



Report of the Joint Chair of Swansea Public Services Board

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 15 December 2020

Review of Swansea PSB Annual Report 19/20

Purpose:	To provide the recently published PSB Annual Report as an overview of work and achievements of the PSB during 2019/20.
Content:	PSB Annual Report 2019/20
Councillors are being asked to:	Consider the information provided and give views
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1. Background

- 1.1 The Swansea Public Services Board (PSB) Annual Report 2019/20 was published on 15th September 2020. This Report highlights progress made during 2019/20 meeting the Well-being Objectives set out in the PSB Well-being Plan published in May 2018, where the key focus was on planning and prioritising areas where collectively partners could make the biggest difference.

2. Governance Review

- 2.1 The limitations of the previous PSB governance structure were recognised and a Governance Review was undertaken to address this. The Review also took on board advice from the Future Generations Commissioner and a new Governance structure was put in place.
- 2.2 The Statutory PSB members along with the wider Core Group intended to create a streamlined governance process with a new focus on delivery objectives as the driver of the PSB.
- 2.3 Decision making governance is expedited at a strategic level via a Joint Committee consisting of the PSB Statutory members and invited participants. This group provides advocacy and support at a strategic level for issues raised by PSB partners.

- 2.4 Objective delivery groups lead on delivery, each co-ordinated and facilitated by a statutory member. Involvement is intended to be more meaningful and involve a wider range of partners through the creation of a Partnership Forum. Task and finish groups are able to be formed in response to need and draw on the skills and expertise of the Partnership Forum organisations. The PSB Joint Committee meetings are held bi-monthly and the Partnership Forums take place every 6 months.
- 2.5 The new governance structure proved more effective during 2019/20 than the previous arrangements; although the PSB has faced significant disruption since March 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. Summary of Progress Towards Well-being Objectives

- 3.1 The Annual Report attached at Appendix A details the progress that the PSB has made to each of its Well-being Objectives. These achievements are summarised in the following paragraphs:

3.2 *Early Years - To ensure that children have the best start in life to be the best that they can be*

- 3.2.1 This work is co-ordinated by the Early Years Steering Group and led by Swansea University Health Board. Since April 2019 there have been staffing changes within the Early Years workstream, which led to the role of the Objective Lead and the role of the Chair becoming vacant. As an interim measure, operational officers of the sub-group maintained the activity agreed under the 18/19 action plan. The officers also undertook a review of activity to date in order to enable a take-stock appraisal with a view of refreshing the work plan for 20/21. This issue has now been resolved recently with the newly appointed Director of Public Health taking up the role of both Chair and Objective Lead for Early Years.

3.2.2 Achievements include:

- Improved integrated working between generic midwives and Jig-so midwives, which aims to offer support to young or vulnerable parents.
- Demonstrable better health and social outcomes for the young parents and a large proportion who were referred to the Jig-so project.
- A reduction in children and families requiring social services support.
- Parents that had access early intervention support feeling more confident and supported.
- A reduction in GP demand and appointment time.
- Cost savings upstream in health and social services costs.
- Training to support Swansea's Early Years Childcare settings to have a better understanding and provide due regard to the ALN Code.

3.3 *Live well, age well - To make Swansea a great place to live well and age well.*

- 3.3.1 This work is co-ordinated by the Live Well, Age Well working group and led by Swansea Council. Work has been aimed at starting a debate across generations about what it means to live and age well and develop a campaign

based on the feedback. To drive forward this step, citizen engagement and participation has been a key feature through mechanisms such as the Big Conversation, Live Well, Age Well Forum and other Intergenerational Opportunities.

3.3.2 1,521 people had opportunities to have their voices heard through Big Conversation events. Among the outcomes were opportunities for elected Members to have discussions with children and young people focusing on their experiences of inequality; these views helped inform Swansea's Equalities Scrutiny Report. Young people had a say on the new site for Alternative Education Provision in Swansea; their ideas helped inform the design process of the buildings.

3.3.3 The Live Well, Age Well Forums for citizens aged 50+ tackled themes including Digital Inclusion, Communication and Information, Health and Well-being, Transport & Getting about & Staying Safe. Representatives were also invited to attend the Intergenerational Big Conversations, allowing younger and older people to discuss things together.

3.3.4 Other innovative approaches to health and social care included supporting dementia friendly communities. This included Dementia Friendly Generations, a digital storytelling project to bring together the young and older people of Swansea and create a better understanding of Dementia. Other initiatives included exploring a range of initiatives to tackle social isolation and build personal resilience across the PSB and voluntary sector through, for example, the work of Local Area Co-ordinators.

3.4 *Working with Nature - To improve health, enhance biodiversity and reduce our carbon footprint*

3.4.1 This work is coordinated by the Working with Nature Task Group and led by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and Swansea Environmental Forum (SEF). This objective highlights the importance of the natural environment to health and well-being and sets out proposals for increasing green infrastructure and biodiversity, reducing our carbon footprint and improving our understanding of natural resources and sustainability.

