

Swansea Public Services Board Annual Report 2020/21



Gwasanaeth Tân Ac Achub
Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru
Mid and West Wales
Fire and Rescue Service

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Message from Swansea PSB

It has been 3 years since Swansea Public Services Board published our first Local Well-being Plan in May 2018.

This Report aims to highlight not only the progress made towards the ‘Swansea we Want’ but also to reflect on how we have applied the sustainable development principle’s ways of working and how we might better work towards well-being in the future.

Our first year of operation focused on research to understand Swansea’s challenges and opportunities, while the second year concentrated on planning and prioritising areas where collectively we could make the biggest difference. This Report focuses on 2020/21 - our third year of progress and delivery.

In addition to the meaningful outcomes that have helped change lives in Swansea, we have also created and continue to develop a delivery infrastructure and governance system.

While we have achieved a great deal in our 3 years of delivery, Swansea PSB is not complacent and will continue to innovate and seek new ways to improve Swansea’s well-being both today and for future generations.



Cllr Andrea Lewis
PSB Chair



Roger Thomas
Vice-Chair

Our Vision and Local Well-being Objectives

Swansea PSB - The story so far

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 created Public Services Boards so that local organisations could work together to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of their area by contributing to the achievement of Wales's Well-being goals.

In 2016, the Public Services Board (PSB) started a conversation about well-being in Swansea. We carried out an Assessment of Local Well-being to understand what matters most to communities. The Assessment told us that for many reasons Swansea is a great place to live but that we need to work harder together to make sure everyone can live well, benefit from and be proud of Swansea.

Using information from the Assessment and by listening to people, in 2018, Swansea Public Services Board developed a Local Well-being Plan. This identified our four Well-Being Objectives and a cross-cutting action.

This report aims to provide an update on the progress we have made towards meeting our objectives in 20/21, highlight the areas of work that has happened since the implementation of the Well-being plan, the lessons learnt, our future ambitions and how we are working together to make this happen.

Our Vision

In Swansea, we believe in the rights of every person. Our vision is to work together to make Swansea a place which is prosperous, where our natural environment is appreciated and maintained and where every person can have the best start in life, get a good job, live well, age well and have every opportunity to be healthy, happy, safe and the best they can be.

To achieve our vision we have prioritised four Local Well-being Objectives. We hope that by focusing our collective efforts, we can make the biggest difference by working together.

Our Local Well-being objectives for 2040

Our four key long term areas of work are prioritised below



Early Years – To ensure that children have the best start in life to be the best that they can be.

Live Well, Age Well – To make Swansea a great place to live well and age well.

Working with Nature - To improve health, enhance biodiversity and reduce our carbon footprint.

Strong Communities – To build strong communities with a sense of pride and belonging.

In addition, our cross cutting action for change underpins each of the local well-being objectives.

Sharing for Swansea – To work towards integrated public services in Swansea by sharing resources assets and expertise, in order to develop a common language and make every contact count.

This is being developed through Objective Leads working together to identify where resources, assets and expertise can be shared as part of the development of the Objectives. For example, a Critical Incident Group (CIG) for the High Street was formed and agencies took the lead in their specific knowledge areas; the partnership has extended beyond the statutory partners to support and assist in terms of assets, resources and expertise. For example, the police lead on communications as well as

anti-social behaviour and criminality. Barod and Womens Aid take a multiagency approach to tackling Violence and substance misuse.

Public service hubs are being developed to co-locate and co-produce public services to ensure they are accessible in one place and develop a common language, ensuring that every contact counts and that multiple queries are dealt with in one place at first point of contact.

The Way We Work - Governance

The Sustainable Development Principle

Swansea PSB is committed to acting in a manner which seeks to ensure the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

We do this by ensuring every decision we make or action we take considers the sustainable development principle's five ways of working.



Long term: The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.



Prevention: How to act to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.



Integration: Considering how public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.



Collaboration: Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of that body itself) that could help the body meet its well-being objectives.



Involvement: The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body services.

The National Well-being Goals

We aim to make our actions deliver as much value as possible by ensuring we look for multiple outcomes in all we do. By ensuring we think about each of the national Well-being Goals below we maximise our contribution to the Wales We Want.

Goal	Description of the Goal
A prosperous Wales	An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including action on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.
A resilient Wales	A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).
A healthier Wales	A society in which people's physical and mental wellbeing is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.
A more equal Wales	A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).
A Wales of cohesive communities	Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.
A globally responsible Wales	A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic , social, environmental and cultural well-being of wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

Our Commitments

In addition, all Swansea PSB Partners have signed up to a set of commitments. These commitments are below and go beyond the legal duties that the different organisations have and are reviewed taking account of advice from Wales' Commissioners.

Healthy City Status

Swansea is part of the Healthy Cities network promoting good health and addressing health inequality in our communities.

Swansea as a Human Rights City

Swansea Public Services Board supports the development of a Human Rights City approach in Swansea.

Children and Young People's Rights (UNCRC)

The Board is committed to making sure that services have a positive effect on children and young people in Swansea and have embedded the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into the way we set our policies.

First 1000 Days Collaborative

Swansea Public Services Board has joined the First 1000 Days collaborative, which supports families throughout pregnancy and the first two years of life.

Age Friendly Cities and Communities

The Board endorses the principles and actions set out in the Dublin Declaration on Age-Friendly Cities and Communities in Europe.

Good Practice in Public Engagement

The Board endorses the National Principles for Public Engagement in Wales and will follow them in all engagement and consultation. The Board is committed to engaging people who are interested in improving local well-being in the development of both the Well-being Assessment and the Well-being Plan and will strive to reflect the diversity of the population when doing so.

Participation of Children and Young People

The Board is committed to the principles of the National Standards for Children and Young People's Participation.

Armed Forces Community Covenant

The Board is committed to the Armed Forces Community Covenant and to nurturing understanding and awareness amongst the public of the issues affecting the armed forces community.

Convention on Biological Diversity

The Board is committed to delivering the principles of the Convention on Biological Diversity as set out in the adopted Swansea Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2005.

One Public Sector

The Board is committed to a culture that cuts across organisational boundaries and sectors. Where everyone involved in the delivery of public services in Wales is part of this common endeavour, sharing common values and working together for the benefit of the people of Wales

How we work

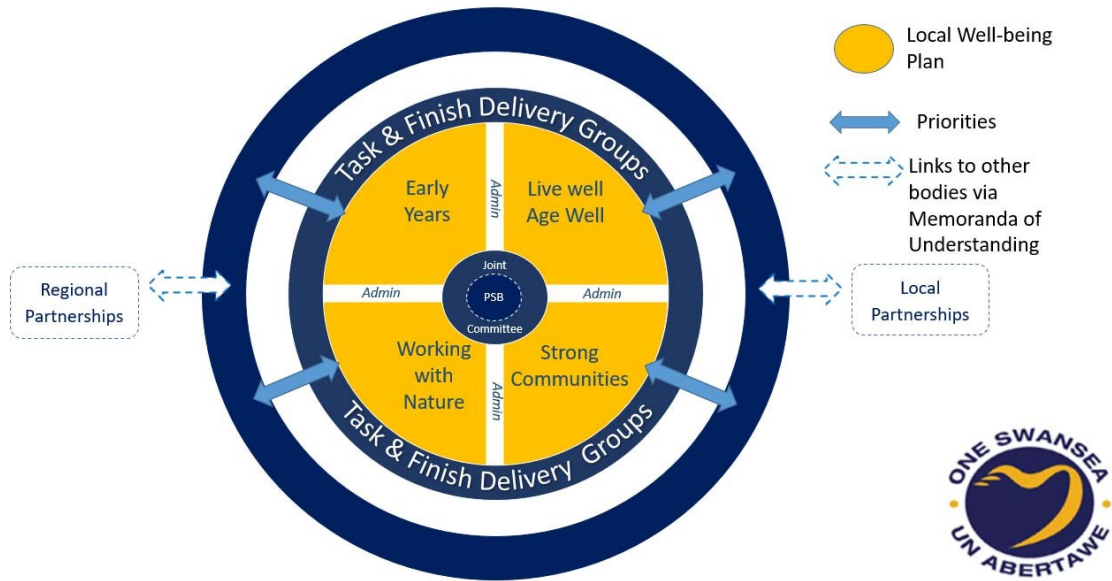
The limitations of the previous PSB governance structure were recognised and a Governance Review was undertaken to address this. The Review also took on board advice from the Future Generations Commissioner and a new Governance structure was put in place. The new Governance arrangements embraces sustainable ways of working and places the delivery of the Well-being Objectives at the heart of what the PSB is trying to do to make a difference.

The key principle of the review was that the work of the PSB is a core part rather than an addition to the existing work of its members. All levels of organisational staff should see PSB priorities as the day job not an additional responsibility.

The Statutory PSB members along with the wider Core Group proposed that the PSB benefit from a streamlined governance process with the a new focus on delivery objectives as the driver of the PSB. This provides an opportunity to focus the PSB on making a difference by shifting the emphasis to the Objective Delivery Groups. Involvement can be more meaningful and involve a wider range of partners through the creation of a Partnership Forum. Task and finish groups were formed in response to need and draw on the skills and expertise of the Partnership Forum organisations.

Decision making governance is expedited at a strategic level via a Joint Committee consisting of the PSB Statutory members and invited participants. This group provides advocacy and support at a strategic level for issues raised by PSB partners through the Objective delivery groups each of which are co-ordinated and facilitated by a statutory member. The PSB Joint Committee meetings are held bi-monthly and the Partnership Forums take place every 6 months.

However, it is unfortunate that we have been unable to hold our Partnership Forums and other aspects of the PSB operations have also been affected by COVID-19. We are actively looking to seek alternative ways of engaging with other partners/ organisations.



Whilst Swansea PSB has consciously sought to improve how we involve “usual suspects” there is still scope to include a wider stakeholder audience and opportunities to further involve the public more regularly moving forward.

Regional Working takes place via joint meetings between Swansea and Neath Port Talbot PSBs. Focus has been on Substance misuse/ drug related deaths/ county lines which is still being progressed, reviewed and monitored.

Swansea's Local Well-being

This chapter of the report summarises the latest situation in Swansea and recent local trends in a selection of National Indicators (Welsh Government) and other measures, using the latest published statistics.

Most of the analysis below relates to a time period before the COVID-19 pandemic and initial national lockdown (March 2020), an inevitable result of the processes and systems for statistical data collection and associated time lags.

The same measures included in the previous Annual Report are highlighted in the analysis below:

- The **healthy life expectancy gap** between the most and least deprived areas in Swansea (2010-14) was 21.9 years for males (Wales 18.7) and 16.3 years for females (Wales 18.2). Since 2005-09, the gaps have slightly reduced for males in Swansea (from 22.4 years), but increased for females (from 15.0). There have been no recent updates to the 2010-14 data at a local level. *(National Indicator 2)*
- 10.8% of adults in Swansea reported fewer than two (of the five) healthy **lifestyle behaviours** (Wales 10.0%) (National Survey for Wales data, 2018-20). Swansea is currently worse than the Welsh average for smoking and drinking (above guidelines), but better than the Welsh average on healthy weight. Measures of eating fruit and vegetables and physical activity are equal for Swansea and Wales. *(NI 3)*
- **Air quality** in Swansea, as measured by annual average levels of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) pollution exposure, has continued to improve; falling from 13.1 µg/m³ in 2009 to 9.9 in 2019 (modelled data – pollutants per cubic metre of air). However, average NO₂ concentrations in Wales are lower (9.2 µg/m³ in 2019). *(NI 4)*
- In 2019-20, an estimated 14.1% of people aged 16+ living in households in Swansea live in **material deprivation** (that is, cannot afford particular goods and activities that are typical in society at a given point in time); above the Wales average (12.9%) but decreasing from 20.6% in 2017-18. However these are (national) survey-based estimates so short-term changes at a local level should be viewed with caution. *(NI 19)*
- 82.0% of adults in Swansea were moderately or very satisfied with their jobs in 2019-20 (Wales 82.1%), falling from 85.2% in 2017-18. Employed respondents are asked to rate their **job satisfaction** on a scale from 0 to 10, and this includes those that answered 6 or above. *(NI 20)*
- In 2018-19, 76% of adults in Swansea **felt safe** (Wales 71%). Respondents were asked how safe they felt after dark at home, walking in the local area, and travelling (on a five point scale). Those that responded either 'very safe' or 'fairly safe' to all three questions were coded by the National Survey as 'feeling safe'. The Swansea figure has increased since the question was last asked in the

survey (2016-17: 66%). This topic wasn't included in the 2019-20 survey results. (NI 25)

- In the National Survey 2018-19, 46.6% of people aged 16+ in Swansea agreed with all three statements related to **community cohesion** (Wales 52.2%): people agreeing that they belong to the area; people from different backgrounds get on well together; people treat each other with respect. The Swansea figures for the individual statements were 66%, 75% and 75% respectively, with the Swansea figure for 'belonging' the furthest below the Wales average (72%). Again, this topic wasn't included in the 2019-20 outputs. (NI 27)
- **Volunteering** is undertaken by 28.5% of people aged 16+ in Swansea in 2019-20 (slightly below the Wales average of 26.1%). These figures reflect people who stated that they currently (at time of survey) give their time for free (formally and informally) to help a list of clubs or organisations. As with other National Survey indicators included here (for 2019-20), this figure predates the coronavirus pandemic. (NI 28)
- The National Survey also includes a set of six questions to assess levels of **loneliness**, calculated using the De Jong Gierveld loneliness scale. Based on these, 17.0% of people aged 16+ in Swansea (15.4% in Wales) were found to be lonely in 2019-20; slightly lower than in 2016-17 (19.0% in Swansea, 17.3% in Wales). (NI 30)
- The number of households for whom **homelessness** was successfully prevented for at least 6 months, as a rate per 10,000 households, is also a National Indicator. During 2018-19 the rate for Swansea was 81.8 per 10,000 households, up from 73.7 in 2017-18 (Wales: 54.0 in 2018-19; 44.9 in 2017-18). In October 2018, there were an estimated 37 rough sleepers in Swansea, within a Wales total of 405. This data was not collected for 2019-20 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. (NI 34)
- In terms of **child obesity**, 74.8% of children in reception year (aged 4 to 5) were of healthy weight in 2017-18, above the equivalent Wales rate (73.6%). The Swansea figure has fluctuated but remained relatively constant overall since 2012-13 (74.2%). There have been no recent updates to this data. (*Thriving Places 2020 measure*)
- Welsh Government has recently changed the reporting of their **education Key Stage 4** indicators, and currently use a set of interim performance measures. In 2018-19, the percentage of pupils achieving Level 2 inclusive in Swansea (equivalent to the volume of 5 GCSEs at grade A*-C including English/Welsh or Mathematics), at 57.3%, is higher than the Welsh average of 53.8%. (*Thriving Places 2020 measure*)

During the last year there have been a number of publication updates related to the local measurement of well-being in Wales:

- In December 2020, Welsh Government published their latest annual *Well-being of Wales* report. As part of this release, some of the 46 National Indicators were also updated (where possible). However, many of the national indicators are

based on official data sets which don't yet cover the period of the pandemic, or come from surveys or collections that were paused during this period.

