



MINUTES OF PEMBROKESHIRE PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD
Tuesday 26th September 2023 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
Iwan Thomas	Chief Executive Officer, PLANED
Tegryn Jones	Chief Executive, PCNPA
Cllr. John Davies	Vice Chair, MAWW Fire Authority
Alison Perry	Director of Commissioning, OPCC (arr. 10:08)
Sue Leonard	Chief Officer, PAVS (arr. 10:08)
Claire Germain	Deputy Director for Local Government Transformation and Partnerships, Welsh Government (arr. 10:21)
Linda Jones	West Wales Care Partnership
Ardiana Gjini	Executive Director of Public Health
David Evans	Vice-Principal, Pembrokeshire College
Christine Harley	Probation Service
Darren Thomas	Head of Infrastructure, PCC
Huwel Manley	Natural Resources Wales

In attendance for item 3

Jessie Buchanan	Together for Change Co-ordinator
David Astins	PCC
Rhian Bennett	PCC
Sarah Oliver	PCC
Robyn Collip	NGDP Graduate, PCC
Yovieta Andrew	NGDP Graduate, PCC
Huw Rowlands	NGDP Graduate, PCC

In attendance for item 4

Gemma Baker	PCC
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Support/Secretariat

Nick Evans	Corporate Policy and Partnerships Manager, PCC
Rachael Rimmer	Corporate Policy Support Officer, PCC
Amy Richmond-Jones	Engagement, Planning and Performance Manager, MAWWFRS

Apologies

Will Bramble	Chief Executive, PCC
Richard Brown	Assistant Chief Executive, PCC
Phil Kloer	Executive Medical Director, Hywel Dda (Vice-Chair)
Darren Mutter	Head of Children's Services, PCC
Caroline Drayton	Operations Manager, NRW
Barry Walters	Principal, Pembrokeshire College

The meeting commenced at 10:03am

1. Welcome and Apologies

NP welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that there would be additional attendees from PCC in this meeting, who had been invited to the meeting to discuss progress on the strengthening communities project. Apologies were received from those listed above.

2. Minutes of the last meeting / Action Log

The minutes of the last meeting held on 11th July 2023 were recorded as accurate other than a typo in section 3, where 'winter 2023-23' should read 'winter 2023-24'.

All actions from the previous meeting had been completed

3. Well-being Plan 'Spotlight' session – Strengthening Communities

NP introduced key documents relating to strengthening communities project update which had been included for attendees to view in the agenda pack. He added that PCC has been invited to present on this topic at a webinar by the LGA in October. As part of these key documents, NP highlighted a mindmap/diagram that had been created at a previous communities sub-group meeting which helped to demonstrate visually key work happening across the organisations in the communities space.

NP asked colleagues from PCC who have been working to support strengthening communities to introduce themselves, as their help had allowed great progress to be made on the project. DA, RB, SO and HR introduced themselves and their role to the group. NP also introduced JB to the group as an additional attendee for this meeting. JB outlined her role in co-ordinating the Together for Change programme and talked briefly about the importance of creating a vision for uniting communities through collective action and the role of evidence in empowering communities to become more resourceful.

NP shared that the New Local think tank has been working with the local authority regarding the principle of community power. He also stated that there have been meetings with the Welsh Government around its new communities policy and that they have expressed an interest in the PSB's strengthening communities' workstream. NP also added that PCC work on strengthening communities had been presented to the Council's Improvement and Transformation Board.

NP provided dates of future sessions that relate to strengthening communities work. These include a session with Council and senior members on 30th October, and a communities conference scheduled for 19th October.

He outlined that the communities sub-group has identified key priorities for consideration:

- To examine how to develop and embed evaluation in a period of public sector finance challenges. NP emphasised a need for something with a long-term impact, which would also involve the PSB.
- To identify where organisations can collectively add the most value, including recognising what is missing and which organisations which could contribute are currently not represented.

NP talked more broadly about 8 questions that had been formulated by the strengthening communities sub-group and which were outlined in the supporting papers, which would be useful for the PSB to explore. Of these questions, some were of a particular focus for the PSB's consideration at the meeting:

- The idea of 1,000 community connectors - NP expressed that it would be interesting to explore how the idea of 1000 community connectors (everyday people who are doing good things within their community) could be promoted across Pembrokeshire. He also suggested exploring the idea of a shared community challenge. SL suggested that community champions would be a better description for Pembrokeshire due to potential confusion with community connectors currently working in this space.
- The future role of the Community Co-ordination Recovery Group (CCRG), and put forward a proposal that this should become part of the PSB's formal reporting structure at the Bronze level.

