

# IT'S YOUR AREA. WHAT'S IMPORTANT?

## PORTHMADOG AREA



# WELL-BEING ASSESSMENT GWYNEDD AND MÔN

WANT  
TO HAVE  
YOUR  
SAY?

The new act has established Public Services Boards for each local authority area to make sure that public bodies work together to create a better future for the people of Wales.

For Gwynedd and Môn, both Boards have decided to work together, and it's a partnership which includes the local authorities, the fire and rescue service, the health service and Natural Resources Wales.

The Gwynedd and Môn Public Services Board has divided the whole area into 14 smaller areas. Research has been carried out on behalf of the Board on each of the 14 areas to learn and understand more about the well-being of those areas. As well as the data available, we also want to know what you think about your area and community – what's important to you, what's good and what needs improving. **You will have an opportunity to have your say by attending one of the local drop-in sessions or in an online questionnaire. More information and the dates of all local sessions are on [www.GwyneddandMonWell-being.org](http://www.GwyneddandMonWell-being.org).**

This consultation period ends on December 31st 2016. The hope is that the Board will then have a clearer picture of our communities, what's important to the people in this part of Wales, and how partners can work together to plan services for the future.

THE WELL-BEING OF  
FUTURE GENERATIONS  
[WALES] ACT CAME INTO  
FORCE ON 1ST APRIL  
2016. THE PURPOSE OF  
THE ACT IS TO IMPROVE  
THE **SOCIAL,  
ECONOMIC,  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
AND CULTURAL**  
WELL-BEING OF WALES.

THIS IS THE  
INFORMATION WE  
HAVE COLLECTED ON  
THE PORTHMADOG  
AREA, WHICH  
INCLUDES CRICCIETH,  
BEDDGELERT AND  
HARLECH. DO YOU  
RECOGNISE THIS  
PICTURE OF YOUR  
AREA?



## WHO ARE THE PEOPLE OF PORTHMADOG?

Around **12,279** people live in the Porthmadog area. This is about 10% of the population of Gwynedd.

The population in this area is generally older than the rest of Gwynedd and Wales, with a much lower proportion who are children and under 50.

The number of people living in the Porthmadog area has increased – 10% between 1981 and 2011. This is less than the increase in Gwynedd and Wales over the same period – 15% in Gwynedd and 11% across Wales.

This increase has not been the same across all age groups. The number of people aged over 80 has more than doubled in 30 years, and there has been a substantial increase in the 40 to 80 year olds. But there are 15% less children under 16 in the area than there were 30 years ago.

This growth is expected to continue in some age groups more than others. In twenty years it is anticipated that there will be **60%** more people aged over 80 living in Gwynedd, but the increase in those aged between 16-64 will only be 2%.

## LANGUAGE

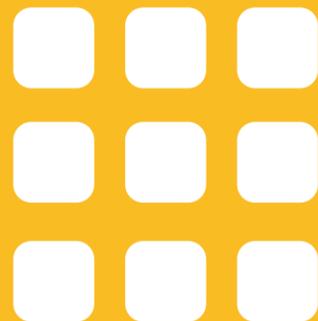
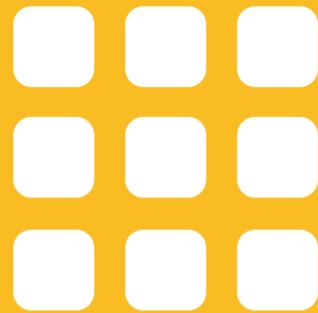
According to the 2011 Census, **76%** of people in the Penllyn area speak Welsh. This percentage has fallen over past decades compared to 85% in 1981. The fall of 9% in Penllyn is similar to the pattern across Gwynedd which saw a decline from 76% to 65% over the same period.

According to a recent survey, 78% of pupils aged 7-11 in this area speak Welsh on the school yard often or all the time. This compares with 69% across Gwynedd.

The latest figures indicate that 60% of people in Gwynedd speak Welsh on a daily basis compared with only 11% for the whole of Wales.

**60% INCREASE AGE 80+**

**2036 POPULATION OF GWYNEDD 132,000**



**2016 POPULATION OF GWYNEDD 123,000**



## HOW GREEN IS THE AREA?

Recycling rates have risen in Gwynedd over the last 4 years. By now **59%** of all the waste collected from homes, businesses and recycling centres is reused or recycled. This includes bio-waste materials that are composted.

Recycling statistics for the Porthmadog area indicate that **58% of waste is recycled**. This figure has improved substantially since 2014/15 when 49% was recycled.

Fly tipping is less common in Gwynedd than the rest of Wales – with only 4.3 cases per 1000 head of population compared to 10.2.