- In July 2020, as part of their on-going Measuring National Well-being (MNW) programme, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published *Personal Well-being in the UK, 2019-20* – containing estimates of life satisfaction, feeling that the things done in life are worthwhile, happiness and anxiety from UK to local authority level, using data from ONS' Annual Population Survey. On all four measures, Swansea mean scores are slightly worse than the Wales and UK averages for 2019-20.
- Data Cymru's *Thriving Places Wales* tool measures the relative prevalence of conditions for well-being and quality of life at a local authority level in Wales, using a wide range of indicators (currently 55) across three 'domains' of well-being. In the 2020 index, Swansea has better conditions for well-being than the Wales average in the 'Sustainability' and 'Equality' domains, but is worse than the Wales average in the 'Local Conditions' domain. Publication of the next version is scheduled for summer 2021.

Work is now underway on Swansea's next Assessment of Local Well-being, which is to be completed and published by the Board by May 2022 in line with legislative requirements. The document will provide an assessment of the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in Swansea and be published one year before the next local Well-being Plan in May 2023.

Progress towards Our Local Well-being Objectives

Early Years



To ensure that children have the best start in life to be the best that they can be.

Lead – This work is co-ordinated by the Early Years Steering Group and led by Swansea University Health Board.

Partners/ Stakeholders Involved

Early Years Partnership	Early Years Steering Group	Swansea Council- Education	Flying Start Link Teachers/Foundation Phase Strategic Lead
Public Health Wales	Early Intervention Services	Childcare sector/ Family Information Service	Swansea Bay University Health Board
Primary Care Early Years Pilot	Healthy Pre School Scheme	Active Young People Team	Jig-So service
Early Years Progression Officer	Early Learning and Language Development Team	Health Visiting	University Wales Trinity Saint David
Families, Community groups	Flying Start childcare settings	Midwifery	

Overview of work within Early Years

As set out in the National Strategy Prosperity for All, we want:

“Children from all backgrounds to have the best start in life. Our aim is that everyone will have the opportunity to reach their full potential and maximise their chances of leading a healthy, prosperous and fulfilling adulthood, enabling them to participate fully in communities, the workplace, and contribute to the future economic success of Wales.”

The past year has seen our Early Years Integration Transformation - Pathfinder collaborative across Swansea Bay develop, with pilot projects beginning. The projects will test the early years system and help us to understand how we can deliver our vision that:

Health, Learning, Childcare, Play, and Family Support services are integrated and provide a seamless pathway that is proportionate to the needs of children, young people and families, from conception until age 7.

Our vision is underpinned by the guiding principles of a healthier, more resilient, and equal Wales. In order to continue to successfully examine the Early Years System, our pilot projects will continue to work in a sustainable, preventative and collaborative way. The key to understanding and interpreting that data from our pilot projects is how they are managing to assist the examination of the early years landscape and supporting long term sustainable and meaningful transformation towards our vision of a seamless pathway proportionate to the needs of all.

Our mapping exercise and subsequent public engagement has identified a number of areas across the early years system that we are keen to explore over the coming year. The ongoing evaluation into our testing has highlighted the need for a thematic approach.

These themes have been highlighted as:

1. Improving access to Speech, Language and Communication Support.
2. Family Support.
3. Early Years Nutrition.
4. Additional Learning Needs and Occupational Therapy support.
5. Transition through Health Services.
6. Physical Literacy.

There is a growing body of evidence on the damaging impact of COVID lockdowns on babies and young children.

Recent research indicated increased concerns amongst new parents about their mental health, including increased anxiety and ability to cope – and that families already facing disadvantage have been worst affected.

There is hidden Harm affecting children aged 0-2 in particular, including reduced access to services, health and developmental risks associated with increased time indoors, restricted social interaction and increased likelihoods of exposure to traumatic experiences and material deprivation.

“We have known for some time just how important the first 1,000 days are for the rest of a person’s life. This period has a long-lasting impact on children’s intellectual, emotional and social development, affecting educational outcomes, future relationships and opportunities and longer-term physical and mental health. Of course, rich and positive experiences also create immediate benefits for children, especially for their wellbeing. Much attention has been given to the experiences of school-age children during Covid. But we cannot afford to overlook the needs of our youngest children if we are to avoid lengthening the time it takes for us to deal with the impact of the pandemic.”

Children in Wales

“Babies born during the pandemic have been reliant on care from parents that are more likely to be experiencing heightened stress, social isolation and mental health problems. But many new parents are not receiving the mental health support they need because there are gaps in these vital services in Wales. Urgent action is needed to help families recover by ensuring that perinatal mental health support is available for every family no matter where they live. Without this there is a real concern that the pandemic will have a detrimental impact on the mental health and wellbeing of parents and babies that is severe and long-lasting.”

NSPCC Cymru/Wales

“There has rightly been a lot of attention given to getting children back to school. Whilst this is important, we must not overlook the vital role that the home environment plays in shaping a child’s earliest development. And whilst the last eleven months have been challenging for many, we must not forget that some families have had positive experiences of being together during lockdown. We need to learn from all these experiences if we are to find creative solutions that help us build a better future for the next generation.”

Home Start Cymru

Our challenge – to reflect on the work undertaken to date and work co-productively to explore and deliver on the ambition, ensuring the child is always at the centre.

Integral to this process is adherence to the Plan, Do, Check, Review approach to achieve a balance between systems and behavioural aspects.



What work have we undertaken?

Early Years Integration Transformation – Pathfinder (EYITP)

The EYITP is a Welsh Government programme aiming to “build on our current early years programmes and create a more joined-up, responsive system that puts the unique needs of each child at its heart” (Prosperity for All – The National Strategy, Welsh Government). The focus of Pathfinder is the co-ordination of services for all children in their early years from conception to age 7.

The completion of our mapping exercise highlighted key themes to explore. These were:

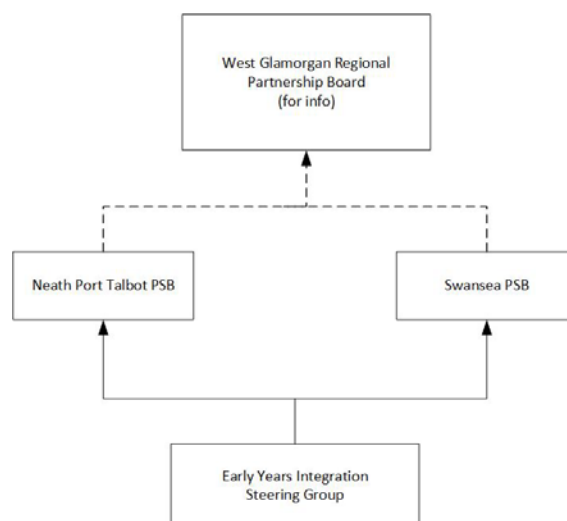
- 1) Transitions between services.
- 2) Workforce Development.
- 3) Equity of service.
- 4) Engaging with seldom heard family voices.
- 5) Systems and Process.
- 6) Design of the pathfinder approach.

The last year has seen a focus on projects designed to test the early years system through the following projects.

We have explored:

- 1) A Co-ordinated Early Years Support System in the Llŵchwr GP Cluster area.
- 2) Improving access to Speech, Language and Communication Support, through the use of the Wellcomm toolkit.
- 3) Support continued workforce development of Health Visitors with New born Behaviour Observation training, and the wider Early Years workforce with training to support a great understanding of Physical Literacy through the Successful Kinaesthetic Intervention for Pre School training.
- 4) Supporting the UNICEF baby friendly Initiative, following public consultation with over 300 new mums in Swansea & Neath Port Talbot around Breastfeeding; we have supported the Breast Feeding Co-ordinator with programmes designed to help mums with infant feeding.

Learning from the year one evaluation has informed our direction of travel as we move forward. The governance of the EYITP is set out below:



Repurposing of the Childcare offer

During Spring 2020 Welsh Government repurposed the existing Childcare Offer Grant for a timed period, which saw Local Authority’s in Wales developing and implementing a specific COVID response Childcare Assistance Scheme (CCAS). The CCAS grant enabled access to registered childcare provision predominantly for pre-school aged children of key workers, as well as pre-school aged children identified by Social Services as vulnerable.

During the period CCAS was available, the funding supported a total of 750 children, of which 8.4% (n=63) were under the vulnerable category to attend Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) registered pre-school childcare provision in Swansea.

In addressing the ever evolving nature of Early Years it has once again become necessary to address the Flying Start Childcare Assistance Scheme and transition out of the “pilot” phase to the Early Years Childcare Assistance Programme (EYCA). The EYCA Programme will be available for children and young people aged 0-16 for 52 weeks of the year and will create an application process for childcare whether this be as part of the current Assisted Places Scheme, Flying Start Outreach Programme and also enable dovetailing to the 30 hour Childcare Offer.

The Child Development fund

The Child Development Fund is a grant awarded to Local Authorities across Wales to support with the initial impact of Covid on early child development. The grant enabled us to support the development of specific projects that would support across 6 key work streams:

- 1) Pre Diagnosis Intervention targeted to need

- 2) Support for the workforce in meeting the needs of children experiencing delay due to Covid-19 lockdown
- 3) Additional training for parents, activity bags and support packs & additional resources to support delivery
- 4) Providing additional resource to third sector projects to support children and families due to increased demand and emerging need inducing the development of gross and fine motor skills, social and personal development through access to play, sport and leisure activities
- 5) Intensive Early Years Support within Schools
- 6) Promoting engagement, bonding and attachment

The Child Development fund links with the Early Years Integration Transformation – Pathfinder work and some of the projects are being supported via this grant as we move into 2021/22 to ensure that the learning from the support is evaluated and understood in the context of transformation. The People Commissioning group has oversight of the projects and all outcomes are supporting our PSB objective to ‘Give every Child the Best Start in Life’.

Early Years Additional Learning Needs Support and Inclusion Team

The Additional Learning Needs Educational Tribunal for Wales Act will be implemented on a three year rolling program from September 2021. One key purpose of the Act is to ensure children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) receive early, timely and effective identification and interventions. In order to promote this key purpose Swansea Council’s Early Years ALN Support and Inclusion Team have been working extremely hard to provide an equitable service across the early years landscape. Our aim is to provide advice, support and strategies to help those in the childcare sector to create inclusive environments and support children within their care who have ALN, learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Swansea Council’s Early Years ALN Support and Inclusion Team have worked with colleagues within the Early Years Programme Team in order to amalgamate referral processes to ensure that those who seek support all have access to the same level of service. This is the first step in providing our early years population with equal opportunities. Moving forward the process will align further to ensure the best possible outcomes are made placing the child at the heart of all decisions.

Early Help Hubs/Jigso

There is a continuation of funding to support the Early Help Hubs and Jigso as part of a multiagency collaborative approach.

Intentions for the Future

Key areas for us to focus on in 2021 are:

1. Undertaking an Early Years Integration Transformation Programme – Pathfinder - System Thinking (Vanguard) Review

2. Development of Thematic Early Years groups to examine the early years system across Swansea & NPT in conjunction with SBUHB
3. Understanding the data from the Pathfinder Speech and Language project, in order to help understand how we can ensure that all children across Swansea are supported with their speech and language development
4. Continued alignment of Early Years ALN panels, and implementation of the ALN ACT 2021. Understanding and aligning services following the Acts implementation in September 2021
5. Continuation of the Early Years & Childcare ALN Inclusion and Support Officer and understanding the impact this role will have
6. Understanding the learning from the continuation of the Child Development Fund. Ensuring the approach is consistent with the identified work streams
7. Understanding the appropriate Covid recovery support needed
8. Exploring an examination of transition through Health Services by supporting the creation of a 'Wellbeing Passport' with Midwifery and Health Visiting partners
9. Continue Development of the Early Years Childcare Assistance Scheme

We have also included examples of some of the excellent projects delivered over the past 12 months by Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB) and partners on early years work.

Penderi Primary Care Early Years Worker

Following a presentation to the Penderi Cluster Network about Early Years Developments in Swansea and priorities under the Healthy City programme, a range of partner agencies worked closely together facilitated by the Health Board, to develop an exciting new role to be developed for the Penderi Cluster.

Transitional Care Unit – Singleton Hospital

Our newly refurbished Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) has been designed to be compliant with latest healthcare standards in the UK and is equipped with modern equipment and advanced monitoring technologies required to care for the sickest and the most vulnerable babies to a very high standard.

The NICU in Singleton Hospital, Swansea is the only unit for South West Wales. This new facility allows our staff to deliver excellent specialist care for the sickest babies and support their families in a state of the art built environment, fit for the 21st Century.

The provision of this facility at Singleton Hospital has been hugely beneficial. In addition to serving local population in the Swansea area, we routinely receive referrals for the most critically ill neonatal babies from the rest of the South West Wales region including Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire. During busy periods we often accept referrals from other parts of Wales or England.

During the project, families were pro-actively involved in the design of how the unit would look. A portfolio of artwork was undertaken in collaboration with families which demonstrates how the artwork for the unit was developed from design concept with them right through to installation.



Sale of Fairfield



Selling land and property allows the Health Board to create a more efficient estate. Income received generates vital capital to rebuild our infrastructure so that we can meet modern standards of service delivery that enables excellent patient care.

The sale of its most recent property 'Fairfield'- shows how the Health Board utilised a whole organisational approach to apply the sustainable development principle to ensure that estates are sold in-line with the Well-being of Future Generations Act. The evaluation of tenders received was based upon how they addressed the WBFGA Goals and how the tenders aligned themselves to the Health Board's three wellbeing objectives.

Taking into consideration all the bids received and following discussions with the Health Board, the evaluation team were able to recommend Kids Cancer Charity, a national children's cancer charity, whose headquarters are based in Swansea were the successful bidder.

The charity currently provide a range of services to improve the quality of life for UK children and teenagers diagnosed with cancer. The diagnosis of a child with cancer brings deep distress to the family as a whole, and the charity therefore provides practical and emotional support to the affected child, siblings, and their parents.

Fairfield would offer them a 'fit for purpose' facility, with added benefits of ramps, wheelchair access, indoor and outdoor options'. These are provisions that was not currently available to them within their existing premises.

