

BWRDD GWASANAETHAU CYHOEDDUS
CASTELL-NEDD PORT TALBOT



NEATH PORT TALBOT
PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT 2022





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FOREWORD

The Neath Port Talbot Public Services Board (PSB) published its Well-being Plan for the county borough – “The Neath Port Talbot We Want” in May 2018, following a comprehensive assessment of the well-being of the local population and extensive consultation and engagement with a wide range of stakeholders.

We are now approaching the culmination of our first Plan and are pleased to publish our final annual report for this period. This report gives an overview of what we have achieved during our first cycle as a Board and the progress we made on the priorities we set out at the start. During this timeframe of delivery we have seen unprecedented circumstances and PSB partners have worked together to support communities during extremely difficult times. As the body leading on the multi-agency recovery programme for Neath Port Talbot following the outbreak of Covid-19, the PSB redirected some of its efforts in the areas of greatest immediate need which impacted on some planned delivery.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires us to secure the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of local people and to do so sustainably. The benefits of the partner relations developed as result of the PSB are now evident and have helped us respond more efficiently to the situations that have arisen over recent years. As we move towards developing our second Well-being Plan which will be published in May 2023, we will build on these relationships and the learning that has been achieved by working more closely together. There is no doubt that there are challenging times ahead but we are committed as partners to come together and improve outcomes for the communities we serve.

We hope you will be interested in the work we are doing and would welcome ideas and contributions that can bring about change that creates the Neath Port Talbot we all want.

Cllr Steven Hunt
Leader
Neath Port Talbot CBC
Chair of NPT PSB

Roger Thomas
Chief Fire Officer
Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Vice Chair of NPT PSB



BACKGROUND

The Welsh Government established public services boards to encourage local organisations to work together and with the local populations to improve the well-being of the people who live in their area. The way in which the Welsh Government wants to see this carried out in practice is set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and other guidance.

In 2017 the Board undertook a comprehensive assessment of the well-being of the local population which includes a range of statistical information about the many things that can impact on well-being. These include levels of crime and disorder, educational attainment as well as mortality rates and prevalence of disease, etc. The Board also gathered views from a wide range of people around what is important to their well-being. Finally, the assessment included a Future Trends Report which set out a number of issues likely to impact well-being over the next 30 years or more.

The findings of the first Well-being Assessment were used by the Board whilst preparing their Well-being Plan which was published in 2018. The plan lists the six well-being objectives that the Board chose to shape the direction of their work.

[Neath Port Talbot Wellbeing Plan 2018-23](#)

WELL-BEING OBJECTIVES 2018-2023

1. To improve the well-being of children in their early years, especially those at risk of adverse childhood experience
2. To build safe, confident and resilient communities
3. To create an environment where everyone can age well
4. To support well-being through work and in the workplace
5. Protecting and enhancing our green infrastructure
6. Increasing levels of digital participation/inclusion

This is the final Annual Report for the first Well-being Plan period and gives an overview of achievements during this time and outlines what will come next.



VISION

We want Neath Port Talbot to be a vibrant and healthy place where people have an equal chance to get on in life – a place where people want to live, learn, work, invest and visit for many generations to come.

We want local public services, including the Third Sector, to be effective and value for money, easy for people to use, and offer quality employment where people are valued and appreciated for the work they do. Together with citizens, we will build on our strong and cohesive communities where the rights of everyone will be respected and protected.

We want our public services to be focused on enabling people and communities to be resilient and it will be the norm for citizens to experience seamless, personalised, high quality services. Public service delivery will create the right conditions for investment that will enable the county borough to attract and sustain quality, sustainable employment for local people.

Our communities will be well connected through a first class digital and transport infrastructure and our natural environment will be protected but also developed to support healthy living and investment.

We will have achieved our vision when all children and young people have the best start in life; when all young people and adults have the skills and resilience to be healthy and prosperous; when people are safe and feel safe; when all of our communities are thriving and supporting the people who live there; and where people can draw on the support of neighbours and well-developed social networks.



