



Swansea Public Services Board Joint Committee – 17 June 2021

Discussion Paper – Focus and Delivery 2021/22

Purpose:	Proposals to stimulate discussion for PSB focus and delivery in response to the pandemic for 2021/22.
Link to Well-being Objective:	Cross cutting
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) Partners scope areas of overlapping interest for focused delivery to directly address and aid Swansea's recovery from impacts of the pandemic in 2021/22. 2) Partners identify Strategic Leads for each of the work streams if approved by the Joint committee.

1. Background

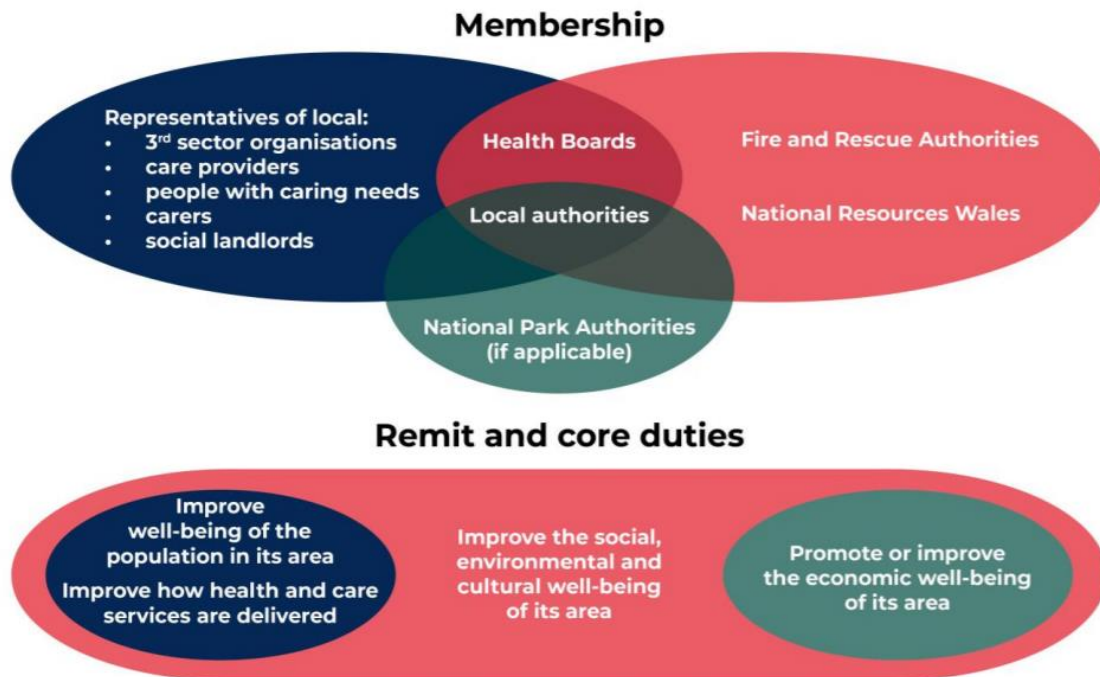
Swansea PSB needs regenerating in specific, measurable and reportable way that makes a difference to well-being in Swansea and helps achieve well-being objectives in the context of the Recovery. There is little or no resource. Therefore efforts need to be targeted on a small number of projects which can enthuse and galvanise partners, while demonstrating value in a short timeframe before the next Local Well-being Plan.

While the PSB is led by a Joint Committee (JC), its numbers and potential strength lie with the individuals, community/voluntary groups, businesses and wider partners that make up the Partnership Forum. A virtual Partnership Forum has the potential to be an engine for bottom up fuelled momentum driven by a Joint Committee whose oversight ensures the direction of travel takes an integrated approach (efficiently focusing on the achievement of well-being objectives in alignment with other work while avoiding wasteful duplication).

