

Agenda



Performance Scrutiny Committee - Partnerships

Date: Thursday, 20 January 2022

Time: 5.00 pm

Venue: Virtual Meeting

To: Councillors J Clarke (Chair), Hussain, M Linton, S Marshall, R Mogford, M Spencer, T Suller and K Whitehead

Item	Wards Affected
1	<u>Apologies</u>
2	<u>Declarations of Interest</u>
3	<u>Gwent Local Assessment of Well-being Consultation</u> (Pages 3 - 48)
4	<u>Regional Population Needs Assessment - Social Services and Wellbeing Act</u> (Pages 49 - 92)
5	<u>Conclusions of Committee Reports</u> Following the completion of the Committee reports, the Committee will be asked to formalise its conclusions, recommendations and comments on previous items for actioning.
6	<u>Scrutiny Adviser Reports</u> (Pages 93 - 102) a) Forward Work Programme Update (Appendix 1) b) Actions Plan (Appendix 2)
7	<u>Minutes of the previous meetings held on 17 November 2021 and 1 December 2021</u> (Pages 103 - 122)

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Date of Issue: Thursday, 13 January 2022

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Scrutiny Report

Performance Scrutiny Committee - Partnerships

Part 1

Date: 20 January 2022

Subject **Gwent Local Assessment of Well-being Consultation**

Author Scrutiny Adviser

The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

Invitee:	Role
Tracy McKim	Policy Partnership and Involvement Manager
Rhys Cornwall	Strategic Director – Transformation and Corporate Centre
Arabella Calder	Senior Policy and Partnership Officer

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

1 Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked:

1. To discuss the consultation draft of the Well-Being Assessment in line with statutory timelines.
2. To consider and comment on the consultation process and next steps for the draft Assessment of Local Well-Being and development of the Local Well-Being Plan for Gwent.
3. To make any relevant comments on the consultation draft of the regional Well-Being Assessment and supporting local area assessments.

2 Context

Background

- 2.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 statutory guidance ‘Shared Purpose – Shared Future’ sets out a requirement for each Public Services Board (PSB) to prepare and publish an assessment of the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in its area no later than a year before it publishes its local well-being plan. Following establishment of the Gwent PSB the first Gwent Well-Being Assessment must be published by 5th May 2022.

2.2 The guidance states that the use of evidence and analysis could usefully be divided in to two main components:

Situation Analysis – painting a broad picture of well-being within the board’s area so that potential priorities for the area can be identified (the assessment of local well-being).

Response Analysis – the detailed analysis of individual issues and themes to inform the development of the Local Well-being Plan, this will be developed with the PSB over the Spring period.

2.3 In preparing and publishing the assessment (situation analysis) of the state the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of its area the PSB must:

- Set out the communities that comprise the area;
- Analyse the state of well-being in each community and the whole area
- Analyse the state of well-being of the people in the area;
- Include predictions of future trends of the area;
- Refer to the National Indicators;
- Take into account a number of statutory reviews and assessments when preparing their assessment.

2.4 The Gwent PSB was established on 1 October 2021, and it is anticipated that the first Regional Well-Being Assessment draft will be updated throughout the consultation process. The task of developing the assessment was assigned to an officer group and the draft Assessment was reviewed and agreed by the PSB in their December meeting to enable the consultation process to begin.

2.5 In preparing its Local Well-being Assessment each Public Services Board is required to fully consult with a number of statutory consultees. The key dates are:

Date	Item
7 th December 2021	Draft to PSB for approval
Mid December 2021 – End of January 2022	Consultation Period for the Well-being Assessment, including with expert office
January / February 2022	Discussions with local Scrutiny committees
5 th May 2022	Publish Well-being Assessment (statutory deadline)

Previous Consideration of this item

2.6 The first Newport PSB assessment was initially published on the 3 May 2017. A project task and finish group was convened to develop the Local Well-being Assessment on behalf of the PSB, which was consulted on during December 2016 and February 2017. The assessment was amended in light of the consultation and was signed off by the PSB on 25 April 2017 along with the 20 individual community assessments.

- 2.7 Members may recall the meeting held on 28th July 2021 where the Committee received a report on the Formation of a Regional PSB. The Committee noted the proposal to move to a regional PSB, noted the requirement to establish regional Scrutiny, support the development of Local Delivery Partnerships such as OneNewport and ensure that these are considered in local Scrutiny work programmes. The following is an extract from the minutes of the Committee meeting:

(A link to the Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships held on 28 July 2021 Report and Minute is included in the Background Papers in Section 7 of this report.)

The Committee raised the following queries and concerns at that time:

1. *How can we hear the voice of young people, for example, the Newport Youth Council? Also, how can Community Councils be better supported and represented?*
2. *How will this work take forward existing Well-being Plan priorities and interventions – and which ones are likely to feature?*
3. *Are there any examples of a regional PSB elsewhere, and has this worked?*
4. *How will the new partnership evaluate itself and ensure that it is effective?*
5. *How can the Committee and all Members continue to support and challenge the new model?*
6. *How do we ensure regional work relates to and is influenced by local people?*
7. *What happens if a partner is not performing, and what if the model is not working?"*

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

- 3.1 The appended report is being presented to each of the five local authority areas in the Gwent region. The following appendices are attached:

Appendix 1: Gwent Local Assessment of Well-being for consultation report

Appendix 2: Draft Local Wellbeing Assessment ([Executive Summary](#)) full document can be found [here](#)

Also included in this cover report is a link to the Newport Well-being Profile 2021, which can be found [here](#).

4. Suggested Areas of Focus

Role of the Committee

The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:

To discuss the consultation draft of the Well-Being Assessment in line with statutory timelines.

To consider and comment on the consultation process and next steps for the draft Assessment of Local Well-Being and development of the Local Well-Being Plan for Gwent.

- **Conclusions:**
 - Is the Committee satisfied that it has had all of the relevant information to base a conclusion?
 - Do any areas require a more in-depth review by the Committee?
 - Do the Committee wish to make any Comments / Recommendations to the partnership?

Section B – Supporting Information

5 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

- Newport City Council Corporate Plan 2017-2022

6 Impact Assessment:

- **Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act**
- **Equality Act 2010**
- **Socio-economic Duty**
- **Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011**

The council has a number of legislative responsibilities to assess the impact of any strategic decision, proposal or policy on people that may experience disadvantage or inequality. An FEIA is not required at this stage, as this is a review of information and not a decision.

6.1 Summary of impact – Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

Section 47 of the Act allows two or more Boards to merge where it is considered that this will contribute to the national well-being goals; a more prosperous Wales, a resilient Wales, a healthier Wales, a more equal Wales, a Wales of cohesive communities, a Wales of vibrant culture and Welsh language, a globally responsible Wales.

6.2 Summary of impact – Socio-economic Duty

The new socio-economic duty brought into force by the commencement of Part 1 of the Equality Act 2010. The new duty applies to public body partners in Wales and so the Gwent PSB will need to develop assessments to assure itself that its actions are meeting the duty.

6.3 Summary of impact – Welsh language

Welsh language is an important part of cultural identity and heritage and is used by many people each day in their homes, their communities and where they work. Improving Welsh language provision in Gwent will help sustain Welsh culture and identity for future generations and support local place making, and this is outlined in the assessment.

7. Background Papers

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Corporate Plan](#)
- [Socio-economic Duty Guidance](#)
- [Public Sector Equality Duty](#)
- [Welsh Language Measure 2015](#)
- [Minutes of Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships held on 28 July 2021](#)
- [Well-Being Assessment Report to the Performance Scrutiny Committee - Partnerships on 26 July 2017](#)
- [Newport Local Well-being Assessment 2017](#)
- [Gwent Public Services Board](#)
- [Draft Gwent Well-being Assessment](#)

Report Completed: 20 January 2022

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SUBJECT: Gwent Local Assessment of Well-being for consultation

Report on behalf of the PSB written by the PSB GSWAG sub-group

1	Areas Affected
1.1	Gwent – all local areas.
2	Purpose of Report
2.1	To present the consultation draft of the Well-Being Assessment in line with statutory timelines.
2.2	To outline the consultation process and next steps for the draft Assessment of Local Well-Being and development of the Local Well-Being Plan for Gwent.
3	Background
3.1	The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 statutory guidance ‘Shared Purpose – Shared Future’ sets out a requirement for each Public Services Board (PSB) to prepare and publish an assessment of the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in its area no later than a year before it publishes its local well-being plan. This means that the first Gwent Well-Being Assessment must be published by 5 th May 2022.
3.2	<p>The guidance states that the use of evidence and analysis could usefully be divided in to two main components:</p> <p>Situation Analysis – painting a broad picture of well-being within the board’s area so that potential priorities for the area can be identified (the <u>assessment of local well-being, the work we are doing now</u>).</p> <p>Response Analysis – the detailed analysis of individual issues and themes to inform the development of the Local Well-being Plan, this will be developed with the PSB over the Spring period.</p> <p>In preparing and publishing the assessment (situation analysis) of the state the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of its area the board must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set out the communities that comprise the area; • Analyse the state of well-being in each community and the whole area • Analyse the state of well-being of the people in the area; • Include predictions of future trends of the area; • Refer to the National Indicators; • Take into account a number of statutory reviews and assessments when preparing their assessment.

3.3	The Gwent PSB was established on 1 October 2021 and as such the timescales for developing the first regional Well-Being Assessment were a challenge, and it is anticipated that the draft will be updated throughout the consultation process. This task of developing the assessment was assigned to the PSB GSWAG officer sub-group and the draft Assessment was reviewed and agreed by the PSB in their December meeting to enable the consultation process to begin.
3.4	The preparation and publication of the Assessment for the Gwent area is set out as a key task in the PSB terms of reference. The PSB agreed the approach to the Assessment at its first meeting and the Assessment subgroup undertook extensive work to meet the deadlines set.
3.5	The five current Well-Being Plans (2018-2023) form the delivery arrangements for the next two years and these will continue to be delivered by the local partnerships on behalf of the regional PSB, and scrutinised by the relevant partnership Scrutiny Committees in each of the local areas.
3.6	The first cycle of Well-being Plans set out how the former PSBs are collectively responding to some of the key issues identified when they assessed local well-being in 2017. This Well-being Assessment is an opportunity for us to determine if our well-being objectives are still the right ones, if we need to be doing more of some things and less of others, and how we can best work together through the new Gwent PSB in a way that positively builds on what has gone before.
4	The Assessment
4.1	<p>The joint Well-being Assessment draws on the knowledge and experience each of the five PSBs gained when producing the last assessments in 2017.</p> <p>Producing a joint assessment is different to producing one for each of the local authority areas. There are aspects that are best considered at a regional (Gwent) level, and others that are more local, affecting individual communities or areas. The assessment has been produced around the four well-being themes set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act: Social, Economic, Environmental and Cultural.</p> <p>The Assessment brings together a range of information to help explain what Gwent and its communities look like and what is important in planning for the future. We've used data collected at both national and local levels; and engaged with people and communities living and working in an area.</p>
4.2	<p>Given the timing of developing this assessment we have considered how the COVID-19 pandemic and related factors, may impact on well-being in the future. There is risk that inequality in our communities will widen which has the potential to influence every aspect of our well-being.</p> <p>As a result, some of the information in the assessment may not be what we would have expected before the pandemic, and so we've had to think about whether data has been changed because of the pandemic before considering what it means for an area or community.</p>
4.3	The Communications and Engagement PSB sub-group developed the engagement around questions previously discussed at G10 (the group in place before the PSB was

	<p>established) with questions in English, Welsh and the most prevalent minority ethnic languages which were delivered in the local authority areas and with the assistance of communications/engagement officers in the health board, police and community voluntary organisations.</p> <p>To enable consistency across the partners involved in the engagement process a common set of questions was developed, building on the approach taken when undertaking the previous local assessment in 2017/18. This enabled us to see whether the views of communities had changed since the last well-being assessment. A stakeholder mapping exercise established the key groups and organisations we needed to target and prevented duplication by the many partners involved in the group. The former PSBs in the region have a range of existing well-being objectives and it was important to understand whether these were still important to communities, as well as provide feedback on work that had happened to deliver the existing objectives.</p> <p>The process followed is included as Chapter 3 of the Assessment. It must also be noted that a primarily digital engagement process will have affected the volume of responses. In 2016-17 the primary method was face-to-face and numbers were far higher. While the numbers of 'engagements' are lower the people that did engage have tended to give quite rich information that is feeding into the relevant sections in the assessments.</p>
4.4	<p>The timeline of establishing a regional PSB, the ongoing COVID pandemic and the new requirement to complete the first regional assessment and supporting engagement activity has presented a range of challenges. It is proposed that this Assessment is a starting point for the Gwent PSB, Well-Being Plan and supporting activities.</p> <p>The data and assessment will improve over time, with further amendments through the consultation process, and in the next phase (Response Analysis). We know that there is more work to be done including: the engagement information is not yet in each chapter, the future trends report is not yet available to be included and more work is needed on the Community Area Assessments.</p> <p>The consultation process will include expert officers, that is staff within member organisations with responsibility for services that deliver on, or who have knowledge of, economic, environmental, social and cultural factors. In effect to 'sense check' the headlines in the assessment and consider their views as it moves through to Response Analysis.</p>
4.5	<p>The Executive Summary of the draft Regional Assessment of Well-Being is attached as Appendix 1 to this Report and the full document can be found here.</p> <p>The Assessment is the main 'umbrella' document for Gwent, with each authority area developing its own community area assessments to reflect local communities. These high-level community area assessments will form part of the wider Gwent Assessment document, but each authority area may also develop more detailed assessments for use by their local delivery partnerships building on any existing work.</p>
4.6	<p>As part of the statutory consultation process the draft will be received by local overview and scrutiny committees.</p>

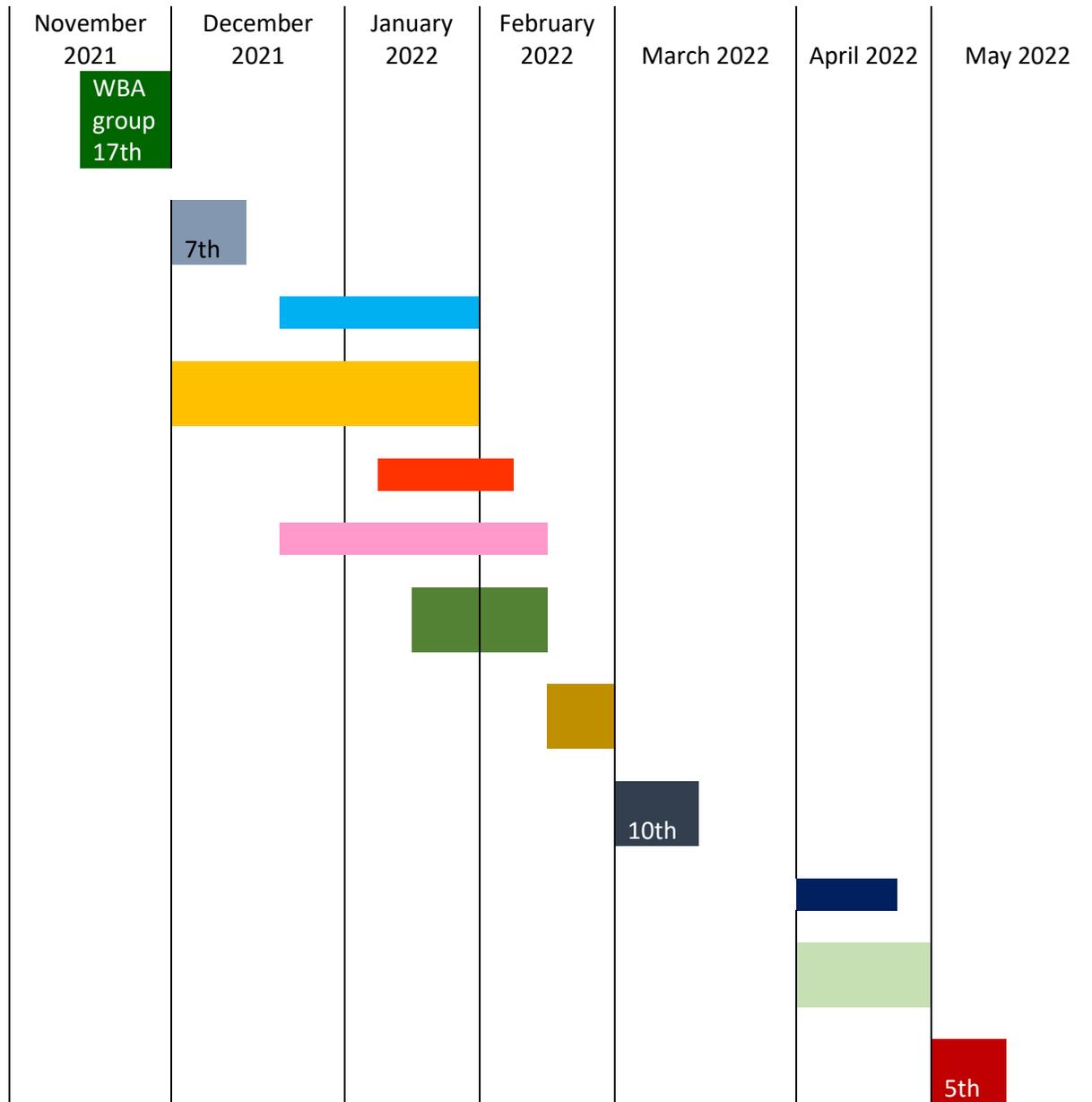
	Although agreed in principle, Regional Scrutiny arrangements are not yet established, as such the Assessment will be received by the local Scrutiny Committees in each local authority area.
4.7	It is suggested that each of the non-Council member organisations will also need to take a report to their relevant decision-making body, to note and comment as appropriate on the draft Assessment of Well-Being for Gwent.
4.8	Local Delivery Groups should also receive a copy of the Assessment and begin to consider what their input into the Response Analysis element of the assessment will be. The local groups may wish to arrange a workshop to support this.
4.9	In preparing its Local Well-being Assessment each Public Services Board is required to fully consult with a number of statutory consultees. The timeline is attached at Appendix 2, key dates: 7th Dec – draft to PSB for approval Mid December to end of Jan – consultation, including with expert officers January/February – local Scrutiny committees 5th May – publish (statutory deadline)
4.10	The draft will be sent to a range of consultees, the statutory requirements are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commissioner; • The Board's invited participants; • its other partners; • such of the persons who received but did not accept an invitation from the board under Section 30 as the board considers appropriate; • the local authority's overview and scrutiny committee; • relevant voluntary organisations as the board considers appropriate; • representatives of persons resident in the area; • representatives of persons carrying on business in the area; • trade unions representing workers in the area; • such persons with an interest in the maintenance and enhancement of natural resources in the board's area, as the board considers appropriate; • any other persons who in the opinion of the board, are interested in the improvement of the area's economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being <p>The PSB will receive a report of key messages from the consultation process at its meeting in March.</p>
6	Next steps
6.1	Consultation on this draft Assessment of Local Well-Being for the period 13 th December 2021 to 31 st January 2021.
6.2	PSB members to support the consultation process within their own organisations, and also at the local delivery groups.
6.3	PSB workshop February 2022 to consider the results of the consultation and provide input to the response analysis.

Draft date 30 Nov 2021

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Draft Assessment of Well-Being – Executive Summary

Appendix 2 – Assessment Timeline





Gwent Public Services Board

Executive summary (DRAFT)

Gwent Well-being Assessment

Page 17

Document reference: G01



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1. Introduction

The draft Gwent well-being assessment tells us about all aspects of well-being across Gwent and looks at how it is most likely to develop in the future based on challenges such as social and economic differences, an ageing population, health inequality, educational attainment gaps, and climate change. How we collectively respond to these long-term challenges will impact on well-being both now and for future generations.

The assessment covers five very different local authority areas and includes rural countryside areas, urban centres, and valley communities. Each area has its own distinct strengths and challenges related to its social, economic, environmental and cultural experiences.

To help us understand and explain the differences in our communities, local assessments have also been produced telling us about factors influencing the well-being of the people that live and work there. This means that, as well as collaborating on issues that affect the whole region, we will need to think locally about how to provide bespoke solutions and interventions for some of our communities.

We put much effort in considering well-being in a joined-up way, have collaborated widely in producing this assessment, and have involved people that live and work in our communities.

There are parts of our communities where the data is telling us that well-being is good:



Gwent has a diverse economy that is well placed to contribute to the industries of the future, including contributing towards the transition to a zero carbon wales, providing decent jobs for future generations.



Gwent's rich culture and heritage plays an important role in supporting people's well-being, from bringing people together, helping to combat loneliness and providing opportunities to learn new skills, to supporting healthy lifestyles and enjoyment of the environment. Gwent is also well placed to contribute towards the creative economy sector and to contribute to the future prosperity of the region.



Our communities are strong with many people feeling connected to their neighbourhoods and proud of their surroundings. During Covid-19 lockdown we have seen our communities come together to support the most vulnerable their friends, family, neighbours.



Gwent's distinct and iconic natural environment is a significant resource providing a rich, biodiverse habitat for plants, mammals and invertebrates. It includes the Gwent Levels, the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and part of the Brecon Beacons National Park, all attracting many visitors to Gwent.

The well-being assessment also highlights the inequality that exists in our communities, that has the potential to impact on all aspects of well-being both at a personal and community level. There are also a range of challenges that could potentially widen these inequalities in the future and impact negatively on well-being.

People who live in more deprived communities have fewer years of life that are free from ill health and are more likely to have shorter lives. This is evidenced by the gap in healthy life expectancy across Gwent.

Additionally, children from deprived households achieve poorer school results; limiting their opportunities and increasing the risk that poverty will be passed from one generation to the next.

We also know that some people in our communities are experiencing in-work poverty. and that the amount of disposable income a household has will impact on their ability to afford food, transport, energy and to be digitally connected – especially as costs increase.

The assessment is telling us that house ownership is unaffordable for many low-income households, and house prices are rising, which is putting pressure on our social housing stock. Future Gwent will also need more housing stock that meets the needs of an aging population and changing family structures and is resilient to a changing climate.

Some of the data is also telling us that interventions are treating the symptoms rather than the cause, for example food banks and free school meals are indicators of the inequalities that exist in our communities. We want future generations to get decent work,

earning enough money to buy the things they need, to live in warm homes to make healthy life choices. We will all need to work together to prevent problems from occurring or worsening.

Gwent is abundant in natural resources, but not all our natural resources are in a good condition and we know that biodiversity is in decline. Improving the condition and resilience of our natural resources means that we will be better able to address challenges such as climate change, poverty and inequality, as well as contribute to the economy by providing jobs in the industries of the future such as renewables, energy efficiency and decarbonisation and supporting good health.

Many of the unsustainable approaches that are putting pressure on our natural resources are also causing the climate to change.

We need Gwent's natural resources to be resilient to the impacts of a changing climate including more extreme weather events.

There will also be challenges associated with transitioning to a low carbon future, and we will need to consider the whole energy system – heat, power and transport. Whilst projections of milder winters associated with a changing climate may help to reduce fuel poverty, we know that much of our housing stock has poor thermal efficiency and will be challenging to retrofit.

This assessment has been done during a time of global pandemic. Covid-19 has impacted on the economy and social interactions and has put our healthcare system under pressure. Lockdowns and furlough have led people to home school, stop using public transport, or even to lose their jobs. Businesses have been closed or

working at limited capacity while others were able to move online, many were not and so had to close.

Covid-19 has seen more services moving online, although this brings various benefits, we also understand that there is a risk of people being left behind by this shift, so we will be mindful of this when looking at future service delivery.

The long-term impacts of Covid-19 are not yet fully understood, and these along with challenges such as climate change, and leaving the European Union, have the potential to further widen inequalities and affect how well-being develops in the future.

For some of the challenges Gwent is facing, public services already have collective and individual programmes of work already in place. In the next phase of planning for well-being, we will need to determine if our approaches are still the right ones, if we need to be doing more of some things and less of others and how we can best work together. Covid-19 has already seen public bodies working at pace and across boundaries to tackle problems and the new Gwent Public Services Board will use these approaches, positively building on what has gone before to improve the long-term well-being of people living in Gwent.

2. About Gwent

 <p>Area</p>	The total area of Gwent is 158,500 hectares – approximately 7.6% of the total area of Wales.			
 <p>Population</p>	The estimated population of Gwent is 594,164, approximately 19% of the total population for Wales ¹			
<p>Population density</p>	The population density of Gwent is 3.75 persons per hectare. The population density is 1.52 people per hectare in Wales.			
 <p>Dwellings</p>	The dwelling count in Gwent is 275,882 approximately 18.2% of the total number of dwellings in Wales ² .			
<p>General</p>	For the purposes of assessing well-being, Gwent has been broken down into 22 local community areas.			
<p>Blaenau-Gwent</p> <p>Ebbw Fawr North Ebbw Fach South Ebbw Fach Sirhowy</p>	<p>Caerphilly</p> <p>Upper Rhymney Valley Mid Valleys West Caerphilly Basin Mid Valleys East Lower Islwyn</p>	<p>Monmouthshire</p> <p>Usk & Raglan Monmouth Sevenside Abergavenny Chepstow & Lower Wye</p>	<p>Newport</p> <p>City Centre North West South West North East East</p>	<p>Torfaen</p> <p>Cwmbran Pontypool Blaenavon</p>



Figure 1: Map showing the 5 Gwent local authorities.

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Overall population	The overall population in Gwent is projected to increase by 6.2 % between 2019 and 2043, roughly similar to the Welsh average (5.2%). For Gwent this would mean 36,987 extra people ³ .
Aged 16-64	The number of people aged 16-64 living in Gwent is projected to slightly rise by 0.7% by 2043, similar to the Welsh average (-0.5%). For Gwent this would mean 2,367 extra people in this age range ⁴ .
Aged 65 and over	The number of people aged 65 and over living in Gwent is projected to increase by 31.2% between 2019 and 2043, roughly similar to the Welsh average (29%). For Gwent this could mean an extra 37,263 people in this age range ⁵ .
Aged 85 and over	The number of people aged 85 and over living in Gwent is projected to increase by 74% between 2019 and 2043, slightly higher to the Welsh average (69.5%). For Gwent this could mean an extra 10,615 people in this age range ⁶ .

Understanding how the population might change in the future can help us think about key well-being challenges and opportunities such as an aging population.

The number of older people in Gwent is expected to rise in the next 20 years.

There are many benefits from people living longer including the positive contribution they can make to family and the wider community. We want our older people to be as healthy as possible for as long as possible.

An aging population could mean higher demand for social care and health services in the future. An aging population will require housing that meets their needs.

3. Social Well-being

The assessment highlights the inequalities that exist in our communities around health, housing and education and that these are often interconnected; housing quality can impact on health and poor health can impact on educational performance and people’s ability to find or sustain employment.

Children and young people need to have the best start in life is clear and we know that much of the inequality and poor life circumstances experienced in our communities is preventable or its impact can be reduced.

We also know that the most disadvantaged in our communities are more likely to experience some of the negative impacts of a changing climate –whilst milder winters will help to reduce fuel poverty, we know that much of our housing stock is harder and more expensive to heat in cold weather or cool in hot weather.

Increased rainfall also increases the risk of flooding. People who are more disadvantaged are less likely to have insurance, making it harder for them to repair their homes.

3.1 Deprivation

WIMD identifies areas with the highest concentrations of several different types of deprivation. The index provides evidence about the most deprived areas of Wales and ranks all small areas in Wales from 1 (most deprived) to 1,909 (least deprived).

