

Annual Report 2024

Introduction

This is the first annual report of the Gwent Public Services Board (PSB) on the progress of our Gwent Well-being Plan from July 2023 to March 2024. The PSB is a partnership of public service organisations that work together to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Gwent. We published our first joint Well-being Assessment in 2022 [Gwent Well-being Assessment - Gwent Public Services Board Gwent Public Services Board \(gwentpsb.org\)](#), which informed our Gwent Well-being Plan published in July 2023 [Gwent Well-being Plan - Gwent Public Services Board Gwent Public Services Board \(gwentpsb.org\)](#).

Background

The Gwent PSB was established in 2021, bringing together the five existing PSBs in the region. This decision was made to simplify and strengthen the existing partnership arrangements by bringing all the public services together. The move to a regional PSB, with collective responsibility for improving well-being, makes it easier for partners to actively get involved, to add value and avoid doing the same thing several times. The PSB is made up of the five local authorities: Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service and Natural Resources Wales. Other key partners include Gwent Police, The Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner, Public Health Wales, Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations, Torfaen Voluntary Alliance, National Probation Service, the University of South Wales and Welsh Ministers.



Gwent Well-being Plan



The Well-being Assessment for Gwent and the Building a Fairer Gwent report showed that inequality and deprivation in our communities were having an impact on well-being and there was need to take action on the climate and nature emergencies.

Our Well-being Plan set out how we intended to address these challenges across Gwent. The Plan has two interconnected key objectives:

- We want to create a fairer, more equitable and inclusive Gwent for all.
- We want a climate-ready Gwent, where our environment is valued and protected, benefitting our well-being now and for future generations.

To support the delivery of the objectives, the plan sets out these five, interrelated steps:

- Take action to reduce the cost of living crisis in the longer term.
- Provide and enable the supply of good quality, affordable, appropriate homes.
- Take action to reduce our carbon emissions, help Gwent adapt to climate change, and protect and restore our natural environment.
- Take action to address inequities, particularly in relation to health, through the framework of the Marmot Principles.
- Enable and support people, neighbourhoods, and communities to be resilient, connected, thriving and safe.



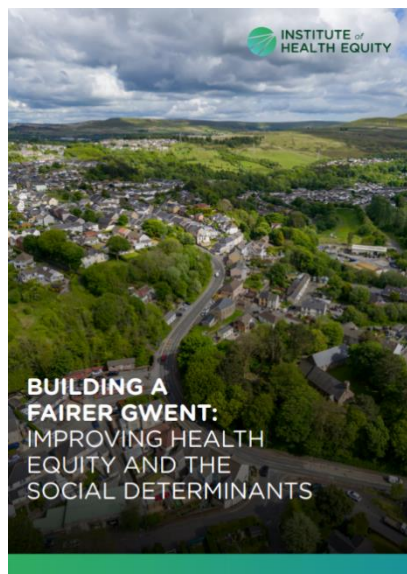
Since publishing our Plan, the PSB has been working hard to understand what we need to do, together and at scale, to achieve these objectives. We have identified four Areas of Focus where we feel that we can make the most difference. These are:

- That every child has the best start in life
- That everyone lives in a place they feel safe
- That everyone has the same economic chances
- That everyone lives in a climate ready community where their environment is valued and protected.

You will be able to read more about these and the work that we're planning later in this report.

We want to create a fairer, more equitable and inclusive Gwent for all.

'Building a Fairer Gwent' – Gwent Marmot Region



There are many factors (often referred to as the 'social determinants of health') within society, the economy and the environment that influence peoples' health and well-being. Inequalities within these, such as the unequal distribution of wealth and resources, drive the conditions in which people live, work and play and create unfair but avoidable differences in health and well-being outcomes. We can see these differences in Gwent, where females in the most deprived areas (20 per cent) live almost 20 years less in good health compared with those in the least deprived, and where at least one in four children in all local authority areas live in poverty after housing costs are taken into account.

