

Swansea Public Services Board

Assessment of Local Well-being 2017: Summary

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 aims to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. It will make public bodies think more about the long-term, work better with each other, people and communities as well as look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach.

Swansea Public Services Board (PSB) is a partnership of public service agencies who work together to improve local services. As a partnership we have done an analysis of different aspects of well-being and this document is our first assessment of local well-being in Swansea.

We have identified six well-being outcomes that represent the kind of place we would like Swansea to be and have structured our assessment around these. Our well-being outcomes are:

- Children have a good start in life
- People learn successfully
- Young people and adults have good jobs
- People have a decent standard of living
- People are healthy, safe and independent
- People have good places to live, work and visit.

For each outcome we identified a small number of 'primary drivers' – those things that need to be in place if our well-being outcomes are to be a reality. In this way we have been able to break down the complex concept of well-being into a series of recognisable issues.

The following pages provide an outline of each of our six outcomes through a 'driver diagram' and a short summary of what the evidence around each driver said. For each of the 19 primary drivers we have also suggested an overall well-being 'score' (0-10) – where zero is the worst that things can be and ten is the best things can be – but recognise that these scores will always be contentious and debated.

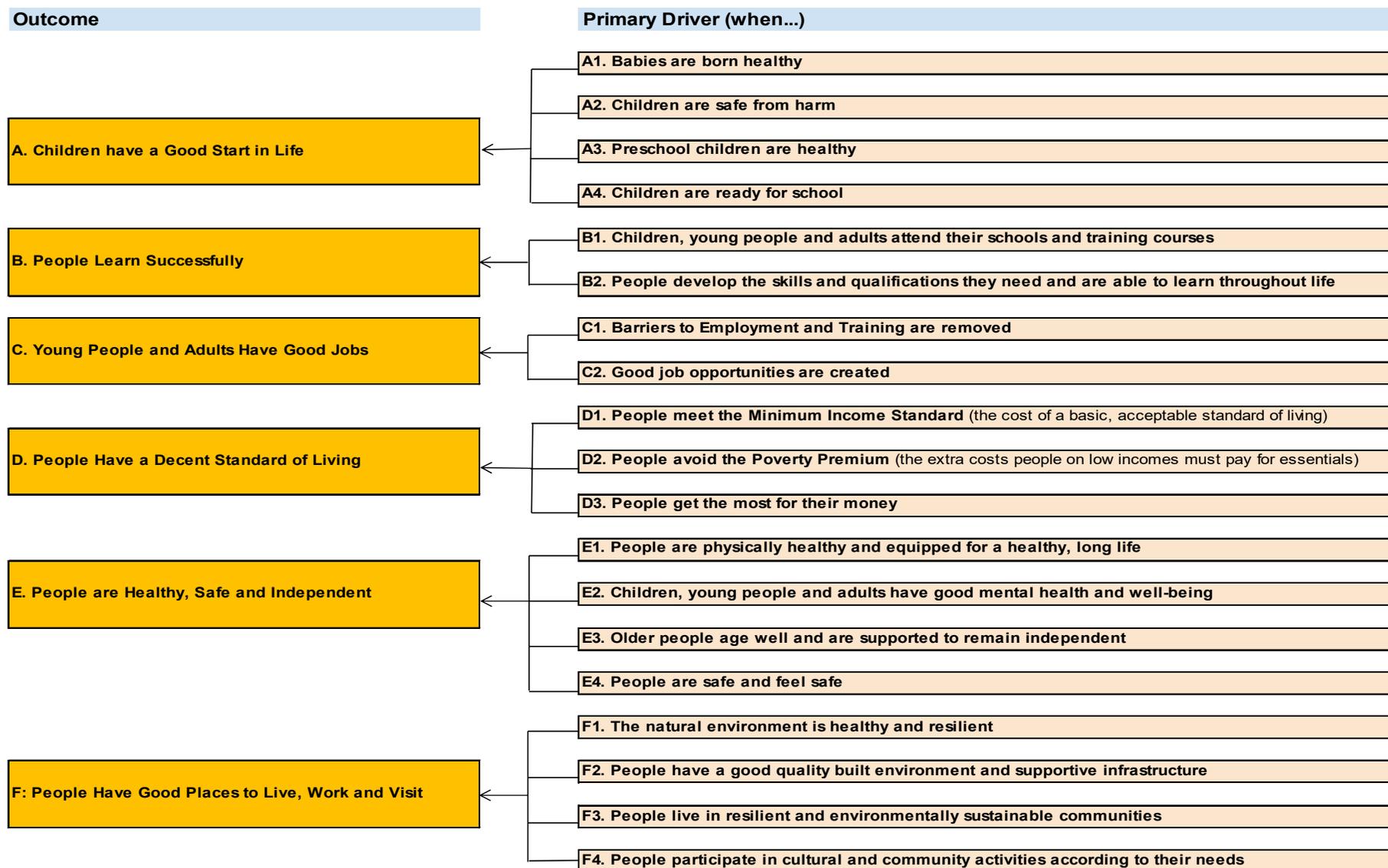
The Well-being Assessment was produced in two stages. Firstly a draft document was prepared, using evidence compiled by the PSB Research Group, and shared in a public consultation during January and February 2017. The results of this consultation were then carefully considered by a multi-agency task group and changes fed into a revised document, agreed by the PSB in April 2017. We have listed all of the consultation proposals we received along with how we responded to each in a separate Feedback Report.