WIMD is currently made up of eight separate domains (or types) of deprivation. Each domain is compiled from a range of different indicators⁷. The domains included in WIMD 2019 are:

- **Income**
- **Education**
- **Community Safety**
- **Employment**
- **Access to Services**
- **Physical Environment**
- **Health**
- **Housing**

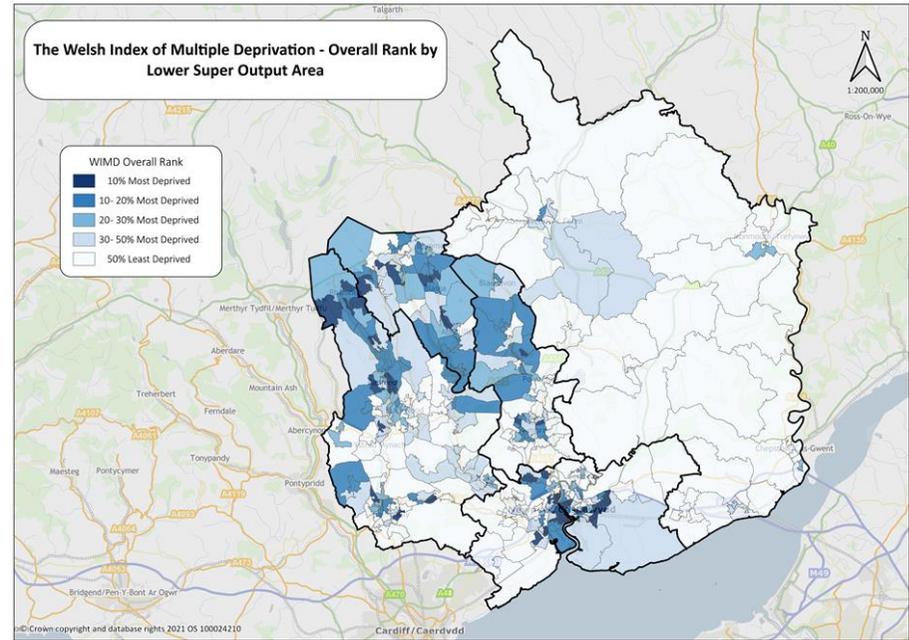


Figure 2: Gwent local authorities in highest overall WIMD deprivation ranking

The thematic map shows more overall deprivation in the valley communities as well as surrounding the town and city centres. Alongside these areas of deprivation are areas of significantly less deprivation, which make the differences starker.

Overall deprivation	The number of LSOAs in the top 20% most deprived overall in Wales per local authority ⁸ .		
	Area	Number	%
	Blaenau Gwent	21	45
	Caerphilly	26	24
	Monmouthshire	1	2
	Newport	33	35
	Torfaen	19	32

27% of the Lower Super Output Areas in Gwent are within the top 20% most overall deprived in Wales. Blaenau Gwent has the highest proportion in Gwent (45%) and Monmouthshire has the lowest (2%). St. James 3 in Caerphilly is the most deprived LSOA in Gwent and is ranked 3rd most deprived in Wales.

3.2 Housing

A home is a vital part of people’s lives – it affects their health, their quality of life and the opportunities available to them. Decent homes are essential for well-being along with being able to afford to heat their homes, especially during the cold winter months.

Housing is also central to our communities and it drives the demand for local services, shops and facilities and can attract investment. Without a settled home people may have difficulties accessing employment, education, training and health services.

All development, including housing, has an impact on the environment and needs to progress in a way that is sensitive to local areas, limits energy consumption and embraces a sustainable approach to planning and design.

The WIMD housing domain is constructed of indicators which include people in over-crowded households, likelihood of poor-quality housing, likelihood of housing containing serious hazards and likelihood of housing being in disrepair⁹.

The thematic map shows the most housing deprivation is clustered around Newport city centre which has 12 LSOAs in the top 10% deprived in Wales, with the highest being Victoria 3 (10th most deprived in Wales). Elsewhere the pattern of housing deprivation across Gwent looks quite spread out, but noticeable in much of Monmouthshire where other categories of deprivation are generally low. This might be due to people being asset rich and income poor.

This may also be due to a lack of suitable housing to move or downsize to.

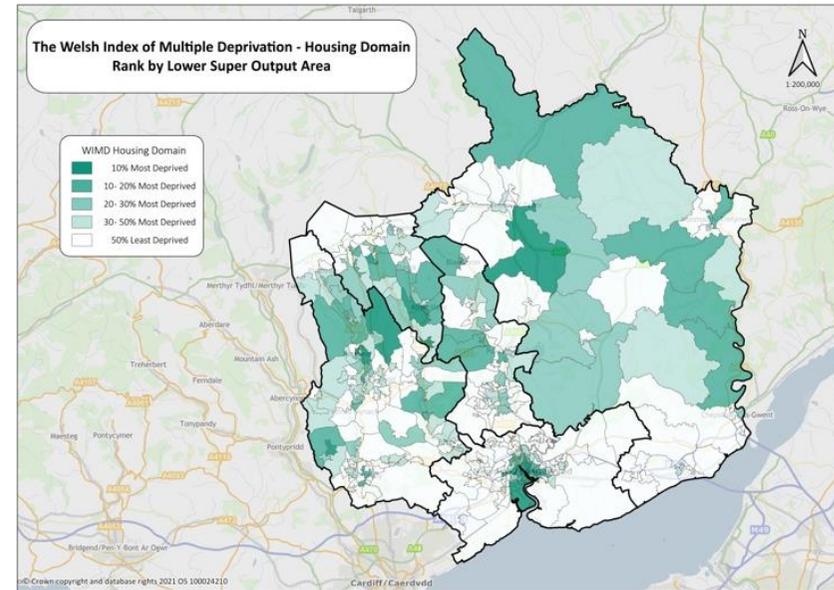


Figure 3: Gwent local authorities in highest housing WIMD deprivation ranking

Housing deprivation	Number of LSOAs in the top 20% most deprived for housing in Wales per local authority ¹⁰ .		
	Area	Number	%
	Blaenau Gwent	13	28
	Caerphilly	14	13
	Monmouthshire	6	11
	Newport	24	25
	Torfaen	8	13

Blaenau Gwent has the highest proportion of most deprived (28%) in Gwent and Monmouthshire has the lowest (11%). Victoria 3 in Newport is the most deprived LSOA in Gwent and is ranked 10th most deprived in Wales.

For many low-income households, purchasing a house is unaffordable. Single applicants would have to spend 7.6 times their salary in Monmouthshire and 3.8 times in Blaenau Gwent.

Average cost of property



The average cost of a property across Gwent during 2020¹¹.

Area	Average sold price
Blaenau Gwent	£109,498
Caerphilly	£159,854
Monmouthshire	£312,219
Newport	£211,593
Torfaen	£180,052

Average annual gross pay



Average annual pay across Gwent during 2020¹².

Area	Average annual pay gross	House price to income ratio
Blaenau Gwent	£28,531	3.8
Caerphilly	£31,550	5.1
Monmouthshire	£41,285	7.6
Newport	£32,187	6.6
Torfaen	£33,405	5.4

Given house prices, having enough social housing is increasingly important, especially for low-income households.

The latest Wales Government data shows the following amounts of affordable housing that was constructed in 2019-20, and the numbers planned for 2020-21.¹³

Additional affordable housing	2019-20 Delivered	2020-21 Planned
Caerphilly	126	86
Blaenau Gwent	12	138
Torfaen	141	74
Monmouthshire	113	165
Newport	239	232

Figure 5: Table showing Additional affordable housing by area¹⁴

Low-income households can spend a disproportionate amount of their income on heating their homes. People living in poorly insulated and/or poorly heated homes may also have high energy costs. We know that there are high levels of fuel poverty in many areas across Gwent, something that is being exacerbated by rising energy costs, and in particular the large increases that have been seen in 2021.

	All Households	No. of Households in fuel poverty	% of households in fuel poverty
Caerphilly	77,000	7,000	9%
Blaenau Gwent	31,000	3,000	11%
Torfaen	40,000	3,000	8%
Monmouthshire	39,000	4,000	10%
Newport	63,000	6,000	9%

Figure 5: Households in Fuel Poverty by local authority, 2018¹⁵

The UK climate risk assessment identifies risks to health and well-being from high temperatures. It also highlights that the level of risk to current and future homes in Wales is unknown ¹⁶.

Climate change is also expected to increase the frequency, severity and extent of flooding¹⁷. Flooding events can significantly impact homes, businesses, key infrastructure and whole communities. **59%** of properties (home and businesses) in flood warning areas in Gwent are signed up to NRW's flood warning service¹⁸. This service provides warning messages by phone, email or text message to properties at risk of flooding.

The number of single person households is predicted to rise by over 30% in the next 20 years impacting on the need for housing. Despite this, there is likely to be less suitable land available for development as flood plains and other lower lying land becomes increasingly prone to flooding.¹⁹

Future Gwent needs housing that is resilient to a changing climate. We will also need more housing stock that is suitable for an aging population and changing household structures.

Although much of our housing stock has poor thermal efficiency and will be challenging to retrofit, there will also economic opportunities related to decarbonising the region's housing.

A recent study carried out for Gwent identified that wind has the potential to generate sufficient electricity to power over 300,000 homes and that ground mounted solar could potentially generate enough electricity to power the equivalent of over 4 million homes²⁰.

3.3 Health

Poor health can impact the people in our communities – their educational attainment, family life, and ability to access and sustain decent employment. We also know that housing, education, employment, income, community safety and environmental factors can all impact people’s mental and physical health.

The WIMD health domain is constructed from indicators which include GP-recorded chronic conditions, limiting long-term illness (LLTI), premature death, GP-recorded mental health, cancer incidence and low birthweight babies²¹.

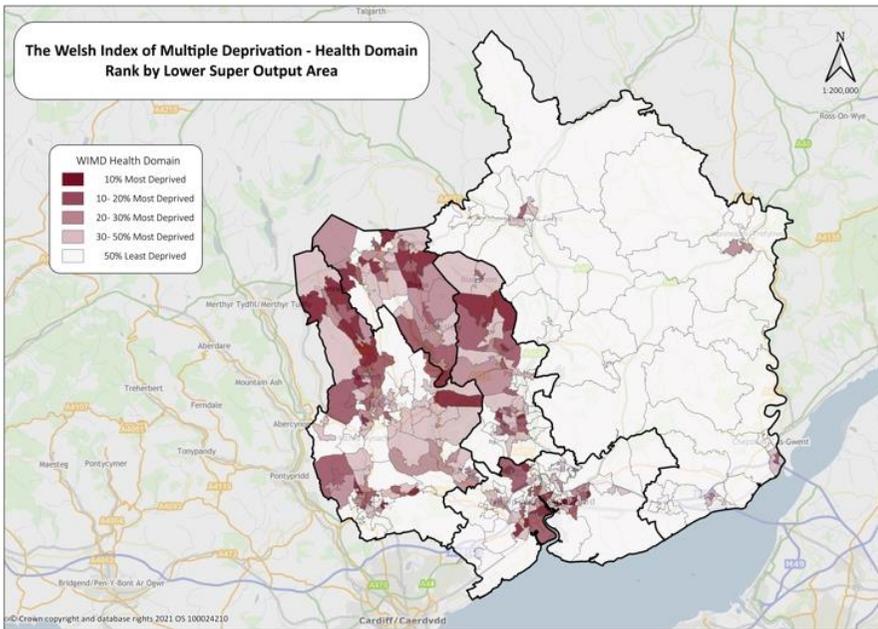


Figure 4: Gwent local authorities in highest health WIMD deprivation ranking

The thematic map shows that **significant health inequalities** exist in Gwent and there are pockets of communities across Gwent that health deprivation is in the top 10% most deprived. These are cluster mainly in Newport, Torfaen, Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent.

Health deprivation	The number of LSOAs in the top 20% most deprived for health in Wales per local authority ²² .		
	Area	Number	%
	Blaenau Gwent	17	36
	Caerphilly	27	25
	Monmouthshire	2	4
	Newport	25	26
	Torfaen	18	30

Blaenau Gwent has the highest proportion of LSOAs that are most deprived for health (36%) in Gwent and Monmouthshire has the lowest (4%). St. James 3 in Caerphilly is the most deprived LSOA in Gwent and is ranked 7th most deprived in Wales²³.

Blaenau Gwent has the highest proportion of residents with limiting long-term illness (27.7 per 100 population) compared to Wales (22.7). However, local authority level statistics can mask localised pockets of higher concern with the highest LSOA in Gwent being St. James 3 in Caerphilly with a rate of 40.7, nearly doubling the Wales rate.

Blaenau Gwent is also the local authority with the highest premature death rate (before age 75) across Gwent, being 467.1 per 100,000

population, compared to Wales (382.4). Again, when looking at smaller geographies, the highest LSOA is Pillgwenlly 4 in Newport with a rate of 1006.0, more than doubling the Wales rate.

Healthy life expectancy data shows a level of health inequality throughout our communities. On a Gwent wide basis, this ranges from the lowest in Blaenau Gwent, being 55.9 years for males and 57.0 years for females, to the highest in Monmouthshire, being 66.4 years for males and 66.1 years for females²⁴. This is a gap of 10.5 years for males and 9.1 years for females – again showing the inequality that exists across Gwent.

We don't yet know what the long-term impact of the pandemic will be on health. [Build Back Fairer: the COVID-19 Marmot Review](#) published in December 2020 looked at socio-economic and health inequalities in England and highlights that the inequalities that exist in communities contributed to the high and unequal death toll from COVID-19 in England. The report also identifies that some health inequalities have been exacerbated by the pandemic and that investment in public health will need to be increased to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on health and on health inequalities and their wider determinants. The report concludes that much that can be done to improve the quality of people's lives with the right long-term policies, that health inequalities can be reduced²⁵.

3.4 Community safety

Community safety, how much crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour affect us and our communities, is an important issue for us all. It's not just about solving crimes, but also about looking at what can be done to prevent these activities happening altogether.

The WIMD community safety domain is constructed from indicators which include criminal damage, violent crime, anti-social behaviour, burglary, theft and fire incidences²⁶.

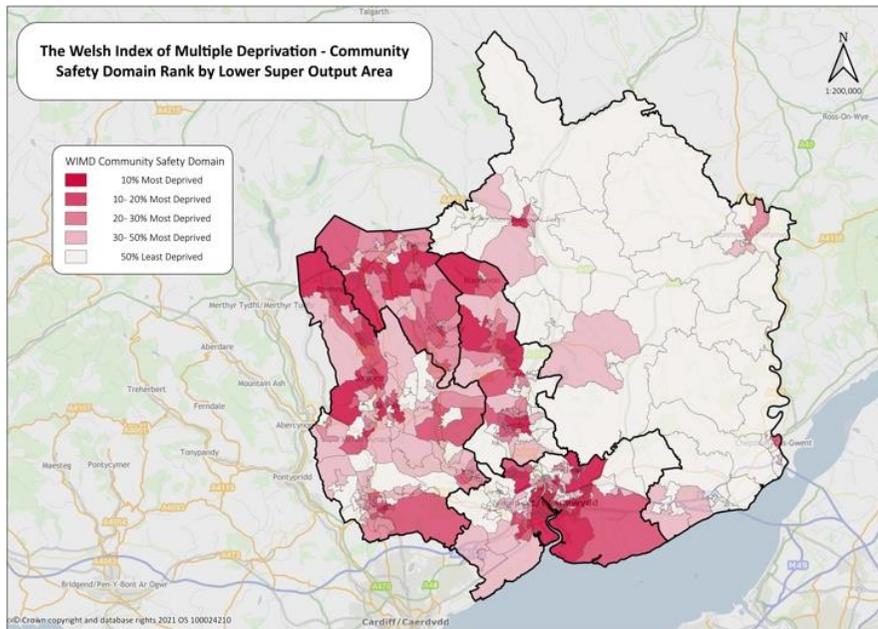
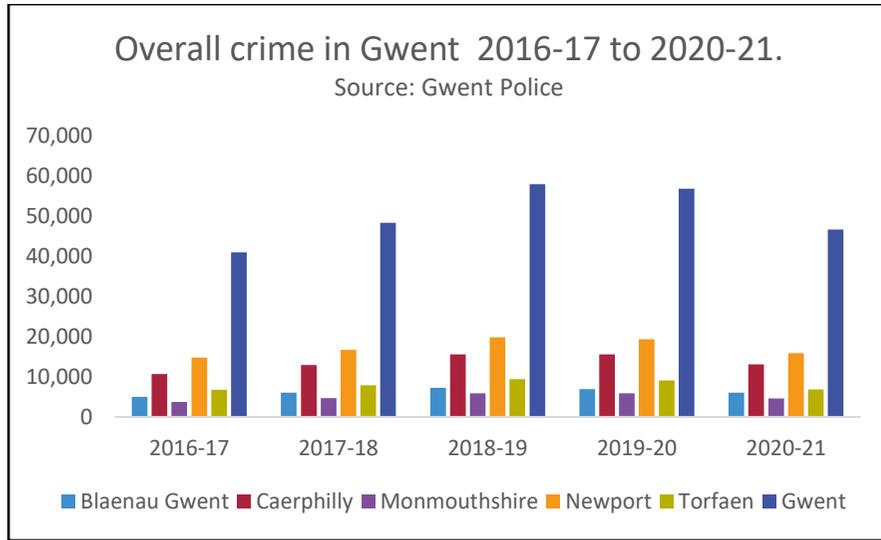


Figure 5: Gwent local authorities in highest community safety WIMD deprivation ranking

Community safety deprivation	The number of LSOAs in the top 20% most deprived for community safety in Wales per local authority ²⁷ .		
	Area	Number	%
	Blaenau Gwent	25	53
	Caerphilly	33	30
	Monmouthshire	3	5
	Newport	45	47
	Torfaen	23	38

Blaenau Gwent has the highest proportion of LSOA in the top 20% most deprived for community safety (53%) and Monmouthshire has the lowest (5%). Stow Hill 3 LSOA in Newport is the 2nd most deprived in the whole of Wales in terms of community safety, with the highest factors being criminal damage (7.64 per 100 people), anti-social behaviour (16.68 per 100 people) and theft (3.7 per 100 people).

Overall crime levels in Gwent, and each of the constituent local authorities, increased between 2016 and 2019, before decreasing in the following two years (2019-20 and 2020-21)²⁸ which may in part be due to the restrictions in place as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.



3.5 Education

A good education can play a key role in enabling young people to take full advantage of the opportunities available to them and to achieve their potential.

The WIMD education domain is constructed of indicators which include the average point score for foundation phase, key stage 2 and key stage 4, absenteeism, key stage 4 leavers entering higher education and adults aged 25-64 with no qualifications²⁹.

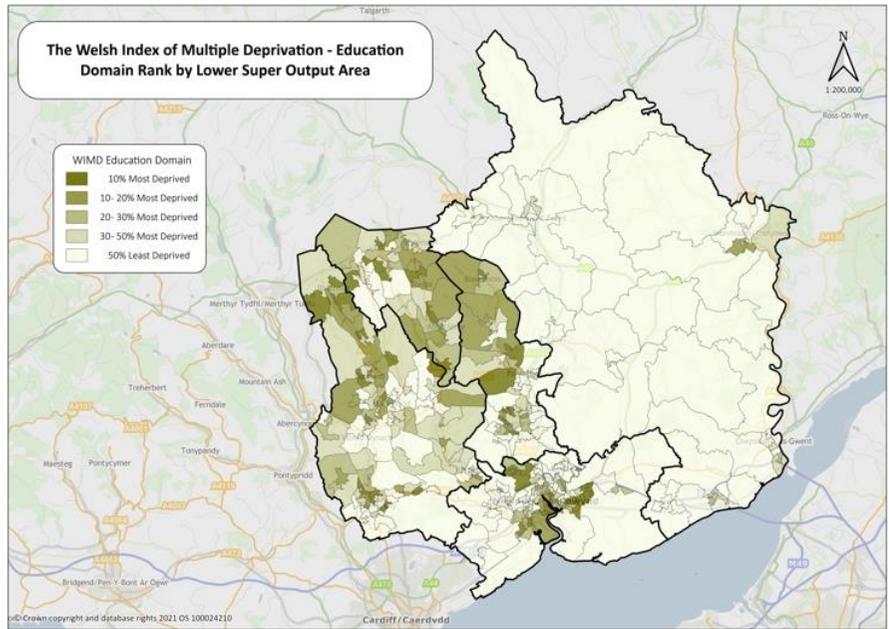


Figure 6: Gwent local authorities in highest education WIMD deprivation ranking

The thematic map shows that there are noticeable variations in attainment and qualification levels between areas in Gwent. Similarly, there are differences in attainment between less and more disadvantaged groups of children.

Education deprivation	The number of LSOAs in the top 20% most deprived for education in Wales per local authority ³⁰ .	
Blaenau Gwent	18	38
Caerphilly	31	28
Monmouthshire	1	2
Newport	28	29
Torfaen	17	28

Blaenau Gwent has the highest proportion of LSOAs that are in the top 20% most deprived for education (38%) and Monmouthshire has the lowest (2%). Ringland 4 LSOA in Newport is the 6th most deprived in Wales with key stage 4 average point score of 80 for core subjects being the highest factor. Rogerstone 1 LSOA in Newport is the least deprived with a score of 145³¹.

There are families living in Gwent who are finding it hard to pay for the basics of life. Access to a good meal can improve health and support learning.

Free school meals	24.8% of pupils of compulsory school age in Gwent are eligible for free school meals ³² .
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Free School Meal (FSM) data tells us that there are an increasing number of pupils eligible for FSM in all areas of Gwent.

School can be the first opportunity for young people to learn the skills to get on well with people from different backgrounds and to be active citizens.

Ethnicity	11.8% pupils aged 5 or over in Gwent are from an ethnic minority background ³³ .
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Coronavirus has had a disruptive effect on education. School attendance has been affected and led to periods of remote learning for pupils. We don't yet know what the long-term impact on learning will be.

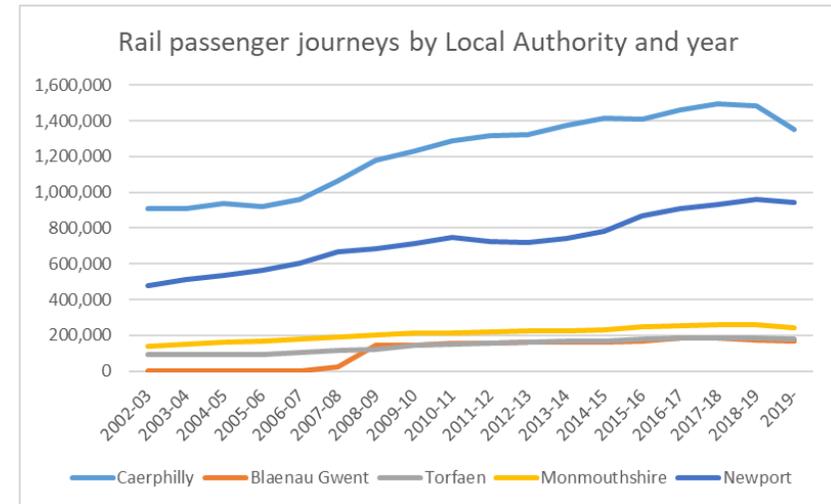
We need to make sure that young people are well prepared for the employment sectors of the future. There are also certain everyday things that will always be needed and so will need skilled people able to work in them.

3.6 Transport

Good transport links are critical to the local economy, enabling the goods, services, and raw materials that we all rely on to be available where and when we need them. Being able to move around easily plays an important role in people’s everyday lives, getting children to school, people to work as well as connecting friends and family. It also enables people to access the countryside for recreation, to visit historic and cultural attractions, and to access sports and leisure facilities, helping people to stay healthy and active. This ability to travel is very important for reducing loneliness and isolation.

We know that active travel like walking, cycling and scooting can improve people’s health and help an ageing population stay healthier for longer, as well as reducing pollution. However, the rural nature of parts of Gwent can make this difficult. New technology like electric bikes may make active travel viable to more people in the future.

Access to public transport varies greatly across Gwent. Caerphilly is well served with train stations into Cardiff and Newport has a main station, whereas there are fewer connections in Monmouthshire, Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen, which is reflected in the number of rail journeys taken³⁴. Public transport costs are also increasing more rapidly than inflation, meaning that it is becoming more expensive. However, the alternative of car ownership is not affordable for many people.



Good transport links are critical to the local economy, enabling the goods, services, and raw materials that we all rely on to be available where and when we need them. Being able to move around easily plays an important role in people’s everyday lives, getting children to school, people to work as well as connecting friends and family. It also enables people to access the countryside for recreation, to visit historic and cultural attractions, and to access sports and leisure facilities, helping people to stay healthy and active.

We know that active travel can help support an aging population stay healthier for longer and that access to and affordability of transport is an issue for parts of our communities.

It is hoped that plans for the South Wales Metro and work being carried out by Cardiff Capital Region will make public transport faster, more frequent and joined up, and provide a better alternative to the car.

In most areas of Gwent, traffic levels have increased, especially in Monmouthshire and Newport, and this has an impact on air quality across Gwent, with several Air Quality Management Areas as a result of traffic pollution along busy roads and motorways. Many of our current transport modes are having a negative impact on our environment and people's health, changing our climate, increasing pollution and we will need to look at different ways of meeting our travel needs, such as active travel and electric and hydrogen vehicles.

When looking at how easy it is to travel to places, the WIMD data shows that 39% of Monmouthshire LSOAs are in the top 20% for access to services in Wales, compared with only 5% for Torfaen and Caerphilly. This means that it takes much longer for people living in rural areas in Monmouthshire to travel to services such as doctors, shops or leisure centres using public transport.

Because Gwent is close to urban centres such as Cardiff, Swansea and Bristol, as well as Hereford, Gloucester and the Midlands, there are large numbers of people who commute outside the county where they live. More people commute into Newport, whereas more people commute out of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly and Torfaen.

Area	Number	%
Blaenau Gwent	8	17
Caerphilly	5	5
Monmouthshire	22	39
Newport	8	8
Torfaen	3	5

The Covid 19 lockdown meant that many people worked from home and commuting has reduced. This has had environmental benefits, so in future organisations may consider saving money on office space by allowing more home working. For this to be effective, it will be important for there to be adequate digital infrastructure across the region. It will also be important for local authorities to use the planning system to make sure that services and employment sites are based locally, to reduce the need for long journeys.

In addition, we have seen how extreme weather events have disrupted our transport systems and so future approaches will need to be resilient to a changing climate.

3 Economic well-being

Having decent, well paid and regular work gives people enough money to do the things they enjoy. However, many people are on low pay and don't always work enough hours to meet their basic needs, leading to in-work poverty.

Although overall rates of unemployment and workless households have reduced since 2011, there are still high levels of income and employment deprivation and this coupled with an increasing cost of living is impacting on the well-being of some people in our communities.

The WIMD income domain is constructed from people living in income deprivation.

Blaenau Gwent has the highest proportion of LSOAs that are in the top 20% for income deprivation (36%) and Monmouthshire has the lowest (4%). St. James 3 LSOA in Caerphilly is the 8th most deprived in Wales with 47% of people in receipt of income-related benefits and tax credits.

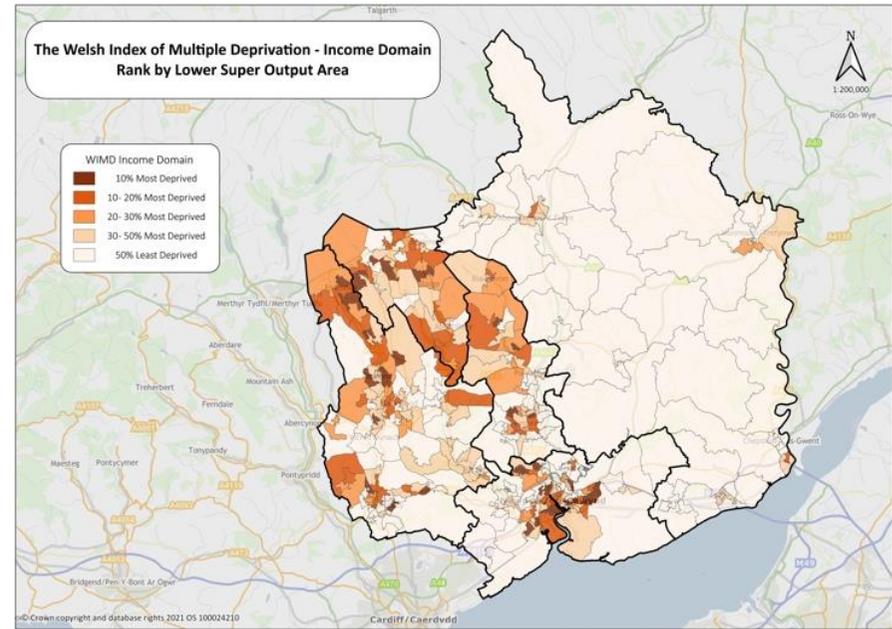


Figure 7: Gwent local authorities in highest income WIMD deprivation ranking

Income deprivation	The number of LSOAs in the top 20% most deprived for income in Wales per local authority ³⁶ .	
	Count	Percentage
Blaenau Gwent	17	36
Caerphilly	27	25
Monmouthshire	2	4
Newport	31	33
Torfaen	14	23

The WIMD employment domain is constructed from working-age people with employment deprivation.

