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THIS IS A MEETING WHICH THE PUBLIC ARE ENTITLED TO ATTEND

9th April 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee will be held in via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, 15th April, 2021 at 10.00 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

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.

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

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 - 14
To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 26th February, 2021.
5. **ACTION SHEET - 25TH FEBRUARY 2021** 15 - 16
To receive the Action Sheet.
6. **AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME PROGRESS UPDATE** 17 - 22
To consider the report of Chief Executive Officer, GAVO.
7. **BLAENAU GWENT PARTICIPATORY BUDGET PROGRAMME** 23 - 26
To consider the report of the Service Manager: Policy & Partnerships.
8. **GWENT REGIONAL WELL-BEING ASSESSMENT** 27 - 32
To consider the report of the Services Manager Policy and Partnerships.
9. **INTEGRATED WELL-BEING NETWORK FOR BLAENAU GWENT** 33 - 48
To consider the report of Director of Public Health, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and Service Lead Integrated Wellbeing Networks.

To: Councillor S. Healy (Chair)
Councillor M. Cook (Vice-Chair)

Councillor P. Baldwin
Councillor M. Cross
Councillor G. A. Davies
Councillor C. Meredith
Councillor J. Millard
Councillor M. Moore
Councillor J. P. Morgan
Councillor G. Paulsen
Councillor S. Thomas
Councillor H. Trollope
Councillor J. Holt
Councillor J. Hill
Councillor J. C. Morgan

All other Members (for information)
Manager Director
Chief Officers

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

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

SUBJECT: PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 26th FEBRUARY, 2021

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR S. HEALY (CHAIR)

Councillors M. Cook
 J. Hill
 M. Moore
 P. Baldwin
 G.A. Davies
 J. Holt
 B. Summers (substituting for C. Meredith)
 J.C. Morgan
 J. Millard
 G. Paulsen

WITH: Service Manager: Policy and Partnerships
 Service Manager: Early Years
 Early Years Transformation Project Officer
 Scrutiny and Democratic Officer/Adviser
 Tai Calon, Director of Communities and Housing

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>	

<p>No. 2</p>	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>The following apologies for absence were received from:-</p> <p>Councillor S. Thomas Councillor H. Trollope Councillor C. Meredith Managing Director</p>	
<p>No. 3</p>	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported.</p>	
<p>No. 4</p>	<p><u>PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th January, 2020.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED, subject to the foregoing that the Minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
<p>No. 5</p>	<p><u>BLAENAU GWENT PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2019/20</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.</p> <p>The Service Manager Policy and Partnerships advised that the report provided information on the second annual progress report on 'The Blaenau Gwent We Want' Well-being Plan.</p> <p>The Service Manager spoke to the report and noted that the 'The Blaenau Gwent We Want' covered the period 2018 to 2023 and each year the PSB was required to report on the steps taken to meet the objectives set out in the Well-being Plan via a progress report. The Service Manager advised that the 2019/20 Annual Progress Report had been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, therefore the report detailed progress made in the second year from April 2019 to March 2020.</p>	

During the pandemic the PSB had continued to meet and reflect on the impact that Covid-19 had on our communities and focused on the PSBs work programme.

The Service Manager added that the information contained in the progress report was prior to the pandemic, however there had been some detail regarding partners' immediate response to the pandemic from March 2020 to August 2020. However, the full response from partners to the pandemic would be fully detailed in the next Annual Progress due to be published later this year.

The Service Manager further outlined the contents of the PSB Annual Report 2019/20 as detailed in the Appendix which outlined the progress made in the second year of the PSBs programme for delivery against the Well-Being Plan under the five key sections.

A Member referred to a pilot scheme undertaken on the collaboration between the Police, Ambulance and Fire Services in Abertillery and asked if an outcome of this pilot could be provided.

The Service Manager agreed to provide an update direct to the Member as although there was a pilot undertaken in Abertillery he would need to seek clarification if the pilot had been rolled out further from partners who had been involved in the pilot.

Another Member noted the request and felt that it would be of benefit for all Members to be made aware of the outcome of the pilot and asked it be recorded as an action for the next meeting.

This course of action was AGREED.

Concerns were raised over the lack of credit given to volunteers and third sector involvement during the pandemic in the Annual Report. A Member noted that assistance included the delivery of free school meals, delivery of food parcels, support to the vulnerable and shielding residents. Therefore, it was important that these individuals be mentioned as their support was critical.

	<p>The Service Manager Policy and Partnerships reiterated that the case studies and findings within this Annual Report was up until March 2020, however the PSB had taken a decision to include a small narrative around the work undertaken at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. The superb response of the volunteers and third sector parties would be included in this year's Annual Report. The information contained in the current report provided a small narrative and did not fully reflect the important role volunteers had undertaken. It was reported that this year's annual report would be more focussed around the work of partners throughout the pandemic.</p> <p>Another Member referred to the Employability Programme and advised that this programme had got up to 1,000 people into work and the Member would have liked to have seen more headline information in terms of the specific work achieved and the impact.</p> <p>The Service Manager Policy and Partnerships advised that there had been challenges in drafting the Annual Report due to Covid-19. The Team contacted relevant partners for case studies and specific/longer term goals in order to demonstrate the work being carried out, however the comment was noted and it was agreed that these specific elements would be sought from respective groups and partners.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED Option 1; namely the progress made in the second year of delivery against the Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan be noted.</p>	
<p>No. 6</p>	<p><u>WELSH GOVERNMENT EARLY YEARS INTEGRATION TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME PILOT CHILDCARE OFFER – JOINT WORKING PILOT – BLAENAU GWENT PATHFINDER</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the joint report of the Chief Executive Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and Service Manager – Early Years.</p>	

The Service Manager Early Years provided a comprehensive overview of the progress made to date on the Welsh Government's new Early Years Integration Transformation Pilot in the Blaenau Gwent Pathfinder area. The Service Manager spoke in detail to the report and outlined the background, progress to date, next steps, budget implications and risk associated with the options for consideration.

