

SUBJECT: Update on Regional Well-being Work

MEETING: PSB Select Committee

DATE: 4th July 2018

DIVISIONS/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide a brief update about work happening at a regional level to build on well-being assessments and inform well-being plans.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is about the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, by taking action in accordance with the sustainable development principle aimed at achieving well-being goals. One of the five ways of well-being highlighted by The Act is to collaborate.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 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.

4 KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The Well-being of Future Generations Act came into force in April 2016. It requires public bodies to carry out *sustainable development*. This means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals.
- 4.2 Officers representing the five Public Service Boards in Gwent have been meeting in the Gwent Wide Strategic Well-being Assessment Group 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. It has also been an opportunity to work with colleagues leading on the implementation of The Social Services and Well-being Act.
- 4.3 On 28th February 2017 Welsh Government made available £74,026 of funding for the five PSBs in the Gwent area to undertake work to build on work completed as part of the assessments and to help build towards the development of the well-being plan.
- 4.4 Gwent partners identified two areas of focus: To develop enhanced measurement of well-being at the local population level and to commission further work on future trends which was an area that was commonly identified as needing development in the

majority of the well-being assessments in Wales. An update on the progress with the two pieces of work is provided below:

Happy Communities

- 4.5 The five Public Service Boards within Gwent region have jointly agreed to use the Happy Communities tools in order to better measure, understand and improve the well-being of their populations. Happy Communities provides two tools: the Happy Communities Index (now called Thriving Places Index in Wales) which measures the local conditions for community well-being and the Happiness Pulse which is a measure of personal well-being.
- 4.6 The Index draws on a number of indicators from various sources to understand and assess the local determinants of well-being and where to target interventions to create the conditions for people to thrive. Following initial work in Gwent on the thriving places index, Data Cymru have worked with Happy City, and the five Public Service Boards across Gwent, to adapt the tool for the different context and data available in Wales and expanded it to include all local authorities in Wales. Data Cymru published their first release of the Thriving Places Wales Index in April 2018. www.thrivingplaces.wales/
- 4.7 The Index is a framework of local authority level indicators which builds a picture of an area summarised under the broad headings of local conditions, sustainability and equality. The Scores within Thriving Places Wales are shown at a local authority area level, however they do not measure the success, or otherwise, of individual organisations because the measures used in Thriving Places Wales cover such a wide range of issues, they fall way beyond the responsibility or remit of any single organisation, or group of organisations. Much of the information for Monmouthshire reflects the analysis presented in the well-being assessment and where Monmouthshire's well-being scores are lower this is mainly in domains that align with the issues the PSB has focussed its objectives on.
- 4.8 The Happiness Pulse measures personal well-being in communities through a resident survey. The survey provides a well-being score for people who completed the survey under three areas, Be, Do and Connect and helps people understand how to improve their well-being. The survey was carried out across the five Gwent PSB areas in January and February 2018 and was launched with the 'beating the blues' campaign. Extensive promotion was undertaken across Gwent, in Monmouthshire this included a variety of activities in local communities to help residents beat the winter blues. A range of methods were used to inform and engage residents, including, press releases, social media, making the survey available in Community Hubs across the County and working in partnership with PSB partners to encourage as many residents as possible to complete the survey. In collaboration with Monmouthshire Youth Service and Engage 2 Change (E2C), the County Youth Forum, a short film was produced for social media. Young people from local schools and a variety of community groups including Action 50+ and The Access for All meeting were all encouraged to contribute.
- 4.9 In Monmouthshire a total of 1,178 resident and 462 Monmouthshire County Council staff responses have been collected. An analysis of the data by Happy Cities is awaited to understand the demographic breakdown of the results, evaluate well-being within Monmouthshire and allow comparisons with other areas in Gwent. We will also be able to investigate if we can utilise these results to better understand well-being in specific areas in Monmouthshire. Further analysis will be produced when the results of the Happiness Pulse survey are available and are able to complement the Thriving Places Wales Index. This analysis will also be used to inform local decision making including the development and monitoring of the PSB well-being plan action plan. Consideration

will be given to how to communicate this to members of the public and staff who contributed with their experiences of well-being in Monmouthshire, as well as reporting the analysis back to the PSB and PSB scrutiny committee.

Future Trends:

- 4.10 PSBs in Gwent through the Gwent Strategic Well-being Assessment also commissioned specific work to develop an understanding of Future trends that could impact on well-being and delivery of public services in Gwent to inform the development of well-being plans.
- 4.11 The work commissioned has included:
- looking at emerging trends and developments in key themes
 - to understand some of the uncertainty around emerging trends
 - presenting this in the context of Gwent public services
 - showing how existing trends might be affected by the issues covered in the analysis
 - describing the changing importance of these issues over time
 - developing a range of scenarios.
- 4.12 The work has now been completed and the outputs of the work have been provided to Gwent PSB's in two main parts:
- Horizon Scans: These identify strategically important trends, potential disruptors and drivers of change and provide valuable evidence for these issues. The Horizon Scans cover ten broad themes Natural Systems, Resources, Technology, Security, Society, Economy, Politics, Mobility, Spatial and Population. A detailed and summary version of these has been provided.
 - Scenarios: The Scenarios Report used the horizon scanning output to identify a number of key drivers and uncertainties facing Gwent. The scenarios approach will help PSB's think about these trends when developing their well-being plans and what their impact might be.
- 4.13 Consideration will now be given to this work when developing the action plan supporting the well-being plan and further thought given to how the outputs of the work can be maximised. Future reviews of the well-being plan will need to continue to take account of the evidence received from the future trends work and other evidence that emerges over the lifetime of the plan.
- 4.14 Public Health Wales have also commissioned a short piece of work to analyse and bring together messages from the five well-being assessments in Gwent to identify potential areas for collaboration around complex issues which stand greater chance of success if identified at scale. The Gwent group continue to progress work on this and investigate, where appropriate, how areas of commonality can subsequently be addressed collaboratively.
- 4.15 The Welsh Government has made available a further £74,026 of funding for the five PSBs in the Gwent area for 2018/19. The funding is to support the PSBs to build their strategic capacity and capability to support the delivery of well-being plans as well as consolidate work on the assessments and plans. Officers on the Gwent wide group are currently scoping projects to utilise this funding for 2018/19. This work is at an early stage and progress will be reported to PSB Select Committee. Newport are acting as the lead organisation in the process this year.

5. REASONS

- 5.1 To ensure that members understand the work that is being undertaken to embed the Well-being of Future Generations Act and are able to hold the Public Service Board to account.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None at this stage. The initial funding for these programmes has come from Welsh Government Grant funding which was made available to PSBs to work on collaborative projects to support the development of well-being plans.

7. EQUALITY, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 This is an update report and does not propose any change in policy or service and so no assessment has been completed.

8. AUTHOR

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