While we believe that this Assessment is valuable in its own right, its main purpose is to inform a Well-being Plan for Swansea to be produced in 2018, including a set of local objectives and steps to address them, which aims to make a real difference for citizens.

We see this Assessment as very much the beginning of a conversation about well-being in Swansea; not the end. There is still a great deal of further work to be done and plenty of scope for the assessment to be improved. In the meantime, we hope it will provide a useful resource and stimulate debate and discussion.

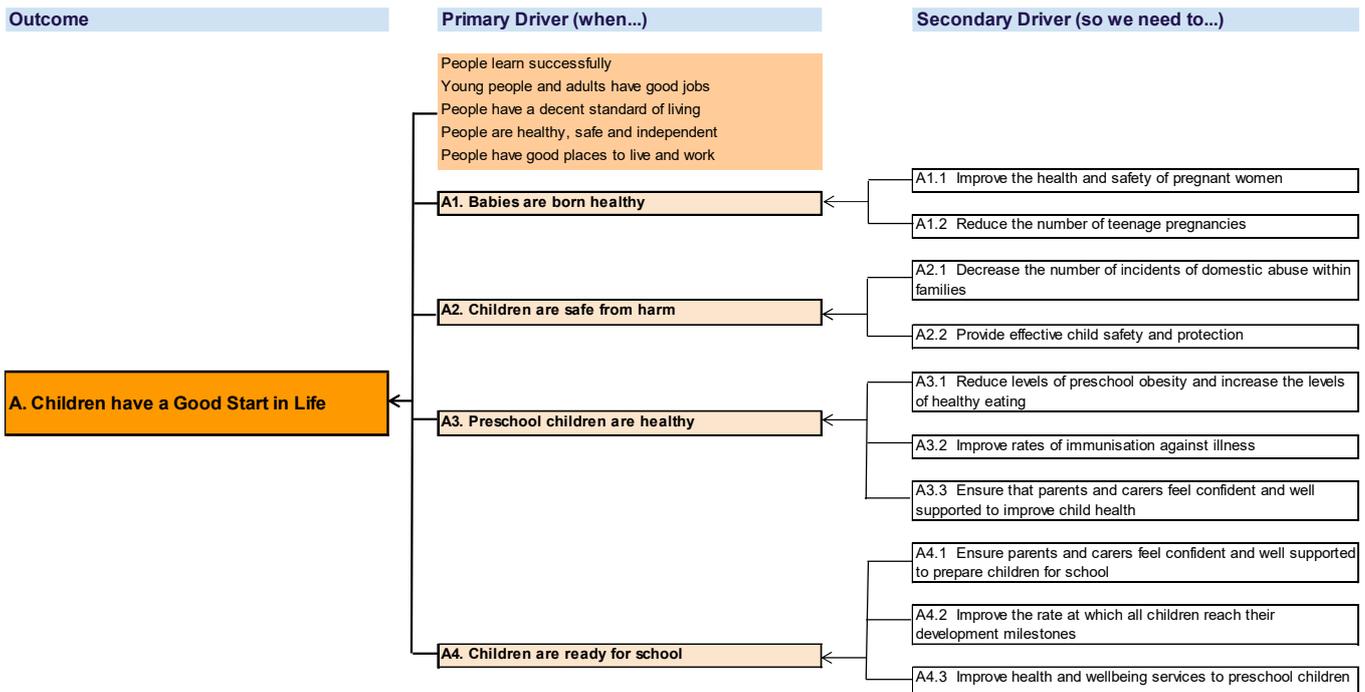
The full 2017 Assessment of Local Well-being for Swansea, and its annexes, is available to view at the link: www.swansea.gov.uk/psbassessment

