

Public Services Board Scrutiny Performance Panel Update

1. Remit of the Panel

It is a statutory obligation that each Local Authority must ensure its overview and scrutiny committee has the power to:

- a) Review or scrutinise the decisions made or actions taken by the Public Services Board (PSB);
- b) Review or scrutinise the Board's governance arrangements;
- c) Make reports or recommendations to the board regarding its functions or governance arrangements;
- d) Consider matters relating to the Board as the Welsh Ministers may refer to it and report to the Welsh Ministers accordingly; and
- e) Carry out other functions in relation to the board that are imposed on it by the Act.

2. Introduction

The Panel is focused on contributing to the Scrutiny of the Public Services Board by providing a critical friend for the Chair of the Public Services Board and helping to ensure accountability. The overarching question the Panel is asking is: What difference is Swansea PSB making for citizens?

3. Key Activities

The Panel held five meetings between July 2018 and April 2019.

Each meeting (with the exception of the October session with the Future Generations Commissioner) followed the same format. A question and answer session with a statutory member of the PSB, an update from the objective leads on delivery and progress and a governance update. This format allowed for regular monitoring combined with progress reports.

This work has resulted in four convener's letters being sent to the Chair of the PSB and one being sent to the Future Generations Commissioner. The main issues covered during the meetings are below:

July 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of Panel and Work Plan • Governance Overview
October 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future Generations Commissioner Sophie Howe – Question and Answer Session
December 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory Member Q&A • Working with Nature Objective Update • Governance Update

February 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory Member Q&A • Live Well, Age Well Objective Update • Governance Update
April 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory Member Q&A • Early Years Objective Update • Governance Update

Correspondence with the Chair of the PSB following the meetings in July, October, December & February, and the correspondence with the Future Generations Commissioner is appended.

4. Achievements / Impact

a) Meeting with the Future Generations Commissioner

In October 2018 Commissioner Howe attended a meeting to give her perspective of PSBs to date and the success and challenges so far.

We heard how the work to date has been ground breaking but there were challenges involved in fundamentally changing how organisations work together and how behaviour and work cultures move forward

We heard about the missed opportunity to regionalise PSBs and that the Commissioner was keen to hear from scrutiny how they are assessing impact.

The Panel suggested that pooled funding was essential going forward and that more robust monitoring and less bureaucracy was needed.

The Panel and Commissioner both agreed that the power of the FGC needs to be reviewed in relation to holding PSBs who are not performing to account.

b) New PSB Chair

During this year the Chair of the PSB has changed to Professor Andrew Davies. The Panel have written to Professor Davies after every meeting to keep him updated about the scrutiny being undertaken.

Professor Davies is also invited to attend the PSB meeting on 3 April in his capacity as the Statutory Member for ABMU to update the Panel on how he feels progress is being made.

c) Objectives and Governance

Each meeting of the year invited the objective leads to update the Panel on progress and plans under their specific objective. This allows the Panel to keep up to date with the 'on the ground' activities.

Each meeting also scheduled a governance update. A governance review has been ongoing throughout the course of the year and this item allows the Panel to hear the latest progress and contribute ideas to its development.

5. Future Work Programme

Next year's work programme will depend on the outcome of the scrutiny work planning conference regarding this Panel and frequency of meetings.

6. Action required by the Scrutiny Programme Committee

None.