

T: 01495 356011 Ext./Est: 6011

E: committee.services@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

Contact:/Cysylltwch â: Democratic Services



THIS IS A MEETING WHICH THE PUBLIC ARE ENTITLED TO ATTEND

1st January 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee will be held in Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale on Monday, 6th January, 2020 at 11.00 am.

Please note that a pre and post meeting will be held 30 minutes prior to the start and following the conclusion of the meeting for members of the committee.

Yours faithfully



Michelle Morris
Managing Director

We welcome correspondence in the medium of Welsh or English. / Croesawn ohebiaith trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg.

Municipal Offices
Civic Centre
Ebbw Vale
NP23 6XB

Swyddfeydd Bwrdeisiol
Canolfan Dinesig
Glyn Ebwy
NP23 6XB

a better place to live and work
lle gwell i fyw a gweithio

AGENDA

Pages

1. SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION

You are welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, a minimum notice period of 3 working days is required should you wish to do so. A simultaneous translation will be provided if requested.

2. APOLOGIES

To receive apologies for absence.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

To receive any declarations of interest and dispensations made.

4. PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 5 - 12

To consider the Minutes of the Scrutiny Committee held on 2nd October, 2019.

5. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME - 9TH APRIL 2020 13 - 16

To receive the report.

6. INTEGRATED WELL-BEING NETWORK FOR BLAENAU GWENT 17 - 32

To consider the report of Director of Public Health, Aneurin Bevan Health Board.

7. COMMUNITY SAFETY HUB 33 - 42

To consider the report of the Chief Inspector Gwent Police.

8. CLIMATE READY GWENT 43 - 92

To consider the report of the Service Manager Policy and Partnerships.

To consider the report of the Partnership Lead, Early Action Together Programme.

To: Councillor S. Healy (Chair)
Councillor G. Paulsen (Vice-Chair)
Councillor P. Baldwin
Councillor M. Cook
Councillor M. Cross
Councillor G. L. Davies
Councillor P. Edwards
Councillor J. Hill
Councillor C. Meredith
Councillor M. Moore
Councillor J. P. Morgan
Councillor L. Parsons
Councillor S. Thomas
Councillor H. Trollope
Councillor J. Wilkins

All other Members (for information)
Manager Director
Chief Officers

This page is intentionally left blank

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 2ND OCTOBER, 2019

REPORT OF: LEADERSHIP AND DEMOCRATIC SUPPORT OFFICER

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR S. HEALY (CHAIR)

Councillors M. Cook
G.L. Davies
J. Hill

WITH: Managing Director
Head of Partnerships and Governance
Service Manager: Policy and Partnerships
Professional Lead for Engagement, Equalities & Welsh Language

| ITEM | SUBJECT | ACTION |
|--------------|---|---------------|
| No. 1 | <p><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p> | |
| No. 2 | <p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from:-</p> <p>Councillors M. Cross, P. Edwards, G. Paulsen, L. Parsons, C. Meredith, S. Thomas, H. Trollope and J. Wilkins.</p> | |

| ITEM | SUBJECT | ACTION |
|-------|--|--------|
| No. 3 | <p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported.</p> | |
| No. 4 | <p><u>PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 10th December, 2018; whereupon:-</p> <p>The Head of Partnerships and Governance provided an update in respect of the following points raised at the last meeting:-</p> <p><u>Gwent Futures</u></p> <p>It was reported that a Members Briefing would be provided and linked with that session officers were progressing some work.</p> <p><u>Credit Union</u></p> <p>It was confirmed that the Credit Unions are involved in the work around Universal Credit.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED, subject to the foregoing that the Minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p> | |

| ITEM | SUBJECT | ACTION |
|------|--|--------|
| 5. | <p><u>FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the Public Services Board Scrutiny Forward Work Programme for the meeting scheduled to be held on Monday 6th January 2020.</p> <p>A Member felt that transport should be included as part of the Forward Work Programme in order to strengthen the links within Blaenau Gwent and the wider area. The Member added that adequate transport links are paramount for the residents of Blaenau Gwent and should be considered by the Public Service Board.</p> <p>The Head of Partnerships and Governance advised that the transport infrastructure and building links within Blaenau Gwent and across the region would feed into the Maximising Prosperity work stream. This work stream would also include work with the Cardiff City Region and the lead officer was the Managing Director.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and the Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme for the meeting scheduled to be held on 6th January, 2020 be approved.</p> | |
| 6. | <p><u>BLAENAU GWENT PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2018/19</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Partnerships and Governance.</p> <p>The Head of Partnership and Governance referred to the report which detailed a look back at the progress made against the Plan. The Officer advised that the Annual Progress Report was an easy accessible report which allowed Elected Members and residents to access the information easily. It had also been produced in an 'easy read' format to make it understandable.</p> | |

| ITEM | SUBJECT | ACTION |
|------|---|--------|
| | <p>The Head of Partnerships and Governance continued that a great deal of work had been undertaken and advised that it was important the report captured the amount of work undertaken and the impact it had in communities.</p> <p>The Managing Director added that the report represented the strong position in its first year and advised that a 30 year plan had been agreed. The PSB had focussed on priorities where they had felt all partners could collectively make a difference.</p> <p>The Managing Director referred to 'Blaenau Gwent on the Move' project and advised that this was a good example of how partners worked together to make a difference in communities. She reiterated that the work was part of the 30 year plan and the first year was important. She added that as the PSB work progressed against priorities the work would be dropped in 'business as usual'. The Managing Director further added that at the next PSB meeting consideration would be given to their priorities for the next 12 months. The areas for consideration included our carbon footprint, partnership links to improve skills as well as some projects continuing from the past year. This work would provide an opportunity to create a more skilled work force and identify links to better transport to ensure these opportunities would be accessible.</p> <p>The Managing Director reiterated the progress made by the PSB and welcomed views from Scrutiny Members as these would fed back to the PSB.</p> <p>A Member asked if the Annual Report was a public document as it contained a great deal of good work carried out in Blaenau Gwent and he felt that the Authority should make it public. The Head of Partnerships and Governance reiterated that it was a public document which had been developed as an 'easy read' document to encourage residents to access the report and watch the video clips. It was available online and promoted through our networks of older people and the Youth Forum.</p> | |

| ITEM | SUBJECT | ACTION |
|------|---|--------|
| | <p>The Annual Report was also promoted through the sub groups which had a representation of multi-agency officers and therefore available via a number of networks. The Officer continued that the Launch Event on 15th July had approximately 140 attendees representing various groups and forums as well as Town and Borough Councillors.</p> <p>The Member further asked if the Authority engaged with youth and older peoples groups to gain their involvement.</p> <p>The Head of Partnerships and Governance confirmed that engagement was undertaken with older people groups and youth groups including the Youth Forum. It was added that local groups from all areas are identified via networks and are involved in the Well Being Plan. It was further advised that the work undertaken with these specific groups are key to ensuring that the Plan felt like it belonged within communities.</p> <p>Another Member noted the work undertaken in partnership with Tai Calon around Universal Credit and asked that although Tai Calon was a social landlord and had responsibilities for their tenants what had been in place for private tenants. The Head of Partnerships and Governance advised that although Tai Calon sponsored this project the work undertaken was for all tenants in Blaenau Gwent. She further added that this work was also looked at by the Welfare Reform Group with representatives from the benefits department and other related sectors. This Group looked at the challenges faced in all sectors in order to mitigate issues which are faced by social and private tenants.</p> | |

| ITEM | SUBJECT | ACTION |
|------|---|--------|
| | <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and Option 1; namely the Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee considered the progress made in the first year of delivery against the Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan and provided comments.</p> | |
| 7 | <p><u>BLAENAU GWENT ON THE MOVE, PSB WELL-BEING PLAN DELIVERY PROGRAMME 2018-19</u></p> <p>The Head of Partnership and Governance advised that the report provided an overview of progress on the PSB Well-being Plan Delivery Programme's Blaenau Gwent on the Move Project which had been identified by the PSB as a well-being project in line with the Delivery Programme.</p> <p>The Head of Partnerships and Governance continued that the aim of the project was to encourage healthy lifestyle choices in local places and increase the uptake of walking and cycling. The Group, set up to oversee the implementation of the project had representation from a number of public and third sector organisations and had agreed to open a trail which would otherwise had been lost. The Officer felt that the Lead Officer, had done an excellent job with partners in delivering the project and at this juncture the Lead Officer gave a presentation with the assistance of slides on the BG on the Move Project.</p> <p>Following the presentation the Chair invited questions from Members.</p> <p>A Member noted the £43,500 funding made available to assist with the project and asked if this would need to be applied for annually to ensure the areas were maintained.</p> <p>The Lead Officer for Engagement, Equalities & Welsh Language advised that Natural Resource Wales would be rolling out funding next year, however it would be for a different focus and we would therefore wait to see what was received. The Lead Officer added that the PSB would also give consideration to investment going forward and how we could apply for grants.</p> | |

| ITEM | SUBJECT | ACTION |
|------|---|--------|
| | <p>Another Member felt the project had been very successful, however he raised concerns around the commitment of community groups and volunteers in the long term. The Lead Officer advised that since the start of the project the involvement of local community groups and volunteers had significantly increased. She advised that the work being carried out had encouraged the community groups to be involved and she felt that this enthusiasm would continue going forward.</p> <p>In response to a question raised in relation to linking the Ebbw Fawr Trail with other walks in the area, it was advised that the Ebbw Fawr Trail linked to Sirhowy Woodlands and the Ebbw Fach valley from the Marine Colliery Site. It was added that work had also been undertaken with Active Travel Wales to ensure these routes are sustained and connected.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the Lead Officer for Engagement, Equalities & Welsh Language for an excellent presentation and welcomed the legacy that this work would leave for our communities. The Chair also wished his thanks to be passed to all involved in the Blaenau Gwent on the Move Project.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and gave consideration to the progress made on the Blaenau Gwent on the Move and provided comments.</p> | |

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 5

Executive Committee and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: N/A

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: N/A

Committee: **Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee**
Date of meeting: **6th January 2020**
Report Subject: **Forward Work Programme – 9th April 2020**
Portfolio Holder: **Cllr Nigel Daniels, Leader / Executive Member
Corporate Services**
Report Submitted by: **Cllr Stewart Healy, Chair of the PSB Scrutiny
Committee**

| Reporting Pathway | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------|----------------------|
| Directorate Management Team | Corporate Leadership Team | Portfolio Holder / Chair | Audit Committee | Democratic Services Committee | Scrutiny Committee | Executive Committee | Council | Other (please state) |
| x | x | 17.12.19 | | | 06.01.20 | | | |

1. **Purpose of the Report**
 - 1.1 To present to Members the Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme for the Meeting on 6th January 2020 for discussion and to update the Committee on any changes.

2. **Scope and Background**
 - 2.1 The Scrutiny Work Programmes are key aspects of the Council's planning and governance arrangements and support the requirements of the Constitution.
 - 2.2 The topics set out in the Forward Work Programme link to the strategic work of the Council as identified by the Council's Corporate Plan, corporate documents and supporting business plans. Effective work programmes are essential to ensure that the work of scrutiny makes a positive impact upon the Council's delivery of services.
 - 2.3 The Committee's Forward Work Programme was agreed in June / July 2019, recognising the fluidity of the document to enable the Committee to respond to urgent and emerging issues, and included timescales when reports will be considered by the Committee. The work programme is managed and implemented by the Scrutiny and Democratic Officer under the direction of the Chair and Committee.
 - 2.4 The forward work programme for the forthcoming meeting will be presented to Committee on a 6 weekly cycle in order that Members can consider the programme of work; request information is included within the reports, as appropriate and / or make amendments to the work programme.

3. **Options for Recommendation**
 - 3.1 **Option 1:** The Scrutiny Committee consider the Forward Work Programme for the meeting on 6th January 2020, and;
 - Make any amendments to the topics scheduled for the meetings;

- Suggest any additional invitees that the committee requires to fully consider the reports; and
- Request any additional information to be included with regards to the topics to be discussed.

3.2 **Option 2:** The Scrutiny Committee agree the Forward Programme for the meeting on 6th January 2020, as presented.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- Appendix 1 – Forward Work Programme - Meeting on 6th January 2020

Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee
Forward Work Programme

Scrutiny Meeting Date: Thursday 9th April 2020

Scrutiny Deadline to receive reports: Wednesday 25th March 2020

| Report Title | Lead Officer | Purpose of Report | Method/ Expert Witness/Exec Member |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---|---|
| Age Friendly Communities | BGCBC | To present the Age Friendly Action Plan developed for the Blaenau Gwent area | Agenda Item |
| Early Years F1000 Days | ABUHB/PHW | To consider the progress made through the First 1,000 Days Programme and supporting Early Years Integration Transformation Pathfinder | Agenda Item |
| Tackling Food Poverty | Tai Calon | To consider the development of the food poverty project | Agenda Item |

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 6

Executive Committee and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: N/A

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: N/A

Committee: **Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee**
Date of meeting: **6th January 2020**
Report Subject: **Integrated Well-being Network for Blaenau Gwent**
Portfolio Holder: **Councillor Nigel Daniels.**
Report Submitted by: **Dr Sarah Aitken, Director of Public Health, Aneurin
Bevan University Health Board
Kathryn Cross
Service Lead Integrated Wellbeing Networks**

| Reporting Pathway | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------|----------------------|
| Directorate Management Team | Corporate Leadership Team | Portfolio Holder / Chair | Audit Committee | Democratic Services Committee | Scrutiny Committee | Executive Committee | Council | Other (please state) |
| | Info Item – 17.12.20 | 17.12.19 | | | 06.01.20 | | | PSB |

1. Purpose of the Report

To provide an update on the progress made against implementation of the regional Integrated Well-being Network transformation programme in Blaenau Gwent.

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 The report gives an overview of the vision of an Integrated Well-being Network for Blaenau Gwent and details how it has developed, aligning it with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- 2.2 The Director of Public Health's Annual Report 2019 *Building a Healthier Gwent* shows that there are many interrelated factors that influence our health and well-being, including our relationships and connection to community, quality and security of housing, financial security, availability of work and the community environment in which we live.
- 2.3 *A Healthier Wales* highlights the need to build a 'wellness system' which includes a holistic approach to well-being where community activities and regular contact with friends and neighbours will help people to stay active, and reduce loneliness and isolation, supporting mental and physical health.
- 2.4 The Integrated Well-being Network transformation programme is intending to bring about changes to a complex system where much resource already exists across organisations and sectors. However, this community resource is often not connected or aligned to achieve optimal well-being outcomes for people. It is clear that no one organisation is responsible for improving community well-being in isolation and there is not one clear solution or intervention that can achieve this.

- 2.5 The Integrated Well-being Network (IWN) Framework (see Appendix 1) sets out a blueprint for establishing more integrated, place-based systems of well-being aligned to our Neighbourhood Care Networks. They will bring together a range of assets that contribute to positive health and well-being on a place-basis which will enable people to find the support they need to stay well within the community and reduce their need to access the care system.

Alignment has been made between the Integrated Well-being Networks (IWNs) transformation programme and Blaenau Gwent PSB well-being plan. As part of this, there is a commitment to coordinate and develop well-being resources through a Place Based Well-being Collaborative.

Information about well-being services and support will be accessible through Dewis Cymru, a national online database.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 **Option 1**

That Members of the Public Service Board Scrutiny Committee consider and accept the report and appendices as provided prior to it being submitted to the Public Service Board.

Option 2

That Members of the Public Service Board Scrutiny Committee consider and provide specific comment for consideration by the Public Service Board before approval.

4. **Evidence of how does this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

- 4.1 The Integrated Well-being Networks programme is aligned to the sustainable development principles and five ways of working under the Well-Being of Future Generations Act 2015. There are many areas where integrated well-being networks will support the PSB priority themes.
- 4.2 The IWN programme is being informed by the Well-being Assessment and will involve additional public engagement/involvement contributing towards achieving the *Blaenau Gwent We Want* Well-being Plan objectives to encourage healthy lifestyles and foster safe and friendly communities.
- 4.3 Place based collaboration will ensure professionals collaborate with community members creating further integration between services and support on a place basis. Creating further long term sustainable outcomes for the local population. There is already evidence of collaboration between partners and the community.
- 4.4 Access to befriending services has been identified as a priority for those who are isolated. This work supports the PSB theme of safe and friendly

communities, reducing levels of isolation, ensuring activities available are advertised.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

5.1 ***Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)***

Integrated Well-being Networks are currently funded through NHS transformation funding until May 2020. Further funding is currently being sort by Dr Sarah Aitken for continuation of the programme.

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

Many factors influence our health and well-being, including our relationships and connection to community, quality and security of housing, financial security, availability of work and the community environment we live in. It is estimated that 20% of patients present to their GP with underlying social problems such as debt, housing or social isolation, and this is often the case with patients who attend frequently. In Gwent, a baseline review has identified that Primary Care are generally not well connected to wider well-being resources.

Mitigating actions are:

- (i) Development of a consistent approach to community well-being and prevention across Blaenau Gwent
- (ii) Timely access to well-being support for people in the community or via primary care
- (iii) Enhanced community well-being, reducing demand on packages of care and placements in Local Authority
- (iv) A skilled workforce who are able to link people to well-being support local to them
- (v) Individuals and communities empowered to look after their own health and well-being.

5.3 ***Legal***

Involvement is one of the five ways of working under the Well Being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015.

5.4 ***Human Resources***

There is currently a full time Service Lead in Blaenau Gwent and 0.1WTE Engagement Officer employed to facilitate this work. The local IWN team will work in partnership with organisations, professionals and community members to build capacity and resilience to support optimal well-being outcomes for communities. This will include the setting up of an integrated well-being network in Brynmawr and Tredegar, consultation and coproduction with communities building upon the findings of *A Blaenau Gwent we want*. Upskilling the paid and unpaid workforce and communities to sign post to well-being services and ensure well-being services are aware of each other.

6. Supporting Evidence

6.1 Performance Information and Data

6.1.1 An external evaluator has been appointed to assess the impact of the programme. To assess how the IWN programme is developing during the first year, including the quality of programme design and early implementation and whether it is likely to lead to system-level changes.

6.1.2 The IWN Service Lead reports to the Integrated Partnership Board (IPB) who have responsibility for overseeing the local plans to deliver Care Closer to Home and Transformation programme across health and social care. The Regional Partnership Board (RPB) has the governance oversight for the whole transformation programme, including IWNs. Quarterly reporting is provided on the IWN programme to the RPB. A briefing paper has also been taken to the Gwent Strategic Well-being Assessment Group (G-SWAG).

6.2 Expected outcome for the public

- (i) People remain active and independent in their own homes
- (ii) People maintain good health and well-being for as long as possible
- (iii) The development of safe, friendly communities

6.3 Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)

- (i) A launch event took place in May 2018 to inform local partners of the programme.
- (ii) The inaugural integrated place based wellbeing network meeting took place in September 2019
- (iii) A briefing session about Integrated Well-being Networks in relation to the wider transformation agenda was held in November 2019
- (iv) A number of presentations and meetings have taken place to inform and gain the support of both professionals and community members.
- (v) Engagements events are planned for January/February 2020 in Brynmawr and Tredegar to identify local projects that enhance wellbeing, led by the community, supported by the IWN network. These are also being supported by the engagement team.

6.4 Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)

The IWN concept is underpinned by three principles which represent the required changes in systems, processes and behaviours.

- (i) Ensuring people have a greater sense of control over what they need, making decisions about their support as an equal partner (*Independence, Voice, Personalised*)
- (ii) Early intervention and preventing escalation of need by ensuring the right help is available at the right time, as close to home as possible (*Prevention and early intervention, Independence, Personalised*)
- (iii) Organisations across sectors collaborating, on a place basis, to meet the needs of the communities they serve (*Seamless, Higher value*)

Through the implementation of these points long term well-being outcomes for the population will be positive.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

The ethos of IWN is prevention, bringing together a holistic range of assets that contribute to positive health and well-being on a place-basis which will enable people to find the support they need to stay well within the community, reducing the need to access the care system.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

A collaborative approach including working with partners and community groups

6.7 ***Integration (across service areas)***

Connected communities is a vital part of IWN. To achieve this community members and frontline staff across service areas and organisations will receive training to ensure they have the knowledge and skills to sign post to wellbeing services and support across Blaenau Gwent.

6.8 ***EqIA (screening and identifying if full impact assessment is needed)***

The Aneurin Bevan Health Board Strategy sets out the approach which is built on the national principles for public engagement. There are number of established forums which support engagement of people covered by the protected characteristics. An EqIA assessment has been undertaken (Appendix B).

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 An external evaluator is being appointed to assess the impact of the programme.

7.2 The IWN transformation team has enlisted support from G-SWAG to ensure this evaluation builds on work already undertaken on behalf of PSBs to measure improvement in population well-being e.g. The Thriving Places Index and Happiness Pulse.