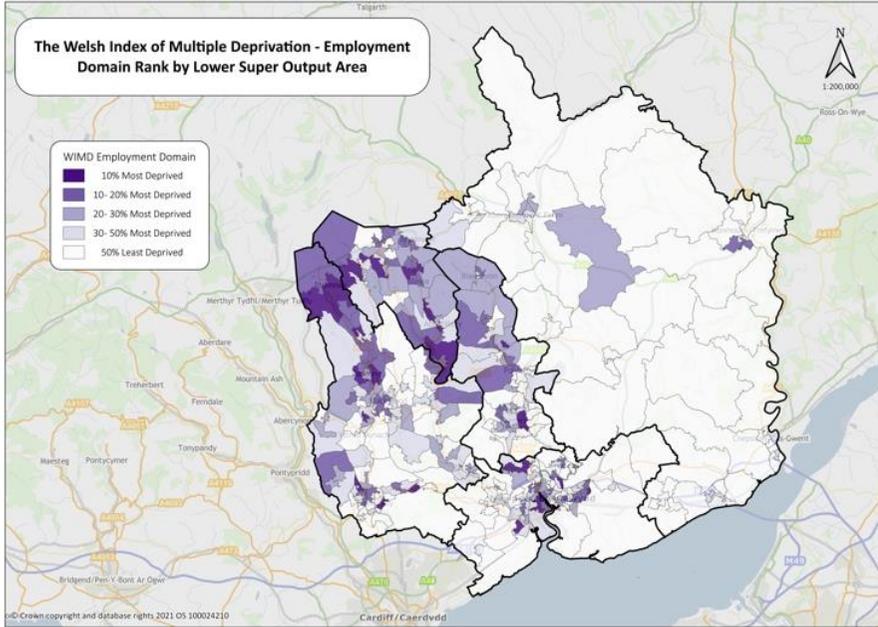


Figure 8: Gwent local authorities in highest employment WIMD deprivation ranking

Blaenau Gwent has the highest proportion of LSOA that are in the top 20% for employment deprivation (49%) and Monmouthshire has the lowest (2%). St. James 3 LSOA in Caerphilly is the 4th most deprived in Wales with 34% of working-age people in receipt of employment-related benefits.

Employment deprivation	The number of LSOAs in the top 20% most deprived for employment in Wales per local authority ³⁷ .	
Blaenau Gwent	23	49
Caerphilly	32	29
Monmouthshire	1	2
Newport	24	25
Torfaen	13	22

Cost and availability of **childcare** can be a barrier to working parents being able to work.

Childcare sufficiency assessments tell us that:

- The **cost** of childcare is a **barrier** for many families across Gwent
- **More flexible** opening times/wrap-around childcare arrangements are needed to assist parents on irregular shift patterns.
- Both these factors are contributing to **increased** economic inactivity.

Each local authority area has its own economic strengths that contribute to Gwent’s diverse economy.

We don't yet know the long-term impact of pandemic on the economy. We do know that Covid-19 resulted in many jobs being furloughed jobs and reduction in tourism and retail activity.

Industry of employment	The largest industries of employment in Gwent are manufacturing (15%), health (14.8%) and retail (10.1%), education (7.4%), accommodation and food services (7.2%), agriculture, forestry and fisheries (6.8%), and business administration and support services (6.6%) ³⁸ .
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The Cardiff City Region has identified priority sectors that will be important for the region's economy over the next 10-20 years, and these will be important to future Gwent's prosperity.

Gwent is in a good position to take advantage of the emerging sectors that will play an important part in future economic prosperity.

We need to make sure that people living in Gwent have the right skills to support the industries of the future.

Future Gwent will also need to be resilient to the changing climate including extreme weather events, and to shocks in global markets. Developing local supply chains and local energy production will help with this, and has the potential provide local, decent employment

including for those who may find it difficult to find suitable work currently.

The UK Climate Risk Assessment identifies risks to business sites from flooding and risks associated with the loss of coastal locations and infrastructure³⁹. Water scarcity, and reduced employee productivity due to high temperatures and infrastructure disruption have also been identified as risks⁴⁰. Water shortages could be problematic for those businesses that are reliant on this resource for production processes – such as the food sector.

More local energy generation and more efficient processes would give protection from rises to wholesale energy costs.

5. Environmental well-being

As well as several sites of national and international significance, Gwent is made up of a number of distinctive landscape areas, all of which contribute to the iconic natural environment.

Natural resources are our life-support systems, so it is vitally important that they are in good condition.

Alongside providing for our essential needs including food, clean water, fuel, aggregate and timber, there are less obvious ways natural resources contribute to well-being, including by helping to regulate carbon by locking it away, providing flood protection by managing water in the landscape and supporting our capacity to adapt to climate change

Covid-19 has also reminded many of us of the health benefits of having access to good quality and accessible greenspace close to home. Many jobs and training opportunities are also linked to the environment. 6.8% of Gwent's employment base is agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

The assessment tells us that the health of the natural world in Gwent is under threat. Stocks of natural resources are being used unsustainably and resilience is declining in line with global trends.

Biodiversity loss	An assessment in 2020, looking at the condition of species and habitat at key sites in Gwent found that for approximately 45% of the features on these sites (compared to a national figure of 49%), an estimated 29% are 'favourable' and around 71% 'unfavourable'. This information suggests that our habitats and species are under increasing pressure across the region ⁴¹ .
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The Assessment provides more in-depth analysis into the status of Gwent's broad habitats. Condition assessments show **native woodlands** in Gwent to be 'unfavourable', **Grassland** connectivity and condition to be poor and the condition of our **Mountain, Moor, and Heathland** to be less than favorable. The majority of our **rivers** are poor or moderate status and the health of our best rivers towards the East of the county are registering significant failure rates for phosphorus levels with Salmon stocks in decline. Similarly, the Severn **Estuaries** special status is also under threat with predicted extreme impacts of climate change likely for our coastal habitats.

Species loss	The recently published Gwent State of Nature Report (GSoN) has analysed up to 120,000 species records to provide more detailed information on the fate of our species in Gwent. The lowland and upland farmland bird indicators show declines of 45% and 30% respectively, largely in accordance with UK and Welsh patterns of decline.
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Competing demands on land are causing habitat loss and fragmentation. We are always going to need land for housing, and employment purposes, but we need to get better at making decisions which ensure that our future generations are both free from environmental risks and able to benefit from sustainably managed natural resources.

Climate change, lack of management, over-use, invasive species, pollution, landscape crime and antisocial behaviour are also threatening Gwent's natural resources.

Climate Change	The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report (2018) indicates that global warming in excess of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels will undermine life-support systems for humanity. It is predicted that if the world warms by 2°C, one in twenty of all species will be threatened with extinction
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Gwent, like many other places in Wales is likely to experience an increase in rainfall, river flow and intensity of extreme weather events. This is projected to lead to an increase in the likelihood of flooding of infrastructure, businesses, and homes. It will not be possible to prevent all flooding; there is therefore a need to use a range of approaches to not only reduce the risk where possible, but to adapt our communities and infrastructure to be prepared for severe weather events and rising sea levels.

Flood Risk	In Gwent, 14,014 residential properties are at risk of tidal flooding. 12,539 residential properties are at risk of fluvial (river) flooding. 22,382 residential properties are at risk of surface water flooding ⁴²
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Annual temperatures in Wales are expected to rise and more extreme heatwave events causing impacts on people's health and well-being are likely to become more prevalent as a result. Iconic landscapes and cultural heritage assets could also be more vulnerable to wildfire exposure in future.

There is a major challenge to reduce agriculture's negative impact on the environment while simultaneously maintaining food production for a growing population. Leaving the European Union could have a significant future impact on land management in Gwent and while trade deals and policy creation is being looked at nationally, more can be done to reduce the impact of future changes at the local level such as increasing local food supply chains and networks. Future climate projections indicate that drought risk will have a significant

impact on the quality of agricultural land and our ability to produce food in the future.

Food	Farmed land represents 65% of the area of Gwent ⁴³ . There were an estimated 2,084 active farms in 2018, covering 105,199ha ⁴⁴ , giving an average farm size of 50ha. Grassland accounts for 78% of this, and arable and horticulture is just 13%. There are also 6,654ha of woodland within farms
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Ecological footprint refers to the amount of productive land and sea that is required to support all the resources we use in our daily lives. If the rest of the world lived as we do in Wales then we would need 3.3 planets to support us all⁴⁵. The numbers are similar for Gwent.

Ecological footprint 	Ecological footprint per person (global hectares) by local authority ⁴⁶ .	
	Blaenau Gwent	3.1
	Caerphilly	3.1
	Monmouthshire	3.4
	Newport	3.2
	Torfaen	3.1

We need to get to one planet living so that we don't use the resources that future generations will need to support themselves. To do this we will need to look at our food, energy and transport systems - many our current approaches are also causing the climate to change.

Consumption patterns are also having a negative impact on the global environment and we need to use resources efficiently and proportionately. Reducing and reusing waste is one way to reduce our consumption of resources and provide positive benefits to people and nature.

Gwent recorded recycling rates at or above the Welsh average figure in 2019. However, we will need to move to a circular economy model, where waste is prevented from being generated in the first place and things are used for as long as possible, if we are to achieve zero waste and one planet living.

How we travel is having a negative impact on our environment and people's health, changing our climate, increasing pollution and we will need to look at different ways of meeting our travel needs.

Air quality 	In Gwent there are 2 Air Quality Management Areas in Caerphilly, 2 in Monmouthshire and 11 in Newport, all declared because of nitrogen dioxide levels as a result of traffic pollution along busy roads and motorways ⁴⁷ .
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Housing makes a significant contribution to emissions, specifically in relation to the requirement to heat space and water using fossil fuels

Achieving the energy system transformation alone would create new jobs and livelihoods for the people of Gwent. Meeting decarbonisation targets can also lead to improvements in the quality of life for communities which suffer from the adverse impacts of poor air quality.

We need to get to one planet living so that we don't use the resources that future generations will need to support themselves. To do this we will need to look at our **food, energy** and **transport** systems – many of our current approaches are also causing the climate to change. We need to explore new approaches which promote the health and prosperity of nature rather than putting pressure on our natural world. By protecting and enhancing Gwent's natural resources in this way we will leave a positive legacy for future generations.

6 Cultural Well-being

Gwent has a rich and diverse cultural heritage incorporating highlights such as the Blaenavon World Heritage Site, Abergavenny Food Festival and a section of Wales' famous coastal path. It is home to Roman forts, castles and stately homes and a Ryder Cup golf course.

Cultural interests can bring people of different ages together. We know that the inequalities that exist in some of our communities can make it hard for people to get involved in cultural activities with affordability and access particular problems.

Apart from Newport, which is the most multi-cultural of the local authority areas, the region has little ethnic diversity. This lack of ethnic diversity could make it more difficult for people to understand each other's cultures and beliefs, as there are far fewer opportunities to interact with people from diverse backgrounds.

Welsh Speakers	The percentage of people aged 3+ across Gwent that can speak Welsh continues to be below the Welsh average in all five local authorities ⁴⁸ .
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Increasing the number of Welsh speakers across the region will also positively contribute to people's sense of place and well-being.

Covid-19 restrictions have had a significant impact on the sports, cultural and tourist sectors and the people who work in them.

The economic contribution of tourism in Gwent reduced considerably during 2020 to £297m (70% decrease on 2019), whilst the total number of FTE jobs supported by direct tourism spend reduced by 52% on 2019⁴⁹.

The creative economy, has been identified by Cardiff Capital Region, as having an role to play in the prosperity of the regional economy going forward ⁵⁰ and has the potential to increase the economic contribution provided by the cultural sector, however, this is likely to take several years.

Gwent needs to make sure that it has the right skills and employment base to benefit from potential opportunities related to the creative economy sector, there may also be opportunities for business diversification or new start-ups.

Volunteering can be an opportunity to meet new people and an opportunity to learn new skills.

An aging population in Gwent may mean that there are more people able to support their communities through volunteering.

The highest levels of volunteering in Gwent are in Monmouthshire and the lowest in Bleanau-Gwent. Volunteering rates may be linked to available time and financial freedom to volunteer.

Gwent's iconic natural environment is an important part of the cultural and tourism offer. The UK Climate Risk assessment identifies risks to the natural environment and heritage from extreme weather and wildfire events⁵². This could impact on the distinct local landscape and heritage assets and their ability to contribute to our shared cultural history and to the cultural economy.

There may also be future economic opportunities related to tourism and outdoor sports and leisure activity due to warmer temperatures associated with a changing climate.

Volunteering

% of people who volunteer by local authority⁵¹.

	2016	2019
Blaenau Gwent	23.17	18.68
Caerphilly	23.19	23.65
Monmouthshire	36.10	32.34
Newport	26.52	24.40
Torfaen	28.86	23.16

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- ¹ ONS mid-2019 population estimates
- ² Gwent Authorities dwelling data. GeoPlace 2021
- ³ Local authority 2018-based population projections, Welsh Government
- ⁴ Local authority 2018-based population projections, Welsh Government
- ⁵ Local authority 2018-based population projections, Welsh Government
- ⁶ Local authority 2018-based population projections, Welsh Government
- ⁷ Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2019. Results report. Welsh Government.
- ⁸ WIMD 2019, Welsh Government
- ⁹ Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2019. Results report. Welsh Government.
- ¹⁰ WIMD 2019, Welsh Government
- ¹¹ Land Registry. 2020.
- ¹² Average survey of hours and earnings (ASHE), ONS, 2020
- ¹³ <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Housing/Affordable-Housing/Provision/additionalaffordablehousingprovision-by-location-year>
- ¹⁴ <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Housing/Affordable-Housing/Provision/additionalaffordablehousingprovision-by-location-year>
- ¹⁵ Welsh Housing Conditions Survey (WHCS) 2017-18: Local area Fuel Poverty estimates modelling and results summary <https://gov.wales/local-area-fuel-poverty-estimates-april-2017-march-2018>
- ¹⁶ UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017: Evidence Report. Summary for Wales.
- ¹⁷ UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017, Synthesis report: priorities for the next five years. Committee on Climate Change.
- ¹⁸ NRW 2021.
- ¹⁹ Welsh Government Future Trends Report 2017
- ²⁰ Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Assessment Regional Summary. Carbon Trust, December 2020
- ²¹ Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2019. Results report. Welsh Government.
- ²² WIMD 2019, Welsh Government.
- ²³ WIMD 2019, Welsh Government.
- ²⁴ Public Health Wales Observatory, 2021
- ²⁵ Michael Marmot, Jessica Allen, Peter Goldblatt, Eleanor Herd, Joana Morrison (2020). Build Back Fairer: The COVID-19 Marmot Review. The Pandemic, Socioeconomic and Health Inequalities in England. London: Institute of Health Equity
- ²⁶ Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2019. Results report. Welsh Government.
- ²⁷ WIMD 2019, Welsh Government
- ²⁸ Safer Gwent Strategic Assessment. Gwent Police.
- ²⁹ Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2019. Results report. Welsh Government.
- ³⁰ WIMD 2019, Welsh Government
- ³¹ WIMD 2019, Welsh Government
- ³² PLASC 2020/21, <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Education-and-Skills/Schools-and-Teachers/Schools-Census/Pupil-Level-Annual-School-Census/Provision-of-Meals-and-Milk/pupilsaged5to15eligibleforfreeschoolmeals-by-localauthorityregion-year>
- ³³ PLASC 2020/21, <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Education-and-Skills/Schools-and-Teachers/Schools-Census/Pupil-Level-Annual-School-Census/Ethnicity-National-Identity-and-Language/pupilsaged5andover-by-localauthorityregion-ethnicity>
- ³⁴ <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Transport/rail/rail-transport/railpassengerjourneys-by-localauthority-year>
- ³⁵ WIMD 2019, Welsh Government.
- ³⁶ WIMD 2019, Welsh Government.
- ³⁷ WIMD 2019, Welsh Government.

³⁸ Employment by industry type, aged 16-64, 2019. Nomis Business Register & Employment Survey.

³⁹ UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017: Evidence Report. Summary for Wales.

⁴⁰ UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017: Evidence Report. Summary for Wales.

⁴¹ Protected Sites Baseline Assessment in 2020, NRW

⁴² Note: These values should not be combined to give a total as some properties will be at risk from more than 1 flood source

⁴³ Statistics for Wales & Welsh Government (2019), Agricultural Small Area Statistics (2002-2018), Welsh Government Accessed here:
<https://gov.wales/agricultural-small-area-statistics-2002-2018>

⁴⁴ Statistics for Wales & Welsh Government (2019), Agricultural Small Area Statistics (2002-2018), Welsh Government Accessed here:
<https://gov.wales/agricultural-small-area-statistics-2002-2018>

⁴⁵ Ecological and Carbon Footprints of Wales - Update to 2011, Stockholm Environment Institute and GHD, July 2015

⁴⁶ Ecological and Carbon Footprints of Wales - Update to 2011, Stockholm Environment Institute and GHD, July 2015

⁴⁷ <https://airquality.gov.wales/laqm/air-quality-management-areas>

⁴⁸ Census 2011

⁴⁹ GTS (UK) Ltd STEAM data, November 2021

⁵⁰ [Cardiff Capital Region Industrial and Economic Plan](#)

⁵¹ National Survey for Wales

⁵² UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017: Evidence Report. Summary for Wales.

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Scrutiny Report

Performance Scrutiny Committee - Partnerships

Part 1

Date: 20 January 2022

Subject **Regional Population Needs Assessment – Social Services and Wellbeing Act**

Author Scrutiny Adviser

The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

Invitee:	Area / Role / Subject
Phil Diamond	Service Manager – Gwent Regional Partnership Board
Sally Jenkins	Strategic Director – Social Services
Mary Ryan	Head of Adult Services

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

<p>1</p> <p>The Committee is asked:</p> <p>1.1</p>	<p>Recommendations to the Committee</p> <p>To consider the content of the regional Population Needs Assessment and provide comments in relation to areas of need as part of the consultation period.</p>
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2 Context

Background

- 2.1 As set out in the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 local authorities and local Health Boards must produce one population assessment report per local government electoral cycle. The first regional Population Needs Assessment (PNA) was completed by the Gwent Regional Partnership Board (RPB) in April 2016 and aligned to Wellbeing Assessment completed by Public Service Boards as required under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.
- 2.2 This PNA report will also align, integrate and cross reference the Gwent Wellbeing Assessment to avoid duplication and create a joint population wellbeing assessment for the region. As set out in Welsh Government’s SSWB Act Part 2 Code of Practice, the population assessment

comprises of (1) an assessment of need the (2) range and level of services required. It will also jointly assess:

- the extent to which there are people in the area of assessment who need care and support
- the extent to which there are carers in the area of assessment who need support
- the extent to which there are people whose needs for care and support (or, in the case of carers, support) are not being met.

2.3 The voice of citizens, third sector partners and service providers are key to developing the PNA and the guidance on effective citizen engagement, set out in '*National participation Standards, Participation Cymru's National Principles for Public Engagement in Wales*' has been considered. Citizen voices have been included in each PNA section and coordinated through the regional Citizen Panel and Chair who sits on the RPB.

2.4 As part of the statutory duty placed on NCC, the PNA will have to be formally signed off by full council and the committee are being asked to provide formal consideration and comments prior to sign off. The PNA will need to be signed off by the 5 local authority full council and ABUHB board before March 31st 2022. The PNA has been developed in line with the regional Wellbeing Assessment under the regional Public Service Board to create synergy between the documents and avoid duplication; and this will also support joint action planning going forward between PSB and the Regional Partnership Board.

Previous Consideration of this item

2.5 The Population Needs Assessment was previously discussed at the Learning, Caring and Leisure Scrutiny Committee on 17 January 2017. The link to the Report and Minutes of the meeting is included in Section 6 of this report.

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

3.1 The following appendices are attached:

Appendix 1: Gwent Regional Partnership Board Population Needs Assessment

Role of the Committee

The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:

- Consider the areas of need identified in each section and if there are any gaps.
- Consider the PNA alongside the regional Wellbeing Assessment and if there is sufficient collaboration and join up between the 2 regional assessments.

Section B – Supporting Information

4 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Summarise how this report aligns with Council priorities – in particular the Corporate Plan and wellbeing objectives:

Well-being Objectives	Promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment	Improve skills, educational outcomes & employment opportunities	Enable people to be healthy, independent & resilient	Build cohesive & sustainable communities
Corporate Plan Commitments	Thriving City	Aspirational People		Resilient Communities
Supporting Function	Modernised Council			

5 Impact Assessment:

- **Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act**
- **Equality Act 2010**
- **Socio-economic Duty**
- **Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011**

The council has a number of legislative responsibilities to assess the impact of any strategic decision, proposal or policy on people that may experience disadvantage or inequality.

5.1 Summary of impact – Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

The PNA includes links to other supporting information such as the local Well-being Assessments required under the Well-being of Future Generations Act. This avoids duplication and creates a joint population wellbeing assessment for the region.

5.2 Summary of impact – Equality Act 2010

The report advises of the urgent need to improve the data collected on disability, to further improve equality for disabled people and increase emotional wellbeing within health and social care. Section 3 of the report covers Health/Physical Disabilities and Sensory Impairment, which also includes the key themes and policy areas involved.

5.3 Summary of impact – Socio-economic Duty

The report addresses the danger that without action, worsening socio-economic inequalities will further concentrate the trend of declining health among the most disadvantaged.

5.4 Summary of impact – Welsh language

The report states the need to improve information available to the public, create more understanding of mental health and encourage people to talk to gain early support. It states how crucial it is to meet the needs of Welsh language and other accessible formats so mental health information is accessible to all.

6. Background Papers

Include all additional documents that are referenced in the report, and those that you have used as background reading. Hyperlink to online versions of them if available.

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Corporate Plan](#)
- [Socio-economic Duty Guidance](#)
- [Public Sector Equality Duty](#)
- [Welsh Language Measure 2015](#)
- [Minutes of Learning, Caring and Leisure Scrutiny Committee held on 17 January 2017](#)
- [Newport Well-being Profile 2021](#)

Report Completed: 20 January 2022

Gwent Regional Partnership Board Population Needs Assessment

Introduction

As set out in the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 local authorities and local Health Boards must produce one population assessment report per local government electoral cycle. The first regional Population Needs Assessment (PNA) was completed by the Gwent Regional Partnership Board (RPB) in April 2016 and aligned to Wellbeing Assessment completed by Public Service Boards as required under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. This PNA report will also align, integrate and cross reference the Gwent Wellbeing Assessment to avoid duplication and create a joint population wellbeing assessment for the region (this section can be read alongside the regional Wellbeing Assessment or as an individual document).

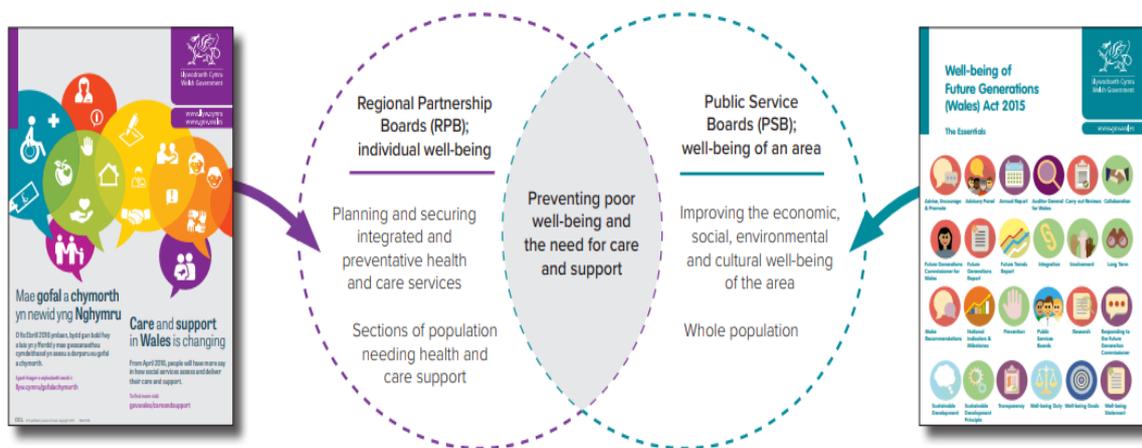


Fig 1: Relationship between RPBs and Public Service Boards.

As set out in Welsh Government's SSWB Act Part 2 Code of Practice, this population assessment comprises of (1) an assessment of need the (2) range and level of services required. It will also jointly assess:

- the extent to which there are people in the area of assessment who need care and support
- the extent to which there are carers in the area of assessment who need support
- the extent to which there are people whose needs for care and support (or, in the case of carers, support) are not being met.

Policy Areas included and within this Population Needs Assessment (PNA).

- National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006 and children and young people's plans as required by the Children Act 2004.
- Integrated Medium Term Plans produced by Local Health Boards as required by the NHS Finance (Wales) Act 2014,
- Part 2 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 including local homelessness strategies
- United Nation Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the United Nation Principles for Older Persons
- Equality Act 2010 Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion and Beliefs, Sex and Sexual Orientation.

- National Outcomes Framework
- Welsh language strategic framework More than just words
- Socio -Economic Duty

Engagement, Coproduction and Citizen Voice

The voice of citizens, third sector partners and service providers are key to developing this PNA and the guidance on effective citizen engagement, set out in *'National participation Standards, Participation Cymru's National Principles for Public Engagement in Wales'* and the Older People's Commissioner's Best Practice Guidance for *'Engagement and Consultation with Older People on Changes to Community Services in Wales'*, have been considered. Citizen voices have been included in each PNA section and coordinated through the regional Citizen Panel and Chair who sits on the RPB. This also includes populations from the secure estate in order to fulfil the requirements of section 11 of the Act.

(1) CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

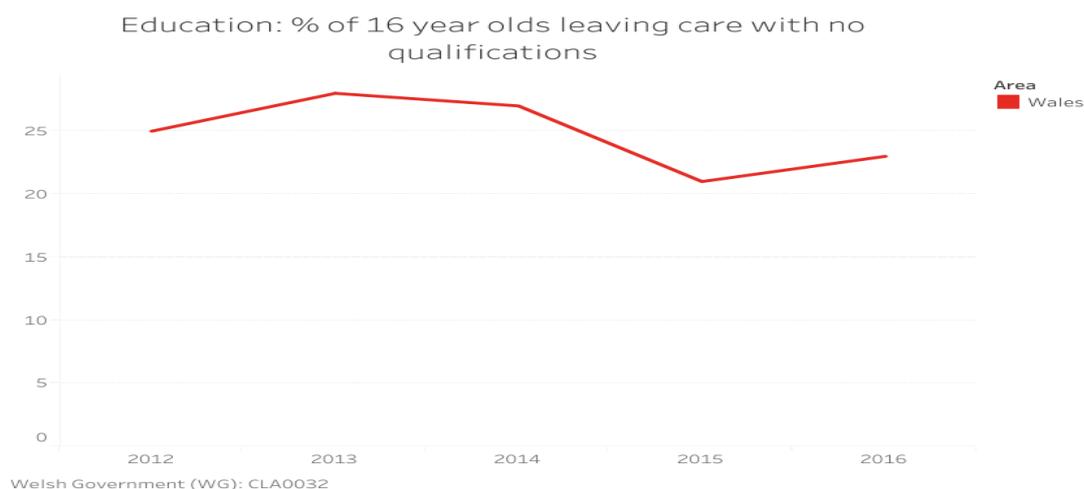
Key themes

- Children with Complex Needs, including seamless transition of care and support needs, for example between Childrens Continuing Care and Continuing NHS Healthcare.
- Safe accommodation for children with complex, high end emotional and behavioural needs. This is a new Welsh Government priority for 2021-22 and aims to both prevent individuals being unnecessarily escalated to, and facilitate de-escalation from, secure or inpatient care.
- Looked After Children and the increasing numbers going into care/adoption (Local Authorities have a specific duty under Section 75 of the Act to ensure they have sufficient accommodation to meet the needs of looked after children).

