

Cwm Taf Morgannwg
Public Services Board
Joint Overview and Scrutiny
Committee

Annual Report
2023/2024



Contents

	Page
Foreword	3 - 4
Membership	5
The Cwm Taf Morgannwg PSB JOSC	6 - 7
Training	8
The First Year	9 – 13
Updates on the Work of the PSB	14 - 15
Looking Ahead	16

Foreword

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the first annual report of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee ('JOSC') for 2023-24 since the transition to a single Public Services Board (PSB) for Cwm Taf Morgannwg. I was honoured to have been appointed as Chair of the (now) Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board JOSC for the second year and bring the experience that I gained as Chair of the Cwm Taf PSB JOSC to the newly formed committee with dedicated support from County Borough Councillor S Griffiths (Bridgend) as Vice Chair.

The transition to a single Public Services Board (PSB) for Cwm Taf Morgannwg (CTM) will support a more effective joint working to improve well-being for people within the Cwm Taf Morgannwg area. To support this new arrangement, preparations were also made to ensure the scrutiny arrangements mirror the same regional footprint (Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil and Bridgend County Borough Councils) to prevent duplication and ensure effective scrutiny arrangements, resulting in the newly formed CTM PSB JOSC.

The Membership of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg PSB JOSC equates to five County Borough Councillors from each Authority and also consists of 'co-opted' members representing the Local Health Board, Community Health Council and citizen representatives from the three local regions.

In view of the new arrangements, Members appointed to the Committee were provided with training in September 2023, ahead of any formal Committee, to support them in their new role on the CTM PSB Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee as detailed in the revised Terms of Reference. The training, delivered by the Office for Future Generations Commissioner, provided an understanding of both the role with regards to scrutinising the PSB and the characteristics of effective partnership scrutiny.

A review of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Region Community Safety Arrangements has also been undertaken which recommended the establishment of a Cwm Taf Morgannwg Community Safety Partnership Board. Given that the footprints are the same and the Boards are intrinsically linked it seemed appropriate that consideration be given in the near future to the inclusion of this Board, once established, within the remit of the Joint Overview Scrutiny Committee.

This year, we have provided challenge to the Chair of the PSB, **Mr M Brace**, through his regular attendance at the JOSC and our thanks are offered for the PSBs Chair's open and honest presentation of the work and focus of the PSB. Alongside the PSB Support Officers, the Chair has provided the Committee with updates on the progress of the PSB, its key lines of enquiry and certainly the communication through the PSB Chair has strengthened the scrutiny process. We look forward to continuing this close working relationship with the Chair of the PSB in the forthcoming year.

I am confident that the work we as the JOSC have undertaken in this first year will lay the groundwork for what is ahead in terms of establishing the fundamentals to allow both the PSB and the JOSC to become the effective models we wish them to be. We look forward to ensuring good collaboration between the organisations to allow this all to come into fruition. This year, the JOSC also carried out their role within the context of budgetary pressures

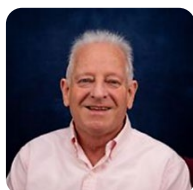
facing public services, promoting the sharing of good practice, better joint working and reducing the potential for duplication.

I would like to thank all the Members, my Vice Chair, Councillor Simon Griffiths, Co-opted Members and Citizen Representatives of the Committee for their dedication and professionalism. I would particularly like to pay special thanks to Mr Mel Jehu as a much valued Co-opted member, who stepped down this year after completing his term with the Committee.

Councillor D. R Bevan (Chair)

Membership of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee (JOSC)

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Members



Cllr Robert Bevan



Cllr Jill Bonetto



Cllr Martin Ashford



Cllr Barry Stephens



Cllr Karen Morgan



Cllr Sheryl Evans
SUBSTITUTE MEMBER

Bridgend County Borough Council Members



Cllr Amanda Williams



Cllr Alex Williams



Cllr Simon Griffiths



Cllr Martin Hughes



Cllr Richard Granville



Cllr Freya Bletsoe
SUBSTITUTE MEMBER

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Member



Cllr Claire Jones

Co-opted Members

Mr Melvin Jehu	Local Health Board
Mr Andrew Robinson	Natural Resources Wales
Ms Anita Lewis	RCT Citizen Representative
Mr Michael J Maguire	MT Citizen Representative
Ms Cheryl Board	BCBC Citizen Representative

The Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 gives a legally binding common purpose to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of their area by contributing to the achievement of the 7 national well-being goals. The Well-being of Future Generations Act (the Act) puts a well-being duty on specified public bodies including local authorities, local health boards, fire and rescue services and Natural Resources Wales to act jointly via PSBs.

