

SUBJECT: Gwent Local Assessment of Well-being for consultation

Report on behalf of the PSB written by the PSB GSWAG sub-group

1	Areas Affected
1.1	Gwent – all local areas.
2	Purpose of Report
2.1	To present the consultation draft of the Well-Being Assessment in line with statutory timelines.
2.2	To outline the consultation process and next steps for the draft Assessment of Local Well-Being and development of the Local Well-Being Plan for Gwent.
3	Background
3.1	The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 statutory guidance ‘Shared Purpose – Shared Future’ sets out a requirement for each Public Services Board (PSB) to prepare and publish an assessment of the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in its area no later than a year before it publishes its local well-being plan. This means that the first Gwent Well-Being Assessment must be published by 5 th May 2022.
3.2	<p>The guidance states that the use of evidence and analysis could usefully be divided in to two main components:</p> <p>Situation Analysis – painting a broad picture of well-being within the board’s area so that potential priorities for the area can be identified (the <u>assessment of local well-being, the work we are doing now</u>).</p> <p>Response Analysis – the detailed analysis of individual issues and themes to inform the development of the Local Well-being Plan, this will be developed with the PSB over the Spring period.</p> <p>In preparing and publishing the assessment (situation analysis) of the state the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of its area the board must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set out the communities that comprise the area; • Analyse the state of well-being in each community and the whole area • Analyse the state of well-being of the people in the area; • Include predictions of future trends of the area; • Refer to the National Indicators; • Take into account a number of statutory reviews and assessments when preparing their assessment.

3.3	The Gwent PSB was established on 1 October 2021 and as such the timescales for developing the first regional Well-Being Assessment were a challenge, and it is anticipated that the draft will be updated throughout the consultation process. This task of developing the assessment was assigned to the PSB GSWAG officer sub-group and the draft Assessment was reviewed and agreed by the PSB in their December meeting to enable the consultation process to begin.
3.4	The preparation and publication of the Assessment for the Gwent area is set out as a key task in the PSB terms of reference. The PSB agreed the approach to the Assessment at its first meeting and the Assessment subgroup undertook extensive work to meet the deadlines set.
3.5	The five current Well-Being Plans (2018-2023) form the delivery arrangements for the next two years and these will continue to be delivered by the local partnerships on behalf of the regional PSB, and scrutinised by the relevant partnership Scrutiny Committees in each of the local areas.
3.6	The first cycle of Well-being Plans set out how the former PSBs are collectively responding to some of the key issues identified when they assessed local well-being in 2017. This Well-being Assessment is an opportunity for us to determine if our well-being objectives are still the right ones, if we need to be doing more of some things and less of others, and how we can best work together through the new Gwent PSB in a way that positively builds on what has gone before.
4	The Assessment
4.1	<p>The joint Well-being Assessment draws on the knowledge and experience each of the five PSBs gained when producing the last assessments in 2017.</p> <p>Producing a joint assessment is different to producing one for each of the local authority areas. There are aspects that are best considered at a regional (Gwent) level, and others that are more local, affecting individual communities or areas. The assessment has been produced around the four well-being themes set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act: Social, Economic, Environmental and Cultural.</p> <p>The Assessment brings together a range of information to help explain what Gwent and its communities look like and what is important in planning for the future. We've used data collected at both national and local levels; and engaged with people and communities living and working in an area.</p>
4.2	<p>Given the timing of developing this assessment we have considered how the COVID-19 pandemic and related factors, may impact on well-being in the future. There is risk that inequality in our communities will widen which has the potential to influence every aspect of our well-being.</p> <p>As a result, some of the information in the assessment may not be what we would have expected before the pandemic, and so we've had to think about whether data has been changed because of the pandemic before considering what it means for an area or community.</p>
4.3	The Communications and Engagement PSB sub-group developed the engagement around questions previously discussed at G10 (the group in place before the PSB was

