

Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 12 October 2015

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE 2014-15 (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 tenth annual bulletin published by the Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales, contains information on the level and range of performance across Wales between 2014-15 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 Mary Jones, 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 tenth annual bulletin on local authority performance across a range of services. It compares performance during 2014-15 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
- Supporting leisure and culture

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) Overall:
Of the 41 indicators that were comparable between 2013-14 and 2014-15, Swansea has improved in 25.

a) Performance within the top quarter:

- The % of roads in overall "poor" condition (*same as 2013-14*)
- The % of adults aged 60 or over who hold a concessionary bus pass
- The % of private sector dwellings that had been vacant for more than 6 months that were returned to occupation through direct action by the local authority
- The average point score for pupils in schools maintained by the local authority (*was above average in 2013-14*)

b) Performance within the bottom quarter:

- The % of reported fly – tipping incidents cleared within 5 working days (*same as 2013-14*)
- The % of municipal waste collected by local authorities sent to landfill (*same as 2013-14*)
- The % of clients whose care plans should have been reviewed that were reviewed (*was above Welsh average in 2013-14*)
- The % of initial assessments where there is evidence that the child has been seen alone by the social worker (*was below Welsh average in 2013-14*)
- The % of statutory visits to looked after children that took place in accordance with regulations (*was below Welsh average in 2013-14*)
- The % of children's reviews carried out in line with the statutory timetable (*same as 2013-14*)

c) Performance in between:

..but above Welsh average:

- The % of highways and land of a high or acceptable level of cleanliness (*same as 2013-14*)
- The % of municipal waste collected by local authorities

prepared for reuse and/or recycled, composted or treated biologically in another way (*was below Welsh average in 2013/14*)

- The rate of delayed transfers of care due to social reasons - per 100 population aged 75 or over (*same as 2013-14*)
- The % of carers of adults who were offered an assessment or review of their needs in their own right during the year (*same as 2013-14*)
- The % of initial assessments where there is evidence that the child has been seen by the social worker (*same as 2013-14*)
- The average point score for looked after children in any local authority maintained learning setting (*was below average in 2013-14*)
- The % of final statements of special education need issued within 26 weeks (*same as 2013-14*)

..but below Welsh average:

- The average number of days taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant (*same as 2013-14*)
- The % of adult clients who are supported in the community during the year (*was bottom quartile in 2013/14*)
- The % of pupils assessed at the end of Key Stage 3 achieving the Core Subject Indicator (*same as 2013-14*)
- The % of pupils assessed receiving a Teacher Assessment in Welsh (first language) at the end of Key Stage 3
- The number of visits to local authority sport and leisure facilities during the year per 1000 population where the visitor will be participating in physical activity

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 have an 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

Legal Officer: Wendy Parkin

Finance Officer: Carl Billingsley

Appendix – Local Government Performance 2014-15 (Report of the Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales)