



## Flintshire and Wrexham joint Public Services Board

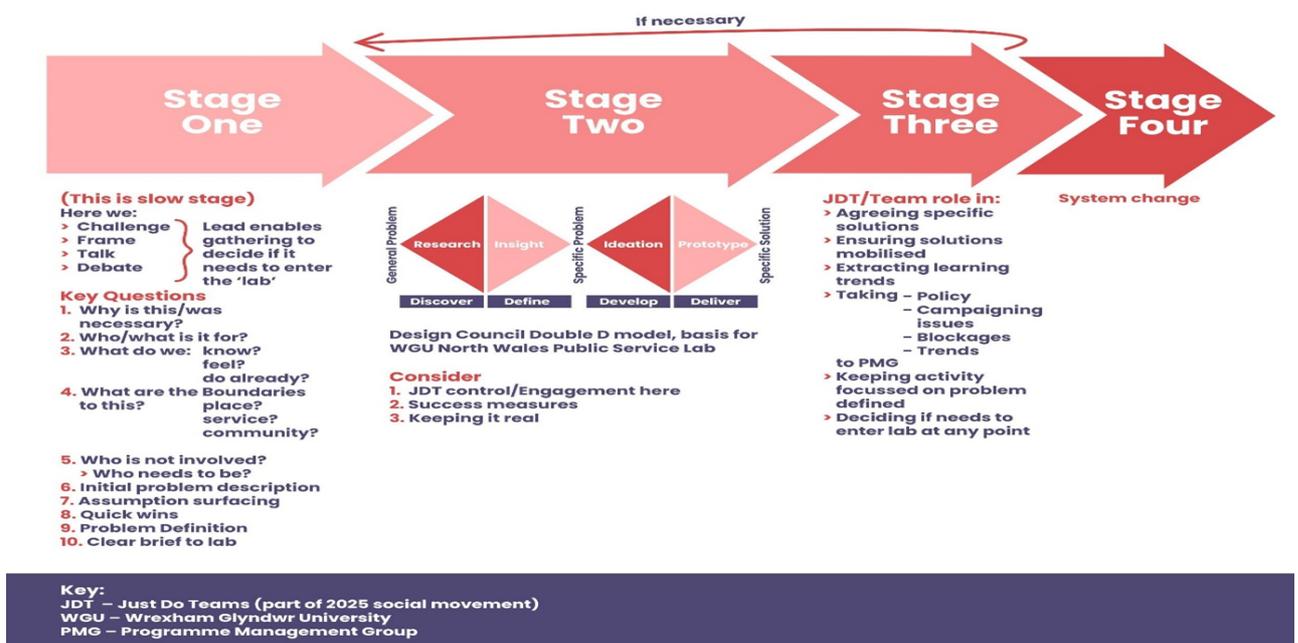
### Focussing on Community Resilience

The trauma that has been experienced over the past year has changed many things in society, particularly the way we work, think and feel in public services. The pandemic has also thrown enduring health inequalities into sharp relief. Strategically, Marmot<sup>1</sup> highlighted this and our colleagues in Public Health North Wales have brought this insight even closer to home.

In North Wales, a Strategic Recovery Group made up of key public service leaders was established to support the recovery of society, communities and people. One of the four areas of work identified was community resilience, to be led by the four Public Services Boards (PSBs).

Flintshire and Wrexham have single PSBs, but quickly realised that by joining forces for community resilience, experiences and resources could be shared and joint solutions found to tackle common challenges. The new Flintshire and Wrexham joint PSB has sought out evidence around inequality to help size the challenge and improve how sighted everyone is – this has brought forward shared values and motivated us to act beyond traditional boundaries.

### Whole system approach



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.health.org.uk/publications/reports/the-marmot-review-10-years-on>



As a newly formed partnership we agreed there was an opportunity to learn together, sharing organisational and personal reflections and our own lived experiences. Wrexham

Glyndwr University supported us to understand our collective challenges, with our work and thinking formed around the Future Generations Act five ways of working.

