



**To/**

**Councillor Clive Lloyd  
Chair of Swansea Public Services  
Board**

*Please ask for:  
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**Overview & Scrutiny**

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**16<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

**BY EMAIL**

Summary: This letter is from the Public Services Board Performance Panel. It follows the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019 which looked at the new Governance Structure and the PSB Annual Report 2018/19.

Dear Councillor Lloyd,

On 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019 the Panel met with yourself, Suzy Richards (Sustainable Policy Officer) and Leanne Ahern (PSB Support Officer) to discuss the Governance Structure and the Annual Report 2018/19.

We want to thank all the Officers for attending and answering questions. We do have some observations which we would like to share with you.

### **Review of New Governance Structure**

You told us how Professor Andrew Davies has stepped down as Chair due to retirement and that Swansea Council will now take over the Chair of the PSB with Mid and West Wales Fire Service as Vice-Chair.

We heard how the Governance Review has now concluded and the structure will be more focused going forward with a smaller number of people attending the partnership meeting. You said this meant an emphasis on the Working Groups ensuring they deliver on their specific outcomes which is more effective going forward.

You said the new structure is driven by action from each of the objective areas with clear leads and accountability, as the statutory members are responsible for the outcomes in their allocated area of work. We were told that these action plans are

based on the Well-being Plan 'steps' and that they will be coming to scrutiny for perusal over the coming year.

We asked about what would happen if there was a dispute within the PSB and we were told that the Chair would appoint an independent mediator if required, we hope that if this happens all people involved work together to resolve any issues.

We noticed that within the 'Partners' sections, Elected Members are not mentioned. We feel that we have substantial knowledge of our local areas and the people we represent. We would like to see Elected Members involved and recognised more within the work of the PSB. We heard how legislation seeks to involve Community Councils and you liaise with 'One Voice Wales' to do this. We hope that this involvement continues.

You discussed how there were opportunities to broaden engagement with all communities and specifically with voluntary groups. The Panel agree with this as there are a multitude of volunteers in our communities who could contribute a wealth of information and experience. We asked how the public were made aware of the work which is being done by the PSB. You told us that a communication process is in place to advertise meetings and each partner should distribute information via their own communication and strategy channels.

We heard how much of the work under the PSB is based on goodwill and adding value to existing work but the principles under the Well-being of Future Generations Act should be completely integrated and underpin everything we do. Although the purpose seems to relate to service delivery it also involves 'how' work is delivered and the long term progress. We hope to hear more about this in future meetings.

We mentioned that the Terms of Reference for the PSB could be improved by explicitly detailing the five ways of working including collaboration as this would create a positive emphasis on what should be happening.

You told us that the new Governance Structure will be a positive change in the work of the PSB and help achieve outcomes. We hope going forward that more information relating to progress is brought back to the Panel and we will be requesting to see the individual Action Plans and their representatives in upcoming meetings.

## **Public Services Board Annual Report 2018/19**

We heard how the Annual Report highlights the work which has been done to date and the work which aims to be done in the future. You explained how the new governance structure should be a catalyst for delivering under the working groups and would focus on the leads who will provide cross cutting actions and information.

We heard about a range of indicators including child obesity, homelessness and air quality and how these were used to inform an initial view of well-being in Swansea. You told us how feedback was analysed to see where it overlapped to demonstrate well-being and outcomes and that the research team will develop more in depth outcomes based on the indicators. We look forward to seeing these once they are

developed.

You discussed some of the successes under the Well-being Objectives and we are pleased that there is activity and progress under each one. We will look to see how this activity translates into measurable outcomes over the coming year. It was interesting to hear that Swansea is working toward being the first City in Wales to sign a declaration for Human Rights and Swansea Bay University Health Board is involved in the Biophillic Wales Project. We were told how this project has a focus to improve areas around health board buildings, linking in with the health benefits of green areas and nature. We look forward to an update on this in future meetings as an innovative and exciting piece of work.

With every statutory member now involved to deliver outcomes under the new structure we anticipate that the objectives and action under them will be strengthened going forward.

We will be inviting each of the statutory members to future meetings to present their action plans and discuss what will be achieved by them.

There is no requirement for you to respond to this letter but your thoughts and feedback are most welcome.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mary Jones', written in a cursive style.

**Councillor Mary Jones**

Convener, Public Services Board Scrutiny Performance Panel

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