



Report of the Cabinet Member for Community (Support)

Safeguarding People and Tackling Poverty Corporate Delivery Committee –
24 October 2022

Report on the Development of Local Area Coordination Best Practice Guide

Purpose:	To provide a briefing to the Safeguarding People and Tackling Poverty Corporate Delivery Committee on the development of Swansea Council's best practice guidance relating to Local Area Coordination in Swansea.
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For Information	

1. Introduction

1.1 The Report on the development of Local Area Coordination Best Practice Guide describes the proposal to co-produce a Best Practice Guide document that defines our best practice guidelines for the Local Area Coordination service. This will be supported by a set of tasks to launch, promote and communicate these guidelines with Members, residents, our partners and stakeholders.

2. Content

2.1 The report (Appendix A) for the Corporate Delivery Committee is structured to consider:

- Context of Local Area Coordination;
- What does Local Area Coordination in Swansea look like;
- The need to publish best practice guidance;
- Proposed content of the Best Practice Guide;
- Approach to co-production of the best practice guidance;
- Next steps.

3. Context

3.1 Local Area Coordination plays an important role in supporting the people of Swansea to live in welcoming communities that provide friendship, mutual support, equity and opportunities for everyone. This vision is achieved through a collaborative, strengths-based approach involving many departments of the Council, our partners, stakeholders, service providers, community groups and volunteers.

3.2 The model of Local Area Coordination is an internationally recognised service model that originated in Australia in 1988. Our local implementation of this approach is part of the Local Area Coordination Network, and Swansea is one of the pioneering regions for establishing a best practice model of support. Local Area Coordination started in Swansea in 2015 with five coordinators and we now have 23 coordinators, covering all areas of Swansea.

3.3 Due to the expansion across all communities of Swansea, there is a need to define, publish and promote a clear set of guidelines for the best practice standard of Local Area Coordination. This is important because:

- With a wide range of stakeholders involved, many individuals have different perspectives and expectations of what the service is and does;
- There is a need to blend standard practices and flexibility due to variations in local needs;
- The role of Local Area Coordinators is unique and their role to make a difference in their communities needs clear definition;
- A collaborative approach also requires our partners and supporters to understand their role in the service;
- Promotion of the service – which is essential to achieving the vision – must be supported by the foundations of clear best practice;
- Clear best practice standards supports recruitment, development and retention of Local Area Coordinators.

3.4 Recommendations from the Corporate Delivery Committee will contribute to the development of the Best Practice Guide.

4. Next Steps

4.1 Commence co-production tasks with Members, residents, partners and stakeholders.

4.2 Draft a Local Area Coordination Best Practice Guide.

4.3 Submit final draft for approval.

4.4 Launch the Local Area Coordination Best Practice Guide.

4.5 Use the guidelines to enhance recruitment and impact of Local Area Coordination.

5. Integrated Assessment Implications

- 5.1 The Council is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty (Wales) and must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimization and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 - 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
- 5.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 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'.
- 5.3 Our Integrated Impact Assessment process ensures that we have paid due regard to the above.
- 5.4 An Integrated Impact Screening has been completed for this report with no further assessment required (See Appendix B). This is an IIA Screening for the 'For Information' Report to the Safeguarding People and Tackling Poverty Corporate Delivery Committee regarding background information and initial actions to develop a coproduced Local Area Coordination Best Practice Guide. A full IIA will be carried out as part of the development process in due course.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

7. Finance Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Background papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix A – Report on the development of the Local Area Co-ordination Best Practice Guide

Appendix B – Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form