

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

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

SUBJECT: **PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 6TH JANUARY, 2020**

REPORT OF: **LEADERSHIP AND DEMOCRATIC SUPPORT OFFICER**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR S. HEALY (CHAIR)

Councillors P. Edwards
J. Hill
C. Meredith
M. Moore
L. Parsons

WITH: Managing Director
Service Manager – Policy and Partnerships
Will Beer, Public Health Consultant / Strategic Lead
Kath Cross, Service Lead Integrated Wellbeing Networks
Chief Inspector Thomas, Gwent Police
Fen Turner, Senior Natural Resources Planning Officer
Rhian Bowen-Davies,
Partnership Lead, Early Action Together Programme
Chief Inspector Tucker, Gwent Police
Helena Hunt, Professional Lead for Community Safety

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
No. 1	<u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u> It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.	
No. 2	<u>APOLOGIES</u> Apologies for absence were received from:- Councillors G. Paulsen, M. Cook, S. Thomas and H. Trollope.	

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No. 3	<p data-bbox="336 327 1315 365"><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p data-bbox="336 412 1315 495">There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported.</p>	
No. 4	<p data-bbox="336 544 1315 582"><u>PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></p> <p data-bbox="336 629 1315 748">Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 2nd October, 2019.</p> <p data-bbox="336 795 1315 878">The Committee AGREED the Minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
5.	<p data-bbox="336 931 1315 969"><u>FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME</u></p> <p data-bbox="336 1016 1315 1135">Consideration was given to the Public Services Board Scrutiny Forward Work Programme for the meeting scheduled to be held on 9th April, 2020.</p> <p data-bbox="336 1182 1315 1301">The Chair reported that Option 1 and Option 2 should read 9th April, 2020 and not 6th January, 2020 as noted in the report.</p> <p data-bbox="336 1348 746 1386">RESOLVED accordingly</p> <p data-bbox="336 1433 1315 1648">The Committee AGREED, subject to the foregoing, to recommend that the report be accepted and the Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme for the meeting scheduled to be held on 9th April, 2020 be approved.</p>	

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6.	<p data-bbox="336 327 1126 405"><u>INTEGRATED WELL-BEING NETWORK FOR BLAENAU GWENT</u></p> <p data-bbox="336 454 1315 577">Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Public Health, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and Service Lead Integrated Wellbeing Networks</p> <p data-bbox="336 627 1315 1261">The Service Lead Integrated Wellbeing Network referred to the report which provided an update on the progress made against the implementation of the Regional Integrated Well-Being Network Transformation Programme for Blaenau Gwent. The Service Lead gave a detailed overview of the background and scope of the vision and how it had been developed and aligned with the Well-Being of Future Generations Act. It was advised that 'Building a Healthier Gwent' identified many factors which influence our health and well-being which included connections to the community, good housing, financial security and it highlighted the importance of building a wellness system to bring communities together to reduce loneliness and isolation along with providing support with physical and mental health issues.</p> <p data-bbox="336 1310 1315 1603">The Service Lead continued that the concept of the Integrated Well-Being Network transformation programme was to work with assets already available in communities to develop community hubs and ensure GP surgeries, community organisations and groups were all aware of each other and the support which could be provided if services needed to be accessed.</p> <p data-bbox="336 1653 1315 1906">The initial areas of Brynmawr and Tredegar was used in conjunction with recently developed Health Centre Hubs, however the work would be rolled out across Blaenau Gwent. A mapping exercise would be carried out of all assets available to ensure that people are able to access their respective services.</p>	

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	<p>An online directory was also available as an option to search and find services available and it was hoped that via the Workforce Development initiative a skilled workforce would be formed in order to link people to well-being support in their local area. This provided the opportunity for front line staff in places such as GP surgeries and libraries and many more to direct people in the right direction.</p> <p>The Service Lead advised that the Network would enhance communities, reduce demand on packages of care allowing residents to remain in their own home. It would create friendlier and safe communities which empowered individuals as well as groups to look after their own and others health and well-being.</p> <p>In conclusion, the Service Lead Integrated Wellbeing Networks referred Members to the options for consideration and invited questions at this juncture.</p> <p>A Member referred to collaborative and partnership working and asked if local senior citizens groups had been contacted to participate.</p> <p>In response, the Service Lead Integrated Wellbeing Networks advised that this collaboration was being sought via the 50+ Forum and it was planned that all groups across Blaenau Gwent would be visited. The Public Health Consultant/Strategic Lead, ABUHB added that intelligence on older people was also sought from GP surgeries as if lonely or isolated the individual would visit their local GP and information was welcomed from Elected Members who would also be aware of groups in their respective communities.</p> <p>In terms of roll out for the Integrated Well-Being Network it was reiterated that initially Brynmawr and Tredegar was piloted. The work would be rolled out across Blaenau Gwent, however many people visit events in Brynmawr and Tredegar from other areas. It was advised that funding had been sought to extend the project and once this had been received other areas would be considered.</p>	

