

Monday 6th March 2017

Dear Carmarthenshire Public Services Board members and Support Team

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide feedback on your draft Assessment of Local Well-being sent to the office in February 2017.

I recognise the challenges that you have faced in the development of the assessment this time around, and I congratulate you for your efforts.

My primary focus in providing this feedback is to help you consider how well your work so far will help you to set your collective objectives and undertake well-being planning. For me Public Services Boards are one of the biggest opportunities for the public sector in Wales to change the way we do things in Wales and to collaboratively make decisions and deliver services that will benefit future generations.

Your assessment is a key part of this, and whilst I appreciate that it may not be a full picture by the time you publish it, it is important that it sets out a clear and informed picture of the well-being of Carmarthenshire and your communities, that is relevant now and into the future. **Your assessment should enable you to clearly identify key challenges for your area and communities, and to develop collective objectives that address these challenges.**

I attach a document that gives you detailed feedback on your draft assessment, and what you should think about building on both in the short term as you move towards well-being planning and in terms of assessing well-being in the future.

During 2017-18 one of your key tasks will be to develop your collective well-being objectives as part of your Well-being Plan. The legislation requires you to seek my advice on how to take steps to meet your objectives in accordance with the sustainable development principle (five ways of working).

Below I set out some of the things I will be looking for as my office continues to work with you. In my view those PSBs who have showed they are already taking account of the five ways of working will be well placed to develop objectives and Well-being Plans, which will have benefits for all organisations involved in terms of maximising their collective contribution to the goals and addressing inter-generational challenges.

The structure of the 'life cycle stages' is an interesting and compelling approach which I commend. By telling the story of the determinants of individuals' well-being and how they need public services at different points you bring the assessment to life and make it more accessible to a wider audience. I particularly like the way you have included clear quotes from 6-11 year olds in the first two life cycle sections.

You've clearly given a lot of thought to **involving your people and communities**, through the wide range of engagement with an impressive range of bodies, and individuals and groups engaged. The framing of the questions for the survey is notable, focusing on individuals, households and services as well as asking about the future. I would encourage you to build on this to make sure that you continue to provide opportunities for a broad range of stakeholders and citizens to get involved in influencing the development of your objectives, and be able to demonstrate that their input has an effect on what you do.

Planning for the **long term** is a key part of what the legislation aims to achieve and this is something you would benefit from giving greater consideration to as you move towards well-being planning. I think you have a particular opportunity to build this into your 'life stages' frame, by considering the well-being of a citizen (or community) in 2040, through scenario planning.

In terms of **integration**, I was interested to see how you have mapped your work against the 46 national indicators. This work and your wider structure gives you a strong basis to further explore the connections between economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in relation to particular life stages. This should include making relevant links to the seven wellbeing goals throughout your work which will be particularly important in thinking about the relative roles of your different organisations in **maximising your contribution** to the goals.

A key element of the legislation is the focus on **preventing problems** from occurring rather than just responding to them. Whilst you acknowledge the importance of prevention in some of your life stages, overall the assessment would benefit from a description of how the preventative agenda is critical to well-being planning and public service delivery. This is an area where you need to focus your attention on what the data and evidence is telling you, in order to make sense of key challenges you have identified.

And **collaboration** is key to all of this – I note that you have worked in collaboration with Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire PSBs on your engagement work and this is very encouraging. You now have the

opportunity to take your partnership working in Carmarthenshire to a new level, collaborating with resources and finding new ways to deal with old problems. Your assessment should be helping you to identify the most fruitful opportunities to do this.

Your support team have worked hard to develop this assessment and the people who support your well-being planning will need your full buy-in and support. Key features of this are likely to be the leadership you show and your willingness to give people space and permission to explore new ways of addressing old problems. This cultural change is what the Well-being of Future Generations Act is all about.