Carbon footprint – data shows that **81%** of households in the area own at least one car or van – which is **2%** more than across Gwynedd and **4%** more than for Wales as a whole. Carbon emissions per head of population for Gwynedd as a whole are **7.0kt CO<sub>2</sub>** which is slightly higher than for Wales in general **6.6kt CO<sub>2</sub>**.

Climate change is causing a rise in sea levels which contributes to the risk of flooding. Information shows that there is a high risk of flooding to around 1,500 coastal homes in the Porthmadog area. Approximately 1,000 more properties face the threat of inland flooding from rivers in the area.



## CLEAN STREETS?

The cleanliness of the streets is surveyed annually by Keep Wales Tidy. Their findings tell us that **9%** of the streets in the Porthmadog area have no rubbish or waste at all (Grade A), **21%** have no more than three small items of rubbish (Grade B+) and **70%** are on the whole free of rubbish and waste, apart from some small items (Grade B).



**GRADE A STREETS**  
**9%**

## THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The Glaslyn valley between Beddgelert and Porthmadog is an important environment for ferns, moss and liverworts and the woodlands at Beddgelert and Aberglaslyn Gorge provide a habitat for a variety of native trees such as the Sessile Oak, Birch and Beech as well as some Mountain Ash, Holly, Ash and Sycamore. The river itself is home to Otters, Salmon, Kingfisher and Dippers and the nearby woodland sustains a colony of Lesser Horseshoe Bats. The rare Ospreys can also be seen at Aberglaslyn.

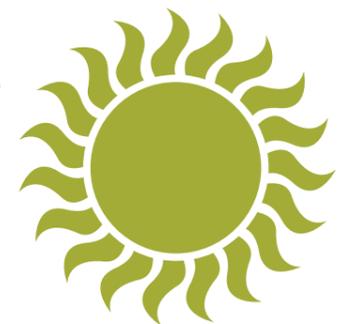
The **Dwryd and Glaslyn** estuaries merge to form one of the largest estuaries in Cardigan Bay. The sand flats and salt-marsh are important feeding sites in winter for waterfowl and the numbers of Pintail wintering here is of national importance.

**Morfa Harlech** – is one of two sand dune systems which forms the greater part of the Meirionnydd's coastline, extending from the Mawddach estuary in the south to the beach at Morfa Bychan in the north-west. This National Nature Reserve is significant as it is one of the few sand dune systems in Britain which is still growing due to the movement of the sand. The dunes sustain many rare plants and invertebrates – including the Welsh Mudwort and the Dwarf Spike-rush.

Blue Flag Beaches in this area:

**Morfa Bychan**  
The promenade at **Cricieth**.

The beach at **Harlech** has been awarded the Green Coast Award.



# SOCIAL

## GOOD HEALTH?

In the Porthmadog area around **1,150** patients are registered per GP. This is slightly lower than for Gwynedd at **1,400** and Wales at **1,600**.

Bangor is the nearest large hospital. If you live in this area, you can expect to wait between **3:42 minutes** and **7:30 minutes** for an ambulance to respond to a call where there is threat to life.

There is no specific information on the health of people in the Porthmadog area. The statistics included in this booklet are for Gwynedd as a whole – but they give an idea of the state of the county's health and the trends.

A man's life expectancy at birth in Gwynedd is **80** years whilst a woman can expect to live until she is **83.5** years old.

The gap between male and female life expectancy at birth between those who are most and least privileged in our communities, is substantially less in Gwynedd than for the rest of Wales as a whole. For women in Gwynedd the gap is **1.4** years compared with 7.3 years for Wales as a whole, and **3.1** years for men compared with an all-Wales figure of 8.9 years.

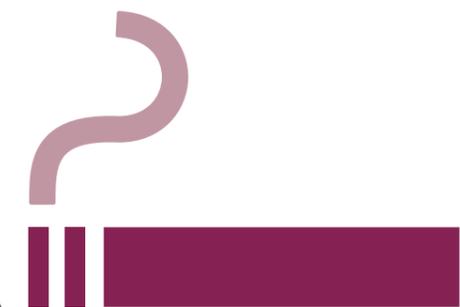
52% of all adults in Gwynedd are overweight or obese – which is lower than the all-Wales figure of 58%.

Around 30% of children aged 4-5 are overweight or obese in Gwynedd - this is higher than the Wales figure of 26%

Other factors that affect our health are smoking and drinking alcohol. **22%** of those aged 16 or older report that they smoke and **42%** drink more than **5** small glasses of wine, or around 3 pints of lager, during the week's heaviest drinking day. These two figures are very similar to the all-Wales figures.

The suicide rate in Gwynedd is 14.7 per 100,000 of the population per annum which is higher than the rate for Wales as a whole which is at 12.2.

In Gwynedd the teenage pregnancy rate for those aged under 18 is 24 per 1000 females aged 15-17. This is similar to the Wales figure.



