

Welcome to the autumn issue of the PSB Bulletin aimed at keeping Public Services Boards and those involved in partnership work updated and connected.

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News from the Welsh Government

Welsh Government's response to the draft well-being plans

As you know Welsh Ministers are one of the statutory consultees on the draft local well-being plan through their status as an invited participant and therefore Welsh Government will consider, and respond to each draft local well-being plan. Our approach to the consultations will be similar to the one we used for the draft assessments of local well-being and are likely to include:

- general comments providing an overview of thoughts on the plan ;
- more specific comments on the plans, for example on the way in which the priorities have been arrived at;
- a table which summarises the areas we would suggest could benefit from further development. We will be using the categorisation method similar to the one used for the assessments.

We don't see our role as querying what objectives have been chosen by the board, as these decisions are locally accountable. Instead, we will be testing the approach PSBs have taken to choosing the objectives, and considering the steps the board intends to make to meet those objectives. Some examples of what the responses might discuss are:

- How well does the Plan demonstrate maximising the board's contribution to the National Well-being Goals?
- Is the Plan reflective and open about what is known about each area, what the PSB would like to know, and what is still currently beyond reach?
- Is there a clear link between the evidence in the Assessment of Local Well-being, and the objectives and steps chosen for the Plan?
- Have they involved stakeholders and the wider public in the drafting of the Plan?

If you have any queries about this, please contact Huw Bowen.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (Assessments of Local Well-being) Regulations 2017

PSBs will need to be aware that new reviews and assessments have been added to the list that boards must take account of when preparing their assessment (section 38(3) of the Act).

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (Assessments of Local Well-being) Regulations 2017 were recently laid before the National Assembly for Wales and require Public Services Boards, when preparing an assessment of local well-being under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, to take into account the most recent review of air quality for their local authority area and the most recent strategic noise maps adopted by the Welsh Ministers.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2017/939/made>

There is no need to take any immediate action but you will need to be aware of this as work on your assessments evolves.

An explanatory memorandum providing background to the regulations has also been published:

<http://www.assembly.wales/laid%20documents/sub-ld11195-em/sub-ld11195-em-e.pdf>

Review of sports facilities in Wales

Gillian Otlet, Sports Facilities Review Lead in the Welsh Government, explains how you can help with identifying likely future trends and demand for community sports facilities in your area as part of a review that is taking place of sports facilities in Wales.

‘Following the decision by Cabinet in July 2016 not to bid for 2026 Commonwealth Games, the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure announced a review of sports facilities in Wales.

The aim of this work is to consider how to increase the spread of world class venues across the country that would also benefit the local community as well as elite and performance athletes. These venues would also increase the capacity of Wales to host major events in the future.

This work supports the Welsh Government’s “Taking Wales Forward 2016-2021” aspiration of “encouraging more activity for general well-being throughout life” and “Prosperity for All” for the Government to play an important role in creating conditions that make it easier for people to take more exercise.

This is a very wide-ranging review. Work is underway by Sport Wales to up-date the information it holds on all built facilities and playing pitches across Wales (their age, facilities available, opening times, etc.), and there is second strand of work to consider the availability and suitability of sports facilities for elite and performance athletes.

I would like to draw your attention to the third strand of the review and invite you to contribute your feedback.

I am particularly keen to get a strategic perspective of the role and importance of community sports facilities within the wider responsibilities of local authorities. If you have particular opinions on this issue, or experiences you would like to share, it would be very helpful. I would be very pleased to speak to Public Service Boards to discuss this topic and would welcome any feedback that the PSBs would like to put forward.

The findings from the Assessments of Local Well-being would provide an important contribution to the review of sports facilities in Wales:

- What are the future trends and demand for sports facilities in your area?
- What are the greatest needs in your area in relation to sport and physical activity?
- What future investment requirements have you identified in to sports facilities?
- Do you have any evidence from schools in relation to opening their site to community and local sports clubs?

Your contributions will help to shape our understanding of community sports and active recreation facilities, how they can help more people get active, and how they can provide a link with elite and talented athlete pathways. As a result, the review aims to create a set of guiding principles to help the Welsh Government to consider how the ever more constrained budgets might be invested with greatest impact in the future.'

