



City and County of Swansea

Notice of Meeting

You are invited to attend a Meeting of the

Scrutiny Programme Committee

At: Multi-Location Meeting - Gloucester Room, Guildhall / MS Teams

On: Tuesday, 18 April 2023

Time: 4.00 pm

Chair: Councillor Peter Black CBE

Membership:

Councillors: E W Fitzgerald, R Fogarty, T J Hennegan, V A Holland, M Jones, H Lawson, W G Lewis, P N May, F D O'Brien, S Pritchard, M S Tribe and T M White

Statutory Co-opted Members: Beth Allender and Elizabeth Lee

Councillor Co-opted Members: C A Holley, P R Hood-Williams, S M Jones and L R Jones

Watch Online: <http://bit.ly/3Kp2qVb>

Webcasting: This meeting may be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet Site. By participating you are consenting to be filmed and the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and / or training purposes.

Agenda

Page No.

1 Apologies for Absence.

2 Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interest.

www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosuresofinterests

3 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips.

4 Minutes.

To approve and sign the Minutes of the previous meeting(s) as a correct record.

1 - 5

5 Public Question Time.

Questions can be submitted in writing to Democratic Services democracy@swansea.gov.uk up until noon on the working day prior to the meeting. Written questions take precedence. Public may attend and ask questions in person if time allows. Questions must relate to items on the open part of the agenda and will be dealt within a 10 minute period.

| | | |
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| 6 | Crime & Disorder Scrutiny - Safer Swansea Community Safety Partnership. | 6 - 119 |
| 7 | Scrutiny Performance Panel Progress Report: Development & Regeneration (Councillor Chris Holley, Convener) | 120 - 125 |
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| 9 | Scrutiny Work Programme. | 128 - 153 |
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| 11 | Date and Time of Upcoming Panel / Working Group Meetings. | 178 - 179 |

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 16 May 2023 at 4.00 pm



Huw Evans
Head of Democratic Services
Tuesday, 11 April 2023

Contact: Democratic Services - Tel (01792) 636923

Agenda Item 4



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Scrutiny Programme Committee**

Multi-Location Meeting - Gloucester Room, Guildhall / MS

Teams

Tuesday, 14 March 2023 at 4.00 pm

Present: Councillor P M Black (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)
E W Fitzgerald
V A Holland
W G Lewis
M S Tribe

Councillor(s)
R Fogarty
M Jones
F D O'Brien
T M White

Councillor(s)
T J Hennegan
H Lawson
S Pritchard

Statutory Co-opted Member(s)

Beth Allender Elizabeth Lee

Councillor Co-opted Member(s)

P R Hood-Williams S M Jones L R Jones

Officer(s)

Brij Madahar Scrutiny Team Leader
Debbie Smith Deputy Chief Legal Officer
Samantha Woon Democratic Services Officer

Also present

Paula O'Connor, Chair of Governance & Audit Committee

Apologies for Absence

Councillor Co-opted Members: C A Holley

83 Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interest.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea, no interests were declared.

84 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips.

In accordance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, no declarations of Whipped Votes or Party Whips were declared.

85 Minutes.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Scrutiny Programme Committee held on 14 February, 2023 be signed and approved as a correct record, subject to Beth Allender's apologies being recorded.

86 Public Question Time.

No questions were received.

87 Follow Up: Scrutiny Working Group - Bus Services.

The Chair requested that the matter be deferred due to Officer illness.

Resolved that the matter be deferred.

88 Governance & Audit Committee / Scrutiny Relationship.

The Chair of Governance and Audit Committee discussed her Committee's work and the relationship between Scrutiny and Governance and Audit. This was part of ongoing efforts to strengthen that relationship and closer working.

She referred to the recent Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act which gave additional responsibilities to Governance & Audit Committees relating to the Council Annual Performance Self-Assessment, and once per term Performance Peer Review. It also required Committees to consider the Council's Annual Complaints Report.

She referred to the range of actions already in place to ensure there is awareness/understanding of each Committee's work and co-ordination to avoid duplication and cited examples of work in relation to external audit and performance reporting and the difference in approaches, ensuring that activity on any common topics is complementary, with the Governance & Audit Committee being mainly concerned with assurance around the effectiveness of process. Given the role of the Service Improvement & Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel in carrying out ongoing performance monitoring, the Panel Convener, Cllr Chris Holley, is being invited to attend Governance & Audit Committees when any performance reports are being discussed.

She also referred to All Wales Training that she has attended which has helped her in her role as Chair of the Governance & Audit Committee which has covered the relationship with Scrutiny, and respective roles.

The Chair thanked the Chair of Governance and Audit for her informative report.

**89 Scrutiny Performance Panel Progress Report: Child & Family Services
(Councillor Paxton Hood-Williams, Convener)**

Cllr Paxton Hood-Williams provided a report summarising the work of the Child & Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel over the past year, and key issues which the Panel has been focussing on.

Resolved that the Scrutiny Performance Panel Progress report in respect of Child & Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel be noted.

90 Membership of Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups.

Resolved that the membership of the Panels and Working Groups as reported, be agreed.

91 Scrutiny Work Programme.

The Chair presented the agreed Scrutiny Work Programme for 2022/23 which the Committee is responsible for monitoring.

The plan for the Special Meeting on 20 March is:

- Pre-decision Scrutiny: National 20 Mph Default Speed Limit Including Consideration of the Exemption Process.

The main items scheduled for the next meeting on 18 April is:

- Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Session – Safer Swansea Community Safety Partnership.

92 Scrutiny Letters.

The Chair presented a report on 'Scrutiny Letters' for information.

93 Date and Time of Upcoming Panel / Working Group Meetings.

The Chair referred to the date and time of upcoming Scrutiny Panel/Working Group Meetings, for information.

The meeting ended at 4.17 pm

Chair



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Scrutiny Programme Committee**

Multi-Location Meeting - Gloucester Room, Guildhall / MS

Teams

Monday, 20 March 2023 at 4.00 pm

Present: Councillor P M Black (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

E W Fitzgerald
M Jones
F D O'Brien
T M White

Councillor(s)

R Fogarty
H Lawson
S Pritchard

Councillor(s)

V A Holland
W G Lewis
M S Tribe

Statutory Co-opted Member(s)

Beth Allender Elizabeth Lee

Councillor Co-opted Member(s)

C A Holley P R Hood-Williams

Officer(s)

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Matthew Bowyer | Group Leader, Highways & Transportation |
| Stuart Davies | Head of Highways & Transportation |
| Alan Ferris | Road Safety Manager |
| Brij Madahar | Scrutiny Team Leader |
| Debbie Smith | Deputy Chief Legal Officer |
| Mark Wade | Interim Director of Place |
| Samantha Woon | Democratic Services Officer |

Also present

Councillor A Stevens, Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure.

Apologies for Absence

Councillor Co-opted Members: S M Jones and L R Jones

94 Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interest.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea, no interests were declared.

95 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips.

In accordance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, no declarations of Whipped Votes or Party Whips were declared.

96 Public Question Time.

There were no public questions.

97 Pre-Decision Scrutiny: National 20 Mph Default Speed Limit Including Consideration of the Exemptions Process.

The Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure introduced the Cabinet report which advises Members on the proposal to make the national default speed limit on restricted roads 20mph and detailed those roads which will be exempt and remain at 30mph.

The report detailed the consultation process to be followed and the approach taken in respect of implementation of the requirement, with the reduction in the default speed limit coming into effect on 17 September 2023.

The Road Safety Manager detailed the implementation of the National 20mph rollout and exemption process.

Committee questioning and discussion focussed on the following:

- Funding – Officers to provide a detailed breakdown of the cost of implementation for which Welsh Government funding is sought.
- Compliance and enforcement issues.
- The importance of retaining existing road signage/markings that are consistent with the new speed limit, particularly around schools, as a reminder about the limit and to reinforce the message about the speed reduction.
- The extent of public communication necessary and the role of the Council in ensuring the successful implementation.
- Engagement with Local Councillors.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure, and officers present, for information provided, including technical advice, and assisting the Committee's discussion of the report.

Resolved that the Chair attend Cabinet on 23 March, 2023 to reflect the views of the Committee.

The meeting ended at 4.47 pm

Chair

Agenda Item 6



Report of the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 18th April 2023

Crime & Disorder Scrutiny – Safer Swansea Community Safety Partnership

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Purpose | To brief the Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committee on Safer Swansea Community Safety Partnership objectives and priorities, and significant Partnership activities and achievements during 2022. |
| Content | The report provides an overview of the work undertaken by the Safer Swansea Partnership with more detailed information attached as Appendices. |
| Councillors are being asked to | Make comments, observations and recommendations as necessary. |
| Lead Councillor(s) | CLlr Alyson Pugh, Cabinet Member for Wellbeing – Safer Swansea Partnership Representative CLlr Andrea Lewis, Cabinet Member for Service Transformation – Safer Swansea Partnership Representative CLlr Hayley Gwilliam, Cabinet Member for Community Support - Swansea Partnership Representative |
| Lead Officer | Dave Howes, Director of Social Services |
| Report Authors | Paul Thomas, Community Integration Partnership Manager Jane Whitmore, Strategic Lead Commissioning |
| Legal Officer | Caritas Adere |
| Finance Officer | Chris Davies |

1. Context

- 1.1 The Community Safety Partnership was established in 1998 as a result of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. In Swansea this is known as the Safer Swansea Partnership
- 1.2 The Partnership consists of key representatives from statutory partners and other organisations with an interest and influence in community safety issues.
- 1.3 The Safer Swansea Steering Group is the management and leadership group for the Safer Swansea Partnership where all key decisions are made on behalf of the Partnership.

2. Overview

- 2.1 Working as a partnership we have compiled this report to address the Scrutiny Committee request to know about progress since the last session in February 2022.
- 2.2 The main body of the report covers the following areas which were raised at the previous session:
 - The development of a new Safer Swansea Community Safety Strategy, revision to strategic priorities, etc. and the link between the Safer Swansea Partnership and Public Services Board, which they are also responsible for scrutinizing.
 - Progress in developing relationships and communication between the Police and local ward members.
 - Action(s) in response to learning from the Mayhill Disturbance and progress on the recommendations.
 - Progress on dealing with Child Sexual Exploitation – in light of IICSA (Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse) report published in 2022 and ongoing work.
 - Progress on addressing violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence.
 - Awareness of Safer Swansea Partnership / community engagement.
- 2.3 As the Committee is aware, there is currently an ongoing Anti-Social Behaviour Scrutiny Inquiry, so this will not be covered to avoid duplication.

3. Main Report

- 3.1 Strategic Priorities - The Safer Swansea Partnership is focussed on working together to make Swansea a safer, more cohesive and confident place to live, work and to visit and deliver on the Safer Swansea Community Safety Strategy 2018-2021
- 3.2 The current strategic priorities for the Safer Swansea Partnership are:
 - Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV)
 - Substance Misuse

- Stronger Communities
- Evening and Night Time Economy
- Hate Crime and Community Tension Monitoring

These priorities are complemented by two over-arching themes:

- Reassurance Communication - effective reassurance provided at every available opportunity to help change perceptions of crime, reduce fear of crime, and promote positive outcomes of Safer Swansea.
- Community Engagement - improving the way partners engage with members of the public to build relationships based on trust and respect.

- 3.3 The Safer Swansea Partnership Annual report outlines how local agencies and partners have worked together to make Swansea a safer, more cohesive and confident place to live, work and visit and reduce the fear of crime during 2022. The full report highlighting performance and achievements is attached as **Appendix 1**.
- 3.4 The Mayhill disturbance in 2021 presented a number of challenges, not only on the evening of the incident but during the recovery phase. An independent review was commissioned which highlighted a number of actions which have been completed. Attached as **Appendix 2** is a South Wales Police report highlighting progress made on community engagement, learning opportunities and importantly, the successful prosecutions.
- 3.5 Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence is one of the Partnership's priorities and in line with the Welsh Government's National Strategy on VAWDASV a local strategy and action plan are in place. **Appendix 3** is the new draft strategy 2023 – 2026 which is due to go out for consultation.
- 3.6 This strategy is an overarching plan which outlines the priority areas and strategic direction around healthy relationships and the implementation of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 within Swansea. We will build on our existing achievements and the progress that we have made, continuing to work across the Western Bay Region in areas of the strategy that will strengthen our approach to tackling VAWDASV.
- 3.7 Swansea, along with the Welsh Government, recognises that Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) is a violation of human rights. It destroys lives and affects the well-being of our whole society. Whilst it is important to acknowledge the disproportionate effect on women and girls, we recognise that abuse can also be directed towards men and boys, so our mission is to deliver a coordinated approach to prevention, protecting and supporting **all** groups and individuals affected by these forms of violence.
- 3.8 Good progress has been made in improving the relationship between South Wales Police and local Ward Members. All Neighbourhood Policing Inspectors hold regularly monthly meetings with Councillors which has been in place for over a year and is working very well. This gives Ward Members the chance to escalate issues with Inspectors directly and provides the opportunity to provide

detailed updates on police sector priorities. There are also in place **joint Councillor and PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) surgeries** with are held monthly in many areas throughout the BCU (Basic Command Unit).

Some examples of local partnership working in this area include the following :-

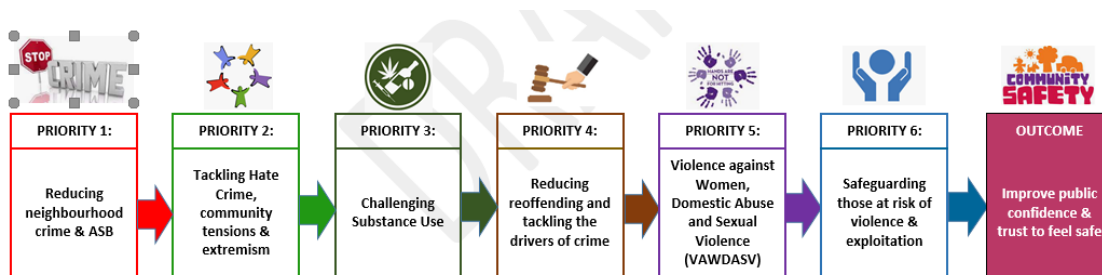
- **Operation Dunlin Broughton Ave.** There is ongoing work with Cllr Erika Kirchner to improve services, environment and reduce ASB (Anti-Social Behaviour) in the area. There is an intensive community trust strategy in place and diversion activities such as the Swansea City Football Club SCFC Kicks initiative with funding being secured in partnership with Cllr Kirchner to improve the MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) facility.
- **Connecting with Community - Engagement Townhill/Mayhill.** The local police team met with the 3 local councillors and KINS (Key Individual Networks) to establish the best way to engage with the wider community to ensure that we continued to reach as many persons in the community as possible. Councillors Lesley Walton and Cyril Anderson joined the police when they mobilised using the mobile police station around the wards so that the community could see working in partnership together in providing visibility and accessibility to the community.
- **St. Thomas** The local police team work closely with Councillors Gwilliam and Hale to tackle drugs and ASB issues in providing initiatives to involve children in sporting activities and to break down the barriers between police and the young people in the community.

3.9 The Community Integration & Partnership team organised 16 Safer Swansea Community Engagement events across Swansea during the summer/autumn period of 2022. These were well attended and supported by Partners and crime and well-being surveys were completed on a voluntary basis by those who attended the events. This information has been used to develop bespoke partnership operational plans to address concerns around ASB and general nuisance. **Appendix 4** is an example of the info graphic produced after each event which is shared with partners and local ward members.

3.10 Progress on dealing with Child Sexual Exploitation is managed under safeguarding and not part of Safer Swansea, however work is ongoing looking at creating safe spaces and places for young people and a multi-agency operational group has been established, including a youth panel, to develop projects and initiatives. This aligns well with the recommendations from the IICSA inquiry.

4. Key Points for Discussion

4.1 The Safer Swansea Partnership has identified six key priorities that will provide the focus of its work for 2023 - 2026. The draft document is attached as **Appendix 5.**



We are currently working on individual action plans for the aims and strategic intentions of each of the priorities and progress will be monitored on a quarterly basis by the steering group.

We would welcome the Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committee views and comments on the key priorities.

4.2 **Serious Violence Duty: Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022**

The outcome of a 2019-20 consultation was to bring forward legislation to create a new duty on organisations to collaborate, where possible through existing partnership structures, to prevent and reduce serious violence. There is an intention to ensure serious violence is an explicit priority for community safety partnerships. This has been included in Priority 6 of the new Safer Swansea Partnership priorities.

A strategic needs assessment will need to be completed in 2023 along with a problem profile for Swansea. Once this has been done, an action plan will need to be developed by Spring 2024.

It is anticipated that a local partnership group will be established for both Swansea and Neath Port Talbot to deliver on this priority and progress will be monitored by the respective community safety partnerships.

5. **Legal implications**

5.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

6. **Finance Implications**

6.1 There are no immediate financial implications associated with this report.

Background papers:

The Committee is required to hold a session, at a minimum, annually, and follows the last meeting on this on 15 Feb 2022. Link to meeting that agenda / minutes:

<https://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=188&MId=9544&Ver=4&LLL=0>

Appendices:

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Appendix 1 | Safer Swansea Community Safety Partnership Annual Review 2022 |
| Appendix 2 | Operation Kendall Learning and Community Engagement |
| Appendix 3 | Draft VAWDASV Strategy |
| Appendix 4 | Community Engagement Info Graphic |
| Appendix 5 | Safer Swansea Community Safety Priorities 2023 - 2026 |



Safer Swansea Community Safety Partnership

Annual Review 2022

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| Next Steps | 25 |

Foreword

The Safer Swansea Community Safety Partnership Annual Report outlines how local agencies have worked together to make Swansea a safer, more cohesive and confident place to live, work and visit and reduce the fear of crime during 2022.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed a joint responsibility upon specific agencies and other partners within the community to develop and implement strategies to protect their communities from crime and help people feel safe.

Throughout the year partners have worked together to deliver successful projects and initiatives against the identified priorities

Many of these are aimed at raising awareness, education and prevention as we feel these add value to the work delivered by local agencies on a daily basis.

We are proud of the achievements the Partnership has made and look forward to another successful year.

This is the first annual report for the Safer Swansea Community Safety Partnership. The report provides an overview of the activities and achievements in 2022.

Future annual reports will provide further information, including more detail in terms of impact and outcomes of the work. This will be based against a set of new priorities and a revised strategy which is in development for launch in 2023.

Safer Swansea Partnership

The Safer Swansea Community Safety Partnership was established in 1998 as a result of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

The membership consists of key representatives from statutory partners and other organisations with an interest and influence in community safety issues.

The Safer Swansea Steering Group is the management and leadership group for the Safer Swansea Partnership where all key decisions are made on behalf of the Partnership.

It provides leadership on the Safer Swansea strategy and liaison with the Police and Crime Commissioner on funding and strategy.

Written reports are submitted and monitored quarterly at the Safer Swansea Steering group meetings on the following key priorities:

- Priority 1 - Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence
- Priority 2 - Substance Misuse
- Priority 3 - Stronger Communities
- Priority 4 – Evening and Night time Economy
- Priority 5 – Hate Crime and Community Tension Monitoring

As part of the governance arrangements, the Safer Swansea Partnership will provide an annual statement highlighting work undertaken throughout the year.

Priority 1 - Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence

Swansea councils' VAWDASV Strategy is being revised in line with the new National VAWDASV Strategy 22-26.

Swansea VAWDASV Leadership group, core partners and service users attended two workshops to scope priorities and develop a robust and realistic strategy.

The first draft will be shared at the next VAWDASV Leadership Group in January 23 and shared with members to consider and comment on. The final version will be completed and published in May 23.

There has been a review of the MARAC process where consultation with partners took place and a report presented to VAWDASV Leadership Group with findings and recommendations. The Operating Protocol and ISP were revised and a Manta- IT system was purchased to streamline the MARAC process. There has been a delay in implementation due to IT requirements however; this should be operational in Jan- March 2023.

Drive will be launching in HMP Swansea in January 23 with one case manager. As a result, we will have an additional part time Drive IVDA to support victims across the region and uplift the existing Drive service. Ensuring that victim's safety is a priority preventing further abuse and harassment.

A Sexual Exploitation pathways has been drafted in partnership between Child and Family services and Swansea Women's Aid for those at transition age to be safeguarded and referred to appropriate support/safeguarding forum i.e. SWOT. A Task & Finish Group meet in Q1 to review the Exploitation protocol to ensure it includes people exploited by the sex industry. This pathway, once approved will be piloted and become part of that process.

A Regional 'Heads Up' awareness raising campaign for the hair & beauty industry was rolled out the beginning of the year, including two information sessions delivered by Welsh Women's Aid, targeted at employees and salon owners. This was accompanied by resources delivered to salons and mobile hairdressers to raise awareness and enable staff to identify abuse and signpost clients to support. The campaign was very well received on social media and we are currently arranging for a second round of this campaign to be delivered.

Whole School Approach in Education- each member of staff in schools and education has access to VAWDASV online training. Senior members of staff will undertake Group 2 Ask and Act, Train the Trainer and Group 3. The Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) programme has been implemented to raise awareness around VAWDASV. The priority of RSE will be to focus on relationships and identity, sexual health and wellbeing, empowerment, safety and respect.

National Training Framework – 1,225 staff have completed the Group 1 VAWDASV online training. Ask and Act Group 2 training had been delivered to over 60 staff and 7 for Group 3. There are a further 19 sessions planned until March 23 so we should see these numbers increase substantially.

The demand for the IDVA service has reached unprecedented referrals this year. We have had received over 1,300 referrals from April - Nov -22.

This is an increase of 30% from last year where we received 1,000 in April - Nov 21 We are now averaging over 150 PPNs/ external referrals monthly consequently there is increased pressure on the IDVA service and our specialist partner agencies.

The Safe Link Evidence Site launched in September 22 and has proved very successful, there has been positive results with 28 guilty plea/verdicts since April 22.

Feedback from victims has been positive, many stating that they would not have attend court if they could not have given their evidence from the Safe Link Site.

Consequently, safeguarding victims with restraining orders and perpetrators being held accountable with custodial sentences and requirements.



White Ribbon Day campaign was very successful. Swansea Council worked in partnership with Swansea University to raise awareness to end Violence against Women's and Girls.

A banner and materials were shared with over 40 Sports teams in the Swansea University and members dedicated a pledge. There was a promotional stand in the lobby of the Guildhall raising awareness and asking for pledges from men and a large

bilingual digital advertising screen was displayed in Swansea quadrant bus station. The Guildhall was lit up in purple and white to promote the day.

In partnership with Swansea Mosque the Friday Prayer Sermon focused on raising awareness of domestic violence in the Muslim community with the message that these behaviours are not condoned within the Islamic faith.

Priority 2 – Substance Misuse

West Glamorgan Substance Misuse Area Planning Board governs this area of work which feeds into the each local community safety partnership within the region.

One of the key pieces of work agreed in 2022 was the establishment of a Western Bay Substance Use Truth Commission which will be a focus of work in coming years and is seen as a positive development which enabled access to expert advice during this period of transformational change.

The Strategic Evaluation of Prescribing Services (StEPS) report was presented to the Commissioning, Finance and Performance Sub Group. Members were supportive of the recommendations and have agreed in principle to progress with the new model and the APB Support Team doing the necessary work to start to implement the recommendations.

A review of substance use services for Children, Young People and Families has started and a Steering Group established. This is made up of key statutory partners, from the two Local Authorities, the Health Board and Criminal Justice. The Steering Group will map out current provision, demands and gaps.

The annual deaths related to drug poisonings in England and Wales: 2021 registrations was published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on the 3rd of August 2022. Regionally Western Bay (Swansea and Neath Port Talbot) recorded 41 deaths, an overall decrease compared to the 45 registered deaths in 2020. Swansea registered 28 deaths in 2021, an overall decrease on the registrations in 2020 (34). Neath Port Talbot recorded 13 registrations in 2021, a slight increase on the previous year (11). Swansea still has the highest registrations of any other local authority in Wales but a notable pattern across Wales was the proportional increases seen in other local authorities.

A new first point of contact service (FPOC) for entry into substance use services has been established and was launched on 4th April 2022. There is now a Freephone number in NPT to access services along with access via drop-in at Adferiad buildings, via the Newid Website, social media and via email. This replaces the old AADAS single point of access service

The First Point of Contact (FPOC) service has been operating for 8 months and seems to be going well in terms of making it easier for people to access the support that they need with their own, or someone else's, substance use (and

related) issues. This is still a relatively new service and we would like to learn from what is working well, or not so well, so that we can make improvements, if needed.

There are increasing numbers of people presenting to services with issues relating to alcohol. APB will be taking a closer look at services for this target group, once there is a better understanding of how the recommendations from StEPS will help to release capacity within those services that can meet the needs of this group

The Harm Reduction Sub Group Annual Report 21-22 was circulated with the agenda and an increase to the number of drug related deaths in West Glamorgan was noted in 2021/22 compared to 2019/20 and 2020/21. The report included 64 potential drug related deaths, and 32 had been confirmed by the coroner as drug related, with the remaining 32 awaiting inquest by the Coroner. There was some discussion around the drivers for the increase, and members agreed that the annual report and the recommendations are a standing item for discussion at the Serious Incident Review Group meetings.

A Steering Group set-up by the APB to oversee the Strategic Evaluation Prescribing Services presented recommendations to the APB which included the development of a new model, to consist of a rapid access service for everyone to be able to get a prescription as quickly as possible. Members endorsed the recommendations, to initially run a consultation exercise to finalise the proposed model, and to roll-out the new model as a pilot following the period of consultation.

The final Governance and Risk Sharing agreement has been completed, however it was highlighted that some of the terminology in the risk sharing agreement prevented probation from signing the agreement and that a potential change to the narrative to accommodate this position would be flagged at the joint PSB meeting.

Priority 3 – Stronger Communities

This section focuses on areas of work in Community Safety and Community Cohesion.

Local authority community safety officer continues the on-going management of 30 'hot spot' cameras across the City & County of Swansea.

Partnership officers continue to support weekly city centre student drop in sessions available at the three main City Centre student accommodation sites to answer any queries and concerns students may have.

Student 'Freshers' safety campaign and design of student safety booklet published and available at the accommodation sites and Help Point. This also linked into responsible drinking and behaviour messages advertised throughout the football World Cup and Christmas periods.

Safer Swansea Christmas Partnership engagement chalet opened on Oxford Street from 28th November to 16th December. Again well attended and supported by Partners providing engagement opportunities with the general public.

Supported the 'Heads Up' Domestic Violence campaign and awareness packs were distributed to barbers and hairdressers throughout Swansea.

The Community Integration & Partnership team organised 16 Safer Swansea Community Engagement events across Swansea during the summer/autumn period of 2022. These were well attended and supported by Partners and crime and well being surveys were completed on a voluntary basis by those who attended the events.

- **Op BANG**

Multi-Agency coordination of Op BANG (Be a Nice Guy) on the lead up to and throughout Bonfire and Halloween periods. Collaboration with SWP and Local waste and environmental teams.

- **Swansea Rural Partnership Planning**

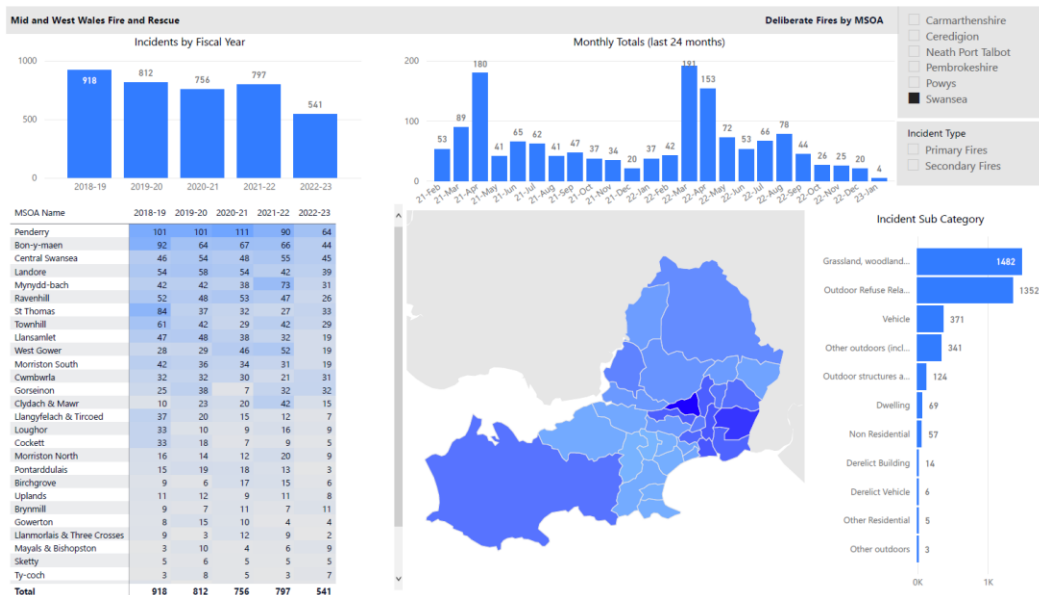
Working with Swansea County Council, NRW and the local community is seen as the most beneficial way of reducing the impact of any future

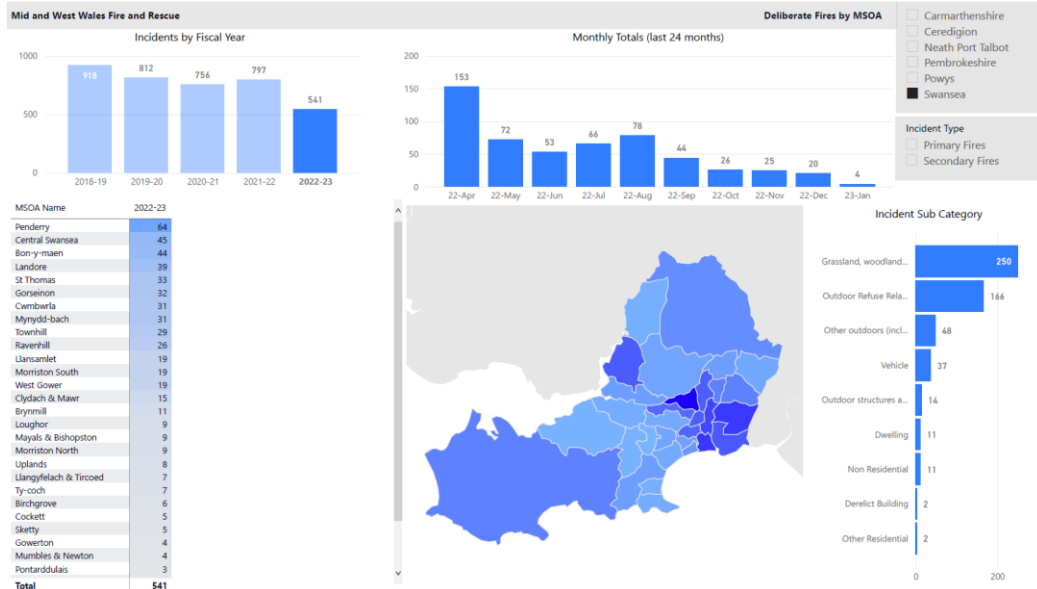
vegetation fires on this site, the surrounding landscape, and the environment.

