

## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL CWM TAF PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD JOINT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting of the Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on Friday, 27 September 2019 at 2.00 pm at the Alby Davies Suite, Abercynon Sports Centre, Abercynon.

### **County Borough Councillors - Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee Members in attendance:-**

#### **J. Bonetto (Chair)**

W Jones RCT CBC D Isaac Merthyr Tydfil CBC

#### **Co-optees**

Mr M Jehu, Local Health Board (LHB)  
Mr J Maguire (Merthyr Tydfil Citizen Representative)  
Mrs A Lewis (RCT Citizen Representative)

#### **Public Service Board (PSB)**

Professor M Langley, (Chair, PSB)  
Ms K Smith, PSB Support Officer  
Ms L Toghill, PSB Support Officer

#### **Officers in attendance**

Mr C Hanagan, Service Director Democratic Services & Communications, RCT CBC  
Mr P Mee, Director Public Health Protection & Community Services, RCT CBC  
Mr C Hole, Head of Community Wellbeing & Prevention, Merthyr Tydfil CBC  
Mrs W. Edwards, Service Director Community Services RCT CBC  
Mr K O'Donovan, Change and Performance Manager, Merthyr Tydfil CBC

### **1 Apologies**

Apologies of absence were received from County Borough Councillor M. Powell, G. Caple and D. Macey (Rhondda Cynon Taf), C. Barry, M. Jones and T. Skinner (Merthyr Tydfil CBC)

### **2 Declaration of Interest**

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, there were no declarations made pertaining to the agenda.

### **3 Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup>

March 2019 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

#### **4 Progress Update**

Members received the draft Minutes of the Cwm Taf Public Services Board (16<sup>th</sup> July 2019) and the Cwm Taf Strategic Partnership Board (25<sup>th</sup> June 2019) and **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the draft minutes for information.

#### **5 Overview of Arrangements including the Forward Work Programme 2019/20**

The Service Director Democratic Services & Communications presented his report outlining to Members of the Cwm Taf Public Service Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) their role in undertaking scrutiny of the Cwm Taf Public Service Board (PSB). Members were asked to consider and develop the forward work programme which was attached for information. Since its inaugural meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017 the JOSC has met consistently with a view to reviewing the governance of the PSB, acting as statutory consultees on the well-being assessment and well-being plan and monitoring progress of the implementation of the well-being plan and engaging in the PSB planning cycle. Members were reminded that as the committee works on a rotational basis the Chair and support arrangements are with Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

The JOSC was reminded that in July 2019 a joint scrutiny training session had been held to equip members with the skills, knowledge and confidence to carry out their role, to challenge the decisions made and actions taken by the PSB. The Service Director Democratic Services & Communications proposed that this municipal year it was intended that the JOSC consider developing a more streamlined and focussed work programme to ensure a more outcome based approach is taken forward. As such, fewer items will be included on the forward work programme and it is anticipated that the JOSC consider progress made against the Cwm Taf Well-being Plan objective 'Thriving Communities (developing Community Zones in RCT and Merthyr Tydfil)'. To this end the JOSC will be in a position to better assess the impact of the work on the communities of the Cwm Taf in respect of social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the area.

In conclusion, the Service Director Democratic Services & Communications asked JOSC to review the attached forward work programme to consider whether it represents a balanced approach to their work for the municipal year 2019/2020.

The Co-opted Member for the Local Health Board (LHB) agreed that there had previously been a lack of scrutiny and to that end he felt the JOSC had not been able to fulfil its role. To serve as a reminder to all members of the JOSC he suggested that the five core statutory functions are included as a standard on the agenda as they represent all that the JOSC should be considering. A further proposal included identifying a number of key headings from the PSB delivery plan to take forward.

The Chair confirmed the intention to arrange informal meetings in between the formal JOSC business to include site visits which will add value and insight to the forward work programme.

It was **RESOLVED**:-

1. To agree the JOSC forward work programme subject to details of the definite schedule and location of future formal and informal meetings being included before circulation and endorsed at the next formal meeting of the JOSC; and
2. To include the five core statutory functions as a standard item on future agendas;

## **6 Chair of the Cwm Taf Public Service Board (PSB)**

The Chair welcomed Professor Marcus Langley, Chair of the Cwm Taf Public Service Board (PSB) to the meeting to update Members on progress made by the PSB.

For the benefit of new Members to the JOSC, the Chair of the PSB outlined the structure and governance arrangements of the Board and highlighted the key intention to ensure everyone works together to improve the well-being of the Cwm Taf communities, now and in the future, through effective partnership working. Members were reminded that the Cwm Taf Well-being Plan was published on the 4th May 2018 and sets out the four Well-being objectives that the PSB has committed to deliver in partnership and also sets out the steps, ranging from immediate to longer term steps that the PSB intends to deliver. The four well-being objectives are Thriving Communities, Strong Economy, Healthy People and Loneliness and Isolation.

The Chair of the PSB updated JOSC on the steady progress within each of the four well-being objectives which has been captured in the PSB Annual Report 2018/19, published in July 2019 and sets out the first year's achievements which have demonstrated how the Board has been working differently, thinking long-term and working in a creative and co-ordinated way through the lens of the Wellbeing and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Chair assured members of the scrutiny committee that progress within each of the objectives would be shared with them on a regular basis.

