

Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 29 September 2014

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE 2013-14 (REPORT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT DATA UNIT ~ WALES)

Purpose	The Committee is provided with a national performance report which will be useful in supporting and informing the work of scrutiny in Swansea.
Content	The report, which is the ninth annual bulletin published by the Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales, contains information on the level and range of performance across Wales between 2013-14 on a number of service areas.
Councillors are being asked to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• consider the performance results• use the information published to help inform the scrutiny work programme
Lead Councillor(s)	Councillor Mike Day, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee
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1. Introduction

1.1 It is the responsibility of non-executive councillors to scrutinise the authority's service performance to help drive improvement. To help ensure that challenge is well informed scrutiny should be aware of reports that are published which provide information on service performance.

1.2 The Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales has recently published its ninth annual bulletin on local authority performance across a range of services. It compares performance during 2013-14 across the 22 Welsh Local Authorities.

1.3 The indicators reported within are part of the Performance Improvement Framework for local authorities in Wales and reflect key priorities identified by the Welsh Government and local government in Wales, including:

- Providing a clean and safe environment
- Providing affordable and appropriate housing
- Supporting safe and independent lives

- Safeguarding children
- Educating children

1.4 Swansea's performance when compared across Wales, as reported in the bulletin, can be summarised as follows (where possible comparison has been made with results for the previous year):

- a) Performance within the top quarter:
- The % of roads in overall "poor" condition (*same as 2012-13*)
 - The % of young carers known to social services who were assessed
- b) Performance within the bottom quarter:
- The % of reported fly – tipping incidents cleared within 5 working days (*was above welsh average in 2012-13*)
 - The % of municipal waste collected by local authorities sent to landfill (*same as 2012-13 but improvement of 2 places*)
 - The % of adult clients who are supported in the community during the year (*was below welsh average in 2012/13*)
 - The % of children's reviews carried out in line with the statutory timetable (*same as 2012-13 but improvement of 3 places*)
- c) Performance in between:

..but above Welsh average:

- The % of highways and land of a high or acceptable level of cleanliness
- The % of clients whose care plans should have been reviewed that were reviewed (*same as 2012-13*)
- The rate of delayed transfers of care due to social reasons
- The % of carers of adults who were offered an assessment or review of their needs in their own right during the year (*same as 2012-13*)
- The % of initial assessments where there is evidence that the child has been seen by the social worker (*same as 2012-13*)
- The average point score for pupils in schools maintained by the local authority (*same as 2012-13*)
- The % of final statements of special education need issued within 26 weeks (*same as 2012-13*)

..but below Welsh average:

- The % of municipal waste collected by local authorities

prepared for reuse and/or recycled, composted or treated biologically in another way (*was in bottom quarter in 2012/13*)

- The average number of days taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant (*same as 2012-13*)
- The % of initial assessments where there is evidence that the child has been seen alone by the social worker (*same as 2012-13*)
- The % of statutory visits to looked after children that took place in accordance with regulations (*same as 2012-13*)
- The average point score for looked after children in any local authority maintained learning setting (*was in top quarter in 2012-13*)
- The % of pupils assessed at the end of key stage 3 achieving the core subject indicator

NB – the full performance indicator data is published on the Data Unit website: www.dataunitwales.gov.uk

- 1.5 Members should consider how best to use the information provided to help to motivate, focus and inform the scrutiny work programme, and support the work of scrutiny in Swansea.
- 1.6 Data Unit Wales have also launched a new interactive tool which allows the public, councillors, officers and partners to easily compare councils' performance across Wales and over time. "MyLocalCouncil" (www.mylocalcouncil.info) has been designed to be intuitive and user-friendly in order to make the latest key performance information for Wales' 22 councils more accessible.
- 1.7 The Service Improvement & Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel has been asked to look at this report in more detail in support of its work.

2. **Legal Implications**

- 2.1 There are no specific legal implications raised by this report.

3. **Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no specific financial implications raised by this report.

Background Papers: None
18 September 2014

Legal Officer: Nigel Havard
Finance Officer: Ben Smith

Appendix – Local Government Performance 2013-14 (Report of the Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales)