



Report of the Cabinet Member for Well-Being

Safeguarding People and Tackling Poverty Corporate Delivery Committee – 23 January 2023

Report on the Development of Local Area Coordination Best Practice Guide

Purpose:	For the Safeguarding People and Tackling Poverty Corporate Development Committee to consider the Swansea Council's draft best practice guidance document relating to Local Area Coordination (LAC) in Swansea, to give their views and make recommendations to the Cabinet Member as necessary.
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For Information	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The draft Local Area Coordination Best Practice Guide which sets out the best practice standards for the Local Area Coordination service has been produced and is provided as Appendix A for the consideration of the Committee.
- 1.2 The Council's commitment to Local Area Coordination is to implement a service based on internationally recognised best practice

2. Context

- 2.1 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 being achieved through a collaborative, strengths-based

approach involving not just many departments of the Council but our partners, stakeholders, service providers, community groups and volunteers.

- 2.2 The model of Local Area Coordination is an internationally recognised service model that originated in Australia in 1988. Our local implementation of this service is part of the national Local Area Coordination Network, and Swansea is one of the pioneering areas for establishing a best practice model of support. Having been on this journey in Swansea since 2015, we have reached a point in our journey where we have achieved full coverage across Swansea.
- 2.3 Due to the expansion of Local Area Coordination in all communities across Swansea, it is timely 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 may have different perspectives and expectations of what the service is and does;
 - There is a need to combine standard practices and flexibility due to variations in local needs;
 - The role of Local Area Coordinators is unique and it is important to make clear their bespoke approach.
 - 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 our vision – must be supported by the foundations of clear best practice;
 - Clear best practice standards supports recruitment, onboarding, development and retention of Local Area Coordinators.
- 2.4 Our proposal is 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 our partners and stakeholders.
- 2.5 Recommendations from the Corporate Development Committee will contribute to the further development of the Best Practice Guide.

3 Content

- 3.1 The draft Best Practice Guide is presented includes:
- Definition of Local Area Coordination and the role of Local Area Coordinators;
 - Definition of the principles and approach underpinning Local Area Coordination;
 - How Local Area Coordination is applied in Swansea;
 - More about how Local Area Coordinators work in communities, in partnerships and in walking alongside individuals;

- Examples of the positive outcomes achieved and an overview of how Stories are important to this approach;
 - Contact information and quotes from people who have been supported by our Local Area Coordinators.
- 3.2 The content is currently in draft form and is under review to identify and incorporate comments from key stakeholders including Councillors, citizens and colleagues. The document will also be subject to review in terms of accessibility and format to make this document easy to read and understand.
- 3.3 The audience for the guide are stakeholders of this service including Council Members, professionals (such as General Practitioners, Social Workers and Social Prescribers) other partners and members of our communities in Swansea.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 Finalise draft document incorporating comments from stakeholders.
- 4.2 Submit final draft for approval through corporate governance.
- 4.3 Launch the Local Area Coordination Best Practice Guide.

5. Integrated Assessment Implications

- 5.1 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.
- 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 (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

5.4 An Integrated Impact Screening has been completed for this report with no further assessment required (See Appendix C). This is an IIA Screening for the 'For Information' Report to the Safeguarding People and Tackling Poverty Corporate Delivery Committee regarding on the findings of the Auditor General for Wales review of tackling poverty in Wales and its recommendations for action by local authorities. A full IIA will be carried out as part of the development process for the Tackling Poverty Strategy 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 – Draft Local Area Co-ordination Best Practice Guide

Appendix B – Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form