In anticipation of the requirement for me to provide advice on how you should take steps to meet your collective objectives I would like to see further detail of how you will use your assessment as you move towards well-being planning. I would appreciate you letting my office know how you have responded to our feedback. With this in mind it will also be important for you to provide my feedback to the scrutiny committee that has the lead for scrutinising the work of the PSB. The need for a more constructive approach to scrutiny has been identified as an important part of maximising collective action at the local level.

I hope that our feedback is clear and useful at this stage. However, I must reiterate that I don't see the development of your assessment as a one-off event. Going forward I will be providing opportunities for PSBs to share learning and best practice which I hope you will be involved in, in order to provide the best platform for you to fulfil your ongoing obligations under the Act.

Kind regards



Sophie Howe,
Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

Feedback from the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales on Carmarthenshire Public Services Board Draft Assessment of Local Well-being

1. Introduction

The following report provides feedback to Carmarthenshire Public Services Board from the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner on the draft of the *Carmarthenshire Wellbeing Assessment*, published for consultation in February 2017. This feedback is based on our project team¹ reviewing the following key documents and discussions:

- Carmarthenshire Well-Being Assessment 2016
- Well-Being Consultation & Engagement Report: Carmarthenshire
- Assessment of Local Well-being Joint Methodology: Framework: Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion & Pembrokeshire, March 2016
- Well-Being Factsheet
- Carmarthenshire Public Services Board - National Well-being Indicators - Baseline Data
- a discussion between the project team and members of the PSB team on 20th February

It is intended that his feedback should be used to inform both the publication of the assessment in spring 2017 where possible and recognising the timescales that exist, but it is more important that it informs ongoing processes of developing your assessment and wellbeing planning.

The assessment has been reviewed by the project team using a set of criteria, developed specifically to focus on aspects of assessment production, methodology and analysis and the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act. These criteria enable us to review the wide range of approaches to local assessment of well-being that have been used across Wales. This has also enabled us to provide bespoke feedback to PSBs, highlighting strengths and potential areas for improvement. This consistent approach will also enable the Commissioner to identify key issues and highlight opportunities for shared learning, at a Wales-wide level, for the wide range of public sector and other bodies involved in well-being planning.

¹ Dr. Alan Netherwood, Netherwood Sustainable Futures, Dr. Andrew Flynn, Cardiff University and Dr. Mark Lang, Mark Lang Consulting

While we understand that the Well-being Assessment is an ongoing process, and that further work will be undertaken in coming months, it is important that the following comments are noted and acted upon as the well-being assessment is developed, adapted and built upon to inform well-being planning across the PSB.

2. National well-being goals

One of the issues we have considered is how effectively the seven national well-being goals have been reflected in the assessment as the WFG Act requires PSBs to demonstrate how they plan to *maximise* their contribution to the goals.

We understand that PSBs will develop different ways of reflecting well-being; in Carmarthenshire's case, the five life stages: *New beginnings; Childhood; Youth; Adulthood and Older People* and 18 'sub-stages' under these. The consultation has also been structured around cultural, social, environmental and economic well-being. It would be useful for the assessment to explain why this approach has been taken and to provide some context for the tables in the Executive Summary. Why are these 18 stages, and the key issues under each, of particular relevance to well-being above others?

We recognise later in this report that the focus on life stages is helpful in many respects. However it is important that there is a clear link between the data, its interpretation and our understanding of how the findings of the assessment impact on national as well as local well-being goals.

While the seven national goals are referred to in the introduction, there is no reference to them under the life stages or 18 sub stages or within the evidence or analysis within each section. For the PSB to understand how it can maximise its contribution to the seven national well-being goals, we think that the relationship between this 'frame' in the assessment and the national goals will need to be understood and clearly communicated.

It is very interesting and positive to see that the PSB has examined Carmarthenshire against the national indicators, identifying key challenges of climate change, poverty and CO2 emissions. You could build on this to explain the *significance* of these to community wellbeing needs and the potential impact of these issues on life stages. What does this table tell us about well-being across Carmarthenshire as a whole?

It is good to hear from the PSB team that work planned with partners in coming months will focus more strongly on the well-being goals, as suggested in the 'What happens now?' section and we will look forward to seeing evidence of this throughout the well-being planning process in Carmarthenshire.