3.4.2 Green Infrastructure (GI) describes all the features of the natural environment between and within our towns and cities. Success include developers already engaging in the pre-publication GI Strategy – to factor into future plans and using the 'Green Space Factor' Tool to help them do this. Work has been undertaken with Pobl and Coastal social housing groups. Coastal are developing a green roof at their city centre Head Office and Pobl have GI as a key theme in their regeneration master planning for their housing stock.

3.4.3 There has been a surge in tree planting schemes across Swansea organised by various organisations and communities. The Working with Nature Task Group is keen to ensure that appropriate trees are planted in appropriate locations; Almost 150 trees have been planted alongside streets in Swansea's Penlan area and 250 will follow next year. Steps have been taken to tackle Ash trees affected by Ash Dieback disease; around 3,000 Ash trees have so far

been surveyed on public land many of which show varying signs of Ash Dieback.

3.4.4 High-quality parks and green spaces are important to our communities, our health and wellbeing, nature and the economy. The PSB wants to encourage everyone to explore their local areas and make the most of what we have on our doorstep. One key achievement was the establishment of a community growing project in Clydach, which has become an award-winning community hub providing social and mental health benefits to vulnerable people and supplying provisions to the local food bank.

3.4.5 The PSB Working with Nature Task Group have also been liaising with PSB working groups in west Wales about the work they are doing related to climate risk management and adaptation. Swansea Environmental Forum and The Environment Centre collaborated to organise a programme of events with funding from Natural Resources Wales and support from many PSB Task Group partners. These included a series of well attended evening public talks and discussions on several issues linked to the PSB Working with Nature agenda. The largest event was a day-long conference in May 2019 involving over 60 representatives from a wide range of partner organisations and individuals. The *SMART NATURE: Working with Nature in Swansea* conference focused on themes from the PSB Working with Nature Action Plan and included keynote presentations from Zero Carbon Britain initiative and the Green Infrastructure Consultancy team.

3.5 *Strong Communities - To build strong communities with a sense of pride and belonging*

3.5.1 This work is coordinated by the Strong Communities Steering Group and is led by Mid and West Wales Fire & Rescue Service. It seeks to pull together and coordinate through the PSB work underway to build resilient people and communities.

3.5.2 Local Area Coordinators (LACs) have a wide-ranging preventative brief that includes looking out for people who might be lonely and isolated and help them to connect with others so that they can live stronger, healthier and more independent and active lives; there are now more LACs working in communities.

3.5.3 The PSB is encouraging businesses and agencies to pay the living wage via the Living Wage Pledge and exploring ways to include living wage requirements in procurement and grant giving – encouraging all PSB partners to build this into their own terms and conditions when distributing funding to others.

3.5.4 People living in the Mount Pleasant decided that it would be nice to have somewhere to meet neighbours, make new friends and become involved in different activities. Now a group of volunteers has a base that has been named the Hub on the Hill and it is becoming a focal point of activity for the local community. Coastal Housing Association provides the accommodation, covering rent and utilities cost and Swansea Council's Local Area Coordinator

helps to introduce people but it is the residents that have driven the project forward and turned the hub into a vibrant and welcoming place.

- 3.5.5 Blaenymaes Men's Shed offers a meeting place for friendship to reduce loneliness and isolation among men from all backgrounds in the Penderry area. It plans group activities and projects to keep its members active and to benefit the wider community. It is a safe environment for those looking for a bit of company and/ or to learn new skills.
- 3.5.6 The Safer Swansea Partnership tasked a Critical Incident Task & Finish Group to produce an action plan to deal with issues relating to sex work, substance misuse, criminal activity and Anti- Social Behaviour and how to improve the living and working environment around Swansea High Street; there is a clear Governance of the Critical Incident Group to the Safer Swansea Partnership and then to PSB.

4. Barriers and Challenges

- 4.1 The Annual Report describes other successes in more detail, including what has been achieved through sustainable ways of working. There are inevitably however challenges and barriers that have to be overcome, not least during the pandemic crisis and the continued need during these times to reinforce multi-agency engagement and commitment to collaborative working to address existing, new and emerging challenges and priorities.
- 4.2 Among others, such challenges include:
- Financial uncertainty and maintaining sufficient funding and resources.
 - Making sure that existing and new work is sufficiently joined-up and coordinated.
 - Ensuring that the right organisations and people are involved and sitting around the table.
 - Staffing availability and capacity to deliver.
 - Making sure that communication between different groups is efficient and effective.
 - Avoiding duplication between different partnerships and groups.

5. Legal implications

- 5.1 There are no Legal Implications

6. Finance Implications

- 6.1 There are no Finance Implications

7. Equality & Engagement Implications

- 7.1 There are no Equality & Engagement Implications

Background papers: None

Appendices: Appendix A – Swansea Public Services Board Annual Report 19/20.