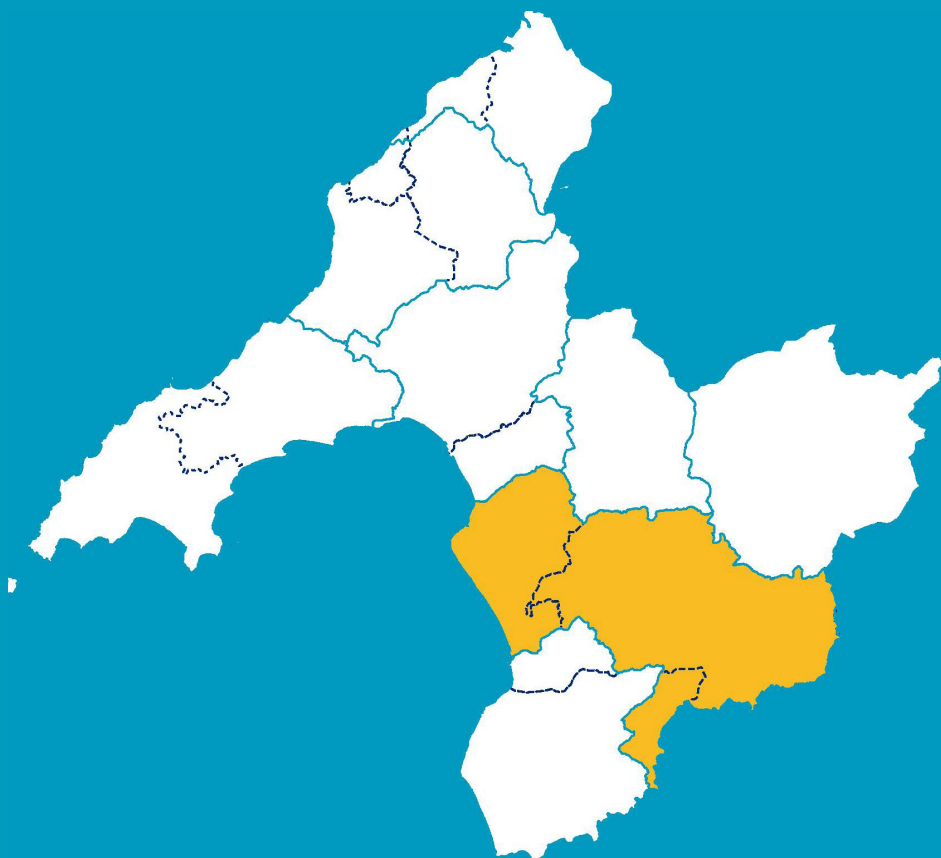


# IT'S YOUR AREA WHAT'S IMPORTANT?

## DOLGELLAU AREA



# **The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act came into force on 1 April 2016. The aim of the Act is to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.**

The Act has established a Public Services Board (the Board) for every local authority area in order to ensure that public bodies work together to create a better future for the people of Wales.

For Gwynedd and Anglesey, the two Boards have come together to collaborate, and it is a partnership that includes the county councils, the fire and rescue service, the health service, Natural Resources Wales and other partners from the public and third sector.

The Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board has divided the whole area into 14 smaller areas. Research has been undertaken on behalf of the Board on each of the 14 areas in order to understand and learn more about the well-being of those areas. In addition to the available data, partners of the Public Services Board have engaged extensively with our communities in recent months. In Gwynedd, the main piece of engagement work was the 'Our Area 2035' exercise. The aim of this project is to engage and work with residents, groups and organisations to help communities identify those priorities that will need to be addressed over the next 10-15 years and create and realise local regeneration plans. In order to work with smaller communities, the boundaries of the Dolgellau well-being area have been modified and whilst much of it falls within the Dolgellau Catchment Area boundaries, the west coast (Barmouth area) falls within Bro Ardudwy and a small part of the southern area (Corris area) part of Bro Dysynni.

It is also important to note that the research has highlighted some data gaps and that some figures are based on 2011 Census data, which is now over 10 years old. Our intention is to regularly update the data contained in this booklet in order to capture the key messages that have been conveyed about the well-being of the county, and thus led to the formulation of a Well-being Plan, which will guide the Board's work over the coming years.

Since the previous assessment in 2016, our communities have faced substantial changes in light of Brexit and more recently the Covid-19 pandemic. Dealing with the crisis has highlighted the importance of services provided by the voluntary and public sector to our communities, and the importance of the joint-working between them. Also, the crisis has highlighted issues that already existed in our communities, for example, poverty and employment, mental health, second homes and loneliness.