PSBs are required to:

- assess the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in their areas (the Well-being Assessment);
- use that assessment to set local well-being objectives (the Well-being Plan);
- act together to meet those objectives.

In February 2023, with the aim of reducing duplication and to enable more effective joint working to improve well-being for people within the Cwm Taf Morgannwg area, the two PSBs within the footprint (Cwm Taf and Bridgend) have merged to create a new PSB for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg area. This merger has enabled the PSB to align with the health board footprint, as well as being co-terminus with the 'Mid Glamorgan' base command unit of South Wales Police.

The Well-being Assessment was prepared to cover the Cwm Taf Morgannwg area and undertaken in close collaboration with the Regional Partnership Board through the development of their Population Needs Assessment. The two PSBs have worked together since February 2023 to develop a single Well-being Plan for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region.

As part of the statutory duties placed on Public Services Boards under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WBFG Act), and as set out in Welsh Government's Statutory Guidance for PSBs in Wales, Local Authorities must create a designated scrutiny committee to scrutinise the work of the PSB, to ensure democratic accountability. In Cwm Taf Morgannwg, the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee, consisting of Elected Members and co-opted non-political members from RCT, Merthyr Tydfil and Bridgend local authorities was created in May 2023 to reflect the regional footprint of the newly merged Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board.

The Cwm Taf Morgannwg Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee comprises of 5

Elected Members from each of the three Local Authorities' Overview and Scrutiny Committees designated to scrutinise the work of the PSB as required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015 and based on the political balance of each of those Committees, as far as practical.

FUNCTIONS OF THE CWM TAF MORGANNWG PSB JOSC

The overall aim of the JOSC is to scrutinise the overall effectiveness of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board.

The core statutory functions of the JOSC are:-

- To carry out functions in relation to the Board that are imposed on it by the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, including in particular as a statutory consultee upon the:
 - PSB Well-being Assessment;
 - PSB Well-being Plan, and;
 - To receive an Annual Report detailing the progress made towards meeting local Well-being objectives in the Well-being Plan
- To review or scrutinise the decisions made or actions taken by the Board;
- To review or scrutinise the Board's governance arrangements;
- To make reports or recommendations to the Board regarding its functions or governance arrangements;
- To consider matters relating to the Board as the Welsh Ministers may refer to it and report to the Welsh Ministers accordingly; and
- In addition to these functions the JOSC's Lines of Inquiry can include (but not be limited to), the following:
 - The effectiveness of the Wellbeing Assessment;
 - The effectiveness of the Wellbeing Plan;
 - The effectiveness of performance measurement arrangements;
 - The level of commitment from individual partners to the work of the Public Services Board;
 - The effectiveness of the Public Services Board in communicating its work, objectives and outcomes to its stakeholders; and,
 - The effectiveness of the Public Services Board in addressing the issue of pooled funding to tackle priorities.

Training

5th September 2023

An interactive training session took place on the 5th September 2023, in the Valleys Innovation Centre, Navigation Park, Mountain Ash, Abercynon ahead of the JOSC's inaugural meeting on the 6th October 2023. It was facilitated by the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner and focussed on the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the role of the Public Services Board, the wider progress of PSB's across Wales and the role and aims of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee with signposting to materials to support the work of the JOSC.

In addition to providing support and information to members of the JOSC, it was also an opportunity to bring the Committee together in an informal environment, to allow for the initial 'meet and greet; and to help lay the foundations for important networking and sharing of scrutiny approaches across the 3 regions, to allow the Committee to maximise on good working practices to ensure effective scrutiny of the PSB.

The training session was well attended, and it supported members of the JOSC in their understanding of the seven Well-being Goals and the 'Five Ways of Working', the long-term impact of decisions within Cwm Taf Morgannwg, and how to tackle persistent issues such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change, through the lens of the Act. Important points were also raised for each local authority to ensure its overview and scrutiny has the power to: *'review or scrutinise the decisions made or actions taken by the Public Services Board and review or scrutinise the board's governance arrangements'*. It is anticipated that the training has supported Members to be better placed to assess the social, economic, environmental and cultural impacts of the CTM PSB's actions on the communities of Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Bridgend.

Members found the training to be useful and engaging and commented that it served to:

- Bring Members together as a newly formed Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee;
- Develop an effective team working strategy;
- Understand how it can effectively scrutinise the PSB;
- Gain a clear sense of how the JOSC will operate during the 2023/24 Municipal Year and beyond;
- Gain a clear sense of the role and purpose of the JOSC; and,
- Understand how the JOSC can really make a difference to the community.

First year.....

