



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet Scrutiny Committee

13th October 2023

Report of the Director of Strategy and Corporate Services

Mr N Daniel

Matter for Monitoring

Wards Affected:

All Wards

Report Title

Neath Port Talbot Well-being Plan 2023-28.

Progress Update - Well-being Objective 2 – All our communities will be thriving and sustainable.

Purpose of the Report:

To enable the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee to exercise the powers to scrutinise the work of the Public Services Board 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 Well-being Objective 2 of the NPT Well-being Plan 2023-28, 'All our communities will be thriving and sustainable.'

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).

To deliver on the well-being objective ‘All our communities are thriving and sustainable’ the PSB have agreed on a number of steps.

The first three steps will be taken forward by the Cost of Living and Poverty Prevention Partnership:

- Make sure those who need help and support with the cost of living know what support is available and how to access it
- Identify gaps in help and support and how those gaps could be addressed

- Revisit the work undertaken with the support of the Bevan Foundation prior to the pandemic and reset the strategic objectives and actions to address the root causes of poverty now

The Partnership was repurposed from NPT Safe and Well (set up to address the hardships caused by the pandemic) now responding to the cost of living crisis.

A responsive approach has been taken, signposting to help available and administering support grants whilst working in partnership to coordinate effort.

The Partnership will now look towards a more long-term focus identifying and tackling root causes of poverty in the area and working towards sustainable solutions.

Full details of progress can be seen in the report attached at Appendix 1.

The NPT Community Safety Partnership will lead on the fourth step:

- Collaborate with our communities, to reduce crime, the fear of crime and to make our communities safer and more cohesive

The Community Safety Partnership is a statutory partnership of responsible authorities which is led by the Local Authority and South Wales Police. The partnership is committed to working together to achieve sustainable reductions in crime, fear of crime and antisocial behaviour.

Through the CSP each responsible authority contributes their own particular local knowledge, professional expertise, and resources to ensure that the issues of most concern to local people are prioritised and addressed.

The CSP has agreed six priority areas for 2024- 27, and the delivery against these will help achieve objective 2 of the well-being plan, and the step of collaborating with our communities to reduce crime, the fear of crime and to make our communities safer and more cohesive.

These six priorities will be further outlined in a new Strategic Intent Document, which is in development, and will be formally consulted on in the New Year. An early draft is attached at Appendix 2. Progress will be monitored against an implementation plan, which has yet to be developed. The attached report provides details of the action under-way or planned.

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 (PSB) 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:

Coastal Housing
Town and Community Councils
Department of Work and Pensions

National Probation Service
NPTC Group of Colleges

Tai Tarian
Pobl
Police & Crime
Commissioner
Public Health Wales
South Wales Police

A special meeting of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee was held on 10th March 2023 as part of the consultation process for the NPT draft Well-being Plan 2023-28.

As well as providing comments on the draft Plan, the Committee also wished to exercise its powers (as set out in Section 35 of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015) to further scrutinise the work of the PSB by requesting more detail around how the well-being objectives will be delivered. To meet this request, a series of Cabinet Scrutiny Committee meetings have been arranged where each Well-being Objective will be considered in turn.

Well-being Objective 2 – All our communities will be thriving and sustainable

Cost of Living / Poverty

The Well-being Assessment reinforced the PSB's knowledge that there are strong close-knit communities in Neath Port Talbot. This was particularly evident during the Covid-19 pandemic when communities pulled together and supported each other in crisis. This is a strength the PSB wish to build on, however, the PSB is also aware that deprivation is a deep-rooted issue across Neath Port Talbot and there are concentrated areas in the most deprived category of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation.

The impact of deprivation is likely to worsen over the coming years as levels of poverty increase (e.g. food and fuel), affecting the lowest income families. The pandemic had already left a legacy of increased inequality and this is now being compounded by increases in the cost of living.

The PSB is working collaboratively to alleviate the financial hardship and consequential impact on wellbeing that is being experienced by a growing number of people across NPT.

Community Safety

The PSB recognises the important work of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in managing and responding to the key issues being faced in Neath Port Talbot in terms of crime and safety, and that the Partnership is committed to working together to achieve sustainable reductions in crime, fear of crime and antisocial behaviour.

The CSP recently reviewed their priorities and agreed the following top five priorities going forward: anti-social behaviour, community cohesion, substance use, VAWDASV and Crime Prevention.

Financial Impacts:

There are no additional resources allocated to the Public Services Board to help implement the Plan, consequently, partners will 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 Well-being Objective 2 'All our communities will be thriving and sustainable'.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Cost of Living and Poverty Prevention Partnership Report

Appendix 2 - Community Safety Partnership Report

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

Officer Contact:

Noelwyn Daniel, Director of Strategy & Corporate Services
Email: n.daniel@npt.gov.uk

Vanessa Dale, Public Services Board Co-ordinator
Email: v.dale@npt.gov.uk

Victoria Petty, Corporate Policy Officer
Email: v.petty@npt.gov.uk

Elinor Wellington Principal Officer, Community Safety,
Email: e.wellington@npt.gov.uk