The WBFGA has demonstrated that there is a 'bigger picture' and that disposing of properties could deliver wider societal benefits aside from the immediate financial benefit to the Health Board.

Live Well, Age Well



To make Swansea a great place to live well and age well.

Lead – This work is co-ordinated by the Live Well, Age Well working group and led by Swansea Council.

Partners/ Stakeholders Involved

Swansea Bay University Health Board	Citizens within the Ageing Well Network	Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service
West Glamorgan Regional Partnership Board	Swansea Council	Housing Associations
Swansea University	South Wales Police	Third Sector and Voluntary Sector

The original areas of focus within the PSB “Live Well, Age Well” Objective remain unchanged and will be reviewed as part of the new well-being assessment:

- **Culture Change** - To start a debate across generations about what it means to live and age well and develop a campaign based on the feedback
- **Innovative approaches to health and social care** – Supporting dementia Friendly Communities and maximising existing approaches and exploring evidence-based approaches to end of life care
- **Community based approaches** – Exploring a range of initiatives to tackle social isolation and build personal resilience across PSB and voluntary sector
- **Innovative housing and technology** – To explore options for people with additional care needs that help them remain independent at home.
- **Making every contact count** – The development and sharing of joint messages and resources that support people remain safe and independent in their homes.

Overview of work within Live Well, Age Well Objective:

Supporting people's rights throughout COVID 19 has never been so important. Evidence demonstrates how the pandemic has exacerbated existing inequalities and impacted on rights with citizens being pushed into poverty, an observed widening of inequalities and worsening mental health especially for the vulnerable.

Despite the pandemic, which has required adapting how we all live and work and emphasised the importance of even greater partnership working across all sectors in order to support citizens to continue to access essential services and address issues of well-being during an unprecedented period, much progress has been made against many of the 'steps' outlined in the Well-being Plan as demonstrated below.

Culture change:

During the last 12 months, a substantial amount of work has been undertaken to explore how in Swansea we can embed a continuous approach to human rights across the life stages, ensuring that all citizens have every opportunity to access and enjoy their rights from the moment they are born, living well and ageing well throughout their life course, particularly in respect of being listened to and heard in decisions that affect them.

As part of plans to support recovery out of COVID, attention has turned to co-producing fit for purpose, inclusive mechanisms to engage citizens of all ages to ensure those who would traditionally be marginalised from civic participation, e.g. those who possess protected characteristics and/or have additional needs, lack confidence, or do not wish to commit to formal elected positions but equally have a right to have their voice heard in decisions, service changes and city plans are included.

To help drive forward cultural change, citizen engagement and participation has continued to be a key feature through mechanisms such as the Big Conversation, Ageing Well Forum, Poverty Truth Commission, Parent Carer Forum and many other community engagement opportunities throughout Swansea.

Embedding Human Rights through "The Right Way" Approach:

Work has begun to map the common themes and differences within National strategy relating to children & young people as well as those citizens 50+ to understand what a "City for all" looks like. This includes taking themes from the Older Person's Commissioners "Leave No-one Behind" report, National Strategy for an "Ageing Society", the UNCRC call for evidence, Coronavirus and Me Survey and feedback from citizens to establish a common framework underpinned by Human Rights.

Swansea's Children's Rights Scheme, adopted in 2014, has been redeveloped and refreshed, ensuring that it complements the 'Right Way', a principled approach that is being embedded nationally. Although not a far leap from the existing Scheme in

Swansea, alignment provides consistency in terms of language and measurement (using the Children Commissioners for Wales matrix), and provides increased opportunity to access resources. A draft plan on a page of the Children and Young People's Rights Scheme has been co-produced in preparation for formal consultation. This plan incorporates National Principles for a Rights Based Approach to Children, and takes account of previous extensive work with children, young people and practitioners on what a new Scheme could look like.

The Welsh Government strategy for an "Ageing Society" also highlights 'The Right Way' principled approach to rights as a framework for embedding human rights in supporting older people in Wales. The potential of a draft Charter for Citizen 50+ has been explored, which could encourage Council departments to pledge to achieve the tangible tasks required to embed right-based practice within this field of work.

Work is also being done to map the 8 domains of an Age Friendly city, the key themes from Leave No-One Behind, the Strategy for an Ageing Society against the 5 principles of The Right Way in an action plan. This would help when reporting our progress on each so we are recognising how fulfilling each maximises opportunities for Citizens 50+ to access and enjoy their rights. It also offers a smart way to bring together many components of what is regarded to successfully drive forward the Ageing Well agenda locally.

Participation with Citizens across the Age Range



Listening to Children & Young People:

In Swansea, meaningful and inclusive opportunities for children and young people to be heard in decisions that affect them is a priority.

Since 2014, the county mechanism to ensure this has been called the Big Conversation, offering opportunities for nearly 10,000 children and young people aged 5-25 years to engage and to be heard.

The Pandemic meant that thought had to be given to how and where we engage with children and young people in this new and unprecedented time of working. Engagement with children, young people, families, practitioners and data was undertaken between April-September 2020 to understand what good involvement may now look like.

In order to effectively take on board the learning, the following areas of focus were identified and actioned:

Development of fit for purpose infrastructure (including a review and repurpose of the Life Stages Team and redevelopment of a partnership approach to children's rights via the Children's Rights Network):

The Life Stages Team has been restructured and renamed as the Partnerships and Involvement Team to facilitate and co-ordinate the partnership approaches required to embed rights based practice in areas concerning children and young people and citizens 50+.

The Children's Rights Network has been relaunched and a multi-disciplinary partnership approach to embedding children's rights in Swansea has been refreshed.

Review and refresh of Swansea's Children and Young People's Rights Scheme, including SMART and robust methods for measuring and evidencing its impact on the lives of children;

A draft Scheme has been co-produced and will undergo a period of further consultation during Jun-August 21.

Further development of fit for purpose, meaningful and inclusive mechanisms that engage children and young people aged 0-18 in decisions that affect them:

Evidence showed that children and young people in Swansea and across Wales/UK who are already considered vulnerable and sometimes harder to engage, have experienced further marginalisation during lockdown periods. Therefore, mechanisms developed need to be inclusive, accessible and flexible to enable all children and young people to engage and relay their own personal experiences. Co-production of new and fit for purpose mechanisms for listening to children are currently being worked on with a plan to launch in Autumn 2021.

It has been important to recognise that forum mechanisms form only one part of listening. The embedding of children's human rights as part of our commitment to the UNCRC requires a partnership approach to engagement and involvement. The effort of departments to adapt and change to continue to work with children and young people has been significant and effective.

Swansea Neath Port Talbot Junior Safeguarding Board: Keeping Connecting, Staying Safe:

The SNPT Junior Safeguarding Board worked hard during National Safeguarding Week (16th- 20th November 2020) to promote every child's right to be safe, under the wider Safeguarding Board banner of 'Keeping Connected, Staying Safe'.

This has been a particularly pertinent theme during lockdown where feelings of isolation and disconnect have been voiced by children and adults alike. Children and young people across the region addressed this theme in the following ways:

- Highlighting the need for workshops for foster carers on discussing sensitive topics that can foster connectedness between carer and young person.

- Combatting isolation and engagement in activities that promote connectedness with others; E.g. Children, young people and senior decision-makers including Head of Child and Family Services and the Children’s Commissioner took part in regional ‘Pitchin, in the Kitchen’ events to work together, connect, build relationships and have fun.
- Raising awareness of safeguarding in sport.
- Promoting children’s right to be safe and to participate and be connected in society.
- Promoting how and where children and young people can contact services if they feel they are not safe or need support.

UNCRC Article 31– Right to Rest, Leisure & Play

Council Services & organisations with remit for the provision of play & leisure were busy during lockdown promoting and supporting children’s right to play and relax. Work has included:

- Information and advice, provision of links to play ideas, and the promotion of play through social media;
- Distribution play bags to vulnerable families;
- Funding support to partners to ensure covid safe playful opportunities;
- 121 socially distanced outdoor family play sessions;
- Partnership working to advise on the safe opening of play spaces and parks;
- Piloting 4 outdoor activity trails to enable safe opportunities for play and physical literacy in the community;

Successfully hosting a virtual National Play Day where organisations such as Circus Eruption, Menter Iaith, Swansea Museum, Faith in Families Family Centres- the Children’s Rights Team, the Best Start Team and early years providers offered online and digital opportunities for children and their families to get involved in play opportunities through the day and to take away ideas for play through lockdown.

In Swansea, meaningful and inclusive opportunities for **Citizen 50+** to be heard in decisions that affect them remains a priority. Feedback from previous community sessions with citizens 50+ (e.g. UK Day of Older Persons”) saw the development of an “Ageing Well” forum and “Ageing Well Information Network”, which both aim to encourage the widest possible engagement of citizens 50+ in Swansea.

Ageing Well Forum: Prior to the pandemic the “Ageing Well Forum” in Swansea moved around community venues and communities in order to improve accessibility and encourage new participation from local residents and groups relevant to that community, as well as wider attendance by providing transport if required and ensuring that venues are located on good public transport routes.

Ageing Well sessions included refreshments and light lunch along with some entertainment from community groups and schools and were an opportunity to hear guest speakers, participate in workshops and consultations as well as access associated organisations/services invited to attend, depending on the theme. This was done in an attempt to improve access to services and organisations that may be

able to bring about change or address issues experienced by participants.

Topics previously covered within “Ageing Well” sessions and events thus far have been initiated and voted on by community members from a wide range of groups and forums but also individuals who do not wish to join a formal group but wanted to be engaged and participate in sessions and events with topics that impact on their lives. The following “Ageing Well” community sessions and events took place post pandemic and these included Digital Inclusion, Communication, Health and Well Being, Transport/Getting around and Staying Safe along with a number of intergenerational Big Conversations with Children & Young People from both Primary & Secondary Schools.

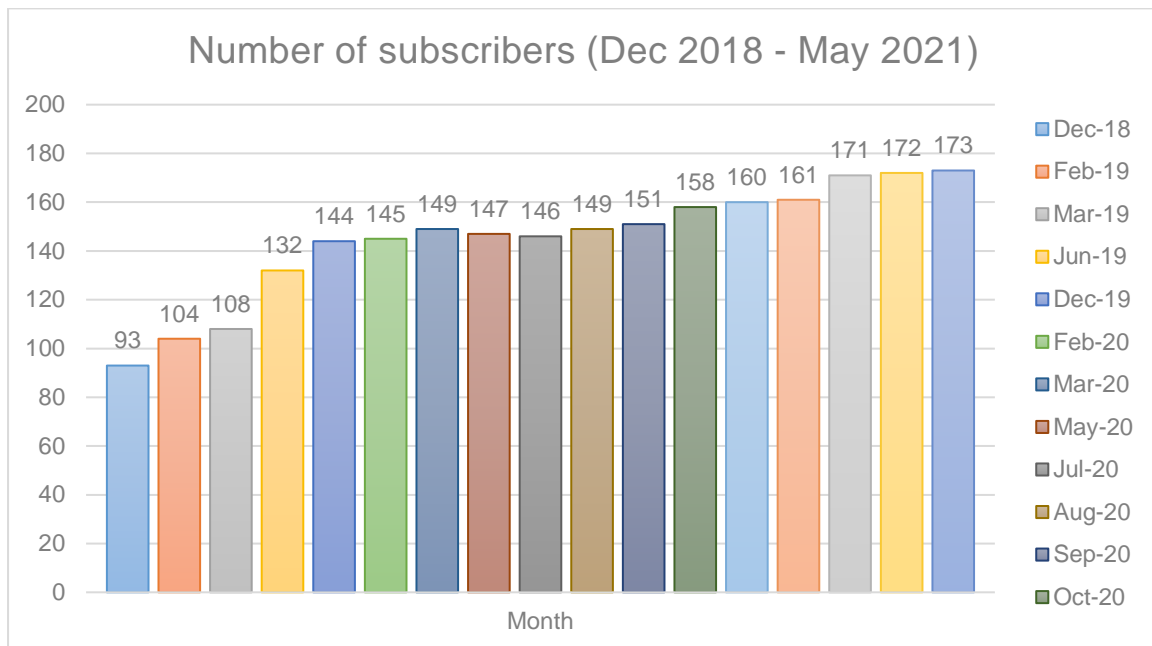
Swansea University’s Centre for Ageing and Dementia Research (CADR) have supported many of the “Ageing Well” forums with a small amount of sponsorship and have added a research context to many of the forums where appropriate. An incredible support for local “Ageing Well” work and a partnership that we intend to grow.

One of the major considerations of engagement of citizens 50+ was the removal of face to face opportunities during the pandemic, which resulted in us focussing attention on information sharing & engagement via our on-line “Ageing Well Information Network”.

Ageing Well Information Network: Through the Ageing Well Information Network, Swansea Council’s Partnerships & Involvement Team has been able to provide information to subscribers (Citizens 50+, services and partner organisations etc.) regularly via Newsletters and update emails. The emails are sent out via Mailchimp. Having the mailing list on Mailchimp allows subscribers to access and update their contact information, or unsubscribe if they wish.

173 people are currently subscribers to the Ageing Well Information Network. In the last year subscriber numbers have risen from 93 to 173 (80 people). That is over a 185% rise. Around 60% of all subscribers open their Ageing Well Information Network emails regularly.

At first only Newsletters were sent out via the Network, but in January 2020 the team trialled some Update emails to get useful information out more quickly to subscribers. In March 2020, it was decided that these updates would become more regular; which turned out to be a timely decision as the Coronavirus pandemic and then the first lockdown announced that month. With the Update emails, engagement has remained pretty consistent, with an average of 85 people opening the emails and an average of 19 people clicking on the links they contain.



The Update emails have contained a variety of information, including Coronavirus related information links, information on support services, information on online courses and online activities / groups (including exercise classes) and survey links for consultation opportunities for example.

While the “Ageing Well Information Network” has increased participation of citizens 50+, it is recognised that a gap exists within the current “Ageing Well Forum” in Swansea for dialogue between citizens 50+ and senior change-makers and this will be a focus over the coming months.

Despite a gap in civic participation evidence suggests that much engagement and support continued on a local level throughout the pandemic to protect the rights of older people in Swansea. It enabled the shielding of those vulnerable and allowing for the continued provision of services and additional needs to be met by very local community structures that already existed (e.g. where “Local Area Co-ordination Teams” were in place and volunteering networks established).

A major strength of locally established teams has been the connections and visibility they had within communities in Swansea and the bringing to the fore of many people who were willing to get involved, supporting members of their community and neighbours.

