

<b>Project Title: PSB Highlight Report</b>	<b>Workstream: Strong Communities</b>
<b>Project Lead: Roger Thomas</b>	<b>Date: October 2022</b>

<b>Project Overview &amp; Key Success Measures</b>	<b>Links to other workstreams or partners</b>
<p><b><u>Description</u></b></p> <p><b>Strong Communities</b> - To build strong communities that have a sense of pride and belonging, are more cohesive and prosperous, enable individuals to trust each other and support people to feel safe and confident.</p> <p><b>Operation Dawns Glaw (Welsh for ‘Rain Dance’)</b>  Operation Dawns Glaw, a multi-agency partnership to reduce deliberate fires across Wales. Fire and Rescue Services in Wales have attended 3230 grass fire incidents over the last five years, which cost the Welsh economy millions of pounds every year, many of which are started deliberately.</p> <p>A task force was established in 2016 to tackle incidents of deliberately set grass fires across Wales. Whilst the initial focus was on reducing incidents of anti-social behaviour and arson, more recent work has concentrated on assisting farmers and landowners in ensuring the safe execution of their land management plans.</p> <p>There is a strong focus on collaboration, working with a wide range of local and national partners across Wales to deliver common and shared outcomes of reducing the impact of arson on Welsh communities</p>	<p>Coastal  Pobl  SCVS  Family Housing  Public Health Wales  Clase 4 All  Council-Local Area Co-ordination  Regeneration Swansea Council  Swansea Learning Partnership  Poverty Partnership Forum  Regional Partnership Boards (RPB);  Partner agency Procurement staff  GP Cluster Networks  housing and social landlords  West Glamorgan Social Value Forum  Beyond Bricks and Mortar  South Wales Police  Swansea City of Sanctuary and others supporting refugees and asylum seekers (Eyst and others)  Swansea Council,  Community Cohesion  Steering Group (which sits under Safer Swansea Partnership);  City of Culture Steering Group Swansea  Menter Iaith Abertawe</p>

Specialist Arson Reduction and Fire Crime teams have evolved to coordinate arson reduction initiatives and to provide an extensive and specialised range of services. Targeted interventions are provided to vulnerable individuals and communities identified at risk of arson.

### **Qualitative KPI's associated with the project**

#### **Operation Dawns Glaw**

- Work together to protect our countryside and our country
- Raise awareness of the consequences of accidental fires in our countryside.
- Land Management - Collaborative work to utilise machinery and skills to reduce fire loading posed by bracken and gorse will progress outside of the Dawns Glaw period, targeting areas of known high risk
- Engagement with Youth Teams and Youth Agencies
- Youth engagement work will be planned as part of arson reduction intervention as this is a proven area of intervention with high-risk groups but the arrangements for delivery will depend on lockdown restrictions and partner agencies
- To provide a coordinated and cohesive partnership response to incidents and is available, to provide advice, guidance, and support about fire safety concerns.

#### **Tackling Poverty**

- Swansea Poverty Truth Commission, the first Poverty Truth Commission in Wales, launches 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022.
- Provide bespoke training packages and the offer of related work experience with contractors and employers in Swansea to vulnerable groups such as prison leavers, those on probation and care leavers.

Merched Y Wawr  
Co-Production Network  
Human Rights City group  
Women's Aid /multi-agency domestic violence practitioners  
Regional Black Minority Ethnic Network  
Community Cohesion group

#### **Operation Dawns Glaw**

The Service's Corporate Plan 2022-2027 outlines our commitment to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and how our Improvement and Well-being Objectives contribute to the seven Well-being Goals, by demonstrating how each one helps the Service to improve the economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales.

**A prosperous Wales** – Deliberate fires are responsible for millions of pounds worth of damage across Wales. By working actively and collaboratively to prevent deliberate fires from occurring and minimising the impact when these fires occur there is an enormous impact on the Welsh economy. Our intervention means that businesses can continue to operate, families can live safely in their homes and crops are safeguarded,

**A resilient Wales** – The damage caused by deliberate fires causes significant damage to the environment, the local landscape, and the ecosystem and this, in turn, has the potential to negatively impact on the community.