NP invited RB to talk about the CCRG and she outlined the group's background and current position, emphasising that it is a multi-agency group that originally met on a frequent basis to meet requirements under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act. It had consequently re-purposed its focus during the Covid pandemic, first as a means of co-ordinating a community response and establishing the community hub, and latterly a means of supporting communities as part of recovery from the pandemic. The group has also played an essential role in meeting emerging recent challenges, such as the Ukrainian refugee resettlement programme, the cost of living crisis, Keep Warm Keep Well and Operation Nightingale. RB expressed that the group is now in a period of reflection of where its future role lay and thought the group was well placed, given its experience and knowledge, to widen its perspective and play an ongoing role in supporting communities in the future.

NP outlined the proposal for the CCRG to become the bronze delivery group of the PSB in relation to this work, and asked for feedback from attendees. JB expressed her support for this proposal, stating that it would be a good fit. IT also expressed his support for the proposals, discussing how the CCRG has the ability to be a forum where all community endeavours are brought together in a cohesive and sustainable way. AG also supported the proposal, emphasising the importance of sustainable interventions and shifting the focus towards the younger generation. HM supported the proposal as well, discussing initiatives taken by the Welsh Government and PSB's in other counties. SL suggested that the proposal was timely given that the CCRG wants to reshape, and setting up an alternative group was unnecessary and impractical. She expressed her support for the proposal, but suggested that there is a need to more actively involve town and community councils in this work. DT highlighted the importance of being specific around the group's focus and purpose, as well as the need to be able to evaluate what has been achieved.

The group agreed to take the proposal forward. NP identified that some key players are missing, and that any organisation that is relevant to the shared objectives should be involved. The following actions were agreed:

- That each partner give thought as to how they can contribute to the work and to identify what resources each are willing to commit
- That the CCRG considers how it will 'rebrand', and that RB co-ordinates the drafting of new terms of reference
- That the silver co-ordinating sub-group meet to expand on these ideas further

NP invited JB to discuss the upcoming community conference. JB highlighted that the programme will promote discussion around collective solutions, cross-generational practice and understanding what good looks like and learning lessons from those examples. She highlighted that the community conference is open to all and invited attendees to contact her if they wish to attend.

SO discussed arranging a meeting with Adam from the New Local think tank during his visit. She asked partners to get in contact with her if they are interested in being part of that.

Item 5 on the agenda was also covered at this point. NP updated on several conversations with the Welsh Government policy team as part of developmental work on a new communities policy, and that the Welsh Government team would be coming to the communities conference on the 19th October.

4. Well-being Plan Project updates

Poverty:

- GB stated that the Tackling Poverty strategy has been finalised and translated and is ready to be launched at the Tackling Poverty Summit. The summit is likely to be held on 14th February 2024. Guest speakers are currently being contacted and Pembrokeshire College has kindly agreed to host the event.
- Less progress made in some areas due to high level of staff absence.
- The monitoring of the strategy is a key priority, and an action plan will be key to ensure progress is being made.
- Preparation for the approach of the winter period is another priority. Additional funding from Welsh Government in the shape of last year's Cost of Living Support Scheme is unlikely to be forthcoming, meaning a smaller scale approach than last winter.
- SL offered extra help and support from partners due to staff absences. JB also echoed this offer of support.

Environment:

- HM stated that he was standing in for CD who was unable to attend the meeting. As he was not directly involved in the work of Pembrokeshire PSB he was not in the position to give updates on specific actions of sub-group, and he referred the group to the agenda pack for the written update report. He stated that in regards to broader climate adaptation work across the region that things were developing, highlighting proposals coming forwards regarding the South Wales industrial cluster and heavy industry in the Haven that would require mitigation.
- DT described how a 2 week trial on a hydrogen bus from Haverfordwest to Carmarthen had just started, and while this was a small step he was hopeful that some traction from the trial.
- DT also highlighted that this PSB has been seen as a national lead in terms of climate adaptation, and have been invited to present at the next WLGA meeting.

NP confirmed the schedule for spotlight sessions for the next two meetings as:

- 28th November 2023 - *Tackling Climate Change and the Nature Emergency*
- 20th February 2024 - *Poverty*

5. Communities Policy update

Covered under item 3 above.

6. Hywel Dda UHB Paediatric Services Consultation

Conrad Hancock who was due to cover question from the PSB on this matter was unable to attend the meeting. NP stated that the presentation had been circulated to all partners and if they had any queries then these could be emailed to CH.

7. AOB

There was no other business.

The meeting ended at 11:35am

Action Log

No.	Pg.	Action	Target date	Owner	Resolution
1	3	Identify what resources members would be willing to commit regarding making CCRG bronze delivery group			
2	3	Get some terms of reference together for CCRG becoming bronze delivery group	ASAP	RB	
3	3	Set up another sub-group meeting to further expand on the ideas surrounding the CCRG	ASAP		