

Powys Public Service Board



Towards 2040

The Powys
Well-being Plan

*Annual
Report*

2 0 2 0 -
2 0 2 1



A message from the Chair

On behalf of the Powys Public Service Board (PSB) I am pleased to present our third Annual Report, following what has been a challenging year for us all. The report gives a brief overview of what we have achieved in the third year of our five-year Well-being plan and also looks at the challenges ahead.

We ended the 2020-2021 year in a very different place to where we began, with public services, communities, the third sector and local businesses finding new ways of doing things, being both innovative and resourceful in their fight against the pandemic. The partnership response, coordinated and carried out through relevant emergency planning frameworks has been commendable and I have no doubt that the effectiveness is in part due to the relationships and connections developed through the PSB.

Alongside our covid-19 response we have continued to progress some of our Well-being Plan objectives and steps. These are at the heart of what the PSB is trying to do, to improve the opportunities and experiences for residents and communities in Powys. Projects that began in 2018-19 have continued to grow, with new ideas and the continued ambition of partners.

As we move forward, the PSB will have an important role to play in supporting Powys to recover from the pandemic, and in doing so we will need to build on the partnership working that has taken place over the past year. In November 2020, my colleagues and I held a recovery workshop and we agreed to prioritise three of our well-being steps, making these our main focus as a route to recovery, these are; improving digital infrastructure; developing a decarbonisation strategy and implementing a sustainable environment strategy. During June and July 2021, we will engage with residents through an online survey, and ask questions about their experiences of living in Powys - covering topics from employment and health to Welsh language, the findings will be used to develop our next well-being assessment and will provide valuable insight into how the pandemic may have affected people.

I am grateful to my colleagues on the PSB for their continued commitment towards improving the well-being of residents and communities in the county. Our Town and Community Councils continue to be represented on the PSB and some are also expected to publish annual reports setting out their contributions to the local objectives in Towards 2040.

We hope you will be interested in the work we are doing and would welcome ideas and contributions that can bring about change that will create the Powys we all want now and for future generations.

Cllr Rosemarie Harris, Chair of the Powys Public Service Board

What is this Annual Report?

This is Powys Public Services Board (PSB) third Annual Report. It highlights work that the PSB has done during 2020-2021 to deliver the objectives in **Towards 2040 Our Well-being Plan** ([Towards 2040 - the Powys Well-being Plan - Powys County Council](#)). We launched our **Well-being plan** in July 2018 following a comprehensive assessment of the well-being of the local population and extensive consultation and engagement with a wide range of stakeholders. The objectives in our plan aim to address the issues which the residents and communities of Powys told us are most important to improving their well-being. We published our first annual report in July 2019, followed by our second report a year later – copies can be found here: [Powys Public Service Board - Our Annual Progress Report - Powys County Council](#). Our first year of delivery focussed on planning and prioritising activity for each of the 12 steps in our plan and considering how we can fully embrace the sustainable development principles in our work. This helped to create a clear roadmap for delivering our plan during 2019-2021.

What is the Powys Public Service Board?

The Public Service Board (PSB) is a statutory strategic partnership established under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**. The Act requires key local organisation in Powys to work together and take a more co-ordinated and long-term approach to the issues that really matter to the people of the county. In doing so, the PSB must assess the state of well-being locally (a copy of the most recent Well-being assessment can be found here: [Full Well-being assessment analysis - Powys County Council](#)). It must use the finding of the assessment to set objectives and produce a plan designed to improve economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in the local area. The statutory partners that make up the board are:



Gwasanaeth Tân Ac Achub
Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru

Mid and West Wales
Fire and Rescue Service



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd
Addysgu Powys
Powys Teaching
Health Board



Cyfoeth
Naturiol
Cymru
Natural
Resources
Wales

Other organisations who play a key role in the PSB include the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations, Dyfed Powys Police, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Welsh Government, Probation Service and One Voice Wales.

