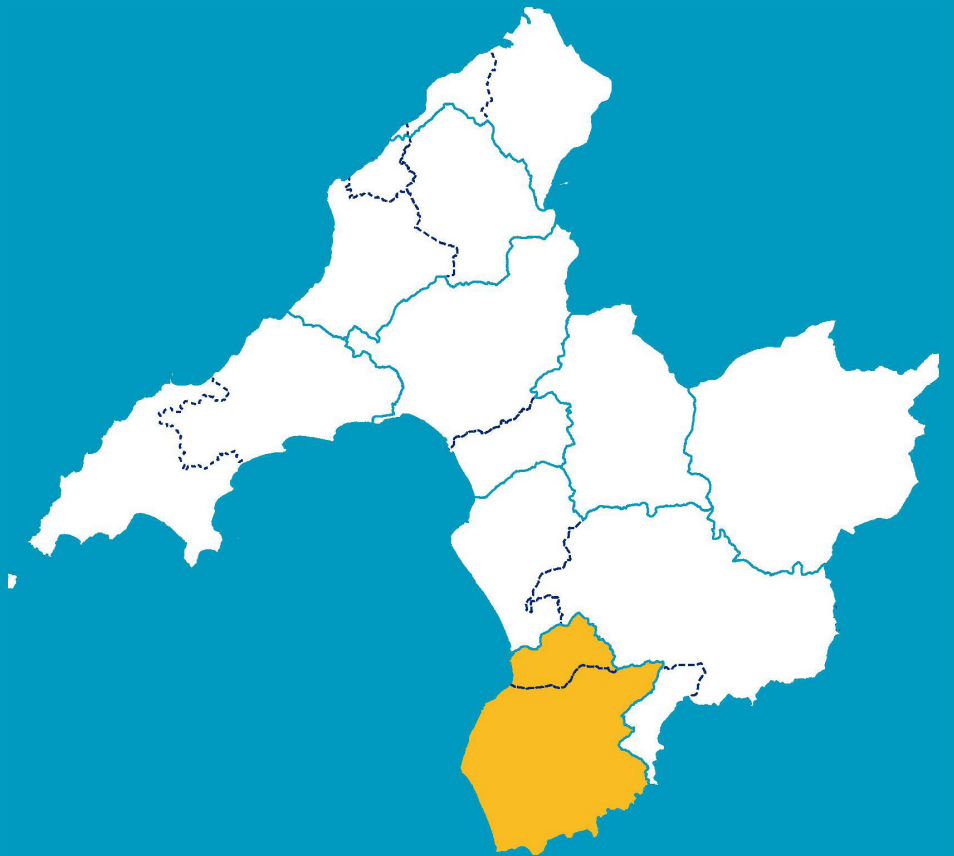


# IT'S YOUR AREA WHAT'S IMPORTANT?

## TYWYN 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 Tywyn well-being area have been modified, with the most of the area coming within the boundaries of Bro Dysynni, and a smaller northern area (the community of Fairbourne) a part of the Dolgellau Catchment Area.

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 wellbeing 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.

