

Ask Ior/Gofynnwch am **Scrutiny**

Our Ref/Ein Cyf **20180110–PARTNERSHIPS**

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Date **19 February 2018**



Councillor Majid Rahman,
Chairperson of the Performance Scrutiny
Committee - Partnerships

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Summary

This is a letter from the **Performance Scrutiny Committee - Partnerships** to the **Public Services Board** following the meeting of the Committee held on 10 January 2018 with comments upon the:

- **Single Integrated Plan Performance Update – Quarter 2.**

Dear Chair of the Public Services Board,

Comments upon the Single Integrated Plan Performance Update – Quarter 2

I am writing to submit the Performance Scrutiny Committee - Partnerships' comments upon the Single Integrated Plan Performance Update - Quarter 2, to the Public Services Board.

This Committee has within its Terms of Reference the statutory duty placed upon the Council by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2014 for the Scrutiny of the Public Service Board.

At the meeting of the Performance Scrutiny Committee - Partnerships held on 10 January 2018, the Committee considered the SIP Performance Update Quarter 2 and Officers and the Theme Leads presented progress upon the 3 themes, and received and answered the Committee's questions. The full summary of the discussion can be found in the **attached** minute of the meeting and is submitted formally as the Committee's comments to the Public Services Board.

If you have a query regarding the content of the letter please contact:
scrutiny@newport.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Majid Rahman
Chair of Performance Scrutiny Committee - Partnerships

**Extract of the Minutes of Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships
held on 10 January 2018 at 5pm**

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Single Integrated Plan (SIP) Performance Update - Quarter 2

Invitees:

- Will Godfrey (Chief Executive for Newport Council)
- Keir Duffin (Head of Regeneration Housing & Investment (RH&I) for Newport Council)
- William Beer - Public Health Wales Lead Officer
- Chief Inspector David Morgan – Gwent Police

The Chief Executive introduced the Quarter 2 performance update for the Single Integrated Plan (SIP) to the Committee. It was explained that this was a transition period from the SIP that would be replaced by the Wellbeing Plan. It was noted that many of the underlying themes within the SIP priorities were evident in the emerging priorities within the draft Wellbeing Plan. The Committee was being presented with an update on the progress being made against the three themes.

Economy and Skills Theme:

The Head of Regeneration, Housing and Investment gave apologies for the Strategic Director - Place, and presented an overview of the progress being made within this theme.

Members discussed how the performance measures were set, and how it was ensured that the targets were set at an appropriate level to make them challenging.

The Committee enquired whether long term unemployed had been included in the performance dashboard, as well as the number of young people Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEETs), and outlined the importance of addressing the issue of long term employment as a priority.

Members were advised that those that had been close to employment and sustaining employment were now currently employed. Employment in Newport was at a 25 year high, and it was hoped that the Workplace Academy had played in a role in those figures. In addition, a programme was in place with the Department for Work and Pensions for those unemployed for 6 months or more, and its success in the Newport area was the second highest across the UK.

In-work poverty was discussed, and how the inability to afford rent payments and cost of living could affect mental health. Members queried as to how the partners engage with those at risk of in-work poverty, to assist them with managing finances. The Head of Regeneration Investment and Housing advised that there was a good working relationship with the Newport Credit Union in relation to this matter and that 7 barriers were being addressed as part of the partnership working, including housing, drugs & alcohol, mental health and financial concerns. It was explained that most clients usually had between 4 and 5 of the barriers, and so a programme was developed around their specific situation. The Health and Wellbeing Lead also advised of the links between other partners in addressing this problem, such as GPs who may be treating a patient for mental health issues, who may have underlying issues with debt management. The importance of a partnership approach to addressing this was stressed, as the issue was rarely down to a single contributory factor.

