

Council Response Form

Council action planned in response to the recommendations issued by Audit Wales

Council: Carmarthenshire County Council

Report title: Time for Change – Poverty in Wales

Issue date: November 2022

Document reference:

Ref	Recommendation	Council action planned in response to recommendation issued by Audit Wales	Target date for completion of actions	Responsible officer
R1	That in updating its strategy the Welsh Government: 1. set SMART national actions 2. establish a suite of performance measures to judge delivery and impact 3. sets target for alleviating and tackling poverty; and 4. undertake regular evaluation of performance and public reporting.	Welsh Government Action	N/A	N/A
R2	Local strategies, targets and performance reporting for tackling and alleviating poverty	The Council will set tackling poverty as a thematic priority within one of its well-being objectives within the new	May 2023	Noelwyn Daniel & Gwyneth Ayers

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	<p>That councils use their Wellbeing Plans to provide a comprehensive focus on tackling poverty to co-ordinate their efforts, meet local needs and support the revised national plan targets and actions. This should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. include SMART local actions with a greater emphasis on prevention 2. include a detailed resourcing plan for the length of the strategy 3. be developed with involvement from other public sector partners, the third sector, and those with experience of poverty 4. include a robust set of consistent outcome indicators and measures to increase understanding of poverty locally; and 5. be subject to annual public reporting to enable a whole system view of poverty locally to help improve delivery and support. 	<p>Corporate Strategy and the PSB has also included tackling poverty in its draft Well-being Plan.</p> <p>Actions and measures to make progress against these objectives will be determined with clarity between organisational and partnership response to avoid duplication.</p>		
3	<p>That each council designate a cabinet member as the council's poverty champion and designate a senior officer to lead and be accountable for the anti-poverty agenda.</p>	<p>Cllr Linda Evans, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Tackling Poverty already appointed following May 2022 elections.</p> <p>Noelwyn Daniel, Head of ICT & Corporate Policy identified as lead senior officer.</p>	Completed	Gwyneth Ayers
4	<p>To ensure councils are able to maximise the impact of funding and tackle the more difficult and longstanding problems, we recommend that the <u>Welsh Government</u>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. provide longer timescales for announcing and receiving bids to enable better resource planning 2. move away from annual bidding cycles to multi-year allocations 	Welsh Government		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. enable funding to be more flexibly spent to avoid an emphasis on quicker projects, rather than more impactful interventions that take longer to establish 4. allow councils to consolidate funding to reduce bureaucracy 5. streamline and simplify processes and grant conditions to reduce the administrative burden; and 6. keep requests for information and supporting materials from councils to a minimum 			
5	That councils improve their understanding of their residents' 'lived experience' through meaningful involvement in decision-making using 'experience mapping' and/or 'Poverty Truth Commissions' to review and improve accessibility to and use of council services.	Agreement to develop a Carmarthenshire engagement programme to seek views of residents	December 2023	Gwyneth Ayers
6	<p>To ensure people are able to get the information and advice they need, we recommend that councils optimise their digital services by creating a single landing page on their website that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. is directly accessible on the home page; 2. provides links to all services provided by the council that relate to poverty; and 3. provides information on the work of partners that can assist people in poverty. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Council has developed direct access to information from its homepage 2. Links to relevant services established, but will be reviewed continually. 3. Links with partners and stakeholders being further developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completed 2. Completed 3. April 2023 	Deina Hockenull & Gwyneth Ayers
7	<p>To streamline and improve application and information services for people in poverty councils should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. establish corporate data standards and coding that all services use for their core data 	Work already underway centred around the Council's Hwb model.	September 2023	Noelwyn Daniel & Gwyneth Ayers

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. undertake an audit to determine what data is held by services and identify any duplicated records and information requests 3. create a central integrated customer account as a gateway to services 4. undertake a data audit to provide refresher training to service managers to ensure they know when and what data they can and cannot share; and 5. review and update data sharing protocols to ensure they support services to deliver their data sharing responsibilities. 	<p>Collation and use of data is being considered as part of wider Council data suite.</p> <p>Specific issues relating to data sharing will be considered.</p>		
8	<p>That councils review their integrated impact assessments or equivalent to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ensure that they draw on relevant, comprehensive and current data (nothing over 12 months old) to support analysis 2. ensure integrated impact assessments capture information on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. involvement activity setting out those the service has engaged with in determining its strategic policy such as partners, service users and those it is co- producing with b. the cumulative impact/mitigation to ensure the assessment considers issues in the round and how it links across services provided across the council c. how the council will monitor and evaluate impact and will take corrective action; and d. an action plan setting out the activities the Council will take as a result of the Integrated Impact Assessment 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of up to date Carmarthenshire data profiles is underway. 2. Review of IIA to ensure capture of this elements will be undertaken. 	September 2023	Noelwyn Daniel & Gwyneth Ayers