- **Derelict Buildings**

A frequent intervention facilitated by the Service Arson Advisors is working with local authorities to identify, risk assess and secure derelict and unused buildings. This is primarily to reduce the potential for fire and to ensure that firefighters are prepared for any hazards that may be encountered through ‘Arson Alerts’. Work with Swansea Council continues, to share information to identify buildings at risk and establish ownership.

- **Deliberate Fires Data (Swansea)**





• **Safe Havens**

To support the nationwide campaign to protect those feeling threatened, intimidated or at risk, MAWWFRS has made all our Fire and Rescue Stations designated ‘Safe Havens’, where any member of the public – including children and young people – can go if they feel unsafe in any situation. They will also provide individuals with the opportunity to report hate crime and/or domestic violence.

Mae'r Orsaf hon yn
HAFAN DDIOGEL

Gall unrhyw aelod o'r cyhoedd
 Gan gynnwys plant a phobl ifanc
 ddod yma os ydyn nhw'n teimlo'n annogel mewn unrhyw sefyllfa.

Os yw'r criwiau allan a bod angen help
 arnoch ar unwaith, ffoniwch **999**
 Rydym bob amser yn agored ac rydym bob amser yma i chi.

This station is a designated
SAFE HAVEN
 Any member of the public
 Including children and young people
 can come here if they feel unsafe in any situation.
 If crews are out and you need
 immediate help, please ring **999**
 We're always open and we're always here for you.

The City Centre Public Space Protection Order went live in December 2021 which began with a 3 month Engagement and Education phase followed by the Enforcement phase. This included Rangers engaging with individuals and explaining the PSPO and its restrictions. They also signposted to support services where appropriate. Education letters were also sent out providing further information.

Since the launch of the enforcement phase in April 2022 there have been in excess of 500 engagements which have resulted in 117 warnings being issued relating to begging, alcohol, public order, drugs and multiple breaches.

10 arrests have been made, 2 Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued and 17 referrals made to the SV MARAC

Street Vulnerability MARAC has supported 23 individuals who are begging, homeless and/or have issues with substance use. Some however, are in breach of the City PSPO.

- **Operation Dawns Glaw**

In 2022, Fire and Rescue Services across Wales dealt with 3267 grass fires. Overall, these have increased by 1,246 compared with the previous year, an increase of 62%.

Current research models via Swansea University suggest that weather conducive to ignition and spread of fires are becoming more common in Wales. Predicted warmer, wetter winters and the resulting longer growing season will see more vegetation. Frequent, longer lasting heatwaves will also lead to drier vegetation and more fuel available to burn across Wales. Additionally, climate driven vegetation shifts predicts that we could see an increase in woody fuels at the expense of grassy fields. It's also predicted that Wales could see a 30% increase in fuel loads. The previous three years have seen the largest number of fires and burned area over the past 10 years.

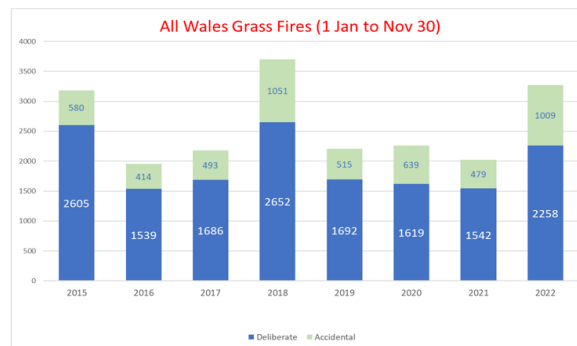
Much of the Dawns Glaw work in Swansea will be around driving cultural change around the perception of wildfires – This means more collaborative work in highlighting wildfire impact – financial, environmental, etc. as well as providing opportunities for communities to take ownership of green space and promote wellbeing through developing space for recreation etc

The Service intend to use burning as a vegetation management tool moving forward – This is designed to improve awareness of coordinated, controlled burning as a valuable natural factor balanced against the impact of uncontrolled use of fire.

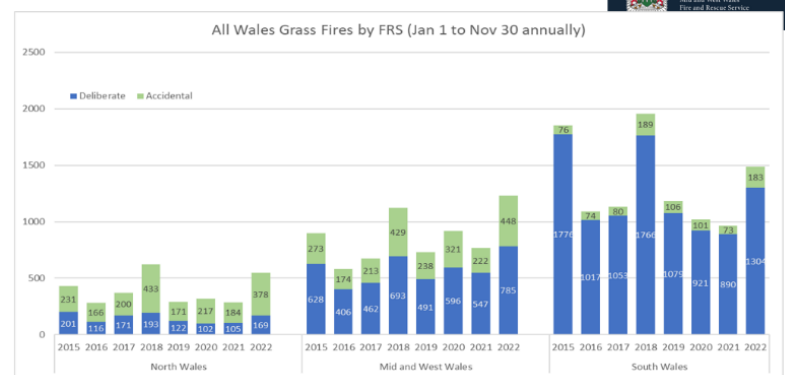
Annual Grass Fires since 2015 (Jan to Nov 30)

Deliberate grass fire up from 1542 to 2258 (46%) 2021 compared with 2022

Overall the number of Grass fires have increased by 1,246 an increase of 62% to 3267



Annual Grass Fires since 2015 (Jan to Nov 30)



Fire break cutting will be accelerated with the successful Welsh Government grant application for the purchase of an i-cut (remote flail) machine. Plans are now in place to create firebreaks using the machine within the Gower and other Swansea areas for 2023 coordinated with the local authority, NRW and commoners/graziers' groups.

Unfortunately, the MWWFR Service's bid for £45k funding via NRW's 'Resilient Communities' grant was unsuccessful. Bids were submitted for 70x 'NoFence' Technology (livestock) collars and extensive firebreak cutting within the Swansea area. Cutting arrangement will still be implemented collaboratively with existing partners, albeit to a lesser scale than planned.

- **Grass Fire Theatre in Education production / Dawns Glaw.**

In collaboration with theatre in education production team "Bollo", the Service funded (via WG Grant) and organised educational delivery to promote our key environmental / grass fire messages to children living in areas of concern. Production commenced in April 2022; currently 19 primary schools visits were delivered with positive results received via feedback.

Number of Students delivered to = 1,428

Number of Schools attended = 19

5 Star Scoring for *How relevant did you feel the subject matter was:* 96%

5 Star Scoring for *How easy to understand do you feel the information given was:* 87%

5 Star Scoring for *How engaging was the show content:* 87%

5 Star Scoring for *How much impact do you feel the sessions will have on the pupil's future behaviour:* 74%

5 Star Scoring for *How engaging were the presenters:* 91%

5 Star Scoring for *How easy was the booking process:* 74%

Targeted Catchment areas included: Afan Valley, Severn Sisters, Ystradgynlais, Sennybridge, Llanbister, Tregaron, Lampeter, Pencader, Glanamman/Tairgwaith, Trallwn, Nelston (Cefn Bryn Mair Gower), Kilvey Hill area, Clase, Penlan, Townhill, Pontybrenin (Garngoch common)

The objective of this project was to provide a curriculum linked, audience appropriate and engaging pantomime which educates pupils about the Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service's annual campaign to prevent deliberate grass fires, incorporating MAWWFRS character Sbarc.

- Operation Dawns Glaw priorities moving forward

Safer Swansea

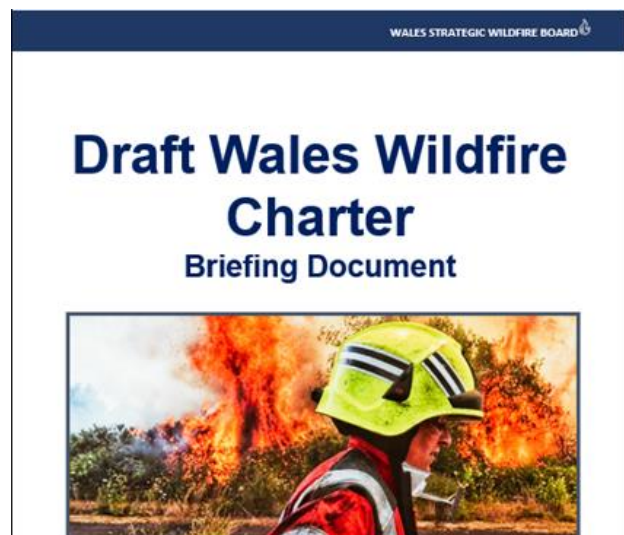
- Supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation through ecosystem approaches and learning from others e.g., academia and organisational research.
- Support sustainable grazing, landscape access development, community ownership programmes for areas vulnerable to wildfire.
- Green space enhancement supporting recreation and wellbeing – combination of wildfire prevention and public right of way.
- Rural / Urban interface – expansion, housing development (approx. 20k in next 5 years – new and affordable in Wales) - influence of wildfire threat.
- Support the development of multi-functional localised rural groups that contribute to an All-Wales map and toolkit.
- Mapping of fire risk and prevention locations also identifying grazing, protected species, access, and heritage sites etc.



Wildfire Risk Mapping Example

•Transition from Wales Arson Reduction Strategy to Wales Wildfire Charter (currently under consultation). The priority areas will be:

1. Partnership – To bring together Emergency Services, Public and Private Organisations, Landowners and Land Users to manage and develop our landscape. Environmental & Community Resilience – To protect wildlife, forestry, and livelihoods, improve wellbeing, health, and amenity, facilitate sustainable food production, and create sense of place and community ownership.



2. Protection – To implement a diverse range of management techniques to reduce the impact of wildfire in the Welsh landscape and on our communities.

Engagement and awareness raising

Delivered a Positive Messages Project, which aimed to combat the increase in far-right graffiti and stickering in Swansea. Positive counter-narrative messages were placed in areas of heavy footfall across Swansea and were designed to be uplifting and create unity and engagement. They were displayed on digital screens in bus stations and shelters, as well as on the side of vehicles.

Training and capacity building

- 6 sessions arranged on Far-Right Extremism & Counter narrative training, delivered by Small Steps across the region between Feb – March 2022.
- 6 sessions on Prevent Awareness were arranged and attended by Council frontline staff from September to November 2022.
- 3 Prevent Awareness sessions were arranged for Primary schools, at the Headteachers request, and delivered by a Home Office Intervention Provider.

Telegram Training

The Cohesion teams across Western Bay and Carmarthenshire recently completed training on the use of the Telegram App, delivered by the Head of Criminology at Swansea University. Telegram can now be safely used by officers for tension monitoring purposes, specifically for Far-Right group activity across the region. As a result of this training, the Cohesion Team will be establishing a Cohesion Tension Monitoring/Information Sharing Teams Group, in partnership with Swansea University and academics from nearby regions.

Swansea Art in the City

This is a project aimed at young people and managed by Swansea Community Engagement Coordinator.

The link below contains what happened at the Oxford Street site and some of the key points that were raised in conversation, direct quotes from the participants, and some of the plans for the future of the Art in The City project <https://create.piktochart.com/output/d79f3f6a1a30-session-review>

Continued partnership with Fresh Creative Co, Victim Support, Greenhill Parade Committee and community members – facilitated discussions and art workshops that result in murals for the Community Units and surrounding locality that aim to counter hateful narratives

Swansea Community Cohesion Unsung Heroes Awards took place on Friday 25th March at Brangwyn Hall, Swansea. Five partners involved: Swansea Council, BMHS, NHS Health Board, SCVS, and Swansea University. Over 109 nominations were received. The judging panel wanted to give recognition to all nominees, so awarded over 80 certificates and 34 trophies.

Interfaith Week

An online photo competition took place for Interfaith Week, on the theme of ‘A place where you feel the most connected to your faith’. Winners of the competition were announced during the Interfaith Forum celebratory event and via social media, with a re-post of the top 4 photo submissions.

Workshop on the Ukrainian Scheme

The Regional Community Cohesion Coordinator is currently working with partners such as Settled Organisation on delivering an online information session for staff and key partners on the rights of Ukrainians, advice for Hosts and access to specific external services.

In March, Swansea was active in supporting the Ukrainian Sponsor Schemes which established a mechanism for coordinating the support internally and with other statutory partners and the third sector

Online Hate Training

The Community Cohesion Team have arranged training around online hate and creating safe spaces online for online group administrators. Training will be delivered by Victim Support and include guidance on establishing community guidelines, terms of reference, and how to identify and safely report hateful language.

Priority 4 – Evening and Night time Economy

Purple Flag

The successful annual renewal of Swansea's 14-year Purple Flag was attained in Jan 2022.

The assessors report highlighted how the partnership remains strong and committed. Areas of development however include conducting research to ascertain current perceptions of the ENTE and the formation of an ENTE Strategy setting out a clear and long-term vision for the sector.

Representations regarding this have recently been made to Swansea University's Business Management faculty about the possibility of engaging post graduate students to support this work.

Opportunities to raise awareness of Swansea's Purple Flag status have also been highlighted.

Help Point and Vulnerability

Support was secured to extend the opening of the Help Point as a trial to include Friday evenings. Unfortunately, due to the availability of St John's Ambulance resources this arrangement has since been curtailed until further notice. The Help Point continues to be run with the support of the PCCO, SWP and St John's ambulance on Saturday and Wednesday evenings.

This continues to be well used with plans to open on key dates such as Freshers and upcoming sporting events. Fridays however remain non-operational due to the capacity of St John's Ambulance personnel.

The ambulance allocated to the facility is being regularly called off to attend to medical emergencies in the area which can impact the service

Several practical issues have been resolved and new radios have been issued which have facilitated the recommissioning of the Street Pastors which is pending (date TBC). This is however likely to be limited to two Fridays per month due to a shortage of volunteers.

With external funding vulnerability training is in the process of being delivered to ENTE venues as a precursor to establishing them as designated Safe Spaces as part of a national initiative.

Incidents of UK spiking which attracted negative publicity saw a local trend emerge in Swansea which was at its height during October and November 2021. Proactive measures by ENTE partners included assurance and awareness raising among key groups and the distribution of posters and kits to venues to be able to conduct immediate testing have seen reports of spiking dramatically reduce with most cases being due to self-intoxication. The partnership remains vigilant to this issue and processes are in place in the event of a reoccurrence.

City Centre Rangers

From 1 April 2022, ENTE patrols have been undertaken by the Rangers on key evenings (i.e. Wed, Fri, Sat & Bank Holiday Sun) up until 11pm.

This is enabling activities to be coordinated across day and night economies and for the PSPO to be extended into the evening which is pending.

ASB across the City Centre and during both its day and night-time economies is being addressed.

Key issues highlighted for the evening are youth annoyance in and around the Bus Station and Arena Coastal Park. For the latter, tenants also report issues with rough sleepers and the RSIT team and SV MARAC will look to support individuals referred due to vulnerability.

Various actions have been taken to help tackle these issues in partnership with the Council services including the Youth Service, Housing, RSIT and the SV MARAC and South Wales Police.

Wind Street Operations

A new Wind Street Operators Group has recently been formed to translate the Wind Street development works into realistic operating practices particularly in relation to the outdoor pavement café areas and to create a Wind Street Charter to raise standards and improve continuity.

Priority 5 – Hate Crime and Community Tension Monitoring

Hate Crime and Community Tension Monitoring

From a Hate crime perspective, we have seen a relatively steady period in reporting. There is nothing to suggest any outlier activity or trends that are not linked to seasonal issues that we have experienced before. That said we have seen a general slight increase in the reporting of hate-crime with the most significant area being the Racial Hate Crime category. The majority of the remaining Hate Crime categories saw a slight decrease in reported offences in comparison to the previous year within the Swansea area. Racial Hate Crime continues to be the prevalent indicator within Swansea however there is no necessary pattern or ethnic area which is targeted.

That said there have been some critical on-going local issues that we have experienced together with other areas of concern which are linked to international events. These have facilitated residual plans and strategies to be put in place to pre-empt community cohesion issues.

Of note there have been several critical incidents that have impacted on local communities. The cumulative impact of these incidents has been at the forefront of our engagement activity and the following areas continue to be in focus with respect to prevalent local issues in terms of either cohesion, vulnerability and/ or quality of life issues.

- The cumulative impact of a number of critical incidents experienced by the BCU and the related community impact.
- The prevalence of drug related deaths.
- The potential for further protest and some far right activity aligning to anti-immigration and displaced persons rhetoric within social media.
- Our preventative activity and response to Violence Against Women and Girls with particular reference to sexual offences and drink spiking.
- The conclusion of Operation Marano and the learning which will continue to be implemented for the BCU.
- Recent incidents of disorder involving Travelling communities.
- The impact of Displaced Persons from Ukraine and sponsorship.
- Swansea City Centre and the Night-Time Economy.
- The impact of the Cost-of-Living crisis.

- The proposal to locate a Women's Centre in Cockett.

The combination above of a sustained period of demand within the BCU has seen a number of abstractions to support and manage major incidents. Resilience at this time has been stretched with critical incidents such as the large-scale violent disorder involving feuding travellers. This has been subject of divisional and regional focus, to manage the criminal investigation and wider safeguarding. There have now been four Murder investigations instigated within the BCU, all have been extremely resource intensive.

Of further note is that the CID continue to investigate a number of unexplained / drug related deaths which are resource intensive, these are being managed in conjunction with operation Adder to provide additional resilience to disrupt and dismantle those involved in the supply of controlled drugs.

We are also very much aware of protest and the activities of Extinction Rebellion which have caused challenges for the wider BCU and the force. The protest at Aberpergwm mine that occurred in July saw seven protestors being arrested on site over a two-day period. Community tensions monitoring and engagement and intelligence gathering continues to be in place and we will respond effectively in this regard. It is anticipated that the BCU will continue to have to manage protest and increased events in the coming months within the context of both international events and the cost-of-living crisis.

Specific Incidents that have focused our response include:-

Operation Marano – Mayhill Disorder

The 20th May 2022 saw the first anniversary of the Mayhill disorder. There has been no disorder since this incident however it remains under close review due to the relevant court cases that are now scheduled. It is confirmed that at time of writing the sentencing for Operation Marano will now take place on 19TH December 2022 at Swansea Crown court. At this current juncture 23 are now listed to appear before the judge on that day, with the others attending from prison. Each court appearance has passed without any disorder, with no information or intelligence to suggest that sentencing will be any different however this will be kept under close review. Currently Mayhill and this operation are classed as Low impact with respect to Disorder, Tension and Community Confidence. The learning from both reviews that have taken place is understood and is being embedded.

Following the disorder strong links were built in key locations in the area, one of which being the Phoenix Centre. This is a one stop-shop with activities such as a nursery and all-weather sport pitches. Funding was obtained from the

PCC's office to conduct a community "fun day" event in Mayhill where the local community came together and experienced partnership working. A "Mayhill Fun day" was organised after the disorder to help to bring the community back together, in attendance were 25 different Partnership Agencies, The Lord Mayor, MP, all 3 emergency services, 7 Ward Members and it was attended by over 300 residents. This led onto The Community Integration & Partnership Team at Swansea Council, together with the Safer Swansea Partnership and partner agencies collectively hosting fourteen community engagement events that aimed to maximise community engagement in order to provide opportunities to rebuild relationships, reduce any ongoing or resulting conflict/tension, and start to repair harm collectively

Disorder / Operation Hitchin: 05.08.22

On Friday 5th August 2022 there was a report of large-scale disorder at Morriston Cemetery between a number of different traveller families connected to Llanelli, Gorseinon, Cardiff and London following a planned graveside blessing. So far eight individuals have been charged with Violent Disorder and Possession of Offensive weapons, four of whom have been remanded in custody pending trial. Eight other individuals are still under investigation. Tensions continue to be monitored and intelligence gathered in relation to this incident. Thirteen people have now in total been charged after this violent incident. Community tensions continue to be reviewed in line with the court cases pending.

Protest – Extinction Rebellion

The BCU can be targeted by this group and we are still receiving sporadic reports of potential hostile reconnaissance at Aberpergwm Coal Mine. The mine has been subject of two previous protests in 2022 and we continue to put preventative strategies in place to mitigate this type of protest.

Women's Centre – Cockett

On the 4th October 2022, the Ministry of Justice's proposal to introduce a Women's Rehabilitation Centre at the Cefn Coed Site in Cockett was officially rejected despite the Planning Officer's recommendation to approve the application. This proposal has caused significant high profile community impact in this area and has warranted a high degree of local policing engagement. It is understood that there will be a renewed application in due course from the Ministry of Justice.

Russia – Ukraine Conflict Displaced Persons

A number of hotels are still the provision of temporary accommodation to house displaced persons throughout the BCU. All appropriate sectors are aware

and engagement and patrol strategies in place. An overarching Community Impact Assessment for the BCU has been completed by the Community Safety and Partnerships Department and tracking of the numbers in the hotels is in place through Welsh Government. Operational group in the Local Authority continue to work closely with the CSP to assist community cohesion in relation to Ukraine and DPs. There have been no anti-Russian hate related incidents reported.

Community Tension – Response

The BCU has both pre-empted and responded to community tension matters with tactical interventions like patrol strategies and Community Impact Assessments (CIA). In the mid to longer term with the assistance of both first and third sector the BCU has continued to proactively engage with diverse communities through the wider neighbourhood policing teams.

Every incident which has the potential to impact on community cohesion or the trust and confidence of partners or the police will merit a CIA which is a living document in mitigating any tension which may lead to disorder or community confidence issues. This matrix then informs the force-wide community impact position around disorder, tension and confidence to ensure we do our utmost with partners to maintain safe, resilient and confident communities.

In addition to the weekly Community Tensions assessment produced by Community Safety and reported on by all Neighbourhood Policing Inspectors, the Community Safety department facilitates a weekly Cohesion meeting between Police and Partners to monitor all tensions. In addition to this, we also link into a regional Cohesion meeting with contiguous forces to monitor cross border tensions. We will continue to develop our intelligence gathering, engagement and neighbourhood policing footprint and activity to counter and improve cohesion issues or trends when they occur.

Our area of focus currently is to ensure that community relationships are fully understood with respect to engagement of the youth community. It is apparent here across all of our diverse communities that the youth are significantly less receptive of traditional faith leadership and are actively seeking influence from social media and overseas and this is where further development of our activity is needed. As such wide-ranging opportunities are now being put in place like a Youth forum within the Multicultural Hub in Swansea to consolidate our cohesion work. This is complemented with event-led engagement like bespoke hate crime awareness sessions run throughout the BCU.

Hate crime – Specifics

- Hate Crimes-reported cases- 010421 to 301122.

Our Hate Crime Team continue to work with Race Council Cymru and Victim Support on improving hate crime awareness in communities and groups in SNPT. There are no specific hate-crime incidents that have caused us concern locally however we continue to monitor communities for the impact of International events, the cost of living crisis, and the rise of the far right.

We continue to seek information and an understanding of the impact of the cost-of-living crisis and the increased cumulative impact of emerging tensions as noted below.

The BCU runs a bi-monthly hate-crime scrutiny panel where all reports of hate crime incidents are tracked from an investigation and victim support point of view to ensure accountability and progress.

| Hate Crime | 01/04/2021 31/03/2022 | - | 01/04/2022 30/11/2022 | - |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|
| Total | 547 | | 280 | |
| Sexual Orientation | 78 | | 58 | |
| Transphobic | 22 | | 13 | |
| Disability | 75 | | 34 | |
| Race | 382 | | 180 | |
| Religion | 16 | | 12 | |

The above table compares year to date with year ending March 2022. The proportionality and spread of hate-crimes is not an outlier on previous years with (as noted above) Race related being the predominant focus. What is of note however is that we have seen a slight rise in Transphobic incidents being reported however this was due to a real focus of our hate-crime teams in their engagement with these communities to encourage the reporting of these incidents and this can be tracked from when our teams put a focus on this area.

Hate Crime Awareness Week

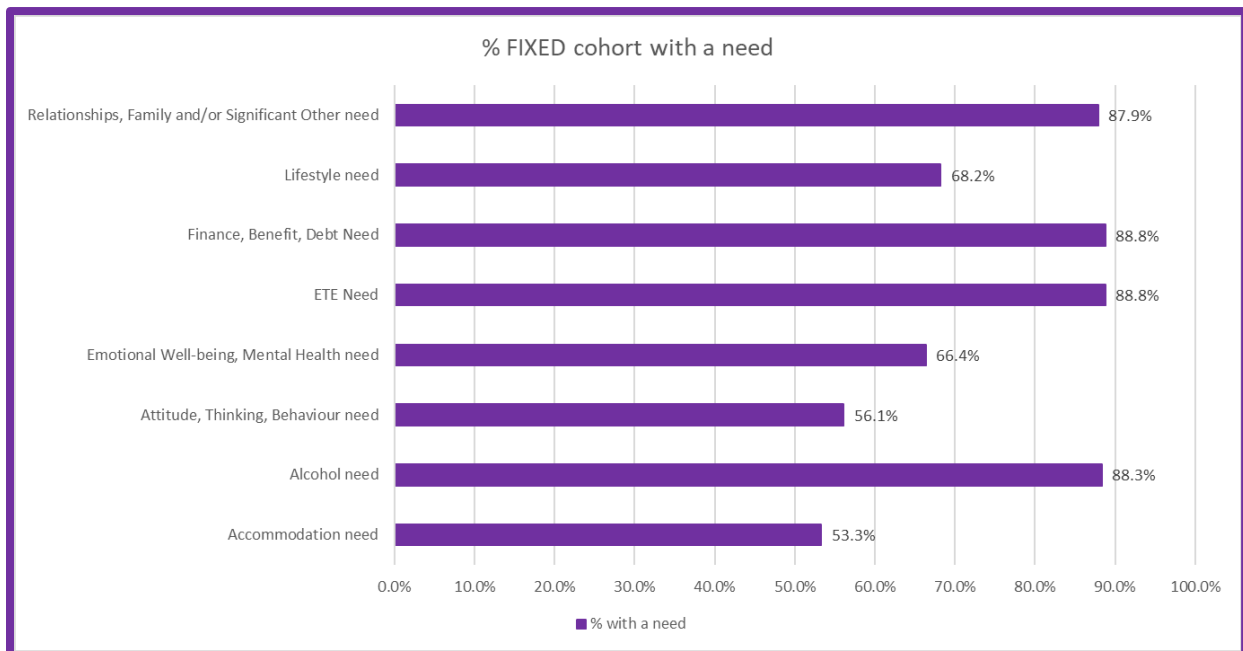
HCAW 'Movie & Munch' night took place at Dyfatty Units, with food and a screening of the film 'Hairspray', with a strong anti-discrimination message and story of the civil rights movement. Victim Support and Community Safety materials were distributed throughout the event. This took place across the

region, with a different film and audience group for each LA. A social media campaign also took place across the week.

Overview from Probation

The Probation Service in Wales, alongside our key partners, have successfully implemented the Integrated Offender Management Refresh Strategy over 2021/2022. Consequentially the Swansea Neath Port Talbot IOM team have the highest performance currently across Wales in terms of contact (appointments made and kept with services) with Fixed Cohort nominal.

A IOM Performance Dashboard has been created, Below is an analysis of criminogenic needs of IOM nominal across South Wales



Swansea, Neath, Port Talbot Steering Group – September 2022 Key Headlines SNPT had the highest performance data for appointments offered and kept, discussions took place about how partnership work ensures this will continue to trend positively. The steering group were congratulated on this achievement.

Positive discussions took place with partners working with People on Probation around benefits on how collectively improvements could be made in relation to the cost-of-living crisis with it being the joint 1st highest need.

Accommodation was the 3rd highest need, local authority confirmed they would be unable to utilise the CAS-3 funding due to not having sufficient housing and move on options which will in turn impact any additional work IOM

Refresh are undertaking with the IOM Housing Fund. They continue to work on alternative methods of using CAS 3 funding.

Women in Criminal Justice System – December 2022 Key Headlines

Project Objectives: To reduce the level of complexity amongst women coming into contact with the CJS by intervening earlier to keep women safe and address the vulnerabilities that can lead to crime; Fewer women being sentenced to short term custody in Wales; Better support women to engage with services in the community by embedding clear referral pathways and individualised, sequenced plans, and by providing interventions delivered by appropriately trained, skilled professionals in a timely manner; Improve women's resettlement into the community following a custodial sentence by ensuring an effective resettlement and rehabilitative pathway; Develop a Welsh evidence-base to better understand the distinct needs and vulnerabilities of women who offend or are at risk of offending

Launched and evaluated Future 4 Women's Pathfinder Whole System Approach and 18-25 Early Intervention Service in South Wales

Secured funding (currently until March 2023) to establish the Pact Visiting Mum Service in HMP Eastwood Park and HMP Styal to help strengthen/maintain family ties amongst Welsh women in Prison

Created a psychologically-led model to support services in taking an evidence-based approach to working with women across Wales

Undertook a gender-focussed pan Wales multi-agency training needs analysis and created a multi-agency gender informed practitioner skills training package.

Created a Pan Wales Women's Partnership Data Report to improve understanding of the profile, needs and complexities of women in or at risk of entering the CJS in Wales.

Delivered a series of engagement events, focused on raising confidence in community-based options for women amongst sentencers and key court decision makers.

Joint Intelligence Project – Key Headlines December 2022

Project Objective: To develop a whole system approach to tackling and disrupting SOC in Wales, focusing on the lower level nominals who cause the most chaos, harm and disruption in our communities.

- Focus groups for formal evaluation have taken place throughout the summer period and will continue into the autumn/winter 22
- Presentation on JIP to all MARSOC regional leads and Head of MARSOC completed to promote wider roll out

- Resource review completed – Probation Unit buy in local Probation Officer SPOCs and resource from deployed staff from Approved Premises estate post closure secured

Operational development group planned for 2023

Next Steps

Partnership work to develop a new strategy for 2023 – 2026. This has commenced and the draft strategy will be discussed at the next Safer Swansea Partnership Steering Group meeting scheduled for 9th February.

The draft strategy will go out to Safer Swansea Partners for comment and then out for a wider stakeholder and public consultation.

It is anticipated that the strategy will be ready for 1st April 2023.

Action plans for each strategic priority to be developed and reported on quarterly to the Safer Swansea Partnership Steering Group and annually to the Public Service Board forming the main body of the Annual Statement.

Operation Kendall Learning and Community Engagement.

On the 20th of May 2021, a large crowd gathered in the Mayhill area of Swansea whereby serious disorder took place resulting in 27 individuals being charged with the offence of riot (2 additionally charged with Arson with intent to endanger life), and 5 subjects receiving out of court disposal for the offence of Riot.

