

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



# Working towards prosperity for all in Swansea

A revised tackling poverty strategy for Swansea

**2017-2020**

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# 1. Introduction

Swansea Council is committed to reducing poverty and the impacts that poverty has upon its citizens. Poverty limits aspirations, damages relationships and ensures a loss of life chances.

Poverty is a multi-faceted concept. This strategy starts by defining poverty and comparing this with other useful current definitions provided by the Joseph Rowntree and Bevan Foundations. Our definition is not one relating solely to income, but to poverty of opportunity, participation and access to services. We aim to provide a foundation of common language and to begin exploring how different causes, impacts and aspects of poverty have different policy and service implications. As such, addressing poverty is not just an issue for the Council but a matter of concern for our partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

The impacts of poverty can last a lifetime and some interventions can take a lifetime to manifest themselves in a changed and improved situation. In short, tackling poverty takes time. This strategy outlines what action will be taken to fulfil the promise to tackle poverty in Swansea and to prioritise services where they will have the greatest impact.

The Council faces unprecedented challenges. Rising demand, changing demographics and increasing pressure on budgets mean that the choice for local authorities and public service providers is a difficult one. Unless we reduce demand and prevent need escalating, service provision in its current form will become unsustainable. People living in poverty often face complex challenges, increasing their personal and community demand upon services. It is not however, simply about reducing demand on services. We must also ensure we continue supporting people to become resilient and achieve outcomes that they want to see in their own lives, which will in turn reduce demand on services.

This strategy needs to be read in the context of our Prevention Strategy. The City and County of Swansea has always taken a preventative approach. This was borne from a longstanding recognition that 'prevention activity is better, less time consuming and ultimately less costly and damaging to individuals and organisations than cure'. This strategy presents a more ambitious direction, building upon previous work and recognising that all, including key partners and stakeholders, have a role in the prevention agenda.

Two key aims are driving this and the Prevention strategy:

- **A desire for increased organisational and personal resilience;**
- **Sustainable services.**

Steeped in the principles of Sustainable Swansea, this strategy is about **delivering more sustainable services that meet people's needs and deliver better outcomes**. It is about supporting the development of a community and urban fabric which has future resilience and independence in both the medium and long term. Our citizens are central to our future and delivery, and as such, are the focus of our developments, driving cross cutting working across Council Departments and with partners. Consequently, this strategy forms a key part of our corporate transformation programme and the way we will continue to develop our services with our partners. Our work particularly with and through Swansea's Public Service Board are essential to future delivery here.

In order to make this work, we will have to think differently, encouraging innovative solutions to existing problems and those that arise. We also have to be clear that savings do not drive our agenda: better, more personalised and joined up services do.

This strategy sets out our overarching corporate and partnership approach to tackling poverty, as well as outlining our key activities and expected outcomes. It starts, setting out our rationale, and how this is supported through national, regional and local policy, including our Plan for a Sustainable Swansea. We then provide evidence, further justifying need, our reasons for intervention and our approach. We have highlighted our delivery history in this area and early successes, giving a flavour of what prevention activity can achieve in reducing poverty. We link our activity closely to the recent advice given by the Joseph Rowntree and Bevan Foundations in their document, ***Prosperity without Poverty a framework for action in Wales***. Lastly, we provide a governance structure explaining how we will work and a time-bound action plan describing our activities in more detail: who is accountable and when we intend to achieve them. Ultimately, the Poverty Strategy and its application have to advance and progress the culture of ***poverty is everyone's business across the Council***.

We hope you enjoy reading this strategy. Moreover, we look forward to working with local people and partners in the public, private and third sectors in delivery, making a positive difference to the lives of local people, improving their quality of life and contributing to a **Sustainable Swansea**.

## 2. What is poverty?

There is no single, universally agreed definition of poverty. Our paper, submitted to the Poverty Scrutiny Inquiry as part of the evidence *Understanding and defining Poverty – A guide for Swansea* (which can be provided on request) defines and explores many terms and concepts relating to poverty, explaining the basis for the definitions we are using in Swansea, and for the vision we have of a Swansea where poverty cycles can be broken.

JRF's definition of poverty is: **When a person's resources are well below their minimum needs, including the need to take part in society.**

<sup>1</sup>

In Swansea, we define poverty as:

- **Income below the Minimum Income Standard.**
- **Inadequate access to necessary services of good quality.**
- **Inadequate opportunity or resource to join in with social, cultural, leisure and decision-making activities.**

### Our vision for Swansea

The Council aspires to achieve a Swansea in which:

**Income poverty** is not a barrier to doing well at school, having a healthy and vibrant life, developing skills and qualifications and having a fulfilling occupation.

**Service poverty** is addressed by targeting resources where they may have the most useful impacts, and decisions about that are made in collaboration with service users.

**Participation** is enjoyed by all our residents, who access a wide variety of cultural, social and leisure experiences which broaden horizons and develop aspirations and who are constructively involved in decisions about our community and our environment.

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<sup>1</sup> 'Prosperity without Poverty – a framework for action in Wales.' Joseph Rowntree Foundation – November 2016. P. 6.

### 3. Strategic context

#### **Sustainable Swansea Programme**

*Sustainable Swansea – fit for the future*, is our long-term plan for change. Financial, demographic and social challenges facing Swansea require radical approaches. Sustainable Swansea is a programme of activity, tools and techniques that will help us to take a managed approach to the challenges that the Council faces. The objectives are: to transform services; deliver better outcomes for residents achieve financial sustainability. One of the key priorities for a sustainable Council, is collaboration with others including residents.

A whole council approach is far more likely to maximise impact. Our proposal to support the delivery of this strategy through involvement and participation will support the co-production of services with people experiencing poverty.

#### **The One Swansea Plan**

This was produced by Swansea’s Local Service Board (LSB) and is now delivered by its successor Public Service Board (PSB), the overarching partnership group for public services Swansea. It highlights that in working as **Team Swansea, partnership working has never been more important**. The increasingly difficult social, economic and environmental pressures on public services, coupled with the substantial reductions in public funding, mean that service providers have to work together more innovatively than ever before to increase efficiency, effectiveness and reduce reliance upon intensive, costlier interventions.