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	<p>Another Member noted the benefits of the Service Lead Integrated Wellbeing Networks being present in Town Centres to inform people of the initiative and advised when Macmillan and other organisations are available in Town Centre there was a great deal of interest. The Member thought it would be helpful to speak to these organisations to ascertain their approach.</p> <p>The Service Lead Integrated Wellbeing Networks advised that links had been made respective Town Councils and Rotary Clubs to identify prominent links within the Town. It was also hoped that community champions could be obtained from local businesses, however she welcomed the suggestion and took the suggestion on board.</p> <p>A Member raised concerns in relation to the lack of the initiative in the South of the valley and as an Elected Representative for Llanhilleth Ward he was disappointed it had not been rolled out further.</p> <p>The Service Lead Integrated Wellbeing Networks reiterated the reason behind Brynmawr and Tredegar being pilots and that once further funding had been received other areas would be considered.</p> <p>It was hoped that the outcome of grant funding would be received shortly and it was agreed that once this had been confirmed it be reported to Elected Representatives.</p> <p>RESOLVED accordingly.</p>	

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	<p>A Member referred to people within communities who do not access groups or clubs and asked how these are reached. The Service Lead Integrated Wellbeing Networks advised that a gap in individuals who did not go out socially had been identified via GP surgeries and Community Connectors. She added that Monmouth had established a befriending service and it was hoped that this could be pursued in Blaenau Gwent which would train individuals from within communities to befriend people either via telephone or face to face.</p> <p>Will Beer, Public Health added that isolated residents are normally recognised by GPs as patients would visit showing related issues and a number of factors could be the cause, debt, housing and therefore GPs now use social prescribing rather than medication. These individuals would be referred to Community Connectors and encouraged to make links in communities and be informed of green spaces where walks could be undertaken to improve their mental health and well-being.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and option 1; namely the Public Service Board Scrutiny Committee considered the report and appendices as provided prior to it being submitted to the Public Service Board.</p>	
7.	<p><u>COMMUNITY SAFETY HUB</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Inspector, Gwent Police and Professional Lead for Community Safety</p> <p>The Chief Inspector, Gwent Police advised that the report outlined the progress made by Blaenau Gwent Community Safety Hub which was set up to assist partners who work in Blaenau Gwent to work together in terms of Community Safety issues which affect the local area.</p>	

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	<p>It was reported that the Hub was located at Ebbw Vale Police Station and was open on Tuesday and Thursdays for partners to meet. A fortnightly partnership meeting was held on local matters and action plans are developed to address issues. The Chief Inspector felt that these meetings were productive and had good results.</p> <p>It was continued that a review was undertaken of all Partnership Hubs across the five regions and surveys was circulated to obtain feedback. The results were benchmarked against each Hub to ensure that there was a consistent approach being undertaken. Also, it was felt that this process also provided an opportunity to share good practices.</p> <p>At this juncture the Chief Inspector gave an overview of the comments received from the survey and outlined case studies of the good work undertaken by the agencies involved in the partnership working.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the Chief Inspector for the overview of the work of the Community Safety Hub and welcomed questions from Members.</p> <p>A Member referred to threats made to staff and asked how these threats occurred and the number of threats made. The Professional Lead for Community Safety advised that threats to staff are made in a variety of means including over social media and face to face. A regular update on threats was presented to the Managing Director and the process to address the threats was made available to staff. There was also a process in place for school based staff with the Head of Education Transformation being the Lead Officer on the Corporate Security Group.</p> <p>The Professional Lead for Community Safety advised that the issues relating to Threats to Staff would be reviewed by the new Health and Safety Group.</p>	