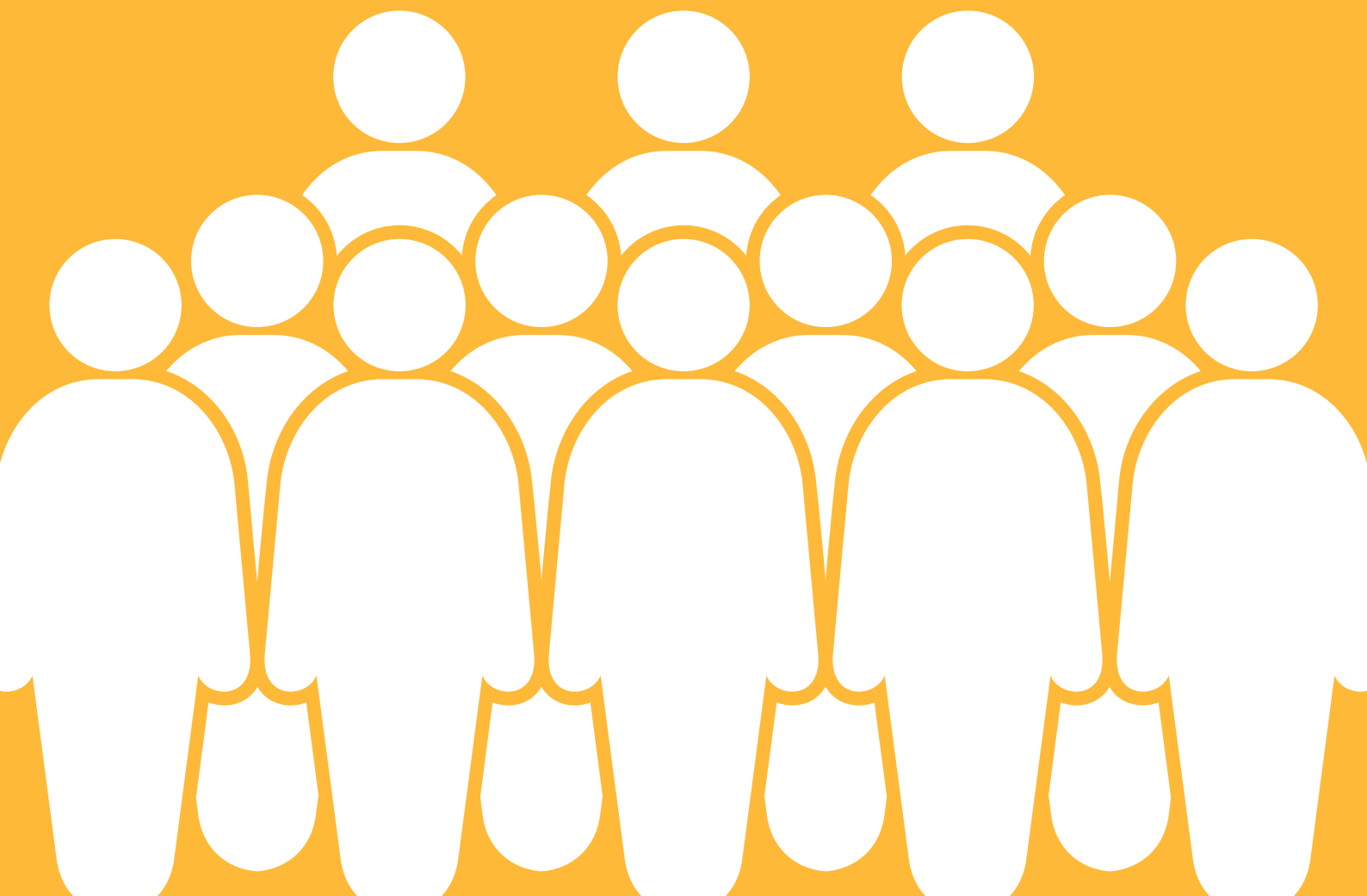
The period has also highlighted the importance of our environment which is central to the health and well-being of our residents and our local economy, attracting visitors to the area. As we look towards a greener path out of the Covid-19 pandemic, it is an opportunity for us to revisit how we use our natural assets to tackle the threats of the climate and nature crises.

The Well-being Assessment will further address those matters that were brought to our attention during the pandemic.

