



**To/
Councillor Rob Stewart
Chair of Swansea Public Services
Board**

BY EMAIL

*Please ask for:
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*Direct Line:
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Overview & Scrutiny

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9th January 2018

Summary: This letter is from the Public Services Board Performance Panel meeting which took place on 13th December 2017. This letter relates to the Scrutiny of the Draft Well-being Plan.

Dear Councillor Stewart,

On the 13th December 2017 the Panel had the opportunity to scrutinise the draft well-being plan.

We were grateful to Penny Gruffydd for providing such a comprehensive overview.

We have some comments to share with you.

Housing

We were concerned to see that Housing was discounted early on as a theme. This seems confusing. It was explained that because housing has a lot of legislation around it, there was little impact that the partners could have. We do not agree with this.

Whilst we appreciate that housing is a large aspect of Swansea Councils work, this only relates to housing those people who are looking to use Council property or access Council housing services.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU

SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWE

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The legislative framework around housing does not restrict the Public Services Board from action. There is legislation around most of the themes.

We feel that the greatest enhancement in public health was the development of good housing. If someone has somewhere decent to live which is safe, secure and warm they will be better prepared to deal with other challenges. If their home is not fit for purpose they will not have an appropriate base from which to live their lives.

We recognise that here are opportunities for other Public Services Board partners to feed into housing quality. Health Visitors and Midwives can identify issues as can the Fire Service when they survey and install alarms. Also disabled adaptations to housing take too long to action and this leads to bed blocking causing knock on effects in hospitals.

We feel that people in private rented property and those who own their homes should also be considered. The organisations which form of the Public Services Board contribute to the areas outside of and around people houses. The green spaces and the quality of the surrounding environments which make areas pleasant and safe to live in. Peoples housing status has nothing to do with this aspect.

If any common thread should link the work of the Public Services Board it is housing. We all need somewhere secure and safe to live.

Air Quality

The secondary driver in 'Working with Nature' mentions improving air quality. There are air quality issues in Sketty, Fforestfach and Hafod. We agree that air quality needs to be improved and it should be considered in the planning stage for both roads and buildings.

Also, we feel that the improvement in air quality will require proper and substantial investment into public transport.

Communities

Under 'Build Stronger Communities' there is no mention of neighbours. We feel that knowing your neighbours and encouraging local communities to interact is very important. Loneliness can be very damaging and detrimental for both mental and physical health and this needs to be referenced and addressed so action can be taken.

There is reference to building trust and relationships with communities but nothing about encouraging relationships between community members themselves. We feel that this is needed.

I would be grateful if you could reply to this letter by 30th January 2018

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mary Jones'.

Councillor Mary Jones

Convener, Public Services Board Scrutiny Performance Panel

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