3. Data content – area and place

The WFG Act requires well-being assessments to focus on the area and 'place' and reflect the variety of communities across your area. We have considered the extent to which the data content of your assessment does this.

The phone conversation with the PSB team was useful in understanding the difficulty of gathering data at a very local level. It is clear from the assessment and reference list that an extensive range of national, regional and some local data has been utilised to inform the assessment. This has been used to develop a compelling and very well written Carmarthenshire wide commentary on well-being and determinants of well-being for individuals.

However throughout the Assessment, there are variable degrees of explanation of *what* the 'measure' or 'issue' tells us about well-being in Carmarthenshire, and importantly, the significance of the issue to well-being of citizens. The table in the Summary is an example of this. This is based around the five life stages and 18 themes. In many places it is very clear about 'what is important' in terms of well-being of Carmarthenshire as a 'place', and the implications for well-being e.g. (poverty and nature connectedness). Where the narrative needs developing is in sections which provide a more generic description, without grounding it in the locality or explaining the 'scale of the challenge to the area (staying on track, healthy habits; a good start).

This is a recurring issue raised in different sections of this feedback. The assessment would benefit from providing greater consistency in interpreting the issue and provide an indication of its significance to Carmarthenshire as a whole and its citizens.

While we recognise the value of the life stages frame, the assessment could also be improved by a greater focus on your six community areas. This could include greater understanding of well-being in different areas and places, differences within areas or between areas, inequalities and particularly acute local issues. Poverty and Welsh language are picked up as issues with spatial differences –and similarities, however inequalities in access to services, housing, connectivity and transport are critical to understand the life stage issues in different parts of Carmarthenshire. We believe that a well-being

assessment should provide a more localised (and less homogenous) understanding of well-being, and will be seeking evidence of this as well-being planning progresses.

The assessment could be further improved by including data on critical energy, water, transport and coastal protection infrastructure. This means not just description that an issue is important (e.g. flood risk), but an interpretation of key challenges and trade-offs. This type of information is of key relevance to the PSB, service delivery and future community well-being.

4. Data content – public service needs

We think it is important that you have a clear picture of the different needs of people and communities now and in the future, and that the implications of these needs are understood. We have considered the extent to which the data content of the assessment focuses on public service needs, within communities and for particular groups of individuals.

A priority for my office is encouraging public bodies and PSBs to make sure that they are firstly involving people and communities in ways that give them greater insights into people's lived experiences of public bodies, and secondly acting upon these insights when they make decisions and deliver services. It is positive to see a strong link between the Population Needs Assessment and the Well-being Assessment in the Independent Living and Care in the Community sections of the document.

Utilising the frame of life stages in the consultation has provided the PSB with a detailed understanding of well-being for individuals and their needs. The consultation activity also provides a rich source of information about what people believe is important about their area, which links to public service delivery. The narrative of the main document provides a good understanding of service users and their needs throughout their lives. It is clear from the table in the conclusion what matters to Carmarthenshire's citizens. You could build on this by considering how well public services are supporting these issues.

Your approach could be strengthened by providing some indication of spatial differences in service needs across Carmarthenshire (beyond the key challenge of rurality). For example in the case of tackling poverty in rural areas, versus urban areas, how this may differ around different towns and villages across Carmarthenshire, and how existing service provision and third sector involvement supports the 36% of the population living in poverty. The assessment could be more *explicit* about what the implications of the challenges are for public services given the current situation. Is current provision

enough? Are there gaps? Where is more emphasis needed? This type of analysis would enable the PSB to understand what needs to change to address these issues. Are these issues currently managed adequately and in what areas might they need more collective action?

5. Quantitative and qualitative analysis

We recognise the challenge of balancing data, insights and evidence to produce a rounded understanding of well-being of communities and individuals in the short, medium and long term. One of our main considerations has been the extent to which both quantitative and qualitative analysis and methods in assessments provide a broad picture of environmental, economic, cultural and social well-being, together with initial commentary on the implications of this 'picture' for communities. i.e. what really matters?

