



Gwent Public Services Board

1st Meeting – 13:00pm Friday 1st October 2021

Notes of Meeting

Present:

Name	Organisation represented
Cllr Philippa Marsden (Cllr PM)	Caerphilly County Borough Council (Chair)
Cllr Jane Mudd (Cllr JM)	Newport City Council (Interim Chair)
Cllr Richard John (Cllr RJ)	Monmouthshire County Council
Cllr Nigel Daniels (Cllr ND)	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Cllr Anthony Hunt (Cllr AH)	Torfaen County Borough Council
Huw Jakeway (HJ)	South Wales Fire and Rescue Service (SWF&RS)
Ann Lloyd (ALI)	ABUHB
Steve Morgan (StM)	Natural Resources Wales
Pam Kelly (PK)	Gwent Police
Jeff Cuthbert (JC)	Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)
Howard Toplis (HT)	Tai Calon Community Housing Ltd
Stephen Tiley (ST)	Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO)
Dr Sarah Aitken (Dr SA)	Dir Public Health and Strategic Partnerships, (ABUHB)
Maureen Howell (MH)	Welsh Government
Amanda Lewis (AL)	National Probation Service
Dr Ben Calvert (Dr BC)	University of South Wales
Judith Paget (JP)	Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
Beverly Owen (BO)	Newport City Council
Paul Matthews (PM)	Monmouthshire County Council
Stephen Vickers (SV)	Torfaen County Borough Council
Michelle Morris (MM)	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Dave Street (DS)	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Sian Curley (SC)	Office of Police and Crime Commissioner

In Attendance:

Kathryn Peters (KP)	Caerphilly CBC
Tracy McKim (TMck)	Newport CC
Sharran Lloyd (SL)	Monmouthshire CC
Richard Jones (RJ)	Monmouthshire CC
Lyndon Puddey (LP)	Torfaen CBC
Andrew Parker (AP)	Blaenau Gwent CBC
Rachel Jowitt (RJo)	Gwent Test Trace & Protect
Eryl Powell (EP)	Gwent Test Trace & Protect
Julian Bowen Sergeant (JBS)	Gwent Test Trace & Protect
Paul Massey (PMA)	Caerphilly CBC

Apologies:

Anne Evans (AE)	Torfaen Voluntary Alliance
Tudor Davies (TD)	South Wales Fire & Rescue Service
Christina Harray (CH)	Caerphilly CBC
Ruth Betty (RB)	Gwent Test Trace & Protect

0. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

The Interim Chair of the G10, Cllr JM was delayed to the meeting and so the Chair-Elect, Cllr PM welcomed all attendees, especially the newer invited members and noted the apologies which have been recorded in the table above.

1. Formal appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

Board members had previously been asked to put forward candidates for Chair and Vice-Chair and had subsequently voted for their preferred candidate from the two nominations put forward. Cllr PM had received the most votes from members. As the Interim Chair was unavoidably detained and joined the meeting late, KP asked for members to confirm that they were content with the choice of Chair and members duly confirmed their choice unanimously. Cllr PM expressed that she was honoured to have been chosen as Chair and thanked members for their support.

HJ had been nominated for the role of Vice-Chair by the OPCC in advance of the meeting but felt that this role would be better served by an elected member. He therefore proposed that an email exercise to nominate and chose a Vice-Chair from elected representatives should be undertaken and this was seconded by Cllr AH.

Action: Coordinators to organise a nomination and voting exercise to choose a Vice-Chair from elected representatives

2. Terms of Reference for Gwent PSB

KP presented the redrafted Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Gwent PSB following the final meeting of the G10 Group in June. She highlighted the key changes that had occurred since then following subsequent meetings and discussions over the summer and these are also highlighted in the appendix to the paper.

AL asked that BOTH the Chair AND Chief Executive of ABUHB should be board members (rather than either one or the other). And given that local Public Health teams were due to be transferred into local Health Boards, AL suggested that the Public Health Wales representative should be referred to as the Health Board Public Health Director.

