Cyngor **Abertawe**
Swansea Council

Report of the Director of Social Services and Cabinet Member for Care Services

Social Care & Tackling Poverty Service Transformation Committee – 8 April 2024

Social Care & Tackling Poverty Service Transformation Committee Annual Report 2023-2024

Purpose:	This report summarises the outcome and outputs of the Social Care & Tackling Poverty Service Transformation Committee's work programme in 2023/24.
Policy Framework:	Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2016
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Report Authors:	Simon Jones/ David Howes
Finance Officer:	Chris Davies
Legal Officer:	Lucy Moore
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar
For Information	

1. **Introduction**

1.1 Service Transformation Committees were established in place of the former Corporate Delivery Committees to enable elected members to contribute to the ongoing development of the council's transformation activities.

1.2 The expected role of Service Transformation Committees is to contribute to:

– Shape future policy and/or service design.
– Consider mechanisms to encourage and enhance public participation in development of policy and service models.

    − Work with Senior Officers and Cabinet Members in a Team Swansea approach.
    − Consider and where appropriate to invite relevant organisations / individuals to contribute to policy development and service design discussions.

1.3   The Service Transformation Committees are expected to focus a work programme on strategic priorities linked to the Council's corporate plan, policy commitments, Corporate Transformation Plan, and Medium-Term Financial Plan.

1.4   The Chair of the Committee had also chaired the Safeguarding People & Tackling Poverty Corporate Delivery Committee. In considering the Service Transformation Committee's work, the intention was to follow through on transformational work already committed to, and supported within the following programmes:

    − Safeguarding People from Harm Steps in the Corporate Plan 2023-2028.
    − Tackling Poverty and Enabling Communities Steps in the Corporate Plan 2023-2028.
    − Residential Service Development
    − Enabling and promoting independence - prevention and early Help.
    − Approach to enabling community resilience and self-reliance.
    − Development of a corporate Volunteering Strategy and Policy.

1.5   During the Municipal Year 2023-24, the Social Care & Tackling Poverty Service Transformation Committee contributed to the development of the Council's transformation programmes in the following specific areas:

    ➢ Volunteering strategy
    ➢ Levelling Up
    ➢ Special Guardianship
    ➢ 'When I'm Ready'
    ➢ Short Breaks
    ➢ Tackling Poverty Strategy
    ➢ Internal Residential Care
    ➢ Enabling and promoting independence

2.   Outcomes from the work of the Social Care & Tackling Poverty Service Transformation Committee

This section summarises the progress made, outcome and outputs in each of the Committee's main areas of work during the year 2023/24.

2.1   Volunteering.

The development of a Swansea Council Volunteering policy -has been a collaborative piece of work undertaken regionally and locally with Tackling Poverty Services, working alongside Swansea Council for Voluntary Services. The Committee supported the approach ensuring that the new policy would

reflect both the principles of volunteering as defined by WCVA (Wales Council for Voluntary Action) and best practice in Wales, was accepted by the Committee. More detailed policy work is taken place with human resources and organisational development and Swansea Council for Voluntary Service to both refine the draft policy and inform the development of a Volunteer Management Toolkit and Volunteer Handbook, incorporating feedback from the corporate safeguarding operational group. Funding was secured from the shared prosperity fund to resource the completion and implementation of this work during 2023/24.

The Committee requested that consistent baseline data for all volunteers hosted across services within Swansea was needed, and that additional resource was found for implementation of the policy later in 2024, and to ensure volunteers have the structures and support needed to be effective.

The Initial report on volunteering is available: Report on Swansea Council Volunteering policy Sept 2023
A prototype draft policy was presented: Appendix A Draft Swansea Council Volunteering Policy.pdf
More recently work has been undertaken on the whole Council Safe Recruitment of Volunteers policy, aligned to corporate safeguarding policy and within the Enabling Communities programme (see 2.2.2)

2.2   Levelling Up / Enabling Communities

2.2.1 Levelling Up Grant: The committee inquired into the background and purpose of the Council's grant application process, decision criteria and the timetable for applications. Good practice examples arising from previous grant allocations were shared, and the positive impacts these have had on local communities: Swansea Spaces, Creating Opportunity Across Swansea Together (Coast) & Economic Recovery Fund (160 small projects) Levelling Up

Workshop held in October 2023 resolved that one brand and grant scheme n Swansea' 'Enabling Communities' programme that provides three distinct elements (Swansea Spaces, COAST and Holiday Food).
Presentation slides: Levelling Up Workshop Presentation Oct 2023