If you would like to contribute to the review of sports facilities in Wales please contact me Gillian.otlet@gov.wales

To find out more about the current audit of indoor sport facilities and playing pitches being undertaken by Sport Wales [click here](#) (external link).

You may also be interested to read about how schools were also approached as part of that audit [click here](#) (external link).

Learning Disability – Improving Lives programme

A cross government transformation programme has been jointly commissioned by the former Cabinet Secretaries for Health, Wellbeing and Sport, Communities and Children and the former Minister for Social Services and Public Health.

This is a new programme which is cross cutting; person centred and will consider services across the lifespan.

The aim of the programme is to review existing learning disability service provision and develop proposals for action at local, regional and national level designed to strengthen service delivery and improve its sustainability.

The review is considering all major services including health, social care, education, employment, skills and housing services for Learning Disabilities. It will also consider funding arrangements, commissioning and workforce themes for example.

In July the Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport and the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children and the Minister for Social Services and Public Health received an interim report on the Programme which provided details of the initial findings. They agreed they wished to receive a further report in the New Year which addresses the key priority areas and the potential options to deliver successful outcomes.

There has been a large amount of stakeholder engagement so far with people with a learning disability, family and carers, the public, private and third sector. This is continuing to help inform the outcome recommendations for the report.

Collaboration is an underlying principle of the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, and specifically the Sustainable Development Principles Five Ways of Working. Taking forward the five ways of working will be of utmost importance in developing and building improvements to a range of outcomes for people with a learning disability.

Prosperity for all – the new Welsh Government strategy is also fundamental in taking this review forward, working in collaboration and co production.

The Programme lead Kath Palmer would be delighted to speak to Public Service Boards on this important topic and also welcomes any feedback and evidence that the PSBs would like to put forward.

Please contact Kath Palmer or the project manager Claire Hough

kath.Palmer@gov.wales

claire.Hough@gov.wales

‘Our Valleys, Our Future’ – a plan for the Valleys from the Valleys

Deri Ap Hywel, Deputy Director Valleys projects, Welsh Government

‘The Ministerial Taskforce for the South Wales Valleys was established by the Welsh Government to support change, maximise opportunities and improve outcomes in the Valleys.

The establishment of the taskforce gives us the opportunity to think about things differently, to look at maximising the benefits for Valleys communities from major investments such as the Metro, as well as look at how existing services can be retained locally and better serve the needs of local communities.

The taskforce met for the first time in September 2016, providing an initial opportunity to set out a vision and key priorities for the South Wales Valleys. Over the next four years, the taskforce will work to spearhead the regeneration and sustainable growth of the Valleys, with a specific emphasis on jobs and skills, generating inward investment and delivering integrated public services which respond to the needs of local communities.

The cross cutting nature of this work is reflected by the membership of the taskforce which includes the Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language, Alun Davies AM, the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure, Ken Skates AM and the Minister for Skills and Science, Julie James AM. Other members were carefully selected for their expertise in private sector and enterprise, transport, tourism, health or education but also because they live or work in the Valleys.

A series of engagement sessions have taken place across the Valleys with local authorities, the business community, young people and parents, apprentices, social housing tenants, community groups and those with protected characteristics, as well as open public meetings and an online survey. The messages that have come through loud and clear from the people who live and work in the Valleys, includes the need for employment opportunities to be attracted to, and sustained within the Valleys, for there to be better access to jobs closer to where people live, for young people in particular to be given the skills and experience required to access these employment opportunities but also how childcare and transport needs to be improved to facilitate people into employment. We also heard that people are

proud to live in the Valleys and want to see plans to make more of the culture, heritage and tourism opportunities that the Valleys afford.

In July we launched 'Our Valleys, Our Future', a high level plan for the valleys. The plan builds on what our engagement with communities has told us and outlines key priorities around creating job and providing people the skills to do them, improving public services and 'my community' which looks at community and personal wellbeing and how to make best use of Valleys culture and natural resources.

A more detailed delivery plan was published on 7 November/ will be published (depending when this goes out) outlining how the priorities will be implemented, who we will be working with to deliver on our commitments and how the outcomes will be measured.

