

Children and Young People Strategic Partnership Plan 2016 - 2019

November 2016

**City and County of Swansea
Dinas a Sir Abertawe**



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Our Vision

All children and young people in Swansea are safe, happy and healthy and develop to achieve their full potential

This will help us achieve....

A Swansea that is a place which is more prosperous with a **skilled and well-educated** population, less characterised by the contrast and extremes of **poverty** across the city. We want **to improve well-being** so that communities **are safer, healthier, more cohesive** and **adaptable** to change so that everyone can be **enabled to reach their potential**.

Our Aspirations

The collective partnership aspirations for children and young people in Swansea are to;

- Ensure the voice of all children and young people is heard and listened to
- Embed Children's Rights across the Partnership
- Narrow the attainment gap between free school meal and non-free school meal pupils
- Intervene earlier to support young people to enter education, employment or training opportunities
- Improve the educational attainment of looked after children and young carers
- Embed a partnership approach to improve and promote health and well-being
- Provide a joined up approach of provision for children with disability, mental health and emotional well-being

Listening to Children and Young People

Every child has a right their voices heard and be listened to when decisions are being made about them; therefore it is essential that we take into considerations the views of children and young people in Swansea when developing a Children and Young People Strategic Partnership Plan.

The Big Conversation hosts a range of mechanisms for children and young people to have their voice heard. It is an opportunity for children and young people to talk about things that are important to them and at the last event children and young people from across Swansea worked together to agree priorities they would like to discuss throughout the year which are important to them.

Information from Young Wales National Priorities, the Children's Commissioner for Wales Priorities established through Beth Nesa and information collected locally from the range of mechanisms we have in place in Swansea to listen to children and young people was used to inform discussion.

The priorities for Swansea from Children and Young People are as follows;

- 1. Mental Health**
- 2. Anti-bullying**
- 3. Support in transition to adulthood, particularly for vulnerable young people**
- 4. Substance Abuse**
- 5. Housing and Homelessness**
- 6. Domestic Abuse**
- 7. Feeling Safe in School**
- 8. A Curriculum for Life**

These priorities will be reflected in the new Children and Young People Strategic Partnership Plan. Some of these priorities will sit under the set strategic objectives where the partnership will take direct action on progress. Other priorities will be notes within other areas of work where the Children and Young People Partnership Board has an interest as there is already a substantial amount of work going on around these issues, but the Children and Young People Partnership Board will maintain an interest.

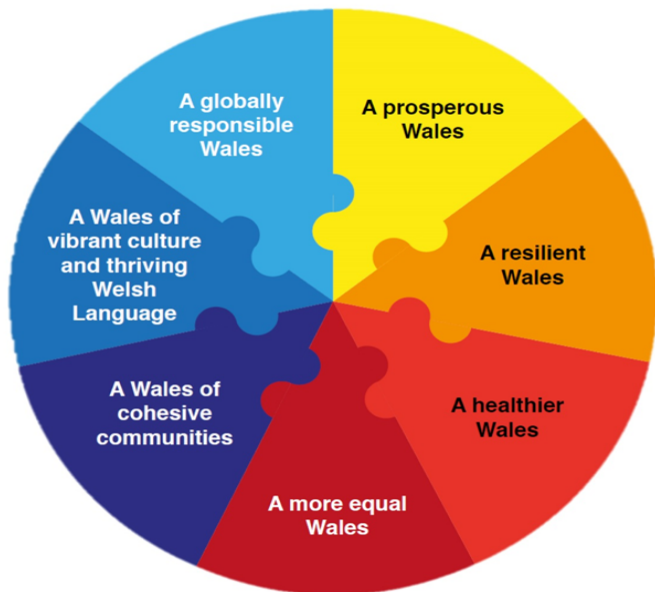
We will ensure that the views of children and young people on each of these themes are fed into the partnership or appropriate area for action and feedback is given to children and young people adhering to the National Participation Standards.

Legislation

The legislative requirements regarding a Children and Young People Strategic Partnership Plan are set out in the Children Act 2004, the Children and Young People's Plan (Wales) Regulations 2007 and the Children & Families Wales Measure (2010).

In 2015, the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) ¹Act became law. The Act places new requirements on Welsh Government along with 43 other public bodies across Wales to think more about the long term, work better with people and communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined up approach (*Shared Purpose, Shared Future*).

The Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, now and in the future. Public bodies need to ensure that, when making their decisions, they take into account the impact they could have on people living their lives in Wales in the future. To make sure there is a cohesive the vision, the Act puts in place **seven goals for the Well-being Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**.