It is clear that a broad range of quantitative and qualitative data, UK, Wales based research, case studies and other material has been used to inform the commentary in the well-being assessment. It would be helpful to include references to hedonic and eudemonic well-being measures, the Pareto principle and Maslow's hierarchy in a methodology appendix or footnote if this is to be an outward facing document for the public and partners.

The 'context' and life stages' sections are clearly evidenced and argued, utilising the consultation data and the emerging issues from the referenced materials are well applied to Carmarthenshire as a whole. As previously discussed, the assessment could be improved by providing more information of localities and particular communities. Carmarthenshire clearly has diverse communities and challenges. How might life stages differ between Llanelli and Llandovery?

There are some other aspects of the narrative which could provide a clearer understanding of which issues are *critical* to well-being across the area and within particular areas of Carmarthenshire. This are alluded to in the life stages commentary but need building on including; the implications of housing market adaptability, fuel poverty, and pension gaps. A clear example of this is mental health, with 28% of the adult population suffering from mental health issues. What are the implications of this for individuals, communities, employers, public service provision? We need a clearer *strategic* understanding of the impact of the current situation to understand the nature and scale of collective action required.

The following paragraphs provide more specific feedback on each theme.

New beginnings - this section is particularly good at describing the importance of prevention and the importance of family networks. In some places the narrative is descriptive and needs more interpretation for Carmarthenshire (welcome to the world). This section needs to be clearer about what it wants to communicate – the rationale (which it does well), describing the data, or communicating its relevance to Carmarthenshire.

Childhood - this section focuses on school attendance, childcare, ACEs, health, and outdoor play. This section is very indicator focused, and perhaps needs to develop a broader narrative of childhood in the area. For example under ‘*Strong Foundations*’ we need to know more about why 20% children are in poverty, and why 10% of year 7s and 9s have mental health issues. Why is this the current situation and what are its implications for well-being and public services?? The opportunities for outdoor play are well described and there is an excellent focus on 6-11 years olds’ views on what well-being will be like in the future – could this be extended to people throughout the life stages and a future and from the perspective of a citizen in 2050?

Youth – parts of this section are extremely well evidenced – utilising Youth Council and Schools Network data. Many of the sections are very indicator focused and would benefit from a broader narrative. Again descriptive, rather than interpretative narrative limits our understanding. What are the assets in Carmarthenshire for young people in terms of culture, social networks and economic opportunities; the role of colleges and the University; the effect of social media in rural communities?

Adulthood- some of the phraseology in this section is very well thought through (making ends meet) and parts could benefit from use of data from the consultation (culture) to illustrate the issue being described. The description on fuel poverty needs expanding – how critical an issue is this in different parts of Carmarthenshire? While we know how many people work from home, is the Carmarthenshire economy resilient or vulnerable? If so how? What are the opportunities? Is housing affordability an issue and housing supply? If so, where?

Older People – this focuses on connection, care and ageing population. Again, there is a clear indication of what the issue is and why it is important, but what is its significance in Carmarthenshire? e.g. Loneliness and isolation are clearly an issue, but how significant is it and where? What is in place to tackle this already? What more needs to be done? A clearer assessment of the current situation would enable the PSB to understand the scale of

intervention that is required. Are there differences in life expectancy between communities within Carmarthenshire – to what extent is this recognised in public service provision?

The assessment would benefit from more *strategic context* – a broader description of wellbeing challenges for Carmarthenshire to provide the context for the life stages and the 18 sub stages.

6. Key challenges

It is important that well-being assessments, in assessing the state of well-being, focus on key challenges to well-being over the short, medium and long term, as well as the positive attributes and assets in the area. This includes the trade-offs between different well-being goals, tensions, and deficits within Carmarthenshire.

As described earlier points in this document, the assessment provides data on a range of indicators which illustrate key aspects of well-being, but there is generally a need for more interpretation to identify the nature and the scale of the key challenges, trade-offs, tensions and how they impact on the area. We need, across all themes, a clearer understanding of the *significance* of these issues to well-being.