HJ asked for gender neutral descriptions be used in the appendix for the Terms of Reference, There was general agreement that the PSB should be a true partnership and that as a group this would mean significant time, effort and ambition from all partners to work together. The TOR should also be regarded as fluid and kept under review and be adapted according to the needs of the PSB. The following recommendations were agreed by members with the caveats outlined above:

- Recommendation 1: Consider whether the Chair (alternate Vice-Chair) of the Gwent Strategic Well-being Action Group (GSWAG) should attend the PSB meetings as the officer representative, in effect, the PSB Coordinator.
- Recommendation 2: Agree the draft terms of reference of the Gwent Public Services Board.

Action: KP to make amendments to the TOR and recirculate to members. The amendments should also follow through to the TOR for the Local Development Groups (see item 3).

3. Terms of Reference for Local Delivery Groups (LDGs)

TMcK presented her papers outlining the draft Terms of Reference for Local Delivery Groups (which had been retitled from Local Development Groups to avoid confusion with the abbreviation for local authority Local Development Plans). She stressed that the Terms of Reference would remain fluid in order to be able to adapt to changing needs and priorities.

HJ was keen to ensure that the LDGs did not become a “mini-PSB” and was quite distinct and separate from the Gwent PSB. ST informed the group that they were planning an over-arching Third Sector Partnership on a Gwent level but would also have a mechanism for maintaining their local partnerships. As Chair of the Substance Misuse Area Planning Board, DrSA wanted to clarify what part the Area Planning Board would have under the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). TMcK responded GSWAG was reviewing its partnerships and this was a complex issue, but the Gwent PSB aimed to improve alliances and synergies between partnerships. PK felt that the success of the PSB depended on the clarity of the Partnerships infrastructure with the mapping and roles & responsibilities being made clear. For example, the CSPs across Gwent were very different and would need to remain responsive to local needs and if it worked well, this would become more effective at prevention. The PSB should concentrate on strategic matters and themes and clarity was needed on roles and responsibilities of both the PSB and LDGs.

The following recommendations were agreed by members (taking into account caveats outlined from the Gwent PSB TOR):

- Recommendation 1: To agree the principle of common terms and membership for the local groups, with the opportunity to have additional local members and terms.
- Recommendation 2: To review and agree the draft common terms of reference for the local delivery groups.
- Recommendation 3: To note and commit to the requirement for membership at an appropriate level at the local delivery groups, with an important stipulation that delegated staff should have the ability to take decisions and direct resources on behalf of their organisation.

Action: TMcK to make relevant amendments to the TOR for the LDG in line with those outlined for item 2).

4. Update on the Gwent Well-being Assessment – progress and further action required

KP and RJ introduced their paper (with 2 appendices showing the timeline and planning process map) to provide an update on progress with the Gwent Well-being Assessment. They highlighted that much of the engagement had been carried out virtually due to the pandemic and as a result there had not been as much engagement possible as for the previous Well-being Assessment. Welsh Govt had provided £77,000 to help support the preparation of the assessment. Blaenau Gwent CBC was managing the fund on behalf of the GSWAG and the PSB. The fund would be used to support capacity for data analytics and engagement including employing a data analyst student from University of South Wales, the Gwent PSB website and data analysis software.

DrSA said that a key part of the assessment process was to determine what the data showed had changed since the last assessment and asked how it helped to understand communities. KP responded that it could take 5 or 10 years for population outcome changes to become apparent but that it was important to continually track the same data and compare it with previous information.

PK thought that the assessment should have the right resources and as the Board was accountable to the public it needed to consider how it was communicated. KP said that the PSB’s forward work planning would help manage this and the Well-being objectives that emanated from the assessment would enable the PSB to formulate its action plan.

CllrAH was keen to be able to start with the first principles and face up to what was a huge strategic challenge. CllrRJ said that the PSB had many senior people on it and would need to identify the key issues to make real difference by working well together.

The draft assessment would be brought to the Gwent PSB in the December meeting for them to consider and agree. The final assessment must be published by 5th May 2022.

