THE WELL-BEING ASSESSMENT FOR ANGLESEY

The new Well-being of Future Generations 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 Anglesey, both Boards have decided to work together, and it’s a partnership which includes the main public sector organisations across both counties.

The Act sets out seven well-being goals (see below) – and aims to ensure that each Board and public service providers work together to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being across the regions of Wales.

The Act also puts in place a sustainable development principle for public bodies and Public Services Boards. This means that when a decision is made the impact on people living in Wales in the future must be considered. The five factors public service providers need to think about to show that they have applied the sustainable development principle are:

- The long term
- Prevention
- Integration
- Collaboration
- Involvement

In consultation with the public the Gwynedd and Môn Public Services Board has prepared and produced this Well-being Assessment for Anglesey. It looks at the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of the island.

HOW?

The Gwynedd and Môn Public Services Board divided the region into 14 smaller areas and carried out research to learn and understand more about their well-being. Six of these areas are on Anglesey.

Once the research was completed and the data collected, individual information booklets were produced for each of the six areas. The booklets looked at well-being under the four main headings as set out by the Act – Social, Economic, Environmental and Cultural. An additional heading of ‘Population and Language’ has been included as the Board acknowledged the significance of this theme to the region.

Twelve public drop-in sessions were then organised, two in each of the six areas, to give residents the opportunity to discuss their views and to help us gather further information. We asked if they recognised their area from the information in the booklets, what was important to them, and what they like about their community as well as what needs improving. We also asked about well-being – what’s important to their well-being and to the well-being of their community.

We tried to ensure that we heard different voices from across the area – we visited schools and met with community groups. There were also regional discussions with harder to reach groups.

A social media campaign and articles in the local print media and on partners’ websites also publicised the assessment and encouraged residents to complete the on-line questionnaires relating to their areas.

The six local information booklets are still available and can be seen alongside this document at www.GwyneddandMonWell-being.org.
WHAT IS WELL-BEING?

There isn’t a single definition for ‘well-being’. Indeed, there are continuous discussions about what it means, but it’s quite likely that ‘well-being’ means different things to different people. Many say that well-being describes everything that affects how good our lives are. Our personal well-being includes feelings of happiness, our standard of living and the idea of living life to the full. Our communities and culture, our health, the environment and the economy all affect how well we live our lives. What’s important to your personal well-being is also likely to change as you go through different stages of life. And, it follows that people’s personal well-being can influence the well-being of families, communities and the areas they belong to.

To try and understand what’s important to the people of Anglesey, we asked them just that at the public sessions and in the online questionnaire at the end of 2016. We asked what was good about living in the area; what was not so good; what’s important to well-being and quality of life, and what people would change about their area to make it a better place to live.

The responses in full for each area can be found on the website, but below is a taste of what the residents of Anglesey told us.

WHAT MAKES YOUR AREA A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE?

- The natural environment including the beaches
- Community spirit and good neighbours
- Peace and quiet
- Local facilities
- Low crime rates and feeling safe

WHAT’S NOT SO GOOD?

- Appearance of the streets
- Not enough public facilities
- Public transport
- Road safety and traffic
- Lack of professional and quality jobs

WHAT IMPROVES WELL-BEING IN YOUR AREA AND CONTRIBUTES TOWARDS YOUR QUALITY OF LIFE?

- Natural environment
- Community spirit
- Outdoor activities
- Family/ Friends/ Neighbours
- Peace and quiet

WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE ABOUT YOUR AREA TO MAKE IT A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE?

- More opportunities to socialise in the community
- Improve the appearance of the streets
- Improve public transport connections
- Improve road safety and footpaths
POPULATION & LANGUAGE
WHO ARE THE PEOPLE OF ANGLESEY?

Around **70,000** people live on Anglesey.

The number of people that live on the island has increased by **4.9%** between 1981 – 2011. This is lower than the increase seen across the population of Wales (11%) during the same period.

