

Carmarthenshire Public Services Board

21 July 2026

2-4:00pm

Via Teams

Present	
Name	Organisation
Councillor Linda Evans	Carmarthenshire County Council (Chair)
Mydrian Harries	Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (Vice-Chair)
Dr Ardiana Gjini	Director of Public Health
Lester Fulcher	Natural Resources Wales
Naomi Mattiessen	Welsh Government
Marie Mitchell	Carmarthenshire Association of Voluntary Services
Dr Michael Thomas	Public Health Directorate
Chief Superintendent Jayne Butler	Dyfed Powys Police
Claire Bryant	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Wyn Morris	Department for Work and Pensions
Kim Neyland	Regional Partnership Board
Present	
Name	Organisation
Sarah Isaac	Clinical Lead
Rian Furlong	Stroke Services Project Team
Rhian Rees	Public Health Directorate
Amy Richmond-Jones	Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Llinos Evans	Carmarthenshire County Council - PSB Support Team
Biana Ilanca	Observing the meeting
Jeni Scott	Observing the meeting
Apologies	
Name	Organisation

Ainsley Williams	Director of Places, Infrastructure and Economic Development, Carmarthenshire County Council
Liz Bowen	The Probation Service
Vanessa Cashmore	Coleg Sir Gâr / Ceredigion
Professor Phil Kloer	Hywel Dda University Health Board
Huwel Manley	Natural Resources Wales
Gwyneth Ayers	Carmarthenshire County Council
Tim Bray	Ceredigion County Council

1. Welcome, Introductions and apologies

The apologies received in advance were noted.

It was noted that Lester Fulcher, Land and Asset Operations Manager for South West Wales was joining the meeting as Huwel's deputy.

It was explained that two individuals were observing the meeting, namely Bianca Ilanca, who volunteers with the Health Board and Jeni Scott, who is a student of the Simultaneous Translation course at UWTSD).

2. Stroke Services Consultation

Sarah Isaac and Rian Furlong from the Health Board were welcomed to the meeting to introduce the Stroke Services consultation.

In March 2023, the Health Board approved the establishment of a programme approach to develop a Clinical Services Plan in response to service weaknesses, based on principles of care.

It was recognised that the Stroke Services are fragile services and that further consultation is needed to ensure a strong understanding and evidence base.

The Phase 2 consultation was launched on 28 May and will close on 26 July. The hope is to submit to the Board in November; however, if there is a high response, the feedback may have to be delayed.

Sarah outlined the preferred option in terms of treatment and transfer and in terms of an emergency unit in Glangwili and a stroke rehabilitation unit at Bronglais Hospital. Sarah explained the initial options considered for Bronglais, Glangwili, Prince Philip and Withybush hospitals.

Sarah explained that the consultation is a roadshow across the three counties and comments can be added online, via email, a paper form or there is a contact number available should anyone want to chat to an officer.

Mydrian asked if there was a specific issue driving these changes, and Sarah explained that new Stroke Standards have been introduced and the current service is fragile. The Health Board recognises that services need to be improved and consider how to deliver across four sites.

Lester asked that if there is no support in principle for these plans, what will be the next steps? Sarah explained that consultative work has been carried out in 2025 and that the options are based on that work. The Board will consider all feedback before making a decision. More staff will need to be recruited in order to meet the new national Stroke Standards.

Ardiana explained the advisory element and formal decision-making process. It was also noted that the PSB has a key role to play in explaining that stroke is a preventable disease and that there is an opportunity to promote healthcare messaging among service users and staff.

A question was asked in relation to assessing the impact on the Welsh language and protected characteristics and how mitigation action can be implemented. Further work will be carried out when decisions have been made.

Board Members were asked to circulate the consultation documents among networks -

[Stroke consultation - Hywel Dda University Health Board](#)

Members thanked Sarah and Rian for the detailed presentation and for being so willing to answer questions.

3. Update on Social Model for Health and Wellbeing

Rhian Rees, Senior Public Health Practitioner was welcomed to the meeting to provide an update on the Social Model for Health and Wellbeing.

The Board received an update on progress in incorporating the Social Model for Health and Well-being across West Wales. The approach aims to reduce health inequalities by shifting the emphasis from illness treatment to prevention, early intervention and community-led wellbeing.

Members noted that poverty, social isolation and wider living conditions have a significant impact on health outcomes. Effective delivery will require sustained cross-sector leadership, community co-production, a "no wrong door" approach to support and investment in prevention-focused workforce skills. Progress includes regular multi-agency steering groups, a Community of Practice with more than 90 members, the development of training activity and social innovation, and improved communication.

The Board noted that long-term success will depend on cultural and system change across community, primary and secondary care services.

Ardiana underlined the importance of the model for all Board members and for communities. 80% of our health is influenced by factors that are beyond health e.g. education, work, housing, transport etc.

Mydrian thanked Rhian for the detailed presentation noting that he was concerned about many of the statistics highlighted in the presentation, and that the Public Services Board had a golden opportunity to contribute to the model. Mydrian highlighted some of the services that the Fire Service offers in relation to vulnerable people, people living with dementia etc and suggested that the individual members deliver these strategic messages back to their individual boards, in order to realise the objectives of the model. Mydrian also underlined the importance of the members' staff in making the model a reality, as staff support families and communities and can share messages in terms of health and wellbeing.

The Chair underlined the importance of speaking positively about communities locally and recognising that there is good work happening across the County.

Action points:

- Ensure that the Make Every Contact Count Training is available for all organisations and frontline staff.
- Share the Social Model and Wellbeing Event Charter among members so that Members can think back in the individual organisations.
- Consider the communication channels available in order to promote the Social Model messages among staff and communities.

4. Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion Public Service Boards merger

It was explained that the Taskforce which has been preparing for the merger of the Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion Public Service Boards has prepared and discussed an Interim Well-being Plan for the period from September 2026 until a new joint Well-being Plan is agreed by May 2028. The taskforce has mapped out the work that has been done within the Well-being Plans of the two counties and the remaining work, in order to propose an interim plan that focuses on the work of the unified Board.

Following the mapping work, the three focus areas proposed for the next phase are:

- Food and Well-being
- Poverty and Hardship
- Responding to the Climate and Nature Crisis

As part of the document circulated to Members, there are strategic goals and proposed action points that sit under the three areas, and the aim is to build on the good work

already taking place in both counties and create new opportunities that will help us in building the Well-being Assessment and in preparing the joint Well-being Plan.

Members will be familiar with the work that has been done on the Food Strategy and the work that Beth Cossins and Geinor Jones have done on Healthy Weight, Healthy Wales and the further work on Public Sector Food Procurement through Roots of Change.

Ceredigion Public Services Board has a Poverty sub-group, which has led on a number of anti-poverty initiatives and helped with the rise in the cost of living. Again, this is an opportunity for us to learn from each other and see how we can build on the collective work.

In relation to Response to the Climate and Nature Emergency, it was noted that the Climate Change Risk Assessment prepared by the two counties in partnership with Natural Resources Wales and Miller Research provided a particular basis for the next phase of activity and to support Board members in implementing the recommendations in the report.

The interim Well-being Plan will be presented at the first meeting of the joint Board on 15 September 2026.

5. Local Well-being Assessment

The consultation on the Local Well-being Assessment has been open since 8 June 2026 and will close on 8 August 2026, following the National Eisteddfod. All organisations were thanked for their support in compiling the questionnaire, sharing messages and attending events but explained that there was still time left to reach more people from diverse communities.

To date, 655 responses have been received to the main questionnaire and 255 responses to the young people version. We have also been present at events and meetings to generate interest, such as the Wales National Armed Forces Day, Aberystwyth Show, Ceredigion Children and Young People's Festival and Llanelli's More in Common Partnership.

A draft consultation report will be discussed at the joint Board on 15 September 2026.

The writers' group has met regularly and produced a draft template in relation to the Assessment and it was noted that a copy will be circulated to Members shortly, for comments and ideas.

6. Minutes and actions

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2026 were confirmed as an accurate record.

The members noted that all the steps arising from the previous meeting have been completed.

7. Llanelli Rural Council Annual Report 2025-26

The Community and Town Councils subject to the Well-being of Future Generations Act have a responsibility to prepare an annual report showing how it is implementing the Act and contributing to the Public Services Board's Well-being Goals.

Llanelli Rural Council had sent its annual report to members, for attention.

It was agreed to thank them for their hard work during the year and for sending a copy.

8. Food Strategy Update

An update has been received from Alex Cook.

It was noted that the Programme Board for the Food Strategy is about to be established, and an invitation will reach Members within the next few days. PSB partners have been asked to nominate a responsible officer within their organisations in order to have representation on the Board.

Invitations have been circulated for an Advisory Panel to represent the sector and a draft terms of reference have been prepared.

In addition, there are three working groups, which will focus on

- Public sector provision
- Local food economy
- Food for Public Health

An application has been made for the role of Programme Manager, to establish the role for 18 months / two years. The application has been made to the Welsh Government by Carmarthenshire County Council.

Alex Cook is working with the Marketing & Media Team to prepare a long-term programme to promote the Strategy and a draft will go to the Programme Board as soon as possible. Alex is also working with the Performance Team to develop a dashboard to monitor the work with a view to April 2027 for completion.

Welsh Government Update

Future Trends Report

Due to issues with multiple risks for the Future Trends Report (FTR) project becoming problematic – including access to data timelines, the timelines for the engagement activities and disruption to internal resources – the publication date of the Future Trends Report has been postponed from December 2026 to February 2027.

Therefore, the next Future Trends Report will not be available in time to inform the earliest Well-being Assessments currently being developed.

The Welsh Government is engaging directly with PSBs on the implications of this and is developing advice on how partnerships can continue to fulfil their statutory duties while the report is being finalised.

WG are hoping that elements of the evidence and insight developed through the Future Trends process can still be made available to partnerships in a timely manner.

In the meantime, PSBs should continue to draw on current Future Trends material, demographic projections, local knowledge and partner expertise when considering future opportunities, risks and challenges.

Listening Practice

The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, the Organiser and the Chief Whip committed to a listening exercise with PSBs to inform future funding and support arrangements. The Wales Co-Production Network (CoPro) has now commenced the listening exercise on behalf of the Welsh Government. Invitations have been given to PSBs' Chairs and Co-ordinators to draw on PSBs' experience in:

Ministerial advice will be developed in October 2026, informed by the listening exercise, to help shape the funding and support model for PSBs for the future.

Members were encouraged to promote participation in the listening exercise and remind Chairs and Co-ordinators of the opportunity to contribute their views.

Review of the Future Generations Act

Plaid Cymru's manifesto is committed to reviewing the Act and working with the Future Generations Commissioner to ensure that it delivers meaningful, measurable change and makes a real difference to the lives of people in Wales. Early work is underway on how this review looks assessed, including its structure, timescale, cost and scope. The review will take place and be completed during the term of this Senedd.

The review will look at finding solutions to the problems within the Act, as set out in a number of reports such as the ESJ Committee report and the reports by the Future Generations Commissioner and the Auditor General for Wales. While nothing has been finalised or agreed by Ministers, this will almost certainly include key considerations and issues for PSBs, such as reporting timetables, reporting burden, community councils and scrutiny of PSBs.

9. Date of next meeting

15 September 2026 at 2pm – first meeting of Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion Public Services Board.