The Chair thanked the Officer for her informative overview of the report and at this juncture invited questions/comments/observations from Members.

A Member asked if equipment would be provided to families who needed technology in order for virtual home visits to be carried out.

It was reported that in most instances contact was made virtually via What's App as most parents had mobile phones and this allowed video calls as well as voice calls. If an actual home visit was needed full PPE would be required with strict guidance would need to be adhered to and a call would be made ahead of the visit to discuss safety.

The Member further asked if there were families of concern outside of Bryn Farm, Brynmawr would they be considered.

The Service Manager Early Years advised that the Bryn Farm area was identified as the highest need in Brynmawr in terms of deprivation and if there was a need to go outside of this area it was expected that generic Health Visitors would support families and if necessary the family could be referred to the outreach element for more intensive support. This would allow the service to be provided as required.

A Member raised concerns around the strict areas for the Flying Start Programme where one side of the street could have the service and the other side would not have the same benefits. It was hoped that the new programme would cover the Ward and not particular sections.

The Service Manager Early Years referred to the amount of work undertaken to ensure the Flying Start initiative was provided to families in Blaenau Gwent.

It was reported that the Team was passionate about the new programme and it was hoped that funding would continue to be provided to ensure its rolled out fully as Blaenau Gwent was one of the most deprived areas in Wales.

The Member requested that the Scrutiny Committee be kept informed of the progress to ensure it could be rolled out across Blaenau Gwent.

The Service Manager agreed to keep Members informed of progress.

A Member requested information on how much funding Blaenau Gwent had received from the Child Development Fund and what was the take up from families.

The Service Manager agreed to ascertain the amount of funding and report back to the Committee accordingly.

This course of action was AGREED.

In response to a question raised in relation to the length of the pilot, the Service Manager advised that there was no end date and no confirmation had been received to ascertain if the pilot would be continued in 2021/2022. The continuation depended on the success of the pilot and feedback from Welsh Government. The Service Manager added that she had recently attended a meeting to ensure funding would be continued.

A Member raised concerns around how some services the Council provided relied upon grants and the Member felt it was unfair that the service provided and officers employment relied so heavily on grant funding.

	<p>The Service Manager advised that a number of grants were used in Children’s Services and noted that managing these grants could on occasions be difficult, however, she had drafted a spreadsheet for all the different grants in order to manage them accordingly. The Service Manager advised that a number of the grants came with specific terms and conditions which protected a number of areas. The Service Manager welcomed the grants as it protected many areas of the Team and allowed the good work being undertaken to be continued.</p> <p>The Public Service Board Scrutiny Committee had an overwhelming support for the work undertaken in relation Early Years and hoped that the pilot would be continued and further rolled out across Blaenau Gwent.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED Option 1; namely that the Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee considered the proposed roll-out outlined for 2021 and noted the contents accordingly.</p> <p>Councillor G. Paulsen left the meeting at this juncture.</p>	
<p>No. 7</p>	<p><u>BLAENAU GWENT CLIMATE MITIGATION STEERING GROUP</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.</p> <p>The Service Manager Policy and Partnerships outlined the report which gave details of the Blaenau Gwent Climate Mitigation Steering Group which had been established by the Public Services Board. The Service Manager noted that climate mitigation was taking action that would reduce man-made climate change. This included action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to absorb greenhouse gases in to the atmosphere. The role of the Steering Group was to develop a borough wide mitigation plan and the agreed aims for the first year was to set a science based carbon budget for Blaenau Gwent, agree vision/direction of travel, identify and outline key issues for public engagement in relation to decarbonising in Blaenau Gwent.</p>	

However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic this work had been delayed and to date the steering group had met three times. It had now been agreed that the group meet every 2 months going forward.

The Service Manager referred to consultation and explained that although at present it was difficult for consultation to be carried out, these type of exercises would be resumed in the future. It was important that the public be involved in this consultation and the Service Manager referred to the upcoming Blaenau Gwent Climate Assembly in March 2021.

It was the first to be held in Wales and was fully funded via the Welsh Government. The Assembly would provide a good opportunity to start the process of gathering this type of public opinion about climate action in Blaenau Gwent.

The Service Manager Policy and Partnerships drew Members attention to the options for recommendations as noted in the report.

A Member welcomed the report and was pleased to see that the steering groups had now commenced. The Member advised that there were a lot of positive things that could be done to mitigate climate change which included tree planting and asked if such exercises had been planned.

The Service Manager advised that there was a great deal of work which could be undertaken, locally, regionally and nationally and these would be reported back to the Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee as the group progressed.

Another Member welcomed the establishment of the steering group and felt that everyone could make a contribution in climate change and Wales was at the forefront of this work.

The Committee AGREED Option 1; namely the PSB Scrutiny Committee accepted the overview report and supporting appendix on the establishment of the Steering Group.

No. 8

PSB SUSTAINABLE FOOD PROGRAMME
PROGRESS UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Executive, Tai Calon.

An update on the progress regarding the PSB Sustainable Food Programme was provided and it was reported that the lead PSB sponsor for this programme was Tai Calon Community Housing.

The programme had been delayed due to Covid-19 as partners' work was focussed on the pandemic, and although this work continued partners are now working together to progress the programme as a sustainable food partnership going forward.

It was noted that in January 2020 the PSB agreed that the sustainable food partnership group would oversee the £23,147 capital spend awarded to Blaenau Gwent Council via the Welsh Government's EU Transition Fund Food Poverty Grant. The Food Poverty Grant capital funding would support organisations to access, store and distribute additional supplies of good quality food, including good food surplus, in particular, larger amounts of fresh food, boosting the capacity of organisations to provide good quality, nutritious food to their customers. It was further added that Tai Calon and partners had been awarded funding from NRW for a part-time sustainable food coordinator to be put in post to oversee the development of the Sustainable Food Programme in 2021.

