

Annual Report



BWRDD GWASANAETHAU CYHOEDDUS  
**Blaenau Gwent**  
PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD

# The Blaenau Gwent We Want

Our First Year

2018/19







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Our First Year

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**Version:** Version 1: Blaenau Gwent Public Services Board (PSB) Annual Report  
2018/19 – Year One

**Disclaimer:** This Annual Report has been produced and published under the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. This published document is part of an on-going approach to improve well-being in Blaenau Gwent.

The most up to date version of this document is available on the PSB website:

<http://www.blaenauwentpsb.org.uk/>





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**Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg**

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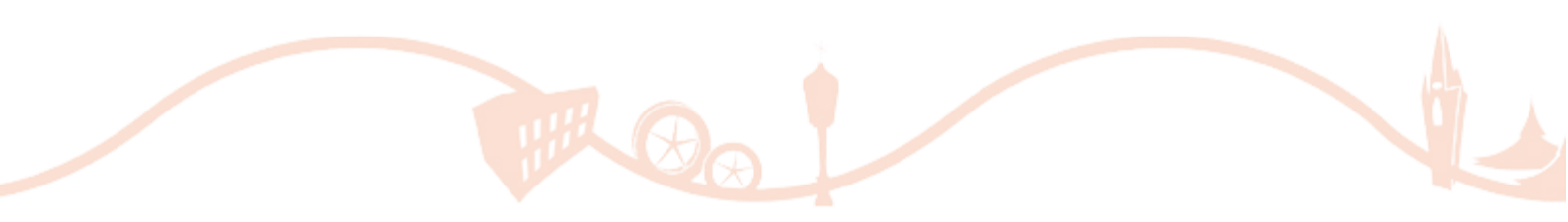
# Blaenau Gwent Public Services Board Partners



Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub  
De Cymru



South Wales  
Fire and Rescue Service





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Our Annual Report contains video content to show some of the great work that has been taken forward in the first year of our plan. If you see the 'video' icon (left) in this document you can click on it to watch the clips, all of which are hosted on external websites.



# Foreword

I am happy to present our first annual report of progress we have made towards the five objectives we set out in the well-being plan we published in May last year.

As a Public Services Board we have been working on a number of key projects locally, and also with regional partners. Key information on this work is captured in this Annual Report, and we will also for the first time this year, hold an annual stakeholder conference aligned to our well-being objectives.

We have also been working together as a board to develop and mature our governance and structural arrangements, as well as working with our other partners across the South East Wales Region on key strategic national programmes such as the Cardiff Capital City Region.

We recognise we are beginning our well-being journey guided by a new piece of legislation which is enabling us to make positive steps toward contributing towards Wales' over-arching national goals.

This first year has allowed us to find our feet as a Board, and I am really optimistic about us working together with all interested parties to help deliver our vision for our wonderful area.



Councillor Nigel Daniels

**Chair of Blaenau Gwent Public Services Board**

**Leader of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council**



# Introduction

Blaenau Gwent Public Services Board (PSB) was established in April 2016 as part of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 (“the Act”). It is a partnership of key public bodies that by working together have a huge responsibility to create a place we want to live in now and in the future.

The Act is a ground-breaking piece of legislation which aims to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The vision of this legislation is expressed in the [Seven Well-being Goals](#).

The Act places a duty on public bodies to apply the sustainable development principle which states they ‘must meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’. The sustainable development principle is made up of the following [five ways of working](#), pictured below:





# Celebrating our plan

## Meeting our requirement under the Act

As a Public Services Board (PSB) we agreed our five year Well-being Plan in April 2018 and it was published on Friday 4 May 2018, in-line with statutory guidance.

Our plan was the result of a comprehensive programme of involvement and collaborative work to develop a coherent plan for delivering well-being. It prioritises five key well-being objectives set out below to take forward in order to bring about positive changes for local people and communities:

## Our Well-being Objectives

1	Blaenau Gwent wants everyone to have the best start in life...	Ensuring early years of future generations are healthy, happy, free from harm and ready to succeed.
2	Blaenau Gwent wants safe and friendly communities...	Creating safer communities, where people feel safe and have good social connections, are socially responsible and have a good cultural life.
3	Blaenau Gwent wants to look after and protect its natural environments...	Creating a vibrant area that lives in harmony with its natural environments, using resources in a fair and sustainable way.
4	Blaenau Gwent wants to forge new pathways to prosperity...	A place where people thrive and achieve their full learning and lifelong potential.
5	Blaenau Gwent wants to encourage and enable people to make healthy lifestyle choices in the places that they live, learn, work and play.	A place where people live longer with better health, a place where healthy behaviours is the 'norm'.

Further information on how we developed our plan, along with supporting documents is available within our local well-being plan [‘The Blaenau Gwent We Want, 2018-23’](#).

## WELL-BEING PLAN LAUNCH @ 'GO WILD' IN BLAENAU GWENT

Following its publication the plan was officially launched to the public at South Wales' largest biodiversity Event 'Go Wild' which was held in Blaenau Gwent on Saturday 9 June 2018 at Bryn Bach Park, in Tredegar.

Thousands of visitors came from across our local area to attend the fun filled family day which looked to connect people with nature and celebrate local biodiversity, during National Nature Week.

We saw this as a great opportunity to launch our important plan. At the event we were able to raise its profile with local people as well as help to show the Public Services Boards (PSB) support of our well-being objectives '**Blaenau Gwent wants to look after and protect our natural environments**'.

As part of the launch, several commemorative plaques were unveiled at the park, including a Future Poem written by Charlotte, former pupil of St Illtyds Primary School and Blaenau Gwent Children's Grand Council. You can watch Charlotte's Video by clicking on the image below:

*Charlotte said "I was honoured to be a part of such a special occasion and to share this experience with my family and friends. I will regularly visit Parc Bryn Bach in years to come to watch the trees grow!"*



## LEAVING A LEGACY

The plaques also include information about the planting of over 4,000 native trees and wild meadows sponsored by the PSB as part of the launch.



The trees included Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*), Copper Beech (*Fagus sylvatica* f. *purpurea*) and the Service Tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) and were planted on 10th April 2018 with volunteers from Groundwork Wales, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council's Green Infrastructure Team and representatives from our PSB. These species were chosen for their high wildlife value and their ability to support local biodiversity.

At the event, visitors had a chance to get up close and personal with honey bees in the bee tent experience, meet wild owls, Rocky the bat, a hedgehog and badger faced sheep. They could join a guided nature walk or try geo-caching and have fun with lots of eco-craft activities. The local school children's reused plastic bottle flowers created a colourful display of over 1,500 plastic flowers to highlight plastic pollution and the importance to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Another lasting legacy of the day is the bespoke bench created by the wood carver Chris Wood-Wood Art Works, from a failed beech tree in Bedwellty Park which will grace the park for many years to come.

Visitors also had a chance to speak to experts about the rich wildlife resources in Blaenau Gwent and find out how they can get involved with the work of local community groups, such as Beaufort Ponds and Woodlands Group. All of the groups were on hand to demonstrate what can be achieved when local people and communities get involved in managing local green space.

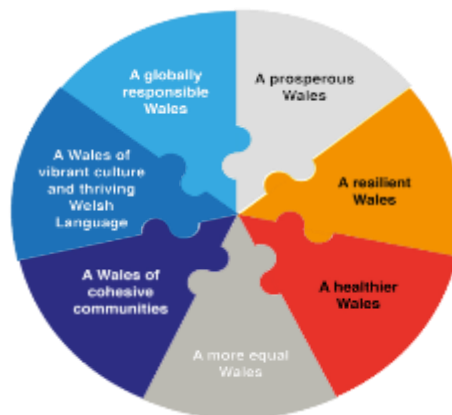


**INVOLVEMENT:** The idea to plant trees as part of the launch came from our public engagement programme 'Blaenau Gwent We Want'. The idea focused around future 'idea' trees as a way to get people to be involved.

## PHOTOGRAPHS FROM 'GO WILD'



## CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL GOALS





Blaenau Gwent Wants...

**Best Start in Life  
For Everyone**



# Blaenau Gwent wants everyone to have the Best Start in Life

## CYMRU WELL WALES – FIRST 1000 DAYS PROGRAMME

Early childhood is a critical stage in life that can determine much of a person's future well-being. The first 1000 days of a child's development sets the stage for lifelong health, learning and achievement, to relationships (including family life) and what is passed on to future generations.

Therefore, making sure people have equal access to the right services at the right time is considered a key priority in ensuring that current and future generations have **'the best start in life'** and that improved outcomes for children, young people and families are maximised.