However, this increase hasn’t been the same for all age groups. The number of people over the age of 80 on Anglesey has increased by **143%** in 30 years – with the highest increase of 160% in Canolbarth Môn and Llifon, and Lligwy and Twrcelyn.

During the same period there has been a decline in the number of children aged under 15, and in the 16 to 39 age group. The number of children has declined by **28%** over 30 years and the number of people in the 16 to 39 age group has fallen by 19%.

This trend is expected to continue over the next 20 years with an increase of **86%** in the number of people aged over 80 on Anglesey, and a decline of **12%** in the population aged 15 and under.

LANGUAGE

According to the 2011 Census **57%** of people on Anglesey speak Welsh. This figure has fallen over the past few decades – in 1981, 62% of the area’s population could speak Welsh. This decline of 5% is higher than the figure for Wales as a whole, where there has been no decrease during the same period.

Some areas of Anglesey have seen an even sharper decrease – with **11%** in Bro Aberffraw and Bro Rhosyr, and **10%** in Caergybi and Ynys Cybi. However, the Aethwy and Seiriol area has seen a growth of **2%** in Welsh speakers over the last 30 years.

Recent figures show that **46%** speak Welsh every day on Anglesey, compared to 11% across Wales.

What the people of Anglesey told us is important to them

- Keeping young people in the area/ concern that many are leaving
- Concern that less people are speaking Welsh
- Need to support non-Welsh speakers to learn the language
- Need to promote the use of the Welsh language
- Concern regarding Wylfa Newydd and the effect it could have on the language and the population
Waste and Recycling

Recycling rates have risen on Anglesey over the last four years. Around 59.5% of all the waste collected from homes, businesses and recycling centres on the island is now reused or recycled. This includes bio-waste materials that are composted.

Fly tipping is higher on Anglesey than the rest of Wales – with 25.3 cases per 1,000 head of population compared to 10.2 nationally.

The cleanliness of our streets is surveyed every year by Keep Wales Tidy. Their findings show that of the streets inspected on Anglesey 5% had no rubbish or waste on them (Grade A), 20% had no more than three small items of rubbish (Grade B+) and 71% were found to be generally clear of rubbish except for a few small items (Grade B), and the rest were Grade C.

Climate Change

Carbon footprint – data shows that 82% of homes on Anglesey own at least one car or van. Carbon emissions per head of population for Anglesey as a whole is 6.7kt CO2 and is slightly higher than the Wales average of 6.6kt CO2.

Climate change is causing sea levels to rise which contributes to the risk of flooding. On the island 970 properties are at risk of flooding in four areas identified as being at risk of severe flooding – Trearddur Bay and Beaumaris are the worst affected.
Natural Environment

On Anglesey there are over a 1,000 km of public rights of way, of which over 200 km form part of the Wales Coastal Path. There are also over 2,000 hectares of open access land, with over 800 hectares managed by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) as woodland.

NRW has prepared a pack on the natural environment of Anglesey and this is available online along with this assessment. More information about the important habitat and different landscapes of Anglesey can also be found in the individual area booklets. The information is unique to each area and highlights the rich and diverse environment that exists within Anglesey.

All but one of the beaches on Anglesey have been recognised as being of very high quality and there are six Blue Flag beaches.

What the people of Anglesey told us is important to them

- The need to protect the environment
- Improve the appearance of our streets
- Waste management and increase re-cycling rates
- Ensure that new developments do not have a negative effect on the environment
SOCIAL
HEALTH

Around **1,400** patients are registered per GP on Anglesey. This is slightly lower than 1,600 for Wales.

The ambulance response times vary across the island. More detailed information is available in the area booklets.

A man’s life expectancy at birth on Anglesey is **78.7 years** whilst a woman can expect to live until she is **83 years old**.

The gap between life expectancy at birth between those who are most and least privileged on the island is substantially less than for the rest of Wales – as much as 75% less for women and 30% for men.

