

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**

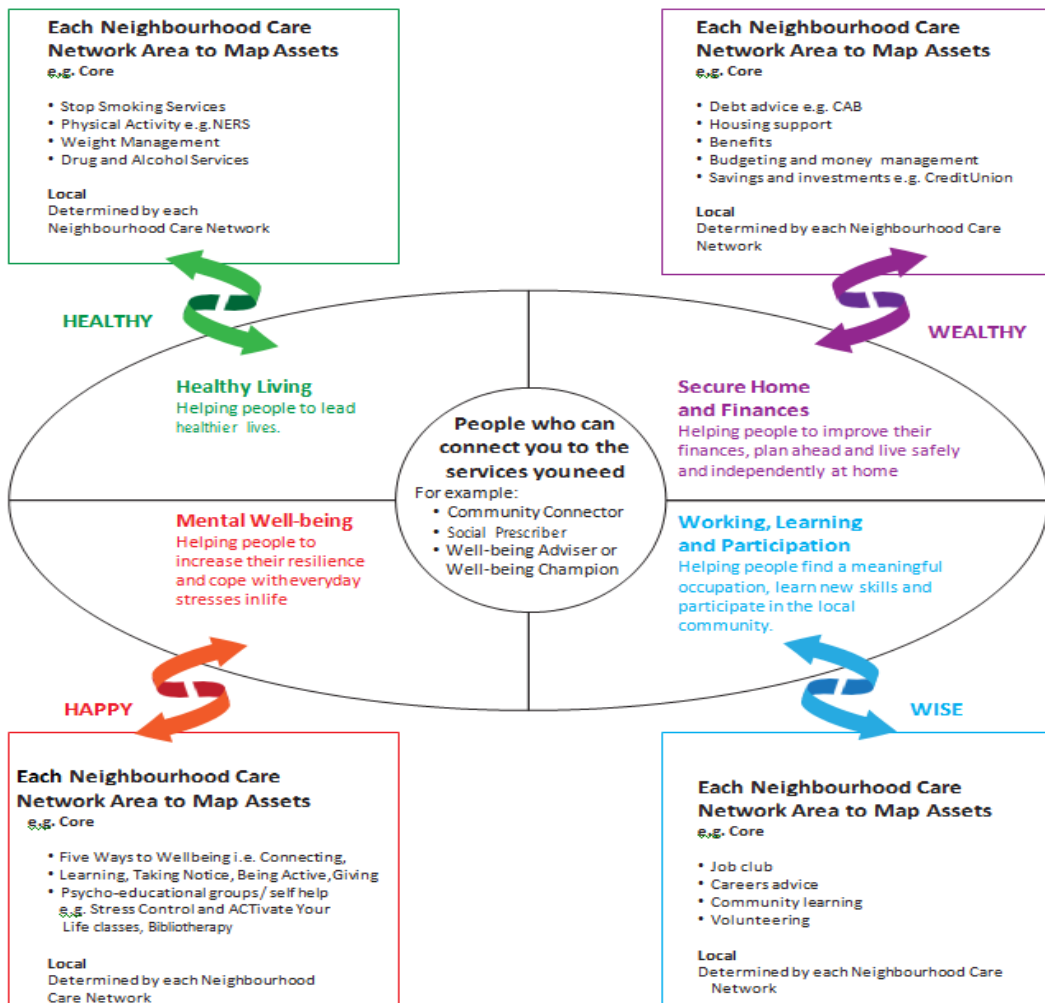
- 7.1 An external evaluator is being appointed to assess the impact of the programme.
- 7.2 The IWN transformation team has enlisted support from G-SWAG to ensure this evaluation builds on work already undertaken on behalf of PSBs to measure improvement in population well-being
- 7.3 The IWN programme 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)	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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)	<i>If yes</i>	Please describe what the impact will be?	What is the significance of the impact?	If low, please explain this 'significance' rating. (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 <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 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
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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)?