

Committee: **Partnerships Scrutiny Committee**

Date of meeting: **22nd February 2024**

Report Subject: **Blaenau Gwent Local Well-being Partnership**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr Stephen Thomas, Leader / Cabinet Member
Corporate Overview and Performance**

Report Submitted by: **Sarah King, Head of Democratic Services,
Governance and Partnerships**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Governance Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet	Council	Other (please state)
	08.02.24	12.02.24			22.02.24	10.04.24		BG LWP

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the opportunity to monitor performance and progress of the Blaenau Gwent Local Well-being Partnership in its role as one of the five Local Delivery Groups of the Gwent Public Services Board.

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 sets out a requirement for each Public Services Board (PSB) to prepare and publish an assessment of the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in its area and a subsequent Well-being Plan every five years.
- 2.2 The Gwent PSB undertook a regional Well-being Assessment (*Appendix 1*) which reviewed the social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing in Gwent. The assessment used a wide range of qualitative and quantitative information including data, academic research, evidence, and people's views (engagement) to help understand Wellbeing in Gwent. The assessment took an asset-based approach, rather than focussing purely on need, to build upon and identify the strengths of both individuals and communities and it also identified problems and challenges that need to be addressed. The evidence and key issues identified in the assessment have been used to develop the Wellbeing Plan for Gwent.
- 2.3 The Gwent Well-being Plan 2023-28 (*Appendix 2*), published in July 2023, is the first regional well-being plan for Gwent. It sets out the Gwent PSB's Well-being Objectives and the steps it intends to take to meet those objectives, in accordance with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Delivery of these will come via the Gwent PSB for regional at-scale activity as well as through five Local Delivery Groups in each of the Gwent LA areas.
- 2.4 Whilst the Gwent PSB has been developing a robust Delivery Plan 2024-28 for the new regional Well-being Plan, the Blaenau Gwent Local Well-being

Partnership (BG LWP) continued to prioritise the 2018-23 well-being programmes around Early Years Integration Transformation, Age-Friendly Communities, Integrated Well-being (IWN), Climate Change Mitigation, Food Resilience, Cost of Living, and delivering a Participatory Budget community well-being grant programme, whilst establishing current and future local well-being priorities aligned to the regional Well-being Plan through public and stakeholder engagement.

- 2.5 The BG LWP has held three stakeholder engagement workshops in addition to three formal LWP meetings since April 2023. The aim of the workshops was for local and sub-regional stakeholders to work in partnership with each other to reflect on the success, barriers and challenges for existing local well-being projects/programmes. Furthermore, to consider well-being priorities for our local communities and identify opportunities for new partnership working and/or where existing well-being projects could be scaled up or used as model to more collaboratively across the sub-region or region.
- 2.6 The stakeholder engagement workshops were well-attended by partners and have provided valuable insight into existing local well-being projects and priorities as well as potential opportunities for increased collaboration and partnership working in future (Appendix 3).
- 2.7 Some key areas of focus and local well-being priorities emerged from these in-person sessions, including working in partnership to: Tackle Health Inequity; Affordable Transport to well-being; Best Start in Life and Early Years; Cost of Living and Sustainable Food Provision; and Protecting and Making use of our Natural Environment. It was also consistently acknowledged that the 3rd Sector and volunteers play a vital role in local well-being delivery given the current funding landscape.
- 2.8 The plan is for this evidence gathered through stakeholder engagement to form a local well-being action plan that aligns to the regional priorities coming out of the regional work to develop a robust Delivery Plan 2024-28 for the Gwent Well-being Plan.
- 2.9 At its most recent meeting in December 2023, the LWP suggested that the regional Delivery Plan should be data and outcomes oriented, whilst providing an opportunity for LDGs to focus on what they hope to achieve locally for the benefit of their communities and follow an evidence-based approach to make a meaningful, lasting impact. It was also noted that the need to maintain momentum at LDG level was important in unlocking capacity and resource to develop and deliver against future local well-being priorities identified through the recent positive stakeholder engagement.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

Option 1

That Members of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee note and accept the report and appendices as provided.