2. Gap Analysis

The [Senedd Public Accounts Committee - Delivering for Future Generations](#) sets out a vision of PSB membership, remit and core duties in a crowded partnership landscape where governance and delivery mechanisms for most priorities identified in Swansea's Local Well-being Plan often lie elsewhere. There is little direct funding, minimum resource and no exclusive mandate or ownership for delivery for unique

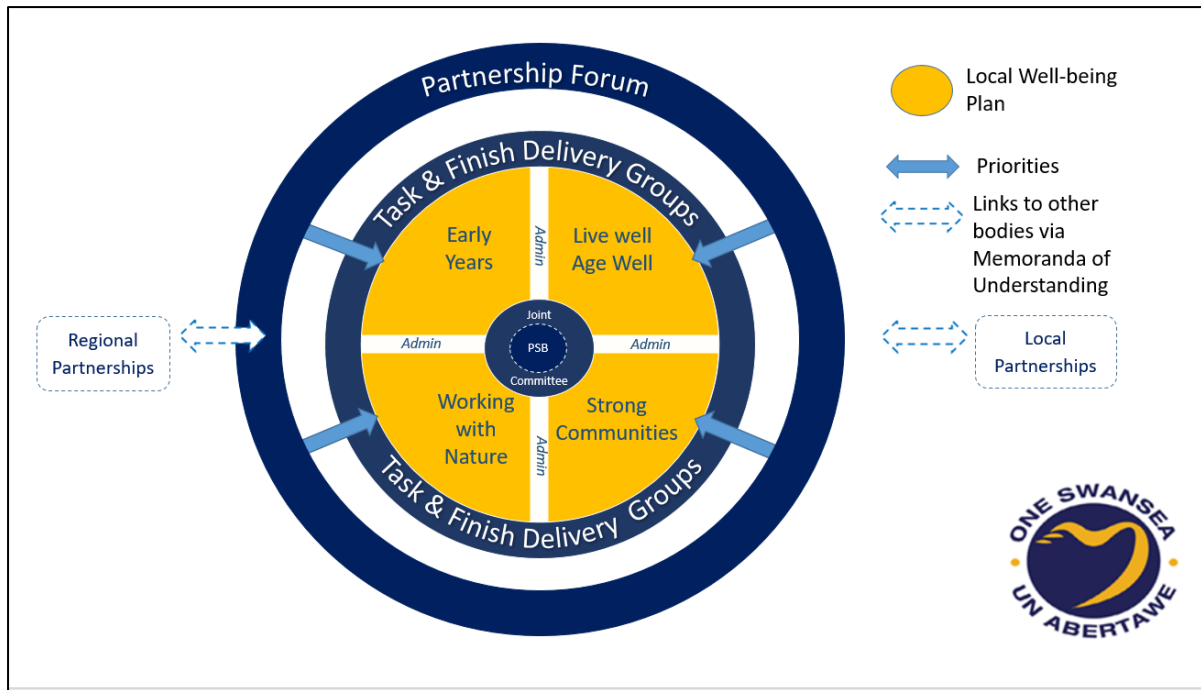
outcomes. This means the PSB suffers from being perceived as ineffective. It involves everyone yet no one directly, is responsible for everything in wide ranging local well-being objectives and steps, yet can deliver and achieve specifically little that is unique.



3 Unique Selling Offer

The diagram above indicates the PSB has a uniquely diverse and cross sectoral membership and therefore reach that other partnerships do not. It could be positioned as leading in terms of cultural, environmental (and non-health related social) well-being. While specific organisations deliver on these areas either regionally or with specific focuses, the PSB offers a specifically Swansea focused approach that could be applied to specific emerging agenda that need a cross cutting, broad, multi sector, multi-agency approach to complement or kickstart or link up and build on the work of individual organisations.

As reflected in the PSB governance model, a unique selling point is for the PSB to be powered by a wide Forum of partners rather than just a core of Joint Committee members. While Joint Committee organisations are unable to resource projects, it may be possible to harness and direct untapped energy and enthusiasm from the bottom up relating to themes people feel passionate about.



4 Priorities for the Recovery

During the pandemic it became clear that the broad scope of the Local Well-being Plan and work towards the steps although important and ongoing were not the focused drivers for change needed in a very different post-covid world.

The PSB's scope to date has been wide, it is suggested that given narrowing resources and changing need that PSB activity becomes more focussed. This means moving away from Objectives and Steps which are either already carried out by partners or which are too wide-ranging to effectively focus resources and make a significant difference.