Recognising the importance of addressing the social determinants of health, the PSB began work with the Institute of Health Equity in 2022 to examine the impact of inequity on health and well-being in Gwent, and to develop proposals for action. This work took just over twelve months to complete and culminated in the publication of 'Building a Fairer Gwent: Improving Health Equity and the Social Determinants' in July 2023 [Building a Fairer Gwent: The Report - Gwent Public Services Board Gwent Public Services Board \(gwentpsb.org\)](https://www.gwentpsb.org) . The report, its conclusions and recommendations were presented to the PSB on the 20th July 2023, with both the report and all its recommendations being accepted.

Since July 2023, a number of activities have taken place to begin taking forward the recommendations. In October 2023, a leaders launch event was held at The Lysaght Institute in Newport. This brought regional and national leaders together to galvanise all partners around equality, equity, and social justice, lay a foundation to deliver the report's recommendations and allow individuals the opportunity to speak with passion about what they and their organisation are doing and will be doing differently over the next five years to address inequity and the social determinants of health. This led to the "Areas of Focus work" described later in this report.

In the work that took place with the Institute of Health Equity, there was a recognition that this had been concentrated on adults, predominantly drawn from the organisations that make up the PSB. Although not deliberate, this could have the effect of focusing attention on adults and missing the voice of children. To help address this, the PSB funded a project at the start of 2024 specifically to hear from children about what mattered to them for their health and well-being. This was called the 'Imagining Healthy Futures' project and ran from January to March 2024. In partnership with Llantarnam Grange, a contemporary art and craft charity, a series of workshops and events were delivered in schools, nurseries, markets and an arts centre aimed at young children. At these sessions, children were encouraged to use a variety of creative media to explore what mattered to them when thinking about their own health.

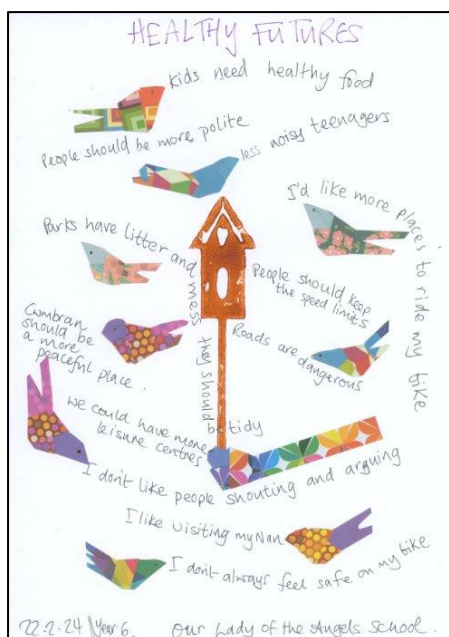


Figure 1: Healthy Futures: Year 6 pupils from Our Lady of the Angels Roman Catholic Primary and Nursery School, Cwmbran.

The outputs and messages from this work are now being used to inform further work on the best start in life and maximising children's potential. A write-up of this project will be available on the PSB website shortly.

Case Study

Torfaen County Borough Council – Adopting the Marmot Principles

Torfaen's County Plan is focused around nine well-being objectives - four targeted at improving 'Place', four on empowering people within communities, and one on how the Council can work more effectively and efficiently for and with their residents. Like other public bodies in Gwent, Torfaen Council pledged to work together to fight inequality and become a 'Marmot' focussed Local Authority. Torfaen Council's County Plan comes to an end in 2027, but the Council recognised that addressing intergenerational inequality across the county, demands a longer-term perspective. Being a Marmot Council offers the chance to focus, and to use the Council's wide range of influence to tackle the sources of inequality.

Torfaen Council have developed a "Master Plan" based on the Marmot principles which gives a clear vision for the county. This is embedded into every service plan throughout the Council. It helps the Council stay focused and informs actions and decisions for the future. Torfaen Council's current and future County Plans are important milestones along the way. Together, they allow the Council to foresee challenges, prepare for them and make sure that their daily actions match their ultimate goals. Going forward, the Marmot principles will serve as their compass, guiding towards a future where every individual in the community can thrive.

