



## Priority Four

# Tackling Poverty

### Why is this a priority?

**This is a priority for Swansea because we have residents experiencing poverty due to:**

- A lack of resources
- Their family circumstances
- Poor life chances

### Which can result in:

- Worklessness
- Poor educational attainment
- Health inequalities
- Dysfunctional families
- absence of aspiration/ low expectations
- Poor housing conditions

Swansea is a City and County of inequality with some of Wales's poorest and richest areas only miles apart.

There are a number of key areas which we as a Council are working to address, such as:

- Children having the best start in life and being able to achieve in their early years enabling them to learn and thrive.
- Families are supported to live healthy lives
- Young People having choices and opportunities when they are in school, and when they leave school to enter learning, training and employment.
- For families and individuals to be able to have a good standard of living, which means having well paid employment, and claiming the right benefits they are entitled to.
- For people to live in good quality affordable homes, which support sustainable communities

### What needs improving?

- We need more accessible high quality services for all children aged between 0 – 7 years of age.
- We need to ensure all children are able to be ready for school and therefore are physically developed and able to play, communicate, and problem solve.

- We need to ensure that children of all ages, maximise their learning potential
- We need ensure all young people are encouraged and given the opportunity to enter education, employment and training post 16 years of age.
- We need to maximise people's benefits and assist people into employment that pays.
- Swansea has come a long way in providing decent housing but we need to continue to improve the quality of homes generally and housing supply.
- We need to support the reduction in health inequalities in life expectancy and chronic ill health conditions.
- We need to increase the number of adults with qualifications and with opportunities for employment.
- We want people to be more involved in decision making and running services in their areas.

### **What are we going to do?**

Implement Swansea's Early Years strategy which is working with Health to ensure all children wherever they live in Swansea are supported to develop and be the best they can be. This is by:

- Raising standards in child development within all childcare settings
- Using the Swansea statement to raise awareness of child development
- Running Flying Start Plus and our Early Years language pathway

Swansea is implementing the Youth Progression and Engagement Framework by:

- Identifying vulnerable young people early and supporting them in the right way
- Knowing where every young person is on their education, employment and training journey.
- Ensuring the right provision is available

Swansea will continue to address the impacts of Welfare Reform changes, including the introduction of Universal Credit by:

- Maximising the benefits that people are entitled to and improving the speed of processing
- Supporting people with appeals
- Challenging sanctions
- Supporting the most vulnerable
- Analysing and raising awareness of the impact of welfare reform

Swansea will continue to tackle poverty by empowering communities, targeting resources and changing cultures through:

- Community involvement and action
- Swansea's Tackling poverty strategy and action plan

Swansea will improve housing quality and supply by:

- Improving the Council Housing stock up to the Welsh Housing Quality Standard
- Providing new and additional affordable housing units

- Preventing homelessness
- Leading and promoting the improvement of housing conditions in the private sector

### **What Outcomes are we seeking to achieve?**

- Children have a good start in life – 2 and 3 year old children in the Flying Start are helped to achieve their expected language, emotional, social and cognitive development.
- Children are not disadvantaged by poverty when achieving and attaining standards and wellbeing in education
- Young people and adults are in employment, education or training.
- People have a decent standard of living – by receiving the maximum benefits they are entitled to receive and in a prompt and timely way.
- Investment to improve council housing, bring wider economic and employment benefits and contribute to the regeneration of estates.
- Prevent homelessness to help maintain stability and security for families, safeguard health, wellbeing and prevent social exclusion