



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Scrutiny Committee

9th January 2025

Report of the Director of Strategy and Corporate Services

Mr N Daniel

Matter for:

Monitoring

Wards Affected:

All Wards

Report Title

Neath Port Talbot Public Services Board Half Year Progress Update

Purpose of the Report:

To enable the Scrutiny Committee to exercise the powers to scrutinise the work of the Public Services Board (PSB) set out in Section 35 of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 by providing the Committee with a progress report on how the Public Services Board is working towards its Well-being Objectives of the NPT Well-being Plan 2023-28 during the first half of the year 2024-25.

Executive Summary:

Section 36 of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 places a duty on public services boards to:

“improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of its area by contributing to the achievement of the well-being goals (S36(1)).

A public services board’s contribution to the achievement of the goals must include (S36(2)):

- a) assessing the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in its area
- b) setting objectives that are designed to maximise its contribution within its area to achieving those goals, and
- c) the taking of all reasonable steps by members of the board (in exercising their functions) to meet those objectives

In 2022, the Neath Port Talbot Public Services Board published its Well-being Assessment, discharging a) above. The Well-being Plan 2023-28 was published on 4th May 2023 discharging b). The PSB are now in the process of delivering on the Plan discharging c).

The PSB has adopted Neath Port Talbot Council’s well-being objectives for its Well-being plan 2023-28 and agreed on a governance structure of new and existing partnerships to support delivery. There are six workstreams delivering on the four well-being objectives and they currently provide six monthly detailed highlight reports to the Board which then inform the PSB Annual Report, published in July each year.

The May to October 2024 highlight reports are attached as appendices and a summary of progress for this period is as follows :-

All our children have the best start in life

An Early Years, Children and Young People’s Plan for NPT has been published. Work is underway to develop partner led delivery groups for each of the priorities in the Plan where action plans will be developed.

In the meantime significant progress is being made across all of the steps under this objective. Progress in this period includes:-

- Well-being and Behaviour Service (WBS) delivering Youth Mental First Aid and Trauma Informed Schools initiatives. Also Forest School Level 3 training.
- The Tonnau team (part of the Educational Psychology Service) provides Emotional Literacy Support Assistants (ELSA) who provide emotional support to over 1000 NPT pupils a year with an average wellbeing increase of 23% as a result.
- The Youth Service Emotional Health Team and Families First Team provided sessions to young people from vulnerable groups such as Young Carers, Young Parents, LGBTQ+ young people to help avoid them becoming NEET (not in education employment or training)
- The Curriculum for Wales is now rolling up to Year 9 in schools.
- The Early Years ALN Lead Officer (EYALNLO) has successfully established an Early Years Multi Agency Panel (EYMAP), which consists of both LA (Education and Social Services) and Health professionals to ensure collaborative working. ,The Officer facilitates multi agency 'school starters' cluster planning meetings, which have been embedded across the school clusters, as part of the early identification support offer from the LA.
- The Early Intervention and Prevention Panel works in partnership to ensure children, young people and their families get the service they need.

Challenges are being faced around sustainability of funding and the increasing poverty and inequality being seen. Further detail can be found in Appendix 1.

All our communities will be thriving and sustainable

Cost of Living and Poverty Prevention Partnership

Good progress has been made during this period.

- The steering group have taken part in a mapping exercise looking at the context around poverty with support of the Health Board.
- A draft action plan has been developed and timeframes and measures are currently being refined.
- The group supported the planning for a Child Poverty Workshop which was held in October.
- Support grants continue to be administered and communication and promotion improved upon.
- Extensive support continues to be delivered by the Third Sector and Citizens Advice have been raising awareness around benefits.
- The LIFT database has supported a successful campaign around increasing take up of Pension Credit.
- A Cost of Living Update report has been prepared for the Council's Corporate Directors.
- Officers have taken part in the Shaping Places for Wellbeing in Wales programme and contributed to the Poverty and Inequalities learning group.

Challenges are being seen across the borough with foodbanks struggling to keep up with demand and the third sector struggling to recruit and retain staff and volunteers.

Community Safety Partnership

The partnership has met twice during the reporting period. Updates on the priorities in the Strategic Intent Document are provided at each meeting. The current priorities are:-

- Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Serious Violence
- Substance Use
- Acquisitive Crime
- Community Cohesion

The partnership has responded to arising issues during this period which have included SDS40 (Early releases from prison) and an increase in retail crime.

