 11 strategic projects in Monmouth, Caldicot and Abergavenny – including a whole county investment through the Active Travel Core Funding.

In addition to this, we have provided increased cycling capacity in our town centres for 163 bikes, installed 12 public bike pumps, piloted e-bikes with community groups, worked with Sustrans to model priority routes to our four secondary schools and introduced a contraflow cycle lane in Abergavenny through Covid response funding. A clear strategic focus is now set, primary routes identified and a vision established to develop future routes to encourage modal shift.

Working with children and young people to improve their awareness, understanding and action for sustainable development and make them responsible global citizens of the future.



1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Long Term

Progress Summary:

South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, working with wider PSB partners, has continued to deliver work with young people through various initiatives and programmes. These programmes have continued to explore the expansion of this work by aligning with other steps under the objective to give young people the best possible start in life. Some of the programmes delivered in 2020/21 are as follows:

School Talks

Community Safety Teams and Operational Crews visit schools to conduct special assemblies often working in partnership with other agencies such as the Police. Includes work of grass fires and Operation Bang (Fireworks and Bonfires), this work aims to address how young people view and respect the environment and use outdoor spaces safely and respectably.

Restrictions in the last year have severely disrupted our programmes focussing on children and young people but we developed innovative forms of delivery including online virtual talks and socially distanced events outdoors. Where ways were found to deliver programmes safely, e.g, by using alternative venues, lessons have been learnt so that we have new options for the future.

For 2021/22 we have been able to recommence our face to face activity, visiting schools for talks with Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils and attending assemblies.

Phoenix Project

A 5-day youth intervention program using fire service-related activity aimed at addressing issues within young people (aged 11 to 25) ranging from low self-esteem and lack of confidence to antisocial behaviour and or fire-related issues – work with Pupil Referral Units, Probation Services and Alternative Education Providers. Young People can also achieve an Agored Qualification. This work again aims to promote positive behaviours in young people, particularly in relation to antisocial behaviour, fire crime and criminal damage within communities; it focusses on building confidence and helping young people to understand what the fire service does and how it engages with its wider community to keep people safe and well.

Crimes and Consequences Project

A Firefighter for a Day or individual 1-hour workshops providing education aimed at reducing young peoples' likelihood of involvement in starting deliberate fires and fire service anti- social or offending behaviour - Work with Pupil Referral Units, Probation Services, and Alternative Education Providers etc. Currently on hold, planned to start in coming months.

Fire Cadet Scheme

The main focus of Fire Cadets is to enhance key citizenship skills and build confidence whilst developing transferable, practical skills for future training or employment. This is a 2-year programme where cadets can achieve a nationally recognised BTEC Level 2 Award in Fire and Rescue Services in the Community. Cadets can apply to stay on for a 3rd year as part of our Fire Cadet Ambassador Programme for which there is a full selection process. The scheme actively encourage the use the natural environment with camping and events taking place in the outdoors, allowing young people to immerse themselves in the natural environment through activities, competitions, events and day trips. This uniform Youth Scheme was put on hold in 2020 and will be reinstated at Abergavenny station in September 2021. Our new cohort of Fire Cadets are currently coming in for Keeping in Touch Days before commencing on a 2-year programme from Sep 2021

Firesetting Intervention Scheme

The project offers services to children, young people and their families and any agency that might be involved where there is concern about a child or young person with fire setting behaviour. There are 3 levels of intervention: Home Visit; The Safe Programme; The Fire Safe Programme
Currently put on hold planned to start in coming months.

SWFRS Volunteer Scheme

To develop relationships in the communities in which we live and work. The scheme provides individuals with the chance to make a valuable contribution to the safety and security of their community and also provides our service with additional skills, knowledge and resources. Currently put on hold planned to start in coming months, linking into the Community Support Networks across the county and the step in the well-being plan: *“Promoting active citizenship through volunteering, time-banking, person to person skill swap and corporate social responsibility”*

Other work undertaken by PSB partners focussing on global citizenship during 2020/21 includes:

- Supporting schools to learn more about Fairtrade during Fairtrade Fortnight, despite the challenges of home schooling.
- Working with partners to help raise awareness amongst young people about sustainable period products and the impact of plastic period pollution. Workshops are being run for young people through Sustainable You, Sustainable Me, and sustainable and reusable products are being distributed.
- Building on the young people’s Make Your Mark survey which identified climate change and sustainability as their top priority, an online session with young people has been planned and further work being discussed with the youth service.

Case Study: Climate Ready Gwent - Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change

The Carbon Literacy Project is an internationally recognised peer to peer training programme that promotes climate change understanding and empowers organisations to make positive change to reduce emissions. On average, individuals who take part in the training reduce their emissions by 5-15%.



The Carbon Literacy accreditation equips organisations with “An awareness of the carbon dioxide costs and impacts of everyday activities and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions on an individual, community and organisational basis.”

Monmouthshire Council used funding from NRW to offer Carbon Literacy training to members of Monmouthshire PSB partners. As well as the Carbon Literacy project helping to deliver the step from Monmouthshire’s Wellbeing Plan, it also aligns well with Monmouthshire County Council’s Climate Emergency Action plan.

