



Report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 19 November 2024

Scrutiny of Swansea Public Services Board

Purpose:	<p>This report provides background and advice to the Committee in support of its ongoing Scrutiny of Swansea Public Services Board (PSB). The Committee is the designated Council body for scrutinising the PSB and its overall effectiveness, which is a statutory requirement set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. This meeting follows on from the last Scrutiny session on the PSB in May 2024.</p>
Content:	<p>The Chair and Vice-Chair of the PSB, along with lead officer(s), will attend to present, address questions, and consider Committee views on the performance of the PSB. Papers have been provided on progress since the last Scrutiny session.</p> <p>The previous Committee Scrutiny Letter reflecting on the PSB Scrutiny session in May is also included to support the discussion, and enable follow up on action taken by the PSB in response, where the Committee has made suggestions for improvement.</p>
Councillors are being asked to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider the report of the Chair of the PSB, ask questions, and give views.
Lead PSB Councillor(s) / Members:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Councillor Rob Stewart (Leader of the Council / Lead Council representative on PSB)• Councillor Andrea Lewis (Leader's Representative on PSB / Chair of PSB)• Roger Thomas, Chief Fire Officer, Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service (Vice-Chair of PSB)
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1. Introduction

1.1 It is a statutory requirement for Councillors within Swansea (as well as across Wales) to hold their local Public Services Board accountable for its work and achievements to see whether it is making a difference for citizens. [Swansea Public Services Board](#) (PSB) is the overarching strategic partnership of public service providers in the area, who work together to improve local services. The Scrutiny Programme Committee is the designated Council Committee for Scrutiny of Swansea Public Services Board.

1.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires that a PSB is set up in every local authority area in Wales. There is a duty on specified public bodies to work through these Boards to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of their areas by contributing to the national well-being goals set out in the Act. PSBs are specifically required to:

- a) Undertake a Well-being Assessment for the area
- b) Set local Well-being Objectives as part of a Well-being Plan
- c) Take all reasonable steps to meet those objectives

1.3 Although the work of the PSB will involve a wide range of partner organisations from public, private and voluntary sectors, there are four statutory members who are the formal decision makers responsible for the functioning and activities of the Board. The four Statutory Members of the PSB are:

- Swansea Bay University Health Board
- Swansea Council
- Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- Natural Resources Wales

The Statutory Members, along with Invited Participants, come together to meet every two months. There is also a PSB Partnership Group for more wider engagement with partner organisations.

1.4 Scrutiny plays an important role in ensuring that partnership working is accountable to elected local Councillors, and provides a formal platform to make recommendations and challenge improvement of the PSB.

1.5 The overarching objective of Scrutiny, as agreed by the Committee, is to consider: What difference is Swansea Public Services Board making for citizens? Specific lines of questioning have focused on:

- The effectiveness of the PSB Wellbeing Assessment
- The effectiveness of the PSB Wellbeing Plan

- How well the PSB is meeting its well-being duties, and is considering the five ways of working and seven well-being goals as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
 - The effectiveness of PSB performance measurement arrangements
 - The level of commitment from individual partners to the work of the PSB
 - The effectiveness of the PSB in communicating its work, objectives and outcomes to its stakeholders, including the public
 - The effectiveness of the PSB in addressing the issue of pooled funding to tackle priorities
- 1.6 The Committee will engage with PSB statutory members / key partners about progress in the delivery of agreed PSB Well-being Plan objectives, and effectiveness of the PSB generally. The delivery of Well-being Objectives is at the heart of what the PSB is trying to do to make a difference. Performance against these objectives will be a key measure of success.
- 1.7 It is important to note that the remit of PSB Scrutiny includes only the activities of the PSB as a partnership and excludes Scrutiny of individual partner organisations. The Committee can require any member of the PSB to give evidence, but only in respect of the exercise of joint functions conferred on them as a member of the PSB.
- 1.8 Whilst the Committee is responsible for looking at the overall work and effectiveness of the PSB, subject specific Scrutiny bodies can still scrutinise the PSB's work in relation to a specific issue, within their remit.

2. Previous Scrutiny Committee Session

- 2.1 The Committee will schedule at least two PSB Scrutiny Sessions each municipal year. In the last session held in May 2024 the Committee considered the PSB Annual Report, which reported on progress the PSB has made during 2023/24 to deliver the Well-being Plan, and discussed the Wellbeing Plan Action Plan, which outlines steps to deliver the PSB Well-being Objectives during 2024/25. The Committee also followed up on issues arising from previous Scrutiny sessions, and action taken.
- 2.2 The Committee Letter to the Chair of the PSB is **attached** to remind Committee Members and enable follow up on how views have been considered and action taken, or planned, by the PSB in response, where the Committee has made suggestions for improvement:
- The Committee had suggested that the PSB keep the way the Annual Report is written under review so that each year it considers how it can be better at showing the performance of the PSB and outcomes against the Plan, balancing the need for something useful

for the public and something that satisfies Councillors and those responsible for Scrutiny, so that it is easier to assess success.

