Special Meeting of the Public Services Board - 17/6/2020, 10-11am

Microsoft Teams

Present: -

NAME	ORGANISATION
Emyr Williams (EW)	Snowdonia National Park Authority
Dilwyn Williams (DOW)	Gwynedd Council
Anwen Morgan (AM)	Isle of Anglesey County Council
Ffion Johnstone (FfJ)	Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
Simon Dean (SD)	Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
Andrew Edwards (AE)	Bangor University
Sioned Rees (SR)	Welsh Government
Sian Williams (SW)	Natural Resources Wales
Bethan Russell Williams (BRW)	Mantell Gwynedd
Sian Purcell (SP)	Medrwn Môn
Shan Morris (SM)	North Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Ffrancon Williams (FfW)	Adra
Cllr Llinos Medi Huws (LlMH)	Isle of Anglesey County Council
Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn (DS)	Gwynedd Council
Gillian Jones (GJ)	Probation Service

In attendance: -

Nonn Hughes (NH)	Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board
Sophie Ann Hughes (SAH)	Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board
Dewi Wyn Jones (DWJ)	Gwynedd Council
Bethan Mair Evans (BME)	Translator - Gwynedd Council

Apologies: -

Siobhan Adams	Public Health Wales

Summary of the actions

Item No.	Notes	Whom?	By when?
1.	**Welcome and introduction by the Chair** Gillian Jones, Probation Service and Andrew Edwards, Bangor University were welcomed to their first meeting. It was explained that the purpose of the meeting was to consider specific matters presented in a letter from Julie James, that may give a different focus to the Board's work, with an emphasis on community resilience. It was noted that we had seen good work undertaken across our area and the importance of retaining and developing this in the period following the current crisis. Reference was made to the need to revisit the area's priorities and the Well-being Plan. It was agreed that the way forward was to understand what works well and what needs to be changed as a result of our experiences during this period. AM and DOW were asked to present the regional context.	AM/DOW	
2.	**Setting the context, and regional and local arrangements, as the public bodies begin to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic** The regional strategic coordination Group, under the pandemic response guidance, has coordinated the response of a number of public organisations. It was noted that this emergency was different and required a different type of recovery - namely continue to respond to the emergency for a non-specific period by trying to bring more normality into the balance. It was noted that responsibility had been given to the Economic Ambition Board to lead on the economy field. They had also asked the regional partners of health and social care to look at health and care issues. Therefore a request was made to the PSBs to look at the area of community resilience - which would also include economy and health and social care issues. A view was expressed that it was better for us as a PSB not to focus on regional issues initially, and to focus on looking at the communities of Gwynedd and Anglesey and give consideration to the matters that require attention. Assisting our communities to return to some sort of normality by continuing to deal with the emergency. AM stated that it was not necessary to change much of the existing Well-being Plan. The themes will be the same, however, it will be necessary to place more emphasis on improving the speed of progress.		
3.	**Discussion on the role of the Public Services Board and the work programme for the coming months**		

	Reference was made to the good work undertaken in relation to community resilience. A community resilience team was established in Gwynedd which was a combination of council officers and the third sector. An evaluation was being undertaken of the work done. It was noted that exceptionally good systems had been put in place. Consideration will also need to be given to those areas that faced difficulties e.g. Tywyn and how we had responded to them. It was noted that the cooperation between Mantell Gwynedd and Gwynedd Council had worked well and it was important for us to hold onto the positive lessons that were learnt, as people had the sense of contributing to their communities. There is a need to support this community desire. It was reported that good collaboration had also occurred in Anglesey, collaboration between the Council, Medrwn Môn and Menter Môn. This had worked particularly well in terms of ensuring support to communities and businesses. We have shown that we can respond extremely quickly. It was reported that there were over 850 volunteers in the communities. The communities led the work, with Medrwn Môn supporting them. They have supported groups coming out of the lockdown period, with ten groups showing an interest in establishing themselves officially. Also, currently supporting community hubs to recommence virtually recognising that there continues to be a concern within the communities. Therefore, trying to find a way of maintaining community activity and make the most of those that have shown an interest to volunteer in the community. Reference was made to research work by Cambridge University looking at the impact of Covid on our communities. This will be published in due course. Concern was expressed about the number of questionnaires that will be circulated in the future. The importance of not bombarding groups with these was noted and the need to conduct them jointly. Reference was made to an Intelligence Cell that was established in the West to share information across the sectors. In relation to community transformation it was noted that it was important to continue with the digital work. Different ways of working had occurred in the clusters and it was important to continue with the virtual teams. It was proposed to hold the integrated group before mid-July, in order to note the lessons and agree on the next steps. It was said that community resilience work needed to be kept local and close to the people. The Isle of Anglesey Council had focused on three elements namely - food, volunteers and well-being (support in Bereavement etc.). It was noted that the PSB work programme was currently unclear, and it was asked what specifically will be the work of PSB, and what is our expectation of the communities. It was re-reported that the	FfJ	