Option 2

That Members of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee consider and provide specific comment or requests for further information to the BG Local Well-being Partnership.

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

The Gwent Well-being Plan covers all LA areas across Gwent, including Blaenau Gwent, with opportunities for the LDGs like the BG LWP to deliver against local priorities through their own local action plans under the Delivery Plan 2024-28 going forward. The Blaenau Gwent Council Corporate Plan 2022-26 also makes a commitment to contribute towards the regional well-being objectives and the eight Marmot principles.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

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

The Gwent Well-being Plan sets a strategic direction for the Gwent PSB and its LDGs. Specific projects, programmes or partnerships to help achieve the well-being objectives and steps are being developed as part of the Delivery Plan.

Where additional funding may be required, costed recommendations will be made to the appropriate decision maker, but there is no specific funding available to deliver PSB or LDG well-being programmes as part of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WBFGA) or the Well-being Plan. Blaenau Gwent Council Policy & Partnerships Team is overseeing the coordination of the BG LWP and local input into the Gwent PSB Delivery Plan development work as part of its core business.

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

Failure to deliver effectively against the Gwent Well-being Plan 2023-28 risks not complying with the collective duties set out in the WBFGA. To mitigate against this, a local well-being action plan is being developed as part of the BG LWP forward work programme.

5.3 ***Legal***

The programme has been developed in line with the 5 Ways of Working and other requirements stated in WBFGA.

5.4 ***Human Resources***

The work of the BG LWP relies on and is being developed via effective collaboration with representatives from local partner organisations areas being actively involved from an analytical, programme delivery and public engagement perspective.

Local progress against the regional Well-being Plan is reported to the Gwent PSB, which in turn is supported by the local representation (through officer reps from BGCBC & statutory PSB partners) on the Gwent Strategic Well-being Action Group (GSWAG).

Blaenau Gwent Council Policy & Partnerships Team is overseeing the coordination of the BG LWP and local input into the Gwent PSB Delivery Plan development work as part of its core business.

6. Supporting Evidence

6.1 **Performance Information and Data**

The two main Objectives in the Gwent Well-being Plan 2024-28 are:

1. We want to create a fairer, more equitable and inclusive Gwent for all.
2. We want to create a more climate-aware Gwent, where our environment is valued and protected, ensuring our well-being now and for future generations.

The five steps to achieve these two overarching objectives are:-

- Take action to reduce the Cost of Living crisis in the longer term
- Provide and enable the supply of good quality, affordable, appropriate homes
- Take action to reduce our carbon emissions, help Gwent adapt to climate change, and protect and restore our natural environment
- Take action to address inequalities, particularly in relation to health, through the framework of the [Marmot principles](#)
- Enable and support resilient, connected, thriving and safe communities

The regional Gwent PSB Delivery Plan 2024-28 will be centred around these in the context of four Areas of Focus for well-being as agreed by the PSB in December 2023, aiming to address some of the recommendations from the [Building a Fairer Gwent: Improving Health Equity & the Social Determinants](#) report through the regional well-being delivery plan:

- Everyone has the Best Start in Life.
- Everyone has the same Economic Chances.
- Everyone lives in a Place they feel Safe.
- Everyone lives in Climate-ready Communities where our Environment is Valued and Protected.

As a first step in this process, the Gwent Strategic Well-being Action Group (GSWAG) is conducting a regional mapping exercise to identify and collate the existing projects, programmes and activities that are taking place at a local, sub-regional and/or regional level across Gwent relating to these four areas. The aim of this exercise is ultimately to Identify any gaps or opportunities where more collaboration and partnership working, or upscaling existing work, could improve outcomes and add value at a regional Gwent level.

It is expected that local delivery of the regional priorities and/or programmes identified in the new Delivery Plan would be overseen by the LDGs. This will

include a) local delivery of regional priorities, and b) the opportunity to focus on collaborative activity on issues which may be felt acutely in Blaenau Gwent but are not necessarily priorities at a Gwent level.

