

Isle of Anglesey County Council Scrutiny Report

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Committee: | Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee |
| Date: | 14 July 2026 |
| Subject: | Tackling Poverty Update |
| Scrutiny Chair: | Councillor Sonia Williams |

1. Who will be the portfolio holder presenting / leading the report?

| Portfolio Holder | Role |
|------------------------------|---|
| Councillor Gary Pritchard | Council Leader |
| Service Officer (Supporting) | Role |
| Fon Roberts | Director of Social Services, and Head of Children & Families Services |
| | |

2. Why the Scrutiny Committee is being asked to consider the matter

Purpose of this report is to share the outcome of:

- 1) **Tackling Poverty update for 2025/26**, outlining the work over the past 12 months, priorities for 2026/27, and financial challenges.

3. Role of the Scrutiny Committee and recommendations

- For assurance
- For recommendation to the Executive
- For information

Recommendation(s):

The Committee is asked to:

R1: Accept the Tackling Poverty update for 2025/26 offering comments on Tackling Poverty's work priorities for the year 2026/27

4. How does the recommendation(s) contribute to the objectives of the Council's Plan?

1.

This report gives members of the Social Services Scrutiny Committee reassurance that the Tackling Poverty Group continues to work in response to key priorities included in the **Tackling Poverty Strategic Plan 2024-2029**.

Fundamentally, our core values, as stated in the Council Plan 2023-2028 - Respect, Collaboration, Honesty and Champion the Council and Island - are also supported by the priorities within the reports.

5. Key scrutiny themes

Key themes the Scrutiny Committee should concentrate on:

1. Social prescribing
2. Work ready people
3. In work poverty
4. Funding

6. Key points / summary

1. Tackling Poverty Update

Purpose of the Tackling Poverty group:

- The group continues to meet quarterly, aiming to encourage and facilitate forward planning, share information, and work in partnership.
- The group continues to focus on the key priorities included in the **Tackling Poverty Strategic Plan 2024-2029**

Priority 1 – Ensuring access to help with managing spending and debts

- 256 households supported through financial and digital inclusion.
- £328k in gains and savings secured for residents.
- Demand remains high for help with hardship, food, fuel, and budgeting.
- The digital inclusion project reached its targets early and has moved into normal operations.

Priority 2 – Making sure children and young people reach their full potential

- Around 600 children aged 0–4 supported each quarter through Flying Start, with over 250 receiving childcare.
- 900 young people supported through trauma-aware work.
- 490 young people took part in structured summer activities, with many engaging for the first time.

- Anglesey continues to perform strongly with the lowest NEET rate in Wales for 16–18 year olds.

Priority 3 - Working together to ensure local employment opportunities

- Prioritising the employability of parents through the Flying Start childcare programme
- 21 young people have gained sports qualifications through Môn Actif
- 100 Open Awards Wales supporting skills, confidence, and bridging to education, training, and work
- Multi-agency collaboration (youth, housing, education, third sector) strengthens referral pathways and follow-up

Priority 4 – Ensuring the population is healthy, safe, and independent Leisure, Physical Activity, and Wellbeing

- 322,843 participations in leisure activities (Q3–Q4)
- 1,750+ participants in holiday programmes
- New provision for childhood obesity, family wellbeing, and women and girls
- 3 community capital assets in the pipeline

Priority 5 – Supporting communities to be Age-Friendly

- 264 older people and carers supported through conferences and Winter Wellbeing Days
- Dementia and Unpaid Carers Conferences delivered
- Older People’s Council members trained as Energy Ambassadors

Priority 6 – Working in partnership to ensure affordable and accessible homes

- 95% of homelessness cases prevented
- 70 vacant properties returned to use
- 33 households supported to own a home
- 3 equity schemes approved
- Additional Care Housing in Aethwy received planning permission

7. Impact assessments

7.1 Has an impact assessment (equality considerations, the socio-economic duty, Welsh language) been undertaken?

Yes

No

If not, please explain why:

At this stage, a formal Integrated Impact Assessment (including Equality Impact Assessment, Welsh Language Impact Assessment and Socio-Economic Duty considerations) has not been undertaken. This report provides an update on the work of the Tackling Poverty agenda and does not itself introduce a new policy, service change or decision requiring a full assessment.

However, the partnership/group recognises the importance of considering equality, Welsh language and socio-economic impacts in future work. Where specific proposals, actions or strategic decisions are developed, appropriate impact assessments will be undertaken and reported as required.

7.2 Potential impacts on opportunities to use Welsh and not treating the language less favourably than English

See 7.1 above

No negative impact on opportunities to use Welsh has been identified.

The Tackling Poverty work programme aims to support all residents across Anglesey and is delivered in accordance with the Council's commitment to the Welsh Language Standards. Services, information and engagement activities are available bilingually, ensuring that Welsh is not treated less favourably than English.

Future projects and initiatives arising from the work programme will continue to consider Welsh language requirements and opportunities to promote the use of Welsh.

The Work around Tackling Poverty is committed to not treating the Welsh language less favourably than the English language; and to promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh language in order to make it easier for people to use the language.

7.3 Possible impacts on groups protected under the Equality Act 2010

See 7.1 above

No adverse impacts on groups protected under the Equality Act 2010 have been identified at this stage.

The overarching aim of the Tackling Poverty agenda is to reduce inequalities and improve outcomes for residents who may be experiencing disadvantage. This includes individuals and communities that may be disproportionately affected by poverty, including some people with protected characteristics.

As specific actions and projects are developed, equality impacts will be considered in more detail and any necessary mitigation measures put in place.

7.4 Possible impacts on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage (strategic decisions)

See 7.1 above

The report is expected to have a positive impact on people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.

The purpose of the Tackling Poverty agenda is to improve coordination across services and partners, reduce barriers to support, and improve outcomes for individuals, families and communities affected by poverty and financial hardship.

Whilst no formal socio-economic assessment has been undertaken at this stage, future strategic decisions arising from this work will consider the requirements of the Socio-economic Duty and assess potential impacts on those experiencing disadvantage.

7.5 Potential impact on the Council's Net Zero Carbon target

Neutral

The Inspection itself was conducted face to face and purely electronic - no paper files or documentations were shared during this inspection, assisting in our carbon footprint.

The impact is assessed as minimal.

8. Financial implications

We are aware of the financial implications under Priority 1 of the Group's work – Ensuring access to help with managing spending and debts

- 256 households supported through financial and digital inclusion.
- £328k in gains and savings secured for residents.
- Demand remains high for help with hardship, food, fuel, and budgeting.

Based on this, there is a key message to note:

The increase in food bank use shows growing pressure on households across Anglesey, with a noticeable rise in the number of households, people, and children receiving support. This highlights the importance of continuing to invest in preventative interventions, financial assistance, and local community provision to reduce the risk of a wider crisis.

9. Appendices

Tackling Poverty Update (Report)

10. Report author and background papers

Report written by Emma Edwards, Business Manager on behalf of Llyr Ap Rhisiart.

<https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/en/Residents/Benefits-and-grants/Cost-of-living/Tackling-Poverty-Strategic-Plan-2024-to-2029.aspx>