



**To/
Councillor Rob Stewart &
Councillor Andrea Lewis,
Joint Chairs of Swansea Public
Services Board
BY EMAIL**

cc: Vice-Chair of Swansea PSB

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Scrutiny

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SPC/2021-22/12

09 February 2022

Summary: This is a letter from the Scrutiny Programme Committee to the Joint Chairs of Swansea Public Services Board following the meeting of the Committee on 18 January 2022. It is about the performance of the Public Services Board. A formal written response is not required.

Dear Councillor,

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 18 January

We are writing to you following our Scrutiny session on the Public Services Board (PSB) with our views, reflecting on information presented, questions, and discussion.

As part of our ongoing scrutiny, the Committee considered the PSB Annual Report 2020/21 in relation to overall progress and performance of the PSB and put a spotlight on delivery of the 'Early Years' and 'Live Well, Age Well' PSB well-being objectives. We thank you for attending the meeting, and appreciated the input provided by Keith Reid, Executive Director - Public Health at Swansea Bay University Health Board on 'Early Years' and Adam Hill, Swansea Council Deputy Chief Executive, on both 'Live Well, Age Well', and work of the PSB Joint Committee.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU

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This was further evidence to the Committee on how the PSB is performing and making a difference for citizens, and follows on from the June 2021 PSB Scrutiny session, at which we heard from the other Statutory Members of the PSB: Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service and Natural Resources Wales about their organisation's role and responsibilities in relation to the PSB, and on the delivery of PSB Well-being Plan objectives that they are leading on.

We also took the opportunity to follow up on previous issues raised by the Committee, communicated to you within previous letters.

Scrutiny Views

From our discussion, the Committee would highlight the following issues in terms of providing 'critical-friend' challenge to the PSB for improvement:

We recognise that the PSB plays a key role in partnership working and relationship building. Having raised this with you previously, there is still some confusion around what should be deemed to be PSB achievements versus achievements that could be attributed to individual organisations or other partnerships. This is a debate about the distinctiveness of the PSB.

We note that a lot of good work has taken place across work streams, and it may simply be a case of making the PSB more visible and promotion of the PSB as the body effecting positive change. We noted achievements which you felt relied upon the involvement of the PSB, such as commitment to Swansea as a Human Rights City, Charter on Climate Change, Community Safety improvements to the High Street, and focus on natural resources, as well as specific activities in response to Covid.

We accept that the work of the PSB is open to the public and information is available online, but perhaps pro-active messaging about the work of the PSB, and Joint Committee decision-making, would help to raise awareness and profile of the PSB. This would be for the benefit of councillors as well as the public.

We noted that the next meeting of the PSB Joint Committee would include a discussion on strategies for public engagement. We asked about PSB activity which has directly engaged with the public on and were provided with examples of community feedback and engagement events, in relation to PSB well-being objectives, to inform policy development and service improvement.

We have called upon the PSB to improve its performance framework to better evidence the tangible difference the PSB is making and improve the clarity of action and outcomes from meetings. The Committee was pleased to hear that this is being worked on. We heard that the Joint Committee will be having a focused discussion on this, and work has been carried out to improve the framework for delivery of work, baseline data, and the measuring of success, to support the reporting of performance, with clarity about the involvement of

the Joint Committee in work streams and what the PSB is adding. We look forward to hearing more on this, as it will help us to scrutinise performance more effectively. It will be good to have new arrangements, with a mix of meaningful quantitative and qualitative performance indicators, in place as the PSB prepares a new Well-being Assessment and develops a new Well-being Plan. The success of the PSB should be demonstrable.

We realise that almost the past two years have been dominated by the Covid response and has impacted on 'business as usual', but hopefully the PSB can now emerge from it and re-focus on the objectives, as we return to some sort of normality.

Your Response

We hope that you find the contents of this letter useful and would welcome any comments, however we do not expect you to provide a formal response. However, we do expect the PSB to consider our views and the Committee will follow up on progress in addressing these issues.

Our next PSB Scrutiny session will take place in the new municipal year, arrangements for which will be communicated in due course.

Yours sincerely,



COUNCILLOR PETER BLACK

Chair, Scrutiny Programme Committee

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