OBJECTIVE 1: TO IMPROVE THE WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN IN THEIR EARLY YEARS, ESPECIALLY THOSE AT RISK OF ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCE

OVERVIEW DURING THE FIVE YEARS OF THE PLAN

Sandfields West Children's Community (SWCC)

A multi-agency group was established to develop a children's community zone in Sandfields West, similar to a pilot project in Hackney, London. Key principles and a vision were developed in partnership to guide the project. The pilot aimed to help develop approaches in NPT to secure a more cohesive and collaborative approach to supporting children in their early years.

Early years and primary school provision in NPT was mapped alongside services that support parents and young people when they become adults. An external consultant undertook engagement with parents and organisations working and living in the area.

Strategic and operational groups were established to develop and implement the SWCC delivery plan. A Children's Community Lead was employed to engage with families and co-ordinate activities at a purposely-modified family friendly space at Tir Morfa. The Community Lead established good relationships with local schools, police and third sector organisations. A Local Reference Group was established consisting of local residents and Councillors, identifying what they wished to see in the community and potential issues informing the work.

SWCC is a well-used resource by partners, providing a centre for co-ordinated activities for families.

Early Action Together

The Police and Crime Commissioner secured a transformation grant to focus work on early years – Early Action Together. The PSB collaborated on ways to ensure coherence between the programmes and tested the approaches as part of the pilot project in the Sandfields West area. Engagement sessions helped to inform future provision and develop a more coherent early intervention and prevention approach.

Welsh Government's First 1000 Days programme

NPTPSB agreed to participate in the Welsh Government's First 1,000 Days Programme (from conception to the age of 2) seeking to identify families with a risk of children with ACEs due to evidence showing a direct correlation of ACEs affecting well-being. Early action in the programme brought together all front line practitioners to discuss how well the existing early years services worked highlighting areas working well and gaps in provision in the Sandfields West area.



Partners considered the issue of information sharing and it was agreed that some information sharing protocols needed to be improved to support early years, in preparing children for school, in particular for families who would benefit from additional support.

Early Years Pathfinder work

WG invited PSBs to participate in Early Years Pathfinder work and a joint project was agreed with Swansea Council to provide opportunities for shared practice, to develop shared approaches and to benefit from learning and research across Wales.

- Mapping work with partners was undertaken for children aged 0-7 around health, education, childcare and play and family support with focus groups with parents supplementing this information.
- Two coordinators were employed (one Swansea, one NPT) to take forward aims and objectives.
- New ways of working were tested in identified areas of the early years system.
- Pilot projects were delivered, including improved coordination of non-Flying Start area services, purchase of Wellcomm resources to support speech and language development, and workforce development to support early years physical literacy.
- An evaluation of the pilots was undertaken with the findings used to reshape and refine those projects that have continued into 2021/22.

Youth Unemployment

Through work of the Community Impact Assessment, it was recognised there were disproportionate effects of the pandemic on young people, the PSB oversaw some work led by the Department of Work and Pensions. Hubs (set up both face to face and virtually) provided information and advice for young people not in employment, education or training. The focus was on the two routes of employability, health and well-being. Partners and Youth Leads developed sessions around CV's, interview skills, work experience, Kickstart, sector based opportunities and invited inspirational speakers. Cyfle Cymru delivered courses around anxiety and depression with excellent feedback. A mapping exercise was completed with the Children and Young Person's Group to identify areas of support and opportunities around the two route ways.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

This objective continues to be relevant to NPT perhaps now more than ever. There are great deficits linked to socio-economic deprivation faced by children within NPT. At the last inspection, 48% of children who started school were ill prepared to learn. It is evident that following on from the pandemic, the landscape for early years has declined necessitating a key focus for early years, particularly in collaboration with partners.

This work will be taken forward in the next Well-being Plan under the objective '**All Children Get the Best Start in Life**'.



