

PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD

(Via Teams)

Members Present:

30 July 2020

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council:

Councillor R.G.Jones, S.Phillips, K.Jones, A.Evans, A.Jarrett, C.Jones, V.Dale and J.Woodman-Ralph

Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board:

S.Harrop-Griffiths and M.Berry

South Wales Police:

T.Meyrick

Department of Work and Pensions:

H. Powell

NPT CVS:

G.Richards

Natural Resources Wales:

G.Bown

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service:

M.Harris and A.Richmond-Jones

Town and Community Councils:

T. John

NPT Group of Colleges:

M.Brace

National Probation Service (South Wales):

A.Davies

Tai Tarian:

C.Maimone

Pobl:

R.Lovell

Coastal

D.Green

Federation of Small Businesses

R.Basini

Apologies:

L.Whittaker

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Cllr. R.G.Jones, Leader of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and Chair of NPT PSB welcomed all to the meeting via Microsoft Teams.

2. YOUTH HUB UPDATE

Helen Powell, Department of Works and Pensions gave a presentation on the UK Governments programme of support to the unemployed. It was noted that a start date and guidance is awaited. The programme includes:

- Kickstart Job Creation Scheme
- Expanded Youth Offer
- Expansion of the Work and Health Programme
- Increased Flexible Support Fund
- Job Finding Support Service.

In addition, the government has announced specific support for young people. Details will be circulated when received. Neath Port Talbot DWP has already started developing support for young people. Youth Teams being based in both offices in NPT. These have dedicated work coaches to support care leavers. Community hubs are being developed. Work is taking place with the Princes Trust to deliver sessions in Wellbeing, Education, Employment, Self Employment and Community Work. Work is continuing with schools and colleges to talk about employment and careers events. Dedicated partnership managers have been developed to ensure a partnership approach is taken.

Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning, welcomed the development of Youth Hubs which had been raised in the Children, Young People and Management Group but identified the need for a joined up approach with schools to ensure that young people do not

become NEET and suggested a triage approach be taken. It was suggested that the DWP attend the Children, Young People Management Group to give regular updates on progress.

Assistant Chief Executive of Neath Port Talbot explained that within the council modern apprenticeships had been developed and that the council was now in a position to discuss with the DWP what was available within the council.

WLGA had also given support to create 1,000 apprenticeships across Wales, details should be available shortly.

In addition, DWP had already discussed with South Wales Police the career options available and housing partners also were supportive of the initiative and would welcome a meeting with the DWP to see what support they could give.

3. **COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE**

Board members received an update on Community Safety. It was highlighted that incidents of crime had decreased during the Covid 19 pandemic but that Anti-social behaviour had increased. The increase was attributed to calls regarding breaches of the Covid 19 guidance. This had resulted in a lot of additional calls to the Police last year 729 calls were received, this year 1,964 calls received.

An update was also given on the recent issues arising from some residents in temporary homeless accommodation in Neath. Welsh Government issued instructions that all homeless people had to be found temporary accommodation during the Covid 19 pandemic. As a result some previously accommodated residents have returned to the street and are causing concern to traders and shoppers by displaying anti-social behaviour. It was reported that a meeting has been arranged to look at the issues and to put measures in place to resolve.

The expected increase in scams due to the TTP (Test, Trace and Protect Service) has not arisen in Neath Port Talbot but this could be due to the increased communications issued from all partners alerting people to the potential issue.

Domestic Abuse incidents had decreased initially but calls had increased to partners asking for advice. There is an expectation that these incidents will increase going forward but resources are in place to respond.

It was highlighted that the Area Planning Board were concerned initially about the impact of Covid 19 on substance abuse users but due to the expansion of outreach services the level of impact was reduced. Currently, a lessons learnt exercise is taking place that will feed into the recovery planning going forward.

Also, discussions have taken place with Public Health Wales and partners and as a result a proposal developed in regard to Substance Misuse. This will be considered at the next Joint Swansea and Neath Port Talbot PSB in September 20.

4. **IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES**

Rob Basini from the Federation of Small Businesses attended the meeting to discuss the impact Covid 19 has had on small businesses.

During the pandemic some businesses had been able to adapt to the needs of the emergency by supplying essential equipment and had benefitted from those changes but many had suffered a negative impact.