We understand from the phone conversation with the PSB team that work is already underway to begin to interpret the data that has been collected to understand the key challenges to Carmarthenshire. We will be keen to see how you utilise the information gathered so far to better identify the challenges, and their inter-relationships, but also to explore how you might respond to these as a PSB.

Clearly there a number of strategic challenges which provide a backdrop to your assessment, which perhaps need to be considered within a broader commentary under each life stage (as suggested in point 5 above). These challenges are common to all areas within Wales. How are the following issues impacting on well-being in Carmarthenshire? Inequalities in health and standard of living, infrastructural resilience, accommodating population growth; air pollution and flood risk; limited resources for social care; underprovision of housing; people living in poverty; welfare reform; climate impacts; austerity; natural resource depletion. While these are picked up occasionally within the narrative, it would be beneficial to have a broader and integrated understanding of how they are impacting and might impact on the area in the future.

As well as the challenges, the assessment could provide more emphasis on

Carmarthenshire's assets. An example is the area's culture around the arts, language, social networks, cultural activities, local food and drink, agricultural shows, information networks and volunteering. Information is provided in the survey on this, but could support a broader commentary around cultural well-being. What is good about the culture of Carmarthenshire and what can public services build on to improve well-being at different life stages?

This broader context would enable the PSB to focus on what the scale, nature and response might need to be to address these issues and explore their interconnections. Where and how can they develop collective action to address these issues?

7. Engagement, involvement and collaboration

The WFG Act clearly indicates that collaboration and involvement are two of the five ways of working which PSBs need to consistently apply to their work. As a consequence, we have been particularly interested in the level and method of engagement, involvement and collaboration across the partnership in producing the assessment, including engagement with communities, public, third sector and private sector organisations.

It is clear that *Carmarthenshire We Want* has involved citizens, and stakeholders to gather both quantitative and qualitative data to inform the assessment. It is understood from the phone conversation that a great deal of effort has been expended to inform the assessment through this consultation.

The *Well-Being Consultation & Engagement Report: Carmarthenshire* shows the wide range of engagement via the consultation and the list of stakeholders, showing an impressive range of bodies, and individuals and groups engaged. The framing of the questions for the survey is notable, focusing on individuals, households and services. This, in addition to engagement at events and activities with schools, provides excellent data to inform the well-being assessment. This allied to a greater degree of localised information (see previous sections) would provide a strong evidence base for the well-being planning process.

The combined approach to the survey with neighbouring authorities has clearly provided benefits in efficiency, and should be commended. It will also be interesting to see how further collaboration can interpret the data to inform cross-boundary issues (see point 10).

It would also be useful for the assessment to highlight the level of engagement with private sector in the process as it is unclear at present where their perspectives may have fed in. The assessment has a whole would benefit from an understanding of how both the third and private sectors contribute to communities across Carmarthenshire from the role agricultural businesses, to third sector support for young and elderly people. This information would provide a clearer understanding of well-being in the community and in turn, the individual, community or household. What are Carmarthenshire's third and private sector assets?

It is also good to hear how much this assessment has acted as a catalyst to develop collaborative working across the PSB, and that work has continued in February to explore the data sets with partners. This activity and any key findings from the sessions should be highlighted in the assessment if this is feasible before the final version.

8. Integration

One of the key aims of the WFG Act is to develop integration at all levels across the public sector. We believe it is important to understand the inter-relationship between environmental, social, economic and cultural well-being. As a result we have been keen to consider the level of integration between traditional policy and organisational silos in producing the assessment. It is important that the data listed in the assessment is explored across traditional policy and organisational silos, to interpret what this means for well-being in the area.

There is scope for greater consideration of data from each life stage alongside that of the others, and consideration of the inter-relationships between data. This is an area for you to give further consideration as you finalise your assessment for publication, and as you move toward well-being planning. This should include greater integration and more exploration of the relationship of policy/challenges between themes and life stages – for example poverty and health, infrastructural resilience and climate change, biodiversity and agriculture, rural businesses and connectivity. These inter-relationships need to be explored as part of a wider effort to interpret the data gathered so far.

