

Progress Report – Current Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups

1. Inquiry Panels:

a) **Corporate Culture** (convener: Cllr Andrew Jones)

Key Question: How can the City and County of Swansea ensure that service delivery is always supported by a can do culture?

Progress Bar:

Planning	Evidence Gathering				Draft Final Report			

The Panel's final report was presented to Cabinet on 20 August. A decision on the recommendations is expected at Cabinet on 15 October.

b) **Education Inclusion** (convenor: Cllr Cheryl Philpott)

Key Question: How can the Council improve education for those children who are other than at school?

Progress Bar:

Planning	Evidence Gathering				Draft Final Report			

The Panel on the 15 September will finalise the inquiry by looking at their recommendations and conclusions arising from this piece of work.

Projected End Date: October 2015

d) **School Governance** (convener: Cllr Fiona Gordon)

Key Question: How can the Council ensure that school governors provide effective challenge for their schools?

Progress Bar:

Planning	Evidence Gathering				Draft Final Report			

The Panel has completed its planning and has begun collecting evidence. The first three evidence gathering sessions have taken place - the most recent with Estyn. The Panel is due to hear from ERW officers on the 8 September.

Projected End Date: December 2015

2. Pre-Inquiry Working Groups:

a) Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (convener: Hazel Morris)

The Working Group will be held on 29th September. Sian Harrop-Griffiths, Director of Strategy, ABMU, and Dr. Claire Ball, Clinical Director, CAMHS, Cwm Taff Health Board will present a report on the current arrangements for the planning and provision of services for children and young people with emotional and mental health needs in the ABMU area.

3. 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	
Services for Looked After Children	17 Sep 2013	14	1	0	15 Jul 2014 (Follow up complete)
Public Transport	12 Nov 2013	13	1	0	20 Oct 2014 (Follow up complete)
Affordable Housing	3 Dec 2013	7	2	4	3 Dec 2014 (Follow up complete)
Tourism	14 Jan 2014	14	0	0	17 Nov 2014 (Follow up complete)
Economic Inactivity	3 Jun 2014	7	0	0	24 Jun 2015 (Follow up complete)
Attainment & Wellbeing	1 Jul 2014	11	0	0	11 Jun 2015 (Follow up complete)
Inward investment	20 Jan 2015	10	0	2	14 Jul 2015 Further follow up tba (March 2016)
Public Engagement	17 Feb 2015	15	1	0	25 Aug 2015 (Follow up complete)
Streetscene	14 Apr 2015	14	4	3	Nov 2015
Social Care at Home	20 Aug 2015	16	5	1	May 2016

4. Performance Panels:

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

The Service Improvement & Finance Panel met on August 12th to have Q & A sessions with Cllr Clive Lloyd and Cllr Mark Child. Cllrs Lloyd and Child gave a brief overview of their portfolios and discussed the impact and implementation of budget decisions.

The Panel raised a number of concerns, these include:

- The sustainability of Friends of Parks groups and parks that will not have a Friends group. The level of support given to the groups by the City & County of Swansea.
- The timeline for sports clubs to take up the self management options.
- The use of acronyms and official wording in the Sustainable Swansea public documents. The Panel felt that the documents should contain simple summaries and a glossary in order for the public to understand the process and the proposals.
- The lack of information about the cost of the services provided by CCOS.
- Demand management – how is this done by the City & County of Swansea.

The Panel requested further information and an update on all the budget savings targets. It would also like further information about risk and resilience and the change management methods used by the council. The Panel agreed to add Corporate Procurement to its work plan.

b) Schools Performance (convener: Cllr Fiona Gordon)

See separate report - item 5 of the agenda.

c) Local Service Board (convener: Cllr Mary Jones)

The Panel will meet on September 14th to consider the next steps for its work plan and how it will move forward to explore the work of the Local Service Board within this topic. The Panel will also discuss the gap in mortality rates with a representative of ABMU Health Board in relation to Healthy Cities and have a briefing about the Wellbeing & Future Generations Act.

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

The Panel met on 10th August to examine the latest Child & Family Performance report. The panel's view is that Child & Family Services continues to perform well in many areas including referrals, assessments and preventative work.

