

Monday 10th April 2017

Dear Gwynedd and Môn Public Services Boards 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.

The first thing I want to do is to make it clear that I fully appreciate the challenges that you have faced in the development of the assessment this time around, and I congratulate your team on their hard work and 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 Gwynedd and Môn, and communities in both areas, 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.

It is clear that you have given considerable thought to how to produce your assessment to make it interesting and accessible to a range of people, and that **involving people and communities** has been a priority for you. It is excellent that you have really focused on your 14 community areas in this involvement and that you have worked closely with partners, particularly in the third sector. You have a strong basis to build on as you move towards well-being planning and it will be important for you to make sure that you provide opportunities for a broad range of stakeholders and citizens to get involved in influencing the development of your objectives, and that you are able to demonstrate that their input has an effect on what you do.

The data you have collected to inform your 15 broad themes and nine key messages gives you a useful start. As you move towards well-being planning I would encourage you to explore the **integration** and inter-relationships between environmental, economic, social and cultural themes, which should help you to think about area wide and community interventions to address your nine 'messages'. It will also be important to give consideration to how your evidence links to the seven well-being goals, particularly in considering the relative roles of your different organisations in **maximising your contribution** to the goals.

There are some useful examples in the assessment where **long term** data has been used around flooding, ageing population, Welsh language and housing. However, generally, there needs to be greater attention given to the potential impact of long term trends on your 15 issues, nine key messages and the 14 Area Profiles. You should give some thought to which of your communities are particularly vulnerable/resilient in the long term, and how they are vulnerable or resilient.

A key element of the legislation is the focus on **preventing problems** from occurring rather than just responding to them. This is an area where I would encourage you to give detailed consideration to 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 – you have made an excellent start on this by developing one of very few joint assessments and jointly funding a key post to enable you to do this. You can now build on this through continuing to collaborate 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 on

GWYNEDD AND MÔN Public Services Board Draft Assessment of Local Well-being

1. Introduction

The following report provides feedback to Gwynedd and Môn Public Services Board from the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner on draft documentation of *Well-Being Assessment: Gwynedd and Môn - Gwynedd and Môn Public Services Board*, published in March 2017. This feedback is based on our project team¹ reviewing the following key documents and a phone discussion with the PSB team on 3rd April 2017:

- Gwynedd - What's Important?
- Anglesey What's Important?
- Data tables Assessment of Local Well-Being Anglesey & Gwynedd
- It's your area: What's important? 2016 and Information Packs (a sample of 4 from 13: Bangor, Ffestiniog, Caergybi and Ynys Cybi, Talybolion)
- Natural Resources Wales - Public Service Board: Anglesey & Gwynedd; Environmental Information for Well-being Assessments, Gwynedd Information

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 well-being 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 office 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 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. It is important that there is a clear link between the data in assessments, its interpretation and our understanding of all aspects of well-being in our communities. We understand that PSBs will develop different ways of reflecting well-being; in Anglesey and Gwynedd's case through a range of 15 broad well-being issues, under four well-being themes combining key policy challenges, service issues and assets – and identification of nine main 'messages' for both areas as a result.

We understand from the phone conversation that these 15 broad issues under four themes were identified within the partnership. It would be useful for the assessment to explain why this approach has been taken and to provide some context for their selection. Why are these 15 issues of particular relevance to well-being above others? It would also be useful for the assessment to include a section to help the reader to understand more clearly how the various consultations have informed the selection of the main messages. This is picked up in point 5 below.

It appears that the national well-being goals do not provide part of the strategic context for the assessment. Further development of the assessment could be strengthened by greater reference to the goals and also to the duty on the PSB to maximise its contribution to the goals by utilising the sustainable development principle.

While we understand the rationale for the collection of documents being an outward facing, engagement resource, consideration needs to be given to a better balance between this aim and the assessment providing more strategic context for the PSB and others. This is a theme we will return to throughout this feedback. We believe that the documents would benefit from a strategic overview to set the context for the different issues and measures identified – this is picked up in later points – including 5 and 6 below.

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. How could the PSB make the greatest contribution in the areas identified? Which are the areas of PSBs activity where there needs to be an improvement in

contribution? Where are the opportunities to deliver multiple goals by addressing key issues? Are there any goals which the PSB don't contribute to through the 15 issues and need to understand how they *could* contribute (e.g. the globally responsible Wales goal?) This analysis would inform Plan development and enable the PSB to understand the potential significance and impact of collective actions to *maximise* their contribution.

