

**NATURAL ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY INQUIRY QUESTIONNAIRE**

Staff Name:	Alex Williams
Position:	Head of Service
Service Area:	Adult Services
Directorate:	People - Social Services

**1. Prior to receiving this questionnaire, did you know that the City and County of Swansea has a Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty?**

**Please tick**

YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**2. Briefly describe below the main local authority functions undertaken in your service area.**

All aspects of social services that relate to adults with support needs. This includes; older people and younger adults with physical and sensory impairments, learning disabilities and mental health support needs. Adult Social Services covers a broad range of services aimed at ensuring that people live fulfilled lives within supportive communities. Services are provided directly by the local authority, commissioned from the private and voluntary sector or are organised via a direct payment to the service user. These include Domiciliary Care, Residential, Respite and Day Services.

In line with the principles of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act, Adult Services have the following key principles at its core:

- Better prevention
- Better early help
- A new approach to assessment
- Improved cost effectiveness
- Working together better
- Keeping people safe.

The Head of Service also has a key role in relation to the protection of vulnerable adults, domestic abuse and the personalisation of social services agendas.

Adult Social Services are required to work in close partnership with all key stakeholders, service users, their carers and local communities to enable individuals to obtain the information, support and protection they need when they need it and to build individual, family and community capacity to enable the citizens of Swansea to achieve their full potential.

- 3. During your day to day work, do you currently consider biodiversity when making decisions? If YES please describe what you currently do to maintain and enhance the Natural Environment and Biodiversity.**

**Not directly but in relation to service provision, in using and maintaining our range of premises, we seek to be as cost effective (both environmentally and financially) as possible.**

**For example, sensors in rooms which will automatically switch off lights when not in use.**

**In designing outside space for people using our residential or day services, we seek to encourage wildlife or introduce plants into barren spaces.**

- 4. Do you have any ideas about how your department could do more/work differently to contribute to the maintenance, enhancement and promotion of the natural environment and biodiversity in Swansea Council?**

Awareness sessions for staff (as both employees but also citizens of Swansea/neighbouring authorities) on how we can contribute to maintaining the natural environment and biodiversity.

Guidance, advice and support on enhancing the natural environment and biodiversity across our sites and premises.

There are a number of partnership projects that we run with people who use our services, such as the Neighbourhood Environment Action Team and Grounds for Action. There may be opportunity for some collaboration with the Nature Conservation Team in further developing skills and knowledge on preserving the natural environment.

5. Please list below any constraints that may prevent the delivery of the above actions.

Available budget to provide training, releasing staff to attend training or for any costs associated with maintaining or enhancing the natural environment and biodiversity.

Health & Safety regulations, which may conflict with developing natural environments whilst ensuring vulnerable people are safe and have access to buildings and outside space in order to meet their needs and outcomes.

6. What help and support would enable you overcome these constraints? If you have any other comments, please list them here.

Better joint working between Departments, seeking to share knowledge, expertise and resources.

Knowledge and expertise to seek grant or other sources of funding.

**Please return completed questionnaire to Bethan Hopkins, Scrutiny Officer by 28 August**  
**[bethan.hopkins@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:bethan.hopkins@swansea.gov.uk) 01792 636292**

**THANK YOU**

*If you would like further information regarding the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Duty please contact: Deborah Hill, Team Leader/Arweinydd Tîm  
(01792) 635777 Mob 07967 138 016*