5 Community Impact Analysis Themes

The PSB identified specific themes for action within the Community Impact Assessment. However, while the pandemic is ongoing and we move towards recovery the focus of this activity needs to address the most pressing current issues which are not fully addressed via other means. See Appendix 1.

- **County Lines/Substance Misuse** (This area has been the subject of effective regional collaboration with NPT PSB which has catalysed on going action in both specific areas eg High Street and impacted general practice working via Safer Swansea..)
- **City of Well-being and Wildlife** (Green infrastructure Strategy is already being led, delivered governed by NRW, CCS as a step linked to PSB).
- **Green / Climate Change** Agenda (action already happening across Swansea via PSB partners and SEF and PSB partner joint working co-ordinated via the Net Zero Swansea Working Group).

6 Other Impacts of Coronavirus

- **Human Rights:** The Equality and Human Rights Commission reviewed evidence on 'How coronavirus has affected equality and human rights'ⁱ and found the impact of the pandemic to be unequal, entrenching existing inequalities and widening others. This included a disproportionate impact on older people, ethnic minorities and disabled people. Underemployment, a drop in living standards, disruption to education particularly to those who already perform less well than their peers, an increased reliance on unpaid generally female carers, a rise in domestic abuse and more difficult access to justice were all reported. They recommended equality and human rights are integrated into the Welsh policy response to the pandemic.
- **Community Culture:** A Welsh Parliament Reportⁱⁱ on the Impact on Covid on the voluntary sector described a 'surge' of volunteers with tens of thousands of people volunteering to help the NHS and perhaps more strikingly informal aid being offered within neighbourhoods often facilitated by social media. Importantly the profile of volunteers changed with many volunteering for the first time, volunteer retention was a key issue. 'SCVS said they are currently "assessing" how to "convert enthusiasm into long term volunteering with established organisations across the sector...providing a positive, long-lasting legacy"ⁱⁱⁱ' A Savanta ComRes poll^{iv} commissioned by Christian aid in September 2020 showed 41% adults in Wales had an increased sense of community spirit in their neighbourhood since the start of lockdown.
- **Mental Health:** November 2020 research from Swansea University^v found the influence of the pandemic on mental well-being and psychological distress in Wales. Well-being showed a large decrease from 2019 levels with clinically significant psychological distress found in 50% of population: a 3-4 fold increase in prevalence. It concluded there was a need to prepare for a wave of mental health problems with an emphasis on younger adults, women and in areas of deprivation. A more recent UK wide survey^{vi} in May 2021 found in terms of mental health, the pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on minority ethnic groups, those living in deprived areas, others experiencing financial difficulties and those who already had poorer mental health. Although only 1 in 9 had consistently poor or deteriorating mental health by October 2020. A Children's Commissioner for Wales Report^{vii} found in a January 2021 survey that 30% of 12 to 18 year olds were worried "most of the time" Substance misuse has also increased during lockdown with Safer Swansea^{viii} recording 330 drug trafficking incidents in the 12 months after March 23, 2020, compared to 242 in the previous 12 months.
- **A City for Well-being and Wildlife:** A May 2021 Report 'Why society needs nature' that included survey results from Wales recognised 'well-being and mental health benefits from natural spaces'^{ix} However, not everyone has been able to enjoy and have access to green spaces. One in eight households did not have access to a garden yard or balcony during the first lockdown^x. The Future Generations Commissioner's 'Manifesto for the Future' concluded 'we know that local spaces can increase positive mental health, boost biodiversity and promote pride in the community'^{xi}.

7 Potential Themes for Action

- 1 **Human Rights City:** This means all PSB partners working together to embrace a vision of vibrant, diverse, fair and safe communities built on the foundations of universal human rights. This will involve making human rights the foundation of service planning and delivery.
- 2 **A Culture of Community:** This focuses on retaining the community connections built during lockdown by empowering neighbours to support each other. This builds on ad hoc, unstructured acts of kindness and compassion producing a culture change where kindness, compassion, neighbourliness, volunteering and grassroots action can thrive.
- 3 **Mental health:** A complementary role exists in supporting Area Planning Board led work on an Integrated Public Health approach around substance misuse, ACES and mental health. There is an opportunity to work collaboratively addressing mental well-being within PSB partner organisations and take a collaborative approach to the development of a mental health internal programme.
4. **A City for Well-being and Wildlife:** While Green Infrastructure work initiated by PSB relationships between NRW and Swansea Council moves forwards to consider a city wide approach. A focus is needed on the local green spaces that people valued so much during the pandemic. There is an opportunity to improve the quality of neighbourhood space.

