

**Bridgend Public Services Board**  
**15 June 2020**  
**Via Skype**

**Notes of Meeting**

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Alyson Francis	WG
Mike Evans	NRW
Dorian Lloyd	SWP
Paul Harris	DWP
Cllr Rod Shaw	PSB Scrutiny Panel
Heidi Bennett	BAVO
Helen Hammond	Partnership Support
Huw Jakeway	SWFRS
Judith Jones	Partnership support
Katy Chamberlain	Business In Focus
Marcus Longley	Cwm Taf UHB
Cllr Richard Young	BCBC
Martin Morgans	BCBC
Mark Brace	PCC
Eirian Evans	NPS Wales
Richard Hughes	Awen
Simon Pirotte	Bridgend College
<b>Apologies</b>	
Mark Shephard	BCBC
Cllr Huw David	BCBC
Joanne Oak	V2C

<b>No</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	
1.1	MB welcomed PSB members to the virtual meeting. This first meeting since the outbreak of Covid-19 will focus on recovery and review how, within the context of our plan, we can work in different ways to deal with resulting issues. It will be Important for the PSB to align itself with other groups working on recovery for clarity and to avoid duplication.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Covid-19</b>	
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Current Position and Immediate Issues</b>	
	Partners shared information on the impact of Covid-19 on their respective services and highlighted emerging issues such as mental health, food poverty, increased benefit claims, domestic violence. Concern was expressed for the impact of releasing lockdown and also the long term impact on employees and businesses once furlough ends. Details of the feedback from each organisation is contained in the Annex	
2.2	<b>BCBC Proposed Recovery Panel/Community Impact Assessment</b> A report with an overall approach for the Council to recovery is going to BCBC Cabinet on 30/6 which will establish a recovery panel along	

	<p>scrutiny lines that will develop a plan and priorities. BCBC sees PSB as crucial to produce an impact assessment and to keep a watchful eye as situations develop. The PSB will be asked to give evidence to the panel when it is set up. <b>Action: LG will link in with PSB support team once panel is established</b></p> <p>The development of a PSB community impact assessment was supported which would update/ complement our WB assessment and also be useful to check our priorities and objectives. All members were asked to feed in to the assessment. It was noted that this is an emerging picture so all members will need to provide ongoing information, responses and feedback. <b>Action: Members commit to feeding into a community impact assessment. Volunteers requested for a task and finish group.</b></p> <p>It was suggested there should be regional coordination of a community impact assessment and a common response where possible. <b>Action - PSB teams to meet to discuss regional coordination of a community impact assessment.</b></p> <p>Timing was felt to be crucial to assess and act as quickly as possible as when the furlough scheme ends in October this will impact the economy, and health and wellbeing of individuals and communities.</p>	<p><b>LG</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p> <p><b>All/JJ</b></p> <p><b>JJ/HH</b></p>
2.3	<b>Release and Recovery</b>	
	Following on from discussions on the impact on services and service users, the following key issues for recovery were highlighted	
	<p><b>Domestic Violence</b></p> <p>Nationally there is concern about increased risk of domestic violence. Reports and referrals in Bridgend have been low but rising towards normal. The 'you are not alone' campaign is being promoted to encourage victims to come forward. Nationally types of calls to DV helplines have also changed. Referrals from organisations have dropped off significantly whilst there are many more calls now from individuals and those situations are more complex.</p> <p>SWFRS found that referrals for support, protection and prevention to DV victims had reduced at the start of isolation but this has been addressed and high risk home safety visits are now taking place.</p> <p>BAVO have also been signposting people to CALAN, and to the early help hubs.</p> <p>Probation Service have had particular concerns and have audited domestic violence for high and very high risk as officers have not been able to go into homes to witness the domestic situation. <b>Provide data on Wales 'live fear free' national domestic abuse help line.</b></p>	<p><b>AF</b></p>
	<p><b>Mental Health</b></p> <p>Mental health impact of covid-19 is of significant concern across partners and its impact is still to be seen.</p> <p>Victim Support services report that the stress of waiting for trials to go ahead has had an impact on the mental health of victims and witnesses. There is also a huge issue with mental health of women offenders and this has resulted in some suicides. There is real concern that it is hard to</p>	