These goals provide a shared vision for the public bodies listed in the Act to work towards. Public bodies are required to carry out sustainable development by setting and achieving objectives that are designed to contribute to the achievement of the seven well-being goals. They will be expected to be more transparent in their decision making.

The Statutory Guidance for Part 4 of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 outlines the collective role for public service boards². The Statutory Duties which can be discharged via a Local Well-being Plan are outlined in Annex A of this document. In terms of Children and Young People the table on page 37 outlines the legislation, duty, planning requirements and partners. The development

¹ <http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/future-generations-act/statutory-guidance/?lang=en>

² <http://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/160225-spsf-3-collective-role-en.pdf>

of a Children and Young People Strategic Partnership Plan will meet the Statutory Duty and feed into the development of a Local Well-Being Plan.

The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales in collaboration with the Children's Commissioner for Wales have introduced a joint programme of work to assist public bodies in embedding UNCRC in their approach to implementing the Wellbeing of Future Generation Act. The programme which is titled 'Embedding Children's Rights for Future Generations' aims to:

- Develop a resource to assist public bodies to embed a children's rights approach and provide an explanation of how it fits with the Act and other legislative requirements such as the equalities Act 2010.
- Work with PSB's to ensure that consideration of children's rights is central to their agendas as they develop their first wellbeing plans
- Highlight the benefits of a rights based approach; focusing on effective use of resources, outcomes and cost benefits.

Commitment to Child Rights

The Statutory Guidance on children and young people's participation is outlined in Annex B (page 46) of the Shared Purpose: Shared Future Collective Role document³. This guidance is issued in accordance with Section 17 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 and applies to Local Authorities in respect of developing local well-being plans and whenever they take decisions which might affect children and young people.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) sets out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of children up to the age of 18. It recognises their basic human rights and gives them additional rights to protect them from harm as one of the most vulnerable groups in society.

Welsh Government's ambition is for every child and young person in Wales to realise their rights as set out in the UNCRC. This commitment to the UNCRC is demonstrated by enshrining the Convention in legislation through the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011.

On a local level the City and County of Swansea embedded a 'due regard' duty to the UNCRC within the Local Authorities Policy Framework and mainstreamed positive approaches to the rights of children and young people within policy functions in 2013. Swansea's Children & Young People's Rights Scheme was published in 2014 and provides an overview of the arrangements in place to demonstrate how Children's Rights are considered in everyday business.

³ <http://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/160225-spsf-3-collective-role-en.pdf>

The ABM University Health Board has made a commitment to Children's Rights and developed their own Children's Right Charter focussing on specific articles of the UNCRC to ensure the voices of children and young people are being heard at the highest level of decision making. Other partners are also looking at how child rights can be embedded within frameworks.

Whilst the Statutory Guidance issued under the Child and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 only related to Local Authorities, working on a multi-agency partnership level is good practice and Section 25 of the Children Act 2004 places a legal duty on Local Authorities to promote cooperation with a view to improving wellbeing of children and young people in their locality.

Consultation and Engagement

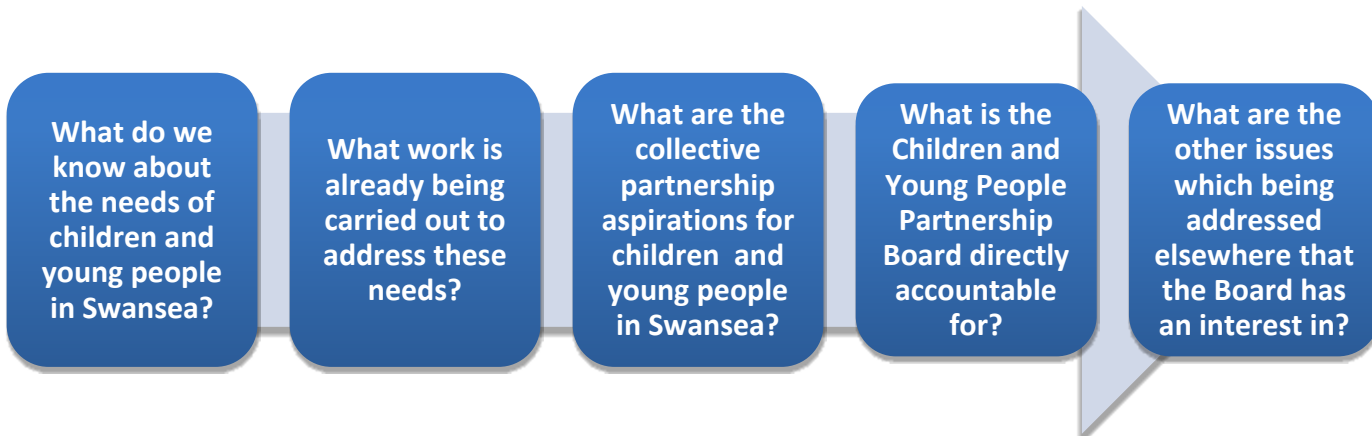
Consultation and engagement has taken place through the facilitation of a number of workshops with key stakeholder and partners. Through these workshops it was identified that there was a need for a Children and Young People Strategic Partnership Plan in Swansea to ensure we:

- Take action on cross cutting themes around Children and Young People's issues
- Invigorate the partnership working on Children and Young People's issues
- Ensuring that the Council's top priorities around safeguarding, educational attainment and poverty reduction are reflected
- Embed our commitment to Children's Rights and ensure they feature in the new arrangements for Public Service Boards
- Ensure effective reporting and governance oversight on services for Children and Young People
- Develop measurable outcomes and actions which are shared and owned across the partnership
- Reflect on the previous Children and Young People Plan

The views of children and young people have also been sought to ensure that a new plan reflects their needs and priorities which are important to them. Participation and engagement with children and young people on this agenda will continue as the action plan develops.

Process

To ensure the Children and Young Peoples Partnership Board adds value, takes actions from identified need and does not duplicate existing areas of work we worked through the following process:



Other Areas of Work and Interest

Through this process we have captured work that is already going on to address the needs of children and young people, the table below outline these key strategies.

Safe LAC Reduction Strategy	Children & Young People’s Rights Scheme
Western Bay Safeguarding Policy	Corporate Parenting Plan
Public Protection Executive	Family Support Continuum
Welsh in Education Strategy (WESP)	Early Years Strategy
QED 2020 21st Century Schools Programme	Tackling Poverty Strategy
Literacy and Numeracy Strategy	WG Tackling Poverty Programmes
NEETS Keeping In Touch Strategy	Prevention Strategy
Youth Engagement & Progression Framework	CYP Disability Strategy
Swansea Learning Partnership	Regional Learning Partnership

Again, through the process we identified other issues that are being addressed elsewhere that the Children and Young People’s Partnership Board would have an interest in, these include the following.



Framework for the Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership Plan

There are 42 articles that make up the UNCRC, however there are 4 guiding principle articles that represent the underlying requirement for **all rights** in the convention to be realised by children and young people. These will form the framework for our new Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership Plan

- **Article 2 - Non-discrimination**
- **Article 3 - Best interests of the child**
- **Article 6 - Survival and development**
- **Article 12 – Participation**

Strategic Objectives

To develop a climate where;

1. all actions concerning children and young people are carried out in their best interest (**Article 3**)
2. children and young people are provided with opportunities for development (**Article 6**)
3. positive action is taken to promote Child Rights and children and young people are listened to and involved in decision making that affects them (**Article 12**)
4. positive action is taken to protect children and young people from forms of discrimination (**Article 2**)

Each strategic objective detailed on the following pages outlining the accountability of the Children and Young People Partnership Board, the other area of interests where accountability sits elsewhere and the areas for development that the Children and Young People Partnership Board will focus on over the next three years.

These strategic objectives form the base of a three year Action Plan which will give clear outcomes, identify leads and key partners who will contribute to progressing the actions and the outcomes identified.

The Action Plan which will be developed by the Children and Young People Partnership Board to ensure strong senior buy in, ownership and responsibility. Through this process each partner will identify actions, expected outcomes, partners and strategic leads. Progress against actions will be monitored by the Children and Young People Partnership Board and an annual report produced.

