

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

27 OCTOBER 2017

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – OPERATIONAL AND PARTNERSHIP SERVICES

BRIDGEND PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD (PSB)

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:

- a) Provide background information to the Public Service Board (PSB) and the Overview and Scrutiny Panel;
- b) Present the Bridgend PSB Draft Well-being Plan 2018-2023 for comment and recommendations as part of the consultation process.

2. CONNECTION TO CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN / OTHER PRIORITIES

2.1 The active participation of representatives on the Public Service Board Overview and Scrutiny Panel contributes to all the following Corporate Priorities.

1. **Supporting a successful economy** – taking steps to make the county a good place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions of all people in the county.
2. **Helping people to be more self-reliant** – taking early steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services.
3. **Smarter use of resources** – ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities.

3. Background

3.1 In 2009, Overview and Scrutiny in Bridgend established its own Local Service Board Overview and Scrutiny Panel, based on a model developed by Cardiff. The Panel originally consisted of five non-executive representatives from LSB partner organisations and five elected Members from the Council's Community Safety and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The key purpose of this Panel was to act as a 'Critical friend' to the Bridgend Local Service Board (LSB) and contribute to the achievement of accountable, Citizen-centred services. LSBs were a Welsh Assembly Government initiative to encourage public sector partners to work collaboratively and represented a new approach to the delivery of public services.

3.2 It was agreed that the option created at the time would:

- Create a stand-alone model, allowing greater flexibility pending further guidance from the Welsh Assembly Government;
- Give greater emphasis on accountability to the LSB itself rather than splitting this accountability across both the Council and the LSB;
- Receive support and be serviced by BCBC's Scrutiny Unit;

- Incorporate one representative from each partnership agency, in addition to five Elected Members from the Local Authority's Strategic Partnerships & Governance Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

- 3.3 Furthermore it was agreed that the Panel would decide its own forward work programme within its agreed terms of reference, reporting back to and making recommendations to the LSB.
- 3.4 Building on the strengths of partnership working, the development of an Overview & Scrutiny function for the Bridgend LSB sought to be holistic and progressive, avoiding duplication of individual forms of partner accountability. The role of Bridgend LSB was not to scrutinise any individual service which is a partner member of the Bridgend LSB, but to ensure an effective whole-system response to the needs of citizens.
- 3.5 Examples of Partner Organisations included the Health Board, V2C, South Wales Police and the Fire Authority, Natural Resources Wales amongst others. Each partner organisation of the Panel brings a different contribution and perspective to the table, including their particular form of accountability and unique professional and service expertise. The aim is to create strong synergy by combining these in a public services team model, building on strengths and tackling barriers where they exist.
- 3.6 The Panel met for the first time on 8 February 2010. The composition of the LSB itself has changed over the years as a result of various legislation as has the Overview and Scrutiny Panel in order to reflect this. This has included changes to the Panel membership, changes to its number of meetings and also minor changes to the Panel's Terms of Reference whilst maintaining in general the same principles.

Establishment of Public Service Boards

- 3.7 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 became law on 29th April 2015 and became a requirement for public bodies in Wales from 1st April 2016 and aimed at improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. It puts long-term sustainability at the forefront of how public services are designed and delivered, and places emphasis on public bodies to work in partnership with each other and the public to prevent and tackle problems.
- 3.8 It is a notable piece of legislation in placing emphasis on organisational behaviour in the context of partnership working as a key driver of longer-term change in localities. The Act establishes Public Services Boards (PSBs) for each local authority in Wales, consisting of representatives from local authorities, health boards, the Natural Resources Body for Wales and the Welsh Fire and Rescue Authority. Each PSB must undertake a local well-being assessment to inform a local well-being plan, detailing how their area will achieve the sustainable development principle in working towards the seven national well-being goals. Furthermore, PSBs must invite relevant voluntary organisations along with Welsh Ministers, the local Police and Crime Commissioner and the local Chief Constable to participate on the board.
- 3.9 To ensure PSBs are democratically accountable, the Act places a requirement on councils to designate an overview and scrutiny committee to scrutinise the work of the PSB. Under the provisions contained in the Act, overview and scrutiny committees have extensive powers to review the PSB's governance arrangements as well as any decisions made or actions taken by the PSB. In addition, overview and scrutiny committees are provided with considerable reporting powers as they are required to share copies of any reports or recommendations made in connection with the board's functions or governance arrangements with the Welsh Ministers, the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales and the Auditor General for Wales.