The PSB’s One Swansea plan outlines six key objectives namely:

- A. Children have a good start in life
- B. People learn successfully
- C. Young people and adults have good jobs
- D. People have a decent standard of living
- E. People are healthy, safe and independent
- F. People have good places to live and work

Placing this strategy in a **One Swansea** context, we have aligned our intended outcomes to these objectives as our headings for actions. These are referred to later in this strategy and with the associated **Delivery Plan**.

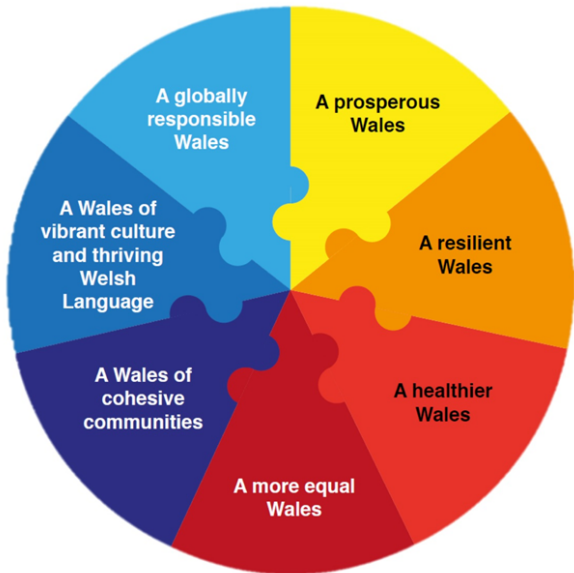
# City and County of Swansea Corporate Plan

Tackling Poverty is one of the five key objectives of Swansea’s Corporate Plan. In delivering this objective there are a number of key areas which we as a Council are working to address, including:

- Children having the best start in life
- 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.
- Families and individuals to be able to have a good standard of living, which means having well-paid employment and/or claiming the right benefits they are entitled to.
- People to live in good quality affordable homes, which support sustainable communities.
- We will continue to tackle poverty through the activities highlighted within the associated **Delivery Plan**.

## Welsh Government

Welsh Government has a national picture and approach to wellbeing through new legislation within the Well-being of Future Generations Act and the Social Services and Well-being Act. The idea of embedding poverty prevention within the Council’s work builds not only upon national requirements, but also emphasises a **Swansea approach** to its delivery. It is essential that our approach aligns with the wider direction of Welsh Government, implemented locally through our PSB. The wider strategic context can be seen here:



### Well-being of Future Generations Act

**Our Poverty strategy will make a positive contribution to Well Being Goals of the Act.**

**A resilient Wales** - A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems supporting social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to (e.g. climate) change.

**A prosperous Wales.** An innovative, productive/low carbon society recognising the limits of the global environment, using resources efficiently/proportionately; and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in a wealth generating economy providing

employment opportunities, allowing people to benefit from the wealth generated through securing decent work.

**A healthier Wales.** A society in which people's physical and mental wellbeing is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.

**A more equal Wales.** A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances.

**A Wales of cohesive communities.** Attractive/viable/safe and well-connected communities.

**A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language.** Society promoting/protecting culture/heritage/Welsh language, encouraging participation in arts/sports /recreation.

**A globally responsible Wales.** When improving the socio-economic environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, we consider the positive contribution to global well-being.

### **Social Services and Well-being Act**

The Act has a wide remit that will impact not only upon Social Services, but on wide-ranging local authority services such as housing, education, leisure, regeneration, poverty and prevention and those of our partners particularly, the Local Health Board and third and private sector providers. In some instances, services are provided via Western Bay on a regional footprint. Under Part 2 of the Act, General Functions, there is a duty to:

- *Promote wellbeing.*
- *Provide preventative services.*
- *Promote social enterprises, co-operatives, user led services and third sector.*
- *Provide Information, Advice and Assistance (IAA).*

The Council's delivery of the Poverty Strategy has to take into account the requirements of both Acts, alongside additional legislation, such as the Housing Act and the Environment Bill.

### **Swansea's Poverty Strategy 2014**

Swansea Council has, for some time, been committed to reducing poverty and its impacts. Tackling poverty is a corporate priority and the first strategy to address this was written in 2014. It, like this strategy, focussed upon supporting the six population outcomes of One Swansea.

The original three themes are further captured in this document, but as time has moved on, our ideas have matured and whilst these themes remain current, they have developed slightly to capture circumstances and reassert importance.



1. Empowering local people through involvement and participation
2. Changing cultures to reflect that tackling poverty is everyone's business
3. Targeting resources to maximise access to opportunity and prosperity

Our Delivery plan links our activities under these themes for clarity. The Integrated Impact Assessment and Scrutiny of this document led to the following recommendations.

### Integrated impact assessment (IIA)

Carried out in 2016, this formed the first part of a much wider review of the tackling poverty strategy, feeding into the Poverty Strategy Scrutiny process. The key themes and recommendations from this process feed into this revised strategy and are listed in brief below.

#### IIA key recommendations

Link to Future Well-being Wales Act and Social Services and Well-being Act

Clear Sustainable Swansea focus

Develop clear and measurable milestones

Include a definition of poverty

Work with people experiencing poverty to develop provision

Make clear linkages to economic policy

Develop and deliver the strategy through principle of poverty is everyone's business

### Tackling Poverty Strategy Scrutiny Inquiry Panel

This panel examined *How can the Council's Tackling Poverty Strategy be improved?*

This topic was chosen because Tackling Poverty is one of the Council's top five priorities – a Peer Review of Swansea Council conducted by the Welsh Local Government Association in 2014 recommended that scrutiny should focus more on these priorities. It is also an issue that many scrutiny councillors feel passionately about, not least because they see the effects of poverty day to day in their communities. Specifically, the inquiry aimed to contribute to this vital debate by providing:

- Evidenced proposals that will lead to the strategy being more effective
- The views of people experiencing poverty
- The views of key stakeholders

- Consideration of the conclusions and recommendations from national reports and an assessment of the implications for Swansea
- Identification of good practice/research elsewhere and learning for Swansea
- Increased councillor understanding about the Tackling Poverty Strategy
- Greater public awareness of the work of the Tackling Poverty Strategy

Many of the Scrutiny Panel's emerging ideas are in line with what is being planned, and are reflected in this strategy.

