

Report Subject	Climate & Environment: Update Report on PSB partner organisations' progress against key steps and recommendations	Complete	Project / Action completed
		Green	Current progress on target
		Amber	Progress behind target but still achievable
Date(s)	11/12/24 Gwent Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee 12/12/24 Gwent Public Services Board	Red	Progress behind target, significant issues
		N/A	Progress not directly applicable to this report
Delivery Lead	Steve Morgan Head of South East Wales Operations Natural Resources Wales	Area of Focus	<i>That everyone lives in a climate-ready community where their environment is valued and protected</i>

Objectives from Gwent PSB Wellbeing Plan 2023-28	Overall BRAG	Commentary
Objective one We want to create a fairer, more equitable and inclusive Gwent for all		This report focuses on well-being objective 2 whilst acknowledging that the principles of equality, equity and inclusivity encapsulated in objective 1 underpin all actions towards achieving objective 2, ensuring interventions reach people with the most potential to benefit.
Objective two: We want a climate-ready Gwent, where our environment is valued and protected, benefitting our well-being now and for future generations.		This report outlines progress made by PSB partner organisations against this well-being objective, against well-being step 3 and the Building a Fairer Gwent recommendations relevant to this Area of Focus: <i>That everyone lives in a climate-ready community where their environment is valued and protected.</i>

1. Background

1.1 The Gwent PSB and its member organisations have signalled their collective ambition to address inequity and its root causes. A significant amount of work has taken place on behalf of the PSB, resulting in the publication of Building a Fairer Gwent: Improving Health Equity and the Social Determinants. Following this, a report was received and the PSB re-stated and re-confirmed its ambition to address inequity and its root causes and integrate the eight Marmot Principles into its Well-being Plan approach.

1.2 Following further consideration of the evidence from the Well-being Plan and Building a Fairer Gwent report, the PSB identified four 'at-scale' Areas of Focus (AoF) to start to take this approach forward. These AoFs were specifically identified to align to the Wellbeing Steps and eight Marmot Principles, demonstrating clear integration across a range of well-being priorities (see supporting Integration Matrix below).

1.3 An initial mapping process of delivery against each of the AoFs involved an extensive range of partners across Gwent, with over 200 individuals and over 20 organisations responding to surveys or participating in workshops. This included an initial mapping of current delivery structures that are relevant to these areas.

2. Area of Focus: *That everyone lives in a climate-ready community where their environment is valued and protected*

2.1 Engaging service providers and stakeholders

To start to build a picture of progress across Gwent against the relevant well-being step and recommendations a sub-group of the GSWAG (PSB officers' group) analysed:

- a) Outputs from 2 all-day PSB workshops (Feb and Mar 2024) collated from:
 - discussions with 29 public/third sector officers who joined the climate/environment breakout groups
 - responses to draft 'climate/environment' outcomes from officers across other sectors e.g. children's services, community safety and skills/employment
- b) Online mapping survey (Jan-Feb 2024) circulated to over 500 contacts to capture the range of climate/environment initiatives, good practice and learning across Gwent (59 responses from 35 organisations)
- c) Questionnaire, adding to workshop outputs, capturing the range of potential resources amongst partners across Gwent
- d) Update meetings in November 2024 with public/third sector officers who had joined the Spring workshops
- e) Input from officers across the PSB membership with an involvement in the Climate/Environment Area of Focus

2.2 Key messages from service providers and stakeholders:

- a) Assessing climate risk to inform climate adaptation planning is viewed as urgent and important. It is most effectively achieved at a regional level, sharing expertise and resources, using the recently published Climate Change Risk Assessment Guidance for

PSBs produced by WG/NRW/PHW, and aligned to the Welsh Government's Climate Adaptation Strategy for Wales 2024.

- b) Maximising the people, nature, and climate benefits from public sector owned/managed land and assets across Gwent is potentially within the 'gift' of the PSB. There is the potential to reduce duplication, enable good practice, guidance, resources, evidence and data to be shared, and current successful initiatives to be joined up or scaled up to the regional scale.
- c) Action to mitigate climate change is required of all PSB organisations but it's unclear how the PSB can add value, as each organisation already has strategies/action plans to reduce emissions. The Welsh public sector are working towards the Welsh Government target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, supported by the Cardiff Capital Region and South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee. However, climate mitigation should be integrated into all PSB Areas of Focus.
- d) The climate emergency is driving nature loss, and responding to the nature emergency can help us manage the impacts of climate change. The most vulnerable groups in Gwent are likely to experience the greatest impacts of climate change. It is right that the PSB is focussing on the climate and environment in an integrated and equitable way.
- e) Also related to this AoF are issues around housing, sustainable travel, food production/consumption, wildfires, nature recovery and green skills/jobs. Whilst these are acknowledged as important, they are areas over which the PSB has less direct control or influence. The PSB's intent is to narrow its focus to where it can 'add value' at a regional level, so climate risk/adaptation and maximising public benefit from public assets should be prioritised. The integration of these issues into the focus on 'climate and environment' is necessary to maximise outcomes in an equitable way.
- f) Climate change is a fundamental threat to health, but responding to the climate and nature emergencies in an equitable way can positively impact all the determinants of health. It's therefore important to integrate the climate/environment AoF with the other AoFs: *giving every child the best start in life, ensuring everyone lives in a place they feel safe and ensuring everyone has the same economic chances.*
- g) Public and third sector organisations report that limited resources make it increasingly difficult to work outside of their organisation, but they are supportive of collaborative working if the PSB can facilitate this. The PSB can add value by providing the catalyst and facilitation that enables better collaborative working across the PSB member organisations and partners around shared outcomes.
- h) Pressure on resources means public sector organisations are prioritising their statutory duties. Along with the third sector, they are increasingly reliant on highly competitive external funding bids to provide short-term resources for proactive climate and environment initiatives. The PSB could support and strengthen collaborative regional funding bids.
- i) The Gwent Joint Strategic Assessment (JSA) includes 4 indicators relevant to this AoF (see Appendix 3). Latest Gwent headline data:

