

Vale of Glamorgan Public Services Board

25th November 2022

Minutes



In attendance:		
Name	Title	Organisation
Cllr Lis Burnett (LB)	Leader	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Charles Janczewski (CJ)	UHB Chair	Cardiff and Vale UHB
Mike Evans (ME)	Head of Operations for South Central	Natural Resources Wales
Abigail Harris (AH)	Executive Director of Strategy and Planning	Cardiff and Vale UHB
Eirian Evans (EE - NPS)	Head of South Wales One	National Probation Service
Rob Thomas (RT)	Managing Director	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Judith Cole (JC)	Deputy Director Local Government Finance and Workforce Partnerships Division	Welsh Government
Cllr Shirley Hodges (SH)	Nominated Town and Community Council Representative	Barry Town Council
Fiona Kinghorn (FK)	Executive Director of Public Health	Cardiff and Vale UHB
Rachel Connor (RC)	Executive Director	Glamorgan Voluntary Services
Mark Brace (MB)	Assistant Commissioner	South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner
Estelle Hitchon (EH)	Director of Partnerships and Engagement	Welsh Ambulance Service Trust
Robert Wilkinson (RW)	Service Planning Lead	Cardiff and Vale UHB
Danny Richards (DR)	Chief Superintendent	South Wales Police
Emil Evans (EE - CAVC)	Vice Principal	Cardiff and Vale College
John Treherne (JT)	Group Manager	South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Also in Attendance:		
Sophie Howe (SH)	Future Generations Commissioner for Wales	Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales
Colleen Cluett (CC)	Change Analyst	Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales
Helen Moses (HM)	Strategy and Partnership Manager	Vale of Glamorgan Council

Andreas Pieris-Plumley (APP)	Strategy and Partnership Intern	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Lloyd Fisher (LF)	Senior Data and Policy Officer	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Apologies:		
Suzanne Rankin (SR)	Chief Executive	Cardiff and Vale UHB
Huw Jakeway (HJ)	Chief Fire Officer	South Wales Fire & Rescue Service
Tom Bowring (TB)	Director of Corporate Resources	Vale of Glamorgan Council

Agenda Items	Actions
<p>1. Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>LB welcomed everyone to the meeting of the PSB.</p>	
<p>2. Apologies</p> <p>See above.</p>	
<p>3. Minutes of the Public Services Board 23rd September and 17th October 2022 – Cllr Burnett, Chair of the Public Services Board</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed to be an accurate and true reflection of the meetings.</p>	
<p>4. Future Generations Commissioner – Sophie Howe</p> <p>SH started by explaining that she is coming to end of her term as Future Generations Commissioner after a 7-year term. The new commissioner is in the final stages of the appointment process and the Government’s preferred candidate is Derek Walker.</p> <p>SH explained that in the last year she has been reviewing the Welsh Government implementation of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. She then went on to provide an overview of her findings and advised that scrutiny of procurement is vital for a climate action plan. The Act has provided an important framework, but there are some knowledge gaps and a need for commitment to apply the Act to policy and local action. There are particular issues with long term policy planning, e.g., the ageing populations housing need, employment, health and social care.</p> <p>SH advised that governments need to make sure policy is planned to take account of the long term, looking at a generation (~25 years) ahead. The collaboration the PSB has undertaken with NRW to explore the 3 Horizons model was praised. SH explained that there are still issues around the need for more focus on prevention. However, SH acknowledged the good strategy the Vale has around food and the environment but there is still room for improvement in rigorously applying the principles in the Act. Connections are being made more effectively across different areas of Wellbeing and the Wellbeing goals & objectives. However, the gap that is often seen is not enough focus on Culture and Welsh language and this is seen in the Vale Wellbeing Plan as well.</p> <p>SH described how Goodsheds in Barry is great, and she would like to see more schemes like this being rolled out. There should be enhancements to creative and cultural offerings, and the UHB were also commended for making good connections between arts and health. However, there is still a need for more in our new Well-being Plan.</p> <p>SH explained that the 3 priorities in our Plan are good and concise, however there needs to be more on how we are going to achieve our priorities in our plan. There needs to be a level of detail on how we are going to deliver, looking at actions in specific organisations.</p>	

SH explained that Wales is doing very well environmentally and even though we are not perfect we are on the right path. There need to be long term goals that are a priority while also being balanced with short term needs/crises. The work we do on sustainable food systems is a great example of a long-term policy.

SH made closing remarks by stating that we need to keep going and well done on what we have achieved so far.

FK thanked the Commissioner and highlighted how in her role it is always about thinking systems and working through the mechanisms through which we will try to achieve the sustainable development principle. FK made the point of how everything doesn't need to go into one plan. The PSB's Wellbeing Plan does not need to have everything in it as other plans in different organisations will have complementary detail and this will help focus the Wellbeing Plan on a few things to make change.

EH voiced agreement with FK and explained that complexity of the architecture in which we operate, means we might be having competing or overlapping goals depending on which board you are sitting on. EH stated the issue of how do we cut through the barriers (not necessarily intentional barriers) that each boards remit may create that constrain what you can do?

SH agreed with the comments made by FK and EH. There is an overly complex governance landscape. The connections between boards are not always clear and SH explained how she thinks the PSB should be top of the hierarchy of boards.

SH advised that we should continually ask the question of how priorities connect back to each board you sit on. We must regularly challenge how these regional partnership boards' priorities connect back to the PSB priorities. In her review she argues there needs to be greater clarity on the role of the Welsh Government representative on helping PSB boards to navigate governance complexities, and how different boards priorities connect.

EH stated that she often flags policy confusion to Welsh Government, explaining how if everything is a priority, then nothing is a priority.