### Ideas emerging from the scrutiny process

Make a new commitment to tackling poverty

Embrace the sustainable development principle

Focus on 'what works'

Involve people experiencing poverty at the centre of the strategy

Integrate the strategy into Swansea's Well-being Plan

Collaborate fully through Swansea Public Services Board

Strengthen the links to economic policy

Fundamentally rethink the target area approach

Ensure that tackling poverty is everyone's business

Continue to revise the strategy on a regular basis – keep it current

### Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Our thinking around poverty and its reduction/prevention fit well with the recently published 'Prosperity without Poverty : a framework for action in Wales'<sup>2</sup> produced jointly by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Bevan Foundation. This document draws upon national research and evidence to provide a framework for actions in Wales. The actions are set at many levels and one thing is key – **addressing poverty is everyone's business**. We have considered the JRF recommendations (where possible and appropriate) in production of this document.

<sup>2</sup> 'Prosperity without Poverty : a framework for action in Wales.' Joseph Rowntree Foundation – November 2016.

## 4. Why intervene

**The cost of “mopping up” problems resulting from inequality is £39bn per annum UK-wide.**

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The UK experiences disproportionately high inequality with stark consequences, some examples being provided below, making comparisons between the UK and the developed OECD countries:

- 17th out of 23 in life expectancy.
- 19th out of 22 on obesity.
- 17th out of 21 on teenage births.
- 17th out of 23 for imprisonment.

In stark contrast, more equal societies, top the table in almost every measure. Crucially, for the delivery of public services, the financial costs associated with inequality are significant, impacting upon health, wellbeing and crime rates. Conversely, were we to achieve greater equality we would experience reductions in crime, consequent imprisonment, better physical and mental wellbeing, increased life expectancy and a more prosperous society.

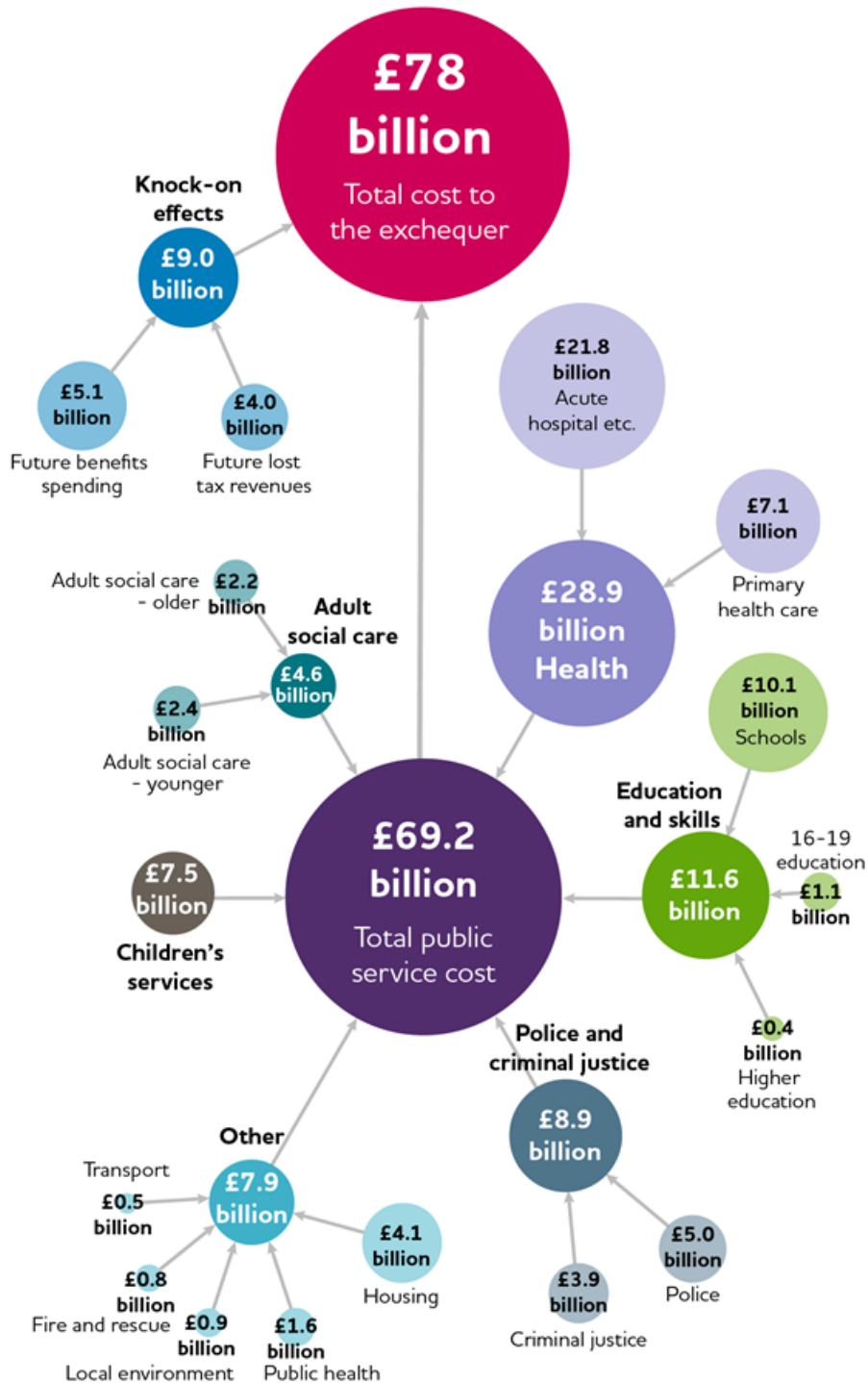
The Joseph Rowntree Foundation also highlight and support this theory in looking at the costs associated with poverty. The diagram on the following page estimates the costs of poverty in the UK at an even greater total of £78 billion per annum to the Exchequer. <sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup><https://www.equalitytrust.org.uk/sites/default/files/The%20Cost%20of%20Inequality%20-%20of%20full%20report.pdf>. P.2

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/uk-poverty-causes-costs-and-solutions> . P. 30

## The cost of poverty to the UK's exchequer



#solveukpoverty

**JRF** JOSEPH ROWNTREE FOUNDATION

### The effects of poverty

Poverty affects every stage of people’s lives. Some of the key effects of this upon families and individuals living in low income households can be seen in the box below:

Children have poorer mental and physical health

People have fewer years free from illness and are likely to die sooner

Children achieve worse results at every stage in school, restricting earning potential and increasing the risk of passing poverty between generations

People pay more for essential goods and services such as fuel, transport and food,

Poverty restricts economic growth through limiting labour market skills and through limiting disposable income flowing in local and regional economies, reducing treasury tax revenues.