The Welsh Government Guidance to PSBs on the role of scrutiny states that the scrutiny function of Public Services Boards is encouraged to be 'a critical friend with positive intent'. Furthermore, it outlines that scrutiny practitioners act as advocates for the success of joint working.

With that in mind, core principles have been established in the first year of the regional arrangements, and the agreed aim for the JOSC was to look at 'how' the PSB measures its own success in delivering against the objectives set out in the Well-being Plan, as well as taking a proactive approach and undertake 'pre-scrutiny' so that the Committee is involved early in the decision-making process.

Key to the JOSC forward work programme has been the regular engagement and attendance of the Chair of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board (CTM PSB) Mr M Brace, who has delivered timely updates to the JOSC regarding the work and priorities of PSB. This information sharing has been key to the basis of the scrutiny process and for the JOSC to ensure the PSB adheres to the Five Ways of Working and the sustainable development principle in its delivery of the Well-Being Plan.

At its first meeting on the **6th October 2023** and in order to set out progress of the new PSB and to give the PSB JOSC the opportunity to provide its views on the development of future action plans to deliver the Well-Being Plan, the Chair of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board (CTM PSB) Mr M Brace, delivered a progress report. The Chair outlined how the PSB has used the Well-being Assessment as the evidence base for the draft Well-being Plan and how it had been developed alongside the evidence provided by local communities and people about life in Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Bridgend.

Following the foundation work through the well-being assessment, the draft plan seeks to advise how the CTM PSB will work to improve the well-being for people living in the region now and for building towards a fair future. The overarching theme of the draft Well-being Plan is 'a more equal Cwm Taf Morgannwg', which drives every aspect of the Public Services Board's work. The agreed aim for the JOSC was to look at 'how' the PSB measures its own success in delivering upon the two identified objectives of the PSB namely:-

- Healthy Local Neighbourhoods; and,
- Sustainable and Resilient Local Neighbourhoods

This update provided members of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee with the opportunity to consider the progress of the newly merged Board, and links to future priorities. Most significantly, it set out how Members would be able to deliver good and effective scrutiny by assessing 'how' future actions are delivered, in line with the Five Ways of Working.

The JOSC quickly developed its own forward work programme with the aim of scrutinising to what extent partners were collaborating and understanding the tactical measures that would drive that collaboration. In addition, the Committee focused on the outcomes and progress of the PSB with a particular emphasis on the two strategic objectives that would drive those outcomes and priorities. This approach would enable the JOSC to develop recommendations based on the outcomes the PSB were working to achieve as opposed to its output i.e. for scrutiny to consider how well the PSB is developing the detail and how well the PSB is involving its communities.

On the **24th November 2023** the JOSC received Co Production Network for Wales, who delivered an overview of their work with the PSB particularly supporting its focus on ‘collaboration’ and ‘involvement’ in respect of its two current areas of work, ‘The Voice of Young People in the Work of the PSB’ and the action plan set out by the ‘Workforce Well-being Sub-board’. They also received an overview of the work of the Workforce Well-being Sub-board on their contribution to the new Well-being Plan.

Through their 5 year National Lottery funded project, the Co Production Network for Wales is working with three clusters of Public Services Boards to turn their engagement into meaningful involvement, embed co-productive behaviours, and transform culture which allows them to assist in bringing a collective voice to influence change with decision and policy makers.

The Young Peoples Voices Conference, which involved three further education colleges across the region, targeting primarily 16–19-year-olds, would form the basis of the ongoing work to involve the voice of future generations and to influence the improvement of well-being through the work of the PSB. Through this network the PSB anticipated that a programme of engagement and involvement with young people could be developed.

Following its lines of enquiry, the JOSC were keen that the delivery of a young person’s event in November 2023 by the PSB and supported by the Co-Pro Project Dewi, would lead to wider engagement and foster long term involvement from young people and they recommended that this more focused collaboration and wide ranging approach is embedded in the work of the CTM PSB. The JOSC also requested timely and ongoing updates on the work and progress of the Workforce Well-being Sub-board which has been key in considering the priorities for the new well-being plan and identifying how the Sub-board can best respond under the new regional PSB.

Receiving information on the two initial workstreams enabled the JOSC to make recommendations on areas that would contribute to the two well-being objectives that are healthy local neighbourhoods and sustainable and resilient local neighbourhoods. They enabled the JOSC to be aware of and understand the Board’s priorities and planned policies, legislation, and projects for the forthcoming year. They also allowed the Scrutiny Committee to identify and prioritise matters that are of significant public interest or have potential implications for the communities that form part of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region for inclusion on its own work programme such as the Climate Change Risk Assessment.

