



Report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 16 July 2024

Follow Up: Scrutiny Working Group – Co-production

Purpose:	This report provides background and advice to the Committee in following up on the Scrutiny Working Group which looked at the topic of Co-production in March 2023. Lead Cabinet Member / officers have been asked to report on progress since then, including issues raised by the Working Group.
Content:	<p>The Cabinet Member for Community (Support), Councillor Hayley Gwilliam, has provided a report which is appended for questions and discussion.</p> <p>The Committee is provided with the correspondence between the Working Group and Cabinet Member following the original meeting which contain the views / concerns of Scrutiny Councillors. The Committee should follow up on any agreed action in response to Working Group suggestions for improvement.</p>
Councillors are being asked to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider the information provided, ask questions, and make comments and recommendations as necessary.
Lead Councillor:	Councillor Hayley Gwilliam (Cabinet Member for Community - Services)
Lead Officers:	Ness Young, Director of Corporate Services Lee Wenham, Head of Communications & Marketing
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 has overall responsibility for the Scrutiny Work Programme. Each year, the Work Programme includes several 'one-off' topic-based Scrutiny Working Groups to look at specific issues of concern. These are usually set up as single meetings

to call in relevant Cabinet Member(s), officers, and other relevant persons, to examine the issue and feedback views and recommendations to the Cabinet Member(s). As such the Committee takes responsibility for following up on Working Groups, to check on progress with the topic / issue(s) and response to any specific suggestions / recommendations made and agreed action coming out of the Scrutiny session.

2. Co-production Scrutiny Working Group

2.1 The Co-production Scrutiny Working Group, convened by Councillor Lyndon Jones, originally met on 9 March 2023 to look at a number of issues related to the Council's role and responsibilities 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. It has now been over 12 months since the Scrutiny Working Group, and therefore the Committee should follow up on progress on the issue(s) and action following any suggestions coming out of the Scrutiny session and find out how things have progressed and developments in this area of work.

2.2 Main Working Group Findings

In order to assist the Committee's follow up, a summary is provided:

2.2.1 Overall, the Working Group recognised that Co-production at Swansea Council was still early into its journey, but were encouraged by the approach the Council was taking.

2.2.2 The Working Group were appraised on developments so far including the work of Co-Pro Lab Wales who had been contracted for 12 months (ending Oct 2023) to provide feedback, advice and support and help to produce a tool kit and webpage. Councillors were told that internal Co-production Champions will be equipped to provide support to colleagues within their directorates and identify Co-production opportunities. An officer from Social Services also attended to report on the good progress they have made in co-production as well as the Director of SCVS who gave their perspective.

2.2.3 Councillors favoured the Co-production Champions model which can be harder to achieve than a centralised Co-production provision but has the potential to be more successful in embedding Co-production across departments and felt positive about the slow and steady approach the Council are taking. The Group recommended using a mix of existing Co-production tools and bespoke ones. The Group requested training for members as well as officers including training on involvement as well as Co-production where Co-production may not be achievable, but levels of involvement are.

2.2.4 In the Cabinet Members response letter (dated April 2023) the Working Group was told that Member development opportunities would be offered over the next 6 months and that the project would report to the Audit Committee on completion in Autumn 2023.

2.3 The full correspondence between the Working Group and Cabinet Member following this Scrutiny activity is **attached**, showing the range of issues that were discussed, feedback and concerns, and the Cabinet Member's subsequent response.

2.4 Looking back at the Working Group discussion, the Committee will want to ask about the following:

- How Co-production has been developed and current stage in the journey
- Relevant Reports / Decisions made
- How the advice, support and feedback from Co-Pro Lab Wales has benefitted the Council
- The role of Co-production Champions and extent to which Co-production is being embedded across the Council
- Co-production models / tools being utilised, with examples of activity
- The delivery of Councillor / Officer training & development on Co-production

2.5 Link to the Scrutiny Working Group meeting:

9 March 2023

<https://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=733&MIId=11086&Ver=4&LLL=0>

2.6 Scrutiny Councillors who participated in the Working Group: Lyndon Jones (Convener), Peter Black, Dai Jenkins, Mary Jones, Mark Tribe and Lesley Walton.

2.7 By carrying out a follow up the Committee can then close off this Scrutiny activity and work, as appropriate.

3. Cabinet Member Report

3.1 The lead Cabinet Member, Councillor Hayley Gwilliam, Cabinet Member for Community (Services), has provided a report on progress, in the context of the Scrutiny activity, on Co-production. See **Appendix 2 attached**.

3.2 Lead officer(s) will be present to assist and facilitate the discussion.

3.3 The Committee will hear from the Cabinet Member / officers before questions and discussion. At the conclusion of the session the Committee can write to the Cabinet Member with any observations, views and recommendations arising from the follow up discussion.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 There are no legal implications from this report.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications from this report.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

- Letter correspondence between the Co-production Scrutiny Working Group and Cabinet Member: Letters dated 28 March 2023 and 6 April 2024
- Cabinet Member Report on Co-production