



Gwent Public Services Board

6th Business Meeting – 13:30pm Thursday 15th December 2022
Notes of Meeting

Present:

Name	Organisation represented
Cllr Sean Morgan (Cllr SM) - Chair	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Cllr Jane Mudd (Cllr JM)	Newport City Council
Cllr Anthony Hunt (Cllr AH)	Torfaen County Borough Council
Nicola Prygodzicz (NP)	Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
Ann Lloyd (ALI)	Chair ABUHB
Cllr Stephen Thomas (Cllr ST)	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Stephen Tiley (ST)	Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO)
Dr Sarah Aitken (Dr SA)	Dir Public Health and Strategic Partnerships, (ABUHB)
Beverly Owen (BO)	Newport City Council
Paul Matthews (PM)	Monmouthshire County Council
Damien McCann (DM)	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Cllr Mary Ann Brocklesby (Cllr MAB)	Monmouthshire County Council
Maureen Howell (MH)	Welsh Government
Louise Bright (LB)	University of South Wales
Stephen Vickers (SV)	Torfaen County Borough Council
Carl A Williams	Gwent Police
Richard Edmunds	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Chris Hadfield	South Wales Fire and Rescue Service (SWF&RS)
Jon Goldsworthy	Natural Resources Wales

In Attendance:

Kathryn Peters (KP)	Caerphilly CBC
Janice Dent (JD)	Newport CC
Sharran Lloyd (SL)	Monmouthshire CC
Lyndon Puddy (LP)	Torfaen CBC
Kate Williams (KW)	Torfaen CBC
Sarah King (SK)	Blaenau Gwent CBC
Heather Delonnette (HD)	Caerphilly CBC
Hayley Lancaster (HL)	Caerphilly CBC (Comms officer)
Steve Honeywill (SH)	Torfaen CBC
Paul Massey (PMA)	Caerphilly CBC

Apologies:

Pam Kelly (PK)	Gwent Police
Huw Jakeway (HJ) Vice Chair	South Wales Fire and Rescue Service (SWF&RS)
Christina Harry (CH)	Caerphilly CBC
Steve Morgan (StM)	Natural Resources Wales
Jeff Cuthbert (JC)	Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)
Amanda Lewis (AL)	National Probation Service
Howard Toplis (HT)	Tai Calon Community Housing Ltd
Anne Evans (AE)	Torfaen Voluntary Alliance
Sian Curley (SC)	Office of Police and Crime Commissioner

0. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

The new Chair of the Gwent PSB, Cllr SM welcomed attendees to the sixth business meeting of the Gwent PSB and said that he was delighted to be chairing the PSB meeting for the first time. He thanked Huw Jakeway and Pam Kelly for chairing the previous two meetings of the Board. He also thanked Hayley Lancaster from Caerphilly CBC who would be live tweeting about the meeting from the Gwent PSB Twitter account. Apologies have been recorded in the table above.

The Chair also gave thanks to Dr Sarah Aitken who, was retiring on the same day. He said that Sarah had given more than 30 years of service to the NHS, and her contribution to public health in Gwent had been huge. Sarah had brought the proposal for making Gwent a Marmot Region with great enthusiasm and vision and he hoped the Gwent PSB would ensure that this had a lasting legacy in reducing the gap in equalities in Gwent via delivery of the Well-being Plan. Sarah was then presented with a bouquet of flowers from the PSB to show its appreciation. Dr SA reciprocated her thanks to the Gwent PSB for their support and wished the PSB every success. Cllr AH also thanks Dr SA for her enthusiasm and dedication.

1. Notes and Matters Arising from the meeting of the Gwent PSB on 29th September 2022

All action points from the previous meeting had been completed or were on the agenda for this meeting and the note was approved by the Board.

In particular, it was noted that first action from item 3 – “To contact members to arrange a suitable date in April to agree the final Well-being Plan”. This date had now been agreed at 27th April 2022.

Regarding the action from item 5, NRW confirmed that due to capacity reasons, they would not be able to provide a representative for the Regional Scrutiny Committee but would remain engaged with minutes, agendas etc. and contribute to questions raised by the committee.