For further information please go to:



<https://www.gwentpsb.org/en/gwent-marmot-region/>

<https://www.torfaen.gov.uk/en/AboutTheCouncil/ImprovingTorfaen/County-Plan/County-Plan-2022-2027.aspx>

We want a climate-ready Gwent, where our environment is valued and protected, benefitting our well-being now and for future generations.

Responding to the Climate and Nature Emergency

Public Engagement and Planning

During the PSB's public engagement activities, communities told us they were concerned about carbon emissions, protecting nature from the impact of climate change, adapting to increased flooding, droughts and heatwaves, reducing food waste, preserving local greenspaces, and educating people about the impacts of climate change across Gwent.

A PSB survey (January - February 2024) reported on 60 projects across Gwent where action was already taking place: Local Authorities are developing Local Area Energy Plans and decarbonisation initiatives; community groups are raising awareness through local action, including planting trees and initiatives like Tasty Not Wasty and Repair Cafes, and the Blaenau Gwent Climate Assembly.

Community concerns are reflected in this objective in the PSB Well-being Plan. Our well-being plan is in line with the Welsh Government's ambition for the public sector to collectively reach net zero by 2030 and for Wales to be a country that is prepared for climate change, understands the risks and challenges ahead, and is able to adapt and reduce the impact of climate change.

The Building a Fairer Gwent report identified climate change as a fundamental threat to health, with recommendations for organisations in Gwent to ensure carbon reduction interventions reduce inequities and do not increase them. The PSB wants to support communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change, recognising that some communities are more exposed to floods, heatwaves, air pollution and other climate risks to health.

Preparing to Respond to the Climate and Nature Emergencies

To support the Gwent public sector, the PSB funded 15 officers to complete 'Assessing Climate Risk' training with the Met Office in January and March. By doing the training together, participants felt that they developed a common understanding and are moving forward as a group to share learning and work together to undertake a Climate Risk Assessment for Gwent in the next year.

To help them, Natural Resources Wales (a PSB partner) in collaboration with Welsh Government and Public Health Wales, developed the Climate Change Risk Assessment Framework for Public Services Boards. This guidance is the first step towards a climate adaptation strategy, considering climate change risk in a local context. PSB members provided feedback on the draft framework.

At PSB workshops in February and March 2024, organisations told us that assessing climate risk to inform climate adaptation planning was urgent and important and is most effectively achieved at a regional level, sharing expertise and resources. They want to work together, with the PSB, so Gwent is more prepared for the future effects of climate change, in an equitable way, through better understanding of the regional risks. Acknowledging we cannot tackle climate change without recognising the nature emergency, they also wanted

to work together so public sector land and infrastructure provides maximum benefits for people, nature and climate.

This feedback will inform the PSB's priorities in delivering its well-being plan.

Arrangements to Support the Gwent PSB

As the PSB was formed and considered the requirements it would need to support them to deliver their vision and developing plans, it was identified as part of their agreed terms of reference, to continue two key supporting structures.

The first key structure is the Gwent Strategic Well-being Action Group (GSWAG) which brings together key officers from statutory and non-statutory PSB partner organisations. The PSB agreed that GSWAG would be identified as sub-group, with the Chair attending each PSB meeting, representing a broader function of PSB coordinator who presents relevant considerations and recommendations.

This important regional group brought continuity from already established arrangements as it had previously played a crucial role in helping the five individual PSBs in Gwent to work collaboratively to prepare their first Well-being Assessments and Plans for each local authority area (2018 to 2023).

