

Key information on Public Service Boards (PSBs) for primary care clusters

How did the PSBs come into existence?

- The [Wellbeing of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act](#) 2015 (WBFG Act) created Public Service Boards.
- Public Service Boards replace the Local Service Boards which were previously in place.
- There are 19 PSBs covering 22 local authority (LA) boundaries. Each LA has a PSB, however, some LA's have combined to develop a joint PSBs over two LA boundaries, two joint PSBs in North Wales and across Cwm Taf.

Who Sits on the PSB?

- The statutory members of each Public Service Board are local authority, local health board, Fire and Rescue Authority and Natural Resource Wales.
- Additionally to the statutory members PSBs will invite Welsh Ministers, Chief Constables, Police and Crime Commissioner, Probation services, voluntary representation and other public service organisations.
- The PSB is also required to include partners who could participate in specific well-being actions, these include Community Councils, Public Health Wales, Community Health Councils, National Parks Authorities, Educational Institutions, Arts Council for Wales, Sports Council for Wales, National Library for Wales and National Museum for Wales.
- The PSBs should seek to engage in a purposeful relationship with the people and communities in the area, including children and young people, Welsh-speakers and those with [protected characteristics](#), in all aspects of its work, ensuring those persons reflect the diversity of the population of the area the board serves.

What were PSBs created to achieve?

- PSBs improve joint working across all public services in each local authority area in Wales.
- PSBs are responsible for improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of its area by working together to achieve the well-being goals.
- The WBFG Act describes a set of well-being goals for members of the PSB to work together, take action towards and achieve. The well-being goals include; *A prosperous Wales, A resilient Wales, A healthier Wales, A more equal Wales, A Wales of cohesive communities, A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language and A globally responsible Wales.*
- The WBFG Act puts in place a set of sustainable development principles which directs PSBs and public bodies on how they are expected to work. These principles are *Long term, Prevention, Integration, Collaboration and Involvement.*
- The WBFG Act requires PSBs to carry out well-being assessments for local populations. The assessment should provide an accurate analysis of the current state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in each community. There is significant weight placed on the validity of this process due to the impact the process will have on choosing objectives within the local well-being plan.
- PSBs must have a local well-being plan based informed by the well-being assessments. The plan sets out local well-being objectives and the actions proposed to meet these. This plan must be reviewed annually and PSBs must evidence their progression towards meeting objectives.
- Statutory members are required to work together to achieve the well-being goals and are collectively responsible for fulfilling the PSBs duties.

PSBs and clusters

There is no legislative expectation for PSBs to engage with primary care clusters, however national policy and legislation recognise the benefits of joint working and alignment across clusters plans and well-being plans as follows:

- *A Healthier Wales (2018): Action; Strengthen planning capacity and capability throughout the health and social care system, including RPBs and PSBs.*

This means PSBs are central to the broader agenda of *A Healthier Wales* as the policy recognises the impact of the wider determinants on health and the legislative requirements of the WCFG act including partnership working and longer-term thinking.

- *The Strategic Programme for Primary Care (2018): Primary care should consider the priorities and action plans of the PSBs and the alignment locally with cluster plans.*
- Statutory guidance for PSBs states primary care clusters could be seen as already established community areas and could be a community of interest for PSBs.

How do PSBs relate to Regional Partnership Boards (RPBs)?

- PSBs sit at local authority level (average population 141,5071), so there may be more than one PSB within the RPB footprint (average population 444,7362).
- Whilst PSBs have a wide remit to improve economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being following local well-being assessments. RPBs are focused on the integration of health and social services as a result of population assessments and work at health board level.
- Local authority membership of RPBs and PSBs may or may not be the same individuals.
- RPB population assessments/ area plans should inform PSB well-being assessments/ well-being plans.

How do Welsh Government relate to PSBs

- PSBs must report annually and set out the steps taken and progress made by the PSB to meet the objectives set out in the local well-being plan.

For further reading see.....

[**Key information on Regional Partnership Boards \(RPBs\) for primary care clusters.**](#)