Policy Areas

- Amendments to Part 9 of the SSWB Act including revisions to the definition of Children and Young People (CYP) with complex needs to include children and young people: with disabilities and/or illness, care experienced, in need of care and support, at risk of becoming looked after, and those with emotional and behavioural needs.
- Children’s Commissioner for Wales ‘No Wrong Door’ recommendations and annual reports.
- Together for Children and Younger People
- National Commissioning Board guidance for Integrated Commissioning of Services for Families, Children and Young People with Complex Needs.
- The NEST (Nurturing, Empowering, Safe, Trusted) Early Help and Enhanced Support National Framework
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

(1.1) Percentage of 16-year-olds leaving care with no qualifications

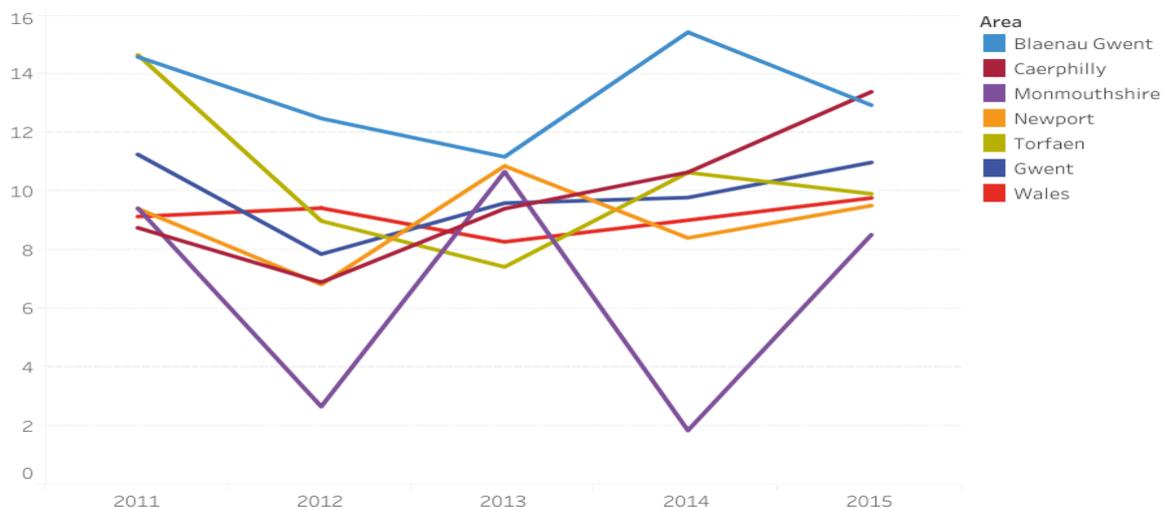


Care leavers will face a large number of personal and emotional challenges when family relationships breakdown and understandably education and aspirations will be affected. Attitudes to school, authority and adults will be indifferent and if a young person feels that they have been ‘given up on’ it will be very easy said young person to give up on their selves.

Schools will closely monitor the number of CLA and treat as vulnerable learners to ensure additional support and understanding are afforded to CLA. The availability of data is not consistent across the region, but the national data is stark with between 1 in 4 to 5 CLA leaving with no qualification which should not be accepted for any group of young people. The RPB includes statutory membership from education colleagues to ensure issues can be discussed and raised as well as planning actions across multi-agency partners and accessing preventative and transformation funding opportunities. Covid-19 has affected schooling for all young people and education achievements and accessing further education with additional emotional support and housing solutions will remain a priority.

(1.2) Looked after Children with 3 or more placements

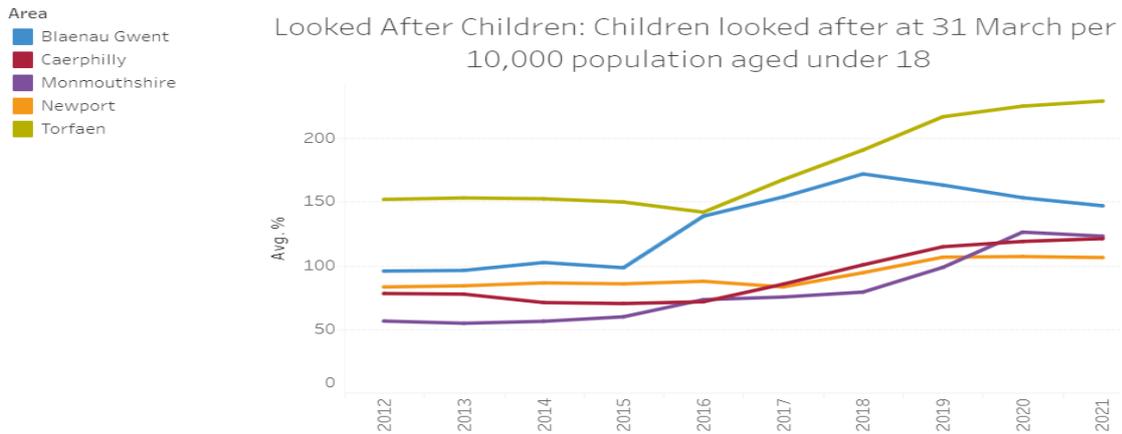
Looked after children: SCC/004 - Looked after children with 3 or more placements (%)



Welsh Government (WG): SCC004

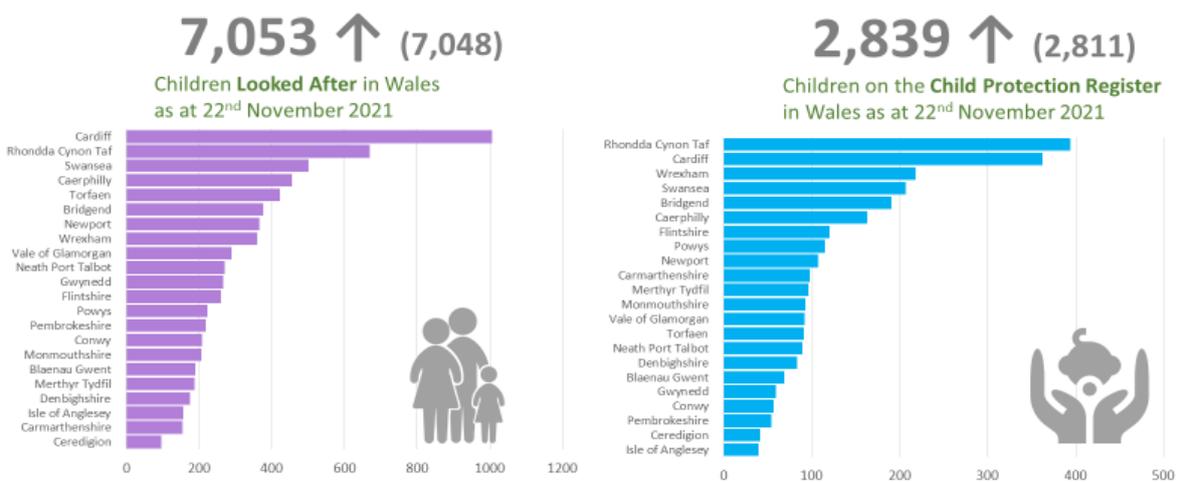
Stability for CLA is key to supporting young people to develop positive relationships, trust, emotional wellbeing and access to education. A change of circumstances can often be unsettling and lead to lack of trust in support organisations as well disengagement, with comments from young people that ‘people have given up on them’. A safe, stable home environment is a priority for any young person but especially CLA and even though the numbers seem relatively low, we know outcomes will be affected with increased number of placements. Partner and third sector organisations prioritise the need for remedial actions to avoid placement breakdown, with respite for carers and children a solution to help secure long-term placements. National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) offer an independent advocacy service for CLA to ensure the voice and views of young people are heard and greater support and working with third sector partners is key to partnership working through RPB. Covid-19 has affected the face-to-face opportunities for advocacy, but online sessions have been facilitated.

(1.3) Rate of Children Looked After per 10,000 population



The number of Children Looked After (CLA) and percentage 10,000 still remains high across all local authority areas. We know that CLA face some of the most complex and challenging of circumstances amongst their peers and Welsh Government has prioritised support at a local and regional level through Integrated Care Funding guidance and legislation. Multi-agency partnership approaches under the RPB have been established such as MYST project and SPACE Wellbeing Panels. However, there have been large costs for emergency and out of county placements incurred across the region which has led to the development of capital projects in Gwent such as Windmill Farm, through ICF capital funding, where savings can be redistributed into preventative programmes. The impact of covid-19 pandemic will have exacerbated circumstances for CLA, and support and prevention will still remain a priority going forward especially the need to develop services and provision that mean young peoples' care and support needs can be met close to home

Children's Social Care - Safeguarding



*One authority was unable to provide data due to issues following WCCIS upgrade

↑↓↔ denotes change from previous week (previous week's figures) Source: Local Authority Covid-19 Data Collections – 24 November 2021

There are additional data graphs relating to young people in the Social Wellbeing section (Baby and children's health and development) of the Wellbeing Assessment including

1. % of low birthweight live single births
2. Teenage conceptions
3. Breastfeeding
4. Flying Start children reaching or exceeding developmental milestones
5. Healthy weight and obesity
6. Immunisations
7. Oral health
8. Adverse Childhood Experiences

Emerging Themes, Future trends, and challenges

The most recent Welsh Government data (as of 31 March 2020) shows that there are 16,580 children who receive care and support from children's services across 22 local authorities. Of those children being supported, 7,180 are looked after. Of those children, 17% live with their families or with other family members through kinship care arrangements, 70% live with foster carers, 8% live in residential care, 3% of children are placed for adoption and 2% of older children live independently with support. Welsh Government have prioritized the need for safe accommodation for children with complex, high end emotional and behavioural needs. This is a new Welsh Government priority for 2021-22 and aims to both prevent individuals being unnecessarily escalated to, and facilitate de-escalation from, secure or inpatient care.

(2) OLDER PEOPLE INCLUDING DEMENTIA

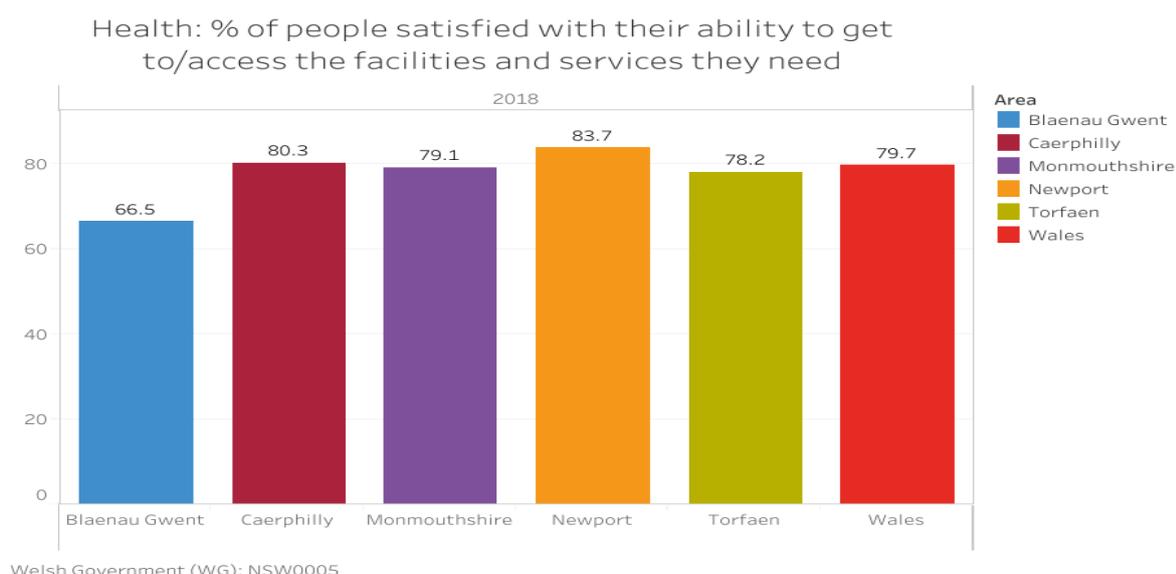
Key Themes

- Improve emotional wellbeing for older people to reduce loneliness and isolation with early intervention
- Improve life outcomes for people living with dementia and their carers.
- Protect the rights for older people as enshrined in the United Nation’s Principles for Older Persons, and the SSWB 2014 Act.

Policy Areas

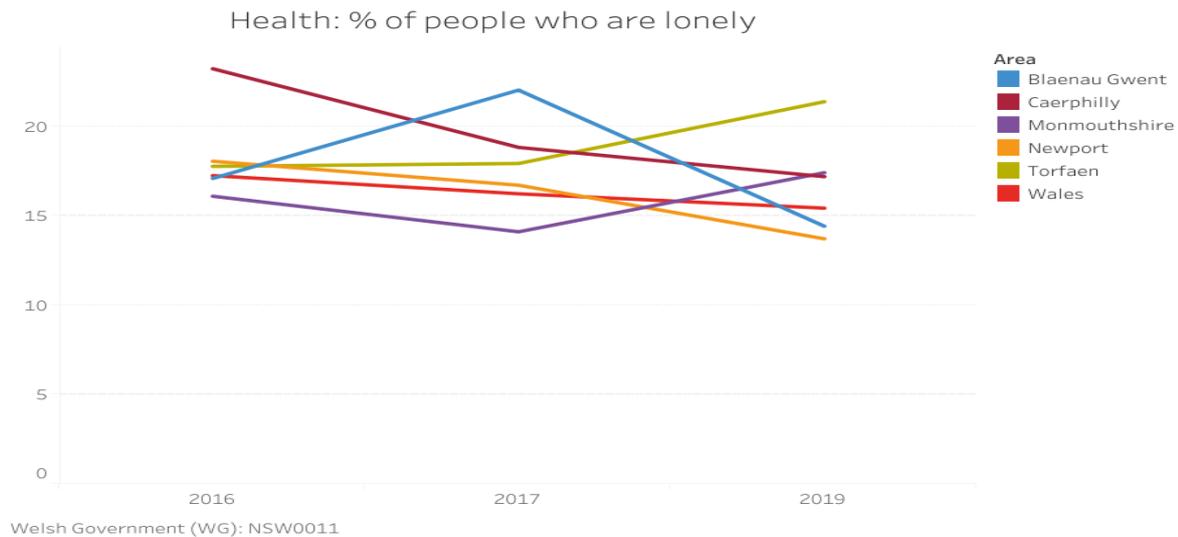
- United Nation’s Principles for Older Persons, and the SSWB 2014 Act
- Dementia Action Plan 2018-2022
- Older People’s Commissioner ‘Making Wales the best place in the world to grow older: Strategy 2019-22
- Strategy for Older People in Wales: Living Longer, Ageing Well. (2013 -2023)

(2.1) Percentage of people satisfied with their ability to get to/access the facilities and services they need



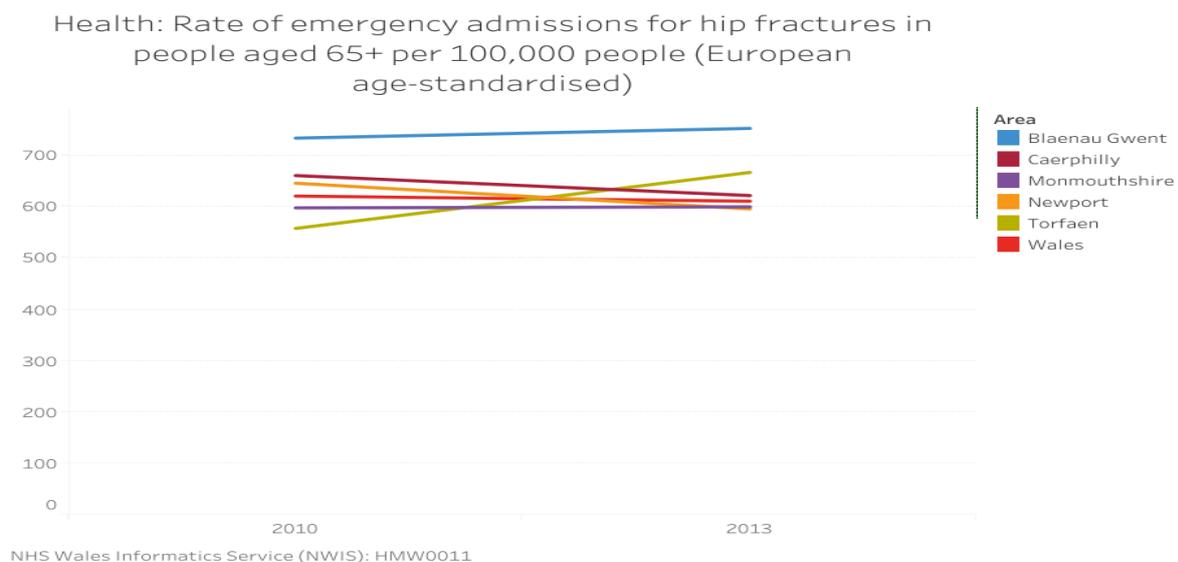
A large percentage of people are generally satisfied with access to facilities across the region. This percentage is within the Wales average for Monmouthshire despite the rurality and access to bus services. This data is from 2018 and Blaenau Gwent figure is quite low in comparison to other local authorities, however since 2018 ABUHB have committed to building a new Health & Wellbeing Centre in Tredegar which was built on the former site of Tredegar General Hospital and Brynmawr Medical Practice has been built to improve access to services. There has been a big shift to digital technologies through the recent Covid-19 pandemic and recognition that a number of people would not have accessed services during lockdown and therefore the RPB will still need to ensure an equitable access to services across the region, especially for older people who may not be confident with the use of technologies.

(2.2) Percentage of people who are lonely



We recognise that loneliness is an issue across all local authority areas and highlighted in the previous PNA; and this will have been exacerbated recently through the Covid-19 pandemic where a number of vulnerable people will have been shielding. The data varies across the region but is generally high and between 15-20% (1 in 5 people) which is a considerable number of people susceptible to poor emotional and mental health and deterioration in physical help. Loneliness may be perceived as an older person's issue – recognised by Older People's Commissioner for Wales – but given that the percentage is approximately 20% it is likely that younger people will be affected too, especially given virtual working arrangements. Solutions are generally low cost/no cost and important for RPB to promote networks, access to information and local groups, particularly through Dewis portal.

(2.3) Rate of emergency admissions for hip fractures in people aged 65 plus per 100,000 people



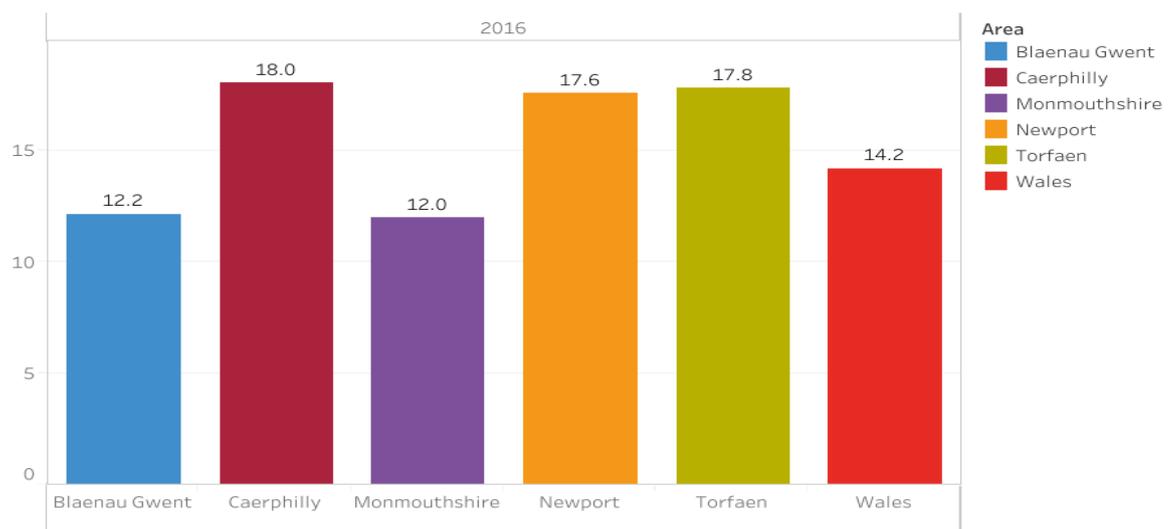
It is widely accepted that falls amongst older people are one of the biggest factors in hospital admissions and calls for ambulance assistance. Hip fractures data can be inferred and indicate level of falls amongst older people and subsequently hospital admissions.

1 in 3 people aged 65+ (over 3 million) fall in the UK every year and 1.2 million people are treated in Accident and Emergency Departments (A&E) after a fall, costing the NHS £1.6 billion each year (CSP, 2015; Tinetti, 1988). The Economic Model for Falls Prevention (CSP, 2016) suggests that mild falls (those that don't require any additional treatment on discharge from A&E) represent 47.2% of the total number of falls. Falls account for approximately 10% of 999 emergency calls received via the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust (WAST) across Wales (WAST, 2016). There has been an emphasis on preventing falls and dedicated studies, roles and services within the ABUHB as well as wider public information and awareness. Gwent Frailty is a multi-disciplinary service within the Primary Care and Community Services Division in Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, centred on providing patients with care and/or treatment closer to home and promoting patient independence; and falls prevention is a core function of the service.

We have seen recently during the pandemic and during the winter periods the impact on WAST and hospitals, falls can have and along with progressed dementia, the predominant factor in 999 calls for ambulances. The data included is a conservative indication of falls given that not all older people will require surgery after an accident. However, the data when totalled is approximately 3000 people during 2013 and will not simply reflect hospital admissions but also the large number of rehabilitation services required and subsequent impact on independent living. Given the impact on health and social care, falls prevention will still remain a priority for RPB consideration.

(2.4) Percentage of people who called for an ambulance in the last 12 months

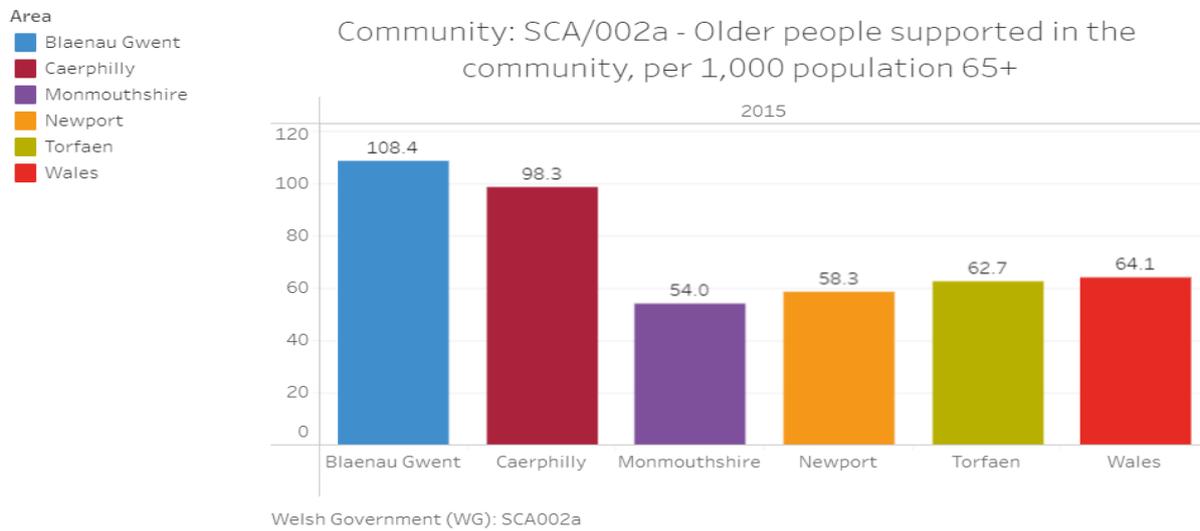
Health: % of people who called for an ambulance in the last 12 months



Welsh Government (WG): NSW0037

The data can highlight the acute needs of some local authority areas when compared to the rest of Wales. The 3 areas higher than Wales average are valley communities and could point to wider health detriments in those areas.

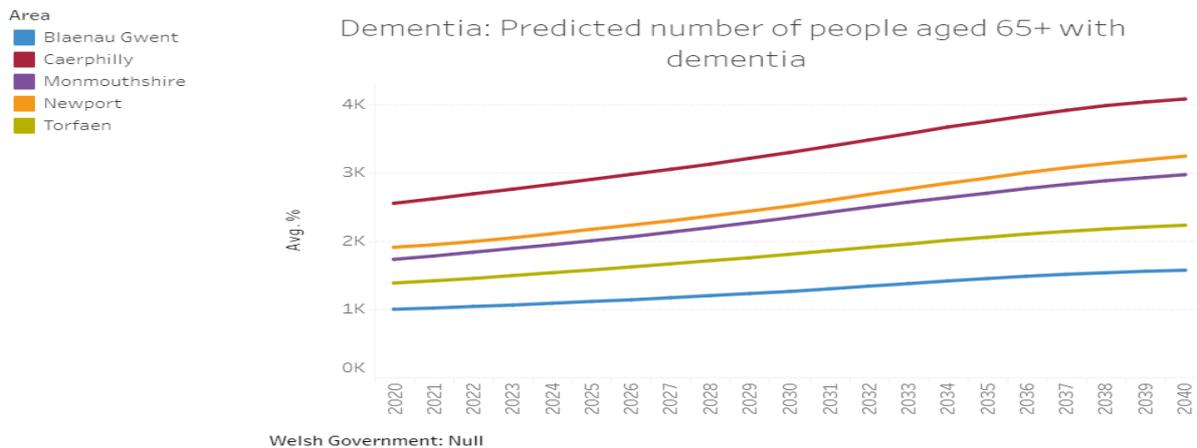
(2.5) Older people supported in the community, per 1,000 population 65+



Remaining at home is at the heart of many peoples view of being independent. People have told us they would like help and support to move around and maintain their own home, go out as they please and not have to depend too much on others. We also know that many older people with long term health conditions are caring for a family member, friend or neighbour and need to be supported to continue to do so. These unpaid carers contribute significantly to the Gwent economy and potential health and social care costs.

Older people need good, timely and accurate information to be able to understand what support is available to them and this can be important to maintaining independence. This also needs to be provided in a range of ways so people can access it. Small things can be quite significant – such as size and type of fonts in leaflets or background colours to aid readability. Information is now often provided digitally and so access to online information for older people is dependent on skills and resources. Greater consideration should be given to supporting older people to develop the necessary skills and confidence to access information online. Public access areas such as GP Surgeries, public transport and community libraries can act as access points for information but in some areas of Wales these are underutilised and overlooked. We have valuable community library resources across Gwent which provide information, advice, and guidance for both older people and those living with dementia.

(2.6) Predicted number of people with dementia 65 plus

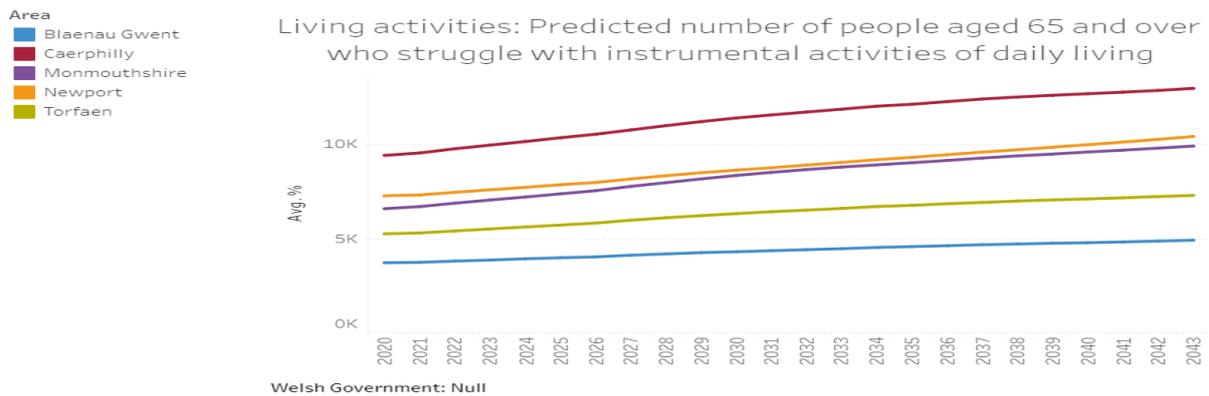


Approximately 42,000 people are living with dementia in Wales, and it is most common in older people, affecting 1 in 20 people over the age of 65 and 1 in 5 over the age of 80. It is predicted that 1 million people in the UK will have dementia by 2025 and this could increase to 2 million by 2050 (Alzheimer's Research UK). Above figures are from '*Dementia UK: A report into the prevalence and cost of dementia*' prepared by the Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU) at the London School of Economics and the Institute of Psychiatry at King's College London, for the Alzheimer's Society, 2007. The prevalence rates have been applied to population projections of the 65 or older population to give estimated numbers of people predicted to have dementia, to 2035.

Across all local authority areas in the Gwent region, an increase in the number of people living with dementia is predicted. The increases range from 62.1% in Blaenau Gwent to 97.1% in Monmouthshire over the period 2013 to 2035. The RPB are working to support more timely diagnosis and are developing a consistent clearly understood diagnosis, care and support pathway which incorporates standards of care and outcome measures. Living with dementia can have a big emotional, social, and psychological impact on a person, their families, and carers. This can affect the relationships a person has with their environment and the support that they receive. It is important to people living with dementia that people develop awareness and understanding of the condition so they can be supported to maintain quality of life. As an RPB we provide development and learning opportunities jointly with our key partners to the workforce and communities to raise awareness, understanding and highlight risk factors and preventative measures. We also work with partners and continue to develop and build on the strengths of our Dementia Friendly Communities, working in collaboration of Age Friendly Community groups.

