



**Recovery and Future Generations Policy Development Committee
26 October 2021**

Community Safety

Purpose:	To provide a brief overview on Community Safety and the Safer Swansea Partnership
Policy Framework:	Crime and Disorder Act 1998 South Wales Police & Crime Reduction Plan 2017-2021 Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Swansea Public Services Board Local Wellbeing Plan
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Recommendation(s):	The Recovery and Future Generations PDC note the report
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1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The Safer Swansea Partnership was established in 1998 as a result of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
- 1.2 The Safer Swansea Partnership has a statutory responsibility to undertake annual reviews of Crime and Disorder. The purpose of the review is to become aware of the nature of Crime and Disorder, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse within the City & County of Swansea, and then to identify methods of developing and implementing effective action to reduce these problems and direct resources to address them.

- 1.3 The Safer Swansea Partnership supports the Public Service Board in meeting and delivering on the local strategic objectives and priorities relating to Crime and Disorder.
- 1.4 Community Safety sits within the Community Integration and Partnerships team and roles funded from a Police & Crime Commissioner Grant.
- 1.5 There are 3 posts in Community Safety :- an Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction Co-ordinator; a Community Safety Project Co-ordinator and a Community Safety Partnership Support Officer.

2. Partnership Strategy

- 2.1 The Safer Swansea Community Safety Strategy is a Partnership strategy agreed in 2018 for 3 years.
- 2.2 Membership of the Safer Swansea Partnership consists of key representatives from statutory partners and other organisations with an interest and influence in community safety issues
- 2.3 The Safer Swansea Steering Group is the management and leadership group for the Safer Swansea Partnership where all key decisions are made on behalf of the Partnership. It provides leadership on the Safer Swansea strategy and liaison with the Police and Crime Commissioner on funding and strategy. It is jointly chaired by South Wales Police and the Council
- 2.4 The strategy reflects the changing community safety landscape and the Safer Swansea Partnership Steering Group will work together to ensure that we are prepared to meet the changing environment in which we work
- 2.5 The strategic priorities agreed with statutory partners and key stakeholders for the Safer Swansea Partnership 2018-2021 are:
 - Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV)
 - Substance Misuse
 - Stronger Communities
 - Evening and Night time Economy
 - Hate Crime and Community Tension monitoring
- 2.6 The strategy reflects the changing community safety landscape and the Safer Swansea Partnership Steering Group work together to ensure that we are prepared to meet the changing environment in which we work
- 2.7 Each strategic priority reports on a quarterly basis with written updates presented to the steering group

2.8 A Governance Framework is attached as Appendix A

3. High Street

3.1 The issues affecting the High Street and surrounding area is not uncommon to those that affect many of our communities. However, there are some unique to this area which have attracted the attention of the national press and increased public scrutiny on whether specific issues and concerns are being addressed and if indeed, it is the 'worst high street in Britain?'

The anti - social behaviour issues at the top end of High Street are been well documented

3.2 Established in July 2019 through the Safer Swansea Partnership, four work streams lead on key areas of work. They report quarterly on progress to a Critical Incident Task And Finish Group and to the Safer Swansea Steering group

3.3 These four work streams are:

- Criminology and Anti-Social Behaviour – lead SWP
- Substance misuse, drug dealing and County Lines activity – lead BAROD
- Street sex working and exploitation of vulnerable people – lead Women's Aid
- Public realm – Swansea Council

3.4 To complement activities being undertaken by the Council, Police and partner agencies to tackle anti - social behaviour issues, additional investment is being targeted to improve lighting, sight lines, and safety around the pedestrian tunnels.

3.5 Indicative activities include lighting, landscaping, security measures, and assessment and reuse of derelict structures and properties. In particular. the series of properties at the top of High Street, former retail units and takeaway are currently being redeveloped.

3.6 We are investing in the empty properties to create a community space and to improve the public realm.

Currently refurbishing three units and work has also started on the takeaway.

Housing will use the two remaining units to relocate the DHO

3.7 Community engagement events have taken place in June and July with a further meeting in September. Some examples of ideas for the community space are listed below:

- Social Enterprise – possibility to be community owned and led
- Café/Shop/Bakery
- Grow your own projects in the yard space behind the units
- ‘Pop up’ space for creative activities
- Safe Space for Outreach work – to include evening work with the SWAN project
- Space for Youth Engagement 2/3 times a week – Youth Justice team interested
- Wider community provision in the day – space for community engagement and activities
- Multi-agency hub for Partnership working/hot desking
- Pop up Cinema and Games

3.8 As an example, it is anticipated the type of services who would support and use the space would come from:

- Housing advice and support
- Substance misuse agencies
- Health care and support for sex workers and vulnerable people
- Partners from the Safer Partnership and 3rd sector
- Employability support and training
- Capacity building (business start-up, financial planning etc.)
- Student involvement in running creative activities
- City Centre Rangers

3.9 It is anticipated that a number of activities will be organised up until the end of the year to encourage the community to participate, become involved and to take forward the development of the community space. These will be free to attend and participate.

4. Integrated Assessment Implications

4.1 The Council is subject to the public sector duties relating to equality and socio-economic inequalities as prescribed by the Equality Act 2010, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.

- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

4.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2005 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

4.3 There are no direct implications in relation to this report; individual project/programme will be subject to the IIA process in their own right?

5. Financial Implications

5.1 Whilst there are no direct financial implications arising from this report, it may lead to decisions being taken at a later date that may have costs attached. Any such costs will need to be managed within departmental resources at that time with due regard to the Council's medium term financial plan.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 The Council must have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty under s149 of the Equality Act 2010 as well as its duties under the Equality Act (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 .

Appendices:

Appendix A Safer Swansea Partnership Governance Flowchart