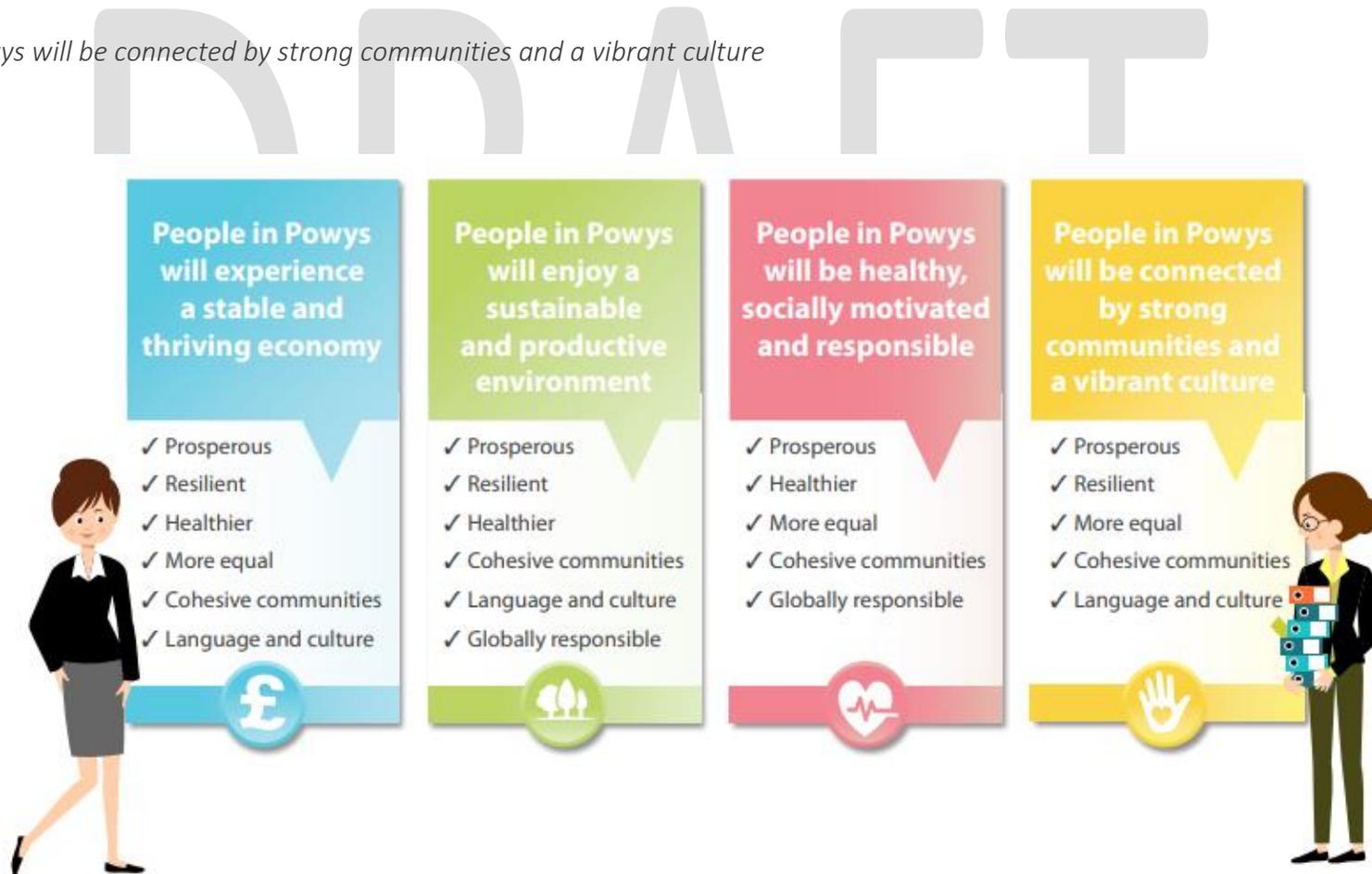


Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



What are the objectives in Towards 2040 Our Well-being Plan?

- *People in Powys will experience a stable and thriving economy*
- *People in Powys will enjoy a sustainable and productive environment*
- *People in Powys will be healthy, socially motivated and responsible*
- *People in Powys will be connected by strong communities and a vibrant culture*



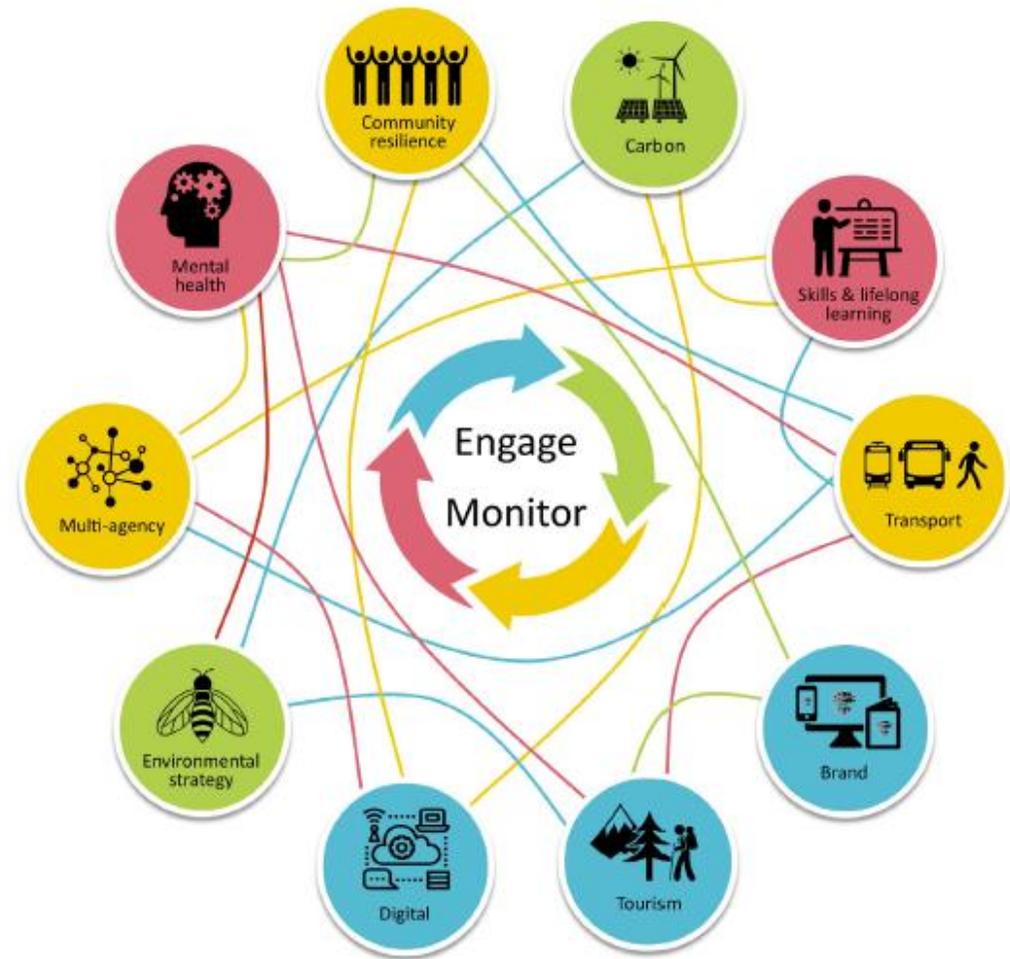
Our 12 Well-being Steps

Our four objectives set out the goals we are aiming for in the longer-term. To help us reach these goals we agreed an initial 12 **Well-being Steps** to focus on delivering in the shorter term.

These are collective steps, where we need to work together and enhance the work we're doing as individual organisations and communities. None of these steps can be delivered in isolation and each will have an impact on the others. For example, better digital infrastructure will help with providing better care for those who need it; improved public transport will encourage tourism. The PSB is working **collaboratively** to ensure we make the most of these links and opportunities and challenge ourselves, and others, when things get in the way of doing what we've agreed we will.

Each of the 12 Steps is being led by a PSB partner, whose responsibility is to ensure that work is progressing as planned, and that results are being delivered.

This report looks at each of the steps in turn and includes examples of the partnership work undertaken by the Powys Public Service Board during 2020-21.



Well-being Step 1: Actively engage with residents, communities and key stakeholders to promote, shape and deliver our vision for 2040.



Lead organisation: Powys County Council

Our vision is ambitious, and it can't be achieved without the help of others. We will need the contribution of businesses, communities, third sector organisations, colleges and others to improve well-being in Powys and achieve our vision for the future of Powys. As a PSB, we need to be enthusiastic about the vision and what it will achieve and promote that whenever we're dealing with stakeholders. We will use the vision as a golden thread when talking to other organisations and ensure that all those we work with are aware of the vision and what the PSB is doing to make it a reality.

What have we been working on during 2020-2021 to deliver our local objectives?