It was continued that although work had been delayed a positive start had now been made. A good food partnership had been set up and an action plan had been developed.

A Member noted that the Council was the holder of the EUTF Food Poverty Grant for 2020/2021 which needed to be spent by 31st March 2021 and it was asked how much progress had been made on this spend.

	<p>It was reported that the NRW grant was separate to the Food Poverty Grant held by the Council. It was hoped that this funding would continue into the next financial year, however confirmation was awaited. The majority of the food grant had been spent and although the Council holds the grant community applications was considered by the Public Services Board.</p> <p>The Service Manager Policy and Partnerships added that the Council had worked hard to ensure the community was aware of the grant available and it was unsure whether any surplus monies could be rolled over into next year. It was hoped that the monies would be committed by the 31st March, however if this was not the case the Council attempt to roll it over to the next financial year.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED Option 1; namely that the Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee accepted the report and appendices as provided prior to it being submitted to the Public Services Board.</p>	
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Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Action Sheet

Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee – 26th February 2021

Item	Action to be Taken	By Whom	Action Taken
5	<p><u>Blaenau Gwent Public Services Board Annual Progress Report 2019/20</u></p> <p>A Member requested an update regarding the pilot scheme on the collaboration between the Rescue Services at Abertillery.</p>	Andrew Parker	Information to follow.
6	<p><u>Welsh Government Early Years Integration Transformation Programme Pilot – Childcare Offer</u></p> <p>Child Development Fund</p> <p>A Member requested information on how much funding Blaenau Gwent had received and what was the take up from families.</p>	Ceri Bird	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 16 members of Families First and 10 (additional) generic childcare practitioners trained in Elklan SLC for 0-3's (the whole of the FS childcare workforce is already trained). This is accredited training and practitioners are required to submit portfolios of their work to evidence their understanding and knowledge before they become accredited to use this intervention.• 12 Wellcomm Assessment packs were purchased which will allow Families First to start undertaking speech language and communication assessments, mirroring good practice through Flying Start.• 37 children aged 2-3 who were identified by HV's with potential developmental delays (who were not eligible for fully funded childcare places) have been granted full time places up to end the May 2021.

Item	Action to be Taken	By Whom	Action Taken
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 250 Family Resource Packs will be delivered to families across Blaenau Gwent to support their child's development. • £12k has been invested in Flying Start childcare settings to support children's development • 4 members of staff (3 from Flying Start and 1 from the Early Years and Childcare and Play team) have been trained to deliver Sign-a-long training the workforce to increase communication skills with children with potential speech, language and communication delays. <p>Total funded awarded £78,176. Of which £33,844 was used for the childcare short-term places.</p>

Agenda Item 6

Executive Committee and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer:

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer:

Committee: **Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee**

Date of meeting: **15th April 2021**

Report Subject: **Age-Friendly Communities programme progress update**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr Nigel Daniels, Leader / Executive Member Corporate Services**

Report Submitted by: **Stephen Tiley, Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations & David Arnold, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
		01.04.21			15.04.21			PSB SSG PSB

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to the Public Services Board (PSB) Scrutiny Committee a progress update regarding the PSB's Age-Friendly Communities programme.

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 An Age-Friendly Communities programme that aims to help make life better for all people who live and work in Blaenau Gwent, particularly as they age. GAVO is the project sponsor for this PSB programme, closely supported by other PSB partners like the council, health board, and the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner.
- 2.2 Age-Friendly communities recognise lonely and isolated people in the community and encourage activities that people of all ages can participate in. Decisions on what it means to be age-friendly sit closer to local communities; ensuring local people and organisations have a voice based on their own lived experiences.
- 2.3 Since March 2020, the programme has suffered some delays and periods where the work was paused whilst partners focussed on responding to the Covid19 pandemic. Some of this work in response to the pandemic is still ongoing but partners are now working together to progress the programme with a new Age-Friendly Action Plan and a refreshed age-friendly 'assessment' of Blaenau Gwent to demonstrate some of the amazing support being provided to older people during and beyond the Covid19 pandemic.
- 2.4 Many venues and activities within the community have been suspended due to pandemic. Community groups, 50+ organisations and PSB partners are

trying to restart some of those activities by promoting virtual events and activities, however some members of the 50+ community still find it hard to engage virtually and are starting to become more isolated.

- 2.5 A new post-COVID19 Age-Friendly action plan is currently under development via the PSB's age-friendly steering group. Current membership includes GAVO, BGCBC, ABUHB, Aneurin Leisure Trust, Officer of the Police & Crime Commissioner's, the Older People's Champion and 50+ Forum reps.
- 2.6 As part of this work, there is an opportunity for Blaenau Gwent be recognised as an age-friendly community by being awarded Age-Friendly status from the World Health Organisation (WHO), once the new Age-Friendly Action Plan has been agreed. According to the WHO, the benefits for localities that come from being recognised as Age-Friendly Communities include:-
- Access to information sharing with a global community
 - Support from a global network of affiliates, practitioners, researchers, experts and advocates committed to fostering age-friendly environments
 - Recognition and visibility in the Network's activities and WHO's dedicated website – Age friendly World – on which Members can present their activities, achievements and link back to their own website and resources
 - Opportunities for collaboration such as international research projects, joint publications, networking and sharing amongst each other etc.
- 2.7 No other Welsh local authority area has achieved WHO age-friendly status yet so there is an opportunity for Blaenau Gwent to be recognised as one of the first age-friendly localities in Wales.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

Option 1

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

Option 2

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

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

This report is in-line with the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

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

There are no direct implications of the Age-Friendly Communities programme on the Council's budget. Continuing to work together as a PSB partnership to develop a coordinated Action Plan might enable our communities to take advantage of any funding opportunities relating to Covid19 support or as a result of Blaenau Gwent achieving Age-Friendly status from the WHO in the future.