2.2.2 Enabling Communities Grant: Committee questioned the priority areas, decisions criteria, proposed timeline and options to maximise impact to fit with Council's strategic priorities, as well as risks / interdependencies. The Initial Report on Enabling Communities Grant can be viewed: Report on Enabling Communities Grant Oct 2023

The Enabling Communities Programme has become one of the council's programmes of work in its Successful and Sustainable Swansea transformation plan. It aims to build inclusive, resilient, and cohesive communities by working with partners and the public to maximise use of combined resources.
There are four priority projects:
- Increasing resilient communities.
- Working with Communities to respond to crises and opportunities.
- Embedding co-production approaches across the Council.

– Corporate Volunteering.

2.3 Special Guardianship

Special Guardianship Order (SGO) provides an alternative legal status for children and families, offering children greater security than long-term fostering placements but without the legal severance from the birth family that stems from an Adoption Order. Within SGOs, children are offered the opportunity to grow up and be cared for within their family network and the Special Guardian will have parental responsibility for the child. The Committee raised questions about how support is offered as the needs of children and young people change over time, and how plans are reviewed.

The initial report on 'Special Guardianships can be viewed on: [Report on Special Guardianship Dec 2023](#)
A draft 'Special Guardianship policy' was presented: [Special Guardianship Order Policy Nov 23](#)

2.4 'When I'm Ready'

'When I'm Ready' is a scheme developed by Welsh Government, in partnership with local government and key third-party sector partners to enable care leavers to continue to live with their former foster carers after the age of eighteen. C&FS Principal Officer - Adolescent & Young People and a Team Leader provided a report on the development of services in relation to young people preparing for transition to adulthood, living in 'When I'm Ready' arrangements, and the support offered to foster carers. The Committee supported the strengths-based focus of the scheme focusing on helping young people in setting and achieving life goals, and raised questions on how performance impact is considered and sustainable development of the service.

The Initial report on 'When I'm Ready' can be seen at: [Report on When I'm Ready Dec 2023](#)
A draft 'When I'm Ready' Policy was presented: [When I Am Ready Policy November 2023](#)

2.5 Short Breaks

Short Breaks: Officers gave a presentation highlighting the commitment, vision and ambitions for support services for children, young people and families in respect of short break arrangements for children and young people with disabilities and additional needs and their parents/carers. They outlined how they intend to ensure that the needs of service users inform practice and how services would be developed and adapted if or when needs change. Elected Members inquired how services are promoted, carefully considered the ways resources are allocated in relation to need how fits the service with strategy with direct payments and supports positive outcomes for children, and supporting the wellbeing of parent/carers.
The full report on 'When I'm Ready' can be seen at: [Report on Short Breaks Feb 2023](#)

2.6   Tackling Poverty Strategy

The initial report on the corporate refresh of the Tackling Poverty Strategy can be seen at: IReport on Tackling Poverty Strategy refresh July 2023

In February 2024, the committee were informed about how coproduction and engagement is driving the refresh of this vital, corporate strategy, and the expected timetable for completion of the work. Focus of work has been to improve citizen journey out of poverty, in a sustainable approach, tackling a range of factors such as work opportunities, employability, housing, food, and child-care. The 7 emerging key priorities had been identified as:

- o   Digital Inclusion
- o   Community Support
- o   Information, Advice and Guidance
- o   Stigma and Discrimination
- o   Child Poverty
- o   Homelessness
- o   Health and Wellbeing

This innovative refresh to cocreating strategy is aimed at ensuring an 'everyone's' business approach (not just Swansea Council's responsibility) is taken to tackling poverty locally.

The new strategy would be built around the journey, characteristics, approaches and pathways, with 3 different editions developed to meet specific needs.

The action plan to follow will also be co-produced, with people with lived experience of poverty and its effects. A public consultation on the key proposals is planned.

The committee requested that additional consideration be given to:

- the work of the Poverty Truth Commission, how citizens can access Credit Unions and fair access to opening Personal Back Accounts.

- access to mental health and wellbeing support for citizen facing cost of living pressures.

2.7   Internal Residential Care

Internal residential care provision – the Committee was informed by the Cabinet Member and the Head of Adult Services about the context for this work, in particular the operational issues around complex care, reablement and providing respite. The current arrangements follow on from the implementation of recommendations arising out of the Older People's Residential Care Homes Review in 2018, with changes to mitigate Covid impact, responses and recovery. The current position, developments and future plans and priorities for Council run older people's Residential Care Provision were also discussed. Case Studies showing how clients are supported to achieve their personal outcomes through reablement were also noted by the Committee.

