

Local Service Board Scrutiny Performance Panel Update

1. Remit of the Panel

The overarching purpose of the panel is to consider: *What difference is Swansea Local Service Board (LSB) making for citizens?*

The remit of the Panel includes only the activities of the Local Service Board as a partnership and excludes scrutiny of individual partner organisations.

2. Introduction

The LSB is responsible for tackling some of the major problems that impact on the citizens of Swansea, including domestic abuse, adult qualifications, economic inactivity, debt, preventable early deaths, life expectancy, older people's independence.

The LSB includes Swansea's main public service providers as well as representatives of the voluntary and business sectors and a representative of the Welsh Government. Its purpose is to make sure that decision makers work together to tackle the issues that matter for Swansea. It is essential that the LSB is subject to the same level of scrutiny as all other aspects of the Council's work. The aim of the Panel will be to see how much of a difference the LSB is actually making to the well-being of the people who live and work in Swansea. Partnership working on this scale takes a lot of time and effort and relies on goodwill from participating organisations, so the Panel hopes to be able to support and assist this important work by acting as a critical friend and helping to make improvements to the way things are done.

3. Key Activities

The Panel has continued to meet on a bi-monthly basis and since the last update to the committee has met 5 times between July 2014 and March 2015. The main activities included:

21 July

- Development session and discussion with the then Chair of Swansea's LSB. An overview of the current work of the Local Service Board, key successes, key challenges, suggestions for scrutiny and questions were covered in this session.
- Feedback from Panel members' attendance at the LSB meeting held on May 20th.

22 September

- Development sessions and discussions with the Welsh Government and SCVS Executive Board members. They met with the Panel and shared their views on;
 - Role of LSB partners in delivering priorities
 - What has gone well
 - What are the challenges
 - Where can the scrutiny panel add value to the work of the local Service Board

(Note: the above meetings were convened by Councillor Mike Day, former chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee)

17 November

- Development session and discussion with the South Wales Police Executive Board member.
- The Panel agreed on a number of suggestions to move their scrutiny work forward;
 - The need for a formal reporting mechanism.
 - Questions and points to include in their Work Plan 2015/16.
 - A key lesson from the LSB Case Studies report, which is the need to address a topic rather than always look at the process.

26 January

- Development session and discussion with the new chair of the LSB and the ABMU Executive Board member.
- Work Plan discussion

23 March

- The One Swansea Plan Annual Review and the role of the LSB. The panel identified a number of improvements and suggestions for the Local Service Board.

4. Achievements / Impact

- A number of key issues/questions were raised by the Panel throughout the development phase and sessions. These have been used to move the scrutiny work of the Panel forward and to get the Panel to a stage where they are ready to undertake more in depth scrutiny of the work of the LSB.
- The Panel has agreed its preferred approach for the Work Plan 2015/16 - to select an annual LSB priority from the One Swansea Plan to look at in-depth in order to extrapolate findings and conclusions on the effectiveness of the Local Service Board. The overarching question that the panel is seeking to address is "*What difference is Swansea Local Service Board making for citizens?*" In order to assist the Panel explore and answer this question within the context of the LSB, a number of key questions have been agreed.
- The Panel has narrowed the priority down to 2 - Domestic Abuse and Older People's Independence. Both have recently been the focus of the LSB's new workshop style approach. The panel will look at the Older People's Independence challenge first.
- As a result of points raised by the Panel around communication and visibility of the LSB, the LSB has now agreed that members of the public will be allowed to attend LSB meetings from July onwards.
- To improve the One Swansea Plan Annual Review process, the convener's letter (March meeting) to the Chair of the LSB raised a number of recommendations and suggestions:
 - There should be greater visibility of the indicators that track the aspirations for each Challenge within the One Swansea Plan.

- The LSB should introduce a system that shows the status of each indicator. An example of this is the RAG (traffic light) system which is used to measure and track performance.
- The LSB should introduce a clear mechanism that outlines the priorities of their work plan for the forthcoming year.

5. Future Work Programme

- A meeting is planned for April so the Panel can invite the Director of People to attend and give an initial briefing / overview of the Older People's Independence priority. The Panel will meet again on 18 May.
- The Panel's work plan for 2015/16 will be drafted following the April and May meetings.
- The Panel will be discussing a possible move from bi-monthly to monthly meetings.

6. Action required by the Scrutiny Programme Committee

None.