

**PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD SCRUTINY PANEL - THURSDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2017**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD SCRUTINY PANEL HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 2/3 - CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON THURSDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2017 AT 14:00**

Present

Councillor N Clarke  
– Chairperson

Councillor E Dodd

Officers:

Mark Galvin – Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees  
Gail Jewell – Scrutiny Officer

Invitees:

Darren Mepham – Chief Executive  
Simon Pirotte – Principal, Bridgend College  
Inspector Jason Herbert – South Wales Police

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the following representatives:-

H Bennett – BAVO  
J Finch – Bridgend College  
C Janczewski - ABMU

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Notes of a meeting of the Local Service Board dated 18 April 2016 be approved as a true and accurate record.

4. PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD PROJECTS - MONITORING AND UPDATES

The Scrutiny Officer presented a report, the purpose of which was to provide information in relation to the initiative Leadership, Enterprise, Ambition and Development (LEAD) that sits under the Wise Programme Board, and also to provide an update of the progress of the Garw Valley Voice (formerly '446') project that sits under the Place Programme Board.

The report confirmed that at its previous meeting on 18 April 2016 (Local Service Board), the Panel received a report from the Healthy Board which provided an update on the Llynfi 20 Project, and a report from the Place Board which delivered information on the 446 Project, and how the venture would progress to the next stage.

Paragraph 2.2 of the report outlined the recommendations the Panel made in respect of the above items.

In terms of the current report, the following Appendices supported this:-

- 4a – Report from Wise Programme Board
- 4b, Appendix 1 – Wise Board Pro Forma
- 4c – Report from Place Programme Board
- 4d, Appendix 1 – Sensor Study
- 4e, Appendix 2 – Public Health Wales Report
- 4f, Appendix 3 – Garw Valley Voice Flyer
- 4g, Appendix 4 – Garw Valley Voice Pro Forma
- 4h, Appendix 5 – 446 Project Pro Forma

The Chairperson then welcomed the Invitees to the meeting, namely Mr Simon Pirotte who was a Principal at Bridgend College, Inspector Jason Herbert from the South Wales Police, and the Chief Executive (BCBC).

After a brief introduction by the Chief Executive, Members received a Power point Presentation from Mr. Pirotte who was Chairperson of the Wise Board, entitled Leadership, Enterprise, Ambition and Development (LEAD), the elements of which would examine how various educational attainments could be gained, including thorough working with other Public Service Board members.

He advised that the former Local Service Board (LSB) that the Public Service Board (PSB) superseded, often tackled problems and associated issues, whereby the PSB looked more at people and their talents.

The LEAD project aims currently in its infancy, he confirmed were:-

1. To identify and develop a team of young people from across Bridgend who have leadership potential
2. To put in place a programme that develops the leadership skills of these young people
3. To develop selected young people to act as role models in their communities, to help identify the next generation of 'LEAD' participants
4. To secure funding to develop a sustainable and inclusive project for years to come.

He then advised that the Project had entailed a total of 19 young people aged 16 – 21 attending firstly an assessment day, of which 14 were selected for the Project with 10 eventually fully participating. This involved them staying (including sleeping over) for a number of days in the Bridgend College and doing a series of tests and exercises, including being involved in Residential Workshops.

The students who were from a number of different areas of the County Borough, were taught how to bond and tackle tasks together; to develop leadership qualities, and with support from their peers they were set targets that included them both working as part of a team and individually, to build both their confidence and skill bases.

They were also asked what projects they felt would benefit the particular areas they lived in whether from a valley environment or more of a town location. Each of the projects they undertook was led by a Mentor he added.

Mr. Pirotte advised that examples of the work the young people got involved in, included Girls and Wellbeing, where 4 teenage girls visited a few schools to chat about different 'bespoke' type issues. Another project was discussions regarding the different

transitions young people were faced with, i.e. from school to college/a place of higher education and university, where this often resulted in them moving from their family home.