The NRW resource pack provides an excellent example of how data can be framed using the national well-being goals and the sustainable development principle and we would encourage the PSB to explore how this approach could be applied more widely. We hope that this relationship can be explored as part of your ongoing work in the Partnership and feature more strongly in the final assessment and throughout the well-being planning process.

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.

It is clear to us that there has been a great deal of effort in selecting the 14 community areas for the assessment via the citizen's panel and through other consultation. This has provided you with a sound framework to move forward and build your evidence at a local scale. We understand that this is a work in progress, however at present, both the information packs and 'What's important?' documents provide the same range of data for the 14 areas, as is provided for Anglesey and Gwynedd. They could be strengthened by telling us more about spatial variations in well-being, differences in well-being determinants, where issues are particularly acute, where there are particular assets which are beneficial.

Many sections could provide greater understanding of spatial differences across the diversity of communities in the area. Why is there such a gap in life expectancy between different parts of the area, what are the determinants? Are there differences in the viability of Town Centres? Are there particular areas where rural isolation is particularly acute? Are unhealthy lifestyles and obesity problems across Anglesey and Gwynedd, or more prevalent in particular communities? The exception to this is again the NRW resource pack which very effectively uses both quantitative and qualitative data to understand the key challenges in particular localities.

Clearly there is a range of quantitative data available which has influenced your selection of these areas, but we would encourage you to build these area 'profiles' using qualitative data as well. We understand the rationale for using the resource packs to frame the online and face to face consultations – and there

is a wealth of data in the local information packs which could inform a broader interpretation of well-being in your communities beyond the nine messages identified. We would encourage you to develop a more nuanced understanding of well-being in individual communities as well-being planning progresses – clearly there are major differences between living in Bangor, Ffestiniog, Caerdydd and Ynys Cybi or Talybolion which need to be drawn out – to help the PSB to understand where collective action might help particular communities as well as Anglesey and Gwynedd wide.

Building a picture of local well-being for the 15 issues could be addressed by simply asking the question “*are there any significant and specific locality differences?*” against each and asking authors or contributors to consider this question, as well as listing data sources and gaps.

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 the 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. We understand that you have intended that the conversation on well-being should not be about service demand, and should focus on broader aspects living in Anglesey and Gwynedd, aspiring to develop an assessment that provides a “*fair reflection of communities and looks at challenges and opportunities ahead*”.

It appears that the consultation documentation, its questions and the data used to stimulate the conversation in your area have focused on service delivery issues. The responses show that the ‘frame’ being used by the public is one of wanting more services to meet their needs. This will be helpful to the PSB in planning where there are gaps in public service provision, and collective action would help. However we believe that there may be a risk in focusing the assessment to closely on public services and what is within the PSBs gift to deliver, at the expense of a wider, more strategic view of well-being across the area to inform well-being planning.

We also suggest that there could be more interpretation of the data to understand what the implications are for communities (and public service providers) across the area. The assessment would benefit from a more consistent consideration of what the implications are for public services for *each* of the other 15 issues. Is the current approach sufficient? Are more, new or adapted public sector services

needed? Are there spatial variations in public services across the area? An example of where this is done well is in considering house prices and housing need – and in Gwynedd the spatial variation in this issue. This interpretative and localised approach should be applied across the other well-being issues identified

There is clearly a lot of evidence here which could be brought together in a broader summary on the significant gaps in public service delivery and the challenges to services over the short, medium and long term. Future versions of the assessment should address this in order to inform the PSB on where collective action is needed.

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 of 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?

There is scope for this element of the assessment to be strengthened, particularly in terms of building coherent narrative about the implications of the data you have gathered for the well-being of communities; the significance of these issues to Anglesey and Gwynedd need to be spelt out and interpreted more clearly.

There are also some core strategic issues common to all areas of Wales that should provide a stronger backdrop to all of the sections: inequalities in health and standard of living, infrastructural resilience, accommodating population change flood risk; limited resources for social care; under-provision of housing; people living in poverty; welfare reform; climate impacts; austerity; natural resource depletion. This echoes our previous comments of the need for a wider strategic 'scene setting' section at the beginning of the document to help provide the context for the 'measures' and issues you have identified.