- *Average distance to nearest public green space*: Average distance in 2020 was 366 meters (Wales 432m)
- *Greenhouse gas emissions – carbon dioxide*: Gwent levels have been steadily falling to 6.2 per capita CO2 emissions in 2022 (Wales 6.5%)
- *Greenhouse gas emissions – nitrous oxide*: Gwent levels have remained fairly static since 2012 at 0.38 per capita emissions in 2022 (Wales 0.42)
- *Satisfied with local area* (partially relevant to AoF): Satisfaction has increased since 2016/17 with 84.3% satisfaction with local area 2021/22 (Wales 88.6%)

2.3 Progress Report

Well-being Step 3	BRAG	Commentary
Take action to reduce our carbon emissions ...		Gwent public/third sector have de-carbonisation/sustainability strategies in place with local actions addressing eg. housing, energy, transport, waste, supply chains, carbon off-setting etc. supported by the Gwent Climate Officers Group. LAs have Local Area Energy Plans. Local initiatives include repair cafes, 'Tasty not Wasty' projects, tree nurseries/planting and climate champion networks. Regional projects include Gwent EV charging (2020). Gwent PSB has funded 'Assessing your climate risk' and 'Carbon Literacy' training for the PSB partners.
... help Gwent to adapt to climate change ...		Climate Change Risk Assessment Guidance for PSBs produced by WG/NRW/PHW hasn't been applied in Gwent. An Expression of Interest is being submitted to National Lottery Climate Action Fund for climate risk assessment and community adaption planning/action, led by Gwent Climate Officers Group. Local initiatives include 'nature based solutions' to flooding, urban tree planting and rain gardens. There's an opportunity for greater regional governance and co-ordination to increase the pace and scale of climate risk assessment and adaptation planning, which would support local climate action. Future funding bids could potentially be strengthened by strategic PSB steer and support.
... and protect and restore our natural environment . Note: There are no Marmot recommendations directly aligned to this well-being step, but Marmot Principle 8 applies: <i>Pursue environmental sustainability and health equity together</i>		Gwent's public/third sector organisations have biodiversity/sustainability strategies in place, addressing the nature emergency. These are supported by a number of partnerships across Gwent. The PSB is supporting a Lottery Nature Networks Funding bid; 'Building a Resilient Ecological Networks Approach for Gwent'. The synergy between climate change and nature recovery is being championed by the Gwent Green Grid (regional) Partnership (GGGP). Local Nature Partnerships are publishing Nature Recovery Action Plans. The No Mow May campaign, Bee-friendly Gwent and many more successful local initiatives are reliant on short-term funding eg. the Local Places for Nature fund. The PSB funded 'Nature Wise' training for communities. There is an opportunity for the PSB to accelerate co-ordinated, strategic, regional action and funding bids , supporting local delivery, through the Greater Gwent Nature Recovery Action Plan.

