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Flintshire and Wrexham Public Services Board - Annual Report 2025/2026

Sept 2026

This is the annual report from Flintshire and Wrexham Public Services Board (PSB). It is based on a short update against each of the actions that the strategic partnership has been working towards during the year.

Each of the actions has been scored on the basis of how the strategic partnership feels the work has progressed during the year. That means scoring the partnership, not just the importance of the issue.

- Green – a critical area of focus where sustained progress is being made
- Yellow – an issue where extra capacity or resource may be needed
- Amber – issues which are being monitored at a strategic level but being delivered by partner organisations
- Red - an area of partnership failure

Our partnership actions are linked to the new regional Agenda.cymru website, which is a host of best practice, stories and narratives about how each of the three public services boards in north Wales is working to community improve well-being.

We were pleased to be able to host Derek Walker, the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, at our February 2026 meeting in Theatr Clwyd. We were able to discuss the diverse range of projects we have underway, and spotlight our brilliant community partners who work so hard to make a real difference on the ground.

This year our priority is the delivery of the climate change risk assessment and the well-being assessment. These reports will be rich sources of insight. But they are only the start of a conversation. We ***must*** act on what this evidence tells us, so that we move beyond ticking boxes and start changing lives.

We will publish our 26/27 workplan along with progress updates on the regional website. And we will continue to work with our communities, based on what has worked, what we have learned together and what still needs to happen.

Diolch

Nina Ruddle

Chair of Flintshire and Wrexham Public Services Board

Annual scorecard 25/26 – Sept 2026

		Score
	Build a strong strategic partnership	
1	Strengthen our role in the partnership landscape across North Wales	Green
	Flintshire and Wrexham Public Services Board feel that building a strong strategic partnership is critical at two levels. Firstly, it means that we can co-ordinate our organisations to work with our communities, agreeing together where delivery is working well, and where we need to get better. Secondly, a strong local voice for our communities can ensure that we benefit from sharing ideas across our region and building new ways of doing things. We launched our regional website earlier in 2026. www.agenda.cymru is our central place to share best practice and to innovate and collaborate across our region. Led by the North Wales Insight Partnership, the three PSBs across North Wales use the website to share best practice, co-produce plans with communities and stakeholders, and host learning such as the latest climate change risk assessment and the local well-being assessments. The North Wales Insight Partnership brings together people who use data, research, community feedback and professional knowledge to help improve life across our region. The purpose of the partnership is to use insight to enable better well-being outcomes for people and communities. Over the last five years we have focused on building our understanding of the well-being of our communities, through conversations led by people with lived experience, bringing people, communities, decision makers and service providers into the same space. The North Wales Insight Partnership sits within a wider place-based approach that is increasingly gaining national and international recognition. Wrexham University's civic mission and the development of NWIP were highlighted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in its 2025 *Leading Local Change* report as an international example of collaborative, evidence-informed place leadership. Learning from Wrexham and North Wales has also contributed to national work through the Key Cities Innovation Network, Local Trust and policy-engagement networks. Wrexham University is one of nine UK institutional case studies contributing to emerging work led by Universities UK and the National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement on how universities create and demonstrate public value. This recognition provides external validation of the approach being developed in North Wales. Its significance lies not in any single project, but in the way NWIP brings evidence, research, professional knowledge and lived experience together—connecting regional collaboration with locally led action and helping partners translate shared insight into practical change.	
2	Build the relationship between communities, third sector organisations and the public sector.	Yellow
	Flintshire and Wrexham PSB is continuing to lead the way in shaping how people can have a voice in decisions that impact their lives. This ranges from meaningful engagement around the well-being assessments to the programme of Bob talks delivered by young people.	

