

Ceredigion

Public Services Board

Meeting 31
20th of September 2022, 14:00
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

MINUTES

Present:	
Cllr Bryan Davies (BD)	Chair, Ceredigion County Council
Andrew Cornish (AC)	Coleg Ceredigion
Gavin Brown (GB)	Natural Resources Wales
Hazel Lloyd-Lubran (HLL)	CAVO
Megan Harris (MH)	Public Health, Hywel Dda University Health Board
Nicola Brown (NB)	Probation Services
Peter Skitt (PS)	Hywel Dda University Health Board
Rachel Jarvis (RJ)	Natural Resources Wales
Rhodri Llwyd-Morgan (RLM)	Ceredigion County Council
Richard Felton (RF)	Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Supt. Ross Evans (RE)	Dyfed Powys Police
Victoria Jones (VJ)	Welsh Government
Also in attendance:	
Alun Williams (AW)	Ceredigion County Council
Amy Richmond-Jones (ARJ)	Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Barry Rees (BR)	Ceredigion County Council
Cathryn Morgan (CM)	Ceredigion County Council
Cllr Catrin Davies (CD)	Ceredigion County Council
Claire Bryant (CB)	Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (DPP)
Ch Insp. Dyfed Bolton (DB)	Dyfed Powys Police
Elen James (EJ)	Ceredigion County Council
Cllr Keith Evans (KE)	Ceredigion County Council
Cllr Matthew Vaux (ME)	Ceredigion County Council
PSB Support team:	
Diana Davies (DD)	Ceredigion County Council
Naomi McDonagh (NMc)	Ceredigion County Council
Kieran Metson (KM)	Ceredigion County Council
31.1	Apologies, introductions & disclosures of interest
The Chair began the meeting by welcoming all. There were no disclosures of interest.	

Apologies:

Steve Moore, Hywel Dda University Health Board
Maria Battle, Hywel Dda University Health Board
Philip Kloer, Hywel Dda University Health Board
Anna Bird, Hywel Dda University Health Board
Christine Harley, Probation Service
Dewi Day, Aberystwyth University
Iwan Cray, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Jo McCarthy, Public Health, Hywel Dda University Health Board
Pat Smith, Department of Work and Pensions

31.2 Minutes of previous Ceredigion PSB meeting – 12.07.22

The minutes from the meeting held on 12.07.22 were agreed as a true record.

31.3 Matters arising from previous meeting

No matters arising from previous meeting

31.4 Draft Local Well-being Plan 2023-28

NMc delivered an update on the Local Well-being Plan:

A copy of the draft Ceredigion PSB Local Well-being Plan for 2023-2028 was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

PSB members were advised that in accordance with Section 42 of Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the agreed Well-being objectives were forwarded to the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner on the 1st July 2023, to commence the 14 week engagement process. In addition to the 4 objectives, a proposed framework was also shared for their consideration, advice and feedback. NMc expressed her thanks to the Commissioner's office as their suggestions have been very constructive, helping in shaping the Plan. The most recent iteration was sent back to the Commissioner last week for any additional comments and it was noted that the 14 week period closes on the 7th October and so they have until then to finalise their contributions.

Since the last PSB meeting, a Task & Finish Group chaired by HLL has been set up with representatives of the board attending. NMc advised that the purpose of the group is to collate views of partners and inform the plan. To achieve this, a dedicated Teams site was created with a live document updated by all partners who attended during and after the meetings. This has been a very helpful approach. Additionally, partners have shared their strategic objectives which have been mapped onto a matrix to identify synergies between corporate directives across partner organisations. As per discussions at the last meeting, poverty has been confirmed within the proposed plan and is now a cross-cutting theme for all four objectives. An overview

as to how the objectives will be delivered has been proposed in the draft document however it was agreed that engagement with communities and partner organisations was important to inform that level of detail.

It was proposed and agreed that a Task & Finish Group is established to help progress engagement over the 12-week consultation period, as well as strengthen the way in which engagement takes place with communities for the duration of the plan. It was proposed that the well-being lens (produced by the Public Health team in Hywel Dda University Health Board), be used to take key elements into consideration when making decisions and delivery plans. NMc has met with Co-production Wales who will be working with the West Wales cluster of PSBs over the next 5 years to facilitate better engagement with communities and it is proposed that they support the work of the task and finish group.