OBJECTIVE 2: TO BUILD SAFE, CONFIDENT AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

OVERVIEW DURING THE FIVE YEARS OF THE PLAN

In the initial stages of this objective the Board developed a place-based, asset-based approach to the way of working with communities. This approach built on the strengths of people and local areas and not just focussing on addressing deficits in the Upper Amman Valley, Briton Ferry and Melin. The focus of the group was:

- **People** - Resilient Communities across the two pilot areas where people can feel safe, healthy, connected and able to help themselves and each other.
- **Places** - The pilot areas will be communities that are integrated, connected, possess a sense of place and which support the resilience of their residents.
- **Systems** - A system-wide approach will be taken in which partners listen, engage and align with Communities and with each other to deliver public services and support Community led activity.

The group created a governance structure that included a leadership group, a strategic management group and operational groups who worked within the communities. The group also linked with the Regional Partnership Board (RPB) due to similar priorities over the two boards and a transformation bid was made to secure financial resources for this work with funding targeted at building community capacity and training public services and the third sector workforces. The group agreed it would not focus exclusively on vulnerable people, but would include the whole of the community. Community asset mapping was undertaken with a communication and engagement plan developed. The group wished to transform the way engagement happened with communities to create integrated communities that possessed a sense of place to support the resilience of their residents. Many community engagement activities (including open days, public meetings, engagement with Members of the Senedd and local councillors) and volunteer recruitment opportunities (volunteer fairs and volunteer awards) took place to involve the community, build on strengths, and create connections. Also, to create areas where people can feel safe, healthy, connected and able to help themselves and each other. An Innovate and Create grant of £300k helped to support voluntary community groups and social enterprises for the Briton Ferry and Melin areas, funding projects such as renovation for community-run buildings and additional support services for parents/carers of those with additional needs.

The programme challenged established ways of working and cultural differences between organisations, and the engagement of staff across all agencies was crucial. An animation was created for the internal workforce so that clear, consistent information was provided about what the programme wanted to achieve. It began a long-term programme of change where time has been taken to establish structures/systems to support the foundation of the program. The programme was ready to be more outward facing, engaging with community members and assets whilst also identifying any areas of need in order to build on resilience. Understanding that as part of the new place based approach the Public Services Board had



agreed in March 2020, a wider data analysis of need would be undertaken of the pilot areas in order to establish baselines and a deeper understanding of themes.

The pandemic halted the programme of work and the Council worked with partners on a Safe and Well workstream to aid the residents of Neath Port Talbot most impacted by the lockdown.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

During the pandemic communities did an incredible job of supporting one another and taking over when services could not provide their usual support. Great work was undertaken by the third sector in training people to volunteer. Covid-19 underlined the huge gains that could be made when communities are promoted in the right way. There has been significant learning as a result of the work undertaken in this objective which has fed into some current work around the cost of living crisis. This will be further developed in the next Plan under the objective '**All Our Communities are Thriving and Sustainable**'.



OBJECTIVE 3: TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE EVERYONE CAN AGE WELL

OVERVIEW DURING THE FIVE YEARS OF THE PLAN

An Ageing Well Steering group was formed and six different workstreams were identified:

1. Develop age-friendly and dementia supportive communities.
2. Reduce the number of falls.
3. Reduce the prevalence of loneliness and unwanted social isolation.
4. Provide positive learning, employment and volunteering opportunities.
5. Reduce poverty including fuel and cold-related deaths.
6. Increase awareness and reporting of crimes that target older people.

Among the achievements of the group were:

- A raised awareness and understanding of Dementia training supported by the Western Bay Regional Partnership Board.
- Working with the Alzheimer's Society on a regular basis to achieve Alzheimer's Society recognition standard for being a Dementia Friendly community and Ageing Well group members were encouraged to develop Dementia Friendly arrangements within their respective organisations. NPTCBC achieved Dementia Friendly status in February 2020. This work complemented the Building Safe and Resilient Communities programme.
- Links with Falls Prevention Group within Swansea Bay Health Board, the PSB work looked at primary prevention with the RPB concentrating on secondary and tertiary prevention.
- An assessed scale and scope of loneliness and isolation – there was an understanding that sometimes community work and sometimes one-to-one approach required.
- Worked to address high cost credit and indebtedness of Tai Tarian tenants. This included work with Michael Sheen on Alliance.
- SWP noted that older people don't report crime and disorder – finding to be fed into CSP for action

Early intervention and prevention work with Making Every Contact Count model shared and considered and all group members were provided with the most current MECC information. This approach was noted as needing further planning.

