



Report of the Cabinet Member for Well-Being

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 13 December 2022

Report on the Delivery of the Corporate Priority of Tackling Poverty

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Purpose | To provide a briefing to the Scrutiny Programme Committee on delivery of the Council’s Corporate Priority of Tackling Poverty. |
| Content | The report provides an overview and context of the ‘Report on the delivery of the Corporate Priority of Tackling Poverty’. |
| Councillors are being asked to | Consider the report, to give their views and make recommendations to the Cabinet Member as necessary. |
| Lead Councillor | Councillor Alyson Pugh, Cabinet Member for Well-Being. |
| Lead Officer Report Author | Amy Hawkins, Head of Adult Services and Tackling Poverty Lee Cambule, Tackling Poverty Service Manager Anthony Richards, Tackling Poverty Strategy Development Manager |
| Legal Officer | Carolyn Isaac |
| Finance Officer | Chris Davies |
| Access to Services | Catherine Window |

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Swansea Council’s Corporate Plan sets out six key council priorities, one of which is Tackling Poverty – so that every person in Swansea can achieve their potential.
- 1.2 Poverty is caused by things that reduce resources, or increase needs and the costs of meeting those needs. Causes of poverty can also be consequences which can then create a cycle known as the poverty trap. Common triggers of poverty are often life changing events or changes in circumstances such as becoming sick, bereavement, redundancy or relationship breakdown.
- 1.3 During the last 12 months progress has been made against our ambitions for tackling poverty. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and economic challenges - including the Cost of Living crisis - have focussed and shaped our efforts to tackle poverty.

- 1.4 As we enter a period of revisiting our priorities and plans for tackling poverty, this is an opportunity to reflect back on the progress that has been made as well as informing our future approaches through national and local evidence and lived experience.

2. Content

- 2.1 The report prepared for the Scrutiny Programme Committee (see **Appendix A**) is structured to include:
- Executive Summary
 - Context
 - Corporate Priority
 - Corporate Plan Steps
 - Corporate Performance Indicators
 - National Strategic Drivers
 - Additional Developments
 - Way Forward
- 2.2 The report presents evidence, insights and intelligence that demonstrates the contributions that have been made to achieving the Corporate Plan priority in the last twelve months.
- 2.3 The report also considers the findings and recommendations of Audit Wales' ['Time for Change – Poverty in Wales'](#) Report, published 1st November 2022, including a number of positive reflections of good practice identified in Swansea.

3. Context

- 3.1 The Covid-19 pandemic and Cost of Living Crisis is disproportionately impacting low income households, pushing more people into poverty and those experiencing it, further into poverty resulting in increasing demand for services including crisis support services and increased complexities for those in need.
- 3.2 Swansea Council's ongoing response to the Cost of Living Crisis is contributing to mitigating the impact of poverty and increased levels of demand.
- 3.3 The report outlines the activity from the past 12 months and future plans over the next 12 months.

4. Integrated Assessment Implications

- 4.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, 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.

4.1.1 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’.

4.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above – see **Appendix B**. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

5. Legal implications

5.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report other than those set out in the body of the report.

6. Finance Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Background papers: *None*

Appendices: Appendix A – Report on the Delivery of the Corporate Priority of Tackling Poverty
Appendix B – IIA Screening