2. -Draft Well-being Plan Consultation update

HD provided an update on the consultation phase of the Well-being Plan, highlighting that the consultation lasted until 31st Dec 2022, so not all responses had yet been received. Here are the



Appendix A to mins
of 15 Dec 22 PSB mee

presentation slides that can also be found at appendix A to these minutes.

She explained that face to face engagement with people was still proving difficult following Covid restrictions being lifted but a variety of methods had been used to encourage as wide a response as possible including using an online survey, stakeholder events and community meetings and events. Some of the key messages observed from responses so far included:

- Public services need to work better together
- Welsh language and culture were missing
- The need to simplify the language used
- The objectives were equally important and needed to link across the objectives more effectively
- It was better to do fewer things well so fewer steps were needed for the objectives which also needed to be SMARTER
- The cost of living crisis was utmost in many people’s minds

The next steps were set out as follows:

- 31st December: End of Consultation phase

- January/ February – analyse feedback and redraft the final plan
- February to April: - PSB members' board approve plan and translation and design
- 27th April: PSB meeting to approve the plan
- 5th May: Gwent Well-being Plan published
- May onwards - develop delivery plans, and local action plans

Comments/Questions

Cllr AH sympathised with challenge of engaging with people against cynicism and fatigue and suggested that the engagement group could look at other innovative methods such as creating Focus Groups and all partnerships should have big posters on their walls promoting and encouraging people to engage.

SV asked how many people had responded and what were the demographics of the responders. SH said there were 251 individual responses via the website (and some hard copy paper responses yet to be processed) in addition to the community and stakeholder events as at the date of the meeting. He also explained that the responses so far had been limited but were of good quality. However, he did not have any data yet on the breakdown of how diversity of communities was represented.

Dr SA agreed that it was important that all voices should be heard and contribute to the consultation and asked whether demographic data was collected from respondents. SH confirmed that this data was collected from surveys and that officers had engaged with a wide variety of individuals and groups representing people from protected characteristics. Dr SA asked for data on this to be provided to the PSB.

Action SH to provide detailed information on numbers of respondents and breakdown of demographic data

The Chair asked if it was possible to change the approach of the consultation exercise to increase the breadth of engagement. HD said that with only two weeks of the consultation period left (and it being over the Christmas period it would be difficult to achieve this. However, a very diverse range of representative organisations had been consulted and that she hoped that the next stage would provide another opportunity for communities and individuals to have their say on what practical steps could be taken to help deliver the Well-being plan – both regionally and locally.

3. Update on Gwent: Marmot Region

Dr SA covered items 3 and 4 at the same time. For the Director of Health Annual Report Sarah had collated the series of papers previously sent to the PSB around the case for action, what the Marmot principles are and then how to apply them. The report focussed on initiatives that were already happening that could be replicated in Well-being Plan delivery (including some examples) so that some progress could be made early on while the full delivery plans were being developed. She hoped that it provided the PSB with a document that they could share with their organisations that explained why Gwent has become a Marmot region and what it means for their organisations.

Comments/Questions

LB found the document useful and had arranged a workshop for relevant staff in USW to explain what it means and why it was being done. DrSA said that although she was retiring Stuart Bourne from the Marmot team would still be available to provide support and advice for PSB members.

The Chair was also grateful for the paper and being able to attend the launch event as it increased his knowledge and understanding of Marmot

Dr SA explained that the launch event was successful - the branding had been completed and the Institute for Health Equity said the team had provided very good leadership support. A number of Local

Authorities had asked for help in translating it into their Corporate Plans. She was keen for early progress to be made while the wider strategic delivery plans were being fully developed - the gap for health equality for women had widened beyond 20 years showed the need for rapid progress to be made. The Chair noted that life expectancy had levelled off following 10 years+ of austerity and was keen to avoid any further deterioration of this.

SV reflected on the launch and how to engage with more people and noted that there were videos available on the Marmot pages of the Gwent PSB website. Dr SA said that there was a 5 minute film of the panel with other short clips and these could be made available on the web pages

Action: Marmot Team to load a more accessible video to the Marmot area of the website setting out what Marmot is. Note that as the report becomes available in 2023 , a full stakeholder toolkit with the branding and how people can get involved will also be made available. The team will also add a link to Sarah's the new Annual report 'Building a Fairer Gwent'

PSB members agreed to the following:

- Encourage staff in their organisations to watch the launch event video to raise awareness of the Marmot Programme in Gwent.
- Consider how they can adopt and promote the Gwent Marmot Region branding within their own organisations.
- Sign up to the IHE Health Equity Network.
- note the main points in the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022.