	get information about people in need of support as not getting reports or referrals coming through in the usual way.	
	<p><b>Carbon Reduction</b> A future issue for the PSB will be to see how our organisations can contribute to maintaining the CO2 reduction experienced during lock down in the future. PSB should be championing sustaining low carbon living and scrutinising decisions across partners to ensure Bridgend follow WFGA in recovery planning.</p>	
	<p><b>Vulnerable groups</b> Nationally we know that there has been a disproportionate impact on BAME, disabled people, young people who have been particularly impacted by the economy and in their health and wellbeing. Calls to Childline are up with worries about sexual abuse and exploitation. As lock down ends, there is concern about how to deal with issues such as groups of young people and impact on vulnerable learners. The challenge is to identify who the vulnerable are, particularly children and young people and partners are working to identify vulnerable learners and children and young people at risk as lockdown lifts. There is reported increase demands for rented properties as people split up or flee from relationships that shows a risk of future impact of family breakdown. Food poverty is also highlighted as an issue. <b>Action: AF to explore whether data from the children's' survey can be broken down to LA level and shared.</b></p>	<b>AF</b>
	<p><b>Changing use of green space</b> Partners have noticed changing use of green spaces. <b>Action: include green space and active travel and the results of the green space survey in the community impact assessment.</b></p>	<b>HH</b>
	<p><b>Volunteering and community facilities</b> Double the number of volunteers have been coming forward across Wales but it is expected that this will decrease as people return to work. We need to think about how we can build on the interest we have seen in volunteering. Local volunteers may be available to support community groups to get back up and running and unpaid work would support that too as Community reparation /unpaid work will come back under the umbrella of the Probation Services from June 2021.  Community facilities, heritage and cultural opportunities have been impacted by Covid-19 and the PSB needs to give consideration to how they can be kept going. Small charities grants through BCBC will be really helpful to sustain some community centres and spaces during this period as income generation has been affected.</p>	
<b>2.4</b>	<b>Opportunities for more effective working</b>	
	The Minister's letter was not clear on working arrangements with other groups. There is a need to consider the role of RCG, RPB and similar	

	related to PSB. There is concern over duplication as have many shared members. <b>Action: MB/MM to discuss over how to align PSB and RCG JJ to get membership and terms of reference of LRF and SRG</b>	<b>MB/M M/ JJ</b>
2.5	<b>PSB Statement.</b> It was agreed that the PSB should make a statement on the outcome of the assessment and our approach going forward.	<b>MB</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Business Items</b>	
3.1	<b>Annual Report</b> Work on the annual report had started before Covid-19 so we are able to publish to meet the statutory deadline. Members were pleased with the draft plan circulated and no revisions were proposed. <b>Action: Annual report approved for publication.</b>	<b>HH</b>
3.2	<b>Welsh Government Regional Funding for PSBs.</b> The Minister's sent a letter to PSBs stating that funding for PSB's for 2020-21 was to be cancelled. It was agreed that whilst this decision was disappointing as PSB's will have a significant role to play in recovery, no response was necessary.	
<b>4</b>	<b>Date and Time of the next meeting</b>	
4.1	Next PSB meeting to be held at usual frequency. <b>Action: set date for future PSB meeting.</b>	<b>HH</b>

<b>Action Log</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>By whom</b>
2.2	<b>LG will link in with PSB support team once panel is established</b>	<b>LG</b>
2.2	<b>PSB teams to meet to discuss regional coordination of a community impact assessment</b>	<b>PSB support teams</b>
2.2	<b>Members commit to feeding into a community impact assessment.</b>	<b>All</b>
2.2	<b>Volunteers requested for a task and finish group</b>	<b>JJ/All</b>
2.3	<b>Provide data on Wales 'live fear free' national domestic abuse help line</b>	<b>AF</b>
2.3	<b>AF to explore if data from the children's survey can be broken down to LA level and shared.</b>	<b>AF</b>
2.3	<b>Include green space and active travel and the results of the green space survey in the community impact assessment.</b>	<b>HH</b>
2.4	<b>MB/MM to discuss over how to align PSB and RCG</b>	<b>MB/MM</b>
2.4	<b>JJ to get membership and terms of reference of LRF and SRG</b>	<b>JJ</b>
3.1	<b>Annual report approved for publication.</b>	<b>HH</b>
4.1	<b>Set date for future PSB meeting.</b>	<b>HH</b>