## STAYING SAFE



The crime rate in the Porthmadog area per 1,000 head of population has fallen from **94.2** to **63.7** between 2011 and 2015. This follows the same pattern across Gwynedd which has also seen the number of crimes fall from **119** to **92.1** over the same period.

Anti-social behaviour is down but still accounts for **37%** of all crimes committed in the area.

**81%** believe it is safe for children to play outside in Gwynedd and Môn. The corresponding all-Wales figure is **64%**.

In the Porthmadog area there are on average **53** fire incidents every year – with **15%** of these fires started intentionally. The percentage of fires caused deliberately in the different areas of Gwynedd varies between 9% and 33%.

**53**  
FIRES

**15%**  
DELIBERATE

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

The percentage with access to broadband increases year upon year – now only **3%** of properties in Gwynedd do not have broadband access. This is a substantial improvement from 20% in 2011.

Around **19%** homes in the Porthmadog area have no car or van. This compares with 21% for Gwynedd as a whole.

According to national data, Tremadog and Dolbenmaen are among the 10% of areas in Wales where residents have to travel the furthest to access basic services such as chemists, food shops and GP surgeries.

Loneliness can affect all ages but older people are more vulnerable to isolation. In this area, taking various factors which contribute to loneliness into account, those aged 65+ living in Porthmadog itself face a higher risk of being lonely and those living in the Dolbenmaen are at a lower risk. In Wales, Gwynedd is among the counties facing the highest risk of loneliness.

## HELPING EACH OTHER

**11%** of the population in the Porthmadog area provide unpaid care for at least one hour per week. This figure is very similar to other areas across Gwynedd and Anglesey.

**283** people in Gwynedd volunteer through the **Volunteer Centre**. The real number of those who volunteer with sports clubs and various societies is much higher but is very difficult to measure.



# JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

Using the measure of how strong and productive the economy is (Gross Value Added), Gwynedd's economy is stronger than that of Wales and neighbouring areas such as Anglesey, Conwy and Denbighshire. However, the economies of all these areas, including the whole of Wales, are weak in comparison to the UK economy.

Of the population in work in the Porthmadog area with no qualifications **26%**, work in the elementary occupations e.g. cleaning, 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.

Of working age people in the Porthmadog area with no qualifications, **39%** are economically inactive – this means that they don't work and are not looking for work for various reasons. This is one of the lowest figures in Gwynedd.

**31%** people with a degree or equivalent qualification work in the professions. This trend is very similar to Gwynedd and Wales as a whole.

Skilled trades employ the majority of workers in the Porthmadog area (**19%**). This pattern is similar to that across Gwynedd and Anglesey.

According to 2015 figures, the percentage of people aged 16-64 claiming Jobseekers Allowance in the Porthmadog area rises in winter, but for most of the year this figure was below **1%**. The percentage for Porthmadog never increases to the same level as Gwynedd – which never drops below **1.78%**.

# £293

## IS THE MEAN WEEKLY WAGE FOR THE AREA. THIS IS THE LOWEST IN BRITAIN



The rate of new start-up businesses in Gwynedd is lower than for Ynys Môn and Wales as a whole. 62% of companies in Gwynedd stay in business for three years or more. This is slightly higher than for Wales as a whole at 60%. The rate of business failures is also lower in Gwynedd compared with the rest of Wales.

Retail is the largest sector in the Porthmadog area and accounts for **18%** of the area's employers, one of the highest figures in Gwynedd. The second largest sector is agriculture (14%) followed by hospitality and food services (13%).

**20%** of the working population aged 16+ work from home which is higher than the figure for Gwynedd and Wales. **41%** of the working population in the Porthmadog area travel less than six miles to their place of work. People in this area generally travel the least distance to work in Gwynedd.

The median weekly wage in the Dwyfor Meirionnydd constituency (of which Porthmadog is part) is around £293 a week, which is 16% lower than Gwynedd as a whole (£347 a week) and 24% lower than Wales (£387 a week). This is also the lowest in Britain.

Women's pay is **25% 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.

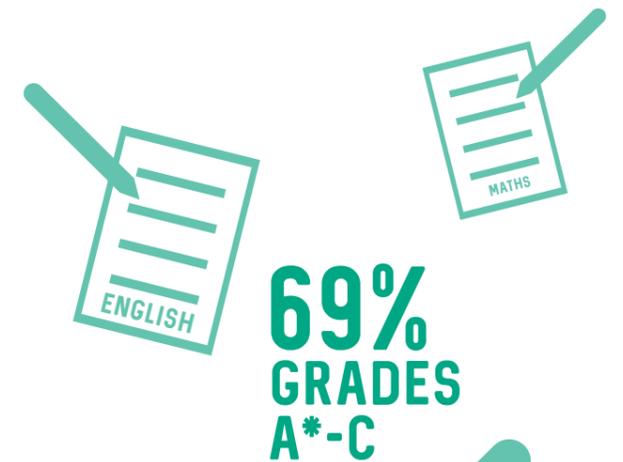
# SKILLS FOR LIFE

**69%** of pupils in the Porthmadog area get 5 A\* to C grades in their GCSE examinations in subjects including Welsh or English and Mathematics. This is higher than the performance across Gwynedd of **63%** and Wales at **58%**.