4. ABUHB Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022

This was covered under item 3.

5. Developing a Regional Scrutiny Committee

SK was unable to attend the meeting to give her report but provided a brief written statement on the progress made on developing the Regional Scrutiny Committee since the last meeting as follows:

Recommendation 2 – Resourcing Committee Support

Progressing – emails seeking financial contributions to support the development and operation of the scrutiny committee from statutory partners has been issued.

Recommendation 3 – Identifying Membership

Progressing – nominations have been received from some partner organisations and some will be forthcoming in January 2023, once Council meetings have taken place to ratify nominations. NRW have confirmed they will not provide a named member due to capacity constraints but we have agreed to share all agenda/papers as normal to allow them to provide comments/contributions as appropriate, when they can.

Recommendation 4: Timeframe for Regional Scrutiny

Progressing – discussions with WLGA have taken place on provision of training for identified members and dates are being considered for end January/early February 2023.

6. Executive briefing on Gwent Community Safety Review

KW introduced a paper drafted by the working group consisting of representatives from the statutory partner organisations under the Crime & Disorder Act, Welsh Government and Wales Safer Communities Network (WLGA). The group had met regularly since February to progress work in-line

with the review, as requested by the Gwent PSB. This included: developing frameworks, timeline and workplans focussing on the three key areas of : Governance; Data Evidence/Commissioning and ;Wellbeing, Prevention & Communities.

In addition the review sought the views of regional board/partnerships chairs and explored the current position and delivery of regional boards that also contribute to the community safety portfolio.

KW explained that this was phase I of the review and that a lot more work needed to be done as it was a huge task to cover across the complex Gwent landscape. There were issues over capacity and resource in carrying out the next steps where officers were currently working on the review in addition to their normal roles. Safer Gwent needed to have its Safer Gwent Coordination post reinstated, preferably with funding from the Home Office (previously via the OPCC). She also challenged the role of other Boards (e.g. RPB) to see how (or if) they were fulfilling their statutory duties on Community Safety.

In developing the three delivery frameworks, the scope of the review highlighted a large number of duties, requirements and related legislative practices that needed to be considered to ensure that core community safety services could operate effectively as a whole system across Gwent.

The paper set out the Governance framework and the Data framework showed that further work was needed to better understand how it translated into operational practice, how effective it was at meeting needs, and where there were potential opportunities to strengthen delivery and streamline practice. There also appeared to be duplication of effort across Gwent in the number of boards and partnerships served by the same officers or organisations. The APB and VAWDASV Boards could align more closely together, for example, substance misuse and domestic abuse were often connected, but at a strategic level, plan development, service delivery and commissioning, were considered separately.

At this point in the review, there remained a significant amount of work to be undertaken before any firm recommendations could be made in relation to the community safety portfolio, as the scope was far ranging and will require further consultation, evidence gathering, analysis and interpretation, before any feasible options could be brought back to the PSB for consideration.

The progress made to date, highlighted further areas of exploration for consideration by the PSB and these included the lack of consistency of CSP function across Gwent and to explore current pieces of work with related practise. KW also said that the review would need to align with the Well-being plan/Marmot development

Comments/Questions

Cllr JM agreed with the proposal to use OPCC funding to support further work. She also supported the recommendation of Community Safety Partnerships at local authority level. She co-chaired the Wales Community Safety Network and offered her help to support the work in this capacity. Dr SA was chair of the APB and agreed with the findings from the report regarding the APB. She felt that the report focussed on dealing with existing problems rather than prevention, particularly with regards to adverse children's experiences. KW explained that the report was only phase I of the review and they would take on all feedback from PSB members in the next phases as well as welcome any support from partner organisations.