Participants were offered one of three tailored courses, which were all delivered in February and March 2021: Climate Action Champions, Climate Action Leaders and Climate Action Catalysts.

A total of 113 attendees from a range of Monmouthshire PSB partner organisations registered to take part. Initial feedback from MCC participants has been really positive:

“This is a course that matches my values and I really enjoyed it.”

“Thanks, I really enjoyed the course. It was great for raising awareness, I hope all staff have to attend, or at least all the decision makers, it was really thought provoking.”

“I finished my carbon literacy course this week, it was really fab, great ideas for home and work, great opportunity to network.”

“The course really challenged my thought processes and has pushed me to want to do more and role model positive steps in all areas of my life. I think an informal network would really help to support me in both personal and professional action.”

“I look forward to hearing more about the internal network, very happy to support in any way I can. It will also help me to keep the momentum going and as you say feed in to the wider team and the work that we do.”

To build on the learning and enthusiasm the local authority will develop a network of Carbon Literate colleagues to keep the momentum going, and will be undertaking Train the Trainer training so that Carbon Literacy training can be delivered in house to staff, partners and communities. As a result of the training, Monmouthshire County Council has now been awarded Bronze Carbon Literate Organisation status.



Well-being Objective 4 - Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.

Well-being goals contributed to

Prosperous Wales (1)	Resilient Wales (2)	Healthier Wales (3)	More equal Wales (4)	Wales of cohesive communities (5)	Vibrant culture & thriving Welsh language (6)	Globally responsible Wales (7)
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In order to contribute to a Prosperous Wales, links need to be made between education and business to ensure young people are equipped for the jobs of the future. City Deal will be a key contributor to a Prosperous Wales, but it will also be key to build on the strengths of our local economy, heritage and culture to maximise the contribution they bring to the economy. Sustainable transport infrastructure will be key to ensuring that everyone can access jobs and training, as well as reducing carbon emissions.

Delivering the Solution

The nature of economic development means that the picture often moves swiftly and public services need to be adaptive and responsive to this changing landscape. The Public Service Board is currently reviewing the steps it will focus on under this objective in consideration of the latest evidence of economic well-being in the county and the latest developments in economic development locally, regionally and nationally. Any subsequent changes to the steps the Board will focus on under this objective will be made in the Public Service Boards well-being plan.

The PSB will focus on:	Objective links	Goals	Impact
Maximising opportunities for Monmouthshire as part of the City Deal	  	1, 4, 5	Medium Term

Progress Summary:

The first UK Government Gateway Review of the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) City Deal has now reached a successful conclusion which has unlocked the next five-year tranche of UK government investment funding.

The Cardiff Capital Region is now starting to transition from a pure City Deal programme offer to a more strategic regional approach, journeying towards the transition to a Corporate Joint Committee structure. Going forward the focus will be on delivering the 'Five for Five' strategic imperatives - *Building Back Better, Becoming a City Region, Levelling-Up, Scaling-Up and Developing Economic Clusters* – all of which present an opportunity to build and support inclusive growth across the region

<p>Better understanding the future of work and ensure training and education links with business to identify the skills needed in the Monmouthshire workforce now and in the future</p>	 	<p>1</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>
<p>Progress Summary:</p> <p>There is a range of work being progressed to support delivery of this step which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a database of employers to improve existing links with local business, employers and training providers creating work placement, new training opportunities and employment opportunities; • Increasing engagement between young people, adults, and local business in stimulating future career pathways and local employment opportunities; • Communities for Work Plus programme: - reducing the number of people in or at risk of poverty, improving employability, level of skills and training amongst participants and providing access to higher paid employment/reducing in work poverty; • Skills@Work programme providing work related qualifications to up skill our people to assist with sustainable employment and improved earnings; • Improving our training and qualification offer meeting local demands and challenges post Covid 19; • Developing an Employment and Skills Prospectus illustrating our offer; opportunities to re-skill/upskill, employability support and future career pathways. 			
<p>Developing new technologies for improving rural transport</p>	  	<p>1, 4, 5, 7</p>	<p>Med Term</p>
<p>Progress Summary:</p> <p>An digital transport platform has been developed with funding from the UK Government GovTech Catalyst programme. This is a challenge fund to incentivise private companies to solve some of the biggest problems facing public services. In rural areas, the lack of transport, limiting job opportunities and access to social activities is one such challenge and the idea is that solutions can be tested in Monmouthshire before being scaled elsewhere in the UK.</p> <p>The Thrive transport module has been developed by Box Clever Digital. It was initially targeted at solving isolation and loneliness before the pandemic and the prevalence of these situations is now much greater. There is an imperative to meet government and healthcare advice in providing this service but as the rules are relaxed, the ability of community-based transport to help mitigate this issue is evident.</p> <p>The platform includes a journey planner, provides access to demand responsive transport and community car schemes and a secure liftshare scheme called tag-along. The difficulties of pinpointing exact locations in rural areas has been overcome by incorporating the What3Words tool which pinpoints precise locations.</p> <p>As a result of social distancing and stay at home guidance, real-world testing has been delayed. This has given the developers more time to refine the solution based on learning. New features can reflect emerging government advice on people transportation and Thrive can demonstrate smart features which support the post-Covid response more intelligently. For example, journeys can be limited to only those starting or ending at a healthcare location; the platform can maintain a low occupancy rate of people from different households but can allow an increased occupancy</p>			

from people from the same home address (or multiple households depending on current government guidance); there is also the potential to link the platform to Track & Trace.

