



Vale of Glamorgan Public Services Board

15th December 2016

Minutes

In attendance:		
Name	Title	Organisation
Cllr Neil Moore (NM)	Leader	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Rachel Connor (RC)	Executive Director	Glamorgan Voluntary Services
Mark Brace (MB)	Assistant Commissioner	South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner
Vaughan Jenkins (VJ)	Group Manager	South Wales Fire & Rescue Service
Nadia De Longhi (ND)	Operations Manager	Natural Resources Wales
Fiona Kinghorn (FK)	(Acting) Executive Director of Public Health	Cardiff and Vale University Health Board
Judith Cole (JC)	Deputy Director Reforming Local Government Programme: Finance	Welsh Government
Martin Jones (MJ)	Superintendent	South Wales Police
Andrew Whitcombe (AW)	Dean of Work Based Learning	Cardiff and Vale College
Bob Tooby (BT)	Head of Operations (Cardiff and Vale)	Welsh Ambulance Trust
Cllr Mike Cuddy (MC)	Nominated Town and Community Council Representative	Penarth Town Council
Huw Isaac (HI)	Head of Performance and Development	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Helen Moses (HM)	Strategy and Partnership Manager	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Fran Howorth (FH)	Business Support Officer	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Lloyd Fisher (LF)	Policy Officer	Vale of Glamorgan Council
In Attendance for Agenda item 5:		
Amelia John (AJ)	Head of Fairer Future Division	Welsh Government
Apologies:		
Rob Thomas (RT)	Managing Director	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Huw Jakeway (HJ)	Chief Fire Officer	South Wales Fire & Rescue Service
Anne Wei (AW)	Strategic Partnership and Planning Manager	Cardiff and Vale University Health Board
Victoria Harris (VH)	Acting Assistant Chief Executive	National Probation Service Wales

	Actions
<p>1. Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>NM welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.</p>	
<p>2. Apologies</p> <p>See above.</p>	
<p>3. Minutes of the Public Services Board 27th September 2016</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.</p>	
<p>4. Community Strategy Delivery Plan (Tackling Poverty) Progress Report</p> <p>HM explained that this is the fourth Delivery Plan update report that has been brought to the LSB/PSB, and is part of the previous reporting arrangements that have been adopted by the PSB. The report provides an update on the continued focus on Tackling Poverty and has been aligned to the Welsh Government's Tackling Poverty Action Plan. The Delivery Plan has been structured on three tackling poverty strands: Preventing Poverty, Helping People into Work and Mitigating the Impact of Poverty. These strands are led by three groups: the Poverty Alignment Group, the Improving Opportunities Board and the Financial Inclusion Group.</p> <p>HM further informed the board that the indicators aligned to the Delivery Plan have not been reviewed as part of this update; however, many of the indicators and themes in the Delivery Plan are included in the extensive work that has been undertaken as part of the PSB's Well-being Assessment. HM, AW and FH provided the board with updates against the three Tackling Poverty strands.</p> <p>Preventing Poverty: Taff Housing Association has been commissioned through Supporting People funding to ensure appropriate housing related support is being given to people who are supported by Families First, Communities First and Flying Start. In addition to this support, Taff Housing will work across the programmes to map service provision and identify any duplication. A European Social Fund (ESF) lead worker event was held on the 12th October; this was a successful event that enabled networking between project officers.</p> <p>A Poverty Alignment Group workshop has been planned for the 10th February 2017. The workshop will discuss how alignment could be improved between the four programmes. Although no amendments to the Preventing Poverty Delivery Plan strand have been suggested, it may be that following the workshop in February suggested changes will be brought back to the PSB to agree.</p> <p>RC enquired who from Taff Housing will be taking the lead on the project. HM said that Helen Jones from the Supporting People programme will be working with Taff Housing; however, Taff Housing contact details will be shared with RC.</p>	HM

Helping People into Work: AW provided the board with an overview of the work of the Improving Opportunities Board. He said that Aston Martin now have a presence at St Athan and have already started recruiting for when the plant opens, with some staff already being trained at other sites prior to the St Athan plant opening.