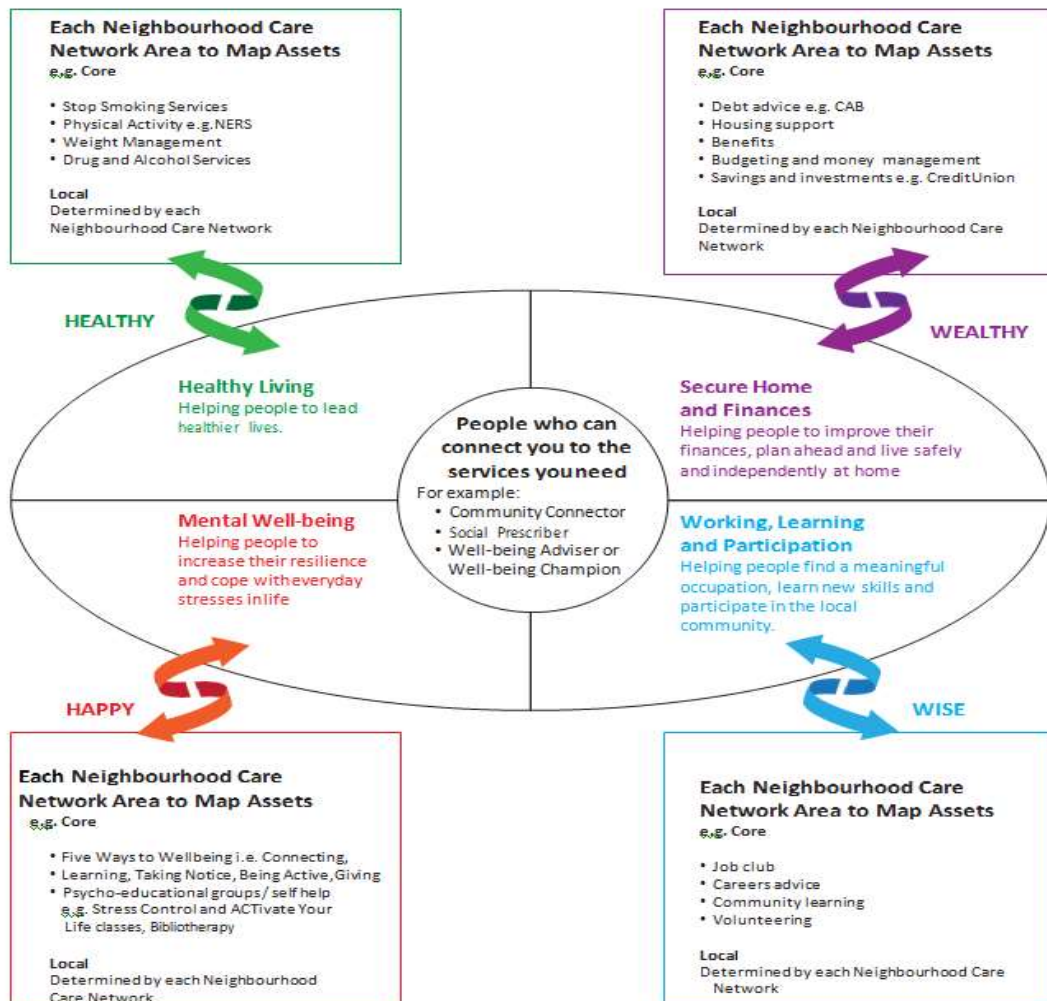
7.3 IWN sits under the Regional Partnership Board structure and reports programme delivery monitoring as appropriate

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- IWN Plan - Appendix 1
- EqIA Assessment – Appendix 2

Appendix A

Integrated Wellbeing Network



This page is intentionally left blank

UNDERSTANDING EACH PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS

For further information and definitions on related issues e.g. discrimination, harassment, and victimisation please consult the Equality Glossary provided with this toolkit.

| | |
|--|---|
| Race | For the purpose of the Equality Act 2010 ' <i>race</i> ' includes colour, nationality and ethnic or national origins. A racial group can be made up of two or more different racial groups (e.g. Black Britons). |
| Disability | Under the Equality Act 2010, a person is disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities, which would include things like using a telephone, reading a book or using public transport. |
| Sex (e.g. inequality between males & females) | It is unlawful to discriminate against people because of their gender. We should prevent discrimination in recruitment and selection, determining pay, training and development, selection for promotion, discipline and grievances, countering bullying and harassment. Many employers have also found that making changes to their working practices makes good business sense and helps them attract the best people, including provisions for flexible working for people with caring responsibilities. |
| Age | The Act protects people of all ages. However, different treatment because of age is not unlawful direct or indirect discrimination if you can justify it, i.e. if you can demonstrate that it is a proportionate means of meeting a legitimate aim. Age is the only protected characteristic that allows employers to justify direct discrimination. |
| Sexual Orientation | Legal protection from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation applies to everyone, whatever their sexual orientation. This form of discrimination includes being treated less favourably because; you are lesbian, gay, bisexual or straight; people think you are lesbian, gay, bisexual or straight; or you are associated with someone who is lesbian, gay, bisexual or straight, for example a friend, relative or colleague. The law applies to direct and indirect discrimination as well as to harassment and victimisation. |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Religion/Belief | In the Equality Act, religion includes any religion. It also includes a lack of religion, in other words employees or jobseekers are protected if they do not follow a certain religion or have no religion at all. Additionally, a religion must have a clear structure and belief system. Belief means any religious or philosophical belief or a lack of such belief. To be protected, a belief must satisfy various criteria, including that it is a weighty and substantial aspect of human life and behaviour. Denominations or sects within a religion can be considered a protected religion or religious belief. Humanism is a protected philosophical belief but political beliefs would not be protected. |
| Gender reassignment status | The Act provides protection for transsexual people. A transsexual person is someone who proposes to, starts or has completed a process to change their gender. The Act no longer requires a person to be under medical supervision to be protected – so a woman who decides to live permanently as a man but does not undergo any medical procedures. It is discrimination to treat transsexual people less favourably for being absent from work because they propose to undergo, are undergoing or have undergone gender reassignment than they would be treated if they were absent because they were ill or injured. Medical procedures for reassignment such as hormone treatment should not be treated as a ‘lifestyle’ choice. |
| marriage and civil partnership | Marriage is defined as a 'union between a man and a woman'. Same-sex couples can have their relationships legally recognised as 'civil partnerships'. Civil partners must be treated the same as married couples on a wide range of legal matters. |
| pregnancy and maternity | A woman is protected against discrimination on the grounds of pregnancy and maternity during the period of her pregnancy and any statutory maternity leave to which she is entitled. During this period, pregnancy and maternity discrimination cannot be treated as sex discrimination. |
| Welsh Language | The Welsh Language Act 1993 places a legal duty on public authorities to promote the use of the Welsh Language and to treat the Welsh and English languages equally. It offers the public the right to choose which language to use in their dealings with the Council. It recognises that Members of the public can express their views and needs better in their preferred language. It recognises that enabling the public to use their preferred language is a matter of good practice, not a concession. It sets out how the Council will implement that principle in the provision of bilingual services to the public in Wales, taking account of the developing linguistic nature of the County Borough. |

Equality Impact Assessment Template Form

Description of Assessment *(Please specify below)*

This assessment has been undertaken in relation Integrated Wellbeing Networks for Blaenau Gwent.

Responsible Directorate *(Please specify below)*

Public Health

Responsible Officer *(Please specify below)*

Dr Sarah Aitken – Director of Public Health Aneurin Bevan Health Board

Assessment Date *(Please specify below)*

11th December 2019

Staff Involved in Assessment *(Please specify below)*

Kathryn Cross – Service Lead IWN

PART 1: SCREENING EXERCISE TO IDENTIFY ADVERSE IMPACT

| Does this 'Option' have a <u>positive or an adverse impact</u> on any of the following protected characteristics? <i>(please complete all)</i> | <i>If yes</i> | Please describe what the impact will be? | What is the significance of the impact? | If low, please explain this 'significance' rating. <i>(if 'high' please complete template below)</i> |
|--|---------------|--|---|---|
| Race Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | → | The impact will be positive as the aim of the programme is to increase community integration and wellbeing | <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Low | It is not possible to identify the impact at this time as the programme is in its infancy. It is envisaged that the impact will be high due to its aim to increase community integration and wellbeing however it will be depended on the engagement of |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|--|---|--|
| | | | | | those identified with protective characteristics |
| Disability | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | → | The impact will be positive as the aim of the programme is to increase community integration and wellbeing | <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Low | It is not possible to identify the impact at this time as the programme is in its infancy. It is envisaged that the impact will be high due to its aim to increase community integration and wellbeing however it will be depended on the engagement of those identified with protective characteristics |
| Sex | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | → | The impact will be positive as the aim of the programme is to increase community integration and wellbeing | <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Low | It is not possible to identify the impact at this time as the programme is in its infancy. It is envisaged that the impact will be high due to its aim to increase community integration and wellbeing however it will be depended on the engagement of those identified with protective characteristics |
| Age | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | → | The impact will be positive as the aim of the programme is to increase community integration and wellbeing | <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Low | It is not possible to identify the impact at this time as the programme is in its infancy. It is envisaged that the impact will be high due to its aim to increase community integration and wellbeing however it will be depended on the engagement of those identified with protective characteristics |
| Sexual Orientation | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | → | The impact will be positive as the aim of the programme is to increase | <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Low | It is not possible to identify the impact at this time as the programme is in its infancy. It is |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|--|
| | | | community integration and wellbeing | | envisaged that the impact will be high due to its aim to increase community integration and wellbeing however it will be depended on the engagement of those identified with protective characteristics |
| Religion and Belief | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | → | The impact will be positive as the aim of the programme is to increase community integration and wellbeing | <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Low | It is not possible to identify the impact at this time as the programme is in its infancy. It is envisaged that the impact will be high due to its aim to increase community integration and wellbeing however it will be depended on the engagement of those identified with protective characteristics |
| Gender Reassignment Status | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | → | The impact will be positive as the aim of the programme is to increase community integration and wellbeing | <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Low | It is not possible to identify the impact at this time as the programme is in its infancy. It is envisaged that the impact will be high due to its aim to increase community integration and wellbeing however it will be depended on the engagement of those identified with protective characteristics |
| Marriage and Civil Partnership | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | → | The impact will be positive as the aim of the programme is to increase community integration and wellbeing | <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Low | It is not possible to identify the impact at this time as the programme is in its infancy. It is envisaged that the impact will be high due to its aim to increase community integration and wellbeing however it will be depended on the engagement of those identified with protective |

| | | | | | characteristics |
|-------------------------|---|---|--|---|--|
| Pregnancy and Maternity | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | → | The impact will be positive as the aim of the programme is to increase community integration and wellbeing | <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Low | It is not possible to identify the impact at this time as the programme is in its infancy. It is envisaged that the impact will be high due to its aim to increase community integration and wellbeing however it will be depended on the engagement of those identified with protective characteristics |
| Welsh Language | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | → | The impact will be positive as the aim of the programme is to increase community integration and wellbeing | <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Low | It is not possible to identify the impact at this time as the programme is in its infancy. It is envisaged that the impact will be high due to its aim to increase community integration and wellbeing however it will be depended on the engagement of those identified with protective characteristics |

PART2: ‘High Significance’ Adverse Impact Template Form

For each protected characteristics where an adverse impact has been identified and this impact has a high significance, a template form must be complete. Therefore, if an option is identified as having an highly significant adverse impact on ‘Race’ and ‘Religion and Belief’ a template form must be complete for each protected characteristics.

Which Protected Characteristics

Please briefly explain why you have identified this protected characteristic as having a high ‘significance’ rating

Please briefly explain how the identified impact is likely to affect people?

What further information do you think is necessary understand, support or mitigate the impact of this ‘option’? *e.g. collection of secondary evidence, undertaking primary research, consulting/engaging with affected people*

Please see below

What possible action can be taken to reduce or mitigate [any potential](#) adverse impacts of this options(and any associated effects)?

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 7

Executive Committee and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: N/A

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: N/A

Committee: **Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee**
Date of meeting: **6th January 2020**
Report Subject: **Community Safety Hub**
Portfolio Holder: **Councillor Nigel Daniels**
Report Submitted by: **Chief Inspector Amanda Thomas, Gwent Police
Helena Hunt, BGCBC Professional Lead for
Community Safety**

| Reporting Pathway | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------|----------------------|
| Directorate Management Team | Corporate Leadership Team | Portfolio Holder / Chair | Audit Committee | Democratic Services Committee | Scrutiny Committee | Executive Committee | Council | Other (please state) |
| | 17.12.19 | 17.12.19 | | | 06.01.20 | | | PSB SSG |

1. **Purpose of the Report**
To provide an overview of the progress made by the Blaenau Gwent Community Safety Hub that was set up to help partners operating in Blaenau Gwent to work together around community safety issues affecting the local area.
2. **Scope and Background**
 - 2.1 The Blaenau Gwent Community Safety Hub was established April 2019 following a report to the PSB in early 2019. The report recommended that some of the PSB's community safety statutory functions be discharged via the local Hub.
 - 2.2 The hub is located on the top floor of Ebbw Vale Police Station providing adequate meeting facilities and provisions to assist in the daily running of business.
 - 2.3 This report covers the period April 2019 to November 2019, and will focus on the ways in which the Hub has assisted in meeting commitments set out in the 'Blaenau Gwent We Want' Well-being Plan 2018-2023 and the ways partners within the Hub have discharged the following community safety statutory functions:
 - Reduce crime and disorder in the area;
 - Tackle anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment; and respond to Community Trigger requests;
 - Combat the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances; and
 - Prevent Terrorism and Violent Extremism.
 - 2.4 The Hub also provides focus on the Policing priorities set by the Police Crime Commissioner for Gwent Police:

- Crime Prevention.
- Supporting Victims.
- Community Cohesion.
- Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB).
- Efficient and Effective Service Delivery.

A review will be undertaken within the New Year that will be benchmarked against other local Partnership Hubs to ensure a consistent approach is undertaken. It will provide an opportunity to share good practice between the hubs. It will also look at the partnership tasking process and that of the Serious Organised Crime Group Meetings.

A survey will be sent to all partner agencies that will provide feedback (positive / negative). This will provide an insight into good working practices, evidence based approaches to enhance future collaboration opportunities and identifying future risks.

The future risk register may provide data that will allow us to plan for the working practice of the future.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

Option 1

- 3.1 Note the progress made to date by the Community Safety Hub and provide suggestion for further enhancement to the hub moving forward.

3.2 **Option 2**

Accept the information as presented.

4. **Evidence of how does this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

- 4.1 The Community Safety Hub is a development principle that falls within the category of Safe and Friendly Communities – one of the five ways of working under the Well Being of Future Generations Act 2015.

The Council has made a firm commitment to continue to develop and strengthen engagement with communities, and the Corporate Plan 2018-2022 makes reference to engagement as key in its delivery.

4.2 **Blaenau Gwent Well-Being Plan**

- The best start in life for everyone.
- Safe and friendly communities.
- To look after and protect the natural environment.
- To encourage and enable people to make healthy lifestyle choices in the places that they live, learn, work and play.
- To forge new pathways to prosperity.

4.3 Corporate Plan Priorities

Social Services

- To intervene early to prevent problems from becoming greater
- To put effective safeguarding arrangements in place to protect people from harm
- To develop a partnership approach to reducing and alleviating the impacts of Poverty

Education

- To improve pupil outcomes, progress and wellbeing, particularly for our more-able and our most vulnerable learner

Strong & Environmentally Smart Communities

- To improve the access to and quality of open spaces for the benefit of our communities, businesses and visitors

Efficient Council

- To continue our programme of public engagement and respond in a timely and effective way to feedback
- To be a strong and effective partner and collaborate where possible to deliver financial, business and community benefits.

5. Implications Against Each Option

5.1 ***Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)***

The Community Safety Hub currently has no defined budget. Opportunities are being explored to identify a potential fund that would support 'Weeks of Action' and Legal Costs for punitive sanctions i.e. Injunctions etc.

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

There are no risks associated with this report.

5.3 ***Legal***

Historically, Gwent Police and the Registered Social Landlords have fully funded any legal fees associated with punitive sanctions through the courts. Due to reduced capacity and budgets, this arrangement is no longer viable. Opportunities to secure a funding for legal action are being explored.

5.4 ***Human Resources***

The Council's primary contribution to the Community Safety Hub is the support provided by the Community Safety Officer and the Professional Lead for Community Safety. These contributions and the contributions made by other officers of the Council are within core business of those officer roles.

Police Resources consist of the Blaenau Gwent Crime and Disorder Reduction Officer and the Local Neighbourhood Police Sergeant. Their attendance and contribution align with their daily core business.

6. **Supporting Evidence**
6.1 **Performance Information and Data**

The Community Safety Hub opens for business every Tuesday and Thursday based in Ebbw Vale Police Station. The Community Safety Hub is proving to be an invaluable resource, providing a multi-agency problem-solving, evidence-led approach to partnership tasking, that seeks to protect, support and empower victims of crime and anti-social behaviour.

The Council's grant funded Community Safety Officer is located in the Community Safety Hub every Tuesday and Thursday and actively supports the function of the Hub, the effective case management of perpetrators of anti-social behaviour and the discharge of key work programmes.

A partnership tasking meeting is held every fortnight that will discuss and action plan issues that require a multi-agency approach. Additionally, a Serious Organised Crime Partnership Meeting has been formed to discuss those individuals that have the capability to cause a significant impact criminally within the community.

6.1.1 **Multi-Agency Partner Attendance**

There is an increasing range of partners who are pro-actively participating in the Community Safety Hub, collaborating on a wide range of crime and anti-social behaviour cases many which relate to safeguarding. The effective discharge of these cases rely on the co-ordination of partner's skills, knowledge and resources. The main partners involved since April include:

- 3rd Sector: Victims Support, Crime Prevention Panels, Women's Aid, Barnardos
- Police (Neighbourhood Policing, Crime and Disorder Reduction Officer, Police School Liaison Officer, Prevent Extremism, Quartz Team (Child Sexual Exploitation), Misper (Missing Person) Team, Modern Slavery/Human Trafficking Team and Licensing Team.
- Local Authority
 - Community Safety, Community Cohesion Leads.
 - Social Services (adults and children).
 - Education (Safeguarding in Education Manager, Strategic. Safeguarding Lead, Senior Education Welfare, School Head Teachers etc. Inclusion Manager, Head of Strategic. Transformation, Youth Service).
 - Environmental Health.
- South Wales Fire and Rescue Service.
- Registered Social Landlords (Tai Calon, United Welsh, Linc Cymru, Melin).
- Health (School Nursing, GP Surgeries, Community Mental Health, Senior Occupational Therapist.)
- Probation.
- Department of Works and Pensions (DWP).
- Office Police and Crime Commissioner Gwent.
- Elected Members: Community Safety Champion.

6.1.2 **Key Crime Outcomes**

- Blaenau Gwent Council has an 8-zone fixed CCTV estate. This CCTV has assisted the Police with 8 criminal investigations, which include a fatal, serious violent assaults and vehicle crimes etc. since September 2019.
- Positive outcome from Operation Lamont, a cross border operation involving Trading Standards and Police from Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent and Powys. 6 Warrants were executed (4 in BG), 4 arrests relating to supply of Viagra, counterfeit tobacco and cigarettes.
- Positive outcome from Operation Gale: Police / Trading Standards investigation into illegal Sky subscriptions – 1 arrest (and a further arrest in England).

6.1.3 **Anti-Social Behaviour Outcomes**

- There has been a 23% reduction in ASB reported to Police compared to 2018/19.
- 26 parents of young people were sent Warning letters for Anti-Social Behaviour.
- 11 young people's behaviour continued and they received tailored supported to desist in those behaviours.
- PSPO: 6 'hotspot' areas introduced in May 2019 – whilst no Fixed Penalty Notices were issued to adults, young people are referred into the ASB process for intervention and support.
- There were no Community Triggers invoked during the reporting period.

6.1.4 **Substance Misuse Outcomes: Tackling Drug Supply**

- 13 Drugs Warrants executed in BG area, leading to 5 arrests; working in partnership with Registered Social Landlords where appropriate: 4 Ebbw Vale – 6 Abertillery – 3 Tredegar. In cases such as these, further partnership work may be required with DWP, Housing Benefits and Council Tax.

6.1.5 **Preventing Terrorism / Violent Extremism**

There is a statutory requirement to support those at risk of radicalisation through a multi-agency panel called Channel, which is Chaired by the Professional Lead for Community Safety. The following cases have been supported since April 2019:

- 5 cases (adults) relating to the Far Right and Right Wing Extremism
- 1 case (young person) related to ISIS inspired narratives

Two further adult cases are currently being assessed for Right Wing involvement.

