

## **Bridgend PSB response to the consultation on Barriers to the successful Implementation of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 – enquiry by the Public Accounts Committee.**

### **1 Awareness and understanding of the Act and its implications.**

1.1 The awareness and understanding across Public Services Board (PSB) members is good. Our annual report for 19-20 highlights activities against the sustainability principle and five ways of working. The PSB development work shop in December and joint conference with Cwm Taf PSB and Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Partnership Board (RPB) considered respective roles in relation to the Act and reflected on emerging issues and how they would influence our working. The PSB development workshop wanted to see more working with front line staff across organisations.

### **2 The resources available to public bodies to implement the Act and how effectively they have been deployed.**

2.1 The support for administering the PSB and the four sub groups is provided by Bridgend County Borough Council.

2.2 The funding from WG for the PSB has been used in previous years to support community engagement, research and the preparation and publication of the annual report and has been essential for the PSB in taking forward its priorities and informing citizens and partners about the PSB work. While it was understood Welsh Government (WG) had to divert funding to tackle Covid 19 the lack of WG funding for 2020 to 2021 was disappointing.

2.3 Natural Resources Wales have provided PSBs with funding to support their activity this year and for a further 4 years which will enable the PSB Assets sub board to progress delivery of the Wellbeing Plan priority – Healthy Choices in a Healthy Environment.

2.4 Other WG grants are used to support work of the Community Safety Partnership for anti-social behaviour and through regional partnerships for delivery on domestic violence and substance misuse agendas.

2.5 With these limited resources, the PSB has focused on promoting joint work across partners and has developed excellent working relationships. We have tried to avoid becoming a composite of existing joint work across the extensive partnership landscape, but to add value through bringing partners together around an emerging issue.

### **3 Support provided to public bodies by the Future Generations Commissioner.**

3.1 The commissioners' office has provided many useful resources and contacts in journey checkers and simple solutions. Events and conferences have also been a way of sharing experiences and ideas across Wales. Their specific feedback from needs assessment and wellbeing plan were welcomed.

### **4 The leadership role of the Welsh Government.**

4.1 Welsh Government support national coordination of the delivery of the wellbeing plans. Locally our WG representative has been really helpful in providing a link to national focus. As set out here, the PSB would like to focus its activity to a smaller number of areas and WG should support this local approach. The review of partnerships found that local approaches and structures are necessary to reflect local priorities

### **5 Any other barriers to successful implementation of the Act (e.g. Brexit, COVID, etc.).**

5.1 The breadth of the wellbeing plan is important in engaging partners in the wider impacts on wellbeing and PSB's are encouraged in this but the PSB and RPB/PSB workshops highlighted need to focus on a smaller number of things to really achieve the benefits we want to see from the implementation of the Act.

5.2 The PSB development workshop and PSB RPB event found a wish to focus more on Climate Change and also Brexit. Whilst uncertainty remains around Brexit, PSBs and public bodies would need to be agile to respond. PSB also wanted to look at vulnerability in our communities that has a cross cutting impact on the ability to achieve objectives in many areas e.g. ACE's community safety, poverty, health and wellbeing.

5.3 In looking at the long term outcomes for our wellbeing plan the PSB didn't believe that Covid changed those priorities but agreed to use the community impact assessment to direct how the PSB works on those priorities.

## 6 How to ensure that the Act is implemented successfully in the future.

6.1 Our development workshop found that there was no appetite for a change in structure or sub boards but the PSB should focus on

- Engagement with citizens both about the PSB activity so that citizens see the changes made and also engagement with citizens on topic areas to raise awareness and promote behaviour change e.g. healthy lives.
- Working between meetings and engaging front line staff to identify solutions
- Working more across sub boards
- Having a framework to measure how effective we are, evidence impact and bring clarity to long term vision

6.2 Following the national workshop on 20 March 2019 in Cardiff, Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Partnership Board, Bridgend Public Services Board and Cwm Taf Public Services Board decided to continue discussions regionally. 42 delegates from RPB, Bridgend PSB and Cwm Taf PSB came together in discussion groups to consider:

- What principles might underpin future practical collaboration between boards?
- What opportunities would the three boards want to work jointly on in the short term?
- What improvement to working arrangements could promote collaboration and coordination?
- What immediate actions should we take?

6.3 **Principles** – initial analysis identified principles to enable the boards to collaborate more effectively would involve

- Clarity of purpose – a single plan, shared priorities, simply articulated
- Streamlined delivery structures - one executive board, defined roles
- Keep communities at the heart –place based delivery, co-production
- Bold ambition to do it differently, challenge 'business as usual'
- Prevention focus - single assessment
- Keep asking are we adding value

6.4 **Opportunity for collaboration:** Delegates looked at eight suggested areas for further collaboration and some initial analysis highlights the following areas:

- Understanding and preventing vulnerabilities (wellbeing and isolation, early years, mental health)
- Climate change
- Health and housing/ homelessness
- Poverty

6.5 **Working arrangements** -To improve working arrangements delegates suggested:

- Rationalising delivery arrangements to reduce duplication and burden on partners
- Ensure any future body has broad membership and equality of all members
- Combining Bridgend and Cwm Taf PSBs
- Set out a strong strategic regional view in one overarching plan