AW explained that from the 6th April the Apprenticeship Levy will be in place, requiring companies who have an annual pay bill of more than £3 million to pay the levy. The college will be working with both levy and non-levy payers to prepare for its introduction. HI said that this topic is scheduled for discussion as an agenda item in the next PSB meeting. AW informed the board that there has been a delay in the tendering of Welsh Government workplace learning providers due to the uncertainties associated with the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union. HM noted that there has been good continued working between organisations to provide skills and employment across the Vale of Glamorgan.

BM informed the board that action has been undertaken to promote the employment of minority communities in the Ambulance Service; an event is scheduled in the Butetown health centre on 27th January. VJ noted that the Fire Service have also held events with minority communities in the hope of increasing the numbers of applicants and the number of applicants progressing through the recruitment process.

Mitigating the Impact of Poverty: FH outlined the work that has been undertaken and is continuing through the Financial Inclusion Group. The group have ensured that a consistent approach to the changes to the Local Housing Allowance is taken across the Vale. The group has continued to monitor the lowered Benefit Cap, and the numbers of residents who will be affected by future changes to the Cap and discretionary housing payments.

Through the Families First 'Raising Awareness of Welfare' project 33 families were helped with money and benefit advice; in addition, through the programme professionals received training on Universal Credit and Child Disability Living Allowance.

In July the group received a detailed presentation from Citizens Advice on their live webchat service, and the increasing numbers of 'middle income earners' who are engaging with services during office hours. In addition, a sensemaker project, collecting qualitative data around the food environment of the Vale has been reported to the group. A Food Vale steering group has been established to develop an action plan and work on refreshing the mapping of food assets in the Vale.

FH explained that the Financial Inclusion group's chair, the Council's former Head of Housing, left her post in September; as a result, Citizens Advice has been chairing the group in the interim. It is planned that the Financial Inclusion Strategy will be reviewed with the new permanent chair of the group when they are in post; this review will be undertaken in the context of the Welsh Government's Financial Inclusion Delivery Plan, published in December 2016.

NM noted that there is a need for continued monitoring of the lowered Benefit Cap as it has already had an impact, particularly as regards housing. NM enquired

<p>whether Citizens Advice might be able to continue chairing the group to maintain continuity for the group.</p> <p>RC highlighted that Cardiff and Vale Citizens Advice have been particularly innovative in their work; unfortunately one strand of their funding is received through a Families First programme which is coming to an end. It will be necessary to monitor the impact of this, as a reduction in funding may have multiple knock-on effects.</p> <p>HM explained that the Delivery Plan actions will be reviewed in the context of the PSB's Well-being Assessment in order to assess how the two pieces of work come together to deliver priorities.</p>	FH
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<p>5. Engagement Process on Resilient Communities – Welsh Government</p>	
<p>AJ thanked the board for inviting her to attend the meeting. She said it was very useful to have the opportunity to discuss with the PSB the Cabinet Secretary's announcement that he is 'minded to phase out the Communities First programme'. It is appreciated that PSBs have a good understanding of the issues within their areas and that this will have been further enhanced by the work on the local well-being assessments.</p> <p>The proposals around Resilient Communities are considered to be wider than the current Communities First programme and recognise that although issues may be concentrated in particular geographical areas there are also needs across the wider area. Resilient Communities will potentially focus on three aspects. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early years and Intervention, • Employability, prosperity and secure work, • Empowerment, working with communities rather than doing things to them. <p>AJ said that in light of the EU referendum and the BREXIT vote it is clear that people have become disengaged with government programmes. The challenge is how we re-engage with people. The intention is that the role of Welsh Government is to be engage at a strategic level whilst working with local authorities to re-engage communities. AJ explained that the Fairer Futures team are working with the Local Government team within Welsh Government to provide a more joined-up approach to the conversation rather than working in silos. It was emphasised that the approach will be one of a continued dialogue with public bodies even after the Cabinet Secretary's decision has been made.</p> <p>AJ informed the board that the Cabinet Secretary is still committed to both the Communities for Work and the Lift Programme. If a decision is made to phase out the Communities First programme then a structure would be put in place to support these programmes.</p> <p>The Welsh Council for Voluntary Action has been undertaking focus groups and surveys as a part of the Resilient Communities consultation. Following consultation and consideration of all information and views gathered the Cabinet Secretary will make an announcement. This is likely to be at the beginning of February. AJ confirmed that if the decision is made to end the Communities First</p>	

programme, there would be no like for like replacement. It was also highlighted that the Fairer Futures team are spearheading a closer alignment of the grant processes for the various tackling poverty programmes.