In support of this work as a Public Services Board (PSB) we are committed to understanding more about our early year's services, including their quality and identifying where the gaps are. Therefore, in April 2018 we joined [Cymru Well Wales's - The First 1000 Days Programme \(F1000D\)](#) and took steps to set up a multi-agency planning group to take forward the work.

Our work began with a **F1000D Stakeholder Event** being held at the General Offices, Ebbw Vale in July 2018. The event brought together over **91** passionate and enthusiastic **representatives** from **13 PSB partner organisations** that provide services and support to children and families.



The event aimed to stimulate conversation and networking opportunities as well as:

- Develop a shared understanding of why the first thousand days are so important, including which factors have the greatest impact on achieving outcomes for children and families during this time;
- Explore how the findings of the Adverse Childhood Experiences research in Wales impact on child development during the first thousand days, and on health outcomes throughout life;
- Begin to develop an understanding of what partner organisations currently do as a system to support children and parents during the first one thousand days.
- Agree what opportunities there might be for system improvement, in the context of what we know will make the greatest difference to outcomes.

Throughout the day attendees took part in a range of interactive table discussions to consider the following key questions:

- What services are being delivered and at what stage of the F1000D journey?
- What information is being gathered?
- How is that information being used?
- Where does that information go?
- How far are attendees 'joined up' with other services?
- What could we do better?



This led to a wide range of information being provided and self-organised by attendees on the day.

After the event, all of the information was considered and analysed and emerging areas for development were identified (such as greater opportunities for networking and sharing information between partner organisations). These areas were then further explored, through focus group sessions, that were arranged with Early Years provision Service Managers and practitioners. The sessions provided insight into where the greatest service delivery improvements could be made; helped identify areas of good practice which

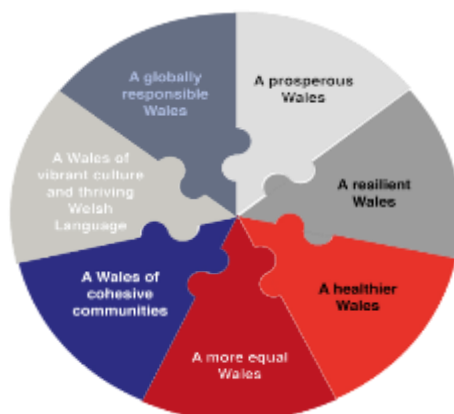
could be adopted across Blaenau Gwent; and considered how collaboration between different early years services provision could be better planned and undertaken.

All findings were presented for our consideration in July, 2018, along with a series of key recommendations, outlined below, on what we need to do next over the short, medium and long-term, in order to maximise our contributions towards this well-being objective, whilst maximising wider well-being outcomes for children and families.



**PREVENTION:** ensuring that current and future generations have ‘**the best start in life**’ so that improved outcomes for children, young people and families are maximised.

## CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL GOALS





## **ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES – TRAINING FOR PUBLIC SECTOR WORKERS IN BLAENAU GWENT**

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are experiences that occur before the age of 18 and are remembered throughout adulthood. Evidence shows children who experience stressful and poor quality childhoods are more likely to develop health-harming and anti-social behaviours, more likely to perform poorly in school, more likely to be involved in crime and ultimately less likely to be a productive member of society.

Committed to ensuring '**everyone has the best start in life**' and '**creating safe and friendly communities**' we identified tackling ACEs as one of our key priority areas. We recognised that central to the delivery of this well-being objective is improving how public service organisations respond effectively to prevent and mitigate the harms of ACEs, whilst better supporting local people and communities to be able to cope with ACEs that cannot be prevented.

As a board, we took immediate action in **ensuring our public sector workforce were ACEs aware** and provided Level 1 ACEs and trauma informed practice training for our employees.

The training was made available via the Home Office funded Police and Public Health Wales **Early Action Together Programme** as well as **Welsh Government's ACEs Support Hub**. We believed this was a key step towards strengthening our existing early intervention and preventative practices, in the acknowledgement that much more needs to be done, over the medium to long-term of this plan, to protect and increase the resilience of the most vulnerable people in our communities.

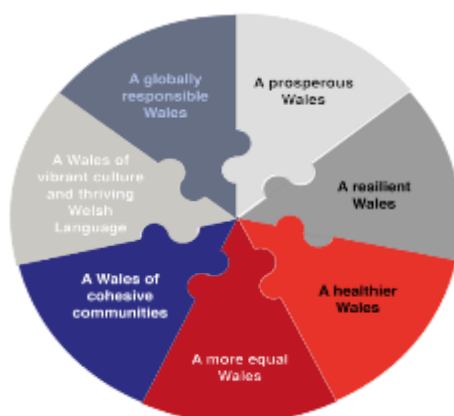
Through the **Early Action Together Programme** 120 Police Officers and Police staff in Blaenau Gwent and 34 staff from partner agencies have received training since October 2018.

Blaenau Gwent is an ACE enquiry pilot site for Health Visitors and Staff have received training. The ACEs Support Hub has provided

- ACE awareness training for 14 out of 20 pre-school settings;
- ACE awareness training for 12 schools;
- Trauma Informed Practice training for 1 secondary school



## CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL GOALS





Blaenau Gwent Wants...  
**Safe and Friendly  
Communities**



# Safe and Friendly Communities

## Annual Progress – Year One

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### MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER

To help us meet one of the commitments outlined in our plan, we have established a **Community Safety Hub** for the Blaenau Gwent area.

Our approach will follow a best practice model developed in neighbouring Torfaen which has been rolled out across all five areas in Gwent.

The Hub is a multi-agency collaborative arrangement of partners whose aim is to better the lives of residents of Blaenau Gwent in terms of community safety, by identifying and addressing neighbourhood issues, supporting victims and robustly dealing with perpetrators.

The approach promotes enhanced partnership working through co-location at Ebbw Vale Police Station with relevant officers meeting every Tuesday and Thursday to share information and consider identifying solutions for action using a standard problem solving model.

*“This is very much a people and places approach that involves discussions around repeat victims, prolific offenders, repeat callers, hot-spot areas for crime and ASB and community identified priorities”*

**Chief Inspector White, Gwent Police**

### Involving People in identifying community priorities

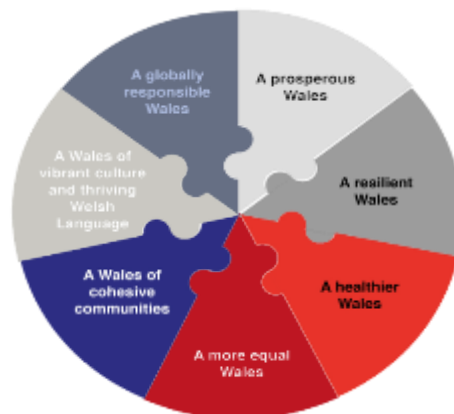
The Hub has recently been piloting a new approach in seeking local people’s views on community safety priorities. The approach is seen as an effective way to engage with people, which includes face-to-face interviews at meetings, via crime prevention panels and volunteers, through on-line surveys on partner websites and also via social media outlets, including Twitter.

Over 175 people participated through this approach in May 2019, with anti-social behaviour and drug misuse being identified as key issues within Blaenau Gwent. These and other issues identified by this engagement process will be discussed through the Hub. The work will also be supported by information and intelligence from partner organisations in order to inform the development of an integrated, collaborative plan and approach in addressing any issues.



**COLLABORATION** – The Community Safety Hub is a collaborative multi-agency arrangement that aims to improve community safety across Blaenau Gwent as a collective partnership.

## CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL GOALS



## HELPING TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES MORE AGE-FRIENDLY

This year we have begun taking forward our Blaenau Gwent Age-Friendly Communities (AFC) Programme with the support of the Blaenau Gwent 50+ Partnership Network. The programme will demonstrate how Blaenau Gwent is a great place for everyone to grow old, where lonely people in the community are recognised and activities for people of all ages to participate in are encouraged.

Decisions on what it means to be an age-friendly community will sit with our local communities, including our 50+ Forum for residents. We are committed to supporting the involvement of local people and organisations to ensure their voice and lived experiences are listened to and acted on.



The AFC programme will recognise all of the excellent programmes and initiatives already going on in the area as well as capturing new ideas to support communities in becoming more age-friendly. These will fall under eight domains identified by the World Health Organisation:-



We held an **Older People's Strategy Workshop** event in **February 2019**. The event brought together stakeholders from a range of organisations that support or represent older people. At the event representatives considered what makes, and what could make, Blaenau Gwent an AFC. Stakeholders considered existing and potential new activities, projects or programmes that meet the age-friendly commitments outlined above.

