

Pembrokeshire Public Services Board

Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Sir Benfro



MINUTES OF PEMBROKESHIRE PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD Tuesday 20th February 2024 at 10.00am (Microsoft Teams meeting)

Present

Cllr. Neil Prior	Cabinet Member for Corporate Improvement and Communities, PCC (Chair)
Mydrian Harries	Assistant Chief Officer- Director of Resources, MAWWFRS
Darren Mutter	Head of Children's Services, PCC
Caroline Drayton	Operations Manager, NRW
Iwan Thomas	Chief Executive Officer, PLANED
Alison Perry	Director of Commissioning, OPCC
Linda Jones	WW Regional Partnership Board
Barry Walters	Principal, Pembrokeshire College
Tegryn Jones	Chief Executive, PCNPA
Sue Leonard (arr. 10:10)	Chief Officer, PAVS
Anna Malloy (arr. 10:55)	Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Manager, Port of Milford Haven (left 11:43)
Robert Green	Interim Consultant Public Health/Deputy Director Public Health, Hywel Dda UHB
Rachel Wolfendale	Project Co-ordinator, Co-Production Wales
Bailie Olivia-Jones	Planning and Performance Assistant, MAWWFRS
Yovieta Andrews	NGDP Graduate, PCC
Robyn Collip	NGDP Graduate, PCC

Support/secretariat

Nick Evans	Corporate Policy and Partnerships Manager, PCC
Lynne Richards	Corporate Partnerships Officer, PCC
Rachael Rimmer	Corporate Policy Support Officer, PCC

Apologies

Will Bramble	Director of Social Care and Housing, PCC
Michael Gray	Executive Director of Public Health, Hywel Dda UHB
Dr Ardiana Gjini	Deputy Director for Local Government
Claire Germain	Transformation and Partnerships, Welsh Government
Chief Executive, PCC	

The meeting commenced at 10:02am

1. Welcome and Apologies

NP welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from those listed above.

NP briefly gave a recap of the structure of the PSB and its gold, silver and bronze levels. He also stated that the notes and presentations from the recent Poverty Summit had now been circulated to the group.

2. Minutes of the last meeting / Action Log

The minutes of the last meeting held on 28th November 2023 were recorded as accurate. Two actions from the previous meeting had been completed.

Actions assigned to SK were not completed as SK has left the organisation. The following action was agreed:

- LR will make contact with Daniel West to see whether it is still possible to circulate the relevant documents.

Two of the actions were due to be discussed in this meeting:

1. Secure capacity to move forward with the development of a Nature Recovery Action Plan for Pembrokeshire PSB- ***Discussed in item 4***
2. Review nominated WB Plan contacts for each PSB member on sub-groups- Will be completed as part of the review of Well-being plan delivery- ***Discussed in item 5***

3. Well-being Plan ‘Spotlight’ session – Poverty project

NP invited DM to provide an update on the Poverty project.

Poverty Summit

DM began by thanking all of those who had helped with the running and organisation of the Poverty Summit that was held on the 14th of February 2024. The event had excellent take-up and attendance, with over 100 people attending on the day. As this was an inaugural event, DM explained that he would be taking some time over the next few weeks with colleagues to reflect on how the event could be improved upon in future years. DM expressed that the Poverty Summit was all about garnering commitment, but that work needed to begin on actually making this work take place. DM invited attendees to ask questions or make any comments regarding the Poverty Summit.

TJ explained that there had been some very informed audience members at the event who had some great insight into the topics that had been discussed. He suggested that perhaps there needed to be more focus on allowing individuals to challenge public service leaders in these forums. DM agreed, and clarified that he was making contact with various attendees of the Poverty Summit who had been challenging the points and topics raised.

DM also stated that going forward, an immediate priority for the Poverty working group would be to enhance the lived experience membership of the group, as it currently only had organisational representation. He expressed that it was important to populate working groups with individuals who think differently and are willing to challenge leaders to review and reflect on their work. SL offered the support of PAVS in helping to bring together a taskforce or advisory group to help people with lived experiences in poverty come together. DM suggested that there is a need to identify the people who are making a big difference with their work, but who are less vocal about what is being done. This will allow us to listen and learn from them. He also emphasised the importance of repeating good examples of work across the county. For example, work undertaken by the Milford Youth Matters Project could be replicated in other youth centres across Pembrokeshire

DM suggested that creating a lived experiences sub-group at the bronze level could be a potential way forward. NP agreed that getting people with lived experiences involved at the bronze level is a positive step, and suggested that the same idea could be explored for the Strengthening Communities workstream.

It was suggested that the following action should be taken forward:

- Involve individuals with lived experiences of poverty at the bronze level of the PSB.