6.1.6 **Safer Schools**

There have been 5 multi-agency Safer School Partnership meetings, aimed at keeping some of our most vulnerable learners safe. The types of vulnerabilities and risks of harm include, but are not limited to criminal exploitation, sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, radicalisation, serious violence including knife crime, criminal damage etc.

6.1.7 **Threats to Staff**

There has been an increasing number of threats to staff, which include threat to kill. These cases have all been dealt with swiftly and robustly through close partnership working. Key cases have involved the Police, Community Safety Team, Social Services, DWP, Housing Benefits, Housing Options, Council Tax, Youth Service, Head Teachers, Health and Safety.

These cases have led to reviews of policies, procedures and working practices across the Council and Schools.

6.1.8 **WASPi Information Sharing Protocol**

Sensitive information shared between partners within the Hub is done safely and legally in compliance with the requirements set out in the Wales Accord of Sharing Personal Information 'Information Sharing Protocol'.

6.1.9 **Future Developments**

There is an opportunity to encourage more multi-agency collaborative meetings to utilise the resource and facilities available in the Community Safety Hub. We will be looking to develop a robust Partnership Tasking process early in 2020, which will feature in the next report. This will form part of the review. There is also plans to review the current Anti-Social Behaviour Referral Process.

6.2 ***Expected outcome for the public***

- Reduced crime and anti-social behaviour
- Reduced Victimisation
- Reduced offending and re-offending
- Increased confidence in Policing

6.3 ***Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)***

As set out earlier in the report, the Community Safety Hub delivers its positive outcomes through close consultation, engagement and participation of a wide range of partner agencies.

6.4 ***Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)***

The investment of time and resources is carefully planned as part of a wider long term strategy of reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

Every case that is dealt with is underpinned with a strong preventative focus i.e. prevention of crime, or where a crime does take place we implement a plan to prevent a further crime, further offending or further victimisation.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

The Community Safety Hub is a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary resource, that relies on close collaboration of its partners to effectively discharge community safety business.

6.7 ***Integration (across service areas)***

The nature of the multi-agency work encourages all partners to pool knowledge, skills and resources to tackle the agreed issues. In this way we apply an integrated way of working towards any community safety problem.

6.8 ***EqlA(screening and identifying if full impact assessment is needed)***

There is no EqlA required to support this report.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 The work undertaken within the Community Safety Hub will be monitored through reports to the Public Service Board and Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee.

Case Study: Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour, Domestic Abuse

Problem

Domestic violence and abuse, anti-social behaviour involving drunkenness, noise, intimidation and neighbourly nuisance, victimisation.

Victims

- Partner of the Offender was a victim of domestic violence and abuse
- The neighbours either side of the offender's partner who witnessed and experienced the anti-social behaviour, nuisance and noise nuisance as well as feeling intimidated.

Offender

Moved to local area from England of no-fixed abode. Male was alcohol dependent with no diagnosed mental health issues. Began a relationship with a local woman.

Location

- Nice quiet mixed tenure residential area of Blaenau Gwent
- No crime or anti-social behaviour previously reported

Reported Incidents

Spring 2019: Reports from neighbours of problematic ASB given to a Registered Social Landlord. April 2019, problems begin to escalate and reports of ASB are made to the Police.

Case is raised one Tuesday in the Community Safety Hub and arrangements are made within 2 days for a multi-agency meeting; where sensitive, personal information from all partners is shared, including details of the offender and the victims.

Partners

Registered Social Landlord, Neighbourhood Policing, Response Policing, Social Services, BG Community Safety Team, Third Sector Domestic Abuse Services, Victim Support.

Outcomes

- Reduced Offending and Victimisation: since August 2019, there has been no further offences and the individual has not come to the attention of partners.
- Referral to Social Services re the Domestic Abuse for the female partner.
- Public confidence in police and partners: Support provided to the neighbours.
- Injunction sought and granted through the Courts. Offender went on the Breach the Injunction and was taken back to court for punitive sanction. The offender was later convicted and sent to prison for possession of an offensive weapon in the South Wales Police Force area.

Benefits of the Hub:

Quick, decisive and robust response to increased reports to the Police and Registered Social Landlords.

Legal and safe sharing of personal information.

Co-ordinated and timely multi-agency response with resident's wellbeing prioritised.

S115 Meetings considerably reduced, thus reducing the necessity to travel to other locations and time management of staff involved.

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 8

Executive Committee and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: N/A

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: N/A

Committee: **Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee**

Date of meeting: **6th January 2020**

Report Subject: **Climate Ready Gwent**

Portfolio Holder: **Councillor Nigel Daniels**

Report Submitted by: **Andrew Parker, Service Manager Policy and Partnerships - BGCBC**
Daniel Wheelock, Policy Officer – BGCBC
Fen Turner, Natural Resources Wales

| Reporting Pathway | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------|----------------------|
| Directorate Management Team | Corporate Leadership Team | Portfolio Holder / Chair | Audit Committee | Democratic Services Committee | Scrutiny Committee | Executive Committee | Council | Other (please state) |
| | Info Item 17.12.19 | 17.12.19 | | | 06.01.20 | | | PSB SSG |

1. **Purpose of the Report**
 - 1.1 To consider the Climate Ready Gwent Overview Report that captures case studies of lived experiences relating to climate change issues affecting the Gwent region.
2. **Scope and Background**
 - 2.1 The Met Office's UK Climate Projection has identified several disruptive climate changes for Wales in the years ahead, including increases in temperatures and frequency of extreme weather events. Climate adaptation means taking action locally to deal with these changes.
 - 2.2 Most people are familiar with climate change mitigation, reducing greenhouse gases entering the atmosphere (through cutting fossil fuel combustion emissions and increasing the 'sinks' that capture and store the gases). The other element of responding to climate change, adaptation is much less familiar. Adaptation means making the changes necessary to cope with the impacts of climate change, including those that are already happening, and is something that largely takes place at a local level.
 - 2.3 The Gwent Strategic Well-being Action Group (GSWAG) commissioned Netherwood Sustainable Futures and Wellbeing Planners in 2018/19 to carry out a project called '*Climate Ready Gwent: Capturing the Lived Experience*', recognising that adapting to climate change was a common across the five well-being plans for Gwent.
 - 2.4 The project looked to identify methods of working with local communities on climate adaptation, to ensure that adaptation is directly informed by the lived experience of communities and landscapes which have been exposed to extreme weather events in the past. The overview report for the project is presented at Appendix 1.

2.5 Nine different case studies were developed with different communities across Gwent, including the 50+ Forum and Children's Grand Council in Blaenau Gwent. The two case studies carried out in Blaenau Gwent are summarised in appendices 2 & 3.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 The Committee to recommend option 1 or 2; and consider further recommendation of Option 3.

3.2 **Option 1**

For the PSB Scrutiny Committee to consider and accept the overview report and supporting case studies;

Option 2

For the PSB Scrutiny Committee to consider the overview report and supporting case studies and make recommendations to the PSB for consideration based on the report's findings;

and

Option 3

Recommend to the PSB that the Committee remains actively involved in work to support the PSBs climate change action for 2020.

4. **Evidence of how does this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

The PSB is looking to take forward a high-level action on climate change in 2020 as part of Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan, in-line with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. An inception paper will be considered by the PSB on 20 January 2020.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

5.1 ***Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)***

The 'Climate Ready Gwent' report was funded by Welsh Government through GSWAG. In the longer term the significant cost implications of climate impacts for local infrastructure and communities could be greater if adaptation does not take place.

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

Climate adaptation actions may be less effective if the public are not engaged in playing their part.

5.3 ***Legal***

Climate adaption potentially overlaps with various statutory duties including land planning, flood management, and protecting and enhancing biodiversity

5.4 **Human Resources**

The report was written by external consultants. Future engagement will require staff time from PSB partner staff.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 **Performance Information and Data**

The 'Climate Gwent Report' (Appendix 1) describes:

- The methods used to engage people with climate adaptation, which were based on capturing their lived experience of local climate (page 7).

Group workshops started with a presentation to community groups to introduce climate adaptation. The groups then shared their experiences of past and present weather events and impacts. Followed by discussing potential future impacts, how to manage the risks they pose and the role of public services and communities in adapting to these risks.

- Public perceptions of climate risks in Gwent (page 12).

People had noticed significant changes in weather patterns and were concerned about their vulnerability to these changes, particularly given they felt communities were becoming less mutually supportive and resilient. People were concerned both about the potential impacts on them personally, and also to infrastructure, landscape and nature.

- People's views on how to manage climate risk in Gwent (page 17).

People engaged strongly with climate change through their identification with local place and were keen to know what was being done to proactively adapt to these risks. People generally wanted more clarity on the roles and responsibilities of residents and public services in taking action, but they did not adopt an 'us and them' attitude towards public service providers or blame them for the risks.

- A climate engagement model based on the lessons learnt from this report (page 23).
 - *Provide sufficient time and information for people to engage with adaptation, because it is not a familiar subject for most people. People need concrete information about local risks and impacts to engage (not necessarily big picture climate science). Groups received 10 minute presentations about the local impacts and risks of climate change prior to structured workshops. Given this support people are capable of wide ranging engagement with climate adaptation.*
 - *Avoid generalised questions about climate change in abstract*
 - *Use specific information and data from local plans*

- *People will focus on carbon reduction actions without clear guidance on difference*
 - *Starting by thinking about past, present and future climate helps people to engage*
 - *Don't start from specific actions or possible solutions, which limits responses*
 - *Time and capacity needed for engagement; surveys, pop up stalls, generic information provision, web base information on its own will not provide the quality of information that is needed to inform adaptation planning*
 - *Integrate adaptation planning into wider plans for 'place' and well-being*
 - *Elected representatives need to be engaged with process*
- Recommendations how the PSB can progress climate adaptation (page 28).
 - *'Working with one or two communities for an extended period to better understand how to motivate and engage communities to plan for adaptation'*
 - *'Integrating climate adaptation engagement into existing or planned projects and programmes of work at a regional or local level'*
 - *'Develop examples of a climate adaptation narrative which can be used for site interpretation, education and wider community engagement'*
 - *'Raise the policy profile of adaptation, engage with infrastructure and landowners.'*

6.2 **Expected outcome for the public**

Greater public engagement with climate adaptation. The report found that people had noticed significant changes in weather patterns and were keen to know what was being done to proactively adapt to these risks. The PSB will be looking to take this forward through the high-level climate action.

6.3 **Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)**

'Climate Ready Gwent' developed an engagement model for future adaptation projects (see page 27). Recommending that involvement should be based on providing people with concrete information about local risks and impacts. Time and staff capacity are also required for people to engage meaningfully with this unfamiliar topic.

6.4 **Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)**

The aim of the project is to identify how to adapt to the long term impacts of climate change in Blaenau Gwent.

6.5 **Preventative focus**

In terms of preventative response climate change adaptation comes after mitigation actions that aim to prevent climate change taking place by reducing carbon emissions. Adaptation actions aim to reduce the potential damage from the worst impacts of climate change prior to these impacts

occurring. Meaning that they precede civic contingency planning to respond to these impacts when they occur.

6.6 Collaboration / partnership working

The report recommends that the PSB uses this model to engage with utilities, transport providers and landowners about long term climate adaptation planning.

6.7 Integration (across service areas)

By looking at adaptation at the community level the report seeks facilitate the integration of existing or planned projects and programmes of work of different partners.

6.8 EqIA (screening and identifying if full impact assessment is needed)

Poorer neighbourhoods tend to be disproportionately exposed to environmental risks. In the case of climate change this is likely to include vulnerability to impacts such as flooding. Likewise, at the individual level many people with one or more protected characteristics are likely to be less able to adapt to the impacts of climate change due to lower levels of financial and cultural capital. Equality Impact Assessments will be carried out as required on specific future climate adaptation projects.

7. Monitoring Arrangements

7.1 Future climate adaptation work based on 'Climate Ready Gwent' taken through the PSB high-level action will be monitored in-line with the Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan 2018/23.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- *Appendix 1 – Climate Ready Gwent: Capturing the Lived Experience Overview Report*
- *Appendix 2 – Blaenau Gwent Children's Council Case Study*
- *Appendix 3 – Blaenau Gwent 50+ Forum Case Study*

This page is intentionally left blank

NETHERWOOD SUSTAINABLE FUTURES
Sustainable Governance Policy Practice



CLIMATE READY GWENT

Capturing the Lived Experience

Overview Report

Dr. Alan Netherwood & Dafydd Thomas (May 2019)



1. INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECT

- 1.1 In October 2018, Newport City Council on behalf of Gwent Strategic Well-being Assessment Group commissioned Netherwood Sustainable Futures and Well-being Planner to undertake a project called *Climate Ready Gwent: Capturing the Lived Experience*.
- 1.2 Climate Adaptation had been identified in 2017 by the five Gwent Public Services Boards¹ as a regional priority following their local Well-being Assessments². The aim of this project was to work regionally to inform local Well-being Assessments and Well-being Plans and identify opportunities for regional collaboration. This, project funded by Welsh Government, sought to:
- engage with Gwent communities on climate adaptation
 - learn about the lived experience of climate change in Gwent's communities to inform well-being planning
 - capture evidence to stimulate community level and PSB climate adaptation planning
- 1.3 It is important to note, that this innovative approach is unique in Wales and climate adaptation is a new and developing area of work for many of the agencies and communities involved. The project was deliberately focused on the 'lived experience' of climate change to localise climate impacts and explore methods and capturing and communicating risk and adaptive action to both communities and decision makers.
- 1.4 The project was managed by a Climate Ready Gwent Steering Group made up of local authority PSB co-ordinators, with project overseen by Natura Resources Wales. The project team were Dr. Alan Netherwood from Netherwood Sustainable Futures and Dafydd Thomas from Well-being Planner. The project lasted from late October 2018 to April 2019.
- 1.5 The project has provided nine local case studies, which provide the main output of the work. These are provided in Appendix and summarised below. It has also resulted in this overview report, which reflects on the lessons learnt from the work and key messages to Gwent PSBs.
- 1.6 This report also provides analysis, insight and recommendations from the project team about how the PSBs could approach climate adaptation planning through collaboration between agencies and communities in Gwent. The project has also provided Gwent PSBs with a synthesis of data to include in their well-being assessments, and material and data to draw on for further engagement work on this issue.
- 1.7 This project used a range of innovative methods to develop discussions with the community on this complex issue. This included: focusing on past and present experiences and future priorities; risk assessment exercises; community of enquiry sessions to identify priorities; semi-structured interviews; world café work to explore adaptation response: and plenary discussions on adaptation planning. The project team have also, as part of the analysis, provided and models on climate adaptation and community engagement which Gwent (and other) PSBs can use to explore how they might want to engage communities on this issue in the future.

¹ Public Services Boards are formal partnerships involving local authorities, health boards, Natural Resources Wales, Gwent Police and South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority among others. They are required to develop collaborative local well-being plans, informed by well-being assessments. This is in response to their legal duties under the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015. Gwent's five PSBs cover Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouth, Newport and Torfaen. GSWAG supports regional collaboration on well-being planning.

² Gwent Well-Being Priorities: Overview Report and Response By The Gwent Priorities Task Group. A report commissioned by Gwent Strategic G7 Group - Gwent Strategic Well-being Assessment Group (GSWAG) Jeff Brown (JBPS Advisory Solutions Limited) Dr. Alan Netherwood (Netherwood Sustainable Futures) Dafydd Thomas(Well-being Planner)October 2017

1.8 The nine case studies or ‘engagements’ with communities and agencies are set out below. These engagements are diverse in scope, methodology and depth, but used a set of similar themes to explore climate risk and response. More information on the specific methodologies used, and the process by which these engagements were selected are discussed in part two of this report, and in the case studies in Appendix 1.

a) **Blaenau Gwent Children’s Grand Council** provides a forum for representatives from all primary schools in the area to work with the local council, enabling young people (year 6 children aged 10-11) to influence what the local authority does. The Children’s Council meets several times a year and engages in interactive activity to inform the children and agencies working in the area. CRG engagement sought to capture young people’s views of climate change, understand how they perceived climate risk in the community and key messages for decision makers for planning for changes in Blaenau Gwent’s climate. CRG project team were particularly interested in the perspectives and views of young people on the future impacts of climate change on their community and their messages to decision makers about the future.



b) **Blaenau Gwent 50+ Forum** is a group of residents which meet twice a year to provide input into Council policy and practice affecting older people in Blaenau Gwent. The network, chaired by a lead local authority councillor, receives input from local agencies and advises on and informs service delivery in Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. CRG engagement sought to capture older people’s views of how the local climate had changed during their lives, understand how they perceived climate risk in the community from increased incidence of severe weather and key messages for decision makers for planning for changes in Blaenau Gwent’s climate. The CRG project team were particularly interested in the views and perspectives of older people of changes over time, but also, their insights into the impact of climate change on the elderly community.



c) The CRG project sought to work with **Blaenavon Town Council** to engage with Blaenavon residents about their lived experience of climate change. upland community of 6000 people at the head of the Afon Llywyd valley at an altitude of 1000ft. The area has many challenges in terms of service delivery, community well-being, and regeneration. The intention was to engage with key groups in the town through the Town Council, including schools, youth group, older people’s forum, Bron Afon Housing Association, working via the Mayor and Town Councillors. It was also intended that the activity would link into wider inter-agency and community work being facilitated through Blaenavon Community Hub and the Blaenavon Heritage Site. CRG were particularly interested in community views of resilience to increased incidence of extreme weather in an upland community.



- d) **Blaenavon World Heritage Site** is UNESCO designated and covers the town and landscape, focusing on the value and ongoing protection of its industrial heritage. The site, in Torfaen County Borough, is of outstanding international importance, and its management is designed to afford it special protection. The multi -agency management of the site supports a wide range of economic, environmental, social and cultural activity in the town and wider landscape. Part of the management plan recognises the potential impact of climate change on the interests and future management of the site, and the need to understand and manage climate risk over the period of the plan up to 2024 and beyond. CRG engagement sought to open-up the discussion between agencies and the community about these potential impacts and establish a 'frame' around which future adaptation planning could take place. The CRG project team were particularly interested in the impacts of climate change on a landscape level and how this might impact on a site with World Heritage designation.



- e) **Cwmcarn Forest** is a working forest estate run through a partnership of agencies in Caerphilly County Borough. It is a tourist destination with trails, mountain biking facilities, fishing and camping attracting approximately 250,000 visitors per year. Plans are being developed to bring more accommodation to the site and grow the site as a major tourist destination. Cwmcarn has steep sided valleys with planted ancient woodland and conifer crops. Tree disease for larch trees has required large scale felling. Recent wildfires have had a negative impact on the site and caused air quality problems in neighbouring communities. The aim of the CRG engagement was to focus on the lived experience of people managing the site from different agencies and members of the community, to understand their perspective of the likely impacts of increased frequency of severe weather on the site, and how this might play out in the future.



- f) **Goldcliff Community Council** Goldcliff Community Council represent a small rural community (230 people) to the South East of Newport on the Gwent Levels. The community were engaged in order to understand how they perceive the potential impacts of increased incidence of extreme weather on Goldcliff and the Gwent Levels. Insight was being sought on the community's resilience, and key messages for agencies and groups responsible for managing the landscape and local services. Residents were also asked about their perception of climate change over time. CRG were particularly interested in the impacts of climate change on a community within the lowland Gwent levels landscape, with a combination of risks to the coast, flooding, agriculture and landscape management.



- g) **Gwent's Farming Community** Gwent farmers and landowners were identified as a key target group to engage to understand their lived experience of climate change. The project aimed to get insight into their perspectives of climate change over the past decades, how they manage their land and businesses in current severe weather and their insights into how they and other landowners and farmers will need to adapt in the future. The project team aimed to explore impacts on land, water management, crops and livestock. As the CRG project developed, opportunities arose to explore these factors by:

- engaging with landowners in the Gwent levels via work with Goldcliff Community Council, Living Levels Partnership and the Caldicot and Wentlooge Levels Internal Drainage Board (IDD Board) this sought to involve lowland land owners engaged in mainly small-scale sheep and dairy farming, who also provided major input into managing the Gwent levels landscape .Of particular interest were current and planned approaches to managing coastal erosion and surface water in the landscape.



- engaging with landowners via the South East Wales Resilient Uplands Partnership, around the Blorenge area north of Blaenavon, which covered areas of Torfaen, Monmouthshire and Caerphilly County Borough Councils/ This engaged upland landowners and sheep farmers- ‘commoners’ whose livestock graze the upland common playing a major part in managing the uplands landscape. Of particular interest were current and planned approaches to managing, water, soils and wildfires in the landscape.



