



Report of the Head of Adult Services and Tackling Poverty

Safeguarding People and Tackling Poverty Corporate Delivery Committee –
27 March 2023

Report on the Local Area Coordination Guide

Purpose:	For the Corporate Development Committee to consider the Council's updated draft 'Local Area Coordination Guide'
Consultation:	Legal, Finance & Access to Services
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that the Safeguarding People & Tackling Poverty Corporate Delivery Committee: 1) Consider the draft Local Area Coordination Guide give their views and make recommendations to the Cabinet Member prior to progressing to publication.
Report Authors:	Lee Cambule & Jon Franklin
Finance Officer:	Debbie Smith
Legal Officer:	Chris Davies
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The draft Local Area Coordination Guide (previously referred to as Local Area Coordination Best Practice Guide) is a new guidance document targeted at Elected Members as well as Council officers, to raise awareness and understanding of the Local Area Coordination approach and how it is applied in Swansea.
- 1.2. This document has been drafted and reviewed in consultation with Elected Members in line with our commitment to co-production principles. The version of the document included in Appendix A has been developed through the internal Design Print service in line with their design principles and is

presented for final review prior to publication.

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 regions areas for establishing a best practice model of support. Having been on this journey in Swansea for years since 2015, we have reached a point where we have achieved full coverage across Swansea.
- 2.3. The requirement for a guide document is driven by the need for a clear definition of the approach that can be consistently applied across 22 local areas in Swansea working with all Elected Members as well as a range of Council staff, local people and external partners who work closely with our Coordinators.
- 2.4. For further definition on the impact made by Local Area Coordination in Swansea, the annual Impact Report for performance in 2022 is included at Appendix B for information.

3. Progress to date

- 3.1. Development of this document has been ongoing since November 2022 and the content 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 draft version of the document was shared with the Corporate Development Committee in January 2023. Further review of the draft document has included Coordinators engaging with their local Elected Members to discuss the document. It was circulated to all Elected Members

and comments received by 10 March 2023 have been largely positive reflections on the document.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1. The Safeguarding People and Tackling Poverty Corporate Delivery Committee are asked to consider the draft Local Area Coordination Guide and make any recommendations prior to progressing to publication. This would include development of Welsh Language version and issuing communications to Elected Members in sharing final document versions.

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, carers, 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 Report to the Safeguarding People and Tackling Poverty Corporate Delivery Committee regarding the development of the Local Area Coordination Guide. The report is to seek recommendations on the draft guide document.

6. Legal Implications

6.1. There are no legal implications.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. 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. Should that be the case, additional consideration will need to be given to how the additional costs / resources will be provided at that time.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix A: Local Area Coordination Guide

Appendix B: Local Area Coordination in Swansea – Impact Report 2022

Appendix C: IIA Screening Form