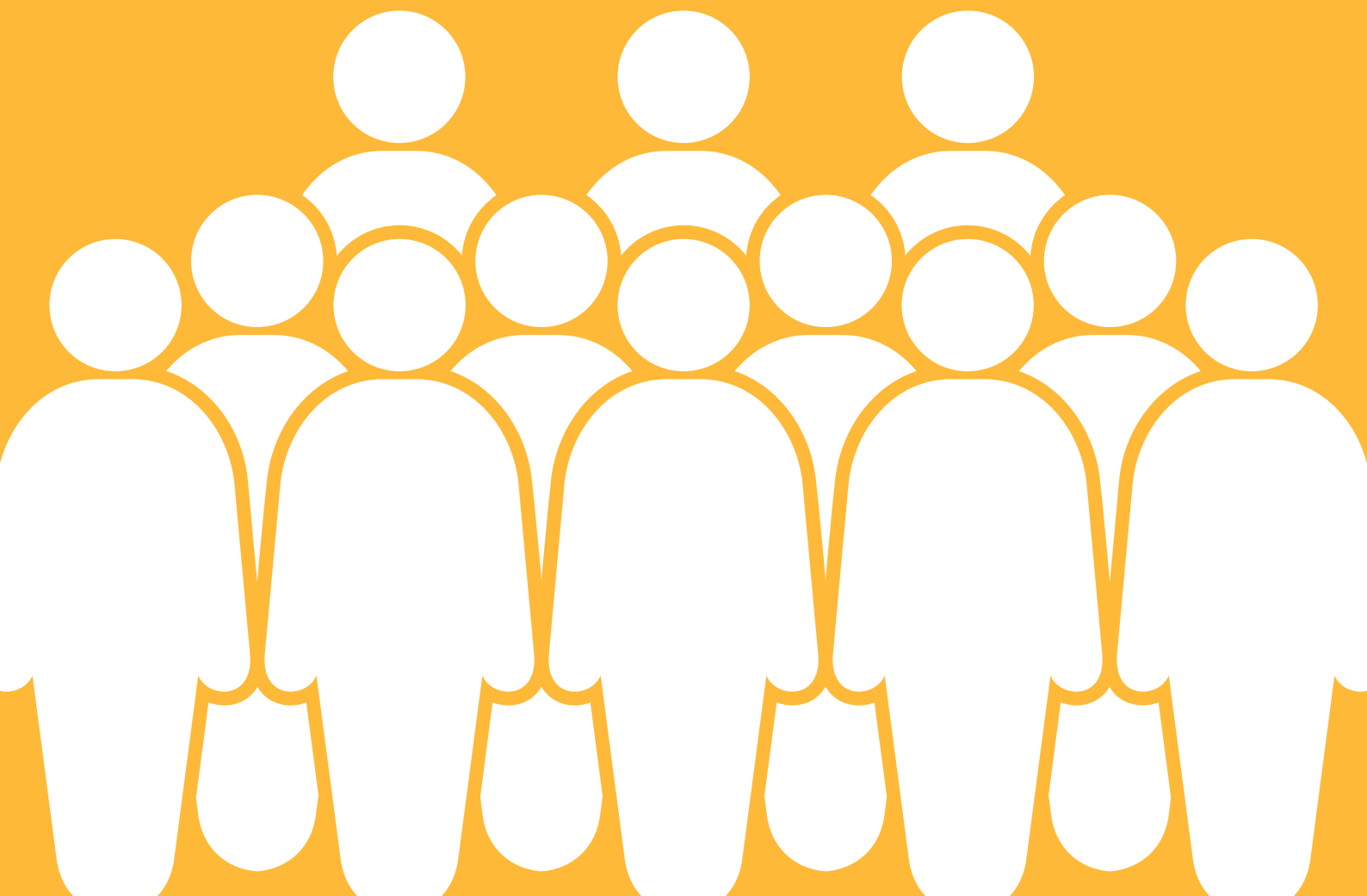
The period has also highlighted the importance of our environment which is central to the health and well-being of our residents and our local economy, attracting visitors to the area. As we look towards a greener path out of the Covid-19 pandemic, it is an opportunity for us to revisit how we use our 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 TYWYN AREA, WHICH INCLUDES ABERDYFI, LLANGELYNIN A FAIRBOURNE... DO YOU THINK THIS IS A FAIR REFLECTION OF YOUR AREA'S STATE OF WELL-BEING?**



# POPULATION



# Who are the people of Tywyn?

**7,485 people live in the Tywyn area - which is approximately 6% of Gwynedd's population.**

The population of Tywyn is expected to grow over the coming years. **Figures suggest that approximately 7,744 will live in Tywyn by 2043**, an increase of 4% since 2019. A bigger increase of 6% is anticipated in Gwynedd.



In Tywyn, the largest percentage increase of 17% is expected in the population aged 75 and over. This is lower than 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.

