



POWYS PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

WAO PSB REVIEW – Powys PSB response
December 2019

1. SUMMARY

1.1	<p>In October 2019, the Wales Audit office, on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales, published a review of Public Service Boards (PSBs). The review took into account responses to a call for evidence of all PSB statutory and invited members (51 members of PSBs covering all 19 PSBs responded) and also a review of literature including Well-being plans, Terms of Reference, PSB websites, access to information (such as minutes and agendas) along with national guidance, policy and legislation.</p>
1.2	<p>The review is attached.</p>
1.3	<p>The review included 4 recommendations:</p> <p><u>Recommendation 1:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Conduct formal assessments to identify the potential impact on people with protected characteristics and the Welsh language and review agreed actions to ensure any adverse impacts are addressed</i> <p>Powys PSB action/response: All Step Leads to assess how their delivery plans and activities impact on groups with the 9 protected characteristics (Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion and/or Belief, Sex, Sexual Orientation) and feedback at the next PSB meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Improve transparency and accountability by making PSB meetings, agendas, papers and minutes accessible and available to the public.</i> <p>Powys PSB action/response: This is already in place for Powys PSB – agendas, papers and minutes are accessible via the Powys County Council website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Strengthen involvement by working to the guidance in the National Principles for Public Engagement in Wales; and • feedback the outcome of involvement activity identifying where changes are made as a result of the input of citizens and stakeholders.</i> <p>Powys PSB action/response: Powys PSB to discuss to what extent this is being undertaken</p>



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	<p><u>Recommendation 2:</u> <i>To improve scrutiny, we recommend that:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSBs and public bodies use the findings of the Auditor General for Wales’ Discussion Paper: Six themes to help make scrutiny ‘Fit for the Future’ to review their current performance and identify where they need to strengthen oversight arrangements and activity; and • PSBs ensure scrutiny committees have adequate engagement with a wider range of relevant stakeholders who can help hold PSBs to account. <p>Powys PSB action/response: Recommendation that R2 is devolved to Powys PSB scrutiny for consideration</p> <p><u>Recommendation 3:</u> <i>To help build capacity, consistency and resourcing of activity we recommend that:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSBs take the opportunity to discharge other plan and strategy obligations through the Local Wellbeing Plan; <p>Powys PSB action/response: This recommendation is already being implemented as part of the delivery plans and actions for Steps 5, 10 and 11.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Welsh Government enables PSBs to develop flexible models of working <p>Powys PSB action/response: This recommendation is for action by other bodies than the PSB.</p> <p><u>Recommendation 4:</u> <i>To help build capacity, consistency and resourcing of activity we recommend that the Welsh Government and Welsh Local Government Association in their review of strategic partnerships take account of, and explore, the findings of this review.</i></p> <p>Powys PSB action/response: this recommendation is for consideration by other bodies than the PSB. No action required by PSB.</p>
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2. PROPOSAL

2.1	The PSB considers the review findings
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3. RESOURCING

3.1	N/A
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4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1	The PSB considered the 4 recommendations and agrees the suggested actions.
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CONTACT NAME	EMAIL
Bethan Ledger	Bethan.ledger@powys.gov.uk