



Report of the Cabinet Member for Better Communities (People)

15 October 2018

Impact Report: Scrutiny Inquiry into Tackling Poverty

Purpose	To help the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel to assess the impact of their report into Tackling Poverty
Content	This report deals with three questions related to the impact of the inquiry: 1. What has changed since the report was presented to Cabinet? 2. Have the agreed recommendations been implemented? 3. What has been the impact of the scrutiny inquiry?
The Scrutiny Inquiry Panel are being asked to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the contents of the report Reach conclusions about the impact of the inquiry
Lead Councillor(s)	Cabinet Member for Better Communities (People), Mary Sherwood
Lead Officer(s)	Chris Sivers, Director - People
Report Author	Rachel Moxey, Head of Poverty and Prevention

1. Introduction

1.1 The Tackling Poverty Scrutiny Inquiry Panel undertook an in-depth inquiry between April 2016 and February 2017. The Cabinet Member response and action plan are attached at Appendix B. The final report is attached at Appendix C.

1.2 The reporting timeline of the inquiry is as follows:

Commenced	April 2016
Agreed by the Scrutiny Programme Committee	13 Feb 17
Presented to Cabinet	16 Mar 17
Cabinet Response agreed	15 Jun 17

1.3 The final stage of the scrutiny inquiry process is the follow up. It is at this point that the original panel reconvenes in order to assess the impact of the work.

1.4 The purpose of this report is to assist the panel as it seeks to answer the following three questions, each of which will be dealt with in detail below:

- What has changed since the report was presented to Cabinet?
- Have the agreed recommendations been implemented?
- What has been the impact of the scrutiny inquiry?

2. What has changed since the report was presented to Cabinet?

2.1 Since the inquiry concluded the following changes [to the measure] have taken place.

The Council's Tackling Poverty Strategy has been reviewed, redrafted and was agreed at Council on the 25th January, including the development of a simplified Council-wide Delivery Plan. The revised Tackling Poverty Strategy includes a definition of poverty, a vision for Swansea and supports tackling poverty as being everybody's business.

3. Have the agreed recommendations been implemented?

3.1 In responding to the inquiry an action plan was drawn up showing what steps would be taken to implement all of the scrutiny recommendations agreed by Cabinet (Appendix B).

3.2 The table at Appendix A shows progress against each recommendation and specifically:

- the Cabinet decision in respect of each recommendation
- the action taken / proposed to implement the recommendations
- the responsible officer(s)
- timescales involved

4. What has been the impact of the scrutiny inquiry?

4.1 The scrutiny inquiry has supported raising the profile of the tackling poverty agenda across the various departments of the Council. It has provided the role of a 'critical friend', supporting and reaffirming the direction of travel that the development of the revised Tackling Poverty Strategy took.

Understanding and awareness has been supported through the development of the Strategy's accompanying Delivery Plan, as well as endorsing the inclusion of actions to improve understanding and awareness of the key issues through staff and member training within the plan.

The inquiry engaged a number of partners and organisations to support the inquiry including, communities, The Bevan Foundation, Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Leeds Truth Commission, as well as internal stakeholders such as The Tackling Poverty Unit and Economic Regeneration. The input from these contributors has proved useful in the development of detail within the revised Tackling Poverty Strategy and Delivery Plan.

The inquiry has aided the revision of the Tackling Poverty Strategy and raised the profile of making tackling poverty everyone's business.

Contact Officer: Rachel Moxey

Progress and Impact since Cabinet on 15 June 2017 – Appendix A

Scrutiny Inquiry of Tackling Poverty

How can the Council's Tackling Poverty Strategy be improved?

Recommendation	Action already being undertaken	New Action Proposed	Timescale	Responsible Officer	
1.	4.1.1 Undertake a further fundamental review of the strategy in no later than two years' time	The previous commitment was to review the strategy in 2016. This has been undertaken. The revised tackling poverty strategy is intended to be a living document and '...will undergo a mid – term review once the PSB outcomes are developed and published in 2018' pg. 30 revised strategy.	Due to extended consultation the strategy runs from January 2018 to the end of 2020. We will therefore review progress at the 18 month point (mid 2019)	Mid Term Review	Rachel Moxey
<p>ACTION 1 is: STRONG PROGRESS MADE</p> <p>Progress made: Since June 2017, the Tackling Poverty Strategy has undergone:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Consultation • Equalities Impact Assessment • The Strategy was approved by Council on 25th January 2018 • A mid-point review will take place during 2019 					

2.	4.2.1 Create a Swansea Poverty Truth Commission in order to provide challenge and promote culture change	Agreed subject to the involvement of other organisations. This is a proposal in the revised strategy delivery plan Theme 1 Objectives 'Consider the commissioning of an involvement and participation study for Swansea', and is therefore not a firm proposal at this time. The challenge will be that to be meaningful, it should be partnership owned and the Council would be an equal partner.			Rachel Moxey
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ACTION 2 is: NOT COMPLETED

Progress made:

An action to scope and develop this has been included in the Tackling Poverty Strategy Delivery Plan:
"Consider the commissioning of an involvement and participation study for Swansea."