The Ageing Well Steering group recognised the need for some logic model planning around this work to ensure the need and the desired outcome was clear. It was agreed that this area of work would fit well as a pilot in a place based approach. Further work was planned to ensure that the work can contribute to and complement some of the place based working already started avoiding duplication and conflicting messages. There were challenges in delivering on some of the other identified workstreams under this objective, which were unable to progress without specific partner commitment and involvement. Following the review of well-being objectives in 2020 the PSB agreed that the most positive and productive way to take this very important work forward, is to link with the existing pilot areas and



contribute to the emerging work taking place there, with a focus on older people and what matters to them.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

As we look toward the future we are will have an increasingly ageing population in NPT which we expect to put strain on services. We will continue to consider older people in our communities through the '**All Our Communities are Thriving and Sustainable**' well-being objective.



OBJECTIVE 4: TO SUPPORT WELL-BEING THROUGH WORK AND IN THE WORKPLACE

OVERVIEW DURING THE FIVE YEARS OF THE PLAN

It was agreed that the initial focus of work would concentrate on how improvements to well-being could be leveraged through the PSB partner organisations in their role as significant employers in the local area.

An initial workshop saw existing well-being programmes and initiatives in place in each of the PSB partner agencies being shared and recorded. Contact details for those interested in following up information shared at the workshop event were also shared.

Partners shared best practice in supporting and promoting staff health and wellbeing within their organisations and offers to share developments across partner organisations were made.

SBUHB colleagues presented the Staff Well-being Service that enables staff to access timely support for musculoskeletal and common mental health conditions via a single point of telephone access. This was supported and promoted by a network of over 340 Well-being Champions who receive training and development opportunities by attending bi-annual workshops, informing them of internal and external support to which they can signpost team members. The champions also promote national health campaigns and facilitate wellbeing initiatives within their workplaces.

A second workshop included presentations from Ford Motor Company and Healthy Working Wales with Tai Tarian and Public Health Wales describing how well-being initiatives might be measured and used to deliver further improvements in well-being through the workplace.

The disaggregation of the ABMU Health Board impacted on the degree of momentum that could be generated for this priority during the first year of the objective, as the Health Board and associated partners were required to prioritise the work needed to transfer health services for the people of Bridgend to Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board.

The Lead Officer for this well-being objective retired in 2019, and due to capacity issues it was not possible to progress this area of work further.

After 2020, there were plans to develop this objective via a workforce development programme with PSB partners.

In March 2020, all PSB partner agencies adopted a shared understanding of the definition of well-being, based on the Public Health Model. It was determined that future work would be place-based around the three existing pilot areas, Sandfields West, Briton Ferry/Melin and the Upper Amman Valley. All well-being objectives would feed into the pilot areas approach and workstreams were to be led by communities via an asset-based approach. The pandemic halted progress on this, however, there is still commitment from partners to taking a place based approach in the future.



WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Partners continue to see well-being in the workplace as an important area of focus. In our next Well-being Plan we have agreed that **‘There are more secure, green and well-paid jobs and skills across the area are improved’** It is important that well-being will be integral to partner collaboration under this objective.



OBJECTIVE 5: PROTECTING AND ENHANCING OUR GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

OVERVIEW DURING THE FIVE YEARS OF THE PLAN

NRW was asked to lead on this objective and to develop the next steps for action. There was no existing environment forum or similar governance group to work with and so the “GI Core Group” was formed, drawing in representation from a cross section of PSB partners.

The steps to take under the objective were: to consider what natural assets NPT had, what condition they were in and how the PSB could improve the condition of those assets and the benefits they delivered.