Conversely, work to reduce poverty premiums and boost benefit income helps the economy. Research looking at the impact of financial inclusion initiatives in Leeds by the West Yorkshire Observatory has shown that an investment of £3m has generated £26m additional income with a further regional economic impact of £28m.

**Investing in financial inclusion boosts the economy as well as living standards. £3m spent on interventions = £26m in people’s pockets.**

5

**Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)<sup>6</sup>**

ACE’s, or chronic stressful experiences in childhood, have been demonstrated to increase the likelihood of adopting health-harming behaviours such as smoking, problem drinking, poor diet, low levels of exercise and risky sexual behaviour. These behaviours can cause premature ill health and in parallel lead to the development of linked antisocial behaviours and criminal activity. Links can also be seen in poor educational performance and skills development. Consequently, children affected by ACEs, because of these trends and behaviours are far more likely to subject their own children to ACEs. People living in

<sup>5</sup><http://www.westyorkshireobservatory.org/Custom/Resources/FI%20Research%202009%20Final%20report.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.cph.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/ACE-Report-FINAL-E.pdf>

communities with high deprivation have a far higher risk of experiencing single and multiple ACEs.

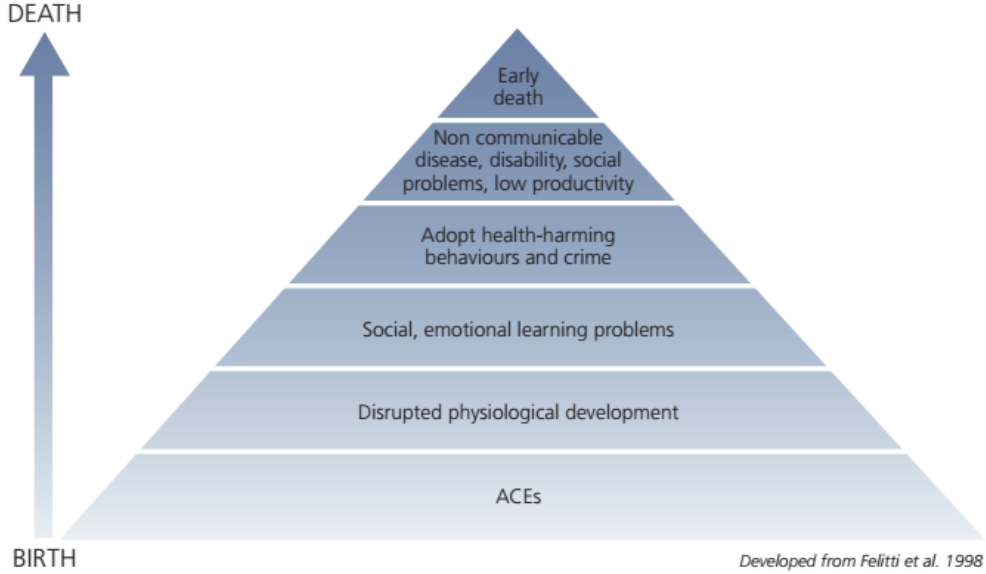


Figure 1: Model of ACE impacts across the life course [1]

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**Stigma (negative belief or attitude) and Discrimination (negative behaviour)**

Stigma associated with poverty is corrosive. It affects self-perception and self-confidence, resulting, commonly, in: a) benefit under-claiming, hence reduced income; b) reduced participation and social isolation, as people avoid situations where they may be labelled by others; c) reduced access to services (due to lack of confidence). It also affects the way people experiencing poverty are viewed by others, resulting in discrimination. This creates losses in income, opportunity and support. Stigma silences the voices of those stigmatised. This reinforces exclusion and makes it more difficult for people to escape from poverty.

**Aspiration and Opportunity**

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation<sup>8</sup> highlight that however great the aspirations of children – and their parents – from poorer backgrounds, they find it far harder to achieve them than children from better off families. Supporting low-income families to develop cultural resources, have quality time together, avoid risk and feel enthused about the future, enables natural aspirations to flourish.

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.cph.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/ACE-Report-FINAL-E.pdf>. P.7

<sup>8</sup> 'Prosperity without poverty – a framework for action in Wales.' Joseph Rowntree Foundation – November 2016.

## 5. Tackling poverty through early intervention and prevention

There is a relatively small group of people and families in poverty who face additional and complex challenges. This may include mental health conditions, homelessness, experiences of violence and abuse, substance misuse and involvement with the criminal justice system. We also include asylum seekers and refugees because they often face additional and complex challenges. The circumstances of these groups of people often overlap and interact, making escaping poverty more difficult and potentially increasing the risk of destitution.

The roots of these complex needs are shown in their concentration in areas of long-term economic decline. The most effective prevention measure is therefore to reduce material poverty itself, especially among families with children and unemployed young people living in disadvantaged areas.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation highlights five principles that underpin their **recommended** approach to groups facing poverty combined with complex needs<sup>9</sup>:

1. Personalisation – support based around the whole person or whole family;
2. De-institutionalisation – mainstream, ordinary housing and employment as far as possible, with support as required;
3. Re-integration – getting into work and ordinary social settings;
4. Asset-based – building on an individual's existing strengths; and
5. Poverty-informed – dealing with financial and material hardship, alongside complex needs such as addiction.

Welsh Government supports meeting the needs of people with complex needs through the provisions in the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015, the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and ***When I am Ready*** scheme for care leavers. Our approach to support these policies is described in later sections of this document and the accompanying **Delivery Plan**.

