

Report of the Information, Research & GIS Team Leader

Public Services Board Scrutiny Performance Panel

30th August 2017

Briefing on Swansea Public Services Board's Well-being Assessment 2017

Purpose	This report provides the Panel with the key findings of Swansea Public Services Board's Local Assessment of Well-being 2017 and an update on the overall process.
Content	This report outlines how the assessment has progressed, especially since the Panel discussed the draft in January, and future planned developments. A summary of the evidence within each primary driver is included as an appendix, with a link to the full document in the report.
Panel Members are being asked to	Discuss the report and assessment and identify if there are any comments and/or recommendations to be reported back to the Public Services Board and/or PSB Research Group.
Lead Councillor(s)	Councillor Mary Jones, Convener of Public Services Board Scrutiny Panel
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (WFG) Act specified that each Public Services Board in Wales must prepare and publish a local Well-being Plan, setting out its local objectives and the steps it proposes to take to meet them, no later than one year after the local government elections. One year before that, each Board must "*prepare and publish an assessment of the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in its area*".
- 1.2 The 2017 assessment, finalised and approved in April, aims to provide an analysis of the state of well-being in Swansea, and its findings will have a major impact in choosing the objectives to be set out in the local well-being plan. The board must also explain in their well-being plan how their local objectives and any steps they propose to take have been set with regard to the evidence base and matters mentioned in the assessment.
- 1.3 The Panel has previously received briefings related to the development of the assessment. On 21 March 2016, *Driver Diagrams and the Well-being Assessment* included an outline of the driver diagrams (that were initially developed for the One Swansea Plan), and an update on the process for preparing the well-being assessment.

2. The assessment consultation

- 2.1 On 18 January 2017, the Panel considered an item *Consultation on the Draft Well-being Assessment*, which provided the opportunity for formal consultation with scrutiny, as required by the Act. This Panel meeting was just ahead of the start of the general consultation period for the draft assessment.
- 2.2 The Well-being Assessment consultation ran from 23 January to 28 February 2017. It included consultation on the draft assessment with the statutory consultees identified in the Act (such as the Future Generations Commissioner), and a separate public survey seeking local views on well-being. It was advertised through Swansea Council's website, intranet and Facebook page, Swansea Libraries, local GP practices, PSB partners, equality groups and all statutory consultees. In total, 159 survey and 10 organisation responses to the consultation were received.
- 2.3 At the close of the consultation, responses (organisation and public) were collated for consideration at a two-part meeting held on 14 and 15 March. These meetings were attended by the 'outcome leads' (who were mostly responsible for developing chapter content to that point) plus PSB statutory member representatives – ABMU Health Board, MAWW Fire, Natural Resources Wales and the Council.
- 2.4 The proposals received, and the PSB's agreed response, are summarised in the Consultation Feedback Report (Assessment Annex 5, Table 2). Responses were categorised in four ways:
- A - the assessment was amended
 - N - after consideration no change should be made
 - R - Research Group to consider this issue as part of the development of the assessment in 2017/ 2018
 - P - an issue that the Public Services Board will consider at one of its meetings over the next 12 months.

In the limited number of weeks following, outcome leads considered and made any further amendments that were possible – the 'A' responses above.

- 2.5 Members will recall that the Panel submitted its own response to the consultation. This is included within Annex 5 to the assessment (Consultation Feedback Report), with points made summarised as items 54-58 of the Table of Recommendations. For ease of reference, the table extract is attached as Appendix 1. A copy of the Panel's full response can be found on pages 132-134 of the report (assessment annex 5).
- 2.6 Following consideration of proposals received, and some further minor modifications agreed at the PSB Core Group meeting, the revised assessment was approved on 12 April. The final document and its annexes are now available via the web page www.swansea.gov.uk/psbassessment.

3. Summary findings of the final assessment

- 3.1 In line with the consultation draft, the final assessment is structured around Swansea PSB's six well-being outcomes, which are:
- Children have a good start in life
 - People learn successfully
 - Young people and adults have good jobs
 - People have a decent standard of living
 - People are healthy, safe and independent
 - People have good places to live, work and visit.
- 3.2 These outcomes represent the kind of place the PSB would like Swansea to be and reflect the objectives designed to address health inequalities set out in the 'Fair Society Health Lives' report (The Marmot Review), as well as aspirations to tackle poverty and reduce economic inactivity. They were originally developed in partnership in 2015 and reviewed by the PSB in 2016, to ensure a good fit with the national well-being goals.
- 3.3 For each outcome a small number of 'primary drivers' have been identified – those things that need to be in place if our well-being outcomes are to be a reality; and to break down the often complex concept of well-being into recognisable issues.
- 3.4 For each of the primary drivers a well-being score from between 0 and 10 was suggested based on the available evidence – where 0 is the worst things can be and 10 the best. The well-being scores are not 'scientific' measures, but judgements made at a particular time by particular people, and will always be contentious. However, they have benefits: by providing a focus for debate; for getting people engaged and involved; for assessing the overall balance between assets / problems and qualitative / quantitative evidence; and providing a focus for improvement and assessing progress.
- 3.5 Appendix 2 of this briefing serves as a short summary of the full assessment document, showing the overall structure of outcomes and primary drivers, the individual driver diagrams for each of the outcomes, and the agreed well-being score and evidence summary for each of the 19 primary drivers.