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

Older people in our community often feel like they've been Digitally Excluded, even before the Covid19 pandemic. A number of services used by older people have been digitalised which caused additional stress and limitation to those individuals who previously had little contact with digital world, so the demand placed on services to support these people is higher. This has also made it difficult for PSB partners and other 50+ organisations to engage effectively with the local 50+ community given the engagement challenges caused by the Covid19 pandemic.

The new Age-Friendly Action Plan will help to identify any gaps in existing services and tackle engagement issues through digital inclusion to mitigate against these risks. The PSB's Engagement Sub-Group are also focussing on addressing the ongoing difficulty to engage with vulnerable communities as part of their 2021/22 work programme.

5.3 ***Legal***

The programme has been developed in line with the 5 Ways of Working and other requirements stated in Well-being of Future Generations Act.

5.4 ***Human Resources***

The Age-Friendly Communities programme is being supported by the council's Partnerships Team as part of the older people's policy work. Engagement activity is supported by the Engagement Team on an ad hoc basis.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

This programme has been informed by the Wellbeing Assessment as well as additional engagement with local older people to contribute towards achieving the Blaenau Gwent We Want Wellbeing Plan's objective to foster safe and friendly communities. It is also relevant for working towards other priority themes from the Wellbeing Plan, such as encouraging healthy lifestyles and maximising prosperity, particularly amongst older people.

6.1 ***Performance Information and Data***

The eight age-friendly domains of an AFC as identified by the World Health Organisation (WHO) are being used to develop the Age-Friendly Action Plan and separate assessment:-

- **Transport**
- **Communication & Information**

- **Outdoor Spaces & Buildings**
- **Respect & Social Inclusion**
- **Social Participation**
- **Civic Participation & Employment**
- **Housing**
- **Health & Community Support services**

The Welsh Government published their draft Strategy for an Ageing Society in December 2020, in which they have expressed an ambition to make Wales an Age-Friendly Nation as a long-term vision.

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

- Decisions on what it means to be age-friendly sit closer to local communities; ensuring local people and organisations have a voice based on their own lived experiences.
- An effective, sustainable Blaenau Gwent 50+ Forum led by older people, for older people.
- An improved network of information, advice and activities available to people of all ages, which is particularly important for when society starts to unlock fully beyond the Covid19 pandemic.
- The Blaenau Gwent 50+ community is able to live, work and grow old in an age-friendly locality.
- Healthier Wales; More equal Wales; More cohesive Wales.

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

Blaenau Gwent and GAVO recently hosted a virtual age-friendly consultation event on 22 February 2021 to discuss what would make or what already makes local communities across Blaenau Gwent more age-friendly for local older people. The feedback from this event is informing the Age-Friendly Action Plan and a follow up event will be held during summer 2021 get people's views on the draft Plan.

The Council's Older People's Champion and two representatives from the 50+ Forum are represented on the PSB's age-friendly steering group. The 50+ Forum is also represented on the PSB's Climate Change Mitigation steering group.

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

The programme will lead to the development of an ambitious but realistic Age-Friendly Action Plan to make Blaenau Gwent an even better place for people of all ages to live and work, particularly as they age.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

It is hoped that by working together to make Blaenau Gwent an even more age-friendly place for people to live and work will help contribute towards tackling loneliness and isolation and lead to a healthier, more prosperous older population.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

Robust partnership networks already in place through the PSB, its Strategic Support Group (SSG) and other delivery groups, as well as buy-in and commitment from other local partners and 50+ stakeholders to develop age-friendly communities across Blaenau Gwent.

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

The PSB's age-friendly steering group are overseeing the development of an Age-Friendly Action Plan for Blaenau Gwent that integrates to the social, economic, and environmental needs of its residents and community groups.

There are considerable opportunities for age-friendly integration across services areas as the WHO's eight age-friendly domains encourage localities to address a range of age-related issues, such as housing, transport, social participation, and health and community support services.

6.8 ***EqlA***

The engagement approach with older people is built on the national principles for public engagement. There are number of established forums which support engagement with older people covered by the protected characteristic of Age.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

The PSB and SSG monitor progress through its strategic work programme performance management arrangements.

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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: **15th April 2021**

Report Subject: **Blaenau Gwent Participatory Budget programme**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr Nigel Daniels, Leader / Executive Member
Corporate Services**

Report Submitted by: **Andrew Parker, Service Manager: Policy &
Partnerships
David Arnold, Blaenau Gwent County Borough
Council**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
		01.04.21			15.04.21			PSB SSG PSB

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress achieved towards a Blaenau Gwent Participatory Budget programme.

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 Participatory budgeting (PB) is a democratic process in which community members decide how to spend part of a public budget. In November 2020, the PSB agreed that a PB steering group formed by PSB partners be set up to consider the PB process and make key decisions around programme coordination, aims and apportionment of the budget, eligibility and maximum bid limits, and to promote the programme amongst local communities for action in 2021/22.
- 2.2 A Blaenau Gwent PB programme led by PSB partners and community members will enable local people and community groups to bid for funding towards local projects that contribute towards the well-being objectives for Blaenau Gwent. This could include projects that develop skills and improve opportunities for local people, projects that benefit certain community and neighbourhood environments, or projects that connect people to well-being support services in their local community.
- 2.3 This integrated, partnership approach will ensure that local projects from across the well-being spectrum will be considered for funding, resulting in a wide range of community-led projects that contribute towards all of the PSB strategic work programmes.
- 2.4 The PB steering group, currently comprising representatives from ABUHB (Chair), BGCBC, NRW, Tai Calon, GAVO and Aneurin Leisure Trust, is

meeting virtually regularly to consider next steps. Community members will be invited to join the group during the design, application/bidding, voting and monitoring stages, once a framework for the Blaenau Gwent PB programme has been finalised.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

Option 1

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

Option 2

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

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

This report is in-line with the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

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

The Participatory Budgeting funding awarded to the Blaenau Gwent area was initially for the period April 2020 – March 2021, however it was agreed for the funding to be used in 2021/22 due to partner organisations having to respond to the Covid19 pandemic since March 2020. To date, the funding awarded for the period up to 31 March 2022 is for £100,000.