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	<p>In response to a question raised in relation to increase CCTV, it was advised that a report would be presented to the Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee in February.</p> <p>A Member felt that Elected Members should also be given the same consideration as staff in terms of threats as Councillors are also vulnerable to threats. The Professional Lead for Community Safety advised that he threat to staff protocol could also be used by Elected Members as it provided advice and guidance.</p> <p>The Chair reminded Members that it was important that any threats be reported to the Police and Health and Safety Team.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and the information contained therein be noted.</p>	
8.	<p><u>CLIMATE READY GWENT</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Service Manager Policy and Partnerships, Policy Officer and Natural Resources Wales</p> <p>It was advised that the report captured case studies in relation to Climate Ready Gwent and outlined lived experiences relating to climate change issues which affect the Gwent Region. The Gwent Strategic Well Being Action Group (GSWAG) commissioned work to carry out the Climate Ready Project across the five regions in Gwent. The project looked to identify ways of working within local communities on climate adaptation and used lived experiences to ensure it was based on actual evidence. There were nine different case studies developed with different communities including the 50+ Forum and Children’s Grand Council in Blaenau Gwent. The findings were the case studies outlined in the appendices to the report.</p>	

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	<p>The Natural Resource Wales representative provided an overview of the report and advised that the PSB was due to give consideration to Climate Change as a project at the meeting scheduled on 21st January, 2020.</p> <p>The representative advised that working regionally with other projects across Gwent she had learned from work being taken forward in Monmouthshire, Torfaen and Newport and she noted the positive involvement from communities who were keen to participate and have their voices heard. During the engagement approach it was important that the project was promoted as what could we do as a community rather than working in isolation.</p> <p>It was added that there was an understanding of the challenges and the risks. The NRW Representative noted that it was exciting to see communities come together to understand the climate change picture and what that meant for our landscapes, wildlife and habitats. This was an issue that could be looked at collectively, not just in local areas but regionally.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the Natural Resource Wales Representative and invited questions from Members.</p> <p>In response to a question raised about electric car charges and energy infrastructure it was advised that this was part of the reducing carbon emissions project and was an aspect of the Climate Ready Gwent Partnership which worked across public sectors to reduce carbon omissions and Blaenau Gwent was leading the way on that partnership work. It was added that Blaenau Gwent was leading the procurement on behalf of the region in terms of installation of electric charging points.</p>	

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	<p>A Member referred to grey water and asked if this was dirty water used within the home.</p> <p>The NRW Representative advised that she believed that grey water was captured rain water which could be used to flush toilets, untreated water which could not be used for drinking. She added that these types of changes could be built into future planning and development decisions.</p> <p>Another Member informed that a new housing development being built by Tai Calon had green roofs and had described similar mechanisms for the development. The NRW Representative felt that this demonstrated how working across Public Services Board with new build projects could be adapted to be sustainable. It was felt that this type of work set precedents for the future.</p> <p>Another Member referred to the involvement of children and ensuring that the materials and information was readily available in schools. An Officer referred to the case study used from Blaenau Gwent Children's Grand Council and advised that children are very aware of Climate Change. The Officer added that these issues are being taken forward in schools at local level in Blaenau Gwent.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and options 2 and 3; namely the overview report and supporting case studies were considered and it be recommended to the PSB that the Committee remained actively involved in work to support the PSBs climate change action for 2020.</p>	

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9.	<p data-bbox="336 327 1038 365"><u>ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES</u></p> <p data-bbox="336 412 1270 495">Consideration was given to the report of the Partnership Lead, Early Action Together Programme, Gwent.</p> <p data-bbox="336 542 1315 1133">The Partnership Lead, Early Action Together Programme, Gwent noted the report which outlined the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) programme which ensured that PSBs across Gwent was prepared for ACES with the assistance of training for key staff in their respective organisations. The Partnership Lead spoke in detail to the report and outlined the key points contained therein. She pointed out that the funded programme was due to end in March 2020 and training had concluded for Police and Partners in November 2019. In October 2019 the PSB considered a paper around key issues and agreed a project closure. A further paper was due to be presented in 2020 with recommendations to support following the project closure.</p> <p data-bbox="336 1180 1315 1473">A Member asked if the training had been provided to coaches in sports clubs as children/young people in sports may feel comfortable talking to a coach. The Partnership Lead, Early Action Together Programme, Gwent advised that this work going forward would be undertaken by ACE Support Hub for roll out to sports clubs and sporting communities.</p> <p data-bbox="336 1520 1315 1814">In response to concerns raised around the closure of the project, it was advised that an ACE Awareness Workforce would deliver the training, however a great deal of training had been undertaken. The Managing Director added that the PSB does not have staff therefore a partnership approach on how organisations would continue the work in daily business would be considered.</p> <p data-bbox="336 1861 1315 2029">The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and Option 1; namely The PSB Scrutiny supported the project closure report to be presented to the Public Service Board.</p>	