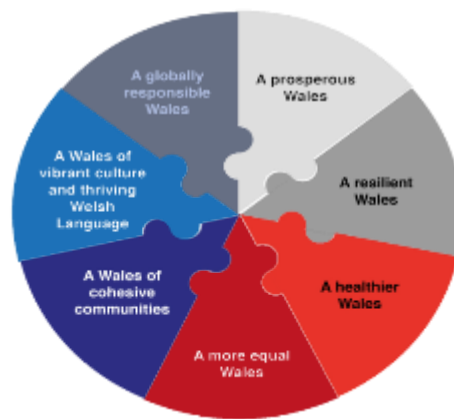
In addition, **members of the Blaenau Gwent 50+ Forum** and attendees at an Intergenerational Well-being Roadshow event were asked to anonymously complete **Age Cymru's 'Community Calculator'** to determine how age-friendly they think their local community is. Examples of existing age-friendly practices include a variety of gardening clubs, luncheon clubs, community cafes, Dementia Friends training in schools, and the numerous existing links between schools and care settings involved in intergenerational activity.



The development of age-friendly communities is closely aligned with the principles in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. We believe this programme is a positive step towards creating an area which **'is safe and friendly'**, for current and future generations.



## CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL GOALS





## CELEBRATING THE ARMED FORCES ACROSS BLAENAU GWENT

2018 was an important year for remembrance in Blaenau Gwent, with partner organisations working in Blaenau Gwent coming together through our Armed Forces Covenant Steering Group to deliver a number of key projects to commemorate 100 years since the end of World War One.

The **Blaenau Gwent Remembers** project, which benefited from funding from the Armed Forces Covenant Grant Fund, had three successful elements:

- A [Reaffirmation Parade](#), supported by Brynmawr Town Council, celebrating the Royal Welsh Regiment's Freedom of the Borough in Blaenau Gwent. This saw 100's of people flock to Brynmawr's Market Square on a wet and windy September day to cheer on the 120 Royal Welsh troops who had recently returned from deployment in Estonia.
- A special ceremony was held in September 2018 for the unveiling of a [commemorative stone](#) for CSM John Henry Williams. The local hero known fondly as 'Jack' received the Victoria Cross for his bravery in World War One. The ceremony, supported by Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council, saw a broad mixture of official delegates, Jack's family members and local communities members
- A special Children's Grand Council was held at the Coleg Gwent Campus, Ebbw Vale in October 2018 with two children from each of Blaenau Gwent's primary schools actively taking part in an event to mark the Centenary year of the end of the First World War. The event, supported by the local branches of the Royal British Legion and the



Royal Welsh, saw the children take part in a range of activities including a Poppy Workshop, facilitated by Coleg Gwent's Art Department, a Welsh Marching Drill and World War One re-enactment workshops.

[Watch the supporting video by clicking on the link:-](#)

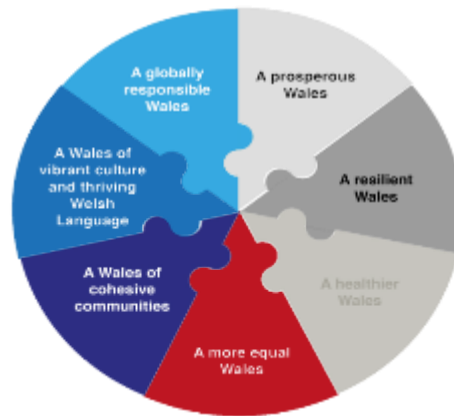


There were also a series of other collaborative events held across Blaenau Gwent to mark the Centenary year of the end of the First World War.

Tredegar Town Council hosted the **Annual Armed Forces Day** for the area in June, and Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council held a **World War One Party in the Park** in September. Both summer events were impacted by our infamous wet Welsh weather, but it did not stop plenty of local people coming along to enjoy both days. The photographs below are courtesy of our Community and Town Councils.



## CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL GOALS



## COMMUNITY CASE STUDY: NEWTOWN YOUTH CLUB VOLUNTEERING

“Our youth club is run entirely by volunteers, comprising of mums who have been encouraged to volunteer, local family members of other volunteers, and two young people that used to attend the youth club.

Our volunteers are from varying social backgrounds, and some have limited educational attainment, which we look to help them improve. One of our mums could not read or write before she came to club, but now does both and completed her Level 2 Youth Work - along with six others in the club.

Some of our volunteers have also suffered from depression and have told us that our youth club gives them purpose. They are all encouraged and supported to be the best that they can – this may push them outside of their comfort zones and they will say “*I can’t do it*” or “*I’m not brainy enough*” and so on, but with a gentle push, and lots of support they do it! The sense of achievement they get afterwards and the smiling faces is amazing and ignites a will for the club to do more.

If some of these individuals didn’t attend our club, then they would not have believed in themselves enough to pursue any kind of qualification. Our volunteers are also very good at supporting each other and the volunteers know that they can talk about anything. If they need help in any aspect of their lives we will help and support them, and it is a great comfort when they say we are one big family”.

*“We openly encourage people from our community to attend and now have three elderly ladies that come to every session to sit and chat with the local children which helps to broach the divide between young and old, and break down misconceptions.*

*We may be a youth club for children and young people but we are so much more to the wider community.”* **Andrea, Youth Lead and Founder of the Youth Project at Newtown Community Centre, Ebbw Vale**



## I ♥ BLAENAU GWENT WELL-BEING ROADSHOW #BGWEWANT

To continue our successful engagement programme **The Blaenau Gwent We Want**, which was integral to help involve local people in the shaping of our well-being plan, we held a series of community well-being events across Blaenau Gwent in March 2019. These free, interactive events included fun activities, demos, performances and much, much more!



### CONNECTING GENERATIONS EVENT

This **intergenerational well-being event** was held at the Llanhilleth Institute on Tuesday 19 March 2019. Supported by the **Aneurin Bevan University Health Board's Intergenerational Connections** project, the event focussed on the benefit of 'connecting generations' to people of all ages.

Over **150 people attended** to take part in a fun-filled day that included activities like singing, gentle exercise, and opportunities to meet and interact with new people of all ages.

Children from local primary schools, including members of the Ebbw Vale and Abertillery Mini Police, attended alongside 50+ Blaenau Gwent residents from the community and local care homes. Attendees heard from Blaenau Gwent Council's Older People's Community Champion, the Lead Nurse for Patient Engagement & Education at Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, and the Blaenau Gwent Youth Mayor about the well-being benefits for people of all ages of taking part in regular intergenerational activity.



Attendees experienced a range of activities, such as an emergency first aid demonstration from South Wales Ambulance Service, participatory arts and craft activities with Head 4 Arts. Furthermore, attendees also got to hear about the great initiatives and programmes on offer by partner organisations like the Alzheimer's Society, Digital Communities Wales and Age Cymru as part of a marketplace of stalls.

There were excellent performances from the **Goldies Cymru** and the **Connect Intergenerational Choir** from St. Mary's (Church in Wales) Primary School and Wesley House in Brynmawr, that had the crowd dancing and singing along.



*Click on the image above to see a video from the event!*

The children and adults who attended the event had a fun-filled day and were able to meet new people from a range of age groups who they might not have had opportunities to interact with before. A lasting legacy of the day is the new links made between schools and care homes to enable them to continue intergenerational activities into the future that will benefit the well-being of children and care home residents alike.



## ARTS FOR OUR HEARTS EVENT

We strongly acknowledge the role the 'Arts' has to play in improving people's overall physical and mental well-being. As part of our Well-being Roadshow in March 2018, we held an event called 'Arts for Our Hearts' at Coleg Gwent.

The event showcased some of the incredible talent from our local area including breakthrough bands, TV talent show contestants, poets, authors and artists, and even world champion street dancers. The main aim of the event was to promote the range of arts and cultural opportunities available and inspire people to get involved themselves and take part. At the event attendees could browse the displays and exhibitions, get involved in arts and craft activities, find out information about arts and culture programmes and initiatives, and enjoy the entertainment provided.



*Click on the image above to see a video from the event!*



**INVOLVEMENT** – The Well-being Roadshow included 4 interactive events that included fun activities, demos and performances from local partners, with a focus on improving well-being and making BG residents feel involved.

## CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL GOALS



## COMMUNITY CASE STUDY: THE CONTRIBUTION OF CWM LIBRARY TO THE WELL-BEING OF OLDER PEOPLE

98% of the Blaenau Gwent population lives within 2.5 miles of their nearest library. These libraries are important hubs for group activities for older people, ranging from group reading, crafts, learning digital skills, or even group exercise classes. Activities like this help to address loneliness and isolation and also encourage healthier and active lifestyles.