5.1.1 The PB steering group has recommended to the PSB that the services of a consultant who specialises in delivering virtual PB programmes could be employed to oversee delivery of the Blaenau Gwent PB programmes. The consultant would provide the following services:

- Train a PB steering group of up to 25-30 people, which would include members of the public and community groups, as well as PSB partners.
- 4 x two hour Supported Delivery sessions for the steering group, where the members make a series of decisions that shape the local PB process e.g. criteria for successful projects to move onto the voting stage, maximum individual project bid amounts, minimum bidding and voting age, number of bids allowed per individual/ organisation etc.
- The development of a social media footprint and webpage with local branding to be decided by the steering group.
- A series of online support surgeries throughout the bidding process to engage with communities and help prospective applicants prepare their bid.
- Support for the steering group with the paper sift process to ensure all bids that go forward to the voting event meet the PB criteria.

- Delivering two PB voting events, including managing attendance via Eventbrite, Chairing and collecting votes, as well as providing all technical support on the day.

5.1.2 This service would be paid for using a combination of contributions from PSB partners and top-slicing some of the Early Years & Transformation PB funding from ABUHB, ensuring that at least £90,000 remains available for local community groups, organisations and individuals to bid for.

5.1.3 PSB partners will need to provide support for the ongoing monitoring process from their own budgets once the bidding and voting process has been completed and the funding has been awarded for applicants to deliver their projects by the end of March 2022.

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

After taking into account admin costs for delivery of the PB programme, organisations will be given the opportunity to bid for a total of at least £90,000 to deliver local well-being projects.

Given the significant impact of the Covid19 pandemic on our communities, there is a risk that BG community groups and local organisations will find it difficult to mobilise themselves for an entirely online and virtual application, voting and delivery process, without the support and expertise of a PB consultant, which could result in an underspend. However, this risk is currently considered low as there is little evidence of underspend in other similar PB programmes across the UK.

5.3 ***Legal***

The programme is being developed in line with the 5 Ways of Working and other requirements stated in Well-being of Future Generations Act.

5.4 ***Human Resources***

If appointed, the PB consultant would provide training for up to 30 members of the PB steering group in order to help develop and deliver the PB programme effectively, as outlined above in the Impact on Budget section.

The PB Steering Group would look to monitor the human resources consequences on the PSB partner organisations through indirect contributions e.g. staff time.

6. ***Supporting Evidence***

6.1 ***Performance Information and Data***

The criteria for applications to receive funding will be based around Covid19 recovery planning and working towards the objectives in the Blaenau Gwent We Want Well-being Plan.

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

Members of the public will make the decisions about which local well-being projects are funded to meet the needs of their community.

- 6.3 ***Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)***
The principles of PB mean that local people will be able to make decisions about which projects are funded to meet the well-being needs of their communities. Blaenau Gwent residents and community groups will therefore be involved in setting priorities for the funding and will decide which projects should receive funding by being invited to attend virtual voting events at the end of the bidding process, where they will get the opportunity to see a video from each applicant outlining what their project will achieve and how much funding they're applying for.
- 6.4 ***Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)***
The PB funding will be used to improve community well-being through local projects run by local people to develop the skills, knowledge and social network of people in the community; improve the neighbourhood environment so it contributes to the well-being of the people that live there; and join up services that connect people to well-being support or resources in their community.
- 6.5 ***Preventative focus***
The PB programme will provide local people and community groups to deliver projects that join up services and connect people to well-being support or resources that they either weren't aware of or weren't previously aware of. Local well-being projects that involve active signposting, social prescribing, and filling any gaps in existing provision will be encouraged.
- 6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***
Robust partnership networks already in place through the PSB, its Strategic Support Group (SSG), the PB steering group and other delivery groups like the PSB's Engagement sub-group and Age-Friendly steering group. The PB programme involves collaboration between all PSB partners, community groups, community members and other external organisations.
- 6.7 ***Integration (across service areas)***
The aim of the PB programme is to improve community well-being through funding local activities such as volunteering, access to green spaces, active travel, social prescribing, intergenerational activities etc. These all align with the well-being objectives that the PSB are working towards through their existing strategic programme, supporting the age-friendly communities, Integrated Well-being Network and climate change programmes in particular.
- 6.8 ***EqIA (screening and identifying if full impact assessment is needed)***
The PB steering group will consider the requirements of EQIA as part of the delivery of the programme.
7. **Monitoring Arrangements**
The PSB and SSG monitor progress through its strategic work programme performance management arrangements.

Committee: **Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee**

Date of meeting: **15th April 2021**

Report Subject: **Gwent Regional Well-being Assessment**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr Nigel Daniels, Leader / Executive Member
Corporate Services**

Report Submitted by: **Andrew Parker, Blaenau Gwent County Borough
Council**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
		01.04.21			15.04.21			PSB SSG PSB

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the statutory requirements for consultation on the assessment of local well-being and highlight options for how the Public Services Board (PSB) Scrutiny Committee can fulfil their role as a statutory consultee.