This was a spontaneous incident that had a devastating impact on the local community, with dissatisfaction around the policing response on the night. This directly impacted the trust and confidence of the neighbourhood in the service the police were providing. A Community Impact Assessment (CIA) was created, the purpose of which was to identify issues that may affect a community's confidence in the ability of the police to respond effectively to their needs, thereby enhancing the police response. This was completed by engaging with the community, Key Individual Network members and key stakeholders, to truly understand the current level of confidence in the police and improving it whilst working with the community.

Engagement activity since the incident.

It was recognised that there needed to be an increase in both the engagements that were taking place from the local neighbourhood team and the recording of them to enable the effectiveness of them to be reviewed. Communication with the public will be affective when the police are accessible, visible and trust exists.

Since the incident, within the Townhill ward, there has been 169 recorded engagements (data as at Oct 2022) on South Wales Police's Engagement and Consultation Activity Dashboard portal. This is how many recorded engagements there have been in the area, where the local neighbourhood team have engaged, consulted and feedback to the community.

To improve visibility within the locality after the incident there was an increase in officers deployed to the area, this included public order resources, mounted officers and most importantly the local neighbourhood team. As part of the consequence management plan a short-term action was to increase patrols and public reassurance, ensuring that patrol strategies were conducted in areas most affected by the disorder and that the public in these areas could feel safe in their own homes. A mobile police station was placed in strategic locations, maximising visibility and accessibility maximising the ability of the public to communicate their fears to the police, improving engagement. Schools' liaison officers attended local schools to give inputs to children and young people, addressing fears and ensuring that trust and confidence in the policing capability is not lost.

A community engagement plan was created, mirroring the SWP communication engagement and consultation strategy to delivering on maintaining and enhancing engagement with the community. Focus group meetings with Mayhill Community

Centre regarding committee members and Friends of Mayhill Park joining the committee to start arranging events from the Centre.

There were also meetings with local youths at Mayhill Community Centre conducted which looked at what they want and need in the area. From this Mayhill Youth Club has been started with the help from Police and Evolve / Early intervention. Councillors, committee members and “Friends of Mayhill Park” were spoken to and together facilitated the opening of the official new Mayhill Park in February 2022.

The local neighbourhood policing team engaged with a new boxing club in Mayhill Community Centre, assisting in providing funding to the club to purchase new equipment, ensuring it didn't close. The centre is attended by the youth of the area, providing a location to build discipline and fitness for the youths of the area.

Partnerships

South Wales Police prioritise engaging with their communities and partners to develop sustainable solutions to problems. Strong links were built key locations in the area, one of which being the Phoenix Centre, this is a one stop-shop with activities such as a nursery and all-weather sport pitches.

Funding was been obtained from the PCC's office to conduct a community “fun day” event in Mayhill where the local community came together and experienced partnership working. This was organised after the disorder to help to bring the community back together, in attendance were 25 different Partnership Agencies, The Lord Mayor, MP, all 3 emergency services, 7 Ward Members and it was attended by over 300 residents.

This led onto The Community Integration & Partnership Team at Swansea Council, together with the Safer Swansea Partnership and partner agencies collectively hosting fourteen community engagement events that aimed to maximise community engagement in order to provide opportunities to rebuild relationships, reduce any ongoing or resulting conflict/tension, and start to repair harm collectively.

The objectives of these events were as follows :-

- To allow the public in the locality to build relationships with the Emergency Services and develop the confidence to discuss the impact of anti-social behaviour and crimes that take place in their area.
- To increase the public's confidence to report crime in future by offering opportunities for dialogue between residents and representatives.

- To encourage more local residents to participate in the offer of discussions with council leaders and the Emergency Services in safe and welcoming surroundings.
- To contribute to the development of a Council supported, community-led community development programme that could provide an exemplar for other areas of the local authority area, by creating and supporting community capacity, safe spaces, youth activity.

In total 23 statutory and non-statutory partners took part and actively contributed to these events.

Meetings with partners continue to be key in ensuring community cohesion is obtained, and the monthly Problem-Solving Group meetings are chaired by the neighbourhood policing Inspector. All meetings are recorded and uploaded onto a shared drive for transparency and recording purposes. Monthly meetings were held with Local councillors; Cyril Anderson and Lesley Walton, David Hopkins (deputy leader), Dave Richards (Housing) and Cath Goddard (Local Authority) to understand if any issues were occurring without being reported to the police.

A community meeting was organised held at the Phoenix centre named the Local People Project. This is where members of the community, councillors and neighbourhood watch all come together to discuss any problems. The Inspector attends every other month with a PCSO to engage and address the community's issues and continue to build the relationships. In addition, a Cuppa with a copper continues at Mountain View Family Centre, Mayhill and held monthly with positive feedback for the local PCSO being received.

Several meetings with housing officers and joint visits to residents that have reported ASB issues to provide reassurance and conduct a "walk through" which is a joint patrol through the Mayhill Area with housing officers, Safer Swansea, and local councillors, to identify potential issues and display partnership working.

The Early Help hub are fully engaged within the locality to identify and address vulnerabilities, providing the correct service support to those in need.

The Neighbourhood Policing Inspector has meet with all the significant KINS and councillors within the sector on a personal level to discuss problem and concerns early on. There has been a real focus on the roles of PCSO's and the important part they play within the community. A full review of their daily business was conducted to ensure that they are utilising their time effectively and are engaging with the

community and identifying any concerns or tensions whilst building resilience and community-based problem solving.

There has been a renewed focus on intelligence gathering with NPT staff having refresher training in this area.

It is important to remember that the documenting of all police activity is key to transparency and will allow the ability to identify good practice and address underperformance. Both the OSARA and CIA that were created after this event are updated regularly and can be produced as documented evidence of what activity the police are conducting for the community.

Operational Learning - Operational Kendall Phase 2

The aim of Operation Kendall Phase 2 is to gain a detailed understanding of the policing response to the public disorder which took place at Waun Wen Road in Mayhill on the 20th May 2021.

At time of writing the review is yet to be finalised but South Wales Police will shortly provide to the College of Policing a report summarising its recommendations from the review undertaken together with a tactical plan which details the recommendations to be addressed there from and the proposed action to be taken.

These findings will be compiled primarily into a detailed timeline of events accompanied by an evaluation and summary report. The College of Policing will review and feedback on the contents of the same by way of a report (and copies of any knowledge or learning that may assist SWP) with a view to informing the force's response to any future incidents of spontaneous urban public disorder.

At this moment in time the above process has not been fully completed and no formal findings have been published into the public domain however this is imminent. When these matters are finalised they will be circulated with the generic recommendations.

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Swansea Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy
(DRAFT, 2023-2026)

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1. Introduction

An estimated 2.4 million adults experience some form of domestic abuse in one year, 1.7 million of them women. On average every week 2 women are murdered by their current or former partner and 30 men per year. It will affect 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men in their lifetime and has more repeat victims than any other crime (on average there will have been 35 assaults before a victim calls the police). Nearly half a million adults are sexually assaulted each year and around 85,000 women and 12,000 men are raped each year in England and Wales. In relation to 'so-called' honour based abuse, statistics indicate that there were 2,024 honour-based offences in England and Wales in 2019/2020, this includes FGM offences, forced marriage, and other honour-based abuse offences.

Additionally, the cost to the economy is considerable. In terms of services, costs to the health services are estimated at £2.3 billion, the police, £1.3 billion and housing costs, £550 million. A Home Office report estimating the economic and social costs of domestic abuse, placed the annual cost at £66 billion suggesting that the costs of all forms of VAWDASV are considerably higher.

Swansea, along with the Welsh Government, recognises that Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) is a violation of human rights. It destroys lives and affects the well-being of our whole society. It is both a cause and a consequence of gender inequality and disproportionately affects women and girls, as recognised internationally by the Council of Europe (Convention on Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence) and the United Nations (Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women). Whilst it is important to acknowledge the disproportionate effect on women and girls, we recognise that abuse can also be directed towards men and boys, so our

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mission is to deliver a coordinated approach to prevention, protecting and supporting **all** groups and individuals affected by these forms of violence.

This strategy is an overarching plan which outlines the priority areas and strategic direction around healthy relationships and the implementation of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 within Swansea. We will build on our existing achievements and the progress that we have made, continuing to work across the Western Bay Region in areas of the strategy that will strengthen our approach to tackling VAWDASV.

In reflection of the Act, Swansea Council want to ensure this agenda is acknowledged as ‘everyone’s business’ and is a cross cutting theme that requires all areas of public policy to address the issues. Swansea Council and SBUHB, via the VAWDASV Leadership Group, has worked with our partner agencies/survivors of abuse to develop this strategy and will continue to work with partner agencies to deliver on the implementation.

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2.Vision

“All citizens in Swansea to be safe, happy and healthy and live fear free from violence, exploitation, harassment and abuse, in all its forms”

This will help us achieve.....

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A Swansea that is a place which is more prosperous with a **skilled and well-educated** population, less characterised by the contrast and extremes of poverty across the city. We want to **improve well-being** so that communities are **safer, healthier, more cohesive and adaptable** to change so that everyone can be **enabled to reach their potential**.

Our aspirations for addressing Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence in Swansea are to;

- Ensure the voice of the service user is heard and listened to.
- Ensure the right support is offered in the right place at the right time.
- Enable early identification of need and early intervention.
- Target services working with a whole family approach to empower families to problem solve, build resilience and sustain change.
- Deliver services through collaborative multi-service and multi-agency working.
- Provide services in a proactive, timely way to prevent escalation of need.
- Increase referrals to DV specialist agencies and Police.
- **All** victims to have equal access to appropriate services.
- Negative attitudes are challenged, and communities are educated and better informed of the issues around VAWDASV.
- Victims and perpetrators are offered support at the earliest opportunity.
- There is a regional and national collaborative approach to VAWDASV.
- Perpetrators are held accountable.
- Professionals and communities are more informed around VAWDASV and confident in reporting incidents/concerns of abuse.

3. Definitions

Violence Against Women (VAW)

The United Nations defines Violence Against Women as:

“All acts of gender-based violence that result in, or are likely to result in physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life”

This encompasses but is not limited to:

- a) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practises harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation;
- b) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution
- c) Physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the state, wherever it occurs.

Domestic Abuse (DA)

The Domestic Abuse Act (2021) defines Domestic Abuse as:

“Domestic abuse is any single incident, course of conduct or pattern of abusive behaviour between individuals aged 16 or over who are “personally connected” to each other as a result of being, or having been, intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality. Children who see, hear or experience the effects of the abuse and are related to either of the parties are also considered victims of domestic abuse”. Behaviour is “abusive” if it consists of any of the following:

- Physical
- Sexual
- Violent or threatening behaviour;
- Controlling behaviour (an act designed to make a person subordinate and/ or dependent on the abuser)
- Coercive behaviour (an act or pattern of acts of assaults, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish or frighten the victim)
- Economic abuse;
- Psychological, Emotional or other abuse.

This includes incidences where the abusive party directs their behaviour at another person (e.g. a child). Economic abuse means any behaviour that has a substantial adverse effect on someone’s ability to acquire, use or maintain money or other property, or obtain goods or services.

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Sexual Violence (SV)

Sexual violence and abuse is any behaviour thought to be of a sexual nature which is unwanted and takes place without consent. Sexual violence and abuse can be physical, psychological, verbal or online. Any behaviour of a sexual nature that causes a person distress is considered sexual violence or abuse. Sexual violence can include but is not limited to;

- Rape
- Sexual assault
- Child sexual abuse
- Sexual harassment
- Sexual exploitation
- Ritual abuse
- Forced to watch pornography

Anyone can be a victim of sexual violence at any stage in their life. Although, the vast majority of sexual violence is perpetrated against women and girls, sexual violence against men and boys is a significant problem.

4.Context and Legislation

Welsh Context

In Wales, the cost of Domestic Abuse is estimated to be £303.5m annually: £202.6m in service costs and £100.9m to lost economic output. These figures do not include any element of human and emotional costs, which research estimates costs Wales an additional £522.9m. Taking the costs of sexual violence and other forms of abuse into account would significantly increase this amount.

Over the last few years in Wales, significant progress has been made in improving services for those who experience Violence within their relationships. This culminated in the enactment of the **Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act in 2015** Section 5 (1) of the Act places a duty on Local Authorities and Local Health Boards to jointly prepare and publish a Local Strategy which aims to end VAWDASV and ensure consistent consideration of preventative, protective and supportive mechanisms in the delivery of services.

Following the introduction of the VAWDASV Act, Welsh Government introduced the National Strategy on Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (2016-2021) revised (2022-2026). Delivery of the strategy will be through a **Blueprint** approach which brings together devolved and non-devolved organisations.

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The VAWDASV Act (2015)

Section 5 (1) of the Act places a duty on Local Authorities and Local Health Boards to jointly prepare and publish a Local Strategy which aims to end and ensure consistent consideration of preventative, protective and supportive mechanisms in the delivery of services.

The Blueprint

The Blueprint will create a new shared governance structure which reflects the joint ownership across devolved and non-devolved bodies and the partnership between the public, private and specialist sectors. The blueprint approach secures the multi-agency co-operation and commitment we seek. It seeks to bring together the resources controlled by partners within the blueprint and contribute to an end VAWDASV by facilitating shared understanding and common direction.

A new, co-chaired Ministerial-led National Partnership Board will have oversight of delivery of the Strategy. The National Partnership Board will provide a forum in which to broker shared decisions and commitments. The Partnership Board will sit at the top of a structure, which is served by a number of work-streams focusing on specific areas. It will also oversee the work of regional boards to ensure they deliver the all-Wales approach whilst still reflecting regional difference. Membership of the Board will reflect those bodies who have key duties in tackling VAWDASV.

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Priority Work Streams - These groups may change over time as progress is made and priorities develop. However, initially these groups will address:

1. Street harassment and safety in public place
2. Workplace harassment
3. Tackling perpetration
4. Sustainable commissioning
5. Older people and children and young people's needs
6. Survivor voice.

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The National Training Framework (NTF) is a duty placed on local authorities by the Act, and has two main functions:

- Consistent, proportionately disseminated training for relevant authorities to fundamentally improve the understanding of the general workforce and, therefore the response to those who experience violence.
- Alignment of existing specialist training to further professionalise the specialist sector, to improve consistency of specialist subject training provision nationally and to set core requirements of specialist service provision.

'Ask and Act' sits within the NTF and is a process of targeted enquiry to be practiced across the Public Service to identify people affected by this agenda. The purpose is to;

- Increase identification of those experiencing Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence;
- Offer referrals and interventions for those identified, which provide specialist support based on the risk and needs of the client;
- Begin to create a culture across the Public Service where addressing Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence is an accepted area of business and where disclosure is expected, supported, accepted and facilitated.

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The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act emphasises the importance of a coherent approach to preventative work within our communities and defines what these services are expected to achieve:

- Helping families stay together safely
- A key focus for all services and begins with early identification of need and effective early intervention

The fundamental principles of the Act are:

- Voice and control- putting the individual and their needs at the centre of their care, and giving them a voice in, and control overreaching the outcomes that help them achieve well-being
- Prevention and early intervention- increasing preventative services within the community to minimise the escalation of critical need
- Well-being- supporting people to achieve their own well-being and measuring the success of care and support
- Co-production- encouraging individuals to become more involved in the design and delivery of services

The Act provides a legal framework for improving the well-being of people who need care and support and the principles will be reflected throughout this strategy.

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The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act places requirements on Welsh Government along with 43 other public bodies across Wales to focus on 5 ways of working:

- Prevention: How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives
- Integration: Considering how the public body's objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, or on the objectives of other public bodies
- Collaboration: Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives
- Involvement: The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.
- Long Term: The importance of balancing short term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to meet long term needs.

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The Housing (Wales) Act 2014;

Enshrines in legislation the role of the local authority in preventing and alleviating homelessness, this will change the way that services are delivered to survivors of violence who flee their home seeking a safe place to live. The Welsh Government guidance which supports the practical delivery of the legislation advises local authorities and their partners, as follows:

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“Local authorities should be led by the wishes and feelings of the victim of domestic abuse when determining accommodation arrangements. The first option, where appropriate, should be for the perpetrator to be removed from the property to enable the victim to remain in their home. The Local Authority must also consider improving the security of the applicant’s home to enable them to continue living there safely. Alternatively, the Local Authority must assist the victim in sourcing alternative accommodation, whether on a permanent or temporary basis”.

This reinforces the need for local authorities need to work in partnership to ensure that prevention of homelessness is at the forefront of thinking. This will require an alternative approach to the provision of temporary, crisis accommodation and support.

The Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016

Renting Homes (Amendment) (Wales) Act 2021

This sets out an approach to joint contracts/ tenancies, which will help survivors by enabling perpetrators to be targeted for eviction

[Renting Homes Act and regulations | GOV.WALES](#)

UK and EU

Welsh Government has framed its legislation and guidance on Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence alongside the UK and EU legislation;

- Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (2016-2020)
- European Union (EU) Directive on Victims' Rights
- The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women, and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention)
- Welfare Reform

5.Resources and Service Mapping

Swansea has a range of services that provide support and assistance to those affected by VAWDASV. The support can be categorised across the continuum of need as follows:

- Prevention,
- Protection and Support (victim safety)
- Protection (perpetrator intervention)
- Support (recovery and reintegration)

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Prevention

Domestic Abuse Hub offers a whole family approach which aims to prevent escalation and limits referrals into statutory children's services

| Domestic Abuse Hub 2020-2021 | |
|--|-------------|
| PPNs received | 2658 |
| Provided with information, advice and assistance | 2590 |
| No allocated to lead worker | 2619 |
| Passed to SCP for assistance | 11 |
| Referred directly from police to IIA & A | 1996 |
| TOTAL receiving information, advice or assistance | 1655 |

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Equilibrium: A whole family approach for perpetrators, victims and children/young people consisting of assessment, intervention (12 week course) and outcomes monitoring.

| Equilibrium | 2021-2022 |
|--|------------|
| On waiting list | 14 |
| Failed to engage | 47 |
| Started programme but dropped out | 14 |
| Assessed as no longer suitable – 28 closed | |
| Reasons: - | |
| - Open to Drive | |
| - Too complex/high risk | |
| - Receiving support from probation In Prison | |
| - Moved out of area. | |
| In service or completed Programme | 80 |
| Total Referrals | 183 |

Spectrum Project:

As part of the drive by the Welsh Government to tackle Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, the Hafan Cymru's Spectrum Project is fully funded by the Welsh Government to deliver sessions on Healthy Relationships and VAWDASV topics in all secondary and primary schools in Wales, including Swansea.

All Spectrum sessions:

- Promote the importance of **healthy relationships** and raise the awareness of children, young people and adults about the issues of Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.
- Are delivered by **qualified** and experienced **teachers**, sessions can be delivered in Welsh or English and all resources are **bilingual**.
- Are **cross curricular** and are designed to promote peer discussion, using a range of techniques.
- Use material that are **thought provoking** but are not designed to be so emotive as to cause distress.
- Are designed to **promote discussion not disclosure**.
- Conclude with information for young people on where they can access **help** and **support** both inside and outside the school.
- Deliver training for school **staff/parents/guardians and governors** on:
 - raising awareness of domestic abuse
 - understanding the implications of domestic abuse on a child
 - looking at a whole school approach to tackling Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.

Protection and Support (Victim Safety)

MARAC: meet once every fortnight to discuss high risk victims of domestic abuse. Key statutory agencies, such as the Local Authority, the police and health work alongside relevant third sector agencies to form this partnership.

| Swansea MARAC 2016-21 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Number discussed | 804 | 736 | 901 |
| Repeat cases | 221 | 208 | 247 |
| Percentage of repeat referrals | 27% | 28% | 27% |
| Children in the household | 629 | 506 | 618 |

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IDVA: Swansea Council has 7 full time IDVAs including one regional court IDVA and one Drive IDVA working across Western Bay. The IDVAs sit within the Domestic Abuse Hub working with high-risk victims of domestic abuse. The referral pathway is through the Police and external MARAC's.

| Swansea IDVA 2021-22 | Female | Male | TOTAL |
|----------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| Number of Referrals | 1399 | 143 | 1542 |

Swansea Women's Aid is a feminist women-only specialist provider of services for women and children experiencing violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV). We offer strength based, needs-led, trauma-

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informed support with a focus on enabling families to move forward positively with their lives, free from abuse. Services consist of:

Supported housing – 2 refuges and 3 safe houses offering 16 units of accommodation. Women (with/without children) can access for a few nights, weeks or stay until they are re-housed. We offer practical and emotional support, specialist group work (Freedom Programme/Bridging the Gap) and activities

Domestic Abuse Information Support and Empowerment (DAISE) project – offers one-to-one support face-to-face, by telephone or virtually via appointment or drop-in sessions. The support can be one-off or ongoing. We also offer specialist group work (Freedom Programme/Recovery Toolkit) at the SWA office and other venues across Swansea, including the Swansea Domestic Abuse One Stop Shop.

Children and Young People’s service (CHYPS) – offers one-to-one support face-to-face, by telephone and virtually and specialist group work (STAR programmes) for children and young people aged 5 to 17 years. We also provide play and activities programmes, parenting workshops and healthy relationship workshops in schools and colleges.

Forest School – taking place in a local woodland, this allows children to develop skills, interest and understanding through a range of activities which provide practical, hands-on experiences in a natural environment

Support, Wellbeing, Advocacy, eNablement (SWAN) project – offers an evening outreach service 4 nights a week to women exploited by the sex industry, providing food and drinks, clothing, contraception, crisis support and access to outreach substance misuse support. This acts as the front door into the daytime support service where the women can receive ongoing practical and emotional support, safety advice and signposting to other agencies to best address their needs. Fortnightly visits are made to local brothel’s and we also offer support to women sex working online.

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Ask Me - providing free training and ongoing support that helps community members to start conversations about abuse, know where help is available, share their knowledge with others and to know how to give a supportive, helpful response to anyone who shares their experience of abuse.

In addition, SWA offers bespoke training and raising awareness sessions to other organisations and community groups regarding VAWDASV.

| SWA 2020-21 | Refuges | DAISE | CHYPS | SWAN | Total |
|---------------------|---------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| Number of Referrals | 81 | 877 | 190 | 141 | 1289 |

| SWA 2021-22 | Refuges | DAISE | CHYPS | SWAN | Total |
|---------------------|---------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| Number of Referrals | 109 | 1336 | 172 | 407 | 2024 |

BAWSO is the lead specialist provider of services to people from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) backgrounds affected by domestic abuse and other forms of abuse, including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), human trafficking, prostitution and forced marriage.

BAWSO offer purpose-built refuges that are specially adapted to meet the cultural and religious needs of service users. They offer outreach support; information and advice, floating support as well as a FGM Health and Safeguarding community-based project.

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In Swansea, there is refuge and safe house provision offering accommodation for up to 13 families. Both can accommodate either families (women and children) or single females. The project has 3 family support workers and one children and young person's worker.

| BAWSO 2021 | Floating Support | Refuge | Safe houses | Advice Service |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------|-------------|----------------|
| Total Supported | 51 | 22 | 7 | 235 |

New Pathways/SARC: is the largest provider of specialist sexual violence support services in Wales, providing a range of support for people of all genders and ages, who have been affected by rape, sexual assault, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation.

Services in Swansea include:

- 24/7 crisis support at our Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) including out of hours phone line.
- ISVAs (Independent Sexual Violence Advisors) who offer advocacy, advice and ongoing support if you are thinking of reporting to the police.
- Specialist counselling, and 1:1 and group support, for adults and children. Via phone, video call, or face to face in our Swansea Trauma Recovery Centre.
- Training, research and consultancy.

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| New Pathways Services 2019 - 2022 | Number of Referrals 2019/20 | Number of Referrals 2020/21 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Counselling (female) | 288 | 237 |
| Counselling (male) | 96 | 55 |
| SARC | 244 | 276 |

6. Consultation and Engagement

Service User voices are crucial to the planning and delivery of VAWDASV services. Those that have the experience of VAWDASV are the experts in what services need to deliver to be effective. Service user engagement is about more than consultation; it is about listening to what is being said and using the skills and expertise of service users in partnership work. The

- *Are you Listening and Am I Being Heard? Report*
Survivor Consultation: A report of the recommendations made by survivors of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence, to inform the National Strategy in Wales.

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Understanding how survivors of domestic abuse, sexual violence and other forms of violence against women use and experience public services is key to improving the effectiveness of prevention, protection and support services and systems in Wales.

Survivors' voices and experiences must also be central to informing the development and delivery of legislation, policy and strategy in order to ensure systems and services best meet survivors' needs and action is taken to prevent violence and abuse in the short and longer term.

Co-Production Project

The Co-Production Project at Swansea Women's Aid assists survivors to take ownership of the set-up and development of the Co-Production Centre, and its programme of activities. The aim of post-crisis activities and groups being improved wellbeing and increased ability to self-manage the long-term impacts of domestic abuse for women in the area engaged with specialist VAWDASV services, and other public and third sector organisations.

Focus is placed heavily on gathering regular feedback and directly asking attendees what they want or need, giving all survivors an active role in shaping the future of the Centre, but also encouraging each woman to actively adopt an empowering lifelong self-help approach in managing her wellbeing and the long-term effects of abuse. Activities have placed focus on learning coping mechanisms, reducing anxiety, and increasing energy but also bonding, movement, self-

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expression through creativity and laughter. This approach along with peer support has proven uplifting and to reduce debilitating feelings of shame, self-blame, and isolation.

The project actively encourages independence and take-up of training to empower survivors to succeed, have their voices heard, engage with decision-makers and build mutual trust and respect. Through empowerment the project encourages survivors to engage with public bodies with VAWDASV survivor involvement duties/commitments and positively influence services and strategy in the area.

“The activities I’ve attended have been really uplifting, lately I’m in a much better mood. I have been having a really difficult time and they have been a lifeline. They get me out of the house.”

Activity Attendee (began attending Co-Production activities in December 2022)

“I have been thinking about the amazing, compassionate, and understanding support. I will always remember your support. Activities have helped me to find different ways to help me manage my stress related to post-traumatic stress disorder.”

Activity Attendee (began attending Co-Production activities in December 2022)

“I feel the involvement alone will be hugely empowering and confidence-boosting for women who have experienced abuse. Some women and their children may feel they are finally being believed for the first time and finally experiencing

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their truth being not only respected, but encouraged. Also, how empowering and confidence-building would it be for children who have been affected by abuse to lead, run, and make their own decisions when involved in their own branch of the Co-Production Project?”

Co-Production Volunteer

- **Your Opinion Matters Project**

This was a 3-year project, which ran between 2013-16 as part of the Big Lottery funded Community Voice Programme and managed by Swansea Women’s Aid.

The Project:

- ✓ Developed a coherent voice for survivors of domestic abuse that was informed and could inform service delivery
- ✓ Encouraged enablement and skills enhancement of disadvantaged women, young people and children
- ✓ Promoted and established the enablement of service users to review and inform service provision of public services
- ✓ Gave an increased value to and recognition of survivors of domestic abuse and the invaluable insight they possess on services and what they need

The project was successful and led into a Service User Forum to further support the voice of the survivors.

The Swansea VAWDASV Partnership will continue to work towards a co-produced approach to VAWDASV services and identify opportunities to involve survivor groups or representatives in existing partnerships and structure.

7. Aims & Key Principles

In line with the requirements of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, our aims and key principles within this strategy have been developed to meet the following 5 ways of working which will help us to work together better, avoid repeating any past mistakes and tackle some of the long-term challenges we are facing.

Long Term

- To ensure there is a strong focus on education and work with young people with the aim of eradicating violence and abuse over the long term
- To work with communities and employers to bring about a cultural shift in attitudes towards violence and abuse so that it is no longer tolerated or considered acceptable
- To provide services that offer best value for money

Early Intervention & Prevention

- To continue to develop services so that victims and perpetrators can access help and support at the earliest possible time and to prevent cases reaching a point of crisis

Involvement

- To ensure our service delivery is person centred
- To ensure the voices of people affected by violence and abuse are heard and that more opportunity is created to develop services that are evidence based and include survivor involvement

Integration

- To adopt a holistic approach, so that the wellbeing of people affected by violence and abuse is considered in service responses

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- To ensure this work is recognised as everyone's business

Collaboration

- Continue to build and develop a confident, strong partnership
- To develop regional and national collaborative approaches where this is more effective than a local response
- To work towards collaborative commissioning for all VAWDASV services in Swansea

8. Overarching Framework & Strategic Objectives

The aims of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 is to:

- Improve arrangements for the **Prevention** of VAWDASV;
- Improve arrangements for the **Protection of** victims of VAWDASV and;
- To improve **support** for people affected by VAWDASV.

Prevention

We are committed to preventing VAWDASV from happening, by challenging the attitude and behaviours which foster it and intervening early, where possible, to prevent its recurrence.

The prevention of violence is central to agendas on public health; reducing crime and the harm caused by serious violent crime; safeguarding children and adults with support needs; promoting education, learning and skills development; and promoting equality.

Prevention involves education to change attitudes and perceptions (to reduce the incidence of a problem among a population before it occurs) and can be targeted, at broad population groups, such as school-age children or members of a particular community.

Protection

We are committed to ensuring those who experience any form of violence are appropriately protected, eliminating the risk of further harm to victims and their children.

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We want **anyone** experiencing these issues to be aware of the support that is available locally and we want to be confident that all professionals within our area are equipped with the knowledge to effectively respond to any disclosures.