- The Committee was also interested in examples of the PSB's engagement with the public, and welcomed a focussed discussion at the next Scrutiny session on this aspect, looking at relevant activities during 2024.
- The Committee highlighted the need to demonstrate how the PSB affects people's day to day life. The Committee also encouraged Swansea PSB to develop better links with our most comparable PSB to look at differences and learning.
- The Committee requested that the Welsh Government's regular PSB bulletin be distributed to all Swansea Councillors to help raise awareness of the PSB.

3. Public Services Board Progress Report

3.1 The meeting will provide opportunity for the Committee to hear from PSB leads about progress / developments since the last session. The Chair of the PSB has provided written reports which are attached. This includes:

- the final published PSB Annual Report for 2023/24, which reports on progress in delivering the PSB Well-being Plan (the Committee had seen the draft annual report at the meeting in May 2024) – see **Appendix A**
- the PSB Action Plan for 2024-25, which outlines steps to deliver the PSB Well-being Objectives, and progress updates – see **Appendix B**
- a report on PSB engagement activity – PSB Partnership Forum Event 18 September 2024 – see **Appendix C**

3.2 The Committee has been keen to see detail on the performance framework and measurable outcomes, i.e., action plans for each Well-being Objective alongside the identification of responsibilities, outputs, and performance arrangements, with clarity about leads and actions for individual partners, etc. The Committee will want to ask questions about this and any other developments. The key Scrutiny question, as always, is asking about the difference being made by the PSB and effectiveness.

3.3 The Chair and Vice-Chair of the PSB, along with main Council lead officer(s), will attend to present, address questions, and consider Committee views on the performance of the PSB.

3.4 It is recognised that many more people play a part in the work, effective functioning, and success of the PSB in delivering against agreed wellbeing objectives, and it is important to gather different perspectives. As with previous sessions, invitation has also been extended to other PSB Members / Leads (both strategic and operational) as optional attendees who may wish to attend if available

and contribute to the discussion, to reflect experiences and help the Committee to understand what is going on.

3.5 The Committee should note the designated strategic / operational leads for each the PSB Well-being Plan Steps:

- Well-being Plan Step 1 - To support the transformation of Early Year Services in Swansea to provide better support for children to have the best start in life
 - Karen Stapleton – Swansea Bay University Health Board (Strategic Lead)
 - Michelle Davies (Swansea Bay UHB - Strategy)
 - Gary Mahoney – Swansea Council (Operational Lead)
 - Alison Williams – Swansea Council (Operational Lead)
- Well-being Plan Step 2 - To build on Swansea’s 2022 declaration of being a Human Rights City
 - Ness Young – Swansea Council (Strategic Lead)
 - Adele Dunstan – Swansea Council (Operational Lead)
- Well-being Plan Step 3 - Working towards Swansea’s net zero target and nature recovery
 - Huwel Manley – Natural Resources Wales (Strategic Lead)
 - Helen Grey – Natural Resources Wales (Operational Lead)
 - Jane Richmond – Swansea Council (Operational Lead)
- Well-being Plan Step 4 - Making Swansea safer, more cohesive, and prosperous
 - Roger Thomas - Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service (Strategic Lead)
 - Richard Felton – Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service (Operational Lead)
 - Amy Richmond-Jones - Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service
 - Amanda Carr – Swansea Council for Voluntary Service (Operational Lead)
- Well-being Plan Step 5 - Developing Swansea’s Integrated Cultural Offer
 - Mark Wade – Swansea Council (Strategic Lead)
 - Tracey McNulty – Swansea Council (Operational Lead)
- Wellbeing Plan Step 6: To Influence and connect with other governance arrangements across the Swansea Bay region
- Wellbeing Plan Step 7: To improve data quality and accessibility across the Swansea Bay region

- Wellbeing Plan Step 8: To Develop Swansea PSB performance management arrangements which measure and monitor the PSB's progress

- Ness Young – Swansea Council (Strategic Lead)
- Lee Wenham / Richard Rowlands - Swansea Council (Operational Lead)
- Steve King – Swansea Council (Research & Information)

3.6 The Committee will reflect on the session with a letter to the Chair of the PSB outlining views and any suggested action / recommendations, etc.

4. PSB Meetings

4.1 The Minutes of meetings of the PSB published since the last Scrutiny session are ***attached*** for Committee awareness:

- [18 July 2024](#)
- [10 October 2024 \(draft\)](#)

4.2 Video recording of each meeting can be viewed. The next PSB meeting is scheduled to take place on 13 February 2025.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications from this covering report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications from this covering report.

7. Integrated Assessment Implications

7.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage.
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.

- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

7.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

7.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

7.2 This report is for information only and an IIA is not therefore required.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 - Letter correspondence between the PSB Scrutiny Performance Panel and Chair of the PSB: May 2024 Committee meeting
- Appendix 2 - Report of the Chair of Swansea PSB - Update on PSB
 - Appendix A - PSB Annual Report 2023/24
 - Appendix B - Report of the Chair of Swansea PSB – PSB 2024-25 Action Plan & Progress Updates
 - Appendix C - Report of the Chair of Swansea PSB – PSB Partnership Forum Event 18 September 2024
- Appendix 3 - Minutes of Swansea Public Services Board Joint Committee:
A) 18 July meeting & B) 10 October (draft minutes) meeting