The aim of GSWAG is:

- To act as the officer support group to the Board
- To prepare the local assessment of well-being and Gwent Well-being Plan
- To ensure that regional activity that contributes to the Board's well-being objectives is delivered in collaboration
- To liaise with Welsh Government and the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner on behalf of the Board
- Facilitate the relationship, continuity and reporting between regional activity and the work of the Local Delivery Groups
- Provide evidence to the Regional Scrutiny Committee
- To ensure that the work of the partnership is open and transparent and that it's activity and performance is available on the Gwent Public Services Board's website
- To prepare an annual report on behalf of the Gwent Public Services Board

Through 2023/24, GSWAG has continued to work together, identifying and co-ordinating these aims and supporting the PSB in developing and becoming an effective regional partnership board.

The second key structure is Local Delivery Groups. In each of the five local authority areas, a Local Delivery Group (LDG) has been set up to support the delivery of the PSB's objectives at the local level. Their membership is similar to that of the PSB, with additional local representation. Activity to deliver the objectives may look different in different areas and the LDGs will be able to better connect with and draw on local expertise and groups to provide a local flavour. It is anticipated as the regional partnership arrangements develop, each of these groups may want to deliver their own action plans creating a link between local issues and regional priorities and action set by the PSB.

The aims of each of the LDGs are:

- To ensure the delivery of local actions that contribute to the Board's well-being objectives and any regional activity that contributes to the Board's well-being objectives.
- To take forward any actions of a local nature set out in the Gwent Well-being Plan
- To involve local communities, local community areas and any person or group with an interest in the well-being of the area covered by the partnership
- To report as requested through local democratic scrutiny arrangements, Regional Scrutiny Committee and the Gwent Public Services Board.
- To ensure that the work of the partnership is open and transparent and that its activity and performance is available

The LDGs also support the discharge of statutory duties at a local level.

Case Study



One Newport

Following the establishment of the Gwent PSB, One Newport became a Local Delivery Group of the PSB and has the same organisational membership as the regional Board along with Coleg Gwent, University of South Wales, Newport Live, Business in the Community, Newport Youth Council and Registered Social Landlords.

One Newport has two main aims, to develop and deliver activity in Newport that would benefit from a strong partnership approach, and to deliver the local priorities within the Gwent Well-being Plan and contribute to regional projects. Our Local Action Plan supports both aims making sure Newport's unique issues get the attention they deserve.

Members adopted this plan in December 2023, with a formal launch event in March 2024. Members are establishing theme boards under each of the objectives. [One Newport Local Action Plan 2023-28 - Final EN](#)

Collaboration: Challenges and Complexities of working as a region.

As a large and diverse area, bringing five local areas into a regional Public Services Board comes with its complexities and challenges and, importantly, opportunities.

What's Worked Well

With such a complex partnership, there can be a tendency to focus on the challenges, however there are benefits and opportunities from working at scale.

As a partnership, the PSB is building upon existing strong informal collaboration and working relationships which enables open and honest conversations and the ability to challenge each other to achieve the best outcomes for the people of Gwent.

Each member of the PSB is committed to improving the lives of the people across Gwent and appreciate the additional positive impact of working at scale, especially in the current economic climate.

Political manifestos and priorities are also aligned across the whole region.

Complexities

The partnership consists of individual organisations and sectors with differing priorities and areas of focus that can impact upon reaching shared aims and objectives. The legislative context in which the member organisations work leads to some complexity, particularly with organisations that are non-devolved such as Gwent Police and Probation Services in Gwent.

Aligning becoming a Marmot region with the core work of the Public Services Board adds a layer of complexity for the partnership. Existing arrangements including local delivery groups, officer groups, and other partnership boards such as the Regional Partnership Board, Area Planning Board, Gwent Safeguarding Board, the South East Wales

Corporate Joint Committee and Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Board, leads to complexity over governance. With a large membership, changes in organisational representation can impact upon consistency and accountability.