*“The library is everything to me. It is my social life. I can pay my bills, get my pension, learn new things and keep fit and active”*

**Anne, age 73, Cwm**

In the community of Cwm in Blaenau Gwent, the centrally located library is at the heart of community life. The library service has begun to work with a number of partners and community groups to expand the number of services available and improve the health and well-being of local residents.

Four key new initiatives at Cwm library have transformed the lives of local people and led to an increase in book-borrowing, which was previously declining. The new weekly initiatives are:-

- Gentle exercise and well-being classes
- Carers Group that provides support and social interaction for anyone in a caring role
- ‘More Than Just Books’ reading group
- Mobile pop-up post service to help people stay connected with family and friends



**LONG-TERM** – our age-friendly communities programme will help our towns and neighbourhoods meet the long-term needs of our communities as we grow older.





Blaenau Gwent Wants...

**To Look After  
and Protect the  
Environment**



**Our First  
Year**

# Protecting Our Environment

## Annual Progress – Year One

### CASE STUDY: CLIMATE READY GWENT – CAPTURING THE LIVED EXPERIENCE

In October 2018, Newport City Council on behalf of the Gwent Strategic Well-being Assessment Group (GSWAG) commissioned Netherwood Sustainable Futures and Well-being Planner to undertake a project called **Climate Ready Gwent: Capturing the Lived Experience**. This one year project was funded by Welsh Government's Regional PSB Support Grant 2018-19.

As a member of GSWAG we were excited to be a part of an innovative project, working together with our neighbouring local authority areas, to consider the regionally identified priority '**Climate Change**'.

We recognise that to '**look after and protect our natural environment**' now and for the long-term as a PSB we must continue to address challenges such as climate change. Seeking to protect and increase the resilience of our current and future generations locally, whilst seeking to become **a more globally responsible area** is important to us. We are committed towards supporting actions which mitigates and lowers the risks of climate change impacts, such as the delivery of Climate Adaptations.

Climate Adaptations can include small changes people can make such as using less water, to large scale developments such as improving road surfaces so they are able to withstand hotter temperatures and are more durable. By exploring and appraising different Climate Adaptations with communities as a Board we have begun our journey towards better planning for the anticipated environmental changes our area will face now and over the long-term.



**LONG-TERM** – What is Climate Change? What are the anticipated impacts over long-term and future trends? Why will climate adaptation become increasingly important for an areas well-being?

The **Climate Ready Gwent – Capturing the Lived Experience** project engaged with a range of communities across Gwent to learn about people’s lived experiences of climate change. The project used a broad variety of engagement and involvement techniques to stimulate conversations and captures people’s views and feedback on climate change and climate adaptations. All the information was analysed across Gwent with a final report being presented to all Gwent Public Services Boards (PSBs) in 2019 to help support future well-being planning and delivery.

Within Blaenau Gwent the project engaged with the Children’s Grand Council and the 50+ Forum:



*The Children’s Grand Council brings together representatives from all primary schools from across the area, aged 10 to 11 years old to work with Blaenau Gwent Council and have their say on a range of key well-being topics, such as the environment, equalities, health and many more through fun, interactive activities.*

*The 50+ Forum is a non-political and open forum which acts as a collective voice for people aged 50 and over who live, work or frequently visit the area. It promotes the interests of people aged 50 and over and provides opportunities to socialise, and discuss important topics that matter to them the most.*

*To find out more telephone 01495 357727, or email [pps@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:pps@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)*



At the meeting of the Children's Grand Council in February 2019 pupils took part in interactive activities which explored who they perceived were going to see the biggest impact from climate change: the people; the environment; local businesses.

Working in groups they used 'mind mapping' techniques to consider different climate impacts and what the most urgent issues and what would be the key opportunities.



Children were then asked to imagine a positive future and to write messages to the people of Blaenau Gwent in 2050 telling them about what was done to tackle climate change.

Hi I'm future Flynn Climate change did not happen thanks to the government and the council for coming up with fantastic ideas you now have kids called bobby and Charlotte and 3 dogs Pugs 1eman 2Caolan 3Ryan.

yours Sincerely  
Flynn Stokes  
(future)

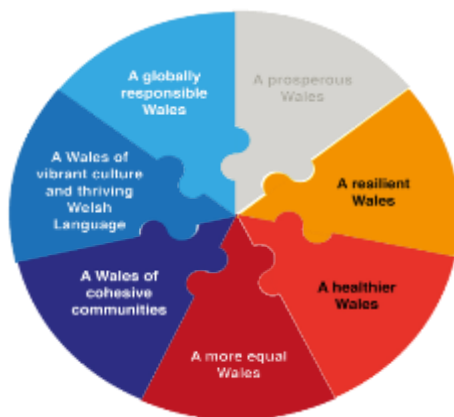
Dear people of the Future climate change hasn't happened yet because of all the little things you have done to help all the people in the World this letter is fro for you to remember to thank you for all the little changes that you have made to help the millions Especially the earth

Finally, the children were asked to write 15-word headlines on Climate Change, a call to action for decision makers now and in the future.



**COLLABORATION** – Working in collaboration has enabled the Climate Ready Gwent project to engage with a range of communities across Gwent to learn about people’s lived experiences of climate change.

## CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL GOALS



## COMMUNITY CASE STUDY: GWENT WILDLIFE TRUST 'LIVING VALLEYS TEAM'

Gwent Wildlife Trust's 'Living Valleys Team' runs a weekly work task every Tuesday in the local area. The main areas are Silent Valley Local Nature Reserve in Cwm, Central Valley Local Nature Reserve on the old steel works site next to the new train station in Ebbw Vale and the Grounds of our Environmental Resource Centre on Steel Works Road.



The Living Valleys Team is a small group of volunteers from varied backgrounds who came together with an aim to improve sites for wildlife in the local area. Most people come to the group with no previous knowledge of this kind of work but full training is given during the work they carry out.

The tasks vary week by week but include tasks such as bracken cutting, grassland management, fence repair, stone walling, clawdd bank construction, surveying for wildlife and volunteer shepherding.

The main challenge faced is that there do not seem to be enough days in a year to complete all the work they would like to do!

If you would like to know more please visit the GWT website [www.gwentwildlife.org](http://www.gwentwildlife.org) under the volunteering section or contact Tom Eyles at the Ebbw Vale office on 01495 307525 or 07788565459.



*"I was made redundant six years ago and was able to take early retirement, so I was looking for something else to occupy my time. I discovered the Gwent Wildlife Trust needs volunteers and now do several tasks for them, which include butterfly and moth surveys, nest box monitoring in the spring, checking the flock of sheep, photography and also some office work in the quiet months. I am also a voluntary warden for Silent Valley, which involves reporting any problems to the manager.*

*All of this makes me feel useful to the local environment, gives me a sense of purpose, enables me to learn new skills and gain knowledge and also to meet new people, mainly staff and other volunteers." Jane, Volunteer at GWT*

## I ♥ BLAENAU GWENT WELL-BEING ROADSHOW – GET OUT INTO NATURE

This event focussed on our wonderful natural environment in Blaenau Gwent. It took place at Parc Bryn Bach, Tredegar on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

As with other events during well-being week, over 150 people attended to take part in a fun-filled day that included activities like Geocaching and nature walks hosted by [Gwent Wildlife Trust](#); hedgehog talks from regional charity [Hedgehog Helpline Cymru](#); owl demonstrations by local charity the [Owl Sanctuary, Festival Park, Ebbw Vale](#); Nature Storytelling for young children; craft activities with Blaenau Play Childcare and Play Team which encouraged play and the making of 'memory boxes' from 'Tuning into Nature'.

Information was also made available to visitors about local wildlife and natural environment initiatives such as the **Blaenau Gwent on the Move Project**, Sirhowy Hill Woodlands and Keep Wales Tidy. The Blaenau Gwent Tourism Manager was on hand to provide knowledge about the area with a guided walk and tested visitors' knowledge about Blaenau Gwent's tourist attractions with a fun quiz.



As part of the legacy for the event, a hedgehog nest box was located at a secret location in the park.



Blaenau Gwent Wants...

**To Forge New  
Pathways to  
Prosperity**



**Our First  
Year**



# Pathways to Prosperity

## Annual Progress – Year One

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### WORKING TOGETHER ON UNIVERSAL CREDIT

Shortly after we had launched our local well-being plan the Public Services Board (PSB) decided it needed to work together on minimising the impact of Universal Credit which was, at the time, planned to be rolled out across Blaenau Gwent in July, 2018. This was a result of UK Government's intention of delivering significant changes to the existing welfare system.