4. Developing the assessment

- 4.1 Whilst the 2017 assessment is now complete, there is still a great deal of further work to be done. There is plenty of scope for the assessment to be improved and a number of issues raised in the consultation that could not be addressed in time. Some gaps in the evidence have also been identified and these will need to be considered, either locally or nationally.
- 4.2 The Research Group, a sub-group of the PSB which includes researchers and analysts from a number of different public and voluntary sector bodies, is responsible for compiling the broad range of evidence that went into the assessment. A number of proposals were identified for the group to consider further. The proposals range from single observations to more general,

recurring themes (i.e. with similar points made in a number of separate responses).

- 4.3 Amongst the most frequently recurring feedback included the following:
- The need for additional local area and spatial analysis, including by Community Area
 - Further analysis of long-term / future trends across our outcomes and drivers.
- 4.4 The full list of proposals to be considered further by the Research Group is included in Annex 6 to the Assessment. A number of additional matters from the consultation to be referred to the PSB or Planning sub-Group are also listed in this Annex.

5. Preparing the well-being plan

- 5.1 As previously noted, the main purpose of the assessment is to help Swansea Public Services Board identify a small number of well-being objectives and inform the emerging Well-being Plan for Swansea – a plan that aims to make a real difference for citizens. The plan will contribute to the seven national well-being goals that have been set out in the Act.
- 5.2 A multi-agency PSB Planning Group has been set up to produce this plan by May 2018, as required by the WFG Act. The developing process will draw on the content of the well-being assessment and includes:
- drafting a set of local objectives and steps to address them
 - receiving advice from the Future Generations Commissioner
 - gathering information from partners
 - undertaking Integrated Impact and Equality Assessments
 - consultation with the public before the final objectives are agreed.
- 5.3 In recent months, workshops have been held which explored potential strategic priorities for the PSB, areas of work where collective action would add value, key issues emerging from the well-being assessment, and other work of key stakeholders which might inform the setting of objectives.
- 5.4 As a result of this, the PSB will identify key themes where intervention is needed and draft potential objectives. Throughout this process there will be opportunities for the public and other interested stakeholders (including the Panel) to contribute.

6. Recommendations

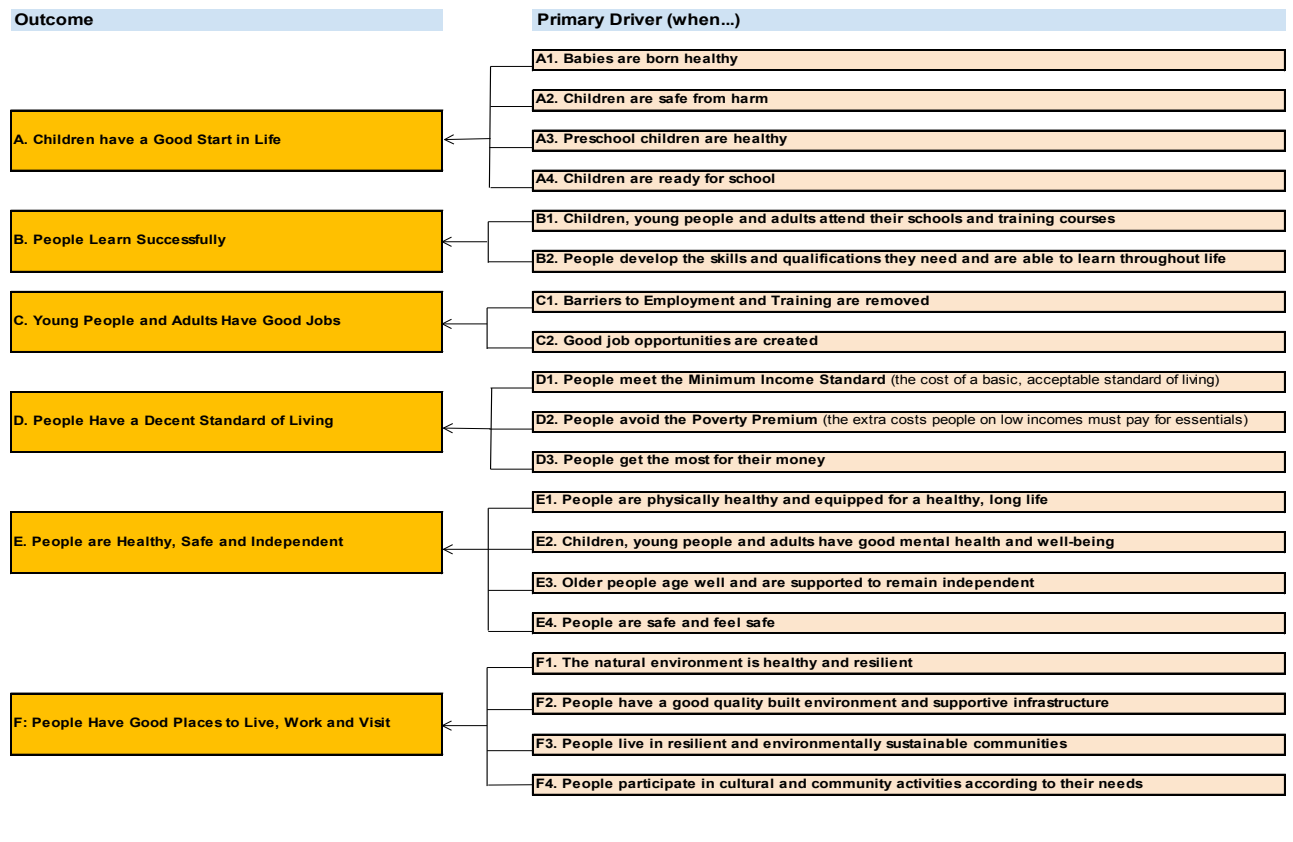
- 6.1 The Panel is asked to discuss the report and assessment and identify if there are any comments and/or recommendations to be reported back to the Public Services Board and/or PSB Research Group.