We are aware of the impact of the pandemic on people living with dementia and professionals within health and social care have been working hard to support people through assistive technology, online support and telephone calls where face to face visits could not be provided. We have also been supporting people living with dementia their family and carers through the Get There Together National project, working with partners to create a series of films aimed to reduce concerns and reassure anyone who is anxious about getting beyond the front door as well as dealing with the stresses of Covid-19.

(2.7) Predicted number of people unable 1 task 65 plus



Healthy life expectancy is increasing over time, which is positive, however when the time comes where the oldest population develop care and support needs, those needs are more intensive and expensive as people live longer. People over the age of 65 are more likely to need extra support to remain independent in their own homes and across all local authorities in Gwent it is predicted there will be an increase in people unable to manage at least one domestic task on their own.

Predicted number of people aged 65 or over that will be unable to manage at least one domestic task on their own (household shopping, wash and dry dishes, clean windows inside, jobs involving climbing, use a vacuum cleaner to clean floors, wash clothing by hand, open screw tops, deal with personal affairs, do practical activities). Figures are taken from *Living in Britain; Results from the 2001 General Household Survey, Supplementary report: People aged 65 and over, table 37, ONS*. The predicted increases range is from 44.9% in Blaenau Gwent to 71.6% in Monmouthshire. As an RPB we have a range multi-disciplinary reablement and care services in place to provide long and short-term support to help people live independently in their own homes. We also have been using grant funding from the Integrated Care Fund to promote digital and mobile assistive technology solutions to support the prevention of falls and manage the risks associated with dementia and other types of cognitive impairment.

What people have told us

Remaining at home is at the heart of many peoples view of being independent. People have told us they would like help and support to move around and maintain their own home, go out as they please and not have to depend too much on others. We also know that many older people with long term health conditions are caring for a family member, friend or neighbour and need to be supported to continue to do so. These unpaid carers contribute significantly to the Gwent economy and potential health and social care costs.

“I want to remain in my own home for as long as I can. It’s where all my memories are”.

“I am scared of being in contact with people as don’t want to get covid, but I am also isolated so feel really down. It’s confusing!”.

There are additional data graphs relating to adults in the Social Wellbeing section of the Wellbeing Assessment including

1. Life expectancy and health inequalities
2. Cancer registrations
3. Deaths due to cancer
4. Deaths due to cardiovascular disease
5. Delayed transfers of care

Healthy lifestyles including

6. Physical activity
7. Healthy diet
8. Alcohol
9. Smoking
10. Individuals who are overweight or obese
11. Overweight/obesity
12. Diabetes

Emerging Themes, Future trends, and challenges

Wales has an ageing population and many people stay healthy, independent, and well into old age, however as people age, they are more likely to live with complex co-morbidities, frailty, and disability. By 2030 it is projected that there will be over 1,008,000 older people in Wales (33% of the population) (ONS 2017/2018). Older people have lots of skills, knowledge, and experience to contribute to society and are a valuable resource to us in Gwent, with many volunteering and sharing their skills in communities. A whole system approach is needed between health and social care and other partners to help people remain independent and as healthy as possible so they can continue to live at home.

What are the gaps in understanding of well-being?

The number of older people with unmet care and support needs is increasing substantially due to challenges in the health and care system. Effective solutions are needed to address these needs including addressing delayed discharges in hospitals that can lead to worsening health outcomes and complications around care and support needs. It is clear that most people desire to cope with their illnesses and remain independent at home and care models need to reflect the needs of the person as part of their care and support.

The public health restrictions put in place to keep people safe during the pandemic, meant that older people saw big changes to their normal activities and routines. It also meant spending time apart from family, friends, volunteering roles, jobs and communities and creating loneliness and isolation. These changes have meant some people are nervous and anxious to return to normality and are unsure of what the future holds.

Connecting through digital platforms became a valuable resource to many people in Gwent so they could stay in touch with family and friends, access health services, shopping, advice, guidance, and entertainment. However digital exclusion still remains across Wales where some older people have a number of barriers to getting connected such as lack of confidence in using digital technology, financial barriers, costs of broadband services or lack of broadband

due to rurality of area. Some people also said that healthcare appointment had been cancelled and they were now struggling as had to wait for health procedures and were unsure of how long they would have to wait. This will impact future waiting lists for procedures and appointments.

The pandemic has also brought to light positives about life in Gwent, with communities coming together to support each other, people volunteering and responding to calls for help. There has been a wave of solidarity during this time and the commitment and dedication of our health and social care workforce during this time and continues to be incredible. Also:

- We have key assets in Gwent such as our network of unpaid carers and volunteers and a passionate multi-agency workforce. We also have a very good relationship with our independent/third sector partners and Dementia Supportive Communities.
- There are roughly four million unpaid carers (for all service user groups), of whom one quarter provide more than 50 hours a week of care, giving practical help, companionship, and general supervision. Nearly 90% of older people with dependency problems receive some informal care (some alongside formal care). There is likely to be a fall in the future supply of such carers, arising from changes in the population age structure, rising divorce rates, decline in family size, rising childlessness, growing employment among married women, changing household composition of older people, and changing preferences of older people. (SCIE)
- Volunteers also play a major part in providing social care. It has been estimated that their contribution represents the equivalent of 221,000 full-time employees, or roughly one in every five hours of formal caring. Many such volunteers are older people themselves.
- There are pressures on social care services arising from the needs and preferences of older people increasing.
- Recruitment and retention of employees is challenging for services for older people. High levels of stress and dissatisfaction are reported by staff, and although low pay is an issue, the introduction of the national minimum 4 wage should have eased recruitment. This has been exacerbated by the pandemic.

(3) HEALTH / PHYSICAL DISABILITIES & SENSORY IMPAIRMENT

A person with a 'health or physical disability including sensory impairment', may have difficulty carrying out everyday activities, as their movement and senses may be limited. Sensory impairment is reduced or loss of sight, hearing, or both. Those included are the blind, partially sighted, deaf, and hard of hearing. A disability may be present from birth or occur during a person's lifetime. Health disabilities can include chronic conditions such as obesity or an individual might have had a stroke and have long term effects with movement, speech, hearing, and sight. Equipment and adaptations can help a person to live more independently and confidently at home. Prevention, early identification and providing practical and emotional support and easier accessibility to services can have a real positive impact on life outcomes.

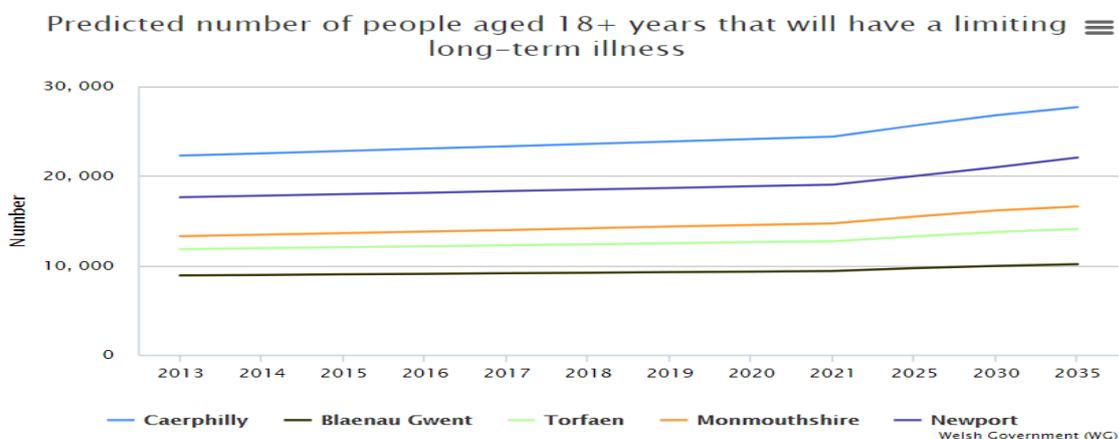
Key Themes

- Supporting disabled people through an all-age approach to live independently in appropriate accommodation
- Support access to community-based services, including transport.
- Help people reduce the risk of poor health and well-being through earlier intervention and community support.
- Ensure people are supported through access to accurate, timely information and assistance and 'rehabilitation' where required.
- Improve emotional well-being particularly through peer-to-peer support.

Policy Areas

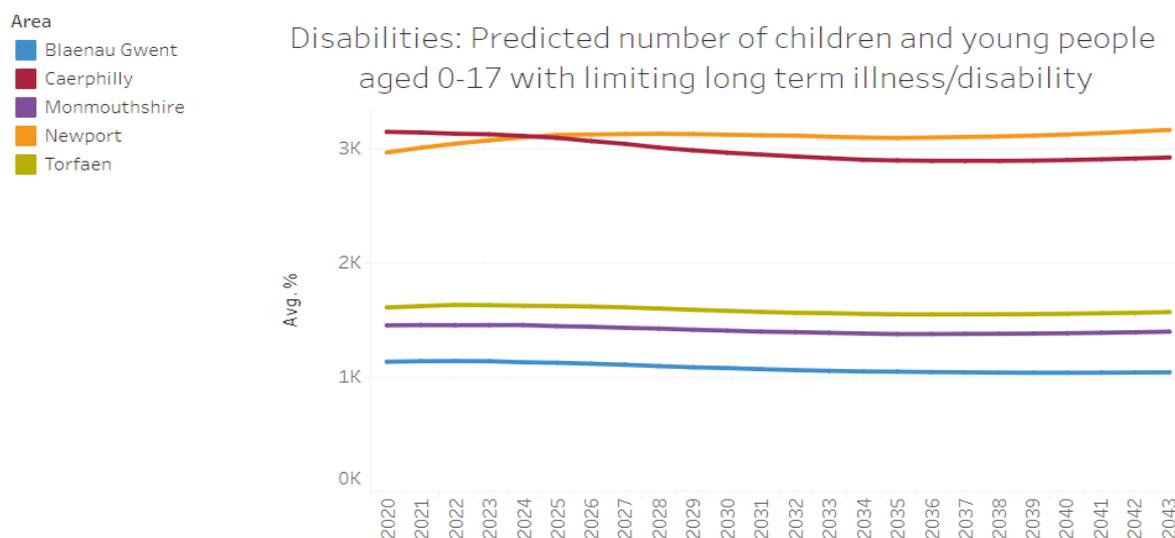
- Welsh Government's Disability Equality Forum Impact of Covid-19 on disabled people in Wales and 'Action on Disability' framework
- Wales Council of the Blind. Rehabilitation Officers for Visual Impairment, Addressing a workforce crisis in Wales
- All Wales Deaf Mental Health and Wellbeing Group. Deaf People Wales: Hidden Inequality.

(3.1) Predicted number of people aged 18+ years with a limiting long-term illness



The impact of chronic conditions on peoples lives and services in Wales is of growing concern. Wales has the highest rates of long-term limiting illness in the UK, accounting for a large proportion of unnecessary emergency hospital admissions (NHS Wales). Figures are taken from the *Welsh Health Survey 2012, table 3.11 Adults who reported having illnesses, or being limited by a health problem/disability, by age and sex*. Adults who reported having a limiting long-term illness were asked to specify the illness which was the main cause of their limitation. All local authority areas across the Gwent region are predicted to see an increase in the number. The predicted increases range from 14.1% in Blaenau Gwent to 25.1% in Newport

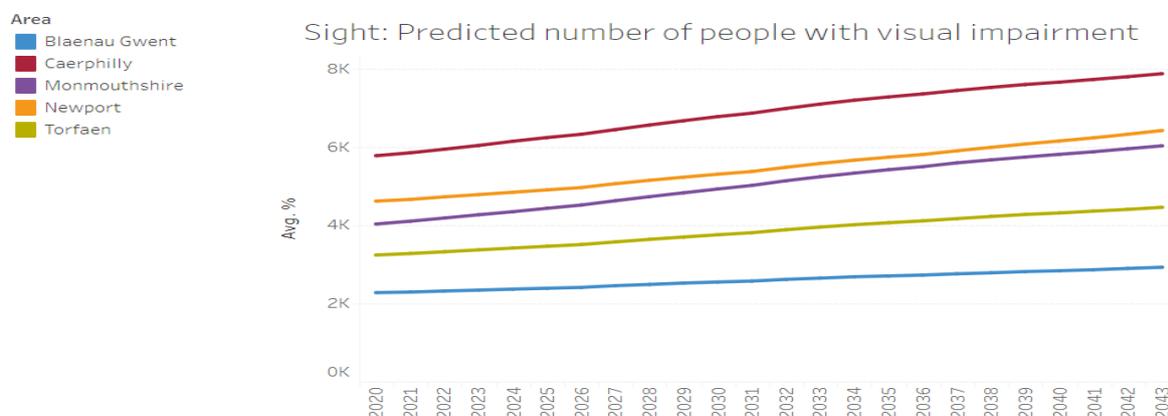
(3.2) Predicted number of people aged 0 - 17 that will have a disability according to Disability Discrimination Act definitions 2035



This figure is taken from the study *Prevalence of childhood disability and the characteristics and circumstances of disabled children in the UK, Blackburn et al, BMC Paediatrics 2010*. Children were defined as disabled if they met the Disability Discrimination Act criteria for a disabled person. Disability Discrimination Act definitions mean that the child has significant difficulties with any of the following areas: mobility, lifting/carrying, manual dexterity, continence, communication (speech, hearing, eyesight), memory/ability to concentrate or understand, recognise if in physical danger, physical coordination, or other problem or disability.

The number of young people living with a disability is predicted to be relatively stable over the next 10 years but will still remain significant in terms of multi-agency partnership support required to ensure outcomes. Transition arrangements between primary and secondary education is key to ensuring outcomes as well as effective planning between partners. Parents often highlight the number of different partners requesting information and the RPB has invested in an Integrated Service for Children with Additional Needs (ISCAN) to coordinate services for children and families in one place. ISCAN has been key to reducing multiple ‘hand offs’ to partners and supported parents with caring of children with disabilities especially during Covid-19 pandemic.

(3.3) Number of sight impaired people 65 plus



The above data has been taken from the registers of people with physical or sensory disabilities, data includes all persons registered under Section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948. However, registration is voluntary, and figures may therefore be an underestimate of the numbers of people with physical or sensory disabilities. Registration of severe sight impairment is, however, a pre-condition for the receipt of certain financial benefits and the number of people in this category may therefore be more reliable than those for partial sight impairment or other disabilities. These factors alongside the uncertainties about the regularity with which local authorities review and update their records, mean that the reliability of this information is difficult to determine and so it cannot be thought of as a definitive number of people with disabilities. People with sight impairment are registered by local authorities following certification of their sight impairment by a consultant ophthalmologist. The Certificate of Vision Impairment (Wales) formally certifies someone as partially sighted or as blind (now using the preferred terminology 'sight impaired' or 'severely sight impaired', respectively) so that the local authority can register him/her. Registration is voluntary and access to various, or to some, benefits and social services is not dependent on registration. If the person is not known to social services as someone with needs arising from their visual impairment, registration also acts as a referral for a social care assessment.

The majority of local authority areas in the Gwent region have experienced a decrease however this data will need to be explored further to ascertain if this is a registration issue and if people are aware of services.

Rehabilitation Officers for Visual Impairment (ROVI) provide early intervention support, helping people to remain independent and contribute to their community. There is a concern that in some areas some people are being signposted away from this support however we don't have the full data on this. The role has been identified across Wales as needing a clear pathway for referral to address unmet need and further promotion of the role which has been taken forward in Torfaen. The RPB work closely with third sector partners and will continue to support people with sight impairment through multi-agency partnership approaches and access to new technologies.

Emerging Themes, Future trends, and challenges

More than **600,000** people in Wales have hearing or sight loss (NHSWales2015) with the number increasing due to demographic trends and increases in chronic health conditions, amongst other causes. The effects of living with multiple health conditions can be profound, affecting quality of life, daily activities, poor physical and mental wellbeing and finding and maintaining employment, leading to financial hardship. This can then exacerbate inequalities, with loss of income and worklessness contributing to further declines in health. There is a danger that, without action, worsening socioeconomic inequalities will further concentrate this trend among the most disadvantaged.

Disability is extremely diverse and although some people might have extensive health care needs others might not, however all people with a disability need to access mainstream healthcare services. Almost everyone is likely to experience some form of disability during their lifetime, which could be temporary or permanent, having a dramatic impact on quality of life. There have been many improvements through the years, however the UK Disability Survey (2021) identified that public perception of disabled people is still a significant barrier to participation in areas, including employment and education and unhelpful perceptions and stigma.

People living with disabilities have been disproportionately impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic. They have had potentially higher risk of catching the virus due to underlying health conditions and had difficulty in engaging in preventative measures and experienced disruptions to health services they usually rely on. People with sensory loss have found it extremely challenging as their communication needs have not been met leaving them increasingly isolated. Although health and social care have worked hard across Gwent to reach out and support people during this time, we need more specific actions going forward, to recognise the impact there has been for people with health, physical and sensory disabilities.

There is an urgent need to improve the data we collect on disability, to further improve equality for disabled people and increase emotional wellbeing within health and social care.

What are the gaps in understanding of well-being?

Adults and children with disabilities have struggled both physically and mentally throughout the pandemic with the loss of services and support during this time. Some people previously found comfort in their daily routines which were removed with cancelled appointments and lockdown of education and activities.

Some people who are blind and visually impaired felt lonely prior to the pandemic but during this challenging time they have had to face more physical and psychological barriers. Social distancing rules have been difficult, as this cannot be observed along with directional arrows, screens etc. In community settings and trying to follow the rules has caused anxiety, stress, and exhaustion. Rehabilitation in sight loss is key in preventative approaches to support new ways to accomplish essential tasks and to introduce a range of equipment and techniques to avoid injuries and falls and mitigate or defer the need for longer term care. There is a scarcity of ROVIs which needs to be anticipated and addressed in the Gwent area to support eye conditions, orientation and mobility, independent living and communication skills. During the pandemic the ROVI in Torfaen has provided training to social care colleagues on the ROVI role and referral pathways and the benefits they bring. This has resulted in more referrals.

Visual impairment is strongly associated with falls and hip fractures. The rate of falls in older people with visual impairment is 1.7 times higher than other older people of the same age, with hip fractures 1.3 - 1.9 times higher

The new normal is for people to wear facemasks to prevent transmission of disease. As a result of this deaf and hearing-impaired people feel excluded from the world. Deaf people who rely on sign language still need facial expressions for full communication, so this has been difficult.

What people have told us

Some people feel isolated and excluded and have been struggling with mental and physical health. Some people feel there is lack of multi-agency support and they don't always know who to contact. Some people also struggle with accessibility of certain buildings, pavements and using public transport.

“I have just applied for a guide dog and am on the ‘awaiting training list’ I can’t wait to get my confidence back and be able to go out and have my independence back”.

Some people have hidden disabilities which are not visible but are just as challenging. They have faced discrimination as their disability can't be seen. There needs to be more positive attitudes towards disabled people. It is important for us to have a more inclusive future that focuses on our strengths.

- People are living longer; however future trends indicate that on average a quarter of people after age 65 will live with some form of health disability. This needs to be considered when developing service models with a particular focus on effective prevention interventions. There are estimated to be about 9 million deaf and hard of hearing adults in the UK, that is about 18% of the total population. About 640,000 of these are profoundly or severely deaf. As people grow older the chances of becoming deaf increase: 7 out of 10 people over 70 will have developed a significant hearing loss. This could have a significant impact on health and social care services.
- Sensory impairment can be a significant life limiting condition and its incidence increases with age. This means the challenges associated with the condition are likely to grow over coming decades. People with sensory impairment have a range of care and support needs. There is a scarcity of ROVI workers who can provide the necessary assessment and delivery of interventions including a lack of adequate supervision to support the workforce which also needs addressing.
- Early identification is vital, as is prevention, support to reduce loneliness, isolation and promote mental health and well-being. Offering effective care and support is likely to reduce other risks associated with age and frailty, such as falls. A focus is needed on further development of generic and specialist services and improving the access to other services for people with a sensory impairment. This will require a multi-agency approach.

- The prevalence of physical disability is much wider than those who need or want help from social care however this could change in the future if needs increase.
- Sight loss in the UK is estimated to double over the next 40 years, which will have a significant impact on the UK's health and social care system and damage the quality of life for millions of people. (RNIB 2009)
- Hearing loss is a common health issue in the armed forces. Many veterans will have had prolonged exposure to loud noise from small arms fire, artillery, engines, and other machinery during service, causing permanent hearing damage. The Veterans Gateway website provides information, advice and support for Veterans and their families on support and services currently available.

(4) LEARNING DISABILITIES

There are approximately 54,000 people in Wales living with a learning disability (ONS, 2019). A learning disability affects the way a person learns new skills throughout their lifetime. This can affect communication, understanding new or complex information and coping independently. A learning disability can be mild, moderate, or severe. Some people with a mild learning disability might be able to communicate well and look after themselves independently but might need a bit longer to embrace new skills. Other people might not be able to communicate and have more complex needs, needing further support. It very much depends on the persons abilities and the level of care and support they receive.

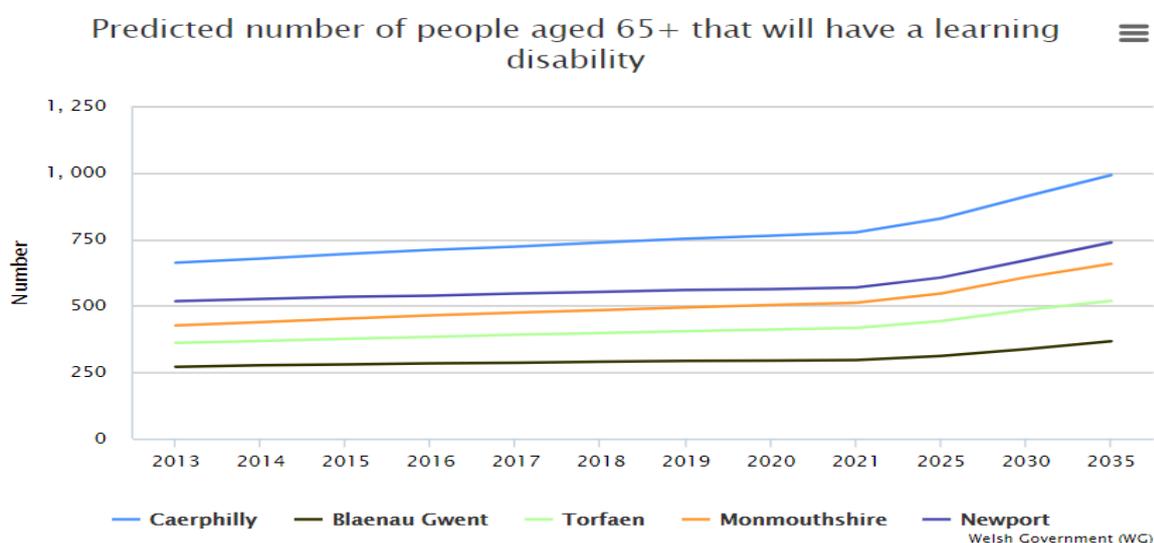
Key Themes

- Support people with learning disabilities to live independently with access to early intervention services in the community.
- Provide greater public awareness and understanding of people with learning disabilities needs.

Policy Areas

- Learning Disability Improving Lives Programme
- Children’s Commissioner Report ‘No Wrong Door’ in relation to adult services for children with learning disabilities.

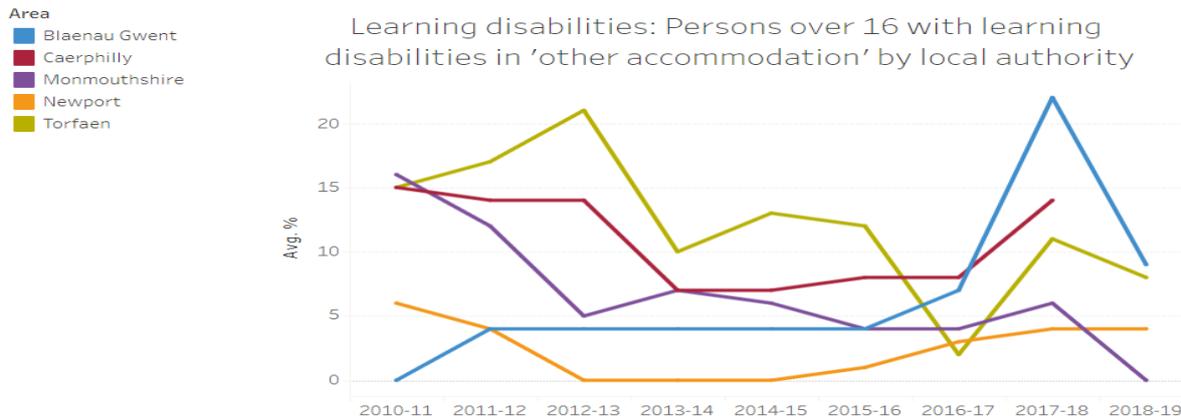
(4.1) Predicted number of people 65 plus with Learning Disabilities



The data is taken from the Register of persons with learning disabilities (SSDA901). The data may be an underestimate of the total number of people with learning disabilities as registration is voluntary. Local authorities submit numbers of those identified as having a learning disability currently known to the authority and included in a register for the purpose of planning or providing services.

All local authority areas across the region are predicted to see an increase in the number. The predicted increases range from 35.4% in Blaenau Gwent to 54.5% in Monmouthshire.

(4.2) Number of placements for persons aged 16 years or older with learning disabilities



Emerging Themes, Future trends, and challenges

The impact of the pandemic has had a negative impact on people with a learning disability, where they have felt isolated at being separated from family and friends and daily routines disrupted. People have said that stress, anxiety, feeling isolated and changes to their normal routine has had a negative impact on mental health. Also, some people felt their health had deteriorated as they weren't as active and had put on weight due to not going out and about.

Communication and information was felt to be confusing surrounding Covid-19 which saw lots of organisations adapting the way they worked and providing more innovative ways to support people. Social media, websites and online platforms were used so people could connect and also telephone support calls as well as easy read resources so people could feel informed.

A reduction in community-based support due to restrictions has left some people feeling unsupported which has had a detrimental impact on mental health and physical wellbeing. There was also confusion over Government guidelines with people needing further advice and reassurance, which saw lots of people not wanting to visit a health professional even if this was needed. Organisations across Gwent adapted the way they worked and provided more innovative ways to support people. This was done through providing activities and services through social media, websites, and online platforms, so people could connect. Telephone check in calls were also provided by some organisations to help people stay connected, as well as easy read resources so people could keep informed.

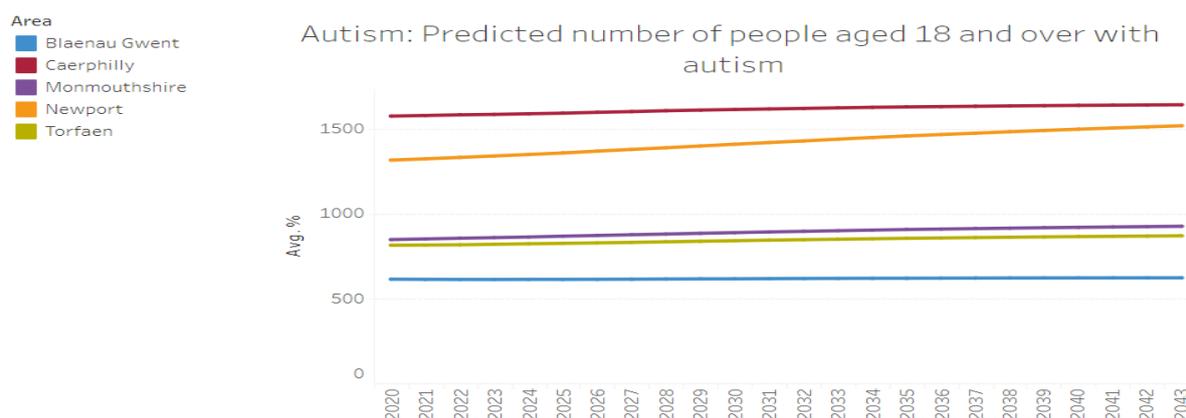
(5) AUTISM

Autism or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a lifelong neurodevelopmental condition which affects how people communicate and interact with the world. One in 100 people are on the autistic spectrum and there are around 700,000 autistic adults and children in the UK (NAS). Each person living with autism has a distinct set of strengths and challenges and the way in which people learn with autism can range from highly skilled to severely challenged. Autism means that the way a person thinks about and experiences the world is different to most people. Autism is different for everyone and some autistic people need little or no support. Others may need help from a parent or carer on a daily basis. These figures are taken from the study Prevalence of disorders of the autism spectrum in a population cohort of children in South Thames: The Special Needs and Autism Project (SNAP), Baird et al, the Lancet, 2006.

