

Public Service Board
Wednesday 30th January 2018 at County Hall, Usk

Minutes

Attendees:

Jeff Scrivens	South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Sharran Lloyd	Monmouthshire County Council
Paul Matthews (chair)	Monmouthshire County Council
David Barnes (minutes)	Monmouthshire County Council
Steve Morgan	Natural Resources Wales
Martin Featherstone	GAVO
Paula Kennedy	Melin Homes
Richard Jones	Monmouthshire County Council
Peter Fox	Monmouthshire County Council
Matthew Gatehouse	Monmouthshire County Council
Chris Edmondson	Community Member
John Keegan	Monmouthshire Housing
Guests:	
Val Smith	County Councillor

Apologies:

Jeff Cuthbert	Office of Police & Crime Commissioner
Martin Swain	Welsh Government
Lyn Webber	Office of Police & Crime Commissioner
Julian Williams	Gwent Police
Nick Wood	Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

1. Welcome and apologies

PM welcomed everyone to the meeting, stating that at the next meeting we start to get to action, it has been a long slog with intense activity around engagement. This is what the PSB is about and why we got involved - to do stuff – we are approaching the point where we can start holding people to account.

2. Minutes of the last meeting (8th February 2017) & Matters Arising

PM noted that we were able to do something specific around white ribbon day – it demonstrated the value of how quickly we have been able to learn how to do this together. We had fire engines/police cars/gritters/ambulances in the car park at County Hall emblazoned with the white ribbon logo to demonstrate collectively we care about this issue.

3. Wellbeing Plan

MG said that the wellbeing plan will be quite familiar as we have been discussing objectives since July last year and approved a draft plan for consultation around October time. In the intervening period we have been out engaging on the draft plan and seeking feedback. Some of the feedback received from the Future Generations Commissioner (FGC) mentioned that Monmouthshire's Plan is within the top quartile of plans across Wales for its written approach and that it was a top tier plan with strategic focus. A further advice note arrived this morning, with roughly 2 weeks to go within the consultation phase.

MG stated that nothing has come out from the consultation that suggests we need to amend PSB thinking. The Plan is likely to be published with broadly the same amount of content. We don't intend to put in a detailed action plan at this stage as this will be presuming that we know the answer for questions when we don't. In coming months, the work will become more resource intensive which will involve identifying leads and creating expert groups.

MG added that PSB select wanted a couple of real world examples or case studies to bring the Plan from policy to the real world, but are clear that they want to see the actions the PSB are taking.

SM commented that we now need to convert this into action, and given the timeline we are working to – it is the only way forward. There is some clarity missing around how we are going to work together but the next steps really are critical. Support was given to the timeline approach.

PM said that we need to think about how we put this out to the world and how it enters organisations such as MCC. It wouldn't be good enough if just PSB sign this off, we need to navigate this into areas within our organisations and ensure it is central to what we are trying to do across the county.

When asked by JK, if partners' plans should be sent in to demonstrate the cross referencing, PM replied no, but that it would be reasonable that PSB Select Committee invites you to speak to them to ask those questions and explore this in more detail. The Select Committee is showing signs of being really interested in organisations and the key players who have the ability to bring the Plan to life.

MG explained the practicalities of the next phase, by looking at the steps and to cluster them so we understand the inter dependencies – the clustering will be assigned an appropriate lead officer, and where necessary we will look externally for experts who can help us. There will be further details on the action plan that will sit alongside the Wellbeing Plan at the meeting on the 4th April. Moving forward, there is currently a performance management group, we are suggesting that the current

group is disbanded and Programme Board is given the task of overseeing the programme management approach especially during this early phase – to ensure that leads are taking ownership.

PM added that we never wanted any governance arrangement that's any heavier than what we need. Programme Board continues to function well and is one of few areas that doesn't have issues with commitment. SL agreed, that the right level of officer is present at Programme Board to oversee the development of this work.

JK asked when MG foresees the clustering being done. MG replied that it's imminent - but not advanced enough to put anything before you today. The idea is to sound individuals out before meetings in order grab some time to discuss. RJ added that as per the FGC advice – it will be how we challenge each other and work forward so that it does not become a filing cabinet of existing actions; that we also challenge conversations and thinking.

PF asked about resources and how they currently worked. PM answered that the way we have done it so far is that we wouldn't have the conversation about resources in phase 1 as we just needed to get some of the work done. Now we are in stage 2 we have created the conditions to moving on and have a committed Programme Board – who should going forward be offering us an idea of what is needed. Now is the right time to pose that question.

MF said that it's important we keep checking in on ourselves to make sure we are on the right track and are making best use of resources. There are existing projects and we need to get synergy between them to ensure it's not too much of a silo mentality. Referencing the partnership architecture and how it's broader than that.

PM stated that we will fail if we try to be everything to everybody, we need to do what matters most. We can achieve anything as we have access to so many leaders/money - if it's that important we can do it.

PK wants to pursue partnership working but not working to the lowest common denominator, and asked if there are any developments of regional working. PM responded that it's not a question that's been posed politically; CEO level in councils have differing views. My view is bring it on, it suits partners working on a Gwent footprint.

