



**To/  
Councillor Rob Stewart  
Chair of Swansea Public Services  
Board**

*Please ask for:  
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Date  
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**Overview & Scrutiny**

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**15<sup>th</sup> August 2018**

**BY EMAIL**

Summary: This letter is from the Public Services Board Performance Panel. It follows on from the Governance session which took place on the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

Dear Councillor Stewart,

On 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018, the Public Services Board (PSB) Scrutiny Performance Panel held a session on governance of the PSB. This letter is response to that session and also serves as an overview of the work of the Panel over the last year.

As a special note, the Panel would like to thank Chris Sivers the former Director of People who has now left the Council. She contributed much during the Panels meetings and was heavily involved in development and delivery of the work of the PSB.

We would also like to thank Councillor Clive Lloyd for attending the meeting in your absence to answer questions.

**Governance**

During our meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> July, we read a report developed by Suzy Richards. The report answered a list of questions which the Panel submitted in advance relating to Governance of the PSB.

The Panel were interested to read how the Public Services Board managed relationships on such a large scale when making decisions which impact so many citizens.

We were interested to hear how risk is managed. It was suggested that the PSB does not actually take the risk, but the organisation delivering under the objective does. The Panel noted that a risk tracker has been developed as a standing item to monitor risk. The Panel would be interested to see this.

Can you comment on the level/type of risk you believe the PSB itself has as opposed to the delivery organisation?

We heard that Swansea has been regarded as an example of a well-run PSB which is encouraging. We also heard that as yet, no formal disagreements have taken place and that decisions are made through debate.

There were some concerns raised by the Panel about the bureaucracy of the PSB. The fact that some Panel members have to attend numerous meetings is seen as unsustainable and creates potential difficulties as delivery methods and plans between different PSB boards could differ substantially.

The Panel were encouraged that a greener environment is seen as a key part of the work being undertaken. It was also noted that the work taking place around biodiversity impacts upon wellbeing of Swansea.

The sharing of responsibility is welcome. We heard how Mid and West Wales Fire Services is funding a Local Area Co-ordinator and South Wales Police are looking to share in the delivery.

We heard that it is important for the PSB and the work being delivered under it, that it does not stray into any other work being done by other regional consortia.

### **Last Year 2017/2018**

Last year – we had the opportunity to scrutinise the original work streams. Ageing Well, Early Years and Domestic Abuse.

We had some very thorough presentations from officers and heard how the work they had been doing to date was going to feed into the objectives of the well-being plan going forward.

There was a focus on collaborative working and sharing knowledge and resources with relevant organisations.

### **This Year 2018/2019**

The Panel will now monitor how the 5 ways of working and the 7 well-being goals are integrated and delivered within all of the which is presented to scrutiny.

The Panel also has a strong focus on how the sustainable development principle is built into the work which is being delivered.

Our intention this year is to monitor how each of the statutory partners is contributing to the work which is being developed under the action plans.

We will be looking at each of the action plans and how these are delivered. We have also invited the Future Generations Commissioner to come to the Panel to speak about PSBs, her views on progress so far and what kind of things to be looking at in the future.

We would be grateful for your response to the following question;

*Can you comment on the level/type of risk you believe the PSB itself has as opposed to the delivery organisation?*

Your reply would be welcome by 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mary Jones', is positioned above the printed name and title.

**Councillor Mary Jones**

Convener, Public Services Board Scrutiny Performance Panel

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