The CTM PSB continued to develop its two well-being objectives in addition to a timeline for the production of delivery plans against the objectives to assist Scrutiny Members in scrutinising ‘**how**’ the Board is delivering against the Well-Being Plan.

At its meeting on the **23rd February 2024**, the JOSC received an update on the merger of the Community Safety Partnerships in Cwm Taf Morgannwg with a view to undertaking pre-scrutiny on the proposals made by the task and finish group in readiness for the merged Community Safety Partnership (CSP). Through receipt of this information and following scrutiny of the proposal listed the JOSC were confident in their recommendation of support to the creation of the regional Community Safety Partnership based on the review of CSP arrangements.

The proposals as set out included:

- A structure for Cwm Taf Morgannwg Community Safety Partnership;
- A focus on the strategic work for the region;
- Membership comprising of senior officers of the involved partners;
- Reporting mechanisms for existing regional structures, e.g. the Area Planning Board and VAWDASV along with the Serious Violence Duty; and
- Scrutiny of the regional Community Safety Partnership to be undertaken by the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the regional Public Services Board.

The high level overview of the Community Safety Partnerships demonstrated that there was an increasing adoption of regional footprint working by strategic groups operating within the CSP framework. This insight led to the review of the community safety partnership arrangements for the region. The review was commissioned by Rhondda Cynon Taf Council on behalf of its partners and undertaken by an independent, external company.

In addition to the proposals culminating from the work of the task and finish group in establishing a regional Community Safety Partnership, the review report also recommended that appropriate local arrangements should be in place to scrutinise regional activity, with scrutiny of the regional Community Safety Partnership to be undertaken by the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the regional Public Services Board.

The JOSC welcomed this pre-scrutiny exercise in consultation with officers from the regional community safety partnerships, and following constructive discussions raised the following points for consideration:

- Whilst Members supported the proposals, they sought reassurance that the merger would not result in a dilution of existing services particularly from a safeguarding point of view.
- A Member sought clarification on how the proposal will align with MASH (multi agency safeguarding hub).
- Members sought reassurance that the engagement with young people and schools would remain as important despite the reduction in the number of School Liaison Officers with South Wales Police.

- A Member also explored the importance of equity of access to provisions to tackle anti-social behaviour and youth provision services.
- Members were pleased to hear that despite the obvious budgetary pressures that all three Local Authorities face, a regional CSP would boost the economy of partnership, and the regional approach would not compromise the current local delivery models.
- Members were in support of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg PSB JOSC undertaking scrutiny of the regional activity and acknowledged that the arrangements would be reflected in the updated terms of reference for the JOSC.

Climate Change Risk Assessment

During the Municipal Year the JOSC undertook pre scrutiny of the work of the PSB in respect of developing a climate change risk assessment for Cwm Taf Morgannwg. This work focused on the collaboration and involvement 'Ways of Working' as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015).

Having undertaken research on existing studies and good practice in other areas, the PSB procured a consultant to work with them to undertake a climate change risk assessment through engaging with partner organisations, businesses, community groups and citizens. The aim of the research was to identify key areas across the region of existing strategies and examples of good practice, future priorities for the communities of Cwm Taf Morgannwg and recognise skills and capacity across PSB partners. With the support of partners, the PSB have established a task group with the purpose of assessing the concerns of communities and engaging with local groups and networks to address the challenges of climate change.

The membership of this task group includes:

- climate change leads from the three local authorities,
- Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board,
- South Wales Fire and Rescue Service,
- RCT Climate Action Network,
- Natural Resources Wales,
- Transport for Wales,
- Bridgend College.

The JOSC had the opportunity to pre scrutinise and challenge the report which contained information on the early work of the PSB to date in formulating a task and finish group with the intention of engaging with the Cwm Taf Morgannwg communities and stakeholders to determine the priorities for the climate change risk assessment (in conjunction with a Risk Assessment Framework for PSB's as set out by Natural Resources Wales (NRW)).

- Members sought assurance that the task and finish group would include representation from a wider group of stakeholders such as colleges and schools across the three local authorities in addition to seeking the views of voluntary

organisations, the private sector, pupils and Headteachers as part of the Climate Change Risk Assessment to strengthen collaboration and involvement;

- A Member referenced the disparity between the NHS trying to centralise and streamline services for efficiency against the push for localised and community focused services, and the impact this has on the use of cars by patients and patients' families, a matter for consideration by the PSB on the location of services;
- An invitation was extended to Scrutiny Members and invited Members of the Scrutiny panel to be representatives on the CCRA Task Force group.