Of all adults on Anglesey **58%** are overweight or obese – this is the same as the all-Wales figure. However, the overweight population of Anglesey has increased by 3% since 2011 whilst the Wales figure remained the same.

Around **32%** of children aged 4-5 on the island are overweight or obese - this is higher than the Wales figure of 26%.

Other factors that affect our health are smoking and drinking alcohol. Of those aged 16 or older, **22%** report that they smoke, and **38%** drink more than five small glasses of wine, or around three pints of lager, during the week’s heaviest drinking day. These two figures are very similar to the all-Wales figures and have remained the same over recent years.

The suicide rate on Anglesey is 10.4 per 100,000 of the population per annum which is lower than the rate for Wales as a whole which is at 12.2.

The teenage pregnancy rate on Anglesey for those aged under 18 is 23.6 per 1,000 aged 15-17. This is similar to the Wales figure.
The crime rate per 1,000 head of population has fallen from 109.2 to 83.4 between 2011 and 2015. This pattern is the same across Anglesey apart from Caergybi and Ynys Cybi, and Canolbarth Môn and Llifon where the rates are higher.

Around 81% of people believe that it is safe for children to play outside on Anglesey. The corresponding all-Wales figure is 64%.

There were around 60 deliberate fires on Anglesey over the last three years. The rate of fires started deliberately on the island varies from area to area - between 9% and 42%.

The percentage with access to broadband increases year upon year – now only 2% of properties on Anglesey do not have broadband access.

Around 18% of homes have no car or van. This compares with 22.9% for the whole of Wales.

Loneliness is a condition which can affect all ages but older people are more vulnerable. In Wales, Anglesey is among the counties facing the highest risk of loneliness. More information regarding the specific areas on the island at highest risk can be seen in the information booklets.

About 11.5% of Anglesey’s population provides at least one hour of un-paid care a week. This figure is very similar to the rest of Wales.

What the people of Anglesey told us is important to them
- Feeling safe and a low crime level
- Opportunities to socialise
- Improving the health of the population
- Health services
ECONOMY
JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

Using the measure of how strong and productive the economy is (Gross Value Added), Anglesey’s economy is generally weaker than that of Wales. But, the economy of the whole of Wales is weak compared to the United Kingdom.

Generally, across the island more people who have no qualifications and are in work are employed in the elementary occupations, e.g. in a factory, cleaning, waste collection, working on a farm.

Around 25% are economically inactive – this means people who are not in employment and are not looking for work for various reasons. This figure is slightly lower than the figure for Gwynedd.

The number of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance on Anglesey hasn’t dropped below 2.96% in recent years. This compares with the 2.15% of people aged 16-64 in Wales as a whole who claim the allowance at any one time.

The rate of new business start-ups on Anglesey is higher than Gwynedd and is similar to the level in Wales as a whole. Around 65% of companies in Anglesey stay in business for three years or more. This is slightly higher than the Wales figure of 60%. The rate of businesses failing is also slightly higher on Anglesey (8%) than in Gwynedd (7%) but slightly lower compared to the rest of Wales (9%).

Agriculture is the largest sector on Anglesey – accounting for 19% of employers, compared with 12% across the rest of Wales. The second largest is construction at 11%.

Of the working age population on Anglesey, 14% work from home, which is higher than the Wales figure of 11%. About 38% of those who are in employment travel more than six miles to work.

The median weekly wage on Anglesey is around £422 a week, which is 8% higher than the Wales median (£386 per week). Women’s pay is 27% lower than men’s pay on the island, but this gap is less than that for Wales as a whole which is 33%.

£422 is the median weekly wage in Anglesey
SKILLS

Fifty-seven percent of pupils on Anglesey achieve five A* to C grades in their GCSEs in subjects including Welsh or English and Mathematics – this compares with a Welsh figure of 58%. This is a 9% increase over five years.