Strategic Objective 1

Strategic Objective 1 – Best Interests (*Article 3*)

To develop a climate where all actions concerning children and young people are carried out in their best interest

Accountability

Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships

Delivering improved outcomes for children and young people in Swansea

Other areas of interest where accountability sits elsewhere

Early Years Strategy
Safeguarding
Family Support Continuum Board
Domestic Abuse
Youth Offending Service
Housing and Homelessness

Areas for development and focus over the next 3 years:

- Improve the educational attainment and well-being of looked after children
- Improve the educational attainment and well-being of young carers
- Embed a partnership approach to well-being in line with the SSWB Act and FGW Act
- Provide holistic support for children, young people and families
- Promote online safety and anti-bullying

Well-being Goals Links	A prosperous Wales	A resilient Wales	A Wales of cohesive communities
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Strategic Objective 2

Strategic Objective 2 – Survival & Development (*Article 6*)

To develop a climate where children and young people are provided with opportunities for development

Accountability

One Swansea Plan Priority:

School Attendance
School Attainment
NEETS

Play Sufficiency Assessment

Delivering improved outcomes for children and young people in Swansea

Other areas of interest where accountability sits elsewhere

Healthy Cities

Healthy Schools Scheme

Regional School Improvement Arrangements

Active Young Swansea
Substance Misuse

Areas for development and focus over the next 3 years:

- Narrow the attainment gap between free school meal and non-free school meal pupils
- Intervene earlier to support young people to enter education, employment or training opportunities
- Support vulnerable young people in transition to adulthood
- Promote access to play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities
- Prevent young people from smoking and reduce the amount of second hand smoke affecting children's health
- Develop a common framework and intervention model to address speech and language delay

Well-being Goals Links	A prosperous Wales	A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language	A healthier Wales
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Strategic Objective 3

Strategic Objective 3 – Participation (*Article 12*)

To develop a climate where positive action is taken to promote Child Rights and children and young people are listened to and involved in decision making that affects them

Accountability

Child Participation

Other areas of interest where accountability sits elsewhere

CCOS Children & Young People's Rights Scheme

ABMU Children's Rights Charter

Child Friendly Cities

Rights Respecting School

Areas for development and focus over the next 3 years:

- Embed Children's Rights across the Partnership
- Promote Children's rights and work with families to understand rights and responsibilities
- Promote children and young people as active citizens
- Understand the impact on outcomes of rights based practice

**Well-being Goals
Links**

**A more equal
Wales**

A resilient Wales

**A globally
responsible
Wales**

Strategic Objective 4

Strategic Objective 4 – Non-Discrimination (*Article 2*)

To develop a climate where positive action is taken to protect children and young people from forms of discrimination

Accountability

Promoting and improving the well being of all children, 0-19 (in some instances up to 25)

Other areas of interest where accountability sits elsewhere

Poverty Strategy

City of Sanctuary

Strategic Equality Plan

Areas for development and focus over the next 3 years:

- Provide a joined up approach of provision for children with mental health and emotional well-being needs
- Integrate work for children and young people with disabilities and additional learning needs across partner agencies
- Ensure children and young people are protected from the impact of discrimination under the Equality Act 2010, covering all nine of the protected characteristics

Well-being Goals
Links

A more equal
Wales

A Wales of
cohesive
communities

A healthier Wales

Governance

The Children and Young Peoples Partnership Board will work with statutory, voluntary and community sector providers and reflect the Public Service Board priorities to ensure that agencies in Swansea are working together to achieve good outcomes for Children and Young People.

To achieve this it will:

- Ensure effective leadership for the Children and Young People agenda within each represented organisation
- Own the overview of all Children and Young People related challenges in the One Swansea Plan and beyond
- Monitor population indicators of Children and Young People in order to target resources effectively
- Monitor service level data and develop an understanding of what works
- Actively seek and take into account the views of Children and Young People in developments
- Ensure that action plans for the challenges are in place and are closely monitored and reported and ensure risks and issues identified and managed
- Seek opportunities to influence strategic developments / budgetary decisions including operating beyond organisational boundaries for the wider benefit of Children and Young People.
- Ensure a visible presence via providing accessible information for partners and for the public

Membership of the Children and Young Peoples Partnership Board
Cabinet Member for Service for Children & Young People
City & County of Swansea Director of People
Cabinet Member for Education
Cabinet Member for Wellbeing and Healthy City
Director of Swansea Council for Voluntary Services
Secondary Head Representative
Primary Head Representative
Director of Swansea Locality, ABMU Health Board
ABMU Health Board
Chief Superintendent South Wales Police
Director of Swansea Bay Racial Equality Council
Principal of Gower College Swansea
Public Health Wales
Western Bay YOS Manager
City & County of Swansea Chief Social Services Officer
City & County of Swansea Chief Education Officer
City & County of Swansea Head of Service Poverty & Prevention
City & County of Swansea Head of Service Child & Family
City & County of Swansea Head of Learner Support Service
City & County of Swansea Early Intervention Manager
City & County of Swansea Partnership, Performance and Commissioning Manager
City & County of Swansea Young Peoples Service Manager