This will be taken forward based on the Truth Commission model. A presentation on the Poverty Truth Commission Model and proposed next steps for Swansea was given to the Poverty Reduction Policy Development Committee (PDC) during July 2018. The PDC approved and endorsed the next steps.

The Adult Prosperity and Well-Being Service attended the Poverty Truth Commission Facilitators Network Meeting in September to identify further good practice from other Poverty Truth Commissions in the UK, as a first step in commissioning a similar exercise for Swansea.

We are working closely with Martin Johnstone (Poverty Truth Commission UK Development) and Andrew Grinnell (Leeds Poverty Truth Commission) who have offered to directly support the initial steps in Swansea. A number of meetings with key stakeholders will be co-ordinated which either Martin, Andrew or both will facilitate. The meetings will establish the level of desire and commitment to developing a Poverty Truth Commission in Swansea.

We recognise that a successful Truth Commission model is one that is partnership owned with no hierarchy of power. All partners and community participants have an equal voice within the Truth Commission Model. It is therefore important that there is buy-in from partners and communities.

3.	<p><i>4.3.1 Create a new, comprehensive and simplified Action Plan that:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Balances and links long term goals and short term actions</i> • <i>Reflects the five-point action plan from the ‘Solve Poverty’ JRF Report</i> • <i>Links closely with the emerging Wellbeing Plan</i> • <i>Is a “whole Council plan”</i> • <i>Builds the evidence base</i> • <i>Arises from a revised strategy and which involves partners and people experiencing poverty from the outset</i> 	<p>There is a new Delivery Plan in the strategy out for consultation in June:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has long and short term actions • Reflects on the JRF report • Unable to link closely with the well-being plan as it is not yet written, but has drawn on the Well-being Assessment. The mid-term review can usefully draw on the Well-being Plan as it will have been produced by then. • Is a whole Council plan, with actions for all directorates • Page 6 Scrutiny 		Complete	Rachel Moxey
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		<p>Inquiry Report' 'see 3.1.5 and 3.1.6 'It is not just a commitment that is needed but also an evidence base and robust framework for monitoring progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft revised tackling poverty strategy for Swansea, demonstrates a firm evidence base. • The revised strategy involved partners in the IIA, commissioned as part of the strategy review process and consultation will involve partners and people experiencing poverty 			
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ACTION 3 is: STRONG PROGRESS MADE

Progress made

Since June 2017, the Tackling Poverty Strategy Delivery Plan has undergone:

- Public Consultation
- Equalities Impact Assessment
- . The Strategy and Delivery Plan was approved by Council on 25th January 2018
- . Quarterly progress is being reported to the Officer Poverty Forum, chaired by Phil Roberts.
- . Officers are in the process of publishing performance on the website

4.	4.3.2 Develop a statement setting out the renewed commitment to tackling poverty, including a clear vision and definition of poverty, with the involvement of people experiencing poverty and in collaboration with partners. Develop a tackling poverty awareness and training programme for staff and councillors along similar lines to the safeguarding programme and make available to partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy revised and will be out for consultation following the election period • Tackling poverty awareness will again be provided for members and staff 	Capacity will be considered for additional training for partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete • TBD 	Rachel Moxey
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ACTION 4 is: STRONG PROGRESS MADE

Progress made:

The revised Tackling Poverty Strategy contains a Swansea vision and definition of poverty. Developing awareness training for Councillors and Staff is an action within the Delivery Plan. Training to be developed during 2018 with a target roll out of early 2019. (See Action 7)

5.	4.3.3 Engage people experiencing poverty as part of the consultation for a revised strategy	This is part of the consultation plan		June 2017	Rachel Moxey
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ACTION 5 is: COMPLETED

Progress made:

The consultation process was thorough, including engagement and responses from internal and external services that support people experiencing poverty, who also supported their users to participate.

The plans to develop a Swansea Truth Commission (See Action 2) will support all partners and community participants to have an equal voice and establish the mechanism for services to be co-produced (assuming buy-in from partners and communities and availability of necessary resources).

6.	4.3.4 Ask Swansea Public Services Board to renew the commitment to tackling poverty as one of the commitments listed in its partnership manual	Agreed, though commitment is only part of the picture, specific actions will be needed too. The outcome of the needs assessment should help shape the PSB work which will include poverty issues.		Ongoing	Rachel Moxey
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ACTION 6 is: COMPLETED

Progress made:

A commitment has been included within the Swansea Public Services Board Local Well-being Plan – Working Together to Build a Better Future. Within the ‘Steps to be taken’ for Stronger Communities, is a commitment to deliver a single public service approach to developing a thriving economy through the Swansea Bay City Region Economic Regeneration Strategy with alignment to the Council’s Tackling Poverty Strategy, to ensure a thriving economy where the most disadvantaged people also can benefit.

