

Public Services Board Scrutiny Performance Panel Meeting Notes 12 April 2017

In attendance

Panel Members:

Cllr Mary Jones (Convener)
Cherrie Bija – SCVS

Cllr Chris Holley
Cllr Paxton Hood-Williams

Also Present:

Representatives of Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service:
Cllr Janice Dudley, Chair
Mick Crennell, Deputy Chief Fire Officer

Officers:

Brij Madahar – Scrutiny Team

ACTION

1. Apologies

Cllrs Uta Clay, Fiona Gordon, Paulette Smith and Mr Paul Newman.

2. Disclosures of Interests

None.

3. Public Questions

None.

4. Notes from Meeting held on 15 March and Matters Arising

It was noted that further information on specific ABMU Health Board activities supporting the Public Services Board (PSB) priority 'Independence of Older People' was awaited.

The Panel also requested Martyn Evans, Natural Resources Wales, be asked about progress in relation to their involvement with Queen's Dock (water quality) and the Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon Project (Marine Licence).

Scrutiny
Officer to
email Martyn
Evans

5. Q & A Session with PSB Core Group Members

a Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service:

Mick Crennell, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, made some opening remarks which referred to:

- the development of the Fire & Rescue Service and ambitions – focus of service shifting from response to prevention.
- their growing involvement in the community e.g. home safety, community safety and resilience, road safety, working with young people, protection of vulnerable people, which is helping to reduce demand for services and costs.

- their contribution to the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, particularly with their investment in prevention work. Panel Members were encouraged to look at their Corporate Plan for 2017-22 which shows clear links between objectives and priorities with Wellbeing Goals and Ways of Working.
- the impact of austerity on the service budget, and focus on diversification not shrinkage.
- examples of effective partnership working e.g. with the Welsh Ambulance Service so that there is a coordinated response to incidents. He highlighted the approach of the service to co-production, co-location, and collaboration.
- the importance of the Fire & Rescue Service being a member of the PSB and their support and commitment to this role – he welcomed the Welsh Government’s decision to make the Fire & Rescue Service one of the four statutory members.
- their involvement and experience with six PSBs and ensuring high level representation from the Fire & Rescue Service. (Mick Crennell is both on the Swansea PSB and Vice-Chair of the Neath Port Talbot PSB)
- specific activities which support Swansea priorities at various levels of the PSB e.g. in relation to ageing well.
- good progress made by the Swansea PSB, with the preparation of the Wellbeing Assessment which will inform future priorities

Link to Plan to be sent to members

Cllr Janice Dudley, Chair of the Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service, added the following remarks:

- She sits on three PSBs, which are all at different stages of development.
- The Swansea PSB is Council-led but others experienced are partner-led – each has a different feel.
- It is still early days for PSBs and important to learn from good practice elsewhere – part of the challenge is about changing cultures, aligning goals, finding common ground, and making early successes to demonstrate the value of the PSB.

There was some discussion about the work of the Fire & Rescue Service, including resources such as the number of fire stations and fire fighters, callouts, and balancing incident response with prevention and protection activities, and training for staff involved in home visits to help them pick up on issues.

The following issues relating to the PSB were discussed:

- Public consultation and engagement on the Wellbeing Assessment
- The commitment of all partners and team working
- The idea of pooling resources to support PSB priorities.
- Differences between PSBs across the region.
- Challenges for the Swansea PSB.

- The need for the PSB to demonstrate outcomes for citizens.

Agreed that a letter is sent to Cllr Stewart, Chair of the PSB reflecting on the Q & A sessions with PSB Core Group Members, issues raised, and views / recommendations of the Panel.

Letter to be drafted

6. Convener's Letters

Correspondence with the Chair of the PSB relating to Panel meeting on 15 February was noted.

7. Annual Review of the Panel's Work 2016/17

The Panel reflected on the year's scrutiny work, experience and effectiveness. A summary of the year's activities and achievements was provided. Members were invited to share ideas to improve the effectiveness of future PSB scrutiny.

Panel Members reminded themselves of the overarching purpose of the Panel which is to consider what difference Swansea Public Services Board is making for citizens. The need for the Panel to see performance information about the PSB and reports on outcomes in the future was stressed by members, in order for the Panel to properly assess and comment on the difference made and its value. The Panel would expect to see evidence of the achievements of the PSB against agreed priorities and clear targets.

Panel Members felt that the Scrutiny Panel has generally worked well, although there was some concern about attendance levels over the past year.

The convener thanked everyone for their work and concluded the meeting. It was noted that future meetings of the Panel were to be confirmed, subject to the agreement of a new scrutiny work programme following the council elections in May.

The meeting ended at 11.00 am