### **Regeneration Swansea**

- Continue to focus on partnership working and making links between regeneration schemes to maximise benefits for Swansea.
- Establish new UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund Programme in Swansea
- Continue to monitor and progress the Swansea Economic Recovery Action Plan with partners.
- Support the Welsh Government Transforming Towns Programme to bring vacant commercial floor space back into use in the City Centre and district centres.

### **Safer Swansea Partnership**

- Continue to support our most vulnerable individuals who are "street living"
- Target hardening work throughout the City Centre.

### **Swansea Council for Voluntary Services (SCVS)**

- Continue to utilise formal and informal volunteering opportunities to ensure that communities remain resilient.
- Support individuals referred by social services through the Interact volunteer project.
- Continue to support people with mental ill-health needs in community settings.
- Continue to support refugees and asylum seekers and looked after children through the A Better Welcome to Swansea and Healthy Living Wellbeing Group and Wassup.

**A healthier Wales** – As well as the obvious risks of fire and smoke on health through burns and smoke inhalation, our work with health agencies has identified that there are real risks to health from being exposed to the by-products of fire. Smoke and flames are visible but other by-products of burning are often not as apparent and can have serious and long-term risks to public health, particularly to those who are young, old or have existing health conditions.

**A more equal Wales** – Communities can be blighted by the aftermath of deliberately set fires and the visible after-effect of a fire has a negative effect on that community. The damage can often deter potential investors as well as the impact on well-being.

**A Wales of cohesive communities** – The initiatives that the Service has put in place to reduce the number of deliberately set fires have a strong focus on ensuring that the community plays its part in identifying that this kind of behaviour and the impact arson has is not acceptable. Local community groups are often an essential means of identifying risk and supporting partners in promoting safety messages.

**A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language** – The Service we provide is available bilingually and we welcome and promote engagement using the Welsh Language. Sport has been used as a means of engaging

## **Quantitative KPIs associated with the project**

### **Operation Dawns Glaw**

- Reduction in the number of deliberate fires in 2022/23, against the five-year average
- Reduction in the number of deliberate grass fires in 2022/23, against the five-year average
- Reduction in the number of deliberate refuse fires in 2022/23, against the five-year average

### **Tackling Poverty**

- Increase in the number of Lifelong Learning Service enrolments to a range of courses to improve health and wellbeing and increase skills and accreditation levels and job prospects.
- CfW and CfW+ teams assist people to enrol on the programmes and improve access to job opportunities.
- Increased number of CfW and CfW+ referrals and numbers of people entering into employment as a result of the support received.

### **Regeneration Swansea**

- Quantitative KPIs will be developed in line with the new Well-being Plan.

### **Safer Swansea Partnership**

- Quantitative KPIs will be developed in line with the new Well-being Plan.

### **Swansea Council for Voluntary Services (SCVS)**

- Quantitative KPIs will be developed in line with the new Well-being Plan.

with young people by providing diversionary activities that have a strong safety message as well as being fun to attend.

**A globally responsible Wales** – Preventing deliberate fires from occurring and improving prospects for those communities who suffer this kind of crime helps all our partners achieve their well-being objectives and makes us stronger as a nation

### **Priorities**

**Collaboration** – The coordinated approach delivered through the multi-agency Strategic Arson Reduction Board and the Joint Arson Group has seen far greater ownership and partnership working to tackle deliberate grass fires.

**Improving our Service Delivery** – By adapting our intervention and reducing the risk of deliberate fires we will better meet the needs of our communities.  
Improving our assets and use of resources – Greater use has been made of our crews in areas of high risk to undertake patrols to proactively engage with the community to highlight the risks of deliberate grassland fires.

**Sustainability** – A reduction in the number of deliberate fires, particularly large grassland fires reduces the detrimental impact on the environment and the devastating effect this can have on communities.

