

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD HELD ON ZOOM ON WEDNESDAY, 4 OCTOBER 2023

PRESENT

County Councillor J Gibson-Watt (Chair)
Mererid Bowley (Director of Public Health Powys Teaching Health Board)
Gavin Bown (NRW)
Nigel Brinn Executive (Director Economy and Environment Powys County Council)
Nicola Brown (HM Probation and Prisons)
Claire Bryant (Dyfed Powys Police)
Carl Cooper (Chair Powys Teaching Health Board)
Iwan Cray (Deputy Chief Fire Officer Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service)
Liz Hutchins (Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority)
Baillie Jones (Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service)
Emma Palmer (Director of Corporate Services Powys County Council)
Alison Perry (Office of the Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Commissioner)
Chief Inspector Matthew Price (Dyfed Powys Police)
Anna Prothero (Powys Teaching Health Board)
Amy Richmond-Jones (Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service)
Clair Swales (Chief Executive PAVO)
Hayley Thomas (Interim Chief Executive Powys Teaching Health Board)
County Councillor Gwynfor Thomas (Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority)

Supporting:

Steve Boyd (PCC)
Catherine James (PCC)
James Langridge-Thomas (PCC)
Felicity Llewelyn (PCC)
Eirlys Williams (PCC Translator)

1.	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES
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The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. He congratulated Emma Palmer on her appointment as Chief Executive of Powys County Council.

Apologies for absence were received from Jack Straw Interim Chief Executive of Powys County Council, Duncan Hamer Welsh Government, Chief Inspector Jacqui Lovatt Dyfed Powys Police, Christine Harley HM Prisons and Probation Service.

2.	UNDERTAKING A WHOLE SYSTEM APPROACH TO HEALTHY WEIGHT
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Mererid Bowley and Anna Prothero gave a presentation on taking a whole system approach to healthy weight. A system approach was required in response to a complex problem like obesity and involved multiple stakeholders. A high level action plan had been developed following Public Health Wales 9 step methodology that all Welsh health boards were following. Mapping of the system had been undertaken, a narrative document produced, and presentations made to various strategic groups. There had been engagement with stakeholders through one-to-one meetings and multi stakeholder events.

The engagement events had identified Children and Families and Access to Healthy Foods as the top two priority areas.

It was confirmed that there was engagement with schools through the local healthy schools team and were working with the Schools service on the curriculum.

3.	EVIDENCE AND INSIGHT (10 MINS) CATHERINE JAMES/JAMES LANGRIDGE-THOMAS
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The report noted activities undertaken in the first two quarters and the activities planned for quarters 3 and 4. Seven outcomes had been identified:

1. Create a network between PSB partners and the wider public to share, collaborate, and coordinate engagement activity.
2. Explore the formation of a Powys People's Assembly to act as a steering group for the work of Powys PSB, seeking to empower residents to participate in and influence decision making.
3. Explore how people can use the arts and physical activity.
4. Create a network between Partner's data colleagues and the wider public (where appropriate) to share data and analysis, and identify opportunities to collaborate to improve understanding of well-being.
5. Develop data and analysis related skills of PSB Partners, and the wider public, in turn supporting skills development through further training and working opportunities.
6. Establish a means for smaller, more targeted workstreams to access PSB as easily as possible and harness the energy and additional value of the PSB.
7. Promote the role and work of the PSB and Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

Each were aligned with the well-being goals. Emma Palmer stressed the importance of having these foundations in place to enable the partners to work collaboratively.

4.	RESPONDING TO THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY
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The Board received an update from Gavin Bown of NRW and Liz Hutchins of Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority on the Climate Well-being project plan.

Sustainable Places Fund (SPF) funding of just under £200,000 had been confirmed and work was underway to commence the project. A revised project plan had been drafted and would be discussed at an in-person Powys PSB Climate Working Group workshop in November. Partners were asked to ensure they were represented at the workshop.

Recruitment for the climate officer and administrative assistant posts and partners would take place shortly were asked to consider whether these roles would be useful professional development opportunities for staff and to promote the job adverts as soon as they are circulated.

There were three main strands to the project:

1. Research and analysis
2. Feasibility Studies
3. Capacity Building.

It was explained that the project was intended to map out the carbon footprint of Powys, the risks and vulnerabilities posed by climate breakdown, and the potential for increased drawdown of carbon through restoring nature.

There was a discussion on when there would be a move to the delivery stage and it was explained that once the research and analysis had been completed, action plans would be developed. It was noted that whilst each of the partner organisations had responsibility to deliver net zero, the strategic approach being taken by the PSB would help align resources and ensure maximum benefit. There was agreement that there needed to be co-ordination across Mid Wales and the Chair advised that he would raise this issue with the Mid Wales CJC.

This would be an item for the agenda of the next meeting following the workshop.

ACTION – All partners to provide Liz Hutchins with an update on what they are doing on climate change to support the development of the action plan
The Board received an update

5. SCRUTINY UPDATE

Catherine James advised that the Council would be considering the recommendation of the Democratic Services Committee that the membership of the PSB Scrutiny Committee be amended to accommodate co-opted Members from other organisations. PAVO had already submitted a nomination and other partners were asked to contact her with their nominations.

6. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 6th July 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

7. DATES OF FUTURE PSB MEETINGS
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15 December 2023 at 10 am.

8. PARTNERS SITUATIONS DISCUSSION
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The Board moved into a closed session and received briefings from each of the partner organisations on the challenges they were facing. It was suggested that partners shared service changes proposals.

ACTION – Catherine James to amalgamate and share the presentations.

The Chair proposed that the management teams of each organisation discuss how best to share information and have discussions about proposals to change services outside the framework of formal PSB meetings. He also proposed that the chief finance officers of each organisation meet to discuss the budgets and likely impacts on services.

ACTION – Emma Palmer and Catherine James to co-ordinate.

County Councillor J Gibson-Watt (Chair)