AL said that as chair of the RPB, she would welcome a discussion to take the agenda forward. This could include the work on Neighbourhood Care Networks and accelerated cluster models which were at preliminary stages of development. KW would follow up on this offer

PM felt that the current position on Community Safety had been recorded accurately in the report but that not much progress had been made and was concerned that more resources were being requested to widen the scope of the project. He thought that it would be better to focus on the key issues now and make some early progress. He also agreed that the PSB should ask the OPCC for funding to support the work. KW agreed with this and reiterated that officers were trying to carry out the work on top of

their normal duties and needed the extra resources to make inroads. She also asked other partners to provide representative on the task and finish group to help share the load. She also agreed that they should work on the current issues that were in scope of phase I sooner rather than later. Dr SA also supported the approach of addressing the overlapping structures of Boards as a priority and gaining wider resource through GSWAG.

Recommendations

As part of Phase I of the review, the PSB agreed the recommendations as set out below:

- The need for analytical capacity, either in-kind from partner organisation, through realignment of resource where analytical capacity exists across partnerships or by utilising the funding attached to the Serious Violence Duty
- The need for the Safer Gwent Coordination role, to assist officers to coordinate the work required as part of the review, to ensure there is no drift in timescales and that the pace of this review aligns with the Wellbeing Plan development
- To include in the scope of the review, exploration of the role and function of the following boards/workstreams, with support from PSB sponsored leadership:
 - Neighbourhood care Networks and Accelerated Cluster Model via Integrated Services Partnership Boards (ISPBs)
 - Regional Partnership Board - Sub-boards/groups
 - Educational Achievement Service & New Curriculum for Life delivery
- The formation of Community Safety Partnerships in all 5 x LA areas

7. Greater Gwent Nature Recovery Action Plan (GGNRA)

JG presented the paper in StM's absence. He said that there was a nature emergency in Wales as well as a climate emergency. The Greater Gwent Nature Recovery Action Plan was produced as part of The Resilient Greater Gwent project¹. The project was funded by Welsh Government's Enabling of Natural Resources and Well-being Grant and ended in summer 2022. Following this, to enhance the resilience of our ecosystems, a report entitled 'The Greater Gwent State of Nature' was produced which looked at the data surrounding 100 species and species groups across Gwent. Following that report the Greater Gwent Nature Recovery Action Plan (Appendix 1) was put together by the Resilient Greater Gwent Partnership, led by Blaenau Gwent CBC

The strategic, 10-year plan provides guidance for public bodies and other organisations to help promote local biodiversity. It has 5 overarching themes of action and 6 specific objectives. The purpose of the paper was to raise awareness of the GGNRAP with PSB members. The Action Plan included a recommendation for the GGGP and Gwent PSB to be the 'governance group' overseeing delivery and review of the plan, but that discussion/decision needed to follow approval of the Gwent PSB's Well-being plan. Therefore, he asked for the item be brought back to a future agenda for the PSB to consider governance for the plan's implementation.

Comments/Questions

PM felt that it was an important and interesting document. However, he was concerned that the PSB was being asked to take on too many responsibilities so welcomed the suggestion that the PSB should consider the governance at a future meeting. JG agreed with this view and welcomed a later discussion on this.

It was agreed that this item would come back to a future meeting of the PSB

¹ <https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/countryside/resilient-greater-gwent/>

8. Cost of Living Crisis – Task & Finish Group

SH (acting Partnerships Policy and Equality officer at Torfaen CBC) reminded the Board that a report on the cost-of-living crisis was brought to the last meeting, to consider how the PSB would take collective action to pool together the advice and assistance available across partner organisations and publish on partners' and the PSB's websites. It was agreed that the Gwent Strategic Well-being Assessment Group (GSWAG) would take forward any work on this matter.

SH reported progress made since the last meeting as follows:

- Setting up of a task and finish group with all statutory partners to ensure partners are working well collaboratively to mitigate the had been delayed due to illness and problems with capacity but the group would meet for the first time on 12 January
- The Gwent PSB website now included a page containing links to the cost-of-living information available on partner's websites. Each of the interior pages of the PSB website also included a visible link to this page, making it easy to find, and once the Well-being Plan consultation concluded, this would be made more prominent.
- Presentation of the information was made as simple as possible to make it more accessible minimising the risk of having out-of-date information and duplication of effort.
- The Gwent Social Media Hub Forum met in October . The ABUHB comms team used the forum to link in with partners' grass roots work. They discussed tackling the stigma of using foodbanks through social media and considered Welsh government's Cost of Living presentation and plan. The group had also produced two films – "warm spaces" which was an Instagram story about Panteg House, Pontypool which had over 800 views and a Facebook Live broadcast from a cost of living support event in Newport. The next Social Media Hub Forum session is on 18th January.