Of those achieving five A* to C in these subjects, there is an attainment gap of 25% between pupils claiming free school meals and those who don’t. This is lower than the gap of 33% for Wales as a whole.

In Anglesey 2.2% of young people who leave school do not go on to education, employment or training. This is lower than the all-Wales figure of 2.8%.

Twenty-six percent of people on the island have a degree or equivalent which is higher than the Wales figure (24.5%). Around a quarter of Anglesey’s population has no qualification – this is similar to other areas of Wales.

THE MONEY IN YOUR POCKET

The money available to spend after paying taxes and the cost of paying for a home by the people of Anglesey is £16,238 per head per annum, which is £936 higher than for Wales as a whole.

Eighteen percent of primary school children on the island claim free school meals. This figure varies from area to area within a range of 10% to 27%. By the time pupils reach secondary school this figure falls to 16%.

Eighteen percent of households on Anglesey are in fuel poverty. This is higher than the all-Wales of 14%. Of all the households on the island 5% have no central heating – which is higher than the 2% for Wales.
Housing

The median property price on Anglesey is £156,000 which is higher than the Wales median of £141,000. The average household income on Anglesey is £23,560, but £32,357 is needed to afford a property at market entry level price. This means that 64% of households on the island are priced out of the market. There is a substantial difference in this percentage between the different areas of Anglesey, with the highest percentage in Lligwy and Twrcelyn where 72% of households are priced out of the market, to the lowest at 54% in the Caergybi and Ynys Cybi area.

What the people of Anglesey told us is important to them

- The need for high quality jobs
- Concern over the high number of local people priced out of the housing market
- Need to support / promote business in the area
- The state of the local economy
- Promoting tourism
CULTURAL
**KEEPING FIT**

*Forty-six percent* of pupils on Anglesey visit a leisure centre. This is higher than Wales’ level of 42%, but lower than the 53% in Gwynedd. Around *50%* of the island’s children also take part in sports activities three times a week or more – this compares to 48% for Wales as a whole.

*Thirty-seven percent* 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 but very similar to Gwynedd. The percentage has risen steadily over recent years.

**LEISURE TIME**

On average three books are borrowed per head of population in Anglesey. Of the children’s books borrowed *33%* are Welsh and of adult books borrowed *5%* are Welsh.

Around *60%* of adults on Anglesey have attended an arts event during the year, with *34%* having visited a museum and *57%* visiting a historical site. This is similar to Gwynedd and the rest of Wales.

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What the people of Anglesey told us is important to them

- The importance of the area’s culture and history
- Information about cultural events
- A Welsh community and identity as well as the Welsh language
- Keeping fit and healthy

**33% OF CHILDREN’S BOOKS BORROWED ARE WELSH**

**37% OF ADULTS KEEP ACTIVE FOR AT LEAST 30 MINUTES 5 TIMES A WEEK**
WHAT DOES THIS ASSESSMENT TELL US ABOUT THE WELL-BEING OF OUR AREAS?

This assessment is a starting point – it paints a broad picture of the area's well-being and it will, together with the area information booklets help the Board understand Anglesey better. This work will continue over the next few months and years, with the Board working closely with local communities to really understand what’s important and what impacts the well-being of the people of Anglesey.

For the five subject areas of the assessment some clear messages come out of the data gathered, but what the people of Anglesey have told us also adds valuable information.

**POPULATION**

The population of Anglesey is getting older whilst the number of young people in our communities is declining. With this trend set to continue over the next 20 years the demography of the area will change significantly and the make-up of our communities will be very different.

We need to understand better how this change will affect the well-being of our communities and of the individuals living within them. The implications could be far reaching, and both positive and negative. For example we know that older people are at a higher risk of loneliness, and as people live longer they will also need more care and support at home and in the community – this will need to be planned for. However, many older people may continue working and playing an important role in the community.

Further work needs to be done to truly understand the impact of this changing demography and to ensure that we can support our communities to respond positively.

