

KEY POINTS FROM THE WELL-BEING ASSESSMENT

POPULATION AND LANGUAGE

It's predicted that there will be more people aged over 75 in the future which means supporting an aging population and ensuring individuals stay healthy for longer in the interests of the economy and health and care services.

Gwynedd is considered a stronghold of the Welsh language but the percentage of speakers has declined over the last decade. Gwynedd's communities are concerned about the impact of migration, tourism, the availability of suitable and affordable housing for young people and families has on the Welsh language.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Gwynedd's diverse natural environment is an important resource. The Coast, lakes and rivers, mountains and swamps and forests have a positive impact on social, cultural and economic well-being.

Climate change is a global challenge that is having an impact on well-being in Gwynedd. It means that some communities are at high risk of flooding, extreme weather conditions and landslides and also putting the area's nature and habitats under increasing pressure.

Protecting nature and biodiversity is important for decarbonisation. In Gwynedd there are various habitats and species that store the carbon that contributes to the level of greenhouse gases.

A greener future is a priority for Gwynedd's communities. Conversations with residents have highlighted an appetite for eco-friendly areas that make the most of its natural resources.

SOCIAL

There is concern about the level of obesity among 4-5 year olds, and Gwynedd has the highest percentage of all counties in the North Wales region. Evidence from England and Scotland suggests that the percentage is likely to rise as a result of the effect of Covid-19 and the lockdown period.

Covid-19 is likely to have a long-term impact on population health. This includes impact on mental and physical health (for example, Long-Covid) and exacerbate many existing health inequalities.

The lack of public transport was highlighted as a huge challenge for rural communities. Frequency of bus services made it difficult for residents to access amenities and services, and likely to have a worse impact on some groups, for example, disabled people, young people and older people.

According to Gwynedd residents, community spirit is one of the area's main assets. This was shown in the willingness of communities to help one another during the Covid-19 period.

Lack of digital connectivity is a barrier to people and businesses in the county. Remote working and education during the Covid-19 period has highlighted the importance of broadband availability.

ECONOMIC

Anticipated changes in working sectors and future working patterns. There is a need to ensure accessible opportunities for all in occupations such as science and technology.

Salaries in the Dwyfor Meirionnydd constituency are lower than the whole of Gwynedd and Wales. Securing high value jobs was a priority for the county's communities and residents.

Gwynedd has one of the highest proportions of fuel poverty in Wales. Responses to the draft booklets highlighted a concern for poverty, at a time when living costs of all kinds are rising.

Housing prices and affordability are a major concern amongst local communities across the county and is likely to have a negative impact on the social, cultural, linguistic and economic well-being of areas.

Another concern highlighted by communities is the second / holiday home situation. One indicator is the increase in 'hate crime' reported by the Police.

Tourism contributes to Gwynedd's economy and is an important employment sector, but also an additional challenge for local services and the natural world. Covid-19 has had a negative impact on the country's accommodation and food sector as a result of the restrictions, and this has been more pronounced in tourism-dependent areas.

CULTURAL

The natural environment is a vital resource that contributes to well-being and health, as they enable residents to stay active.

Lack of activities for children and young people is a concern for Gwynedd's communities. There is a feeling that this leads to anti-social behavior and makes the area's young people less keen to stay in the county.

The impact of Covid-19 on cultural and arts events is difficult to assess. It's a data gap that needs attention.

The World Heritage Site offers an opportunity to take pride in the local area and its history, but we must be wary of its impact on tourism and local communities.