- ✓ We developed and published our 2019-20 Annual Report by the deadline of July 2020, to inform residents of the progress against our well-being objectives and to promote our vision for Powys.
- ✓ We have worked alongside the Regional Partnership Board to explore and cost-up options for a joint engagement platform for partners to use collectively. A shared engagement platform was identified called 'Engagement HQ'. The platform is being funded by the Regional Partnership Board, therefore is currently being led by the council, health board and PAVO.
- ✓ We have been successful in our bid to the Co-production Network for Wales, who were looking for 3 PSB's (or clusters of PSB's) across Wales, and to work with them over the next 5 years on implementing meaningful co-production and involvement.
- ✓ We continued to engage with the PSB Scrutiny Committee as one of our key stakeholders and considered their recommendations in developing our delivery plans.

What have we been working on to support the Covid-19 response?

- ✓ In July 2020, Powys County Council lead on the development of a report called 'Understanding the Impact of Covid-19 in Powys' which set out the initial impact of the pandemic on the county's residents, communities and economy. The report was shared with all partners and was important in planning our recovery.
- ✓ The council with the support of partners launched the #SupportLocalPowys campaign in June 2020, which urged residents to shop locally wherever possible to support local businesses. Later in the year, the PSB was also successful in gaining £25,000 of grant funding from Natural Resources Wales, which helped to continue the campaign over the Christmas period and into 2021. The campaign has promoted collaborative working and encouraged residents to support locally produced goods, enjoy local attractions and facilities when possible, complying with

Covid restrictions, reduce the impact on the environment and promote responsible and sustainable use of resources. It has raised awareness, re-connected residents with the environment and encouraged a reduction in the county's carbon footprint.

- ✓ Powys County Council undertook a Business Survey asking businesses for their views to help understand the full effects of Covid-19 on the local economy. Feedback was crucial to ongoing discussions with Welsh Government, Business Wales and partner organisations and informing recovery plans.

What do we plan to do in 2021-2022?

- ✓ Develop a Communications Plan to raise awareness of the work of the PSB and its achievements.
- ✓ Launch the joint public engagement platform 'Engagement HQ'.
- ✓ Develop our next Well-being Assessment and engage with stakeholders, to inform the next Well-being Plan.

What challenges do we face?

- ✓ Ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and Welsh Government restrictions.
- ✓ Successful progression of the actions will rely on available capacity across PSB partner organisations.

Well-being Step 2: Establish a simple and effective performance management framework to monitor progress in delivering the well-being steps and achieving the vision

Lead organisation: Brecon Beacons National Park

We need to know if what we're doing is making the differences we want. The PSB will create a transparent way of assessing the effectiveness of our Well-being Steps, as they are being developed, in achieving the vision so that everyone can see the progress that's being made.

BBNPA to provide information for this step by 18th June.

What have we been working on during 2020-2021 to deliver our local objectives?

What have we been working on to support the Covid-19 response?

What do we plan to do in 2021-2022?



What challenges do we face?

Well-being Step 3: Work with and influence others to improve our transport infrastructure, our existing transport links and develop a sustainable and integrated approach for planning and delivery

Lead organisation: Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service

The rural nature of Powys means that frequent travel is inevitable whether for work or leisure and being able to get around Powys and beyond easily and safely underpins the 2040 vision. There are cycle routes and bus services available, however, they are not as connected, convenient or safe as they could be. People can find themselves isolated because they are no longer able to drive due to age or ill health. The public sector in Powys provides a lot of transport within the county and there are opportunities to improve the way we do this, potentially making better use of what we have, including community transport and providing additional benefits to our communities. The PSB will work collectively to make the case for Powys with national and regional government for investment in transport, including the provision of electric charging points and refuelling points for emerging fuels.

Whilst the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a considerable delay to the progression of this Step, with the majority of partners and stakeholders being required to re-direct their resources to maintaining business as usual, it is clear to see from the updates provided below from individual organisations, that there have been some key areas of work delivered to the benefit of the communities within Powys.

What have we been working on during 2020-2021 to deliver our local objectives?

- ✓ Partners delivered online road safety courses including Motorbike rider engagement courses, Project (EDWARD) Every Day Without A Road Death courses and Biker Down courses.
- ✓ A drink drive awareness and demonstration event was run at the Sennybridge Army camp. This event was organised to raise awareness of the risks and impact of drink driving. A simulated road traffic collision involving Army personnel was live streamed to 160 personnel and was also broadcast to an additional 650 personnel.
- ✓ Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) installed an Electric Vehicle (EV) charger in Newtown and staff within Powys have been trialling EV vans.
- ✓ Work continued on a potential transport interchange in Machynlleth with discussions with TfW/Network Rail continuing.
- ✓ A successful bid for funding for the construction of bus interchange within Welshpool was made.
- ✓ Powys County Council installed 16 EV chargers into 8 off streetcar parks.



- ✓ Dyfed Powys Police (DPP) purchased 8 BMW i3 vehicles and installed charging points at their headquarters site.
- ✓ A biodiversity survey was undertaken at the DPP HQ site with the view of increasing the biodiversity at HQ. They have reviewed their waste management contract, with a view of increasing the recycling rates across the Force.

What have we been working on to support the Covid-19 response?

- ✓ Funding from Welsh Government was utilised to aid social distancing within towns by repurposing parts of the highway and in some places closing road off for pedestrian use, this allowed some businesses, mainly within the hospitality sector to then make use of the highway to do business. This funding was also used to aid social distancing at the Lake in Llandrindod with a pop-up cycle lane being installed.
- ✓ 10 On Call staff from MAWWFRS were seconded to Powys Teaching Health Board on a 3 months fixed contract to assist with providing vaccinations.
- ✓ Partners supported the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust (WAST) by driving ambulances and staff were trained and available to provide mortuary assistance.
- ✓ Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSC's) were conducted via live streaming in order to continue keeping communities safe during isolation periods.
- ✓ Several of the partner agencies invested in their IT infrastructure to increase the number of laptops available to staff to allow them to work from home as per Covid-19 Guidelines. This, together with better connectivity, has meant that the mileage staff have had to travel to and from work and the business mileage of staff in work has decreased significantly, which has helped reduce the carbon footprint. It has also seen electricity consumption reduce across organisations which has further helped in lowering the carbon footprint.
- ✓ DPP carried out enforcement of the Covid-19 restrictions throughout the pandemic.

What do we plan to do in 2021-2022?