- h) Monmouth is a historic market town, with a population of approx..16,000 people, and is the main retail, educational, and cultural centre for an extensive rural area. The surrounding area is rural and sparsely populated with extensive rolling countryside, tree cover and farmland. Flood protection is a key issue for the community, with a focus on both river and surface water flooding.; The project team worked with **Transition Monmouth**³. to engage residents to explore their perceptions of past, present and future severe weather and to understand how they think climate risks should be managed locally. CRG were particularly interested in how residents viewed a combination of climate risks (not just flooding) from the perspective of economy, environment, local services and people.



- i) **Transition Monmouth#2** the project team used the information on climate risks and response from the first engagement to help Transition Monmouth identify climate adaptation actions and to begin climate adaptation planning with the local authority and agencies. This aimed to bring together agencies, town councillors, Monmouthshire Council officers and councillor, with the community, to explore priorities and ways in which they could develop collaborative action to deal with climate risks to the town. The aim was for this work to provide a forward agenda for continued work on climate adaptation through Transition Monmouth.



³ *Transition Monmouth* is a community group that “aims to increase self-sufficiency, reduce the damaging effects of climate change and economic instability. In the face of declining natural resources, the rise in cost of fuel and food, the problems of pollution and the destruction of our environment” they aim to create a low carbon, local, and self-reliant community. They have worked closely with Monmouthshire Council, NRW and other agencies on projects and practical action since 2009.

- 1.9 The breadth of the engagements enabled the project team to develop a rich understanding of how communities and agencies can link their lived experience to climate change, their perception of risks and the ways in which they think about managing climate risks into the future. The project engaged 150 people in these discussions, with space created for agency and community collaboration and multi-agency discussions. This project ‘scratched the surface’ of the potential for climate adaptation in Gwent. This report provides an overview of what we have learnt from these nine engagements and through managing a regional project of this nature, and how this can inform PSB, agency and community activity on this in the future. The following paragraphs describe what each section of this report provides.
- 1.10 Section 2 – **Methods of capturing the lived experience** - an overview of the methodologies adopted by the project team to capture the lived experience in Gwent. It also focuses on the lessons that can be learnt from the different approaches taken for each CRG case study
- 1.11 Section 3 - **Perceptions of climate risk in Gwent** - an overview of how the different communities, public agencies and partnerships perceive climate risk to their lived experience terms of their view of the past, present and future views of severe weather, and the key risks which need managing in terms of landscape, townscape, economy and environment in the future.
- 1.12 Section 4 - **Views on climate risk management Gwent** - an overview of the wide range of ideas from each engagement on how to manage climate risks at a strategic, community, service and operational level. These suggestions have arisen directly from discussion about the ‘lived experience’ and reflect what communities and agencies feel could ‘be done’ about climate risk through collaborative and public service activity in Gwent.
- 1.13 Section 5 – **Learning on climate adaptation engagement** - analysis and observations on key themes emerging from the project including: recommendations on how climate adaptation could be framed to best capture the lived experience; lessons learnt for future approaches to climate adaptation at a regional and community level; and how partner organisations and Gwent PSBs might progress climate adaptation on a community, site and organisational level. A model approach is suggested with CRG could use to consider future engagement on climate adaptation
- 1.14 Section 6 – **Recommendations for Gwent Public Services Boards** - specific points for Gwent PSBs to consider on how they progress climate adaptation actions at a regional level, and within individual PSBs. This section also includes provides a selection of quotes from the case studies which illustrate the wider point made in this overview report. This advice provides a potential forward agenda for Climate Ready Gwent partners to consider.

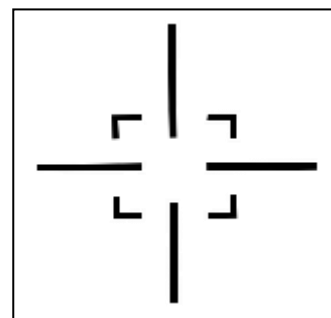
| CONTENTS | pg. |
|--|------------|
| 1. Introduction | 2 |
| 2. Methods of capturing the lived experience | 7 |
| 3. Perceptions of climate risk in Gwent | 12 |
| 4. Managing climate risk in Gwent – adaptive action | 17 |
| 5. Reflections on climate adaptation engagement | 23 |
| 6. Progressing climate adaptation engagement in Gwent | 28 |
| Appendices – Climate Ready Gwent Case Studies | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blaenau Gwent +50 Forum • Blaenau Gwent Children’s Grand Council • Blaenavon Town Council • Blaenavon World Heritage Site • Cwmcarn Forest • Goldcliff Community Council • Gwent’s Farming Community • Transition Monmouth #1 • Transition Monmouth #2 | |

2. METHODS OF CAPTURING THE LIVED EXPERIENCE

The following section provides an overview of the methodologies adopted by the project team to capture the lived experience in Gwent. It also focuses on the lessons that can be learnt from the different approaches taken for each CRG case study. Please note that more detail is provided in the case studies on methodologies employed and their success. Reflections on the methodologies are also included in Section 5 of this report.

2.1 Determining the project's focus and establishing engagement

2.1.1 The project team met with the local authority PSB leads and agencies (the Climate Ready Gwent Steering Group) in November 2018 and ran a workshop to determine the focus of the project. This covered current understanding and the evidence of Gwent specific climate risks; key internal and external audiences of the project; the desired impact of the work (on who, what and to what end?); priority impacts that the project should cover, and which community/community of interest it would be good to work with and why? This used a presentation and exercises and the community of enquiry technique⁴ to determine which communities and issues the project should engage on.



2.1.2 As a result of this, the following priorities were selected: it was intended that Gwent wide work would focus on the Gwent levels and Gwent's farming community; and the following communities/sites were initially selected for consideration: for Torfaen – Blaenavon; for Blaenau Gwent, Abertillery; for Caerphilly; Abercarn and/or Fochriw; for Monmouthshire, Monmouth and for Newport, the Lighthouse Park Community on the Wentlooge levels.

2.1.3 The project team followed this workshop with visits and discussions with each of the project partners, Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen Councils, Natural Resources Wales, South Wales Fire & Rescue, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and Gwent Police. These discussions were used to understand existing work going on in the community/site, and for the project team to understand existing relationships and specific issues of concern. Where possible, tying in with these meetings, the project team visited the town/community/site for a 'field visit' to get a sense of the landscape, townscape and community.

2.1.4 NRW and Torfaen Council called specific team meetings to discuss potential engagement in December 2018, providing valuable advice, insight and data for the project. NRW also facilitated discussion with the Gwent Levels: Living Levels Partnership to help the project team identify engagement which might also support their activity. Councils made key officers aware of the CRG project to support the project team to gather relevant information and engage key agencies and parts of the community

2.1.5 As a result of these visits and discussion, a refined set of target areas/issues emerged:

- Blaenavon Town Council and Blaenavon Heritage Site,
- Blaenau Gwent's +50 Forum and Children's Grand Council,
- Gwent Levels; via Goldcliff Community Council;
- Gwent's Farming Community Levels and the Bloreng Uplands covering parts of Caerphilly, Monmouthshire and Torfaen Councils
- Cwmcarn Forest;

⁴ **Community of enquiry** is a workshop-style session that offers space for a group of people to collaboratively explore ideas and ask rich and meaningful questions of each other. share what they think and do and why, while listening to others coming from different contexts or positions. It "is different to other facilitation methods in that it doesn't start with a set of questions or a problem, but instead lets a group define what they want to discuss." <https://www.iriss.org.uk/resources/tools/community-enquiry>

- and Transition Monmouth.

2.1.6 The project team began, from December 2018 to work through the Councils, groups and other agencies to develop and refine what type of approach would best capture the lived experience in each locality. The engagements were planned in January 2018 and delivered between February and early April 2019.

2.17 The project team developed the engagements through the local authority PSB leads, via NRW, direct contact with Town and Community Councils, in liaison with members of Cwmcaron and Blaenavon World Heritage Site teams, Transition Monmouth and worked via the Gwent Living Levels Partnership and South Wales Uplands Resilience Partnership. For each engagement, the team developed a simple 'offer' on what was being proposed, which specified what the project team would deliver and what was expected of those the project was engaging. This enabled all parties to be clear about the intentions of the engagement, to negotiate and refine the content of the engagement and to 'advertise' the engagement to target participants.

2.18 The project team prepared for the project and specific engagements by undertaking a thorough review of available local information on local communities from PSBs' Well-Being Plans and Assessments, information on flooding, water resources, land and landscape management, impacts on the built and historical environment and climate adaptation. This included reviewing information from Local Development Plans, Local Transport Plans, Network Rail, Severn Estuary Group, West & Wales Utilities, Dwr Cymru, Western Power, Network Rail, Natural Resources Wales, National Farmers Union, National Trust and Gwent Community Risk Register. This also included understanding local impacts from national assessments on climate impacts including Climate Just from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the Wales Climate Risk Assessment and on communicating climate risk through Climate Outreach Information Network. Where sites were involved, management plans were also utilised as part of the engagement.

2.2 Techniques used during the engagements

2.2.1 Although the nature of the engagements was diverse, the project team developed a consistent approach to opening-up and capturing discussion on the 'lived experience' of climate change. This approach was applied in every context in a variety of 'workshop' sessions, with the information and exercises altered specifically to the nature of the audience. This included the following exercises which were used in all nine engagements.

- a) an opening presentation on **climate impacts, risks and management challenges**, to set the context for the discussion. This utilised local information on impacts where this was available. It is important to note that this focused on the likely impacts, risks and how they may impact on people's lived experience⁵. The project team were able to present this in a range of different contexts and ways to provide the necessary background for engagement

⁵ Key messages conveyed on climate impacts were:

Potential change: climate is warming and sea levels are rising; prolonged summer heatwaves are likely to become more common; increase in winter rain and snow; wet winters are likely to get wetter; less rain in summer but when it does it will be more intense; flood risk will become more severe in some places; sea level rise of over 1m – storm surges; more energy in weather system = more extreme weather

Affecting: rail, water, roads, built assets, communications, energy, land management, biodiversity, landscape, business continuity, food production, service disruption, emergency response and others.....

Impacting on the lived experience in/of households, businesses, communities, individuals, organisations providing services, communities of interest; visitor sites.

Issues to manage to 2050: our roads, bridges and railways – keeping them working; buildings – design to limit damage from storms and floods; health of the elderly and very young; soils, food production and farming – good and bad; water – having enough and dealing with too much; forest & grassland fires – preventing them; coasts – protecting and letting go; helping wildlife move – with winners and losers; landscape – keeping what we like but also using land differently to cope; electricity – keeping the power on; telecommunications – keeping our IT 'kit' working; businesses – making sure they are prepared and can keep going

- b) participants' experience of **past** severe weather and changes in seasonality and nature – local photographs of past extreme weather were used to prompt discussions.
- c) participants' experience of **current** severe weather, which is likely to become more prevalent and extreme. Photographs and example of current effects of extreme weather were used to prompt discussions.
- d) focusing on the **future** – asking participants what future decision makers need to do to plan for a changed climate
- e) **risks to the community/site**, including residents, townscape, landscape and nature, and local economy. Participants were asked to focus on risks in these four categories. Handouts on issues they may want to explore were provided and local maps were available to support this exercise.
- f) **management of climate risks**, including the community's and agency's roles. This focused on the following questions:
 - o *what are the risks you are most concerned about?*
 - o *who/ what is at risk?*
 - o *how could [the place] become more resilient to the risks?*
 - o *what is the community's role in tackling the risk?*



Information from these exercises was captured using MeetingSphere where IT facilities were available, and via flipcharts, post it notes and note taking. These were written up for analysis to include in the case studies.

2.2.3 For Blaenavon World Heritage Site, Cwmcarn Forest and Transition Monmouth, additional exercises were included to build on the above information:

- a **community of enquiry** identifying conceptual questions which could be discussed in response to climate impacts, risk and management challenges. Examples of the types of conceptual questions developed by participants were:
 - o *How do we manage an increase in water in the World Heritage Site?*
 - o *What do we want Cwmcarn to look like in 2050?*
 - o *How can community and authorities work together in an integrated way to adapt to climate change?*
 - o *How can we manage the fuel [burnable material causing wildfires]?*
 - o *How do we manage with the ageing farming community?*
- **world café exercise** focusing on developing adaptation planning for the conceptual questions identified in the community of enquiry, through the following:
 - o *What are the specific climate risks to be managed?*
 - o *How do we approach managing these specific climate risks?*
 - o *What further information do we need to understand the climate risk?*
 - o *Who needs to be informed, influenced and engaged in managing this risk?*
 - o *What factors are critical to building a business case to address this climate risk?*

Information from these exercises was captured using MeetingSphere⁶ where IT facilities were available, and via flipcharts, post it notes and note taking, where not. These were written up for analysis to include in the case studies.

⁶ **MeetingSphere** is workshop software enabling data to be typed in directly to tablets by attendees and screened to encourage discussion and debate. It is a way of capturing and ordering data quickly and using this in a workshop setting as well as capturing large amounts of data for later analysis.

2.2.4 For the Gwent Farming Community, the project team used **semi-structured interviews**, with prompts on specific farming issues (*land, water, livestock, feed, markets, infrastructure and supply chains*). Notes and recordings from these interviews were transcribed for analysis and use in the case studies.

2.2.5 For Transition Monmouth#2 the project team facilitated an addition exercise on **Climate Adaptation Planning** – this focused the room in a plenary session on specific actions to progress climate adaptation in the community as a result of both workshop sessions. The facilitated discussion focused on: *Continuing the adaptation journey in Monmouth: focus; delivery; outputs and outcomes*. The aim was to use this material to identify an ongoing working agenda for agencies and the community to build climate resilience in Monmouth.

2.2.5 The session with **Blaenau Gwent’s Children’s Grand Council** included a different set of methodologies to engage these young people in thinking about climate adaptation. These included:

- **triad questions**, with movement, focusing on what’s going to see be biggest impact from climate change: people; the environment; local businesses
- **mind mapping** – group work focusing on climate impacts on the place that the children live; the most urgent issues and any opportunities that might occur – this included feedback to the room. Data was captured in mind maps from the children.
- **message for the future** – group work focusing on visioning for the future and writing a message to the people of Blaenau Gwent in 2050. Data was captured on paper from the children.
- **message board** – developing a 15-word headline, a ‘call to action’ for decision makers in the future – photographed on a message board



2.3 Synthesising and capturing the lived experience

2.3.1 In order to analyse and capture the data developed during the engagements, the project team developed a case study template. This provided a framework to summarise what was done, who was involved, the outputs from the engagement, priorities quotes from participants and word clouds. The case studies are structured as follows:



CLIMATE READY GWENT CASE STUDY – Engagement

| |
|--|
| 1. Nature of engagement <i>This describes the scope of the engagement to capture the lived experience.</i> |
| 2. Establishing engagement <i>This describes how the engagement was developed with local groups and agencies to explore the lived experience.</i> |
| 3. Community and agency involvement <i>This outlines who was involved in the discussion of the lived experience.</i> |
| 4. Relevant local information used <i>This summarises the local data and evidence which was used to stimulate discussion on the lived experience.</i> |
| 5. Key issues raised – Past <i>This summarises the perceptions of those involved, about how the climate has changed during their lifetimes and their memories of how severe weather has impacted on their lived experience.</i> |
| 6. Key issues raised – Present <i>This reflects the perceptions of those involved, about how severe weather impacts now on their lived experience. Please refer to risk section and quotes later in the case study.</i> |
| 7. Risks to the community/place. <i>This summarises the risks identified by participants to the community, local environment, economy and place</i> |
| 8. Managing Climate Risks <i>This provides an overview of how participants suggest these risks should be managed.</i> |
| 9. Community role <i>This provides ideas from the community about how they can support climate resilience.</i> |
| 10. Reflections on engagement <i>This summarises key issues emerging from the engagement and how the information developed during the engagement could be used in ongoing dialogue between the community and by local agencies.</i> |
| 11. Recommendations for Gwent PSBs <i>Observations and suggestions for GSWAG, Climate Ready Gwent Working Group and PSBs on how this case study informs their continued engagement with the community</i> |

2.3.2 The case study format provides a ‘product’ to provide back to this engaged, a way to communicate the key issues to partners, to spread understanding of climate adaptation and a format which can be built on if further engagement is undertaken across Gwent.

2.3.3 In terms of analysis the case study has enabled the project team to look across all nine case studies to reflect on regional lessons from the project and make the observations in this report.

3. PERCEPTIONS OF CLIMATE RISK AND THE LIVED EXPERIENCE

The following section provides an overview of how the different communities, public agencies and partnerships perceive climate risk to their lived experience terms of their view of the past, present and future, and the key risks which need managing in terms of landscape, townscape, economy and environment in the future. This information is important:

- firstly, as insight for the Gwent PSBs on climate related issues of greatest concern to communities and agencies
- secondly, for Gwent PSBs to reflect on whether current approaches to managing these risks are sufficient enough to deal with projected climate impacts
- thirdly – for Gwent PSBs to consider how climate risks are communicated and ‘framed’ to the public, businesses, and partners across Gwent to develop collaborative approaches to managing climate risk
- and finally, where gaps should be addressed at a regional level, or by better collaboration within PSBs.

It is important to note that this section is not a ‘reportage’ of issues listed by participants. Quotes, anecdotes and lists of issues identified are included in the case studies. These should be read in conjunction with this report. This section is rather, an analysis and overview key messages emerging from the work for Gwent’s PSBs and provides detailed insight into the risks and management issues that need to be addressed by public services and others in Gwent.

3.1 Changes to Gwent’s climate, seasonality, weather patterns and current response

The following issues were picked up from the activities where participants were asked about their past experience of severe weather, changes to seasonality and weather patterns during their lifetimes. Recalling past impacts, recounting them and thinking about these in the context of future change was a useful precursor to other activities and to ground climate change in the lived experience.⁷

- there was a clear message that participants thought that there has been a profound **seasonal change** over past decades, that weather patterns have become more **unpredictable** and that **severe weather has become more prevalent**. Those engaged suggested that weather was becoming increasingly erratic, particularly in last decade.
- participants were able to identify **changes in nature** as key indicators of shifts in seasons and focused on flowers, birds, insects, vegetable and fruit growing as illustrations of change.
- participants were able to readily identify and remember particular **severe weather incidents** and the effects they had on their families, neighbours and the wider community. These individual incidents included flooding, heatwaves, wildfires, storms, snow, drought.
- Many of the anecdotes collected spoke of the **impact of the event on their daily lives**, food availability, infrastructural impacts, effects on work and local services. Telling their own stories, engaged participants and the discussion were lively and energised.



⁷ The project team suggest that the past, present, future technique is one that works as a precursor to thinking in more detail about future risks and their management, and ideally should be used only as part of a deeper engagement on this issue.

- of particular interest to many of the participants is the **role of land management** in preventing or exacerbating flood risk and wildfires in the area
- responses suggested a **nostalgia** for people helping themselves, for example, reliance on neighbours, farmers helping services clear roads or put out wildfires, and local informal preventative activity such as clearing drains.
- the current **over-reliance on public service** was acknowledged, however, the responses suggested both agencies and communities feel **increasingly vulnerable** to severe weather and are concerned that it is likely to become more prevalent and intense.
- Participants provided ample evidence that they do not think that this issue is taken seriously enough at present. They suggest that the current pressures on public services and funding increase this risk and that **capacity to forward plan and preventative planning** is essential. This issue is picked up in more detail in Section 4 of this report

3.2 Risks to individuals, residents and communities in Gwent

The following risks were picked up consistently in the exercises focusing on risks to individuals and residents. This shows a sophisticated understanding of the cumulative and pervasive impact of changes to our climate rather than single issue concerns, or concerns in reaction to individual severe weather events. A key finding is that participants weren't concerned about current service disruption, but the longer-term effects on the way that the communities/sites function.

- a) the pervasive and cumulative risk of climate impacts on people's **mental health** associated with increased vulnerability to impacts on their homes, access to services and finances
- b) the fact that **social networks** are not strong enough to deal with increased impacts of climate change and to respond collectively
- c) the pervasive risk of the consequences of an absence of **farming succession** – given how central farmers and landowners are to adaptive response on a community level
- d) the availability and **supply of food** to the community, due to impacts on just in time deliveries and the wider impact of climate change on the local and UK food economy
- e) the disproportionate impact of climate change on those living in **poverty** and the **elderly** in Gwent, who will be less able to cope with the financial, and social impacts of climate change and perhaps less physically and mentally able to cope with the consequences of climate change.
- f) the impact of climate change on families' **homes** in terms of damage from increased frequency of severe weather and the economic impact of increased insurance costs. Impacts on the local **housing market** were also seen as a risk to properties at risk from flooding, tree windthrow and other impacts from severe weather.
- g) the impact of climate change on **access to services** through long term impact on transport networks, and more frequent road and school closures, resulting in the inability of communities to function normally.