Policy Areas

- Part 2 of the Code of Practice within the SSWB Act
- Autism Delivery Plan 2021-2022

(5.1) Predicted number of people aged 0-17 with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD).



Across local authorities in the Gwent region, with the exception of Blaenau Gwent, all local authority areas are predicted to see an increase in the number. Across the remaining local authority areas in the Gwent region predicted increases range from 2.1% in Monmouthshire to 17.7% in Newport. Autistic people often have difficulty in accessing community activities, leisure facilities and other services. The RPB has supported the embedding of the Integrated Autism Service and raising awareness of autism in schools through a children's story book – 'Moli the Cow who Moo she was Different'.

Emerging Themes, Future trends, and challenges

What people have told us

People want help to plan their life the way they want with the right support and services to help. Person centred planning can help people to make their own choices and achieve life goals so people can reach their potential.

There is also a need for more meaningful activities that are fun but also help people to grow and learn. Although volunteering is considered important to learn new skills, more opportunities are needed for paid employment, training, and education. Organisations adapted through the pandemic with some activities being held on Zoom. This created barriers for some organisations to join, due to data protection laws. Many people appreciated the online support and to have options to connect on zoom but have now said they have 'zoom fatigue'.

Independent living is important and the opportunity to live in suitable housing, in a suitable location with the right individual support. One size does not fit all. Some people with autism said they felt that some professionals did not know enough about autism and had a very 'stereotypical view' and felt more training was needed for not just awareness but acceptance of difference.

"My autism is unique to me. I want people to have not just a greater awareness of autism, but also an acceptance of it. My brain works differently to other people, but I have my own unique skills to offer so don't see my diagnosis, see me".

- People have felt isolated and feel nervous so could need emotional and practical support to return to normality.
- Children and young people with a disability need an improved transition support programme to improve outcomes.
- There have been difficulties with some people accessing suitable health provision so this need addressing for effective future support.
- Improved post diagnostic support is needed for adults as some feel since having their diagnosis they are left "to get on with it".
- People with autism have struggled through the pandemic with loneliness and want more meaningful activities that inspire and support learning.
- Increased Autism Awareness training for the workforce and communities and how each person is unique with their own strengths and abilities.

(6) MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health affects everyone as it includes emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act. It helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make life choices. Mental health is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through to adulthood. A quarter of people will experience mental health issues or illness at some point during their lifetime, often facing discrimination and stigma and affecting the people around them.

- 1 in 10 children between the ages of 5 and 16 have a mental health problem and many more have behavioural issues. There is evidence this is increasing.
- Approximately 50% of people with enduring mental health problems will have symptoms by the time they are 14 and many at a much younger age, demonstrating that mental illness can affect people across the course of their lives.
- Between 1 in 10 and 1 in 15 new mothers experience post-natal depression.
- 1 in 16 people over 65, and 1 in 6 over the age of 80, will be affected by dementia. Current estimates are that approximately 43,000 people in Wales are experiencing dementia and this is predicted to increase by over 30% in the next 10 years.
- 9 in 10 prisoners have a diagnosable mental health and/or substance misuse problem
- 295 people took their own life in Wales in 2020 (Samaritans)

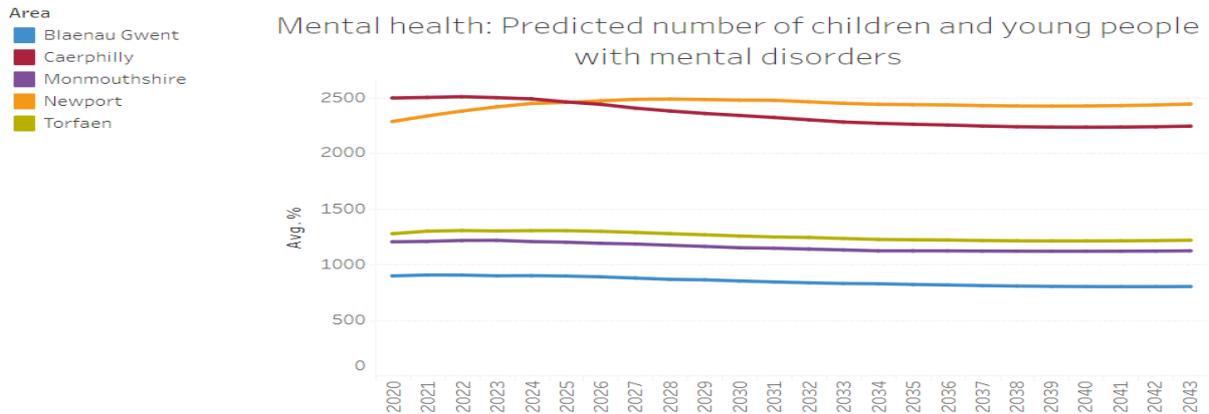
Key Themes

- Increased understanding and awareness of mental health amongst the public to reduce stigma.
- Improved interventions to help people to seek support earlier.
- To improve emotional well-being and mental health for adults and children through early intervention and community support.

Policy Areas

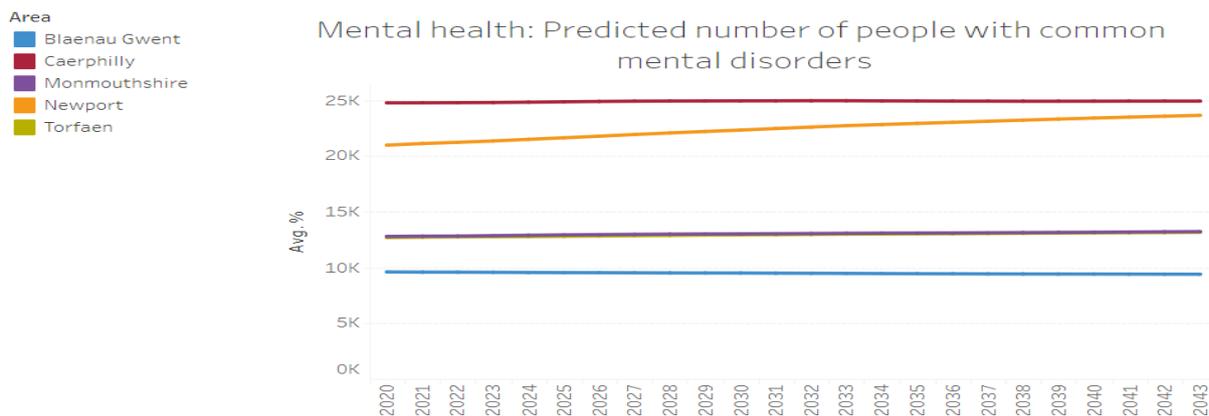
- Together for Mental Health Delivery Plan 2019-2022
- Together for Children and Young People Plan Together for Children and Young People, NHS Wales Health Collaborative
- Covid-19 in Wales: 'the mental health and wellbeing impact' by Cardiff University
- Talk to Me 2, Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention Strategy for Wales 2015-2020 [talk-to-me-2-suicide-and-self-harm-prevention-strategy-for-wales-2015-2020](#)
- National Mental Health Covid survey

(6.1) Predicted number of people aged 5-15 that will have a mental disorders



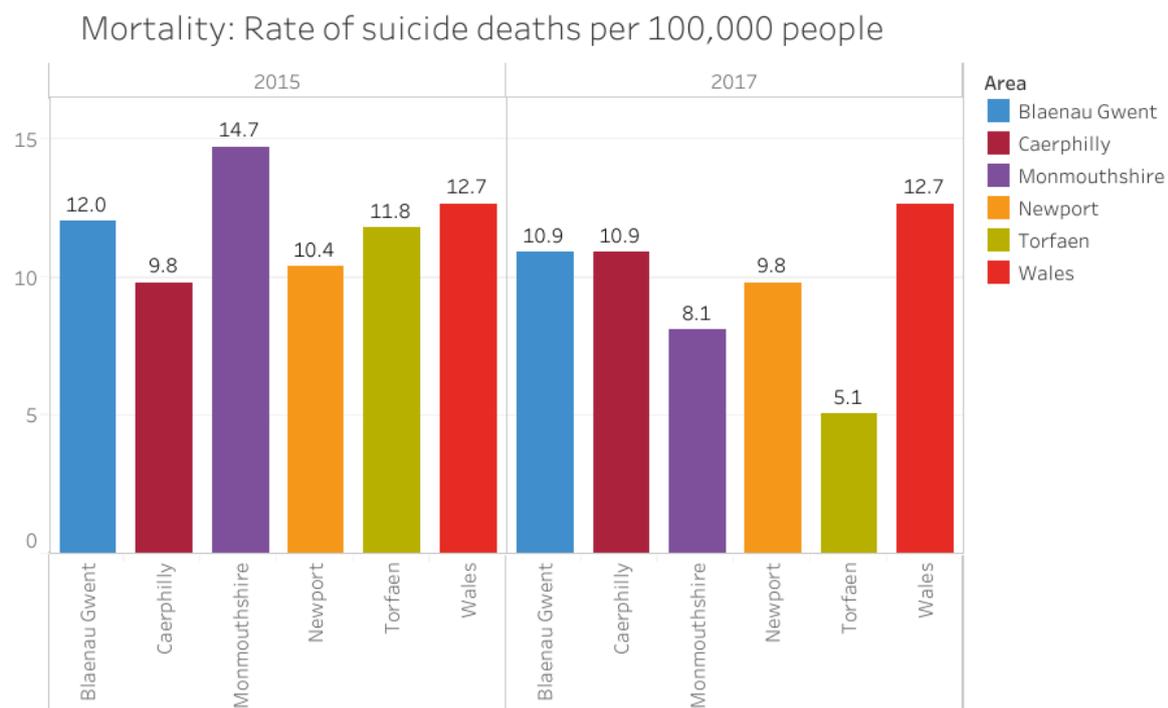
The percentage ranged from 66% in Blaenau Gwent to 78% in Monmouthshire. This compares with 72% of people aged 16 years or older free from a common mental disorder for Gwent and 74% for Wales.

(6.2) Number of people aged 16 plus free from a common mental disorder



Across the local authority areas in the Gwent region both Torfaen and Newport are predicted to see increases of 0.4% and 16.6% in the number of people aged 5 - 15 with a mental health problem. The other local authority areas are all predicted to see decreases over the same period

(6.3) Rate of suicide deaths per 100,000 people.



Office for National Statistics (ONS): SUI0003

Suicide is a major cause of death amongst the 15 to 44 age group. In Wales over the period 2010 – 2012 it accounted for almost one in five deaths in males aged 15 to 24 years and just over one in ten deaths amongst women of that age. Suicide (intentional self-harm and events of undetermined intent) accounted for 27% of external causes of death (transport accident, suicide, other accidental 9 injury, other external causes) in all ages (15 and over) between 2010 and 2012. This exceeded deaths from road traffic accidents which account for 9.1% (an average of 107 per year) in the same age group and time period.

Research was completed in 2020/2021 by a range of partners from ABUHB, Swansea and Cardiff University, *'The influence of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental wellbeing and psychological distress: A comparison across time'*. This research highlighted the impact the pandemic has likely had on psychological wellbeing and the mental health of many people. It was found that there was an increase in clinically significant levels of psychological distress in Wales, particularly in younger adults, women, and those from areas of greater deprivation. These findings can be used to prepare and plan for the wave of psychological distress that has been predicted to hit mental health support services due to the pandemic. 'There is a need to balance the efforts to stop the spread of the virus against the mental health problems being caused by the virus'.

In Gwent we have established the multi-agency Gwent Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention Steering group to develop our local plan to be responsive to the needs of the population. We hold biannual workshops to ensure we engage and take account of evidence and local data. Suicide and self-harm prevention are everyone's business and requires a collaborative approach and we have a passionate proactive partnership to take this work forward. The Gwent Suicide and Self-Harm prevention plan reflects the national Talk to Me 2 strategy,

setting our aims and objectives to prevent and reduce suicide and self-harm in Gwent and the workshops are used to discuss priorities for the year ahead.

There are additional data graphs relating to adults in the Social Wellbeing section of the Wellbeing Assessment including

1. Mental health
2. Loneliness
3. Suicide and self-harm

Emerging Themes, Future trends, and challenges

- Poor mental health and mental illness have a significant impact on individuals, society, and the economy overall. To respond to the mental health emergency, we need to work collaboratively to support more preventative and early interventions and encourage inclusivity.
- We need to promote the mental wellbeing of people in Gwent and ensure that the workforce is supported to be able to provide people with the support they need at the right time.
- Although progress has been made through previous strategies there is still work to do to improve life outcomes for people and address stigma.
- We need to improve information available to the public, to create more understanding of mental health and encourage people to talk to gain early support. It is also crucial we meet the needs of Welsh language, other languages, Easy Read and Braille; and other accessible formats so mental health information is accessible to all.
- There is a need for more meaningful activities to promote wellbeing and improve life outcomes.
- There is a need to tackle loneliness and isolation.
- In Gwent we need to look at ways of improving job opportunities for people with mental health issues to get people into work and out of poverty.

What are the gaps in understanding of wellbeing?

There are signs that the pandemic is driving a worrying rise in mental health in Wales. Two thirds of people in Wales have said the pandemic has had a negative impact on their wellbeing. People have gone through adverse experiences such as losing their jobs, falling into debt, worrying about their health, and been isolated from friends and families. For most people, the symptoms of Covid-19 pass within a few days or weeks, but for some people the effects can last for weeks or months. This condition is called long Covid and can impact mental health causing depression and anxiety as well as sleep issues, extreme tiredness and a range of other debilitating symptoms.

Research was completed in 2020/2021 by a range of partners from ABUHB, Swansea and Cardiff University, 'The influence of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental wellbeing and psychological distress: A comparison across time'. This research highlighted the impact the pandemic has likely had on psychological wellbeing and the mental health of many people. It was found that there was an increase in clinically significant levels of psychological distress in

Wales, particularly in younger adults, women, and those from areas of greater deprivation. These findings can be used to prepare and plan for the wave of psychological distress that has been predicted to hit mental health support services due to the pandemic. 'There is a need to balance the efforts to stop the spread of the virus against the mental health problems being caused by the virus'.

What people have told us

People have said they are struggling with poor mental health due to their early life experiences, financial issues, housing, long term illness, family worries, employment issues, bereavement or feeling burnt out from workloads and caring roles. Many people feel worse emotionally since the pandemic however it is worth noting that some people in Gwent also said they feel more relaxed in some ways; as life has slowed down for them and they don't have to go out of the house to access some services.

Some people felt they had to fight for support and had been pushed into financial difficulty as they had to give up work as unable to cope. Also, people from BAME communities said their mental health had been affected by racism, inequalities, and mental health stigma with added stress of the challenges of accessing services. There can also be language barriers and not knowing where to turn for help.

Waiting lists for mental health services can be lengthy due to the level of need and during this time an individual's emotional wellbeing can decline further. Some people also felt that there was not enough crisis support.

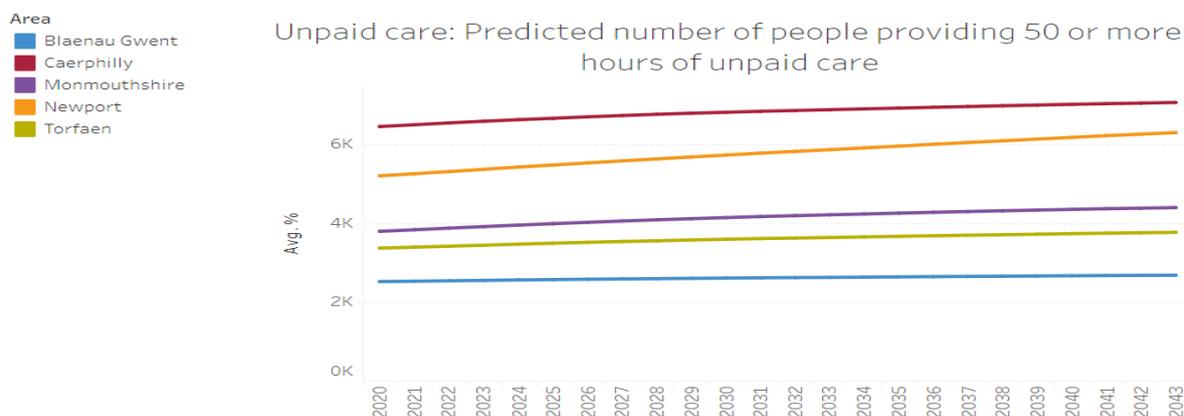
"I wish people viewed mental health differently I used to work but had to give up as I was not emotionally well enough and started having physical problems. That could happen to anyone at any time, People still judge and there is still a stigma to mental health".

(7) CARERS WHO NEED SUPPORT

Policy Area

- Welsh Government's Strategy for Unpaid Carers

(7.1) Predicted number of people providing 50+ hours of unpaid care



Figures are taken from the Census 2011 reference CT0224 - Sex by age by provision of unpaid care by general health. This dataset provides estimates that classify usual residents of England and Wales by provision of unpaid care and by age and by general health. All local authority areas across the Gwent region are predicted to see an increase in the number. The predicted increases range from 35.6% in Blaenau Gwent to 58.9% in Monmouthshire over the period

(7.2) Number of young carers known to Social Services during the year 2016

Blaenau Gwent	Caerphilly	Monmouthshire	Newport	Torfaen
17	45	38	51	49

(7.3) Number of young carers known to Social Services who were provided with a service during the year 2016

Blaenau Gwent	Caerphilly	Monmouthshire	Newport	Torfaen
5	45	38	34	28

Number of young carers known to Social Services who were provided with a service during the year. A young carer is someone aged under 18 who takes responsibility for someone who is ill, disabled, elderly, experiencing mental distress or affected by substance misuse, or has substantial responsibility for caring for a sibling. A young carer may be from any family. They may be the person providing all of the care but may also help someone else to provide the care.

(7.4) Predicted number of people aged 16 - 24 that will provide 1 - 19 hours of unpaid care in 2035

Blaenau Gwent	Caerphilly	Monmouthshire	Newport	Torfaen
266	904	236	740	464

Figures are taken from the Welsh Health Survey 2008: Health of Carers. The prevalence rates have been applied to population projections to give estimated numbers predicted to provide unpaid care, to 2035.

Emerging Themes, Future trends, and challenges

What Carers have told us?

State of Caring 2021 in Wales: each year, Carers UK carries out a survey of carers to understand the current state of caring in the UK. This report contains a snapshot of what caring in Wales is like in 2021, capturing the impact that caring has on carers' lives and evidencing the policy recommendations that would improve this.

Finances: caring often brings with it additional costs, from equipment and care costs to increased expenditure on fuel and transportation. When asked to describe their current financial situation, 36% of carers in Wales said they were struggling to make ends meet. A further 23% are or have been in debt as a result of caring and 8% cannot afford utility bills such as electricity, gas, water or telephone bills. When asked about how their financial situation had changed since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, 36% of carers said that their financial situation had got worse since the start of the pandemic. Caring can be expensive and 65% of carers are spending their own money on care, support services or products for the person they care for. The average monthly spend for carers in Wales is £109.75 and with high rates of inflation and a rising cost of living, this extra spend is likely to further disadvantage carers financially.

Support and Services: carers often need practical and emotional support to enable them to care safely for people with complex needs, and too often they struggle to get the support they need. When asked about barriers to accessing support, the largest issue for Welsh carers was that they did not know what services were available in their area with 40% of carers reporting this as a barrier. In addition, 30% of carers were concerned about the risk of catching COVID-19 and 32% say that the care and support services did not meet their needs. Considering the future of services, 51% of carers were uncertain about what practical support they may be able to access in the next twelve months and 66% were worried that services will be reduced.

Health: Caring can have a detrimental impact on someone's physical and mental health. 26% of carers described their physical health as bad or very bad. 34% of carers rated their mental health as bad or very bad. Looking at wider indicators of wellbeing, 36% of carers reported that they are often or always lonely, otherwise known as being 'chronically lonely'. Carers

also rated their overall satisfaction with life at an average of 4 out of 10 and their level of anxiety at 6 out of 10. Carer's assessments The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 gives Welsh carers the right to a carer's needs assessment. Despite carers' rights to assessments only 21% of Welsh carers reported having an assessment in the last 12 months. Of those, 28% waited more than six months for their assessment. Of those who hadn't requested a carer's assessment, 37% stated that this was because they didn't know what it was and 20% stated it was because they didn't think it would be beneficial. 10% of carers said their assessment had been postponed or they were still waiting.

Technology: When asked about their current use of digital technology, remote healthcare such as online GP appointments was the most popular technology listed with 37% of carers stating that this made their caring role easier. Looking to the future, 31% of Welsh carers would like to continue accessing support services digitally in the future and 44% stating they would like to continue accessing health and social care services digitally.

Work: Working carers represent a significant proportion of the working population and 196 respondents were in paid work. The pandemic is continuing to have an impact on working experiences, with 51% of working carers are working from home part or full time. The limited return of services continues to have an impact. 30% of working carers in Wales stated that if care services did not return, they would either need to reduce their working hours or give up work entirely.

Respite is continually highlighted as the highest support need for carers across Gwent.

(8) HOUSING

Housing needs include specialist housing and accommodation needs of the core priority groups, including supported accommodation, such as extra care housing, supported living for adults with a disability, and small unit residential care for children with higher needs. Also included are additional investment in adaptations to support people in the priority groups to continue to live independently and safely in their own home.

Policy Areas

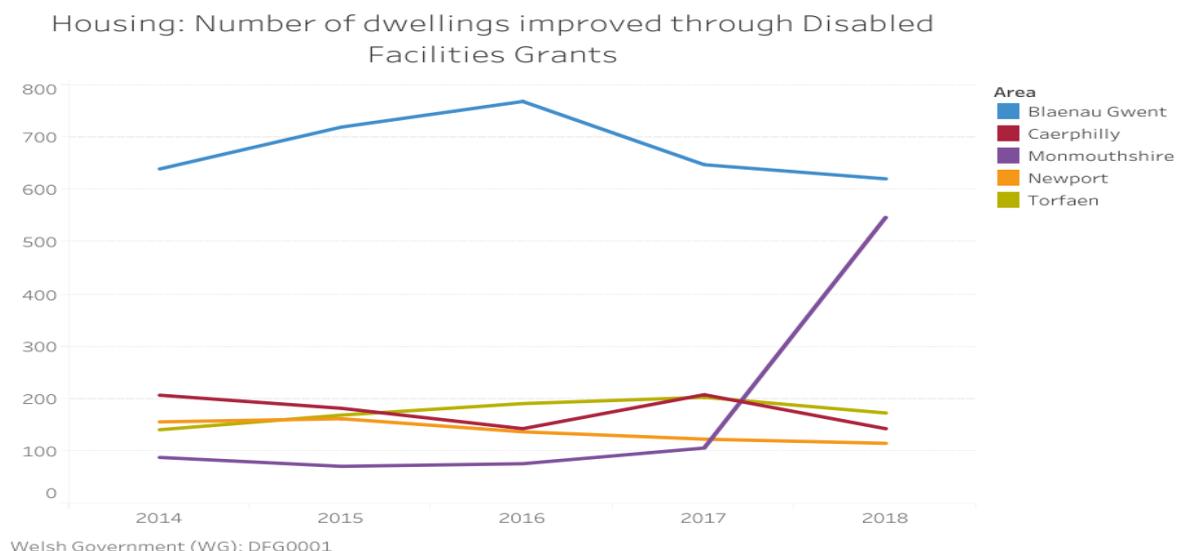
- Programme Plans and Objectives (PPO) being undertaken for the ICF Capital Funding programme.
- Local Housing Market Assessments (LHMAs)
- Welsh Government Strategy for Preventing and Ending Homelessness
- Ending Homelessness in Wales: A high level action plan 2021-2026

(8.1) Rate of all other accommodation for persons aged 16+ with a learning disability per 10,000 population

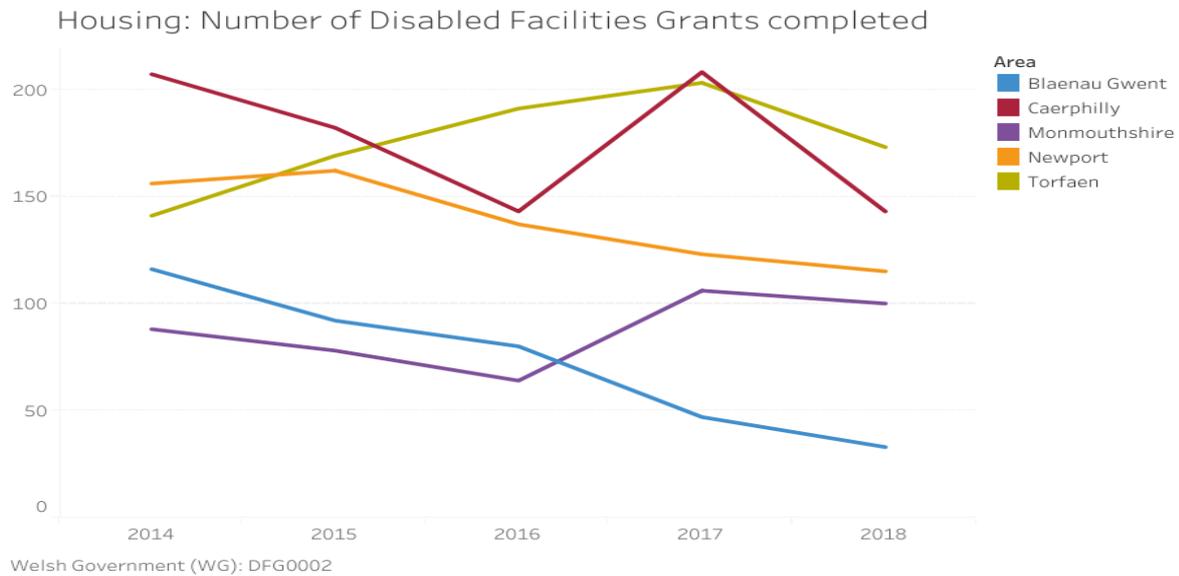
Blaenau Gwent	Caerphilly	Monmouthshire	Newport	Torfaen
3.8	6.6	9.4	7.6	5.1

The data is taken from the Register of persons with learning disabilities (SSDA901). The data may be an underestimate of the total number of people with learning disabilities as registration is voluntary. Local authorities submit numbers of those identified as having a learning disability currently known to the authority and included in a register for the purpose of planning or providing services.