Outcomes and Primary Drivers – overall diagram



Note: the following pages include the individual outcome driver diagrams, evidence summaries and well-being scores (0-10) for the primary drivers.

➤ Outcome A: Children have a good start in life



A1: Babies are born healthy

6 – Swansea is not dissimilar to the Wales average in many respects, and a number of positive initiatives are in progress. However, the challenges for Swansea include the persistent high smoking rates, poor diet and low levels of physical activity as reflected in the numbers of overweight and obese pregnant women, and the need to support positive mental health and help strengthen resilience for vulnerable families. A major challenge for Swansea lies in addressing the inequalities in health between people living in the least and most deprived communities and variations between these communities in breastfeeding rates, low birth weight and under-18s conception rates in particular.

A2: Children are safe from harm

6 – Substantial multi-agency work is taking place around domestic abuse and its effects on children but this continues to be a major challenge for Swansea. Safeguarding and child protection arrangements are strong and specialist support is available through a number of different projects and initiatives across Swansea. However, parental drug and alcohol misuse and mental ill health which have significant impacts on children’s experiences and the ability to keep them safe from harm also continue to present significant challenges in communities across Swansea.

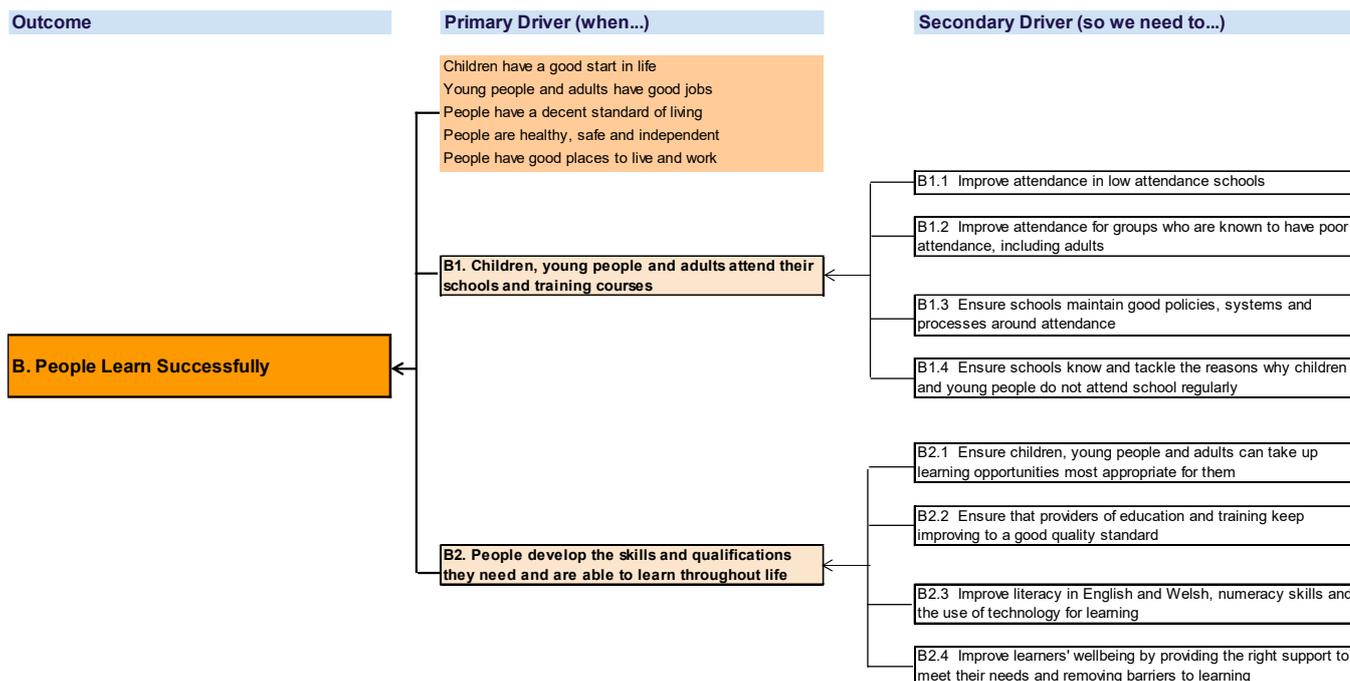
A3: Preschool children are healthy

5 – There are some aspects which are encouraging, and significant strategic and local activity around pre-school child health. However, the challenges for Swansea lie in addressing childhood obesity, poor oral health, the low uptake of routine childhood vaccinations and the incidence of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). The available evidence indicates that these challenges are greatest in areas of deprivation where health inequalities persist between our communities.

A4: Children are ready for school

5 – This score reflects how ready Swansea children are coming into school, and the quality, reach and quantity of early years provision. Whilst overall activity is strong, helped by the Early Years Strategy, the aim remains to narrow the gap and inequalities in developmental milestones across the social spectrum.

➤ Outcome B: People Learn Successfully



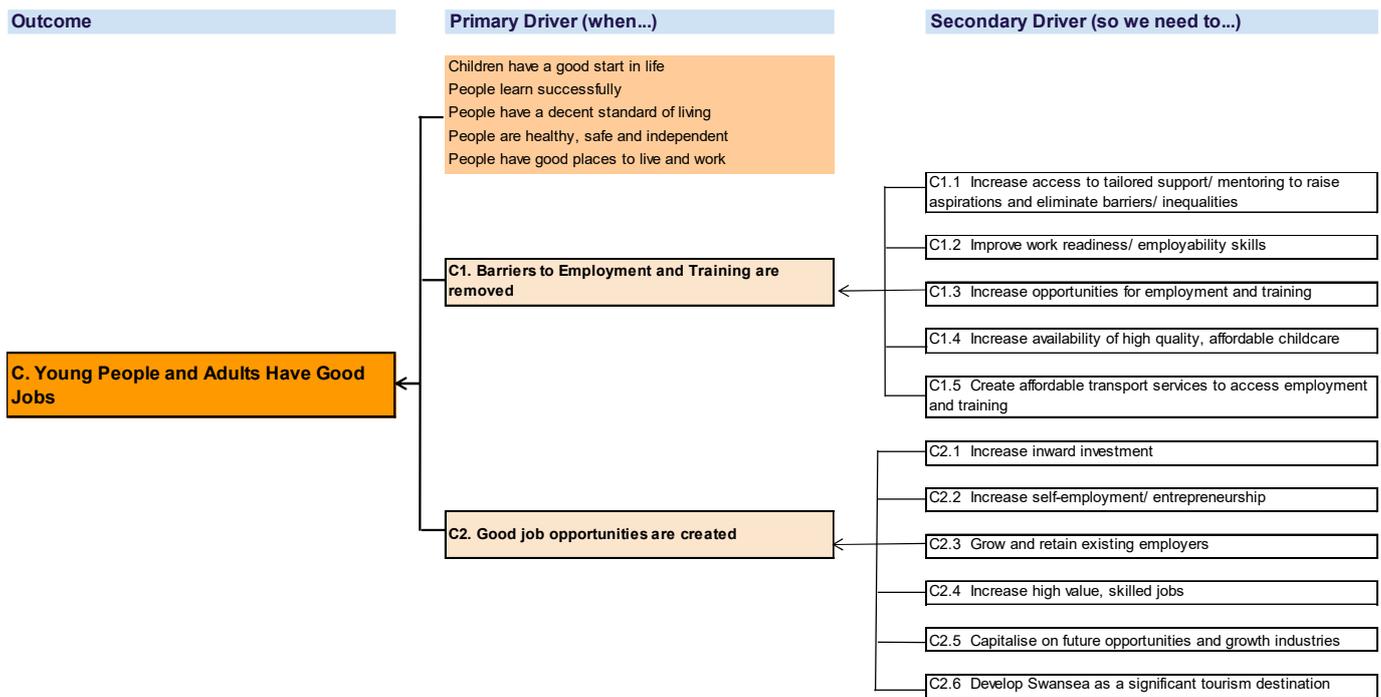
B1: Children, young people and adults attend their schools and training courses

