



Adult Learning Partnership Swansea

Strategic Plan

2023 – 2026



Adult Learning Partnership Swansea

The provision of adult learning in Swansea is coordinated through the Adult Learning Partnership Swansea (ALPS). Welsh Government funded, adult learning provision is delivered by the council's Lifelong Learning Service and Adult Learning Wales. Gower College Swansea provides a programme of adult courses delivered using part-time FE funding.

The partnership brings together a range of other organisations providing adult learning including, Swansea University, University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Swansea Council for Voluntary Service (SCVS) and Learn Welsh – Swansea Bay Region (LWSBR) the local constituent provider of Welsh courses for adults under the auspices of the National Centre for Learning Welsh.

The partnership delivers courses across a wide range of sectors. The majority of provision is for ESOL and Adult Basic Education courses and there is a significant provision for visual and creative arts offered by the council's Lifelong Learning Service and the College. Learn Welsh Cymru provide opportunities for learning Welsh, along with Gower College Swansea and higher education partners offer a range of undergraduate and postgraduate full and part-time opportunities.

Approximately 240,000 people live in the City and County of Swansea and the county has a population density of 632 per square kilometre. Of the current population approximately 41,600 are aged under 16 (17%) and approximately 48,900 are aged 65 or over (20%). Approximately 6% of Swansea's population are from a non-white ethnic groups. 11% of the population of Swansea is able to speak Welsh.

77% of Swansea's working age population are economically active. 87% of employment in Swansea is in the service sectors, including 29% employment in the public sector. 62% of 16-64-year olds are educated to Level 3 (compared with 58% Welsh average). The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2019 identified 11.5% of Swansea's local areas as falling within the top 10% most deprived in Wales.





Adult Learning Partnership Swansea (ALPS) Strategic Plan

Strategic Drivers

The provision of adult learning in Swansea is a key strategic aim shared by all partner organisations, and is informed by the wider aims and objectives for adult learning across Wales. This plan has been developed based on the following strategic drivers:

- Adult Learning in Wales 2017
- The Strategy for Older People in Wales 2013-23
- Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGH)
- Welsh Government Anti-Racist Action Plan
- Welsh Government Digital 2030 Strategic Framework
- Welsh Language Commissioner’s principles for public bodies
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 including the seven connected well-being goals for Wales (see image).

Considering the regional and local strategic priorities for adult learning in Swansea, this plan is also based on the following strategic drivers:

- **UNESCO City of Learning**

Swansea was designated a UNESCO Learning City in 2015 - and remains a member of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities to create a culture of lifelong learning across the region.

- **Human Rights City – Protocol 1, Article 2 (Right to education)**

Swansea is Wales' first Human Rights City where everyone counts and the rights set out by the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR) include the right to education.

- **City of Sanctuary – opportunity for lifelong learning**

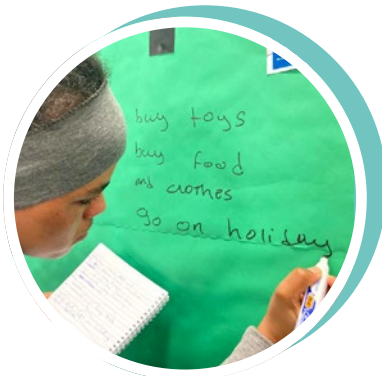
Swansea is Wales' first City of Sanctuary where we strive to welcome and offer sanctuary to those fleeing war, violence or persecution including asylum seekers and refugees.

- **Swansea Public Services Board (PSB) Wellbeing Objectives**

Our PSB conducted an Assessment of Local Wellbeing which identified key objectives and cross-cutting actions to improve the well-being of the people of Swansea and learning is seen as an important thread throughout this work.

Each partner organisation is also committed to the strategic priorities and aims of its business and ensuring that adult learning aligns with its relevant policies, objectives and outcomes. This will include addressing the broader challenges facing people in Swansea such as:

- Physical and emotional health and wellbeing
- Community resilience and social cohesion
- Economic regeneration and transformation
- Impacts of poverty and the Cost of Living crisis
- Climate change and targets for achieving Net Zero.



Vision

Engage, Inspire, Empower

As a member of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities we will engage, inspire and empower adults through lifelong learning, to create a culture of ambition and success, fostering personal prosperity and community transformation.

Mission

To provide accessible, high-quality education within the communities we serve that equips adult learners with the knowledge and skills necessary to attain their personal and professional aspirations.

The partnership is committed to delivering value for money, engaging learning experiences that enhance the skills, lives and well-being of adults throughout the City and County of Swansea.

Working collaboratively, our aim is to foster further progression and employment opportunities, cultivating happier, more employable and resilient individuals while nurturing a culture of lifelong learning for the sustainability of our community.

Values

- **Person Centred Approach:** We prioritise the needs, goals and aspirations of each individual, tailoring our educational services to empower learners on their unique journey.
- **Collaboration:** We are dedicated to working collaboratively with our learners and partners to realise our mission and vision, fostering a community of shared goals and achievements.
- **Integrity:** We uphold the highest standards of integrity, honesty and transparency in all our actions, ensuring trust and accountability in our relationships and operations.
- **Accessibility:** We are committed to removing barriers to education, making it accessible to all and providing clear pathways for continuous learning and progression.
- **Inclusivity:** We create welcoming, inclusive and safe learning environments where every individual feels a sense of “perthyn” or belonging, enabling them to thrive and succeed.

1

Strategic Aim 1

To work together to provide an appropriate, responsive and coordinated curriculum that meets the individual, local and national needs.

We will:

- involve learners in partnership development and decision making
- develop and sign post clear progression routes between and within each provider
- celebrate the success of learners
- expand the opportunities for adult learning in the community bilingually and through the medium of Welsh in responses to learner choice
- establish a Bilingual Steering Group for the Partnership to help shape and drive the bilingual agenda.

2

Strategic Aim 2

To promote and celebrate a culture of continuous improvement and sharing of best practice.

We will:

- ensure learner voice is built into each programme to evaluate, shape and improve provision
- identify and share best practice in teaching to continually improve the learning experiences for learners
- develop a common approach to data gathering and monitoring
- promote cross-partnership opportunities for professional learning.



3

Strategic Aim 3

To provide a curriculum that promotes learner empowerment and improves skills of learners in Swansea.

We will:

- prioritise the development of literacy, language skills, numeracy and digital literacy at all levels and in all activities
- promote bilingual opportunities and the development of Welsh language skills
- promote the development of employability and life skills to provide confidence and routes to employment
- provide appropriate advice and guidance that promotes progression to employment and lifelong learning
- provide space and opportunity for innovative thinking.

4

Strategic Aim 4

To establish a coherent, responsive approach to health and well-being.

We will:

- create safe learning environment where learners can thrive and build confidence in themselves and others
- recognise and promote benefits of social interaction through learning
- work closely with other stakeholders to provide timely intervention that removes barriers to learning and prevents escalation of need
- promote inclusive, diverse, equitable and welcoming environments for learning and life
- provide effective timely care and support for all learners.

For more information, see
<https://learningswansea.wales/>

Photos kindly supplied by Swansea Council and Adult Learning Wales.