The new system was to be introduced as an online service. The service aimed to tackle problems and simplify the current benefits system by combining benefits into one single application and payment. However, we immediately recognised that within our area, there were a high number of people with lots of needs who were likely to be negatively affected by the changes being introduced.

As a board we identified '**working together on Universal Credit**' as being a high priority which would require intense, ongoing support from all public services and voluntary organisations working in a coordinated way. In order to help reduce the impact and consequences of Universal Credit over the long-term for the people affected.

As a result, we held an event for key stakeholders in April 2018, which brought together over 60 representatives from a range of partner organisations to consider what the main issues are and how we could tackle them.

Issues identified on the day included:

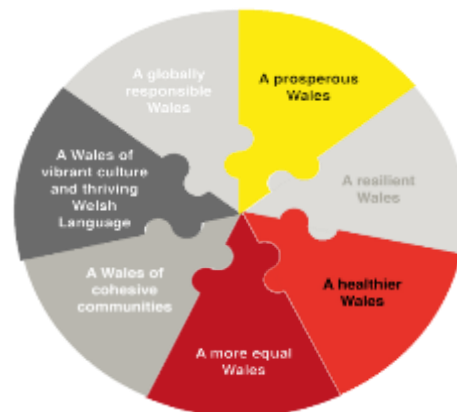
- Lump-sum payments paid directly to tenants and a risk of unsustainable tenancies;
- Length of time for assessments to be undertaken and payments to be made;
- Online digital service difficult to access for people with poor literacy and digital skills.

To support these issues a PSB Delivery Group was established Chaired by Joe Logan (Chief Executive of Tai Calon and PSB Member). The group helped to coordinate action, including raising awareness of Universal Credit amongst front-line service staff, as well as creating an 'Universal Credit' awareness leaflet which highlighted key support services available to people who needed additional support.



**PREVENTION** – The Universal Credit event in April 2018 enabled us to identify potential issues for BG residents as a result of Universal Credit rollout, and consider how to address these to prevent future problems.

## CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL GOALS



## CASE STUDY: INSPIRING STEM STUDENTS

In February 2019, the Public Services Board in partnership with Careers Wales, Celtic Horizons, Linc Cymru, Tai Calon and United Welsh held a **Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) Inspiration event** to highlight and showcase the wide range of STEM career routes available to today's young people.

Over 400 Year 8 and 9 students from across Blaenau Gwent attended the Ebbw Vale Sports Centre operated by Aneurin Leisure to get involved in a variety of interactive activities to engage with 38 businesses and employers.

The students who attended the Inspiration event found it beneficial for improving their knowledge about future STEM careers opportunities across Wales. The links between STEM subjects and industry were clearly demonstrated throughout the event, which also highlighted the benefit of apprenticeships as an alternative to Higher Education.



## CASE STUDY: ASPIRE PROGRAMMES

In 2015, the Ebbw Vale Enterprise Zone Board established that there was a significant skills gap at level 3 and above within the manufacturing industry throughout Blaenau Gwent.

Following this research, the ASPIRE programme was set up through a partnership between Welsh Government, Blaenau Gwent Council Education Services and the Ebbw Vale Enterprise Zone in order to help:-

- Support employers to recruit new staff
- Support young people with the interview process
- Ensure training courses suit apprentices' and employers' needs
- Issue contracts of employment
- Manage rotation of staff

The objectives of the Blaenau Gwent ASPIRE programme are to:-

- Recruit 15-20 apprentices per year to be jointly employed by the local authority and placed within a host company
- Ensure all pathways are linked to STEM subjects
- Provide an opportunity for employers to take on apprentices facilitated and supported by a programme manager
- Promote opportunities linked to the Shared Apprenticeship Programme (SAP) – demonstrating the benefits to businesses such as increasing business capacity and potentially full-time employment opportunities
- Develop partnerships with local training providers, colleges and universities to provide additional skills and training
- Engage with schools to promote apprenticeships, demonstrating the viable career opportunities

*“ASPIRE is a true example of collaboration between Further Education, Private Training Providers, the local authority, employers, and Welsh Government. The success of the programme has made ASPIRE a sector leading project...the model has been so successful that it has been replicated in other local authority areas to address similar skills shortages. We are proud to be part of the programme and consider it to be a sector-leading apprenticeship partnership, making a difference to young people and employers” –*  
**Matthew Tucker, Asst. Principal, Coleg y Comoedd**

What the ASPIRE programme has achieved:-

- >50 manufacturing companies engaged with
- Raised the profile of further education and work-based learning opportunities
- School engagement activity across Blaenau Gwent has increased year on year and ASPIRE programme members are offering assemblies and inspiration events to highlight local opportunities to local young people
- Staff have been trained on Have A Go equipment in order to participate in and showcase opportunities at skills fayres
- Year on year increase in engagement with Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) – increased from 37% in 2015-16 to 47% in 2017-18



**Anelu'n Uchel Blaenau Gwent** - Rhaglen Rhannu Prentisiaeth  
**Aspire Blaenau Gwent** - Shared Apprenticeship Programme

## CASE STUDY: COMMUNITIES FOR WORK PROGRAMMES

The Communities for Work and Communities for Work Plus programmes are delivered across Blaenau Gwent by GAVO and employment partners.

Both programmes offer support for people who are unemployed or economically inactive in order for them to secure employment through a personal development plan, which includes training and employment advice tailored to the individual.

The programmes engage specifically with people who have been unemployed for a significant period of time. With the right type of support through the programmes, previously unemployed people have progressed into sustainable employment after undertaking volunteering, work trials and training to equip them with the skills they needed to enter into the world of work.

2018/19 was a successful year for both programmes. Over 2,500 people were enrolled as participants, with over 1,000 of these securing sustainable employment. Examples of the types industries that Blaenau Gwent programme users have managed to secure employment in include:-

- Construction
- Security
- Hospitality
- Health and social care
- Manufacturing
- Agriculture
- Retail
- Leisure and Tourism



*“Last week, I got the job of my dreams...the programme helped me put together a CV and Powerpoint Presentation and gave me tips on interview skills. I am almost crying with gratitude as I write this, because I never thought I could secure a job like this” – **Communities for Work programme participant, Abertillery***



**Blaenau Gwent Wants...  
To Encourage and  
Enable People to Make  
Healthy Lifestyle Choices**



**Our First  
Year**

# Making Healthy Lifestyle Choices

## Annual Progress – Year One

### BLAENAU GWENT ON THE MOVE

The **Blaenau Gwent on the Move** is a project funded by Natural Resources Wales' Support Grant (2018-19).

The project is developing a new 'Ebbw Fawr Trail' (6 miles long) accessible for walking and cycling. The route begins on Sirhowy Hill Woodlands local nature reserve at the Cardiff Pond, continues down towards the Central Valley local nature reserve (adjacent to The Works site). It then continues via Festival Park Shopping & Leisure and ends at Marine Colliery, Cwm. The trail also connects on to the existing Ebbw Fach Trail.



The purpose of the project is to **'encourage healthy lifestyle choices in the places that they live, learn, work and play'** by enabling people of all ages to be able to utilise the route for recreational activities and routine journeys through walking, running, or cycling.

The project aims to do this in several ways, such as increasing the attractiveness of the route and improving the environmental infrastructure; promoting access to the beautiful natural environments and showcasing the rich heritage and cultural assets the valley has to offer. This is not only expected to lead to increased use of the route, but also any associated green spaces that it provides a gateway for.



LLWYBR EBWY FAWR  
EBBW FAWR TRAIL



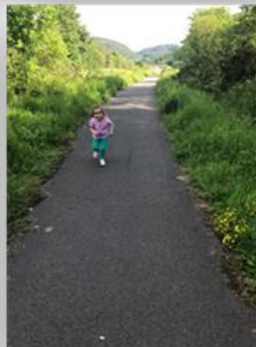
During this year, local partners, businesses and residents (including school children) and communities have worked closely together to begin to develop signage, commission key arts installations (for example, murals, wood sculptures, community participation activities), improve pathways and street furniture as well as plan ongoing volunteering opportunities along the trail such as litter picks and tree planting and environmental works. To date the project has **engaged with over 350 stakeholders** to help inform the design of the trail.



The project provides sustainable, long-term opportunities for people to get involved in physical and social activities. For example, the project has supported the development of a new Ebbw Fawr Trail Community Group with the purpose of becoming the 'future custodians' who will continue to look after the route and promote its use, beyond the timeframes of the project.

In doing so, it has established links with existing nature groups, walking, running and cycling groups as well as local community groups (such as Cwm Community Care and Glyncoed Community Group).





