

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Public Service Board Select Committee held on Wednesday, 10th October, 2018 at 10.00 am

PRESENT: County Councillors: M.Groucutt, J.Pratt, J.Treharne and V. Smith

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Sharran Lloyd	LSB Development Manager
Matthew Gatehouse	Head of Policy and Governance
Hazel Clatworthy	Sustainability Policy Officer
Hazel Ilett	Scrutiny Manager
Nicola Perry	Senior Democracy Officer
Richard Jones	Performance Manager
Charlotte Drury	Wellbeing Support and Safeguarding Manager

APOLOGIES:

Councillors M.Feakins, G. Howard, P.Pavia and D. Blakebrough

1. To elect a Chair

County Councillor J. Pratt was elected as Chair.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Public Open Forum

No matters for the public open forum.

4. PSB Wellbeing Plan:Actions to Deliver the Vision

Context:

To provide the committee with an update on the steps being delivered as part Monmouthshire's Well-being Plan.

Key Issues:

The Well-being of Future Generations Act aims to ensure that public bodies think more about the long term, work better with people and communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach. Each Public Service Board must prepare and publish a local well-being plan setting out its local objectives and the steps it proposes to take to meet them.

The PSB has approved four well-being objectives that underpin a clear purpose of *building sustainable and resilient communities* and is now developing the activity that will contribute to the delivery of these. Each partner has assumed responsibility for delivering the activity which includes holding workshops and involving other partners, organisations and community groups. These are set out in appendix one. The measures shown against each of these are largely

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drawn from the 46 national well-being measures that were developed alongside The Act. These will be supplemented by local measures as the work develops.

Delivering the steps is being done in an integrated way as there are clear synergies between them. Some of the relationships between the steps are shown in appendix 2. The matrix in appendix 2 demonstrates how the steps (summarised on the axis) will impact on each other, with the most significant impacts shaded in blue, this integration will need to continue to be reviewed as the action to address each step is developed.

Lead partners for some steps are still exploring potential solutions and the picture continues to evolve. For example, on Monday 1st October a workshop was held with partners exploring issues around preventing harm as a result of adverse childhood experiences, or ACES.

Member Scrutiny:

A Member referred to the recommendation and stated that as the only body to scrutinise the Public Service Board, the recommendation should be strengthened to state that the Select Committee will ask representatives of other agencies to attend meetings. He also asked if there is anything that ensures other agencies take notice of what is said and deliberated at the scrutiny meetings.

The Policy and Performance Manager agreed with the comment and would check the wording of the recommendation.

The Scrutiny Manager took the opportunity to highlight the terms of reference of the Committee, which includes actual powers which are to review or scrutinise decisions made, or actions taken by the PSB; to review or scrutinise the Board's governance arrangements; to make reports or recommendations to the board regarding its functions or governance arrangements. From this it is clear that partners would need to be accountable and to do so they would need to be present.

Therefore, the recommendation was amended to read:

Members of the committee are invited to scrutinise the activity being prioritised and delivered and may identify any of these areas for further scrutiny as part of its work programme. It **will ask for the** attendance from any partner within the PSB to inform members understanding of the steps being taken and to seek assurance of the effectiveness of the partnership arrangements.

We heard that the PSB must respond to the comments of scrutiny committee and the officer confirmed that the partners are willing to engage and recognise challenges are open to feedback.

In response to a request for examples of decisions coming from the PSB we heard that the work of the PSB has been on a number of issues, including providing the Wellbeing Assessment and producing the plan to respond to that. Its decisions have largely been around providing evidence and the implementation of the plan.

A Member expressed frustration that health proposals should be brought to the Public Service Board. It was recognised that a bigger discussion is needed around health in general, however the Scrutiny Manager advised that Adult Select calls in the Health Board to scrutinise matters affecting Monmouthshire.

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To clarify the wider role of the Public Service Board we were advised that the PSB has responsibility for developing and delivering the wellbeing plan, and as part of that they have to take into consideration some of the broader functions of the partners.

The Chair added that we can only work in a certain framework, and as councillors must be diligent when we hear of things happening within communities to be able to bring people to account.

The Chair sought clarification around intergenerational living, and it was explained that this is being led by Monmouthshire Housing Association and Melin. It was asked that housing officers are invited to attend a future meeting.

Recommendations:

Members of the committee are invited to scrutinise the activity being prioritised and delivered and may identify any of these areas for further scrutiny as part of its work programme. It will ask for the attendance from any partner within the PSB to inform members understanding of the steps being taken and to seek assurance of the effectiveness of the partnership arrangements.

Committee Conclusion:

The Chair thanked officers and welcomed the progress being made.

As an outcome of the meeting Members wished to look at wellbeing objectives around demographical changes, and invite partners to discuss future supply of housing.

The Committee resolved to accept the recommendation.

5. Adverse Childhood Experiences

The Chair welcomed Chief Inspector Richard Blakemore, and Charlotte Drury, Service Manager - Well-being Family Support & Safeguarding.

Context:

To provide PSB Select Committee with an overview of the work that the public service board will develop to begin to address and mitigate the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) on long-term outcomes/wellbeing.

Key Issues:

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are potentially traumatic events that can have negative, lasting effects on health and well-being. These experiences range from physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, to parental divorce or the incarceration of a parent or guardian. The ACEs research tells us is that these adverse experiences are likely to have a significant impact on health-harming behaviours (such as problematic drug or alcohol use), mental health and chronic disease throughout adulthood. Clearly for a child to experience a single ACE is unwelcome, however, what the evidence shows is that children who experience fewer than four ACEs are more resilient to the long-term impact. There is a moral as well as a financial imperative therefore to work to limit as far as possible the ACEs children are exposed to and to mitigate the impact of ACEs that they do experience.