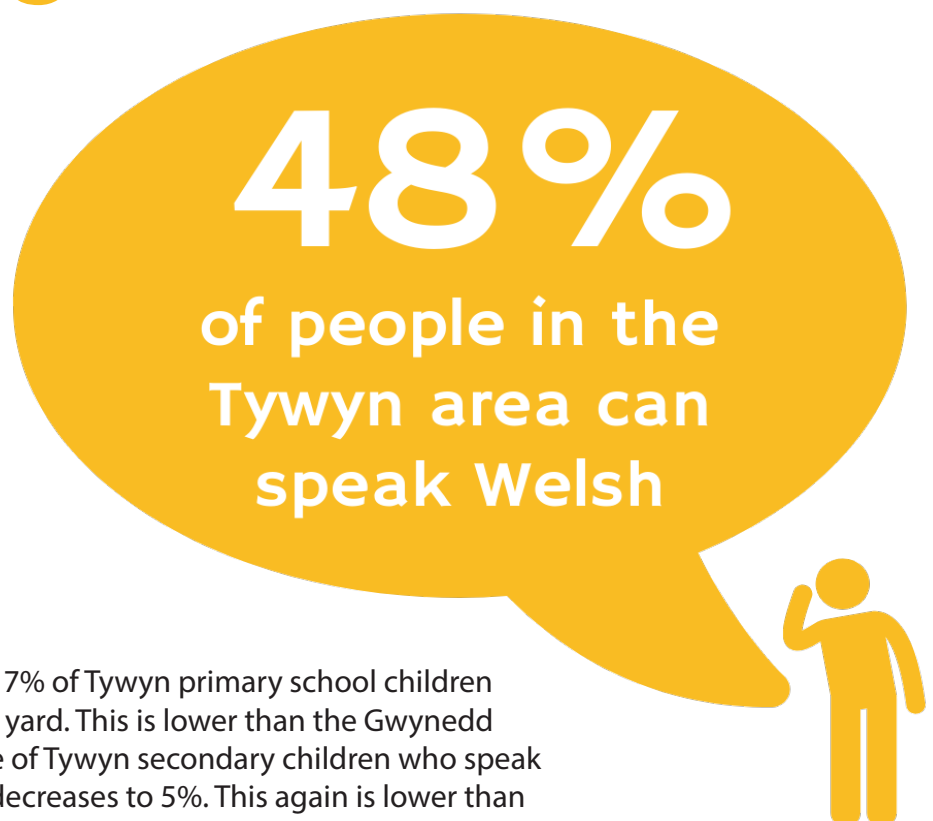
There is an expected 16% increase in the population under 15, which is higher than the 3% increase projected for this age group in Gwynedd.

## Language

According to the results of the 2011 Census, **48% of people in the Tywyn 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, 7% of Tywyn primary school children speak Welsh always or often on the yard. This is lower than the Gwynedd percentage of 64%. The percentage of Tywyn secondary children who speak Welsh always or often on the yard decreases to 5%. 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 Tywyn area 13 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 Tywyn streets  
reach a high or  
acceptable standard  
of cleanliness



In the dog fouling consultation, 78% of respondents from Tywyn 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.**

Fairbourne and Tywyn, which is within the Tywyn well-being area, have been identified as communities 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  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .



# SOCIAL





# Good health?



In the Tywyn area in 2020-2021 ambulance response times for a 'red' call, which is the most serious type, averaged 14:29 minutes. Tywyn's average time has risen in recent years from 11:46 in 2018-2019 and 11:43 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.