	response from our communities had been excellent, however, they were responding to something very specific. It will be necessary to consider the requirements of our communities as the crisis recedes. It was noted that the PSB work programme would need to be agreed stemming from the request of the regional recovery group. It was added that the work programme (Well-being Plan) had been drafted based on the impact assessment. The themes were the same and this work needs to continue. It is recognised that some aspects will change but the aim should be to proceed at a better speed with a commitment to deliver what we have set out to do. It was expressed that it would be difficult to continue with the well being plan as the needs of our communities can look quite different following the pandemic. New problems are likely to face us and therefore we will need to be alert and ready to adapt if need be. We will need to have an understanding of what matters to our communities as we come out of the crisis. Businesses will suffer and there will be an increase in unemployment and homelessness. Consideration will need to be given to the implications of a lack of school education and experiences for children during the period. It was suggested that a session should be organised soon to identify what the problems of our communities are, and if we as PSB cannot respond, how do we act as individual bodies to ensure that someone does respond. The Fire Service continues to analyse the lessons but the biggest change to the service was that fire crews had been more available during the lockdown period. Following this a number will return to work but some will be out of work therefore this will need to be considered. In terms of homes, it was noted that matters had been very different and the problems of homes had been different. Have learnt that the fire service was very flexible and had been able to adapt and respond. Looking at how to continue with matters that have worked better. We are concerned about the Winter - the weather will be worse and mental health will be lower. There will be more risk in the home when people are low and do not get the support they need. The main matters that NRW have been focusing on, that are relevant to our discussions is how we as a Board collaborate with other partners to ensure that the economy has a green and sustainable recovery. Many in our communities have noticed that it is possible to live and work in different ways e.g. able to travel less. We need to consider how we can collaborate to support communities to work and live more sustainably. Challenges in terms of climate change and environment emergency continue - we will now look at the next steps. Opportunities have arisen as a result of the pandemic - people have noticed the change in the environment during the lockdown period, and a number of	NH/SAH	

	people have taken more notice of their local environment when undertaking physical exercise close to home. As a sub-group we need to consider how we can support people to learn more about their local area and environment and continue with the arrangements adopted during the lockdown period. The greatest challenge is the financial challenge to the public bodies. We consider that there is an opportunity for us to collaborate more to try and safeguard services. Offices are an example - the nature of offices will change, there might be a need for fewer of them and there may be room to work together. Is it also possible to look in the short term on how we can offer the use of our buildings to those who need them more e.g. health or education? An update was given by Welsh Government noting the great change in how they use staff and resources. Resources completely re-directed. On the whole, there was a positive response by staff regarding working from home and therefore we can consider how we will operate in the future. It was also necessary to consider how things would be if there was a second 'wave'. Reference was made to 'amber' and 'green' periods and the potential to consider this in the context of the well-being plan. It was very difficult to consider how things will look in terms of the economy. In environmental terms, the environmental team had concerns that matters will return to the previous norm very quickly by trying to recover the economy. The challenges in moving on will be more difficult than the challenges during the last 12 months. It was noted that good work had been undertaken in the housing sector. The sector has a contribution to make in several areas. Loneliness had been highlighted and it was important not to lose sight on the impact and the work made when getting to grips with loneliness. Housing can also contribute to the field of health and care through an alternative provision, and also can contribute to the economy field via construction work etc. Clarity would be required regarding how EAB responds to economy issue and what is agreed in the field of health and care. It would be useful to get confirmation of how we respond locally and regionally to these. This comment was agreed. It was suggested that EAB has scoping work to be undertaken. It was asked how the foundational economy receives attention from the EAB. It was noted that every local authority reported to the AB on the situation of the local economy. The BU terms of reference will change considerably and we have to be aware of this. It was added that two way communication between PSB and the EAB was important. The main work of the EAB programme office was the growth deal. Additional discussions are to take place regarding work that will run in parallel with the growth deal e.g. developmental work in the tourism field.	Climate change sub-group	

	It was suggested that there was a role for the LA to undertake work on the foundational economy rather than the AB at a regional level. **The discussion was summarised as follows:** • It was confirmed that Well-being Plan was nearly in place, however, different elements will need to be considered in accordance with what we have learnt and continue to learn about the needs of our communities as a result of the pandemic. • Research will need to be conducted to capture what is happening in our communities. • The need to look at digital connectivity was noted if there was to be progress in flexible ways of working. • The importance of keeping an eye on not moving work far from our people and communities was noted in moving forward. • It was necessary to be vigilant regarding the possible problems linked to loneliness in our society - especially if the situation continues into the winter. **Action Points:** • PSB support team to coordinate the work required between now and the next Board meeting in September. • PSB support team to also look at organising a session to consider the matters discussed today in greater detail prior to the next meeting in September. • It was noted that the Annual Report was to be circulated by the PSB support team to get partners' observations. • A letter of response will be drafted to the letter of Julie James AM, to confirm that we are looking at these matters and exploring specific pieces of work.	PSB support team	cgaph