The following comments provide greater detail and examples of where a broader context would help set the scene for the 15 issues and nine key messages emerging from the Assessment so far. These would complement and add to an 'outward facing' set of documents which seek to engage people and partners:

Economy: this theme focuses on economic inactivity, job seekers allowance; business start-ups, home working and wages, school meals and disposable income, providing facts with little interpretation even within the section on “what does this tell us about well-being”. The assessment could be more authoritative on the implications and significance of this data to well-being and provide a wider strategic context and painting a broader picture of economic well-being in the area by: describing who does what and where; the inter-relationships of the area with other local economies; and the nature of the opportunities from the North Wales Ambitions Board and Wylfa; the role of Snowdonia National Park and FHE institutions in local economies. Clearly having 19% of the working population in agriculture is significant. What sort of state is it in? Is farm succession a key issue? Is rural and working poverty an issue? While we understand that Brexit provides great uncertainty, the potential implications of Brexit, for example on rural funding, are a key issue which will impact on the area across well-being themes. The data provided provides a selective picture of well-being through a range of measures which would benefit from this wider context. We understand the North Wales Ambitions Board has readily available data to inform these sections. This should be included in the final assessment documents and considered as part of the well-being planning process.

Social: this theme covers: facts on health; life expectancy, obesity, lifestyles, suicide and teenage pregnancy; crime rates; keeping in touch via broadband, public transport and unpaid care. Again, these are a select number of measures which would benefit from a broader context. Like the Economy section, this section could benefit from a summary to set out the broad strategic *implications* for well-being across the area and provide more interpretation. The housing issue is an example of where this is done well – with a clear message about the significance of the issue to well-being and in Gwynedd’s case a clear understanding of the differences between localities. More emphasis should be provided on community and social *assets* as part of a broader commentary on social well-being in the area e.g. social capital and networks; and the role of the non-monetary economy in social well-being and levels of volunteering as well as unpaid care. Clearly broadband availability will have major social impacts on networks, cohesion, etc. that needs a clearer explanation in the assessment. This is qualitative information and interpretation which would inform the PSBs understanding of the nature of where collective action might be most pertinent.

Environment - this theme covers waste and recycling; climate change; natural environment with 1-2 facts for each. The analysis appears to be limited compared to what the NRW pack made available. Again it is unclear why these particular issues have been selected. Like the other sections a wider, more strategic view of well-being would help us to understand the significance of the particular issues that have been selected. Is waste a problem or being managed adequately, where is climate change likely to impact the most – on coasts, farming, along rivers,

on key infrastructure? What is the role of the natural environment in the local economy – through green infrastructure and the National Park? How can natural assets improve well-being? How significant is flood risk and where? Again, a strategic summary of the implications of environmental issues to well-being would be useful. The assessment should utilise the excellent analysis in the resource pack more effectively, perhaps within a strategic overview section.

Culture – this theme covers leisure time - fitness and leisure centres, physical activity, arts and museum visits and in Gwynedd's case, libraries. These are predominantly service based measures. Again the well-being 'narrative' is data led with minimal interpretation. This narrow focus on cultural well-being would benefit from being expanded to provide some qualitative insight into the culture of the area e.g. what are the area's cultural assets around the arts, social networks, cultural activities, local food and drink, information networks, activity of farming communities, events and shows and volunteering? There is clearly a great deal of community activity that is going on which is not reflected through these measures, including the huge role of Welsh language in local culture. For Welsh language – numbers speaking Welsh are clearly important, but there is little explanation of how critical this issue is to well-being and culture *specifically* in the area. A broad summary of these cultural assets would be useful for the PSB to better understand how they can work *with* the community to enhance well-being.

As well as providing this broader context there are a number of other issues which should be considered by the PSB as part of the well-being planning process and developing the assessment.

- explaining the *significance to Anglesey and Gwynedd and the impact of the data on well-being* – i.e. not letting the data 'stand on its own without explanation and explaining how it manifests itself specifically across the area in different localities e.g. qualifications data – what does this mean for the local workforce and demand from key employers e.g. Wylfa or across the health sector?
- *focusing on challenges and sufficiency of current approaches* – what are the key challenges to communities and the public sector from the issue? Are current approaches adequate to meet the challenges in the locality? What further activity is needed? What collective action can address this issue? e.g. climate change and increased flooding – which communities are at risk given likely funding for flood risk works?

As the above comments illustrate – we believe that the PSB should build on the existing work as well-being planning progresses to develop a wider picture of well-being for the area which is more nuanced, localised and strategic, with data sources supporting your understanding of well-being and public service needs.

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, assets and deficits within the area.

As described earlier points in this document, the assessment, in places, provides a very strong narrative on key challenges to the area e.g. ageing population, housing and Welsh language. The section “what does this mean for well-being” provides a list of key ‘messages’ emerging from the consultation which we understand was informed by analysis by the Board.² These represent a wide range of challenges which as stated in point 5 – need a more strategic approach by the PSB *beyond* the current ‘measures’ selected to illustrate them. We believe there is still a significant challenge for the PSB to analyse the current situation, adequacy of interventions, governance and collective actions to develop a Plan to address these issues. We understand that there are already ongoing discussions to interpret the data and we hope that you are able to address this challenge as well-being planning progresses.