IT suggested that the Poverty Summit had been useful in highlighting the issues that we know are out there, but that going forward it's important to show how we are looking to resolve these issues using our collective resources. IT also expressed that we need to be careful of the language and terminology being used around poverty. He suggested that labelling people with the word 'poverty' can create stigma and barriers, and can discourage people who need support from coming forward. IT stated that we could consider placing greater emphasis on 'health and economic well-being' as an alternative. DM indicated that he had been involved in previous discussions concerning how 'increasing prosperity' was the same as 'reducing poverty', and so could be seen as more appropriate terminology. He clarified that a balance needed to be found to ensure that by focusing on prosperity, the impactful messages of poverty are not ignored. BW agreed that increasing prosperity was good terminology to use, and that his organisation had re-shaped their poverty strategy into a 'financial wellbeing strategy for staff and learners'. He also suggested that only targeting support at those who are at risk of poverty is difficult, and that the best way to ensure support to is to make it available for everyone.

SL added that whilst the Poverty Summit had highlighted a variety of support that's available, it can be quite overwhelming and confusing. She stated that people often don't know where to start. SL highlighted that we already have infrastructure in place to support this that we can continue to invest in, such as the community hub. This will help to support initiatives such as community volunteering. SL emphasised that building this network through the community hub is the plan, and that the infrastructure in place just needs to be mobilised differently.

TJ proposed that there could be greater representation of schools and education in the work surrounding poverty, as they are often on the frontline dealing with these issues as they occur. DM stated that he and James White (Head of Engagement and

Communities) attend the regular meetings of primary and secondary heads, and that they have also occasionally met with them separately to discuss related issues. DM agreed that they could still be more involved with the poverty working group, and that representation for schools and education would be on the agenda for the next working group meeting.

NP stated that he would be attending a PSB conference in Wrexham on Thursday 22nd February 2024, and would relay the features of the Poverty Summit at this conference.

Keep Warm Keep Well

DM provided updates on the Keep Warm Keep Well project:

- 15 organisations will be receiving food poverty support to help deliver relevant projects, and 3 food banks will be receiving awards.
- Work is being done to enhance marketing promotional activities for the community hub. This enhanced marketing includes articles in the Western Telegraph and Facebook posts.
- A networking event was held on 28th November 2023, involving community hubs and the Citizens Advice Bureau. The event promoted collective effort and allowed organisations to forge links with each other.
- The Pembrokeshire Community Support Network continues to meet monthly, allowing members to share practice and support each other.
- Warm packs continue to be distributed through a number of different agencies.
- Warm welcome spaces also continue to be available and funded.

4. Well-being Plan Project updates

Environment themed projects- Biodiversity and the Nature Emergency/Climate Adaptation/Decarbonisation and Net Zero

CD provided attendees with updates for the Environment themed projects:

- A Nature, Decarbonisation and Climate Adaptation sub-group meeting was held on 7th February 2024.
- The sub-group has agreed that they do not have any terms of reference, so they will be creating some.
- Darren Thomas has volunteered to act as temporary Vice-Chair of the sub-group.
- Daniel West has joined PCC and taken over the role of Steve Keating. He will take over the role of Vice-Chair of the sub-group once he has settled into his new role. He will also be taking the lead on future decarbonisation project updates.
- The sub-group has been trying out a helpful new format to increase engagement in meetings. This involves asking each group member how their organisation has been contributing to the work of the group.
- PCNPA gave a presentation about their 5 year management plan at the last sub-group meeting. Discussions surrounding this were positive and collaborative.

CD highlighted that no collective decision had been made at the last PSB meeting about funding for a biodiversity action plan. At the previous meeting, AR had requested £1000 from each partner body to fund the writing of the plan, and some members had indicated that they would be able to contribute. CD asked for clarification whether this is a decision that could be made at this meeting, or whether attendees needed more information regarding the project. She also indicated that NRW would not be able to contribute any funding towards this, due to sitting on multiple PSBs and rules around grants and funding.

NP stated that this was not a decision that could be taken during this meeting, due to current uncertainty around budgets for many organisations. He suggested that a business case may be needed to outline the Action Plan in more detail and highlight what benefits it will have.

RG stated that Hywel Dda UHB is in a similar position to NRW in that they sit on multiple PSBs. As they are required to take an equitable approach across all PSBs, they would also not be able to provide any funding. He stated that there needs to be some shared way of procuring funds for PSBs to reach their potential, and suggested that this could be raised at the PSB Conference on 22nd February.