The developers are close being able to carry out beta testing and workshops are scheduled with to test the system for usability and practicality.

<p>Facilitate better business networking to share knowledge and access to technology and regional opportunities to enable businesses to grow</p>		<p>1</p>	<p>Short Term</p>
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Progress Summary:

Relationship building with the local business sector since the completion of the original Wellbeing Assessment has revealed the extent to which business networking currently takes place already. This is a very positive development.

Networks and knowledge sharing events include:

- Continuing to build relationships with the local business sector through the evolving Monmouthshire Business Resilience Forum which has been extended to include representatives from each of the major settlements alongside original partners such as Welsh Government, FSB, CCR City Deal; VisitDeanWye; Abergavenny Food Festival and relevant Officers. The Forum is Chaired by the Cabinet Member for Enterprise and Deputy Leader with regular attendance from the AM Laura Jones, the Leader and the MCC Chief Executive;
- Bi-monthly meeting with Cardiff Capital Region colleagues and regional Economic Development Leads;
- Regular meetings with the WG South East Wales Regional Economic Team to discuss opportunities as well as continuing regular meetings with Welsh Government Regeneration colleagues to discuss next steps for town centre development.

<p>Exploring the potential for specialist centres of excellence in Monmouthshire e.g. food/hospitality, agriculture, tourism and technology</p>	  	<p>1, 2, 6</p>	<p>Med Term</p>
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Progress Summary:

The Food Development Action Plan was approved as part of version three of the Social Justice Strategy in March 2021. Activity is continuing to progress opportunities to increase the availability of sustainable and locally sourced food to supply tourism and businesses in the region:

- A food resilience data development programme is underway to analyse and interrogate data which will help inform future sustainable food growing opportunities in the county;
- The inaugural meeting of the Monmouthshire Sustainable Food Partnership has been held and terms of reference discussed;
- An application has been submitted to the Sustainable Food Places network with a supporting bid for a Coordinator post to support the Monmouthshire Sustainable Food Partnership;
- Engagement with policy makers and stakeholders continues to foster best practice amongst the local food sectors.

Scrutiny of Well-being Objectives

The Well-being of Future Generations Act relies predominantly on the role of local government scrutiny to secure continuous improvement. In Monmouthshire, a dedicated Public Services Board Select Committee has undertaken this role.

The Committee has broadened its remit to focus on collaborative activity including but not limited to the PSB. This means it will scrutinise and constructively challenge, where powers allow, the work and effectiveness of strategic partnerships (including the Public Service Board) and other public service providers to ensure public accountability of collaborative services and improved outcomes for people in Monmouthshire.

During 2020/21, the work the Committee has scrutinised includes:

- The approach to tackling poverty and inequality in Monmouthshire and involving partners in collective efforts to address poverty and inequality.
- The PSB annual report 2019/20 where the committee held PSB partners to account for the delivery of collaborative approaches to improve well-being in Monmouthshire.
- The risks related to the coronavirus pandemic in Monmouthshire and the extent to which these may require a whole public service response in addition to those mitigating actions put in place by the local authority.

Reports and copies of minutes from the Select Committee can be found at <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/home/democracy-councillors/>

Community & Town Councils

Monmouthshire County Council’s Community and Partnership Development team have continued to work closely with Community & Town Councils over the last year. Whilst the impact of Covid has been felt across the whole county, Community & Town Councils have continued to be responsive to needs within their communities. The table below provides some examples of the work carried out by our Community & Town Councils over the last 12 months; demonstrating how they have continued to work collaboratively and at pace responding to some of the challenges within their respective communities. It is worth noting, that this list is not exhaustive and is merely a ‘snap shot’ of the excellent work of our civic partners.

Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life	
Abergavenny Town Council	<p>Supporting the mental health and emotional wellbeing of young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided additional emotional support to young people. Additional funding was made available to the MCC led SHIFT project to increase the number of hours available in Abergavenny to support young people experiencing emotional wellbeing issues. • Provided opportunities for young people to encounter different experiences through grant funding to the Abergavenny Community Centre and also to MCC playscheme, to ensure Covid safe play activities were available during summer 2020 <p>Working to tackle physical inactivity and obesity to improve wellbeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided summer activities for under 11 years. Contributed £12,000 towards the summer playscheme in Abergavenny. • Improved facilities for outdoor activity. Approved funding for the resurfacing of the former hard courts area in Bailey Park. Work will continue to be carried out in 2021/22
Monmouth Town Council	<p>Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillors appointed as Governors on all 3 primary schools in Monmouth. • Continuation of support for Monmouth Comprehensive School through the “School Council Liaison Working Group”. • Council supported local summer reading competitions. • Financial support provided to the Summer Playscheme and art boxes supplied by Monmouthshire County Council (including distribution of art boxes to local children). • Initiated the Kids Club Cinema scheme in partnership with the Monmouth Savoy Theatre

Chepstow Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided summer activities for 5 to 11 year olds - due to the pandemic the usual summer activity changed from being run in three sites to just being run from the Leisure Centre due to the schools being closed. Funding support of £20,000 was made available towards the delivery of open access play schemes and uptake was good. In Chepstow 96% of the paid spaces available on the scheme were booked (the highest proportion in the county) and 66% of the free spaces were booked (this is the second highest in the county). The feedback received from children and parents this year was extremely positive. The Town Council also supported MCC with delivery of the Play Packs out to the community. • Tackled the concerns regarding holiday hunger - The usual SHEP (School Holiday Enrichment Programme) scheme was cancelled due to the Pandemic however the Town Council financially supported Monmouthshire Housing Association with their Community Breakfasts and Picnics which provided breakfasts for the week to those attending. • Supported children whose families were impacted by the Covid 19 Pandemic - The Town Council awarded a grant of £30,000 to the Chepstow Schools' Cluster PTA from the Covid Emergency Funding scheme. This much needed funding was and was utilised across all schools in Chepstow allowing for additional support and resources to the many families who have been impacted by the Covid crisis. The main areas of concern within all schools were social isolation, mental health and wellbeing, digital exclusion and lack of provision for warm winter clothing and footwear. The funding provided additional IT equipment, stationery for those at home who may not otherwise afford these items, warm winter clothing, access to a Counsellor who was available online to offer wellbeing support and, information on National On-line Safety which provides information and safety tips to pupils and parents who are spending time at home isolating. • Councillors as School Governors - Councillors take on this role giving their time, skills and expertise in a voluntary capacity to help their schools provide children with the best possible education. • Community Events - Supported community events and encouraged engagement with young people.
Caldicot Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authority appointed representatives on school governing boards. • Financial support and prize presentations at Summer Reading Challenge. • Work with schools and Community Hub.

Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change

Abergavenny Town Council	<p>Developing networks for all ages that support people's wellbeing in their local communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported community organisations that offered activities for all generations and offered a supportive and welcoming environment - The Town Council's multi-year funding agreement with Abergavenny Community Trust
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	<p>contributes to staffing and running costs which enabled the community centre to run a limited programme of activities including subsidised lunches and coffee mornings when covid restrictions eased in the summer/early Autumn.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abergavenny Town Council supported Abergavenny Community Enterprise Partnership which offered support and advice to residents, particularly those living in north Abergavenny • Improved dialogue with town based groups. Many groups had stopped meeting during 2020-21, however there has been ongoing discussions with environmental groups regarding greater collaborative working. <p>Exploring the potential to develop good relationships between people of different ages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced and piloted ‘Adopt a Garden’ scheme in Abergavenny - Development work was underway to ensure all the backroom processes were in place. Promoted through the Our Monmouthshire platform, ‘Adopt a Garden’ matches ‘would-be’ gardeners with people who own a lot garden space, preferably living close to each other. The garden owner allows the gardener to use a part of their garden to grow food or flowers, and in return, that part of their garden is cared for. This takes away the worry and anxiety of not being able to manage the gardening. The gardener may wish to share some of their produce with the owner, or help to keep another part of the garden looking nice, but this was not a condition of the scheme. This project aims to facilitate friendships across generations, between predominantly younger gardeners and older garden owners.
Monmouth Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established a working partnership with Mind Monmouthshire to ensure the long term provision of mental health support for Monmouth residents including the provision of a “Wellbeing Officer”. • Responded as a consultee for the Local Development Plan for Monmouthshire and Councillors attendance at workshops for the same. • Supported local groups that focused on reducing loneliness and isolation and encouraged community engagement through the community grant scheme. • Supported the Citizens Advice which in turn provided support to the community on a range of issues. • Worked with local police officers to ensure an understanding of how demographic change has an impact on crime in Monmouth.
Chepstow Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensured easy access community defibrillators across the five wards of Chepstow – Adopted old phone boxes in Denbigh Drive and Beaufort Square to install public access defibrillators. Installation of an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) outside Chepstow Community Hospital. • Financially supported the Drill Hall and Bulwark Community Centre which are seen as local hubs of community activity where people can be active and supported - both Centres received £8,000 in funding in 20/21 with members representing the Council at meetings.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial support was provided to a number of organisations supporting older people - grant funding was provided to The Palmer Centre to enable them to continue to provide the much-needed service to those who may otherwise be isolated, lonely and unable to meet friends due to the Covid-19 pandemic. • Community Centre reopening post Covid - supplied all community centres with the required PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) to enable them to reopen safely. • Continued support to the Chepstow Citizens Advice Bureau - Enabling residents of all ages to obtain free advice and support on a wide range of matters. • Representatives on committees - provided Council representation on a number of outside committees including the Palmer Centre Trust, Senior Citizens Welfare Trust, Chepstow Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, CCTV, Air Quality. • Partnership working MIND Monmouthshire - partnership commenced May 2020 with the agreement that they would provide wellbeing and resilience sessions to adult individuals which will support families to cope with life's challenges • Whole Place Plan for Chepstow which will act as Supplementary Planning Guidance in the County Council's Local Development Plan allowing the community to positively influence the type of future developments in Chepstow. In addition, this plan will act as a vehicle through which the Town Council can engage with the local community to discover the needs and aspirations of the residents and use this evidence based approach to understand how best to fulfil projects within the community to align with the Councils responsibilities under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.
Caldicot Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted support groups to improve and promote health and wellbeing. • Worked in partnership to help to reduce loneliness and isolation. • Supported events which improve health and well-being.

Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change	
Abergavenny Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased the use of pollinator friendly planting in the town centre planters. The Town Council was successful in its application for Local Places for Nature funding. This has enabled 2 large beds to be replanted with pollinator friendly planting, 30 bird boxes to be made by school children and installed in the town, production of a biodiversity trail and leaflet, planting of a wildlife corridor on Castle Meadows • Supported volunteer groups that contribute to the upkeep of the town parks - The Town Council agreed a budget for multi-year funding to enhance the work of the volunteer groups that contribute to the upkeep of the town

	<p>greenspaces. This will enable them to plan their work programme with more certainty.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created new habitats by replanting areas of town where the current planting is poor and of little value for biodiversity. The first phase of replanting was carried out in 2020-21 in collaboration with Monmouthshire County council. Further planting will be carried out in Autumn 2021. • Prepared a report setting out how the Town Council is meeting its obligations under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act. Report prepared and uploaded to the Town Council’s website. Further information is included in the Council’s Annual report delivered to all households and in the Strategy & Action Plan progress report available on the Council’s website. The revised Strategy & Action Plan incorporates actions to maintain, enhance and promote biodiversity. • Continued to promote Abergavenny Refill initiative - There has been limited progress during 2020/21 due to the pandemic, however it remains a commitment. • Continued discussions with staff and pupils at King Henry School to understand what young people want in their community. Young people were keen to engage with the Town Council particularly around the plastic free agenda. There has been initial discussions between the Deputy Head of King Henry VIII High School and the Town Council regarding the use of a digital democracy platform vocaleyes, however as a result of the pandemic work have been limited, but remains aa a commitment.
<p>Monmouth Town Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued project work required for Nature Isn’t Neat. • Supported Monmouth as a Bee Town initiative by changing the planting scheme in all local planters and flower beds to perennial, bee-friendly plants. • Supported the “No Mow May” initiative and wildflower planting in open spaces around the town. • Continued the project work undertaken by the ACE Monmouth Working Group which included the Bee Festival and Dr Bike event. • Continued support for the Plastic Free Working Group, Active Travel Working Group and the Litter Working Group which all focus on the protection of our natural environment. • A willow arch created for the Christmas event was a natural material which comes from a sustainable source and can be reused for future events.
<p>Chepstow Town Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate emergency; the Town Council previously declared a climate emergency and has been exploring ways of reducing carbon dioxide emissions to net zero by 2030. A number of initiatives continue to be investigated. • Biodiversity; The Town Council secured grant funding to access a ‘butterfly garden’ package in partnership with Keep Wales Tidy for planting at Chepstow Bus Station. Unfortunately, due to the restrictions in place around the Covid 19 pandemic it has been unable to involve the local primary schools

and Transition Chepstow therefore representatives from Keep Wales Tidy planted the area and the Town Council will maintain until such times as restrictions are lifted.