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 All PSBs in Wales have a statutory requirement to prepare and publish an assessment of the local economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in its area. The assessment must then be used to prepare a well-being plan no later than a year after the assessment is agreed by the PSB.
- 2.2 The last Well-being Assessment (WBA) was carried out during 2016-17 and published in July 2017. The current Blaenau Gwent We Want Well-being Plan 2018-23 was then published in July 2018, using evidence from the WBA. The next Well-being Plan is due to be published in 2023, so the WBA will be published in 2022.
- 2.3 The guidance places an expectation that each WBA will use a broad range of evidence sources to help assess the state of well-being, e.g. census and statistical data; academic research; and qualitative evidence which captures people's opinions and perceptions as well as giving context to quantitative data (the story behind the data).
- 2.4 During 2020 the G10 and Gwent Strategic Well-being Action Group (GSWAG) agreed to set up a regional Gwent PSB from September 2021, including a transitional period until March 2022 to allow each local authority area time to prepare their own local arrangements to feed into the regional PSB from a local level.
- 2.5

As a result of this move to a regional PSB, the next WBA in 2022 and Well-being Plan in 2023 will be carried out a regional level (Gwent), with consideration of local well-being (at local authority level and below). Each local authority area is involved in the WBA planning process, ensuring local data, similarities and differences between areas are highlighted.

2.6

During 2016-17, 'The Blaenau Gwent We Want' engagement programme was implemented to provide an opportunity for local people to share their views on shaping the Blaenau Gwent WBA. The Blaenau Gwent PSB's Engagement sub-group will support the Gwent PSB in the delivery of a regional consistent approach to engagement being delivered at a local level during 2021 to 2022 recognising involvement as key to informing the regional assessment and subsequent plan.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

Option 1

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

Agree to receive a further report on the movement to a regional PSB as part of the forward work programme.

Option 2

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

Agree to receive a further report on the movement to a regional PSB as part of the forward work programme.

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

This report is in-line with the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

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

The regional grant funding allocation from Welsh Government will support the development of common data and systems for the Well-Being Assessment. Blaenau Gwent Council Policy Team is overseeing the application and implementation of the funding for 2021/22 on behalf of all regional partners.

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

Failure to produce a WBA and carry out a statutory consultation on the draft WBA would lead to the PSB not complying with the collective duties set out in the well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

5.3 **Legal**

The programme has been developed in line with the 5 Ways of Working and other requirements stated in Well-being of Future Generations Act.

5.4 **Human Resources**

The draft assessment is being developed collaboratively with representatives from all Gwent local authority areas being actively involved in both an analytical and public engagement perspective.

Progress against the overall plan is reported to the PSB via a PSB Strategic Support Group, which in turn is supported by the PSB Engagement Sub-Group.

The council's Policy, Partnerships and Engagement Team is responsible for the operational delivery of the assessment and overseeing the implementation of the formal consultation for the assessment in Blaenau Gwent.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 **Performance Information and Data**

The GSWAG Well-being Assessment Sub Group (Chaired by NRW) is currently progressing the work towards development of a Gwent WBA. The principles set out below have been agreed by G10.

- Focus on a regional, integrated picture of Well-being, while still respecting and reflecting local and community differences and nuances by answering a series of jointly agreed questions
- Apply the sustainable development principles; long term, integration, involvement, collaboration and prevention
- Explore the differences, similarities and interconnectedness of well-being within, between, and outside our areas and communities
- Reflect that we are not starting from scratch, broaden and build on good practice and our current regional and local understanding of well-being and use the evidence we have and considerations of what we might do differently as a starting point
- Use evidence to challenge existing perspectives and approaches and explore contentious issues
- Use a wide range of qualitative and quantitative information including data, academic research, evidence and people's views, presented using a digital platform which allows users to view the content in various ways (e.g. regionally, locally, by theme, by well-being goal)
- Maintain a strong community element and involve thought leaders, public, private and third sector partners and residents
- Assess data on agreed geographical footprints where available (directly comparable across the five LA areas)
- Go further than simply presenting data, making meaningful sense of that data and answering the "so what?" questions
- Consider well-being in Gwent in light of changing contextual circumstances and understand the implications of emerging challenges (e.g. COVID-19 pandemic, green recovery, EU Transition)

- Take an asset-based approach to build upon and identify the strengths of both individuals and communities in relation to need
- Focus on the short, medium and long term and identify future trends and potential disruptors
- Keep data, evidence and thinking up to date and current
- Be compiled collaboratively with fair and equal division of responsibilities across all public bodies.

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

The well-being assessment process, supported by local engagement and involvement processes, are crucial in ensuring that an effective well-being plan is developed to improve local well-being for the area of Blaenau Gwent.

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

The GSWAG Engagement Sub Group comprises representatives from the five local authorities, the two Community Voluntary Council's, Gwent Police, the Regional Partnership Board, and the VAWDASV Board. Principles for the engagement stages of the Gwent Well-being Assessment and Plan have been agreed, appended to this report.

The group are developing a common set of questions, and associated framework, to undertake the community engagement element of the local assessment of well-being in a consistent manner. It is fully expected that replies will be coloured by current experiences of the pandemic.

Questioning styles will recognise the short, medium and long-term and resources to support questioning frameworks will, as well as recognising PSB activity over the past 3 years, consider the recovery of communities and differences in the economy, environment, societal changes and cultural changes caused by the pandemic.

The GSWAG Well-being Engagement Sub Group (Chaired by Caerphilly County Borough Council) principles are provided at Appendix 1.

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

The Gwent WBA will outline future trends information and feedback from public engagement on what people consider would make the area a better place for the future.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

The WBA process will focus on a situational analysis which will support the Gwent PSB to prioritise which issues it will focus on as part of its Well-being Plan. Following the prioritisation further work will be considered to understand the appropriate approaches to tackling the issues identified locally.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

The WBA will be developed using a collaborative approach with involvement from the five Gwent local authority areas as well as a variety of PSB partner organisations.

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

The WBA follows an approach of considering the evidence gathered under well-being and sustainable development pillars: economic, social, cultural and environment issues.