Although engagement work has had to change there has been opportunities for new ways of working and new subjects to be explored. Examples of continued provision of community support include:

- Ageing Well Information Network
- Regional citizen engagement panel with the Older Person’s Commissioner
- Citizens 50+ on recruitment panels
- Local Area Co-ordination

- Lifelong Learning Service (Digital inclusion support, telephone 121 support & Digital Café Initiative)
- Call Centre Hub (A point of contact for community response during COVID)
- Electronic library services, Home deliveries etc

Older Person’s Partnership & Involvement Officer: This Officer’s remit and purpose is to embed the UN Principles for Older Persons and ensure effective and inclusive mechanisms are in place to enable the participation and engagement of citizens aged 50+ yrs, in all decisions that affect their lives and ensure their views are heard and listened to.

Re-establishment of the Ageing Well Steering Group: The Ageing Well Steering Group was established in 2014 to support the commitment to the 2014-2019 Ageing Well in Wales Programme and was a great success. With the development of the new draft Welsh Governments “Ageing Society Strategy” in March 2021 where all local authorities will be expected to develop a local version and the recommendations within the Older Person’s Commissioners “Leave No-one Behind” report 2021, it has been decided to re-establish the steering group to:

- Support the development and implementation of Swansea’s Strategy for an Ageing Society, progressing actions within an action plan that encompasses WG recommendations, Leave No-one Behind directives, the 8 domains of Age Friendly Cities and The Right Way Approach;
- Take on the role of Ageing Well Champions, promoting greater knowledge and understanding of the UN Principles for the Rights of Older Persons;
- Identify areas of need within the Ageing Well agenda, in terms of workforce development, sharing learning and resources in order to further embed rights within practice.

World Health Organisations “Age Friendly Cities”: In November 2020, Swansea’s Public Service Board (PSB) met with the Older Person’s Commissioner where the PSB committed to Swansea working towards “Age Friendly City” status.



Work has begun to explore opportunities to produce a local Swansea “Ageing Well” strategy and action plan using “The Right Way” principled approach to rights and the eight domains within the “Age Friendly City” criteria, as a framework to join up work across the PSB and ensure implementation and measurement of impact is achievable

in order to demonstrate the difference the strategy and action plan has on the day to day lives of citizens 50+.

Community based approaches – Exploring a range of initiatives to tackle social isolation and build personal resilience across PSB and voluntary sector

Local Area Co-ordination Team (LAC Team):

Local Area Coordination believes that ‘all people live in welcoming communities that provide friendship, mutual support, equity and opportunities for everyone’. The LAC Team can be introduced to anyone, for any reason. The team will walk alongside people as they identify and move towards their version of a good life. The LAC Team are embedded in communities as a single, accessible point of contact and therefore are in a position to listen to people in the community if they identify gaps or express an interest in establishing a community resource.

Over the past year and throughout the pandemic a major strength of the Local Area Co-ordination Team proved to be the connections and visibility developed in communities in Swansea. Ordinarily the team would foster relationships within the community, as well as with key community champions, the statutory sector, the business sector and the third sector.

Once lockdown was being talked about, the LAC Team begun communicating with key people who could provide support to those that may end up struggling in the pandemic. What developed was a network of street champions/ buddies, who fielded requests for help and support. (e.g. shopping support, food parcel drop offs, prescription pick-ups or welfare calls).

Whilst Covid-19 has seen the suspension or closure of many community groups or activities, we are starting to see some of them re-emerge and adapt. Outdoor activities will hopefully flourish in the coming months with the good weather, but it will be vital to provide support for groups to meet indoors again, with confidence and safety.

During lockdown, most of the communication with people had been online or over the phone with outdoor, distanced, visits only when essential. This had sometimes impacted ability to build long term relationships with people. But, working creatively and without time limits much of this has been overcome.

The pandemic brought to the fore many people who were willing to get involved, supporting neighbours. This has led to continued provision of community support, with, for example, meals continuing to be delivered weekly to people who may be isolated in one area of Swansea and discussions about establishing a community café elsewhere.

On an individual level, we are in a position to give people the time they need to talk and, in turn, identify what is important to them, what their strengths are, what they would like to do and achieve in their lives and then be there with the skills and the links to help them put this into practise.

Tackling Poverty: The Tackling Poverty Strategy Development Team have been working with partners to develop a Swansea Poverty Truth Commission, which will be the first Poverty Truth Commission in Wales. A Poverty Truth Commission is a unique and powerful way of placing those affected by poverty at the heart of decision making about poverty. The Commission will be made up of a mix of Community Commissioners, with lived experience of poverty and key decision makers, known as Civic/Business Commissioners. The Commission will identify key issues that it will work on. The Facilitation Team has been recruited and is hosted by SCVS (Swansea Council for Voluntary Service) and commissioner recruitment is currently underway.

During last year, **the Lifelong Learning Service** supported almost 2,800 learners offering a range of courses to improve health and wellbeing and increase skills and job prospects. The Lifelong Learning Service worked tirelessly to maintain contact with all learners during the pandemic, particularly the most vulnerable. They offered one-to-one telephone support, doorstep deliveries of equipment and improving digital skills to enable learners to take part online, including offering daily digital support sessions. All courses were moved to online, with support available to get online if needed and for the majority of the year were provided free of charge. They ranged from family learning and essential skills such as maths and English to computer skills, cookery and yoga.

The **Welfare Rights Team** were instrumental in the implementation of a Pension Credit Take-Up Campaign. It is estimated that 2 out of 5 people are not claiming the Pension Credit they are entitled to and are missing out on an average of £39 per week. Being eligible for Pension Credit has a knock-on effect for eligibility for other help such as a free TV licence, NHS costs and Council Tax reduction. The Welfare Rights team is working in partnership with Citizens Advice, Age Cymru, Care & Repair and Neath Port Talbot Council to promote the take-up of Pension Credit, including offering a free phone number for people to ring for advice and support.

The **Communities for Work and Communities for Work Plus Team** have been a part of the Digital Communities Wales ICT loan scheme providing members of the community with Chromebooks in order to improve their access to job opportunities. This year, the teams have helped 197 people into work and 490 people enrolled on the programmes. In response to Covid19, some staff were re-allocated to crisis response roles such as Local Area Coordination.

Both the Communities for Work teams and Swansea Working helped coordinate the deliveries of free school meals, plus delivered food parcels and resources for digitally excluded clients. Swansea Working has supported programmes and initiatives aimed at vulnerable groups such as prison leavers, those on probation and care leavers. The team have also signposted to mental health support and followed this up with residents to check on their wellbeing. Bespoke training packages have been provided with the offer of related work experience with contractors and employers in Swansea.

The Tackling Poverty Service and its partner Swansea Council for Voluntary Service have rolled out the Community Calling campaign in Swansea in partnership with

Hubbub and O2. The project will see around 700 donated phones distributed to people who are digitally excluded in Swansea with O2 providing 12 months of free data and unlimited calls and texts. So far, around 150 residents in Swansea have benefitted with people saying it has made a huge difference in reducing isolation. Phones have been requested for individuals by referral organisations for all sorts of reasons including; staying connected with friends and support services, help to look for jobs to get back into work, access to English language courses online, accessing services such as online banking and health appointments, contacting family abroad to feel less isolated and help to study online.

The Tackling Poverty Service were able to offer over £200,000 in grants for Men's Sheds, Food Poverty and Period Dignity in Communities. Almost £32,000 is supporting 9 new or existing Men's Sheds in Swansea to enable them to provide community spaces where people from all backgrounds can meet, chat and take part in activities to help reduce loneliness and isolation. 41 organisations were awarded a total of £155,000 in order to tackle Food Poverty in Swansea. This money is being used in a variety of ways including creating community gardens, crisis support, training in preparing healthy and nutritious meals on a budget and equipment to help deliver improved services. Almost £17,000 was provided to 19 organisations through the Period Dignity in Communities Grant in order to help combat period poverty. These organisations included food banks, YMCA, Women's Aid, the African Community Centre and STOPP (Swansea Takes on Period Poverty) who have distributed free period products to those who need them. The grant required at least 50% of products purchased to be eco-friendly.

Sport and Health: The recent pandemic and resulting restrictions have highlighted how important exercise and use of the outdoors is to communities and in particular the benefits that being active has for mental and physical well-being. There has been a clear uptake in the use of local outdoor spaces for exercise and well-being activities across all age groups with individuals and families reconnecting with their local parks, beaches, and rights of way

The Sport and Health service has had to respond to new ways of working to develop sport and physical activity opportunities across Swansea whilst responding to Government restrictions and guidelines (e.g. offering and sharing online information through social media platforms, delivering virtual activities, supporting communities and families with physical literacy packs to offering face to face activity when alert levels have allowed)

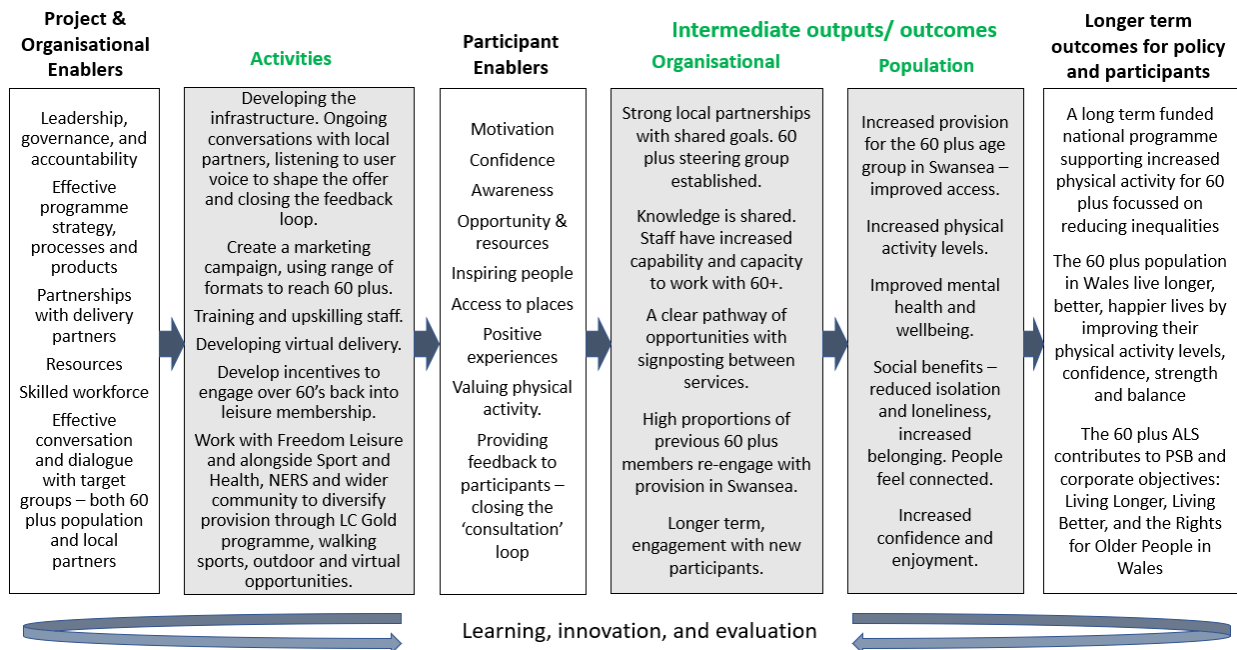
National Exercise Referral Programme: The NERS team aim to support the communities of Swansea in becoming lifelong participants of various physical activity opportunities with an emphasis on health and quality of life.

Regular contact was maintained with participants throughout via phone calls and email with 7301 contacts made across the year. Feedback gained during this time has highlighted the importance of this contact. 968 Home exercise programmes were distributed. Virtual delivery started in October 2020 and a total of 458 sessions delivered in 20/21. Virtual sessions included Tai Chi Movements for wellbeing (TMW),

Foodwise, Circuits, Strength and balance, Relaxation, Cardiac circuits, Functional Circuits seated/standing, low impact aerobics. A number of Video's have been produced by Exercise Referral Professional's (ERPs) for clients to access at home including Sit to stand demonstrations, low impact warm-ups and cool downs, and Active walking.

Active Older Adults: January 2021 saw the launch of a new Active Older Adult Programme in Swansea. As part of the Welsh Government's Healthy Weight Healthy Wales (HWHW) Action Plan 2020-2022, Sport Wales has invested in Swansea until 2022 to deliver a local leisure offer for over 60s which will encourage physical activity and healthy lifestyle choices. This is a targeted approach to reduce health inequalities and social isolation. The initial phase of the programme has seen consultation work, theory of change development and free virtual physical activity opportunities.

Model for an effective 60 Plus Offer Swansea 2021-22



Outdoor Activities Sport and Health

Local, free, or low cost outdoor and walking activities have been delivered across the Sport and health service during 2020-21 from early years to older adults.

Health Walk Leader training has continued apace, with seven online courses since summer 2020 bringing the graduate total to 133. All the new social prescribers and SCVS Our Neighbourhood officers have been trained along with Local Area Co-ordinators across the City. Increasing demand in the community has seen new health walks established in partnerships across Swansea.

Library Services

Library Services managed to offer a service throughout 2020 and into 2021 (have remained online and providing electronic services throughout and 'open physically for 8 months in 2020 and offering click and collect in 2021). and home delivery out of community settings was stepped up where needed.

Click and Collect and Home Delivery response to covid 19: Swansea Libraries introduced a click and collect (or phone and pick up) service for all customers. This service also included the offer to anybody who could not leave home to visit the library themselves to have their books or audio books delivered to their home - either by the housebound service or by their local library staff (in a covid safe way). It was available in addition to an increase eBooks and eAudio offering this year. Anecdotally it has been particularly beneficial to older customers.

Adult Services

Over the past year and during the pandemic, the Council delivered emergency food parcels to 500 shielded individuals to help them cope with the pandemic. Social Care Teams took over responsibility for the service from the Welsh Government and 100% of planned deliveries were made in the first week. Support was provided for those who need to shield themselves from the virus in a number of ways and many services have worked together to provide that support. The council took bulk delivery of the food parcels on a Monday and delivered the following day. Officers took on new responsibilities to make this possible - through taking calls, processing information and delivering the parcels.

In-House Older People Day Services

In-house Older People Day Services was suspended due to Covid-19, staff continued to contact all of their clients/carers weekly. Carers found this invaluable as they were a friendly voice and could offer support and intervention when necessary. This reduced crisis as they offered early intervention support and advice and were always at the end of the phone if someone needs a chat.

We are now offering emergency day care services including our respite at home service as many carers are on the verge of a crisis. A panel of professionals considers each case individually to recommend and agree the safest and most appropriate service for each person.

