

Progress Report – Current Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups

1. Inquiry Panels:

a) Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (convener: Cllr Mary Jones)

Key Question: How is the Council working with health and other partners to reduce demand for specialist child & adolescent mental health services?

Progress Bar:

Planning	Evidence Gathering	Draft Final Report

Following agreement by the committee, the final report was presented to Cabinet on 20 October 2016. A response to the recommendations is expected at Cabinet on 15 December.

Projected End Date: Complete

b) Building Sustainable Communities (convenor: Cllr Terry Hennegan)

Key Question: How can the council best support residents to run services in their own communities?

Progress Bar:

Planning	Evidence Gathering	Draft Final Report

Following agreement by the committee, the final report was presented to Cabinet on 20 October 2016. A response to the recommendations is expected at Cabinet on 15 December.

Projected End Date: Complete

c) Tackling Poverty (convener: Sybil Crouch)

Key Question: How can the Council’s Tackling Poverty Strategy be improved?

Progress Bar:

Planning	Evidence Gathering	Draft Final Report

The panel has almost completed its evidence gathering and is in the process of drafting its conclusions and recommendations. It is anticipated that the final report will be presented to Scrutiny Programme Committee in January.

Projected End Date: December 2016

d) **Children's Readiness for School** (convener: Hazel Morris)

Key Question: How can children's readiness for school be improved in Swansea?

Progress Bar:

Planning	Evidence Gathering	Draft Final Report
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The Panel in November took a visit to both Stepping Stones in Killay and the Children's Centre in Penlan where they spoke to staff and parents about how readiness for school could be improved. They will next meet in December where they will discuss the issues with Health Visitors.

Projected End Date: March 2017

2. Pre-Inquiry Working Groups

a) Partnerships & Collaboration

Preparations for this potential inquiry will begin shortly.

Key concerns:

- how are we currently working with others?
- how effective is it?
- how could the Council's collaboration with other authorities/ partners be further developed & improved?
- are we learning from examples elsewhere?

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	
Social Care at Home	20 Aug 2015	16	5	1	11 Jan 2017
Corporate Culture	15 Oct 2015	19	0	0	6 Jul 2016 (complete)
Education Inclusion	21 Jan 2016	19	0	1	29 Nov 2016 3 Jan 2017

School Governance	16 Jun 2016	6	2	4	tba
		Response to other 4 recommendations: Action already in place			

4. Performance Panels:

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

See progress report – agenda item 8

b) **Schools Performance** (convener: Cllr Fiona Gordon)

The Panel met on the 16 November to look at the performance of children that receive free school meals (FSM) and what impact the Pupil Deprivation Grants is having for these pupils. Members also discussed the Annual Audit of Schools report.

The Panel on 8 December will meet to discuss Looked after Children's educational performance and outcomes. They will receive an update on Pioneer Schools in Swansea and also restorative practice.

c) **Public Services Board** (convener: Cllr Mary Jones)

The panel will next meet on 6 December, where they will hear from the project sponsors for the four priority work streams identified by the PSB as the focus of its work for 2016/17. The panel are particularly interested in looking at the performance monitoring arrangements in place, in order to assist them to assess the difference that the Public Services Board is making for the citizens of Swansea.

Cllr Rob Stewart, Chair of the Public Services Board is the project sponsor for the Economic Development/City Centre work stream. Cllr Robert Francis-Davies will be attending in his place. Chris Sivers, Director of People, is the sponsor for the following work streams: Domestic Abuse; Independence of Older People; and a Good Start in Life.

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

The Panel met on 30 November to look at Post-16 Services, and considered progress and performance. They discussed a draft 16 Plus performance framework which has been developed. The 16 Plus service which involves joint working between the authority and Barnardo's.

e) **Adult Social Services** (convener: Uta Clay)

The Panel met on 23 November and discussed the Adult Services Performance Management Framework. This is a new report designed to monitor performance across Adult Services, similar to the framework that has developed over the years for Child & Family 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) **Education Through Regional Working** (regional scrutiny group)

A meeting for scrutiny councillors and officers from the six councils participating in ERW took place on 27 September. Swansea was represented by Cllr Fiona Gordon. A scrutiny councillors group has been set up in order to coordinate scrutiny work and ensure a consistent approach. The group discussed individual Councils scrutiny education work programmes, looked at the ERW Business Plan for 2016-19 and the recent ERW Estyn report, shared good practice in relation to use of the pupil deprivation grant and was updated on the Special Education Needs Reform. The next meeting will be hosted by Ceredigion Council and is being arranged for 27 February 2017. Swansea Scrutiny Team will provide the support for this group as the Council's contribution to ERW.

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

The Committee previously agreed that the Local Flood Risk Management Working Group can continue to meet on an annual basis in order to monitor and check progress with the Local Flood Risk Management Plan and priorities. A meeting will be arranged in the New Year.

c) **Civic Events** (convener: Cllr Anthony Colburn)

A further meeting is being arranged.

d) **Planning** (convener: Cllr Chris Holley)

The working group met with the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Regeneration on 19 October. An in-depth discussion took place on a range of planning issues including: the revised committee arrangements, section 106 agreements, the Call-In process, enforcement activity and the Planning Annual performance report. A convener's letter has been sent to the Cabinet Member and a response is expected in due course.

e) **Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)** (convener: Cllr Mary Jones)

The Working Group met on the 25 November where they received and discussed a joint briefing report from Housing and Public Health and Planning. A further meeting has been arranged for the 12 January to take 12 January public submissions speak to the two relevant Cabinet members.

Further Working Groups to be convened, in the order of priority shown (membership / conveners to be appointed in due course):

1. Digital Inclusion

the relevant cabinet member / officer will be requested to provide a report on digital inclusion for discussion and questions e.g. many council services will be digital in future but is the quality of services being preserved? how can we ensure that people are not being excluded from services once they become digital? what is the Council's strategy to ensure that all can access and are not excluded from services?

2. 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 / impact of budget cuts, 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.

3. Corporate Building Services

the relevant cabinet member / officer will be requested to provide a report to provide a briefing about Corporate Building Services to enable questions and discussion e.g. about value for money provide, costs / competitiveness for works including councillor ward requests.

4. Dog Fouling

the relevant cabinet member / officer will be requested to provide a report on dealing with dog fouling, e.g. community initiatives, support for dog owners, deterrents, dealing with complaints, enforcement, resources, achievements etc.