Delivery against the Wales Arson Reduction Strategy (WARS4). The Strategic Arson Board's delivery plan is in its

	fourth iteration and the multi-agency board's priorities to reduce arson in Wales have been agreed upon as: -
<b>Project Outcomes/ Milestones</b>	
<p><b>Operation Dawns Glaw</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land management activities to create firebreaks will benefit the engagement work with Landowner and Commoners Associations and with community partners</li> <li>• The creation of these fire breaks will be accelerated with the hire and purchase of an i-cut machine within MAWWFRS, which will complement similar arrangements within SWFRS.</li> <li>• Dawns Glaw activities for 2022 formally launched on 1st March 2022, marking the seventh year for this high-profile multi-agency intervention. Intervention and engagement work will continue to consider multi-agency adaptations due to Covid-19 and the usual school education and youth intervention will be reliant on arrangements for schools. Virtual engagement will be utilised where requested.</li> <li>• Working with local authorities and other partners to advise on the fire risk posed by vacant and derelict premises and land.</li> <li>• Using Farm Liaison Officers to improve engagement with agricultural communities</li> <li>• Swansea Rural group has been set up to assist in dealing with the issues that deliberate fire setting has on the Gower Common areas. This group will look to build on the success the Swansea Public Services Board had in 2021 in securing £8,000 worth of grant funding from Natural Resources Wales, which enabled the Service's Arson Team to identify areas of high risk within Swansea that would benefit from the provision of fire breaks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protecting our communities</li> <li>Educating our communities</li> <li>Improving land management across Wales</li> <li>Share consistent and meaningful information</li> <li>Marketing our work and communicating with our communities</li> </ul>

### **Tackling Poverty**

- Community hubs re-opened with mentors meeting clients and offering drop-in sessions. Quadrant Employment Hub launched.
- The Local Area Coordination Team expanded to cover all communities across Swansea so they have access to a coordinator and are walking alongside many people in a preventative and strength-based way, helping them to be more confident and connected.
- The Tackling Poverty Service and its partner Swansea Council for Voluntary Service contributed to the Community Calling campaign in Swansea in partnership with Hubbub and O2, which will see around 700 donated phones distributed to people who are digitally excluded in Swansea.

### **Regeneration Swansea**

- Investment plan submitted to UK Government.
- £558,000 worth of funding approved under Transforming Towns programme.

### **Safer Swansea Partnership**

- Safer Swansea Partnership Strategy 2023-26 - The Partnership has started work on developing the new strategy. A meeting was held on 24<sup>th</sup> August with core members to scope priorities and start the process.
- A first draft will be shared with the Partnership over the coming weeks with a view to a wider public and stakeholder consultation, including the Scrutiny Committee.

### **Community Safety**

- On-going management of 20 hot spot cameras.
- Weekly City Centre student drop-in sessions. Partnership officers available at the three main City Centre student accommodations to answer any queries and concerns students may have. Finished end of June for the summer break.
- Organisation and delivering Safer Swansea community engagement events throughout Swansea during summer 2022.
- Development of four community / partnership units in Dyfatty.
- Attendance at 4 monthly PSG partnership meetings
- Attendance at fortnightly CMET meetings.
- Weekly target hardening surveys.
- Environmental design out work (City Centre – Gorseinon – Blaenymaes – Civic Centre -Clydach).
- Autocrime campaign within City Centre car parks.
- PTA and Primary school assembly talks.
- Crucial Crew safety fortnight delivered to Primary Schools.
- Annual Emergency Services engagement day.
- Student 'Freshers' safety campaign and design of student safety booklet.
- Support and advice to Street Pastors to enable effective ENTE work as well as Help Point support.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

- 1 Mediation referral received, involving 2 parties to help resolve a neighbour dispute. 2 individual sessions and 1 joint session were carried out which to date has resulted in a successful process.
- 40 Stage 1 First Warning letters issued
- 18 Stage 1 Final Warning letters issued

- 1 Stage 2 Final Warning letter issued
- 3 Stage 2 joint visits with YJS carried out
- We currently have 12 YP's on Stage 2 interventions 2 of which breached their Stage 2.
- Tender process of the new £1 million Monitoring Centre to replace the current CCTV system completed and tender has been awarded to the successful contractor.
- PSPO: Since June we have carried out a total of over 220 engagements which have resulted in 25 warnings, 6 FPN's and 3 arrests.
- Street Vulnerability MARAC currently supporting 9 individuals who are begging, homeless and/or have issues with substance mis-use. Some are in breach of the City PSPO.

**Swansea Council for Voluntary Services (SCVS)**





- Case studies are included for information.