6 – Attendance in both primary and secondary schools has improved in recent years at a rate faster than that seen nationally in Wales. Swansea attendance is currently in the second quartile compared to the other 21 Welsh local authority areas, and can improve further once a minority of schools where attendance is still an issue show better performance.

B2: People develop the skills and qualifications they need and are able to learn throughout life

6 – Results for Swansea at key stage 4 in 2015 and again in 2016 are in the top quartile of Welsh local authority areas, and have continued to improve at a rate faster than that seen nationally. Value-added measures (which are used to show pupil progress) placed Swansea in top position in 2015 in Wales. Estyn have acknowledged that the secondary schools in Swansea are the best performing group of such schools in Wales. However recent analysis for post-16 education suggests that performance is more patchy at that level.

➤ Outcome C: Young People & Adults Have Good Jobs



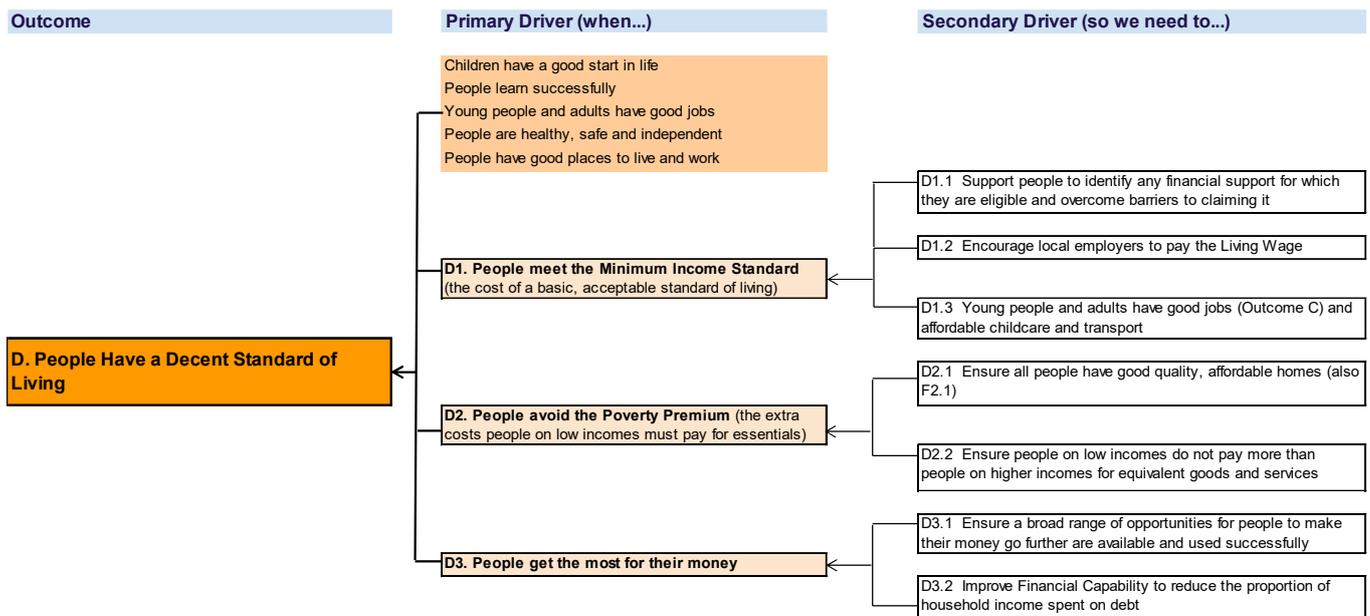
C1: Barriers to Employment and Training Are Removed