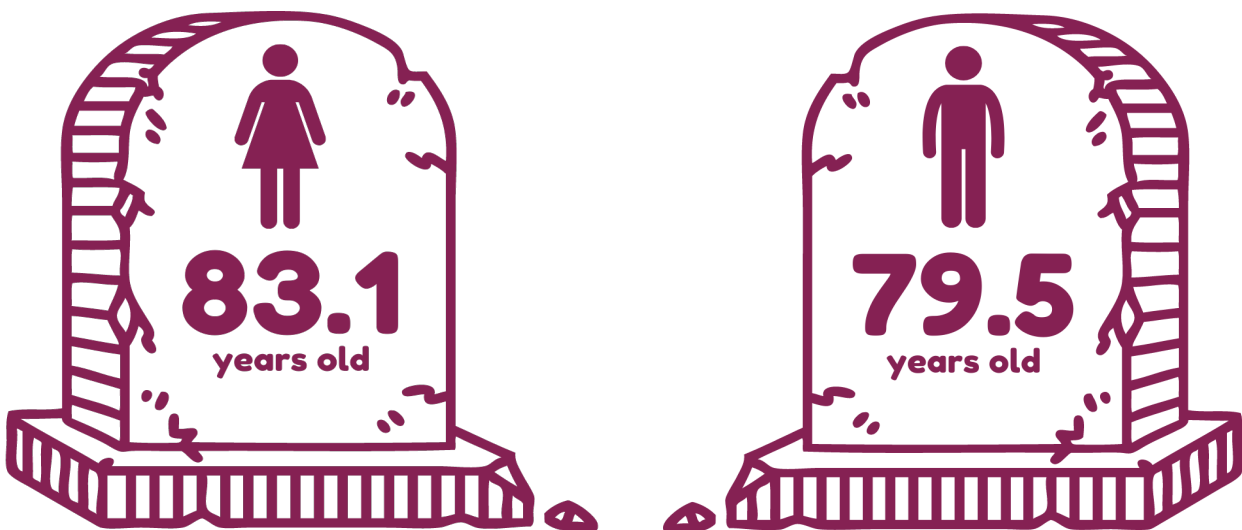
Travel times vary in the Tywyn area, where the average Aberdyfi, Bryn-crug, Llanfihangel and Llangelynnin times are longer than Gwynedd, while the Tywyn 1 and Tywyn 2 times are lower.

Concerns about health provision was a key theme that arose during conversations with Tywyn groups and organisations. Issues such as distance to emergency services and hospitals, lack of doctors locally and no provision of care for older people had a negative impact on how they felt about the area.

**“The health service! No A&E in Tywyn, and an 80 mile trip (there and back) to Aberystwyth in an emergency.”  
(Llanegryn Community 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.

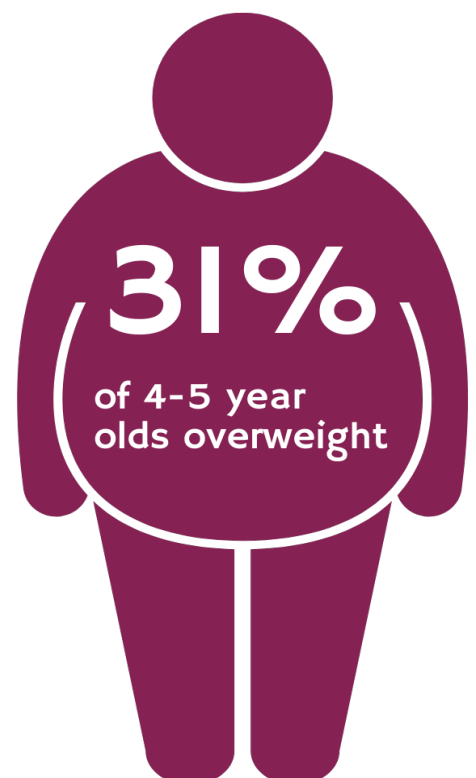
The percentage of individual live births with a low birth weight is slightly lower in Gwynedd than Wales, namely 5% compared to 6%.

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

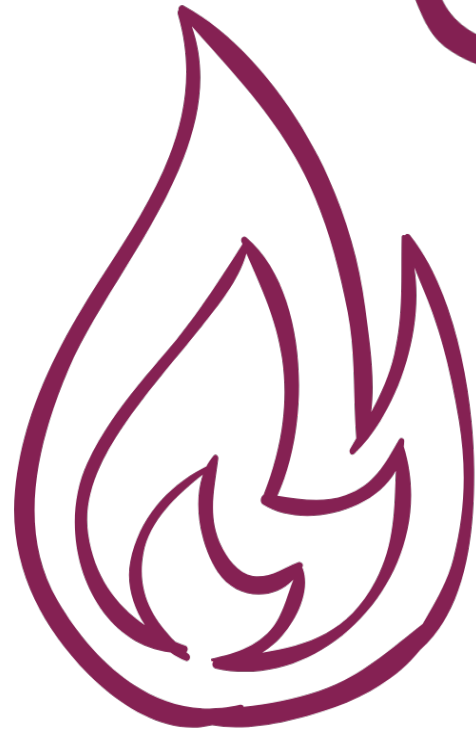
Tywyn's crime rate per 1,000 population aged 16 and over has slightly increased between 2018 and 2020, from 54 to 59. This is higher than it was in the last well-being assessment in 2015, when the was 35.