The community transport scheme managed by an In-house Day Service is supporting carers who are shielding by offer shopping, prescription pick-ups etc. This is supporting people to manage at home and is linked to the Local Area Co-ordination to support the community too where there is a big sign up from local residents to help, many carers found this a vital service.

Adult Learn Disabilities Day Services

Learn Disability teams have been supporting dozens of adults with learning disabilities through the coronavirus pandemic. When lockdown began day centres that provided service users with social interaction, activities and projects had to temporarily close and will not reopen until it is safe to do so. Staff have been working in a different way through the Flexible Support Service to keep in touch with users and support them to live independently in their own homes.

They are now providing day service support to those in crisis and working with our day service and respite colleagues who have given their all in accommodating those in dire need of services at this difficult time. They have been flexible in the use of domiciliary care packages, direct payments and Ategi commissioned support service.

Over the year, Flexible Support Service supported more than 40 service users in their homes and a further 20 plus over the phone with wellbeing calls.

The Work Development Service and Glandwr Day Service have been ringing all their parents and carers on a weekly basis. All carers who have asked for additional support have received it and all concerns were promptly followed up.

Social Care Income, Finance & Benefits:

Through new ways of working, especially during a global pandemic, more care has been provided at, or close to home, so that people can stay living at home independently and remain part of the community, achieved from the increased support of our domiciliary care service and community equipment store, some internal services have been flexed and adapted to best meet the most vulnerable.

In response to the Covid pandemic, Social Services re-opened an internal residential care home and an emergency respite facility and adapted many other services which demonstrated the ability to act quickly in a crisis.

The Social Services finance team have administered WG Hardship Fund to assist with addressing additional costs incurred by internal and external services, as a result of the Covid pandemic, this has largely contributed to services having the ability to remain financially sustainable and continue to deliver social care services to older people.

The global pandemic may have highlighted the importance/where improvements are needed in order to reform the Social Care system (included in the White Paper – bringing the NHS and local government together).

Domestic Abuse Hub:

The VAWDASV sector had been forced to move service delivery to remote / online format where possible, which has made some services more accessible to those who may have difficulty in leaving the house. While there are always risk / safety

considerations to be made, this model of working may continue for those whom it is more suited to.

Prior to COVID when staff were able to visit, some older people benefitted from face to face contact, particularly if there are additional issues such as hearing/ poor sight etc. Older people may not feel comfortable using devices such as tablets/ laptops to communicate with professionals so this may also impact the relationship with support worker.

Work of the Third Sector

Following the Covid outbreak, the Third Sector played an important and valuable part in responding to the pandemic in a quick and practical ways. An infographic was produced which clearly demonstrates the work undertaken with partners in combatting the social and well-being issues affecting residents of the city.

The Third Sector Liaison Group requested that SCVS co-ordinate a survey on the effect of COVID, and an infographic was formulated which demonstrated the contribution of the sector as part of the COVID community response.

Family Support Network

In April 2020, a Family Support Network was established in response to the Covid 19 situation with a remit of establishing strong communication between family support services both from the local authority and the third sector. The group has a membership of over 50 organisations and departments. The outcomes of the group included:

- A joined up response to Covid 19 across Swansea.
- Keeping family support services up to date with relevant information and changing guidance.
- Pooling resources where appropriate.
- Identifying emerging needs and how to address.
- Discussing additional grant funding and how best to utilise it.

Once the initial concern was reduced the remit opened up to general family support issues and not specifically Covid.

The group has looked at a number of issues such as delivering services online, contingency plans in case of additional lockdown and demand management looking at referral data. The group is now a permanent meeting which regularly has a large attendance from local authority services and Third Sector partners.

Innovative housing and technology – To explore options for people with additional care needs that help them remain independent at home

A review around this area will be undertaken in 21/22.

Housing Department

The Sheltered Housing Service has continued to provide a service to all its tenants during the pandemic including:

- Low level support.
- Daily calls as required.
- Attending emergencies if needed.
- Continued to liaise with other services and agencies working in sheltered housing schemes.
- Liaising with family members when needed.
- Ensured tenants are not isolated during lockdown through regular contact.
- Ensured that all communal areas and facilities are cleaned regularly and deep cleaned where necessary.
- Implemented social distancing measures in communal areas to ensure residents are kept safe.

Cluster Whole System Transformation - A New System of Primary Care

The Health Board's Clinical Services Plan is central to the Health Board's ambition to provide Better Health and Better Care to enable Better Lives for all our communities and this links to wider system of transformation as part of the local and regional health and social care economy.



The key principles are:

- One system of Care
- My Home First
- Right Place, Right Person, Right Time
- Better Together Welsh Government Transformation funding:

The Health Board received £10.6M from Welsh Government to deliver the Cluster Whole Systems Approach (CWSA) across Swansea Bay UHB, one of our key mechanisms for ensuring care is delivered as close to people's homes as possible.

Swansea Wellness Centre

For this exciting capital project, Swansea Bay University Health Board are collaborating with Coastal Housing Group. Coastal are already instrumental in the regeneration of development of Swansea City Centre delivering capital and inner city rejuvenation projects.

This scheme provides an opportunity for sectors to cut across traditional organisational and service boundaries to work together and make a difference to wider, social and economic influences such as housing, education and employability, which in the long term contributes to the formation of strong, dynamic and creative societies.

This innovative approach provides the Health Board with an excellent opportunity to work in collaboration with Coastal Housing Group in order to deliver this scheme

This scheme lends itself in its entirety to "The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, 5 ways of working.



We want to shift services out of hospital to communities. People should receive care closer to home, or at home, and people will only go into hospital for treatment that cannot be provided safely anywhere else. We hope that this new way of working with partners to deliver health care is the start of the formation of long lasting relationships.



We want services, which support people to stay well, not just treat them when they become ill.



A Wellness Centre will co locate a range of agencies under one roof to provide a range of comprehensive services for the public



Working in collaboration with Housing and other partners to achieve a common goal of health and wellbeing for all.



When treating people we adopt a person centered approach this means that we to find out what is best for them and agree how to make those things happen. We want people to manage their own health, and manage long-term illnesses. We also want to make it easier for people to remain active and independent in their homes and communities

Conclusion

During 20/21 all partners have worked tirelessly to ensure that our most vulnerable members of the community across the ages were communicated with and supported to continue to thrive despite the challenges of the pandemic.

Achievements

- Good citizen engagement and involvement within this objective across the age range
- Good Partnership buy in around the objective.
- Huge amount of work around this area is already underway and has continued despite a pandemic.
- Expanded knowledge base through existing involvement out to wider partners.

Challenges/ Barriers

- Not joining up existing work so that we are able to make sure it adds value and not duplicate business as usual.
- Not having the right people around the table to take the necessary action or make a decision to be able to deliver the outcome.

Future work of the Live Well, Age Well Objective Group

21/22 will be focussed on recovery from Covid and building back better and stronger together, with an obvious need to review areas of focus within the “Live Well, Age Well Objective” to support further partnership working of revised and remodelled services and initiative that are fit for purpose in what is now seen as a new normal.

Partners/ Stakeholders involved- PSB partners, wider partners outside of the PSB, operational leads and citizens across the age ranges.

Working with Nature



To improve health, enhance biodiversity and reduce our carbon footprint.

Lead – This work is coordinated by the Working with Nature Task Group and led by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and Swansea Environmental Forum (SEF).

Partners / Stakeholders Involved

Natural Resources Wales (NRW)	Swansea Environmental Forum	Swansea Council
Swansea University	Swansea Local Nature Partnership	Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue
Swansea Bay University Health Board	Low Carbon Swansea Bay network	The Environment Centre
Swansea Community Green Spaces Project	Swansea Tree Forum	Welsh Government
Green Infrastructure Consultancy	Pobl	4theRegion

Overview of work within Working with Nature

The Working With Nature Task Group brings together representatives from several PSB organisations and others that support actions under the Working with Nature objective. The Task Group was impacted by the onset of the pandemic restrictions but still managed to meet a few times online during 2020/21. Whilst some activities related to the Working with Nature action plan were postponed and delayed, the Covid pandemic had some positive impacts too such as the reduction in travel and car use, greater use of green spaces and engagement with the natural environment, an increase in community growing and more opportunities to engage online with citizens and organisations on environmental issues.

In spring 2020, the Task Group reviewed its priorities in light of Covid and the potential for a Green Recovery. It decided that the priorities outlined in the Working with Nature

action plan were all still relevant and needed little alteration. However, a simplified priority list was agreed, which highlighted seven areas of work including transport and active travel which was listed as a distinct priority, reflecting the prominence this issue was gaining with partners and the opportunity to respond to changes in behaviours and awareness due to the pandemic.

- **Green Infrastructure (GI)** (completing county-wide strategy and ensuring implementation).
- **Tree Planting** (identifying usable land and supporting community-led schemes).
- **Green Spaces** (supporting community use of and involvement with green spaces).
- **Nature Recovery** (producing Local Nature Recovery Action Plan and supporting pollinator projects).
- **Carbon Reduction and Climate Adaptation** (supporting work on climate plans).
- **Transport and Active Travel** (developing a healthy travel charter and organising a transport forum event).
- **Community Engagement** (developing an online resource of replicable project templates for nature and climate recovery and a programme of public webinars).

Natural Resources made available a funding pot of £25,000 for use to Swansea PSB which was used to support four projects, all of which contributed to the Working with Nature priorities. These projects are outlined in the following table.

Project / Lead / Grant	Description
Fire breaks on Common Land Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service £8,000	Co-ordinating land management activities including controlled burning and provision of fire breaks in areas of high fire risk.
Supporting Working with Nature in Swansea Swansea Environmental Forum £8,000	A suite of activities including: organising a regional transport conference and an extensive programme of public webinars related to the green recovery; extending the Swansea Community Green Spaces project; and supporting the development of an online resource with practical solutions for climate action and nature recovery.
Crymlyn Circular Walk Natural Resources Wales £1,500	Engaging a consultant to prepare a costed design brief for a new circular walking route for the local community to make full use of the natural resources on their doorstep for health and well-being and quiet enjoyment of nature.
Collaborative Biodiversity Awareness and Action Project	Providing training for PSB partners to support them in meeting their Section 6 Biodiversity Duty and in delivering biodiversity recovery actions

Swansea Council £7,500 (including overall grant admin fee)	both individually within their own estate and collaboratively working with other partners.
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Another notable development with the Task Group was engagement with the Penderi Regeneration Project led by Pobl. The Task Group felt that this has the potential to be an effective exemplar for the implementation of several Working With Nature priorities including green infrastructure, tree planting carbon reduction and community engagement. Representation from Pobl was invited to join the Task Group and some members of the Task Group joined the Penderi Green Infrastructure Forum.

Here are some of the achievements of the Penderi project so far:

- £20,000 funding secured through NRW SOR fund to build a green roof shelter at the Drop-in Centre in Blaenymaes and to run a community engagement programme to connect people to green spaces in their community.
- Green Infrastructure sub group established for Penderi Regeneration Masterplan and Swansea GI principles adopted.
- Connections made through LCSB, WWN group, Wales GI Forum and others.
- Pobl purchased 650m² of wildflower turf to be laid in Penderi in September.
- Collaborative CRF funding application submitted involving Pobl, Environment Centre, Room2Grow and Swansea Council's Nature Conservation team.
- Misconnections survey completed on the Ravine by NRW.
- Pobl committed £10,000 to GI Mapping as baseline and community engagement tool for GI options.

The following sections take each of the priority areas in turn and outline some of the progress made in the last year.

Green Infrastructure (GI)

Swansea Council and Natural Resources Wales jointly published the green infrastructure strategy *Swansea Central Area: Regenerating Our City for Wellbeing and Wildlife* which is designed to bring more nature into the Swansea Central Area.

The Strategy was adopted by both organisations in February 2021 and follows significant engagement work with stakeholders from the local community and public, private and third sector organisations in Swansea. The strategy's vision is for ***“a city with high quality multifunctional green infrastructure, which delivers resilience, prosperity, nature, health, wellbeing and happiness to the citizens and visitors of Swansea.”***



The vision will be achieved by applying the 5 Principles of Green Infrastructure (GI) as follows:

1. **Multifunctional** - making sure that all GI in the city centre provides as many benefits as possible. For example, it may reduce pollution and/or flooding, offer shelter and/or food for native animals (birds, insects and/or small mammals), provide shade during hot summer days, and create attractive pleasant and/or calming spaces for people to meet, relax and play.
2. **Adapted for climate change** - absorbing water to reduce flooding, providing summer cooling and accommodating wildlife. GI also helps mitigate climate change by capturing and locking up carbon.
3. **Healthy**- helping our physical and mental health by absorbing pollution, providing clean air, clean water, food and space to exercise, socialise and play and space to have contact with nature.
4. **Biodiverse** - supporting a wide variety of native species providing shelter and food and creating green corridors across the city centre linking to existing strategic wildlife corridors.
5. **Smart and Sustainable** - providing solutions, techniques and technologies that are low maintenance and reduce pollution and waste and maximise the use of recycled or sustainably sourced materials.

The vision is supported by strategic objectives. Each strategic objective contributes **directly** to any elements of the vision and **indirectly** to all the elements of the vision:

- Provide a high quality nature rich environment.
- Create a distinctive destination city.
- Ensure the city is resilient to the impacts of climate change.
- Ensure stakeholder and community involvement in the design and maintenance of GI.
- Create a skilled and knowledgeable local economy to deliver and maintain GI.

Success will be measured via a number of performance indicators and two targets: to double GI by 2030 (from 13% to 26%) and to increase tree canopy cover to 20-25% by 2044.

The strategy is designed to support the Local Development Plan and the application of the Statutory SuDS Standard 2019. It also delivers the Council's duties under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and Environment (Wales) Act 2016 through the Council's Well-being Objective: Maintaining and enhancing Swansea's natural resources and biodiversity and, the Swansea Public Service Board's Working with Nature Objective.

The development of the plan has received a lot of interest both nationally and internationally, in particular in the *power of the process* or the way the development of the strategy embedded the ways of working for the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act into the design and development of the Strategy:

1. **Looking at the long term** – taking a long term approach to using GI to future proof the city against existing and future challenges i.e. the climate and ecological emergencies, improving residents and visitors health and wellbeing, improving the visitor experience and dwell time, reducing energy costs.
2. **Integrated approach** – working in collaboration with stakeholders to ensure the strategy makes a positive contribution to all the wellbeing goals and the wellbeing objectives of the PSB, Swansea Council and Natural Resources Wales.
3. **Involving people** – early, authentic engagement with the community, local primary schools and public, private and 3rd sector stakeholders throughout the development of the Strategy
4. **Collaboration** – Joint project between Natural Resources Wales and Swansea Council 50 / 50 approach and in partnership with Green Infrastructure Consultancy and local stakeholders.
5. **Prevention** – the Strategy's vision and strategic objectives will help address existing, and build resilience to prevent or reduce the impact of future environmental, social, economic and cultural problems in the Swansea Central Area. The Strategy including PI's and targets to track progress.