TJ highlighted that this issue of funding for PSBs has come up in the past, and that concerns need to be passed on to Welsh Government (WG). He suggested that the creation of a business plan would be helpful in this case, and that this could be the standard model going forward. CD shared her concern that the creation of a business case is another piece of work, and that NRW would not be able to fund this either. She clarified that it is only useful to go forward with this if it would be a valuable to do so, and if there is resource within the group to support this. NP suggested that it could be an outline business case, just to indicate to the group what is needed. He stated that a better future approach could be to do more one on one stakeholder work prior to the request for funding or resources, so that there is more awareness within the group beforehand about what is being asked. CD also shared her concern that it is not clear where the end outcome is for this piece of work. As such, the request for funding feels more hypothetical as there is an undefined outcome.

TJ expressed that most organisations are bound by the Section 6 duty on biodiversity, and suggested that there may be some benefit in the creation of a more collective plan. MH and SL similarly suggested that this work may overlap with the work of partners, and that there will likely be aspects in other plans that could contribute to this one.

NP clarified five key points from this discussion, and CD agreed to discuss these with the sub-group at their next meeting:

- Need to recognise current financial difficulties
- Creation of a business plan could be useful to help support request for funding
- Further stakeholder engagement could be helpful in the future before asking for funding and resources
- Could proactively look at plans that already exist
- Possibility to engage with community groups who are keen to get involved

Strengthening Communities

NP gave a brief update regarding the Strengthening Communities Operational Group (previously CCRG), which is the new bronze level group of the PSB. The group had recently had a meeting and were working on a detailed action plan to be presented at the next PSB meeting.

SL stated that there was a lot of interesting work happening in PAVS, PLANED, and the local authority through their anchor projects. She highlighted that SPF funding was available until December, allowing progression of some of the work from the well-being plan such as community profiles and community volunteering. PLANED also had some SPF funding to continue the work surrounding community assets and community land trusts. Non-statutory partners sitting in the third sector have continued to bring in money from other places. NE asked if there was a clear direction of what is being looked at for community profiles. SL clarified that they are looking to see what is out there, and what resources are available to be pulled together as a starting point for communities.

TJ questioned whether it would be possible for the PSB groups to apply for funding through the SPF, and whether PCC could give priority to those projects that align with PSB priorities. NP clarified that many of the funding bids do already align with PSB goals, although perhaps the PSB could apply for this funding in the future.

NP introduced YA to give a brief presentation on the development of the Community Strategy:

- The goal is to develop a structured action plan to make the Council's strategic vision a reality
- It is hoped that this can be taken forward collaboratively
- YA encouraged anyone who is interested to get in touch via email and discuss opportunities for involvement

The following action was agreed:

- YA's email address would be circulated to the group

5. Informal Review of Well-being Plan delivery

NE explained to attendees that it had been almost 12 months since the Well-being Plan was produced. Therefore, a discussion needs to be had regarding what is going well from the plan, and what groups can learn from each other. NE also expressed that this will give a clearer picture of any issues and challenges that have come up over the last 12 months. LR has been in touch with relevant individuals to find a suitable date for this discussion, and there is now a date in the diary. LR clarified that this discussion will feed into the Annual Report that will be produced in May 2024.

NP suggested that a quick Microsoft Forms survey could also be pulled together to feed into the Annual Report. This would make sure that all those that attended PSB meetings could have the opportunity to feed back, not just Chairs and Vic-chairs of sub-groups.

6. AOB

LJ introduced herself as the newly nominated Regional Lead for Social Prescribing. She noted that a questionnaire would soon be circulated with various questions about social prescribing initiatives. This will give the opportunity to highlight good initiatives that may benefit from WG visits.

SL highlighted that the Resourceful Communities Partnership (RCP) would soon be launching a programme of learning events. These have been curated by Together for Change and PAVS on behalf of the RCP. The events will be relatively short, free of charge and based online. SL encouraged PSB members to attend these learning events, and share with any colleagues who may benefit from them. The following action was agreed:

- To circulate the programme of events with PSB partners so people can have the dates in their diaries.

NE highlighted that the WG have been having issues with their booking system for the all Wales PSB event in Wrexham on 22nd February. He requested that anyone who booked onto the event but wasn't on the list to get in touch with him.

The meeting concluded at 12:04pm

Action Log

No.	Pg.	Action	Target date	Owner	Resolution
1	2	Get in contact with Daniel West to see if it's possible to circulate outstanding documents (assigned to SK) from the previous meeting's action log		LR	
2	3	Get individuals with lived experiences in poverty involved at the bronze level of the PSB.		DM	
3	5	Circulate YA's email address to the group		YA/NP	
4	6	Circulate the RCP's learning events programme		LR	