4 – There are some good things happening in Swansea (e.g. a wide range of different provision available) and there has been a gradual increase in the employment rate. However, Swansea still has far too many working age people who are not in work and more work needs to be done to address the barriers to employment and training to generate a step change in this driver.

C2: Good Job Opportunities are Created

4 – There is evidence that Swansea’s productivity gap (GVA) is narrowing, but the gap is still significant and needs to be addressed to facilitate the creation of more ‘good jobs’. There are also currently a relatively small number of businesses in Swansea generating economic activity compared with the UK average and workplace earnings are significantly lower by the same comparison. There are positive signs that our Universities’ expansion plans and potential City Deal investment could generate further economic activity and good jobs, but more work will be required to address perceived recruitment problems.

➤ Outcome D: People Have a Decent Standard of Living



D1: People meet the Minimum Income Standard (the cost of a basic, acceptable standard of living)

4 – Most people in Swansea are not in income poverty; but for those who are in poverty, well-being is low and this adds to the poverty trap. More could be done locally to improve well-being for people on low incomes.

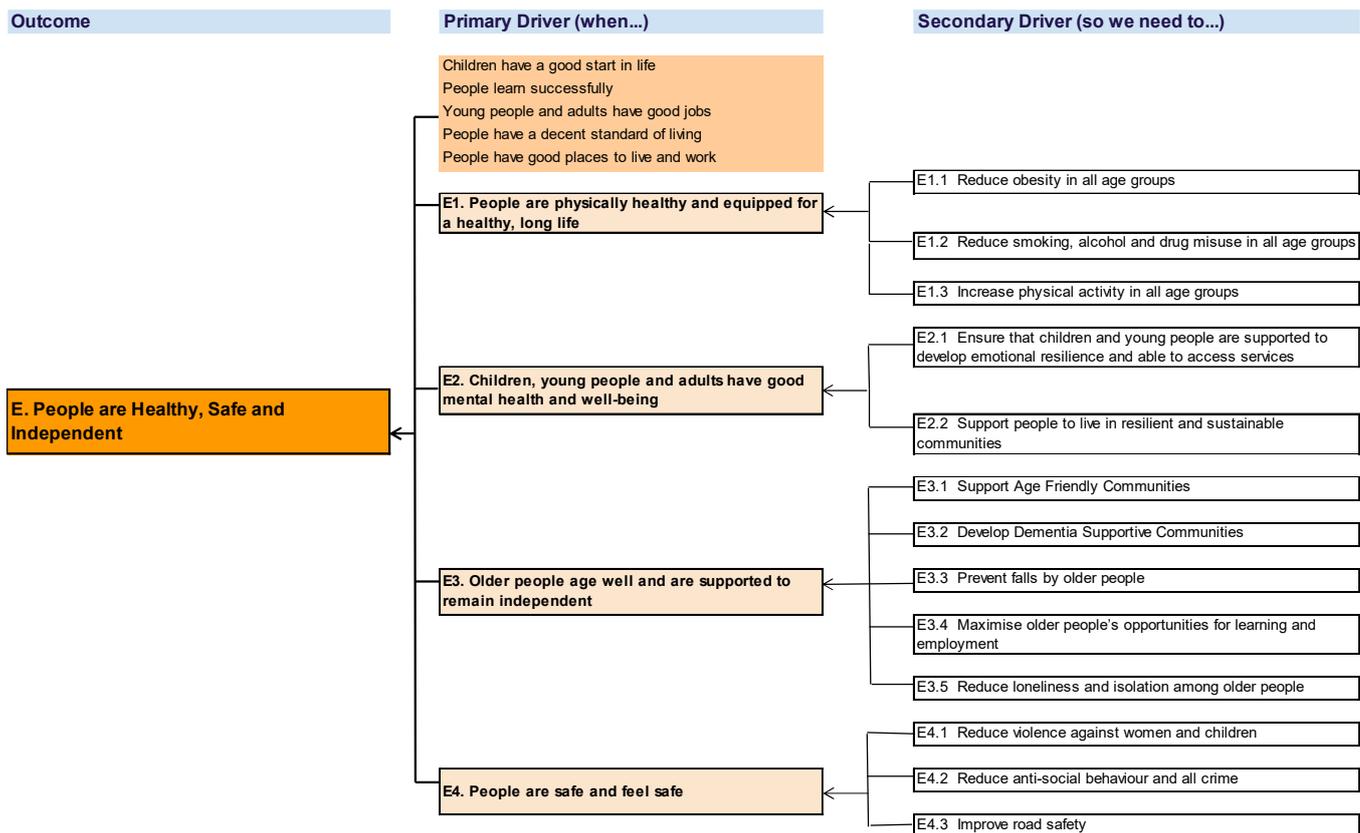
D2: People avoid the Poverty Premium (the extra costs people on low incomes must pay for essentials)