	We are particularly proud of the regional Community Narratives project, the 100 stories project and the North Wales Access Panel, which show the unique role of the PSB in supporting innovative work to flourish. Not every project will achieve what we thought might happen, and co-production is chaotic and messy but there is always learning to be had in every experience	
	Co-producing Community Narratives Community Narratives is an innovative and collaborative project between North Wales Public Services Boards, Wrexham University, and six communities across North Wales The aim of the project is to work with communities, using creative methodologies (such as art, sculpture, poetry, photography, printing), to support them telling their story of their place – describing what it looks and feels like to live/work there and what their hopes are for the future of their community. Wrexham University has robustly evaluated this work, so that we have a creative, narrative, co-produced model, which can be used to understand our communities in a more holistic and richer way.	
	The 100 Stories Project As a Bevan Exemplar – this partnership between the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board and Wrexham University's Civic Mission has focused on how to improve how young people transition from children's to adult health services. The project has gathered 100 varied lived-experience narratives to understand the complex systems young people navigate when moving out of Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), learning disability, or neurodevelopmental services. It is directly led by patients, families, carers, and professionals, sharing their personal experiences through face-to-face sessions, workshops, and leadership training. The idea is to maintain this model of empowerment, participation and co-production, so that insights are used by decision-makers to coproduce better service frameworks and create lasting system changes.	
	The North Wales Access Panel It is now thirty years since the Disability Discrimination Act and fifteen years since the Equality Act was enacted, and yet public services are often neither accessible to nor inclusive of disabled people. The North Wales Access Panel is made up of people with lived experience and colleagues from third sector organisations. Supported by the three PSBs across north Wales, the panel has been surveying our public buildings to identify improvements necessary as well as areas of good practice. The work brings disabled people's expertise together to advise organisations on how to improve accessibility to their buildings and spaces including access to information and services. The aim is to provide specific recommendations on what reasonable adjustments can be made in relation to citizens with physical and cognitive impairment, sensory loss and / or impairment and neurodivergent people. Hopefully in the future, with the support of public sector organisations across north Wales, the Access Panel will become a sustainable business model, to advise and inform organisations as well as bringing lived experience and practical guidance to future development and new housing.	

3	Identify the capacity, networks and funding opportunities needed to build wellbeing.	Amber
	We are continuing to forge a strong, confident network across partner organisations, sharing ideas and building trust. Everything that we are trying to do is impact focused, so that we continue to build long term resilience. However, one key strategic issue that we have struggled with, is whilst there is loads of activity happening at a community level, public sector organisations are not always sufficiently resourced to get involved with a sustained focus. So we have been able to build a strong, strategic partnership at the PSB level, but without enough dedicated long term capacity at an organisation this does not readily translate into progress at a community level. The North Wales Insight Partnership has been developed to support the three PSBs to place our communities at the heart of the regional partnership landscape. But it is the partner organisations themselves who need to work with communities. This is happening, and hopefully Flintshire and Wrexham Public Services Board can enable partner organisations to collaborate, to share brave space, to build resilient systems and to be led by communities and local decision makers. The PSB has been involved with work in Caia Park in Wrexham, trying to bridge the gap between residents and PSB partners to make the aims of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act ring true at street level. The aim of this work is to make a real dent in stubborn and persistent poverty and health inequalities in Wrexham's urban heart, looking at the 'here and now' precarity challenges of the cost of living crisis, both on residents and on the local anchor organisations that support them.	
4	Evaluate the requirements of becoming a Marmot region.	Yellow
	The North Wales Regional Partnership Board is working with the three PSBs to develop an Anchor Charter. This is a simple concept. If large public sector organisations across North Wales can join forces, with a clear focus on the wider determinants of health then they will improve the health and wellbeing of their communities and their workforces. The Charter's aim will be to improve life expectancy and healthy life expectancy for all communities in North Wales. Work will intensely focus on the gap between the least, and most, deprived communities by focusing on environment, communities, housing, food, employment, learning, and active and creative lifestyles. This regional approach will align with pilot work within Denbighshire as part of the commitment for Wales to become a Marmot nation. https://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/taking-action/marmot-places	
	Develop our whole system approach	
5	Enable the regional climate change risk assessment work.	Green