Our environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations

Climate and Nature Partnership

- A rotation of chairing between partner members has been agreed for meetings of this partnership.
- Work has begun on a Climate Change Risk Assessment for NPT, however progress has been slow due to partner capacity. The group will look to other PSBs across Wales for learning and benchmarking to support progress.
- Members of the group have taken part in the Shaping Places for Wellbeing in Wales programme and contributed to the Climate and Nature learning group

Culture Compact

- The Culture Strategy, Heritage Strategy and Destination Management Plan have been formally launched at a well attended event.
- Progress on Cultural Strategy actions are being reported to the PSB. 47 local culture and heritage projects have secured funding via SPF.

- Terms of reference for a NPT Cultural Compact have been agreed and members are being recruited.
- A Heritage Board is now up and running.

There are more well-paid, green and secure jobs and skills across the area are improved

Activity which contributes to this well-being objective and steps includes:-

- Delivery of the £33 million UK Shared Prosperity Fund in NPT
- UK Levelling Up programmes, Vale of Neath Visitor Attractor and Port Talbot Town Centre Regeneration.
- NPT Council is a strategic partner in the South West Wales Innovate UK Net Zero Industry Wales led Driving Net Zero Innovation and Growth Launchpad
- Tata Transition support
- Celtic Freeport Full Business Case submitted.
- Local Economic Action Plan (LEAP) finalised.
- Neath Port Talbot Regeneration and Economic Development Strategy development underway

Background:

The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 places a duty on local authorities, health boards, fire and rescue services and Natural Resources Wales to establish a Public Services Board in each local authority area to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of its area.

The Neath Port Talbot PSB was established in 2016.

The PSB is made up of the following membership:

Statutory partners:

- Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority
- Natural Resources Wales
- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
- Swansea Bay University Health Board

Invited participants/ other partners:

NPT Council for Voluntary Service	Tai Tarian
Town and Community Councils	Coastal Housing
South Wales Police	Pobl Group
Police & Crime Commissioner	NPTC Group of Colleges
Department of Work and Pensions	National Probation Service
Swansea University	Welsh Government

The current Neath Port Talbot Well-being Plan was published in May 2023.

Financial Impacts:

There are no additional resources allocated to the Public Services Board to help implement the Plan, consequently, partners are required to work together to identify how proposed steps can be moved forward.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

Prior to publication of the NPT Well-being Plan in May 2023 an Integrated Impact Assessment was undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being

of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016).

Valleys Communities Impacts:

The steps in the Well-being Plan are being delivered across Neath Port Talbot communities.

Workforce Impacts:

The four areas for focus set out in the well-being objectives will have implications for the workforces of all of the organisations who participate in the Board's work.

As the well-being objectives are the same as those featured in the Council's Corporate Plan the impact should be a positive one for the council workforce as there will be a collaborative approach to the issues identified which will help maximise the impact we are able to make.

Legal Impacts:

This report enables the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee to exercise the powers to scrutinise the work of the Public Services Board as set out in Section 35 of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Risk Management Impacts:

Failure to deliver on the Well-being Plan could potentially lead to the Future Generations Commissioner exercising his powers to conduct a review into the extent to which the Board are meeting duties under the Act which could lead to action also by Welsh Ministers. This could impact on the Council reputationally and also lead to additional resources being required to meet the duties.

Crime and Disorder Impacts:

The Council has a legal duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to carry out all its various functions with “due regard to the need to prevent Crime and Disorder in its area”. Well-being Objective 2 assists in discharging this duty.

Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Impacts:

The Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2016 places a new general duty on local authorities to have regard (along with all other relevant matters) to the need to remove or minimise any factors which increase the risk of violence against women and girls or, exacerbate the impact of such violence on victims. Well-being Objective 2 assists in discharging this duty.

Consultation:

There is no requirement to consult on this item.

Recommendations:

For Members to note the information provided on the progress being made by the PSB on delivering the Neath Port Talbot Well-being Plan 2023-28.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Children and Young People’s Leadership Group – PSB Highlight Report May to October 2024

Appendix 2: Cost of Living and Poverty Prevention Partnership – PSB Highlight Report May to October 2024

Appendix 3: Community Safety Partnership – PSB Highlight Report May to October 2024

Appendix 4: Climate and Nature Group – PSB Highlight Report May to October 2024

Appendix 5: Culture and Heritage – PSB Highlight Report May to October 2024

Appendix 6: Local Economic Partnership – PSB Highlight Report May to October 2024

List of Background Papers:

[Neath Port Talbot Well-being Plan 2023-28](#)

[Neath Port Talbot Well-being Plan on a Page 2023-28](#)

[Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#)

[NPT PSB Annual Report 2023-24](#)

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