Appendix 1: Consultation Feedback report – summary of Scrutiny Panel proposals and PSB response

Proposals	Response after consideration
<p>54) General</p> <p>There is a need for a plain English summary to make the Wellbeing Assessment more accessible.</p>	<p>A</p> <p>An accessible summary will be prepared. A summary document was previously prepared for the consultation.</p>
<p>55) General</p> <p>It appears that the comparative data used to inform the scores for the drivers is based on a comparison only with other Welsh authorities, however the Panel felt that the comparative data should be widened to include best performing authorities from across the UK for a more accurate picture of how well Swansea is performing, given that Wales is not necessarily best performing. Similarly, strategy/objectives should be set against best in class – particularly where we have scored ourselves highly.</p>	<p>R</p> <p>For consideration by the Research Group as part of the evaluation of the assessment.</p>
<p>56) E2: Children, Young People and Adults have Good Mental Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>The score given for E2 was too high, based on the findings from the scrutiny inquiry into CAMHS (Children’s and Adolescents Mental Health Services), which found a concerning lack of service provision for children and young people with mental health issues.</p>	<p>A</p> <p>Agreed that the current score for this driver should be 4. The public survey also suggested a lower score (from 5 to 4) – see point 7.</p>
<p>57) General</p> <p>Findings from other scrutiny work/inquiries should inform the Wellbeing Assessment.</p>	<p>A</p> <p>Key points from relevant scrutiny inquiries have been included within outcome chapters B, D, E and F in the final 2017 assessment.</p> <p>Also R: for further, on-going consideration by the Research Group.</p>
<p>58) General</p> <p>Statements within the Wellbeing Assessment should be clear whether they are based on fact or opinion and if based on data then clearly referenced, for example, outcome D states that the majority of people living in Swansea are not in income poverty.</p>	<p>A</p> <p>Outcome leads reviewed their chapters and made any changes considered necessary.</p>