- ✓ Consult with local residents about ideas to improve active travel to enable safe walking and cycling routes.
- ✓ Identify who needs access to community travel and develop solutions for where the gaps are currently.
- ✓ Continue to increase the provision of electric vehicle charging points to support our environmental policies.
- ✓ Investigate options for investment from regional and national government to help us make these improvements.

What challenges do we face?

- ✓ Our response to the COVID-19 pandemic has placed significant delay on our ability to progress these workstreams due to the availability of partners.
- ✓ Attendance at meetings due to personnel changes within the Working Group have also made it difficult to progress the workstreams.

- ✓ The improvements we would like to make are a significant financial expense, and without investment from regional or national government these may not be possible to achieve.
- ✓ Many of the people who need the help or service the most do not ask for it, so identifying where these people live so that we can ensure we plan appropriate solutions in the right places is challenging.

Well-being Step 4: Work with and influence others to improve digital infrastructure

Lead organisation: Powys County Council

Broadband and mobile phone connections are becoming increasingly important as ways of accessing services, information and entertainment as well as allowing people to work more flexibly, have a better work life balance and contribute to their communities. We know there are parts of Powys where this access is limited or absent and understand the importance of this infrastructure to the achievement of our vision for Powys. However, much of the responsibility for this lies outside of Powys, with the government and businesses, but where we ourselves can help we will. We will use our collective voice to lobby national and regional governments, as well as private providers where appropriate, to get good quality Internet and mobile phone provision across all of Powys.



What have we been working on during 2020-2021 to deliver our local objectives?

- ✓ Recruited a Community Broadband Officer.
- ✓ Developed plans to deliver our strategy.
- ✓ Updated our wellbeing information bank with all the latest data. Follow this link to see the latest data - [Wellbeing Information Bank - Powys County Council](#)
- ✓ Secured grant funding to support our information sharing development.

What have we been working on to support the Covid-19 response?

- ✓ Our digital response to Covid19 has seen the development of digital systems to support collaborative working such as Welfare support to shielding residents and telephony systems to support Mass Vaccinations.

What do we plan to do in 2021-2022?

- ✓ Gather requirements from across our PSB to design our data integration ambitions.
- ✓ Design and implement a shared Data and Analytics Framework.
- ✓ Increase our publicly available data from 72 dashboards to 100 and promote to all stakeholders.

- ✓ Increase our capacity to support broadband and 4G rollout across our communities.
- ✓ Commission a connectivity study through the Mid Wales Growth deal.
- ✓ Support the development of digital skills with our residents to reduce travel and protect our environments through appropriate funding opportunities.
- ✓ Create a barrier busting digital connectivity group.
- ✓ Support the development of digital businesses.
- ✓ Develop opportunities through digital to help protect our natural environment.
- ✓ Collaboratively deliver an IOT gateway network in Powys to facilitate the use of low cost, long life sensors to support all public services.

What Challenges do we face?

- ✓ Current restrictions to our lives in staying at home have highlighted the challenges for many families who have been excluded, overcoming these is a significant challenge even with government funding many families are unable to fund digital access.
- ✓ Response to COVID19 has delayed our plans for digital transformation and will slow our programme of change, our plans for 2021-22 may be affected whilst we focus on recovery.
- ✓ Many small businesses in Powys are on the brink of financial collapse and unable to invest in digital growth, meeting this gap is a significant challenge where we want to work with our partners for innovative solutions.
- ✓ Provision of broadband in hard-to-reach rural locations.

Well-being Step 5: Develop a joint approach to community resilience by co-ordinating existing support and building the skills and capacity within communities helping them do the things they can't do for themselves

Lead organisation: Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations

Our communities are one of our biggest strengths, where people feel connected to their neighbours. The availability, expectations and delivery of public services is likely to change in the future and our communities are more likely to become the first place residents go for help and support. We want to ensure that our communities remain strong, friendly, supportive places that all residents feel able to contribute to, or receive from, as they need.

What have we been working on during 2020-2021 to deliver our local objectives?

- ✓ Registered 1381 new volunteers.



- ✓ Placed 254 volunteers within statutory settings to enhance public services.
- ✓ Placed 900 volunteers within third sector settings to enhance public services.
- ✓ Supported the development of 748 community initiatives that enhance and maintain the wellbeing of individuals and communities.
- ✓ Engaged external consultants to review volunteering in Powys and produce a strategy and operational plan for volunteering Powys for the next 5 years.
- ✓ The shared activity undertaken under Step 5 of Powys PSB's Wellbeing Plan has progressed via the Community Sector Response Group (CSRG). The purpose of the CSRG is to build upon the support and coordination of third sector activity during the COVID-19 pandemic led via the Community Sector Emergency Response Team (C-SERT). In partnership with all sectors and agencies, it seeks to galvanise and harness the contribution of the voluntary sector across Powys in order to deliver what matters to people, improve the independence of individuals and reduce the demands on statutory health and care services. The CSRG also fulfils the remit of the Social Value Forum in Powys, a statutory requirement of the Regional Partnership Board by virtue of the Social Services and Well Being Act. The outcomes and outputs of the CSRG are aligned with the outcomes set out in the Health & Care Strategy and in the Workforce Futures Strategic Framework. The CSRG is still in its nascency, having been formed around 6 months ago.

What have we been working on to support the Covid-19 response?

- ✓ We responded to the COVID crisis by establishing a Community Sector Emergency Response Team that helped to recruit volunteers, support community response (including 114 new COVID community initiatives) and placed volunteers to enhance statutory services with a particular focus on the Mass Vaccination Programme.
- ✓ We established and developed 13 local community support networks across Powys. These are led by community connectors. PAVO has recently employed additional development officers to expedite the development of these networks. The networks have taken forward initiatives to address gaps and vulnerabilities in service such as hot food provision and day care activities for older people.
- ✓ We recruited over 400 volunteers to support Powys' Mass Vaccination Programme

CASE STUDIES:

- ✓ **Mass Vaccination Wayfinder Volunteers**
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_cM8zM2SAEVJwUpV_Si6UTkWbF127iGo/view?usp=sharing
https://drive.google.com/file/d/18xHNX7X8JbWgzlep_-iLRu1HAScWzmEA/view?usp=sharing
- ✓ **CARAD - Moving Forward**
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IDgAiCYhKd51Dg4HLpSUV_xKMzD6ReOa/view?usp=sharing

✓ **PTHB - Mental Health Volunteers**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1N4ll1b0xEly3wqGEIq2ZFp8Dw5SIaJap/view?usp=sharing>

✓ **Stitching 4 Superheroes**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IzvtTE0fzsq1wHQldrqACYz8nvgCBjKa8P5D7LlyTw/edit?usp=sharing>

What do we plan to do in 2021-2022?