LB expressed how we've come a long way but have much further to go. It's a juggling act planning for the long term, especially while Local authorities have to focus on statutory services due to the current economic environment.

RT voiced how the five ways of working are absolutely important and embedded in what we do. However, the number one priority right now is to balance the budget. Statutory services currently have to be a focus during this cost-of-living crisis as these are important for wellbeing. RT described how these are at the heart of the preventative agenda. So even though we need to plan long term, we have to prioritise short term statutory services as well. There will be times such as now when focus has to be on getting through, even though long term goals are still important and part of everything we do. RT echoed the praise of partnership working.

JC explained that part of her role as the Welsh Government representative is to work with the PSB to identify those areas that there are conflicts and to report back. On the

issue of there being too many specific grants it is a request WLGA has been making on behalf of all local government and work is taking place on it. However some specific grants are likely to be retained as some are keen to ensure funding is protected for certain areas of work.. It would be helpful if this was reflected when change is trying to be made as there can be a lot of push back from inside and outside Welsh Government.

SH agreed with JC regarding grants. However, there are opportunities to relook at it due to Future Generations Act. Covid learning has been really significant and can help us with this next crisis. Some long-term plans can also help in the short term e.g., food partnerships, education curriculum.

LB thanked SH for attending the meeting.

5. Discussion - Budget Pressures 2023-24

RT explained that there are 4 areas of cost pressures the Council is currently dealing with:

1. Inflation. Inflationary pressure is something which we can do little about, but it is very significant, and made up mostly of energy prices and pay awards.
2. Demography. Population growth and age profile are particularly impacting on schools and social care.
3. Investment. This pressure stood at £5-6m at the start of the process but has now been reduced to almost nothing. It is difficult to invest when there is little money to support existing services.
4. Others. These pressures don't fall into any of the other three categories.

RT stated the total gap in the Council's budget at the beginning of budget planning for 2023-24 was £38 million. Although it is being reduced, this is a figure significantly in excess of the scale compared with previous years. We do have some reserves and looking at how we theme those reserves around areas/services of greatest risk. Statutory services are really important but also some of the other services such as partnership working, so we are looking at how this is supported as well. RT expressed that the organisation will cope and we will get through these challenges, but they are significant.

CJ thanked RT for explaining it how it is. CJ urged us all to work together as decisions we make as individual organisations will have impacts on other organisations, so we need to come together to get through this successfully.

FK explained that there is a £26.9m forecast budget pressures for 23/24 in the health board, which was originally £17.1m. Pressures include health care prices, winter planning e.g., hospital beds, Afghan & Ukraine resettlement, staff costs. Energy costs are being dealt with separately to the deficits highlighted but it is another pressure.

MB queried if it could be useful to gather info about budget pressures from the different organisations to help us work together.

<p>MB commented how it is a fine balance between providing service and ensuring partnership work gets funding. RT highlighted how some things take a long time to implement but budget pressures are forcing us to focus on the immediate term.</p>	
<p>6. Discussion - Cost of Living Crisis -</p> <p>LB explained that there is a Cost-of-Living webpage on the council website. As well as a Warm Welcome page that shows what Warm Spaces exist in the Vale, it was initially launched with 20 sites, but Welsh government funding has been made available and that will increase the numbers of Warm Spaces.</p>	
<p>7. Delivering our Well-being Objectives inc. governance and evidence base –</p> <p>HM explained that the consultation on the draft Wellbeing Plan commenced in November and will run until the end of January 2023. There is also the development of the evidence base work ongoing by LF. This will support the work being undertaken to deliver Well-being Objectives and priority workstreams and will provide context and a greater understanding of the issues building on the Well-being Assessment.</p> <p>LF talked through the different reports that the evidence base consists of, explaining how there are four reports from the Wellbeing Assessment that are the foundation of the evidence base. These are the demographic report, education and employment report, health and communities report, environmental and transport report. The data from these reports has been embedded into PowerBI and Microsoft Sway so that it can be presented and interrogated for further analysis.</p> <p>HM described how the work is developing and so would appreciate any feedback on the evidence base. A reminder of the priorities and objectives in the draft WB plan were provided. HM informed attendees that an Age Friendly Officer is now in post due to Welsh Government funding and already has been reaching out to public. Work with deprived communities is also ongoing, and the PSB grant has been used to fund work with an organisation called Grasshopper to gain greater insight into our more deprived communities and to inform an engagement plan.</p> <p>HM explained the governance structure of the PSB and other partnership working, while highlighting some of the partnership working taking place such as on food poverty and environmental issues.</p> <p>FK praised the good work happening and raised some points about the governance structure. In terms of community safety, there needs to be consideration of how the Area Planning Board feed into the system. For food partnerships we should have operational partnerships sitting under Amplifying Prevention Board.</p> <p>HM also advised that there is funding coming through from Welsh Government to strengthen work with food partnerships.</p>	
<p>8. Forward Work Programme 2023 –</p> <p>HM explained the meeting dates for next year. The WB plan consultation update will be brought to the meeting in January. The February meeting will be to consider changes to the WB plan post consultation and so it can be sent back out to organisations to get it confirmed ready for the formal sign off on the 3rd May. HM said she will send an email</p>	

<p>out to confirm the timeframes for the WB Plan being signed off. HM highlighted that if organisations have items, they want to build into the work programme for next year, then please let her know and they can be included.</p> <p>FK noted that her Director of Public Health report will be published by end of 2022 and will have gone to the board in January but could be included on the April 2023 meeting agenda.</p>	
<p>9. Any Other Business –</p> <p>No other business was discussed.</p>	
<p>10. Date of next meeting – 23rd January 10-12 pm</p>	