

## **Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities**

### **Background**

This report provides highlights of activity, details of performance management structures and key objectives for 2018/19 in terms of the key areas of the Cabinet Member's portfolio, which fit with the Tackling Poverty agenda. The report outlines five key areas of work: Tackling Poverty Strategy; Communities First Transition; our response to Welfare Reform/Universal Credit; Community Safety/Cohesion; and Food Poverty.

### **Tackling Poverty Strategy**

We used the following process to revise and publish the tackling poverty strategy:

- Integrated impact assessment;
- Tackling Poverty Strategy Scrutiny;
- The revised document and delivery plan have been produced in response to these processes;
- Extended consultation in Welsh, English and 'easy read' versions (completed October 2017);
- Cross cutting Council Strategy with key performance indicators for all Cabinet Members, Directors and Heads of Service has been developed, reflecting the fact that 'poverty is everyone's business';
- Documents are undergoing final revisions in response to consultation;
- Presented to Cabinet in January 2018, prior to formal publication.

### *Performance management*

The revised strategy includes a detailed performance framework. All Heads of Service will be required to report progress on this framework in accordance with agreed key performance indicators on a quarterly basis, which will be monitored by the Council's Poverty and Prevention Service.

### *Objectives for next year*

Implementation of the year's intended outcomes.

Revision of corporate key performance indicators in line with the revised tackling poverty strategy and monitored by the Corporate Performance Manager.

Training key staff to understand that 'poverty is everyone's business'.

## **Communities First / Transition**

- Announcement by the Communities Minister to phase out the Communities First programme in October 2016, to be replaced by a programme with emphasis upon empowerment, employment and early years;
- Proposed replacement with the 'Communities for Work Plus' programme from April 2018;
- Swansea will also receive Communities First Legacy Grant of £547,000 in 2018/19 and 2019/20 to continue with positive aspects of the Communities First programme and support the delivery of Communities for Work Plus;
- Swansea is one of four early adopters of the Communities for Work Plus programme, across Wales, and will commence delivery in January 2018;
- Communities for Work Plus will be delivered as part of the Swansea Working approach, alongside other employability provision delivered by the Council, simplifying and increasing access to employability provision in Swansea.

### *Performance management*

- Closure reports and external evaluation of Communities First will be carried out;
- Communities for Work Plus will have its own performance framework, required by and in compliance with, Welsh Government;
- We will work jointly across the People and Place directorates to provide combined 'Swansea Working' performance information to ensure that Corporate Managers, Cabinet Members and Local Members can understand the full impact of our employability provision.

### *Objectives for next year*

- To implement the Communities for Work Plus programme and integrate it as part of our Swansea Working approach.
- To achieve the first year outcome targets for Communities for Work Plus as part of Swansea Working

## **Welfare Reform and (particularly) Universal Credit**

- Universal Credit will be rolled out in Swansea from 13 December 2017;
- Swansea Council commissioned Policy and Practice to examine the combined effect of multiple welfare reforms at the household level in Swansea, to further understand the extent of its impact. This includes the roll out of Universal Credit.
- Officers are working across all Directorates to provide a triage response, directing people to personal budgeting and digital support, as well as support for skills to increase their employability and access work.

### *Performance management*

- Measurement of the delivery of Personal Budgeting and digital support

- Measurement of referrals to further support such as Housing, Benefits advice, Welfare Rights support, Lifelong Learning Services and Swansea Working;
- Measurement of the impact of benefit processing, maximisation and employability.

### *Objectives for next year*

- Minimising the impact of Universal Credit roll out
- Using Universal Credit interactions to engage citizens in further support services
- Developing targeted approaches across departments to further minimise impact through prevention work

### **Community Safety / Cohesion**

- Safer Swansea Community Safety Partnership Group reinvigorated;
- Draft Community Safety Strategy and key priorities developed ready for consultation and bringing together partnership work around the following priorities:
  - Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence;
  - Substance Misuse;
  - Safe, Confident & Resilient Communities;
  - Evening & Night Time Economy;
  - Hate Crime & Community Tension.
- Welsh Government new Community Cohesion priorities embedded within Community Safety Strategy;
- New Home Office funded Community Coordinator (counter extremism) in place;
- Successful Home Office Dovetail Pilot for Channel Partnership (multi-agency approach to identify and provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism).

### *Performance management*

- Measurement of Police and Crime Statistics for Swansea;
- Measurement of our preventative response to PPN's (Police Protection Notices) in terms of Domestic Abuse;
- Measurement of Hate Crime Statistics (reports and incidents);
- Percentage of people (by area, by characteristic) who agree / disagree with combinations of the 3 cohesion statements in the National Survey:
  - That you feel you belong to your local area;
  - That this local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together;
  - People in my local area treat each other with respect and consideration.
- Measurement of the number of cases support through the channel process.

### *Objectives for next year*

- Launch the Community Safety Partnership Strategy and Workplan and ensure synergy between partnership groups working towards the 5 objectives;
- Embed the VAWDASV (Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence) Strategy and roll out the National Training Framework
- Greater partnership coordination of promotion and raising awareness on how to report Hate Crime – especially disability & LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender);
- Embed Home Office funded programmes.

### **Food Poverty**

- Partnership delivery of the pilot response to holiday hunger during the summer holidays in Blaenymaes, led by Pobl Group and organised through Swansea's Poverty Partnership Forum;
- Creation of the Food Enterprise (Community Interest Company);
- Transfer of staffing and responsibilities to the food enterprise;
- Transfer of the food and growing responsibilities to the Food Enterprise;

### *Performance management*

- Regular reports will be provided by the new Food Enterprise

### *Objectives for next year*

- Food enterprise showing good signs of sustainability and sustained growth
- Food and growing projects developing at a similar rate within Swansea