ACTION: To establish a partnership task and finish group to address engagement for the Local Well-being plan. Membership will be from across the PSB.

NMc advised that the final comments from the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner are due by the 7th of October, which will mark the end of the 14-week engagement period. Following any additional considerations identified by the Commissioner's office, the draft Well-being plan will be translated and at such point the 12-week public consultation can commence. NMc explained that following the 12 week consultation, responses will be analysed and reflected upon, making any adjustments to the Plan as required. The plan will be presented at the PSB meeting in early March 2023 and subject to approval, each statutory member of the PSB organisation will then consider the Local Wellbeing Plan in their Board meetings; once approval is received from these organisations, it is expected that the final sign-off of the Plan will be undertaken by the PSB in April 2023.

NMc provided an overview of the objectives and ambitions of the plan, which was circulated to the group prior to the meeting. NMc drew attention to some of the objectives and discussed how through the work of the PSB these will be delivered. The Commissioner's Office approved of the place-based work proposed, ensuring lessons learned are transferred to other locations where appropriate.

Following the overview provided by NMc, members noted that some of the logos required updating

ACTION: NMc will ensure that all logos will be checked to ensure they are the latest versions contained in the document.

KE queried how flexible the plan is, particularly with regards to specific towns referenced and tackling hardship; NMc advised that the Tackling Hardship / Poverty Sub-Group of the PSB covers the whole county and is based on the latest data as well as the Well-being Assessment undertaken in 2021-22, this group will continue and will be an important sub-group of the PSB to tackle issues facing communities in the current and future financial climate.

HLL agreed that the PSB need to consider how it will deliver the plan over the next five years and the governance arrangements that need to be put in place. HLL stated that having looked at the pilot place-based sub-group approach, it is acknowledged that this has worked but the PSB need to consider how the learning can be applied across the county and how we can make the most of partnerships to deliver on our actions.

HLL also emphasised that due to the ongoing cost of living crises and the partnership response required, the PSB need to ensure their efforts are concentrated on the cost-of-living crisis for the first phase of the plan.

ACTION: Work towards a governance framework for the Well-being Plan which includes: defining accountability, outlining roles and responsibilities, timelines and reporting mechanisms.

HLL & the Chair thanked NMc and LW for their work undertaken to date on the Well-Being plan and everyone who contributed to the plan on the Task & Finish Group.

31.5	PSB Place Based Pilot Project Updates
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Carbon Neutral Aberystwyth and Decarbonisation Strategy

The chair of the sub-group had tendered his apologies, an update was delivered by RJ:

RJ reported that building on the discussions held to date, the work of the pilot group is now reflecting on the priorities emerging from the proposed Objective 3 of new Local Well-being Plan 2023-28. Feedback obtained from the Assessment of Local Well-being informs the pilot work and aims to focus on the challenges facing our communities as a direct consequence of climate change. Members focus their attention on working together to deliver decarbonisation initiatives within Ceredigion to protect and enhance our natural resources.

The pilot group has continued to meet with their most recent meeting being held on the 8th of September. At that meeting partners agreed that actions of the sub-group need to reflect a range of individual and collective actions as we all strive to work towards Welsh Government's ambition of a Net Zero public sector by 2030.

RJ noted that given the economic and social nature of the County, partner actions need to reflect decarbonisation activity, pollution prevention measures, biological diversity and clearly recognise the opportunities to upskill and re-train for a green recovery.

Work undertaken within the place-based delivery framework will seek to inform communities across Ceredigion and will help to develop adaptive and resilient communities in response to climate change. Adaptations will encourage widespread action and accountability across various sectors within the County.

As an essential part of the work in Aberystwyth, partners will retain their direct involvement in the district heat network feasibility study group. Following the initial feasibility work undertaken by consultants the sheer magnitude of this project has increased with a total project value now

being outlined, as being in the region of £40million. Detailed discussions are now being undertaken with reference to funding and ownership models, consideration of potential investors and essential discussions with Welsh Government and BAIS.

The pilot group continues to strengthen its links with previous place-plan work which has been undertaken and, also its links with green & blue infrastructure plans. Within the context of the new Well-being Plan, links are also being made with the well-being benefits of the 6 potential projects which are currently being considered for Aberystwyth town. There continues to be a clear recognition of the importance of this development work which is being undertaken for key market towns across the County.