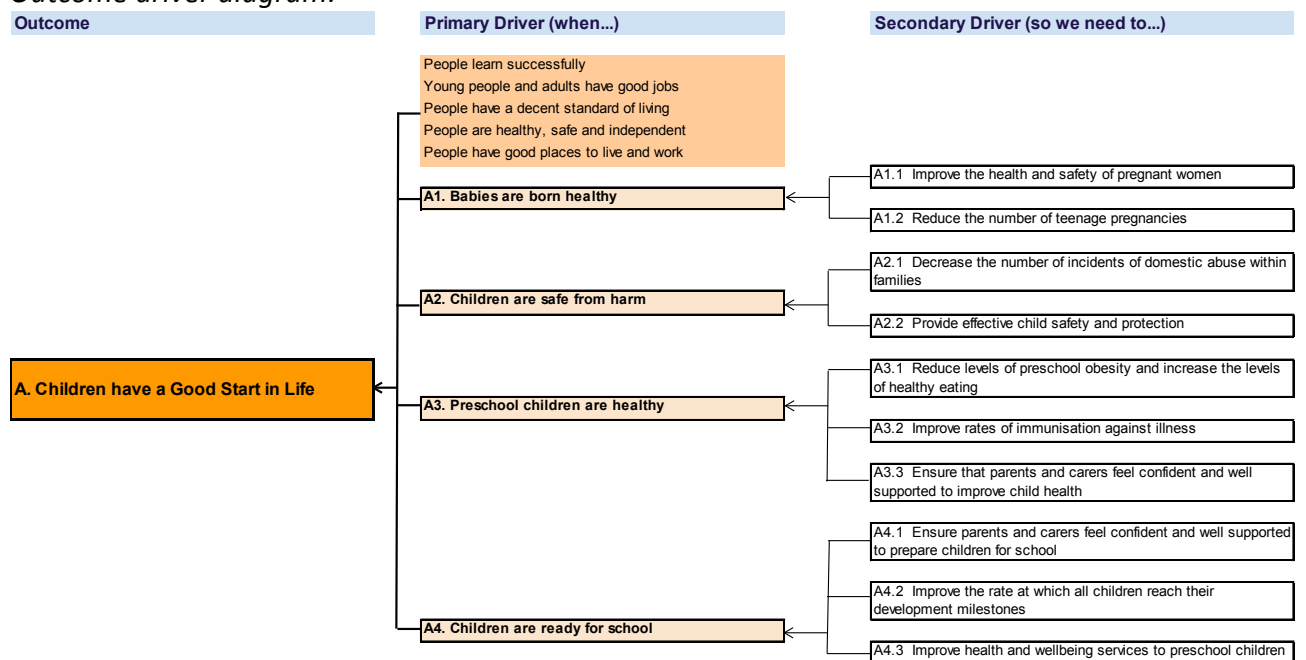
Appendix 2: Assessment of Local Well-being 2017 – Summary

Outcomes and Primary Drivers – overall diagram



➤ Outcome A: Children have a good start in life

Outcome driver diagram:



Primary drivers, well-being scores and summaries:

A1: Babies are born healthy

6 – The suggested well-being score reflects a judgement that Swansea is not dissimilar to the Wales average in many respects, and that a number of positive initiatives are in progress. However, the challenges for Swansea include the persistent high smoking rates, poor diet and low levels of physical activity as reflected in the numbers of overweight and obese pregnant women, and the need to support positive mental health and help strengthen resilience for vulnerable families. A major challenge for Swansea lies in addressing the inequalities in health between people living in the least and most deprived communities and the variations between these communities in breastfeeding rates, low birth weight and under-18s conception rates in particular.

A2: Children are safe from harm

6 – Substantial multi-agency work is taking place around domestic abuse and its effects on children but this continues to be a major challenge for Swansea. Safeguarding and child protection arrangements are strong and specialist support is available through a number of different projects and initiatives across Swansea. However, parental drug and alcohol misuse and mental ill health which have significant impacts on children's experiences and the ability to keep them safe from harm also continue to present significant challenges in communities across Swansea.