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

The Well-being Plan delivery process, supported by engagement, involvement and local delivery to ensure local well-being issues are prioritised as part of the BG LWP's well-being programme, are crucial in ensuring that the regional well-being plan is delivered effectively in Blaenau Gwent to improve local well-being for our communities.

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

Feedback from Stakeholder Engagement workshops about current and future well-being priorities for BG communities:

Consider where we (as partner organisations) and local community groups are already making a difference, protect our assets and try to build on that good work.

Less reactive short-term funding, more preventative long-term approach based on levels of need.

Place local residents in areas of higher deprivation at the centre of identifying actions to reduce inequalities in their local communities.

Put health equity and sustainability at the centre of planning decisions.

Develop linked or shared data to better identify and support those who are homeless or living in insecure housing to address determinants of health e.g. through Decarb retrofit.

Tackle the lack of affordable or appropriate transport options that limit people's access to health care, social & well-being activities, affordable food etc.

Shift to prevention approaches in delivering sustainable and healthy food security.

Identify any areas of low childcare provision, map to deprivation and assess quality of provision, with a view to improving provision for the benefit of our children and young people.

Future local Actions & Steps to consider as part of the local well-being action plan development process:

Lead on best practice and set the example as LWP member organisations e.g. Living Wage & support for staff to actively travel / use greener transport options to work.

Work in partnership with Community Transport Association Wales to develop better transport options for lonely & isolated people.

Work with young people to better communicate available youth services and future youth services.

Best start in life: consider the quality and safety of outdoor spaces and play areas and encourage more active travel to School options.

Identify opportunities to combine new crop and biodiversity growth on public sector land.

Encourage increased gym & leisure centre use from residents in higher deprivation areas by considering opportunities for subsidised / concessionary membership.

Tackle the Volunteering gap between the number of community groups and 3rd sector organisations looking for volunteers vs a perceived current lack of local volunteers.

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

The Well-being Plan takes consideration of the data and future trend information including the Gwent well-being assessment and public engagement on what people consider would make the area a better place for the future and have most positive impact on their well-being.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

The BG LWP focuses on Prevention as one of the five ways of working, and outlines a series of Steps for taking preventative action to help achieve the each of the well-being objectives.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

Local Delivery Groups (LDG) of the Gwent PSB have existed within each local authority area in Gwent since the inception of the GPSB, initially to ensure the continued delivery of the local 2018-23 Well-Being Plans, and to consider local delivery against regional well-being objectives going forward. Our LDG is known as the Blaenau Gwent Local Well-being Partnership (BG LWP). Membership of the BG LWP comprises officer representatives of partner organisations who are key to local well-being delivery, including:

- Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
- Natural Resources Wales
- South Wales Fire & Rescue
- Gwent Police
- Office of the Gwent Police & Crime Commissioner
- Probation Service
- Department for Work & Pensions
- Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
- GAVO

- Tai Calon Community Housing
- Coleg Gwent
- Aneurin Leisure Trust

Additional subject-specific partner organisations are also engaged with via regular steering group and partnerships associated with well-being programme delivery, such as the Climate Mitigation Steering Group, BG Food Partnership, IWB Collaborative, 50+ Stakeholder Network.

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

The BG LWP follows an approach of considering opportunities to enhance local well-being through an evidence-based approach taking into account the well-being and sustainable development pillars: economic, social, cultural and environment issues. The local well-being planning process follows an integrative approach that considers each of the five ways of working (including Integration), and opportunities for integration between local & regional well-being objectives and with the Marmot principles.

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

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.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

The Gwent PSB, regional Gwent PSB Scrutiny Committee and BGCBC Partnerships Scrutiny Committee monitor progress of the BG LWP through its forward work programme performance management arrangements.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- **Appendix 1** – [Gwent Well-being Assessment](#)
- **Appendix 2** – [Gwent Well-being Plan 2023-28](#)
- **Appendix 3** – Gwent PSB LDG Update Blaenau Gwent Dec 2023 (*attached*)