- ✓ Consolidate the CSRG operational and governance arrangements.
- ✓ Further develop and strengthen the local community support networks.
- ✓ Work together to respond to the gaps in service and community needs identified via the local community support networks.
- ✓ Further promote and nurture volunteering in Powys, both formal and informal.
- ✓ Consider the adoption and implementation of the proposed 5 year strategy for volunteering, the 3-year implementation plan and the associated financial resourcing plan.

What challenges do we face?

- ✓ Volunteer fatigue.
- ✓ Inadequate or short-term resourcing of volunteering infrastructure and support.
- ✓ Insufficient coordination of volunteering support among partner agencies.

Well-being Step 6: Develop a holistic approach to skills and lifelong learning which offers a range of formal and informal opportunities, including apprenticeships and traineeships

Lead organisation: Powys County Council

Studying at university or college isn't the only way to gain the skills needed for work and the organisations and businesses of the future will need skilled people to work in them. We could provide opportunities for specialist training to meet those needs enabling young people to continue to live in Powys and widening their career prospects. We could attract people to the county by being a centre of excellence for health care, environmental work or renewables, possibly creating a higher education establishment in Powys. We also want to develop opportunities across the county that will support learners, of whatever age or ability, whether retraining or learning for fun - combating loneliness and isolation. This will also help the economy, building on existing sectors and developing new ones where Powys can be at the forefront of innovation.



What have we been working on during 2020-2021 to deliver our local objectives?

- ✓ Recruitment campaign for an Interim Chair of the Board, Board members and a programme manager for the Regional Skills Partnership (RSP).
- ✓ Online Careers Festival arranged by Careers Wales on 10 March for learners across Powys and Ceredigion. This event was bilingual.
- ✓ Collaborative partnership working across north and south Powys sixth forms.
- ✓ Informal stakeholder engagement (January – March 2021) has helped to evolve and shape the Post-16 proposals.
- ✓ Initial learner focus groups have been held with Ysgol Llanfyllin and Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion 6th Form representatives.
- ✓ 80 apprenticeship applications received.
- ✓ Meeting held with the Employer Liaison Officer to consider possible opportunities of identifying apprenticeship positions external to Powys County Council (PCC).
- ✓ Additional support, such as CV writing and interview techniques, is being offered to those PCC apprentices whose apprenticeships are coming to an end shortly, to enable them to secure employment either internally or externally.
- ✓ Information regarding the benefits of apprenticeships and the Welsh Government Employers Incentive was published during National Apprenticeship week.
- ✓ Videos were created with past apprentices so that they can be used when undertaking awareness raising sessions in schools. An example is available on the PCC Apprenticeships internet page <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/989/Apprenticeships>
- ✓ Initial meeting of the Neath Port Talbot (NPT) Learning Skills Network (LSN) and Powys Adult and Community Learning (ACL) Management Group on 19 March 2021, following a decision to amalgamate the previous separate meetings to extend and consolidate collaborative working.

What have we been working on to support the Covid-19 response?

- ✓ The provision of an online Careers Festival provided learners with an opportunity to hear from industry experts, find out more about the world of work and take part in live Q&As with employers, despite the lockdown restrictions that were in place.

What do we plan to do in 2021-2022?

- ✓ Post-16 proposals to be presented to PCC Cabinet in May 2021.
- ✓ Establishment of Post-16 Strategic Management Board and Operational Management Boards by June 2021.
- ✓ Conclude recruitment of RSP Chair, Board Members and support staff by June 2021.
- ✓ Develop a RSP framework for action by December 2021 and a detailed work programme by March 2022.
- ✓ Online transition event for KS4 / KS5 learners to be fully aware of choices and possible pathways by June 2021.

What challenges do we face?

- ✓ The pandemic has been a challenging environment in which to deliver against the skills agenda, however collaborative working has been strong and priorities such as the Post-16 agenda have been moved forward at pace.

Well-being Step 7: Develop a carbon positive energy strategy that maximises green energy production

Lead organisation: Welsh Government were leading on this for the main part of 2020-21, but then leadership was transferred to Powys County Council in the last quarter of the year.

Powys has an abundance of potential renewable energy sources. As well as providing green energy this can also provide jobs, skills and financial benefits that will contribute to making our communities more resilient. The diverse nature of renewable opportunities could support research and skills development, with Powys becoming a centre of excellence in the renewable energy field. By contributing to a greener energy infrastructure we would also be helping to mitigate the impacts of potentially damaging climate change in Powys and beyond.



What have we been working on during 2020-2021?

- ✓ Development of a vision for a Carbon Positive Powys and identify priority areas for intervention.
- ✓ Preparation of models and scenarios to illustrate the change required to achieve a Carbon Positive Powys by 2040.
- ✓ Engagement on the scenarios and opportunities with the businesses, citizens and organisations of Powys.
- ✓ Preparation of a draft decarbonisation strategy for submission to the PSB and analysis of the draft strategy at working group level.
- ✓ Change in workstream lead from Welsh Government to Powys County Council.

What do we plan to do in 2021-2022?

- ✓ Gain approval for the draft strategy to undergo public consultation.
- ✓ Consultation and engagement with Powys communities and stakeholders.
- ✓ Strategy completed and adopted.

- ✓ Collate baseline information from localities in Powys.
- ✓ Provide advice and guidance on place-based decarbonisation.

What challenges do we face?

- ✓ COVID-19 has slowed our progress and may impact upon the level of engagement of some stakeholders.
- ✓ A rapidly changing policy context. New data has been provided by the committee on climate change (Dec-20) since the consultants did their analysis. New Welsh Government targets on net zero (March-21) and a host of policy changes at Welsh, UK and international levels pre COP-26.
- ✓ We are already seeing the impacts of climate change in our county.
- ✓ Given the size of Powys and the increasing interest in climate change, effective stakeholder engagement could be challenging. We will look at innovative solutions to reaching as wide an audience as possible.