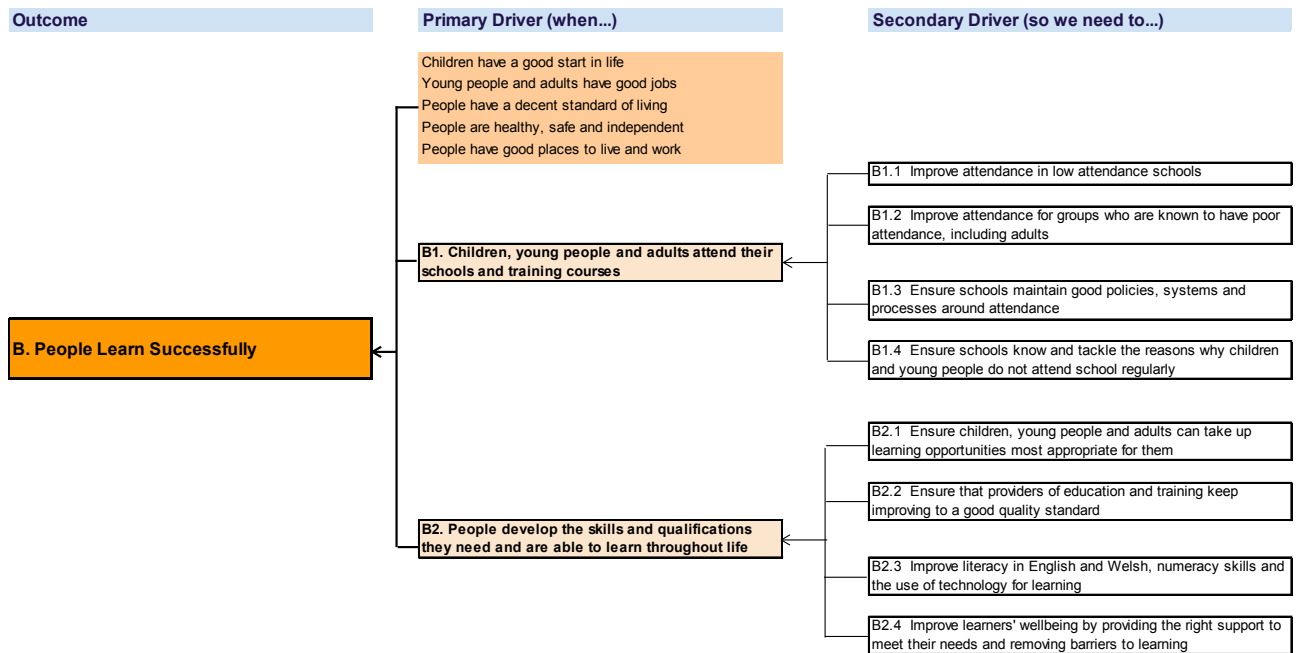
A3: Preschool children are healthy

5 – There are some aspects which are encouraging, and significant strategic and local activity around pre-school child health. However, the challenges for Swansea lie in addressing childhood obesity, poor oral health, the low uptake of routine childhood vaccinations and the incidence of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). The available evidence indicates that these challenges are greatest in areas of deprivation where health inequalities persist between our communities.

A4: Children are ready for school

5 – This score reflects how ready Swansea children are coming into school, and the quality, reach and quantity of early years provision. Whilst overall activity is strong, helped by the Early Years Strategy, the aim remains to narrow the gap and inequalities in developmental milestones across the social spectrum.

➤ Outcome B: People Learn Successfully



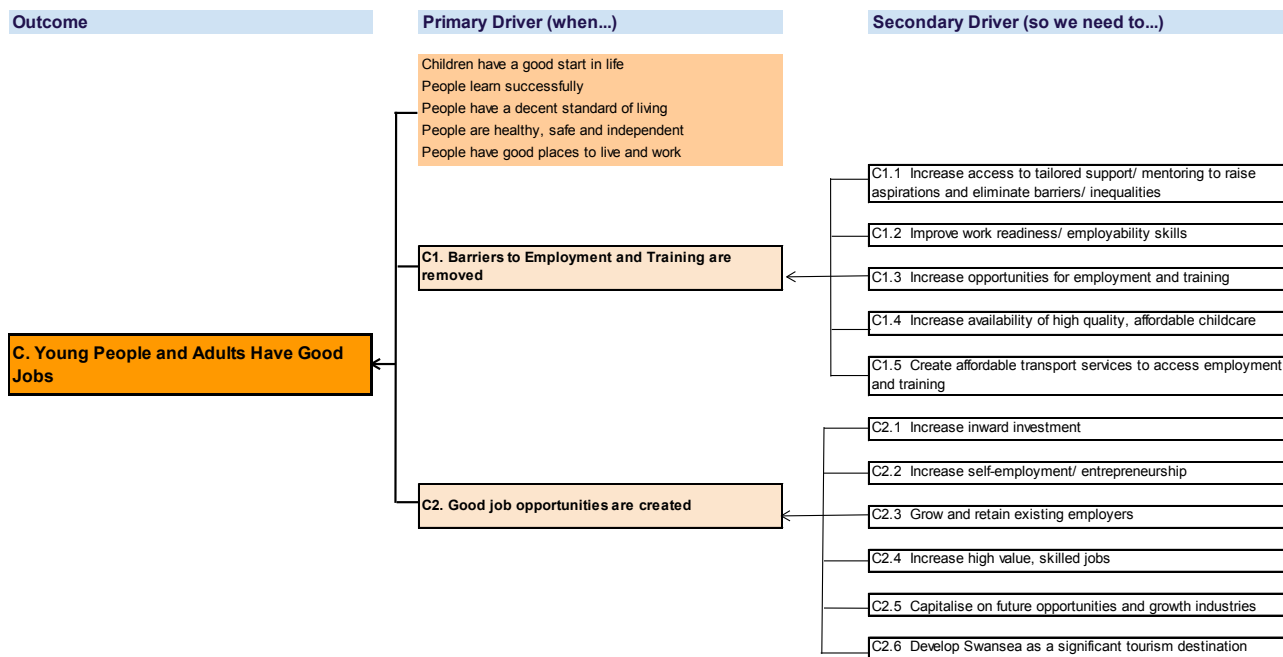
B1: Children, young people and adults attend their schools and training courses

6 – Attendance in both primary and secondary schools has improved in recent years at a rate faster than that seen nationally in Wales. Swansea attendance is currently in the second quartile compared to the other 21 Welsh local authority areas, and can improve further once a minority of schools where attendance is still an issue show better performance.

