




MEETING DATE: 1 October 2021

SUBJECT: Update on the Gwent Well-being Assessment- progress and further action required

*Report written and submitted by: GSWAG Governance Group for G10
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1	Areas Affected
1.1	Gwent
2	Purpose of Report
2.1	To update the Gwent PSB on the drafting of the local assessment of well-being for the region as required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
2.2	This report updates on the two main elements of the drafting, the engagement with communities and the process of assessing the data for the area. It further updates on the use of the annual Welsh Government funding allocation to the region to support PSB activity.
3	Background and Timeline
3.1	G10 were provided with the structure of the local assessment of well-being at the meeting on the 8 th of June. Partner officers continue to develop the draft document with the intention that it will be brought to the December 7 th meeting of the Gwent PSB for agreement to progress to the consultation stage.
3.2	Drafting will continue over the autumn period. This report provides an opportunity to consider progress. The original intention had been to bring a first draft to the meeting of the Gwent PSB. Working regionally and across many organisations has introduced some process delays, mainly in reaching timely consensus, accessing data from outside the author's own organisation, introducing consistency to the document etc. In addition, the engagement piece did not commence until the 16 th of

	August with surveys running until the 30 th September. There have been some delays in receipt of data from Data Cymru and the Future Trends report from Welsh Government is currently in draft form.
3.3	The local assessment of well-being must be published no later than 12 months before the next local government election (5.5.23) and hence must be published by the Gwent PSB by the 5 th May 2022.
3.4	The PSB must consult on its local assessment of well-being with the bodies in Section 38 of the Act and after publishing must send copies to Welsh Ministers, the Commissioner, the Auditor General and the relevant scrutiny committee. Scrutiny is also a consultee on the draft and the regional scrutiny committee should be in place in time. The intention is that the assessment will be agreed at the next meeting of the Gwent PSB and thereafter will be treated as the consultation version.
3.5	Despite the slippage in the timeline there is sufficient time left in the calendar to complete all necessary steps by the publication deadline. This is the first time that the work has happened regionally, and some slippage could be expected due to the larger number of partners involved and the fact that drafting is a collaborative task being completed within existing resources. A revised timeline is appended along with a planning process map, Appendices 1 and 2.
4	Report
	Engagement with Communities
4.1	<p>The regional Communications and Engagement Group have developed the engagement exercise around the question set notified to G10 at the meeting on the 8th of June. Questions are in English, Welsh and the most prevalent minority ethnic languages. There are several engagement strands that are using this question set which are being delivered in the local authority areas and with the assistance of communications/engagement officers in the health board, police and community voluntary organisations:</p> <p>COMMON ACTIVITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SNAP on-line survey running from 16th August to 30th September • Social media ongoing conversation asking the specific questions individually e.g. 'What would make you community a better place?', running over the same timeline • Hard copy promotion in communities with postcards displaying a QR link to the on-line survey • Email to all staff in the member organisations asking them to complete the survey • Development of packs that can be run as self-directed workshops with community groups and young people <p>ORGANISATION DEPENDENT ACTIVITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A few partners are continuing with face-to-face engagement and are promoting the on-line survey • A few partners are running on-line community engagement workshops using the question set

	<p>There is a lot of expertise in the group and they are maximising all available engagement opportunities. To date there has been approximately 1,000 engagements with the survey. However, it must be noted that engagement is more difficult in a virtual environment and we are unlikely to get the same numbers of 'engagements' as were possible in 2017, when face to face was the primary method.</p>
4.2	<p>A social media presence has been developed for the Gwent PSB on Facebook and Twitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.facebook.com/Gwent-Public-Service-Board-745865459441072/ • @gwentpsb
4.3	<p>The Gwent PSB website has been developed over the summer period and is hosting all meeting papers in the interests of openness and transparency. It is not currently published, pending the view of the PSB as Recommendation 2.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Home - Gwent Public Services Board Gwent Public Services Board</p>
4.4	<p>A logo has been developed for the Gwent PSB. The logo below has been selected by the Communications and Engagement Group from options developed by a graphic designer. The agreement among professionals was nearly unanimous and so it is recommended to the Gwent PSB for adoption and use.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
4.5	<p>A graduate from the University of South Wales has been engaged under the Springboard+ Graduate Support Programme that supports recent graduates to access graduate level employment experience opportunities. The placement is being hosted by Torfaen CBC. The graduate will be tasked with analysis of the qualitative comment that will come in from the various engagement exercises across the regional, theming it into a format that will feed the structure of the well-being assessment.</p>
4.6	<p>The group are analysing recent engagement reports from key organisations that may have asked community views on topics related to well-being e.g. mental health, the effects of the pandemic, views on the environment etc.</p>
4.7	<p>The period between the survey end date and the next Gwent PSB meeting will be used to collate all the engagement data and draft the engagement feedback to inform the well-being assessment.</p>

