



POWYS PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

A summary of feedback from the Powys Public Service Board engagement session with Town and Community Councils
December 2019

1.1	<p>Background</p> <p>Under the terms of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, community councils with a turnover of more than £200,000 per year '<i>...must take all reasonable steps in its areas towards meeting the local objectives including in the local well-being plan...</i>' Meetings have been held with several councils however this has been on an ad hoc basis in response to an offer made some time ago. Community councils have identified a lack of interaction and engagement with the PSB and its work.</p> <p>On this basis the PSB arranged an event as an opportunity for all Town and Community Councils across the county to engage with the PSB, better understand its work and contribute to the objectives in Towards 2040 in their own plans.</p>
1.2	<p>Event Summary</p> <p>The event was held in September 2019 at Celf O Gwmpus in Llandrindod Wells with 38 attendees representing 15 Town and Community Councils and 7 PSB partner organisations. The session took a Carousel style approach with attendees organised into small groups which rotated across the 9 of the 12 Well-being Steps that were represented.</p> <p>Emerging themes</p> <p>Several themes emerged from the discussion including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The value of volunteers • The need for different Town and Community Councils to connect in order to share information, good practise etc. • Talk around measuring performance so we know how the Steps are progressing • Work is going on in many areas to act on the link between access to nature/open spaces/woodland etc. with health and well-being. • Many participants referred to planting trees in urban areas • Travel and transport were identified as cross cutting issues that need a cross-step collaboration • There are a lot of informal networks and activities that exist in communities that contribute to Well-being that the PSB organisations may be unaware of. • Some activities/work that the Town and Community Councils deliver are more aligned to 1 or more of the 7 Wellbeing goals rather than the 12 specific "Steps".



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In addition, some common comments specific to Steps included:

Step 2:

*How does the public know that the PSB/(T & CCs) are making a difference?
We need a flow of information and data from the bottom level to provide assurance and assess performance.*

Possible need to raise awareness and understanding of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act across the Town and Community Councils

Step 3:

A need for joined-up thinking around this step. For example, with Step 6 in terms of a transport structure that supports young people to get where they need (school/college).

Step 4:

Many attendees commenting that digital connectivity should be a priority across the county.

Step 6:

*A need for coordination and information regarding work experience and careers advice.
Discussions around the need to encourage young people to stay in the county.
Discussion around a Holistic approach - to include transport, sign posting, offer of apprenticeships etc.*

Step 8:

*Some areas suggesting schemes to cut exhaust fumes e.g. "Turn-off your engine" signs at schools.
Many councils described tree planting initiatives in their areas.
Many areas developed/developing nature walks/foraging/Treasure Hunt trails.*

Steps 9 & 10:

*Much discussion around the challenges that rurality provides to the economy.
Links with Steps 3 and 4.
A need to share good practice across Town and Community Councils.*

Steps 11 & 12:

*The importance of transport, and also wider digital transformation, to enable residents to engage in wellbeing.
Suggestions that we need to recognise that there are probably multiple approaches to generating community engagement/involvement, given the difficulty in some local areas of getting participation via traditional routes.*



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The importance of local public sector buildings (e.g. GP surgeries, hospitals) and the need to consider their place as the focus for the community in a broader sense. Discussions around care closer to home – maybe not wellbeing per se, but everyone expressed a desire to have to travel less.

7 Well-being goals

- Some activities/work that the Town and Community Councils deliver are more aligned to 1 or more of the 7 Wellbeing goals rather than the 12 specific Steps. For example there are a lot of informal networks and activities that exist in communities that contribute to Well-being that the PSB organisations may be unaware of that would contribute to the goal of ‘Cohesive Communities’

Next Steps

- The PSB to consider if this event should be repeated next year to share progress and new ideas.
- Step Leads to consider the discussions held at the event and how the information can be used to inform any updates to the step delivery plans.