**THIS IS THE INFORMATION WE HAVE GATHERED ABOUT THE DOLGELLAU AREA, WHICH INCLUDES BARMOUTH, DYFFRYN ARDUDWY AND DINAS MAWDDWY... DO YOU THINK THIS IS A FAIR REFLECTION OF YOUR AREA'S STATE OF WELL-BEING?**



# POPULATION



# Who are the people of Dolgellau?

**10,558 people live in the Dolgellau area - which is approximately 8% of Gwynedd's population.**

The population of Dolgellau is expected to decrease over the coming years. **Figures suggest that approximately 10,198 will live in Dolgellau by 2043, a decrease of 3% since 2019.** On the other hand, an increase of 6% is anticipated in Gwynedd.



However, there are some population groups that are expected to increase in Dolgellau, with the largest percentage increase of 30% expected in the population aged 75 and over. This is similar to Gwynedd's projections, where it is expected that there will be about 42% more people aged 75 and over living in the county by 2043.

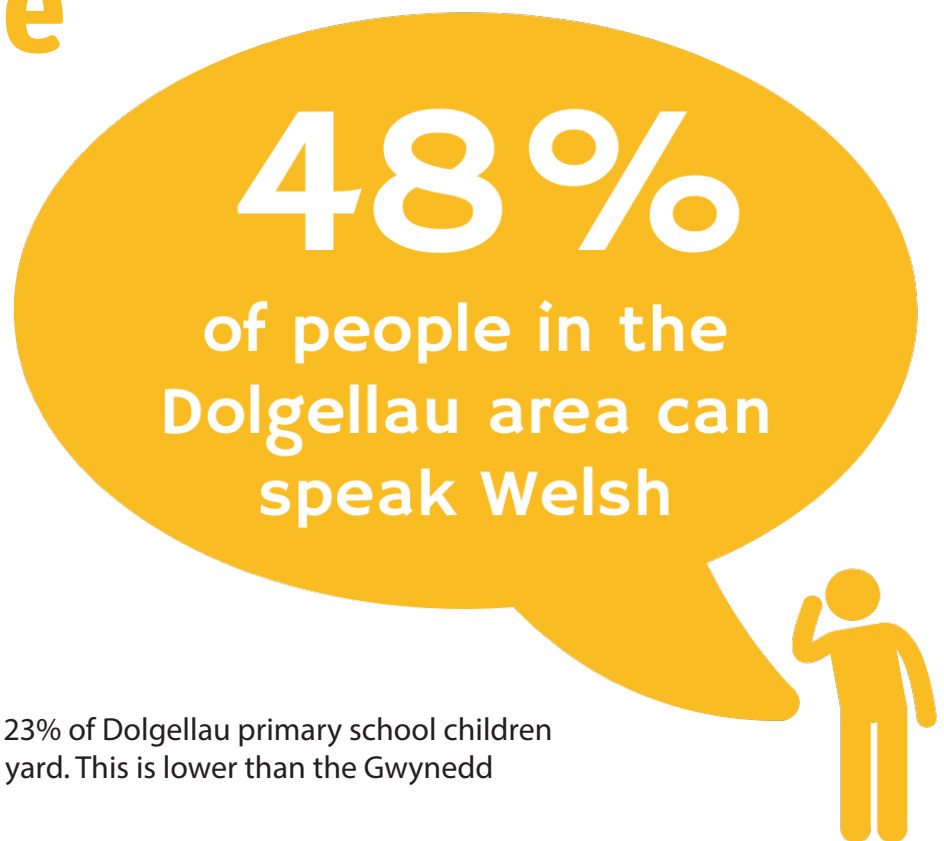
## Language

According to the results of the 2011 Census, **48% of people in the Dolgellau area can speak Welsh**, which is lower than the Gwynedd percentage (65%), but higher than Wales' 19%.

The figure has decreased over the last decades compared to 59% in 1981. This reduction of around 10% is similar to the rest of Gwynedd, which has reduced from 76% to 65% over the same period.

According to a 2019 questionnaire, 23% of Dolgellau primary school children speak Welsh always or often on the yard. This is lower than the Gwynedd percentage of 64%.

The percentage of Dolgellau secondary children who speak Welsh always or often on the yard is similar at 25%. This again is lower than the percentage for Gwynedd (42%).



**ENVIRONMENTAL**



# How green is the area?

Fly-tipping is lower in Gwynedd than the rest of Wales – with 5.1 fly-tipping cases to every 1,000 of the population compared to 10.6. There has been an increase in the number of fly-tipping cases recorded in Gwynedd from 529 in 2014/15 to 633 in 2019/20.

**In Gwynedd, an increase has been seen in the percentage of municipal waste sent to be reused, recycled or composted from 59% in 2014/15 to 67% in 2020/21.** In 2014/15, the percentage was slightly lower than the Wales but, by 2020/21, the Gwynedd and Wales percentages were very similar.