The Poverty Strategy also supports the wider delivery of the Swansea Public Services Board Local Well-being Plan ‘Working Together to Build a Better Future’, including, but not exclusively, the examples given below:

The Early Years objective is supported by helping parents to develop skills, knowledge and confidence and access employment. This is also supported through the delivery of making every contact count.

The Poverty Strategy supports the delivery of the Live Well, Age Well objective by supporting people to access information, advice and help. Also by supporting people to learn, work and live well.

The Working with Nature objective is supported through the delivery of the Poverty Strategy to reduce inequalities so that everyone everywhere can use green spaces.

The Stronger Communities objective is supported through the Poverty Strategy actions to deliver non-judgemental advice and support services reducing the effects of the poverty premium including:

- Jobs are created and barriers to access them are overcome;
- Citizens gain skills and qualifications throughout their lifetime;
- Citizens can get the financial support that they have a right to;
- and people and communities have a voice in decisions that affect them.

The Poverty Strategy also supports the five ways of working, through balancing short and long term needs, preventing situations from becoming worse or happening in the first place, integrating with other plans such as the Well-being Plan, collaborating with other key services in the PSB, third sector, communities and business communities and involving those who experience poverty.

7.	4.3.5 Consider how the strategy might support frontline staff	The training for staff is in the revised Tackling Poverty Strategy Delivery Plan. See Theme 2 'Deliver training with members and officers to promote the tackling poverty is everyone's business approach.'		Ongoing	Rachel Moxey
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ACTION 7 is: STRONG PROGRESS MADE

Progress made:

Poverty awareness and supporting training for members and officers has been included in the Delivery Plan:
"Deliver training with members and officers to promote the poverty is everyone's business approach."

The timescales for delivery are:

Qtrs 3 and 4, development of training packages, Qtr 1 2019 Training roll out

Officers Poverty Awareness Training

Initial discussions have taken place with Corporate Training regards the feasibility of developing online mandatory training for officers accessible through the learning pool. Work to develop this will take place during Qtrs 3 and 4 with roll out anticipated during Qtr 1 2019.

Members Poverty Awareness Training

Options for bespoke members Poverty Awareness Training are being explored currently with roll-out anticipated during Qtr 3 or 4.

Fuel Poverty Training

The Adult Prosperity and Well-Being Service worked with National Energy Action Cymru to deliver Fuel Poverty Training to a range of key frontline staff supporting people in Swansea. The training was delivered in September with excellent feedback from participants. Attendees included internal staff from Housing, Poverty and Prevention and Social Services, and external staff from Hafal, SCVS, POBL/Gwalia, Coastal Housing and Include.

8.	4.3.6 Link the strategy more closely to the six population outcomes of Swansea's Wellbeing Plan particularly Outcome D (People have a decent standard of living)	This is in the revised strategy Link not only to that outcome, but regeneration and education are particularly important in reducing poverty, not solely actions to support people experiencing poverty		Complete	Rachel Moxey
<p>ACTION 8 is: COMPLETED</p> <p>Progress made: The Delivery Plan has been structured around the six population outcomes of Swansea's Well-being Assessment.</p>					
9.	4.3.7 Create a new simplified structure to deliver the strategy in collaboration with partners against clear, agreed and	In the revised strategy Monitoring involving partners and people experiencing poverty –		Complete / In Progress	Rachel Moxey

	<p>measurable outcomes and within a Performance Monitoring Framework. Monitoring to involve those experiencing poverty as well as partners.</p>	<p>for people experiencing poverty an appropriate mechanism will be developed to do this; This is a corporate strategy – we can explore and request collaboration on delivery with partners but not dictate. Partners should see the impacts of the strategy so their involvement in its monitoring is agreed.</p>			
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ACTION 9 is: NOT COMPLETED

Progress made:

The Swansea Poverty Partnership Forum has assessed the consultation responses and incorporated partnership actions into its Action Plan.

Five Swansea Poverty Partnership Forum subgroups have been established. They are:

- Data and Welfare Reform
- Prosperity
- Asset Based Community Development
- Food
- Prevention

The subgroups meet to identify opportunities and establish and deliver on actions on behalf of the Forum. This directly supports the delivery of the Poverty Strategy Delivery Plan: *“Work with the Poverty Partnership Forum to identify shared projects and KPIs to support the wider poverty prevention agenda.”*

The Poverty Truth Commission work will then support the development of outcomes driven by people experiencing poverty and feed into, and influence the work of the Swansea Poverty Partnership Forum.