Well-being Step 8: Develop a sustainable environment strategy: by strengthening activity to deliver the sustainable management of Powys' natural resources through coordinated conservation work and actions underpinning the Nature Recovery Plan and Natural Resources Wales Area Statement(s)

Lead organisation: Natural Resources Wales

Our environment is fundamental in sustaining life be it through food production, the supply of water, the biodiverse habitats and species which enable natural processes to function, or for our physical and mental health and well-being. We want to ensure that Powys' diverse natural environments are in good condition and can withstand pressures including climate change in years to come. The quality of Powys's natural environment sustains the local economy through a vibrant agricultural sector, forestry and through tourism but is also precious in its own right through all of the life it supports and for the natural landscapes we enjoy. We will need to work with landowners and managers, conservation organisations, communities and volunteers to identify how best to conserve and enhance Powys' natural resources and environment for future residents and visitors.

What have we been working on during 2020-2021 to deliver our local objectives?



- ✓ Recognising the prolonged impacts of Covid-19 on PSB partners, specific work on this step was paused for a longer period than was expected at the time of the last annual report, but has recently been recommenced. We have used the opportunity to both review the scope and intent of the step, and those involved in its delivery to better reflect the needs of the environment and people of Powys.
- ✓ The core group has been reconvened and we are now inviting other key partners to participate.
- ✓ Since the publishing of the Mid Wales Area Statement there has been ongoing stakeholder engagement to further develop understanding of the themes and priorities.

What have we been working on to support the Covid-19 response?

- ✓ The pandemic and associated constraints on the public have seen significant and changing pressures arising from the demands for local and wider visitor access to green spaces. Whilst this has been a real positive in many regards in opening the eyes of people to the natural environment available on their doorsteps, pressure on 'honey pot' sites has been significant and partners have worked together to seek to enable appropriate access and manage the impact of large visitor numbers and isolated anti social behaviour at sensitive sites.

What do we plan to do in 2021-2022?

- ✓ This year is key for development of the strategy and identification of key areas for maximising individual and collective delivery of our activities to better achieve sustainable management of natural resources in Powys.
- ✓ Analysis of existing policies and partnerships will be undertaken to ensure improved coordination and efficient use of resources and identify potential gaps where additional interventions are required.

What challenges do we face?

- ✓ Whilst partners will continue to see direct and indirect disruption from the response to and recovery from Covid19, the disruptive changes for the public and public services may allow us to explore opportunities that were not thought viable prior to the pandemic.
- ✓ This year provides increased global focus on the importance of this well-being step with the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) being held in Glasgow in November 2021 and the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP15) being held in October 2021.

Well-being Step 9: Undertake market research and establish an effective infrastructure to support active enjoyment of the environment and adventure tourism

Well-being Step 10: Develop a strong brand to promote and attract inward investment into Powys

Lead organisation: Powys County Council

Our environment is one of our biggest assets providing opportunities for a range of outdoor activities, from walking to potholing, kayaking to climbing. We want to make the most of our assets and take advantages of those opportunities. Tourism is also a big part of the local economy which offers opportunities for growth, through increased visitor spend and by creating new activities and attractions. We will need to work with businesses, existing ones and those just starting up, to identify the best options for creating new activities and attractions in Powys.

Powys has some unique attractions, amazing landscapes, safe and welcoming communities and space to breathe. We also have a thriving food and festival market. If Powys is to be the place we want it to be in 2040 we need to promote Powys and its businesses, in Wales and beyond, so that businesses chose to invest here because they can get a premium for their products and people chose to live and work here.

The Mid Wales Growth Deal has been reinforced as the priority activity under which Well-being Steps 9 and 10 will be channelled in the coming years, and its progress towards achieving full deal agreement by March 2022 has been encouraging. Developing the region's infrastructure across the priority economic sectors will see huge benefits to Powys over the 10-year lifespan of the Growth Deal and beyond.

What have we been working on during 2020-2021 to deliver our local objectives?

- ✓ The Mid Wales Growth Deal Heads of Terms was signed by UK and Welsh Government in December 2020. The signing demonstrates a commitment by both governments, alongside Powys and Ceredigion County Councils to work together to deliver a deal to support the economy of the region. It also commits both the Welsh and UK Governments to back the growth deal with a £55m investment each. The Mid Wales Growth Deal portfolio business case is being developed and moving forward, the activities of Wellbeing Steps 9 and 10 will be developed through this prioritised workstream.
- ✓ ENRaW (Enabling Natural Resources and Wellbeing) funding for Canals, Communities and Wellbeing Project, to develop infrastructure along Powys' canal-side corridors over the next 3 years. Working in partnership with BBNP and CRT and other key stakeholders.
- ✓ Delivery of the Welsh Government funded Wales Way Project to promote the Cambrian Way (A470) route through Wales.



- ✓ The Council's Communications team led on a #SupportLocalPowys summer campaign encouraging people to support local businesses/high streets, followed by a 2020 Christmas campaign led by the Tourism team profiling 200 Powys businesses.

What have we been working on to support the Covid-19 response?

- ✓ £1.8m Powys Covid-19 Recovery Fund announced in March 2021 to support county wide recovery initiatives over the next 2 years.
- ✓ Local Resilience Forum Tourism Sub-Group - planning and co-ordination between key agencies to support communities and mitigate negative impacts as visitors return, in particular to busier honey-pot sites.
- ✓ Business Support was prioritised as a business critical activity for the Council, and work is ongoing to help businesses navigate their way through the operational changes put in place to contain the Covid-19 pandemic, and the range of support mechanisms available to various business sectors.
- ✓ Town Centre alterations and grant support to create safe, open and inviting high streets and maximise outdoor seating for hospitality businesses
- ✓ Management of the Visitor Economy Hardship Fund to ensure key Council services and popular visitor sites can effectively manage the impacts of returning visitors in a way that ensures a positive visitor experience and alleviates concerns of local communities.
- ✓ Active participation in the Wales tourism marketing and research groups to understand and implement key safety messages, and to monitor consumer trends and sentiment as restrictions ease and people are allowed to travel freely and enjoy leisure activities.

What do we plan to do in 2021-2022?

- ✓ Finalise the first phase projects and programmes within the Mid Wales Growth Deal Portfolio by December 2021.
- ✓ Achieve full deal agreement from UK and Welsh Government for the Mid Wales Growth Deal by March 2022.
- ✓ Maximise funding from UK and Welsh Governments, e.g. Levelling Up Fund, Community Renewal Fund, Transforming Towns Fund.
- ✓ Complete a new Mid Wales Regional Strategic Tourism action plan by December 2021.
- ✓ Complete Year 1 delivery of the ENRaW funded Canals, Communities and Wellbeing Project.
- ✓ Liaise with Welsh Government Major Events Unit to attract new events and audiences to Powys from 2022 onwards.

