

Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board

Annual Report 2023/24

Foreword from the Chair:

We present the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board's annual report for 2023-24. We are very excited to share the progress we have made since we launched our Well-being Plan for 2023-28 at the Llŷn and Eifionydd National Eisteddfod last year. Working together as a Public Services Board is a golden opportunity to ensure that our communities thrive and prosper for the long term. The aim of our Well-being Plan is to set out how we want to achieve this and make a real difference to the lives of the residents of Gwynedd and Anglesey.

The Board is committed to following the Whole Systems Thinking to Healthy Weight methodology to realize our three well-being objectives, and the Welsh language continues to be the focus of all the Board's work. This report contains information about how we have set out to achieve the objectives, such as innovative projects in Newborough, moving towards jointly signing the Healthy Travel Charter, working together on projects for our children and young people and our thinking behind using the whole systems methodology. We are extremely proud of the project completed this year on the challenges of recruiting for jobs where the Welsh language is an essential skill.

I trust that you see that there has been good progress in the first year of the plan, and we look forward to our achievements for the next four years.

**Aled Jones-Griffith, Grŵp Llandrillo Menai Chief Executive
Chair of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board**

1.0 Introduction and context:

The Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 places a duty on public bodies to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act is based on the sustainable development principle and places a duty on public bodies to set and publish well-being objectives and to take every reasonable step to achieve these objectives. Also, it established the Public Services Boards Act with representation from key public bodies. Every five years, Public Services Boards must prepare and publish an assessment of the state of the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of their areas and use this as a basis for the Well-being Plan for the next five years.

Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board Membership:

- Isle of Anglesey County Council
- Bangor University
- Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
- Cyngor Gwynedd
- Eryri National Park Authority
- Grŵp Llandrillo Menai
- Representative of North Wales' registered social landlords
- Mantell Gwynedd
- Medrwn Môn
- Natural Resources Wales
- North Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- North Wales Police
- Public Health Wales
- Wales Probation Service
- Welsh Government

We are in the first year of the Well-being Plan 2023-28 for Gwynedd and Anglesey. There are **three specific Well-being Objectives, namely:**

- *We will work together to mitigate the effect of **poverty** on the well-being of our communities.*
- *We will work together to improve the well-being and achievement of our **children and young people** to realise their full potential.*
- *We will work together to support our services and communities to move towards **Zero Net Carbon**.*

We have also agreed to follow the Whole System Thinking Healthy Weight methodology when implementing the Well-being Objectives. This means that we would look at the work programme through a healthy weight lens and theme. This means working jointly with everyone (professionals and local communities) who could influence the flow of healthy and affordable food choices and create opportunities to allow people to move more. By working in this method, we can work at the same time to reduce health inequalities and slow down the change in the climate.

The **Welsh Language** is a permanent priority for the Board, and we promote it in each area of our work, and work with communities to develop services and activities through the medium of Welsh. The Public Services Board is an opportunity to share good practice, promote the language and ensure that residents of both counties have access to all public services through the medium of Welsh.

In a period of substantial reduction in public sector resources, we believe that these are areas where we can collaborate well to ensure the best results for Gwynedd and Anglesey residents, as well as add value to the good work that is already happening within the individual organisations. All PSB members have shown a willingness to work together, to be stronger, more resilient and maintain more effective connections to improve the well-being of Gwynedd and Isle of Anglesey residents. To this end, we are utilising our relationships and networks that have been fostered over the last few years and drawing on each other's knowledge and experience.

2.0 Delivery Plan 2023 - 2025:



3.0 Our Permanent Priority - The Welsh Language:

Target: The Welsh Language is a **permanent priority** for the Board since its establishment back in 2015. As noted in the Board's terms of reference: *'The main administrative language of the Public Services Board, both verbally and written, will be Welsh. All members will prepare reports bilingually.'* There is a statutory requirement for the Board to publish a Well-being Plan and establish well-being objectives every 5 years. Whilst Well-being Objectives change over time, the Board's commitment to the prioritisation of the Welsh language is unwavering. See the image on the previous page setting out the priorities with the Welsh Language in the centre and flowing through all the Board's work:

This year we have:

- Commissioned The Welsh Centre for Language Planning (Iaith Cyf) to investigate the challenges and successes of bilingual workforce planning amongst organisations that are part of the public sector in North Wales. The research examined why public organisations across north Wales are struggling to recruit staff to posts that need Welsh speakers, and whether there was a need to adapt their own recruiting processes. The report is shared nationally with output including examples of the experiences of applicants and managers, as well as a practical checklist for managers to follow.
- Shared good practice and understanding about campaigns that support and promote the Welsh language within organisations.
- Promoted the output of the Language Sub-group's previous project to motivate and empower customers to use the Welsh language when contacting public organisations. A checklist of good practice is available for each organisation to motivate the use of the Welsh language in their receptions and contact spaces.

Looking ahead to the next year:

- We will be collaborating with Arfor and the Welsh Language Commissioner's Office to ensure a follow-up to the Language Recruitment Project, to build on the findings and review the improvements.
- We will share information and good practice with other Public Services Boards in north Wales (and beyond when opportunities arise).
- We will be working together to ensure that every workstream listed in the Well-being Plan can add value and contribute to promoting the Welsh language.

3.1 Our Use of Whole Systems Thinking Healthy Weight Methodology:

Target: We have agreed to follow a Whole Systems Healthy Weight methodology when implementing the Well-being Objectives. This means that we would look at the work programme through a healthy weight lens and theme. This means working jointly with everyone (professionals and local communities) who could influence the flow of healthy and affordable food choices and create opportunities to allow people to move more. By working in this method, we can work at the same time to reduce health inequalities and slow down the change in the climate.