The Committee were assured that Authority continues to provide complex long term residential care as opposed to nursing placements, and as well as short term reablement, assessment and respite care offers. The Committee raised

questions about plans to ensure that care homes have the right people with the right skills to continue providing high quality care, and heard the Authority was doing everything it could to maintain and improve and increase the social care workforce across the whole sector.

The initial report on 'Internal Residential Care Provision Model of Delivery' can be viewed: [Report on Internal Residential Care Oct 2023](#)

3.   Conclusion

3.1   Concluding the Committee's work programme:
The Social Care & Tackling Poverty Service Transformation Committee has a meeting schedule in April 2024 to receive an update on the Enabling Communities Grant programme. The item on **Enabling and promoting independence** has still to be scheduled.

3.2   Looking ahead:
Swansea Council and local communities are facing many challenges in safeguarding our most vulnerable citizens. The Welsh Government recently launch a national 'Rebalancing Care and Support' challenging local authorities to pick up the pace of change, to promote the voice of the citizen in shaping services, and to demonstrate added 'social value'. In our work.

Councils are faced with addressing demographic changes, increasing complex needs within an ageing population, high service demand to be met with reduced capacity, workforce skill shortages and cost pressures impacting on the social care market and commissioning plans for sufficiency.

The budget cuts facing public services and uncertainties around grant funding impact on the capacity to work at pace, collaboratively and in partnership. The Council's Transformation programmes have an important role in ensuring local services are supported to be resilient and set up to meet these future challenges. Work still needed to take forward the refreshed and coproduced Tackling Poverty strategy and action plan.

4.   Integrated Assessment Implications

4.1   The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage.
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.

- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

4.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

4.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

4.2 An IIA screening form has been completed with no impacts identified from this 'For Information' report (see Appended report).

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:
Appendix A - Integrated Impact Assessment Screening form

Please ensure that you refer to the Screening Form Guidance while completing this form.

Which service area and directorate are you from?
Service Area: Swansea Council
Directorate: Social Services

Q1 (a) What are you screening for relevance?

☐ New and revised policies, practices or procedures
☐ Service review, re-organisation or service changes/reductions, which affect the wider community, service users and/or staff
☐ Efficiency or saving proposals
☐ Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning
☐ New project proposals affecting staff, communities or accessibility to the built environment, e.g., new construction work or adaptations to existing buildings, moving to on-line services, changing location
☐ Large Scale Public Events
☒ Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation
☒ Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Services Board, which impact on a public bodies functions
☐ Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans)
☐ Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy)
☐ Major procurement and commissioning decisions
☐ Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities and services
☐ Other

(b) Please name and fully <u>describe</u> initiative here:

Annual Report on Social Care & Tackling Poverty Service Transformation Committee work programme 2023/24

A 'For Information' summary report on the work carried out by the Social Care & Tackling Poverty Service Transformation Committee during 2023/24.

This report is an annual review of the work programme of the Service Transformation Committee, chaired by Cllr Ceri Evans, supporting the transformational activities in the areas of social care and tackling poverty

This IIA screening outlines the main areas of Council policy under consideration, how committee helped to shape the direction of travel, the outputs and the outcomes and the work.

The report also indicated whether there are any outstanding matters from the work programme, that will need to be picked up by a committee in the next cycle of work.

Q2   What is the potential impact on the following: the impacts below could be positive (+) or negative (-)

	High Impact		Medium Impact		Low Impact		Needs further Investigation	No Impact
	+	-	+	-	+	-		
Children/young people (0-18)	☐	☐	☐	☐	⊠	☐	☐	☐
Older people (50+)	☐	☐	☐	☐	⊠	☐	☐	☐
Any other age group	☐	☐	☐	☐	⊠	☐	☐	☐
Future Generations (yet to be born)	☐	☐	☐	☐	⊠	☐	☐	☐
Disability	☐	☐	☐	☐	⊠	☐	☐	☐
Race (including refugees)	☐	☐	☐	☐	⊠	☐	☐	☐
Asylum seekers	☐	☐	☐	☐	⊠	☐	☐	☐
Gypsies & travellers	☐	☐	☐	☐	⊠	☐	☐	☐
Religion or (non-)belief	☐	☐	☐	☐	⊠	☐	☐	☐
Sex	☐	☐	☐	☐	⊠	☐	☐	☐
Sexual Orientation	☐	☐	☐	☐	⊠	☐	☐	☐
Gender reassignment	☐	☐	☐	☐	⊠	☐	☐	☐
Welsh Language	☐	☐	☐	☐	⊠	☐	☐	☐
Poverty/social exclusion	☐	☐	☐	☐	⊠	☐	☐	☐
Carers (inc. young carers)	☐	☐	☐	☐	⊠	☐	☐	☐
Community cohesion	☐	☐	☐	☐	⊠	☐	☐	☐
Marriage & civil partnership	☐	☐	☐	☐	⊠	☐	☐	☐
Pregnancy and maternity	☐	☐	☐	☐	⊠	☐	☐	☐
Human Rights	☐	☐	☐	☐	⊠	☐	☐	☐