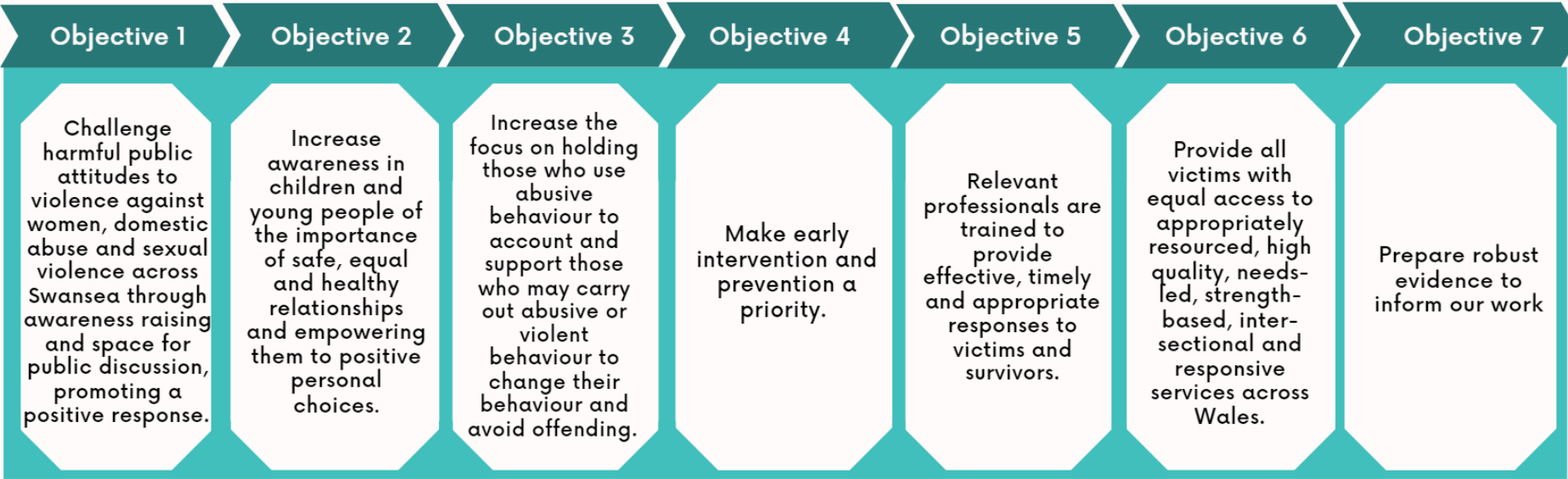
Support

We are committed to providing high-quality support for survivors and their families, ensuring services meet their needs and prioritise their safety, to enable them to achieve independence and freedom from abuse.

It is vital that survivors receive the right support, at the right time, to enable them to take action that is right for them.

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Strategic Objectives



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The objectives within this strategy are derived from those of the published National Strategy and will feed into the Blueprint framework. Having similar objectives within Swansea will enable us to demonstrate how we will support the Welsh Government in achieving its policy objectives regarding Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. Although the overarching objectives remain the same, some changes have been made to the areas for development since the original publication of the strategy to reflect work completed and the change in climate i.e. funding streams and restructure.

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Objective 1 - Challenge harmful public attitudes to violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence across Swansea through awareness raising and space for public discussion, promoting a positive response.

Objective 2 - Increase awareness in children and young people of the importance of safe, equal and healthy relationships and empowering them to positive personal choices.

Objective 3 – Increase the focus on holding those who use abusive behaviour to account and support those who may carry out abusive or violent behaviour to change their behaviour and avoid offending.

Objective 4 – Make early intervention and prevention a priority.

Objective 5 – Relevant professionals are trained to provide effective, timely and appropriate responses to victims and survivors.

Objective 6 – Provide all victims with equal access to appropriately resourced, high quality, needs-led, strength-based, inter-sectional and responsive services across Wales.

Objective 7 – Prepare robust evidence to inform our work.

Objective 1

Challenge harmful public attitudes to violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence across Swansea through awareness raising and space for public discussion, promoting a positive response.

Current position:

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It is essential that we deliver universal awareness campaigns, to raise awareness, challenge negative attitudes and increase peoples understanding about VAWDASV issues, including the help and support that is available locally, regionally and nationally.

We need to consider survivors' feedback when shaping future awareness raising campaigns, taking into account any situations where they sought help but faced adversity and felt misunderstood or not listened to.

Raising awareness in the community in general is vital. Communities need to recognise domestic abuse and the harm it causes, be supportive of survivors and be able to provide information about the help that is available. This is critical since much support to victims comes from these sources, not from service providers. A positive and knowledgeable response from the immediate network surrounding victims and their children is critical to increasing the likelihood of early intervention.

What we will do:

- Utilise local media and social media platforms to increase awareness and positive information through National and local campaigns.
- Promote and provide healthy relationships programmes across multiagency service provisions and sectors.
- Ensure service users voices are captured throughout development of services and influencing the development, driving change.
- Continue to deliver and promote the WG National training Framework and VAWDASV Training Courses.
- Raise awareness of the Specialist Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence services available.

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- Continue to work with NPT to ensure regional approach, promoting campaigns and raising awareness, via the Communication and Engagement Sub- Group.
- Increase awareness and service provision raising the profile and public understanding of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence, among vulnerable groups such as Black and Ethnic Minorities, disabled people, the LGBT community, older people, refugees and migrants.
- Be proactive in reaching all services with specialist providers sharing expertise and specialist training to agencies that support victims.
- Co-construct a training programme with DV and sexual violence specialist agencies for the public and professionals in relation to adult sexual exploitation to enhance understanding of the issues involved and the and services available.
- Promote 'Ask Me' and 'Change that Lasts' as part of the community based preventative package.
- Ensure VAWDASV priorities are integrated within the Safer Swansea Community Partnership Strategy.
- Support and promote the growth of the 'your opinion matters' group.
- Raise awareness of the SWAN project which supports women who are Sexual exploitation and Trafficked.
- Promote and support the development of the SWA Co- Production Centre, ensuring that survivor's voice is embedded across all services.
- Ensure a broad coverage of VAW – Exploitation, street harassment, workplace harassment, perpetrator focused comms, CYP comms with an understanding exposure to violent and misogynistic media and lifestyles can impact VAWDASV.
- Advocate for sustainable funding to ensure consistency and continuous improvement of services across all areas.
- Work in partnership with Safer Swansea Partnership to address Street Harassment and Safety in Public Places.
- Challenge attitudes and culture around workplace harassment.

Objective 2

Increase awareness in children and young people of the importance of safe, equal and healthy relationships and empowering them to positive personal choices.

Current Position

Within Swansea, there are multiple approaches towards prevention, protection and support to children and young people to raise awareness of abusive behaviours and their impact, as well as highlighting healthy and equal relationships across health, education, child & family social services and wider.

What we will do:

Increase awareness in children and young people of the importance of safe, equal and healthy relationships and that abusive behaviour is always wrong.

- Promote and support the WG Whole Education Approach to VAWDASV within all school settings and young people's community settings, e.g., youth clubs', temporary accommodation.
- Promote and support the CMET training for schools around the 'corridor culture', sexual harassment in schools, promoting healthy relationships.

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- Ensure children and young people's voices are heard through development of a Framework co-produced with young people
- Support the development of the working groups for children and young people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ and BAME, ensuring services have a CYP perspective.
- Support and promote the Co-Production Centre to establish a cohort of young people, ensuring their voices are heard.

Strengthen links with all tiers of education including University and FEI, through their involvement in the Leadership Group and subgroups.

- Ensure a VAWDASV lens is considered at early help hub implementation.
- Develop a document mapping the services that provide educative support to children and young people around healthy relationships.
- Educate staff in schools around CSE, grooming, online safety to ensure children and young people are identified at risk and supported to make positive choices.
- Support the Open Access Youth Service/Evolve to this who engage with around 4000/5000 young people through a blended approach of outreach, youth clubs and targeted work.
- Emotional Health and Wellbeing workers from EHH are aligned to comprehensive schools and deliver the (Ob
- (Undertake 1-2-1 targeting work with young people who have experienced or witnessed violence in the home through specialist support services or open access services such as youth work, play, early years, early help.
- Specialist support – DA Hub, Equilibrium, NVR, SWA – CHYPS, Daise counselling.

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Objective 3

Increase the focus on holding those who use abusive behaviour to account and support those who may carry out abusive or violent behaviour to change their behaviour and avoid offending.

Current position

We are committed to taking action to reduce the risk to victims, ensuring that perpetrators are provided with opportunities for change in a way that maximises safety. Swansea currently delivers the Equilibrium Programme, which is a whole family, solution focused approach to preventing escalation of abuse and maximising safety for victims and families. The programme has gained Respect accreditation and work is ongoing with academic partners in Swansea University to conduct an independent evaluation, which will inform future commissioning.

An additional strand to the Equilibrium there is a perpetrator housing worker who offers support with housing, benefits employment. This primary focus is stabilising their lives and reduce the risks of domestic abuse for victims.

The Drive programme is delivered across the Region working with high-harm, high-risk and serial perpetrators of domestic abuse to prevent their abusive behaviour and protect victims. Drive challenges and supports perpetrators to change and works with partner agencies – like the police and social services – to disrupt abuse. A Regional Drive IDVA supports the victims ensuring their safety while working alongside the Drive case managers. The Drive pilot is being launched in Swansea prison 2023 and with an additional part time Drive IDVA we will be able to monitor the safety and offer support their victims.

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What we will do:

Increase the focus on holding perpetrators to account and provide opportunities to change their behaviour based around victim safety

- Expand existing services to include a range of perpetrator interventions for specific groups of people such as women-only, BAME, older people and additional learning needs.
- Promote the Equilibrium Programme across services and expand the service across the Region and develop for the minority groups.
- Ensure mandated perpetrator groups as part of the court process continue to be promoted and delivered through increased promotion to all court staff.
- Engage with Community based programmes.
- Awareness raising and advocating for perpetrator interventions to be considered at all opportunities.
- Strengthen partnerships with the Police and probation to ensure a consistent approach to holding perpetrators to account.
- Consider training needs for specialists and wider partners around perpetrators of VAWDASV
- Explore options and interventions for perpetrators of all forms of VAWDASV, including **sexual violence** and exploitation.
- Engage with the PPC South Wales Whole Systems Approach to Domestic Abuse perpetrators.
- CMET will prioritise the disruption of exploitation by using the Home Office disruption tool kit.
- Engage and support national and regional governance structures.
- Support statutory functions such as MPPPP and increase understanding and awareness.
- Domestic Abuse Act (2021) have an awareness and support of new measures, particularly perpetrator strategies.

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- Support HMP Swansea DRIVE pilot.
- Monitor the demand and impact of housing for perpetrators via specific posts.

Objective 4

Make early intervention and prevention a priority.

Current Position

Preventing violence and intervening at the earliest possible stage to prevent its occurrence is the fundamental building block to an effective strategy.

The need to minimise reactive interventions once a crisis has occurred is pivotal to the ambition to end violence. There is evidence to show that early identification in healthcare and social care settings, leading to referral routes to specialist services, improves disclosures and referrals to support amongst survivors. In recognition of this, Swansea implemented the Domestic Abuse Hub, which is a preventative team within Child & Family delivering a whole family approach to victims, perpetrators and children where there are concerns around domestic abuse.

What we will do:

Make early intervention and prevention a priority

- Ensure our work and vision aligns with the Family Support Continuum.
- Raise awareness and promote early intervention, across all professionals ensuring opportunities at the earliest stage.

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- Raise awareness of ‘Calming the Waves’ program for victims of Sexual Violence, part of New Pathways SV service provision.
- Implement the MANTA system, monitoring the rollout of the new system ensuring earlier trauma informed services for victims and their family.
- Promote the DA One Stop Shop, Swansea SARC recovery Centre and Swansea’s sexual violence and trauma recovery services for professional to refer to for advice and support.
- Promote and support the IRIS project and support sustainable funding.
- Raise awareness of the specialist provision provided by the Domestic Abuse Hub.
- Support and raise awareness of the efficacy of the Cwmtawe Pathway Service.
- Engage with regional and national groups such as collaborative board for information sharing/ good practice. Blueprint
- Change that lasts programme, monitor and promote ‘Ask Me’.
- VAWDASV research network – understanding emerging research.
- Stalking and harassment/ exploitation awareness raising.
- DA Hub, importance of a specialist team.
- Ensuring front door services like Housing, CYP and SPOC recognise their role and have relevant training and information.
- Referred pathways for non-high risk PPN/referrals solidified and supported.
- Ensure funding is ring-fenced for prevention services.
- Ensure specialist providers can train their staff effectively in all forms of VAWDASV.
- Equilibrium healthy relationships programme for young people
- Raise awareness to address older people and young people’s needs.

Objective 5

Relevant professionals are trained to provide effective, timely and appropriate responses to victims and survivors.

Current Position

A Regional National Training Framework Subgroup has been developed involving representatives from Training & Development and the Ask & Act Project Lead from SBUHB. The group is responsible for the development of the training plan for roll out across the authority – identifying those who require varying levels of the training and how this will be rolled out, whilst learning from the experiences of the SBUHB pilot and sharing best practice.

With the roll out of the National Training Framework it will undoubtedly increase referrals into local services and we need to be clear of a referral pathway for all professionals to follow. The VAWDASV Leadership Group will have an important role to play in how we overcome any issues that may arise as a result of this.

What we will do:

- Continue to deliver on a regional basis the WG National Training Framework, including the 'Ask & Act' training requirements, to ensure all relevant staff are trained.
- Ensure joint delivery of Ask and Act with specialist providers.
- To implement a trainer to co- ordinate and lead on a targeted, time limited Ask & Act training plan to support delivery across West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board ensuring consistency.

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- To promote any training opportunities to staff to ensure victims have the appropriate response.
- Ensure all training, including refresher training is timetabled and published
- Ensure training is recorded, evaluated, and reported back to WG
- Promote Group 6 of the National Training Framework to all local members and senior leaders and evidence completion.
- Utilise staff expertise in specialist areas, share knowledge and hold awareness raising sessions across all services.
- Continue to monitor training, identify gaps and any challenges. These will be addressed in the Leadership Group.
- Promote training opportunities for staff across all services.
- Develop Adult Sexual Exploitation Training for delivery.
- Extend training to offer to other customer facing or public facing roles e.g., pharmacies, retail assistants etc. SVSR – Learning is disseminated and shared through relevant channels
- Coercive Control – ensure consistent and wide training
- Focus on ensuring VAWDASV training covers perpetrators.
- Support schools with the Peer-on-peer report
- Proactive approach to disseminate information in WG/HO reports e.g., providing oversight at Leadership Groups.
- Training on DA Act and Impact
- Incorporate local pathways into training.
- Training with IRIS programme for GP's all primary care.
- Sexual exploitation training based on IICSA which can be written into training plans.

Objective 6

Provide all victims with equal access to appropriately resourced, high quality, needs-led, strength- based, inter-sectional and responsive services across Wales.

Current Position

Current services within Swansea are detailed in Chapter 5 of this strategy. We have 4 specialist VAWDASV providers in Swansea, offering a range of services including refuge accommodation, move on accommodation, floating support, community outreach, children and young people’s services, advocacy and advice and specialist BAME support. The DA One Stop Shop in Swansea offers a walk -in service, operated by Swansea Women’s Aid and Hafan Cymru. The Domestic Abuse Hub was developed as a response to those needing a preventative, whole family approach with the aim of reducing escalation into statutory services. The IDVA project offers support to ALL high-risk victims of domestic abuse, and the regional Court IDVA supports any victim involved in the criminal court process. SARC and New Pathways provide specialist intervention for victims of sexual violence. The SWAN Project sits within Swansea Women’s Aid and offers outreach support to women exploited by the sex industry. The Council’s Housing Options Service offers a walk- in service for anyone in housing difficulty, including those experiencing Domestic Abuse.

What we will do:

Provide victims with equal access to appropriately resourced, high quality, needs led, strength based, gender responsive services across Swansea

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- Continue to monitor across services to ensure understanding of client groups and client need and ensure services are accessible to all
- Ensure compliance of Equalities Act 2010 recognising all protected characteristics
- Develop partnerships between the 3 key service delivery areas of VAWDASV, MH & SM through the Cwmtawe pathway project.
- Ensuring engagement from the 3 key partners in the Leadership and Sub- Groups.
- Support the development of services focusing of the safety and well-being of people exploited by the sex industry.
- A commitment by all VAWDASV support services that we can all do more to meet the need of victims.
- Raise awareness of services for the harder to reach communities.
- Multiagency response to safeguarding victims with no recourse to public funds.
- Consider publicity and promotion of services in various formats language to increase accessibility
- Individuals with protected characteristics to have access to safe, supported accommodation that meets their needs.
- Agencies to refer to specialist services where there are unable to meet the needs of all their services users.
- Increase in outreach provision for services, ensuring equal access to support, this is particularly limited with victims of sexual violence
- Implement an Equality Action Plan – Needs assessment for each protected characteristic. Map of each service option by protected mapping characteristic.

Objective 7

Prepare robust evidence to inform our work.

Current position

A regional VAWDASV Western Bay Needs assessment was completed to provide an overview of service provision, needs and gaps across the region and ensure that the voice of the victim, service provider and commissioners was heard.

What we will do

- Ensure robust governance arrangements are in place to facilitate regional working and link to National networks.
- Collect robust data through partnerships, monitoring information to identify trends and gaps in service.
- Pool partnership resources to support joint working and achieve objectives
- Prepare evidence, based on current needs mapping and services
- Develop and embed a Commissioning Framework
- Embed the Performance Framework based on the WG National Indicators
- Ensure strategic links with the development of the Wellbeing Plan.
- Monitoring of partnership services to identify gaps and monitor outcomes and trends to inform work through the Seren Mor network.

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9. Leadership & Governance

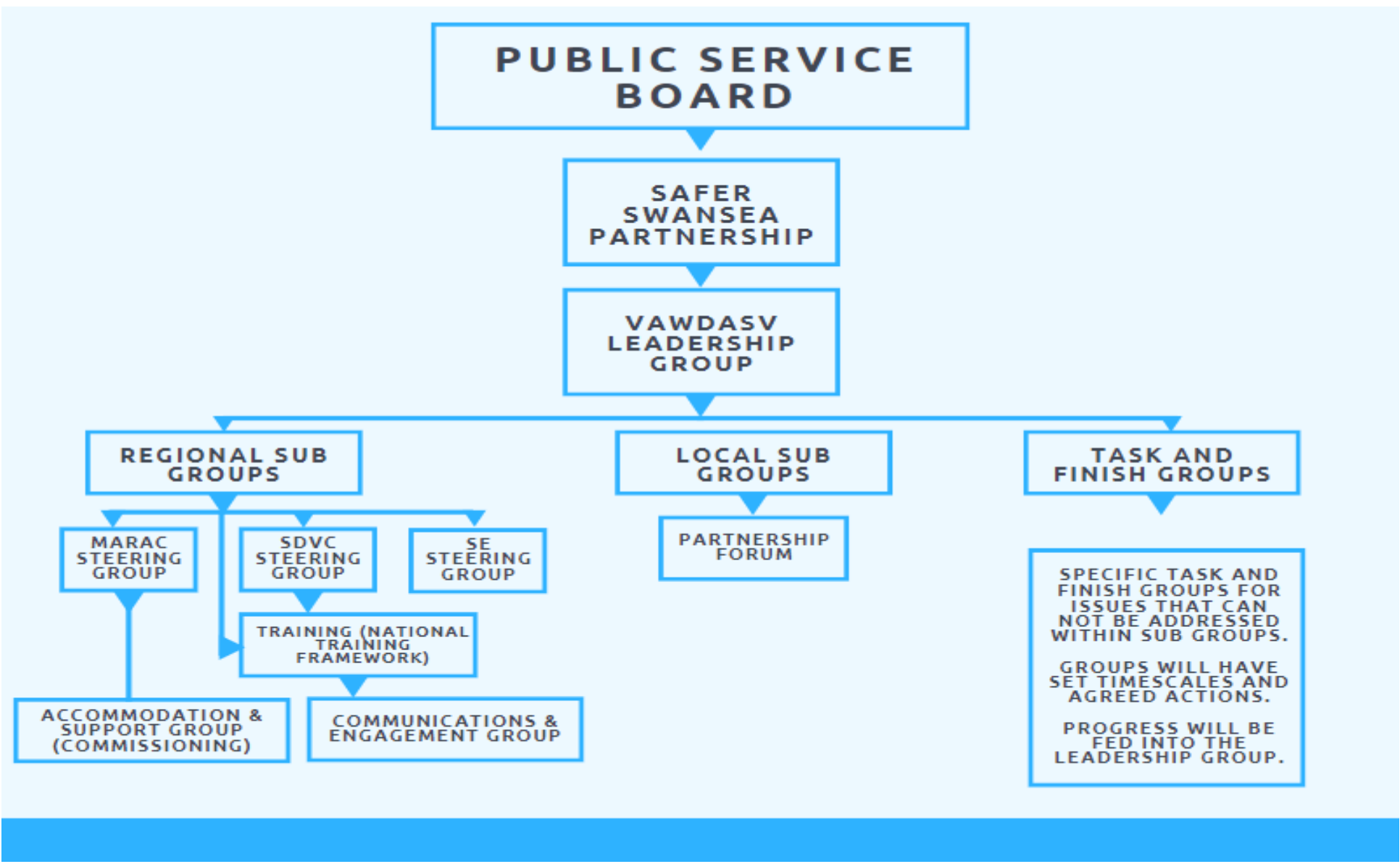
The strategic direction and oversight of the Swansea VAWDASV Strategy is held by the VAWDASV Leadership Group, which is accountable to the Safer Swansea Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

The Public Services Board will provide challenge and support to the Community Safety Partnership in progressing this Strategy.

The Leadership Group will drive and support delivery of the objectives within the Strategy and an annual report highlighting progress made and next steps.

The diagram overleaf illustrates the governance structure around this strategy;

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| Membership of the VAWDASV Leadership Group | |
|---|--|
| Swansea Council | Supporting People |
| Community Safety | SBUHB |
| Children's Services | Safeguarding |
| Commissioning | Mental Health and Learning Disabilities |
| Adult Safeguarding | South Wales Police |
| Housing | Swansea Women's Aid |
| Education | Mental Health and Learning Disabilities |
| South Wales Police | Swansea Women's Aid |
| Hafan Cymru | New Pathways |
| BAWSO | Police & Crime Commissioner |
| Probation | Citizen's Advice Service |
| Welsh Ambulance Service | Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service |
| Area Planning Board | BAROD |

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| DYFODOL | |
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Community Engagement Day

Morrison Park

28th May 2022

Contact:

Safer Swansea Partnership

07796 275107

commuity.safety@swansea.gov.uk



Local Community

The sun shone gloriously on Saturday 28th May 2022 for the local Morriston community who had come together to enjoy a free, family-friendly, Community Engagement Day at the park, organised by the Safer Swansea Partnership and Community Integration and Partnership Team at Swansea Council.

With partner agencies on site from 11am-3pm, families, friends, and neighbours enjoyed picnics on the grass as the relaxed and friendly crowd grew throughout the day.



Partners & Hired Contractors



CMET Team (& 'Bronwen')

CMET is a forum that brings together professional organisations from across Swansea to safeguard children and young people. Bronwen the Community Engagement vehicle is an impressive resource vehicle, complete with up-to-date technology and quiet areas to relax and chat with the dedicated team of Evolve workers.



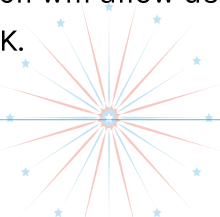
Community Integration and Partnerships Team - Swansea Council

Colleagues enjoyed spending the day engaging with friendly members of the local community of all ages, having conversations around topics such as anti-social behaviour and personal safety. Advice was offered and partners signposted to for the best follow-up support.



Heartbeat UK

The Swansea-based charity were on hand to provide heart-healthy advice and information about their community defibrillators across the area that are available for emergency use 24/7. Partnering with Swansea City Council will allow us to make Swansea the first “Defib-Friendly” city in the UK.



Mid and West Wales Fire Service

Volunteers were on hand throughout the day to offer safety advice, fire prevention tips, advice about smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, and to book members of the public in for their annual home fire safety checks.



Partners & Hired Contractors



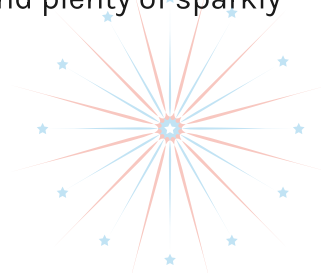
South Wales Police

Our buddies in blue were on hand to offer a friendly face, reassure the public, and to provide further information and advice on crime prevention and the best routes to reporting.



Paint The Stars

The talented face-painters were once again with us for the day creating masterpiece dinosaurs, superheroes, princesses, and plenty of sparkly rainbow unicorns!

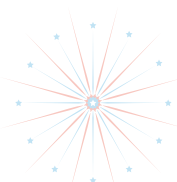


Roly Poly Entertainment

The family favourites kept the crowd's spirits up all day with hours of non-stop music, dancing, lively characters, inflatable slide and bouncy castle, and wholesome entertainment that put smiles on the faces of all who were there to enjoy the day - little ones and big kids alike!



It's so nice to see see thing like this going on in the area and the fact it's all free is great as well!



Communities Having Their Say



SURVEYS & CONVERSATIONS

Throughout the day, colleagues collected thoughts, opinions and suggestions from the families and members of the public who were in attendance.

The responses will be analysed and will be used to inform an action plan based on what they think, as residents, are the requirements in the area to decrease crime and anti-social behaviour and any other issues they feel are relevant to improve cohesion in their community.



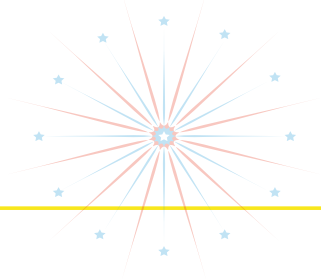
Restorative questions were also used whenever members of the public discussed an issue or community incident that affected them. This process allows those involved in the dialogue to talk about what happened, considering the impact on them and others in their community, then working towards coming up with solution-focussed approaches to make things right and strengthen the community in future.



I wasn't going to do anything today so this is good ' cos it's got me out of the house for a bit and it's lovely seeing the kids enjoy.



Capturing the day...



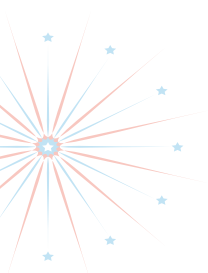
It's alright living here. Where I live is quiet so I do feel safe but it's a bit boring sometimes. I can go into town with my friends on the weekend though so it's alright.

- Young Person



I think it's lovely to have something on our doorstep for the children after everything they've been through with Covid. I've got my grandson and his friend all day today so this has been a God-send for me today!

- Local Resident





Join us!

Safer Swansea Partnership Summer Roadshow

Future Community Engagement Days:

Saturday 18th June - Townhill, Phoenix Centre
(Emergency Services Open Day)

Saturday 25th June - Gorseinon, Melyn Mynach.

Saturday 23rd July - Pontarddulais, Coed Bach Park

Friday 29th July - Bonymaen Park

Friday 12th August - Mumbles, Underhill Park

Friday 19th August. - Ynystawe Park

Thursday 25th August - Hafod Park

Saturday 24th September - Penlan playing fields



COMMUNITY SAFETY PRIORITIES 2023-2026 – FOREWORD

Working together to make Swansea a Safer, more Cohesive and Vibrant Place to Live, Work and to Visit

Welcome to the Safer Swansea Partnership Priorities for 2023 – 2026. The priorities reflect the changing community safety landscape and the Safer Swansea Partnership vision to work together to ensure that we are prepared to meet the changing environment in which we work.

The priorities reflect the continued challenges and cover key areas such as domestic violence, substance use, child sexual exploitation, human trafficking and modern day slavery, and emerging themes such as serious violence which cut across the community safety and safeguarding areas of responsibility. Our aim is to work together more efficiently and effectively, to use all of the resources available to us in our communities, and to build positive, strong and resilient communities where the most vulnerable are supported and protected.

Members of the Safer Swansea Partnership remain committed to working together, building on the success over the last few years and ensuring that Swansea continues to be a safe place to live, work and to visit.

Martin Nicholls

Chief Executive, Swansea Council

Trudi Meyrick

Chief Superintendent, South Wales Police

SAFER SWANSEA PARTNERSHIP – MEMBERSHIP

The Safer Swansea Partnership consists of key representatives from statutory partners and other organisations with an interest and influence in community safety issues and who are key contributors in the priority setting process.

Statutory Members include:-

- South Wales Police
- Swansea Council
- Swansea Bay University Health Board
- National Probation Service
- Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service

Other Members include: -

- Police and Crime Commissioners Office
- Youth Justice Service
- Elected Member responsible for Community Safety
- Western Bay Safeguarding Boards
- Western Bay Area Planning Board
- Welsh Ambulance Service
- HE/FE Representation
- Public Health Wales
- Third Sector representation

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COMMUNITY SAFETY PRIORITIES 2023-2026

This document identifies six priorities for the Safer Swansea Partnership (SSP). They are not in any order of precedence or significance as all are of equal importance.

The priorities will ensure that partners **'Work together to make Swansea a Safer, more Cohesive and Vibrant Place to Live, Work and to Visit'**. This aim is shared by all Community Safety Partnership members. We hope that by delivering on our aims and strategic intentions for each priority, we will be able to improve public confidence and trust in local policing and community safety partners to make Swansea safer.

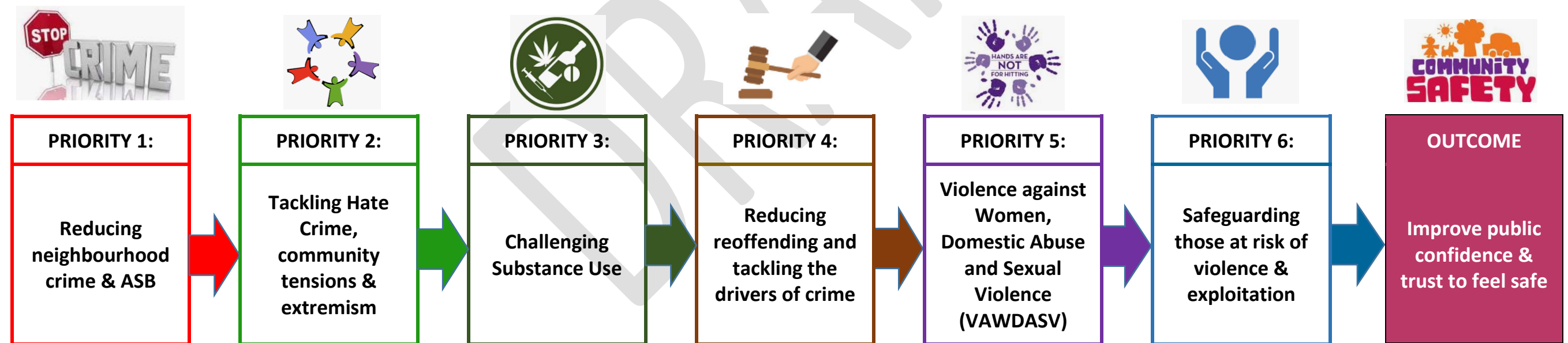
Swansea Council has a Well Being objective in its Corporate Plan of 'Safeguarding People from Harm' and the Safer Swansea Partnership priorities will support the Council in meeting this objective.

The Police also have local policing priorities that are aligned to the broader community safety priorities. These are:-

- Drug trafficking and supply / Rape and Serious Sexual offences / Domestic abuse
- Serious violence/ Terrorism and extreme threats / Child exploitation and abuse
- Fraud and Vulnerable Victims / Modern Slavery.

Working in partnership to address these issues, the SSP will ensure it monitors and responds to other specific crime types that present an ongoing problem in Swansea.

