



Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 18 January 2022

Scrutiny of Swansea Public Services Board

Purpose:	<p>This report provides background and advice to the Committee in support of its scrutiny of Swansea Public Services Board (PSB).</p> <p>Following on from the last scrutiny session on the PSB in June 2021, the Committee will be reviewing the recently published PSB Annual Report 2020/21 and hearing from Council and Local Health Board leads on the delivery of PSB well-being objectives, to account for their work as statutory members of the PSB. The Committee will also follow up on issues arising from previous PSB scrutiny sessions and action taken by the PSB.</p>
Content:	<p>The Joint Chairs of the PSB will attend to present the PSB Annual Report and answer questions.</p> <p>Health Board and Council officials will respectively address the Committee on progress with the delivery of the 'Early Years' and 'Live Well, Age Well' PSB Well-being Objectives, which they lead on.</p> <p>Previous Scrutiny Letters reflecting on PSB Scrutiny sessions and Minutes of PSB Joint Committee Minutes are also provided in support of the discussion.</p>
Councillors are being asked to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider the information provided, ask questions, and make comments and recommendations as necessary.
Lead Councillor(s):	<p>Councillor Rob Stewart (Leader / Joint Chair of Public Services Board) and Councillor Andrea Lewis (Leader's Representative on PSB / Joint Chair of Public Services Board)</p>
Lead Officer:	<p>Adam Hill, Deputy Chief Executive, Swansea Council</p>
Report Author:	<p>Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Team Leader Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk</p>
Legal Officer:	<p>Debbie Smith</p>
Finance Officer:	<p>Paul Cridland</p>

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Programme Committee is the designated Council Committee for Scrutiny of Swansea Public Services Board. Swansea Public Services Board (PSB) is the overarching strategic partnership of public service providers in the area, who work together to improve local services. Scrutiny plays an important role in ensuring that partnership working is accountable to elected local councillors.
- 1.2 Although the work of the PSB will involve a wide range of partner organisations from public, private and voluntary sectors, there are four statutory members who are the formal decision makers responsible for the functioning and activities of the Board. The four Statutory Members of the PSB are:
 - Swansea Bay University Health Board
 - Swansea Council
 - Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
 - Natural Resources Wales
- 1.3 There are four PSB Well-being Plan Objectives, set out in the PSB's Well-being Plan published in May 2018, that provide focus for the PSB. These are joint objectives but each with a Statutory Member lead taking ownership of this work:
 - Early Years (led by Swansea Bay University Health Board)
 - Live Well, Age Well (led by Swansea Council)
 - Strong Communities (led by Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service)
 - Working with Nature (led by Natural Resources Wales)
- 1.4 The Committee had previously delegated and discharged responsibility for Scrutiny through a stand-alone PSB Scrutiny Performance Panel. Following adjustment to the Scrutiny Work Programme in November 2020 the Committee is now carrying out this work directly, aiming to hold two to three PSB Scrutiny sessions per year.
- 1.5 The overarching objective of scrutiny, as agreed by the Committee, is to consider: What difference is Swansea Public Services Board making for citizens? Specific lines of questioning have focused on:
 - The effectiveness of the PSB Wellbeing Assessment
 - The effectiveness of the PSB Wellbeing Plan
 - How well the PSB is meeting its well-being duties, and is considering the five ways of working and seven well-being goals
 - The effectiveness of performance measurement arrangements
 - The level of commitment from individual partners to the work of the PSB

- The effectiveness of the PSB in communicating its work, objectives and outcomes to its stakeholders
 - The effectiveness of the PSB in addressing the issue of pooled funding to tackle priorities
- 1.6 The Committee will engage with PSB statutory members / key partners with regard to progress in the delivery of agreed PSB Well-being Plan objectives, and effectiveness of the PSB generally. The delivery of the Well-being Objectives is at the heart of what the PSB is trying to do to make a difference. Performance against these objectives will be a key measure of success.
- 1.7 It is important to note that the remit of PSB scrutiny includes only the activities of the PSB as a partnership and excludes scrutiny of individual partner organisations. The Committee can require any member of the PSB to give evidence, but only in respect of the exercise of joint functions conferred on them as a member of the PSB.