This group took forward the work set out in the Well-being Plan and bid for and secured funding under the Welsh Government’s GI Capital Grant Programme.

Detailed mapping of the green and blue space in Neath Port Talbot was undertaken, building on the work done for the Area Statements and the Well-being Assessment. Demand and opportunity maps were created for a range of issues including: air quality; access to green space; flooding; and carbon sequestration.

A pilot area was selected – Margam and Taibach – as a site where working together could deliver multiple benefits. Groeswen Playing Fields was identified for GI enhancement and design for the site was developed by landscape consultants and local residents were involved throughout.

In February 2019, a workshop was held with partners to explore areas that might be developed to support well-being. One of the immediate benefits of the workshop was to form a network of interested organisations and volunteers. The group were a cross-cutting objective, they also came up with ideas of where the work of GI could support the other well-being objectives of the Public Services Board.

The Connecting Green Infrastructure Project took forward a new and collaborative approach to designing and delivering green infrastructure (GI) across Neath Port Talbot (NPT), Swansea and Carmarthenshire, for the benefit of local communities and their natural environment. With NPT Council as lead, GI was delivered in ways that met local needs, supported communities and their health, built ecosystem resilience, and enhanced biodiversity.

As a cross-cutting theme, representatives from the steering group became instrumental in the work of the Building Safe Resilient Communities Programme in terms of green space in the pilot areas

Covid-19 fundamentally changed the way that we lived and worked. While this new way of working created challenges for collaborative working, it demonstrated our collective capabilities to work under pressure and our resilience to change. Some of these changes have been for the better and served to challenge our accepted norms and patterns of behaviour. In particular, Covid-19 and lockdowns demonstrated the huge importance of accessible natural green space, with many reconnecting with nature in their locality, and resulting in a



greater appreciation and value we place on it. Importantly, through new ways of living and working, we demonstrated our ability to change and adapt to tackle complex problems.

As part of the PSB Covid response work, the GI Core Group supported the development of the Covid Impact Assessment. Drawing on qualitative and quantitative evidence, the Group highlighted some of the (short-term) environmental benefits that were seen due to for example, reduced traffic. The group informed some of the questions that were included in the NPT PSB public survey. The results of this survey demonstrated an increased focus and awareness of the nature and the environment. For example, 86% of participants felt wildlife and air quality had improved during lockdown. In addition, 38% had become more concerned and aware of nature, and 27% of climate change. Of note, 61% now place a higher value on accessible green space. These results demonstrated an increased emphasis on nature and the environment and its benefits for society.

Despite the challenges of Covid-19 and remote working, the Green Infrastructure Core Group of Neath Port Talbot PSB were able to progress a number of successful projects.

In 2020/21 Natural Resources Wales (NRW) provided a budget of £25,000 Strategic Allocated Funding (SAF) to Neath Port Talbot PSB for projects that aligned with the [SW Area Statement](#). The SAF mechanism underpins NRW's work to deliver priorities identified in the corporate plan, Area Statements and functional plans and strategies. Funding was utilised to support some Community Green Space Mapping in 30 sites across NPT and a feasibility study on future plans for Afan Forest Park.

The objective's position was consolidated and reported into a NPT PSB Lead Officers meeting held in January 2020. There was a broad agreement the objectives needed to be reviewed to establish priorities and refocus. Progress since, beyond that described above) has been limited to inputting into the Community Impact Assessment (CIA) group and supporting the Well-being Assessment update, this was done by speaking with individuals in their areas of expertise.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The objective is more relevant now than ever in that we have a dual nature and climate emergency (which had not been declared at the time of the last objective setting). Not only that, but the benefits that the environment bring to well-being more generally were made acutely visible as were the possibilities of behaviour change (e.g. car use) during the pandemic.

NRW's State of Natural Resources Report 2020 ([SONARR 2020](#)) has also reminded us that to make a demonstrable impact we need to look at systems change- especially on the energy, food and transport systems. The PSB is an important network to help effect such change.