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Each of the Safer Swansea Partnership priorities will be underpinned and supported by individual action plans. Progress will be monitored on a quarterly basis by the steering group and an annual report will be presented to the Public Service Board.

PRIORITY 1 – Reducing Neighbourhood Crime & ASB

Key areas of focus :



- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
- Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) - Targeting problem locations
- Evening & Night Time Economy
- Contextual Safeguarding
- Street Vulnerability MARAC

Why is this a priority?

- Anti-social behaviour is not as a series of isolated incidents but is a pattern of behaviour that is almost always repetitive and oppressive, often directed at victims who are vulnerable and live in more deprived areas and is often a prediction of more serious offending later down the line.
- People deserve to feel safe where they live as ASB can devastate communities and can have a profound impact on victims. Any behaviour that intimidates residents or puts them and visitors at risk in our communities is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated.
- Proactively dealing with ASB and providing sustainable solutions will increase public confidence in the partnership and will facilitate increased reporting in this area and the levels of community intelligence.

Our aims and strategic intentions

- Continuously deliver a victim-focused response to ASB.
- Safeguard vulnerable victims and perpetrators of ASB, working in partnership through the Contextual Safeguarding process and Problem Solving Groups.
- Improve our understanding of ASB with and within our communities to address the full spectrum of ASB to deliver a more informed approach to addressing the underlying drivers of demand.
- Work with partners and residents to address neighbourhood and cross border issues.
- Challenge irresponsible business practice through licencing and trading standards functions.
- Working in partnership to improve fire safety and fire prevention.
- Work in partnership to mitigate the effects and consequences of off-road biking.
- Continue to tackle acquisitive crimes like burglary with a focus on prolific offenders.
- Develop prevention and early intervention initiatives in partnership to ensure a holistic approach to problem solving

Outcomes we want to achieve

- Seek to reduce the number of repeat victims to incidents of ASB and neighbourhood crime
- Comprehensive ASB profile for Swansea to inform operational tactics.
- Evening & Night Time Economy strategy links to Safer Swansea priorities and works to reduce the impact of ASB
- Aim to promote and raise awareness of the correct procedures to report ASB
- Improve the way issues and concerns are and escalated to Problem Solving Groups and outcomes monitored.
- Seek to reduce the number of deliberate fire incidents/ off road biking incidents

PRIORITY 2 – Tackling Hate Crime, Community Tensions & Extremism

Key areas of focus :

- Community Cohesion
- Hate Crime
- Prevent

Why is this a priority?

- Any acts or threats of violence, property damage, harassment, intimidation, or other crimes motivated by hate and bias have debilitating effects on victims and wider communities and impact directly on community cohesion.
- Confidence in the partnerships ability to both educate and deal effectively with these issues will increase reporting and ensure our joint response is both informed and robust.
- Community cohesion is critical to maintaining safer communities and both an understanding and the implementation of strategies to calm local and regional tensions will achieve this goal.
- Doing our very best to be proactive as a partnership to deliver locally on the Government’s CONTEST Strategy¹, ie., Prevent, Pursue, Protect and Prepare, to counter any rise in extremism and acts of terrorism that is critical to community cohesion and safety of the public.
- We need the support and confidence of communities to improve our ability to identify those people who are most vulnerable to radicalisation and who may need support and intervention.

Our aims and strategic intentions

- Deliver locally on the Welsh Governments Community Cohesion Strategic Framework and Hate Hurts Wales agenda.
- Increase confidence of victims to report incidents of hate crime and improve third party reporting
- Ensure staff are trained on reporting hate crime/hate incidents outside of the police through Victim Support.
- Encourage more residents to be ‘supportive bystanders’ if hate incidents are witnessed.
- Support victims of hate crimes.
- Safeguard those at risk of radicalisation.
- Ensure frontline professionals are trained in the Prevent duty and referral process.
- Maintain a strong focus on community cohesion activities and tensions monitoring.
- Work with Counter Terrorism Police Wales security advisors to improve the resilience of the built environment.
- Improve the safety and security of crowded places and points of interest in the City through preventative, physical measures.

Outcomes we want to achieve

- Seek to improve the number of reported hate crimes and to respond
- Support and protection for victims of hate crime.
- Regular training and awareness of hate crime and Prevent for front line staff.
- Seek to increase the number of Prevent Referrals through education and training.
- Improved public trust and confidence that support is available and that everybody is treated fairly.
- Ensure people know what to do if concerned about someone who is vulnerable to radicalisation or think are being radicalised.
- Establish a Hate Crime Perpetrator MARAC.
- Produce counter-narrative to assist in deconstructing and delegitimise propaganda/fake news/conspiracy theories around hate crime and extremism.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counter-terrorism-strategy-contest>

PRIORITY 3 – Challenging Substance Use

Key areas of focus :

- Engagement
- Interventions and Treatment
- Prevention and Health Improvement
- Enforcement (SWP)

Why is this a priority?

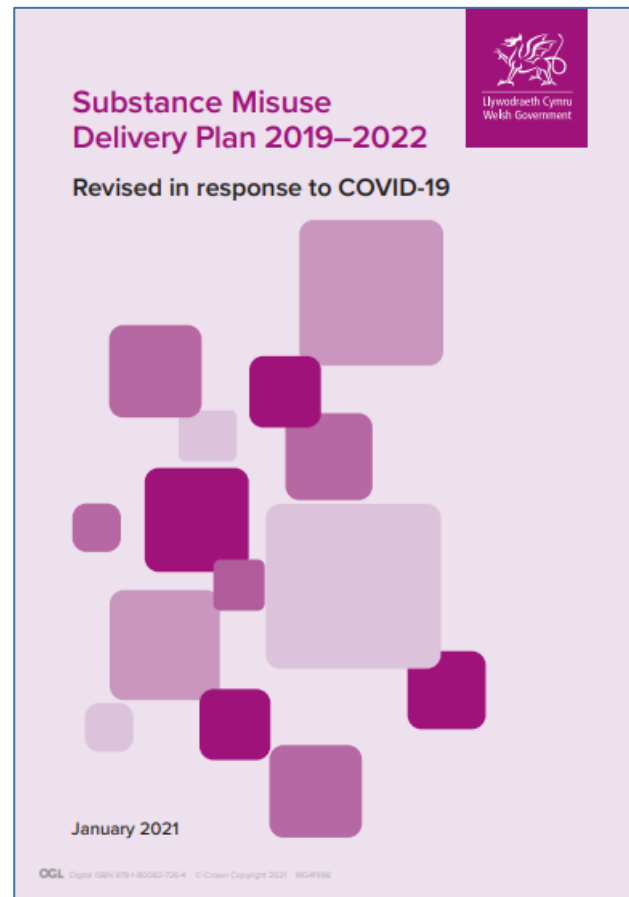
- Welsh Governments Substance Misuse Delivery Plan 2019-22² outlines key priorities for the next 3 years to tackle substance misuse.
- This plan builds on the good progress made in the lifetime of the previous 2008-18 strategy, 'Working Together to Reduce Harm' which saw progress of key harm interventions.
- Swansea is consistently the Local Authority with the highest drug related deaths.
- Western Bay Drugs Commission

Our aims and strategic intentions

- Reducing harms and relative risks associated with drug and/or alcohol use.
- Timely support for people to improve their health and aid and maintain their recovery.
- Supporting and protecting families.
- Tackling substance availability and protecting individuals and communities.
- Stronger partnerships, workforce development and Service User Involvement.
- Recognise the realities of poverty, class, racism, social isolation, past trauma, sex based discrimination and other social inequalities that affects people's vulnerability and capacity to effectively deal with drug related harm

Outcomes we want to achieve

- Reducing the number of drug related deaths in Swansea (and Neath Port Talbot).
- Reducing the harms associated with substance use
- Embedding Service User involvement into delivery and planning of services.
- Substance use issues are identified and challenged early through strong partnership working and information sharing.
- Everyone across the region affected by substance use issue can access timely, evidence based, safe and effective quality services



² [Substance misuse delivery plan: 2019 to 2022 | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales/substance-misuse-delivery-plan-2019-to-2022), (delivery plan is running until 23/24, review delayed due to the pandemic)

Our aims and strategic intentions

- Increase support to offenders with access to housing, training and employment, financial aid, debt recovery and drugs and alcohol service
- Work in partnership to reduce reoffending
- Support those who misuse drugs and/or alcohol to successfully complete community/facility based treatment
- Enforce against persistent/prolific offenders who misuse drugs/alcohol
- Implement the refreshed Integrated Offender Management framework
- Protect the public from prolific offenders through Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements.
- Continue to support those that are vulnerable and homeless through the Street Vulnerability MARAC.
- Review opportunities to improve referral rates to drug and alcohol services
- Support the youth justice service to reduce first time entrants and re-offending rates of children and young people
- Continue to provide support for young people who are involved in offending,
- Work in partnership, locally and nationally, to disrupt and prevent serious and organised crime to reduce the impact of its resulting social harms on communities and residents

Outcomes we want to achieve

- Increase in number of CTSR's for appropriate individuals in Swansea
- Reduction of reoffending rates across Fixed, Flex and Free IOM Cohorts within Swansea
- Successful disruption and enforcement of SOC nominals
- Visible drug and alcohol use and dealing reduced
- Reduction in the reoffending rate for adults and juveniles.
- Reduce reoffending behaviour through Integrated Offender Management
- Fewer first time entrants into the criminal justice system.

PRIORITY 5 – Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)

Key areas of focus :

- Challenging attitudes to VAWDASV
- Holding perpetrators to account
- Ensuring victims have equal access to all services
- Early Intervention, protection and support
- Training professionals
- Educating children and young people

Why is this a priority?

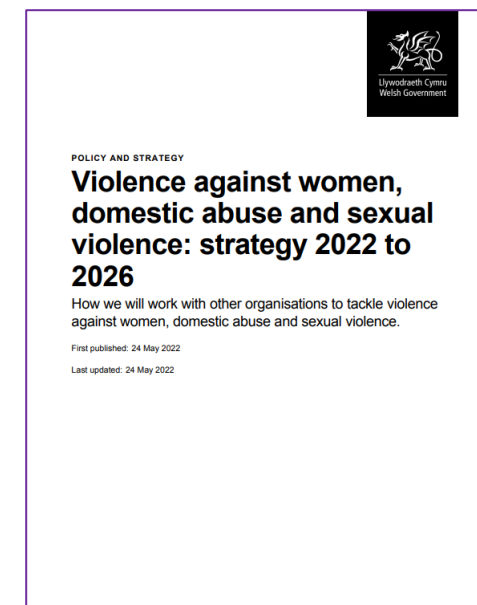
The objectives within this strategy are derived from those published in the National Strategy 2022-26. Having similar objectives within Swansea will enable us to demonstrate how we will support the Welsh Government in achieving its policy objectives regarding Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. These objectives support our vision for ALL citizens in Swansea to be safe, happy and healthy and live fear free from violence and abuse in all its forms.

Our aims and strategic intentions

In line with Welsh Government’s National Strategy on Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (2022-2026³), we have seven objectives:

- Challenge harmful public attitude to violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence across Swansea through awareness raising and space for public discussion with the aim to decrease its occurrence.
- Increase awareness in children, young people, of the importance of safe, equal and healthy relationships and empowering them to positive personal choices.
- Increase the focus on holding those who commit abusive behaviour to account and support those who may carry out abusive or violent behaviour to change their behaviour and avoid offending.
- Make early intervention and prevention a priority.
- Relevant professionals are trained to provide effective, timely and appropriate responses to victims and survivors.
- Provide all victims with equal access to appropriately resourced, high quality, needs-led, strength-based, inter-sectional and responsive services across Wales.
- Prepare robust evidence to inform our work.
- We will do all we can to identify offenders or potential offenders and prevent them from causing harm.
- We will divert males away from behaviour, which is controlling, threatening, intimidating or violent towards women and girls.
- We will be pro-active in the way we prevent offences from occurring.
- We will demonstrate that violence against women and girls will not be tolerated.

- Where offenders are convicted and subsequently released, we will ensure all partners work together so that those considered most dangerous are effectively managed to prevent re-offending
- Working with our partners and making best use of intelligence, we will identify places and environments which create opportunities for perpetrators to target women and girls.
- We will problem solve to mitigate the risks in these areas and ensure that partnership activity is effectively managed to prevent offending.
- We will listen to the concerns of women and girls to inform our approach to making spaces safer, including online spaces.
- We will empower and educate others to help keep women and girls safe. This includes working with all partners in proportionate interventions like facilitating vulnerability training.



³ [Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence: strategy 2022 to 2026 \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)

Outcomes we want to achieve

- Ensure the voice of the service user is heard and listened to.
- To stop 'victim blaming'.
- Prevent and reduce VAWDASV.
- Increase in referrals to DV specialist agencies and Police and Health.
- All victims to have equal access to appropriate services
- Negative attitudes are challenged and communities are educated and better informed of the issues around VAWDASV.
- There is a multiagency approach to ending VAWDASV.
- VAWDASV is 'everyone's business'.
- Victims and perpetrators are offered support at the earliest possible time and to prevent cases reaching a point of crisis.
- There is a regional and national collaborative approach to VAWDASV.
- Perpetrators are held accountable.
- Victims are fully informed and supported through the Civil and Criminal justice system.
- Professionals are more informed and confident in reporting incidents of abuse.
- A decrease in the fear of this type of criminality.
- A positive increase in the perception of Swansea as a safe space.

DRAFT

PRIORITY 6 – Violence reduction: Safeguarding those at risk of Violence & Exploitation

Key areas of focus :

- Exploitation/ victimisation
- County Lines
- Knife crime
- Modern slavery
- Serious violence
- Domestic Homicide Reviews
- Contextual safeguarding

Why is this a priority?

- Serious violence has a devastating impact on lives of victims and families, and instils fear within communities and is extremely costly to society. Incidents of serious violence have increased in England and Wales since 2014. The newly introduced Home Office Serious Violence Duty is a key part of the Government’s programme of work to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence: taking a multi-agency approach to understand the causes and consequences of serious violence, focusing on prevention and early intervention, and informed by evidence.
- Tackling serious violence has been a key aim for the Police and Crime Commissioner since 2012, using data sharing with health to pinpoint where and how violence occurs. Working closely with the Violence Prevention Unit, we can seek to understand the epidemiology of violence, and using this evidence to develop interventions focused on tackling the root causes of violence.
- In Swansea we recognise the significant impact youth violence and exploitation can have on a young person’s safety, health and wellbeing. The Local Authority are committed to reducing youth violence in Swansea and providing the right service at the right time to young people who have been adversely affected by youth violence.
- Through our contextual safeguarding work we have come to understand that as well as considering adverse experiences that we know can impact on these concerns such as violence in the home, parental substance misuse, school exclusions, neglect and trauma, we need to also consider the context of where this harm occurs which is often outside of the family environment and in the places and spaces where young people spend time.

Our aims and strategic intentions

- Tackle hidden, high harm crimes such as modern slavery.
- Partnership response to tackling violent crime, including knife crime, serious youth violence, group offending and gang violence, implementing the New Serious Violence Reduction Plan.
- Take a safeguarding approach to both victims and perpetrators of violent crime, considering adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) of those affected and adopting a public health approach to addressing violence.

- Ensure access to statutory mental health support for both victims and perpetrators of violence.
- Ensure arrangements are in place throughout the partnership to effectively prevent and address both Child Criminal Exploitation and Child Sexual Exploitation.
- Ensure intelligence is shared and activity is informed to provide both a preventative and enforcement response to county lines throughout partnership arrangements.

Outcomes we want to achieve

- Strategic Needs Assessment to be completed for the South Wales Police force area relating to the Serious Violence Duty.
- Serious Violence Problem Profile completed for Swansea.
- Development of a Serious Violence action plan to address issues and provide partnership solutions to tackling the issues.
- Development of prevention and intervention initiatives.
- A holistic safeguarding approach offered to all young people who experience significant Extra Familial harm.
- Operational and Strategic approach to disrupting those that exploit young people.
- A multi agency approach to recognising and preventing early indicators of youth violence and child exploitation.
- Effective multi agency information sharing that supports the disruption of youth violence and exploitation.
- Identification and disruption of Exploitation by organised crime groups (OCG).
- Development of safety within the places and spaces young people spend time.

HOW WE WILL WORK IN PARTNERSHIP

Working with other partnership boards on shared priorities:

The Safer Swansea Partnership works closely with other strategic partnership boards, including:-

- i. Western Bay Safeguarding Board,
- ii. Area Planning Board,
- iii. Public Service Board

with each board having its own strategic priorities, but there are many overlapping agendas.

These include (but are not limited to):-

- Adult and children's safeguarding
- Violence
- Prevent, counter terrorism and extremism
- Reoffending
- Health harms related to drugs and alcohol.

The Safer Swansea Partnership believes that 'crime is everybody's business' and that there must be a strong emphasis on working collaboratively on common priorities.

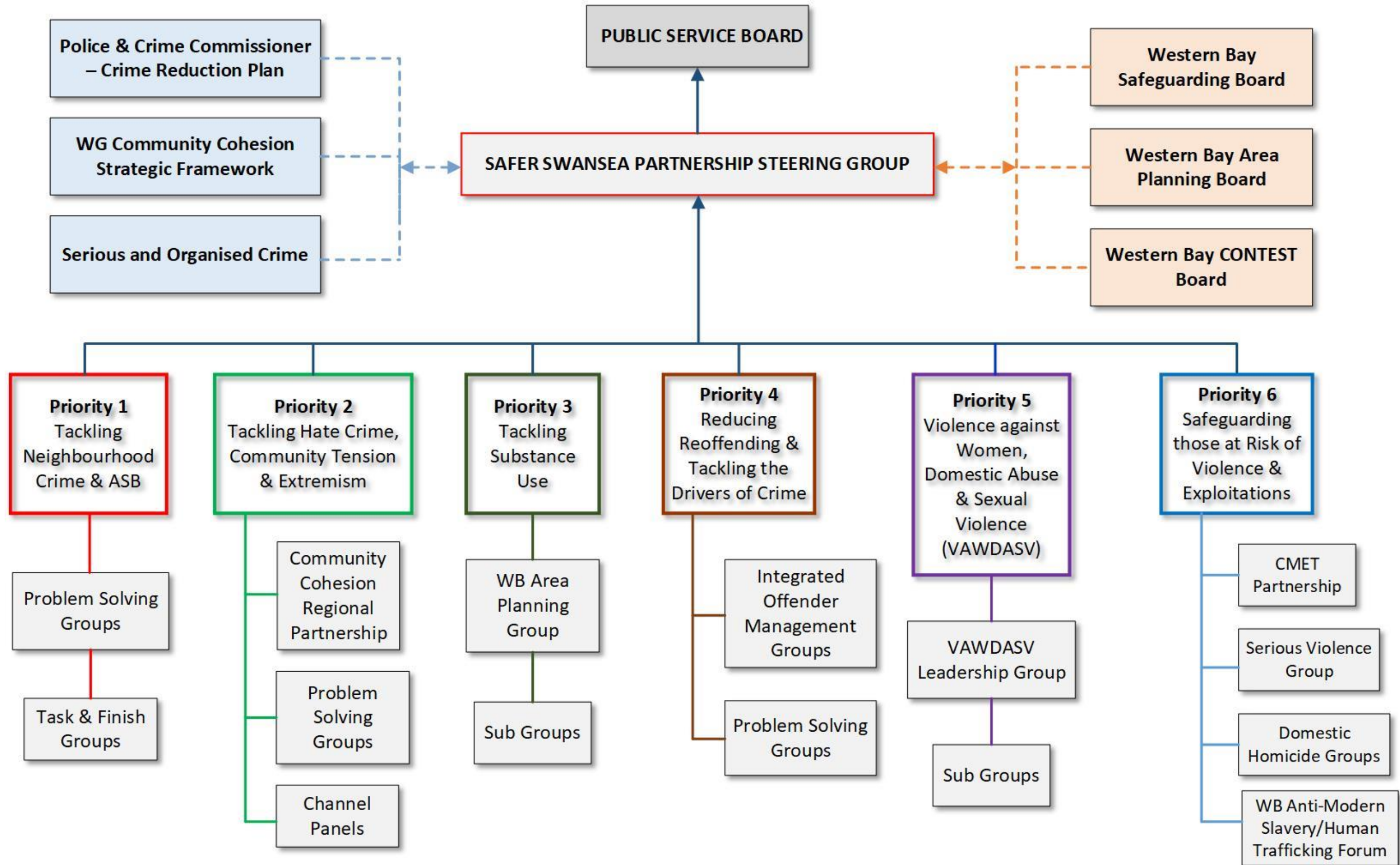
REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

To measure success, Safer Swansea will draw on qualitative and quantitative data from a number of sources, including evaluation of projects and public consultation and feedback.

Each of the Safer Swansea Partnership priorities will be underpinned and supported by individual action plans. Progress will be monitored on a quarterly basis by the steering group and an annual report will be presented to the Public Service Board.

The following diagram shows the **Governance structure** and reporting pathways for the Safer Swansea Partnership Steering Group and its Priorities.

SAFER SWANSEA PARTNERSHIP GOVERNANCE



RELATED STRATEGIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 puts a Wellbeing duty on specified public bodies to act jointly and establish statutory Public Service Boards (PSBs) for each local authority area in Wales.

Future work and priorities of the Safer Swansea Partnership will link into the development of Local Wellbeing plans.

Another key strategy taken into consideration when formulating the priorities is the new Serious Violence Duty Dec 2022. The Duty is a key part of the Government's programme of work to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence, and to take a multi-agency approach to understand the causes and consequences of serious violence, focusing on prevention and early intervention, and informed by evidence.

The Serious Violence Duty outlines the changes made to section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, ensuring preventing and reducing serious violence is a priority for Community Safety Partnerships and requires specified authorities to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence

The priorities set out in this document also co-exist alongside the South Wales Police Chief Constables Delivery Plan 2021-2025 and the Police and Crime Commissioners Police and Crime Plan 2022-2026. These are key strategies that align with the steering group's priorities, both of which strengthen the working links across key partners.

Wider links and interdependencies:-

- Community Cohesion (Regional and Local)
- Channel Partnership (Local)
- Prevent (Local)
- Contest (Regional)
- Asylum Seekers and Refugee/Migration (Local)
- Western Bay Safeguarding Boards (Regional)
- Police and Crime Commissioner
- Public Service Board
- Children & Young People Partnership Board (Local)



**To/
Adam Hill, Deputy Chief Executive
Swansea Council & Trudi Meyrick,
Chief Superintendent South Wales
Police
Joint Chairs of Safer Swansea
Community Safety Partnership
BY EMAIL**

*Please ask for:
Gofynnwch am:*
*Direct Line:
Llinell Uniongyrochol:*
*e-Mail
e-Bost:*
*Our Ref
Ein Cyf:*
*Your Ref
Eich Cyf:*
*Date
Dyddiad:*

Scrutiny
01792 637257
scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk
SPC/2021-22/14
08 April 2022

cc: Cllrs. Andrea Lewis & Alyson Pugh

Summary: This is a letter from the Scrutiny Programme Committee to the Joint Chairs of the Safer Swansea Community Safety Partnership following the meeting of the Committee on 15 February 2022. It is about the performance of the Safer Swansea Partnership. A formal written response is not required however issues raised and recommendations made will be followed up by the Committee.

Dear Adam / Trudi,

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 15 February

We are writing to you following our Crime & Disorder Scrutiny session, looking at the performance of the Safer Swansea Community Safety Partnership, with our views, reflecting on information presented, questions, and discussion. This follows on from our previous session on this in May 2021.

We thank you for attending the meeting and appreciated the input, including detailed presentation, provided by Paul Thomas, the Council's Community Integration Partnership Manager and Superintendent Mark Brier, in helping us to understand the partnership working and activities, progress / achievements against priorities and objectives, challenges over the past year, and focus for the future. You also provided the Committee with relevant performance and crime statistics. The meeting also benefited from the attendance of the Leader of the Council, Cllr. Rob Stewart, and Cabinet Member, Cllr. Alyson Pugh, who is also a Safer Swansea Partnership Representative, and the Council's Chief Executive, Phil Roberts. It was a very engaging and constructive scrutiny session.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU
SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWE
GUILDHALL, SWANSEA, SA1 4PE / NEUADD Y DDINAS, ABERTAWE, SA1 4PE
www.swansea.gov.uk / www.abertawe.gov.uk

Through questioning we were able to explore a number of issues including the following:

Safer Swansea Partnership (SSP) priorities

We asked about the relationship between Safer Swansea Partnership (SSP) priorities, individual Police priorities and Council priorities, and other strategic objectives, including the Public Services Board, and how this work has synergy and complements each other.

The Committee heard about key priorities within the Police & Crime Commissioner's Crime Reduction Plan and Chief Constable's Delivery Plan. We also heard about the role of the Serious Organised Crime Board within the overall SSP Governance Structure - a discrete regional partnership group to problem solve issues on organised crime which sits alongside the SSP, gathering and sharing intelligence, e.g., issues such as exploitation and County Lines.

We also heard about the vital role played by non-statutory and Third Sector organisations in delivering SSP priorities, e.g., the work led by Swansea Women's Aid and Barod helping with approaches to addressing issues relating to High Street.

We also asked about developments in relation to the renewal of the Safer Swansea Partnership Strategy, as the current 3-year strategy was for 2018-2021.

The continued impact of the pandemic, and effect on crime and disorder and SSP activities

We heard that well-established partnership working arrangements have strengthened over the past two years and helped to maintain a good response to the pandemic and deal with the challenges. The development of meetings on-line has improved contact and interaction between partners and enabled more frequent dialogue to tackle problems.

It was clear that the pandemic has disrupted everyone's work, and impacted every person, and there was acknowledgement of the 'hidden harms' (e.g., exploitation, abuse, violence) and community tensions that have surfaced exacerbated by social media. We were interested in what the SSP was having to do differently, and what the local experience was in terms of crime and disorder exacerbated by the pandemic, e.g., anti-social behaviour, violence against women / domestic abuse.

There was also some discussion about the extent to which have we seen breaches of Covid rules over the past year and take up of resources in their enforcement. We heard that Welsh Government funding had enabled us to set up Joint Enforcement Teams so existing resources did not have to be

diverted, and these have worked effectively in challenging circumstances, though 'business as usual' in terms of the work of Environmental / Public Health teams has been impacted upon significantly, to divert attention to Covid enforcement. We noted a deliberate shift towards 'education' in signposting advice and support, in ensuring public compliance with the rules (which have changed frequently over the last two years), than simply focussing on enforcement and punishment. We heard your praise for the majority of local people and business who have been supportive of the various restrictions and compliance with the rules.

The Partnership's response to the Mayhill riot in May 2021 and implications for the SSP of findings of the Independent Learning Review on Events at Mayhill and Waun Wen

We asked about progress on the recommendations, which include reference to improvements necessary to partnership arrangements, multi-agency working, and community engagement. We noted that an Extraordinary Safer Swansea Partnership meeting was to be held at the end of February to look at the recommendations made in the inquiry and agree actions. We noted this meeting will also involve the Police & Crime Commissioner.

We heard about the work carried out and support in the immediate aftermath to address the situation and positive steps taken to engage the communities, though Committee members raised some concern regarding disparity in support and visibility within the two different areas, following the riot, probably hindered the fact that geographical boundaries meant different officials being involved. There was a remark that some communities are still feeling left behind and abandoned, and the disparity needed to be addressed. We stressed the need to involve the communities to identify the right solutions and improvements.

We also noted that there would be an internal review of the riot within the Police and re-structure to address the issues raised and ensure operational learning from the experience, to prevent this happening anywhere else in Swansea. The Committee felt it important that the full forensic investigation, as called for by the Independent Learning Review, should be open and transparent and we look forward to its findings. There was also some discussion on current police resources / staffing levels, given concerns about the Police response to the incident and how it was dealt with. It was clarified that the issue was not about the sufficiency of resources but about how well those resources were deployed on the night in question, acknowledging there were procedural failures, that the Police will learn from, as the disorder developed and escalated very quickly.

At the time of our meeting, we noted that following Police investigations a large number of individuals have now been charged with various offences relating to the unprecedented incident.

How the recent findings of the Child Sexual Exploitation IICSA Report were being addressed

The report looked at Swansea, amongst other cities, and the Committee were concerned to read that little was known about organised networks / gang related exploitation operating in the area. We were aware that this matter was being discussed in detail within the Child & Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel in March however were keen to get some assurance around improvement. We heard that work is ongoing around addressing the 'intelligence gap' in terms of profiling and data completeness, and improved multi-agency working including closer joined up working between the Police and Social Services around safeguarding and exploitation. It was stressed to us that improvements have already been made which postdate the period looked at by the report, and we were reassured that robust arrangements are in place, including the establishment of a Multi-Agency Child Missing Exploitation Trafficking Panel, which is looking at issues around Child Sexual Exploitation.

The extent and nature of Hate Crime in Swansea

We asked whether 456 hate crimes reported in Swansea during 2021 was a comparatively low or high figure, and what positive action the SSP has taken in relation to community cohesion / hate crime, including addressing the reluctance of some vulnerable individuals to report such crimes because of their experiences with public authority, and increasing public trust.

We were assured that Swansea was not an outlier in terms of the level of hate crime reported, though this remained a key area of focus, including partnership work on improving community cohesion and integration through education, training, work with schools, and public / social media messaging about diversity to challenge hateful abuse and prejudices, and break down barriers. We were particularly interested in the experience of Swansea's refugee and asylum seek population but were told that there was no prevalence of hate crime in the area based on status. Most of the hate crime related to race and religion. We learned of the extra efforts made when families arrive in Swansea with neighbourhood policing in place, and support from Third Sector organisations. There is also multi-agency support to help victims. There was also some discussion on Swansea's commitment to becoming a 'Human Rights City', supported by all Public Services Bord partners.

It is important not to lose sight of the fact that there may be an under-reporting of hate crime and its concealment within communities, and we need to give people the confidence to report it which requires careful contact and engagement.

Violence against Women / Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

The Committee was concerned about how well we were addressing violence against women / domestic abuse and sexual violence, and heard about work on this, as one of the five main SSP Priorities. We heard about successful Home Office grant bids in respect of domestic violence and investment into female safety in the night-time economy, including training for door staff. You also talked about the creation of 'safe spaces' with 20+ businesses and some fire stations coming on board to offer and support this, and holistic support to victims, including the development of remote site for victims to give evidence securely. You told us that significant numbers within the Council's workforce have received training on domestic violence.

