

Mark Child - Cabinet Member for Wellbeing

Scrutiny Programme Committee

Headline work

Supported Housing

- Adaptations - In 2013/14 waiting times for a Disabled Facilities Grant fell to an average of 263 days, down from 321 days the previous year.
- We continue to work with third sector partners to offer our elderly and disabled residents solutions to help them quickly carry out minor adaptations in their homes to maintain independence.
- Homelessness - Welfare Reform continues to pressurise services with increasing levels of homelessness presentations.
- The Housing Bill will impose new duties on Local Authorities including a duty to prevent homelessness and ability to use accommodation in the private sector.
- A private landlord forum was held in 2013 to help promote accommodation options in the private sector including development of a Social Lettings Agency in partnership with Supporting People.
- Swansea Nightshelter won a national award in the 'Working with Rough Sleepers' category of the 2013 Cymorth Cymru and Local Authorities Promoting Independence Awards.

Affordable Housing

- In 2013/14 215 affordable housing units were completed, although the Social Housing Grant allocated by the WG remains low at £2.77m. An extra £1.7m was secured under the WG smaller properties scheme and WG allocated the Authority an additional 675K of Social Housing Grant and a further 340K for a project involving the armed forces.
- The Authority continues to actively explore new models for delivering affordable housing

Children and Family Services

- Signs of Safety being used widely and effectively, Swansea seen as a leading example Nationally and even Internationally.
- Reduction in LAC numbers, the LAC reduction Strategy is being effectively implemented and is having a positive effect, both in reducing numbers, increasing permanency and producing positive outcomes.
- Foster Swansea has continued to grow through successfully recruitment, training and support, improving both the proportion of LAC supported, and bringing those children back to Swansea.
- Within budget, for the first time in a number of years Child and Family Services have been in control of their budget and not had to draw on the Council's Contingency funds.
- Fewer in residential care, more children are supported in their own families or through Fostering.

Adult Services

- Emphasis in prevention and wellbeing through Community Connectors and other means to prevent people needing intervention from Social Services at all.
- When reviewing the needs of individuals the aim has changed to focussing on strengths rather than weaknesses, and what they want to do, rather than the services we provide.
- The provision of re-ablement beds in Bonymaen House and Ty Waunarlwydd has led to fewer older people in residential care.
- Independent Review of Older People's Services is currently taking evidence to provide the council with advice and opinion on its current provision and what we will need in future to meet the needs of Swansea's older people.
- Started a step change in the way we use Telecare in Swansea.
- Adopted Time to Change, regarding those with Mental Illness.

Western Bays

- Adult services moving towards integration, such as in the Gower joint locality team, organising Social services to map on to the local Health hubs, or the Gorseinon hospital initiative.
- Active participation in all the areas of work, leading in several.
- Using the WG Integrated Care Fund to build Intermediate Care facilities.
- Arguing for increased political accountability of this important area.

Healthy Cities

- Successful application to WHO to be included in phase 6.
- Active member of UK network
- Responsible through Local Service Board for 5 elements of the Single Integrated plan, low birth weight, school readiness, preventable early deaths, life expectancy and older peoples independence.
- Chosen 2 Marmot measures to try and drive forwards in Swansea, ensuring every child has the best start in life and having healthy and active communities and places.
- Healthy City Directory received 13,000 hits from public and professionals