We also believe that the assessment could be developed to focus more clearly on the assets of the area, including:

- economic assets from an ageing population, in terms of skills, volunteering, retirement spend, tourism.
- the strength of the community sector in supporting social well-being, the nature of social networks, the social fabric of towns and villages.
- community based ‘physical’ assets which can support cohesion.
- the role of the non-monetary economy in social well-being, physical assets, food banks, community asset transfer etc.)

² The need to maintain the healthy community spirit which is so important to the well-being of our communities

- The importance of protecting the natural environment
- Understanding the effect of the change in demography on the area
- Protecting the Welsh language
- Promote the use of natural resources to improve health and well-being in the long term
- Improving transport connections to enable access to services and facilities
- The need for high quality jobs and housing that is affordable for local people
- Effect of poverty including fuel poverty on well-being
- Ensuring that every child has the opportunity to succeed

- the vibrancy of culture around the arts, language, social networks, cultural activities, local food and drink, agricultural shows, information networks and volunteering.

This could be achieved by developing the qualitative approach already underway in the Area Profiles and gathering this information, over time, to develop a more nuanced picture of well-being across the whole area than there is at present.

One key issue related to this is the need for a greater recognition of the role of Snowdonia National Park in the areas' social, economic, cultural well-being. This is a major and unique asset which is not reflected adequately enough in the assessment (other than in the environment section). Clearly National Parks have a major influence on the well-being not just of residents, but also to the nation, and also have a direct influence on numbers of visitors to the area and the resilience of local economies. The value and role of the National Park should be considered as your well-being planning develops. In a similar way – a broader understanding of major employers and their role within communities would help to understand the significance of 'assets' within the area for example, Bangor University, Wylfa and Holyhead Port.

The assessment could also be improved by providing a greater understanding of how challenges manifest themselves in different areas of Anglesey and Gwynedd, and which particular areas have resilience or are vulnerable to current and future trends. This should include critical energy, water, transport infrastructure. This type of information is of key relevance to the PSB, service delivery and future community well-being.

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 from the document and our conversation that a great deal of effort has been expended to inform the assessment through consultation with stakeholders, elected members and communities. The online survey and drop in sessions in each area, together with officer engagement with partners has given a strong indication of well-being issues. This has been well reflected in the information packs for the 14 communities. We understand that public and third sector partners have been integral to this effort and your approach has been well thought through. It was really good to discuss with you your learning from this approach and the need to utilise social media to develop your understanding of well-being in the area.

It is also good to hear how much this assessment has acted as a catalyst to develop collaborative working across the PSB, including between the two Councils. It is clear that there has been a strong contribution from key partners in terms of data provision and in producing the analysis within the assessment. The documents would benefit from a short section acknowledging this effort from different partners.

To build on this it would be good for the assessment to outline the roles of Bangor University, and the University Health Board and other partners in informing the work on the assessment, including the role of the private sector. It will be important to develop private sector engagement for their insight into all aspects of well-being, but particularly in terms of small businesses, the agri-economy and the vibrancy of town centres. We would encourage you to develop this aspect of the assessment via the North Wales Ambitions Board.

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 PSBs explore the interconnections between data listed in the assessment, to interpret what this means for well-being in the area.

There is scope for you to give greater consideration to how data within and between sections relates to each other and what inter-relationships exist. 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.

We would encourage you to explore the inter-relationships between environmental, economic, social and cultural themes, which should help you to think about area wide and community interventions to address your nine 'messages'. For example the impact of rural isolation on health, the relationship between economic development, housing and flood risk, new technologies and community cohesion, and the role of green infrastructure in the local economy. These inter-relationships need to be explored and acknowledged as part of a wider effort to interpret the data gathered so far. This is something for the PSB to consider as an important issue as it develops well-being planning.

We understand from the phone conversation that you will now begin to use data from other assessments and partners to begin to inform your well-being planning, this includes the population assessment and the work of the North Wales Ambitions Board. We would encourage you (in the context

of all previous comments) to integrate this data into the assessment at both area wide and community levels.

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. We understand from the phone conversation that there is an opportunity to develop the assessment to include more analysis of the impact of future trends on well-being and we would encourage you to pursue this within the PSB.