The panel had a number of concerns:

- Re-registration and managing risks associated with re-registration
- Lack of performance data on children who ceased to be looked after and became looked after again; lack of data on the ethnicity of foster carers, adopters and looked after children
- Further improvements to be made in sickness performance

Officers agreed to:

- Provide the panel with the Continuum of Need diagram, full version of the Tros Gynnal advocacy report, the Y Siarad policy and figures on the ethnicity of foster carers, adopters and looked after children
- Add the following information to the next monthly performance monitoring report: ages at which children become looked after at first placement, percentage of children that become looked after again after ceasing to be and the number of children who are victim of child sexual exploitation
- Clarify the number of children that became looked after as the figure of 4 appeared to be unusual
- Clarify the reporting process for the completed Corporate Parenting Strategy

The Panel agreed to invite Tros Gynnal Plant to a future meeting.

The Panel's next meeting will be Monday 28th September and it will focus on preventative services.

5. Other Panels / Working Groups:

A number of topics have been identified which will be dealt with through one-off Panels / Working Groups.

a) Transformation of Adult Social Services (convener: Bob Clay)

The Panel met on 24th August to discuss Network Hubs. A range of health partners and officers attended: Alex Williams, Head of Adult Services, Bozena Allen, interim Head of Adult Services, Julie Burroughs, Project Lead for Integration, Alison Ransom, Integrated Hub Manager for Swansea West, Matthew Shepherd, Senior Practitioner, Hilary Dover, Primary Care and Community Services Director for ABMU and Karen Gronert, Head of Integrated Community Services.

The purpose of the meeting was to understand in more detail why and how the hubs were developed, how they operate, developments as a result of integration so far, how health and social care practice is affected by integration and co-location, priorities for the next 3 months and next year.

The Panel agreed to visit each of the integrated network hubs and the intake team which is in the west hub. These visits will take place on 10th, 15th and 22nd September. The purpose of the visits is to see first-hand how the hubs operate and to talk to health and social care practitioners about their experiences of co-location and integrated working.

Officers agreed:

- To provide the Panel with performance data that has been collected so far on each of the hubs
- To ensure continued involvement of scrutiny in the integration to identify suitable items from the forward work plan to bring to the panel
- To provide a short briefing on respite and reablement
- To provide an updated Intermediate Tier optimal model matrix

The next meeting on 21st September will focus on update on progress with identifying costs for in-house adult services.

b) **Local Flood Risk Management** (convener: Cllr Susan Jones)

The relevant officers have been contacted to arrange a suitable meeting date as soon as the draft Flood Risk Management Plan is completed. The working group will then meet to participate in the consultation process for the draft plan.

Working Groups to be convened in the future as time and resources allow, in the order of priority shown:

1. Civic Events

the relevant cabinet member / officer will be requested to provide a report to enable the Working Group to discuss and consider the organisation, support for and management of civic events.

2. Welsh Housing Quality Standard

this was a request from the Affordable Housing Scrutiny Inquiry Panel. The relevant cabinet member / officer will be requested to provide a report to enable the Working Group to consider the Council's progress towards achieving the Welsh Housing Quality Standard within its social housing stock.

3. Tethered Horses

the relevant cabinet member / officer will be requested to provide a report covering policy and practice in relation to issue of tethered horses, and extent of problem. Issues have been raised about horse welfare, impact on local communities and council resources. Questions to be put, including whether any learning from examples / actions elsewhere.

4. Corporate Building Services

the relevant cabinet member / officer will be requested to provide a report covering assessment of current service (objectives and achievements, procedures and practice, value for money, challenges, improvement plans etc) for questions and discussion. Some issues raised in relation to procurement, costs / competitiveness, joined up working across the Council.

5. Roads / Highway Maintenance

the relevant cabinet member / officer will be requested to provide a report covering service practices and procedures (e.g. dealing with pot holes), use of resources, prospects for improvement. This will enable questions about the quality and effectiveness of highway maintenance and repair, and also issues relating to the relationship with utilities and strategic planning / co-ordination of works to minimise disruption to major access roads.