The focus is now on delivering the strategic objectives, both in terms of practical implementation and through the development of an action plan.

Practical Implementation: To date a green roof and green wall have been installed on the Environment Centre and a green roof at the Coastal offices in High Street. More installations are planned for the 2021/22 financial year.



Infographic: A bilingual infographic on the aims of the strategy and its aims has been designed aimed at schools, using the comments for the schools for example de-jargoning multifunctional GI to ‘busy nature’.

Swansea Planning our future

Climate change is changing life for all of us.

By 2050 Swansea will have more heavy rain storms, droughts and warmer summers.

We need to start planning, preparing and making changes now.

We've been asking people what they think. That's helped us make this plan.

Our vision
 "A city with high quality green infrastructure delivering resilience, prosperity, nature, health, well-being and happiness to the citizens and visitors of Swansea."

Swansea city needs...

We want more Busy Nature in Swansea!

Busy Nature is about green infrastructure
 It's about green spaces and building in ways that protects nature and the environment.

We have **13%** now and we want **26%** by 2030

Green infrastructure types: Renewable energy (Like Bio-solar Roofs), Sustainable Urban Drainage, Green transport, Hedges and verges, Trees, Wildlife, Footpath with green corridor, Parks, Green walls, Allotments, Green roofs, Flowers.

This benefits...

- the environment
- nature
- people's health
- the economy

and everyone in Swansea.

We're working together

Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru Natural Resources Wales, Cyngor Abertawe Swansea Council, Local Nature Partnership, Green Infrastructure

Action Plan: The action plan is currently being developed and will initially focus on building skills and knowledge within the, local economy and communities and professionals in the public, private and third sectors.

Countywide Strategy: The engagement process for the county wide strategy started in Feb 2020, unfortunately due to Covid this had to be put on hold. The aim is to restart the engagement for the Countywide Strategy once Covid restrictions are lifted.

Tree Planting

A number of practical projects have been delivered, led by the Council's Nature Conservation Team in collaboration with other members of the Working with Nature steering group and the Swansea Local Nature Partnership. These include native tree/woodland and wildflower planting and enhancing ecological connectivity and resilience. This work has largely been grant funded by Welsh Government (Local Places for Nature scheme) and NRW as well as Trees for Cities and Glastir.

The total number planted is approximately 3,175 trees (mostly whips plus 100 standards). All native species, mostly of local provenance. This totals an area planted of 1.27hectares. The sites include:

- Ganges/Pentyla playing fields.
- Singleton Park.
- Cwmrhydyceiriw Park.
- Cockett Park.
- Dunvant Park.
- Tir John landfill site.
- various school grounds.

All the sites involved extensive community consultation but due to COVID community /volunteer engagement in the actual planting was limited.

Orchards: Funding and support was provided to the Orchard Project to establish small community orchards at a number of sites across the city including Pentilla Playing Fields, Cwmdonkin Park and Primrose Hill Community Park.

Community Tree Nursery: Supported the establishment of a community tree nursery growing native trees from local stock at Clyne gardens.

Mapping and Guidance: Started to map potential areas for future tree planting and have produced a draft tree planting guidance note /checklist (The Right Tree in the Right Place) for community groups and others.

Nature Recovery

Further work has been undertaken to gather data to inform the preparation of the local Nature Recovery Action plan. This includes a pilot project with SEWBREC to develop a mapping tool for ecological resilience within a pilot area of Swansea.

Membership of the Swansea Local Nature Partnership has increased and a number of Biodiversity projects and events were organised using the LP4N project budget.

Pollinator Actions / Wildflower Planting: Swansea Council is working in collaboration with other partners such as Neath Port Talbot Council, Swansea University and Welsh Water to develop a pollinator project in Swansea Bay – *'The Margam to Mumbles Meadow'*. Last year, the initiative seeded and plug planted 4,000 native wildflowers grown from native stock at strategic sites across Swansea Bay. A biodiverse green roof and wall were also created at the Environment Centre (see above). The Council's Parks Department has brought about the purchase of

cut/collect machinery to enable a range of parks and highway grassland areas to be better managed for pollinators and biodiversity.

Biophilic Wales: Following discussions between Swansea Environment Forum (SEF) and Working With Nature (WWN) partners in 2019, the Biophilic Wales was initiated with funding through ENRaW and involving a partnership between the National Botanic Garden of Wales, Swansea Bay University Health Board, Swansea University and NRW.

The programme is made up of three work-streams:

- 1) Grasslands for Life.
- 2) Plants for People.
- 3) Inspiring Spaces.

The Inspiring Spaces scheme aims to bring native flora and wildlife to 40 Health Board sites in Swansea, Neath and Port Talbot to improve people's wellbeing and in doing so is contributing to a number of WWN priorities – nature recovery, green spaces, tree planting, green infrastructure and community engagement.

Whilst some of the volunteering has been restricted during the pandemic, work has continued on site. Over a thousand native wildflowers, grown by volunteers at home during lockdown have been planted on health board sites to enhance planters and no-mow verges. In addition, during 2020/21, 288 trees were planted- including three orchards and six relaxation areas have been provided for staff, patients and visitors to get away from the hospital buildings and be amongst nature. Bird boxes and bug hotels have been installed as well as interpretation panels to explain the work that is ongoing.



Work will continue through to March 2022 with another green roofed shelter, floating reedbeds, hedges, art installations and more relaxation areas. Volunteering is at the heart of the project and all their volunteers are encouraged to take part in Biophilic Wales Skills Development Awards which provide training to increase confidence and well-being. There is also a research element measuring the effects of growing wildflowers on well-being – Growing Together is the biggest study of its kind with 6,000 participants.

Green Spaces

One of the main delivery mechanisms for this priority theme is through the Swansea Community Green Spaces Project which is a partnership initiative managed by Swansea Environmental Forum and a steering group involving representatives of Swansea Council, NRW, Swansea CVS and the Environment Centre. The project helps citizens and communities to have a greater involvement in the management and use of local green spaces. Over the past year during the Covid crisis, interest from communities in their local green spaces has clearly been on the increase, partly due to travel restrictions and an increased awareness and interaction people have had with their localities.

The Swansea Community Green Spaces project has provided support to a huge number of new and established initiatives on sites across the City and County of Swansea. As a result of the practical support and advice given by the project officer, more individuals and community groups have gained the confidence, understanding and skills to establish or develop initiatives in their local green spaces.



The project has also engaged successfully with PSB partners and other bodies to support green space enhancement and community growing. For example, facilitating discussions between Swansea Bay University Health Board and Cae Tan on the possibility of establishing community growing and Community Supported Agriculture projects at two hospital sites and working with South Wales Police to create greenhouses from old riot shields for two local community projects.



Carbon Reduction and Climate Adaptation

Low Carbon Swansea Bay (LCSB) network continues to be a key conduit for knowledge-sharing and collaboration between organisations across Swansea and the wider region. Restrictions associated with Covid presented a number of challenges to LCSB and its members. Networking events and site visits that had been lined up ahead of the first lockdown had to be cancelled or postponed. However, a programme of online webinars was arranged instead. These tended to be shorter than the previous half-day network events and generally focussed on one organisation or project. Instead of four quarterly events, seven webinars took place in the year:

- **May 2020: Natural Resources Wales Carbon Positive**
NRW gave an update on their Carbon Positive Project and the newly published Area Statements.
- **July 2020: DVLA Carbon Calculation**
The DVLA outlined their work on measuring and reducing their carbon footprint.
- **September 2020: Embodied Carbon and Active Buildings**
With presentations from Welsh Water and the Specific Project at Swansea University.
- **October 2020: DVLA Carbon Calculation (repeat)**
The July session (above) was repeated so more could attend.
- **November 2020: Zero Carbon 2050**
The National Grid and CR Plus provided an overview of the strategic decarbonisation project - *Zero 2050*.
- **January 2021: Becoming Net Zero-Ready - January 2021**
Wales and West Utilities outlined their greening policies and practices.
- **February 2021: Sustainability on Campus - February 2021**
Swansea University's Sustainability Team outlined their Sustainability and Climate Emergency Strategy.

Both the Low Carbon Swansea Bay ULEV Task Group and the Sustainable Travel Plan Group met during the year and a new regional EV infrastructure group with representation from PSBs across the region was initiated.

In addition to Swansea Council's organisational objective to become a 'Net Zero' organisation by 2030, the Council committed to working towards a 'Net Zero' City and County of Swansea by 2050. This objective can only be achieved with everyone in Swansea on board so Swansea PSB is an important way to involve citizens and private public and third sector partners.

In March 2021, Swansea Council launched its first survey focusing on climate change looking at attitudes of people in Swansea to climate change, their priorities and support for climate action. Almost 1000 people responded to the survey and a further 400 to a complementary Twitter poll. The result was overwhelmingly positive with a clear majority of respondents concerned about climate change and prepared to take action. This huge response was made possible by the support of our PSB partners in circulating and raising awareness of the survey. Most importantly, the survey report will be shared with partners enabling us to work together on the priorities identified towards a Net Zero Swansea.

Transport and Active Travel

In early February 2021, an online regional transport conference, "*Moving Forward Together*" was held. This event brought together a wide range of stakeholders across the south-west Wales region to grapple with the challenges and opportunities around travel and transport. It was facilitated by SEF in collaboration with 4theRegion with support from several other partners, including PSB partners. It ran over two consecutive mornings (9th and 10th February) and included an opening address from Lee Waters and a presentation on pioneering projects and good practice related to the theme, but the main focus and approach was on group discussions and workshop sessions about what actions could be taken. 215 people registered for the conference and 148 attended (127 on day 1 and 91 on day 2).

Ahead of the conference, on 19th January, a regional transport roundtable discussion was held with a panel of ten experts from a variety of organisations with experience and knowledge on transport, health, community and associated fields. This was recorded and edited clips were used to promote the conference and as an introduction on the first day of the conference. Video clips from the conference and the roundtable event, along with the manifesto and other related materials were made available online.

Healthy Travel Charter: Whilst this continued to be discussed in various partnership meetings and with key individuals, progress was limited due to a combination of scheduling of other events, limited resources and time, and availability of partners. However, SEF and partners will pursue this in the coming year as part of its Low Carbon Swansea Bay initiative.

Community Engagement

At the start of 2021, Working with Nature partners collaborated on a programme of webinars, online workshops and other events linked to a range of topics associated with a green recovery. The three-month programme, supported by funding from the NRW/PSB SOR grant, included 5 Waste Wednesdays Webinar Sessions, delivered in association with the Environment Centre's Beyond Recycling Swansea (BRS) project plus 4 other events organised by either Swansea Environmental Forum (SEF) or The Environment Centre, each in collaboration with other bodies. The programme included a mix of events with some aimed at the public and community groups whilst others were primarily aimed at organisations and professionals.

Date	Event Title	Delivery Partners
27th January	Recycling in Swansea	Environment Centre (BRS) / Swansea Council Recycling Team
3rd February	Biophilic Living Swansea (professionals)	Swansea Environmental Forum / LCSB / Hacer Developments
4th February	Biophilic Living Swansea (public)	Swansea Environmental Forum / Hacer Developments
17th February	A Plastic Free Future	Environment Centre (BRS) / Plastic Free Mumbles
24th February	What is a Repair Cafe and How to Start One	Environment Centre (BRS) / Repair Cafe Wales
28th February	Plastic Free Periods	Environment Centre / Women's Environmental Network
4th March	Climate Justice for a Fairer World	Swansea Environmental Forum / Fair Trade Wales / Swansea Fair Trade Forum
10th March	Borrow Don't Buy	Environment Centre (BRS) / Bentyg Library of Things
17th March	Beyond Recycling, the new circular economy strategy for Wales	Environment Centre (BRS) / Welsh Government

Two additional online events initially planned for March (a workshop discussion on hedge laying) and (an initial open session to discuss the proposed Townhill Community Tidy Up project) both organised by the Environment Centre were delayed but took place in April.

Swansea Council's Nature Conservation Team also organised a webinar on green infrastructure on 24th March, which was attended by representatives from a range of partner organisations, including members of LCSB and the Swansea Nature Partnership. The online events programme also incorporated the LCSB webinars outlined earlier.

New Online Resource: In early 2020, Swansea Environmental Forum initiated a collaboration with VocalEyes CIC to develop a new easy-to-use online resource to promote proven, adaptable and replicable solutions for climate action and nature recovery. The intention was to recruit a researcher/organiser in early April 2020 to research and collate the information and then go on to collaborate with community engagement workers to promote use of the resource. The recruitment of the worker was delayed by the onset of the Covid pandemic and as the project developed and expanded, the process proved to take much longer than originally anticipated. Two part time researchers were taken on in mid-May and a working group established (with representatives from SEF, VocalEyes, NRW, The Environment Centre, Swansea Council and Swansea University) to oversee and advise on the project. By the end of March 2021, a beta-version of the resource had been created and initial testing was carried out with representatives of partner organisations and potential user groups. Further testing and final adjustments will be made ahead of a public launch of the resource and the transfer of long-term management responsibility for the project to VocalEyes.

Future Work

Key areas of work for the coming year will include:

- Ensure that the Working with Nature Task Group actions and priorities respond effectively to the latest State of the Natural Resources report (SoNaRR) and the Bridges to the Future priority areas, along with the Area Statement priorities for South West Wales and the national Green Recovery Priorities for Action elements.
- Provide information and resources to support the wellbeing assessment and wellbeing plan processes, including providing feedback and supporting consultation.
- Support the engagement process for the county-wide GI strategy and the practical implementation of green infrastructure initiatives across Swansea.
- Map potential areas for future tree planting and publish The Right Tree in the Right Place guidance note/checklist for community groups and others.
- Support and promote the Biophilic Wales programme and opportunities to build on this.
- Support stakeholder engagement on climate change and the development of a county-wide 2050 climate strategy and action plan
- Finalise, launch and promote the online Climate Action & Nature Recovery solutions resource.
- Support and promote the Healthy Travel Charter initiative involving public sector partners across the Swansea Bay region.

Strong Communities



To build strong communities with a sense of pride and belonging.

Lead – This work is coordinated by the Strong Communities Steering Group and is led by Mid and West Wales Fire & Rescue Service.