This work will be taken forward under the objective **'Our local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations'** Whilst developing the current Well-being Assessment it was evident that our environment impacts on all aspects of well-being. During



the process of developing the next Well-being Plan we will be considering the context of the climate and nature emergency across all areas of work.



OBJECTIVE 6: INCREASING LEVELS OF DIGITAL PARTICIPATION/INCLUSION

OVERVIEW DURING THE FIVE YEARS OF THE PLAN

The objective established a clear governance structure to deliver which included all the PSB partners. There was reliable data that highlighted participation problems needed addressing within NPT communities.

The workstream linked with Digital Communities Wales who were championing digital inclusion at a national level. Utilising Digital Communities Wales' digital inclusion charter framework provided the basis of the work for the objective. Initially, an audit was undertaken to gauge the starting point of the individual agencies. This raised awareness of the digital inclusion within agencies and helped to embed the approach.

The result of the work meant that a number of agencies increased capacity as a result of PSB work might have improved for instance, Mid and West Wales Fire Service signed up to the charter and had clear understanding of what to do to promote digital inclusion. Job Centre Plus were already doing work around digital inclusion and the PSB objective group were able to learn from them in the way they were approaching the work.

It was reviewed as a partially successful as a workstream and that it moved awareness and organisational capacity in some agencies. However, some PSB partners chose not to be involved with the workstream.

The objective began from the viewpoint of replicating an approach of building organisational capacity in the different PSB agencies. Increased organisational capacity was developed and future work within different public sector bodies is now approached from the perspective of digital inclusion as a result.

The Board determined before the pandemic that there were challenges facing the PSB objectives and it was decided that changes were to be made to the workings of the objectives. The PSB was going to adopt a health-based approach and refocus on a place-based approach. The digital inclusion workstream had already been developed and undertaken by partners and moving forward digital inclusion would fall under the thriving and sustainable communities' objective.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

During the pandemic, when digital availability and capability was more important than ever before, the work of the DI Steering Group provided a strong starting point and put PSB partners in a good position to react swiftly to the challenges faced. There was a good level of understanding of the NPT landscape relating to digital inclusion and partners were able to disseminate public information using a variety of channels to avoid excluding those who were not digitally active.



Moving forward the Board recognises the importance of digital inclusion across all aspects of its work. It will be particularly relevant under the objective '**All Our Communities are Thriving and Sustainable**'.



FURTHER COLLABORATIVE WORKING

SUBSTANCE MISUSE

Following reports of high levels of drug-related deaths, serious infection and a growth in organised crime across the area, the two public services boards of Neath Port Talbot and Swansea agreed action was required across agencies. A Critical Incident Group was formed with membership drawn from a wide range of agencies to assess the risk, threats and harm in detail and to activate an immediate and appropriate response.

The Critical Incident Group met between September 2018 and March 2020. The work has led to a significant improvement in agency engagement in the work of the Area Planning Board and the wider associated agenda. The APB strengthened its governance arrangements and strengthened the regional team that supports the work of the Board.

Subsequently, senior leaders had a better understanding of the risk, threat and harm picture across the West Glamorgan region and there is improved intelligence sharing and joint working between agencies.

External public health support was procured by the APB to review the existing service model and establish proposals to develop a model which is better fit for purpose.

It was agreed in January 2020 to adopt a Public Health approach in the longer term, in relation to substance misuse. A report prepared by Public Health Wales and the Police and Crime Commissioner was presented to the Joint Swansea and Neath Port Talbot PSB. This had already been approved at the Area Planning Board (APB) and was subsequently endorsed by the Joint PSB. It was agreed the APB would progress this work.

The two PSBs have recently reconvened to review progress in this area in light of the current context and recent worsening data in terms of drug related deaths. This continues to be a significant issue but there is firm commitment from all partner agencies to work together and prioritise action.

SUICIDE PREVENTION

Work undertaken by Public Health Wales, in 2018, identified suicide prevention as an issue that needed greater attention across the Neath Port Talbot and Swansea region.