	<p>established) with questions in English, Welsh and the most prevalent minority ethnic languages which were delivered in the local authority areas and with the assistance of communications/engagement officers in the health board, police and community voluntary organisations.</p> <p>To enable consistency across the partners involved in the engagement process a common set of questions was developed, building on the approach taken when undertaking the previous local assessment in 2017/18. This enabled us to see whether the views of communities had changed since the last well-being assessment. A stakeholder mapping exercise established the key groups and organisations we needed to target and prevented duplication by the many partners involved in the group. The former PSBs in the region have a range of existing well-being objectives and it was important to understand whether these were still important to communities, as well as provide feedback on work that had happened to deliver the existing objectives.</p> <p>The process followed is included as Chapter 3 of the Assessment. It must also be noted that a primarily digital engagement process will have affected the volume of responses. In 2016-17 the primary method was face-to-face and numbers were far higher. While the numbers of 'engagements' are lower the people that did engage have tended to give quite rich information that is feeding into the relevant sections in the assessments.</p>
4.4	<p>The timeline of establishing a regional PSB, the ongoing COVID pandemic and the new requirement to complete the first regional assessment and supporting engagement activity has presented a range of challenges. It is proposed that this Assessment is a starting point for the Gwent PSB, Well-Being Plan and supporting activities.</p> <p>The data and assessment will improve over time, with further amendments through the consultation process, and in the next phase (Response Analysis). We know that there is more work to be done including: the engagement information is not yet in each chapter, the future trends report is not yet available to be included and more work is needed on the Community Area Assessments.</p> <p>The consultation process will include expert officers, that is staff within member organisations with responsibility for services that deliver on, or who have knowledge of, economic, environmental, social and cultural factors. In effect to 'sense check' the headlines in the assessment and consider their views as it moves through to Response Analysis.</p>
4.5	<p>The Executive Summary of the draft Regional Assessment of Well-Being is attached as Appendix 1 to this Report and the full document can be found here.</p> <p>The Assessment is the main 'umbrella' document for Gwent, with each authority area developing its own community area assessments to reflect local communities. These high-level community area assessments will form part of the wider Gwent Assessment document, but each authority area may also develop more detailed assessments for use by their local delivery partnerships building on any existing work.</p>
4.6	<p>As part of the statutory consultation process the draft will be received by local overview and scrutiny committees.</p>

	Although agreed in principle, Regional Scrutiny arrangements are not yet established, as such the Assessment will be received by the local Scrutiny Committees in each local authority area.
4.7	It is suggested that each of the non-Council member organisations will also need to take a report to their relevant decision-making body, to note and comment as appropriate on the draft Assessment of Well-Being for Gwent.
4.8	Local Delivery Groups should also receive a copy of the Assessment and begin to consider what their input into the Response Analysis element of the assessment will be. The local groups may wish to arrange a workshop to support this.
4.9	In preparing its Local Well-being Assessment each Public Services Board is required to fully consult with a number of statutory consultees. The timeline is attached at Appendix 2, key dates: 7th Dec – draft to PSB for approval Mid December to end of Jan – consultation, including with expert officers January/February – local Scrutiny committees 5th May – publish (statutory deadline)
4.10	The draft will be sent to a range of consultees, the statutory requirements are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commissioner; • The Board's invited participants; • its other partners; • such of the persons who received but did not accept an invitation from the board under Section 30 as the board considers appropriate; • the local authority's overview and scrutiny committee; • relevant voluntary organisations as the board considers appropriate; • representatives of persons resident in the area; • representatives of persons carrying on business in the area; • trade unions representing workers in the area; • such persons with an interest in the maintenance and enhancement of natural resources in the board's area, as the board considers appropriate; • any other persons who in the opinion of the board, are interested in the improvement of the area's economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being <p>The PSB will receive a report of key messages from the consultation process at its meeting in March.</p>
6	Next steps
6.1	Consultation on this draft Assessment of Local Well-Being for the period 13 th December 2021 to 31 st January 2021.
6.2	PSB members to support the consultation process within their own organisations, and also at the local delivery groups.
6.3	PSB workshop February 2022 to consider the results of the consultation and provide input to the response analysis.

Draft date 30 Nov 2021

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Draft Assessment of Well-Being – Executive Summary

Appendix 2 – Assessment Timeline