Partners/ Stakeholders Involved

Coastal	Pobl	SCVS	Family Housing
Public Health Wales	Clase 4 All	Council-Local Area Co-ordination	Regeneration Swansea Council
Swansea Learning Partnership	Poverty Partnership Forum	Regional Partnership Boards (RPB);	Partner agency Procurement staff
GP Cluster Networks	housing and social landlords	West Glamorgan Social Value Forum	Beyond Bricks and Mortar
South Wales Police	Swansea City of Sanctuary and others supporting refugees and asylum seekers (Eyst and others)	Swansea Council, Community Cohesion Steering Group (which sits under Safer Swansea Partnership);	City of Culture Steering Group Swansea
Menter Iaith Abertawe	Merched Y Wawr	Co Production Network	Human Rights City group
Womens Aid /multi agency domestic violence practitioners	Regional Black Minority Ethnic Network	Community Cohesion group	

Overview of work within Strong Communities

Since the new governance arrangements, this Objective has been allocated to Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS). Since this new arrangement has been in place, a full review of the intended action plan has been in progress. The review has included identifying actions that are now complete, those that are ongoing and new actions that need to be included going forward.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, several meetings had taken place between the previous and new lead, and a new strategic stakeholder group was identified. This group was developed to ensure that it included partners who were able to reflect the work of the Regional Partnership Board (RPB) and the Transformation programme, as there were many close links and common goals, which have links to a number of actions within the workstream.

The group's membership enables there to be intelligence sharing and joint working across other PSB Objectives and between other agencies and departments.

Achievements

There is a clear Governance of the Critical Incident Group to the Safer Swansea Partnership and then to Public Service Board. All communications are channelled through the Safer Swansea Partnership (all partners are signed up with South Wales Police leading) and all work is branded Safer Swansea Partnership.

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service's (MAWWFRS) contribution to Strong Communities.

During the last twelve-month period, (MAWWFRS) have been involved in several initiatives that have contributed to Strong Communities in Swansea, these include:

- The COVID-19 pandemic required the Service to work closely with a wide range of partners to ensure that key services could continue to be provided to the communities we serve. Advice and resources were provided to third sector partners, such as smoke alarms which were then able to be delivered to homes where required.
- Amendments were made to Service Level Agreements (SLAs) to reflect the changes required to assist partners in delivering Safe and Well visits. These amendments helped to ensure the highest level of support continued to be provided to vulnerable members of the community, whilst adhering to COVID-19 guidelines.
- The multi-agency taskforce set-up to bring a dedicated focus on deliberate and accidental grass fires across Wales (Operation Dawns Glow) continued to make good progress, with information about the multi-agency collaboration publicised at Public Services Boards and Community Safety Partnership meetings across the Service area. Further information can be found on the Service's website www.mawwfire.gov.uk
- The key messages for Operation Dawns Glow were developed to include a more holistic approach to messaging via partners and included a specific

reference to COVID-19 considerations. This messaging ensured that consistent safety messages were promoted on community risks as they became apparent, such as the temporary closure of waste recycling centres and the hazards of burning domestic garden waste.

- Operation BANG (Be a Nice Guy) saw an adapted multi-agency approach to Halloween and Bonfire night in light of COVID-19 restrictions. Safety messages were successfully co-ordinated between the Police, the three Welsh Fire and Rescue Services', Education Officers, and other agencies to incorporate new parameters and guidelines.
- MAWWFRS staff supported the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust (WAST) by driving ambulances.
- MAWWFRS staff were available to provide mortuary assistance.
- Community Safety (CS) staff assisted with the implementation of the COVID-19 inoculation programme.
- Educational Resources were widely developed to ensure that our safety education messages were accessible to our target audience, schools, and parents through HWB.
- The Service's Arson Reduction Team maintained partner links and adapted collaborative working practices to safeguard personnel and reduce the impact from the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions when attending multi-agency initiatives.
- Home fire safety intervention equipment, such as smoke alarms were provided to food banks across the Service area to be included in food parcels.
- The Service supported digital awareness, and volunteers were trained in digital skills, which enabled them to become digital champions, who have been able to share their knowledge and skills within the community.
- The Service has fully trained digital champion volunteers, who can share their knowledge and skills within the community.
- The Swansea Public Services Board secured £8,000 worth of grant funding from Natural Resources Wales, to enable the Service's Arson Team to identify areas of high risk within Swansea that would benefit from the provision of fire breaks.
- Training was provided to partners to allow them to deliver telephone Home Fire Safety Check (HFSC) audits to their clients. Training was also provided to new partners to allow for referrals to be made to the Service.
- The Service's Business Fire Safety (BFS) team developed a local engagement strategy to provide guidance and support to businesses who were about to transition from lockdown to a state of progressive unlock, with the aim of providing fire safety guidance that was specifically relevant to the current situation whilst ensuring that fire safety considerations were not neglected.
- The (BFS) team provided support in the safe delivery of the temporary field hospitals in Swansea.
- The Service signed up to the zero-tolerance policy to racism in Wales and is committed to promoting racial harmony and equity, supporting the Zero Racism Wales campaign. Furthermore, the Service is committed to implementing the commitments, together with taking a stand against racism

and promoting a more inclusive and equal workplace and society that gives every individual in Wales the right to feel safe, valued and included.

- The Service's Corporate Plan 2021-2026 outlines our commitment to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and how our Improvement and Well-being Objectives contribute to the seven Well-being Goals, by demonstrating how each one helps the Service to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. Further information can be found on the website www.mawwfire.gov.uk

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service's (MAWWFRS) partnership working during the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the COVID-19 pandemic guidelines and the restricted working within the community, our priority remained looking after the most vulnerable at a time when things were very uncertain.

- During the pandemic, MAWWFRS's CS team adapted the way in which it worked and engaged with partner organisations and vulnerable communities.
- Following the Welsh Government's (WG) shielding guidelines for vulnerable people, Local Authorities, the voluntary sector, and community networks initiated delivering meals, groceries, and medication, to the elderly and vulnerable. Assistance was offered with the addition of offering home safety advice.
- A supply of smoke detectors and safety leaflets were provided to foodbank services to be included with food parcels.
- Assistance was provided to Third Sector partners by undertaking wellbeing calls via the telephone.
- HFSC's were adapted so that they could be delivered online to partner organisations that were engaging with their service users. The training enabled staff to signpost vulnerable members of the community to the Fire Service for a HFSC, as well as the ability to identify risks within the home if they were conducting a visit and fitting smoke detectors. Some of the agencies that received the training included Platform, Llys Nini animal centre, British Red Cross.
- Age Connect Volunteers and staff were also trained to enable them to conduct telephone HFSC's whilst making welfare calls to lonely, isolated older people.
- The team also worked in collaboration with Oxygen Nurses, Smoking Cessation, and Baywater to help and support patients on Oxygen.
- Surplus fire safety equipment was issued to partner organisations to enable them to be provided to vulnerable members of the community.
- To keep in touch with hard to reach groups, virtual coffee mornings were conducted to discuss home safety to tenants through Housing Associations. HFSC training and advice was also provided to the Gas Safety Teams undertaking home visits.
- Work was undertaken with the Burns Team from Morriston Hospital to look at burns prevention, with a focus on older adults over the age of 65, as they are more likely to suffer from a life threatening burn and take longer to recover from a serious burn.

- In collaboration with SCVS, HFSC training was offered to all volunteers as part of their introductory training. Befriending service calls were made to people suffering from loneliness and isolation. Following this training, befrienders provided home safety advice and referred vulnerable individuals to the Service for further assistance.
- Work was undertaken with the Community Cohesion Team to assist with monitoring potential tensions within the community, such as hate crime. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an increase in anti-social behaviour, neighbourhood disputes and tensions around transmission. The meetings enabled the consideration of immediate responses, that would mitigate those risks or any tensions escalating. The Service also shared information on Arson hotspots and key areas of concern with the team.
- The Partnership Officer worked with key stakeholders, including Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB) and Public Health Wales (PHW) on the 'Tell Me More' campaign, which provided accurate information to allow people to make informed decisions about the vaccine, with the hope that more people, including those in Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities would decide to take up the offer of the vaccine.
- The CS team continued to provide Violence against Women Domestic Abuse Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) training to all staff to enable the identification of those experiencing abuse within the community.

Swansea Council for Voluntary Service's (SCVS) contribution to Strong Communities.

During the last twelve-month period, Swansea Council for Voluntary Services (SCVS) have been involved in several initiatives that have contributed to Strong Communities in Swansea, these include:

- Formal and informal volunteering and voluntary organisations contributed hugely to ensuring that communities have remained resilient over the last year.
- Very few Third Sector and community services utilised the furlough scheme, as they were still required to continue providing vital services, all be it whilst utilising alternative ways of working, such as online, outdoor, and socially distanced visits.
- SCVS were able to obtain COVID-19 specific funding, for example, emergency VSEF and Comic Relief funding, the Austin Bailey Foundation and Moondance Foundation which provided funding for COVID-19 related activities.
- Additional funding was also received from WG to fund volunteering opportunities, with local and regional partners working together to ensure a volunteering legacy and plans for the future.
- Previous "hidden" community needs became apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly with regards to food insecurity, barriers to accessing transport and access to healthcare settings.
- Groups have started to look at the longer-term responses to the impact from the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health, obesity and other health and behaviour impacts linked to lockdown sedentary lifestyles.

Swansea Council's Tackling Poverty Services contribution to Strong Communities.

During the last twelve-month period, Swansea Council's Tackling Poverty Services have been involved in several initiatives that have contributed to Strong Communities in Swansea, these include:

- One of the priorities identified at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic was supporting access to food.
- At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the team engaged with food banks in order to understand their concerns and challenges, which were; an expected rise in demand for crisis food support, food bank volunteers becoming vulnerable themselves and the risk of food supply to food banks. In response to their concerns, 4 Food Distribution Centres across Swansea were established to procure and store surplus food which helped to meet the rise in demand and ensured that supplies were available. Food bank volunteers were equipped with essential travel letters, FareShare Membership for the independent food banks was paid for to ensure a weekly supply of food coming in, and Local Area Coordinators provided strong links in the communities which helped this to work effectively.
- In response to the emerging COVID-19 pandemic, Matthew's House, Zac's Place, Swansea Council, Swansea Council for Voluntary Services, The Wallich, Crisis Skylight South Wales, Neath Port Talbot Council, Caerlas/Goleudy, YMCA, Mecca Bingo, Where's Doris, The Shared Place, Sameerea Foundation, Goggi's Cuisine, Swansea City Football Club, Thai Bach, NHS, Public Health Wales and local politicians came together to ensure that homeless, vulnerably housed and vulnerable people received meals daily in a safe way.
- 55 organisations and 100 volunteers collaborated to deliver a project to ensure that people's basic needs of daily food support were met safely, this ensured that everyone on the streets was offered a bed, and the winter provision was extended to all year round, including a substantial hot meal every day. This crucial bit of work helped keep rough sleeping in Swansea to the lowest levels for over 20 years.
- Each week volunteers in five venues (Matthews' House, Goggi's, The Shared Plate, Swansea City Football Club and Mecca Bingo) prepared hot meals, which were transported using community transport schemes and volunteers to get the meals to those who were unable to either cook for themselves or were having difficulty buying food.
- Over 18,000 prepared meals were delivered over a four-month period (seven days a week) to 21 locations. 307 emergency food parcels were also delivered during this period. Once the lockdown period had ended, plans were put in place to offer a takeaway service instead of a delivery service.
- The Swansea Together network created a seven days a week emergency outdoor food service, which was available on regular days, times, and locations to enable people to access a hot meal if they need it. This initiative is now meeting an even greater need as the number of people at risk of homelessness is rising.

- As the demand continues to grow, so has the provision to match it in a way that is collaborative and effective, with an opportunity every day of the week for people struggling with housing to touch base with a person who can help.
- A Council COVID-19 helpline was established with a food help administration team processing requests for food help, together with help with shopping directed to Local Area Coordination Teams and SCVS. 850 requests for food help were processed and 7,700 shielding food parcels were delivered.
- Third Sector Grant Support received 41 Food Poverty grants, 19 Period Dignity in communities' grants and 17 Men's Sheds grants.
- Staff across the Council whose normal roles were restricted were reallocated to crisis response roles, such as the COVID-19 helpline, food administration team, and local area coordination team.
- The Local Area Coordination team supported vulnerable community members impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, supported over 23,000 requests for food, medication, or support for social isolation, and provided coordination and support for community and voluntary action working with over 5,000 community and street champions.
- The welfare rights advice line was extended to be open 5 days a week, with additional information kept up to date on the Council's Coronavirus help webpage.
- The Lifelong Learning Team moved their learning to online classes, and they also established help for the digitally excluded to access devices and support to use it to help them stay in touch with family and friends and gain access to services.
- The Employability Team and Swansea Working supported the delivery of free school meals, provided employability support online, and introduced an ICT loans scheme for digitally excluded clients.

Safer Swansea Partnership's contribution to Strong Communities.

During the last twelve-month period, the Safer Swansea Partnership (SSP) have been involved in several initiatives that have contributed to Strong Communities in Swansea, these include:

- The SSP worked alongside partner agencies to deliver the Operation BANG initiative to reduce Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents during the Halloween/Fireworks period.
- The management of 33 Hot Spot cameras was utilised to capture evidence to help deter ASB, fly-tipping, and criminal damage.
- CS teams continued to play a key role through community engagement in key areas and empowering the local community, by providing sustained and positive solutions, such as Paws on Patrol.
- Engagement sessions and a monthly newsletter were published for the Paws on Patrol initiative.
- Through the work of the ASB team, the CS team also assisted with the identification of emerging ASB hotspots and trends and assisted in the mapping of local networks to identify other at-risk young persons.
- Work was undertaken to reduce criminal activity within the Sandfields and Vetch areas through the Vetch Development Scheme.

- Regular target hardening survey site visits were conducted to premises ranging from domestic properties, building sites, parks, schools, and open spaces, with advice given regarding stopping/reducing the risk of the area becoming a target for criminal activities.
- Support was provided to the monthly Problem Solving Groups (PSG) with other key partners in each sector, to provide solutions to developing issues within that area, following an increase in youth annoyance over the past 6 months, significantly in December, which aligned with the easing of restrictions over the Christmas period. Neighbour annoyance continued to make up the majority of complaints, which consisted mainly of both statutory and non-statutory noise nuisance complaints.
- The Management of the City Centre Crime Prevention Christmas public event and Christmas Advent Calendar Social Media Crime Prevention campaigns were undertaken.
- Community engagement/consultation events targeting hot spot areas in the city, including High Street (City Centre) and Sandfields were held. As a direct result of these community engagement sessions, 19 residents requested and received bespoke crime prevention advice as well as targeted hardening packs.
- The Swansea Contextual Missing Exploitation Trafficking multi-agency forum (CMET) developed and embedded a contextual safeguarding approach, which was supported by the University of Bedfordshire. The pilot is working in Townhill as well as in 16+ and Youth Justice Services. The pilot is not about stopping young people from being young people but understanding them and their context and making places and their relationships sustainably safe or safer.
- The CMET forum consists of representatives from social services, Early Help, Community Safety, Police, YMCA, NSPCC, Barod and many more. CMET pulls together to see who is best placed to do what is required to achieve what matters, which is to disrupt criminal networks and behaviour by acting on the context in which the harm occurs or potentially could occur.