**LANGUAGE**

The data on the Welsh language shows clearly a decline in the language over the past 30 years. Both Anglesey and Gwynedd are the main areas where the language is strong and used daily by much of the population. However, if the decline is set to continue in the future there could be areas of Anglesey where the Welsh language could be at risk of being lost to future generations.

During the engagement process it was very apparent that this decline concerns many, with residents keen to see the language being protected and promoted and more support to learn Welsh made available for people who move to Anglesey.

The Language is key to the social fabric of our communities and is a fundamental part of our cultural identity. We need to ensure that residents can live their lives through the medium of Welsh and that they can access services and community activities in Welsh.

**ENVIRONMENT**

The island’s natural environment is very important to well-being.

Our rivers, lakes, groundwater, estuaries, coastline and beaches provide us with important natural benefits, many of which contribute to the well-being of local communities and the wider population.

We understand that climate change has increased the risk of flooding – it causes sea levels to rise, and increases the frequency of storms, which contribute to the risk of inland flash floods. Flooding is the most common type of ‘natural’ disaster which affects our homes and businesses, and can disrupt the normal functioning of whole communities.
Climate change is also having an effect on many other matters such as wildlife, the biodiversity and natural habitats of the area. We must, therefore, as we plan for future well-being ensure we do all we can to safeguard and protect our environment against climate change. You have told us that this is important to you and it includes the element of peace and quiet as well as ensuring the outdoors and our natural environment is protected as an important asset for activities to help keep us fit and healthy.

You also want better access to services and more facilities in your communities. Improving public transport is an important aspect of this as well as improving public footpaths – this must be a consideration for any future planning of public services.

**SOCIAL**

It is clear that there is a healthy community spirit on the island – with all six of the areas on Anglesey telling us how important this is to their well-being. It is therefore, important that we nurture and promote this spirit to create communities that are prosperous and active, as well as strong and confident enough to face future challenges.

One of the biggest challenges will be to improve the health of residents across all the areas of Anglesey. When we consider the findings of the Population Assessment alongside the data and views gathered here it is clear that health has a significant effect on well-being. Our data shows that the population of Anglesey is not as healthy as it could be and if this trend is not reversed then there will be significant implications for individuals and communities.

With more than half of the population of Anglesey overweight or obese, and significant numbers of smokers and those drinking more than the recommended amount – there will undoubtedly be significant pressures on health services. This will need to be planned for and preventative measures will need to be put in place.

During the engagement process, many were concerned about the high levels of obesity and the decline in mental health, especially amongst young people. You identified the need to support and enable people to take part in activities that would have a positive effect on health and well-being in the long term. This includes encouraging residents to take responsibility for their own health and to take part in activities that will prevent ill health in the future. We need to be able to do this as well as support individuals who currently have health issues.

Another factor which has been identified as having an impact on well-being is loneliness and isolation – with Anglesey amongst one of the areas of highest risk in Wales. Whilst we recognised the healthy community spirit that exists on the island it is important that all residents feel a part of those communities, and that we work together to reduce the risk of loneliness. There are established networks and volunteer groups that are central to this and we must enable them to continue to thrive.

**ECONOMIC**

The economy is key to the well-being of any community. Residents told us that one of the most important issues for them was the need for jobs and especially high quality jobs. This must be a priority as we plan for the future as well as providing support for new and existing businesses to thrive.

We also need to keep a keen eye on how external factors may affect our economy. For example, agriculture is the largest sector on the island, and we need to be considering how the UK’s departure from the European Union will affect our farmers. Other issues such as climate change will also undoubtedly have an effect on the sector. We need to be in a position to support this and other sectors to respond to these changes in a positive way.

Our young people do well at school with the percentage of those who achieve five
A* to C grades including Welsh, English and Mathematics improving over recent years. We need to ensure quality opportunities for them in the future to allow them to live and work locally.