### Our history and successes

Swansea has a long and proud history of supporting our citizens through the delivery of statutory services. We have a key role in the delivery of public services for Swansea and as such, services such as public protection, health and safety and accident prevention are at our core in service delivery as is the Safe Looked-After Children Reduction Strategy. This

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/prosperity-without-poverty>. P.26

has resulted in a significant reduction year on year (for the last six years) in the numbers of children needing recourse to care. The increased recognition of the value of prevention activity led to an acceleration in our prevention approach to improve the wellbeing of people in Swansea, driven by the Council’s commitment to providing £1 million for pilot prevention projects in 2014. Here, a set of pilot preventative approaches was delivered that sought to address gaps in services working with children, young people and adults. The proposals were based upon an **invest to save** approach aimed to change behaviours and prevent the need for involvement in costly specialist services, often followed by a long term support programme. Some pilots, because of their success in demonstrating new delivery methods, namely Local Area Co-ordination and Tackling Domestic Abuse (via the DV Hub) will continue having proved their effectiveness. Others have demonstrated better ways of working and have consequently been embedded in current service delivery, becoming **business as usual**. The nature of the projects involves individuals in finding better stability, helping them to prosper and develop resilience. We support the development of individuals, getting them on to a pathway of development and improvement which gives access to opportunities, skills development and possibly employment in the medium to longer term. We have a number of examples (below) where a preventative approach has delivered improved outcomes, better outcomes and made cost savings in service delivery.

**Case Study – The Family Support Continuum**

A child was identified to have high levels of difficulty in speech and language and was referred to the speech and language team within early years. Home visits showed that he was looked after by his grandmother while mum and dad worked, spending most of his time in a play pen. His play skills were limited so the Early Language Development Team (ELDT) initially worked on these skills. At the same time, the family was encouraged to come to parent and toddler group and song and rhyme sessions at the library. They were also encouraged to access further support. The child and his family, once ready, were helped by the speech and language (SALT) team. This involved early language groups and 121 sessions. He has now moved on to nursery and his speech and language skills are on par with other children in his class.



### Case Study – Local Area Coordination

A gentleman in his 60's with mental health problems and chronic pain on ESA and DLA met a Local Area Co-ordinator at a Food Bank and they chatted about his money problems. Unable to use public transport for long distances, he was spending £40 per return taxi journey to hospital. The LAC told him about the community car scheme, which reduced his travel costs to £13 per return journey. He was also in desperately poor housing, but faced many barriers to changing this, including lack of funds for medical forms, and illiteracy. He was depressed and disheartened. Over time, the LAC supported him to identify useful resources including Housing Options, and friends, who lent him money and wrote forms for him.

He is now in sheltered supported housing, helping other neighbours who are less able than he is, reporting vastly improved mental health, and only comes to the Food Bank to say hello.

### Case Study – Lift Employment Support

Trevor had been unemployed for over sixteen years and was referred to the Lift Programme in November 2014. Over a period of eleven months Trevor has been involved in a number of activities through Lift, including literacy and IT classes, Asbestos Awareness and Scaffolding courses, CSCS training and work experience with Gwalia Housing and Pentre-Graig School, through 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools. 8 weeks' work experience was arranged through the Council's Beyond Bricks and Mortar initiative on a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools project at Pentre-Graig School. On completion of the work experience the Beyond Bricks and Mortar Team asked ASW if they would consider employing Trevor to work on their Kitchens & Bathrooms Contract. Trevor was interviewed for a labouring position the next day and is now a valued member of the ASW team.

Trevor has been a pleasure to work with. He is polite, punctual and hard working. Trevor was just looking for someone to have faith in him, and offer him some support, so that he could gain a few much needed qualifications and finally find work.

We received a phone call to advise us that a representative from AS Wellington (a National Construction company) was travelling down from Stoke and wanted to interview Trevor for a labouring position the next day. As Trevor does not possess a home or mobile phone, we dropped a letter through his letter box and crossed our fingers.

## 6. Shared leadership and shared resourcing.

Poverty is everyone's business. We have seen and evidenced that the wider impacts of poverty affect intergenerational life chances. They also have a significant and costly impact upon public, private and third sector services. Within organisations such as the Council, the Police and the Local Health Board, they impact upon all customer-facing services, reflecting the complexity of needs that people in poverty face. It is therefore in our interests to work across Council Departments and with our partner organisations to address poverty. Most crucially, this will improve the quality of our citizens lives. Consequently, this will impact upon the delivery of better, more coordinated and less costly public services.

### ***The principles we will adopt as Swansea's approach to excluding poverty are;***

- A whole Public Service Board and whole Council approach.
- Building resilience, social capital and social networks.
- Involvement and participation of service users.
- Delivery partners have confidence in the approach.
- Learning about 'what works' being fundamental to future delivery.

### **The importance of partnerships**

We recognise that reducing poverty is everyone's business within the Council and is therefore our corporate approach. We will as an outcome of this strategy, develop key performance indicators to reduce poverty across all Council directorates. Governments have a leading role in setting priorities and providing the framework, but businesses, citizens and communities have a vital part to play too. At the local level, the Public Service Board has a key potential role in making it happen, working across all sectors.

### **Government and publicly-funded bodies**

The Welsh Government has already started the process with its commitment to prosperity for all, plans to reform childcare and proposals on employability and skills. It must back its leadership on these issues with effective delivery on the ground, whether directly or through others. We are however, yet to see and fully understand the impact of changes in the Communities First Programme, alongside renewed Welsh Government commitment to their highlighted priorities of **Empowerment, Employment and Early Years**. Our Poverty Strategy needs therefore to take a dynamic delivery approach to enable a response to such changes, minimising negative impact and maximising future opportunity for Swansea.

Local government's contribution is vital, as the front-line provider of education, social and economic development services, with our community leadership role we have an unrivalled reach and profile in disadvantaged places.

Add to this the important role of health boards, further education colleges and higher education institutions and there is a great deal that the public sector can and must do. Swansea's Public Service Board are therefore vital in supporting poverty reduction.