Members were asked to approve 3 recommendations set out in the paper as follows:

- Recommendation 1: To agree the proposed Gwent PSB logo for future use.
- Recommendation 2: Provide any comment on the Gwent PSB website.
- 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.

Due to problems in being able to access the website, members would be asked to confirm approval of the logo and provide feedback on the new website.

Action: PM to send a link to the website and ask for feedback from members and chase up pen pictures from those members who had not yet submitted one.

5. Future work programme and priorities of the Public Service Board (regular agenda item)

LP and SL presented their paper (with 2 appendices which show the complexity of the current and proposed activity) setting out a menu of what could be done collectively in the future work programme and priorities. The programme should be ambitious but also achievable and realistic and it suggested that the PSB may want to focus on areas that were a priority and that it could make a difference.

DrSA congratulated the team on setting out the Partnership Landscape description and asked how the Board might have most impact, agreeing with the recommendation in the paper that it could meet for a Development Day to help formulate a steer for the way forward. MM also thanked contributors and agreed that they should focus on the key issues whilst remaining realistic. This would require the data from communities being available to help decide on priorities. AL and CllrAH felt that the paper was very clear, but the charts were very complex and needed to be simplified to help identify roles.

PM reflected that there was an action from the former Monmouthshire PSB that was felt should be an immediate issue for the Gwent PSB to consider. The responsibilities for Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence were held by several partners on the PSB but there seemed to be a weakness in discharging these responsibilities, in particular the governance and decision-making around domestic homicide reviews. LP replied that this was an important area for the regional partnership landscape review and this view was supported by the group.

Members agreed the 5 recommendations set out in the paper as follows:

- Recommendation 1: PSB consider the content of the draft proposed work programme and agree or update as necessary
- Recommendation 2: PSB agree to nominate senior officers who will be able to facilitate action on behalf of the PSB and to lead the thematic review of the partnership landscape to establish how each of the statutory duties are being discharged (PSB support staff will be led by the nominated Officer) (See Appendix 2 for partnership landscape examples)
- Recommendation 3: PSB to consider if they wish to have a board development session to establish clarity of the role of the board in relation to statutory functions
- Recommendation 4: PSB agrees to a review of the previous G10 priorities and establish if they are still the correct areas of regional focus
- Recommendation 5: PSB to clarify any new priority areas of work they wish to drive forward, particularly in-light of the Covid pandemic recovery and climate emergency

Action: LP and SL, with the assistance of the Caerphilly administrative capacity, to organise a Development Day for PSB members to consider the forward work programme

6. Update on a Healthier Gwent

DrSA presented her paper on the development of Healthier Gwent objectives as requested by G10 members at the last G10 meeting.

PM agreed that health equalities were a major issue for the Board to address and had recently spoken to the Chief Executive of Manchester recently and would like to see Gwent aspire to what they have achieved. DrSA suggested that the PSB may want to consider following a Marmot Beacon Indicator Set and become a “Marmot County”. HJ supported work on prevention to help sustain a healthier, prosperous Gwent.

The Board agreed the 3 recommendations set out in the paper as follows:

- Recommendation 1: Use the specific and measurable indicator sets already available to select the most achievable and relevant indicators for monitoring progress towards reducing health inequalities across Gwent
- Recommendation 2: Follow a local process informed by the Building a Healthier Gwent report to select the most relevant and achievable indicators to measure progress towards reducing health inequalities across Gwent
- Recommendation 3: Incorporate the process of identifying indicators to measure health inequalities into the wider Wellbeing Assessment process to inform the development of short-term, medium-term and long-term Gwent Public Service Board Wellbeing Objectives.

Action: A Healthier Wales should feature regularly as an agenda item for future PSB meetings with a particular focus on Mental Health for the next meeting (DrSA / PMa)

AL informed the Board that JP had been appointed the new Chief Executive of the NHS in Wales and Director General for Health and Social Services for 18 months, starting on 1st November. She thanked JP for her work as Chief Executive of ABUHB and was very sorry to be losing her. ABUHB would be advertising the vacant post very soon and would appoint an interim successor in the meantime. The Chair also thanked JP for her support and wished her well in her new post.