3.3 Place-based risks in Gwent's communities

The following risks were also picked up throughout the nine engagements showing a remarkable level of consistency and insight into physical impacts of increased frequency of severe weather on the locality. A key finding is that participants were unsure of the extent to which current interventions factor in climate change (if at all) or whether they are focused on long term resilience. Another is that the participants focused on wider societal risks to the place that they live, rather than focusing on their own individual interests:

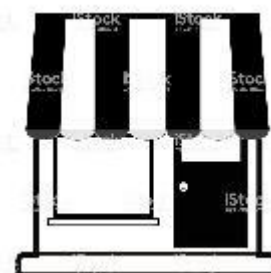


- a) a major concern was the potential impact on **road transport infrastructure**, given the perceptions of the current difficulties in managing deteriorating condition of roads and a lack of available funding. This focused on the ability of **road surfaces, road drainage, bridges, road verges, potholes** and **paving** to withstand more frequent and intense severe weather, including a combination of increases in rainfall, flooding and extreme heat.
- b) the participants were also concerned about the how other **essential infrastructure**, which the community relies on, will; function under future conditions. This included **electricity** and **gas** supply, **water** supply, **sewerage** systems, the capacity of current **drainage** systems and **communication/IT** resilience.
- c) wider **landscape scale** risks were also identified during the engagement including increased risks of **subsidence** from old mine working, an increased frequency of **landslips**, mine-water and run-off **pollution**, and **coastal inundation**. The impact of **tree windthrow** is seen as a key strategic risk for the individual communities/sites and across Gwent. The availability of **water for agriculture** was also seen as a major strategic issue in the future.
- d) in terms of **built assets**, the participants focused on specific challenges to buildings in terms of flood, storm damage and the potential for overheating. There were also specific concerns about the condition of **heritage and historical assets** particularly from increased water ingress.

3.4 Risks to Gwent's local economies

Managing climate risks to local economies was a key issue emphasised in engagements with communities, farmers and town councils, but also identified as a major issue by agencies. Future work by Gwent PSBs may want to focus in more detail on this issue and engage Chambers of Commerce, Federation of Small Businesses and individual businesses to explore the following risks to the foundational economy⁸ and its management:

- a) the impact of climate change on **fragile local economies and businesses**. There was sense that climate impacts could be a key factor in pushing fragile local economies, retailers, farmers and other businesses over the edge. It was suggested that accessing **business finance** to premises and business enterprises impacted by climate change, for example local food businesses, may cause increasing difficulties. There was also a suggestion that **seasonal work planning** for agencies and landowners on the physical environment was becoming more difficult given the unpredictability of conditions for access and operations



⁸ "the foundational economy is that part of the economy that creates and distributes goods and services consumed by all (regardless of income and status) because they support everyday life. Centre for Research on Social & Cultural Change (2013) <https://foundationaleconomy.com.files.wordpress.com/2017/01/wp131.pdf>

- b) **town centre businesses** were seen as being vulnerable to the effects of climate change through repeated severe weather damage to premises but also unseasonal and unpredictable weather patterns throughout the year impacting on footfall. Cancellation of **events** due to extreme weather or climate impacts on local conditions and the economic impact of this on small businesses, was also seen as an increasing risk.
- c) the **resilience of local infrastructure** to support local economic activity was a recurring theme for participants when thinking about local economic impacts. Access to markets, supplier access in just in time systems, access on to land, water availability for business use were all seen as potential risks which needed to be considered. Participants made a clear link between forward planning for climate risks and **business continuity**.
- d) the readiness of **fragile agri-businesses** to adapt to climate change was also seen as a major strategic risk for Gwent. It was felt that while larger operations may be able to adapt and ride particularly bad years for feed and livestock productivity and associated costs, many smaller farms may be less adaptable and profitability – already on a knife edge – may result in business closures

3.5 Risks to Gwent’s landscape, biodiversity and ecosystems

Potential climate impacts and associated risks to the natural environment were a constant and recurring theme throughout all nine engagements. Participants readily understood and could explore the way management of the natural environment can help in managing climate risks, through flood prevention, wildfire management, provision of shade in urban areas, and maintaining biodiversity in Gwent. At the same time, concern was expressed about some key risks to the natural environment that Gwent PSBs will

need to address in their approach to climate adaptation. This may need an enhanced approach to public services working with farmers and landowners to address climate risks.

- a) managing an increased amount of **water** in the environment in terms of volume; movement; and capture was seen as key to effective climate adaptation in communities, on sites and within landscapes and sectors. It is very important to note that this was not in terms of dealing with flood management as part of individual incidents and then ‘bouncing back to ‘normal’, but for forward planning to adapt a new ‘normal’, utilising the water, as far a possible where it is needed, but ensuring that damage is minimised.
- b) communities, landowners, farmers and agencies all expressed concern on how climate change might impact on **soils** in Gwent. Soil run-off, soil loss, nutrient retention, waterlogging, dispersed pollutants from flooding, saline intrusion and soils impact on water quality in rivers were all raised as key issues which would need careful management, but also careful and supportive engagement with the farming and landowning community to manage.
- c) there was a major focus from participants on risks of **biodiversity loss** in terms of species and habitats including loss of **woodland** to disease, windthrow and soil erosion, and negative impacts on **pollinators**, essential to Gwent’s agricultural productivity. An increase in the prevalence of **invasive species** including Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed and tree disease were seen key threats to monitor and manage.
- d) managing an increased likelihood and risk form **wildfires on grassland, moorland and in woodland** was seen as a major strategic risk across Gwent. A change in the nature and a decline in land management practices which minimise burnable ‘fuel’ has resulted in decades of flammable material building up. Having enough local water available to manage these wildfires for some sites



Climate Ready Gwent: Capturing the Lived Experience: Overview Report – Netherwood & Thomas 2019 is seen as a key issue. Lack of coordination between different agencies in managing wildfires on particular sites was seen as a key risk

- e) Finally, participants felt that maintaining and managing valuable **landscapes**, (Gwent Levels and Blaenavon Heritage Site) under climate change conditions, was seen as major and difficult long-term challenge for agencies and communities in Gwent. It was felt that the multiple climate risks to the characteristics which make these landscapes valuable (reen systems in the Levels, and historical and heritage assets in Blaenavon) will need to be better understood and managed into the future.

3.6 Further observations on climate risks to Gwent

This material provides, through exploring the lived experience, a clear picture of a region with some major strategic challenges in dealing with climate risk, and evidence of strong concern from communities and agencies on how we are planning collectively for the future. This evidence also shows a complex set of impacts and risks combining within a place – managed by multiple agencies, often dealing with separate management issues, separately. There is real concern from community and agencies that a future that is going to be impacted by climate change is not being planned for. The community want to find out what is being done on their behalf. The following reflections focus on what we have learned about how communities and agencies perceive *climate risk* in Gwent and what Gwent PSBs need to focus on in future work on this issue



- a) There is a resounding message that participants perceive changes in seasonality in Gwent, indicated through changes in natural environment, landscape, land management practices, work programming, operations and peoples lived experience.
- b) Communities are concerned about the pervasive and wider risks to the community, place, economy, landscape and nature – not just the direct impact of severer weather on people. There is a clear understanding from agencies and communities that severe weather will impact on infrastructure that community relies on but will also have wider societal and economic impacts.
- c) There is evidence that unpredictability is a new norm for those involved in managing land, townscape and services. This unpredictability is having an impact on normal working practices and work programming and on-site operations/land management.
- d) There is a remarkable degree of consensus on the types of risks which will result from climate change. There are wide, systemic, strategic, operational and community-based risks identified by the those engaged including energy security, maintaining transport and other essential infrastructure, managing wildfires, impacts on agriculture and dealing with water management in the local environment
- e) Infrastructural resilience, transport, energy, water, sewerage, drainage, built and historic assets are seen as central to business continuity for the community, the economy and public sector service provision. Those engaged want re-assurance and evidence that climate adaptation is being addressed for these issues.
- f) There is a clear message that local assets are at risk from doing nothing. There is also a concern that vulnerabilities are not being dealt with sufficiently or given enough attention and that a reactive rather than a proactive/preventative approach is being taken by those involved to minimise risk.
- g) Participants were able to provide specific insights on risks to residents, landscape, biodiversity, townscape, the economy, infrastructure. They are able to think about the place that they live in a strategic sense and climate risks over time. Thinking about *place* was the primary response from participants and provided the most data.

- h) They were also able to consider longer term pervasive impacts on climate change on the sustainability of where they live, including the impacts of demographic change, landscape change, biodiversity and impacts on the economy – especially the agricultural community.
- i) 3.7 The project team suggest that there a number of key strategic questions on managing climate risk, that fall out of this material for Gwent PSBs. These are by no means definitive, but should be discussed at a PSB and multi-PSB level in Gwent.
- a) **For infrastructure:** are existing approaches to infrastructure resilience in Gwent long term enough and factoring in climate change? Are infrastructural management approaches lifetime costed, or are decision makers pushing risks further down the line? If so, are there opportunities to take a more collective, coordinated, preventative approach to infrastructural resilience?
- b) **For economic development:** are existing approaches to town centre management and regional economic development going to address any of these risks? Are there any opportunities to do so?
- c) **For health planning:** mental health provision is already a major issue. Increased physical and mental vulnerability to severe weather from climate change will need to be factored into health and social service planning. Is this being done?
- d) **For agriculture and land management:** is pervasive risk of farm succession, being picked up anywhere in well-being planning, or recognised and addressed in public sector strategy? Land management is central to climate adaptation and capacity to do this is critical
- e) **For the environment** - how limited, expansive or proactive will NRW area statements be to address any of these concerns? How can other public bodies address biodiversity and ecosystem risks as well?
- f) **For wildfire management** - how will dangerous increases in wildfire fuel in the landscape be effectively managed at the scale required to increase community safety? How can public bodies work more effectively together to reduce the risk to Gwent's communities?
- g) It is strongly suggested by the project team that Gwent PSBs explore the **sufficiency of current approaches** to dealing with these risks together. The focus of this should be not that "*we have a plan that kind of 'covers' this already*" (like many public sector approaches to climate adaptation) – but explores straight questions like
- to what extent does the resource and direction of our current approach enable Gwent to manage these climate risks
 - what needs to change in our current approach to increase climate resilience?

4. MANAGING CLIMATE RISK IN GWENT – ADAPTIVE ACTIONS

This section provides an overview of the wide range of ideas from each engagement on how to manage climate risks at a strategic, community, service and operational level. These suggestions have arisen directly from discussion about the 'lived experience' and reflect what communities and agencies feel could 'be done' about climate risk through collaborative and public service activity in Gwent.

This section focuses on the following areas: advice to future decision makers; asks of service providers; supporting adaptive action; practical adaptation solutions; building adaptive capacity; and the community role in adaptation action. The material in this section again provides a remarkable and detailed level of insight on what needs to be done for Gwent to become more climate resilient.

4.1 Advice to Future Decision Makers

The future decision-making advice gathered through the engagements focused on building understanding and creating opportunities to make better decisions with climate change in mind. The material provides a deep insight into level of understanding of participants (which is very high) about what need to change in Gwent's approach to climate adaptation. The following themes emerged:



Table 1. Advice to future decision makers

| THEME | WHAT PARTICIPANTS THOUGHT SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT IT |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| communities | investing in supporting and educating communities about climate risk and engagement in designing and implementing the response |
| infrastructure | developing design solutions, and lifetime costing |
| public sector partnerships | collaborative work, proper scrutiny and challenge on climate risk |
| farmers and landowners | supporting landowners who are so central to the solutions with incentives and information |
| investment of public funds | plan financial investments with climate impacts factored in |
| evidence | explore potential vulnerabilities and solutions on a place-based scale |
| decisions | increase understanding of risk and ask the right questions about climate change |
| work planning | build in extra flexibility and become less reliant on defined seasons |
| forward planning | decadal and multi decadal planning for sites and towns – factoring in worst case scenarios as well as gradual change |
| nature -based solutions | land use, catchment and ecosystem level planning for place |
| scrutiny | challenge by young and old of future-plans for Gwent on climate change |

The project team suggest that Gwent PSBs could explore the extent to which their current approaches support these types of interventions, at an appropriate scale; and which of these interventions should be progressed at public organisation, PSB and Gwent-wide levels.

4.2 Asks of service providers

The engagements also identified specific ‘asks’ of service providers. These are actions which support climate resilience through forward planning for climate risks on services that communities rely on, ways in which service providers can engage key actors that need to be engaged; and building the business case for adaptive action: The following recurring suggestions were made by participants.



- a) Forward planning for climate impacts and the resilience of the following in communities and sites:
 - **road** networks
 - **water** and **sewerage** services
 - **energy** infrastructure
 - **IT** infrastructure
 - **drainage** infrastructure
 - **health** services
- b) Investing in engagement to manage climate risks
 - local government to support **community engagement** on climate adaptation
 - **business engagement** on climate risk assessments and management
 - **farmer engagement** for opportunities to implement adaptation measures
 - **mental health** support for the farming community
 - provide advice, guidance and support for **decision makers** on climate adaptation
- c) Altering approaches to ways in which service providers work individually and together
 - factor climate risk into long term **service investments and planning**.
 - **alter specifications** and costings for roads, buildings and housing
 - review **management and investment plans** for town and sites for opportunities for climate adaptation
 - agencies working together on long term climate resilience on **sites**
- d) Providing financial incentives for adaptation
 - develop **economic case** for adaptation investment in towns and communities versus inaction
 - **collaborative budgeting** for adaptation activity, developmental and practical.
 - provide incentives for **farmers and landowners** to implement adaptation measures provide incentives for **off grid renewable energy** for communities
 - provide incentives for **grey water harvesting**

The project team suggest Gwent PSBs could explore whether an appropriate level of planning is happening to manage climate risks for the infrastructure that Gwent’s communities rely on. They could also consider where collaborative engagement might have the greatest impact on climate resilience and work together on this, and where collaborative, preventative budgeting might make sense to avoid higher costs in the future.

4.3 Practical adaptation solutions

Participants were able to provide a wide range of practical solutions to managing climate risks in Gwent. These focused predominantly on implementing nature-based solutions including:

- **tree planting** for flood retention, biodiversity and shade
- manage **hedges and verges** for biodiversity and flood retention
- re-establish former ponds, reservoirs and **water bodies** for water management

- introduce **beavers** for water management
- plant **drought resistant** trees and crops
- establish more **fire breaks** for wildfire management
- **tree management** for shade and flood prevention
- retrofit **permeable surfaces** in the public sectors property portfolio



Other solutions focused on assessing climate risk which included: detailed **risk assessments** of vulnerable assets and **business risk assessments** (including farms)

The project team suggest that these practical solutions are considered, and where appropriate pursued. Public authorities often focus on 'low hanging fruit' and practical solutions, and once one project is implemented for an issue, the issue is ticked off (tick box approach). While these practical projects are essential, and can help in communicating climate change, Gwent PSBs should not just focus on the practical, without addressing some of the strategic, systemic and collaborative adaptation actions suggested in this report.

4.4 Building adaptive capacity

It was recognised by many participants that climate risk and adaptation was new to them and that compared to other issues affecting their lives, and the low carbon agenda, that it had a low profile. There was a discernible emotional reaction to the scale of the risks discussed, and many felt that building understanding for communities and decision makers was necessary and urgent.



It should be noted that his project was run at the same time as the national and local news was focusing on the climate rebellion campaign and schools and young people were striking over the 'climate crisis'⁹.

This resulted in many suggestions about how to communicate and engage key actors and the community in order to respond to climate risk. Suggestions included:

- an overall **collaborative campaign** between agencies and communities to raise awareness of climate risk, and understand the needs of communities
- deeper, longer community **engagement** with towns, communities and communities of interest to build a deeper understanding of what motivates people around climate adaptation
- town/community climate change **narratives** to link with wider concerns of communities
- interpretation and education on **visitor sites** to include climate adaptation
- local long-term **visioning** of adapted and un-adapted places
- **citizens' juries** to bring communities and agencies to explore sufficiency of climate risk management
- **events** to include climate adaptation visioning and themed activities

The project team suggest that Gwent PSBs should seriously consider their collaborative approach to engaging Gwent's citizens in climate adaptation. A key question is, if there is to be an investment in developing an understanding of climate risk and response, what happens when people are engaged and concerned – what are the next steps for citizens to act on climate adaption and challenge and support

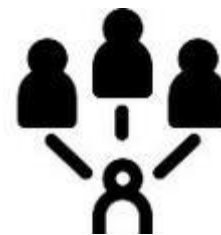
⁹ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/czwmw21ewkzqt/schools-climate-change-protests>

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-48051776?intlink_from_url=https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/cjyykdwmw58t/london-climate-change-protests&link_location=live-reporting-story

Climate Ready Gwent: Capturing the Lived Experience: Overview Report – Netherwood & Thomas 2019
public bodies on this issue? The model offered in Section 5 may help Gwent PSBs to explore what their priorities are in terms of building adaptive capacity across the region.

4.5 Community role

All nine engagements included an exercise to focus on how the community could be involved in and contribute to climate adaptation. Participants provided suggestions of practical ways that communities could support themselves and service providers: to build an understanding of climate risk: to gather evidence: and practical projects to manage climate impacts in the community.



An important point made by participants was that any activity engaging the community on this issue builds social networks and in doing so increases the capacity for residents and neighbours to respond to climate impacts. Suggestions by both communities and agencies included:

- interested and informed individuals and groups in the community opening up discussions with **agencies** and **young people** and **older people** to identify ways to adapt – acting as advocates for the issue and challenging and working with local agencies
- community **projects skills sharing to support households** deal with
 - run-off surface water
 - grey water
 - food production
 - increasing pollinators
- for individual sites, **friends' groups** designing and running projects which reduce climate risks
- residents designing and running **local surveys on perceptions** of climate risks and response
- residents **monitoring and surveying** condition of infrastructure, trees and biodiversity
- **habitat creation such as tree and hedge planting, and pond restoration** which manages climate risks
- community support to agencies on **management of green space within communities and** maintenance of **drainage to reduce flood risk**

While a minority of participants felt that it was a challenge to engage the community in any collective activity, these suggestions offer insight to Gwent PSBs on the energy and enthusiasm of the community to 'do something' about the issue. These ideas also show PSBs might focus their efforts to support community involvement in climate adaptation.

4.6 Further observations on managing climate risks in Gwent

The following reflections focus on what we have learned about how communities and agencies think about *response* to climate risks, providing clear messages to Gwent PSBs on governance, collaborative working and evidence on this issue.

- a) Participants focused on the role that the public sector, utility companies and others have in maintaining infrastructure in the future. They were able to explore their reliance on other bodies, and to question whether enough is being done to factor in climate adaptation to planning these functions in the future.

- b) There are doubts among both the community and agencies that climate adaptation is understood by those making long term decisions on behalf of communities at a public service or political level in Gwent.
- c) There was no evidence of blame – us and them- between agencies and communities on climate risk management. Instead, there was a clear message the decision makers and landowners needed to be supported to adapt current approaches.
- d) Participants felt that there needs to be more clarity on the responsibilities and accountability to drive and address climate risk and adaptation – governance and response to this issue needs to be understood by the community and agencies and open to scrutiny.
- e) There were very strong views that farmers and landowners are central to the solutions to managing climate risk in Gwent. They felt that this is not always recognised in local government activity or strategy. It was felt that further developing existing relationships and engagement between public bodies and the farming community and landowners should be an integral part of Gwent’s climate adaptation going forward.
- f) Agencies acknowledged that managing water in the environment, wildfires, and maintaining infrastructure won’t be resolved by ‘having a plan’. Instead, they did identify that there is a critical need to develop an understanding and a coherent approach to these risks between agencies on the Gwent PSBs, utilities and other organisations they work in partnership with. A good example of this is the need to develop a more coherent approach to wildfire management between NRW and South Wales Fire & Rescue in Cwmcarn.
- g) Increased neighbourliness is seen as a response to individual severe weather incidents. While there was evidence that this was a feature of communities during severe weather now, responses suggest that this can be lacking in local communities.
- h) In some cases, communities felt very distant from decision making and vulnerable to increased incidence of extreme weather. They saw the lack of local services in rural areas as increasing risks from climate change in the locality.



5 REFLECTIONS ON CLIMATE ADAPTATION ENGAGEMENT


This section provides analysis and observations from the project team on engagement on climate change, risk and adaptation. It provides recommendations on how climate adaptation could be framed to best capture the lived experience; lessons learnt for future approaches to climate adaptation at a regional and community level; and how partner organisations and Gwent PSBs might progress climate adaptation on a community, site and organisational level. A model approach is suggested which Gwent PSBs could use to consider their future approach to engagement and action on climate adaptation.