The taskforce welcome any opportunity to engage with local forums and public services and will be undertaking further engagement in the coming months. Details will be available on the webpages at <http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/communities/taskforce-for-the-valleys/?lang=en>

or contact the Talk Valleys Mailbox at TalkValleys@Gov.Wales '

News from the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner

Future Generations Commissioner for Wales publishes

Annual Report 2016-17

'I have recently published my first [Annual Report for 2016-2017](#).

The report highlights my work over the past year, my achievements and financial information.

It also provides an overview of where I will be focusing my resources over the coming twelve months and my key message that to drive real change towards the Wales we want, we must all embrace the ethos and spirit of the Act'.

Providing advice to Public Services Boards

'I have now written letters of advice to each Public Services Board on how you might take steps to meet your draft objectives. Thank you for taking the time to meet with my team, inviting them to working groups and Board meetings, and giving regular, honest updates on your progress. I hope you have found this period helpful in developing your objectives and steps and we intend to continue this conversation with you.

I have written in each letter of advice that as Public Services Boards set their objectives and steps, I will be looking for evidence of the arrangements individual public bodies have in place for how their organisation will be contributing to the well-being objectives of the PSB. As public bodies will be reporting on their well-being objectives by April 2018, I will be interested in how PSB objectives align with individual organisation's planning, objectives and steps'.

'Well-being in Wales: Planning today for a better tomorrow' (17th July 2017)

'Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to our 'unconference' in the summer. Hopefully you will have seen many of the materials produced since, including a [storify of the day](#) and [recordings of the webinar for PSB members](#). My [report, Well-being in Wales: Planning today for a better tomorrow, on reviewing the well-being assessments](#), was also published later that week'.

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First 1000 Days Collaborative National Network Event – 13th

December 2017

Sarah Morrison - Public Health Wales gives an overview of an event taking place in December which will have particular relevance for PSBs.

‘Giving children the best start in life is a priority for many PSBs and getting it right for families in the first 1000 days from conception to a child’s second birthday is critical to achieving this aim. To support PSBs in delivering improved outcomes in the early years, the First 1000 Days Collaborative is holding a national network event for PSB areas on Wednesday 13th December in the Marriott Hotel, Cardiff.

The First 1000 Days (F1000D) Programme is delivered on behalf of Cymru Well Wales, a national group of strategic leaders with a shared commitment to ‘act today to prevent poor health tomorrow’. The focus on the first 1000 days - from conception to a child’s second birthday - acknowledges the growing body of international evidence that a greater prioritisation of our resources in the very early years would bring both additional lifelong benefits and a better return on investment for society and public services.

If we get it right we will begin to see the improvements we all aspire to achieve including:

- Optimal outcomes from every pregnancy for mother and child
- Children achieving their developmental outcomes at age 2
- Fewer children exposed to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) in the first 1000 days.

Building on the principles of prudent healthcare and the Well-being of Future Generations Act, the First 1000 Days Programme is working in partnership with local areas to ensure that activity to improve health in early life is harnessed in a coherent system, working in partnership to promote optimal outcomes, identify risk and intervene earlier.

Unless we change the way we think and act together, we can expect the persistent inequalities in health and wellbeing in Wales to continue; the origins of many of these inequalities lie in early childhood and before birth. The first 1000 days represent a critical period when children form attachments to their caregivers, learn how to safely explore and trust the world around them, and start to communicate. It is when we see the most rapid phase of brain growth and development, and where the foundations are laid down for a child's future health and wellbeing.

The event on Wednesday 13th December will provide an opportunity to:

- Hear from policy and subject experts in the field including Rebecca Evans, Minister for Social Services and Public Health.
- Find out more about the First 1000 Days Collaborative and how it can help each PSB take a whole system approach to giving every child the best start in life.
- Begin to identify priorities for system change in your area that can improve outcomes for children and families and reduce inequalities.

We are inviting each PSB to select 6-8 key people from their local area to attend the event which will be particularly relevant for:

- Directors of Public Health/ Public Health Consultants
- Midwifery leads
- Health Visiting leads
- Perinatal Mental Health leads
- Directors of Adult Services
- Directors of Children's Services
- Directors of Housing
- Local Third Sector leaders
- Police e.g. domestic abuse Lead or PSB representative
- Other system leaders in the first 1000 days

If you have not already secured a place for a team of delegates from your PSB area, please contact Sarah Morrison, F1000D Programme Manager sarah.morrison@wales.nhs.uk

We look forward to welcoming you'.