Regeneration Swansea's contribution to Strong Communities.

During the last twelve-month period, Regeneration Swansea have been involved in several initiatives that have contributed to Strong Communities in Swansea, these include:

- [Regeneration Swansea](#) continued to meet virtually during 2020/21, with a focus on informing Swansea Council's Economic Recovery Action plan, which sets out the actions the Council needs to take in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to support businesses, support individuals and improve the resilience of the local economy.
- The partnership gathered city centre business intelligence information from BID, considered Demand and Supply of Office Floorspace in the city centre and received feedback from the construction sector via 4the Region, all of which will help inform future plans and activities.
- The partnership heard about proposals to establish an Urban Farm and room to grow space in Uplands, to maximise green infrastructure within the City.

- Funding was secured to launch a shop local campaign <https://www.swansea.gov.uk/shopmorrison> and work continued to bring vacant properties back into use.
- Funding to support the development of a Green roof on the Post Office building was granted and work on this to improve the biodiversity of the area has been completed.
- As local project board for the Welsh Government Transforming Towns / Target Regeneration Investment (TRI) Programme, the Partnership supported three new Property Enhancement Development Grant schemes in 2020, which between them will bring 870m² of commercial floor space back into use in the City Centre and Morrision. These schemes will accommodate 6 enterprises creating 36 jobs.
- The partnership awarded funding for a shop front improvement pilot scheme in Morrision and funding for a pilot 'meanwhile use' project led by Urban Foundry.
- Eight WG Transforming Towns TRI schemes approved in previous years were completed in the city centre and Morrision in 2020, which gave rise to 1047 m² of commercial floorspace becoming available for use and 19 new housing units.
- Following the award of WG Valleys Taskforce Property Enhancement Development Grant funding for the South West Wales Valleys Taskforce areas, the partnership awarded £224,069 to three schemes in Clydach and Pontarddulais.
- Seven Town Centre Loans were approved with £2.19m funding released on an interest free terms mostly over five years.

Challenges/ Barriers

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a considerable delay to the progression of this Objective, with the majority of partners and stakeholders being required to re-direct their resources to maintaining business as usual.

Further challenges include the wider impact from the COVID-19 pandemic, linked with individual organisations' return to the workplace, access to longer term funding and the impact of remote working, particularly with public facing, community-based roles.

The ability to ensure consistent and appropriate representation from all stakeholders, ensuring success from different partnerships is captured effectively, together with the capacity of partners workloads particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to be a challenge.

The lack of hypothecated funding available to PSBs, in comparison to other strategic partnerships, has certainly reduced the effectiveness and speed of delivery of PSB Wellbeing plans, and in particular the Strong Communities Objective.

Future activity for the 21/22 year includes:

- To embed amongst all our partners, approaches that support individual, family and community resilience.
- To work towards us working as a whole organisation and whole public sector with one approach.
- To deliver collective action to remove barriers to participation including fear of difference, sharing resources regularly to do so.
- To further embed our Intercultural City approach to promote Welsh language whilst also recognising and celebrating the other cultures, languages, and communities in Swansea.
- To fully embed the economic regeneration plans within all our partners and actions will be taken to enhance a social benefits approach.
- To work together and jointly design and implement local projects that support the achievement of the Minimum Income Standard.

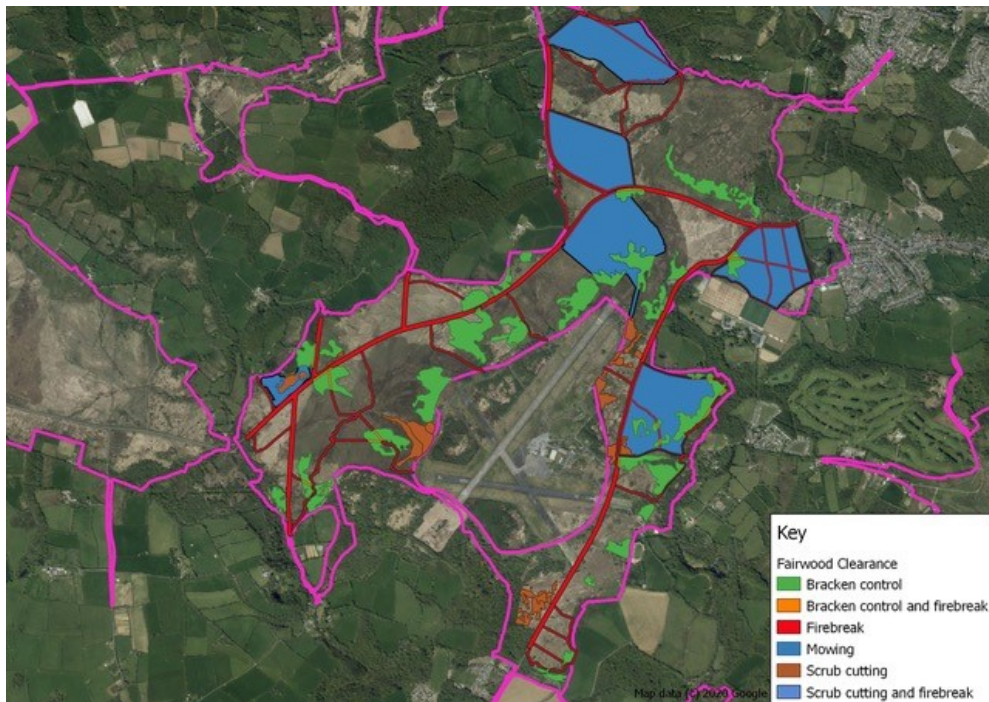
Case Study

Provision of fire breaks in areas of high fire risk to prevent their spread and severity.

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MWWFRS) work on an annual basis with two key partners to reduce the impact of wildfires within the Swansea area. We assess vegetation fuel loads in combination with fire incident data to put prevention in place at various locations predominantly by means of creating spaces often known as 'firebreaks' to reduce the travel, severity and environmental impact of fire. The safe use of dedicated mechanical devices to cut and reduce vegetation at specific sites in order to limit the spread of a grass fire is proven to be effective in safeguarding the environment, reducing demand of fire and rescue resources utilised to control and extinguish the fire as well as provide valuable benefits to the immediate community.

A Swansea based company 'Commonsvision' work with MWWFRS, City & County of Swansea Council and other partners (including NRW) to look at practical solutions to reduce the occurrence and impact of fire for common land and ecological issues utilising controlled burning or mechanical land management methods. Problematic sites include Garngoch, Fairwood, Pengwern, Clyne and sometimes Pennard Cliffs/Rhossili depending on the condition of vegetation and what the National Trust have already done.

Following site assessments and prioritisation, Commonsvision facilitated five days of Tractor cutting for the breaks. This also included motor manual work dependent on what was being cut and removed. There was a significant amount of vegetation cleared. Residents who live on the edge of Fairwood had been in touch enquiring about similar cutting work outside their property. This was within the line of one of the breaks and within the notice from NRW, so is to be cleared utilising a Welsh Government funded I-Cutter in partnership with South Wales Fire and Rescue Service.



The working group have completed the project in the Gower area that utilised NRW funding to focus on prevention, awareness, and improvement of the rural areas. The holistic approach will continue via the group and can hopefully be emulated within other service areas.

ITV Wales' Coast and Country programme (series 9, episode 5) have filmed with the arson reduction team and partners to highlight the implications of wildfires and the partnership working that has been carried out in the Swansea area. Focus areas were service impacts and Operation Dawns Glaw, Firebreak cutting, Farming, Ecology and Local Policing. Red Watch Morriston and Green Watch Swansea West have also been involved.





Kilvey Hill (where the first part of the ITV filming took place) remained a priority for the Service. Subsequent multi-agency patrols were planned and community engagement utilising the local resident's wildlife group. MWWFRS regularly coordinate grass fire prevention work with the City & County of Swansea Council to reduce grassfire impact on Kilvey Hill, this is an ongoing project to safeguard common land sectors at the location such as areas adjacent to Grenfell Park Road, Wallace Road, Dupre Road and Gwynne Terrace. Arrangements were also made with ITV Wales to coordinate an episode for their Coast and Country television programme to highlight the partnership working and benefits of the project that utilised the funding. The episode was aired on 06 April 2021.

Cutting work was organised via contractors approved by MWWFRS and its partners, supported by the requisite risk assessments. This was completed on 16 February 2021. In order for the prevention of grass/wildfires to be optimally effective, and for the protection of habitats, the prevention work was carried out during the months of January to March.

Partners/ Stakeholders involved- Key partnerships are Swansea Poverty Partnership, Regeneration Swansea, Swansea Community Safety Partnership, Safer Swansea Partnership board and Regional Partnership Board. *This is not an exhaustive list there are other groups that sit under these looking at local issues and developing asset based solutions.

Partnership working at its best during Covid-19

PSB Partners Response to COVID-19

It has never been more important for us to pull together, connect and understand the resources we have here in Swansea. All PSB members have shown willingness to work together collectively to come out of this situation stronger, more resilient and better connected.

Maintaining effective communication and relationships has been vital. It has been important to use our relationships and networks we have built up over the past years and draw on one another's knowledge and experience. It has been crucial for all our different organisations to come together to help and support one another.

PSB members/stakeholders together are stronger and we must not lose sight of how much we can achieve when we work together and support one another. The people of Swansea have never needed our support as much as they do now.

Innovation often springs from a reaction to crisis and chaos. Staff generating new ideas to help us win this battle. Our working lives have been revolutionised. Regular conference calls with the local health board and regional partners have removed the need to travel and working remotely is the new normal for many of us. The crisis and the need for social distancing and self-isolation has required these changes and suspect this will influence our ways of working in the longer term.

An example of how partners came together was the construction of the Bay Field Hospital.

In responding to the COVID pandemic the health board adopted a highly involved and collaborative approach to working with partners to understand potential risks and design integrated solutions to supporting resilient communities and a health and social care workforce.

Bay Field Hospital

In order to respond the global Covid-19 pandemic to support Swansea Bay University Health Board a temporary field hospital setting was to be created to meet potential demand. The over-riding aim was that the field hospitals would relieve pressure at the acute sites to maintain patient flow across the region at all times.

In March 2020, one of the final locations was confirmed as Bay Studio Complex. The site was selected as it would allow for expansion, a phased move-in while works were

completed on other areas, and had a delivery bay, good access roads and parking, and was accessible from to Morriston Hospital.

The site, which is usually a home to a film studio and was formerly a Ford / Visteon factory, was vast at 21,000 sqm. The brief was that we needed to potentially care for 1,000 low level care patients. Unlike all other field hospitals being created at the time, Bay Studios came with nothing but a shell. Whilst mostly watertight, there were no primary services - electricity, water, gas, telecoms or drainage - and the existing building had no intrinsic thermal properties or any method of providing heating. All we had was a huge corrugated shed on a multi acre site that required a full conversion into a field hospital. We recognised that we had to pull out all the stops to succeed in this huge task.

Building a hospital would usually take years of planning even before any foundations are laid. The Bay Field Hospital was required to be built & equipped within a matter of weeks. A fully serviced unit had to be built to exacting hospital standards within the old factory shell. It was essentially a box within a box, that had to be designed and built from scratch in a matter of days and weeks – a build that would under normal circumstances take years. This was by no means an easy undertaking.





The hospital had to be built and then equipment procured and installed in rapid time. We recognised that we could not do this alone and people wanted to and were willing to help. We worked with Swansea Council, Keir Construction and others to build this hospital, at its peak we had 650 people per day on site working together. The dedication shown by the workforce and everyone involved led to enormous progress being made.

This quote from **Rob Stewart, leader of Swansea Council**, shows how the partnership approach was so vital.

“It took collaboration and co-operation to whole new levels. What was achieved was phenomenal and we couldn’t be prouder to be a partner with them.”



Staff who have been involved with this project have all agreed that the construction of the field hospitals have been most one of the most challenging but equally one of the most enjoyable and rewarding projects of their careers. It has been humbling to witness people pull and work together for a shared goal. It was collaboration at its best, at a time when it was needed the most.”



How the Arts are supporting the Welsh NHS Support to Covid-19

The field hospitals were constructed within matter of weeks; they were blank canvasses for some stunning pieces of art to welcome patients and staff.

A series of panels depicting meadow flowers, designed by Cardiff artist Louise Shenstone, now adorn some of the walls at Bay and Llandarcy field hospitals.

The artwork was requested by nursing staff to send out a clear message to the public that their loved ones would be cared for with dignity and compassion, even though they are not in one of the main hospitals. Staff selected the phrases and words used and were enthusiastic about using meadow flowers to create a positive, humanising atmosphere after seeing some of Louise's work.



Key bilingual words and phrases from poems have been combined with visual motifs to evoke a positive atmosphere of peace and calm. Poetry in Welsh and English has been introduced along the 'Dignity' corridor; a significant journey made by staff with patients who have passed away.

Our Next Steps

Swansea PSB's strengths lie within the expertise, experience and enthusiasm of its partners, from the frontline staff working to deliver the Local Well-being Objectives to the leadership representatives who work together to strategically improve Swansea's well-being.

Austerity and continued uncertainty will continue to challenge our organisations moving forward. However, significant opportunities have been identified to build our capacity by working together and increasingly share assets and resources. In particular, the benefits of increased regional working, improved communications that enables the greater involvement of wider stakeholders and clearer relationships with other partnerships such as West Glamorgan Regional Partnership Board will be a focus for the future.

How you can get involved?

The work undertaken by Swansea Public Services Board is published online at www.swanseapsb/swansea.gov.uk.

Our Joint Committee Meetings are held in public and questions from the public are invited via a standing agenda item Public Question Time.

Unfortunately, our Partnership Forums which should take place every 6 months have not gone ahead for the past year because of the Pandemic. However, we are now looking to re-establish these Partnership Forums where we welcome everyone along to contribute.

You can also contact our Public Services Board Co-ordinator directly by email at Swansea.psb@swansea.gov.uk or telephone 07989 138917.

We welcome your involvement, ideas and suggestions in all areas of our work so that we could consider for our future work.