B2: People develop the skills and qualifications they need and are able to learn throughout life

6 – Results for Swansea at key stage 4 in 2015 and again in 2016 are in the top quartile of Welsh local authority areas, and have continued to improve at a rate faster than that seen nationally. Value-added measures (which are used to show pupil progress) placed Swansea in top position in 2015 in Wales. Estyn have acknowledged that the secondary schools in Swansea are the best performing group of such schools in Wales. However recent analysis for post-16 education suggests that performance is more patchy at that level.

➤ Outcome C: Young People & Adults Have Good Jobs



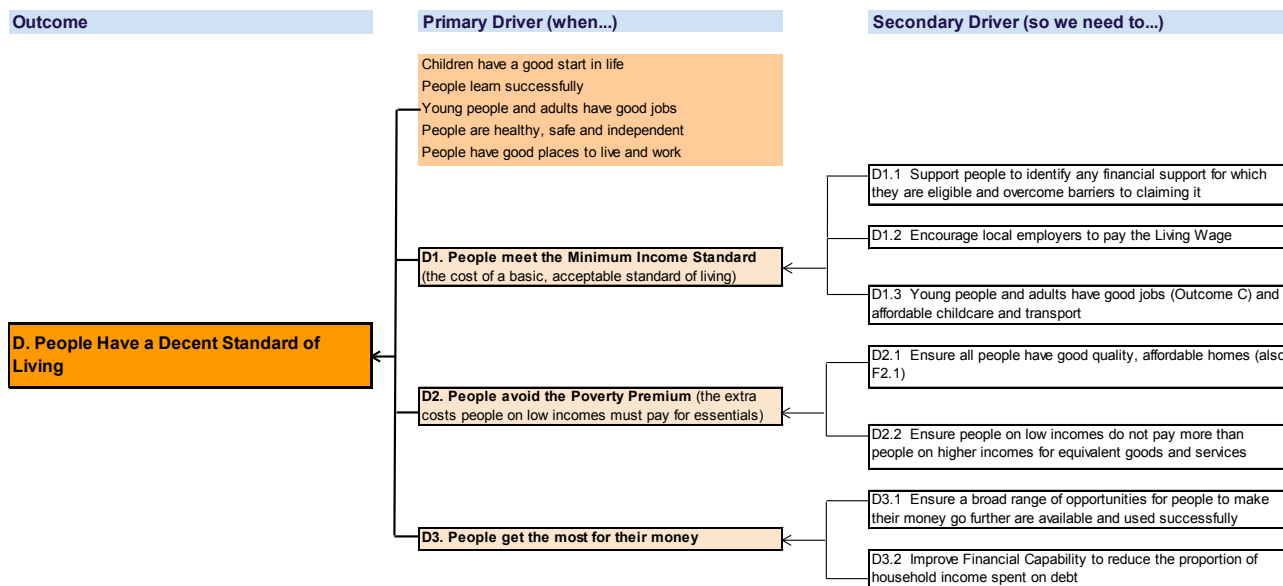
C1: Barriers to Employment and Training Are Removed

4 – There are some good things happening in Swansea (e.g. a wide range of different provision available) and there has been a gradual increase in the employment rate. However, Swansea still has far too many working age people who are not in work and more work needs to be done to address the barriers to employment and training to generate a step change in this driver.

C2: Good Job Opportunities are Created

4 – There is evidence that Swansea’s productivity gap (GVA) is narrowing, but the gap is still significant and needs to be addressed to facilitate the creation of more ‘good jobs’. There are also currently a relatively small number of businesses in Swansea generating economic activity compared with the UK average and workplace earnings are significantly lower by the same comparison. There are positive signs that our Universities’ expansion plans and potential City Deal investment could generate further economic activity and good jobs, but more work will be required to address perceived recruitment problems.

➤ Outcome D: People Have a Decent Standard of Living



D1: People meet the Minimum Income Standard (the cost of a basic, acceptable standard of living)

4 – Most people in Swansea are not in income poverty; but for those who are in poverty, well-being is low and this adds to the poverty trap. More could be done locally to improve well-being for people on low incomes.