There are some good examples in the assessment where long term data has been used around flooding, ageing population, Welsh language and housing. However, generally, there needs to be greater attention given to the potential impact of long term trends on the 15 issues, nine messages and the 14 Area Profiles and this is something we would expect to see improve as the assessment and Plan is developed. i.e. which communities are particularly vulnerable/resilient in the long term, and how are they vulnerable or resilient?

This issue was acknowledged in our conversation, and the forward focus you outlined on the 14 community areas provides an opportunity for you to use more qualitative data to explore the potential impacts of future trends in particular localities. We would also encourage you to use qualitative trend data to inform your analysis of area wide well-being for example

- using Climate Risk Assessment data, given your current understanding of flood risk
- exploring the potential impact of Brexit, given your current understanding of current agricultural and infrastructural funding
- exploring the potential impact of Wylfa if expansion happens from 2019

This could form part of the wider 'strategic overview' we have referred to throughout this feedback.

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.

We believe that a more detailed understanding and analysis of key regional and cross border issues which affect Anglesey and Gwynedd would be beneficial, to inform the well-being plan process. The assessment could provide a clearer explanation of the areas' role and relationship with its neighbouring authorities, and within the region and with Ireland.

It will also be important for PSBs to consider the conclusions of neighbouring local assessments of well-being as plan production develops. Clearly there are a range of regional issues which need to be highlighted more strongly throughout the assessment, to set the context for the current set of 'messages' including health and social care, landscape scale management, transport infrastructure, economic development and others.

It was positive to explore this issue with you in the phone conversation and understand how both of the Councils' work with North Wales Fire and Rescue has helped the partnership understand both regional and local perspectives. We noted from our conversation the importance of the assessment informing the work of the different regional partnerships, and in turn feeding new information from this regional activity back into the assessment. Clearly, the PSB has a major role in facilitating information and planning at these different levels of governance.

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.

We understand from the phone conversation that work has been done to analyse data gaps from the assessment. This is positive and this information could be included within in the Assessment itself or on the website to inform partners and the public. These data gaps need communicating throughout the partnership. We suggest from our analysis that this summary should include:

- gaps to provide the wider strategic context as suggested previously
- gaps under each theme, environment, culture, economy, social

- gaps in area level data
- what the PSB needs to know over the short term for the assessment
- what the PSB needs to know to develop its understanding of well-being

An overall analysis of this type will also be important to understand if there are any patterns in data needs from across the 15 issues, within the nine messages, and how these gaps can be best addressed. This would be beneficial for the PSB to understand how it might improve its understanding and where resources may be needed. It would also help you to understand where gaps can be filled from the other assessments you identified in our conversation – including the Population Needs Assessment.

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.

There are activities which demonstrate the sustainable development principle:

Long term – through the use of long term data under the 15 issues

Involvement – through the consultation work undertaken

Collaboration – through the PSB project team and the stakeholder engagement

Prevention – through the discussion of early intervention

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

It is important for the PSB to utilise this principle to influence their choice of well-being objectives in the well-being plan and to demonstrate that in choosing those objectives:

- that preventative measures have been considered
- that collaborative approaches have been explored
- that the right individuals and bodies have been involved

- that an integrated approach has been adopted
- that the long term impacts on communities have been considered

This is an area where we would expect to see the assessment process improve between now and plan production.

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 next steps section in the documents and clarity about how individuals and organisations can remain involved; the timetable; and that the Board will develop common well-being objectives. However it will be important to explain how the PSB will use the material collected in the assessment to formulate objectives for the PSB.

We understand that work is already underway to develop your thinking on this, and that one of the key issues you are considering is the relative influence that the PSB currently has on these well-being issues. Given our comments on the need for a more strategic overview throughout this document, we would encourage you to consider the wider 'picture' of well-being in both areas and within communities (beyond your current set of measures) to explore interventions and collective actions.

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. This was extremely useful and insightful.

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.

As we have explained, we believe that the current approach could be enhanced by the PSB taking a more strategic approach to understanding well-being across the area to provide the context for the

current set of issues and messages. We believe that a public facing document with this level of detail and analysis is achievable and is vital to inform the public and engage stakeholders and organisations in the well-being plan process. In addition to this we believe the following issues also 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.

area and place – use of qualitative as well as quantitative data to develop your understanding of particular 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 Anglesey and Gwynedd

social and cultural assets – a broader understanding of social and cultural assets and their role in well-being across Anglesey and Gwynedd

regional context – a greater understanding of Anglesey and Gwynedd'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 the area as a whole, and for particular communities.

moving forward – provide a clearer description of how the assessment and 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 Gwynedd and Môn Local Well-being Assessment and throughout the well-being planning process.