



Report of the Cabinet Member for Well-Being

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 19 December 2023

Report on the Delivery of the Corporate Priority of Tackling Poverty and Enabling Communities 2023

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| Purpose | To provide a briefing to the Scrutiny Programme Committee on delivery of the Council's Corporate Priority of Tackling Poverty and Enabling Communities. |
| Content | The report provides an overview and context of the 'Report on the delivery of the Corporate Priority of Tackling Poverty and Enabling Communities 2023'. |
| Councillors are being asked to | Consider the report, to give their views and make recommendations to the Cabinet Member as necessary |
| Lead Councillor | Councillor Alyson Pugh, Cabinet Member for Well-Being. |
| Lead Officer Report Author | Amy Hawkins, Head of Adult Services and Tackling Poverty Lee Cambule, Tackling Poverty Service Manager |
| Legal Officer | Debbie Smith |
| Finance Officer | Chris Davies |

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Swansea Council's Corporate Plan sets out six key council priorities, one of which is 'Tackling Poverty and Enabling Communities so that every person in Swansea can achieve their potential'.
- 1.2 Poverty is multi-dimensional, complex, growing and impacting more people and communities in Wales. Evidence from across Wales and in our local communities shows that poverty and the impacts of poverty are continuing to affect our population in many different ways.
- 1.3 Since 2017 – when the Council published 'Working towards prosperity for all in Swansea: A tackling poverty strategy for Swansea' – progress has been made against our ambitions for tackling poverty. There has also been a lot of change, most significantly in the past three years as the COVID-19 pandemic and economic challenges - including the Cost of Living crisis - have not only impacted the people of Swansea but also our efforts to implement our strategy.

- 1.4 The Council is currently revisiting this strategic approach and a refreshed strategy is due for publication in early 2024. This is an opportunity to reflect back on the progress that has been made in 2023 as we prepare for the next phase in our efforts to tackle poverty and enable communities in Swansea.

2. Content

- 2.1 The report prepared for the Scrutiny Programme Committee is structured to include:

- Executive Summary
- Context
- Poverty in Swansea
- Corporate Priority
- Corporate Plan Steps
- Corporate Performance Indicators
- Additional Developments
- Way Forward

- 2.2 The report presents evidence, insights and intelligence that demonstrates the contributions that have been made to achieving the Corporate Plan priority in the last twelve months.

3. Context

- 3.1 The COVID-19 pandemic and Cost of Living Crisis has disproportionately impacted low income households, pushing more people into poverty and those experiencing it, further into poverty resulting in increasing demand for services including crisis support services and increased complexities for those in need.

- 3.2 Swansea Council's ongoing response to the Cost of Living Crisis is contributing to mitigating the impact of poverty and increased levels of demand.

- 3.3 The report outlines the activity from the past 12 months and what is planned in the next 12 months.

4. Legal implications

- 4.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report other than those set out in the body of the report.

5. Finance Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with the initial consideration of this report. The issues raised may lead to the Council taking decisions in the future that will have implications for Council finances. Any such decisions will need to be taken with due regard to the financial circumstances of the Council at the time as well as the latest medium term financial plan.

Background papers: *None*

Appendices:

Appendix A – Report on the delivery of the Corporate Priority of Tackling Poverty and Enabling Communities 2023

Appendix B - Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form