# How clean are our streets?

Street cleanliness is inspected annually by Keep Wales Tidy.

In 2019/20 142 streets in Gwynedd were inspected, and 95% were of a high or acceptable standard of cleanliness, that is a Grade B or higher. This percentage is similar to what it was in 2015/16.

**Within the Dolgellau area 7 streets were inspected, 100% of which received a Grade B or higher in 2019/20.** This percentage is the same as it was in 2015/16.

100%  
of Dolgellau streets  
reach a high or  
acceptable standard  
of cleanliness



In the dog fouling consultation, 76% of respondents from Dolgellau felt that it was a problem in their area, this is lower than the 81% with the same view in Gwynedd.

# Climate change and flooding

The climate and nature crises are major challenges facing future generations. Over the past century, temperatures have increased, sea levels have risen, and weather patterns have changed significantly.



With a much higher proportion of coastline compared to other Welsh counties, climate change has a distinct impact on communities. **In Gwynedd, 11,285 properties are currently at risk of flooding.**

Dolgellau has been identified as a community that is at high flood risk. As the climate changes these areas, like many other communities across Wales, is predicted to experience more frequent storms and heavy rainfall, as well as rising sea levels.

## 11,285 Gwynedd properties at risk of flooding



## Fresh air

NO<sub>2</sub> concentration is one way of measuring air quality and it is conveyed as average micrograms ( $\mu\text{g}$ ) per m<sup>3</sup>. In 2019, there was an average of 4.8  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  NO<sub>2</sub> in residential dwelling locations in Gwynedd. This was much lower than the Wales average measurement of 9.2  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .



# The natural environment

## Morfa Dyffryn National Nature Reserve

Morfa Dyffryn National Nature Reserve is one of the most important sand dune systems in Wales due to its bare sand and wildlife habitat.

The sand dunes support significant populations of breeding birds and this is an important place for mammals, reptiles and amphibians too.

The brown hare breeds in the area, the creeks, swamp areas and ponds are home to grass snakes and great crested newts are found here.

As well as being reservoirs of biodiversity our dunes help to protect our wider environment by providing a natural solution in protecting against flood and coastal erosion, as well as maintaining water flow and assisting vital pollinators such as bees and butterflies.



## Coed-Y-Brenin

Coed-y-Brenin is particularly important as a tourist leisure destination in the area and includes nationally renowned mountain bike trails as well as running and walking routes. Increasingly over the past few decades, woodland and forestry plantations are being used for recreational activities, which has added additional economic value to these ecosystems, as it contributes to the tourism sector in the area.

“It’s an area surrounded by natural beauty and local residents have the opportunity to enjoy nature-related recreation.”  
(Ganllwyd Community Council, Our Area 2035)



# SOCIAL



# Good health?



In the Dolgellau area in 2020-2021, ambulance response times for a 'red' call, which is the most serious type, averaged 13:49 minutes. Dolgellau's average time has risen in recent years from 08:43 in 2018-2019 and 10:21 in 2019-2020.

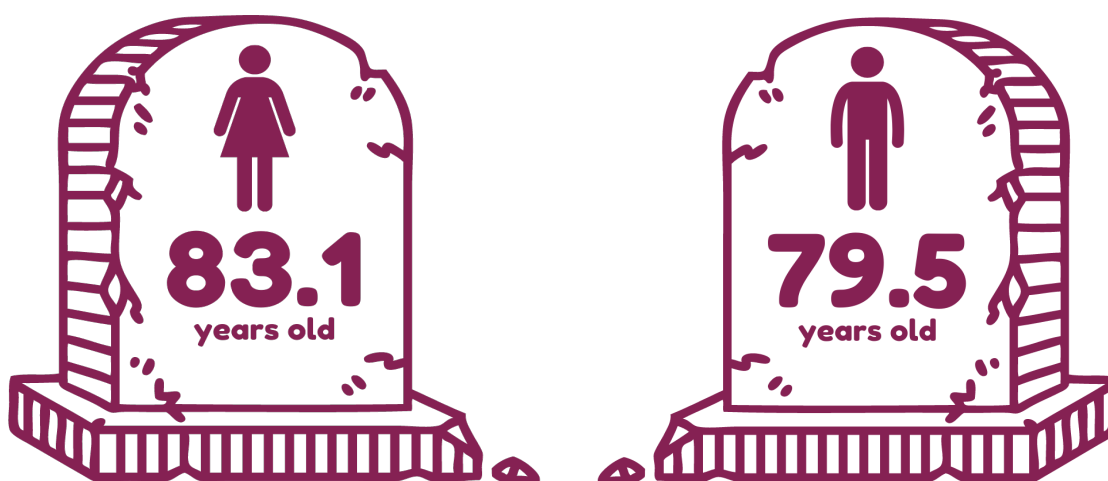
Two-way public and private travel time to a *GP surgery* is higher in Gwynedd than Wales, with an average time of 54 minutes and 11 minutes compared to 40 minutes and 7 minutes respectively. This is also true for travelling to a *pharmacy* where the average two-way public travel takes 53 minutes and 11 minutes by private travel, compared to 38 minutes and 7 minutes for Wales. Travel times vary in the Dolgellau area, with the average public travel time to a *pharmacy* in Corris / Mawddwy being one of the longest in the county and Barmouth 2 being the shortest. Average public travel time to a *surgery* in Corris / Mawddwy is also one of the longest in the county.