What challenges do we face?

- ✓ COVID-19 has and will continue to have a significant impact on the delivery of Steps 9 and 10. The loss of visitor revenue in 2020 is estimated to be around 65%, and it is expected to be 3-5 years before the visitor economy returns to pre Covid-19 levels.

- ✓ Pressure on small rural businesses in Powys has been extremely difficult, and ongoing support for businesses is needed to help ensure confidence and key markets return as quickly as possible for a wide range of Powys products and services.
- ✓ EU Transitional arrangements remain a source of uncertainty for some Powys businesses, particularly those trading with the EU.

Well-being Step 11: Implement more effective structures and processes that enable multiagency community focused response to wellbeing, early help and support

Well-being Step 12: Develop our organisations' capacity to improve emotional health and well-being within all our communities

Lead organisation: Powys Teaching Health Board

We all want to continue living in our own homes for as long as possible. However, we may need help to do so, whether informally from friends and neighbours or more formal support such as domiciliary care. Many people who live in Powys receive services from a range of departments and organisations. We want to work together across organisations, partners and specialisms to make it easier for you to access the most appropriate support for your needs by whoever is best placed to do that.

Emotional health is as important to well-being as physical health. However mental and emotional ill health is not as obvious sometimes as physical illness. The public sector in Powys employs a lot of people and we want to give them the skills to support each other, their families, friends, their neighbours and communities. We already have strong and supportive communities and we feel that promoting emotional well-being will make them even better places to live.

Steps 11 and 12 of the PSB Wellbeing Plan have been deployed via the North Powys Wellbeing Programme.

What have we been working on during 2020-2021 to deliver our local objectives?

- ✓ Finalised the Programme Business case for the Multi-agency Wellbeing Campus, this was submitted to Welsh Government on 6th November 2020.
- ✓ A range of engagement activities were carried out with a number of teams, services and individuals – their plans shared with a view to increasing collaborative working / multi-agency working in Newtown.
- ✓ Commenced more detailed service planning and modelling to support investment in a multi-agency well-being campus.
- ✓ Set priorities, objectives and targets within our 21 -22 delivery plan.



- ✓ Worked intensively with our Acceleration for Change project leads in order to support developing business cases that meet the needs of communities from both a clinical and wellbeing perspective.
- ✓ Worked with our Acceleration for Change Leads developing key indicators and milestones, in order to meet Welsh Government, Transformation Funding requirements.
- ✓ Signposted community connectors as the first port of call for all early help and support.

What have we been working on to support the Covid-19 response?

- ✓ Sharing examples of good practice identified in Newtown, for example - Newtown Network, with a view to roll out further.
- ✓ Collating baseline data to support the scoping of the Community Wellbeing Hub.
- ✓ A review has been carried out of the Integrated Model of Care and Wellbeing in light of COVID-19.
- ✓ Re-focused the programme to embed learning from COVID-19 following robust evaluation across the partnership.
- ✓ Identified areas to accelerate change to support recovery from COVID-19 and support delivery of the new Integrated Model of Care and Wellbeing.
- ✓ Supported with the development of systems and processes to allow for further joint working, for example - Attend Anywhere.

What do we plan to do in 2021-2022?

- ✓ Embed case studies of good practice into communities.
- ✓ Support communities to deliver services and activities jointly.
- ✓ Begin to develop service plans for the Community Well-being Hub.
- ✓ Begin to report synergies and integrated working opportunities, to inform Outcomes/ Benefits Framework.
- ✓ Consider joint commissioning approaches / models.
- ✓ Develop plans that offer a range of community activities in the community.
- ✓ Delivery of accelerated projects in communities and support them to become self-sustaining.

What challenges do we face?

- ✓ Engagement activities face to face with communities.

Five ways of working

How are we doing things more sustainably?

We have continued to embrace sustainable working practices as part of planning and delivering each of our steps. We also recognise that we still have a long journey ahead to ensure this way of working is fully adopted and embedded.

1. How are we balancing short term needs with planning for the **longer term**?

Our long-term ambitions are set out in our Towards 2040 Plan and are prioritised into four key objectives. The 12 Steps we are taking in the shorter term can be seen as steppingstones for reaching our ambitions. For example, we've started work on improving our digital infrastructure because the way we work and live our lives today is changing rapidly and will continue to do so into the future, especially as working from home becomes the norm for many. Digital technologies are having a big impact on the way we connect with each other, receive information and access a variety of services, and the range of digital options presents us with exciting opportunities to deliver for our residents. We know we need to provide opportunities to improve the digital skills of our residents to improve inclusion for all in the longer term. Our well-being information bank continues to be updated with the latest data on economic, cultural, social and environmental topics and we use this data to understand trends and needs. The pandemic has made us think differently about the way we live our lives and the way people want services delivered and this is why we have continued to update our delivery plans throughout the year to reflect new opportunities.

2. How are we **involving** people (with an interest) in making decisions?

We recognise that the involvement of our communities and key stakeholders must be at the heart of the work we are doing and that is why one of our Well-being Steps is all about actively engaging with our residents. Over the past year, engagement has been minimal, however as we start to recover from the pandemic and begin the development of our next well-being assessment, engagement with stakeholders is going to be critical to understand what matters to people and using their feedback to influence the decisions we make. Throughout the year our PSB meetings are available for members of the public to view/ attend and PSB meeting papers and minutes are published on the Council's website.

3. How are steps being delivered in **collaboration** with others?

While each of our 12 Well-being Steps are being led by an individual organisation, a number of delivery groups have been set up to manage the work and these have representation from a variety of organisations (public, private and third sector). Work has also been undertaken to further develop collaboration with Town and Community Councils and ensure integration between the wider PSB plans and local plans. Many partners on



the PSB also sit on Regional Partnership Board, which helps to ensure we are working towards the same vision for Powys. We also collaborate with partners outside of Powys and learn from what is working well elsewhere.

4. How are we ensuring our plans are **integrated**? This means considering the impact of the Steps on the 7 Well-being goals, on each other and on other plans.

Where possible we are ensuring that our plans at a PSB level are integrated with the plans and objectives of individual partners organisations and with other local and regional partnerships. This will help ensure that we are all working towards the same vision and that there is a clear golden thread running between our plans. A well-being planning and delivery group, made up of officers from all PSB partners meets throughout the year to discuss progress against our well-being steps and to look for opportunities for better integration. Where possible, we are also looking at solutions for integrating our data to provide information on the most effective collaborative approach to meet the needs of our residents, especially those most vulnerable.