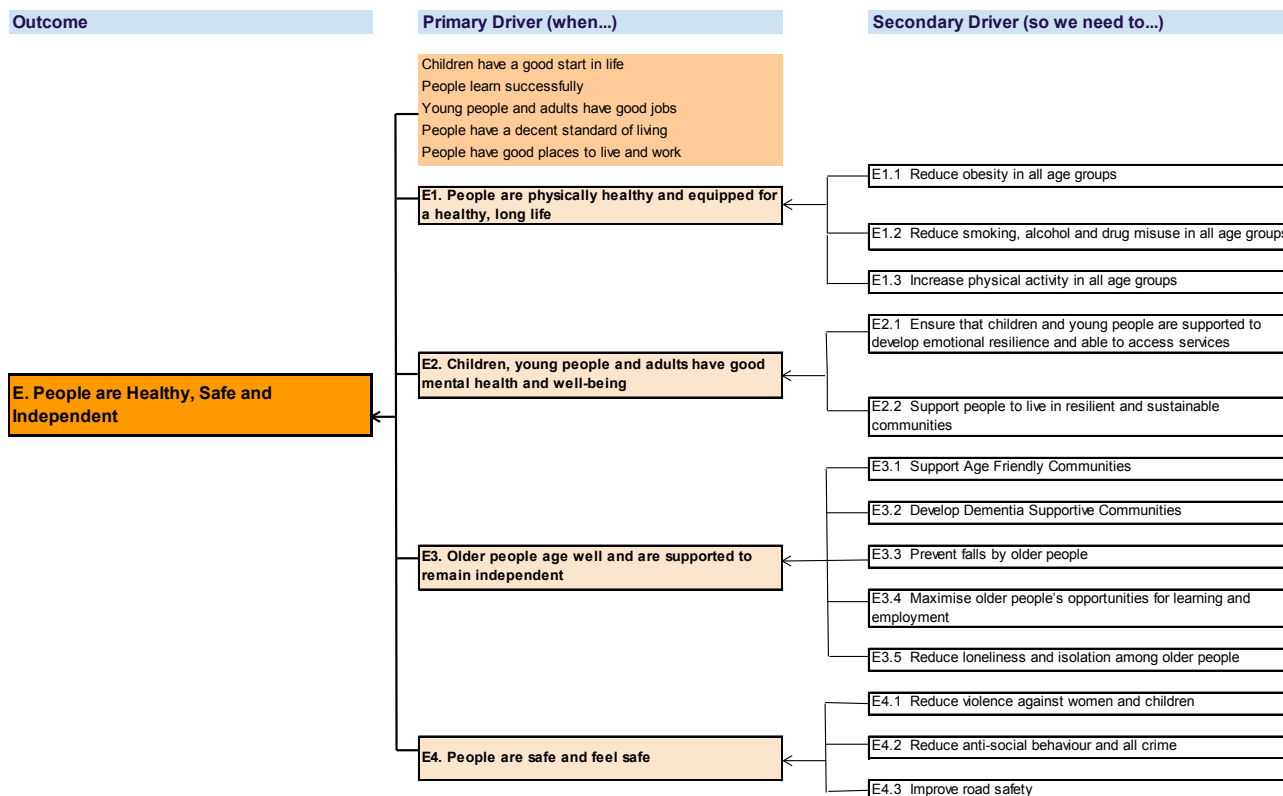
D2: People avoid the Poverty Premium (the extra costs people on low incomes must pay for essentials)

3 – In Swansea, households in poverty are very much subject to the Poverty Premium and there is not a coherent strategy for either addressing this or mitigating its impacts. However, small pockets of work trying to reduce amounts spent on fuel and credit are happening.

D3: People get the most for their money

3 – In Swansea, people only get the most for their money if they are already quite well-resourced with knowledge and information, well connected digitally and able to get around easily to take advantage of deals. The people least likely to be in this situation are those already suffering the impacts of poverty, and more could be done to join up activities and ideas to bring more improvements to the community.

➤ Outcome E: People are Healthy Safe and Independent



E1: People are physically healthy and equipped for a healthy, long life

4 – These issues are challenging as this is not just about providing services but also trying to change behaviour. So there will be a need for other services such as early years or those addressing environmental issues to influence the outcomes and support the changes aspired to.

E2: Children, young people and adults have good mental health and well-being

4 – Improvement is challenging as it relies on many other factors other than health and will need support from other work streams. For example levels of deprivation, access to education, levels of unemployment, good housing; environmental issues such as green space and access to facilities.