Integration across well-being themes should be an important issue for the PSB to consider as it develops its Well-being Plan, not least to understand how resources and public sector might need to adapt to address issues which cut across traditional policy silos.

9. Foresight and future trends

One of the key challenges from the legislation is to consider the short, medium *and long term* well-being throughout the assessment and Plan process. We are interested in the level of foresight and use of future trends analysis in producing the assessment and recognition of the well-being of future generations. At present, the assessment provides limited interpretation of the impact and significance of population trends, climate change, economic trends, habitats and ecosystem services and health trends.

Generally, there needs to be greater attention given to the potential impact of long term trends on Carmarthenshire under the life stages and this is something we would expect to see improve as the assessment and Plan is developed.

It was encouraging that you encouraged a forward focus in the consultation asking the basic question of school-children “*What do you want well-being to look like in the future?*” You could also think about weaving future trends into the ‘life stages’ frame, by considering the well-being of a citizen (or community) in 2050, through scenario planning.

The assessment would benefit from a broader understanding of how vulnerable/resilient the areas’ communities are to these types of trends and others? For example, is Carmarthenshire’s energy, water, transport, housing, soil quality and biodiversity resilient enough provide the foundations for well-being across life stages? Are there significant issues to manage over the long term? Are there local issues to be managed over the long term? It is noted from the phone conversation with the PSB team that there is scope to develop this aspect of the assessment.

The Welsh Government will be producing their Future Trends Report in May 2017. The current plan is to include 6 key themes: Population, Economy, Natural Resources & Climate Change, Health, Land Use & Infrastructure & Societal Change. As it develops your assessment will need to take account of data included in this, but should aim to provide a clearer emphasis on long term challenges to well-being in the initial assessment published in the coming months.

10. Cross boundary issues

Integration and collaboration are central to public bodies applying the sustainable development principle to their activities. One of our aims has been to review the extent to which the assessment has considered cross boundary issues for regional and national action.

There is scope for more consideration of Carmarthenshire's place within the region and a more detailed analysis of key regional and cross border issues would be beneficial to inform well-being planning. Cross boundary well-being issues such as transport, health provision, commuting, infrastructure, housing, leisure and landscape need more emphasis – as these all impact on well-being at all life stages. It will also be important for PSBs to consider the conclusions of neighbouring local assessments of well-being as plan production develops, which was acknowledged in the phone conversation with the PSB team.

We understand the unique challenges of Carmarthenshire in relation to its multiple relationships with Swansea Bay Region, West Wales and mid Wales. This complexity means it will be important for the PSB to understand from the assessment where action on a regional level will be critical. It would also be useful to understand the impact of 'regional assets' such as the national parks.

There are established relationships between public bodies across these 'footprints' that need reflecting in the well-being planning process. Key partners like the University Health Board and NRW may be able to help to provide this regional perspective. We will also be interested to see whether the collaborative work with Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion on the survey can be developed to help in this respect.

These regional issues could all be included in a commentary and analysis of the wider strategic context as mentioned in previous comments.

11. Data quality and data gaps

The WFG Act intends that well-being planning will be a continuous process where the evidence base will be gradually improved over time, to enable public bodies and others to understand and plan for well-being in their communities. We are keen to understand the approach of PSBs to data quality and data gaps during the assessment and data issues moving forward.

This is an area where we would expect to see the assessment improve. The main document could be strengthened by providing a section summarising data gaps from different aspects of the work to

understand what might be needed in the short term, medium and long term – i.e. what is missing that matters now to inform Plan development, what would be good to build over the medium term and what longer term data issues are. This would enable the PSB to build on existing work and plan for improving data quality during the next year and beyond, helping PSB partners to build in data research and management into their business and corporate planning. It would also provide an indication to Welsh Government, the Office and Data Unit Wales on PSB needs.