He added that two other projects the students experienced, were a link project to South Africa to see some of the adverse conditions some people experienced in terms of their standard of living, and a project entitled Wellbeing and Development – Older Generation and physical and literacy fact finding tests.

In June 2017, Mr Pirotte confirmed that there would be a celebration event in respect of the LEAD Project, and there may also be a follow-up project where the participating students would be Mentors for young people involved in any such second project.

He added that he would also look to see if partners in the PSB and certain other external organisations would help support any second project, including any possible financial assistance.

A Member commented that it was a pity that no more than 10 young people took part in the LEAD Project.

Mr. Pirotte replied that if there was a second project, the above number would look to be exceeded through making more schools aware of the scheme than had been the case for the first project.

The Chairperson asked if the outcomes of the project were the ones that he and the Mentors had been looking for.

Mr. Pirotte confirmed that though the Mentors initiated and set-up a platform by which to look to encourage Leadership Skills to conduct tasks, the participants themselves developed the actual Projects that LEAD comprised of. There was evidence that their skills developed as the Project progressed, with there also being evidence that skills of some of the young people had rubbed off on other quieter less confident students.

The Chairperson asked if there had been any success thus far, in securing assistance or support from other partners in order to build-on and support any future projects.

Mr. Pirotte advised that going forward, only the Active Young People Department (AYPD) in BCBC and the Bridgend College had fully committed to another project, but further support for this would be sought initially from other 'arms' of PSB together with any other external organisations, for example BAVO, including in the way of project Mentors. He added that streams of funding would also greatly assist further such projects.

A Member asked if the project in respect of transition from young people going from schools into higher education was an idea from students involved in the project.

Mr. Pirotte confirmed that it was, and there were other ideas being looked at for the next project. Similar projects could be repeated he added, as different young people would be involved in them but would offer different ideas, which would in turn result in different outcomes.

Mr. Pirotte further advised that more students from deprived areas would also be sought for any future tranche of projects. He added that there were talented individuals in the County Borough, but some of them lacked belief or confidence, and it was projects such as LEAD that would help improve these weaknesses.

Inspector Herbert then gave a power point Presentation, entitled the Garw Valley Voice Project.

He confirmed that the Project wished to promote that:

- Bridgend is a great place to work
- People in Bridgend are healthy
- People in Bridgend are engaged and empowered to reach their full potential
- People in Bridgend benefit from a strong and prosperous economy

A survey had been carried out in Pontycymmer and Bettws advised Inspector Herbert entitled 'The Big Youth Voice' in conjunction with the Bridgend Place Programme Board Sensor Study, which revealed that both these areas were vulnerable to problems, and due to this, classed as potential areas of concern.

As part of the Sensor Study residents within these locations who responded to this study (albeit there were only 19), confirmed that they felt a fear that they may be subjected to an act of crime at any time.

Other issues which were multi rather than single agency issues that came out of the Sensor Study were the following:-

1. Groups of youths (congregating)
2. Anti-Social behaviour
3. Litter and fly-tipping
4. Animal fouling
5. Vermin
6. Poor environment (graffiti, boarded windows, etc.)
7. Damage/vandalism
8. Overgrown vegetation
9. Vehicle thefts
10. Traffic related issues, e.g. speeding, parking & anti-social driving
11. Drug use and cultivation
12. Public drinking

The main areas where these concerns existed, were Oxford Street and Victoria Street in Pontycymmer, and Bettws Road and Heol Bradford in Bettws.

Inspector Herbert confirmed that a 4 day project had been held in October half term, where engagement was made with parents, children and Clubs to discuss what category the above problems could be classed as, which were Short term actions (which could be resolved fairly quickly), Medium term plan (actions that would take up to 3 months) and Long term goals (e.g. cases of drug/substance misuse etc.) that were more difficult to resolve and required multi-agency support. 250 residents had engaged in the Study he added.

Arising from the feedback from this, residents were asked what improvements could be made at the above locations, and it was revealed that a number of residents had complained over traffic problems and lack of car parking, particularly in the Pontycymmer area. Organisations such as V2c and the Fire Officer had been consulted amongst others, on a number of issues that had come out of the project. A drive had also been made to educate children in these places to be more aspirational, and resist the temptation of problems that could affect their health, such as the consumption of alcohol and drugs.