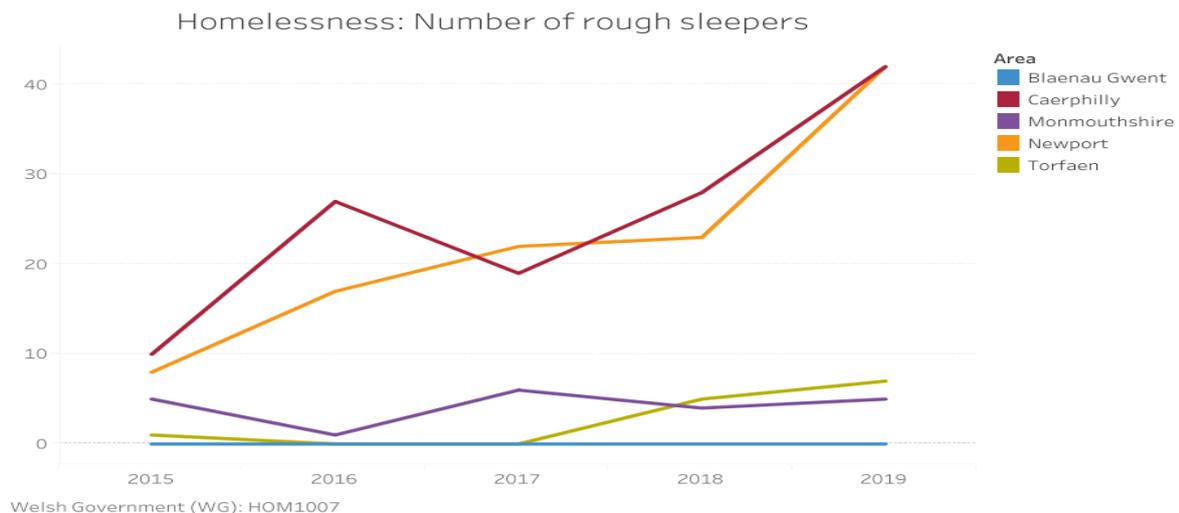
(8.2) Number of dwellings improved through Disabled Facilities Grant



(8.3) Number of Disabled Facilities Grants completed



(8.4) Number of rough sleepers

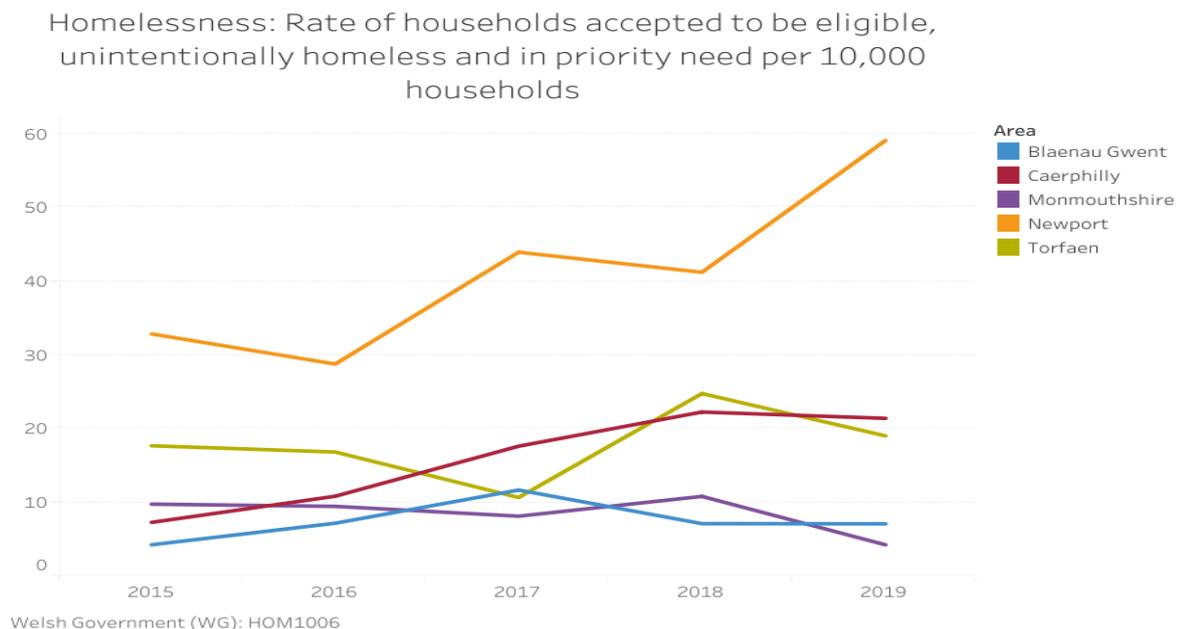


Implementation of Part 2 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 by local authorities across Wales has done much to prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless – over 23,673 households since 2015. However, whilst prevention rates remain high at 68% in 2018-19,

there are still far too many whose homelessness is not prevented and who are falling through the net. The demand on local authority services under the 2014 Act duties is increasing. In 2018-19 over 10,000 households presented to local authorities as at risk and a further 11,500+ presented as homeless and owed a duty.

Homelessness is where a person lacks accommodation or where their tenure is not secure. Rough sleeping is the most visible and acute end of the homelessness spectrum, but homelessness includes anyone who has no accommodation, cannot gain access to their accommodation or where it is not reasonable for them to continue to occupy accommodation. This would include overcrowding, ‘sofa surfing’, victims of abuse and many more scenarios. A person is also homeless if their accommodation is a moveable structure and there is no place where it can be placed. Homelessness, or the risk of it, can have a devastating effect on individuals and families. It affects people’s physical and mental health and well-being, and childrens’ development and education, and risks individuals falling into a downward spiral toward the more acute forms of homelessness. The impacts can be particularly devastating if a stable, affordable, housing solution isn’t achieved and people end up having to move frequently.

(8.5) Rate of households accepted to be eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need per 10,000 households.



At the start of the first lockdown in March 2020, an emergency homelessness response was put in place. This involved additional funding, together with both statutory and non-statutory guidance to ensure that no-one was left without accommodation, together with the support they need, to stay safe during the pandemic. The inclusive ‘no-one left out’ approach has been in place continuously since then and to date has resulted in local authorities and their partners supporting over 15,300 people into temporary accommodation since March 2020. Latest data shows there were 6,935 people in temporary accommodation at the end of September 2021, of which 1,742 were dependent children.

Rough sleeper numbers in Wales are estimated to be 128 in September 2021, with numbers increasing slightly over the summer period. The data available is more accurate and current than it has ever been and provides a clearer understanding of all forms of homelessness in Wales, which would otherwise be masked through sofa surfing, living in overcrowded homes or unconventional types of dwellings.

Whilst the pressure on homelessness services remains high, with around 1,000 people presenting a month, understanding the true scale of homelessness presents us with a unique opportunity to make the radical change required to address it. It increases the urgency and importance of preventative work to stop people ever experiencing the destabilising impact of homelessness. It increases the urgency and understanding of the housing capacity required, both in the social and private sector, to make the transformational shift required to end homelessness.

Emerging Themes, Future trends, and challenges

Each year local authority Housing Support Grant teams will distribute a Gwent Housing Support annual service user survey and the survey has become an important and established element of the needs mapping process. It is the responsibility of the local authorities in the region to ensure that engagement is undertaken with those who have used services. Those who have needed to use services funded through the Housing Support Grant come from a wide range of backgrounds and receive support on a range of different issues; the support they receive is person centred and aims to help people to secure and maintain sustainable housing and to develop the skills needed to help them thrive.

During 2020/21, a total of 262 responses were received to the questionnaire with engagement in the consultation exercise across all Gwent Local Authorities. There are approximately 7000 people receiving support across Gwent at any one time from services funded through the Housing Support Grant; finding ways to encourage people to engage in the survey continues to be an important consideration going forward. A number of key messages were highlighted through the survey and included

- access to technology as part of the support planning process
- closer links need to be made with digital inclusion projects delivered across the region
- access to digital inclusion services and projects to improve their skills and develop their learning in this area and this should be clearly identified in their support plan.

A stakeholder survey is also shared with the service user questionnaire and 31 partners provided feedback and includes

- Scope out exactly what is available
- Long term planning, partnership working and communication is key
- Develop assessments of need
- Lack of suitable affordable accommodation and not enough single units as there are not the properties available and we need to develop and bring online more accommodation
- Young people being placed in accommodation that does not meet their needs
- Great vision but stock needs to be there in order for it to be successful

Homelessness

There are a number of principles that underpin the approach to homelessness prevention and underpin the work of our delivery partners and to be reflected across public services;

- The earliest preventions are most effective and most cost effective and should always be the interventions of first choice.
- Tackling and preventing homelessness is a public services matter – rather than a ‘housing matter’.
- All services should place the individual at the centre and work together in a trauma informed way.
- The duties in Part 2 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 should be the last line of defence – not the first - and all services should work to the spirit not simply the letter of the law.
- Policy, service delivery and practice should be informed and shaped in a coproductive manner and by those with lived experience.

Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV)

Domestic violence and abuse is a serious health and social care issue and has escalated through the pandemic, with access to services curtailed due to the covid 19 outbreak. It impacts on all services including adult and children’s social service, health services, housing, criminal justice, education, police, and voluntary and community organisations; so, needs a collaborative approach. Anyone can be affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence including women, men, children, and young people. This can happen regarding of sex, age, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, disability, religion or belief, income, geography, or lifestyle. A significant number of people who experience VAWDASV will have one or more ‘protected characteristic’ under the Equality Act 2010 and will face additional vulnerabilities and have increased barriers to support.

Gwent has been working in partnership as the first region in Wales for strategic coordination of VAWDASV services, where we pioneer new ways of working. We have a range of early intervention and prevention services through Supporting People, Flying Start, Families First and also specialist sector services, recognising that survivors are the experts.

Emerging Themes, Future trends, and challenges

The pandemic has highlighted the dangers faced by victims and survivors. In Wales during the lockdown period calls to the Wales national helpline Live Fear Free, rose by 49% and call times trebled with those contacting the helpline often reporting more frequent abuse with shorter escalation periods. (Social Care Wales 2021) There has also been a surge in calls and website visits to specialist domestic violence services and emergency services have experienced an overstretched workforce tackling the pandemic.

As lockdown restrictions ease it is expected there will be a demand in services as individuals and families look for support. We need to build back better, investing in prevention and early intervention so people can access the right support at the right time. We also need to deliver a whole system approach to tackling abuse and ensuring the safety of both young people and adults through access to safe, effective, trauma informed support.

"I have spent most of the pandemic living with daily anxiety for fear something will kick off and have been trying to avoid conflict at all costs with my partner. It has been a scary depressing time for me, and I have felt like I can't breathe".

Social - What are people telling us?

Opportunities for Young People - "The more options and opportunities for children in particular can only better the community as a whole"

Residents expressed how in the future they would like to see more opportunities for local communities to help improve their wellbeing. Residents express how there is a lack of opportunities available to engage as a community, such as community hubs or local halls that could be used for regular community gatherings.

Communities also expressed the need for more opportunities for young people, residents felt that there is a lack of activities catered to young people, such as sporting facilities, which is reducing their want to engage with their local communities. This was especially prevalent within more rural areas such as Monmouthshire. Similarly, the same issues were raised in regard to older people, in which isolation and loneliness was presented as a major issue across Gwent

In order to improve for the future, some residents suggest that the introduction of community halls or events that are accessible to all would not only encourage an increased volume of community spirit but it would also help promote intergenerational cohesion for the future of the region, therefore taking steps towards improving core issues presented by residents across Gwent such as isolation and lack of opportunities.

Social Care – "Affordable social care and good support for carers"

The need for increased social care provision was a regular theme that emerged from our survey, especially in regard to providing adequate social care for older people.

Local Authorities - "The Council is doing more to help residents than ever"

There is a mixed view on the local authorities across Gwent from residents. Many commented that their local council has provided more support than ever during the pandemic whereas other residents have expressed concern regarding a lack of involvement from their local council, finding difficulties in knowing what is available within their community as a result of this.

When asked what we could do to help improve on this, one resident noted how we could introduce well-being ambassadors to help improve cohesion between local communities and their council.

Health – "Fair and equal access to support when needed"

Health and wellbeing are important to residents across Gwent and many individuals commented on the importance of mental health services and improving access to them for both adults and children. Residents commented on the importance of exercise and the ability

to maintain a healthy lifestyle, access to sports centres and green spaces were felt to be key to this.

There were multiple positive comments on health services in the region however a number of residents noted the importance of having access to face to face appointments with their local GP. Difficulties in being able to access appointments for dentists and GPs were raised. Residents also highlighted the importance of given local communities the skills to be able to manage their own health and wellbeing so that there isn't as much need for services.

Schools – “There is a sense of community- good schools and facilities”

Many residents highlighted schools as being what makes their community special across Gwent. Residents from more rural areas expressed the difficulty in accessing schools due to the need to travel to the nearest school.

Throughout the feedback on what we can do to improve wellbeing in Gwent in the future, schools are highlighted as a tool that can be utilised by local communities for groups to meet and more community classes to be held. Schools are very much seen as a positive way to engage with our local residents too.



Scrutiny Report

Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships

Part 1

Date: 20 January 2022

Subject Scrutiny Adviser Report

Author Scrutiny Adviser

The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

Invitee:	Role
Neil Barnett (Scrutiny Adviser)	Present the Committee with the Scrutiny Adviser Report for discussion and update the Committee on any changes.

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked to:

1. Committee’s Work Programme:

Consider the Committee’s Forward Work Programme Update (**Appendix 1**):

- Are there any amendments to the topics scheduled to be considered at the next Committee meeting?
- Are there any additional invitees that the Committee requires to fully consider the topics?
- Is there any additional information that the Committee would like to request?

2. Action Plan

Consider the Actions from previous meetings (**Appendix 2**):

- Note the responses for the actions;
- Determine if any further information / action is required;
- Agree to receive an update on outstanding issues at the next meeting.

3. Information Reports

Note that no Information Reports have been circulated to the Committee

2 Context

Background

- 2.1 The purpose of a forward work programme is to help ensure Councillors achieve organisation and focus in the undertaking of enquiries through the Overview and Scrutiny function. Effective work programming is essential to ensure that the work of Overview and Scrutiny makes a positive impact upon the Council's delivery of services.
- 2.2 Further information about the work programming process, including the procedures for referring new business to the programme, can be found in our Scrutiny Handbook on the Council's Scrutiny webpages (www.newport.gov.uk/scrutiny).
- 2.3 The Centre for Public Scrutiny's Good Scrutiny Guide recognises the importance of the forward work programme. In order to 'lead and own the process', it states that Councillors should have ownership of their Committee's work programme, and be involved in developing, monitoring and evaluating it. The Good Scrutiny Guide also states that, in order to make an impact, the scrutiny workload should be co-ordinated and integrated into corporate processes, to ensure that it contributes to the delivery of corporate objectives, and that work can be undertaken in a timely and well-planned manner.

Forward Work Programme Update

- 2.4 The Committee's work programme was set in October 2020, including estimated timescales for when the reports will be considered by the Committee. This programme is then managed and implemented by the designated Scrutiny Adviser for this Committee under the direction of the Committee Chairperson.
- 2.5 Attached as **Appendix 1** is the Committee's Forward Work Programme Update. The Committee is asked to consider:
- *Any amendments to the topics scheduled to be considered at the next Committee meeting?*
 - *Are there any additional invitees that the Committee requires to fully consider the topics?*
 - *Is there any additional information that the Committee would like to request?*

The Committee agreed to keep a degree of flexibility within its work programme to enable the Committee to respond to urgent / emerging issues. This item is an opportunity for the Committee members to raise any suggested amendments to the Work Programme.

Action Sheet from Previous Meetings

- 2.6 Attached at **Appendix 2** is the Action Sheet from the Committee meetings. The updated completed actions are included in the table.
- 2.7 Any actions that do not have a response will be included on the Action Sheet at the next meeting to ensure that the Committee can keep track of outstanding actions.

Information Reports

- 2.8 There were no Information Reports circulated to the Committee.

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

- 3.1 The following information is attached:

Appendix 1: The Committee's Forward Work Programme Update;
Appendix 2: Action Sheet from Previous Meetings.

4. Suggested Areas of Focus

Role of the Committee

The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:

- **Forward Work Programme Update - Appendix 1**
Consider:
 - Are there any amendments to the topics scheduled to be considered at the next Committee meeting?
 - Are there any additional invitees that the Committee requires to fully consider the topics?
 - Is there any additional information that the Committee would like to request?
- **Action Sheet from Previous Meetings - Appendix 2**
 - Consider the responses to the actions from the meeting;
 - Are you satisfied that you have received the necessary information?
 - Are there any further issues arising from the responses that you would like to raise?
 - For the actions that do not have responses – these actions will be rolled over to the next meeting and reported back to the Committee.
- **Information Reports**
Note that no Information Reports were circulated to the Committee.

Section B – Supporting Information

5 Supporting Information

- 5.1 The Corporate Assessment, and the subsequent [follow up assessment](#) provide background information on the importance of good work programming. Specific reference is made to the need to align the Cabinet and Scrutiny work programmes to ensure the value of the Scrutiny Function is maximised.
- 5.2 The latest Cabinet work programme was approved by the Cabinet on a monthly basis for the next 12 months and includes the list of reports scheduled for consideration. Effective forward planning by both Cabinet and Scrutiny needs to be coordinated and integrated in relation to certain reports to ensure proper consultation takes place before a decision is taken. A link to the Cabinet work programme is provided [here](#) to the Committee as part of this report, to enable the Committee to ensure that the work programmes continue to reflect key decisions being made by the Cabinet.

6. Links to Council Policies and Priorities

- 6.1 Having proper work programming procedures in place ensures that the work of Overview and Scrutiny makes a positive impact upon the Council's delivery of services, contributes to the delivery of corporate objectives, and ensures that work can be undertaken in a timely and well-planned manner.
- 6.2 This report relates to the Committee's Work Programme, Actions from Committee's and Information Reports that support the achievement of the Scrutiny Committee, in accordance with the Law and Regulation Service Plan, Objectives, Actions and Measures and the Wellbeing objectives:

Well-being Objectives	Promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment	Improve skills, educational outcomes & employment opportunities	Enable people to be healthy, independent & resilient	Build cohesive & sustainable communities
Corporate Plan Commitments	Thriving City	Aspirational People		Resilient Communities
Supporting Function	Modernised Council			

7 Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

7.1 The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 which came into force in April 2016 sets the context for the move towards long term planning of services.

7.2 General questions

- How is this area / policy affected by the new legislation?
- How will this decision / policy / proposal impact upon future generations? What is the long term impact?
- What evidence is provided to demonstrate WFGA has been / is being considered?
- Evidence from Community Profiles / other data?
- Evidence of links to Wellbeing Assessment / Objectives / Plan?

7.3 Wellbeing Goals

- How are the Wellbeing goals reflected in the policy / proposal / action?
 - *A prosperous Wales*
 - *A resilient Wales*
 - *A healthier Wales*
 - *A more equal Wales*
 - *A Wales of cohesive communities*
 - *A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language*
 - *A globally responsible Wales*

7.4 Sustainable Development Principles

- Does the report / proposal demonstrate how as an authority we are working in accordance with the sustainable development principles from the act when planning services?
 - **Long Term**
The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs
 - **Prevention**
How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives
 - **Integration**
Considering how the 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 the body itself) that could help the body to 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 serves.

8 Background Papers

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Corporate Plan 2017 - 2022](#)
- The Corporate Assessment and [follow up assessment](#).

Report Completed: 20 January 2022

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**Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships
– Forward Work Programme Update**

Wednesday, 2 February 2022 at 5pm		
Topic	Information Required / Committee's Role	Potential Invitees
Education Achievement Services (EAS) Business Plan	<p>Performance Scrutiny – of the EAS Partnership and its achievement of the objectives within the Business Plan and consider the impact of the plan for communities within Newport</p> <p>The Business plan is the regional strategic plan for accelerating educational outcomes during 2017-2018. It sets out the priorities, programmes and outcomes to be achieved by the Education Achievement Service on behalf of the South East Wales Consortium. The South East Wales Consortium is required to submit to the Welsh Government a three-year Business Plan that will be updated annually and the local authorities Scrutiny Committees are consulted as part of this process.</p>	<p>EAS Representative</p> <p>Chief Education Officer</p> <p>Deputy Chief Education Officer</p>
One Newport Wellbeing Plan 2021-22 Q2 Performance	<p>Performance Monitoring of the delivery of the Wellbeing Plan by the PSB</p> <p>Statutory obligation within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2014 for this item to be included on the work programme.</p>	<p>One of the Leads for each of the interventions which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Newport Offer; - Strong Resilient Communities; - Right Skills; - Green and Safe Spaces; - Sustainable Travel.

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Performance Scrutiny Committee - Partnerships

ACTION SHEET – 1 December 2021

	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
1	Shared Resource Service (SRS) Monitoring Update	The Committee noted the updates in the report and made a number of comments to the officers and partnership.	Scrutiny / Lead Officers and Partnership	ACTIONED – Comments from the Committee forwarded to the Partnerships on 3rd December 2021.
2	Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) 2020/21	The Committee noted the updates in the report and made a number of comments to the officers and partnership. Officers agreed to bring in advertising materials and White Ribbons for Members.	Scrutiny / Lead Officers and Partnership	ACTIONED – Comments from the Committee forwarded to the Partnerships on 3rd December 2021. Received materials from Janine Dent on 9th December 2021. Placed in Member’s Room on 10th December. Awaiting further posters to be received.

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Minutes



Performance Scrutiny Committee - Partnerships

Date: 17 November 2021

Time: 5.00 pm

Present: Councillors J Clarke (Chair), Hussain, M Linton, S Marshall, M Spencer, T Suller and K Whitehead

In Attendance: Sally Ann Jenkins (Strategic Director - Social Services), Natalie Poyner (Service Manager - Childrens Teams), Neil Barnett (Scrutiny Adviser) and Felicity Collins

1 Apologies

None.

2 Declarations of Interest

None.

3 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

Invitees:

Natalie Poyner – Service Manager – Childrens Teams

Sally Ann Jenkins – Strategic Director – Social Services

The Strategic Director introduced the report to the Committee and the Service Manager provided a background to the work being done. The Service Manager explained the contribution of Newport City Council in supporting Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children entering care following being dispersed in line with the National Transfer Scheme (NTS), along with four case studies. The new national voluntary rota was part of a broader NTS package to remove barriers to local authority participation and increase their participation in the scheme and to ensure that there is a more equitable distribution of unaccompanied children across the regions.

In March 2021, lead officers from Newport and Cardiff made a pilot scheme to join the transfer scheme and are acting for the region of Wales. It has been agreed that they would take an annual allocation of 30 children per year, the estimate cut is meant to be 10 for Newport/20 for Cardiff. The Committee was advised that the region is in the seventh cycle of the rota, where they were originally looking at four cycles per annum, as noted in the report, Wales as a region will exceed the number of 30 children, the current situation in Afghanistan is going to impact that also. In terms of next steps, as a one off award; Newport and Cardiff have been given 1 million pounds which has to be spent by end of March 2022. Therefore the pause and plan stage has been requested, and they are putting together starter packs, training foster carers and social workers to accompany complex needs.

Members were advised they are collaborating with partners in Newport for a corporate response to develop an integrated one stop shop for asylum seekers and their families. This will be a multi-agency response and a strategic route to deliver on this has been developed.

The Committee asked the following:

- Members wished to ascertain how many Local Authorities are part of the voluntary scheme and how many of these are within Wales.

The Service Manager confirmed that Cardiff and Newport act for the 22 local authorities within Wales. The rationale is, is that they already are culturally different from the other authorities therefore already have the infrastructure to support a diverse demographic. Those who have been dispersed to other authorities tend to want to return to Newport or Cardiff as they have found their own communities. The officer could not confirm the exact number but data within the report shows further information. The Strategic Director clarified that England for example is divided into large regions of North, South, East and West and went on to confirm that with the voluntary scheme, the Home Office has made it a voluntary scheme initially but if not enough regions would take it up, the office would have to put in other methods. Therefore it would be sensible for Newport and Cardiff to take part as they could control some of what is happening and ethically, so that they can support the children efficiently.

In relation to the other 22 local authorities; if they are unable to find a safe place for a child; they would look to other authorities such as Caerphilly. Other authorities in England are also trying to work to bring in a certain number of children so there are supportive neighbouring authorities.

- Members queried why Swansea has not been included as it is a diverse city.

The Strategic Director asserted that Swansea is number three on the list. They go to them first if they cannot find a safe place for the children. Newport and Cardiff are also in a better geographical position also. Members were informed that all local authorities are keen to make it work and there is recognition that they cannot leave children in hotels.

- Members queried the administration side of the report data and asked if the numbers of the young people coming in are being included within the number of Childrens services in the data?

The Strategic Director responded, highlighting discussions with Welsh Government alongside this, as they are under pressure to reduce the number of looked after children but in this situation, voluntarily, the numbers in Newport have risen. Therefore confirmed that officers differentiate this number of intake as there will be a distortion, with recognition from the Welsh Government. Not in the presentation of data and won't be in the end of year data.

- Members then queried how Welsh Government provides legislation for foster carers for example. Because there is a mixed pot, and that the Home Office comes under the U.K. Government; where does this stand with the Welsh Government in getting funding considered.

The Strategic Director confirmed that the council receives funding from the Home Office per each child and the million pounds as well from the Welsh Government on top; so they access funding per child they take. With under 18's, currently that is a

reasonable sum to care for them as it would be more of a challenge for when they become 18 plus, and are in discussion with the Home Office on this. For the under 18s, the team used the funding money to employ more staff to care for the children and accommodation.

- Members acknowledged that these children come from war torn countries and pieces of home are a part of their identity. They then asked how the team would reflect that to engage and understand their families and identities so partnerships in the local community can be closer to them i.e religious community groups.

The Service Manager deemed that essential when supporting young people and assured the Members that they work very hard to ensure they can identify where their family members are as sometimes they can have relatives within the U.K. They also focus on infrastructure to ensure that they can engage with communities, not just the community that they identify with as they want them integrated within Newport too. It was noted that a number of organisations support the council in doing that. The officer mentioned the one stop shop will bring organisations together so it would not be so difficult for young people to navigate the complex systems. The more young people that Newport can support, the more they can enhance the service provision.

- How does the National Voluntary Rota work and how do officers determine which child should go to each local authority?

The Service Manager explained that cycles move round each Local Authority and region. The Home Office is trying to ensure that if young people have relatives within certain areas; that will identify people within those regions. It was recognised that there is a great need at the moment with the young people arriving at the port; they are hoping to disperse them to each region. It is ad-hoc in terms of the young people that are proposed. For Cardiff and Newport acting as the region, they receive 7 referrals each cycle and information is very limited. These people are only at the port for a very short time. Members were advised the team work out what position would be best to support each individuals from devising a process when they receive referrals from the Welsh City Migration Partnership.

The Service Manager advised that the allocation for age groups is actually needs led and that they do not look to put young people into a B&B. Newport is building a large number of shared accommodations within the portfolio for unaccompanied minors. The support package attached with breakfast would provide a base on their needs. The Strategic Director noted that part of the challenge is recognising that children should be in a family environment or shared housing environment with proper support and oversight.

- Does the team have any partnerships with churches/mosques/temples?

The Service Manager confirmed they are not involved within their strategic planning groups at the moment but they introduce the young people to these communities as a provision. For instance, the Sanctuary Project supports unaccompanied asylum seekers and assist us in supporting children to integrate within the community. They are very important to the team as the young persons are able to engage in the religious beliefs that they have.

- The Committee appreciated that the young people and children will have trauma from their experiences and asked how services help the children gain trust in people again.

The Strategic Director confirmed they tend to find children who come unaccompanied, are very keen to get an education and understand to work. Building trust is extremely challenging as any child they work with has experienced a high level of trauma. The workers keep to their word and show that they are caring, they offer them that safety with social workers and personal advisers.

- When the children are put in foster homes; how do they get around English not being their first language as the interpreter cannot be there 24 hours a day?

The Strategic Director responded, stating that foster carers can sometimes use google translate which has been vital in some circumstances so have to find other ways as they cannot use the translators all of the time.

- The Committee acknowledged that this is a huge logistical challenge in all areas and the standout would be the foster carers, as the children are dealing with trauma as well as being placed into foster care. They then queried if there is planning for foster carers to be fully equipped for what the children will be going through?

Members went on to appreciate that some young people coming in might be mute as a result from the trauma and asked if the team has had scenarios of that.

On a final note, the Member commented about how the press stirs trouble with the question of the age of the asylum seekers, and also asked if the Home Office are ensuring that the young persons are being interacted with and not left in a room by themselves.

The Strategic Director confirmed that they have done specific training for foster carers; whereby they even have some experienced foster carers training other foster carers. They advised they have to think carefully with that on the skills they need such as language and culture knowledge while others need more about trauma and how to support them. As the services has a wider group, they understand the needs and are hopefully able to meet them.

The Services Manager added that as they will be seeing an increase of young people, they see the need for additional training to support for carers and staff. Some of the money secured from the Welsh Government will be going to support them. For instance they have age assessment training, human rights assessments and these are all a priority for them. Members were advised that they also look to bring in voluntary mentors around the same age as it would be less intimidating for them.

The Strategic Director stated that they are looking at adult ages all of the time and at statutory school age, they get into education as soon as possible. Any child that is 16 and under, they get them into education with language support. With the groups that are 16 – 17 years of age it is about getting them into college but also about negotiating relationships with their peers. The Youth Justice Services held a football tournament with some asylum seeking children, activities with peer groups are done for engagement. Schemes mentioned would be something to explore.

The Services Manager added that although with the voluntary mentor scheme being put on hold due to covid-19 that pre-dated them engaging in the NTS. The Committee was advised that this is something the service area could re-visit.

The young person's advisers and social workers run many groups and undertake challenges to engage the children with their peers. The role of the hubs has been very helpful.

- A Committee Member asked the officers how far the team can go with the intake before they have to say no to further referrals.

In response, the Director explained that over a number of years; Kent have had to take over 1000 children who arrived in the ports. There are individuals in other places who discuss the politics of this with quite significant arguments in terms of numbers of people coming across the channel as people are aware of the dispute between the French and the U.K. Government but that is a discussion that the team are not a part of. In terms of how many the local authority have and could care for; the resources are able to be put in place due to the funding from the Home Office and the Welsh Government.