5.1 Techniques and methods used for engagement

The following reflections focus on what we have learned about the methods of engaging communities and agencies around the lived experience of climate change and key issues for Gwent PSBs to think about in their ongoing work:

- a) We have had had the following insight into introducing the **concept of climate risk, impact and adaptation** to communities and agencies:
- i. people do not see climate impacts and risk as a distant inexplicable phenomenon, which they cannot address, but see dealing with future climate risk as a real and current problem that they want to do something about.
 - ii. for people new to thinking about climate risk, it is essential to orientate/contextualise climate impacts and localise these to understand the lived experience. The CRG working group needs to provide this context as part of any engagement. This doesn't need to really focus on the science or causes of climate change – but the likely risks and subsequent impacts on the locality.
 - iii. asking 'what do you think about climate change' is likely to get polarised answer, based on belief or non-belief in climate change (or the minimal UK emissions in comparison to those of China), rather than any real insight into impacts on community well-being.
 - iv. Use of specific information and data from local plans is important when working primarily with agencies. This can help the group explore where responsibility for adaptive action might lie – to identify drive and hook for implementation.
 - v. Learning from this project suggests that linking climate risk to people's particular local concerns, rather than as a generic 'issue' may help in increasing levels of engagement
 - vi. many responses during the engagement focused on carbon reduction solutions, rather than dealing with the consequences of increased frequency of severe weather.
 - vii. in future engagement PSBs and partners will need to
 - emphasise that we will have to adapt to the consequences of climate impact that were already expecting and
 - be explicit that while carbon reduction is part of the solution of the wider long-term problem, this will not address local impacts of severe weather.
- b) we have used the technique of thinking about the **past, present and future**. We believe this is a very useful 'frame' to explore the lived experience of climate change at a local level, and have found:



- i. that even in a short time available (with context and facilitation) this frame can provide a rich understanding of how communities view climate change and severe weather. The technique was resonant to participants and created energy and enthusiasm in group work. Participants enjoy storytelling and anecdotes
 - ii. this frame has enabled communities and agencies to explore change over time – it gets people into space to think about risks to place. However, if this is to be used, PSBs need to be clear that this about thinking about change over time as a precursor for thinking about tackling climate change is not an ‘exact science’. Nevertheless, this is important qualitative information on the community’s perception of the issue.
 - iii. this an adaptable frame which can be used and modified to engage any group, community, resident or member of staff on climate adaptation.
- c) We have used the **community of enquiry technique** in group work with communities and agencies and found these very useful tools to:
- i. open-up and explore the challenges posed by a changing climate. We believe is important to do this with communities before agencies offer up existing policy solutions or describe current activity which might contribute to climate resilience.
 - ii. identify conceptual questions which help the community and agencies to explore whether current approaches are sufficient to deal with the scale of the issues raised, and any gaps in response
 - iii. provide an open and inclusive space for agencies and communities to come together to explore climate risk and response and share their lived experience.
- d) Our experience of **using semi-structured interviews** in Blaenavon and with farmers provided a rich understanding of combined strategic, infrastructural and operational risks to ‘place’. The quality of information is high, helping to explore the risks and challenges and interface between different climate impacts. Interviews are a valuable way of understanding the complexity of multiple climate risks in a particular place.
- 
- An icon depicting two stylized human figures in silhouette, one slightly larger than the other, positioned below two overlapping speech bubbles. This icon represents communication, dialogue, or an interview process.
- e) Using the **world café approach**, asking basic questions on specific risks, actions, evidence, key actors, critical factors is useful. Participants can choose what issues that they want to consider. It filters out platitudes and generalisations. It is important going forward that participants are encouraged to think about who needs to be engaged to deliver adaptive action and receive the business case for adaptive approaches.
- f) Focusing on developing **climate adaptation actions** in Monmouth shows the value of getting beyond the concept, impacts and risks associated with climate change into ideas of how agencies, community can work strategically, practically and build capacity for adaptive action. It should be acknowledged that moving communities from being introduced to climate adaptation to involving them in practical action will take time.
- g) We have also reflected on methods of **developing engagement** through the project and lessons Gwent PSBs can learn from this:
- i. our work with the two Town and Community Councils showed very different levels of interest and engagement in this issue (great interest in Goldcliff, much less in Blaenavon). While there may be a number of factors in play in this, it should be acknowledged that there will trial and error in engaging people on this issue and learning about what approach works best in each individual local context. We suggest that the the process needs time and multiple opportunities to speak to harder to reach groups who have a view, want to share that view and engage in dialogue around these issues

- ii. working through intermediaries such as the Gwent Living Levels Project and developing an understanding of local context is very important – communities and the agencies that are working in them are complex – there is never a clean slate – Gwent PSBs need to look for opportunities to weave climate adaptation planning and engagement into existing fora and projects.
- h) A lot of data has been produced and a **case study format** provides a ‘product’ to provide back to this engaged, a way to communicate the key issues to partners, to spread understanding of climate adaptation and a format which can be built on if further engagement is undertaken across Gwent. In terms of analysis the case study has enabled the project team to look across all 9 case studies to reflect on regional lessons from the project and make the observations in this section.

5.2 Opportunities to develop engagement on climate adaptation in Gwent

The following reflections focus on our learning from the project as a whole and seek to guide Gwent PSBs on their ongoing and future work on climate adaptation. We suggest that:

- a) that communities and agencies need time to understand and explore climate risks in a ‘place’, and it will take further time to develop a local narrative of change, and to identify ways in which these risks can be managed to maintain and improve local well-being.
- b) the more time that is invested in engaging with participants, the richer picture of impact, risk and response. It is strongly advised that surveys, pop up stalls, generic information provision, web base information on its own will not provide the quality of information that is needed to inform adaptation planning.
- c) where work is already going on in communities, PSBs could introduce climate adaptation into local engagement – but need to be aware of capacity issues in terms of understanding and communicating the issue, and the time requirements to organise engagement.
- d) young people can be engaged in thinking about climate adaptation for place and the future. Not just for awareness raising, but focus should be on inter-generational discussions between young and old residents, scrutiny of decision makers and young people understanding the role and challenging organisations acting on their behalf, ways of influencing this through the democratic process. There are opportunities through the Climate Emergency movement to do this,
- e) there is a strong view from participants that for Blaenavon World Heritage Site and Cwmcarn Forest, that further work should be done by partners to build on the CRG engagement and that management plans should be reviewed to include adaptation actions.
- f) these sites also identified an opportunity to use climate risk and adaptation as part of interpretative and educational material for visitors to the site to communicate changing landscapes over time, This approach would help to raise awareness of the issue, promote the sites exemplar activity on climate adaptation and provide examples to similar sites in Wales, UK and abroad.
- g) there is appetite from agencies involved in site management and in Monmouth to develop longer term visions of ‘place’ which incorporate climate adaptation. WLGA and others have used these techniques in the past with some success to communicate a climate adapted future at a community level.
- h) the role of elected officials is very important should be part of any engagement. Information could be provided to local authority ward members and town councillors from this project to inform their own



- i) local activities These town and unitary authority councillors could also have a central role in communicating climate risk, gathering data and opinion on climate impacts in their locality to inform adaptive response.
 - j) the information from this report can be used to inform well-being assessment and plans and to feed into partner organisations plans (e.g. NRW Area statements). It should also be used to inform management and forward plans of the individual sites and partnerships engaged in the project. (Living Levels Project, South East Wales Resilient Uplands Project, Cwm Carn Forest, Transition Monmouth, Blaenavon World Heritage Site.
- a) even with the breadth of engagement in this project, this is the ‘tip of the iceberg’ in terms of understanding community perspectives on climate adaptation, ways in which to involve them in adaptation planning and developing coherent local actions for adaptation between agencies and communities.

5.2 Climate Adaptation Engagement Model

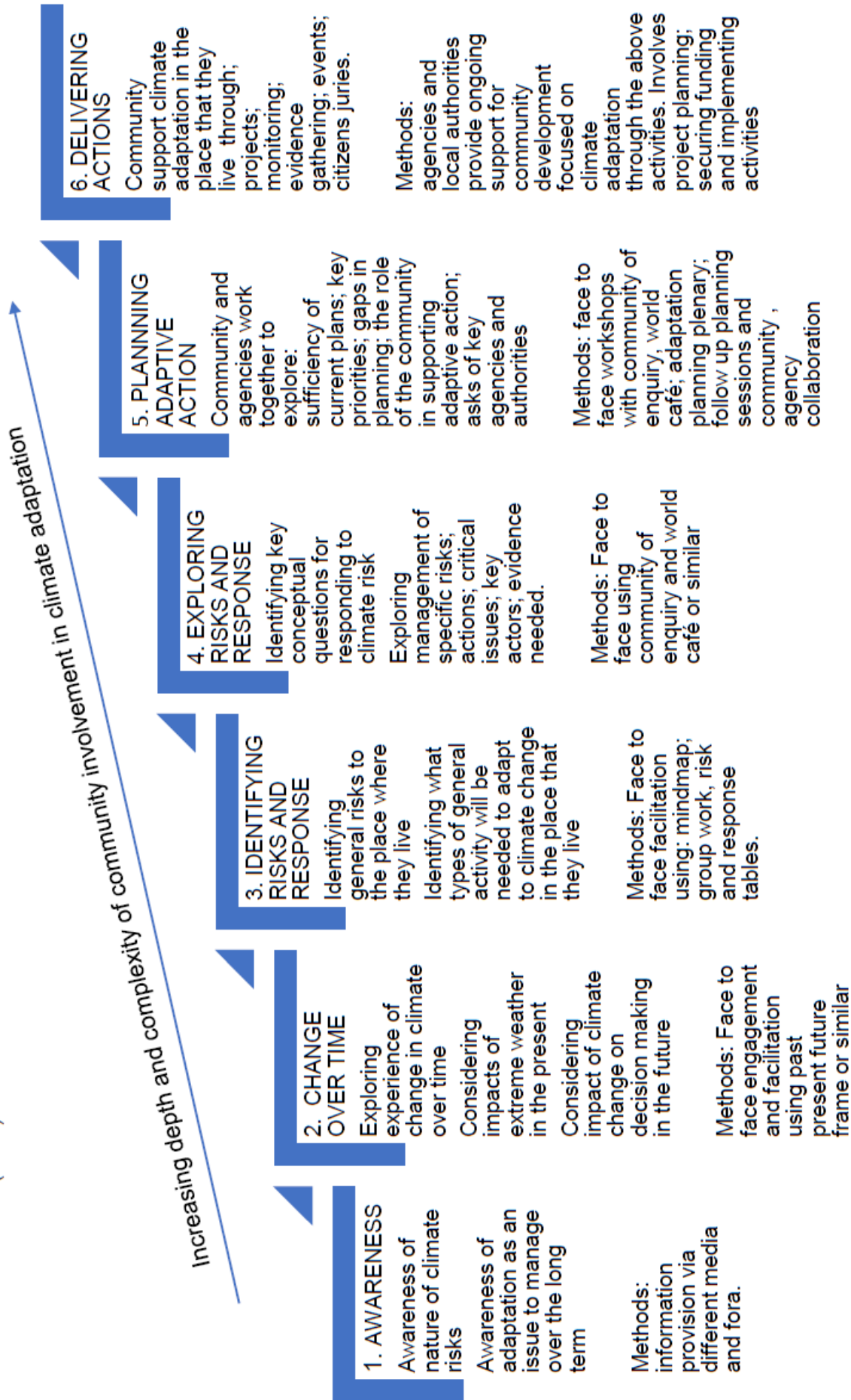
As part of our reflection and analysis for the Climate Ready Gwent project, we have developed a model which Gwent PSBs (or any partner organisation or other PSB) can use to consider how to progress community involvement in climate adaptation. This is shown overleaf.

- a) A central question that emerged for the project team was how far do Gwent PSBs want to go in supporting communities to work with them on this agenda? Clearly this project has used different techniques to engage the community and agencies in Gwent, it has raised awareness of the issue, and explored potential responses, identified some potential actions – however if we are to engage communities in practical activities then we suggest that Gwent PSBs need to involve those they engage in many, if not all of the steps in this model
- b) The model shows 6 steps of increasing depth of involvement of communities in addressing climate change from raised awareness to implementing action, based on our experience of this project. We have suggested techniques that we have used, but if this approach was replicated – other technique including visioning and scenario planning could be used to help communities and agencies develop a deeper understanding of climate risk and the response required.
- c) The key take from this model is that involving communities in adaptive action is a major commitment and will need resources and time to do this meaningfully across Gwent. The second key message is that the more time given to the activity, there is proportionately a greater understanding and depth of insight into localised impact, lived experience and potential adaptive response. This deeper investment provides an opportunity to unlock people’s enthusiasm, insights, community networks and community wisdom that could be utilised to create long term community resilience to climate impacts.
- d) We hope that the Gwent PSBs and other organisations find this model useful in considering how to engage on this complex, strategic and important issue in the future.



Climate adaptation community engagement model

Netherwood & Thomas (2019)

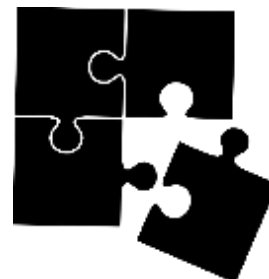


5 PROGRESSING CLIMATE ADAPTATION ENGAGEMENT IN GWENT

Based on the findings of this project, this section provides specific points for Gwent PSBs to consider on how they progress climate adaptation actions at a regional level, and within individual PSBs. This is in addition to the recommendations and suggestions made within the previous sections. This advice provides a potential forward agenda for Climate Ready Gwent partners to consider.

5.1 At a **strategic level** Gwent PSBs should consider the following:

- a) this data can be used by Gwent PSBs and partners for their well-being assessments, and well-being plans by PSB partners to inform area plans, town plans, site plans and by NRW for their Area Statements
- b) we also recommend that the information is used to inform local authority work on both Local Development Plans, and investment in transport infrastructure via Local Transport Plans, and service planning, particularly around the maintenance of essential infrastructure in Gwent's communities.
- c) the information could also be used to open-up dialogue between Gwent PSBs and on utility companies: Dwr Cymru; West and Wales Utilities; Western Power Distribution and transport partners: Network Rail and Transport for Wales about approaches to climate risk in terms of infrastructural investment across Gwent
- d) develop discussions with the farming community via Farming Connect, NFU, FUW and others to better understand the strategic challenge of supporting farmers and landowners in adaptive action across Gwent
- e) using the information in this report and case studies proactively to stimulate inform and engage regional and local partners on this issue to address climate adaptation's low profile as a policy issue¹⁰.



5.2 At a **community/site/project level** consideration should be given to building on this work:

- a) by using these or similar methods to engage other communities, sites, and interest groups on climate adaptation to understand their lived experience and to identify adaptive actions in other contexts (urban, historic, tourist sites, business community, different types of town and community councils, different landscapes)
- b) working with in one or two communities for an extended period to better understand how to motivate and engage communities to plan for adaptation, following the Climate Adaptation Engagement Model described in Section 5 (or similar)
- c) developing a clearer understanding of the perspective of the farming and landowning community in Gwent, which is so crucial to climate adaptation response, to support further dialogue (see above)



¹⁰ Please see.

Flynn, A, Kythreotis, AP & Netherwood, A (2016) Climate Change Adaptation in Wales: Much Ado About Nothing? *The Environmental Scientist*, 25 (3): 32-39

- d) by integrating climate adaptation engagement into existing or planned projects and programmes of work at a regional or local level for example, the Living Levels Partnership.
- e) by developing opportunities to work through events (like the Wye AONB Festival in 2020) to explore climate adaptation with those attending, through art and other cultural activities
- f) develop examples of a climate adaptation narrative which can be used for site interpretation, education and wider community engagement.
- g) establish opportunities to get communities together with local authorities and agencies to enable them to ask questions of those who are acting on their behalf in planning for climate change, and to provide ideas about how they can get involved in supporting climate resilience – running citizens juries, young people’s juries. This would support both global and local citizenship.
- h) establish opportunities to get older and young people together to share their experiences and ideas on climate risk adaptation- providing a multi-generational perspective on the issue¹¹

5.3 At a **site management** level to use techniques similar to those adopted during this project to enable inter-agency and community discussions on climate risk and response, this might also involve:

- reviewing current management plans and exploring inter-agency responses to increased climate risks and their adequacy going forward
- developing long-term visions for the sites factoring in climate risk
- identifying specific actions and levels of investment which is required to maintain the sites, and their functions under climate change conditions
- identifying the mechanisms and funding to implement climate adaptation actions which secure the resilience of the site over the long term



5.3 Finally, we have included a page of **quotes from the community** which serve to communicate the lived experience of residents, public sector workers (also residents), farmers and representative of groups and communities of interest. Many more quotes and ideas and recommendations are made within the case studies specific to the groups and sites that were engaged. The following quotes illustrate many of the themes that we have discussed in this overview report, and communicate the gravity of the issue, the concern of those we engaged and the passion to “do something about it.”

Dr. Alan Netherwood & Dafydd Thomas May 2019

¹¹see recent missive from Older People’s Commissioner for Wales’ Commissioner’s on this issue.
http://www.olderpeoplewales.com/en/news/news/19-04-29/Solidarity_between_generations_is_vital_say_Commissioners.aspx?cldee=ZGFmeWRkQHdlbGxiZWluZ3BsYW5uZXluY28udWs=&recipientid=lead-48c58d037254e811812470106faacba1-ecdadcf9461440d9affee321d8cee07b&esid=a23598b9-896d-e911-a98c-0022480050c6#.XNEhBNh7mUI

This is real do - something about it
(Year 6 Pupil)

“the energy infrastructure is above ground with relatively small items of machinery. It’s the end of the line for lots of things and may be vulnerable to extreme weather. (Town Councillor)

“council-staff on the adaptation side I think they really got it because they’re actually seeing first-hand the fact that they’re having to go out more and do more sandbagging, clear fallen trees and deal with all this weird weather.”
(Public Sector)

“In 2018 the turf also set on fire and we had real problems with dust and health issues in the valley. The area that burnt had had no stock on for 20 years. There is a real balancing act between burning and topping – it’s a real tinderbox (Farmer)

“The future feels like quite a fearful place and unless we manage that for ourselves. It’s very difficult to open-up and have that conversation with other people. We need to start working out how to have those narratives with people, which are quite tough to have.” (Resident).

Plant more trees catch the rain
(Year 6 Pupil)

“We need more co-operation between ourselves and others, but relationships need to be improved between authorities and ourselves in managing climate risk.” (Farmer)

“Whatever weather we are getting it seems more intense, rain-storms, snow and heat” (Farmer)

“Decisions must be made on [principles not on finance. They should be for the good of the community with the long term in mind” (Resident)

I think there has to be a sense of urgency amongst everybody that unless we act now, we’re bugged basically and that instils in me that we have to work together. (Resident)

“you don’t have to worry just about the fact that you’re creating climate change, you’ve got to worry about how you actually adapt to climate change, isn’t it?” (Gwent Farmer)

“If we don’t manage our water, we [the World Heritage Site] don’t have a future” (Public Sector)

Organisations and communities need to speak the same language about the same things in a coordinated way. I think there needs to be some real courage in having truthful and honest conversations (Public Sector)

“sink holes are causing problems across the landscape, including roads and houses being compromised – it’s really noticeable the difference between the side that has been mined and the side that hasn’t” (Town Councillor)

Note on the authors:

Dr. Alan Netherwood – Netherwood Sustainable Futures

Netherwood Sustainable Futures provides expert consultancy advice and research on sustainable development, climate adaptation, public policy, future trends and foresighting. Since 2007 NSF has supported government, the public, third and community sectors in developing strategy, policy, process and practice which supports sustainability and long-term delivery.

Local Authorities, Welsh Government, UK Government Departments, Health Boards, Commissioners, Public Services Boards, third sector bodies and charities have worked with Netherwood Sustainable Futures over the last 12 years to develop their capacity, strategy and delivery.

Drawing on the experience of Dr. Alan Netherwood, bespoke support is provided for organisations and partnerships, accounting for their unique set of circumstances to support real change in how clients deliver their work. With an academic background in sustainability and organisational change and a professional background in policy, public service and the voluntary sector - advice, recommendations and reports provided to clients are proportionate, evidenced and practical.

Dr. Alan Netherwood, Banc Olive, Taliaris, Carmarthenshire, SA19 7DD
Phone: 01558 685942/ 0782 464 1366 Email: alan.netherwood@gmail.com



Dafydd Thomas – Well-being Planner

The Wellbeing Planner was established in 2013 and provides independent, bespoke, customer focused service that includes: facilitation of processes or group activities; project and organisational development and project or programme evaluation. Improvements in wellbeing are a key driver in the Wellbeing Planner's activities.

A first language Welsh speaker, Dafydd Thomas is an experienced facilitator and qualitative researcher. Accredited as a Level Two Facilitator with the Association of Facilitators since 2013, an Appreciative Inquiry Champion accredited by the Institute of Leadership and Management and a member of the Market Research Society.