The project looks to deliver multiple well-being benefits, such as:

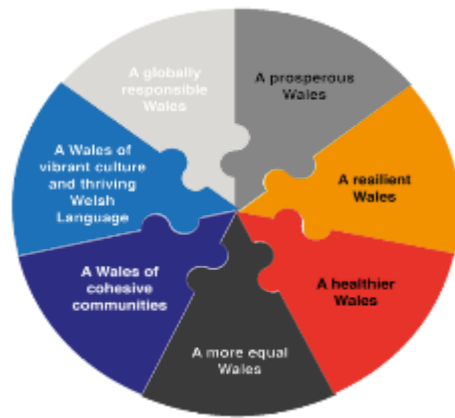
- Increased physical and mental health
- Encouraging local people and communities to work together, alongside public sector organisations and independently, as well as increasing levels of social interaction
- Increasing local community pride in the area and increasing the protection of local wildlife and flora
- Increased opportunities for 'green' travel and better local awareness of Climate Change



**INTEGRATION** – the BG on the Move project brings together partners from the local community to help shape the Ebbw Fawr Trail and its impact on social and physical well-being.



# CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL GOALS



## CASE STUDY: INTEGRATED WELL-BEING NETWORKS

As a PSB we are committed to improving the health and well-being of our area and will be supporting the delivery of a new well-being initiative called '**Integrated Well-being Networks**', a programme which is being led by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board.

The programme acknowledges that in order to meet the needs of our growing and ageing population, now, and in the future, public services needs to change the way they do things by working together better, in a more integrated way to find more effective ways to support community well-being. To make this happen, the programme is developing a place-based model of well-being called **Integrated Well-being Network**.

We are excited to be a part of this work which has been funded by the Regional Partnership Board's Transformation Funds.



**INTEGRATION** – The Integrated Well-being Network encourages partners to work together better, in a more integrated way to find more effective ways to support community well-being.



## COMMUNITY CASE STUDY: BLAENAU GWENT SOUL SISTERS & MISTERS – GENTLE EXERCISE & INTERGENERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

A **gentle exercise group** for older people was set up in Cwm Library by **Blaenau Gwent Sole Sisters & Misters** as a result of working together with local residents and listening to them needing better opportunities to be more physically active in the community.

What started as a small group is now going from strength to strength with members reporting multiple benefits, including positive changes to their mental and emotional well-being. Before the group was set up many of the group members were experiencing loneliness and isolation, but now feel better connected and have a more positive outlook. The group continues to make a huge impact to people's lives, with new friendships being formed and even social activities being arranged and led by its members.

The group has also worked with children and teachers from the local primary school on a project to create a World War II museum. Pupils visited the gentle exercise group and interviewed members about their experiences during World War II and a visit was arranged to see the museum when it was completed. Both the older people and children continue to meet and build long-lasting friendships by holding regular coffee mornings at the school as well as playing games.

This project has been a true partnership venture: Sole Sisters working with Aneurin Leisure to secure access to Cwm Library, Coalfields Regeneration providing funding for the venue, and links to Cwm Primary School supporting intergenerational activity.



*“When public sector organisations and communities work together in partnership and get it right, it is clear from projects like this that we can make a real difference to people’s lives. This is just one of many examples where the PSB has improved community well-being and ‘encouraged and enabled people to make healthy lifestyle choices’. For instance, an evaluation of the gentle exercise group by Coalfields Regeneration noted that it created great social impact upon group members”.* **Kath Cross. Co-founder of Blaenau Gwent Soul Sisters and Misters**

## I ♥ BLAENAU GWENT WELL-BEING ROADSHOW – HEALTHY BODY, HEALTHY MIND

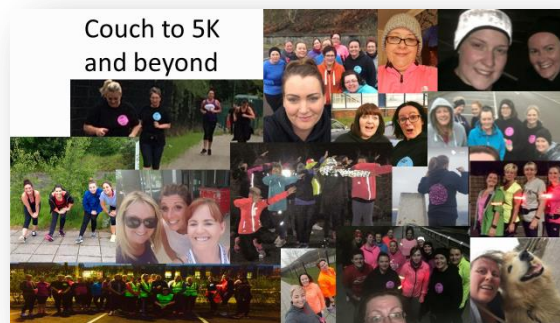
We recognise that enabling people to be able to look after their body and mind is central to improving the overall well-being of the population. As part of our Well-being Roadshow in March 2018, we held an event called ‘**Healthy Body, Healthy Mind**’ at the Tabor Centre, Brynmawr. At this interactive event we demonstrated some exciting ways in which residents could improve their own physical and mental well-being.

The event was interactive and ‘hands-on’ with attendees encouraged to take part in our free taster sessions which included yoga, gentle exercise, hypnotherapy, mindfulness and stress management. We also setup a café area where visitors could socialise and eat some healthy snacks. A wide range of partners and organisations were also on-hand to give out advice, guidance and support to support improved wellness.



## COMMUNITY CASE STUDY: BLAENAU GWENT SOLE SISTERS & MISTERS – COUCH TO 5K PROGRAMME

Blaenau Gwent Sole Sisters was set up in October 2016 as a result of 2 friends sharing their running journey on social media. From Couch to 5K (C25K) to half marathon!! Since then the non-competitive group have supported over 120 women to complete C25K and many of them have gone on to complete 10k and half marathons. The group has recently expanded to include men and have also supported C25K groups to run from secondary schools across Blaenau Gwent and also the Learning Zone of Coleg Gwent.



The ethos of the group is to encourage people to be physically active in a supportive non-competitive environment in the community in which they live.

Many of the ladies have reported the being part of the group has not only had a positive impact upon their physical health but has also increased their mental well-being alongside increasing their friendship groups. Some of the great comments left on social media can be seen below!

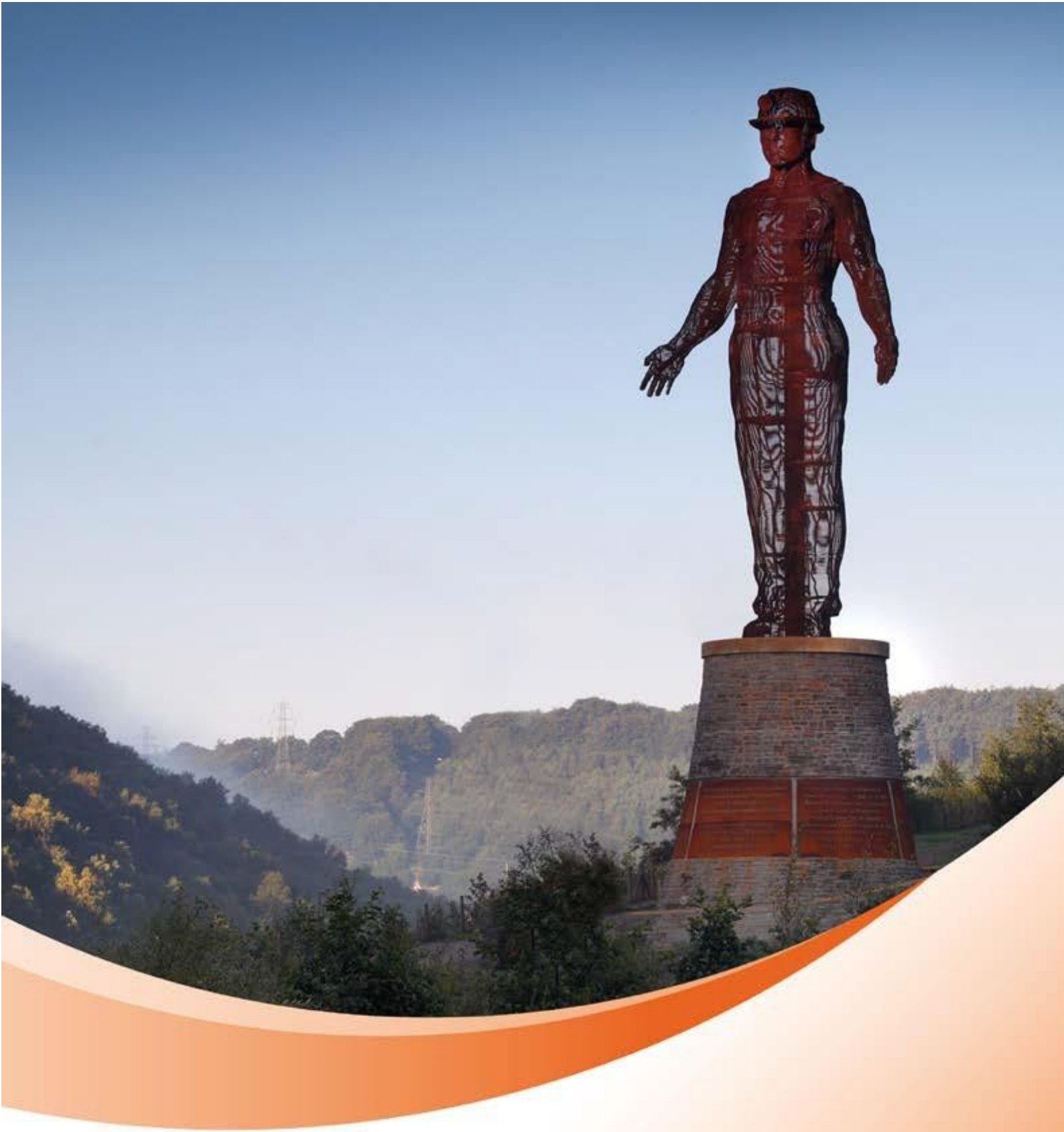
*“It was great, didn’t even notice the walk and we are going to build it up...walk a bit more each time”*