10.	4.3.8 Ensure that future economic regeneration schemes have the maximum positive impact on tackling poverty by promoting well paid jobs and improving skills	<p>We have already taken steps to integrate the poverty agenda in large scale regeneration initiatives – TLSB, City Deal, City Centre. We have been doing this for some years.</p> <p>Corporate Community benefits policy approved by Council.</p> <p>Beyond Bricks and Mortar has secured valuable employment and training commitments in TLSB’s Employment and Skills Plan.</p> <p>Training is available via ESF Employability schemes administered by our European and External Funding Team.</p>		In Progress	Rachel Moxey
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ACTION 10 is: STRONG PROGRESS MADE - COMPLETED

Progress made:

These principles are supported by actions within the Tackling Poverty Strategy Delivery Plan. Examples of these are as follows:

- Work with partners and through the Regional Learning & Skills Partnership to focus on outcomes such as the incomes of participants and productivity of employers, not just qualifications achieved.
- Deliver Swansea’s Beyond Bricks and Mortar principles across all our procurement processes to bring local benefit from service and construction contracts.

- Deliver employability programmes and work based learning help for local people to develop skills and access job opportunities/better paid roles/increased hours.
- Actively encourage employment practices that reduce poverty including living wage: The Council is actively working through the Safeguarding PDDC to agree a route map towards developing an Ethical Care Charter, which includes a commitment to move towards the living wage within the lifetime of this administration (2021).
- Develop an appropriate wage approach re traineeships and apprenticeships.
- Maximise skills and job opportunities from key developments such as City Deal.

This is also supported through the Council Poverty Forum objectives:

1. Information and data (Policy in Practice report)

- a. Collective impact of Welfare Reform at the household level

2. Tying together key programmes to maximise impact

- a. Well-being strategy
- b. City Deal
- c. Regeneration
- d. Learning City
- e. Culture
- f. Poverty Strategy
- g. Prevention Strategy

3. Spotting triggers and targeting services

- a. Using data to target services effectively

4. Reduction of the poverty premium

- a. Actions to reduce the inflated costs that people living in poverty experience (e.g. utilities)

5. Citizen engagement – voice and ownership

- a. Talking to people living in poverty about what works for them

6. Maximising income

- a. Clear links for local people to economic development opportunities with individual development pathways
- b. Ensuring the people maximise the benefits they are entitled to

7. Governance and influence – PSB and support

- a. How can we ensure that key partners are supporting similar outcomes?
- b. PSB and Poverty Partnership Forum

11.	4.3.10 Include specific	• Chief Executive will		In Progress	Rachel Moxey
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	<p>Tackling Poverty responsibilities within each Cabinet portfolio, with the Leader holding overall political responsibility and Chief Executive taking lead role on staff delivery. Ensure that all councillors are informed and involved, and where particular actions are planned in wards the councillors must be fully involved and consulted. All councillors to have poverty awareness training</p>	<p>oversee the delivery of the Poverty Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillors have received many briefings on progress with previous strategy • All Cabinet Members will take responsibility for specific actions within the delivery plan 			
<p>ACTION 11 is: STRONG PROGRESS MADE</p> <p>Progress made: The Delivery Plan identifies Cabinet portfolio responsibility for actions. This has been updated since the New Cabinet Portfolios in May. The Chief Executive over sees the delivery of the Poverty Strategy via the Poverty Forum. Ward members to be fully involved and consulted as appropriate. Poverty awareness training for Councillors features in the Delivery Plan.</p>					
12.	<p>4.3.11 Future evaluation of the poverty strategy should involve ward councillors, partners and people experiencing poverty rather than being solely evaluated by officers</p>	Agreed		Mid Term	Rachel Moxey
<p>ACTION 12 is: NOT COMPLETED</p> <p>Progress made: This would form part of the mid-term review.</p>					

13.	4.3.13 Revise and refocus the Poverty Partnership Forum against specific actions / priorities	Agreed, and is taking place		In Progress	Rachel Moxey
<p>ACTION 13 is: STRONG PROGRESS MADE</p> <p>Progress made: A draft Swansea Poverty Partnership Forum Project Plan was agreed by the partnership on the 19th Jan 2018.</p>					

Data & Welfare Reform

- Evidence and knowledge
- Policy and forecasting
- Data sharing
- Understanding the impact
- Timely and effective communications
- Advice and support provision - co-ordination and gaps
- Sharing knowledge and experience

Prosperity

- Income maximisation
- Reduction of the Poverty Premium
- Removal of barriers to employment
- Skills, learning and progression

Asset Based Community Development

- Engagement
- Participation
- Reduction of inequalities
- Poverty Truth Commission

Food

- Holiday Hunger
- Feeding Britain Pilot
- Access and provision

Prevention

- Evidence and intervention identification
- Early Years
- Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Invest to save