Concerns about health provision was a key theme that arose during conversations with Dolgellau groups and organisations. Issues such as distance to emergency services and hospitals and the lack of capacity in the local surgery had a negative impact on how they felt about the area. (Our Area 2035)

“The fact that there is no longer an Accident and Emergency Unit in Dolgellau is a cause for concern, and the ambulance service is under constant pressure.”  
(Dolgellau Town Council, Our Area 2035)

Further population health figures are available for Gwynedd to provide an indication of the county's health conditions and patterns.

According to latest figures, **the life expectancy of males in Gwynedd is 79.5 years, while the life expectancy of females is 83.1 years.** This is slightly higher than Wales figures where the life expectancy of males is 78.3 years and the life expectancy of females is 82.1 years.



According to 2017/18-2019/20 figures, 38% of adults aged 16-64 have a healthy weight in Gwynedd. This is more or less the same as the figure for the whole of Wales. This figure increases to 41% in adults aged 65 and over in Gwynedd, which is higher than the Wales percentage of 38%.



Other factors that affect our health is smoking and alcohol consumption. **11% of people aged 16 and over state that they smoke**, one of the lowest figures among Wales' counties, and 16% of people report that they consume more than 14 units of alcohol a week. These two percentages are lower than the figure for the whole of Wales, where 17% smoke and 19% consume more alcohol than the guidelines.

In a survey in 2018/19 and 2019/20, 31% of Gwynedd adults noted that they had eaten at least five portions of fruit and vegetables during the previous day, higher than the Wales figure of 24%.

Mental health is an important part of well-being and health. Public Health Wales data from 2018-19 identifies adult mental wellbeing (16 and over) in the form of age-standardised scores. Gwynedd's score is 52.9 which is slightly higher than the Wales score of 51.4.

Data from the National Survey for Wales for 2018/19-2019/20 indicates that 8% of Gwynedd adults have a mental disorder, a slightly lower percentage than the rest of Wales (10%).

# Child and adolescent health

Specific health statistics for Gwynedd children are also available.

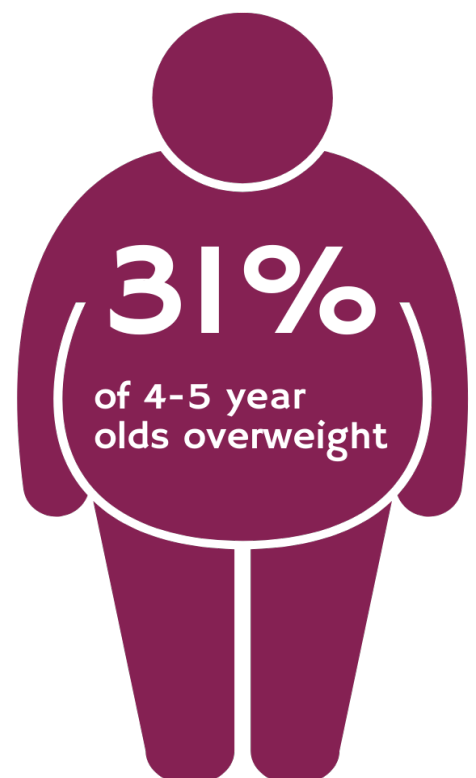
The percentage of individual live births with a low birth weight is slightly lower in Gwynedd than Wales, namely 5% compared to 6%.

In Gwynedd, the percentage of all children fully immunised on schedule by the time they are four years old has slightly increased from 88% in 2017 to 91% in 2019. This is higher than Wales figure, where 88% had been fully immunised in 2019.

**31% of 4-5 year-old children are overweight or obese** – which is higher than the Wales figure of 27%.

According to data from 2017/18, approximately 9% of Gwynedd children aged 11-16 consumed alcohol and 3% smoked.