*“I felt so good, so good after this last night...felt great I’d done it”*

*“Loved my run today! Well needed”*

*“Makes you feel 100x better after”*





# Five Ways of Working



# Long Term

## CASE STUDY: GWENT FUTURES

The Gwent Futures project was initiated by the five Public Services Boards in Gwent to establish a set of future scenarios that might enable us to identify any potential challenges and opportunities we might face locally in the near, mid, and long-term future.

The future scenarios cover the following trends and forces:

- **Population** – a growing, ageing, and rural population
- **Mobility** – new infrastructure for transporting goods and people
- **Cityscapes** – how we live in urban and rural areas
- **Politics** – devolution, public service reform, and exiting the EU
- **Economy** – changes to skills, employment, and future drivers of the economy
- **Society** – social well-being and a sense of belonging in our communities
- **Security** – surveillance and cyber security
- **Technology** – automation, artificial intelligence, and enhanced connectivity
- **Resources** – looking after our natural resources
- **Natural systems** – climate change, protecting our biodiversity and ecosystems

Being aware of these trends and their potential impact across Gwent will help us anticipate potential challenges and identify new possibilities and opportunities for future generations.

Working together with the other four PSBs enables us to establish whether any of the long-term challenges or opportunities are consistent across Gwent, or whether they are specific to a certain sub-region or local authority area.





# Involvement

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## **CASE STUDY: WORKING WITH BLAENAU GWENT PEOPLE'S FIRST TO DEVELOP OUR EASY READ WELL-BEING PLAN**

We worked with Blaenau Gwent People's First, a local charity who support and advocate for people with learning disabilities, to create an Easy Read version of The Blaenau Gwent We Want Well-being Plan published in 2018.

We sought comments from Blaenau Gwent People First members on how the Easy Read version should look to enable people with learning and reading difficulties to understand and contribute towards the Well-being objectives. BG People First's annual conference in March 2018 provided an opportunity for local people to view and comment on the final Easy Read Plan.

The charity's involvement was key to making a successful Easy Read Plan that included information that was easier to view and understand for people with learning disabilities and we will continue to work with them to get better at providing information accessible for everyone.



## BLAENAU GWENT CHILDREN'S GRAND COUNCIL

The Children's Grand Council is made up of 2 children from each primary school in Blaenau Gwent and meets once per term (3 times a year). The Grand Councillors give their views on service improvements and developments undertaken by the local authority and its partners, helping to make Blaenau Gwent a better place for children and young people.



As part of the Blaenau Gwent We Want Engagement Programme the Grand Councillors wrote poems and stories, and drew pictures about the Blaenau Gwent they would like to see. All their feedback was analysed and used to help shape our well-being objectives. We have also used their feedback to add impact and a splash of colour to our well-being plan and subsequent reports and documents.



Charlotte, one of our Grand Councillors representing Llanhilleth Primary School, wrote a beautiful poem about the area which we had mounted on a plaque next to one of our 'Future Trees' at Parc Bryn Bach. A recording of Charlotte reading out her poem (see page 4) has been shown at a number of PSB partnership events.

The Grand Council also encouraged their friends and families to take part in the Blaenau Gwent We Want and could often be seen encouraging them along to our events.

## **BLAENAU GWENT YOUTH FORUM**

The Blaenau Gwent Youth Forum is a group of young people, aged 11-25, who meet once per month to discuss and tackle issues for young people in Blaenau Gwent. The Local Authority and its partners regularly consult with the Youth Forum when developing new, or improving existing services. The young people also elect a Youth Mayor, Deputy Youth Mayor, and a Member of UK Youth Parliament to represent Blaenau Gwent on a local and national stage.

The Youth Forum was heavily involved with the Blaenau Gwent We Want engagement programme, helping to develop our engagement resources including our questionnaire and innovative engagement methods. They took part, encouraging friends and family to do the same, at each stage of the programme. They also added to our graffiti sheets

Our 2018/19 Youth Mayor, Samuel Taylor, spoke passionately about listening to children and young people at our PSB Stakeholder Event and the Gwent Futures Conference.





# Collaboration

## **CASE STUDY: A LEARNING AND REFLECTIVE PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD**

Since our inception as a Public Services Board (PSB) in April 2016, we have adopted a philosophy of reflection and continuous learning. Our first review took the form of a self-assessment exercise that explored how the leadership and delivery groups were functioning in 7 key domains: leadership; skills and knowledge; accountability; citizen engagement; structure; processes; and decision making.

The results of this influenced changes to the delivery arrangements that began creating the foundations on which work programmes would be organised and delivered in partnership.

We recognised both the importance of creating effective governance and the need to move forward past these process driven requirements by creating some space for the PSB begin to talk about what kind of ambitions we have for the group and what part members will play individually and collectively in making a difference for the citizens of Blaenau Gwent.

This work influenced:

- Rationalisation of existing plans
- Improvements to project management arrangements
- Changes to the way in which performance was being measured

This philosophy of continuous learning was fully embraced in the way in which we responded to feedback from partners, Welsh Government and the Future Generations Commissioner on our well-being assessment, a comprehensive and detailed piece of work.

Our extensive, innovative and exciting Blaenau Gwent We Want (BGWW) engagement programme was developed collaboratively through the PSB Engagement Group, made up of engagement experts from each of the agencies represented on the PSB. This group was also passionate about continuous development and



undertook its own review of how it was operating, examining the groups approach against the National Principles for Engagement and the CYP Participation Standards.

This resulted in a further focus to build in more targeted engagement with groups aligned to protected characteristics. This approach was built into phases 3 and 4 of the BGWW engagement programme – it was pleasing to note that these efforts did not go unnoticed when the BGWW was recognised as good practice by the Future Generations Commissioner in its publication [Well-being in Wales: Planning today for a better tomorrow](#).

### Blaenau Gwent has a Public Service Board who...

- **Recognise collective responsibility**  
Committed towards shared ownership, accountability and added value
- **Provides collaborative leadership, but welcomes mature challenge**  
Works effectively together to achieve a shared vision and outcomes
- **Focuses on what matters the most**  
Does not attempt to prioritise everything, seeks opportunities which ensure the biggest differences are made
- **Uses intelligence to drive action**  
Proactively seeks the use of data, information and citizen insight to inform priorities and shape delivery
- **Remains locally focussed, but considers regional opportunities**  
Seeks to improve the well-being of Blaenau Gwent, whilst maximising the areas opportunities

In August 2018 we continued to review the way we functioned by setting ourselves further challenges to:

- Maintain and build on those areas highlighted as working well
- To further develop approaches that enables the involvement of people and groups in the delivery of the well-being plan
- Improve feedback to communities on action being undertaken by partners in support of the well-being plan
- That senior leaders provide visible support to their teams and take steps to ensure they have the capacity and flexibility to deliver on this collaborative venture



The most recent piece of reflection has involved a review of the structures and groups that define the PSB architecture in Blaenau Gwent. Led by GAVO, this sought to create a delivery arrangement that was both flexible and dynamic. The approach reflects the aspirations of the Act, for example the Sustainable Development Principle and the 5 Ways of Working.

This methodology will be beneficial in enabling the PSB maximize our expertise, skills and resources from across the PSB and beyond, for instance Community and Town Councils and Private Sector Organisations, with the shared purpose of delivering 'The Blaenau Gwent We Want'.





## CASE STUDY: GWENT 10 & THE GWENT STRATEGIC WELL-BEING ASSESSMENT GROUP

Whilst we continue to strengthen how we work better together as public sector organisations who deliver services locally. We are also committed to working closely together with key regional partnerships such as Gwent 10 (G10) and the Gwent Strategic Well-being Assessment Group (GSWAG) to maximise our contributions towards our local well-being objectives and the National well-being goals.