Marmot Recommendations	BRAG	Commentary
<p>MP5.9 Ensure new walking and cycling infrastructure reaches areas with the lowest rates of physical activity</p>		<p>Gwent Local Authorities have produced Active Travel Network Maps and are committed to annual improvements to walking and cycling networks. The Gwent public sector Healthy Travel Charter was launched in 2020. Under the Healthy Weight, Healthy Gwent strategy, Integrated Wellbeing Networks are an example of partnership-working to deliver local physical activity initiatives and share good practice.</p> <p>There is the potential for greater collaboration across public and third sector organisations (both as employers and serving their communities) to develop a regional approach to infrastructure development and interventions, targeting those who have the most to gain from outdoor physical activity.</p>
<p>MP5.10 Work with communities to develop actions to improve and monitor use of green spaces and local heritage sites for those living in areas of higher deprivation.</p>		<p>Gwent LAs have urban regeneration plans and green infrastructure strategies in place. Third sector organisations also manage valuable green spaces for local people. Greenspaces across Gwent have achieved Green Flag status. 3 LAs and the GGGP (regional) have submitted Expressions of Interest to the National Lotteries 'Nature Towns Cities' Fund to improve local spaces with communities. No Mow May campaign, Bee-friendly Gwent and many more local initiatives are reliant on short-term funding with no regional co-ordination.</p> <p>There's an opportunity for greater regional governance and co-ordination to maximise people, nature and climate benefits from public sector land and assets, working collaboratively with third sector partners and Gwent's business sector.</p>
<p>MP8.1 Adopt a health inequalities approach to the South East Wales Area Statement and related actions</p>		<p>Natural Resources Wales has integrated the South East Area Statement, the Gwent Well-being Plan and Building a Fairer Gwent recommendations, to embed a health inequalities approach. This work will continue through its lead role for this AoF.</p>
<p>MP8.2 Health equity assessment of adaptation and mitigation approaches in Gwent.</p>		<p>Whilst 'climate justice' is acknowledged throughout Gwent's climate mitigation and adaptation strategies, plans, etc, work needs to continue, to achieve a consistent, mainstream focus on reducing health inequities across Gwent's climate mitigation and adaptation work.</p> <p>There is an opportunity for the PSB to support greater awareness of the importance of health equity, and to champion and facilitate Health Equity Impact Assessments across the public and third sector's climate and environment planning and delivery work.</p>

3. Performance Measures, Indicators & Metrics

The Health Board's Gwent Joint Strategic Assessment (JSA) Team have agreed to provide data to support establishing a regional baseline against the AoFs, as well providing historic values/trends for those indicators where available (Provided in Appendix 3).

Early discussions are underway to extend the indicators to include the Well-being Plan steps and access to PSB partners' data, to inform JSA reporting.

Risks and Barriers to Delivery	Risk Level	Commentary on mitigating actions / support required
The exercise has shown that the 2023-24 Marmot recommendations from the Building a Fairer Gwent report have not yet been fully embedded into working practices or action plans throughout PSB organisations.	Medium	Efforts should be made to raise awareness and ensure that these recommendations are integrated in organisational strategies and service area work programmes across PSB organisations.
Lack of regional co-ordination is a potential barrier to embedding the Marmot recommendations and a risk to addressing health inequities.	Medium	Efforts should be made to maximise opportunities for regional collaborative working.

4. Next Steps & Plans for next reporting period

4.1 The proposed next step is to bring together service leads/senior managers from across the PSB membership (early 2025) to explore how a **Climate & Environment sub-group of the PSB** could be established to 'add value' at a regional level, and to maximise the potential opportunities identified in the sections above.

The Sub-group would sit between the PSB Executive and the GSWAG officer group. It would provide cross-sector, regional steer through a prioritised 'programme of focus' to 2028, working to:

- a) Actively support co-ordination and integration of Gwent-wide climate and environment planning and delivery by cross-sector partners, ensuring multiple and equitable benefits through strategic support and steer to:
 - Scale-up successful local initiatives to regional delivery
 - Join-up effective local projects to maximise benefits across Gwent
 - Identify and address gaps and new opportunities in planning and delivery
 - Develop consistent approaches and processes across organisations
 - Facilitate the sharing of resources, learning, evidence and data
 - Address barriers to collaborative working
 - Build awareness and champion outcomes and issues that are shared across Gwent's public and third sectors, including tackling inequity
 - Develop a regional vision and voice to attract funding/investment
- b) Provide a forum where Gwent's 'community voices' could be heard, so they inform regional steer and prioritisation.
- c) Oversee influence beyond Gwent by representing Gwent's interests at wider regional forums.
- d) Facilitate the alignment of regional and local 'climate and environment' planning to the Well-being Plan, Building a Fairer Gwent and embedding the Sustainable Development Principle/5 Ways of Working.
- e) Oversee development of a Performance Management Framework, with additional climate/environment indicators, and aligned to the other AoFs.

4.2 The Climate & Environment Lead, Steve Morgan, will liaise closely with the leads for the other 3 AoFs to ensure integration across the four areas.

4.3 The Climate & Environment Lead, Steve Morgan, will provide quarterly 'highlights and issues' updates and 6 monthly progress reports to the PSB.

OVERARCHING INTEGRATION MATRIX

PSB Area of Focus 				
	Give every child the best start in life	Everyone has the same economic chances	Everyone lives in a place they feel safe	Everyone lives in a climate ready community where environment is valued and protected
Marmot Principles 	Give Every Child the Best Start in Life	Create Fair Employment and Good Work for All	Tackle Racism, Discrimination and their Outcomes	Pursue Environmental Sustainability and Health Equity Together (relevant recommendations)
	Enable all Children, Young People and Adults to Maximise their Capabilities and have Control over their Lives			
		Strengthen the Role and Impact of Ill-Health Prevention		
	Ensure a Healthy Standard of Living for All			
			Create and Develop Healthy and Sustainable Places and Communities	