In Gwynedd, the teenage pregnancy rate for girls under 18 years old is 16.6 per 1000 girls aged 15-17, and it has reduced since the previous well-being assessment. This is slightly lower than the all Wales figures, namely 18.9, which has also reduced since the previous well-being assessment.



# Keeping safe

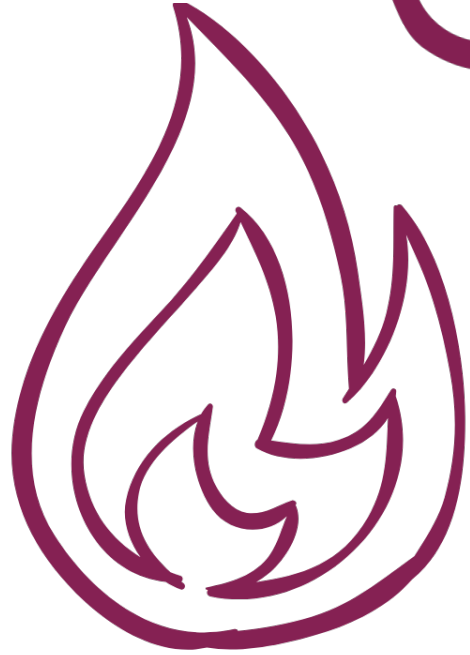
Dolgellau's crime rate per 1,000 population aged 16 and over has slightly increased between 2018 and 2020, from 78 to 82. This is higher than it was in the last well-being assessment in 2015, when the was 75.

In Gwynedd, 55% feel very safe and 34% feel fairly safe in the local area after dark. Also, 89% feel very safe and 10% feel fairly safe in their home after dark in Gwynedd. More people feel very safe in their local area or home after dark in Gwynedd than the whole of Wales.

During the Our Area 2035 conversations, groups and organisations recognised that Dolgellau was a safe and secure area, and it was mentioned as being one of the key features that made the area a good place to live.

**On average between 2017/18-2019/20 there was 3 fires that were started deliberately a year in the Dolgellau area, which is the same as noted in the previous well-being assesment, and 26 accidental fire incidents, which is lower than the last assesment.**

In Gwynedd, on average between 2017/18-2019/20, there were 113 fires that were started deliberately a year and 335 accidental fire incidents a year. The fires that were started deliberately figure is higher than the number noted in the last well-being assessment whilst the accidental fire incidents figure is lower.



**29** fire incidents in Dolgellau

# Keeping in touch

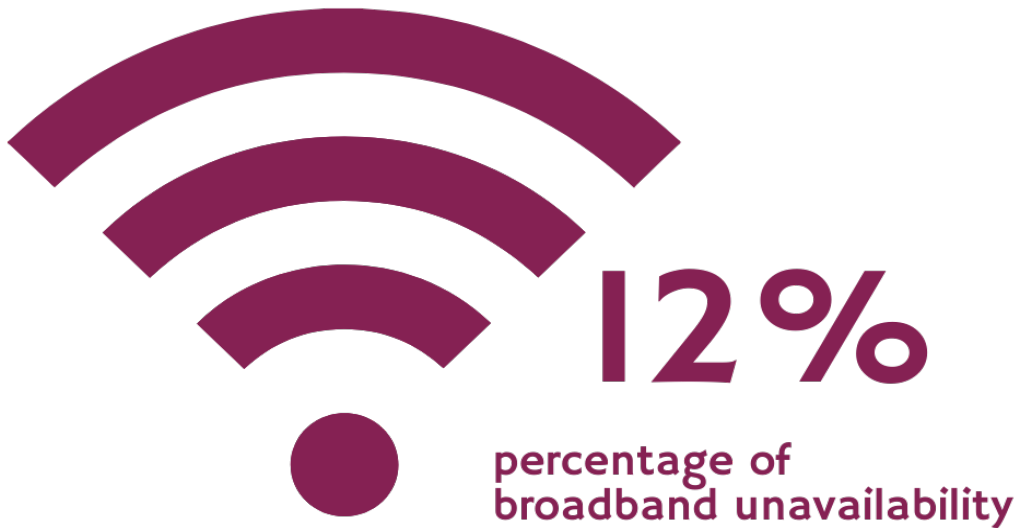


**78%** of homes have a car or van in Dolgellau

**78% of homes in the Dolgellau area have a car or van**, which is slightly lower than the figure for Gwynedd, namely 79% and 77% for the whole of Wales.

Return public and private travel time to a grocery store is higher in Gwynedd than the whole of Wales, with an average time of 40 minutes and 6 minutes compared to 32 minutes and 4 minutes.