Figures from 2019/20, obtained via a Freedom of Information request, would indicate a worryingly low rate of complaints that are received by the Police in relation to sexual offences, particularly rape, leading to charges being brought against alleged offenders. Overall, it was just under 11%, but for alleged instances of rape this was 7.33% across South Wales which is particularly concerning. It is doubtful to us that over 92% of complaints would be completely unfounded. We asked about steps / different approaches begin taken to improve upon this, as part of the strategic approach to address this. We heard there were many challenges faced by the Police in dealing with such cases and one of the reasons for the low figures included the fact that a high percentage of individuals subsequently disengage, and offenders may have been convicted for other offences that were more likely to result in prosecution. We noted that South Wales Police is one of seven pilot forces that are changing the way we look to investigate rape, and heard that work is in progress to improve things including greater focus on perpetrators and perpetrator behaviour, with support to the victim to get the best outcome which may not necessarily be an outcome through the courts, better connectivity with the CPS on the scrutiny of complaints with regular meetings, and a dedicated Rape Investigation Team is being set up as it is a complex crime to investigate, very resource-intensive, and requires joined-up working with others.

Levels of knife crime and anti-social behaviour

Your figures showed that in 2021, there were 612 knife-related occurrences reported in Swansea (342 crimes and 270 incidents). We were appalled by the recent serious stabbing incident in Gorseinon and were concerned whether we were seeing a rise in knife-crime in the area and wanted to know what was being done to prevent this sort of incident. We were told that there was actually a downward trend in knife crime in Swansea and it should be considered to be an isolated incident, however incidents such as that in Gorseinon can affect public perception of knife crime in the area and fear, and the Partnership recognised the need to keep on top of this. We noted that the perpetrators were quickly arrested.

We asked about measures to tackle not only knife crime, but more generally, activities to prevent / deal with anti-social behaviour within communities (e.g., issues with off-road bikers / quad bikes around Swansea), and what has been achieved, particularly in the case of youth anti-social behaviour. You talked about campaigns targeting 11 to 16 year-olds, work in schools, focus on early intervention, and progress with the use of Public Space Protection Orders. The Committee heard about the challenges in dealing with the public's fear of crime and perceptions about safety, and the SSP's response to alleviate that, e.g., specific work on the night-time economy and improving safety.

Scrutiny Views

From our discussion, the Committee would highlight the following issues in terms of providing 'critical-friend' challenge to the Safer Swansea Partnership in dealing with crime and disorder.

Safer Swansea Partnership Strategy

We noted the intention to extend the current Safer Swansea Partnership Strategy for 6 months whilst developing a new Strategy, as we head out of the pandemic and into recovery. We were interested in the timeline / process regarding the new Strategy and any revision to the current five strategic priorities, which the SSP is focussing its work on. It was noted that the Swansea Public Services Board's new Well-being Assessment, which is being finalised, along with other information will help inform the SSP Strategy and the setting of priorities going forward. This will need to include how we address the issues coming out of the pandemic that are impacting on community safety. We would request the SSP to report the draft Strategy to the Committee when it is available so that it can provide comment, and we would be happy also to see wider councillor consultation.

Relationships and communication between the Police and local Councillors

This was something also raised in the last Crime & Disorder Scrutiny session. From the recent discussion, there seemed to be an inconsistent picture across Swansea, with regular meetings working well in some areas but room for improvement in others. We asked you to ensure that there are forward planned regular and structured arrangements in place across all areas, clear points of contact, and feedback to councillors on issues. You undertook to look at this and ensure there is effective engagement between councillors and local policing inspectors, building relationships.

Approaches to improving public information, awareness, and engagement

We called for a more joined up approach to social media across SSP partners to ensure work on community safety is effectively communicated and reaches a large audience. The Committee felt it was important to clearly show to the public what SSP activity looks like, focusing on the positive work, and asked the SSP to reflect on what it currently does and consider how it can utilise social media and other methods of public communication better, and enable the sharing of information and community intelligence gathering that is meaningful. We noted that the SSP will be discussing a Public Participation Strategy shortly which will be consulted upon.

Your Response

We hope that you find the contents of this letter useful and would welcome any comments, however we do not expect you to provide a formal response. However, we do expect our views to be considered by the Partnership and the Committee will follow up on progress in addressing these issues.

Our next Crime & Disorder Scrutiny session will take place in the new municipal year, arrangements for which will be communicated in due course. Currently the Committee looks at the performance of the Safer Swansea Partnership on an annual basis, however, will review this as we develop the scrutiny work programme for 2022/23 and beyond to ensure arrangements are effective.

Yours sincerely,



COUNCILLOR PETER BLACK

Chair, Scrutiny Programme Committee

✉ cllr.peter.black@swansea.gov.uk

Agenda Item 7



Report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 18 April 2023

Scrutiny Performance Panel Progress Report

| | |
|--|---|
| Purpose | The Committee is responsible for managing the overall work of scrutiny and its effectiveness. Performance Panel conveners will regularly provide a progress report, updating the Committee on headlines from their Panel's work and impact. |
| Content | This report focuses on the following Performance Panel: a) Development & Regeneration |
| Councillors are being asked to | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure awareness and understanding of the work of the Panels• Consider their effectiveness and impact• Consider any issues arising and action required |
| Lead Councillor(s) | Councillor Chris Holley (Panel Convener) |
| Lead Officers & Report Author | Rachel Percival E-mail: scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk |
| Legal Officer: | Debbie Smith |
| Finance Officer: | Amanda Thomas |

1. Introduction

- 1.1 There are six Performance Panels which have been established by the Committee. Whilst the work of an Inquiry Panel leads to the production of a final report with conclusions and recommendations for Cabinet based on evidence gathered on a specific issue, the work of a Performance Panel represents regular monitoring of, and challenge to, particular services / service areas and issues.
- 1.2 Performance Panels are expected to have on-going correspondence with relevant cabinet / lead members in order to share views and recommendations, arising from monitoring activities, about the performance of services and service delivery.
- 1.3 The Committee is responsible for managing the overall work of scrutiny and its effectiveness. Performance Panels Conveners will therefore provide a regular progress report to the Committee to enable:

- a discussion on the work of each Panel, achievements, effectiveness and impact
- the Committee to consider any issues arising from Panel activities which may have an impact on the overall scrutiny work programme
- awareness amongst the Committee as well as visibility across the council and public.

1.4 This report is about the following Performance Panel:

Development & Regeneration – this is an update on work carried out over the past year.

To focus the discussion a short, written report has been provided by the Convener and is **attached**. This includes a summary of Panel activities, correspondence between the Panel and relevant Cabinet Members, recommendations and impact.

1.5 The Development & Regeneration Panel involves the following members:

Labour Councillors: 3

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| Terry Hennegan | Mike White |
| Dai Jenkins | |

Liberal Democrat/Independent Councillors: 9

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Peter Black | Mary Jones |
| Wendy Fitzgerald | Susan Jones |
| Chris Holley (CONVENER) | Michael Locke |
| Lynda James | Mark Tribe |
| Jeff Jones | |

Conservative Councillors: 2

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Paxton Hood-Williams | Will Thomas |
|----------------------|-------------|

Green Councillors: 1

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Chris Evans | |
|-------------|--|

2. Legal Implications

2.1 There are no specific legal implications raised by this report.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 There are no specific financial implications raised by this report.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Performance Panel Update

Development and Regeneration Scrutiny Performance Panel Update

1. Remit of the Panel

The overarching remit of the Panel is to be responsible for ongoing monitoring of Council performance in relation to development and regeneration, including the 'health' of the city centre, wider economic development across Swansea and discussion about progress on the Swansea Bay City Deal. The Panel is focused on contributing to the ongoing development and regeneration of Swansea by acting as a critical friend for the Cabinet, and helping to ensure accountability.

2. Key Activities

Meetings have included a regular update on the current development and regeneration projects as well as a focussed item.

Since the last update in November 2021 Cllr Chris Holley has taken over as Panel Convener in May 2022 from Cllr Jeff Jones. The Panel has covered the following topics and sent 5 letters to Cabinet.

| Meeting | Topic(s) |
|-------------------------|--|
| 25 January 2022 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Swansea Business Improvement District (BID) 2. Foreshore Developments 3. Regeneration Programme / Project Monitoring Report |
| 8 March 2022 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. South West Wales Regional Economic Delivery Plan 2. Regeneration Programme / Project Monitoring Report |
| 5 September 2022 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regeneration Programme / Project Monitoring Report |
| 14 November 2022 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. City Centre Retail 2. Regeneration Programme / Project Monitoring Report |
| 23 January 2023 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tourism Destination Management Plan 2. Regeneration Programme / Project Monitoring Report |
| 20 March 2023 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Audit Wales Report – Town Centre Regeneration 2. Regeneration Programme / Project Monitoring Report |

3. Achievements / Impact

Swansea Business Improvement District (BID)

- This item was discussed while Cllr Jeff Jones acted as Panel Convener.
- The Panel received an overview presentation, submitted by Russell Greenslade, Chief Executive of Swansea BID.
- Members asked questions regarding performance measuring, area coverage and membership.

- Members asked if any businesses chose not to contribute to the BID levy and heard that all businesses contribute, equating to about 813 within the Swansea BID area.
- The Panel asked about other areas outside the central BID area and heard that Mumbles had begun to look into setting up a separate BID prior to the pandemic.
- Members commented on previous work of Swansea BID and the valuable nature of the work undertaken.
- The Panel remarked on the challenges faced by city centres across the country.
- The Panel heard that Swansea's regeneration projects have been commented on by the London BID, in relation to the progress and speed of projects.
- Members queried the impact of the closures of large retailers on the city centre trade and how empty spaces will be promoted.
- Members commented positively on the idea of displays in vacant shop windows, rather than leaving shop windows empty.

Foreshore Developments

- This item was discussed while Cllr Jeff Jones acted as Panel Convener.
- The Panel asked questions about plans for the Civic Centre and were advised to wait for the revised Swansea Bay Strategy which at this point was under development.
- The Panel were informed of the partnership with Urban Splash which they have continued to monitor through the Regeneration Programme / Project Monitoring Report.

South West Wales Regional Economic Delivery Plan

- This item was discussed while Cllr Jeff Jones acted as Panel Convener.
- The Panel considered a report on the South West Wales Regional Economic Delivery Plan, which at the time had been recently approved by Cabinet.
- It was noted that the new Delivery Plan will be adopted / owned and overseen by the new South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC). Regeneration Directors will keep track of progress and will be responsible for developing business cases, securing investment and ensuring delivery on the CJC's behalf.
- The Panel were informed that the economic and policy context has changed considerably at the Welsh and UK level since 2013, particularly in light of Brexit and the impact of the pandemic. The new South West Wales Regional Economic Delivery Plan, developed jointly between the four Councils in the region and in partnership with the Welsh Government, responds to those changing circumstances with a Plan that is fit for the future.
- Panel members welcomed the mission to focus on renewable energy and development of a net zero economy. The importance of attracting visitors to the area, as eco-tourism, was also raised, and felt perhaps not emphasised enough in plans. It was noted that Mission 3 did acknowledge the importance of nature and biodiversity in Swansea's offer and experience and recognises the attraction of Swansea's natural environment to visitors and provides springboard for relevant projects to support this.
- Panel members requested a meaningful breakdown of the increase in 20,000 jobs to understand where the growth has come from, e.g., specific sectors, which was subsequently provided.
- The Panel noted the regional plan was not led by available funding which in turn shapes projects, but rather establishes what is needed in the area and how funding can then deliver that. The Panel explored access to funding streams, and it was noted that the Council was working hard to ensure Swansea and region can access every available penny as we emerge from Covid and into recovery.

- The Panel asked about the time scales of the new standards and were told that the current consultation documents indicates 10 years, however due to Councils highlighting the difficulty financing the programme, there may be a revision of this target.
- The Panel wished to highlight that money spent on Welsh Housing Quality Standard has come from revenue contributions and Welsh Government Funding, not Council Tax as this has been a misinterpretation in the past.

City Centre Retail

- Panel Members were aware of the challenges city centres have been under in the last few years and were pleased to hear about increased footfall in and around Swansea city centre.
- They were made aware how city centres function differently due to the impact of out of town and online shopping and the need for a mix of retail, accommodation, leisure and dining to create a wider experience beyond just shopping. They felt it was important to get the right mix of student and private accommodation.
- The Panel were informed that the Swansea Arena in general is over performing and plan to hear more about this after March 2023 when it has reached 12 months of trading.
- Panel Members were pleased to see some of the recent repurposed developments and encourage this into the mix alongside brand new developments.
- Russell Greenslade shared with the Panel that roughly 70 new businesses had opened up in the last 18 months and that city centre spend has been good.
- The Panel will be revisiting this topic in around 6 months' time.

Tourism Destination Management Plan

- The Panel were updated on key achievements from the period 2017-2020 and were particularly interested in the STEAM research which found that in 2019, 4.8m visitors came to the area creating £477.22m and nearly 6000 jobs in the industry. They also noted the upward trend of visitors to the area since 2008.
- The Panel received an update on the progress of the Destination Management Plan 2023-25 with a plan for approval in April 2023.
- Questions were asked around the maximisation of assets like Swansea Market, travel corridors, local eco-tourism and Swansea's Day visitor guide. The Panel felt that the Heads of the Valleys Road and local tourists will form a larger part of Swansea's tourism market going forward.
- The Panel felt that there is a need to increase holiday accommodation to meet demand and avoid the take up of residential properties for holiday lets. They were informed about the bed stock survey which helped map out the number of smaller lets and Airbnb's and if introduced, statutory licencing and the tourism levy will level the playing field. Also the 182 day planning rule will mean some businesses which do not operate to this level are selling up or face an increase in business rates. This was a concern for the Panel.
- The Panel acknowledge that with over 6000 jobs, local tourism is a significant employer and will expect an update on the Tourism Development Plan annually.

Audit Wales Report – Town Centre Regeneration

- The Panel felt the need for some Welsh Government guidance in place/strategy for Local Authorities to follow and is missing from this report.
- The Panel felt investment in local communities was important and that these small businesses are often at the heart of these communities.
- The Panel heard about the changing needs of city centres that they move to a mix of uses and not the retail centres they have been historically.
- Members felt that there needs to be the right mix of Local Authority and private sector investment and had concerns that large private businesses may not be interested in Swansea due to the lower spending power available. They were pleased to hear that there is interest from private developers to come to Swansea and that providing flexible spaces is important.
- The Panel felt it would have been helpful to have comparisons with other Local Authorities.
- Overall the Panel were pleased with the progress in Swansea but felt it would be useful to respond to Audit Wales about their report and in particular to query the £900m investment made across Wales and to request more up to date information.

Regeneration Programme / Project Monitoring Report

- The Panel receive an update on all current developments at each meeting.
- This has included sites like Swansea Arena, the Civic Centre, Skyline and the Community Hub. It has also included the TAN15 flood risk assessment.
- Panel members held a closed session at their January 2023 meeting to scrutinise commercially sensitive information relating to a number of sites specifically in relation to costings and land acquisition.
- Members ask a variety of questions at this regular item concerning purpose, progress, funding, delays, and challenges for the projects discussed.

4. Future Work Programme

The programme for the remainder of this municipal year is as follows:

| Meeting | Topic(s) |
|--------------------|---|
| 15 May 2023 | 1. Regeneration Programme / Project Monitoring Report |

5. Action for the Scrutiny Programme Committee

None

Agenda Item 8



Report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 18 April 2023

Membership of Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups

| | |
|--|--|
| Purpose: | The Scrutiny Programme Committee is responsible for appointing members and conveners to the various Scrutiny Panels / Working Groups that are established. This report advises of relevant matters that need to be considered. |
| Content: | This report is provided to facilitate any changes that need to be made. |
| Councillors are being asked to: | agree the membership of Panels and Working Groups reported, and any other changes necessary. |
| Lead Councillor: | Councillor Peter Black, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee |
| Lead Officer & Report Author: | Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Team Leader Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk |
| Legal Officer: | Debbie Smith |
| Finance Officer: | Amanda Thomas |

1. Introduction

1.1 In accordance with Council report 18 October 2012, when current scrutiny arrangements were agreed, the Scrutiny Programme Committee is responsible for appointing members and conveners to the various Scrutiny Panels / Working Groups that are established.

2. Proposed Revision to Current Scrutiny Panel / Working Group Membership

2.1 None.

3. Guiding Principles

3.1 When determining membership / conveners or agreeing any changes there are some key considerations for the Committee:

- It is necessary for more than one political group to be represented on each Panel / Working Group.
- These bodies also need to be of a manageable size in terms of team working and effective questioning.
- To ensure that all political groups have opportunities and are engaged.
- Good scrutiny practice places emphasis on respect for minority party wishes around both chairing of such bodies and the work programme.
- Being fair and balanced in the appointment of conveners, when there is interest from more than one councillor, e.g. giving opportunity to those who have not acted as convener previously.
- The Committee should reflect on the existing 'balance' of conveners to help inform future appointments.
- A minimum of three members should be present at all Panel / Working Group meetings.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 There are no specific legal implications raised by this report.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no specific financial implications raised by this report.

Background Papers: None

Appendices: None

Agenda Item 9



Report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 18 April 2023

Scrutiny Work Programme

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Purpose | This report presents the agreed Scrutiny Work Programme for 2022/23, which the Committee is responsible for monitoring. |
| Content | The agreed work programme is attached, which shows the topics that will be examined by scrutiny through various Panels and Working Groups. A plan for future Committee meetings is also attached. |
| Councillors are being asked to | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• plan for the Committee meetings ahead• consider opportunities for pre-decision scrutiny• review the Scrutiny Work Programme (including progress of current Panels and Working Groups) |
| Lead Councillor | Councillor Peter Black, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee |
| Lead Officer | Tracey Meredith, Chief Legal Officer |
| Report Author | Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Team Leader Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk |
| Legal Officer: | Debbie Smith |
| Finance Officer: | Amanda Thomas |

1. Introduction

1.1 The Scrutiny Programme Committee is responsible for developing the Council's Scrutiny Work Programme and managing the overall work of scrutiny to ensure that it is as effective as possible.

1.2 A report is provided to each meeting to enable the Committee to maintain an overview of agreed scrutiny activities, monitor progress, and coordinate work as necessary.

1.3 The broad aim of the scrutiny function is to engage non-executive councillors in activities to:

- provide an effective challenge to the executive
- help improve services, policies, and performance

- engage the public in its work
- 1.4 The Scrutiny Work Programme is guided by the overriding principle that the work of scrutiny should be strategic and significant, focussed on issues of concern, and represent a good use of scrutiny time and resources.

It also needs to be:

- manageable, realistic and achievable given resources available to support activities
 - relevant to council priorities
 - adding value and having maximum impact
 - coordinated and avoids duplication
- 1.5 The work of scrutiny is undertaken primarily in three ways – through the Committee itself, by establishing informal Panels (for in-depth activities) or via one-off Working Groups. Panels and Working Groups would be open to all non-executive councillors - the Committee will determine membership and conveners following expressions of interest.
- 1.6 Scrutiny will regularly send letters to Cabinet Members communicating findings, views and recommendations for improvement and, where appropriate, by producing reports. Inquiry panels will always produce a final report at the end of the inquiry with conclusions and recommendations for Cabinet (and other decision-makers), informed by the evidence gathered. Inquiry panels will reconvene to follow up on the implementation of agreed recommendations and the impact of their work – usually 6-12 months following cabinet decision.
- 1.7 Although much of the work of scrutiny is carried out by informal Panels and Working Groups these meetings are accessible to the public. Agendas, reports and letters relating to all such scrutiny activities are published, in the same manner as the committee, on the Council's modern.gov online platform:
<https://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1&LLL=0>

2. Scrutiny Work Programme 2022/23

- 2.1.1 The agreed Scrutiny Work Programme for 2022/23 is set out in **Appendix 1**.
- 2.1.2 The following paragraphs break down the work programme by specific ways of working to provide a brief overview.
- 2.2 Scrutiny Programme Committee:
- 2.2.1 The Committee work plan for the year ahead is attached as **Appendix 2**. This should be kept under constant review to ensure it represents a robust, manageable, and effective plan.

2.2.2 Committee members should always review and confirm items for the next and future meetings considering who should attend and confirm expectations so that meetings are always well planned and prepared for, e.g., information required and key questions that the Committee wishes to ask.

2.2.3 The main item(s) scheduled for the next Committee meeting are:

16 May:

- Pre-Decision Scrutiny: Cabinet Report on ‘FPR7 Redevelopment of 277-278 Oxford Street - Community Hub Project’.
- Follow Up – Bus Services Scrutiny Working Group (deferred from 14 March Committee meeting)

As it will be the final meeting of the current municipal year Councillors will be invited to review the year’s work and their experience as a Committee, to inform practice and priorities for the coming year.

Previously planned Cabinet Member Portfolio Responsibilities Session on Parks for this date will be rolled forward, subject to agreement of a new Committee work plan.

2.2.4 The Committee will have the opportunity to review priorities and introduce issues of concern as and when they arise, e.g., pre-decision scrutiny or call-in which may require extra meetings.

2.2.5 Pre-decision scrutiny – this is carried out by the Committee unless delegated elsewhere. The Committee is invited to consider the available information on future Cabinet business and any opportunities for pre-decision scrutiny, taking into account strategic impact, public interest, and financial implications (see Cabinet Forward Plan attached as **Appendix 3**). Any requests will require discussion with relevant Cabinet Member(s) to confirm timescales and window of opportunity for scrutiny involvement. Pre-decision scrutiny enables scrutiny to develop understanding about and ask questions on proposed Cabinet reports to provide ‘critical friend’ challenge and influence decision-making.

2.3 Inquiry Panels:

2.3.1 Once membership and a convener have been appointed the first task of an Inquiry Panel will be to have a briefing on the issue and then determine the key question and terms of reference for the inquiry. Once the planning stage is complete, the inquiry will be evidence gathering, with the last stage being to develop the final report.

| In Progress / Planned | Completed (follow up stage) |
|--|---|
| 1. Anti-Social Behaviour (currently evidence gathering – next sessions on 13 Apr; 9, | 1. Procurement (Follow up 24 Oct 2023) |

| | |
|---------|--|
| 16 May) | |
|---------|--|

2.4 Performance Panels:

2.4.1 The following Performance Panels, which enable regular and structured monitoring of performance within these key areas, have been agreed and will meet on an ongoing basis until otherwise agreed by the Committee (frequency of meetings in brackets):

| Performance Panel | Convener |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Service Improvement & Finance (monthly) | Cllr. Chris Holley |
| 2. Education (monthly) | Cllr. Lyndon Jones |
| 3. Adult Services (every six weeks) | Cllr. Susan Jones |
| 4. Child & Family Services (every six weeks) | Cllr. Paxton Hood-Williams |
| 5. Development & Regeneration (every two months) | Cllr. Chris Holley |
| 6. Climate Change & Nature (every two months) | Cllr. Hannah Lawson |

2.4.2 Performance Panel conveners are scheduled to provide a regular update to the Committee to enable discussion on key activities and impact.

2.5 Working Groups:

2.5.1 The following Working Groups will be convened during the year ahead, in the order shown (date where known in brackets):

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Road Safety (7 Dec) COMPLETE | 3. Customer Contact |
| 2. Co-production (9 Mar) | 4. Healthy City |

2.6 Joint / Regional Scrutiny:

2.6.1 **Partneriaeth** – A Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group, comprising of Education Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs, or equivalent, across Swansea Council, Carmarthenshire Council and Pembrokeshire Councils scrutinises the work of the new regional education partnership which will support the delivery of school improvement, and ensure greater public accountability over decisions made. Scrutiny will seek reassurance and consider if the Partnership is operating according to the Joint Committee Agreement, and its Business Plan, and is being managed effectively. The Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee and Convener of the Education Scrutiny Performance Panel are participating in the Scrutiny of Partneriaeth. The Partneriaeth Joint Committee, comprises the Leaders of the three Councils, as the strategic decision-making body. The Swansea Scrutiny Team manages support for the Scrutiny of Partneriaeth.

- 2.6.2 **Swansea Bay City Region City Deal** – Swansea Scrutiny is also involved in the Swansea Bay City Region Joint Scrutiny Committee, approved by Council in July 2018. This arrangement involves three councillor representatives from each of the four Councils involved in the City Region, meeting to scrutinise the work of the Joint Committee responsible for delivering the City Deal programme. As per the Joint Committee Agreement, the Scrutiny Committee is serviced by Neath Port Talbot Council. Swansea Scrutiny Councillor representatives are currently: Jan Curtice, Victoria Holland & Chris Holley.
- 2.6.3 **South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee** – The Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) involves Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire Councils, as well as Brecon Beacons and the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authorities, and will exercise functions relating to strategic land use planning, regional transport planning and the exercise of economic well-being powers. The Committee has set up a CJC Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee which consists of three elected members from each Council and will meet at least quarterly. The Joint Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee will scrutinise the decisions / actions of the CJC as it discharges its functions and performance in relation to policy objectives and targets. The Joint Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee is being serviced by Neath Port Talbot Council. Swansea Scrutiny Councillor representatives are currently: Peter Black, Wendy Lewis & Mike White.
- 2.6.4 The Scrutiny Programme Committee will need to ensure that there is no duplication between local and regional scrutiny. A regular update on regional scrutiny activity will be provided to Committee members to ensure awareness. Regional scrutiny arrangements will not, however, preclude Councillors within constituent Councils discussing the impact of the regional body on their Council and locality, and holding Cabinet Members to account for their involvement / Council's involvement and engagement in regional bodies, and relevant local decision-making.

3. Monitoring the Work Programme

- 3.1 The Committee is responsible for monitoring progress against the agreed work programme and this includes work undertaken by the informal Panels and Working Groups and findings, to ensure that this work is effective and has the required visibility.
- 3.2 A timetable of all scrutiny activities (projected or actual where dates are known) is attached as **Appendix 4a**. Lead councillors and officers are also noted within. Also provided as **Appendix 4b** is a snapshot of progress with all Panels and Working Groups established by the Committee, as well as Regional Scrutiny, and their current position. These will be updated and provided to every Committee meeting.

- 3.3 The Committee will also be kept abreast of work plans of the individual Performance Panels to improve Committee oversight of topics being examined, check coverage across cabinet portfolios, and help avoid duplication of effort between the Committee and Panels and between Panels etc.
- 3.4 The Scrutiny Work Programme will be kept under constant review by the Committee, with changes made as necessary. The Committee will always retain the flexibility to adapt and re-prioritise the work of scrutiny in response to changing circumstances and/or urgent issues which may arise in-year, to ensure the continued relevance of the programme.
- 3.5 To ensure awareness and avoidance of any issue of duplication it is beneficial for the Committee to receive information about the work plans of relevant Council bodies. This includes the Governance & Audit Committee and the Council's Corporate Delivery Committees. Any issues regarding possible overlap / duplication will be discussed between the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee and relevant Chairs.

4. Public Requests for Scrutiny / Councillor Calls for Action

- 4.1 Members of the public are able to make requests for scrutiny by contacting the Chair or Scrutiny Team in writing detailing the issue of concern, its impact, and suggested action. This can be via the Council's website: www.swansea.gov.uk/raiseanissuetoscrutiny or email to scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk. In accordance with agreed protocol the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee will consider any requests received and bring about proposals to deal with these to the Committee for consideration. Taking into account relevant advice, any such issues may merit inclusion in the work programme, referral elsewhere, or no action.
- 4.2 None received.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 Any costs that arise out of work plan activities, for example expenses for witnesses or transport costs, are not envisaged to be significant and will be contained within the existing Scrutiny Budget.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 There are no specific legal implications raised by this report.