## 7. Our approach

We highlighted earlier the three themes of this strategy, building upon those of the original Tackling Poverty Strategy for Swansea, namely:

**Theme 1. Empowering local people through involvement and participation**

**Theme 2. Changing cultures to reflect that tackling poverty is everyone's business**

**Theme 3. Targeting resources to maximise access to opportunity and prosperity**

Swansea's six Population Outcomes were adopted by Swansea's LSB and have been retained by the PSB. They are mentioned earlier in this document. This approach helps us to look at all the ways that we can focus on tackling poverty through the framework of the Population Outcomes which are forming the structure for Swansea's Well Being assessment under the Future Generations Act:

**Integration** – by looking across all six population outcomes, our tackling poverty approach will be comprehensive and corporately integrated.

**Collaboration** – no one organisation owns these outcomes, they are shared by the whole Public Service Board and within the Council, different departments have relevant roles.

**Involvement** – Addressing the issue of poverty is not solely an issue for the Council but also a matter of concern for all agencies, whether they are private sector, public sector or third sector.

### **Theme 1 - Empowering local people through involvement and participation**

We agree that participation and engagement are crucial if we are to give opportunity and voice to our citizens, hence our commitment to co-production of services with our service users and our community development work, particularly with communities in multiple disadvantage. We already carry out regular service user surveys and are in the early stages of co-production of commissioned services in line with the principles of the Future Generations and Social Services and Well-being Acts.

The Council is the lead delivery body for Communities First, and delivers a range of further community development services, including the commissioning of the Change Fund through the Third Sector and the delivery of the food and growing initiative. This work is essential in developing and maintaining services at the heart of communities as well as finding initial engagement opportunities to hook people into services that can help in their further development and involvement.

As a social housing provider, the Council also delivers our annual tenant participation strategy, supporting tenant involvement and participation.

Baseline information is essential if we are to target our services effectively. If for example we know that a household has poor income, no-one working and is in receipt of benefit we can predict that other issues may arise. It makes sense to target that household giving benefits advice and/or employability support to encourage where possible and raise income. We have therefore as an early win for this strategy **commissioned Policy in Practice to work alongside the Council’s Revenue and Benefits Team to identify the cumulative effect of benefit reforms on households in Swansea** in order that we can target our services more effectively. This information will be taken to the Council’s Poverty Forum to analyse and develop a response which could include:

- Targeting employability support
- Targeting financial inclusion support
- Helping people to be better off
- Identifying and delivering service cost savings

Poverty is an issue best understood by those who experience it and live with its effects every day. That is why in this strategy, the involvement and participation of people who themselves are affected by poverty is crucial. The Council is committed to working with local people in order to achieve long term change. Without them, there is no delivery. Scotland held the first poverty truth commission in Fife in 2014. Another successful one was held in Leeds, from which our Scrutiny panel heard evidence, recommending that a similar approach be taken in Swansea.

‘the Commission believes poverty will only be truly addressed when those who experience it first-hand are at the heart of the process.’

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We have therefore committed in our Poverty Strategy Delivery Plan to **consider the commissioning of an involvement and participation study for Swansea**, one option being along the lines of the Truth Commission work and taking into account the work we are already involved in.

### Delivering more

This strategy comes at a time of transition when Welsh Government are considering options for change to the Communities First programme, suggesting new direction around

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.jrf.org.uk/contact/poverty-truth-commission>

the themes of empowerment, employment and early years. We will **develop responses to emerging guidance in the delivery of Welsh Government funded community development programmes, maximising benefit and opportunity for our communities.**

**We will:**

**Business as usual**  
Continue to deliver community engagement services in line with emerging funding from Welsh Government (see later).  
Continue to use coproduction in our local area coordination model for recruitment.  
Continue to develop community enterprise activities to deliver services more flexibly.  
Continue to deliver our annual tenant participation strategy.

**Early actions**  
Commission Policy in Practice to work alongside the Council’s Revenue and Benefits Team to identify the cumulative effect of benefit reforms households in Swansea.  
Consider the commissioning of an involvement and participation study for Swansea.

**Delivering more**  
Respond to emerging guidance about Welsh Government funded community

**Theme 2 – Changing cultures to reflect that tackling poverty is everyone’s business**

We highlighted that all Council Staff have a role in prevention activity in our prevention strategy and recognise that all Council and partner services can impact positively on reducing poverty. We also recognise that if they are unable to do so there will be adverse impacts upon their future delivery, particularly rising cost. The IIA and Tackling Poverty Scrutiny consequently reinforced that tackling poverty needs to be supported by all – internal Council Departments and our partners in the public, private and third sectors.

We will:

#### **Business as usual**

Continue to develop and deliver our prevention approach with partners as outlined in the prevention strategy.

#### **Initial actions**

Develop or identify and report appropriate KPI's with Council departments to ensure delivery.

#### **Delivering more**

Work with the Poverty Partnership Forum to identify shared projects and KPIs to support the wider poverty prevention agenda.

Ensure that management information systems are suitably robust to measure transition through ages and stages, measuring effectiveness through quality control.

Deliver training with members and officers to promote the poverty is everyone's business approach.

### **Theme 3 – Targeting support to maximise access to opportunity and prosperity**

In delivery of this theme we have considered support at all ages and stages to enable a person to maximise their potential as a **skilled, prosperous and resilient individual**, hence the linking of the six population outcomes here.

#### **Population Outcome A: Children have a good start in life**

Family stability enables children to flourish and two parents, living together, are better able to earn enough for a decent standard of living. Family breakdown increases the risk of poverty, especially persistent poverty. The goal should be to help parents stay together where possible and when they cannot, the aim should be to help parents to separate and parent well.

**We will:**

### **Business as usual**

Continue the success in Child and Family services, of the effective approach to safe reduction in numbers of looked- after children and enabling them to be cared for either within the City and County of Swansea or nearby.

Continue to deliver the signs of safety practice model, supporting the whole family.

Continue to deliver the Flying Start programme, measuring the impact upon attainment and attendance at the foundation phase.

Continue to deliver relationship support via the Equilibrium project.

### **Early Wins**

Remodel support for families with children (including those with disabilities).