- 3.10 In response to this at its meeting on the 18 April 2016, the LSB Scrutiny Panel were advised that the Public Service Board had now been established for Bridgend and an Assessment of Local Wellbeing would be published by April 2017 followed by the Well Being Plan in April 2018. The Panel proposed that Local Service Board Overview and Scrutiny Committee change its name to the Public Service Board Overview and Scrutiny Panel in order to align themselves with the newly established PSB.
- 3.11 Further to this and as a result of a recent Scrutiny restructure at its meeting in June 2017, Bridgend Council agreed that the PSB Overview and Scrutiny Panel now sit under the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the membership of the Panel determined on an annual basis incorporating 3 Members from the COSC and 1 member from each of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees along with counterpart representatives from organisations that sit on the PSB.
- 3.12 The committee has the power to:
- Review or scrutinise the decision made or actions taken by the PSB
 - Review or scrutinise the PSB's governance arrangements
 - Make reports or recommendations to the PSB regarding its functions or governance arrangements
 - Consider matters relating to the PSB as the Welsh Ministers may refer to it and report to the Welsh Ministers accordingly
 - Carry out other functions in relation to the PSB that are imposed on it by the Act
- 3.13 In exercising its powers, overview and scrutiny committees can **require** members of the PSB (or a designated representative) to attend committee meetings to provide explanation in response to committee lines of inquiry.
- 3.14 Whilst committees can require any statutory member of the board to give evidence, the capacity in which they do so must relate to the exercise of joint functions conferred on them as a statutory member of the board. This does not preclude overview and scrutiny committees interviewing individual partners to assess their contribution to collaborative delivery. This power includes any person that has accepted an invitation to participate in the activity of the PSB. Furthermore, the Act stipulates that an overview and scrutiny committee **must** send a copy of any report or recommendation made in connection to its functions to the Welsh Ministers, the Future Generations Commissioner and the Auditor General for Wales.
- 3.15 Whilst further detail in relation to the Act and the role of Scrutiny is attached at Appendix A which is the Welsh Government's guidance for Local Authority Scrutiny Committees on the Scrutiny of Public Service Boards, essentially, the purpose of the Panel is to review and scrutinise the efficiency and effectiveness of the PSB and its decisions as well as the governance arrangements surrounding it. The Panel will hold up to two meetings a year and will make reports or recommendations to the Board regarding its functions with the aim of enhancing its impact.
- 3.16 The PSB Wellbeing plan will be published April 2018, to date there is no formal structure with regard to programme boards or subgroups. However, the PSB have established task and finish groups to carry out the response analysis to contribute to the draft plan and nominated officers to come together as a wellbeing planning group to make proposals for wellbeing objectives.
- 3.17 At its last meeting in February 2017, the PSB Overview and Scrutiny panel received a report providing an update on the work the Bridgend Public Service Board (PSB) to date and development of the Assessment of Well Being in Bridgend County. The Panel were asked to respond to the consultation on the Assessment of Wellbeing for Bridgend County.

- 3.18 As can be viewed in the minutes from that meeting, the Panel made the following comments in relation to the Assessment of Well Being:
- Members felt that the document was unduly negative in some areas, namely in relation to community cohesion and recycling.
 - The Panel resolved that the assessment used terminology that was difficult to understand and provided the example 'There is one Nitrate Vulnerable Zone designated to prevent pollution of nitrates to the groundwater' and 'chronic health harms'.
 - The Panel queried the statement 'In 2016, Bridgend West saw the greatest proportion of GP recorded diagnoses of cancer in Bridgend' which was aligned to the reasoning that Bridgend West has a higher rate of older people resident within it. Members questioned whether this was the only reason.
 - Members noted the lack of reference in the assessment to mental health and safeguarding and vulnerability of adults and children.
 - Members resolved that it would have been beneficial to have received a copy of the consultation questions to be able to provide a view on them prior to consultation.
 - Members of the Panel requested to receive a hyperlink to the Wellbeing Assessment at the start of the consultation period to enable the Panel to partake in the consultation and extend the invitation to local businesses, community groups and organisations in the area.
- 3.19 The Panel also requested that following the completion of the Assessment of Well-Being Consultation, they receive the Local Wellbeing Plan in its draft form at a future meeting.

4. Current Situation

- 4.1 Attached at Appendix B is the Bridgend Public Service Board Draft Well-being Plan 2018-2023 which is presented to the Panel for comments and recommendations as part of the consultation process.
- 4.2 The planning groups' initial proposals for wellbeing objectives were considered by the community safety partnership, the children and young people task and finish group, the skills and employment task and finish group, staff from Reach and Awen. They discussed in more detail where the real benefit from working together would come from and started to identify steps that could be taken.
- 4.3 The steps and priorities to deliver the wellbeing objectives were based on actions identified by the PSB discussions on role and purpose and after a number of thematic workshops held to further develop thinking on how the PSB can best add value. These have been further refined by applying response analysis and by considering the outcomes of the wellbeing assessment focused on changing the way partner organisations work to achieve improvement to wellbeing.
- 4.4 The draft plan outlines the things that Bridgend PSB will work together on, over the next five years, our wellbeing objectives and steps, and how we want Bridgend to look in 10 years' time. The PSB has approved the draft wellbeing objectives and identified which priorities and steps to include in the wellbeing plan for consultation.

Terms of Reference

- 4.5 The Terms of Reference below have been drafted based on those of the previous LSB/PSB. Due to the recent changes following the Local Government elections and work undertaken by the Scrutiny section to seek out new nominations from partner organisations involved with the PSB, it is an opportune time for the new Panel to revisit their Terms of Reference and amend or adopt as deemed necessary. The Panel can also determine to reconsider these following the PSB establishing its formal structure and arrangements.

- To provide a 'critical friend' challenge to the Public Service Board and its Programme Boards;
- To reflect the voice and concerns of the public and communities of Bridgend and support the PSB in its goal to improve the quality of life for people living and working in the County Borough;
- To scrutinise, evaluate and actively promote improvement in the work of the Public Service Board in developing and implementing projects to address the priorities set by the Board;
- To review the efficiency and effectiveness of the PSB in line with the Bridgend PSB Well-being Plan;
- To develop and deliver a forward work programme which seeks to contribute to the performance management and governance arrangements of the PSB and its projects;
- To submit reports to the PSB as appropriate and make recommendations on measures which may enhance the impact of the Board;
- To develop relationships with other scrutiny bodies and equivalent who have the responsibility of holding organisations to account and are active in Bridgend, in order to ensure that work programmes are co-ordinated, duplication of effort is avoided and opportunities for information-sharing are maximised.

5. Recommendations

5.1 It is recommended that the Panel:

- i. Respond to the consultation of the Public Service Board Draft Well-being Plan,, providing comments and recommendations to the Board for consideration in the final plan;
- ii. Amend and agree as appropriate the PSB Overview and Scrutiny Panel Terms of Reference as detailed at paragraph 4.5.