Again there is variation within the Dolgellau area and the average public and private travel times of Corris / Mawddwy and Brithdir and Llanfachreth / Ganllwyd / Llanelltyd are some of the longest in the county and Barmouth 2 one of the shortest.



Figures from 2019 show that Gwynedd had a higher percentage of broadband unavailability at 30Mb/e than the whole of Wales, namely 12% compared to 7%.

16% of Gwynedd residents are lonely, compared with 15% who are lonely across the whole of Wales.

## Helping each other

According to 2011 Census figures, 12% of the population in the Dolgellau area provide at least one hour a week of unpaid care. This figure is similar to other areas in Gwynedd and Wales.

Pre-pandemic figures show that the percentage of people who volunteer in Gwynedd has increased a little from 31% in 2016 to 33% in 2019, higher than Wales' 26%. Covid-19 probably led to a further increase in this figure, however, there is no data by local area available to measure this.

According to Dolgellau groups and organisations, community spirit and kindness is what makes the area a good place to live. (Our Area 2035)

"A great sense of community here."  
(Corris Community Council, Our Area 2035)

The illustration shows two stylized purple human figures. One figure is on a raised platform, leaning forward to help the other figure who is on the ground. The figures are simple, rounded shapes with no facial features.

# ECONOMY



# Tourism

Including AirBnB, there are 1,643 tourist accommodation businesses in Meirionnydd, which is around 42% of the total for Gwynedd in 2019.

In the Dolgellau area, there's an estimated 16,963 visitor accommodation beds. This represents around 12% of the total number of visitor accommodation beds in Gwynedd.

Within the Dolgellau well-being area, Barmouth and Dolgellau have been identified by the Council as two of the county's 18 main tourist destinations.



**1,643** visitor accommodation businesses in Meirionnydd

# Houses and second homes

In 2020, the median house price in the Dolgellau area was £159,250, an increase of £14,250 since the last assessment in 2015.



The median income of Dolgellau families is around £26,488, and at least £32,643 is needed to afford an entry level price on the housing to market. This means that 61% of Dolgellau households have been priced out of the market. This percentage slightly higher than the figure for Gwynedd, namely 59%, and the percentage for Wales, namely 56%. It's likely, however, that the 2020 figures does not fully illustrate the impact of the pandemic on the area's house prices, and these will be updated as the data becomes available.

Conversations locally have highlighted concerns about the lack of affordable and suitable housing for residents. According to groups, organisations in the area, the current housing stock is not meeting the needs of local people, especially young people and families, with prices now making it almost impossible for most to buy a home in Dolgellau. (Our Area 2035)

“Lack of suitable size housing with a garden for growing families - many with a family have support to buy or build a house but they're not allowed or its financially out of reach.”  
(Cwmni Nod Glas, Our Area 2035)

# What do the people of Dolgellau do?



Figures from the 2011 Census show that 30% of the working age population in the Dolgellau area with no qualifications, work in the elementary occupations e.g. cleaning and factory work, waste collection, farm work. In general, more people with no qualifications at all work in the elementary occupations than in any other occupations across Gwynedd.

The skilled trades employ the highest percentage (22%) of the area's population. 37% of those with a degree or equivalent work in professional occupations. This is similar to the Gwynedd and all Wales picture. Reliable data on areas of work by local well-being area after 2011 is unavailable, and therefore a significant data gap is evident.

## Salary

**The median weekly wage in the Dwyfor Meirionnydd constituency (of which Dolgellau is part) is around £361 a week**, which is 7% lower than Gwynedd as a whole (£386 a week) and 19% lower than Wales (£469 a week).

Women's pay is 19% less than men's pay in the constituency. This gap is narrower than the gap across Gwynedd where women are paid 32% less than men.

One of the main concerns in Dolgellau was the lack of full time, high paid jobs. It was an issue that had a negative impact on how local groups and organisations felt about the area. (Our Area 2035)

“There are few full time job opportunities for school and university leavers within the area, meaning young people probably have to move away to fulfill their ambitions.”  
(Arthog Community Council, Our Area 2035)

## Unemployment

75% of Gwynedd residents aged between 16 and 64 are in work or education, which is slightly lower than the Wales percentage of 76%.

On average, the percentage of people aged 16-64 claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in the Dolgellau area between November 2020 and October 2021 was 4.7%, higher than Gwynedd for the same period (4.5%) and lower than Wales at 5.3%.

The figure varies greatly month to month with the highest being in February 2021 (6.1%) and the lowest in September 2021 (3%). This is probably due to the impact of the Covid-19 lockdown at the beginning of 2021.