**Key Updates this period**

**Overview of key risks**



**KPI Results (Operation Dawns Glow) It is pleasing to report the figures are below target.**

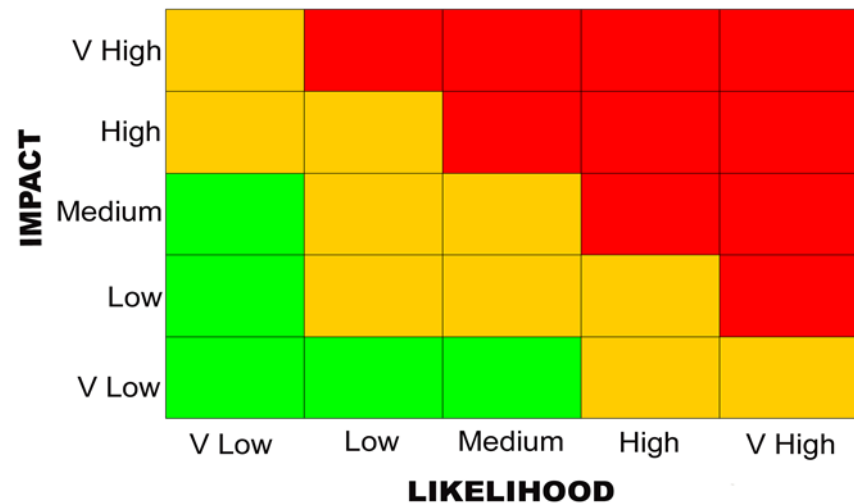
KPI description	Result	Target	Comment
Number of deliberate fires	4480 	5205	These figures are from April 21 to Dec 21. Dec 21 to April 22 figures will be available at end of April 22
Number of deliberate grass fires	1298 	1554	These figures are from April 21 to Dec 21. Dec 21 to April 22 figures will be available at end of April 22
Number of deliberate refuse fires	2163 	2430	These figures are from April 21 to Dec 21. Dec 21 to April 22 figures will be available at end of April 22
Number of deliberate fires	4480 	5205	These figures are from April 21 to Dec 21. Dec 21 to April 22 figures will be available at end of April 22

**Highlights – Achievements / Outcomes**

**Operation Dawns Glow**

- In 2021, Fire and Rescue Services across Wales dealt with 2,089 grass fires. Whilst this was a slight decrease in 2020, the number of accidental fires in 2021 had increased by 24%.

**Risk Matrix (RAG Status)**



1. Risk 1, Amber, low likelihood but high impact. - Lack of community engagement,
2. Risk 2, Red, medium likelihood but high impact. - Extended land burning outside of the Heather and Grass Burning Code.

- Fire break cutting will be accelerated with the successful Welsh Government grant application for the purchase of an i-cut machine within MAWWFRS.

### **Tackling Poverty**

- 1006 citizens were supported to find employability and training provided by the single referral pathway. (April to August 2022)
- Lifelong Learning Service had 656 enrolments on to a range of courses to improve health and wellbeing. (April to August 2022)
- CfW and CfW+ teams helped 193 people to work and 353 people enrolled on the programmes. (April to September 2022)
- The Welfare Rights Team raised £360,570.66 in Welfare Benefits for the residents of Swansea and addressed £74,703.21 of debt. (April to August 2022)
- Over £200,000 in grants for Men's Sheds, Food Poverty and Period Dignity in Communities has been awarded to support projects in Swansea. (April to September 2022)

### **Regeneration Swansea**

- The partnership continued to receive details of the projects approved under the UK's Community Renewal Fund
- Shared Prosperity Fund Regional Investment Plan submitted to UK Government in August, UK Government approval expected in October.
- £558,000 allocated to four funding applications to bring vacant space back into use under the Transforming Towns programme.

### **Safer Swansea Partnership**

- **Community Cohesion Initiatives** – The Cohesion Officer in Swansea has completed a Positive Messages Project, which aimed to combat the increase in far-right graffiti and stickering in Swansea. These positive counter-narrative messages were

placed in areas of heavy footfall across Swansea and are designed to be uplifting and create unity and engagement. We worked closely with the transport department to get the messages displayed on digital screens in bus stations and shelters, as well as on the side of vehicles.