Other Business

7. Afghan Refugees

JC declared that he was the lead on behalf of all the Welsh Police and Crime Commissioners on tackling modern-day slavery and wanted a discussion on how the PSB might be able to contribute to liberating people from human trafficking and slavery. DrSA agreed that we have an urgent problem whereby a vulnerable section of the population that needs support and that the Local Authorities were the lead partners for support. ST said that the Third Sector had been supporting organisations and individuals working with Asylum Seekers and would welcome any additional suggestions for linking with other organisations.

KP said that Local Authorities had been working in a coordinated way with agencies since 2015, for the Syrian humanitarian crisis, and coordinated a multi-disciplinary response across health, police and the local authorities together with commissioned third sector providers for refugees and asylum seekers. Further efforts could be made for those freed from modern day slavery. LP said that a number of Afghan families in Torfaen had settled into the area well. KP added that there are close links with health and GP registrations and vaccinations were in hand for new arrivals. CllrAH supported a local approach to dealing with this issue. JC was encouraged by the sentiment of the PSB and wanted Wales to become a Nation of Sanctuary.

8. Gwent Test, Trace & Protect Update Report

RB who had recently moved to become Head of Service for Gwent Test Trace & Protect (TTP) was unable to attend the meeting and was represented by RJo and EP. They presented the paper setting out the proposed future arrangements for overseeing the TTP for Gwent. They highlighted that the

service was under great strain after the Covid alert level had been reduced to level zero and asked for the PSB to continue to oversee its work as G10 had previously done.

DrSA declared that she Chaired the Gwent TTP Leadership Group. She wanted to know how the TTP service would develop as the pandemic moved to being endemic. And she favoured a discussion on what the service would like after March. PM asked if the tracing service was severely compromised at the moment and RJo confirmed this was the case – expectations had been great but the impact of huge numbers being involved after dropping to alert level zero had not been considered. The service had adapted and was helping to reduce transmission of Covid.

DrSA commented on how people were supported (through the welfare system) as they were asked to isolate if presenting symptoms of cold/flu/Covid. The general message was for people to stay at home.

Three recommendations were put to the Board as follows and each were agreed:

- Recommendation 1: Gwent Public Service Board agrees that the TTP service transfers to their oversight and governance from the G10 board as per the agreed Business Case from June 2020.
- Recommendation 2: Notes and agrees the actions taken by the service in the last quarter.
- Recommendation 3: Notes and comments on the service as appropriate

9. Minutes and Actions following final G10 meeting 8th June 2021

The minutes from the last G10 meeting on 8th June were agreed by the Board. One amendment was noted following the PSB meeting whereby in the list of attendees the minutes referred to “Cllr John Rickard”, Leader Monmouthshire CC when it should have been Cllr Richard John.

10. Date of Next Meeting and draft items

The next meeting was scheduled for 7th December 2021 @ 09:30am-via MS Teams.

Agenda Items so far were:

- Draft local assessment of well-being
- Healthier Gwent update
- Test Trace and Protect
- Freelancer and Public Sector Pledge (Welsh Govt)
- Valleys Regional Park update and future working with the PSBs

Action: There was little time for discussion regarding arrangement of meetings for 2022 and beyond so this would be carried out via email following the meeting. Action PMA

Meeting closed.

Action Summary

Agenda Item #	Action detail	Responsible
1	Organise a nomination and voting exercise to choose a Vice-Chair from elected representatives	PMA
2 & 3	Make agreed amendments to the TOR for both the Gwent PSB and LDG and recirculate to members.	KP and TMcK
4	Send a link to the website and ask for feedback from members and chase up pen pictures from members	PMA
5	Organise a Development Day for PSB members	LP/SL/PMA/KP
6	Provide a Healthier Wales update paper focussing on Mental Health for the next PSB meeting and add to future meetings schedule	DrSA / PMA

10	Contact members regarding arranging dates for meetings during 2022	PMa
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