	The partner organisations that make up the three North Wales PSBs have worked together to produce a rich and detailed evidence base for each local authority area. This work identifies the risks facing our communities and stakeholders. This will allow us to identify where we now need to take critical and sometimes difficult decisions to build our long term resilience. Developed through a multi-agency collaboration, the local reports seek to guide long-term, preventative resilience planning across infrastructure, health, ecosystems, digital systems and the local economy in Flintshire and Wrexham. Drawing from UK and Welsh Climate Change Risk Assessments (CCRA3), this work has also supported the development of an regional Risk Assessment. The climate change risk assessment will support our forthcoming well-being assessments, and has focused on: • How have past climate impacts already impacted on well-being? • Which communities were most impacted? • How will future risks impact our communities? Who is most vulnerable? • What mitigations are already in place? • Are risks and mitigations inter-dependent across organisations? • Are mitigations robust to 2050 and beyond? It has been hard work and has taken leadership at all levels, but this now means climate change risk will sit at the heart of everything our organisations and communities in Flintshire and Wrexham do, helping to align and co-ordinate our actions through a framework of the five ways of working. By taking time to build up effective and trusted relationships and supported by the North Wales Insight Partnership, this work has built an innovative model of regional working to which can be applied to other system challenges. We will put all the data, evidence and insight on our Agenda.cymru website so that future organisational and community level plans and strategies can be consistent, long term and deliver multiple benefits through partnership working.	
6	Ensure the regional well-being assessment process is successful	Yellow
	We have been collaborating strongly across our region, to develop a regional/local approach to producing the evidence base that partners and communities need to shape our future plans and activities. Wrexham Council is the lead statutory partner for the Flintshire and Wrexham Public Services Board in commissioning support to produce the 2026 Well-being Assessment. The production of a Well-being Assessment is a specialised piece of work requiring expertise framing social research, data analysis, community engagement and futures thinking within the context of the Well-being of Future Generations Act. Welsh Government regional support funding has been allocated through the Insight Partnership to support the delivery of statutory well-being assessments across North Wales. The Flintshire and Wrexham PSB is producing a rich well-being assessment, and is working closely with the other PSBs to pick out regional trends and identify future issues and opportunities to work together.	

	The requirement for each PSB to produce a separate well-being assessment every five years tends to interrupt the development of the strategic partnership, as limited resources and capacity are diverted away from building resilient communities. There are two areas where we are looking to innovate with our 2026 well-being assessment. By using our regional website Agenda.cymru as the home for our assessment, any supporting datasets and best practice, we can enable all PSB partner organisations to use the same insight to develop their plans and strategies. Additionally, we want to evaluate how we can make the most of the public mapping project to inform our well being assessment. Public mapping started as a research collaboration between the University of Cambridge, Cardiff University, Bangor University and Wrexham University, looking at how planning our places could become fairer, more inclusive and better informed through the use of mapped data. It has since evolved into a shared digital platform that turns lived experience into evidence for better decisions Home Since the start of 2026, we have had a physical space for this work based in Ty Pawb, Wrexham. The Wrexham Room has supported ongoing placemaking engagement focused on Wrexham's built environment, through workshops, mapping, and co-design activities with schools, youth groups, and local organisations including Senedd yr Ifanc, Mind Our Future and the Wrexham Community and Culture Trust. Key findings highlight the importance of green spaces and concerns about safety, accessibility, and opportunities for revitalisation and the work has gathered local perspectives on wellbeing, safety, nature, and the city centre. Wrexham Room uses mapping as a tool for discussing and recording people's views on their local area, layering existing social, economic, environmental and cultural data with community-collected data, to create rich, hyper-local insight. There are plans to extend this work into Flintshire via a roaming room, to visit and collaborate with local communities. Flintshire Local Voluntary Council hosted a Third Sector Conference at Theatr Clwyd in March 2026. Covering a range of health and social care issues, from social prescribing, young people at risk of criminal exploitation, in-work poverty and the complex challenges of youth homelessness and about complex mental health issues and the support from staff and volunteers with 'living' experience of trauma, the aim was for PSB members to hear messages from the community first hand in order to build consultation for the well-being assessment. www.flvc.org.uk	
7	Embed the regional Healthy Travel Charter across our organisations	Green