A co-created North Wales ‘whole system thinking’ model (above) focused on how we work across systems to enable community resilience. This takes us through four stages from understanding the problems and gaining insight and evidence to co-creating solutions. It’s the only one of its type in Wales.

### Building Community Resilience

A situational analysis helped us to identify four areas or themes with a clear collective purpose. The structure established a [Programme Management Group](#) and theme leads from different organisations enabled cross-system working around:

- [Environment](#)
- [Children and Young people](#)
- [Poverty and Inequality](#)

While all areas of public service have been challenged by the pandemic, we recognise that our NHS colleagues have felt it most intensely and so our fourth theme, **mental health and wellbeing**, has taken longer to consolidate because focus has been on response.

We have however been able to work together and add some capacity to this system, with work to give voice and develop resilience in communities, and with children and young people underway and yielding insight to change how we work.

The following key points from each team provide a useful insight into their work:

Theme	Children and Young People	Poverty and inequalities	Environment / carbon	Mental health
<b>Leads</b>	WCBC - Donna.Dickenson @wrexham.gov.uk FLVC - Ann.Woods @flvc.org.uk	DWP - amanda.aldridge @dwp.gov.uk AVOW - John.gallanders @avow.org.uk	NRW - Lyndsey.Rawlinson @cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk FCC - andrew.farrow @flintshire.gov.uk	BCUHB – Rob Smith @wales.nhs.uk Amanda.Lonsdale @wales.nhs.uk
<b>Programme Management Team</b>	Michael Cantwell @wrexham.gov.uk	Nina .Ruddle @glyndwr.ac.uk	karen.armstrong @flintshire.gov.uk iona.hughes @cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk	ken.perry @do-well.co.uk
<b>Key points</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a confident culture of <b>social prescribing</b> through training, development and understanding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aim to: understand; support; reduce; prevent; protect</li> <li>• <b>Partnerships</b> – joint posts, sharing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aim to work on 2 areas: carbon reduction and green environment</li> <li>• <b>Carbon reduction</b> group – identifying what can make most</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrating the work of the East Local Implementation Team to drive the work forward</li> </ul>



Theme	Children and Young People	Poverty and inequalities	Environment / carbon	Mental health
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build a dependable system of <b>advice, information and guidance</b> that meets the needs of young people with simple terminology and shared language</li> <li>• Co-funding (WG, FLVC, FCC) of a dedicated children and young people’s SPOA post in Flintshire been agreed for 12 months – first of its kind.</li> </ul>	<p>community and organisations’ assets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Community</b> – Using lived experiences, working through - food poverty opportunities; skills and learning in green spaces, use of arts and creativity, Children’s University development</li> <li>• <b>Employment</b> – recognition of employment inequalities, support development of opportunities for young people, map current and future skills needed into training – supporting the Regional Skills Partnership</li> </ul>	<p>impact as organisations and in the community; sharing learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Green Spaces</b> group – local project development to share learning and capacity. Build on and protect the value of the environment. Identification of pilot projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project development in Gwersylt, Holywell, Flint and Shotton</li> </ul>

### Common and shared learning

Across all four themes there has been valuable shared learning, particularly an understanding that all themes are inter-related and that establishing trusting relationships is key to helping us connect.

Organisations are feeling more empowered and recognise that while there have been some quick wins, longer-term sustainable solutions require deeper navigation. Building on lived experiences to inform the future has also been key learning, as well as the importance of spending time on the challenge and not rushing to solutions to achieve long-term system change.

### Resilience for future generations

We have a once in a lifetime opportunity to work collectively across systems and organisations to co-create resilient communities.

Our work is around ensuring a deep understanding of the challenges faced by those we serve. We are determined not to force solutions that may not fit. As our work evolves, we aim to engage local people so they can help shape and build stronger communities over generations – this is at the heart of our work so we can understand and change the ‘whole system’ together in a sustainable way.

We are determined to be brave and bold - lessons learned today must save and improve lives in the future.