The PSB Chair noted the comments of the JOSC in respect of the work to undertake a climate change risk assessment with particular focus on collaboration and involvement. The PSB Chair also recognised the strong feeling from the JOSC members of the need to expand the consultation and engagement to include as much perspective as possible and these comments would be fed back to the PSB at its next meeting and subsequently to the task group.

Updates on the work of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board.....

Throughout the Municipal Year, Members of the JOSC have received regular updates on the progress of the new Public Services Board (PSB), thereby allowing them to provide their views on the development of future action plans to deliver the Well-Being Plan. From the outset the updates from the Chair of the PSB, Mr M Brace, through reports and oral updates, have enabled the JOSC to provide feedback to the PSB on the development of their action plans, paying particular attention to outcomes, whilst focussing on the practice of the Five Ways of Working, as discussed in the training session with the Office of Future Generations Commissioner on the 5th September 2023. It is the intention that the updates will remain a standing item on the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CTM PSB JOSC), in order that its members receive timely and relevant updates on the progress of ongoing work of the CTM PSB.

In addition, the invitation to the Chair of the CTM PSB JOSC to identified meetings of the PSB to provide updates on the scrutiny undertaken and resulting recommendations has further assisted a joined up approach between the two, to ensure that the PSB and Scrutiny are performing their roles appropriately.

The following updates were delivered as set out below:

6th October 2023

Setting Objectives

Engagement with the PSB regarding the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board Draft Well Being Plan which seeks to advise how the PSB will work together to remove inequalities to improve the well-being for people living in the region now and for building towards a fair future. The overarching theme of the draft Well-being Plan is 'a more equal Cwm Taf Morgannwg', which drives every aspect of the Public Services Board's work. The plan outlines two main objectives:

- Objective One - Healthy local neighbourhoods
- Objective Two – Sustainable and resilient local neighbourhoods

24th November 2023

The Focus on Collaboration and Involvement

An update from the PSB on their current workstreams which included 'The Voice of Young People in the Work of the PSB' and the action plan set out by the 'Workforce

Well-being Sub-Group' whilst strengthening their focus on collaboration and involvement. Information was shared with the JOSOC on the workshop held by the Workforce Well-being Sub-board on their contribution to the new Well-being Plan and identifying how the Sub-board can best respond under the new regional PSB. Also, information on a collaboration with Co-Production Network for Wales and Bridgend College, a project which was being developed beginning with a Young Peoples Voices Conference on the 17th November 2023.

23rd February 2024

Progress Against the Well-being Objectives

A verbal update from the Chair of the PSB, Mr M Brace, in respect of the development of a CTM Climate Change Risk Assessment (on which the JOSOC had opportunity to undertake pre-scrutiny). Also referenced was the continuing engagement of the PSB with young people, following the event in November, which had developed a programme where young people can provide a different perspective on the services the PSB provides. An update was also provided in respect of the Workforce Well-being subgroup, which had continued to develop its action plan. It had also recently committed to task groups around bereavement, neurodiversity and the cost-of-living crisis, coordinating campaigns around Foster Friendly employers and sharing good practice on the success and benefits of staff networks.

Looking Ahead....

“A pre-requisite to effective local government scrutiny is a deep understanding of the legal definition of the goals and the sustainable development principle (sometimes described as “the five ways of working”).

The 2023/2024 Municipal Year has very much been a year where the PSB delivery plan against the two well-being objectives is in the development phase and following the timeline, as set out below:

Well-being assessment (2022-27)

- Published

Well-being plan (2023-28)

- Published.
- 2 well-being objectives.
- 5 PSB commitments.

The PSB is focussed on developing the detail on how its partners will work together to deliver its new plan, as other PSBs are doing. One of the roles for scrutiny is to consider the PSB’s annual report and progress against agreed PSB Well-being Plan objectives to consider the effectiveness of the PSB and differences being made. This opportunity will be afforded to the JOSC over the coming months as their consideration of the PSB Annual Report will provide a foundation from which to identify and discuss associated issues in relation to the effectiveness of the PSB. This will also go some way to support the forward work programme of the JOSC for the next Municipal Year.

The year ahead will bring with it changes and challenges in equal measure, with a new membership for the JOSC for the next municipal year, following the outcomes of the individual Councils’ Annual General Meetings . I hope the openness and engagement we have experienced from the Chair of the PSB will continue into the next municipal year as it has enabled the JOSC to focus its role, involvement, and contribution.

I would once again like to thank my Vice Chair, Councillor S Griffiths, as well as the dedicated supporting officers from, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, Bridgend County Borough Council and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council. As always, particular thanks goes to the Co-opted Members of the JOSC and I thank them for their continued contributions and professionalism.

Diolch,

D R Bevan (Chair 2023-2024)