AJ asked the PSB to consider the potential impact the phasing out of the programme might have, in particular what unintended consequences may result from the closing of the programme.

RC advised that Glamorgan Voluntary Services had attended a workshop yesterday as part of the Resilient Communities engagement. The workshop was well attended and one of the major concerns raised by participants was that the communities involved with the Communities First programme are some of the most difficult to reach and to build trust with; there is a real concern that the individuals and teams that have worked to build and develop relationships and confidence with the community will be lost if the programme is phased out. The uncertainty following the announcement was unfortunate with many employed through the programmes now seeking alternative employment. If the programme were to be phased out it would be a real loss to Barry.

NM suggested that if the programme were to be curtailed, there would need to be clarity about any transitional period. It is recognised that there are differences in way the programme has been implemented across Wales; however, if it is to be phased out there will need to be an understanding of what comes next. NM also highlighted the close relationship between the Communities First team and other projects in the area, for example the FACT team, and what potentially could be lost if the Communities First programme were to be phased out.

AJ noted that there is an appreciation that there has been some great engagement and programmes undertaken as a part of the Communities First programme. The question is one of moving to sustainable programmes and to creating empowered communities. It is also necessary to address the challenge of the post-code lottery that is posed by the Communities First programme. If the decision is taken to bring the programme to a close a phased approach will be taken. It will also be essential to have a good understanding of the relevant programme infrastructure in order to continue to support the Communities for Work and LIFT programmes.

RC raised concerns for those aged 8-16. This is an age group that are heavily engaged through the Communities First programme, with work being undertaken to prepare them to take up apprenticeships. Echoing these concerns AW noted that there is currently a push to provide level three apprenticeships which have a higher skills entry point. The phasing out of Communities First would mean, individuals may have limited access to the support needed to achieve the higher entry requirements of level three apprenticeships.

AJ explained that there is an appreciation that whether phased out or continued there needs to be flexibility around employability. The Families First programme is focused on youth/family support work, it is appreciated that the Communities First infrastructure has been important for these age groups and it is hoped that through the Employability Plan the concerns regarding preparation for apprenticeships will be captured.

FK noted there are difficulties associated with ending a long standing programme,

but an alignment to the Families First outcomes would be welcomed. FK highlighted that currently the Communities First infrastructure is used well in Cardiff and the Vale to deliver public health actions, in particular dietetics, and this would be lost if the programme were to be ended.

NM advised that there is an appreciation of the argument for a move to a prosperity based approach rather than a tackling poverty scheme; however, clarity is needed in what is meant by Resilient Communities. RC emphasised that in order to have Resilient Communities it is first necessary to have resilient individuals; this will have to be a long term piece of work. NM highlighted that clarity would also be needed as to which grants were being reviewed as part of the alignment work being undertaken; there are potential benefits of including these grants in the RSG as this would alleviate the current costs of auditing these different grants. AJ clarified that currently the on-going grant review is focused upon the three tackling poverty programmes and will seek to bring the Supporting People programme into the review at a later stage.

FK enquired as to what evidence was behind the Children's Zones proposals. AJ explained that the Children's Zones project has been based on the Bromley by Bow model. The project originates from Harlem, and is based upon local approaches being developed.

MB enquired whether there is a timescale for the announcement on the programmes future. AJ said that an announcement is expected in early February which will allow draft well-being assessments to be reviewed as part of the process.

AJ thanked the board for their time and comments.