As a facilitator, recent clients have included Welsh Government, Public Health Wales, Care Inspectorate Wales, Natural Resources Wales and the Health Care Inspectorate for Wales. He has over 20 years of experience working different groups across Wales in participative techniques to develop policies and implement change.



Dafydd Thomas, 33 Belle Vue Crescent Llandaf North Cardiff CF142FJ
Phone: 07894 917 533 Email: dafydd@wellbeingplanner.co.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

CLIMATE READY GWENT CASE STUDY – Blaenau Gwent Children’s Council

1. Nature of engagement

This describes the scope of the engagement to capture the lived experience.

Blaenau Gwent Children’s Council provides a forum for representatives from all primary schools in the area to work with the local authority Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC), enabling young people (year 6 children aged 10-11) to influence what the Council does. The Children’s Council meets several times a year and engages in interactive activity to inform the children and agencies working in the area. CRG engagement sought to capture young people’s views of climate change, understand how they perceived climate risk in the community and key messages for decision makers for planning for changes in Blaenau Gwent’s climate. CRG were particularly interested in the perspectives and views of young people on the future impacts of climate change on their community and their messages to decision makers about the future.



Note: Blaenau Gwent is made up of densely urbanised communities and large tracts of open countryside ranging from 400-1200ft in altitude, with a population of approx. 70,000. The schoolchildren represented communities from across the Borough.

2. Establishing engagement

This describes how the engagement was developed with local groups and agencies to explore the lived experience.

BGCBC suggested that the CRG project should engage with the Children’s Council as part of one of its regular meetings on 12.02.19. The project team liaised with BGCBC officials on the length, method and focus of the session and capturing the session with photographs. An ‘offer’ from the project team was agreed to provide morning session on climate adaptation as part of a day long programme for the children.

3. Community and agency involvement

This outlines who was involved in the discussion of the lived experience.

48 year 6 pupils from 23 different primary schools were engaged in discussion on climate risk and adaptation. This covered schools from all areas of the Borough including Ebbw Vale, Tredegar, Brymawr, Blaina and Abertillery.

Primary schools involved: Bryngwyn Road, Queen Street, Roseheyworth , Soffryd , St. Iltyds, All Saints, Beaufort Hill , Cwm, Ebbw Fawr, Glyncoed, Willowtown, St. Joseph's, Deighton, Georgetown, Glanhwy, BrynBach, Rhos y Fedwen Saint Mary's, Coed y Garn, St. Mary's RC, Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg, Blaenycym.

4. Formats and methods adopted

This summarises the methods adopted to stimulate discussion and record the lived experience.

The session was held at the Llanhilleth Institute, a large hall, with IT facilities and plenty of room to engage the children in an interactive session. The session ran from 10.30-12.15. This included;

- an opening 15-minute *presentation on climate impacts*, emphasising the need to manage climate risks into the future, the types of impact we can expect, how we might manage them and the fact that young people all over the world are getting involved in climate protests. Questions focused on the nature of changes, how we can cope and what do we do about it
- *triad questions*, with movement, focusing on what's going to see be biggest impact from climate change: people; the environment; local businesses
- *mind mapping* – group work focusing on climate impacts on the place that the children live; the most urgent issues and any opportunities that might occur – this included feedback to the room. Data was captured in mind maps from the children.
- *message for the future* – group work focusing on visioning for the future and writing a message to the people of Blaenau Gwent in 2050. Data was captured on paper from the children.

- *message board* – developing a 15-word headline, a ‘call to action’ for decision makers in the future – photographed on a message board

The project team and BGCBC staff facilitated the tables and exercises. BGCBC staff took photographs. Facilitation was also provided in the Welsh Language



5. Relevant local information used

This summarises the local data and evidence which was used to stimulate discussion on the lived experience.

In order to ‘localise’ climate impact, photographs of extreme weather events from Abertillery, Blaina, Ebbw Vale and Tredegar were used to illustrate the range of conditions which are likely to become more prevalent and extreme. Triad questions focused on impacts of climate change on these specific towns.

6. Key issues raised – Past

This summarises the perceptions of those involved, about how the climate has changed during their lifetimes and their memories of how severe weather has impacted on their lived experience.

This question was not raised specifically for the children, although they were encouraged in the *Message from the Future* exercise to think back from 2050 about how climate change had impacted upon their lives (see quotes).

7. Key issues raised – Present

This summarises the perceptions of those involved, about how severe weather impacts now on their lived experience.

This question was not raised specifically for the children – although they did discuss deep snow, storm and flooding incidents as part of the morning’s exercises, especially in the mind mapping exercises.



8. Key issues raised – Future

This summarises the perceptions of those involved, about key issues that decision makers need to manage, between now and mid-century, to plan for climate change.

The children were encouraged in the **Message from the Future** exercise to send a message back in time, from 2050 on how climate risk had been managed.

MESSAGE FROM THE FUTURE

CLIMATE IS SAVED! To the past, climate change hasn't happened, the world and communities that are healthy. Thanks to electricity saving and the eco-friendly houses, you have saved this from a tragedy that could've took over our nature. Lily

A lot has been happening because scientists have changed the climate. And when summer appears it will be summer until summer is over. And when winter appears it will be stay winter until winter stops.

Climate change hasn't happened yet because of all the little things you have done to help all the people in the world. This letter is for you to remember to thank you for all the little changes that you have made to help the millions - especially the Earth.

Everybody this is a message from 2050 and I know how to help with climate change. Talk to every government and committee then to switch to fusion energy and eradicate fossil fuel is from Sam

This message is from the future. It is an important message from the future!

Now there are no more heat waves, heavy snow or bad rain. All is peaceful. More trees are planted to catch the rain the chance of snow is decreased, and the rain has decreased because of the trees.

Dear Past, if you are worried or concerned about global warming here is what we have experienced. Global warming was stopped, and the water levels were controlled. But the only way we stopped the floods what was people believing in themselves so always believe and you will always succeed.

To the Past: We haven't had climate change yet because we have made eco-friendly houses with stilts underneath our houses. Thanks, from Lacie.

I am now 45 years old and a lot has happened since 2019. The flooding has got a lot worse. In fact, we are all in the middle of a flood right now. It is raining really bad and I have to stay in my house because I will be pushed down on the floor by the wind. So, I decided to write a letter to the past! I hope that someday we will have stilts underneath our home. Change for the world!

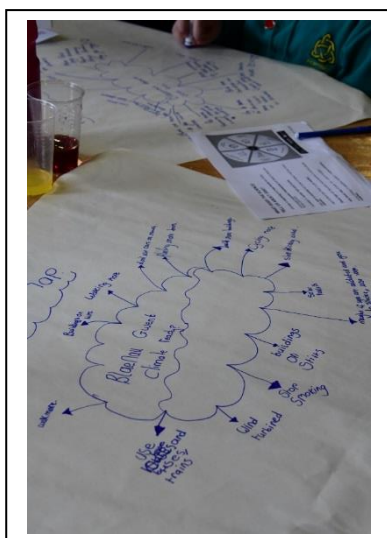
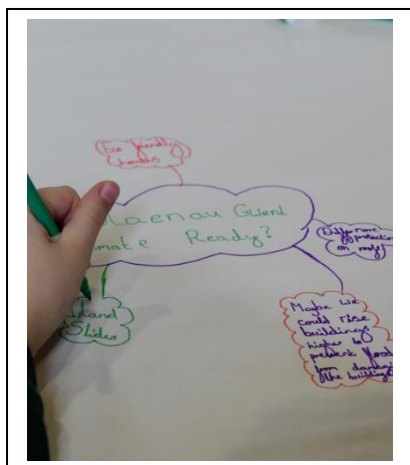
CLIMATE CHANGE DEFEATED Climate change did not happen. Because the community helped, and they put out all the fires with buckets of water and also houses from the gardens. Also, the elderly were not affected by the snow because younger people cleared their yard and they didn't sleep in the snow. Harley

9. Risks to the community/place.

This summarises the risks identified by the children to residents, the town, local economy & business and landscape and nature

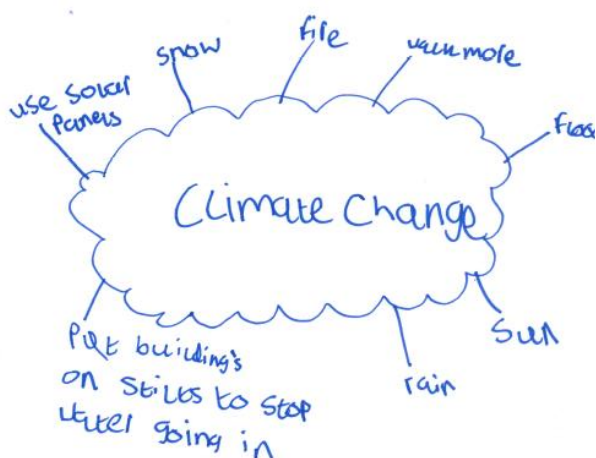
These are the risks that concerned the children when thinking about climate impacts on their community through discussion and mind mapping.

| Residents | Town | Economy & Business | Landscape & Nature |
|--|---|---|--|
| future proof jobs pollution clean water food availability vulnerable people damage to homes poor unable to respond | surface water flooding security of power supply resource & energy efficiency | famers and food producers manufacturers of goods (efficiency) | adaptability of wildlife and habitats blurred seasonality deforestation and impact on flooding |



10. Managing Climate Risks

This provides an overview of how the children suggest these risks should be managed.



- suitable infrastructure to manage the movement of surface water
- energy efficient housing, factories and places of work
- climate adapted housing
- landowners and farmers planting more trees
- designated areas to grow our own food
- public transport, walking and cycling options
- use unclean water to put out fires

There was a focus on carbon reduction rather than adaptation. Children really got the complexity of interconnections between different impacts and solutions. e.g. tree planting, soil run-off and water quality in rivers.

11. Community role *This provides ideas from the children about how they can support climate resilience.*

- empowering young people so they have a say in their future
- engagement projects looking at sourcing of foods and non-meat diets
- community related action that gives individuals the confidence that they can drive change
- interventions around conservation and understanding local species and habitats

12. Reflections on the engagement

This summarises key issues emerging from the engagement and how the information developed during the engagement could be used in ongoing dialogue between the community and by local agencies.

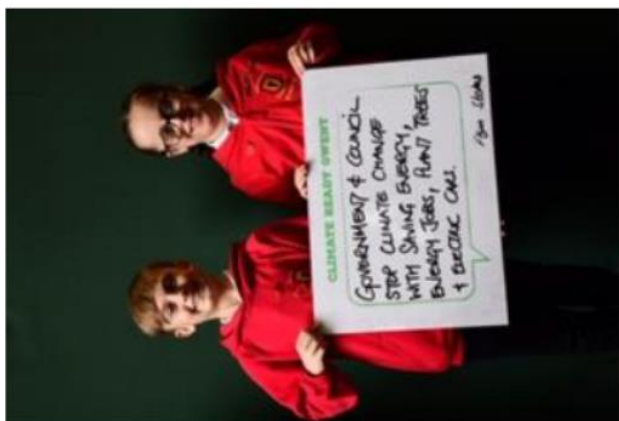
- a) this involves engagement with children new to the concept of climate risk as a result of past emissions. It may have come as a surprise that consequences of climate change are so soon and will affect them during their lifetimes, whatever they do now.
- b) the participants were very concerned about protecting the environment in its widest sense and talked about pollution, energy use, energy production, carbon reduction and habitat conservation. They were engaged, passionate and wanted to do something, but really unsure and at times frustrated about how to create change within their own communities.
- c) there were some very insightful responses from the children on the need to adapt infrastructure, land use and decision making to cope with and manage future changes. Clearly there is some engineering and political expertise developing in Blaenau Gwent
- d) the children were able to develop dialogue with their peers on impacts, solutions, the role of different actors and their own responsibilities
- e) the children were comfortable in thinking about multi-generational impacts, focusing on their own town, letters from the future, mind mapping, triad questions and writing 15 word messages worked as ways to get them to explore their reactions to the issue of climate risk. The children responded positively to the variety of activity offered.
- f) to build on this session children could be engaged in imagining a Gwent impacted by climate change, using scenarios and them being offered potential solutions might help in future engagement.
- g) in future it needs to be made even more explicit that the session is about what needs to be done as a community to adapt to the changes that are already coming.
- h) this was a first step in that process of shaping engaged young citizens who are going to living with all of this going forward. Their frustration about what was happening and lack of power to do something about it was palpable (see slogans in pictures in Section 14 below).
- i) Blaenau Gwent Council have, since the session, received correspondence from pupils regarding declaring a climate emergency.
- j) the children clearly want to know what is being done about climate adaptation by decision makers, on their behalf.

13. Recommendations for Gwent PSBs

Observations and suggestions for GSWAG and Climate Ready Gwent Working Group on how this case study informs their continued engagement with the community

- a) If the Gwent PSBs are going to engage with schools in the area on climate adaptation, they need to take special care to get across the differences between adaptation and mitigation through interactive activity to make this clear to pupils and teachers.
- b) Gwent PSBs and partner organisations should explore opportunities to bring decision makers together with children on climate adaptation to understand each-others' perspectives and roles.
- c) there is an opportunity for Gwent PSBs to develop discourse as part of Climate Crisis movement and extinction rebellion, through children's and youth groups and fora.
- d) any future engagement should focus on giving children a similar level of information on climate risk, but also give them information on how to engage with decision makers, while learning about local democracy and how their 'place' functions with different agencies and organisations.
- e) children need to be given information and activity to help them to understand how they can affect change in their communities to adapt to climate change.

14. Message Board – a 15-word headline for decision makers



1. Nature of engagement

This describes the scope of the engagement to capture the lived experience.

Blaenau Gwent 50+ Forum is a group of residents which meet twice a year to provide input into Council policy and practice affecting older people in Blaenau Gwent. The Network, chaired by a lead local authority councillor, receives input from local agencies and advises on and informs service delivery in Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. CRG engagement sought to capture older people's views of how the local climate had changed during their lives, understand how they perceived climate risk in the community from increased incidence of severe weather and key messages for decision makers for planning for changes in Blaenau Gwent's climate. CRG were particularly interested in the views and perspectives of older people of changes over time, but also, their insights into the impact of climate change on the elderly community.



Note: Blaenau Gwent has densely urbanised communities (Ebbw Vale, Tredegar, Brymawr, Blaina and Abertillery) and large tracts of open countryside ranging from 400-1200ft in altitude, with a population of approx. 70,000.

2. Establishing engagement

This describes how the engagement was developed with local groups and agencies to explore the lived experience.

BGCBC suggested that the CRG project should engage with the 50+ Network as part of one of its regular meetings on 20.02.19. The project team liaised with BGCBC officials on the length, method and focus of the session and the logistics of capturing the session using *MeetingSphere*. An 'offer' was agreed for the project team to run a session climate adaptation as part Network meeting also involving Gwent Police on cybercrime. The time provided the session on the agenda was 50 minutes, which limited the scope of the engagement.

3. Community and agency involvement

This outlines who was involved in the discussion of the lived experience.

The session involved: 25 people present at the Forum, including members of the public, Council officers and partners representing Gwent Police and Smart Money Cymru. Two members Blaenau Gwent People's First also attended representing a local charity who support and advocate for people with learning disabilities.

4. Formats and methods adopted

This summarises the methods adopted to stimulate discussion and record the lived experience.

The meeting was held in Ebbw Vale Action Learning Centre with IT facilities enabling the use of *MeetingSphere* to capture data.¹ The seating was in cabaret style to facilitate this and to encourage group discussion. The session comprised of:

- an opening 10-minute *presentation on climate impacts*, emphasising the need to manage climate risks into the future, the types of impact we can expect, the impact on infrastructure and services and how this may impact on the lived experience, as well as the basic elements of climate adaptation practice.
- Attendees were given an explanation of how to use *MeetingSphere* and invited to focus on the following questions for 12 minutes each
 - *Past* – participants experience of severe weather and what changes had been experienced in the seasons, nature and the weather throughout their lives.
 - *Present* – participants experience of severe weather now (which is likely to become more common and extreme under climate change) and how we currently manage.
 - *Future* – participants' advice for decision makers on how to plan for an increased incidence and severity in extreme weather in the future

¹ MeetingSphere is workshop software enabling data to be typed in directly to tablets by attendees and screened to encourage discussion and debate. It is a way of capturing and ordering data quickly and using this in a workshop setting as well as capturing large amounts of data for later analysis.

- Data was collected using *MeetingSphere* and referred to in brief discussions following each question.
- A short plenary session provided observations and commentary from the Network.

5. Relevant local information used

This summarises the local data and evidence which was used to stimulate discussion on the lived experience.

In order to 'localise' climate impact, photographs of extreme weather events from Abertillery, Blaina, Ebbw Vale and Tredegar were used to illustrate the range of conditions which are likely to become more prevalent and extreme. This included historic photographs available online of extreme weather in the area.

6. Key issues raised – Past

This summarises the perceptions of those involved, about how the climate has changed during their lifetimes and their memories of how severe weather has impacted on their lived experience.

Memories of extreme weather

In 1947 we had heavy snow up to the windows. Had to dig tunnels or climb through windows to get out of the house or buildings. Petrol was dropped by plane, so bakers were able to bake bread and Abertillery Battalion supplied food rations to the locally community.

I remember tarmac melting on the roads and having to carry water from the mountain spring during hot summers.

In summers tarmac melted and always ruined our white socks.

In 1976 I remember water harvesting for toilet use, watering plants and stand pipes for drinking water

In 1985/6, because of heavy snow I was stuck in work for three days and couldn't go home. I worked at the Steelworks

Changing seasons and weather conditions

The seasons were more defined.

There was a lot more snow in the winter

Seasons were more consistent.

Spring is earlier now

Summers were hotter and winters were colder.

The weather was more predictable in previous generations.

Winters were more severe in Tredegar; the snow would last for many weeks if not months.

Windier now than in previous decades

Changing Response

I can't remember hosepipe bans when I was younger

There was more community working and cooperation.

People were less reliant on public services and helped themselves and the neighbours more

There used to be more snow, and everything carried on, but now, one inch and everything stops!

People expectations were less in respect of public services.

7. Key issues raised – Present *This summarises the perceptions of those involved, about how severe weather impacts now on their lived experience.*

Preparation and response

*Stock up with food
 Check trees close to house are safe
 Stock up on bottled water and long- life food
 use fans and air con
 Listen to weather warnings
 Try to get hold of sand bags
 Keep curtains/blinds closed to keep house cooled.
 Check on the neighbours.
 Preparation in terms of salt and snow shovels.
 We keep an eye on our neighbours and help them more.*

“People are more selfish now. They don't help each other so much. Some people panic buy essential supplies, creating shortages.

“Elderly neighbours can be left struggling.”

“Several of us and neighbours dig out the street and assisted elderly or less mobile with shopping.

“It really exposed those who were community spirited and those who were not”

8. Key issues raised – Future *This summarises the perceptions of those involved, about key issues that decision makers need to manage, between now and mid-century, to plan for climate change.*

*Plan for worst-case scenario
 Plan better for more extreme events.
 Don't be complacent.
 Educate people from a very young about how their acts will affect generations in the future
 Engage the farmers, land owners, communities and schools around the issue
 Support decision makers on adaptive action.*

9. Risks to the community/place. *This summarises the risks identified by participants to the community, local environment, economy and services.*

| Residents | Town | Economy & Business | Landscape & Nature |
|---|--|---|---|
| Access for emergency services Damage to infrastructure Damage to property Insurance premiums Isolated elderly residents Access to food Ageing demographic: demands on social and health services Less mobile individuals at risk from extreme weather | Road infrastructure maintenance Flood damage to roads Maintaining the road drainage Surface water flooding Damage to property from falling trees Flood damage from the rivers | Getting goods to large shops / outlets 'in time' in extremes of weather Business Finance: insurance premiums Smaller local businesses less able to adapt business practice | Fires on the uplands and common lands Stronger winds damaging trees (wind throw) Changes in agricultural practice causing fires and soil erosion Large areas of tarmac creating surface water run-off and flooding further down the valley |

10. Managing Climate Risks *This provides an overview of how participants suggest these risks should be managed.*

- Services to provide salt and shovels to help with extremes in cold weather
- Local council to clear roads during extremes in cold weather.
- Grants for homeowner solar panels and household water storage
- Help for farmers to better manage farm waste and farm run off
- A reliable source of information about expected extreme weather events and what to do.
- (Not everyone on line or using smart phones.)
- Maintenance of drains and culverts to manage surface water run off along whole valley length
- Identify, restore or maintain water capture facilities in the area - former reservoirs.