- **Community Rail** – Community Rail will arrange a day out on the ‘Heart of Wales’ rail line, which includes a scenic rail journey to a town in West/Mid Wales, family friendly activities, a visit to a museum or heritage centre and lunch. The project will focus on delivering these activities for Refugees and Asylum Seekers across Western Bay. Officers are supporting the Cohesion Officer in identifying potential families that are interested in taking part. The project has been developed as a result of feedback from communities that wish to expand their support networks across neighbouring local authorities.
- **Refugee Week 2022** – Officers organised training for staff and key partners across Western Bay during Refugee Week. This was delivered by Displaced People in Action. Purpose of the training was to help staff better understand the definitions and differences of immigration status, the barriers facing refugees and asylum seekers and ways staff can support. A speaker with first-hand experience of being a refugee in Swansea helped deliver the training. 35 members of staff in attendance.
- **Telegram Training** – Cohesion Officers across Western Bay and Carmarthenshire will take part in training of the Telegram App, in order to monitor the rise of Far-Right group activity across the regions. This will be delivered by the Head of Criminology at Swansea University

- **Smart Partnership Application** – The Cohesion Team have supported Swansea University in completing their Smart Partnership funding application, to support the prototype of a graffiti reporting App following the rise of extremist related graffiti across the region. The App will allow data to be collected in one place and will help the finder of the graffiti/stickering to identify and report its location. The application has now been submitted to Welsh Government and awaiting the outcome.
- **Online Hate Training** – The Cohesion Officer has arranged training around online hate and creating safe spaces online for online group administrators. Training will be delivered by Victim Support.

#### **Swansea Council for Voluntary Services (SCVS)**

- Interact (volunteer project supporting people referred by social services) 54 people were supported by a 1-1 volunteer over the phone, with some attending group sessions.
- Transcend (mental health peer monitoring volunteering project) 29 referrals matched.
- Mental Health and Wellbeing (supporting community members with enduring mental health needs in community settings) 81 individuals were supported via 1-1 telephone calls and virtual coffee groups.
- A Better Welcome to Swansea & Healthy Living Wellbeing group (supporting refugees and asylum seekers) 268 participants signposted for support/advice and guidance.
- Wassup (supporting looked after children – providing an independent visitor service) 19 matches.

## **Challenges/ Barriers**

### **Operation Dawns Glow**

- Continued instability with Covid-19 infection levels, reducing the opportunities for engagement
- Continued good weather, will see continued burning of land outside of the permitted times (15th of March for lowlands and 31st of March for highlands) set out within The Heather and Grass Burning Code
- Impact of continued good weather affecting incidence of grass fires.
- Difficulties with progress being measured against short term measurements instead of medium to long term measurements. The reported figures for incidence of grass fires can be affected by matters out of MAWWFRS and partners' control, such as periods of good weather.
- Conflicting priorities as partners 'unlock' from Covid-19 and start their return to business as usual, causing a lack of focus on Operation Dawns Glow.

Priorities for next period	Stakeholders Involved & Communication undertaken		
<p><b>Operation Dawns Glaw</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to engage with our communities on a multi-agency basis to highlight the impact of deliberate fires.</li> <li>• Continue with the collaborative work in cutting fire breaks to protect areas of SSRI as well as areas with high economic value, such as newly planted trees, crops, and property.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Operation Dawns Glaw</b></p> <p>The multi-agency taskforce, set-up to bring a dedicated focus on deliberate and accidental grass fires across Wales (Operation Dawns Glaw). This multi-agency taskforce including partners from Natural Resources Wales (NRW), the four Welsh Police Forces, Local Authorities.</p> <p>Opportunities for direct multi-agency engagement with the agricultural community at events such as the Royal Welsh Show and the 2022 Eisteddfod Genedlaethol at Tregaron, as well as local shows</p>		
<p><b>Any Actions for PSB: (Please tick as appropriate)</b></p> <p><b>Operation Dawns Glaw</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the work and encourage engagement with the multi-agency task force set up during Operational Dawns Glaw.</li> <li>• Support Community Engagement and outreach projects. Alongside arson reduction messages, the FRS provides advice to a range of forums including Community Cohesion, Hate Crime Awareness, Domestic Abuse, and engagement with Refugee Families</li> </ul>	<p><b>Note</b></p>	<p><b>Action</b></p>	<p><b>Decision</b></p>
<p><b>Report Prepared by:</b>  <b>Chief Fire Officer, Roger Thomas</b></p>			