6.8 ***EqlA***

The engagement approach is built on the national principles for public engagement. There are number of established forums which support engagement covered by the protected characteristics. A full EqlA will be carried out.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

The PSB and SSG monitor progress through its strategic work programme performance management arrangements.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- **Appendix A – Gwent PSB Well-being Assessment Engagement Principles**

APPENDIX A

Gwent PSB WBA Engagement Principles

Our approach will place our citizens and communities at the heart of the process to ensure that their views are gathered and recognised to shape the future well-being plan. This will consider the challenging times facing them, recognising that our previous processes may not be feasible or appropriate due to the on-going and legacy consequences of COVID-19. To mitigate this the group will look to gather and utilise the plethora of information and intelligence gathered during the pandemic to develop the Gwent well-being plan.

1. Develop an inclusive and rich engagement process, utilising a range of channels, that enables people to be involved, ensuring groups with protected characteristics, community areas, businesses and others with an interest in the well-being of the area are engaged. Employing the National Principles for Public Engagement in Wales and the Children and Young People's National Participation Standards.
2. Commit to a co-production approach building the involvement principle into the process from the outset and maintaining dialogue with those persons, community groups and organisations with an interest in the well-being of the area.
3. Each area will ask the same set of questions to allow the aggregation of data to the Gwent level; but with recognition of local differences and the need for additional questioning, if appropriate. This common approach will be flexible enough to accommodate local differences and community level issues.
4. Understand that the development of the well-being assessment and plan build on the work of the previous assessments and plans. Community priorities are unlikely to have changed a great deal since the last assessment; we will review the existing priorities with communities and community areas and ensure the community voice feeds into the development of the Gwent well-being plan.
5. Engagement will begin with how local PSB priorities have been tackled, any successes and outstanding actions.
6. Initiate community conversations about the short, medium- and long-term challenges and opportunities, including what's good about your community/how communities can support wellbeing. Recognising that the current pandemic will inevitably feature in responses.
7. To make best use of engagement feedback, maximise resources and avoid duplication the group will work with Regional Partnership Board, VAWDASV and Substance Misuse partners to streamline needs assessment processes as far as possible.
8. Maintain flows of information and intelligence with the other working groups: Assessment, Governance.

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: **15th April 2021**
Report Subject: **Integrated Well-being Network for Blaenau Gwent**
Portfolio Holder: **Councillor Nigel Daniels, Leader / Executive Member Corporate Services**
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)
		01.04.21			15.04.21			SSG 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. (Please note progress has been affected by COVID 19).
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 *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.
 - 2.3 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.
 - 2.4 The Integrated Well-being Network (IWN) Framework (see Appendix A) sets out a blueprint for establishing more integrated, place-based systems of well-being aligned to our Neighbourhood Care Networks. They 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.

2.5 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.

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

3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 **Options for Recommendation**

Option 1

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

Option 2

That Members of the Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee consider and provide specific recommendations for consideration by the Public Services 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 support the PSB priority themes.

4.2 The IWN programme is 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 is enabling professionals and community members to work together to create further integration between services and support on a place basis with the goal of long term sustainable outcomes for the local population.

4.4 Access to befriending services was identified as a priority for those who are isolated and has been addressed. Physical activity opportunities for families in Brynmawr has also been recognised as an issue for the community and is being addressed. This work supports the PSB theme of safe and friendly communities, reducing levels of isolation, ensuring activities/services 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 March 2022. A sustainability plan is being developed to ensure the longevity of the network after this time.

5.2 **Risk including Mitigating Actions**

Many factors influence our health and well-being, including our relationships and connection to our community, the 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 their GP frequently. In Gwent, a baseline review has identified that GPs and Primary Care more generally are not well connected to wider well-being resources in their local community.

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 either through direct access or via primary care
- (iii) Through enhanced community well-being, reducing demand on packages of care and placements funded by the 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. A full time community engagement/development officer and part time administrator are also being employed. These staff are all funded until 31st March 2022 by NHS Transformation Fund fixed term funding.

5.4.1 The local IWN team works in partnership with organisations, professionals and community members to build capacity and resilience to support optimal well-being outcomes for communities. The local IWN team work to upskill the paid and unpaid workforce and communities to enable them to sign post to well-being services and to ensure different well-being services and groups are aware of each other. (Appendix B)

5.4.2 An integrated wellbeing collaborative has been established for Brynmawr and Tredegar and currently has 137 members. Two consultation events have been held in Brynmawr to identify community concerns/ gaps in services and support. Progress in Tredegar has been hampered due to COVID restrictions on groups meeting.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 ***Performance Information and Data***

6.1.1 An external evaluator has been appointed to assess the impact of the regional IWN programme. The evaluation process was suspended between March 2000 and January 2021 as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic. An interim report is being presented to Welsh Government in April 2021.

6.1.2 The local 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 in Blaenau Gwent. The Regional Partnership Board (RPB) has the governance oversight for the whole transformation programme, including the IWN programme. Quarterly reporting is provided on the IWN programme to the RPB.

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) Two community engagement events were held in Brynmawr in January and February 2020 identifying local projects that enhance wellbeing. These events were led by the community, supported by the IWN network.
- (ii) An online questionnaire was undertaken in January 2021 to ascertain community views in relation to wellbeing in light of COVID 19
- (iii) Four IWN collaborative meetings have taken place involving both professionals and community members, outcomes include professionals working in partnership and a list of community concerns being identified
- (iv) Informal engagement with communities has taken place to provide support during the COVID 19 restrictions and to address issues and concerns

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 the IWN programme 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 the IWN programme. To help 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 ***EqlA (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 EqlA assessment has been undertaken (Appendix C).