6. Well-being Assessment

Approval of Draft for Consultation:

HM gave a brief presentation on the process and the documents to be agreed for consultation. The assessment is made up of a suite of documents including:

- An overview document
- A summary document
- 4 detailed evidence reports
- An engagement report
- 4 community profiles
- A data directory

If endorsed, the documents will be circulated for consultation in January and hosted on the Council's website. Following consultation, the assessment will be amended to reflect feedback.

MC proposed that further detail could be included on the positive story of the economy in the Vale. He suggested that this section should be brought forward within the document as the message it gave was positive and provided a useful introduction for the rest of the document. HM advised that they would look again at the structure of the assessment to highlight these points.

FH

JC queried whether a more upbeat tone might be adopted in the initial section of the overview document to describe why the work has been undertaken, rather than just focusing on the requirements of the legislation.

ND noted that she was happy to endorse the documents for consultation, and echoed JC's suggestion that a more positive tone to the language might be used in the initial section of the overview document, it was also suggested that a good summary might be of use. HM clarified that a summary was in the process of being finalised for consultation.

The draft well-being assessment documents were signed off by the board for consultation.

Proposed consultation programme:

The board were provided with an overview of the planned consultation schedule to be followed in the New Year. The consultation period will run from the 9th January – 5th February and during this period the draft assessment documents and a short consultation survey will be hosted on the Council's website. This will be accompanied by a social media campaign, including a Facebook conversation. Three drop-in sessions in the three community areas will be held, in Barry, Penarth and Cowbridge libraries. The team will also attend the Vale 50+ and Youth Forums, in addition, two stakeholder events will be held, which will take a similar form to the PSB workshop held in November.

FK informed the board that, as with the previous consultation period, if the Health Board engagement team is kept informed of the engagement events then they can work with the Strategy and Partnership team to retweet and promote activities.

HI enquired whether there is any guidance on how individual partners will sign off the Well-being Assessment. HM informed that there is no current guidance, but it would be useful if partners could update the board on the individual processes that are being followed by partners.

MC queried whether the Community Liaison Committee would be consulted on the assessment. HM clarified that the assessment documents would be circulated to Town and Community Councils individually, and in addition HI will be attending the Community Liaison Committee on the 31st January to present the assessment to all the Councils. Two Vale Council member briefing sessions will also be held in January.

NM thanked the Strategy and Partnership team on behalf of the board for the ongoing work.

7. Presentation: SoNaRR: An Assessment of sustainable management of natural resources

ND provided the board with a brief presentation on the Natural Resources Wales (NRW) State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR). ND explained that the report outlines the role of NRW in delivering the Well-being of Future Generation Act

<p>and the National Well-being Goals. It is the start of a five year policy cycle; the SoNaRR informs the work of Welsh Government and in turn is used to inform NRW's Area Statements. It is important that the environment is taken into account when considering well-being, as Wales's natural resources and the sustainable management of these natural resources has economic, social and cultural benefits for our well-being as well as environmental benefits.</p> <p>Increasing pressure on these resources has further prompted the need for sustainable management. SoNaRR suggests opportunities to further build on existing ecosystems and maximise the potential opportunities for resources. The SoNaRR demonstrates the interplay of the four pillars of well-being and Wales's ability to enjoy good well-being in the future.</p> <p>The next step for the assessment is the continued provision of evidence to the PSB on the state of resources and the links to well-being. There needs to be a step change in how we manage natural resources in the Vale of Glamorgan and across Wales in order for there to be a positive effect on well-being.</p> <p>FK endorsed the assessment, and said that within the framework of the assessment all partners should consider what can be done to contribute to the priorities recognised.</p>	
<p>8. Forward Work Programme</p> <p>HM took the board through the forward work programme and future agenda items. JC informed the group that if any additional information became available on the Apprenticeship Levy then it would be shared with the board. AW said that the process is quite straightforward for SMEs within Wales but for cross-border organisations the process is more difficult.</p>	<p>JC</p>
<p>9. Calendar of Meetings for 2017</p> <p>HM said that revised meeting dates and invitations have been circulated to partners.</p>	
<p>10. Any Other Business</p> <p>There were no additional items.</p>	
<p>Date of Next Meeting 31st January 2pm, Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, Barry</p>	