11. Community role *This provides ideas from the community about how they can support climate resilience.*

- Community members to keep an eye on elderly and less mobile during extreme weather.
- Community members to access services for elderly and less mobile during extreme weather.
- Energy: community renewables e.g. solar panels on the roofs of houses and household insulation.
- Localised community power generation

12. Reflections on the engagement *This summarises key issues emerging from the engagement and how the information developed during the engagement could be used in ongoing dialogue between the community and by local agencies.*

- a) this was an hour-long session with people very new to the idea of climate risk and its potential impact on the community.
- b) Despite the limited time available the participants provided a rich picture of their thoughts on past and present severe weather, with some views on planning for more severe weather in the future. More time would have been useful to open-up discussion following each exercise and explore future planning.
- c) a focus on past, present, future works for this type of group. participants were able to enjoy sharing memories, capturing a rich and clear sense of change over time and concern about increased frequency of severe weather.
- d) they enjoyed telling stories and anecdotes from their childhood. the group were animated, with energy in the room from residents and agencies. participants enjoyed being listened to.
- e) their focus was on neighbourliness and preparation for individual incidents of extreme weather.
- f) there was concern on the impacts of climate risk to an ageing demographic in terms of physical and mental health and vulnerability to extreme weather incidents.
- g) there was consensus that decision makers should take the issue seriously and plan for future conditions – especially in terms of infrastructure and service planning.
- h) they provided clear insight into potential impacts on local infrastructure, economy, townscape and landscape. this included service level response on roads and culverts, but also the strategic approach water management in the landscape and energy resilience.
- i) ideas about carbon reduction were also offered, particularly in the sense of energy security in the community
- j) there was interest expressed from attendees in running similar session with the University of the Third Age and service users via the Council.
- k) people's conversations suggest that this isn't some distant inexplicable phenomenon, but a real issue that people want to engage with in their own language and do something about.

13. Recommendations for Gwent PSBs

Observations and suggestions for GSWAG and Climate Ready Gwent Working Group on how this case study informs their continued engagement with the community

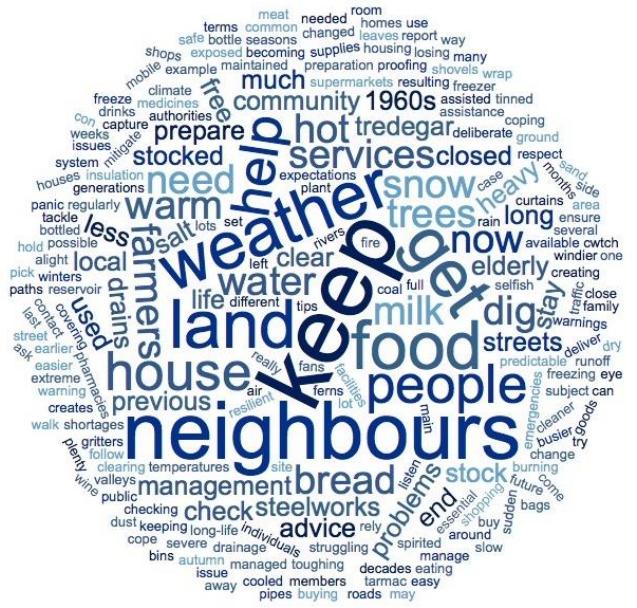
- Blaneau-Gwent Council can use this case study to inform the PSB well-being assessment and well-being plan. NRW can utilise the information in their Area statement work.
- Gwent PSBs could utilise a similar technique to explore climate change and adaptation across Gwent with similar groups, interest groups and fora.
- this 1-hour approach is good for raising awareness of the issue and capturing people's lived

experience; however, it should be made clear to participants how the information might be used to inform service delivery and decision making (rather than potentially being perceived as a 'data grab')

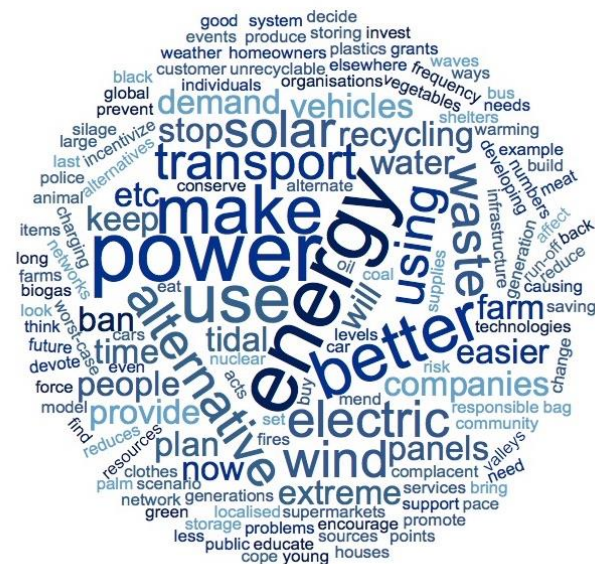
- it would be interesting to get the young people in to discuss climate change with +50 For. With older people having a longer perspective / wisdom; younger people with the passion but not the direction. But a shared appreciation or understanding of place / their home / their community.
- here are opportunities for inter-generational learning using this technique (see recent missive from Older People's Commissioner for Wales' Commissioner's on this issue²)

PAST

PRESENT



FUTURE



² http://www.olderpeoplewales.com/en/news/news/19-04-29/Solidarity_between_generations_is_vital_say_Commissioners.aspx?_cldee=ZGFmeWRkQHdbGxiZWluZ3BsYW5uZXluY28udWs=&recipientid=lead-48c58d037254e811812470106faacba1-ecdadcf9461440d9affee321d8cee07b&esid=a23598b9-896d-e911-a98c-0022480050c6#XNEhBNh7mUl

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 9

Executive Committee and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: N/A

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: N/A

Committee: **Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee**

Date of meeting: **6th January 2020**

Report Subject: **Adverse Childhood Experiences**

Portfolio Holder: **Councillor Nigel Daniels**

Report Submitted by: **Rhian Bowen-Davies, Partnership Lead, Early Action Together Programme, Gwent**

| Reporting Pathway | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------|----------------------|
| Directorate Management Team | Corporate Leadership Team | Portfolio Holder / Chair | Audit Committee | Democratic Services Committee | Scrutiny Committee | Executive Committee | Council | Other (please state) |
| | Info Item 17.12.19 | 17.12.19 | | | 06.01.20 | | | PSB SSG |

1. Purpose of the Report

To consider the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) programme which aims to ensure that Public Service Organisations across Gwent are prepared for dealing with ACES through training key staff across key organisations.

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 In 2017, an all Wales collaborative bid was submitted to the Home Office Police Transformation Fund. The purpose of the application was to transform the way in which police and partner agencies deal with the most vulnerable people in society.
- 2.2 The successful application resulted in a national Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) approach to policing vulnerability programme which aims to develop a system wide, workforce development approach to responding to vulnerability using an ACE approach. The programme, known as the Early Action Together Programme, is funded until 31 March 2020.
- 2.3 The national programme has had four key strategic objectives:
- A competent and confident workforce to respond more effectively to vulnerability using an ACE informed approach in both fast and slow time policing;
 - Organisational capacity and capability which proactively meets changing demands;
 - A 24/7 single integrated 'front door' for vulnerability that signposts, supports and safeguards encompassing 'blue light', welfare and health services; and
 - A whole system response to vulnerability by implementing ACE informed approaches for operational policing and key partners.

- 2.4 A National Programme Team has been responsible for the delivery of the overall programme, with delivery teams within each Welsh Police Force area responsible for the development and implementation of local delivery plans. DCI Andrew Tuck is the Police Lead for Gwent and Rhian Bowen-Davies is the Partnership Lead.
- 2.5 The Blaenau Gwent area was identified as one of the Pathfinder areas for the programme in Gwent. The other pathfinder area is Newport.
- 2.6 The programme has provided an opportunity to build an evidence base to further inform trauma informed approaches, early intervention and prevention; primarily in relation to policing and vulnerability but also has offered an opportunity to consider responses to vulnerability in partnership with statutory and voluntary sector partners.
- 2.7 The programme has not been about introducing another layer of intervention; rather it has offered an opportunity to consider existing responses to vulnerability and build into, rather than onto core provision; strengthening and sustaining the existing workforce.
- 2.8 The Programme has been running alongside a Welsh Government funded ACE Support Hub and there has been coordinated delivery between these on key areas such as delivering ACE and trauma informed practice training. Key deliveries from the programme, and the ACE Support Hub for Blaenau Gwent are outlined in the **Performance Section of the report**.
- 2.9 The Programme, in partnership with Public Health Wales, facilitated a workshop in July 2019, for key stakeholders that mapped ACE training across public services in Gwent to better understand the provision, uptake, challenges and opportunities to create an ACE aware Gwent. A report is being finalised and will be presented back to PSBs in Gwent highlighting a series of recommendations in order to deliver the objective of ensuring that Public Services are Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) ready.
- 2.10 With the funded programme due to come to a close at the end of March 2020, and training for Police and Partners concluded in November 2019, the Blaenau Gwent Public Service Board in October 2019 received a review paper which noted key issues and agreed for a subsequent project closure report with supporting recommendations to be presented to the PSB in April 2020.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 **Option 1**

The PSB Scrutiny Committee considers this report and supports the project closure report to be presented to the PSB.

Option 2

The PSB Scrutiny Committee considers this report, supports the project closure report to be presented to the PSB and makes recommendations for the PSB to consider on the programme.

4. **Evidence of how this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan wants 'Everyone to have the best start in life' and identifies one of the ways in which they will deliver this by ensuring that *Public Services Are Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) ready*.

The Well-being delivery programme 2018/19 included high-level actions relating to an ACE ready workforce to be delivered through delivery of level 1 training of key public services workforce and reviewing the scale of local issues associated with ACEs in 2019/20.

The plan recognises that the delivery of these high-level actions will impact on all five well-being objectives.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

5.1 ***Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)***

An all Wales collaborative bid led by the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales, South Wales Police and Public Health Wales on behalf of the four Police and Crime Commissioners, four Chief Constables, and a range of criminal justice and voluntary sector partners was successful to the Home Office Police Transformation Fund.

Current Home Office funding for the Programme ends on the 31st March 2020. Whilst some project activity will continue, this will not include delivery of the multi-agency ACETIME training.

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

A recent workshop facilitated by Public Health Wales and the Programme has identified a lack of consistency, coordination and monitoring in the current approach to ACE awareness and Trauma Informed Practice across Gwent. The report from this work, which is currently being finalised will outline options for Public Service Boards to consider to improve the current arrangements.

Whilst the Early Action Together Programme has provided a degree of oversight and reporting against the Well-being objective since 2018, the Programme has now completed its delivery of ACETIME training and is funded in its current format only until March 2020.

The risk that is foreseen for the delivery of the objective is that of ownership – where will coordination and oversight of the objective sit for 2020/21?

5.3 ***Legal***

None identified.

5.4 **Human Resources**

Workforce development – the need for a coordinated training needs analysis and training plan to ensure that all Public Services are ‘ACE ready’.

Implications for Learning and Development / Workforce Development to identify relevant staff to receive ACE aware / Trauma Informed Practice and how best to cascade learning and ACE awareness.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 **Performance Information and Data**

What has the Early Action Together Programme delivered in Blaenau Gwent?

6.1.1 **Early Intervention Project**

The Early Action Together Local Delivery Team has worked alongside key partners in Blaenau Gwent including Police, Children's Services, Families First and Education to develop a concept that builds into the Information, Assistance and Advice (IAA) service which provides a ‘one front door’ for referrals to Children’s Services.

Police and partners recognised an opportunity to enhance the existing arrangements by co-locating a police resource with the IAA service to provide early, effective information sharing that can contribute to collaborative decision-making regarding safeguarding. Every referral is jointly screened by Police and Children’s Services with safeguarding decisions being made by the delegated, responsible decision maker from Children’s Services having received timely and relevant information from the Gwent Police resource.

If the referral meets the statutory safeguarding threshold, then the police resource participates in strategy discussions/ meetings.

For referrals that do not meet statutory safeguarding thresholds relevant police/children’s services information is shared with the referral and screening officer based at IAA who will contact the family, understand what matters to them and act as social navigators; identifying whether a single agency or Families First intervention would best meet the needs as described by the family.

For single agency responses, the referral / screening officers have established points of contact with key stakeholders e.g. Housing providers, community and voluntary sector organisations, Education / Schools.

Referrals to Families First will be made by the Families First referral/ screening officer and the case allocated to a Family Support Worker within 48 hours.

As a result of earlier information sharing and identification of families who do not meet statutory safeguarding thresholds partners recognised the

potential for increased referrals to the Families First service and therefore the programme has funded two family support workers to respond to this anticipated increase in demand from police referrals.

The Early Intervention project went live on the 7th May 2019 and its first 6 months has supported 37 families whose referrals would otherwise have been categorised as 'No Further Action' (NFA) by Children's Services.

The Early Action Together Programme, Gwent Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner have funded the Detective Sergeant Resource co-located within IAA, two additional Family Support Workers within Families First and business support capacity.

6.1.2 **ACEtime training**

In addition to the Early Intervention Project detailed above, the Programme has coordinated and facilitated ACETime training for Police and Partners, alongside the Welsh Government funded ACE Support Hub.

All frontline staff and supervisors in Blaenau Gwent should receive the ACEtime training by the end of the Programme.

44 staff from partner agencies across Blaenau Gwent have attended the ACEtime training including staff from Families First, Domestic Abuse Support Services, Community Safety Partnership, Youth Offending Service, Youth Service and Education.

6.1.3 **Education Thematic**

Our vision for the Education Thematic is to develop and test an alternative Policing in Schools model where the following principles are integral to the development and delivery of an 'all age' schools policing model:

- Alignment with the new curriculum
- Authentic learning experiences
- Educational attainment
- Strengthening relationships between Neighbourhood Policing and Schools

A Police Schools Liaison Officer has been working alongside Ebbw Fawr Learning Community to:

- Support the introduction of Heddlu Bach / Mini Police for KS2 pupils.
- Develop and are deliver '**The Beat**' - a bespoke programme for Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils based on 'pupil voice' consultation events. The programme allows the groups of learners to identify what's important to them and deliver a project alongside the Police lead, #NXTGEN officer and neighbourhood policing teams. Projects for this first cohorts include focussing on improving a local skate park and a 'digital heroes' and peer support for internet safety. Projects will run over a term and learners will

have the opportunity to present to parents and partner agencies to celebrate their achievements.

- Develop and are deliver **#NXTGEN** – a 2-year bespoke programme for Year 10/11 pupils (KS4) to achieve BTEC Level 2 and City and Guilds qualifications

13 learners are engaged with the programme. Learners that have been accepted onto the project have been identified as vulnerable for a number of reasons e.g. they may be a looked after child; have or have had a statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN); have speech or communication difficulties; be self-reported with emotional and mental health issues; be eligible for free school meals; be in low income families and be materially deprived; and, be subject to unseen ACES in the home or a wider contextual environment.

- Work with a range of partners including SWFRS, St Johns Ambulance and the University of South Wales to offer authentic learning experiences to young people on #NXTGEN
- Secure a number of exit routes from the programme including apprenticeships, public services foundation course, and offers of further education through the University of South Wales

An evaluation framework is being developed by the national research team to measure the impact and effectiveness of our education thematic including the Beat and #NXTGEN programme.

6.1.4 **Welsh Government funded ACE Support Hub**

In addition to the Early Action Together Programme, the ACE Support Hub has developed bespoke training packages for the following sectors:

- Housing and Homelessness
- Education
- Youth and Youth Justice Services
- Health
- Criminal Justice Sector
- Early Years
- Fire and Rescue
- Generic Train the Trainer packages

Blaenau Gwent is an ACE enquiry pilot site for Health Visitors and relevant staff have received training to implement the pilot.

The Welsh Government funded ACEs Support Hub, supported by EAS Consortia has provided the following training in Blaenau Gwent:

- Phase 1 Ebbw Fawr 100 staff and teachers

- Phase 2 Ebbw Fawr 20 staff to cascade to departments in the school
- All schools in Blaenau Gwent except 3 have received ACE awareness*
- 9 schools in Blaenau Gwent have received Train the Trainer to deliver Phase 2 by July 2020*
- 9 schools in Blaenau Gwent have attended Train the Trainer to create an ACE friendly school*

**Data correct as of 9th December 2019*

The following training has been delivered by the ACE Support Hub across Gwent:

- 120 EAS Ambassadors
- 180 Housing professionals
- 20 individuals have completed the Train the Trainer module to deliver ACE awareness training within their organisations. Follow up activity will be undertaken to monitor the delivery of the training (this includes three individuals from Blaenau Gwent – 1 x Flying Start and 2 x Healthy Schools)

The ACE Support Hub has developed a Skills and Knowledge Framework which describes the knowledge and skills the workforce needs to be ACE-Informed, ACE-Skilled and ACE-Influencers.

Despite the challenges presented, ACE training is being delivered across different sectors in Blaenau Gwent improving the knowledge, awareness and responses of public services to Adverse Childhood Experiences however, the work to date has highlighted an opportunity to improve the planning, coordination and monitoring of this training to ensure that we have an ACE informed public service workforce that can take a Trauma-Informed approach in their work.

6.2 ***Expected outcome for the public***

An ACE aware, trauma informed public service workforce better able to identify and respond to root causes of vulnerability.

6.3 ***Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)***

Listening to individuals, families and communities in order to better understand their experiences in order to continually review and inform improvements in responses. Recognition that ACE's are "everyone's business" and involving all agencies that can make an impact.

The programme is listening to the experiences of children and families, understanding their experiences of services and what could have been done earlier to offer support. The lived experiences of individuals and

families is directly contributing to the development of the intervention within Blaenau Gwent through direct engagement with families and consideration of engagement activity already undertaken e.g. Families First independent evaluation, the Blaenau Gwent We Want Engagement Programme.

The work in Ebbw Fawr Learning Community piloting an alternative approach to Policing in Schools has been informed by pupil voice consultations and the work of The Beat programme has been shaped by the pupils involved.

6.4 ***Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)***

Blaenau Gwent wants everyone to have the 'Best Start in Life'.

Over the long-term we want to break the cycles of Adverse Childhood Experiences being passed down to future generations through giving them the best start in life. We want to tackle the long-term negative impacts Adverse Childhood Experiences can bring to families, their future children and grandchildren.

The programme, with its defined objectives and deliverables offers an opportunity to contribute to the learning and evidence base in relation to ACEs and vulnerability.

The programme is focused on improving responses to vulnerability (including ACEs) from both a policing and partner perspective, improving earlier identification and developing a timely and appropriate 'early help offer' for families to address root causes and prevent long term impacts of ACEs.

As a transformational programme the focus provides an opportunity to identify, develop and evaluate 'what works' in terms of responses to vulnerability and a whole school approach to inform future strategic and service planning and commissioning.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

Prevention is at the core of the programme.

Ensuring the best start in life will require the Public Services Board to consider how it can focus its existing resources, to ensure everyone has the best start in life.

Early identification of those who are vulnerable, or at risk of becoming vulnerable will be important in taking a preventative approach to identifying Adverse Childhood Experiences at the earliest opportunity (e.g. from conception).

Ensuring families have access to public services which are integrated, citizen centred and have a preventative focus will be key. For example, families facing problems may require support in areas such as mental health, substance misuse, criminal justice, housing etc. By addressing the root causes effectively and helping families overcome life's

challenges will lead to happier and healthier families, now and for future generations.

Underpinning the programme is an understanding and recognition that prevention and early intervention are the overarching principles to tackling the challenges we face as a society and to improving outcomes for individuals and families.

Offering families, a timely, person centred, integrated and prevention focused response at the earliest point is a key objective for the programme and this will underpin the development of the model to be piloted in Blaenau Gwent.

The programme interprets prevention from a primary, secondary and tertiary perspective and will provide an opportunity to explore all as part of the pathfinder and education thematic area in Blaenau Gwent.

6.6 *Collaboration / partnership working*

Collaborating across the regional and local statutory boards and with partners, communities and citizens to improve the planning and coordination of services and responses.

The Programme will work with Gwent Police, Public Health Wales, Blaenau Gwent Children's Services, Families First , Flying Start, Youth Service, Youth Offending Team, Community Safety, Education, Ebbw Fawr Learning Community, EAS Consortium, ACEs Support Hub, South Wales Fire and Rescue Services, WAST, EDT, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board including mental health services (not an exhaustive list) to better understand current responses to vulnerability and identify opportunities to improve responses.

6.7 *Integration (across service areas)*

The Programme is seeking to identify how services can be better integrated to identify and respond to vulnerability; offering support to families at the earliest opportunity. The development of a service model in Blaenau Gwent is providing an opportunity to evaluate co-location, early information sharing and collective decision making regarding safeguarding, early intervention and prevention.

6.8 *EqlA(screening and identifying if full impact assessment is needed)*

7. Monitoring Arrangements

- 7.1 Recommendations on monitoring arrangements will be made within the report by Public Health Wales which is currently being finalised and within the Early Action Together project closure report to the Public Service Board in April 2019.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

This page is intentionally left blank