12. Use of the sustainable development principle

The statutory guidance places a responsibility on PSBs to *maximise* their contribution to the well-being goals by utilising the sustainable development principle in the way that they operate. We have been keen to understand how the sustainable development principle and five ways of working have been utilised during well-being assessments.

Clearly there are activities which illustrate how the sustainable development principle has been implicit in the approach taken and these activities show an understanding of the WFG Act and its intentions:

Long term – through use of readily available long term data and questions in the consultation

Involvement – through the consultation work undertaken and currently underway

Collaboration – through work with statutory partners, neighbouring authorities and through the joint consultation

While *Prevention* is mentioned in the context of early year's intervention, the assessment would benefit from a description of how the preventative agenda is critical to well-being planning and public service delivery.

However, there is limited evidence that the sustainable development principle has been applied as a *modus operandi* to this assessment. (see comments on *Integration* in point 9).

Overall, the assessment would benefit from being clearer about how the principle has changed the approach of the PSB to this work, and how the principle will shape the wellbeing planning process from hereon in.

It is positive to see the emphasis on this in the “*what happens now*” section, and to hear from the PSB team how the ways of working will influence the ongoing work of the PSB. This is encouraging, as it is

important for PSBs not only to use these principles in the way that they work, but also as you move to well-being planning.

13. Looking forward to plan production

A critical issue for our review of this assessment was whether the documentation was clear about how the work would be carried forward to develop local objectives and plan production.

It is positive to see the “*What happens now?*” section at the end of the assessment – which shows five key steps between now and well-being plan production (and review). Step 3 is clearly an important part of the process – taking the assessment and developing the PSB’s well-being objectives.

It would be helpful for you to be clearer about how step 3 will progress i.e. how individuals and organisations can remain involved; the timetable; and what the Plan is intending to do. Importantly, this explanation needs to communicate how the material collected in the assessment is going to be used to formulate objectives for the PSB.

14. Overview

The documentary analysis above has identified a number of areas where we believe the assessment could be strengthened, both in the short term, before its publication and over the medium term as the response analysis develops and the Plan is produced. In addition to this we organised a phone call to discuss the assessment with members of the PSB team who had been involved in the process. The aim of the phone call was to provide us with an opportunity to clarify/explore particular issues that our initial review has highlighted and to enable the PSB to flag up issues which are part of the broader context of assessment production.

A number of clear, recurring broad themes have emerged from our review and the conversation. It is clear that this has been a huge undertaking over a relatively short period of time, and that partners have put a great deal of effort into producing the draft assessment. Clearly the level of engagement through the well-being survey is particularly positive. The work provides a good basis for the PSB to begin to prioritise issues for the wellbeing plan and determine what further assessment is needed. However at the same time, we believe the following issues need to be tackled to improve the assessment:

well-being goals – a clearer understanding of the relationship between the issues identified and the seven national well-being goals

strategic context – setting a broader strategic context for Carmarthenshire over the short, medium and long term to provide the 'setting' for the life stages and associated commentary and measures

area and place – to complement the life-stages analysis, a greater understanding of well-being within areas of Carmarthenshire, its towns, rural areas, and coastal areas to better reflect the key issues for well-being in different localities

integration across themes – a greater focus on the inter-relationships between the data gathered and the implications of this for well-being

interpretation of the data and significance – more explanation of how the issues identified through the data impact on well-being of individuals and communities, and their significance across Carmarthenshire

regional context – a greater understanding of Carmarthenshire's place in the region and its inter-relationships with neighbouring areas and communities

future trends – greater attention given to the potential impact of long term trends on well-being in Carmarthenshire as a whole, for particular communities and for future citizens (through the life course narrative)

moving forward – provide a clearer description of how the assessment data is intended to be used, how data gaps are to be managed and how well-being planning will progress

It is recognised that some of these may be addressed in the PSBs proposed activities between now and the final publication of the assessment.

We hope that the issues raised above will inform this collaborative work so that these elements are reflected more strongly by the PSB in the final Carmarthenshire Well-being Assessment and throughout the well-being planning process.