Deliver Team Around the Family (TAF) in schools within all primary schools in Swansea.

Work to improve speech and language provision through the Early Years Strategy Group.

### **Delivering more**

Further develop the Teenstart pilot, providing multi-disciplinary and multi-agency team support to parents under the age of 25.

Deliver the extended childcare pilot in Swansea, testing new and best approaches.

Roll out extended childcare approaches across Swansea following pilot and future funding decisions from Welsh Government.

## **Population Outcome B: People learn successfully**

Building skills across the spectrum through education and training is essential, both economically and to individuals in realising their potential. We believe in Swansea, that skills are an important factor in driving growth, with reducing the proportion of individuals with very low skills or qualifications being more effective than focusing on the higher end of the skills spectrum economically, as well as for individuals. Skills development has to be at all stages from basic and essential skills, encompassing employability skills to academic, professional and vocational skills. In addition, the quality of advice and guidance about skills development and career choices is essential in realising personal dreams and developing achievable aspirations. There are gaps in the provision of career advice.

### **We will:**

**Business as usual**

Support pre 16 to improved school attendance, through 'Education other than at school' (EOTAS) reduction.

Contribution at post 16 to continued NEET reduction and improved young person and family wellbeing through the NEETS reduction strategy.

**Early wins**

Quick review of Council employability provision to maximise skills outcomes.

Develop school to school support to share and develop good practise in the use of Pupil Deprivation Grant (PDG).

Maximise training and employment opportunities through our Council- wide apprentice and trainee strategy for young people, targeting those in greatest need.

Provide additional support to young people who are at risk of becoming NEET through Cynydd.

**Delivering more**

Facilitate development of pathways to skills or trades linked to economic development opportunities such as City Deal.

Target resources on need and personal circumstances, rather than on participants' age and previous qualification level.

Work with partners and through the Regional Learning Plan to focus on outcomes such as the incomes of participants and productivity of employers, not just qualifications achieved.

Work with schools and colleges to provide good-quality, expert careers advice to young people.

Develop programmes to provide adults with independent, personalised advice and support services to enable low-paid workers to move into better-paid roles.



## Population Outcome C: Young people and adults have good jobs

We are keen in Swansea to support an economy where people can find better local jobs, with the right level of support to help them to access opportunities.

### We will:

#### **Business as usual**

Deliver Swansea's Beyond Bricks and Mortar principles across all our procurement processes to bring local benefit from service and construction contracts.

Use Welsh Government Community Benefit Measurement Toolkit to report community benefit and wider economic impact.

Continue to deliver Communities for Work, LIFT, South West Wales Workways and work based learning help for local people to develop skills and access job opportunities.

#### **Early wins**

Maximise work experience benefits and employment outcomes to young people who are NEET via the Cam Nesa Project.

Actively encourage employment practices that reduce poverty including living wage.

Develop an appropriate wage approach re traineeships and apprenticeships.

Review our welfare to work provision to maximise the use of resources and job outcomes.

Encourage local recruitment to entry level positions within the Council through simplified recruitment processes.

Use HR processes to share work experience, traineeships and apprenticeships across a range of abilities, including disadvantaged individuals and particularly looked after children.

Benchmark the number of disadvantaged Swansea residents accessing entry level posts.

Extend social value principles across our full development process to maximise opportunities.

#### **Delivering more**

Maximise skills and job opportunities from key developments such as City Deal.

Maximise our purchasing power and that of partners to deliver targeted recruitment and training and other community benefits.

Work to identify resource to deliver specialist support such as an Intermediate Labour Market programme for those furthest from the labour market, combining work experience with ongoing support and job search activity.

Encourage the further delivery of employability skills within schools.

Develop our partnership with Jobcentre Plus and key Welfare to Work Partners to maximise access to skills and job opportunities for Swansea citizens.

Maximise work readiness and experience opportunities for local people within Council Departments and through PSB partners.

Work with third sector partners, PSB partners and within the Council to maximise volunteering opportunities for skills development.

Examine public transport routes to link people in disadvantaged communities to areas of jobs growth by efficient and affordable public transport.

### Population Outcome D: People have a decent standard of living

We have already seen that people living in poverty often have to pay more for essential goods and services (including energy costs). In addition, personal circumstances such as disabilities can also impact to increase personal costs. Cutting the cost of essentials and ensuring that people access their full entitlements can have a significant impact upon household income, poverty and local economies. These factors are often compounded by people having to pay comparatively high rents to private landlords because of shortages in the social housing sector.

**We will:**

**Business as usual**  
Continue to deliver advice services for council tax and housing benefit entitlements. Continue to support in the resolution of benefit disputes and maximise benefit incomes through our Welfare Rights Service.  
Continue to provide engagement services through Council Cultural and Community Development Services.  
Continue to prioritise the supply of genuinely affordable housing further to meet objectively-assessed need.  
Continue to align social rents with local incomes and earnings.  
Continue to support the development of energy- efficient affordable mixed tenure housing within Swansea.  
Continue to maximise the installation of insulation measures in Council properties to reduce fuel poverty.

**Early wins**  
Develop social finance capacity through for example the credit union to widen credit access and reduce spiralling debt.  
Coordinate partner activity through the Council’s Poverty Forum and partner activity through the Poverty Partnership Forum in support of digital inclusion, financial inclusion and benefits advice.  
Maximise community engagement activity through Welsh Government’s Fusion programme and emerging Empowerment approach linked to Communities for Work and Lift.

**Delivering more**  
Work with partners to support innovation in the provision of good-value essential goods and services through social and not-for-profit enterprise.  
Further encourage private landlords to improve conditions and affordability in the private rented sector.  
Prioritise affordability and accessibility in local transport to provide access to employment and training destinations and essential services.

## Population Outcome E: People are healthy, safe and independent

The IIA and Scrutiny processes have identified the important role that local people living in poverty have to play in helping to inform upon and co-design provision and support. We have seen in earlier sections too, intention to consider the commissioning of an involvement and participation study for Swansea.