Challenges

Many of the challenges faced by the Board during this period relate to the complexity of bringing together five diverse geographical areas with existing local, sub regional, and regional arrangements. With such a large membership, achieving consensus both on overarching aims and delivery priorities can be a challenge. There is also a challenge in communicating and transforming regional priorities and objectives back into each organisation and local actions, plans and strategies. Bringing together the work of other local, regional, and national boards and avoiding duplication of effort, adds to the challenge of the PSB achieving clarity and agreement on areas of focus.

Case Study



Blaenau Gwent Local Well-being Partnership

The Blaenau Gwent Local Well-being Partnership (BG LWP), the local delivery group, is an officer group that meets formally on a quarterly basis, in addition to subject-specific sub-groups and development workshops, comprising representatives from local and regional partner organisations. It is responsible for identifying and developing local well-being priorities for Blaenau Gwent, and delivering against these through collaborative partnership working.

During 2023-24, the BG LWP held a series of stakeholder engagement workshops in addition to its formal quarterly LWP meetings. The aim of the workshops was for local and sub-regional stakeholders to work in partnership with each other to reflect on the success, barriers & challenges for existing local well-being projects/programmes, as well as consider well-being priorities for our local communities, and identify opportunities for new partnership working and/or where existing well-being projects could be scaled up or used as model to more collaboratively across the region or sub-region.

The workshops were well-attended by partners, who were keen to engage and provided valuable insight into local well-being priorities and opportunities for further partnership working. The evidence gathered alongside a data-led outcomes approach has enabled the LWP to start developing a local well-being action plan that aligns to the Marmot and regional well-being priorities.



BG LWP Workshop at Rassau Resource Community Centre, July 2023



BG Food Partnership Community Food Support Network at the Llanhilleth Miners Institute, April 2024



Blaenau Gwent 50+ Forum meeting at Rassau Resource Community Centre, July 2024

Case Study

Caerphilly Local Delivery Group



Following the development of the Gwent Well-being Plan, the Caerphilly Local Delivery Group (LDG) held a workshop for over 60 stakeholders in June 2023 to look at what could be done locally to deliver the regional plan. Everyone contributed to a discussion around each of the steps in the plan, offering ideas and the contributions their organisation could make in the next couple of years. From the session, the LDG agreed on three key activities to work on in the coming one to two years.

These are:

- Develop a Caerphilly County Borough Net Zero Carbon 2050 Strategy
- Maximise the potential of town centres as community hubs
- Improving employment opportunities

Since then, more detailed delivery plans have been developed by lead officers which have been presented and discussed at LDG meetings. This has enabled other partners to contribute to the plans and ensure that collaboration is encouraged.

Gwent Public Services Board Areas of Focus and Workshops

Introduction

Following an extensive review aimed at identifying the Areas of Focus and impact for the PSB, it became essential to ensure that stakeholders and public service colleagues agreed on the identified themes. It was also necessary to determine how to implement changes effectively and what new or existing approaches should be adopted to positively impact communities.



To address these objectives, two workshops were developed, one hosted in Cwmbran and an alternate date in Caerphilly, concentrating on four primary areas of focus:

- That every child has the best start in life
- That everyone lives in a place they feel safe
- That everyone has the same economic chances
- That everyone lives in a climate ready community where their environment is valued and protected

These workshops aimed to ensure alignment with the Well-being Plan and Building a Fairer Gwent, which have been adopted across Gwent. These principles highlight the social determinants of health and were integral to the workshop discussions, facilitated by the area of focus leads.

Workshop Objectives

The main objectives of the workshops were:

1. To confirm that the identified themes reflected the correct areas of focus.
2. To discuss how to implement changes effectively.
3. To identify existing or new approaches necessary to positively impact communities.
4. To avoid duplication of efforts by coordinating with other public boards.