- Street Cleansing; The Town Council works in partnership with Monmouthshire County Council to provide a full street cleansing service to Chepstow. This includes cleaning the Town, emptying waste bins, grounds maintenance, bench maintenance and replacement and any other ad-hoc duties which are required.
- Transition Chepstow / Plastic Free Chepstow; both groups continued to be supported financially
- Litter Picks; The Town Council supports and promotes the litter picks which take place across the town
- Monmouthshire County Council's "Give Dog Fouling the Red Card" initiative; The Town Council has taken responsibility for the emptying of 35 dog waste bins across Chepstow and work with the County Council under their Give Dog Fouling the Red Card scheme to educate residents about the risk of dog waste
- Chewing Gum Littering; The Town Council installed six Gum Ball Bins at locations found to have gum littering hot spots to encourage the public to reduce gum littering in a way that encourages a circular economy.
- Reducing energy bills across all Council owned / managed buildings; The Gatehouse utilities have been renewed with part green energy.
- Planning Applications; Planning applications were considered for their environmental impact as well as business requirements and the historic character of the town.
- Water Fountains; Investigating restoring the water fountain in the Dell and also the provision of a water fountain at the Riverbank.
- Bicycle Racks; The Town Council worked with Monmouthshire County Council resulting in a number of bicycle racks and a bicycle repair station being installed throughout the town and Bulwark to encourage more active travel.
- Green Barrier A48; A submission to the Forest of Dean DC for S106 funding to cover the costs associated with installing a green barrier along a section of the A48 to provide a barrier to diesel particulates as well as increasing biodiversity opportunities and reduce water surface run off.
- Recycling Bins at Riverbank; Recycling bins are now stored at the Riverbank for use initially during events however this has been extended out to being used throughout the summer months.
- Green roof eurobin store; Project ongoing to install a green roof eurobin store.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased the use of pollinator friendly planning in the town. Additional planters have been placed throughout the town planted with pollinator friendly plants. The town's floral contractor sources plants from a peat free nursery, reuses hanging basket liners and all soil at the end of the summer is recycled. • Street Cleansing ways of working; in an effort to encourage biodiversity opportunities and support pollinators the County Council agreed to an area of wild planting at the Riverbank. Additionally, within the Town Crew Street Cleansing partnership agreement MCC investigate the option of an electric pick-up truck and non-evasive weed removal. • Energy Survey of the Town; Project ongoing; a survey was been commissioned by the Centre of Alternative Technology (CAT) to deliver a report providing information such as existing baseline and CO2 emissions, existing renewable energy capacity, energy efficiency and renewable energy generation but can be tailored to suit the needs of Chepstow.
Caldicot Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildflowers and planting. • Keep wales tidy, litter hub, green flag. • Monitoring the need for alternative energy source. • Duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 to maintain and enhance biodiversity.

Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county

Abergavenny Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up an Abergavenny Town Centre Action Group; limited progress due to Covid, but remains committed • Contributed towards an economically thriving town centre. The Town Council encourages tourism through its many actions, namely financial support of the Tourist Information Centre, contributing towards the Visit Abergavenny publication, staging of free events, Christmas Lights and the associated switch on event, financial support for the various festivals held in the town. In 2020-21, a new Christmas Lighting scheme was introduced with a virtual switch on. Only two of the many town festivals supported by the Town Council went ahead on a virtual platform. • The Town Council also provides services which create a more pleasant and accessible town centre, namely a significant contribution to MCC to provide public toilets, street cleaning and CCTV and all year round planting and maintenance of the permanent town centre planters. • The Town Council contributed to the new fixtures and fittings for the Tourist Information Centre when relocating to the Town Hall and contributed towards the painting of the exterior woodwork at the Town hall following an extensive internal refurbishment.
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<p>Monmouth Town Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed partnerships with Monmouth Savoy Trust, Monmouth Rotary Community Champions and Citizen’s Advice. • Supported Monnow Street improvements to encourage tourism and local shoppers to the area following the COVID 19 pandemic. • Financially supported community based projects through the community grant scheme. • The Christmas lights and associated Christmas events bring the community out to enjoy all the town has to offer and encourages support of the local economy. • The Planning Committee has been keen to encourage new businesses to Monmouth during the pandemic approving many changes of use for buildings and approving advertisement consent when applicable.
<p>Chepstow Town Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole Place Plan; Due to the pandemic this project was delayed by a few months. It is however now proceeding with us currently as the stage of inviting community groups to be involved in online stakeholder events. Residents have also been asked to become involved in shaping the future of Chepstow. • Work with other organisations / local business who bring trade into the area; Relationship with Chepstow Racecourse established with a view of greater partnership working to bring visitors into Chepstow. Grant funding to the Tourist Information Centre allowing them to remain open. • Supportive of events in and around the Town. The Town Council undertake to arrange Bands on the Bandstand every summer. Supporting the events produced by the Chepstow Events Team. Worked in partnership with Green Top Events to provide a weekly market between April and December on Sunday’s encouraging local people to have stalls.
<p>Caldicot Town Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked in partnership with groups, organisations and community volunteers. • Supported community economy and activities for residents.

The Town Councils who are under the Act have prepared more detailed annual reports, highlighting the work they have been doing to date to help achieve the aspirations of the Well-being plan. These reports can be requested from the Public Services Board support team by e-mailing partnerships@monmouthshire.gov.uk. The reports highlight how the Community & Town Councils are embedding the 5 ways of working, remaining true to the principles of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. The Community & Partnerships Development Team will continue to work closely with Town Councils to ensure relationships remain strong and that opportunities are identified at an earlier point and maximised through true collaborative working, ensuring that local communities are at the heart of any activity. Community & Town Councils and the PSB will continue to work more closely in 21/22 and ensure effective communication, collaboration and genuine community involvement.

How are we doing?

National Indicators

The Welsh Government has published 46 national indicators which have an important role in helping to measure the progress made towards achieving the well-being goals. The indicators have been used in Monmouthshire to help the Public Services Board understand economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being.

While the national indicators will not measure the performance of individual public bodies or Public Services Boards, they must be considered by the PSB to track the progress being made against the well-being goals and where local level data is available the progress made in Monmouthshire.