What has been achieved this year:

- Laid the groundwork to facilitate collaboration between our organisations on the Healthy Weight agenda.
- Explored the regional structures already working on the Healthy Weight agenda and put processes in place to add value to the regional work and avoid duplication.
- Weaved healthy weight themes into the actions for the three Well-being Objectives.

- Agreed the system's beliefs and goals as well as securing core organisational commitments to the Whole System Approach to Healthy Weight for the coming months.

Looking ahead to the next year, we will:

- Agree a core data set through which we can monitor progress and the impact on the residents of Gwynedd and Anglesey.
- Evidence the progress made by using the Ripple Effect Mapping process.
- Evidence the extent to which the beliefs and goals of the Healthy Weight System are integrated into each partner's core ethos.
- Share progress, ideas, challenges and answers with the partners on the Board.
- Ensure collaboration happens on both a regional and local level to ensure added value and avoid duplication.

3.2 The Poverty Well-being Objective: *We will work together to mitigate the effect of poverty on the well-being of our communities.*

Target:

We will develop a detailed understanding of how poverty affects the area and look to ensure that the work happening across public bodies is more effective in mitigating the long-term effects of poverty. We will work together to gain a detailed understanding of the implications of living in poverty in our different areas. We will continue to develop the Well-being Assessments to get a detailed picture of where the lack of access to services is more challenging due to poverty.

What has been achieved this year:

- Shared the work that has already been done in the county councils to alleviate living costs and give organisations the opportunity to collaborate to promote correct and consistent information and messages.

Looking ahead to the next year, we will:

- Host local Poverty Workshops with the Bevan Foundation for the Board Members, as well as other specific officers in their organisations.
- Promote national campaigns to claim benefits with Gwynedd and Anglesey residents through a multi-agency arrangement, with consistent messages on the support available.

3.3 The Children and Young People Well-being Objective: *We will work together to improve the well-being and achievement of our children and young people to realise their full potential.*

Target: We will plan preventative services and activities together to support families before the need for intensive intervention arises. We will encourage children, young people and their families to improve their health so that they can live healthily and independently within their communities in the long-term. We will work to ensure that our children and young people have positive experiences during their childhood and give priority to supporting families to ensure that every child gets the best start in life. We will also ensure that there is a clear vision among the partners to ensure the best results for children and young people.

What has been achieved this year:

- Researched in detail the regional structures to be clear on how we could add value by collaborating.

Looking ahead to the next year, we will:

- Commit to be a Public Service Board that is Trauma Informed by ensuring:
 - That officers in organisations are aware of adversity and trauma and understand how they affect people.
 - That organisations are aware of how to step in and prevent adversity and trauma from happening.
 - That organisations are aware of how to support someone that has been affected by trauma.
- Collaborate to support families and reconcile children's rights in our work.
- Take action to ensure that Gwynedd and Anglesey are every age friendly.

3.4 The Climate Change Well-being Objective: *We will work together to support our services and communities to move towards Zero Net Carbon.*

Target: We will work together locally to support our communities to reduce carbon emissions and try to mitigate the impact of climate change. The Board considers that protecting the natural environment is integral to achieving its priorities and will be a common theme that runs across all the well-being objectives.

What has been achieved this year:

- Commenced work to implement the North Wales Healthy Travel Charter. A Task Group is in place with the aim of supporting Board members to adopt and implement the Healthy Travel Charter within their organisations. They would:
 - Share experiences and examples of good practice with the group, including the process of adopting the Charter, launch, implement and monitor it.
 - Identify opportunities to collaborate with other organisations when implementing the Charter, e.g. share resources on a geographical level, or when communicating with the public.
 - Lead the way for the remainder of the Board members and be a good example for the Board's other organisations to sign the Charter formally.
 - Promote the progress and the benefits of implementing the Charter with stakeholders, including internally within organisations, amongst partners, and with the public / service users.
- Newborough Project: An alternative, collaborative method of getting to grips with a significant but common issue on a specific community level was trialled, to learn and apply them so they can be appropriate in other locations. A public event was held in Newborough with a series of activities and discussions on the transport theme and access to Llanddwyn. A report has been published that brings together the standpoints and ideas shared by contributors during the event.

Looking ahead to the next year, we will:

- Continue to implement jointly on the Healthy Travel Charter by:
 - Providing practical materials for organisations to implement the Charter.
 - Support organisations to share good practice on the Charter.
 - Support individual organisations to formally commit to signing the Charter.
- Undertake a Local Climate Change Risk Assessment for Gwynedd and Anglesey. There will be an Overall Assessment on the Regional footprint with sub-reports on each Board area.

- Newborough Project: Continue to implement the output of the community event held in March. Use the report as part of the evidence basis used to develop a way forward for Newborough in terms of transport and access.

4.0 Scrutiny arrangements:

The Board's work is scrutinised regularly by the Scrutiny Committees of Cyngor Gwynedd and the Isle of Anglesey County Council. The Well-being Act and the associated national guidelines note three roles for scrutiny committees of Local Authorities when providing democratic accountability for the Board:

- Review the Public Services Board's governance arrangements
- Statutory consultee on the Well-being Assessment and the Well-being Plan
- Monitor the progress of the Board's efforts in the implementation of the Well-being Plan

More information:

If you need it in another format and/or language, or if you have any questions about its contents, contact us by using the details below.

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We welcome correspondence and phone calls in Welsh and English. Contacting through the medium of Welsh will not lead to a delay in response.

*Mae'r cyhoeddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn y Gymraeg.
This publication is also available in Welsh.*

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