3 – In Swansea, households in poverty are very much subject to the Poverty Premium and there is not a coherent strategy for either addressing this or mitigating its impacts. However, small pockets of work trying to reduce amounts spent on fuel and credit are happening.

D3: People get the most for their money

3 – In Swansea, people only get the most for their money if they are already quite well-resourced with knowledge and information, well connected digitally and able to get around easily to take advantage of deals. The people least likely to be in this situation are those already suffering the impacts of poverty, and more could be done to join up activities and ideas to bring more improvements to the community.

➤ Outcome E: People are Healthy Safe and Independent



E1: People are physically healthy and equipped for a healthy, long life

4 – These issues are challenging as this is not just about providing services but also trying to change behaviour. So there will be a need for other services such as early years or those addressing environmental issues to influence the outcomes and support the changes aspired to.

E2: Children, young people and adults have good mental health and well-being

4 – Improvement is challenging as it relies on many other factors other than health and will need support from other work streams. For example levels of deprivation, access to education, levels of unemployment, good housing; environmental issues such as green space and access to facilities.

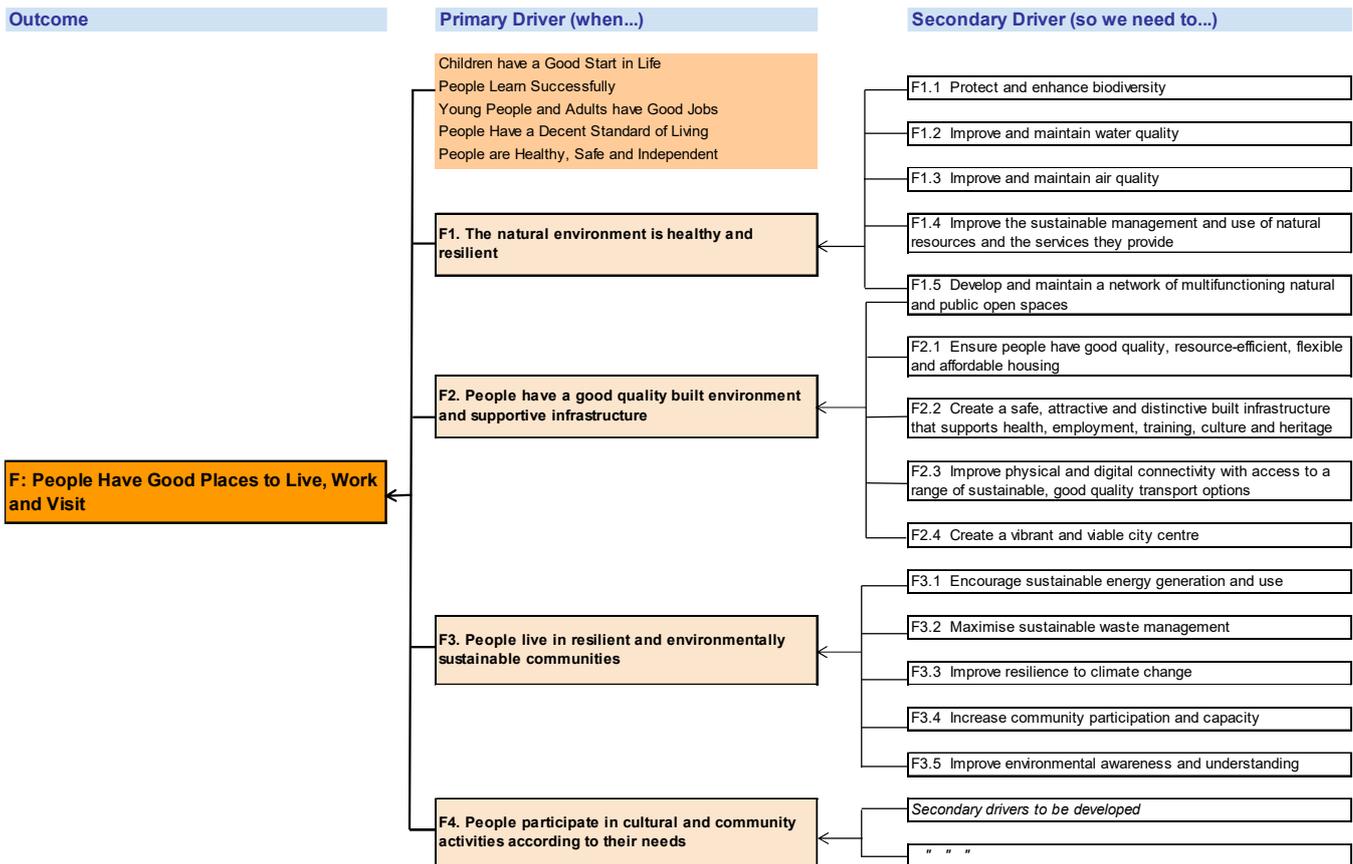
E3: Older people age well and are supported to remain independent

5 – Whilst there is some effective work taking place there is a need for more information regarding the impact that the year on year increase in life expectancy of the people of Swansea is likely to have on services. There are also gaps in our knowledge regarding area needs to allow for targeted work to take place.

E4: People are safe and feel safe