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

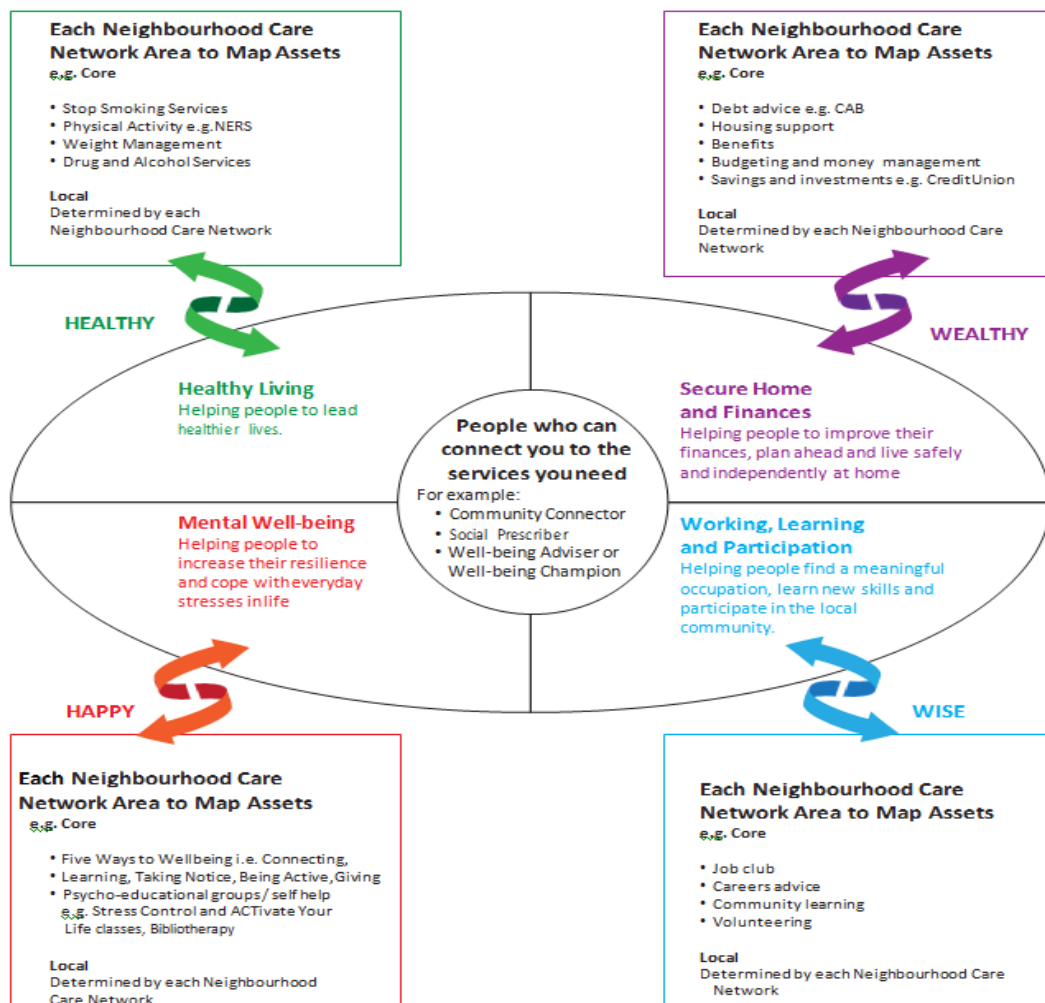
7.3 The IWN programme sits under the Regional Partnership Board structure and provides programme delivery monitoring reports as appropriate

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- Appendix A – IWN Plan
- Appendix B – Progress update
- Appendix C – Equalities Impact Assessment

Appendix A

Integrated Wellbeing Network



Appendix B

Blaenau Gwent – Integrated Wellbeing Network progress

Pre-Covid May 2019 - March 2020

- Mapping exercise to identify current services and support in Brynmawr & Tredegar
- Collaborative meeting held covering both Tredegar and Brynmawr communities (2 x neighbouring communities – good attendance at initial meetings)
- 2 x Collaborative meetings held before March 2020. Joint collaborative between Brynmawr and Tredegar.
- 2 x community conversations/consultations held in Brynmawr
- Formal agreement to support IWN was also secured at PSB and NCN's
- Promotion of DEWIS

During Covid March 2020 – October 2020

- Locality hubs were linked in with local groups providing support
- Disseminating accurate information through community Facebook pages
- Linking people to support in the community
- Supporting information updates on GP websites
- Supporting digital access for older people
- Production of a DVD for older isolated individuals including a message from GP surgery, gentle exercise routines, mindfulness and arts and craft activities
- Feedback from community response and GPs highlighted that mental health issues were increasing. Therefore increased activity in dissemination of mental health support through social media and to wider IWN partners on a regular basis

Covid Recovery November 2020 – March 2021

- Participate in Incident Management Team meetings ensuring that issues around barriers to testing and compliance are shared
- Ensure key TTP communication messages are shared with partners and community organisations
- Inception of a wellbeing Friends Steering Group
- Recruitment of Wellbeing Friends reflective of the community (community champions) Foundations of a social movement
- Development and implementation of a monthly coffee morning for Wellbeing Friends in conjunction with key partners (GAVO, BGCBC, Aneurin Leisure)
- Engagement with communities to identify priorities (what matters to them)
- Planning of explorer model to support the identification of community priorities and issues
- Promotion of DEWIS in partnership with BGCBC, GAVO, NCN– inception of a DEWIS steering group
- Implementation of DEWIS support session
- Inception of a Steering Group to map a mental health pathway for Blaenau Gwent
- 2x collaborative meetings held
- Implementation of Connect 5 training (mental health training)
- Implementation of Participatory Budgeting

Appendix C – Equality Impact Assessment

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? (please complete all)		If yes	Please describe what the impact will be?	What is the significance of the impact?	If low, please explain this 'significance' rating. (if 'high' please complete template below)
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 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
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 No



The impact will be positive as the aim of the programme is to increase community integration and wellbeing

High
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)?

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