	Assessment of the Data
4.8	The assessment is being developed to build on existing individual area Well-being Assessments and is being structured around the four areas of well-being – social, economic, environmental and cultural. The assessment is using a wide range of qualitative and quantitative information including data, academic research and evidence to help understand well-being in Gwent. The drafting of the assessment has been divided amongst PSB partners
4.9	The assessment will, as required by the Act, break the region down into constituent local 'community areas' to consider well-being at a local level. Each local authority area has responsibility for undertaking their local community area assessment that integrates with the regional Gwent assessment.
4.10	The assessment process is being supported by an Overview Group who are overseeing progress and providing feedback on the quality of the assessment. The assessment is also supported by a wider well-being assessment group involving all PSB partners who are engaged in the assessment process.
4.11	Working collaboratively early drafts of the Gwent level assessment for each chapter (social, economic, environmental and cultural) have been produced. Feedback has been provided to chapter authors to inform the further development of each section.
4.12	There remains further work to develop greater insight on well-being for all the sections and ensure integration between sections. There is a need to increase involvement of specific expertise from PSB partners and other organisations to develop further insight on well-being in Gwent in the assessment. There will be an increased focus on engaging with partners in the coming weeks and PSB partners are recommended to ensure resources are available to support this further development of the well-being assessment in line with the timescales required.
4.13	The assessment, as required by the Act, is breaking the region down into local level community areas to assess well-being at a local level. This is also important to assess well-being differences between and within communities which may not be fully captured within the Gwent level Assessment. The local community assessments will need to be produced alongside and integrate with the Gwent level assessment. There needs to be an increased focus on developing the local area assessments and ensuring they are as robust as possible based on information available. PSB partners are recommended to ensure resources are available to support the development of local community level assessments as well as the Gwent level assessment.
4.14	The assessment of data will need to be combined with information from the engagement responses and analysis will look to allow engagement response to be aggregated up to Gwent information as well providing insight at a local community area level to inform well-being planning.
4.15	The outcome of the assessment will take an asset-based approach, rather than focussing purely on need, to build upon and identify the strengths of both individuals and communities and identify problems and challenges that need to be addressed. The assessment will also identify future trends and potential disruptions, whether positive or negative, so that we can maximise the well-being of future generations.
	Welsh Government Funding Update

4.16	Welsh Government have provided regional funding to support Public Services Boards in 2021/22. The grant available for the Gwent region is a maximum of £77,727. The grant criteria stimulates that the PSB(s) must demonstrate how the funding would be used to enable building strategic capacity and capability to support the preparation of the well-being assessments as well as consolidate work on the well-being plans.
4.17	The accepted proposal submitted to Welsh Government for the full amount of the grant focused on two specific workstreams to support the preparation of the well-being assessment for Gwent, covering data and analytics (£40,000) and engagement and involvement (£37,727).
4.18	The objectives of the funding covering data and analytics will support drawing analytical expertise to support our response analysis, upskill the knowledge base for key workers from partner organisations to utilise applications for analysis, and progress a regional web-based approach to providing our well-being assessment with a specific focus of publishing data in an open data format. A working group of key officers from GSWAG has met on two occasions to consider the options for taking forward these key objectives in quarter 3 and 4 of the financial year in-line with the milestones outlined to Welsh Government.
4.19	The objectives of the funding covering engagement and involvement will support a consistent, regional approach in our local area level engagement activities to support our well-being assessment process and carrying out a COVID-19 'safe' survey on individual well-being for the people of Gwent. This funding has been made available to the Regional Communications and Engagement Group, and with support of Welsh Government is supporting the development of the new PSB website. Furthermore, specialist capacity is being brought in to support the collation and analysis of the feedback gathered from the engagement process.
	Next Steps
5	Recommendations
	<p>Recommendation 1: To agree the proposed Gwent PSB logo for future use.</p> <p>Recommendation 2: Provide any comment on the Gwent PSB website.</p> <p>Recommendation 3: To ensure PSB partner resources are available to contribute to the further development of the local community area assessments and Gwent level well-being assessment in line with the timescales.</p>

Draft date 21st September 2021

Appendix 1: Timeline for completion of the local assessment of well-being

Appendix 2: Planning process map