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and Business Wales had helped businesses by ensuring that the Business Relief Grant monies released by Welsh Government was issued as quickly as possible and businesses were very appreciative this. It was identified that businesses were concerned about what happens when the support for furloughed staff ends.

Businesses are continuing to be concerned about the impact on employees mental health and wellbeing. Some are continuing to need support in adhering to the changes in guidance, also the confusion around the different advice issued in England and Wales. Hospitality and Tourism was continuing to be affected by the restrictions. Businesses were encouraged to provide on-line services but cyber security had been identified as an issue.

The outcome of a recent survey undertaken with businesses was that there were signs of improvements but there were still many areas of concern for businesses.

Discussion took place on the variety of work that had been put in place to support the local economy. As part of the Trace, Test and Protect work a single index of businesses had been created to enable

Public Health Messages to be cascaded to businesses. Buy Local was continuing to be a campaign promoted by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.

Lots of evidence had been gathered that people were not engaging with the Digital Inclusion agenda and further work was needed to progress this. KJ and RB to discuss.

The Chair thanked Rob Basini for attending today's meeting.

5. **PARTNERSHIP MAPPING EXERCISE AND NEXT STEPS**

Board members were presented with the Community Impact Assessment partnership mapping results as detailed in the circulated report.. The work was undertaken to understand how people, businesses and organisations experienced the pandemic and what the impact was. Also, to align the key issues with already existing groups. As part of the exercise some gaps were identified in respect of the economy, community and housing issues. It was noted that the exercise only focussed on the areas of work that needed focus as a result of the emergency.

Discussion took place on whether the PSB could advise for example the Regional Partnership Board on work they should focus on. It was explained that the Welsh Government has highlighted the need for the PSB's and RPB's to work together and as part of the exercise groups were identified as already having the role that would focus on this work. Existing groups were matched against issues.

RESOLVED:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That the content of the mapping document in aligning groups, key issues and arising work be approved.2. That the identified groups be asked/tasked to take forward work to address the key issues and provide regular updates to the PSB, having regard to the most recent iteration of CIA and emerging issues.3. That new forums be established to scope the work to address the key issues and provide regular updates to the PSB, having regard to the most
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	<p>recent iteration of CIA and emerging issues.</p> <p>4. That the data and Research group continue to meet and develop, and report high level indicators.</p> <p>5. That the CIA be updated as new evidence and issues emerge, and review its format to ensure it is manageable.</p>
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6. **TEST, TRACE AND PROTECT**

Board members received a presentation on the Swansea Bay, Test, Trace and Protect Programme which was based on the Welsh Government National Plan as part of the Covid 19 Pandemic. The programme started the 1st June 2020 and is based on the Swansea Bay footprint and includes two local authorities, Swansea and Neath Port Talbot.

The programme was set up to prevent the spread of the disease in the Swansea Bay area. To prevent onward transmission by early intervention and to ensure that essential services continue in Swansea Bay.

Details of the Governance arrangements were received and how its based on a multi-agency approach. As part of the structure a Communications Cell TTP was established which would ensure that the regional messages amplify national messages. Initial focus was on the awareness raising and dealing with local outbreaks. The group has developed effective channels of communication to enable quick and effective messaging. Digitally excluded people are also an area that the group is focussing on.

Currently, the expected high numbers of referrals had not materialized as a result only 50% of staff numbers to work in the service have been recruited. Welsh Government gave a commitment to provide financial resource to cover these costs but no monies have been received to date.

7. **RE-ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE**

RESOLVED: That Cllr.R.G.Jones, Leader of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council be elected Chair of the NPT Public Services Board for the next twelve months.

That R.Thomas, Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Director of Service Delivery, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service be elected Vice Chair of the NPT Public Services Board for the next twelve months.

8. **WG REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS**

Information Item

9. **PSB ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20 FINAL VERSION**

Information item.

10. **JOINT MEETING OF THE SWANSEA AND NEATH PORT TALBOT PSB MEETING**

This item was discussed at a previous item. A date would be circulated shortly for the next Joint meeting of the Swansea and Neath Port Talbot Public Services Board.

11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No items received.

CHAIRPERSON