Attendees and Participation

The workshops saw active participation, with over 160 people attending the sessions. In addition to staff and other individuals from across the PSB partnership, the events attracted attendees representing a range of non-governmental organisations including:

Aneurin Leisure	Bron Afon
Business in the Community	Caerphilly 50+ Forum
Careers Wales	Coleg Gwent
Cornerstone	Dept for Work and Pensions
Dwr Cymru	Future Generations Commissioner's Office
Gwent Regional Partnership Board	Gwent Wildlife Trust
Groundwork	Melin Homes
Monmouthshire Housing	Pobl Group
RSPB	Tai Calon

Key strategic leads were present to ensure the effective addressing of issues. Their participation was crucial given the current resource constraints and the need for efficient and integrated public services delivery.

Workshop Structure and Facilitation

The workshops were structured to foster interactive discussions, led by the theme leads for each of the four focus areas. Each theme lead was responsible for:

- Facilitating discussions within their area of focus.
- Drawing out key priorities.
- Establishing two key priorities within their theme.



The introduction of the Gwent Joint Strategic Assessment from Public Health Wales was valuable as it provided baseline data for attendees to reference for future discussions.

[Gwent Joint Strategic Assessment - Aneurin Bevan University Health Board \(nhs.wales\)](https://nhs.uk/gwent-joint-strategic-assessment)

This presentation was provided at both workshops and was well received by partners.

Themes and Priorities

1. That every child has the best start in life

Key Priorities:

- Enhancing early childhood education and care.
- Improving maternal and child health services.

2. That everyone has the same economic chances

Key Priority:

- Increasing employment opportunities.

3. That everyone lives in a place they feel safe

Key Priority:

- Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.

4. That everyone lives in a climate ready community where their environment is valued and protected

Key Priorities:

- Promoting sustainable practices and reducing carbon footprint.
- Enhancing green spaces and environmental conservation efforts.



Findings

The workshops successfully brought together key stakeholders and facilitated meaningful conversations around the four areas of focus. The outcomes below were identified from the discussions and will support the work of the PSB going forward. The PSB are now looking at how best to implement collaborative delivery to ensure efficiency and avoid duplication of effort. Once activity is agreed appropriate monitoring and evaluation will be put in place to ensure progress can be measured and obstacles addressed.

That every child has the best start in life

Outcome 1: We are better at monitoring and measuring the needs of children, taking a continuous improvement approach.

Outcome 2: All children and families are supported by all services that impact on 0-7 years, with a focus on prevention and early intervention.

That everyone lives in a place they feel safe

Outcome 1: Trauma-informed practice and ACE-awareness is embedded across all Gwent PSB organisations, to protect children & young people from harm, and support healthy development.

Outcome 2: Place-based models of working are developed at scale to address community tensions, cohesion and provide early help & support for communities across Gwent.

The two proposed outcomes which align to the Pan-Gwent Community Safety Review were:

Outcome 3: The Gwent Serious Violence Duty Strategy is delivered to embed public health approaches across public sector organisations to prevent & tackle the drivers of serious violence within our communities.

Outcome 4: Appropriate synergies and connectivity between community safety regional and local structures are established.

Everyone has the Same Economic Chances

Outcome 1: Enhance pathways to decent, fair & sustainable employment across Gwent through a coordinated partnership approach to education, skills, training, apprenticeships and volunteering opportunities.

That everyone lives in a climate-ready community where their environment is valued and protected

Outcome 1: Gwent is more prepared for the future effects of climate change in an equitable way through better understanding of the regional risks.

Outcome 2: Public sector land and infrastructure is providing maximum benefits for people, nature and climate in an equitable way

Partnerships

Third Sector

The Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO) serves as the County Voluntary Council for Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, and Newport, working collaboratively with the Torfaen Voluntary Alliance (TVA) to represent the voluntary sector across Gwent. Since the inception of the Gwent PSB, the county voluntary councils have been a committed partner, actively contributing to its mission and initiatives.

The partnership with the PSB has been a positive experience for the Third Sector throughout the region. During 2023/24, GAVO has made significant strides in collaboration with public service colleagues and the broader Third Sector community. A notable achievement is the commencement of the Third Sector Partnership Agreement for Gwent. This agreement, which outlines the terms of collaboration between public services and the Third Sector, is a significant milestone for our communities.