Some of the national indicators that are particularly relevant to our objectives were identified in the well-being plan. The latest data for these indicators, where an update is available at a county level, is in Table 1 below. It can also be useful to compare Monmouthshire with other authorities with similar characteristics. Comparisons are based on the Data Cymru Comparable Authorities tool for Welsh local authorities and variables selected to relate to the subject covered by the indicator. Not all of the indicators will have data available to make this comparison.

The time period of data covered in this update varies by indicator, some indicators will cover the period of the pandemic while others will be prior to the pandemic.

ONS Measuring National Well-being

The Office of National Statistic's Measuring National Well-being programme also assesses personal well-being as part of the Annual Population Survey. The survey asks the questions:

- Life Satisfaction - Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays?
- Worthwhile - Overall, to what extent do you feel that the things you do in your life are worthwhile?
- Happiness - Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday?
- Anxiety - on a scale where 0 is "not at all anxious" and 10 is "completely anxious", overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday?

The latest full annual results for Monmouthshire (from 2019/20) for these questions are shown in the graphs below alongside the UK and Wales averages. This shows that Monmouthshire residents' responses score slightly higher than both the UK and Wales for all measures including anxiety, which has increased from 2.83 in 2018/19 to 3.27 in 2019/20. This largely covers the period prior to the pandemic.

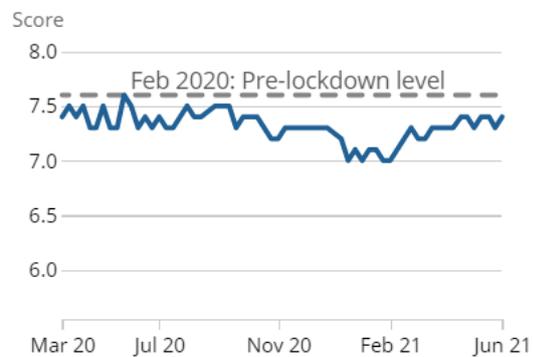


An example of people’s views being captured on individual well-being as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is the ONS weekly survey on the impact of the coronavirus on day-to-day life in Great Britain. It shows the impact of the pandemic on well-being; data for Great Britain from March 2020 to June 2021 shows most recent happiness levels are similar to pre-pandemic levels:

Overall, how **satisfied** are you with your life nowadays?



Overall, to what extent do you feel that the things you do in your life are **worthwhile**?



Overall, how **happy** did you feel yesterday?



Overall, how **anxious** did you feel yesterday?



Public Health Wales launched a well-being campaign to address the negative impact of COVID-19 on the mental, physical and social well-being of people in Wales www.phw.nhs.wales/news/public-health-wales-launches-new-covid-19-wellbeing-campaign/

Well-being Assessment update

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound effect on our way of life and our well-being. The PSB will continue to review the latest evidence to understand the impact on well-being of the pandemic in Monmouthshire.

Over the next 12 months an update of the well-being assessment will be undertaken. As part of proposals that are currently being developed for the formation of a regional Gwent-wide PSB, an approach for undertaking an integrated and collaborative Well-being Assessment is being developed. This will assess the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of the area and people in it currently and in the future.

The assessment will use a wide range of data, academic research, evidence and people's views, from an engagement exercise that will be undertaken, to help us understand current and future well-being in the region, Monmouthshire and five local areas that make up Monmouthshire, as defined in the previous well-being assessment.

Table 1: National indicators	Source	Link to Objective	Wales	Similar comparable areas	Monmouthshire Previous	Monmouthshire Current
Percentage of adults who have fewer than two healthy lifestyle behaviours (not smoking, healthy weight, eat five fruit or vegetables a day, not drinking above guidelines and meet the physical activity guidelines)	National Survey for Wales	Obj 1 & 2	10% (2018/19 & 2019/20)	11% (Ceredigion) 8% (Gwynedd) 11% (Wrexham)	6% (2017/18 & 2018/19)	7% (2018/19 & 2019/20)
Average capped 9 points score of pupils (interim) (This interim measure was introduced in 2019, and supersedes the old measure of capped 8 points score)	Welsh Examination database	Obj 1 & 4	354.4 (2019)	362.4 (Gwynedd) 382.5 (Ceredigion) 358.8 (Powys)	unavailable	367.4 (2019)
Gross Value Added (GVA) per hour worked (relative to the UK average)	ONS Regional Economic Analysis: Sub-regional productivity indicators	Obj 4	83.3 (2018)	96.2 (Vale of Glamorgan & Cardiff)	87.1 (2017 - Monmouthshire and Newport)	86.2 (2018 - Monmouthshire and Newport)
Gross Value Added (GVA) per hour worked (£) (Not a national indicator, included as further context to the “relative to the UK average” national indicator)	ONS Regional Economic Analysis: Sub-regional productivity indicators	Obj 4	£29.2 (2018)	£33.7 (Vale of Glamorgan & Cardiff)	£29.9 (2017 – Monmouthshire and Newport)	£30.2 (2018 – Monmouthshire and Newport)
Gross Disposable Household Income per head	ONS, gross disposable household income per head	Obj 4	£17,100 (2018)	£19,331 (Vale of Glamorgan) £18,295 (Powys) £16,249 (Gwynedd)	£20,761 (2017)	£21,707 (2018)