2. Previous Scrutiny Committee Sessions

- 2.1 Since November 2020, the Committee has been able to focus on PSB Scrutiny in meetings held in December 2020 and June 2021.
- 2.2 The session in December 2020 considered the PSB Annual Report 2019/20 and heard about the work, achievements, and performance of the PSB with lead members of the PSB and lead Council officer(s). This was an overview of progress made by the PSB, and the current situation.
- 2.3 The session in June 2021 heard from the Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service and Natural Resources Wales on their role, responsibilities, and progress in delivery of specific PSB well-being objectives that they are leading on.
- 2.4 As a result of these meetings, views on the performance of the PSB have been communicated by the Committee to the Joint Chairs of the PSB by letter. Copy of this correspondence is **attached**, but in summary the Committee has highlighted the need for the PSB to:
- a) improve the performance framework to better evidence the tangible difference the PSB is making.
 - b) improve public visibility / messaging about the work of the PSB.
 - c) press the Welsh Government on PSB resources.
 - d) improve the clarity of action and outcomes from meetings.
 - e) improve the ability to measure progress in the delivery of Well-being objectives.
 - f) reflect on PSB governance in light of lessons learned from the pandemic.

- 2.5 The Committee can follow up on how its views have been considered and action taken, or planned, on these issues.

3. Public Services Board Annual Report 2020/21

- 3.1 One of the roles for scrutiny is to consider the PSB's annual progress report and progress against agreed PSB Well-being Plan objectives to consider the effectiveness of the PSB and difference being made. The recently published PSB Annual Report 2020/21 is **attached** for the Committee's consideration. The Annual Report is also published here: www.swansea.gov.uk/psbreport2021.

- 3.2 As well as reviewing overall progress and achievements with the Joint Chairs of the PSB (Councillors Rob Stewart and Andrea Lewis), the Committee meeting will enable specific focus on the role, involvement, and contribution of the Council and the Local Health Board, two of the four PSB Statutory Members. Relevant Council and Health Board lead representatives will attend for discussion on the delivery of the PSB Well-being Objectives which they lead on:

Early Years:

- Siân Harrop-Griffiths - Director of Strategy (Swansea Bay University Health Board)
- Keith Reid - Executive Director - Public Health (Swansea Bay University Health Board)

See progress on Early Years on pages 13-21 of the PSB Annual Report.

Live Well, Age Well:

- Adam Hill – Deputy Chief Executive (Swansea Council)
- Jane Whitmore – Strategic Lead Commissioner (Swansea Council)
- Julie Gosney – Partnership & Involvement Team Manager (Swansea Council)

See progress on Live Well, Age Well on pages 22-39 of the PSB Annual Report. A supplementary report has also been provided by Council leads on progress made on the objective since the Annual Report. See **attached**.

- 3.3 Previous scrutiny discussion on these specific Well-being Objectives took place in February 2020. The Scrutiny Letter arising from this meeting, reflecting on the main issues then, is **attached** for Committee awareness.

4. PSB Joint Committee Minutes

- 4.1 The Minutes of meetings of the PSB Joint Committee held since the last scrutiny session in June 2021 are **attached** for Committee awareness:

- 17 June 2021
- 21 October 2021

4.2 Meetings planned for 12 August 2021 and 16 December 2021 were cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 10 February 2022.

5. Next Steps

5.1 The Committee can write to the Joint Chairs of the PSB following the meeting with any observations, views and recommendations arising from the discussion about the performance and effectiveness of the PSB.

5.2 Further PSB scrutiny sessions will need to be planned post-May 2022.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 There are no legal implications from this report.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 There are no financial implications from this report.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Letter correspondence between the PSB Scrutiny Performance Panel and Chair of the PSB: A) December 2020 Committee meeting & B) June 2021 Committee meeting

Appendix 2 - PSB Annual Report 2020/21

Appendix 3 – Update on PSB Live Well, Age Well Objective

Appendix 4 - Letter correspondence between the PSB Scrutiny Performance Panel and Chair of the PSB reflecting on 5 February 2020 Panel meeting

Appendix 5 – Minutes of Swansea Public Services Board Joint Committee: A) 17 June 2021 meeting & B) 21 October 2021 meeting