JK noted that some things can absolutely be delivered in Monmouthshire. As long as we are clear of what is regional and what's local.

MG stated that we have consultants doing work across the 5 Wellbeing Assessments across Gwent and that it would make sense for some to be regional (such as ACEs) but some of it is far more local. PM said that he is very relaxed about collaborative working, but we haven't got time to waste to forge relationships if they are not there to be forged. It would be a surprise if the consistent organisations didn't share the same perspective but there is enough to be getting on with. If it does happen eventually, the thing that will enable us to keep our focus is our Programme Board.

PF added that the conversation as leaders has not been had since the election, before the election we were of one mind in doing so but it may be that the ball is up in the air following the announcement on local government reform from the cabinet secretary. On political level - there is a fair trust built up in Gwent/South East Wales that will enable us to work together.

SM's view is that the PSB is bigger than its constituent parts. Where it makes sense to join up we are up for that but not at the extent of getting work done. NRW are pretty relaxed about 5 PSB or 1 but as long as we maintain those links and the challenge. The Gwent area statement will be driven from what is coming out of the Wellbeing Assessments and will shape the way we develop the plan – NRW doesn't want to do it on their own anymore and need to work more closely. We want to be able to look back in 6 months and say "this feels different".

4. Feedback from PSB Select Committee

MG explained that the Committee is made up of 8/9 county councillors with a rotating chair from existing select committees. They oversee all business and are structured to meet 2/3 weeks before every PSB meeting. They have been very keen to have time with Sophie Howe and who attended their last meeting. They discussed the basics of the act whilst the Commissioner shared her thoughts on our Wellbeing Assessment – that were very positive. Additional topics covered were the 5 ways of working where the point around integration was stressed. No new knowledge came out of the session but it was good that the Committee got reassurance that the direction we are taking is a correct one.

PM stated that we have recognised we are built around a plan and are now about to move on to check whether the Wellbeing Plan is evident in plans of existing partners and how it translates into business planning.

MG added select have probably seen enough of us and they are looking to have PSB partners before them and understand how it will work for them and how it's being taken forward through your organisations.

SM noted that videos of the PSB Select Committees are available to view on YouTube on the Monmouthshire County Council page.

5. Domestic Homicide Review (DHR)

SL informed the group we currently have 3 Domestic Homicide Reviews. 1 has been concluded and signed off by statutory partners. The report will be sent off for quality assurance to Home Office and also will be taken to the regional VAWDASV board so we can look at how the learning can be taken forward across the region. The 2nd DHR was approved during the last meeting.

CE explained that one of the recommendations to come out of DHR1 was to set a protocol of what happens. In terms of DHR2, having attended the inquest, where the coroner ruled suicide and not homicide, and after meeting the family to hear the circumstances, the DHR chair felt that DHR2 should not be taken forward as this was the only possible conclusion based on findings. Following a conversation with Rebecca Haycock (regional VAWDASV Coordinator), both parties agreed that there was little point of pursuing a DHR as there was no evidence of coercion.

JK asked why it would be classed as DHR. SL responded that the police check guidance to see if it meets the criteria for a DHR in which case they will write to the chair of the PSB, where the legal governance sits. PK added it was good to make the decision, which allows us to attend the inquest and shut it down if it is not necessary to proceed. CE commented that attendance at the inquest is extremely helpful – and on this occasion was reasonable to do what was done.

SL said that because the decision was made at PSB it needed to come back to PSB to agree not to pursue it; this will allow us to document that we have followed the procedure and taken the necessary steps in-line with a DHR. DHR2 has also been to the adult practice review board and they also agreed it wasn't necessary to carry out an adult practice review but will be seen at the regional leaders group to pick out the learning.

MF asked if there is any information that would help PSB's knowledge to have a more informed view of the process. CE responded that she can ask Rebecca Haycock. SL added that there is guidance available too. As it's not a devolved function in Wales, the legislation talks about CSP (Community Safety Partnership) being the deciding bodies but as there is a fragmented landscape with CSP's across Wales, it was decided that it would go PSB's as the most appropriate body.

SM noted that he is uncomfortable making decisions like that without further guidance.

PM asked how we can collectively elevate our knowledge as we are in a commissioning level. In order to keep at that level of governance and oversight.

SL noted that DHR's are a statutory requirement, and that only the named statutory partners need to make the decision, however it may be beneficial for the wider PSB partners to understand the DHR process and governance arrangements given the changing landscape around the VAWDASV and DHR agenda.

6. AOB

MG gave a quick update on a piece open called Happiness Pulse – that was commissioned using WG funding on regional level. It is using surveys to gauge the level of happiness/wellbeing within areas. We are asking people to complete the survey so will give us a baseline of wellbeing. The survey is completed on an individual level and has been shared by organisations around the whole of Gwent. Colleagues at Participation and Engagement group have been circulating.

PM stated that we are now coming to end of Phase 1, and at that point where we reflect on the chairing of PSB. The Local Authority are just a partner/member and now would be a natural point that we ask if there is an interest in chairing. We want to be inclusive and it's important that we are open to change.

-END-

Action	Responsible
DHR information for PSB members	SL
Wellbeing Plan - action plan development	MG
PSB review of chair	All