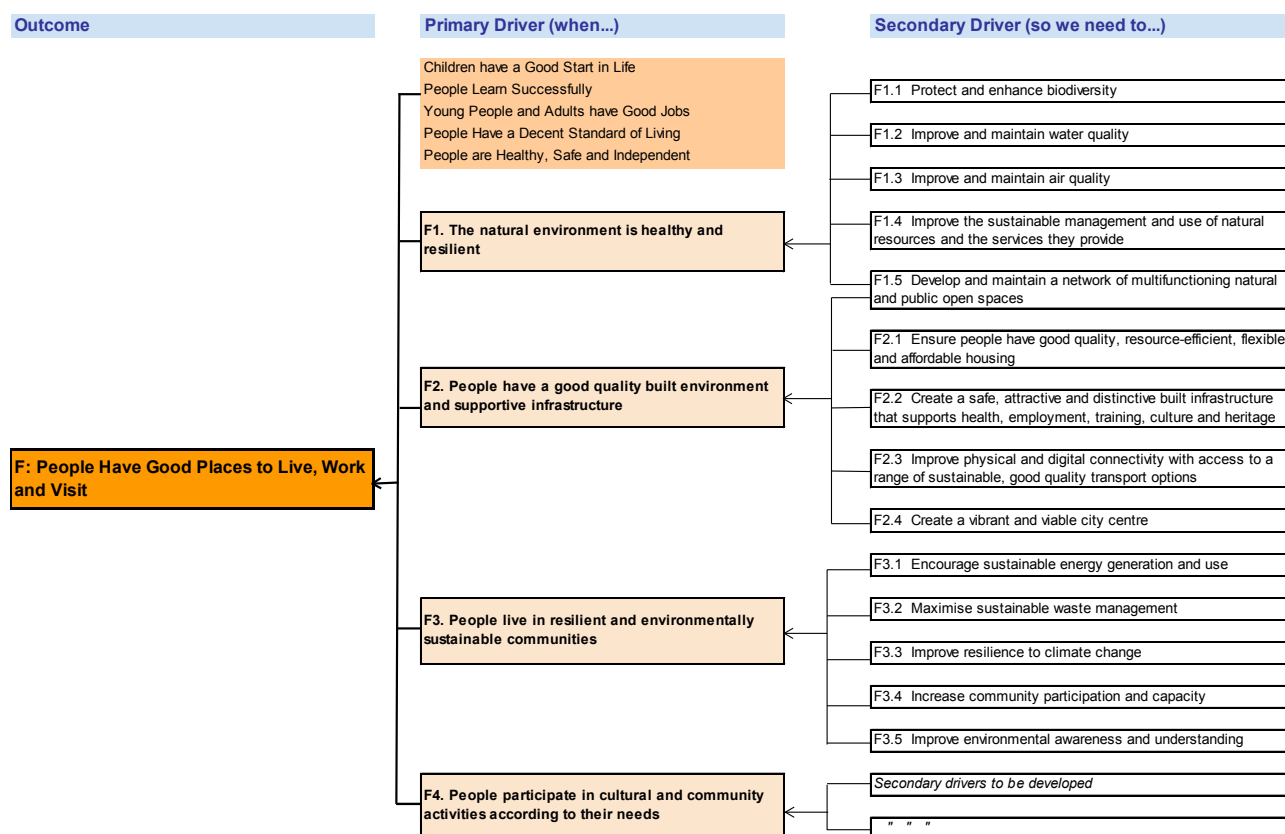
E3: Older people age well and are supported to remain independent

5 – Whilst there is some effective work taking place there is a need for more information regarding the impact that the year on year increase in life expectancy of the people of Swansea is likely to have on services. There are also gaps in our knowledge regarding area needs to allow for targeted work to take place.

E4: People are safe and feel safe

5 – Substantial work is ongoing regarding reducing violence against women and children, domestic abuse and sexual violence - linked with driver A2. Whilst the deaths/casualty figures of young drivers and passengers are reducing against the 2020 target, the cost to society of this type of incident is high for services (such as ambulance, police and health), and the families concerned. Extensive work is ongoing regarding anti-social behaviour within Swansea.

➤ Outcome F: People Have Good Places to Live, Work and Visit



F1: The natural environment is healthy and resilient

5 – Certain aspects of our natural environment are in a positive situation but the continuing loss of biodiversity and accessible greenspace, along with the ecological status of our waterbodies and poor air quality in some areas, give serious cause for concern as these are likely to have an adverse impact on everyone’s well-being. Ecosystem services need to be recognised and utilised more effectively and sustainably to ensure wellbeing can be improved now and sustained in the future.

F2: People have a good quality built environment and supportive infrastructure

4 – Whilst there have been some positive developments and improvements to urban areas in recent years, Swansea is still falling well short of its potential as a regional centre and

there remain significant deficiencies in the level, range and quality of housing and supportive infrastructure in both urban and rural areas. The quality of our homes and the wider built environment can have a significant direct impact on our health and wellbeing.

F3: People live in resilient and environmentally sustainable communities

4 – Some aspects of community resilience and sustainability are improving, such as waste management, reduction in flood risk and renewable energy generation. However, greater community engagement and participation will be required if the necessary changes in lifestyle and practices are to be realised and the negative impacts of climate change on well-being minimised.

F4: People participate in Swansea's cultural and community activities according to their needs

6 – There is a high regard and positivity felt for the cultural offer across Swansea, with high take-up, availability and diversity in the offer. However, community involvement could be further developed in some areas.