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Health and Wellbeing Theme:

Shisha Update:

The Public Health Wales Officer updated the Committee upon information previously requested by the Committee regarding the use of Shisha. It was advised that current regulations would not prevent Shisha bars opening in Newport, but they had to demonstrate compliance with Smoke Free Environments Legislation and couldn't be housed in enclosed public buildings. Any Business wishing to set up a Shisha Bar needed to consider application to and compliance with: Planning Regulations; Building Regulations; Licensing Acts; Food Business Regulations and HM Revenue and Customs Plain Packaging and Tobacco Warning labels requirements. Due to the number of organisations that need to be contacted such as Planning, Building Control and Revenue and Customers it was not easy to open up a Shisha bar. Members were advised that if they had any concerns to contact Trading Standards, Planning and Environmental Health.

Performance Update:

The Health & Wellbeing Theme Lead Officer introduced the Performance Dashboard and presented an overview of performance to date.

Members queried the Physical Activity Plans and whether they would achieve the same participation rates as Scotland. It was also queried what the statutory responsibility was within the Local Development Plan for the Council to have open space. The Lead Officer advised that one of the priorities within the draft Well-being plan was making Newport a much more active city and to improve walking and cycling in the city. Following engagement with schools Primary schools offer a "walking bus" to encourage walking a mile a day. Although problems with litter, lighting and damage to pavements could present a barrier to people utilising public spaces, a big part of the Well-being plan would be to make alternatives accessible. Members were also advised that an assessment for green space is done as part of the Local Plan.

Safe and Cohesive Theme:

The Chief Inspector gave a brief overview of the performance of the PSB in achieving the objectives within this theme. Specific mention was made to the 'Mini Police' initiative and the roll out of Scan Analyse Respond and Assess (SARA).

A Member referred to knife crime and the view that a cultural change was needed to influence positive change in this area. Members enquired as to whether in the Officer's opinion this change was possible. The Chief Inspector agreed with this statement, however clarified that this would require effective work between the partners.

The success of the Pill Public Space Protection Order was mentioned and there had been evidence of a reduction of knife crime since the order was implemented. The partners indicated that the partnership approach to dealing with the issues in Pill would be used to develop approaches for similar issues within other areas of the city.

Comment was made about the difficulties young people with criminal records have finding work with the NHS. The Chief Inspector advised that restorative justice helped to provide learning for those looking to change their future.

Members praised the achievements and progress the Partnership was making towards this objective. The Chief Executive advised the Members that the Partnership would succeed or fail based on the individual members' acceptance to share and achieve the collective outcomes. It was explained that the Partnership had achieved a better dialogue between the

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partners and greater understanding of how it could work together to achieve collective goals.

Members asked what barriers the Partnership faces in making further progress. Theme Leads responded:

- The inability of large organisations to think differently and embrace change to get the outcomes needed;
- Identifying the needs of the population and ensuring the PSB had the necessary resources to deliver on its objectives;
- The change in the skills and economic make-up of the city and importance of developing the longer term skills needed for the workforce.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer reminded Members of the role of the Committee in considering this Q2 update on the Single Integrated Plan, which was to:

- ***Take a backward look at how the partnership has performed in Q2 against the objectives in the SIP;***
- ***Assess:***
 - ***How well the PSB has delivered as a collaborative partnership on its objectives;***
 - ***How effectively the Partners on the PSB worked together to deliver the SIP;***
 - ***Mitigation actions put in place to address risks and not achieving objectives;***
 - ***How the public were engaged with on the SIP, and how feedback has been used.***

Conclusions

The Committee agreed that it was clear there was evidence of cross partnership working and keeping the lines of communication open between partners and any improvements were very positive for residents of Newport.

While the SIP Performance was being achieved in the main, there was however some concern about robustness of targets already being achieved by the end of Quarter 2.

The example of partnership work done in Pill was referred to a lot. Members would like to see some feedback / data upon outcomes from this joint working to identify issues and need for an area, what was done to provide solutions and whether it would be a sustainable process to use elsewhere.