Inspector Herbert also advised in his presentation of a 1 day event held in Coleg Y Cymunedol Yr Dderwen school as a form of an open day, where representatives from multi-agency groups came together and engaged with a total of 400+ pupils. Topics discussed at this event were Social Wellbeing, Sexual Health matters, and other matters of interest, particularly for younger aged people.

The presentation then referred to other data that had been collated, that included inviting pupils to complete a questionnaire on Substance Misuse and asking individuals perception with regard to crime data and analysis.

He advised that a project known as Operation Perception had been planned to look at the wider areas of these communities with a view to expanding the data collection exercise.

Inspector Herbert advised that Operation Perception would be undertaken in the next few months, and from this there would be a:-

- (1) Census Study (2017)
- (2) Medium Term Plan derived
- (3) A Communication Strategy
- (4) Long Term Plan (with added support from the 3<sup>rd</sup> and voluntary sector ie PACT, etc)
- (5) An Evaluation – where the type of work carried out in Pontycymmer and Bettws would be expanded to include other areas

The Chairperson asked if any positive outcomes had resulted from the Garw Valley Voice Project.

Inspector Herbert replied that engaging with the above communities had made residents more positive about the future, and they had been encouraged to take matters up more with different agencies such as V2c regarding empty housing, or with PCSO's over more general concerns they had. He added that Operation Perception he felt would result in increased feedback from residents.

A Member asked if there were many Officers from SW Police patrolling streets in the valley areas, as they did in the towns of the County Borough.

Inspector Herbert advised that there were not that many Officers that walked the streets in the valley areas such as they did in the likes of Bridgend, Porthcawl and Maesteg, as these were busier town areas where Police needed to have a strong presence, particularly to deal with problems associated with the night time economy. Therefore pockets of crime were often hard to identify in upper valley locations, though these usually related to fairly isolated instances and frequently could be categorised as alcohol, drug or substance misuse issues.

The Chairperson advised that large organisations such as Rotary, she was sure, would be prepared to visit schools in order to speak to young people on a number of different issues, such as for example, ways to build confidence at a young age.

### **Conclusions:**

LEAD Project:

- The Panel commended the work of the project and stated that it was pleasing to know that some of the students were from deprived areas and that the scheme was providing encouragement to pupils with no or little self-belief.

Garw Valley Voice (GVV):

- The Panel commended the thorough work undertaken under the project GVV.
- Members of the Panel queried whether partner agencies of each Board knew what projects the other Boards were undertaking, as there were similarities with the outcomes of GVV and LEAD project in providing assertion in school children and this could be something the Police and Bridgend College could work on together in the future.
- In relation to discussions regarding interviewing skills for students, the Panel sign-posted Inspector Herbert to the voluntary organisation Rotary, who will go into schools to undertake confidence building exercises as mentioned above.

5. **PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD UPDATE AND INTRODUCTION OF THE ASSESSMENT OF WELL BEING IN BRIDGEND COUNTY**

The Chairperson invited the Chief Executive to the meeting for the above item.

He commenced by advising that the Bridgend Public Services Board (PSB) Assessment of Local Well-being draft document was out to consultation, adding that he was Chairperson of the Local Service Board (LSB) which the PSB had now since superseded.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the LSB was too prescriptive and legislatively connected to allow partnership working to operate effectively.

The PSB's remit was more relaxed than the LSB including more relaxed statutory partnership working involving all its members, and the ethos of the PSB was about being proactive whilst concentrating on aims and objectives that were more realistic than highly aspirational.

The PSB comprised of representatives from a number of different key organisations, such as the Health Board, V2c, South Wales Police and the Fire Authority amongst others. Natural Resources Wales were a new partner, and already some key work had been discharged to them he added.

