

## **A Ten-Point Plan to Benefit Community-led Action and Communities An agreement by the Pembrokeshire Together for Change Partners 2021-2026**

**This Agreement sets out how the Together for Change community support and service organisations will work together, and with communities, to deliver a programme centring on wellbeing whilst focusing on local needs. It is presented as a ten-point plan which was derived from meetings held with community groups and third- and public-sector organisations in the period June–October 2020.**

The pandemic has made it imperative that we work together more closely. Community-led groups and organisations have demonstrated just how resourceful and adaptable they can be in a time of crisis. They have played a crucial role in supporting their populations and sharing good practice for the benefit of others. Unencumbered by bureaucracy, public-sector and third-sector intermediary organisations have reacted swiftly too, and have provided innovative and effective centralised support. A 'can-do' attitude has prevailed, and relationships have strengthened as sectors have pulled together in an unprecedented way. In all this, communities have found that their needs have increasingly been listened to and acted upon.

We have been forced to reflect, during this dreadful crisis, on the complex and wide-ranging effects on the health and wellbeing of people as individuals, groups, families and communities of place. The notion of community has played a central role in these reflections: how to be strong, resilient and resourceful. Interest has been ignited or reignited in the social and green models of wellbeing: how we connect with each other, and how connectedness can be supported; the use we make of our local assets and the ownership of those assets; our economic model, and how it could be improved; the sources of our food and length of our food chains; the use we make of our services; and so on.

The challenge that faces us now is how to build on the positive legacy of COVID-19 – to sustain the many new community groups that have emerged during the pandemic and to ensure that existing ones continue their good work. And importantly, how to recover and rebuild for a better, fairer society and one in which communities share power to determine the policies that impact on them.

The ten-point plan that follows is intended to inform and underpin the strategic planning of individual organisations and the partnership.

We will:

1. Agree and adopt an evidence-based social and green model of wellbeing to inform our plans, with the national policy context being the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. We will also develop a joint vision and strategy for wellbeing to meet the varied needs of Pembrokeshire communities of place.
2. Work in a joined-up, coordinated and integrated way to maximise our resources in order to deliver a preventive agenda to support wellbeing.
3. Share power and coproduce policies and strategies with communities – however defined – to fit the policy context, to ensure that their expressed needs are met on a consistent basis.
4. Prioritise for action the many inequalities that are endemic in our population, including those that have been exacerbated by the pandemic.
5. Actively promote and support the shortening of food, goods and services supply chains, and implement sustainable procurement models that will enhance local economies.
6. Review the funding needs of community-led groups; make funding processes simple and inclusive; support and develop local fundraising capacity; contribute to the creation of social and community investment funds, and support sustainable income generation through the transfer of assets to community ownership.
7. Support the growth and effectiveness of community action and leadership through the facilitation of shared learning, tailored advice and a strengthening of local democratic processes by allowing a stronger voice for communities in decision making that are also inclusive of young people.
8. Promote, support and celebrate volunteering across the life course, including from the workplace.
9. Commit to the culture change needed to achieve the above; through strong leadership and organisational transformation plans.
10. Promote digital inclusion policies and actions for all communities and ages.