The scope and scale of this partnership agreement, given the diverse range of partners across Gwent, is unmatched across Wales. Reaching an agreement in principle marks a substantial achievement and reflects the dedication and collaborative spirit of all involved. It serves as a tangible example of the positive impact the Gwent PSB can have on our communities, demonstrating how effective partnership working can lead to innovative and meaningful outcomes.

As a proud member of the PSB, GAVO are delighted to be part of this process and look forward to continuing our work to support and strengthen the Third Sector across Gwent. The progress partners have made together is a testament to the power of collaboration and the shared commitment to improving the lives of those within our communities.

Community Safety Review

Following its formation in 2021, the PSB held a workshop which comprised a comprehensive overview of the strategic drivers and principles for change in taking a regional approach to community safety and well-being in Gwent. The session aimed to focus on areas of Community Safety, VAWDASV work, and the Area Planning Board (APB), which are part of the wider statutory duties for which the board is responsible.

PSB agreed that a comprehensive review of the current community safety related boards and structures across the region be undertaken to inform:

- the governance and quality of delivery,
- strategic alignment for collaboration, and,
- data and intelligence needs.

In addition, PSB requested clarity in how the Community Safety Partnership (CSPs) were discharging responsibilities at a local level. The preliminary work of the review identified there was an inconsistent approach to community safety functions at a local level across Gwent, and not all local authorities had a functioning CSP arrangement in place; As such, the PSB took the decision to reinstate functioning and consistent CSP across all five authority areas to ensure there was a robust local mechanism for tackling these most serious issues.

The review also highlighted the complexity of the broader community safety partnership landscape, with many boards and related agendas being established with a variety of programme, project, or statutory drivers. It also highlighted the need for both strategic and tactical responses to address police demand, health & well-being, social exclusion, and inequalities, along with the importance of collaboration at local, regional, and national levels.

The review also emphasized that as the PSB was committed to making communities across Gwent safer places to live, work and visit, there needed to be clear leadership to drive activity, hold accountability, improve practice, and strengthen collaboration and alignment.

In summary, the community safety review undertaken by the PSB has highlighted many challenges in a complex area of work, not all of which is devolved to Wales, and some of which consists of competing legislation from UK Government. As such, the PSB is due to consider the proposal to form a strategic Community Safety Board for Gwent; if agreed this new structure will aim to hold a comprehensive oversight and expert view of community safety practices, both devolved and non-devolved, ensuring alignment of various boards and partnerships, and strengthening a consistent community safety partnership function, driving good practice across the region, holding a clear focus on prevention, early intervention, and effective collaboration across all levels of governance and community engagement.

Case Study

Monmouthshire Local Delivery Group

Standing agenda items at the Monmouthshire Local Delivery Group (MLDG) encompass the statutory duties for which the PSB is responsible. The MLDG oversees the local delivery of these duties, along with performance monitoring, and reports risk management by exception through local governance structures.

Following the PSB review and the ambition to establish a robust community safety partnership structure across Gwent, the chair, on behalf of the MLDG members, agreed to review its local structures under the local Community Safety Partnership. This review aimed to strengthen local delivery and processes to support the Gwent review's outcome and the PSB priority that "everyone lives in a place they feel safe."

With the support of key MLDG members, the local Community Safety Partnership reviewed its delivery structures and established a new framework for delivery. This framework aligns with additional duties and strategies introduced during the development of the Gwent Well-being Plan, including the Serious Violence Duty and the Welsh Government's VAWDASV Strategy. Both informed Gwent strategies in 2023 and required regional and local delivery mechanisms.

The Monmouthshire Community Safety Partnership has implemented a new delivery structure and developed a new delivery plan. This has enhanced its capacity to respond to regional and local delivery needs, providing confidence at both levels that a solid delivery framework is in place. This framework strengthens collaboration, improves practice, and is fit for purpose, ensuring effective service delivery for local citizens.