Under a Welsh Government directive, certain organisations that made up PSB were taking the lead on thematic issues, and sharing specialist knowledge that each organisation was involved in producing. This included children and young people, the City Deal and other economy related topics. One of the priorities of the PSB was to look at ways to boost economy and create jobs for the unemployed.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act had been introduced, to ensure that public service providers were doing all that they can, to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of people and communities.

This meant that public services providers had to:

- Think about the long term
- Look to prevent problems
- Work towards the Act's seven wellbeing goals in all that they do
- Work more effectively with each other, and
- Work better with people and communities by involving them

Work would also be required added the Chief Executive to improve economic, environmental, social and cultural well-being in each of the areas that made-up the PSB.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the Bridgend PSB was made up of the ABMU, BCBC, Natural Resources Wales and South Wales Fire and Rescue. It did have the support however of the following Invited Participants:-

1. Awen
2. BAVO
3. Bridgend Business Forum
4. Bridgend College
5. Community Rehabilitation Company
6. National Probation Service
7. Public Health Wales
8. SW Police
9. SW Police and Crime
10. Commissioner's Office
11. V2c, and
12. Welsh Government

The Chief Executive confirmed that a considerable amount of data had emerged from a Needs Assessment that had been carried out and this would be the subject of consultation with local communities.

A Member asked what form of consultation had taken place.

The Chief Executive advised that this had been led by the Communications Department, and had involved the social media, posters in publically visited places, eg Sports Centres and Libraries. Feedback from the consultation would be used to assist in endeavouring to provide what people who engage in the process actually want. He added that it would be necessary as the PSB evolves however, to seek further funding initiatives to continue support its work.

He further added that some of the work undertaken by the PSB would include involvement from key supportive bodies, such as the Community Safety Partnership.

The Chief Executive also advised that work of the PSB would be shared with Overview and Scrutiny, including outcomes from the Action Plan that sat under the Assessment of Wellbeing in the Bridgend County Borough. The PSB needed to be the subject of scrutiny he added, in order to ensure that the Board was working effectively and fulfilling its role.

A Member asked if there was any risk of any duplication/overlapping of work due to there being two Capital City Deals in Swansea and Cardiff.

The Chief Executive advised that this would not occur, particularly as he was the lead Chief Executive on the Cardiff City Deal and he often linked in with the Chief Executive of Swansea City Council on plans going forward for both of these projects.

A Member noted that people living in Porthcawl could live up to 20 years longer than for example, a person who lived in a deprived area such as a valley community.

The Chief Executive advised that this was because lifestyles and habits of people who live in the more deprived areas of the County Borough were not so aspirational and healthy as those who lived in more rural or town areas. Smoking and alcohol

consumption was higher generally in valley rather than town locations. It was not he felt as a result of reasons associated with the environment, as valley areas had natural environment where residents could walk or go jogging, as well as keep-fit facilities the same as in BCB towns.

In response to a further question, the Chief Executive advised that metro links would be more frequent than they now are, and also links would be more direct i.e. from village to town, as opposed to going via longer routes through housing estates etc.

A Member made a comment that though there was 750 public footpaths throughout the County Borough, not all of these were accessible. She felt that this should be looked into.

As this concluded the debate on this item, Members thanked the Chief Executive for attending and responding to questions of the Panel.

The Panel then 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.

## 6. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Scrutiny Officer presented a report, the purpose of which was to provide the Panel with an opportunity to develop their Forward Work Programme.

Arising from discussions on this item, Members made the following conclusions.

### **Conclusions:**

- Following the completion of the Assessment of Well Being Consultation, the Panel asked to receive the Local Wellbeing Plan in its draft form at a future meeting.
- The Panel also determined to receive an update on the Garw Valley Voice and Llynfi 20 to gather the results of the evaluation being undertaken of both projects. In addition, the Panel requested to obtain an update on any new work streams commissioned by the PSB.



The Panel asked to receive the Minutes and/or Forward Work Programme of the PSB for information, to assist it in understanding how exactly the PSB were undertaking their role.

7. URGENT ITEMS

None.

The meeting closed at 16:15