The Chair referenced the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) live lab sessions, joint working and social prescribing which is an opportunity to demonstrate how the PSB can make a real difference by working and thinking differently. He reported that the LiveLab session, held in conjunction with the Office of Future Generations Commissioner, had been externally facilitated where ideas had been filtered and refined resulting in an innovative approach. He also referred to the importance of social prescribing and the role of the PSB in developing and supporting existing services. The Chair reported on the improved governance arrangements and the positive impact the PSB support officers have made to the overall progress of the Board.

The Chair stressed the importance of evaluating the outcomes of the PSB work to understand the differences that are being made to the Cwm Taf communities.

There followed a discussion following the Chair's presentation on the importance of dealing with the real issues within our communities and not just reaching targets and the benefits of providing those in need with real employment opportunities. It was suggested that the two key issues highlighted, the Live Lab sessions and social prescribing would be two very relevant topics and legitimate items to include on the JOSC forward work programme. In response the Chair of the JOSC confirmed that the objective 'Thriving Communities (developing

Community Zones across Cwm Taf)' had been identified for its cross cutting themes which would encompass matters such as social prescribing.

Members discussed projects that were underway in their own areas such as the 'Muddy Boots Walking Group' in Treherbert, which are having an impact on people's lives and addressing real issues through social prescribing but some Members felt that more awareness was needed to promote the community work which was being run in the main by local volunteers.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the Chair's update from the PSB and his commitment to attend a future meeting of the JOSOC to deliver a further progress update.

## 7 Thriving Communities

The Director Public Health, Protection and Community Services (RCT), the Head of Community Wellbeing & Prevention (Merthyr Tydfil CBC) and the Service Director, Community Services (RCT) presented their joint report in respect of the implementation of the delivery plan for Objective One of the Cwm Taf Well-being Plan.

In the first instance the Director Public Health, Protection and Community Services provided background to the PSB Cwm Taf Well-Being Plan 2018-2023 and to the development of the Community Zones which had been born out of the realisation that tackling the issues in our most disadvantaged communities required a different approach. The location of the two community zones had been identified based on need and from a number of sources such as community size and existing community support which had resulted in two community hubs being established in Ferndale in the Rhondda Fach (RCT) and the Gurnos (Merthyr Tydfil).

Progress in the first year has seen the opening of Hwb Glynrhedynog at Ferndale in July 2019 and Calon Las in the Gurnos in September 2019, both of which are led by anchor organisations and have made significant progress in delivering outcomes for their respective communities. A number of important services are co-located within the respective hubs such as the Library service which shares the Hwb space in Ferndale and health visitors and employment support in the Gurnos community hub. The Service Director, Community Services confirmed that the co-location of the library has had a positive impact on staff feeling more valued within their community.

The Director outlined plans for the next stage such as progressing the Community Co-ordinator role as well as building on the good progress made within the first year. He emphasised the importance of evaluating the impact of the community hubs in the future to assess the differences that are being made to the communities through an evaluation framework which is being developed jointly with Data Cymru.

In order to assist Members to identify any matters that they may wish to consider in greater detail, the Director asked them to reflect on a number of key questions such as how the progress and performance of the Community Hubs can be measured and how do they present an opportunity for the delivery of the wider well-being objectives? Furthermore, how can the longer term sustainability of the community hubs be guaranteed when the long term future of the service providers is to some extent dependent on external grant funding?

The Director added that following the proof of concept, that ten other areas have been identified as locations for community hubs across the Cwm Taf footprint such as Porth in RCT, focussing on areas of greater needs. The Community Hub in Mountain Ash opened in June 2019 using an under-utilised facility and has recorded 37,000 visits within the first 3 months and has doubled its library membership.

The Head of Community Wellbeing & Prevention stated that universal provision and a holistic approach are key to the success of the initiative as is listening and prioritising the matters that the communities say are important to them. He added that it is crucial that all partners take an active role and work together to make the project sustainable in the long term.

Members of the JOSOC discussed the report and commended the progress of the community hubs in their first year and concluded that case studies of service users would be key to evaluating the success of the initiative together with capturing pride and self-esteem of service users.

In conclusion, the Director Public Health, Protection & Community Services warned against becoming complacent following the success of the first year but to consider what other public bodies can enhance the 'one public service' approach. It was proposed that Members consider holding future meetings or visit the two community hubs to view the facilities first hand to meet with service users and partner organisations working from the Hubs.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED** to:-

1. Commend the progress of the Community Hubs located at Ferndale and the Gurnos and the progress for objective 1 of the Cwm Taf Well-being plan;
2. Arrange a visit to the Hubs (as part of the series of informal meetings) for members of the JOSOC to see the facilities and meet with partner agencies working from them; and
3. Consider areas for development such as sustainability, integration, partnership and evaluation of the initiative, (the latter to be evidenced by case studies of service users) at the next formal meeting of the JOSOC.

## **8 Reports for Information**

The Service Director Democratic Services & Communications referred Members to the links within the agenda to the reports for information in respect of the PSB Annual Report 2018/19 and the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in Cwm Taf.

He stated that although these reports are for information only, any queries can be directed to the Scrutiny inbox in RCT via the email address on the agenda.

**The meeting closed at 15.50pm**

**J. Bonetto  
Chair**