**SUBJECT: Scrutiny Function to support the Public Services Board 2025/26**

**MEETING: Gwent Public Services Board**

**DATE: 12th December 2024**

*Report written and submitted by: Gemma Wasley, BGCBC*

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| **1** | **Areas Affected** |
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| 1.1 | All Local Authority areas of Gwent have Member representation on the Gwent Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee and partner organisations: South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Gwent Voluntary Organisations and Aneurin Bevan University Health Board. |
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| **2** | **Purpose of Report**  |
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| 2.1 | The purpose of the report is to outline approach for the funding that supports the on-going development, operation, and administration of the Regional PSB Scrutiny Committee. |
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| **3** | **Background** |
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| 3.1 | In September 2022, the Public Services Board agreed to establish regional scrutiny arrangements to review and scrutinise the work of the Gwent Public Services Board. |
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| 3.2 | It was also agreed for Blaenau Gwent Council to act as the lead organisation to facilitate committee support, with each other statutory partner organisation identifying a liaison Single Point of Conduct (SPOC) to interact with Blaenau Gwent. |
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| 3.2 | Since the establishment of the Gwent Public Services Board Scrutiny Committee in January 2023, the committee has held five meetings and one training session:* 29th March 2023 (Training session)
* 29th March 2023 (Terms of Reference agreed – included at Appendix 1 for info)
* 7th June 2023
* 29th November 2023
* 17th April 2024
* 11th September 2024

The next meeting is scheduled for 11th December 2024. |
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| 3.3 | Attendance and engagement have been good with 80% attendance over the 6 sessions. |
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| 3.4 | The cost provided for 2023 was £15,000, shared equally by the seven organisations (i.e., Caerphilly County Borough Council, Monmouthshire County Council, Newport City Council, Torfaen County Borough Council, South Wales Fire and Rescue, Natural Resources Wales, and Aneurin Bevan University Health Board). The cost was based on existing models in place for CCRCD scrutiny, hosted by RCTCBC.  |
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| 3.5 | On 14th December 2023, the Gwent Public Services Board agreed:* For the remaining funding held by Blaenau Gwent CBC, provided by PSB partners for 2023 be carried over into 2024 and a move from a calendar year to a financial year process;
* For Blaenau Gwent CBC to utilise the remaining funding to cover the three months of financial year 2023/24; and
* The remaining funding to be rolled over to 2024/25 to support the administration of the scrutiny committee.
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| 3.6 | From December 2022 to October 2024, the financial cost of running the committee have been £6208, with £8791 remaining. |
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| 4 | **Recommendations** |
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| 4.1 | It is, therefore, recommended that the Gwent Public Services Board:1. Agree for Blaenau Gwent to continue to act as the lead organisation to facilitate committee support; and
2. Agree for Blaenau Gwent CBC to carry over the remaining funding, which will support the committee arrangements up until August 2026.
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| 5 | **Improvements Moving Forward** |
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| 5.166.1 | * Work with the PSB to align the cycle of Scrutiny Committee meetings with Board meetings to ensure effective reporting and decision making;
* To develop a forward work programme aligned to the work of the PSB, its and related delivery plans; and
* Members of the Board to attend Scrutiny Committee meetings in order to present reports when required.

**Background Documents**Appendix 1: Gwent PSB Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference |
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