5. How are we **preventing** problems happening in the first place or getting worse?
Prevention continues to be an underpinning principle across all our Well-being Steps but is more clearly evident in some than others. For example, our step to develop a carbon positive strategy will ensure action to mitigate the risks of climate change and will contribute to the well-being of future generations. Working together on decarbonisation, rather than individually, will make a bigger difference to emissions in Powys and we can influence our communities to join in. Our steps to improve transport and digital infrastructure also aim to prevent unnecessary or cleaner travel. And our step around lifelong learning and skills aims to prevent unemployment, poverty and improved well-being.

Seven Well-being Goals

How does Powys fair against the National Well-being indicators?

The [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#) required Welsh Ministers to set national indicators to assess progress towards achieving the 7 Well-being Goals. Outlined below are some of the key indicators, which are most relevant to our four objectives. Based on the most recent data available, they show the level of progress in Powys compared to Wales as a whole.



People in Powys will experience a stable and thriving economy

Indicator	Wales	Powys	Date information published
Gross Value Added (GVA) per hour worked (relative to UK average)	100.6	92.7	2018
Gross Disposable Household Income per head	81	86.7	2018
Percentage of people moderately or very satisfied with their jobs.	82%	85%	2019-2020
Percentage of people in employment.	72.8%	75.9%	Year end Dec 2020



People in Powys will enjoy a sustainable and productive environment

Indicator	Wales	Powys	Date information published
Amount of waste generated that is not recycled, per person	173kg	141kg	2019-20
Capacity (in MW) of renewable energy equipment installed	3,213mw	222mw	2018



People in Powys will be healthy, socially motivated and responsible

Indicator	Wales	Powys	Date information published
Healthy life expectancy at birth including the gap between the least and most deprived.	Male = 78.2 Female = 82.2	Male = 80 Female = 83.5	2010-2012
Percentage of adults who have fewer than two healthy lifestyle behaviours (not smoking, healthy weight, eat five fruit or vegetables a day, not drinking above guidelines and meet the physical activity guidelines).	10%	8%	2018-2019&2019-2020
Mean mental well-being score for people	Adults = 51.4	Adults = 51.7	Adults (2018-2019)



People in Powys will be connected by strong communities and a vibrant culture

DRAFT

Indicator	Wales	Powys	Date information published
Percentage who feel able to influence decisions affecting their local area.	19%	18%	2018-2019
Percentage of people satisfied with local area as a place to live.	85%	90%	2018-2019
Percentage of people who volunteer.	26%	32%	2019-2020
Percentage of people attending or participating in arts, culture or heritage activities at least three times a year	71%	71%	2019-2020
Percentage of people satisfied with their ability to get to/ access the facilities and services they need	80%	66%	2018-2019
Percentage of people agreeing that they belong to the area; that people from different backgrounds get on well together; and that people treat each other with respect	52%	60%	2018-2019
Percentage of people who are lonely	15%	16%	2019-2020

DRAFT

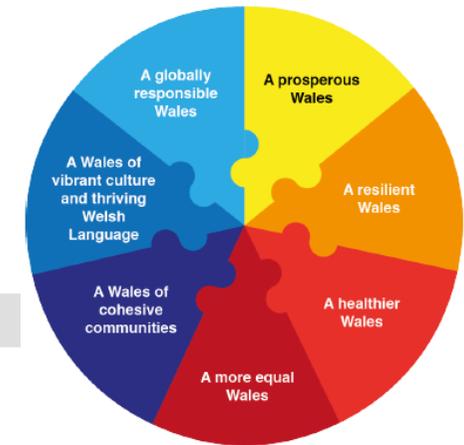
Overall Assessment of our Well-being Journey

As a PSB, we are accountable to the residents of Powys, and this annual report provides assurance of the progress we are making against our plan. In some cases, progress has either been very slow or delayed completely over the past year, due to covid becoming our main priority. However, many benefits have been realised such as continued roll out of electric vehicle charging points, recruitment of a community broadband officer to support communities with local connectivity solutions, recruitment of hundreds of new volunteers, an online careers festival and apprenticeship support and finalisation of the business case for the multi-agency campus in North Powys.

These important milestones have been a step in the right direction, helping us on the journey to reach our long-term vision and meet the national Well-being Goals. We know that we must reflect on where we are as a partnership and that there are opportunities where we could be working together better, such as tackling climate change, supporting people living in poverty and enabling economic recovery.

Commitment from PSB partners continues to be positive and we will continue to look for opportunities to invite new partners where relevant.

We must remember that the challenge before us is about affecting longer term change, and this will take time. However, we are keen to ensure we build on the partnership working that has taken place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and will look to build on these opportunities. During the year ahead, we will continue to develop our performance framework to ensure that we have measures in place that will enable us to quantify the difference our actions are making to well-being in Powys. We will also continue to take on the challenge of improving digital infrastructure in the county because we know this is what is important to residents.



Contact Us / How you can get involved

We are still in the early part of our journey and we are committed to involving everyone along the way, the more the people of Powys are involved in shaping our plans the greater the impact on well-being in Powys.

You can track progress against our Well-being Steps during the year, by viewing the reports that are presented to the PSB at their meetings – meeting documents can be found here: [Browse meetings - Public Service Board Cyngor Sir Powys County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk/psb-cyngor-sir-powys)

The work of the PSB Scrutiny committee is also available to view here: [Browse meetings - Public Service Board Scrutiny Committee Cyngor Sir Powys County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk/psb-scrutiny-cyngor-sir-powys)

powyspsb@powys.gov.uk

01597 826165

- Brecon Beacons National Park Authority <http://www.beacons-mpa.gov.uk>
- Dyfed Powys Police www.dyfed-powys.police.uk
- Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Commissioner <http://www.dyfedpowys-pcc.org.uk/en/>
- Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service www.mawwfire.gov.uk
- Natural Resources Wales <https://naturalresources.wales>
- One Voice Wales www.onevoicewales.org.uk
- Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations www.pavo.org.uk
- Powys County Council www.powys.gov.uk
- Powys Teaching Health Board www.powysthb.wales.nhs.uk
- Wales Community Rehabilitation Company <http://walescrc.co.uk>
- Welsh Government <http://gov.wales>