Table 1: National indicators	Source	Link to Objective	Wales	Similar comparable areas	Monmouthshire Previous	Monmouthshire Current
Percentage of people in employment.	ONS, Annual Population Survey	Obj 4	73.6% (year ending 31 March 2020)	74.6% (Vale of Glamorgan) 77.6% (Powys) 75.4% (Gwynedd)	77.7% (year ending 31 March 2019)	79.6% (year ending 31 March 2020)
Percentage of people living in households in material deprivation.	National Survey for Wales	Obj 1, 2 & 4	13% (2019/20)	8% (Vale Of Glamorgan) 10% (Powys) 11% (Gwynedd)	9% (2018/19)	10% (2019/20)
Levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO2) pollution in the air.	Department for Environment, food and rural affairs	Obj 3	9 (2018)	6 (Denbighshire) 5 (Ceredigion) 6 (Conwy)	8 (2017)	8 (2018)
Capacity (in MW) of renewable energy equipment installed	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy	Obj 2 & 3	3515.5 (2019)	244.5 (Denbighshire) 187.7 (Ceredigion) 754.7 (Conwy)	85.3 (2018)	85.4 (2019)

Table 1: National indicators	Source	Link to Objective	Wales	Similar comparable areas	Monmouthshire Previous	Monmouthshire Current
Percentage of people satisfied with their ability to get to/ access the facilities and services they need.	National Survey for Wales	Obj 1, 2, 3 & 4	80% (2018/19)	78% (Pembrokeshire) 65% (Isle of Anglesey) 63% (Gwynedd)	Not available	79% (2018/19)
Percentage of people satisfied with the local area as a place to live.	National Survey for Wales	Obj 1, 2, 3 & 4	85% (2018/19)	90% (Pembrokeshire) 89% (Isle of Anglesey) 89% (Gwynedd)	91% (2016/17)	92% (2018/19)
Percentage of people who Volunteer.	National Survey for Wales	Obj 1, 2, 3 & 4	26% (2019/20)	32% (Pembrokeshire) 28% (Isle of Anglesey) 33% (Gwynedd)	36% (2016/17)	32% (2019/20)
Percentage of people participating in sporting activities three or more times a week.	Adult – National Survey for Wales	Obj 2 & 3	32% (2019/20)	34% (Ceredigion) 33% (Gwynedd) 34% (Wrexham)	38% (2018/19)	36% (2019/20)

Table 1: National indicators	Source	Link to Objective	Wales	Similar comparable areas	Monmouthshire Previous	Monmouthshire Current
	Children – Sport Wales, school sport survey	Obj 1 & 3	47.6% (2018)	52.5% (Ceredigion) 48.8% (Gwynedd) 44.2% (Wrexham)	48.8% (2015)	45.0% (2018)

Next Steps

Building sustainable, resilient communities in Monmouthshire will not be a quick process; the Well-being Assessment and Well-being Plan are integral mechanisms for the Public Services Board to work towards this.

While the Covid-19 virus has a direct impact on human health, the pandemic will affect the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of the county in the short and longer-term. There are challenges but also opportunities, for example, the potential to build on the immense value added by hard-working volunteers and the community spirit fostered in often difficult circumstances.

The existing Monmouthshire well-being plan sets the objectives and steps for partnership working for the PSB up until 2023. There is a need to continue to focus on the delivery of these to improve well-being in Monmouthshire.

To ensure that PSB continues to focus on the issues that matter most to well-being in Monmouthshire, a review of priority steps, which are areas for particular focus, has been undertaken. Following a workshop informed by the latest evidence and thinking from partners, including through the coronavirus pandemic, the PSB has agreed some areas partners would particularly prioritise collaborative work over the remaining two years of the existing well-being plan, these are: Climate and decarbonisation, mental health, the economy and in particular the extent to which the pandemic may have exacerbated inequality. These will be developed into a focused programme of activity over the next two years, with partnerships structures to support delivery.

Leaders of public services in Gwent have agreed to commence the planning to move to a regional Gwent PSB. Proposals are currently being developed for the formation of a Gwent PSB, which will be subject to further scrutiny and decision. A regional approach offers opportunities to improve the well-being of people across Gwent by improving collaborative working. To facilitate this there are opportunities to strengthen governance and accountability arrangements, and support a clearer partnership landscape including through; providing the catalyst for a regional well-being assessment and well-being plan that maintains local accountability.

Integral to the approach being developed is maintaining local delivery and accountability and a continued focus on working in partnership on projects that are specific to well-being in Monmouthshire. Arrangements for partnership and collaborative working in Monmouthshire will need to continue. The further development of local partnerships arrangements will be considered and aligned accordingly to any regional arrangements put in place, ensuring the ethos of the Well-being of Future Generations Act remains at the heart of this structure.

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