Background papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Agreed Scrutiny Work Programme 2022/23

Appendix 2: Scrutiny Programme Committee Work Plan 2022/23

Appendix 3: Cabinet Forward Plan

Appendix 4a: Scrutiny Work Programme – Projected Timetable of Activity

Appendix 4b: Progress Report – Current Scrutiny Panels, Working Groups,
Regional Scrutiny

Appendix 1 - AGREED Scrutiny Work Programme 2022/23

| New Inquiry Panel (time-limited in-depth scrutiny – six months) | New Working Groups (light-touch scrutiny / one-off meetings) | Performance Panels (ongoing in-depth performance / financial monitoring & challenge) | Issues for Scrutiny Programme Committee (overall work programme management; discussion of broad range of policy and service issues) |
|--|---|---|---|
| <p>1. Anti-Social Behaviour (Terms of Reference / Key Question to be agreed by Panel, but could focus on the effectiveness of partnership working in tackling anti-social behaviour in our communities; look at factors behind rising anti-social behaviour; powers & resources; reporting and response; current approaches; good practice elsewhere; the role of elected members, etc.)</p> <p>Reserve / Alternate Topic:</p> <p>2. Domestic Abuse (Terms of Reference / Key Question to be agreed – but would concern the quality of support for victims and what could be done better, taking internal & external evidence)</p> | <p>1. Road Safety (enabling focussed questioning & discussion on hot spots; work to improve safety; preventative measures; speed controls – use of signs / humps / cameras; proposed new 20mph limits; condition of roads; safety of cyclists & pedestrians; partnership working, etc.)</p> <p>2. Co-production (enabling focussed questioning & discussion on the development of Co-production in the Council and progress, helping to improve involvement and engagement with service users, partners and the public in the design & delivery of services & decision-making, etc.)</p> <p>3. Healthy City (enabling focussed questioning & discussion exploration of the Healthy City Partnership, key activities and achievements, work in relation to health promotion, particularly physical activities, including provision of outdoor sport and activities and opportunities for young people, etc.)</p> <p>4. Customer Contact (enabling focussed questioning & discussion on user experience when contacting the Council /</p> | <p>1. Service Improvement & Finance (monthly)</p> <p>2. Education (monthly)</p> <p>3. Adult Services (every six weeks)</p> <p>4. Child & Family Services (every six weeks)</p> <p>5. Development & Regeneration (every two months)</p> <p>6. Climate Change & Nature (every two months)</p> <p>Specific issues to consider including within wider Panel work plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Improvement & Finance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corporate Plan - Scrutiny of Budget Proposals - Overall Performance Management - Welsh Housing Quality Standard - Planning Services - Waste & Street Cleansing - Recycling of Business Waste • Education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Achievement against Corporate Priorities / Objectives / Policy Commitments - Follow up post Education Estyn LEA inspection - Quality in Education (QEd) / Sustainable Communities for Learning - Additional Learning Needs (ALN) - School New Curriculum - Outdoor Learning in Primary Schools - Music Provision in Schools | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific annual reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children & Young People’s Rights Scheme - Corporate Safeguarding - Delivery of Corporate Priority – Tackling Poverty • Leader Q & A Session(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ‘Achieving Better Together’ Recovery / Transformation Plan - Policy Commitments / Council Priorities • Other Cabinet Member Q & As (issues to pick up): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Archives / Community Hub - Fly Tipping - Homelessness - Houses of Multiple Occupation - Parks - Community Growing - Community Groups, Engagement & Development • Public Services Board • Crime & Disorder (Community Safety) • Follow Up on Previous Working Groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bus Services - Workforce (including discussion on Workforce Development Strategy) |

Appendix 1 - AGREED Scrutiny Work Programme 2022/23

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p>Follow Up of Previous Inquiries:</p> <p>1. Procurement</p> | <p>accessing services whether by telephone or on-line / though digital means; provision for off line and on-line contact; effectiveness of Council Contact Centre; on-going actions to improve digital inclusion / access; quality of website, etc.)</p> <p>Reserve List:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Travel (enabling focussed questioning & discussion on the Council's Active Travel Plans and outcomes; current & future developments; improvements to community consultation; how well we are meeting obligations of Welsh Government Active Travel Act; usage - impact on numbers cycling / walking; and relevant issues) • Racism in Schools (enabling focussed questioning & discussion on the extent of the issue; how schools deal with suspected racist incidents; reporting arrangements, rates etc.) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Achievement against Corporate Priorities / Objectives / Policy Commitments - Relationship between Health & Social Care • Child & Family Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Achievement against Corporate Priorities / Objectives / Policy Commitments - Supported Living for Young People - Quality Assurance Framework • Development & Regeneration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Achievement against Corporate Priorities / Objectives / Policy Commitments - City Deal 'Swansea specific' Projects - City Centre Retail / Development - New Build Housing Towers (e.g., student accommodation) - Historic / Listed Buildings - SA1 development & supporting infrastructure / services • Climate Change & Nature: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Achievement against Corporate Priorities / Objectives / Policy Commitments - Progress against Net Zero 2030 - Use of Glyphosate - Air Pollution - Green Vehicle Adoption & Provision for public / residential EV Charging - Flooding / Local Flood Risk Management | |
|--|---|--|--|

Joint / Regional Scrutiny

- **Partneriaeth** (Education / School Improvement – Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group)
- **City Deal** (Development / Regeneration - Swansea Bay City Region Joint Scrutiny Committee)
- **South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee** (Land Use Planning; Regional Transport; Economic Well-being – Joint Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee)

Scrutiny Programme Committee – Work Plan 2022/23

| ACTIVITY | 19 Jul 2022 | 16 Aug 2022 | 13 Sep 2022 CANCELLED | 18 Oct 2022 | 15 Nov 2022 | 13 Dec 2022 |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|---|--|
| Scrutiny Work Programme | Agreement of Scrutiny Work Programme | Draft Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22 | | | | |
| Cabinet Member Portfolio Responsibility Q & A Sessions | | Archives / Community Hub (CM for Equalities & Culture) | Fly Tipping (CM for Community Services) | Scrutiny of Swansea Public Services Board | Fly Tipping (CM for Community Services) | Homelessness (CM for Service Transformation) |
| Other Cabinet Member / Officer Reports | | | | | Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report (CM for Care Services / Director of Social Services) | |
| Scrutiny Performance Panel Progress Reports | | | | | | |
| Pre-decision Scrutiny | | | | Oracle Project Investment Update | | |
| Final Scrutiny Inquiry Reports / Follow Up on Scrutiny Recs. | | | | | Follow Up: Scrutiny Working Group - Workforce (CM for Corporate Service & Performance) | |

| ACTIVITY | 17 Jan 2023 | 14 Feb 2023 | 14 Mar 2023 | 20 Mar 2023 (special) | 18 Apr 2023 | 16 May 2023 |
|---|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| Scrutiny Work Programme | | | Audit / Scrutiny Relationship – Discussion w/ Chair of Governance & Audit Committee | | | Review of the Year / Work Programme Review |
| Cabinet Member Portfolio Responsibility Q & A Sessions | Leader / Economy, Finance & Strategy (incl. focus on Policy Commitments / Council Priorities; Recovery & Transformation Plan; Council Budget) | Houses in Multiple Occupation (CM for Corporate Service & Performance) | | | | |
| Other Cabinet Member / Officer Reports | Delivery of Corporate Priority – Tackling Poverty (annual item) (Leader / CM for Wellbeing) | Scrutiny of Public Services Board (Draft Local Well-being Plan) | | | Crime & Disorder Scrutiny - Safer Swansea Community Safety Partnership | |
| Scrutiny Performance Panel Progress Reports | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Improvement & Finance • Education | Adult Services | Child & Family Services | | Development & Regeneration | Climate Change & Nature |
| Pre-decision Scrutiny | | | | National 20 Mph Default Speed Limit | | FPR7 Redevelopment of 277-278 Oxford Street - Community Hub Project |
| Final Scrutiny Inquiry Reports / Follow Up on Scrutiny Recs. | | | | | | Follow Up on Bus Services Working Group recommendations (CM for Environment & Infrastructure) |

Other topics to schedule:

- Children & Young People's Rights Scheme (annual report) (Cabinet Members for Care Services / Education & Learning) – Sep 2023?
- Cabinet Member Portfolio Responsibility Sessions:
 - Parks (Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration & Tourism)
 - Community Growing (Cabinet Member for Community Support)
 - Community Groups, Engagement & Development (Cabinet Member for Community Support)

Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2022-23

| Report Title | Report Summary | Report Author | Portfolio | Decision to be taken by | Date of Expected Decision | Exempt Details |
|---|--|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Updated FPR7 for Palace Theatre Refurbishment. | We will be submitting an updated FPR7 report to summarise the current situation regarding the Palace Theatre project and its expenditure and funding. This report will provide detail of the progress so far and the requirements to complete. | Tracy Nichols, Elliott Williams | Cabinet Member - Investment, Regeneration & Tourism | Cabinet | 20 Apr 2023 | Open |
| Digital Strategy 2023-28 and Transformation Programme. | This is the updated Digital Strategy for the Council 2022-27, and Digital Transformation Programme for the next five years. | Sarah Lackenby | Cabinet Member - Service Transformation (Deputy Leader) | Cabinet | 20 Apr 2023 | Open |
| Leisure Partnership Annual Report 2021/2022. | To advise Cabinet of the partnership operations of key facilities within the Cultural Services portfolio. | Jamie Rewbridge | Cabinet Member - Investment, Regeneration & Tourism | Cabinet | 20 Apr 2023 | Open |

Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2022-23

| Report Title | Report Summary | Report Author | Portfolio | Decision to be taken by | Date of Expected Decision | Exempt Details |
|---|---|----------------|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| West Glamorgan Regional Partnership Board Area Plan 2023-2027. | <p>The Area Plan sets out how the West Glamorgan Regional Partnership Board will respond to the findings of the West Glamorgan Population Needs Assessment published on the 1st April 2022, which captured the health and social care needs of people across the West Glamorgan Region.</p> <p>The report asks members to endorse the West Glamorgan Area Plan 2023/2027 for consideration by the Health Board at the end of March and onward submission to Welsh Government.</p> | Kelly Gillings | Cabinet Member - Care Services | Cabinet | 20 Apr 2023 | Open |
| Workforce and OD Transformation Programme. | <p>The report presents a request to Cabinet for funding the Workforce and OD Transformation Programme business cases for 2023/24.</p> | Rachael Davies | Cabinet Member - Corporate Service & Performance (Deputy Leader) | Cabinet | 20 Apr 2023 | Open |

Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2022-23

| Report Title | Report Summary | Report Author | Portfolio | Decision to be taken by | Date of Expected Decision | Exempt Details |
|--|---|---------------|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Successful and Sustainable Swansea Corporate Transformation Plan. | The report seeks Cabinet's approval of new Corporate Transformation Programme, covering the period 2023-28, aligned to the Council's Corporate Plan. | Ness Young | Cabinet Member - Service Transformation (Deputy Leader) | Cabinet | 20 Apr 2023 | Open |
| Tabernacle Morriston Community Resilience Hub. | Grade 1 listed Tabernacle Chapel renovation & improvements, to widen community / business usage. 3rd Sector asset. Council's role purely to manage the capital construction project and associated funding sources. | Jacquelyn Box | Cabinet Member - Investment, Regeneration & Tourism | Cabinet | 18 May 2023 | Open |
| Asset Management Plan 2021-25 – Update. | Progress update for members on the initiatives outlined in the 2021-25 asset management plan. | David Turner | Cabinet Member - Corporate Service & Performance (Deputy Leader) | Cabinet | 18 May 2023 | Open |
| Vulnerable Learners Service Inclusion Strategy. | Report outlines the Vulnerable Learners Service Inclusion Strategy and details priorities, actions and intended impact. | Kate Phillips | Cabinet Member - Education & Learning | Cabinet | 18 May 2023 | Open |

Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2022-23

| Report Title | Report Summary | Report Author | Portfolio | Decision to be taken by | Date of Expected Decision | Exempt Details |
|--|---|-----------------|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Update Management Report on Swansea Airport. | Update management report at Swansea Airport due to the recent Civil Aviation Authority regulatory issues. | Geoff Bacon | Cabinet Member - Corporate Service & Performance (Deputy Leader) | Cabinet | 18 May 2023 | Fully exempt |
| FPR7 Redevelopment of 277-278 Oxford Street -Community Hub Project. | Update on the final costs for the refurbishment of the community hub. | Geoff Bacon | Cabinet Member - Corporate Service & Performance (Deputy Leader), Cabinet Member - Culture & Equalities | Cabinet | 18 May 2023 | Fully exempt |
| Strategic Partners Energy Costs Financial Support 2023/2024. | To seek Cabinet approval for the levels of financial support needed for the period April 2023 to March 2024 for our strategic partners (Freedom Leisure, Wales National Pool and Swansea Arena) specifically related to increased energy costs, including overall likely additional levels of partnership underwriting required specifically for Wales National Pool for the same period. | Jamie Rewbridge | Cabinet Member - Investment, Regeneration & Tourism | Cabinet | 18 May 2023 | Fully exempt |

Appendix 4a

| Activity / Month | JUN 2022 | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN 2023 | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY |
|--|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|-------------------|------|-----|-----|
| PERFORMANCE PANELS: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Service Improvement & Finance (monthly) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Chris Holley Lead Scrutiny Officer: Rachel Percival Lead Cabinet Member: Rob Stewart / David Hopkins Lead CMT: Ness Young / Ben Smith Lead Head of Service: Lee Wenham | | | | 6 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 17 | 14 | 14 | 18 | 9 |
| Education (monthly) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Lyndon Jones Lead Scrutiny Officer: Michelle Roberts Lead Cabinet Member: Robert Smith Lead CMT: Helen Morgan-Rees Lead Head of Service: cross-cutting | | | | | 27 | 17 | 15 | 19 | 13 | 16** | 20 | 11 |
| Adult Services (every 6 weeks) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Sue Jones Lead Scrutiny Officer: Liz Jordan Lead Cabinet Member: Louise Gibbard Lead CMT: Dave Howes Lead Head of Service: Amy Hawkins / Helen St John | | | | 27 | | 8 | | 31 | 13 Joint SS | 21 | | 2 |
| Child & Family Services (every 6 weeks) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Paxton Hood-Williams Lead Scrutiny Officer: Liz Jordan Lead Cabinet Member: Louise Gibbard Lead CMT: Dave Howes Lead Head of Service: Julie Davies | | | | | 11 | 1 | 5 | 24 | 13 Joint SS | 7 | | 22 |

| Activity / Month | JUN 2022 | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN 2023 | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY |
|--|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Development & Regeneration (every 2 months) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Chris Holley Lead Scrutiny Officer: Rachel Percival Lead Cabinet Member: Rob Stewart / Robert Francis-Davies Lead CMT: Mark Wade Lead Head of Service: Phil Holmes | | | | 5 | | 14 | | 30 | | 20 | | 15 |
| Climate Change & Nature (every 2 months) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Hannah Lawson Lead Scrutiny Officer: Liz Jordan Lead Cabinet Member: Andrea Lewis Lead CMT: Mark Wade Lead Head of Service: cross-cutting | | | | | | 9 | | 10 | | 8 | | 2 |
| WORKING GROUPS: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Topic 1 – Road Safety Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Hazel Morris Lead Scrutiny Officer: Rachel Percival Lead Cabinet Member: Andrew Stevens Lead CMT: Mark Wade Lead Head of Service: Stuart Davies | | | | | | | 7 | | | | | |
| Topic 2 – Co-production Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Lyndon Jones Lead Scrutiny Officer: Rachel Percival Lead Cabinet Member: Hayley Gwilliam Lead CMT: cross-cutting / Ness Young Lead Head of Service: cross-cutting / Marlyn Dickson | | | | | | | | | | 9 | | |

| Activity / Month | JUN 2022 | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN 2023 | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY |
|---|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Topic 3 – Healthy City Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Mary Jones Lead Scrutiny Officer: Rachel Percival Lead Cabinet Member: Elliot King Lead CMT: Dave Howes Lead Head of Service: cross-cutting | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Topic 4 – Customer Contact Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Rebecca Fogarty Lead Scrutiny Officer: Rachel Percival Lead Cabinet Member: Andrea Lewis Lead CMT: Ness Young Lead Head of Service: Sarah Lackenby | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| REGIONAL SCRUTINY: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Partneriaeth Regional Scrutiny Councillor Group (Education / School Improvement) (quarterly) Swansea Scrutiny Councillors: Lyndon Jones (chair) / Peter Black Lead Scrutiny Officer: Michelle Roberts Lead Partneriaeth: Ian Altman / Gareth Morgans Lead Cabinet Member: Robert Smith Lead CMT: Helen Morgan-Rees Regional Lead: Martin Nicholls (Lead Director for Partneriaeth) | | | | | 24 | | | | 13 | | | |

Appendix 4a

| Activity / Month | JUN 2022 | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN 2023 | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY |
|---|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Swansea Bay City Region Joint Scrutiny Committee (every 2 months) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Rob James (Carmarthenshire Council) Swansea Scrutiny Councillors: Jan Curtice, Victoria Holland, Chris Holley Lead Scrutiny Officer: Charlotte John, Neath Port Talbot Council Lead Cabinet Member: Rob Stewart Lead CMT: Martin Nicholls / Mark Wade Lead Head of Service: Phil Holmes | | 5 | | 6 | | | 6 | | 28 | | | 2 |
| South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee - Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee (quarterly) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Russell Sparks (Carmarthenshire Council) Swansea Scrutiny Councillors: Peter Black, Wendy Lewis, Mike White Lead Scrutiny Officer: Charlotte John, Neath Port Talbot Council Lead Cabinet Member: Rob Stewart Lead CMT: Martin Nicholls / Mark Wade Lead Head of Service: Phil Holmes | | | | | | 8 | | 27 | 23 | | 20 | |

* denotes extra meeting

** not public

Information correct as of 11/04/23 15:06

Progress Report – Current Scrutiny Panels / Working Groups / Regional Scrutiny

1. Inquiry Panels:

These will undertake in-depth inquiries into specific and significant areas of concern on a task and finish basis and will be expected to take around six months to complete to enable wide-ranging evidence gathering, and production of a final report with conclusions and recommendations for Cabinet (and other decision-makers).

a) **Anti-Social Behaviour** (convener: Cllr Terry Hennegan)

Key Question: *How can the Council ensure that it is working with its partners to appropriately and effectively tackle Anti-Social Behaviour in Swansea?*

Progress Bar:

| Planning | | | | Evidence Gathering | | | | Draft Final Report | | | |
|----------|--|--|--|--------------------|--|--|--|--------------------|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | |

The Panel will meet with Housing Association operating in Swansea in April and will then move onto the consultation phase of the inquiry. In May, they will meet with the local business community, equalities forums/groups and young people.

(NB - Inquiries may take up to six months to complete, as they will call for wide ranging evidence, and will lead to a report with conclusions and recommendations that will be presented to Cabinet)

2. Follow Up on Completed Inquiries:

Follow-ups of inquiries will consider both the implementation of scrutiny recommendations and wider impact / difference made. Inquiry Panels are reconvened between 6-12 months after cabinet decision on Inquiry reports.

| Inquiry | Cabinet Decision | Recommendations | | | Follow Up Panel Meeting |
|-------------|------------------|-----------------|--------|----------|-------------------------|
| | | Agreed | Partly | Rejected | |
| Procurement | 20 Oct 2022 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 24 Oct 2023 |

3. Performance Panels:

Performance Panels enable regular and structured in-depth monitoring of performance and challenge within these key areas:

a) **Service Improvement & Finance** (convener: Cllr Chris Holley)

This Panel meets every month. On 14 March this Panel looked at the Planning Annual Performance Report and Annual Complaints Report.

On 18 April they will look at the Quarter 3 Performance Monitoring Report 2022/23 and review the Wellbeing Objectives and Corporate Plan.

b) **Education** (convener: Cllr Lyndon Jones)

This Panel meets every month. In March, they took a visit to Maes Derw Pupil Referral Unit. The Panel, at the end of the visit, said they welcomed the design and layout of the new facility and were particularly impressed with the enthusiasm and dedication of all the staff. They felt the work at the PRU was inspiring and the Panel appreciated the difference this is making to the lives of some of the most vulnerable pupils in Swansea.

In April, they will look the wider Education Other Than At School Services, receive a report designed to help them to hear the voices of Children and Young People, and receive an update on the Swansea Skills Partnership.

c) **Adult Services** (convener: Cllr Susan Jones)

This Panel meets every 6 weeks. At its meeting on 21 March the Panel received an update on the West Glamorgan Transformation Programme, discussed the latest Performance Monitoring Report, received a briefing on the Annual Review of Charges (Social Services) 2021/22 and an update on Local Area Coordination.

At the next meeting on 2 May the Panel will discuss the Adult Services Complaints Annual Report, receive an update on how the Council's Policy Commitments relate to Adult Services, and receive a Progress Report on Commissioning Reviews. The Panel will also undertake an end of year review.

d) **Child & Family Services** (convener: Cllr Paxton Hood-Williams)

This Panel meets every 6 weeks. At its meeting on 2 March the Panel received an update on Support for Carers including assessments. Adult Services Panel Members were invited to attend for this joint item. The Panel also discussed the latest Performance Monitoring Report and received a briefing on the Youth Offending Service.

At the next meeting on 22 May the Panel will discuss the delivery of Corporate Priorities in relation to Child and Family Services and the Child and Family Complaints Annual Report and will undertake an end of year review.

e) **Development & Regeneration** (convener: Cllr Chris Holley)

This Panel meets every two months. A fuller progress report appears in the agenda under Item 7.

f) **Climate Change & Nature** (convener: Cllr Hannah Lawson)

This Panel meets every two months. The Panel met on 8 March and discussed Nature Conservation – Project Updates and Air Quality Management. The Panel also received its annual update on Local Flood Risk.

At the next meeting on 2 May the Panel will receive an update on Climate Change, including further discussion on Green Vehicle Adoption. The Panel will also be briefed on achievement against Corporate Priorities/Objectives/Policy Commitments in relation to Climate Change and Nature and the Panel will undertake an end of year review.

4. Regional Scrutiny:

This is collaborative scrutiny with other Local Authorities for topics / issues of shared interest or concern, and models of regional working.

a) **Partneriaeth - Regional Education Partnership**

Partneriaeth Scrutiny is expected to take place every school term, mirroring meetings of the Partneriaeth Joint Committee.

The Partneriaeth Scrutiny Councillor Group met on the 13 February where they looked at the Joint Committee's risk management, internal control and corporate governance arrangements. They also received an update on the progress and performance of Partneriaeth Priority 1 - Curriculum & Assessment.

They will next meet on the 19 June, where they will meet with all three Directors of Education and the Chair of the Joint Committee, as it is stipulated in the Joint Agreement that this happens annually. With the purpose of seeking reassurance and to consider if Partneriaeth is operating according to the Legal Agreement, its Business Plan and that its timetable is being managed effectively. They will also receive an update on Partneriaeth Priority 2 - Developing a high-quality education profession.

b) **Swansea Bay City Region City Deal**

The Joint Scrutiny Committee meets every two months. As well as overall programme / project monitoring including the latest financial position, the meeting on 28 February focussed on progress with the 'Swansea City and Waterfront Digital District' and 'Supporting Innovation and Low Carbon Growth' projects. The Committee also

considered issues around increasing construction costs and carbon reduction as they relate to the delivery of the City Deal programme.

The next meeting takes place on 2 May for continued programme / project monitoring and focussed discussion on one of the regional projects.

The Joint Scrutiny Committee is supported by Scrutiny Officers in Neath Port Talbot Council and agendas / minutes of meetings can be found on-line:

<https://democracy.npt.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=417>

c) **South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee**

The CJC Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee will meet at least quarterly. At the last meeting held on 23 February the Committee discussed the CJC Draft Corporate Plan, South West Wales Economic Delivery Plan, and Regional Transport Plan 2025-30.

The next meeting on 20 April will focus on CJC activity in relation to Energy and Strategic Development.

The Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee is supported by Scrutiny Officers in Neath Port Talbot Council and agendas / minutes of meetings can be found on-line:

<https://democracy.npt.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=499>

5. **Working Groups:**

A number of new topics have been identified which will be dealt with through one-off Working Groups. These enable a 'light-touch' approach to specific topics of concern and will be planned as a one-off meeting (in the order shown below) primarily involving discussion with relevant cabinet member(s) / officer(s), and any other persons called, to gather information, ask questions, and give views / raise any concerns.

a) **Road Safety** (convener: Cllr Chris Holley) **COMPLETE**

This Working Group met on 7 December to enable information, focussed questioning & discussion to understand the Council's role and responsibilities on road safety, e.g., asking about hot spots; work to improve safety; preventative measures; speed controls – use of signs / humps / cameras; proposed new 20mph limits; condition of roads; safety of cyclists & pedestrians; partnership working, etc. A letter with the Working Group's conclusions and recommendations was sent to the Cabinet Member and response received. This was reported to the Committee on 14 February and the Committee will be responsible for follow up in the next 12 months.

b) **Co-production** (convener: Cllr Lyndon Jones)

This Working Group took place on 9 March 2023. It enabled information, focussed questioning & discussion on the development of Co-production in the Council and progress in helping to improve involvement and engagement with service users, partners, and the public in the design & delivery of services & decision-making, etc. The Working Group is now writing to the lead Cabinet Member with its views. Once responded to this will be reported to the Committee.

c) **Customer Contact** (convener: Cllr Rebecca Fogarty)

This will enable information, focussed questioning & discussion on the user experience when contacting the Council / accessing services whether by telephone or on-line / though digital means; provision for offline and on-line contact; effectiveness of Council Contact Centre; on-going actions to improve digital inclusion / access; quality of website, etc.

d) **Healthy City** (convener: Cllr Mary Jones)

This will enable information, focussed questioning & discussion exploring the Healthy City Partnership, key activities and achievements, work in relation to health promotion, particularly physical activities, including provision of outdoor sport and activities and opportunities for young people, etc.

This has been carried over from previous work programme.

Agenda Item 10



Report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 18 April 2023

Scrutiny Letters

| | |
|--|---|
| Purpose: | To ensure the Committee is aware of the scrutiny letters produced following various scrutiny activities, and to track responses to date. |
| Content: | The report includes a log of scrutiny letters produced this municipal year and provides a copy of correspondence between Scrutiny and Cabinet Members for discussion as required. |
| Councillors are being asked to: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review the scrutiny letters and responses• Make comments, observations and recommendations as necessary |
| Lead Councillor: | Councillor Peter Black, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee |
| Lead Officer: | Tracey Meredith, Chief Legal Officer |
| Report Author: | Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Team Leader Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk |
| Legal Officer: | Debbie Smith |
| Finance Officer: | Amanda Thomas |

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The production of scrutiny letters has become an established part of the way scrutiny operates in Swansea. Letters from the chair (or conveners) allow scrutiny to communicate directly and quickly with relevant Cabinet Members.
- 1.2 These letters are used to convey views and conclusions about particular issues discussed, and provide the opportunity to raise concerns, ask for further information, and make recommendations. This enables scrutiny to engage with Cabinet Members on a regular and structured basis.

2. Reporting of Letters

- 2.1 All scrutiny letters, whether they are written by the Scrutiny Programme Committee or conveners of Panels / Working Groups, are published to ensure visibility, of the outcomes from meetings, across the Council and public.
- 2.2 The Scrutiny Programme Committee agenda also includes a copy of letters to/from Cabinet Members for its attention and discussion as required, e.g., letters relating to the work of the Committee, Working Groups, and Inquiry Panel follow ups. Letters are included when Cabinet Member responses that were awaited are received or where a scrutiny letter did not require a response.
- 2.3 Where requested Cabinet Members are expected to respond in writing to scrutiny letters within 21 calendar days. The response should indicate what action (if any) they intend to take, or have taken, as a result of the views and recommendations made.
- 2.4 Letters relating to the work of Performance Panels are part of an ongoing dialogue with Cabinet Members and are therefore reported back and monitored by each Panel. However, all Performance Panel Conveners will provide a progress report to the Committee, including summary of correspondence with Cabinet Members and outcomes.

3. Letters Log

- 3.1 This report contains a log of scrutiny letters produced to enable the Committee to maintain an overview of letters activity over the current municipal year – see **Appendix 1**. The letters log will show the average time taken by Cabinet Members to respond to scrutiny letters, and the percentage of letters responded to within timescale. For comparison, during the previous year (2021/22) 66 letters were sent to Cabinet Members, of which 24 required a written response. The average time taken to respond was 18 days, with 71% responded to within the 21 days target.
- 3.2 The following letter(s), not already reported back to the Committee, are **attached** for discussion:

| | Activity | Meeting Date | Correspondence |
|---|---|---------------------|--|
| a | Committee (Scrutiny of Tackling Poverty) | 17 Jan | Letter to/from Leader and Cabinet Member for Well-being |
| b | Committee (Scrutiny of Houses in Multiple Occupation) | 14 Feb | Letter to Cabinet Member for Corporate Service & Performance |

| | | | |
|---|--|--------|---|
| c | Committee (Pre-decision Scrutiny: National 20 Mph Default Speed Limit) | 20 Mar | Letter to Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure |
|---|--|--------|---|

3. Legal Implications

3.1 There are no legal implications.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Scrutiny Letters Log – 2022-23

Appendix 2: Scrutiny Letters / Responses

Scrutiny Letters Log (2022-2023)

Ave. Response Time (days):

19 (target within 21 days)

% responses within target:

75

| No. | Committee / Panel / Working Group | Meeting Date | Main Issue(s) | Cabinet Portfolio | Letter Sent | Response Received |
|-----|---|--------------|---|--|-------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Committee | 16-Aug | Community Hubs / Archives | Equalities & Culture | 12-Sep | n/a |
| 2 | Development & Regeneration Performance Panel | 05-Sep | Regeneration Programme / Project Monitoring | Investment, Regeneration & Tourism | 17-Oct | n/a |
| 3 | Committee | 18-Oct | Pre-decision Scrutiny - Oracle Project Investment Update | Joint Economy, Finance & Strategy and Service Transformation | 19-Oct | n/a |
| 4 | Adult Services Performance Panel | 27-Sep | Service Overview | Care Services | 24-Oct | n/a |
| 5 | Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel | 04-Oct | Quarter 1 Budget Monitoring Report 22/23 | Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader) | 27-Oct | 28-Nov |
| 6 | Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel | 04-Oct | Annual Performance Monitoring Report 21/22 | Corporate Services & Performance | 27-Oct | n/a |
| 7 | Education Performance Panel | 27-Oct | Service Overview, Partneriaeth, Pupil Manifesto | Education & Learning | 07-Nov | n/a |
| 8 | Child & Family Services Performance Panel | 11-Oct | Overview of Child & Family Services, Draft work programme | Care Services | 08-Nov | 01-Dec |
| 9 | Partneriaeth Scrutiny Councillor Group | 24-Oct | Legal Agreement, Joint Committee on 7 Oct, work programme | Chair of Partneriaeth Joint Committee | 10-Nov | n/a |

| | | | | | | |
|----|---|--------|---|---|--------|--------|
| 10 | Education Performance Panel | 17-Nov | Additional Learning Needs Reform, Curriculum for Wales update, Pupils Development Grant spend, School Improvement Service | Education & Learning | 25-Nov | n/a |
| 11 | Child & Family Services Performance Panel | 01-Nov | Residential Services; Corporate Parenting Board | Care Services | 28-Nov | n/a |
| 12 | Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel | 08-Nov | Welsh Housing Quality Standards Annual Update | Service Transformation | 29-Nov | n/a |
| 13 | Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel | 08-Nov | Annual Review of Performance 2021/22 | Corporate Services & Performance | 29-Nov | n/a |
| 14 | Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel | 08-Nov | Welsh Public Libraries Standards Annual Performance Report | Equalities & Culture | 29-Nov | n/a |
| 15 | Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel | 08-Nov | Review of Revenue Reserves | Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader) | 29-Nov | n/a |
| 16 | Committee | 18-Oct | PSB Scrutiny | Chair of Public Services Board Joint Committee | 29-Nov | n/a |
| 17 | Development & Regeneration Performance Panel | 14-Nov | City Centre Retail and Regeneration Programme / Project Monitoring | Joint Economy, Finance & Strategy; Investment, Regeneration & Tourism; and Corporate Services & Performance | 01-Dec | n/a |
| 18 | Adult Services Performance Panel | 08-Nov | Audit Wales report on Direct Payments; CIW Inspections, Director of Social Services Annual | Care Services | 05-Dec | 23-Dec |
| 19 | Committee | 15-Nov | Follow Up - Workforce Scrutiny Working Group | Corporate Services & Performance | 16-Dec | 04-Jan |
| 20 | Education Performance Panel | 15-Dec | Annual Performance; and the Music Service | Education & Learning | 29-Dec | 19-Jan |

| | | | | | | |
|----|---|--------|---|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| 21 | Climate Change & Nature Performance Panel | 09-Nov | Water Quality/Management; Overview of Climate Change & Nature in Swansea | Service Transformation | 22-Dec | n/a |
| 22 | Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel | 06-Dec | Mid Term Budget Statement 22/23 | Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader) | 04-Jan | n/a |
| 23 | Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel | 06-Dec | Recycling and Landfill - Annual Performance Monitoring 2021/22 and Recycling of Business Waste Briefing | Community (Services) | 04-Jan | n/a |
| 24 | Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel | 06-Dec | Audit Wales Report – “Making Equality Impact Assessments more than just a tick box exercise” | Equalities & Culture | 04-Jan | n/a |
| 25 | Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel | 06-Dec | Quarter 1 2022/23 Performance Monitoring Report | Corporate Services & Performance | 04-Jan | n/a |
| 26 | Working Group | 07-Dec | Road Safety | Environment & Infrastructure | 04-Jan | 26-Jan |
| 27 | Committee | 15-Nov | Corporate Safeguarding Annual Report | Care Services | 04-Jan | 06-Jan |
| 28 | Committee | 15-Nov | Fly Tipping | Community (Services) | 10-Jan | 24-Jan |
| 29 | Child & Family Services Performance Panel | 05-Dec | CFS Improvement Programme and Performance Monitoring; Regional Safeguarding Board update; Safeguarding Quality Unit Annual Report | Care Services | 11-Jan | n/a |
| 29 | Committee | 13-Dec | Homelessness | Service Transformation | 30-Jan | 20-Feb |

| | | | | | | |
|----|---|--------|--|--|--------|--------|
| 30 | Education Performance Panel | 19-Jan | New Curriculum for Wales, Pontarddulais School cluster | Education & Learning | 01-Feb | 17-Feb |
| 31 | Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel | 17-Jan | Draft Budget Proposals 2022/23 – 2025/26 and Q2 Budget Monitoring 2022/23. | Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader) | 02-Feb | 20-Feb |
| 32 | Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel | 17-Jan | Q2 Performance Monitoring Report 22/23 | Corporate Services & Performance | 02-Feb | 23-Feb |
| 33 | Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel | 17-Jan | Sustainable Swansea | Service Transformation | 02-Feb | 21-Feb |
| 34 | Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel | 14-Feb | Pre-decision Scrutiny - Annual Budget | Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader) | 15-Feb | n/a |
| 35 | Climate Change & Nature Performance Panel | 10-Jan | Weed management / use of glyphosate | Environment & Infrastructure | 16-Feb | n/a |
| 36 | Climate Change & Nature Performance Panel | 10-Jan | Climate Change; Green vehicle adoption; Electric vehicle charging | Service Transformation | 16-Feb | n/a |
| 37 | Committee | 17-Jan | Tackling Poverty | Joint Economy, Finance & Strategy and Well-being | 16-Feb | 09-Mar |
| 38 | Child & Family Services Performance Panel | 24-Jan | CAMHS; Child Disability Services | Care Services | 17-Feb | n/a |
| 39 | Committee | 17-Jan | Leader Q & A Session | Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader) | 17-Feb | n/a |
| 40 | Development & Regeneration Performance Panel | 30-Jan | Tourism Management Plan and project monitoring report | Investment, Regeneration & Tourism | 23-Feb | 27-Mar |
| 41 | Committee | 14-Feb | PSB Scrutiny - Draft Well-being Plan | Chair of Public Services Board Joint Committee | 28-Feb | n/a |

| | | | | | | |
|----|---|--------|--|---------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| 42 | Partneriaeth Scrutiny Councillor Group | 13-Feb | Financial and risk assurance, new curriculum for Wales | Chair of Partneriaeth Joint Committee | 01-Mar | n/a |
| 43 | Adult Services Performance Panel | 31-Jan | AS Transformation Programme; Assistive Technology and Community Alarms; Performance Monitoring | Care Services | 07-Mar | n/a |
| 44 | Committee | 14-Feb | Houses in Multiple Occupation | Corporate Services & Performance | 13-Mar | n/a |
| 45 | Committee | 20-Mar | Pre-decision Scrutiny: National 20 Mph Default Speed Limit | Environment & Infrastructure | 22-Mar | n/a |
| 46 | Working Group | 09-Mar | Coproduction | Community (Support) | 28-Mar | 06-Apr |
| 47 | Child & Family Services Performance Panel | 07-Mar | Support for Carers; Performance Monitoring; Youth Offending Service | Care Services | 29-Mar | |
| 48 | Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel | 14-Mar | Annual Planning Performance Report | Corporate Services & Performance | 04-Apr | n/a |
| 49 | Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel | 14-Mar | Annual Complaints Report | Service Transformation | 04-Apr | n/a |
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**To/
Councillor Rob Stewart, Leader of
the Council, & Councillor Alyson
Pugh, Cabinet Member for
Wellbeing**

BY EMAIL

cc: Cabinet Members

*Please ask for:
Gofynnwch am:*

*Direct Line:
Llinell Uniongyrochol:*

*e-Mail
e-Bost:*

*Our Ref
Ein Cyf:*

*Your Ref
Eich Cyf:*

*Date
Dyddiad:*

Scrutiny

01792 637257

scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk

SPC/2022-23/8

16 February 2023

Summary: This is a letter from the Scrutiny Programme Committee to the Cabinet Members following the meeting of the Committee on 17 January 2023. It is about the Delivery of the Corporate Priority of Tackling Poverty. A formal written response is required by 9 March 2023.