There is a multitude of reasons why children become exposed to ACEs and many of these reasons will be interrelated. Incarceration is linked with poor education, poor education is linked

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with poverty, and poverty is linked to a higher incidence of involvement with social care, and so on. Experiencing ACEs makes an adult more likely to raise children in environments where they too experience ACEs. Mitigating the impact of ACEs is, therefore, an essential element within an ACE reduction strategy.

Attempting to identify simple solutions to such a complex set of problems is impossible. What is possible however is a consideration of those factors that agencies and services have influence over in order to collectively create an environment conducive to whole systems change. This will require us to think differently; away from a model where we assume that we can control outcomes and towards a model that seeks to identify key points of influence, where small changes can create a difference.

We are doing lots already, much driven by a statutory imperative. The focus of partnerships should be on achieving difference at a policy, planning and implementation level, including consideration of existing and new activity. Since ACEs are a complex issue, it will be important to focus on those factors where partners have most control/influence and those where there is evidence that intervention will make the most difference whilst accepting that not everything can be a priority.

To assist with this the Cymru Well Wales, Adverse Childhood Experiences' Support Hub facilitated a session at the Programme Board meeting on the 1st October 2018. The session provided an introduction to ACEs and the evidence base and a forum for starting to consider what a Monmouthshire response to mitigating and preventing ACEs might look like (details included in Appendix 1).

Member scrutiny:

A Member commented that this legislation may be the triumph of hope over reality, and all agencies involved are struggling to make ends meet. He added that it is a miracle we can keep services going, and with upcoming cuts this will only get worse. He asked where we begin to address that in terms of the impacts of ACEs, and how performance is measured.

Concerns were raised around funding cuts and the effects on local agencies.

With regards to a recent workshop, there were concerns that some Members had not received an invitation.

The Community and Partnership Development Manager accepted that there are some real challenges, termed 'wicked issues' in this work and partnerships have been grappling with this for some time. She explained that measures would be addressed in the next paper, but the measures for the activity with ACEs will develop in terms of the action agreed by the PSB

The draft action plan is a starting point of a complex area of work. The new work could be resource intensive in some areas and officers are to explore how that could work in practice.

A Member welcomed the draft plan, and questioned if there is a real desire between all partners to work together, and if there is willingness to compromise on positions. He suggested that inviting other partners to discuss would be a great help. In response we heard there is an undisputed willingness from partners to look at how we can come together to tackle these issues.

The Chair referred to a system pioneered by a colleague in Newport, where a child had suffered domestic abuse, the police officer would then contact the school to let the school know. The Chair asked if we are signed up to this scheme in Monmouthshire. The Chief Inspector was not aware but would look into this further.

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Recommendation:

Members of the committee are invited to:

Scrutinise if there has been enough progress in relation to the well-being step '*Tackle the causes of ACEs and the perpetuation of generational problems in families*'.

Scrutinise the approach taken to develop this wellbeing step and draft action plan.

Scrutinise if the draft actions are the right actions for PSB to begin to explore the complex issue of tackling ACEs.

Committee Conclusion:

The Public Service Board Select Committee resolved to accept the recommendations.

The Chair concluded that important points had been made and the Committee are encouraged to see the Public Service Board really working together to identify what their objectives are going to be given the challenging times regarding funding.

The Committee thanked officers and looks forward to receiving more information.

6. Regional Project Work

Context:

The Policy and Performance Manager presented a report to provide a brief update about work being undertaken at a Gwent regional level to build on well-being assessments and inform well-being plans.

Key Issues:

Officers representing the five Public Service Boards in Gwent have been meeting in the Gwent Wide Strategic Well-being Assessment Group (GSWAG) to share learning and identify opportunities to collaborate on areas of common interest. This work initially focused on the development of the well-being assessment and has continued to strengthen the development and implementation of well-being plans.

In 2017/18 Welsh Government made available £74,026 of funding for the five PSBs in the Gwent area to build on work completed as part of the well-being assessments and help build towards the development of the well-being plan. The Welsh Government has made available a further £74,026 of funding for the five PSBs in the Gwent area for 2018/19. Officers on the Gwent wide group are currently developing projects to utilise this funding for 2018/19. Newport are acting as the lead organisation in the process this year. A brief update on the progress with projects as part of this regional work is provided below.

Member Scrutiny:

A Member asked if there is an officer commitment as well as a political one

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With reference to a question on collaborative working we heard that although there are some things that are pertinent to Monmouthshire, for example rural transport, there are areas where we work with authorities Gwent wide, for example a feasibility study for electric car charging points. Where it makes sense to work collaboratively Officers are keen to combine resources.

With regards to the 'Happiness Pulse', 1100 residents had completed the survey, and 400 Council staff.

Recommendation:

Members are invited to use this update to enhance their understanding of how regional working can help the Public Service Board (PSB) meet the requirements of The Act.

Committee Conclusion:

The Committee thanked officers and resolved to accept the recommendation.

7. Minutes of the meeting held on 4th July 2018

The minutes of the meeting of Public Service Board Select Committee held on 4th July were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

8. To consider the Select Committee's forward work programme

The Scrutiny Manager is to meet with colleagues to discuss items for the forward work programme.

9. To note the date and time of the next meeting as 9th January 2019 at 10am

Noted.

The meeting ended at 12.00 pm