RJ reported that the priorities of the pilot work have sought to reflect the targets and action plans established by partners and all partners have now contributed to the detail as proposed within the draft Well-being Plan. A range of actions will be noted in terms of local energy plans, transport initiatives and new ideas such as asset re-use programmes.

Partner updates will continue to be shared with a view to further informing the strategic direction provided by Welsh Government and the work of the Mid Wales Energy Plan and the emerging Local Energy Plan. The next meeting of this pilot group is scheduled for the 6th of October.

KE asked if there was an update on the tree planting scheme from the last PSB meeting?

ACTION: RLM to ask for an update on the tree planting initiative from Dewi Day and this will be delivered at the next PSB meeting in December.

Improving Community Well-being and tackling hardship in Cardigan

HLL delivered an update from the last meeting. They have received an update from the town council regarding the projects they are currently supporting and some they have in the pipeline. The intention is that the sub-group develop a relationship with the town council and the PSB partners to support these opportunities.

HLL presented information on the green and blue prescribing initiatives and the type of schemes that are being looked at which have helped develop further links between organisations and ideas were brought forward for further consideration. A welfare session was arranged with Cardigan's Job Centre Plus with various organisations invited to attend and together provide advice on various issues including energy in the home. HLL also advised that a funding fair will be held at the end of November, and this will also provide information as to the grants available which could help support the various community initiatives.

Well-being in Lampeter

EJ delivered a brief update as the group has not met since the last PSB meeting; the next meeting will be held on the 13th of October. The group has already started on the work with organisations from Lampeter and the surrounding area and themes coming up include social and emotional care, food, physical health, and anti-social behaviour. This was discussed in detail and how we can use the main focus of the group (welfare, health and sustainability) to draw attention to children and young people with challenging behaviour to participate in these activities. One of the main areas of focus of the group appears to be food sustainability, with links being made to the work of Canolfan Tir Glas in University of Wales Trinity Saint David,

Lampeter campus.

EJ informed the PSB that a meeting is scheduled to take place with Hywel Dda University Health Board on the 3rd of October to further the work of the Social Model for Health and Wellbeing (as presented by Dr Phil Kloer at the previous PSB meeting).

PS, as the Health Board representative reiterated the importance of this partnership. MH referenced work being done by PHW across the area ensuring that children attending hospital appointments which coincide with school lunch hours are provided with free school meals in hospital. MH indicated that these kinds of activities that are being carried out across the Hywel Dda region can make a positive contribution to health and well-being.

EJ added that there has been an initial discussion this year regarding a school holiday enrichment program and is hopeful that it can be held this year again, as it was in 2019. This program ensures primarily school children receive free school meals for at least 12 days over the summer holidays. EJ recognised that it takes a lot of work to put this together and in 2019 was only carried out in Llwyn-yr-Eos school however this year 3 more schools have been identified that would benefit from this scheme.

GDJ noted that the work in Lampeter being carried out by University of Wales Trinity Saint David is going well and they are considering establishing a community room in the town open to the public that will be warm and offer food during cold periods. It was noted that links will need to be made with proposed work of the task and finish group to address issues of Winter pressures on the communities of Ceredigion.

31.6

Warm Hubs

AW informed the PSB of a meeting that Ceredigion County Council Leadership Group have had on the impact of the cost-of-living crisis; the concept of "Warm Hub" locations being made available to the public over winter for people to keep warm has been proposed and it was considered best practice that this is discussed with other organisations in the county in order for it to be a collaborative effort. HLL and GDJ noted that they have been carrying out some initial work on this already.

The Chair thanked AW for raising the issue, with the upcoming winter likely to cause problems. GDJ indicated that UWTSD were willing to support the scheme and noted that the University has an important role in Lampeter to work with the support from partners to promote a warm hub in the local community.

The Chair stated there are many village halls throughout the county that could be used for this purpose; HLL noted that she had already been making enquiries and stated that Llandysul hall is the first hall to be funded to provide a warm space to support to the local community.

HLL stated that Powys County Council have a scheme for communities to register to for financial assistance should they wish to provide 'warm hubs'. EJ explained that details of a Ceredigion Community Grant Scheme is available on Ceredigion County Council's webpages, with the aim

being to improve and increase the range of facilities and opportunities within the county. Voluntary, non-profit organisations are able to apply and can register their interest to open warm hubs for the benefit of others in the county.