Dear Councillor,

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 17 January Scrutiny of Tackling Poverty

We are writing to you following our scrutiny session to monitor and challenge Council action in relation to Tackling Poverty, which is a standing annual item within the Committee work plan.

We thank you both, and officers, for attending the Committee meeting to present a detailed report on the delivery of the corporate priority, so we can comment on progress, achievements, and implementation of strategy, monitor improvement, and help inform future work / thinking.

Your report set out progress over the last 12 months. It presented evidence, insights and intelligence that demonstrated the contributions that have been made in delivering this Council priority, as well as future plans. It covered current challenges, including the impact of the cost of living crisis, and the Council's response. The report also considered the findings and recommendations of Audit Wales' 'Time for Change – Poverty in Wales' Report, published in November 2022, showing the Authority's response to the

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU
SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWE
GUILDHALL, SWANSEA, SA1 4PE / NEUADD Y DDINAS, ABERTAWE, SA1 4PE
www.swansea.gov.uk / www.abertawe.gov.uk

I dderbyn yr wybodaeth hon mewn fformat arall neu yn Gymraeg, cysylltwch â'r person uchod
To receive this information in alternative format, or in Welsh please contact the above

Audit recommendations, and planned action. We noted that the Audit Report includes several positive reflections of good practice identified in Swansea.

You spoke about the difficulties over the past few years, and coming out of COVID but into a financial crisis. You praised the work of Council teams and partners emphasising the 'person centred' and holistic approach to tackling poverty with a mix of preventative and reactive activity, and efforts working under pressure to process cost of living grants available to individuals and organisations to maximise the benefit. We noted that there is now a single web page on the Council website for [Cost of Living Help](#), launched a few months ago which has been well used.

This letter reflects on what we gained from the information presented, questions, and discussion. This included exploration of the level of resources to tackle poverty in Swansea and meet corporate objective, and, how in addition to a dedicated Tackling Poverty Service, this is embedded across the Council, with all departments playing a role, and partnership arrangements helping the Council to deliver on objectives. We also followed up on concerns from last year's session about efforts to improve employability and skills, and tackle barriers including access to public and personal transport. We heard about the various education, training and employment programmes, and initiatives and successes, including from Communities for Work, Workways+, Pathways to Work, Beyond Bricks & Mortar, and the opening of a 'pop-up' Employment Hub within the Quadrant Shopping Centre. We noted there is bespoke help and support for individuals facing barriers to employment, including transport and childcare, as well as wider Council initiatives. There was also discussion about the links between poverty and mental health, the mental health support available from partners and joint working between teams.

Committee views, including any outstanding issues / actions:

Overall, the Committee commended the work being carried out, with clearly laid out 'Ten Steps' towards achieving tackling poverty priorities, as set out in the Corporate Plan. Not least, ensuring that tackling poverty is everyone's business. We noted that the Council's Tackling Poverty Strategy was being refreshed using an evidence-based coproduction approach, working with people who have lived experience of poverty to define and shape our vision for the future. This will inform the specific outcomes, objectives and planned activities for the Council to undertake, to tackle and alleviate poverty in Swansea. You reported intention to publish this mid-2023.

We are aware there are several service level performance indicators relevant to poverty which the Council reports on, but the Committee welcomes plans to develop a strategic Tackling Poverty Performance Framework to define how we align the objectives, indicators, measures, and outputs relating to tackling poverty, to outcomes. This is essential to provide the foundation for the measurement of performance (against clear targets), ongoing monitoring, and

overall evidence of success - showing to what extent we are achieving, considering the input of resources. We acknowledge this is a complex and challenging area of work, but is an issue that Audit Wales has also raised in its recent report. The focus should be on outcomes. Recognising that this will necessitate a mix of quantitative and qualitative information we are happy to see more case studies / stories being reported, showing the improvement to the lives of individuals and families from our interventions, as powerful examples of impact.

As the Cost of Living crisis has continued, the number of grants for individuals and organisations have increased. We noted how these are being administered. The Council will need to ensure and maintain robust arrangements to monitor the award of grant monies and effectiveness, to measure benefits and ensure it is helping those who need it.

In relation to reducing fuel poverty the Committee would appreciate any details on the impact the ECO4 grant scheme has had locally. This is meant to help improve the energy efficiency of housing stock occupied by low income and vulnerable households. You undertook to liaise with the Housing Service to find out more about applications and grant awards indicating how many residents have benefitted.

Councillors shared some experiences in trying to access advice from the Welfare Rights Team when undertaking casework, on behalf of residents. You undertook to clarify the process for Councillors to make referrals to the Team to help their residents. We would recommend you circulate details to all Councillors. There are many new Councillors who would benefit from this information.

The Council wants a Swansea where poverty is not a barrier to doing well at school. Given the number of children reliant on free school meals an issue was raised about the fact that many secondary schools provide lunch very late into the school day. With the likelihood that many of these children may not be having a breakfast, the lateness of the meal may be a hindrance to their concentration during the day and achievement in school. We asked whether there have been any examples where schools are addressing this issue, e.g., making use of Pupil Development Grant, to get food to children earlier in the school day? Could you liaise with colleagues to provide some information on this.

At our next Tackling Poverty Scrutiny session, we will follow up on the intended Council actions in response to the Audit Wales report, which made eight key recommendations.

Your Response

We hope that you find the contents of this letter helpful and would welcome comments on any of the issues raised within. Specifically, we would appreciate information, as described in the letter, about:

- a) ECO4 grant awards;
- b) Councillor access to advice/support from the Welfare Rights Team on behalf of residents; and
- c) Efforts to feed those in receipt of Free School Meals earlier in the school day.

Please provide your response to these, and any other comments about our letter by 9 March. We will then publish both letters in the agenda of the next available Committee meeting.

We will make arrangements to re-visit work on Tackling Poverty around December 2023. This will enable us to keep close watch regularly on progress, follow up on the issues we have raised, and enable scrutiny views to influence action and improvement.

Yours sincerely,



COUNCILLOR PETER BLACK

Chair, Scrutiny Programme Committee

✉ cllr.peter.black@swansea.gov.uk

Councillor Peter Black
Chair
Scrutiny Programme Committee

BY EMAIL

Please ask for: Councillor Rob Stewart
Direct Line: 01792 63 6366
E-Mail: cllr.rob.stewart@swansea.gov.uk
Our Ref: RS/CM
Your Ref:
Date: 8 March 2023

Dear Councillor Black

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 17 January - Scrutiny of Tackling Poverty

We thank you for the opportunity to present the Annual Report on the Corporate Priority of Tackling Poverty to the Scrutiny Programme Committee. We are also grateful to all committee members for their consideration of the report and feedback provided during the session. The Scrutiny process is valued in informing the further progression of this crucial work.

Further information regarding the issues raised as outlined in your letter are detailed below:

ECO4 Grant Awards

As part of the transition from ECO3 to ECO4 a 'Statement of Intent' was published on the Council's website in October 2022. This made it possible for ECO4 applications to be made to the Council via its procured energy partners. So far 11 applications have been received under ECO4.

<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/article/8844/ECO-Flex>.

All potentially eligible households apply through the Council's ECO4 energy partners to ensure that they can either benefit from the scheme or be assessed for eligibility under any other relevant programme. Potential applicants are initially guided towards Welsh Government's Nest Scheme (www.nest.gov.wales), as the qualifying criteria is easier to satisfy and is aimed at more vulnerable groups. The Council facilitated a mail shot for Nest in October 2022, this resulted in approximately 1000 Swansea households referred for information, advice and support to the Nest scheme.

At this early stage it is difficult to gauge the impact of ECO4, but as the programme becomes established, we anticipate similar results as for ECO3. As a guide, under ECO3 165 households were assisted, with 234 energy measures being installed since the beginning of 2020.

Councillor access to advice/support from the Welfare Rights Team on behalf of residents.

The Welfare Rights and Financial Inclusion Team provides support available to Councillors via their Advice Line which is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am – 4pm. Councillors are also able to contact the team via email on Welfare.RightsAdviceline@swansea.gov.uk. and emails are responded to on the days that the advice line is open.

The support available to all Elected Members and Council staff (including support workers, Social Workers, and any other staff working with the public) covers a range of queries across all types of benefits. This may include arranging for the experienced and skilled Welfare Rights Advisors to contact clients directly, establish the issues and provide advice and feedback for the Councillor or signposting to other partner organisations such as Citizens Advice.

The team also provides training and awareness raising and this is also available to Councillors.

Efforts to feed those in receipt of Free School Meals earlier in the school day.

Schools are responsible for setting their own timetable, and different year groups can be offered different lunch times to fit the dining space available. For secondary schools, the timetable can also be linked to shared curriculum options with other schools.

All of our primary schools in Swansea receive funding to operate a free breakfast club to ensure all pupils have access to a breakfast prior to the start of the school day.

All secondary schools in Swansea offer breakfast and a mid-morning break. Learners are able to use their free school meal (FSM) entitlement between morning and lunch breaks, many pupils choosing to have a more substantial break item if lunch is scheduled for later in the school day.

13 of our 14 secondary schools in Swansea participate in the Welsh Government's free breakfast scheme for year 7 FSM learners. The other secondary school – Dylan Thomas School - has chosen to offer all pupils in the school a free breakfast prior to the school day regardless of FSM eligibility, and this is funded from grants such as PDG and a grant from Kellogg's.

We hope that this information provided is helpful and we would welcome the opportunity for continuing engagement regarding our work to deliver the Corporate Priority of Tackling Poverty.

Yours sincerely



**Y CYNGHORYDD/COUNCILLOR ROB STEWART
ARWEINYDD/LEADER**



**Y Cyngorydd /Councillor Alyson Pugh
Aelod y Cabinet - Lles
Cabinet Member - Wellbeing**

**To/
Councillor David Hopkins
Cabinet Member for Corporate
Service & Performance**

BY EMAIL

cc: Cabinet Members

*Please ask for:
Gofynnwch am:*

*Direct Line:
Llinell Uniongyrochol:*

*e-Mail
e-Bost:*

*Our Ref
Ein Cyf:*

*Your Ref
Eich Cyf:*

*Date
Dyddiad:*

Scrutiny

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SPC/2022-23/11

13 March 2023

Summary: This is a letter from the Scrutiny Programme Committee to the Cabinet Member following the meeting of the Committee on 14 February 2022. It is about Houses in Multiple Occupation. A formal written response is not required.

Dear Councillor Hopkins,

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 14 February Scrutiny of Houses in Multiple Occupation

We are writing to you following our Scrutiny session, which focussed on a specific aspect of your cabinet portfolio responsibilities, namely Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs). This was previously subject of a Scrutiny Working Group in 2017.

We thank you for attending the meeting and providing a written report covering this. We thank Paula Livingstone, Divisional Environmental Health Officer, for taking us through the detail, and for the helpful contributions by officers on housing standards, licensing, and planning roles / aspects as they relate to HMOs. The report helped us to understand statutory duties, policy, activities, performance and trends, and current issues.

The Committee was able to explore priorities / objectives, the delivery of this work and provide challenge on actions and performance, as well as future thinking. It was a very helpful and useful session, and we thank all concerned for their work on HMOs.

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This letter reflects on what we learnt from the information presented, questions, and discussion. It shares the views of the Committee and highlights any outstanding issues / actions for your response - key issues are summarised below.

Legislation

We noted that the vast majority of the Council's work in relation to HMOs is statutory. We discussed the confusing picture of different pieces of legislative regimes that apply to HMOs, and associated challenges: housing, public health, and licensing legislation, as well as planning / development policy and how applications for HMOs are dealt with.

We heard that the definition of a HMO in housing and planning legislation is not the same e.g., some buildings converted into flats that do not comply with the Building Regulations 1991 will be considered as an HMO under housing legislation, but not planning legislation. The majority of purpose-built student accommodation managed by national management companies are not considered to be HMOs by virtue of a specific exemption in the Housing Act 2004. The Council has specific Local Development Plan (LDP) policy and Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to the development of such buildings. But Housing and Planning are two separate legislative regimes, which are not interdependent. Licensing can control property condition, amenities and management arrangements, but does not control the number of HMOs in Swansea.

We are aware that in accordance with the Housing Act 2004, a property is a HMO where three or more people forming more than one household share amenities, such as a kitchen or bathroom, occupy the house as their only or main residence and where rent is payable for their occupation. We understood that there is a statutory requirement for all HMOs across Swansea that are three storeys or more with five or more occupiers to be licensed, for which a prescribed fee is payable. The Council has an 'Additional' HMO licensing scheme operating in Uplands, Castle, St Thomas and Waterfront wards, adopted under discretionary powers available to the Council, to license smaller HMOs not subject to mandatory licensing. We noted that as of 30 January 2023 there were 1,672 licensed HMOs in Swansea, with just over 1000 of these being in the Uplands area. In addition to specific HMO Licensing, there are licensing requirements under Rent Smart Wales, a central licensing authority, for all rental properties across Wales, assisting those that let properties with their obligations and compliance with housing legislation.

We agreed that it was a lot for the public to understand all the different aspects to HMOs, and private rented sector more generally.

HMO Licensing

We discussed the backlog in licensing HMO properties, a consequence of the pandemic, and efforts to tackle this. We heard that the work of the Environmental Health and Housing team was severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, with staff redeployed to support other services. We appreciated that it has been a difficult past three years. You provided assurance that the backlog, in terms of checking licences and inspecting properties, was being addressed. You reported that there is still a delay in processing applications for HMO licences but as the recovery programme progresses, waiting times for inspections have reduced from the six to seven months that occurred during the pandemic with applicants now waiting approximately four months for an inspection of their property. The extension of the Additional HMO Licensing Scheme to include the St Thomas ward, has increased the number of properties that have now become licensable. You reported that there were now 109 licensed HMOs in St Thomas, compared to an original estimate of around 70 suspected HMOs following an initial survey of the area.

We were told that there are currently just over 200 licence applications being processed, either at the initial stages of checking applications, following-up on incomplete applications, awaiting fee payment or where complete applications have been received and are then awaiting inspection before licence is granted. We asked for a breakdown by ward and thank you for providing the following information immediately following our meeting:

As of 14th February 2023, there are 203 HMO licence applications (including both new and renewal applications) in the checking/processing stage in the following Wards:

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Castle..... | 61 |
| Landore..... | 1 |
| St Thomas... | 9 |
| Uplands..... | 130 |
| Waterfront.... | 2 |

Health & Safety

We asked about activities relating to the health and safety of HMOs. We noted that there is a Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) which applies to all housing including HMOs irrespective of whether the property is licensable. It involves an assessment of the effect of housing conditions on the health of occupiers and an assessment of specific potential hazards. Enforcement action can be by a variety of notices and orders requiring a landlord to carry out work or to prohibit occupation of part or the whole of a property. Both licensable HMOs and those that fall outside the licensing requirements are subject to one of two sets of Management Regulations, which impose certain duties on managers including the maintenance of fixtures and fittings, fire safety measures, gas and electricity supplies and waste disposal arrangements. We discussed some issues

around difficulties in identifying landlords, when needing to take enforcement action.

It was clarified that the new Renting Homes (Wales) Act, which came into force in December 2022 relates to the contractual arrangement between landlords and tenants. The new legislation makes it clearer for landlords and occupiers about what standards should be kept within a property and gives routes for private action by occupiers, but does not introduce any additional regulatory or enforcement powers for the Council over and above the HHSRS. The new Act sets out the obligations of landlords to ensure a dwelling is fit for human habitation, and includes things like damp and mould growth, cold, personal hygiene, electrical hazards, fire safety and gas safety. The Committee expressed some concern that the new Act is not subject to Local Authority enforcement, which would provide greater protection to tenants. It is important that tenants are fully aware of their rights and have a degree of help and support when raising issues with the landlords, many of whom may not have the confidence or resources to do so. We remarked that this legislation will have an implication on the Council as a landlord and its relationship with the tenants of Council housing.

Planning Process

We discussed several aspects of the planning process, and the application of the LDP in the determination of any planning applications submitted for HMOs.

You reported that the Swansea LDP, which was adopted in February 2019, contains a detailed policy on HMOs, supported by Supplementary Planning Guidance which provides a sound evidence base to make informed decisions on applications for planning permission for HMOs. It takes into account interests of fostering cohesive communities, including by avoiding instances of over-concentration of HMO properties to the detriment of residential amenity and community balance. The policy framework defines a 'HMO Management Area' where there are already high levels of HMOs, within which no more than 25% of residential properties are normally permitted to be HMOs. Outside these areas the limit is set at 10%. It also requires that development proposals do not 'sandwich' Class C3 dwellings between HMO properties either side.

We asked questions around how the Authority assesses planning applications and the evidence base used to identify HMOs, which we were told included planning records, licensing records and information from the public. When it came to determining the concentration of HMOs in an area, one issue was raised regarding whether this takes account of large buildings or blocks of flats that contain many properties. It was clarified that the planning process considers the 'use classes' of properties in an area, in accordance with legislation and the policy framework, and that the concentration of HMOs is one of a number of factors taken into account, along with other impacts

including impact on adjoining properties, local amenities / space (e.g., parking) and other concerns in the area that may affect the quality of life. These considerations will also apply to existing HMO properties where a fresh application may be submitted looking to extend the property and increase the number of occupants. The planning officers were requested to provide examples of planning decisions where percentage thresholds in relation to the concentration of HMOs were overridden by other relevant factors. These can be emailed to scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk.

Another issue was raised, challenging whether the current requirement for a property to be marketed for six months as a 'family' home before it would be considered for HMO use, if unsuccessful, was realistic, and was possibly open to abuse to circumvent concentration thresholds. It was felt that this was not a long enough period, given that property transactions can often take much longer. The Committee was told that what some may refer to as the 'six-month rule' was purely guidance and decision makers would consider the merits of individual applications, and in some cases agree that six months would not have been enough.

Your report described the impact and 'success' of the LDP citing the decrease in the number of appeals against Council decisions being allowed by the Planning Inspector. You also mentioned the drop in the number of planning applications submitted. In the three years prior to adoption of the policy, approximately 250 planning applications were submitted. In the three-year period since adoption of the policy, approximately 165 applications were submitted. You stated that this reduction of 35% in the number of HMO applications submitted suggests that prospective applicants are aware of the policy and the control exercised through the policy. As a result, they are less likely to seek planning permission for HMOs where policy indicates they will not be permitted.

We also asked about the current position regarding addressing the detrimental impact of the proliferation of letting boards in areas with high proportion of rental properties, which you acknowledged as a long-standing issue. You cited resource constraints, but we noted you would be happy to discuss further with relevant local councillors, including the possibility of using councillor community budgets to make progress.

Public Questions

The Committee received public questions, from one individual on the link between Airbnb / Short Term Rental properties and HMOs, and their regulation / Council action and effects, and from another individual relating to HMO numbers and the Council's assessment of HMO applications. You undertook to respond fully in writing addressing their concerns, and we are pleased to see that you have done so. Thank you for providing copy of your responses.

Your Response

We hope that you find the contents of this letter helpful and would welcome comments on any of the issues raised within; however, we do not expect you to provide a formal response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Black', written in a cursive style.

COUNCILLOR PETER BLACK

Chair, Scrutiny Programme Committee

✉ cllr.peter.black@swansea.gov.uk



**To/
Councillor Andrew Stevens,
Cabinet Member for Environment &
Infrastructure**

BY EMAIL
cc: Cabinet Members

*Please ask for:
Gofynnwch am:*

*Direct Line:
Linell Uniongyrochol:*

*e-Mail
e-Bost:*

*Our Ref
Ein Cyf:*

*Your Ref
Eich Cyf:*

*Date
Dyddiad:*

Scrutiny

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SPC/2022-23/12

22 March 2023

Summary: This is a letter from the Scrutiny Programme Committee to the Cabinet Members following the Committee meeting on 20 March 2023. It is about the proposed Cabinet decision on the National 20 Mph Default Speed Limit. A formal written response is not required.

Dear Councillor Stevens,

**Pre-decision Scrutiny of Cabinet Report:
National 20 Mph Default Speed Limit**

The Scrutiny Programme Committee met on 20 March 2023 to consider the report that you intend to present and recommend to Cabinet on 23 March. We thank you and officers, in particular Alan Ferris, Road Safety Manager, for attending the meeting to present the report and answer questions.

Your Cabinet report advises on the mandatory requirement to make the national default speed limit on restricted roads 20mph and details those roads which will be exempt and remain at 30mph following Welsh Government guidance. It sets out the consultation process to be followed and seeks confirmation of the approach taken in respect of implementation of the change in law. It also asks Cabinet to agree to delegate authority to yourself to approve the exceptions agreed with individual ward members leading to the formal public advertisement of the appropriate Traffic Regulation Orders. We noted that the legislation concerning the reduction in the default speed limit comes into effect on 17 September 2023, and that there is no transitional period as such. The default 20mph limit will be in force on this date.

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Taking into account your report, questions and discussion, we are writing to confirm our views on the proposed decision for Cabinet to consider before it makes a decision.

Committee Feedback

It was a very useful session which helped the Committee to understand what is happening, the process and implications for the Council and citizens. It was clear to the Committee that the department has a sound grasp of the situation and preparations are well underway to fulfil the Council's obligations. Councillors have reflected positively on the engagement so far with them on proposals for their areas.

In the time available to review your report and ask questions, overall the Committee had no issues with the recommendations in the report and proposed Cabinet decision and broadly supports the reduction in the national speed limit on safety grounds. However, the Committee recognises this represents a significant change in the law which will require a culture change, and carries with it a number of risks to success.

The Committee offers some views on implementation that it wishes to bring to the attention of Cabinet:

- Funding
Our local implementation is subject to funding. Cabinet should consider what contingency is in place should the Welsh Government not meet the Council's estimated requirement of £2.9 million to support the implementation during the next financial year. We understand this money is needed to install all new signing and remove obsolete signs and markings, and includes staff costs in managing and developing the programme of highway and infrastructure works. The Committee requested a more detailed breakdown of this cost figure, which officers undertook to provide. This can be sent to scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk. There is also some concern about possible ongoing costs associated with the change.
- Compliance and Enforcement
There is some concern about a lack of enforcement to ensure compliance of the new speed limit. The change in law requires a behavioural change, which may take time to achieve. An absence of effective enforcement and deterrent at the outset will likely increase the time necessary for a change in mindset. We understood that decisions about speed measures and enforcement are with the Go Safe Partnership, but as an equal partner this Authority can exert some influence.

- Current 20Mph Zones

The Council should make the case to retain, wherever possible, existing road signage / markings that are consistent with the new speed limit, particularly around schools, as a reminder about the limit and to reinforce the message about the speed reduction. This would be preferable than simply replacing signage with a new “traffic calmed area” sign, and should also help to reduce overall costs. We understood that the priority ahead of 17 September would be to remove any signage / markings that does not conform to the new legislation. We noted that no existing traffic calming measures would be removed on any roads unless there is evidence to support their removal.

- Communication and Engagement

The extent of public communication necessary, for successful implementation, should not be underestimated. We understand that Welsh Government are proposing to undertake a National Campaign to inform communities across Wales of the changes to the default speed limit. Locally, we will need to repeat and reinforce this messaging and find effective ways to raise awareness amongst the public not only on how and when changes will occur, to get ready, but giving emphasis to the road / community safety benefits. The Council should signpost the public to the new [Data Map Wales website](#), when populated, which will show all roads affected by changes to the speed limit on restricted roads, to facilitate consultation / feedback on proposals.

Local Councillors should be kept informed, as much as possible, of works in their area in preparation of the change, to facilitate their engagement with local residents and awareness of what is happening.

I will attend the meeting on Thursday to address Cabinet with the feedback from Scrutiny, as contained in this letter.

Your Response

We hope that you find the contents of this letter helpful. No formal response is required unless there are any material changes to the report and/or variation to the recommendation/proposed Cabinet decision, which the Committee should be alerted to.

Yours sincerely,



COUNCILLOR PETER BLACK

Chair, Scrutiny Programme Committee

✉ cllr.peter.black@swansea.gov.uk

Agenda Item 11



Scrutiny Programme Committee – 18 April 2023

Date and Time of Upcoming Scrutiny Panel / Working Group / Regional Meetings

18 April – 16 May

a) 18 April at 10.00am – Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel

- Q3 Performance Monitoring Report 2022/23
- Annual Review of Wellbeing Objectives and Corporate Plan

b) 20 April at 10.00am – South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee - Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee (via Teams, organised by Neath Port Talbot Council)

- Corporate Joint Committee activity in relation to Energy and Strategic Development

c) 20 April at 4.30pm – Education Performance Panel

- Education Other Than At School services (EOTAS) Update and Discussion on recent Site Visit to Maes Derw Pupil Referral Unit
- Hearing the Voices of Children and Young People
- Swansea Skills Partnership Update
- Follow Up - Estyn Inspection: Progress with Recommendations

d) 2 May at 10.00am – Climate Change & Nature Performance Panel

- Climate Change Update (including 'Green Vehicle Adoption')
- Achievement against relevant Corporate Priorities / Objectives / Policy Commitment

e) 2 May at 2.00pm – Swansea Bay City Region Joint Scrutiny Committee (Port Talbot Council Chamber / Teams, organised by Neath Port Talbot Council)

- Overall Programme / Project Monitoring including the latest financial position
- Regional Project Update – tbc

f) 2 May at 4.00pm – Adult Services Performance Panel

- Adult Services Complaints Annual Report 2021/22
- Update on how Council's Policy Commitments translate to Adult Services
- Commissioning Reviews Progress Update

g) 9 May at 10.00am – Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel

- Follow Up – Audit Wales Report on Local Government Use of Data Action
- Welsh Language Standards Annual Report 2021/2022

h) 9 May at 6.00pm – Anti-Social Behaviour Inquiry Panel

- Evidence Gathering Session: Hearing the Voices of Children & Young People. Visit to Early Help Hub in Brynhyfryd to meet with CMET Youth Panel and young people from youth clubs.

i) 11 May at 4.00pm – Education Performance Panel

- Harassment in Schools Update
- New Curriculum for Wales Update
- Quality in Education (QEd) / Sustainable Communities for Learning Update

j) 15 May at 10.00am – Development & Regeneration Performance Panel

- Regeneration Programme / Project Monitoring Report

k) 16 May at 10.00am – Anti-Social Behaviour Inquiry Panel

- Evidence Gathering Session: Round table meeting with Swansea Council for Voluntary Service and Local Businesses

l) 16 May at 4.00pm – Scrutiny Programme Committee

- Pre-Decision Scrutiny: Cabinet Report on 'FPR7 Redevelopment of 277-278 Oxford Street - Community Hub Project'
- Follow Up – Bus Services Scrutiny Working Group

END OF MUNICIPAL YEAR

Scrutiny Meetings will be multi-location meetings, held in the Gloucester Room, Guildhall as well as accessed remotely via MS Teams, unless otherwise stated.