Recognising that the causes of suicide are complex, the two public services boards agreed to collaborate with a view to establishing what action could be taken to reduce the rates of suicide. A Suicide and Self Harm Prevention Multi Agency Group was established, chaired by Public Health and overseen by the Joint NPT and Swansea PSB. The board first met in June 2019. In agreeing the actions to be taken forward, the public services boards worked to ensure there was a clear line of communication to the West Glamorgan Regional Partnership Board so that any actions addressed to health and social care could be incorporated into the work of that partnership.



Welsh Government funding was secured over two consecutive years (2019/20 and 2020/21) to pump prime small, developmental pieces of work that would support the local agenda. The intended work which included insights into men's mental health, training and resource development, had to be put on hold due to the pandemic. The group members wanted to reconnect given some of the issues people were facing and concerns over the impact of the pandemic on mental health and suicides / self-harming. This was not in a formal capacity as most members were still involved in the pandemic response.

In summer 2021, members were brought back to review the new landscape and intended actions pre-covid. The landscape was noted to be different by this time. The issue was not about the plan specifically but more importantly about how to get the commitment engagement and corraling the efforts of the system and that is where some of the challenges still exist alongside the issue that there is no additional capacity to drive the agenda forward between meetings of voluntary individuals from different organisations.

A lot was achieved by the group, and importantly the MAG has connected the agenda and the landscape is much clearer.

Training was provided to wide range of people on bereavement and suicide. Insights around the help-seeking journey with middle age men through the Ospreys has also been undertaken and this is now leading to co-production of potential solutions based on the insights gathered.

There is now an immediate multi-agency rapid response system in place for any new incidents notified by the police for both children & adults across both local authority areas. This reports into the Regional Safeguarding Board. This ensures a quick response to support those around the individual in order to help make sure they are supported through grieving and to minimise any risk to them. More recently a process has also been developed to look at 'significant attempts' with the aim of sharing learning.

Other developments include the first (in Wales) bereavement service within the Health Board for those bereaved by all deaths and they have been linked with the suicide response and near misses group to ensure that right connections are being made.

The health board has made suicide prevention one of five quality and safety priorities for the organisation with a focus on staff who have been through a particularly difficult time through Covid-19. Trauma informed training was provided to staff as they are a high-risk group. There is now a regional coordinator providing some additional capacity.

The current partnership landscape has been mapped which has identified key fora where this work should/could feature and that has led to a greater awareness in some fora with a recognition of their role.

LOCAL ECONOMY

Following the Community Impact Assessment undertaken after the initial wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Board recognised a gap in terms of a local multi agency forum monitoring the economy in NPT. The Local Economic Forum was formed, initially consisting of a small group of partner agencies. This group has tracked the changes to the local economy during



the pandemic and has overseen the development of a Local Economic Recovery Plan. The governance of this group has now been extended to cover the duties attached to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund grant. It will also be the vehicle to take forward the steps in the new Well-being plan under the objective **‘There are more secure, green and well-paid jobs and skills across the area are improved’**

WELL-BEING ASSESSMENT

During 2021/22 the Board has worked to develop the second local assessment of well-being which has now been published and can be viewed [here](#). In NPT we worked on the basis of updating our previous assessment as much as possible in order to gain an up to date picture of well-being in our area. We worked closely with Swansea PSB and also the Regional Partnership Board as they prepared their Population Needs Assessment in order to avoid multiple requests for information and share resource.

We also worked collaboratively as partners and formed a small multi-agency group to support the process. This group has continued to meet as we develop our Plan and has proved an excellent resource.

NEXT STEPS

Work is now underway to develop the second Well-being Plan for the NPT PSB, due to be published in May 2023. Rather than starting from a blank page the Board is building on the excellent work undertaken during its first five years in existence and the strong partner relations formed. Whilst we are in challenging times we recognise the benefits of working collaboratively and the bigger impact we can make together and are committed to this approach as we move into the next five year cycle.