HLL indicated that there is concern as to the possible stigma associated with the wording of 'warm hubs' and it would be better to encourage communities to hold coffee mornings or groups of their own. MH agreed that there will be issues with a stigma around the "warm hubs" title, as it can have negative connotations and should therefore be presented and targeted more along the lines of a social community activity in order to maintain the dignity of attendees.

HLL referenced that the Cardigan energy advice session was originally titled "income maximisation" but for the same reasons it was re-named.

CD asked if anyone had any suggestions as to how rural residents can be supported by this, particularly for those living outside populated areas without access to village halls etc. DD sought clarity as to who will be co-ordinating the work on the warm hubs and carrying it forward; HLL suggested it be contained within the scope of the Poverty Sub-Group, which was agreed.

ACTION: The Poverty Sub-group to lead on a task and finish group - addressing the warm hub work.

31.7 Tackling Hardship Report 2021-2022

CM delivered an update on behalf of Cllr Catrin MS Davies the chair of the Poverty Sub-Group.

CD reported that the subgroup looks at the progress of the strategy and the three key objectives are:

- 1) Work together to develop a shared understanding with partner agencies of the impact of Covid 19 on hardship in Ceredigion
- 2) Co-ordinate and collaborate with partner agencies to promote and take advantage of help and assistance
- 3) Identify gaps and support.

CD reported that the action plan is divided into 3 separate pillars: cost, physical and emotional wellbeing, and community resilience; progress has been made in all three pillars and some improvements have been seen in the data monitoring the progress. However, since the report, the cost-of-living crisis has emerged which will be closely monitored in the coming months.

With regards to conclusions and findings the main headlines were; people are struggling with mounting debt and concerns about people being able to pay bills reached a high of 35% in March 2022, which is when the report ends and it must be noted that concerns may be higher now. Child poverty is higher than average and has seen the highest increase nationally since 2014-2015.

CD noted that childcare opportunities continue to fall in Ceredigion and there are more people needing support with mental health issues. It is challenging for healthcare providers to respond to issues with access to specialist services remaining extremely difficult.

Increasing construction costs and a limited number of contractors is creating challenges in delivering affordable homes.

The next steps for the poverty subgroup are to continue to develop the data dashboard and review the list partners who contribute to the action plan. It is anticipated that poverty will increase in Ceredigion due to the cost-of-living crisis, so the action plan needs to adapt to reflect this.

CD noted that a recent meeting was held with food banks, community growing schemes providing food to local people, CAVO and Citizen's Advice. It was agreed that improvement is needed in the way we collect and share this information and before winter arrives, information is being prepared to disseminate to every home in the county heightening awareness of these support schemes.

31.8	UKSPF Update
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CJE delivered an update:

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a 3-year fund focussing on four investment priority pillars: community and place, supporting local business, people and skills, and an adult numeracy priority called "Multiply to improve numeracy skills in adults. The UKSPF is seen as the replacement for the European Union structural funding which will cease following Brexit.

CJE stated that relevant documents are being developed, including an implementation strategy, resourcing and a commissioning plan. As the lead authority Ceredigion County Council will need to prepare the Regional Investment Plan for Powys and Ceredigion, which will be submitted to UK Government and it is this that will set the framework for the investment.

The Chair thanked CJE and all staff working on project.

CD noted that there must be scope to have a scheme to address the issues of improving skills whilst attending a warm hub. The Chair agreed and there were links to the Multiply pillar. It was noted that all 22 local authorities have sent a letter to the government asking them to be more flexible with the funding, enabling initiatives such as this. CJE added that if there is the flexibility to use the funding then this would be an excellent idea but it is dependent on whether there are limitations set as to how the funding can be used, which is still awaited.

CJE indicated that an online survey was held over the summer to gather views as to how the funding should be spent by voting for priority actions and an internal survey took place looking at where there are opportunities to use the funding. An internal workshop has also been held to carry out a strategic overview.

HLL noted that there is a need for a workshop with other partners to plan together and enable areas of work to take place with SPF support and emphasised that this is to be funding-fed and not funding-led work - where it is being carried out based on need rather than money.

ACTION: CJE to circulate further information on the SPF when it is available.

31.9	Any other business
The Chair emphasised the importance of feeding back at the next meeting on these issues discussed, particularly progress of the warm hub work.	
31.10	Date of next meeting
2nd of December 2022, 13:30-15:30	

DRAFT