Members were assured that Newport is a long way off the position that Kent is in and that when they hit 0.07% of total children looked after; in proportion, that is still quite a small number. Newport is not even at 0.07% yet.

- Members queried if the children taken on have had to face any abuse from outsiders.

The Strategic Director confirmed not to their knowledge and the Service Manager asserted the same however they have a number of HMOs where they can accommodate their young people, there has been some issues in the community of residents saying no to that. It was clarified that it was not directed at the young individuals living there but more about a house of multiple occupants in the neighbourhood which was the issue. The Strategic Director confirmed they have generally found people to be very keen and recognise the need to support them.

- Members asked how workers get the exploited children into the mind-set that they will not be exploited by outside forces.

The Strategic Director built on the discussion had with another Member; they build trust, relationships and try to assure the children that they care for them and do not exploit them. The team has support staff in housing but there are issues with those in their care, but it does mitigate some of the risk as they do everything they can to support and protect them.

- A Member queried if businesses have been willing to assist the council in their endeavour of getting educated asylum seekers to work.

In response, the Director confirmed that it is very early days in arranging work with public agencies and third sector parties; however they are looking to explore for employment ventures as it is something they want to do.

- A Committee Member mentioned as a result from Brexit in December 2020, the Dublin regulation has changed; therefore asked whether the country has seen a difference in numbers coming to Wales as they used to have to go back to the first EU country but now they would go straight to the UK.

The Strategic Director stated that over the past 12 months there has been a large number coming in, however there are many reasons, such as the current situation in Afghanistan which has escalated in huge numbers of people trying to get across the channel. In terms of the withdrawal from the Dublin protocol; the officer confirmed that they would not be in a position to know this. The numbers have started to diminish due to the weather declining but acknowledge that the numbers have continued. For

instance 3 people are currently announced as missing in the channel while attempting to cross and reasons for that are very complex.

- A Member appreciated the inclusion of case studies for the report. The main concern of the committees are the protections of young people. Therefore the Member asked what types of partnerships has the service area got to protect them from sexual exploitation for instance, to safeguard them. And if there is anything being done to build on the partnership for instance the fact that an individual might have to pay a family member back for smuggling fees; they might have a feeling of guilt which would impact their mental health.

The Strategic Director stated that one of the reasons that the team are good at this work; is because they are good at understanding exploitation and have increasingly well attuned staff groups and processes for exploitations in terms of criminal, sexual or financial. Members were assured that the services team is better placed than many others because of the processes in place with the experience gained from a diverse population on the M4 corridor. This has developed their knowledge base and level of expertise.

With the initial point of partnerships; the children services team has an extensive working relationship with the police, health and education. They advised they have colleagues in those agencies therefore partnership is essential. It was highlighted that the Service Manager manages the safeguarding hub with the police sitting in the hub and a colleague chairs the child exploitation sign group every Tuesday. The Committee was advised that they have an excellent working relationship with the public protection unit.

- The Member then commented that it is also more about building on partnerships already in place. Because of the mental health issues arising from the asylum seekers experiences from living in a war-torn country; the member asked officers to confirm if they need partnerships to build that support package up for them.

The Service Manager advised that as the young people arrive, they have a health assessment which assists them in determining what intervention they would need. This could be in terms for physical health and mental health. Health operatives are part of their strategic meetings and know that they must a) remain safe in the city and b) remain trust that they will stay in their safety nets. Due to the increase of children coming in, the services are preparing for that need.

- Members queried if they have had issues of absconding and how the services prevent the fear from that.

In response, the Strategic Director confirmed that they build relationships of trust and when they see children placed in areas of Wales when they do not have the right resources; those children will make their own way to places they need. Members were informed they do not experience much absconding but sometimes do experience missing children but would use the mechanisms they have in place to deal with that. When children abscond in most cases; it would be when they discover that they have family members somewhere else in the U.K.

- Members asked where the officers see the partnership moving forward and if it is good enough, if not, would they require more partnerships to work with the new protocols.

The Services Manager replied stating that they believe they have good partnerships in place currently, but are looking to enhance them. They collaborate at every opportunity to develop services to meet the needs of these young people. They work closely with housing staff, health colleagues for adequate health care, GEMS with adequate support in school settings.

The Strategic Director confirmed they have made a good start to get to the point they are in a very short period of time. The area is quite contentious and have gotten as far as they can at the moment and assured the committee that they are all on the right track with the right relationships.

- The Committee Member asked the officers if there is anything that the Members can do within their roles to assist through knowledge or be present in their networks to assist the service team.

The Strategic Director recognised that the committee's questions are valuable to help them with their thinking. If the Members could raise the profile of this work wherever they can that would be of help to the team. The Strategic Director went on to state that this is a difficult area and the committee has skirted around the politics of it; therefore the officers requested for the Committee and its Members to raise the stories to expose the reality of what these children have been through and how they end up in the United Kingdom.

- Whilst the NHS is under such pressure, are the team able to get access to mental health support for assessments?

The Service Manager confirmed that the challenge for young people is the same challenge as for the demand of the NHS. So they have to work closely with their health colleagues to enhance provisions in place so the children can have the right support at the right time. It was stressed that this is a challenge that all of them are facing. The Strategic Director agreed that this is a challenge across for all children accessing NHS services. With the group of children that they work with, they start a base of a safe environment before exploring their trauma. The focus is giving them a safe place first then to look at how to deal with the trauma before taking established routes such as with the NHS. Much like physical conditions, trauma can manifest itself.

- Do Newport and Cardiff region swap best practice with local agencies?

The Strategic Director confirmed they do that to share and learn, everyone has different views but only about operational learning. The teams all do things differently so learn from each other well and have a good template for other regions.

- Members expressed concern from recent events in Liverpool and asked if security will be involved with the partnerships. It was acknowledged that members of the public will want to address that.

The Strategic Director agreed that they have to acknowledge that this will be considered by the public and have not discussed in full within the committee. In all of their work, it was explained that this is linked into agendas about working with prevent teams and with the channel areas, and working within those arenas where the team look at highlighting particular risks such as extremism. i.e. right wing extremism and what those risks might pose. They found that they kept coming back to making sure they get the basics right, offer the right support and care, and that the young people

they work with are not driven into a position where they could be exploited and manipulated, for instance as a Member mentioned the risk of a bad mentor.

It was stressed that the examples on the media are frightening however the Committee were reminded that the risks are very small and that there are far greater risks in local communities for instance such as violence against women and domestic abuse. This is a risk to the team as they cannot resolve these cases as a resource as they can with terrorism. They wish to address this and keep it in perspective also.

- The Chair queried when Newport works with Cardiff; does that make the work more difficult for the team, or is it a fair playing ground.

The Director confirmed that with the person employed is about project management; the operational work have the Newport's own staff covering that side of it. They coordinate the support rather than doing the work. It was stressed that the management role is beneficial in Cardiff as it is the larger authority and there has not been any problems. The Service Manager added that there has not been any issues, as both Cardiff and Newport receive just as much input; they put all of the data together to assess the sustainability collaboratively. They would go back to the Welsh Government if this would not be sustainable to inform them of what else they require to be contributed.

- The Chair noted that the partnership is a work in progress with improvements to be made. The Member asked if the partners would be happy to return next year to provide the committee with a yearly update.

The Strategic Director agreed and stated they would be delighted to arrange that.

- Members queried which authorities are working together in the scheme.

The Strategic Director confirmed that most regions of the U.K are; as all are part of the NTS. It was recognised that this is a shared responsibility and that they cannot leave it all to Kent.

The Committee expressed their thanks to the officers for their time and that they fully appreciate the ongoing work done by their teams.

Conclusions

The Committee wished to make the following comments –

- The Committee wished to thank the officers and their teams for the hard work that has gone into this partnership. They appreciated that this is a massive task and from what was learned from the meeting, changes by the day. The Committee also praised the quality of the information that was provided, it was a topic that the Committee had heard about, but knew little.
- The Committee were also happy to receive the cases studies in the report to see the real life situation of the people that have been through this system. It was felt it worked really well to build a bigger picture to scrutinise. Members further commented that it was interesting to read about the different situations and issues why children had to leave where they are from. As well as factual, Members commented that the

human side of things are important as well, which was shown through the case studies.

- The Committee would like to see if the partnership could revisit the volunteer mentor scheme, as it would be beneficial for children if they had mentors their own age to support them and help form friendships.
- Members request for this agenda item to come back to the committee annually to be scrutinised. It was also requested if possible for next year's report could include some success stories.
- Members discussed the numbers of children that are currently in Newport's care and found that the young people part of the discussion, are included in figures that get presented to members on the total number of children and young people in care of the Local Authority. It was highlighted that the Welsh Government expects the local authority to reduce the number, however this may affect the number seeing them collectively. Thus Members would like to know whether when the figures are next released, if they could be clearer on how many are being looked after by the authority and how many of those young people are ones seeking asylum.

4 **Scrutiny Adviser Reports**

Invitee:

- Neil Barnett – Scrutiny Adviser

a) Forward Work Programme Update

The Scrutiny Adviser presented the Forward Work Programme, and informed the Committee of the topics due to be discussed at the next two committee meetings:

Wednesday 1st December 2021 at 5pm, the agenda items;

- Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)
- Shared Resource Services (SRS) Update

Wednesday 2nd February 2021 at 5pm, the agenda items;

- One Newport Wellbeing Plan 2021-22 Q2 Performance
- Education Achievement Services (EAS) Business Plan

The Committee were reminded that the Gwent Public Services Board are establishing regional Scrutiny for the new Well-Being Plan, however this has not yet happened. We therefore need local Scrutiny of the Gwent Well-being Assessment which has a statutory deadline. The Committee would be needed to consider the consultation draft during the consultation window, so this would be 2nd week of January 2022 to 1st week February 2022. An additional meeting to be held on Thursday 20th January 2022 at 5pm was suggested to accommodate this.

The Committee agreed for the additional meeting to be arranged for Thursday 20th January 2022 at 5pm. The Scrutiny Adviser agreed to send out diary appointments shortly.

b) Actions Sheet

The Scrutiny Adviser informed Members that the Committee's comments to Norse and the Head of Regeneration, Investment and Housing were passed on for review. The same was done for the comments to the EAS team and Head of Education.

The meeting terminated at 6.48 pm

Minutes



Performance Scrutiny Committee - Partnerships

Date: 1 December 2021

Time: 4.00 pm

Present: Councillors J Clarke (Chair), Hussain, M Linton, S Marshall, R Mogford, M Spencer, T Suller and K Whitehead

In Attendance: Rhys Cornwall (Strategic Director - Transformation and Corporate Centre), Matt Lewis (Chief Officer, Shared Resource Service), Kath Beavan-Seymour (Assistant Director Shared Resource Service), Mike Doverman (User Support Manager Shared Resources Service), Mark Bleazard (Digital Services Manager), Dominic Gibbons (Digital Projects Manager), Mary Ryan (Head of Adult Services), Janine Dent (Regional VAWDASV Lead), Ann Hamlet (Head of Safeguarding Aneurin Bevan University Health Board), Neil Barnett (Scrutiny Adviser), Felicity Collins and Pamela Tasker (Governance Officers)

1 Declarations of Interest

None.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 3 November 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2021 were **approved** as a true and accurate record.

3 Shared Resource Services (SRS) Update

Invitees –

- Matt Lewis - Chief Officer, Shared Resource Service
- Kath Beavan-Seymour - Assistant Director Shared Resource Service
- Mike Doverman - User Support Manager, Shared Resource Service
- Rhys Cornwall - Strategic Director – Transformation and Corporate Centre
- Mark Bleazard - Digital Services Manager
- Dominic Gibbons - Digital Projects Manager

The Strategic Director provided the Committee with a brief introduction on the partnership with Shared Resource Service (SRS). They were advised that the partnership is coming up to five years and were reminded of their journey before the partnership. The Strategic Director expressed gratitude for the Digital Team and SRS for the vast amount of work done in a short period of time during the announcement of the first lockdown in March 2020. Members were advised they would not have been in the position they had been in, had Newport City Council not had the partnership with SRS.

The Chief Officer for SRS ran through the performance data from the report provided to explain how they operate with the six different partners. It was underlined that SRS staff performance remained relatively unaffected by the remote working position. The project and

core functions schedules were hugely impacted across Corporate and Education teams due to the significant shift in demand to enabling new ways of working, having to find new solutions to very different problems and having to continually pivot to meet new demands at short notice. EdTech was highlighted as successful and the dialogue with local schools were consistent through meetings for feedback.

The Committee asked the following-

- A Member noted how some companies' software licences can cost a lot of money and asked how often SRS review licences so the Council does not spend money on services they do not use.

The Chief Officer stated that at the governance and finance board mentioned in the report, has two steps. For instance, for the Office 365 licensing, it was noted that is complex with many options with different licenses needed for bundles/packs and changes on a frequent basis. The first strand of work for the team is bringing someone in to buy the tool, put it in use for three months and it would inform them if the user needs the specific license and if they require a more or less expensive one. Members were advised there is an upcoming meeting where it could tell them if a user uses O365 often and where they can remove people who leave straight away from the Microsoft database as they can incur a subscription charge if they still have the license to use that.

The second strand of work is the management of licensing, the team would look at checking on premises. This has been demonstrated and goes with an agent which catalogues all of the licenses and tells them which licenses are being used and if they are licensed for certain kits. Would be helpful for Newport to know if they are paying for things they do not need.

- The Member then queried if the officers look into getting best value hardware for the council. The Member went on to use an example; if chrome books would be better suited than a laptop.

In response, the Chief Officer noted chrome books would not suit the needs of organisations such as Newport City Council; this is because there are restrictions with them such as cannot download software locally or save many files. Functions need to work for the organisation. For procurement, SRS buy in bulk and advised the Committee that they get fantastic prices; better than some larger organisations and that their laptop price is incredibly low.

- The officers for their presentation and praised the Help Desk team of SRS with their speedy responses to issues. Members then asked when things go wrong and are repaired; if staff keep notes on how they are repaired for future reference.

The Chief Officer confirmed that there is a process with the major incident team and all of that is documented and saved in case things do happen. The Help Desk already has the knowledge base, so they will be able to solve the issue quicker second time around.

- Members queried how was the partnership from the start and if the partners swap ideas.

The Chief Officer confirmed that at the start, a few things did not work, such as the first strategy of using the same HR and pay system. Collaboration is not about being under the same systems with big businesses. With the strategy, they wish to do

different things but with the same infrastructure level. It is the first time in twelve years for SRS, that everyone will use the new infrastructure when they all move to use this. The Business and Collaboration Board are meeting Thursday 2 December where it gives them the chance to present what some of SRS are not involved in, so they can learn from other organisations also. They are in a much better place from when it started.

- The Chair queried if policies have had to change with COVID and if the partnership has changed? The officers were also asked to expand on the impact of not being able to meet in person and what future barriers the officers might foresee because of the pandemic.

The Chief Officer confirmed that the prior to the lockdown announcement in 2020, there was 18 months planning of work. Designing together where they work in the same Office 365 environment, in order to prepare work on how to migrate mail and users with log in changes. The timing of the pandemic matched up for the team with the time of remoteness. Newport City Council had already been migrated in mail, other Local Authorities such as Blaenau Gwent had not been. From being prepared, the team looked like they flipped the switch which is a testament to the work done prior to that.

Members were advised it has been difficult on the service delivery, notably with schools who experienced a difficult time during the pandemic. During their migration period, it was not helpful for the school staff for SRS to be switching things on and off so they worked their way around that. Despite the challenges, they managed to maintain SLAs to deliver and Covid accelerated non-technical people on where they need to go with their queries. SRS would like to get out of their data centre and move work into the cloud moving forward.

The Digital Services Manager echoed the Chief Officer in the focus on the technological pieces which has been an advantage to everyone. The system side of things was challenging and from the digital services team in Newport, they work collaboratively to help them think where they can do things differently. It was stressed that the team take on board what SRS has in mind for them in meetings. A lot of preparation was undertaken by SRS on the email system and the scheduling for teams migration was ready to go by 2020. It was recognised that there are things that the team could improve but acknowledged the positives that have come out from the situation.

- How much money do the Council save, and do any savings go into other areas of the Council?

The Chief Officer replied by stating this would be more of a question for the Digital Services Manager, but it would be difficult to answer as there are so many differently calculated savings. The Digital Services Manager confirmed that would be difficult to quantify, as a lot has been reinvested. If they usually save on a system; that would enable them to save and buy something else that they would not have been able to purchase for the council before. It was explained as a complex position and SRS has achieved it by the size of the organisation.

The Chief Officer reiterated that on the scale of things; there are now thousands more devices in schools since they first came in and have not sized up on their organisation with staff levels.

- The Chair queried with regard to savings and with the costs increasing globally; for purchasing, if the officers have any fears that the costs are going to rise for them.

The Chief Officer confirmed that they have a risk register that they take to the finance board quarterly and the global supply chain is included every 3 months too. It was confirmed that it can take longer to get hold of things and that they are costing more. The Committee were assured that as the team bulk buy, the costs are not increasing as much for them so they do not have to chase suppliers. However, it was mentioned that SRS has had to buy alternative equipment where needed over the last 18 months. In all there is concern but however this is starting to alleviate for the team but stressed that the waiting times are more of a concern than the cost at the moment.

The Committee thanked the officers for their time and everyone involved in the work. It was agreed that the digital staff and SRS team are often the unsung heroes so asked the officers to pass on their thanks to all of the staff.

Conclusions

The Committee **noted** the update on the Shared Resource Service's arrangements for IT service delivery and wished to make the following comments:

- The Committee wished to thank the officers for attending and requested that their thanks and gratitude was sent to all members of staff for their continued hard work throughout the pandemic, allowing the Council to be ahead of the game by adapting.
- Committee were pleased to hear that Newport were ahead of the game in comparison to other areas like Blaenau Gwent and were able to adapt very quickly rather than being rushed like they were in other areas. Members were also impressed with how the partnership were able to administer more devices compared to how they started without taking on any additional staff. Members recognise that the workload was managed extremely well.
- The Committee recommended that SRS should promote themselves more on how well they work with Newport City Council, this could be through means such as Newport Matters.
- The Committee wished to confirm if there are health checks between the Council and SRS. It was also queried what challenges do the partnership face and how they undertake these challenges for the future.

4 Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)

Invitees -

- Mary Ryan - Head of Corporate Safeguarding/Head of Adult Services
- Janice Dent - Regional VAWDASV Lead
- Ann Hamlet - Head of Safeguarding Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB)

The Head of Corporate Safeguarding introduced the Regional VAWDASV Lead and the Chair of the Strategic Delivery Board/Head of Safeguarding for the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB). The Act places a duty on the Local Authorities to report on progress made each financial year. The Head of Safeguarding (ABUHB) gave the Committee a brief overview on the Strategic Delivery Group and progress made on the work plan. Members were informed that the partners worked well together with good attendance despite the pandemic.

The Regional Lead discussed the three stages of the National Training Framework which has been developed by the Welsh Government, which includes the Ask and Act project. Many individuals in different organisations as front facing employees are planned to have training to ask specific questions to suspected victims in order to help them. This work was first used prior to the pandemic but unfortunately it was suspended due to the situation and it moved to e-learning. 2020-21 was an unprecedented year due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, this resulted in reduced ability of victims and perpetrators to seek support and necessitated a change in practice for all partner organisations. The Head of Corporate Safeguarding advised this is why it is so important to get back to face to face sessions to raise awareness of domestic violence.

The officers mentioned the help of Safeguarding champions who amalgamated the role to take on board that work so individuals in service area know that if they see something they are uncomfortable with; there is an open dialogue to ensure that staff are available to have these conversations.

The Committee asked the following:

- Members thanked the officers for their comprehensive report. It was recognised that working from home in that service area must have been challenging. Concerns were expressed with domestic violence cases on the time from the point of contact, to escalations to have outcomes. Do the team have any figures on positive outcomes? With regard to schools, the team did not gain as much access to the pupils to inform them of domestic violence issues due to the pandemic. Members asked if the pupils will be given presentations in school about domestic violence. The Chair of the Committee added to this string of questions by asking the officers to confirm if the Councillors can do anything to assist.

The Head of Safeguarding assured the Council that they have been running the operation and compass project where if Police are called to a house for domestic abuse reports; they obtain the children's school details and will send very brief details but will be aware that something happened that night. From the first lockdown the team explained they were concerned on how they would be able to operate that and from a welfare perspective, but they got picked up very quickly as they still have the communication – they know that domestic abuse happened but they do not know fully about it. The ones reported to the police that have the full attention, the team did deal with those. The VAWDASV Lead noted the White Ribbon Campaign which is most specifically for men to stand up against violence against women. For 2021, they did a challenge to raise awareness and used the operation and compass in 30. This was due to the vast amount of children impacted by Covid isolation; reducing the access to safe adults.

The VAWDASV Lead also noted that they have developed a presentation to share throughout the period with children and young people in local schools to get them involved. Committee was informed that Wales is concentrating on spectrum and on coercive control. Local schools have been given presentations on this and spectrum has been funded by the Welsh Government to fund sessions in schools to discuss healthy relationships. There are year 9 ambassadors for the White Ribbon Campaign alongside Gwent Police. It was stressed that the importance of everyone standing up together against violence and men challenging other men is a big focus to raise awareness. To stop the violence; the team noted it is about them challenging and changing the culture. The VAWSASV Lead also noted Baroness Wilcox raising questions about White Ribbon Campaign, naming Police South Wales and the Council when asking Home Office if that is something they could support rolling across all national police forces.

- A Member raised four points;
 - a) Queried if Councillors could be trained via the online system as staff were;
 - b) Mentioned that they would appreciate to see a list of partners that the service team work with;
 - c) Expressed concern that during the pandemic, women cannot ring in confidence as the perpetrator could be living in the same house;
 - d) Lastly asked what challenges have been left by the impact of Covid and how have the partners dealt with the situation to help victims safely report a concern.

In response, Head of Safeguarding confirmed that the e-learning modules are mandatory and accessible for all even if a Member. It was agreed the officer will follow that up to ensure the Member has log in details. There has been a plethora of ideas such as materials from phones, secret lip balms to make contact and different websites to contact via email and text through various channels.

The VAWDASV Lead referred to the report that not long after lockdown, there was a huge increased number of calls to the England helpline. They did not see that in Wales, they saw a drop in referrals to police and local services which showed lack of availability but they worked with the Welsh Government to push messages to the public so they could access support. The Welsh Government clarified that if individuals are a victim of domestic abuse; they were allowed to leave the house during isolation. Local chemists, GPs, superstores were trained with messages on receipts to avoid phone calls in a way to get messages to the police. It was noted they saw the referrals rise as a result.

The officer reassured Members they are working with communities as much as possible. They have recently started a campaign with hair and beauty salons in Gwent where work is being done to help those seek support. Posters will be used and online training to ensure it's a safe place for victims to get support.

The Head of Safeguarding (ABUHB) noted the IRIS project which is similar to the Ask and Act work but supported within the practices to provide people with opportunities to talk. GPs are busy but they have the time to identify something so the onsite referral system has had positive feedback as they've been able to pick up on things going on by asking a few questions. The team want passionate ambassadors to raise the profile so people are often thinking about it. It embeds in with these people and some people do not even recognise they are victims of Domestic Abuse. The Head of Safeguarding (NCC) noted they undertake work with the perpetrators also; their work is not just recognising the victims of abuse but also working with the pre-dominantly make perpetrators so they can change and stop them causing the abuse.

- A Member asked if training could be provided to school governors so they can be aware of the terminology used.

The Head of Safeguarding (NCC) confirmed that all school governors have safeguarding training and when schools are to be compass schools. If an incident occurred in the night, the school would be made aware of that briefly. The officer ensured they make sure that happens with speaking with Nicole from their service team.

- A Committee Member queried if television media has been used to raise awareness of domestic abuse against women.

The VAWS DAV Lead Officer confirmed that they do not pay for adverts but the Welsh Government and Central Government pay for those and run numerous campaigns via the media. The VAWS DAV Lead mentioned two main campaigns because of the amount of media coverage over the pandemic has been good in one way and not so good in another. They received a lot of funding for communities/services but with Women's Aid, working with journalists as well on how they report things and the style of language that they use. It was noted the storylines of soap operas which have been mainstream about stalking, harassment and abuse.

- A Committee Member referred to the nature and culture of sports teams mentioned in the report and queried if there are partnerships with those.

The Head of Safeguarding (NCC) noted that there is a wider recourse in safeguarding and the Safeguarding Board briefs third party sector partners of what they do. The VAWS DAV Lead meet with sporting organisations to discuss what they can do to help. The Lead noted that they have carried out awareness raising work, such as with Caerphilly sport coaches and attended Sports Wales Regional Meeting last recently. It was noted there is a big focus on safeguarding but not on the domestic abuse, so looking to work with coaches to build into the programme.

- A Member noted how important it is for organisations such as Wales Rugby Union to raise awareness. Comment was made that rugby clubs etc. could put up literature in the buildings. As domestic abuse is learned behaviour, it could help challenge it.

The Head of Safeguarding (NCC) agreed and stated that early discussions with children are helpful as they need to know that domestic abuse is not and should not be the norm. It is more about prevention and having a safe space they can go to.

- The Chair asked officers how training had been affected by the pandemic and if it has had to be done differently as a result. The Chair also queried if the support for the teams has been affected as they were working right through the pandemic.

The VAWS DAV Lead confirmed that the training changed from face to face to online learning. The difficult was on disclosure of what happened at the incident. It was not so simple to move work online due to safety concerns of victims living with the perpetrator. However it was noted there has been much more engagement since online and they have become more text savvy.

Members were informed that the staff work with partners early on to deal with vicarious trauma and they look at well-being plans which are funded by Welsh Government with counselling for staff members. They have also recently rolled out vicarious trauma training. It was also noted that there was a concern in Covid for individuals working at home while being talked to aggressively as part of the job but would not want that happening in their home so the partners ensured that there would be space for people to work in offices to focus there.

The VAWS DAV Lead mentioned there is a crisis across all of the agencies and for the first time ever this year they have received more funding from the Government. Due to the crisis, staff members are working more hours. The Head of Safeguarding (NCC) added that no one can do the work of raising awareness on their own and that they need to work proactively as partners i.e. council and third sector parties.

The Committee expressed their sincere thanks to the officers for their work and for taking the time to present to the Committee. The Chair reassured the partners that they were welcome to contact the Committee direct if there is anything they can help with.

Conclusions

The Committee **noted** the executive report and the progress of the key strategic priority work plans for VAWDASV within the corporate arrangements for the whole Council. The Committee wished make the following comments:

- The Committee wished to applaud the team and officers on their fantastic work and perseverance for maintaining decorum as it must be a huge challenge working in that field of work. The Chair of the Committee advised that the team can have Member's direct email addresses in the case that the partnership would like for Members to champion anything that the partnership are doing.
- The Committee commented that they would be keen to circulate any literature in offices, sports clubs and social media in order to raise awareness. The Scrutiny Adviser can arrange with the Regional VAWDASV Lead to acquire the materials. The Committee would also like for a delivery of White Ribbons if possible.
- The Committee discussed the current work programmes taking place with universities via Barnardos and the Phoenix Project. Members suggested that it should be considered to be rolled out to sports clubs and schools. Once the partners have the results from the research of these programmes, please could they be shared with the Committee
- If the partnership has not already, the Committee suggested that we could link in with GAVO as a local third party sector as an organisational hub for training, as they have a wide outreach.
- The Committee also requested for the Scrutiny Adviser to liaise with the Head of Safeguarding to obtain the log in details for the online mandatory training for Members. This would help them promote it to their colleagues.
- Members made comment about the inclusion of cases studies in the Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children report in last month's committee meeting, and said it interesting to read about the different situations and issues why children had to leave where they are from, as well as building build a bigger picture to scrutinise. Members then wondered if it would be possible in next year's report could include some case studies so the Committee can see how the partners supported these people.

5 Scrutiny Adviser Reports

Invitee:

- Neil Barnett – Scrutiny Adviser

a) Forward Work Programme Update

The Scrutiny Adviser presented the Forward Work Programme, and informed the Committee of the topics due to be discussed at the next two committee meetings:

Thursday 20th January 2022 at 5pm, the agenda item;

- Gwent Local Assessment of Well-being Consultation

Wednesday 2nd February 2021 at 5pm, the agenda items;

- One Newport Wellbeing Plan 2021-22 Q2 Performance
- Education Achievement Services (EAS) Business Plan 2022-23

b) Actions Sheet

The Scrutiny Adviser informed Members that the Committee's comments for the Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children agenda item have been forwarded to the Strategic Director – Social Services and Service Manager – Childrens Teams to action.

The meeting terminated at 5.55 pm

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