9. Gwent Test, Trace & Protect (GTTP) Update

RB provided an update on the Test, Trace & Protect Service. She explained that the service had transitioned in August from the 5 local authorities and ABUHB model to one hosted by Caerphilly CBC



09 - Appendix B to
mins of 15 Dec 22 me

in close cooperation with ABUHB. A copy of the slides used for the presentation is here

RB also gave thanks to Dr SA for her leadership, dedication and passion throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and wished her well in her retirement. Dr SA said that the paper demonstrated that infectious diseases were very prevalent and it was important that the services were able to deal with any future pandemics that might arise.

The Chair also thanked the TTP team for their hard work and dedication during the last few years.

The paper was noted and approved by the PSB.

10. AOB

The Chair expressed his concerns regarding PSB organisations' abilities to respond to pressures on public services this winter and in particular delivering domiciliary care. The problems were coming on the back of the after effects of Covid and the cost of living crisis and further exacerbated by the

proposed strikes by healthcare workers, the increase in illness and infections post pandemic, difficulties with recruitment and retention of staff and prevalence of illness within the workforce. He proposed that PSB members should write to the WLGA and Welsh Government to express their concern on this issue.

Comments/Questions

Cllr ST supported the Chair’s view and supported his request to highlight the perfect storm of factors that will escalate the usual winter crisis to emergency status. He also echoed PM’s earlier comment that the PSB had to focus on the key issues and should not get distracted by other matters that would take its efforts away from their main aims.

AL supported the collective action to highlight these issues and the coordination of a collective response. She asked for the letter to include what members intended to do in collaboration. Cllr JM also supported the proposal and the letter should draw attention to the challenges faced, public sector partners needed help quickly (and before it reaches emergency levels) and that they did not have the capacity to react and adjust to the crisis.

Cllr MAB also supported the proposal and said that public sector organisations had already been dealing a crisis for some time. Winter would be that much harder given the strikes and the slow pace of hospital discharge from medical settings with the demands on local authority services increasing daily causing instability and an inability to protect against collapse.

The PSB agreed to the coordination and drafting of a letter from the Gwent PSB to be sent to Welsh Govt and WLGA. The letter should draw attention to the challenges faced, public sector partners needed help quickly (and before it reaches emergency levels) and that they did not have the capacity to react and adjust to the crisis.

Action: Chief Executives of PSB to discuss and agree a draft letter to the Minster for Local Govt and WLGA from PSB members with a view to sending it early the following week with the aim of expressing the collective regional opinion. LA Chief Executives are meeting on the 16th December. Chair to coordinate the letter.

11. Next meeting, draft agenda

The next meeting was scheduled for **16th March 2023 @ 13:00pm via MS Teams –**

Draft agenda items were as follows:

- Revised Gwent Well-being Plan following consultation exercise
- Voluntary Sector Partnership Agreement
- Greater Gwent Nature Recovery Action Plan

The Chair thanked all attendees and those who helped draft papers for their contributions and welcomed any additional agenda items for the next meeting. He then closed the meeting.

Action Summary

Agenda Item #	Action detail	Responsible
2	Provide detailed information on numbers of respondents and breakdown of demographic data from the Well-being Plan consultation exercise	SH

3	Load a more accessible video to the Marmot area of the Gwent PSB website setting out what Marmot is	Marmot team
10	Discuss and agree a draft letter to the Minister for Local Govt and WLGA from PSB members to express the collective regional opinion on pressures on public services this winter.	PSB members / Chair to draft letter

Appendices

See <https://www.gwentpsb.org/en/public-services-board/meetings/> for 15th December 2022 meeting for appendices of slides to items as follows;

Item 2 - 02 - Appendix A to mins of 15 Dec 22 PSB meeting - slides for update on WB plan consultation

Item 9 - 09 - Appendix B to mins of 15 Dec 22 meeting - slides for GTTP Update