We are also aware of the key role that our third sector and social business partners play in local community support and tackling poverty. We already deliver a personalisation agenda around local and community services in Swansea, supporting greater independence as a preventative approach. This co-productive means of supporting people is poverty-challenging in itself and fosters resilience. We have already experienced the positive impact that better incomes have upon people’s health. We already invest in Swansea in a number of initiatives with this at their core.

**We will:**

**Business as usual**  
Continue our successful approaches to tackling domestic violence, coordinating activity through the Domestic Abuse Hub.

**Early wins**  
Consider the commissioning of an involvement and participation study for Swansea. Extend Local Area Coordination approaches to strengthen community relationships and address barriers such as loneliness, isolation and stigma. Further to the above, continue to invest in and support Local Area Coordination (LAC) approaches which have led to better service coordination with, for example, health colleagues.

**Delivering more**  
Work with partners to develop community based asset to further connections between community groups, and public service providers to create prosperity and reduce poverty locally.

**Population Outcome F: People have good places to live, work and visit**

Our wider environment and investment portfolio have a long term impact on the opportunity, ambition and ultimately, people’s decision to live in, work in and visit Swansea. The success of our local people and their relative prosperity will have a direct impact on wider decisions in Swansea as a place to invest. This cyclical relationship will have a great impact upon our future. This outcome is greatly impacted by the previous five.

**We will in addition:**

**Business as usual**  
Deliver a range of activities across core Council services such as culture, leisure, community centres and libraries to encourage participation.  
Provide parks and open spaces for recreation and exercise, encouraging more active lives.  
Continue to invest in achieving Wales Housing Quality Standard in our council housing to improve the accommodation and wellbeing of our citizens, reducing fuel poverty.

**Early wins**  
We will support further proactive work with landlords and efforts to help vulnerable households access grants/loans for repair, adaptations and energy efficiency works.  
Implement the adult services optimum model and the recommendations from the adult services commission reviews.  
Implement the Social Services and Well Being Act and in particular the establishment of the information, advice and assistance service.

**Delivering more**  
Invest in opportunities through proposed developments such as City Deal.  
Ensure our investment provides a strong legacy of employment and opportunity for future generations in Swansea

## 8. Outcomes for the strategy

### A 'One Swansea' Approach

We will judge outcomes of the model and this strategy in line with achievements towards the expected outcomes of **One Swansea, linked to the three themes of this strategy**. In this way, as we further develop activities with our PSB partners, we can add them in to our **dynamic three- year delivery plan**.

These key priorities can only be achieved through corporate and partnership approaches to tackling poverty in Swansea. The issues we face can only be tackled through focusing on **what works**, new ways of working where required, including joined up partnerships around shared issues, which build individuals, families and communities resilience and support people to achieve outcomes for themselves.

The poverty performance framework and its measurement is challenging. The time period for change is lengthy as it relies upon addressing the complex needs of many individuals. There are also a range of partners involved in and crucial to development, including UK Government.

The attached **three-year delivery plan** outlines our more detailed activity – below are some overarching actions which will increase commitment and demonstrate effectiveness. The action plan supports their delivery.

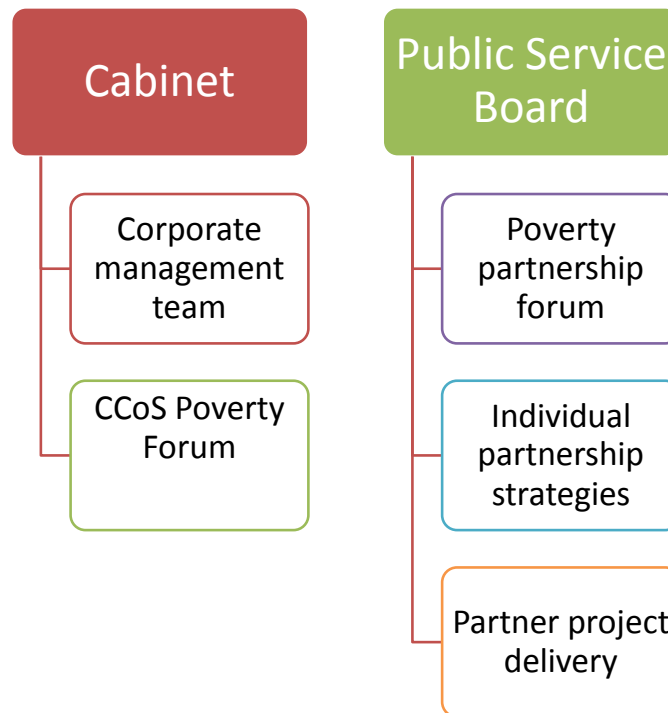
### How will we know if we have been successful?

We will know that we have been successful when we see progress against the following outcomes.

- Key progress is made against the KPI's associated with our six population outcomes.
- Tackling poverty activity is embedded across Council Services and across the services of our PSB partners via the adoption of key performance indicators.
- We see progress against these key performance indicators.
- We have well defined and accessed route ways between local people and opportunities in key sectors.

## 9. Governance

The diagram below shows how the Poverty Strategy will be managed within the City and County of Swansea.



### Explanation

The Poverty Forum and Poverty Partnership forum will support the principle that *poverty is everyone's business*, promoting the message and developing projects and services to support this principle. Actions will then be reported to the Cabinet, escalating through the above structure for decision where this is required. Progress of key performance indicators will be reported via the Council's dashboard system on a quarterly basis.

Corporate Directors take responsibility for work and actions in their area and manage these through regular performance and financial monitoring meetings and reporting mechanisms. Progress is then reported through Corporate Management Team and onto Swansea's Cabinet. Decision-making is regulated through Swansea's scheme of delegation and standing orders. This plan will undergo a mid-term review once the new PSB outcomes are developed and published in 2018.

In addressing 'making poverty everyone's business' specifically, **each Directorate** will develop key performance indicators to support delivery. These will also be governed through the above structure."



## 10. Three-year delivery plan

The Delivery Plan outlining key activities and quarterly outcomes is attached to this document. The Delivery Plan is designed to be dynamic. For consistency, actions are grouped under the key aims of **One Swansea** – the adopted plan of the Swansea Public Service Board. A mid-term review will take place to reflect any changes made in the outcome profile from Swansea’s PSB in 2018.