Made in Denbighshire: A powerful new tool to develop your thinking (Emma Horan, Planning & Performance Officer, Denbighshire County Council)

‘We launched our own bespoke Well-being Impact Assessment website last year. The purpose of the new approach is to help us develop our thinking early on in the development of proposals, to ensure we maximise our contribution across the seven well-being goals and to ensure our organisation embeds sustainable development as the way we work. The approach is very different to anything else we have seen or used in the past. The assessment website is a screening tool that asks people to think about the extent to which they deliver the five ways of working and asks them to consider the likely impact of proposals on the seven well-being goals. The website is fully interactive and links directly to our PSB’s Well-being Assessment. It has challenging algorithms in the background to generate a sustainable development score and the entire approach has been purposefully designed to engage and generate discussion and debate. The website generates a report to give stakeholders concise information about the sustainability of our approach, the impact on the seven well-being goals and general conclusions and actions. It is a tool to support better decision-making.

Equality Impact Assessments had been in place for some time, and these were useful. However, they were rarely debated and did not take into account the impact of our work on a wider range of complex factors. Nor did the previous approach allow us to identify and consider opportunities to maximise positive impacts, or redesign projects to design out issues. The previous approach did not help us to take account of a range of different impacts, across different issues, nor did it facilitate an iterative approach.

Our new approach was developed by staff for our staff. We had a small officer project team that included officers from Public Health Wales, our IT developer, and officers from across the organisation. Critical to the successful implementation of the new approach has been having senior buy-in from our Chief Executive, Directors and Heads of Service. This has led to ownership of and support for the new approach throughout the council. Senior buy-in has also helped us to develop a local approach to quality assurance, ranging from critical friends, facilitation, a Quality Assurance member/officer group, random sampling by our Chief Executive Team and a post-implementation review process.

Since its launch in September 2016, we have seen officers in Denbighshire create over 250 Well-being Impact Assessments! We have also had a greater level of discussion and debate among Members about very important proposals in relation to health and social care, investment in leisure and tourism, home to school transport for instance (to name but a few). We are also more routinely testing out our thinking and our senior leadership teams uses the website to test the impact of a range of ideas. This is helping us to mature. It is helping us to create a safe environment for dissenting views, for talking about the elephant in the room, for considering the reasons why proposals could fail, e.g. because we did not involve people from the beginning for example.

We have focused on helping the organisation to change through various sessions with officers and members to embed the approach and support Members, in particular, to feel empowered and able to challenge. Regular workshops at our Denbighshire Leadership Conference have supported our senior leaders and middle managers with practical tools to minimise the problems associated with optimism bias, i.e. overestimating positive impact/minimising negative impact. The approach itself is leading to more integration across issues and disciplines as well as collaboration with partners and people affected. It's still early days but we are delighted with how well the tool working for us. We think the tool is making our proposals better.

We are currently undergoing a second phase of web developments to address what we have learned over the past year and also to make a version of the website available for our communities to use. We have developed some video resources to share our learning. If you'd like to find out more, please contact strategicplanningteam@denbighshire.gov.uk . '

Coming up

- 'Leading positive action on climate change – delivering a carbon neutral Welsh public sector by 2030' (9th November, Principality Stadium Cardiff). Chief Executives, Directors and other leaders of public sector organisations should have received a diary marker for this event, organised by Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales, and the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner. Please encourage PSB members to attend.
- PSB Coordinators' Network Event, Tuesday 5th December, Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells
- Collaboration for Future Generations, Wednesday 6th December, St Mary's Priory Centre, Monk Street, Abergavenny, NP7 5ND. Please click here to reserve your place <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/collaboration-for-future-generations-tickets-38538885845>
- First 1000 Days Collaborative National Network Event, 13th December 2017, Marriott Hotel, Cardiff.
- *'The role of scrutiny in relation to the WFG Act'* (18th January in Cardiff; 25th January Llanrwst). Good Practice Exchange Wales are working with the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner, Centre for Public Scrutiny Cymru, WLGA, Welsh Government and the Welsh NHS Confederation to deliver these seminars. These events are intended for those in a scrutiny role in their organisations (rather than of PSBs). Please encourage your elected members and board members [to register](#).

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