This has led to us being involved in the delivery of several regional programmes such as Happy Communities and Climate Ready Gwent.

In addition, these regional arrangements were recognised by the Good Practise Exchange as an example of how using data effectively enables better decision making. See the case studies below.

### GSWAG - A Collaborative Partnership



### GSWAG – Keeping Data Live





# Prevention

## CASE STUDY: USING FINDINGS FROM OUR HAPPINESS PULSE

As a member of the Gwent Strategic Well-being Assessment Group, we were involved in the delivery of a project called 'Happy Communities'. The project was funded by Welsh Government's PSB Support Grant 2017/18 to commission Happy City, a charity and community interest company to undertake a survey of residents from each of the local authorities within Gwent in order to gain a more in-depth understanding of local people and communities' well-being and happiness levels.

The findings of the survey helped us to identify key areas which people told us would help them to improve their overall well-being and happiness. Using this information led to the development of the **PSB's first Well-being Road Show**. The road show included a series of innovative and creative participatory events which focused on improving community wellness, such as:

- Connecting Generations
- Arts for Our Hearts
- Get out into Nature
- Healthy Body, Healthy Mind





# Integration

## CASE STUDY: BLAENAU GWENT 50+ PARTNERSHIP NETWORK

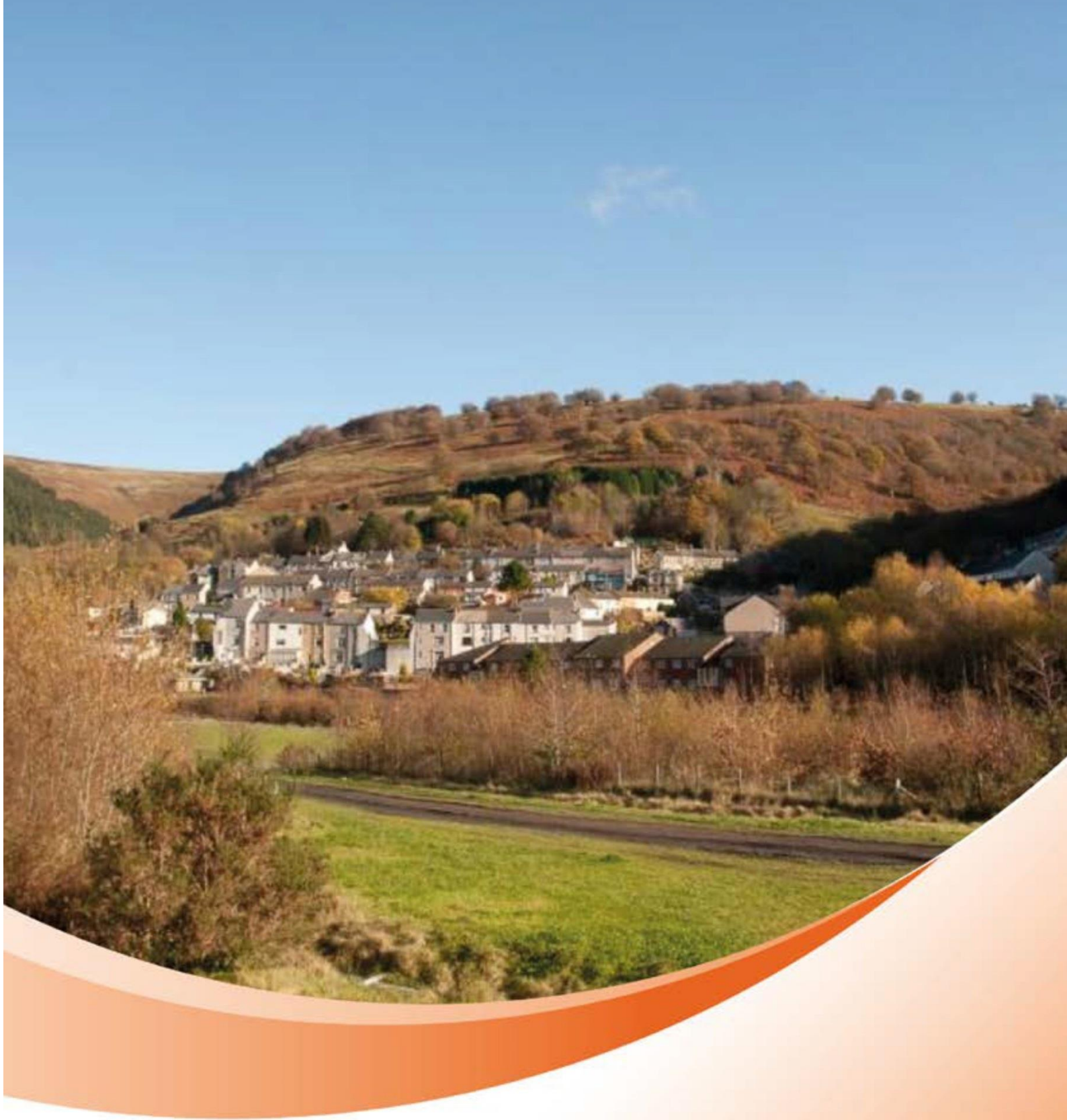
The Blaenau Gwent 50+ Partnership Network brings together local partners from organisations and charities that represent or work with older people. For example, the Network comprises representatives from all PSB partners plus stakeholders like Age Cymru, Alzheimer's Society, Adult Learning Wales, citizen representatives from the Blaenau Gwent 50+ Forum, and others.

The Network has integrated the objectives of the Well-being Plan into its work programme and is leading on the development of the Blaenau Gwent Age-Friendly Communities programme. The age-friendly programme will demonstrate the excellent work that local and regional organisations are already carrying out to encourage safe and friendly communities and healthy and active lifestyles amongst people of all ages.



The Network is chaired by Blaenau Gwent Council's Community Champion for Older People and meets quarterly to discuss local issues as well as share learning and best practice amongst its members. New Network members from organisations who work with or represent older people are always welcome. To find out more or to get involved, please call 01495 357727 or email [pps@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:pps@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)





# **Delivery Programme 2018 to 2023**



# Well-being Plan Delivery Programme

## 2018 to 2023

Our Board will continue to take forward the following key steps\* to in order to help us meet our objectives.

No.	High Level Action	PSB Lead	Timeframe	Delivery Method
1.	Early Years First 1,000 Days Programme	Aneurin Bevan University Health Board	2019/20	The development of a Community of Practice and Early Years Integration Transformation Programme
2.	Adverse Childhood Experiences	Gwent Police	2019/20	Training of key public services workforce  To review the scale of local issues associated with ACEs in 2019-20
3.	Maximising Opportunities for Prosperity	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	2019/20	Annual Stakeholder Event  Development of Employment and Skills Plan for area
4.	Gwent Blaenau Gwent Active and Healthy	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	2019/20	Delivering Blaenau Gwent on the Move
5.	Working Together on Universal Credit	Tai Calon Community Housing	2019/20	Consider appropriate next steps
6.	Blaenau Gwent Community Safety Hub	Gwent Police	2019/20	Agreed by Board in January 2019 Meeting
7.	Age Friendly Communities Programme	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	2019/20	Agreed by Board in April 2019 Meeting

\* The PSB will review the delivery programme in the autumn 2019 meeting.

Our Board will consider the additional steps in order to help us meet our objectives as part of the delivery plan in the autumn 2019 meeting

No.	High Level Action	PSB Lead	Timeframe	Delivery Method
8	Preparing for Climate Change in Blaenau Gwent	Natural Resources Wales**	2019/20	Carbon Positive Futures Project
9.	Foundation Economy	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council**	2019/20	Investigating the opportunities of the Foundational Economy
10.	Tackling Food Poverty	Tai Calon Community Housing**	2019/20	Linked to High Level Action 5, Working Together on Universal Credit
11.	Integrated Well-being Network	Aneurin Bevan University Health Board	2019/20	Implementation of regional project locally in Blaenau Gwent

\*\* *Subject to Confirmation.*

Our Board will continue to work regionally through the Gwent Strategic Well-being Assessment Group (GWSAG) take forward the following key enabling steps.

No.	High Level Action	PSB Lead	Timeframe	Delivery Method
12.	Gwent Futures	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	2019/20	Community-wide Risk Register developed locally from intelligence***
13.	Collaborating on Improving Access to Data	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	2019/20	Explore opportunities for open-data use in preparation for well-being assessments***
14.	Reporting on key messages		2019/20	Using innovative methods to deliver Annual Reports***
15.	Gwent Happiness Pulse		2019/20	Developing a Well-being Survey for the region

\*\*\* *Funded by Welsh Government Grant 2019/20.*





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