	Flintshire and Wrexham PSB has been at the heart of developing a regional Healthy Travel Charter, aligning how partners embed active travel within their organisations. This model of collaborating as a region, whilst working locally with communities has been successfully used by the climate change risk assessment project to ensure that progress is sustainable and locally owned. A core of PSB partners has signed up to the regional Healthy Travel Charter. The next steps will be to work with communities and third sector organisations to build local resilience and to explore how active travel can enhance the effectiveness of other themes. This could be developing better, greener ways to get between where people live and where jobs, schools or facilities are. Progress has been supported by Public Health Wales and the Walkwheelcycle Trust (formerly Sustrans). At a regional level, the PSB's Workplaces Outcomes Board has been key to co-ordinating strategic activity and building support within partner organisations, developing links with other areas of work such as the emerging Anchor Charter and the healthy weight North Wales programme.	
8	Support the growth of the regional Children's University	Yellow
	Children's University started life as a Flintshire and Wrexham Public Services Board initiative. It has developed into a regional partnership supporting children and young people to access and receive recognition for learning beyond the classroom. Its particular strength has been connecting schools, families and community organisations, including in communities where children may experience barriers to accessing extracurricular opportunities. During the pilot, 1,161 children and young people from 51 schools across the region recorded more than 27,500 hours of learning, with 660 children graduating and approximately 4,000 family members attending the graduation celebrations. We have continued work with an extended school day in Wrexham and continue to develop innovation for Children and Young Peoples well being. An independent evaluation by Wrexham University is informing the next stage of the programme and how this regional infrastructure can be sustained and developed.	
9	Increase trauma informed understanding across our organisations	Yellow
	Wrexham University became the first university in the UK to be recognised as a Trauma and Adverse Childhood Experience (TrACE) informed institution. This work has been developed in partnership with the Welsh Government-funded, Public Health Wales-hosted ACE Hub Wales and contributes to the national Trauma-Informed Wales Framework. The work has included developing a network of TrACE champions, increasing trauma-informed awareness across partner organisations, carrying out Trauma and ACE-Informed Organisational Toolkit audits, and testing approaches including reflective supervision and public narrative training. The PSB's Workforce Board has also started to look at how partners could develop a more consistent, shared approach to trauma-informed practice. This provides a strong foundation for potential future collective action across the partner organisations.	
	Build a coproduction approach with communities and young people	

10	Actively support young people who are NEET or care experienced	Amber
	This hasn't been a focus for the Public Service Board as a strategic partnership this year. There has been considerable research this year into the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training or education at a UK level and this will be critical to inform our next well-being plan. The Milburn Interim Report by Alan Milburn, published in May 2026, diagnoses a profound "whole system failure" driving the rising number of young people who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) in the UK • Scale of the Crisis: Nearly one million young people in the UK are currently NEET, with projections warning this could rise to 1.25 million within five years without major structural reform. • Imbalanced Spending: Public money is heavily skewed toward passive support rather than active help; for every £1 spent on youth employment support, about £25 is spent on cash benefits. • Outdated Welfare State: The current welfare system is designed for temporarily unemployed older workers, failing young people who lack a work history or foundational readiness. • Systemic Disconnects: Failures span across joined-up services, including limitations in health, education, welfare, and the loss of local community infrastructure like youth clubs. Responsibility for a building a systematic approach to NEETs will continue to be led by the Regional Partnership Board, and so it will be critical to that the three north Wales PSBs are at the heart of this work.	
11	Develop a programme of reverse mentoring.	Amber
	We haven't specifically yet developed a reverse mentoring programme, and so will commit to carry this action forward into our forward work plan for 26/27. Some dedicated capacity in this area could enable a cohort of children and young people to build their understanding of the PSB, spending time with partners at a strategic level, understanding decision making and becoming a part of the process. We do feel confident that we have continued to really listen to children and young people and to work with them to build our collective understanding of how systematically using the five ways of working within the Future Generations Act could enable us to change long term outcomes. Bringing young people together with members of the Public Services Board is an effective way to break down barriers and to bring energy into decision making. As a region we have continued to work with the Children's Commissioner on how we promote Children's rights, and we are committed to continuing to place the Right Way approach at the heart of our next well-being plan. Flintshire and Wrexham PSB enabled the pilot of the Future Leaders programme, which was then successfully rolled out across the region, by Wrexham based Xplore!. This programme went into schools to have conversations with young people about	

	what the Future Generations Act actually means to them, and how we can develop small projects together to sustain a momentum of change.	

Edited by Michael Cantwell 30/9/2026