Involvement and Engagement

Imagining Healthy Futures project

The PSB worked with a group of freelance artists coordinated by Llantarnam Grange Arts Centre between December 2023 and April 2024 to trial engagement methods within Torfaen and understand attitudes towards having a healthy future and what this means to residents.

The project aimed to explore the role that a creative arts programme can play in engaging communities in the co-creation of a vision for a healthy future. It was delivered via a series of workshops with primary schools and colleges and a mix of scheduled and drop-in sessions in communities. The objectives of the workshops were:

- To engage people in arts activities themed around the building blocks of health
- To use a variety of artforms to explore what matters most to people
- To contribute towards the production of a collaborative artwork to articulate narratives for a healthy future

The workshops used a variety of artforms facilitated by freelance specialist arts practitioners: letter press; origami; painting and collage; and digital animation. Alongside the arts activity, conversations were initiated with participants on their priorities for 'A Healthier Future'. This included discussing their beliefs on how different areas of their lives such as 'homes', 'green spaces', 'neighbourhoods', 'schools', 'transport' and 'work and pay' could contribute to a more positive healthier future.

In primary schools, the artists worked with key stage 1 pupils (ages 4-7) using an animation programme to explore pupils' ideas of a healthy future. Photographs of Cwmbran Shopping Centre and Broad Street, Blaenavon were used as a digital backdrop. The pupils then created their own short animations to transform these townscapes into their vision of a healthy future.

All of the workshop's sessions, comments and art created were captured digitally using photography and film. A digital artist was included within the commissioning to turn all the creative content into a final short film to communicate participants' vision for a Healthy Future. We intend to use this product to generate further community involvement and discussion during 2024-2025.

Training

The PSB used Regional Support Funding from Welsh Government to improve understanding in relation to our Well-being Objective.

Nature Wise Eco-Literacy Course

27 people from a wide range of organisations in Gwent attended this training, which encouraged participants to complete a personal action plan on nature-focused action. All those that completed this received Nature Wise certification and those who attended also received a summary of the slide pack and some useful links so they could continue their learning and share with others.

In addition to PSB partners Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Caerphilly County Borough Council, Newport City Council, GAVO and Natural Resources Wales, participants attended from:

- Greening Maindee
- Newport Youth and Play Service
- Tai Calon Community Housing
- Aneurin Leisure, Bryn Bach Parc
- Eveswell Primary School
- Gwent Wildlife Trust
- KIDCARE4U
- Keep Wales Tidy
- Tredegar Town Council
- The Outdoor Partnership

Participants are now able to:

- Describe how ecosystems function and interact to underpin all well-being
- Understand the extent of global changes
- Identify the different levels of protection in place for the natural environment
- Identify and implement actions they can take as individuals and in groups to protect and enhance nature and biodiversity
- Communicate to others why eco-literacy and caring for the natural environment is essential to human survival and well-being.

The understanding gained will improve involvement and engagement with the environmental topics that are key to Gwent's Well-being Plan, both within organisations and when communicating externally.

Capacity Building for Climate Change Risk Assessment

15 people completed 'Assessing Climate Risk' with the Met Office across two training programmes in January and March. The participants will work together going forward to consider Climate Risk in Gwent and are now seeking to establish shared working practices and how to share learning across organisations.

Next steps

Due to a number of changes at senior levels across the statutory and partner organisations which form part of the PSB, there is now a need to renew and revise the membership to reflect the most recent changes.

Further to that, it would be valuable to put in place some facilitated strategic leadership development for the PSB to build and develop the shared purpose for the region and strengthen collective decision making.

With the introduction of a new regional delivery framework, the PSB should be better placed to start driving forward priority areas and accelerating the pace of change through delivery at a regional level against the Well-being Plan Objectives and Steps and those contained in the Building a Fairer Gwent Report (Marmot).

This will be underpinned by the adoption of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Gwent and better use of this data to help understand where we are in terms of outcomes for all of our communities.