5 – Substantial work is ongoing regarding reducing violence against women and children, domestic abuse and sexual violence - linked with driver A2. Whilst the deaths/casualty figures of young drivers and passengers are reducing against the 2020 target, the cost to society of this type of incident is high for services (such as ambulance, police and health), and the families concerned. Extensive work is ongoing regarding anti-social behaviour within Swansea.

➤ Outcome F: People Have Good Places to Live, Work and Visit



F1: The natural environment is healthy and resilient

5 – Certain aspects of our natural environment are in a positive situation but the continuing loss of biodiversity and accessible greenspace, along with the ecological status of our waterbodies and poor air quality in some areas, give serious cause for concern as these are likely to have an adverse impact on everyone’s well-being. Ecosystem services need to be recognised and utilised more effectively and sustainably to ensure wellbeing can be improved now and sustained in the future.

F2: People have a good quality built environment and supportive infrastructure

4 – Whilst there have been some positive developments and improvements to urban areas in recent years, Swansea is still falling well short of its potential as a regional centre and there remain significant deficiencies in the level, range and quality of housing and supportive infrastructure in both urban and rural areas. The quality of our homes and the wider built environment can have a significant direct impact on our health and wellbeing.

F3: People live in resilient and environmentally sustainable communities

4 – Some aspects of community resilience and sustainability are improving, such as waste management, reduction in flood risk and renewable energy generation. However, greater community engagement and participation will be required if the necessary changes in lifestyle and practices are to be realised and the negative impacts of climate change on well-being minimised.

F4: People participate in cultural and community activities according to their needs

6 – There is a high regard and positivity felt for the cultural offer across Swansea, with high take-up, availability and diversity in the offer. However, community involvement could be further developed in some areas.