Q3   What involvement has taken place/will you undertake e.g. engagement/consultation/co-productive approaches?
**   Please provide details below – either of your activities or your reasons for not undertaking involvement**

Many of the areas of policy development under consideration at the Social Care & Tackling Poverty Service Transformation Committee and set out in the report are products of coproduction, participation, and consultation.

Some of the significant products will have their own Integrated Impact Assessment.
For example. during work on Tackling Poverty Strategy, a public survey took place between August and September 2023 to feedback on the strategy and the way forward.
Work on the Volunteering policy was a collaborative approach with Swansea Council for Voluntary Services.

Q4   Have you considered the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 in the development of this initiative:

a) **Overall does the initiative support our Corporate Plan's Well-being Objectives when considered together?**
   Yes ⊠   **No** ☐

b) **Does the initiative consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals?**
   Yes ⊠   **No** ☐

c) Does the initiative apply each of the five ways of working?
Yes ☒   No ☐

d) Does the initiative meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs?
Yes ☒   No ☐

Q5   What is the potential risk of the initiative? *(Consider the following impacts – equality, socio-economic, environmental, cultural, legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc…)*

High risk	**Medium risk**	**Low risk**
☐	☐	☒

Q6   Will this initiative have an impact (however minor) on any other Council service?

☐ Yes   ☒ No   **If yes, please provide details below**

Q7   What is the cumulative impact of this proposal on people and/or communities when considering all the impacts identified within the screening and any other key decisions affecting similar groups/ service users made by the organisation?
(You may need to discuss this with your Service Head or Cabinet Member to consider more widely if this proposal will affect certain groups/ communities more adversely because of other decisions the organisation is making. For example, financial impact/poverty, withdrawal of multiple services and whether this is disadvantaging the same groups, e.g., disabled people, older people, single parents (who are mainly women), etc.)

During 2023-24, the Social Care & Tackling Poverty Service Transformation Committee contributed to the development of the Council's transformation programmes in the following specific areas:
☐   Volunteering strategy
☐   Levelling Up
☐   Special Guardianship
☐   'When I'm Ready'
☐   Short Breaks
☐   Tackling Poverty Strategy
☐   Internal Residential Care
The cumulative impacts of the policy area are considered to be positive, addressing many of the changes faced by the Council, and contributing to sustainable service offers.

Outcome of Screening

Q8   Please describe the outcome of your screening below:
- **Summary of impacts identified, and mitigation needed (Q2)**

- **Summary of involvement (Q3)**
- **WFG considerations (Q4)**
- **Any risks identified (Q5)**
- **Cumulative impact (Q7)**

• **Summary of Impacts (Q2)** Impacts are low on specific groups,

• **Summary of involvement (Q3)** Social Care & Tackling Poverty Service Transformation Committee are public meetings and the papers are published via Council website

• **WFG considerations (Q4)** Well-being of Future Generation support a sustainable approach to the planning and delivery of adult social care promoting wellbeing outcomes and increasing 'social value'.

• **Any risks identified (Q5)**
No.

We aim to ensure that sufficient, up to date public information is made available on new service offers and Council policy in a suitable format, and in the Welsh Language, that service users can access.

• **Cumulative impact (Q7)**.
(NB: This summary paragraph should be used in the relevant section of corporate report)

☐ **Full IIA to be completed.**

☒ **Do not complete IIA – please ensure you have provided the relevant information above to support this outcome**
NB: Please email this completed form to the Access to Services Team for agreement before obtaining approval from your Head of Service. Head of Service approval is only required via email.

Screening completed by:
Name: Simon Jones
Job title: Social Service Strategic Performance & Improvement Officer
Date: 21st March 2024

Approval by Head of Service:
Name: David Howes
Position: Director of Social Services
Date: 24th March 2024

Please return the completed form to <u>accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk</u>