The basic governance structure of the PSB has been proven fit for purpose. This ensures a cross cutting integrated approach involving all partners. A cross cutting approach where each partner and associated delivery Group engages in each topic in the appropriate ways for them might be considered.

	Early years	Live Well, Age Well	Stronger Communities	Working with Nature
Human Rights	Understanding and applying human rights	Human rights throughout life course	Empowerment of communities of interest and place	The right to access green space, clean air and water
A Culture of Community	Involving young people	Intergenerational action	Micro volunteering in informal ad hoc ways	Environmental volunteering
Mental Health	Social skills and connection	2 meter conversations, talking benches	Random acts of kindness,	Nature for well-being
A City for Well-being and Wildlife	Play space	Accessibility	Community supported spaces	Biodiversity and nature based solutions

8 Delivery and Measuring Success

Success Criteria are to be clearly defined at the start using traditional and non-traditional criteria. These include hard KPIs (those that are driven directly by funding/resource) and softer qualitative, distance travelled outcome feedback.

- Funding/Resource leveraged as a result of PSB focus (if not available this explains why project specific KPIs are not available).
- Tangible agreed outcomes.
- Partner led Social Media Poll/Shares/likes/comments re specific project calls to action.
- Bottom up involvement of wide cross section of groups (no of groups, no of individual participants/supporters).
- **Perceived Progress Tracker** - How partners feel about PSB impact maybe via lens of 5 ways of working and smileys (start and monitor quarterly survey of JC members).
- How active participating /impacted individuals feel about PSB activity.

9 Next Steps

- 9.1 Partners to scope areas of overlapping interest for focused delivery to directly address and aid Swansea's recovery from impacts of the pandemic in 2021/22.
- 9.2 Partners to identify Strategic Leads for each of the work streams if approved by the Joint committee

PSB Project Scoping Matrix

	Challenging requiring strategic advocacy	Business as usual
New project/ work stream	<p>New project and challenging so requires strategic advocacy to develop and take forward</p> <p>PSB SUPPORT REQUIRED TO ENSURE SUCCESS Human Rights City Mental health A Culture of Community</p>	<p>New project but within the experience, expertise and capability of Delivery Groups with sufficient buy in from partners</p> <p>INITIAL PSB SUPPORT</p>
Existing project/ work stream	<p>Existing work but challenging so requires strategic advocacy meet potential</p> <p>PSB SUPPORT WHERE REQUIRED A City for Well-being and Wildlife</p>	<p>Existing work which has the support of partners and is progressing satisfactorily.</p> <p>DELEGATED TO GROUPS Climate change County lines/substance misuse</p>

ⁱ <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/how-coronavirus-has-affected-equality-and-human-rights>

ⁱⁱ <https://senedd.wales/media/d4jh52zz/cr-ld14075-e.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://senedd.wales/media/d4jh52zz/cr-ld14075-e.pdf> p28

^{iv} <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/news/increase-welsh-community-spirit>

^v <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsy.2020.594115/full>

^{vi} [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366\(21\)00151-6/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366(21)00151-6/fulltext)

^{vii} https://www.childcomwales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/CoronavirusAndMe_Jan21_ENG_110221_FINAL.pdf

^{viii} <https://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/documents/s72945/06C%20-%20Safer%20Swansea%20Partnership%20Presentation%20Slides.pdf?LLL=0>

^{ix} Page 9 Why Society Needs Nature, Lessons from research during Covid 19
https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/documents/8053/Why_Society_Needs_Nature_4FUC2GT.PDF

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<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/articles/oneineightbritishhouseholdshasnogarden/2020-05-14>

^{xi}Page 6 <https://www.futuregenerations.wales/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Manifesto-for-the-Future-FGCW1.pdf>