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 Tywyn 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 2 fires that were started deliberately a year in the Tywyn area and 17 accidental fire incidents.** Both of these figures are lower than it was in the last well-being assessment.

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.



**19** fire incidents in Tywyn

# Keeping in touch



**81%** of homes have a car or van in Tywyn

**81% of homes in the Tywyn area have a car or van**, which is higher 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.

Travel time varies within the Tywyn area, and whilst the average public travel time in the Tywyn 2 area is one of the lowest in the county, the average private travel time of Aberdyfi, Bryn-crug, and Llanfihangel is one of the longest.



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, 13% of the population in the Tywyn area provide at least one hour a week of unpaid care. This figure is similar to other areas in Gwynedd and Wales.

The percentage of people who volunteer in Gwynedd has increased a little from 31% in 2016 to 33% in 2019, which is 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 Tywyn groups and organisations, community spirit and kindness is what makes the area a good place to live. (Our Area 2035)

“A very strong sense of community here, and people support each other.”  
(Tywyn & District Chamber of Tourism and Commerce, Our Area 2035)



# 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 Tywyn area, there's an estimated 17,964 visitor accommodation beds. This represents around 13% of the total number of visitor accommodation beds in Gwynedd.

Within the Tywyn well-being area, Aberdyfi and Tywyn 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 Tywyn area was £168,500, an increase of £23,500 since the last assessment in 2015.



The median income of Tywyn families is around £25,968, and at least £36,063 is needed to afford an entry level price on the housing to market. This means that 67% of Tywyn households have been priced out of the market, which is amongst the highest of all of the county's well-being areas. This percentage 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, with prices now making it almost impossible for young people to buy a home in Tywyn. (Our Area 2035)

“Not enough suitable and reasonable housing for young people. As they don't have relatively high value jobs, they don't earn enough salary to be able to buy a house in the area.”  
(Llanfhangael y Pennant Community Council, Our Area 2035)

# What do the people of Tywyn do?



Figures from the 2011 Census show that in the Tywyn area 29% of the population in work, but with no qualifications, work in the elementary occupations e.g. cleaning, factory work, waste collection, farm work. In general, more people with no qualifications at all in Gwynedd work in these elementary occupations than in any other. Of those with no qualifications, Tywyn has the highest percentage of people working as managers and directors (15%).

The skilled trades employ the most of all the people who are in work in this area – 23%. This is the same as the pattern across Gwynedd and Anglesey. Around 34% people with a degree or equivalent qualification work in the professions. This trend is also similar to Gwynedd and Wales as a whole. Reliable data on areas of work by local well-being area after 2011 is not available, and therefore a significant data gap is evident.



**£361** median weekly wage

## Salary

**The median weekly wage in the Dwyfor Meirionnydd constituency (of which Tywyn 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 Tywyn 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)

## 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 Tywyn area between November 2020 and October 2021 was 4.4%, similar to 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 (5.7%) and the lowest in October 2021 (3.1%). 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%.

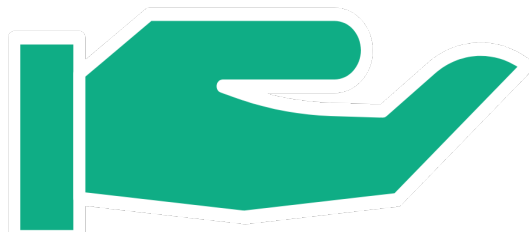


# The money in your pocket

**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 Tywyn area, 12% 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 11%, which is also the lower than Gwynedd's 12%.

According to pre-pandemic figures, 20% of households in the Tywyn area are in fuel poverty. This is slightly lower than the figure for Gwynedd as a whole is 21%, 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 Tywyn area, Tywyn 1, Tywyn 2, Aberdyfi, Bryn-crug, Llanfihangel have a higher score than that of Gwynedd.

One of the main things Tywyn 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)

“Nowhere better to live having the sea and mountains and also being an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).”  
(Tywyn Town Council, Our Area 2035)



## FOR MORE INFORMATION...

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