Of those achieving 5 A\* to C grades in these subjects there is an attainment gap of **45%** between pupils who have free school meals and those who do not. This compares with a difference of **36%** for Gwynedd and **33%** for Wales as a whole.

Of the young people who leave school – **1.8%** do not go on to education, employment or training in Gwynedd. This is lower than the all-Wales figure of **2.8%**.

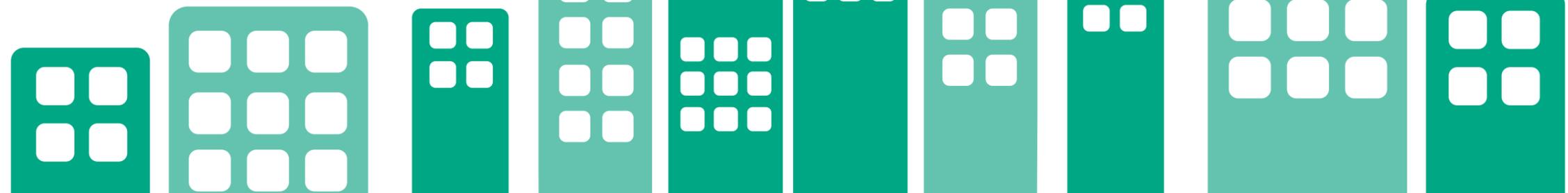
**28%** of people in the Porthmadog area have a degree or equivalent qualification. The pattern of qualifications in the Porthmadog area is very similar across every category to most of the areas across Gwynedd and Wales.



## 69% GRADES A\*-C



## 28% WITH DEGREE



# THE MONEY IN YOUR POCKET

The money available to spend by the people of Gwynedd, after paying taxes and household bills, is **£14,640** per head per annum which is £662 less than for Wales as a whole.

In the Porthmadog area, **11%** of primary school children claim free school meals which is one of the lowest in Gwynedd. By the time pupils reach secondary school, this figure falls to **8.3%**, which is the second lowest in Gwynedd.

**21%** of households in the Porthmadog area are in fuel poverty. This is the same as for Gwynedd as a whole but higher than the all-Wales figure of 14%. Of all the households in this area, 6% have no central heating which is higher than the Welsh figure of 2% but two per cent lower than Gwynedd.

The median property price in the Porthmadog area is **£174,400** which is the second highest in the county and higher than the median property price in Gwynedd of £144,000.

In this area the median household income is **£22,000** but £29,000 is needed to afford to buy a property at market entry level. This means that **62%** of families in the Porthmadog area are priced out of the market which is slightly higher than across Gwynedd where 60% are priced out of the market.



62%

LOCAL PEOPLE PRICED OUT OF THE MARKET

MEDIAN HOUSE PRICE  
£174K

MEDIAN INCOME  
£22K



CULTURAL

# KEEPING FIT

Figures for participation in sport are only available for Gwynedd as a whole. We know that **53%** of Gwynedd pupils visit leisure centres, which is higher than the Wales figure of **42%**. 51.6% of children in Gwynedd also take part in sports activities three times a week or more – which compares to 48% for Wales as a whole.

**37%** of adults report that they are active for at least **30 minutes** on five or more occasions per week – this is higher than the rate of **31%** for Wales. The percentage has risen steadily over the last few years.



**41%**  
OF CHILDREN'S  
BOOKS BORROWED  
ARE WELSH

**37%**  
OF ADULTS KEEP  
ACTIVE FOR AT  
LEAST 30 MINUTES  
5 TIMES A WEEK

# SPARE TIME

On average people in the Porthmadog area borrow **5.1 books** per head of population a year – one of the highest in Gwynedd. Of the children's books borrowed, **41%** are Welsh language books which is higher than the figure of 39% for Gwynedd as a whole.

**62%** of adults in Gwynedd say that they attended an arts event during the year and 35% visited a museum. Over half the county's population visited historical places which is similar to the Anglesey and all-Wales figures.

FOR MORE  
INFORMATION...

[WWW.GWYNEDDANDMONWELL-BEING.ORG](http://WWW.GWYNEDDANDMONWELL-BEING.ORG)  
**01766 771000**

Ask for the  
Gwynedd and Môn Partnership Manager