# Businesses

In 2020, a total of 4,380 businesses were registered in Gwynedd.

The rate of new business start-ups in Gwynedd is lower than Anglesey, North Wales and Wales.



# 61%

of companies survive 3+ years

**However, 61% of companies in Gwynedd stay in business for at least three years or more.** This is higher than Wales at 54%. The rate of failing businesses is also lower in Gwynedd compared to Anglesey, North Wales and Wales.

# Skills for life

From 2018/19 the Welsh Government has introduced a new set of performance measures which include literacy, numeracy and science points score. This makes it difficult to make year-on-year comparisons over recent years and there is no breakdown by county since 2018/19.

However, figures are available for the number of year 11 school leavers known not to be in education, employment or training (NEET). In Gwynedd the percentage for 2020 is 1.2%, which is lower than the Wales figure of 1.7%.

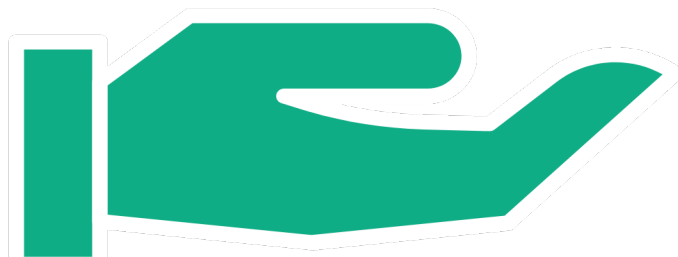


# The money in your pocket

**The money available to spend by the people of Gwynedd, after paying taxes and household bills, is £15,941 per head per annum, which is £1,322 less than for Wales as a whole.**

# £15,941

income available to spend after home and tax costs



In the Dolgellau area, 11% of primary school pupils claim free school meals which is lower than Gwynedd as a whole (14%). By the time pupils reach secondary school, the figure decreases slightly to 10%, which is also the lower than Gwynedd's 12%.

According to pre-pandemic figures, 21% of households in the Dolgellau area are in fuel poverty. This is similar to the figure for Gwynedd as a whole, but higher than Wales' 14%.

However, with the recent fuel price increase this figure is likely to be much higher than estimated in 2018, but unfortunately sourcing reliable data in this field was problematic.

# CULTURAL



# Keeping fit

According to the latest School Sports Survey by Sport Wales, the number of Gwynedd children participating in sports three or more times per week is similar to the figure across Wales



# 49%

of children  
participating in  
sports 3+ times  
a week

**In 2018, 49% of Gwynedd children participated in sport activities three or more times a week** – this compared to 48% in Wales. 66% of Gwynedd pupils also participate in community sports outside the school at least once a week, similar to the 65% in Wales.

In 2019, 33% of adults reported participating in sporting activities three or more times a week compared to 32% in Wales.

Return public and private travel time to a sports facility is higher in Gwynedd than Wales, with an average time of 71 minutes and 12 minutes compared to 55 minutes and 10 minutes respectively.

# Leisure time

Return public and private average travel times to a public library is higher in Gwynedd than the whole of Wales, with an average time of 61 minutes and 15 minutes compared to 45 minutes and 10 minutes.





Leisure time figures are available for the run up to the pandemic. According to a survey from 2019/20, **65% of adults in Gwynedd stated they had attended an arts event during the year** and 38% had visited a museum.

Both of these figures have slightly increased since the previous well-being assessment. In 2016/17, 47% had visited historical places, a reduction since the previous assessment.

The effect of the pandemic on arts and culture is apparent, with theatre and cinemas having to close over the lockdown period and subsequent restrictions on the number of people that could attend an event. However reliable figures to measure this effect per local area was not available.

## Green spaces

There is a link between cultural well-being and spending time in green spaces and nature, and proximity to a natural green space is one form of assessing an area's physical environment.

The score for proximity to an Accessible Natural Green Space is the same for Gwynedd and the whole of Wales, namely 77%. Within the Dolgellau area there are a variety of scores, with the Dyffryn Ardurdwy being one of the lowest scores in the county and Barmouth 2 being the highest in the county.

One of the main things Dolgellau groups and organisations valued about their area was the environment and the proximity to natural attractions, for example, the mountains and countryside. (Our Area 2035)

“Ideal small town, with plenty of places to go walking which is good for mental health.”  
(Dolgellau Town Council, Our Area 2035)



## FOR MORE INFORMATION...

[www.LlesiantGwyneddaMon.org](http://www.LlesiantGwyneddaMon.org)

[post@llesiantgwyneddamon.org](mailto:post@llesiantgwyneddamon.org)

01766 771000

Ask for the Programme Manager – Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board