However, opportunities are not the same for all. The gap in attainment between pupils claiming free school meals and those who do not is lower than the gap for Wales as a whole, but continues to be too high. Free school meals is one of the indicators of household poverty. Although the percentage of households in material deprivation on Anglesey is less than for Wales as a whole, it is acknowledged that poverty is still an issue and has a significant effect on well-being.

Lack of achievement and aspiration may affect an individual’s well-being in the future and we need to ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to succeed. More importantly, we should ensure that every child has positive experiences during their childhood to allow them to thrive and grow up to be full members of their communities.

The high percentage of people on the island that are priced out of the local housing market is an issue of concern. Many believe that the effect of high house prices together with a lack of quality opportunities contributes towards the flow of young people out of the area.

Many of you also told us that family, friends and neighbours are important to you and your well-being and therefore, losing the younger generation is likely to have a negative effect on communities.

**CULTURAL**

We recognise that the data we have collected under this heading is limited and more work needs to be done to understand and appreciate the impact cultural and leisure activities have on well-being.

You told us that having information about cultural events is important as is the Welsh language and culture.

As discussed under the ‘Social’ heading community groups and activities support the well-being of individuals across the county and many of these are based on our cultural heritage. Further work needs to be done to look at this in more detail in the different areas of Anglesey to ensure that residents across the island have access to such activities.

**SO, WHAT ARE THE MAIN MESSAGES?**

Even though we have looked at each subject area separately within the assessment, it is clear that they are interdependent when we consider well-being. To work towards achieving the well-being goals we must address the issues together.

In summary, these are the main messages:

- **THE NEED TO MAINTAIN**
- **THE HEALTHY COMMUNITY SPIRIT WHICH IS KEY TO WELL-BEING**

- **THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING**
- **THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

- **UNDERSTANDING THE EFFECT OF THE CHANGING DEMOGRAPHY ON OUR AREA**
OTHER ASSESSMENTS

There are several other strategies and assessments which have been developed by partners and stakeholders in collaboration which look at the areas relevant to the Board’s work. They will also be considered alongside this assessment when the Local Well-Being Plan is being developed.

Amongst these include the North Wales Population Assessment, which has looked at the care and support needs of residents across north Wales. The assessment highlighted many issues which appear as themes at a regional level. They include the increase in mental health referrals, especially for young people; the need for more access to preventative services; reducing isolation; more support to live at home; support for individuals with dementia; the importance of services in the language of choice; and the need for more social and leisure activities for people with disabilities.

Other assessments we will also consider are the local Play Sufficiency Assessment, and Childcare Assessment where the messages include the impact that play opportunities has on the well-being of children, the need for more childcare through the medium of Welsh and that the affordability of childcare is a real barrier for parents.
WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

By April 2018 the Board will publish a Local Well-being Plan for the areas of Gwynedd and Anglesey. The plan will outline the Well-being objectives of the Board as well as the steps it will take to achieve those objectives.

The Board operates across both counties and the data as well as people’s responses to this assessment so far shows that the needs of people and communities across Gwynedd and the isle of Anglesey are very similar. The Board will therefore decide on common well-being objectives for both areas.

We acknowledge that there are gaps in the information that has been gathered and that we need more detailed analysis of individual topics and themes to develop the local plan. We also acknowledge that there needs to be further analysis of future trends so that the Board can effectively plan for the future. In order to publish an achievable plan that meets the needs of our communities the Board will consider this assessment of local well-being, but will also consider other assessments that have been published, as well as evidence of what works elsewhere to improve well-being.

The Board will also need to consider the effects of future developments on the well-being of people in Gwynedd and Anglesey, this includes the implications of leaving the European Union and Wylfa Newydd. It will do this alongside other established Boards such as the North Wales Economic Ambitions Board and the Regional Safer Communities Board.

When agreeing the steps that need to be taken to improve well-being on Anglesey the Board will ensure that public service providers work together to develop an action plan that concentrates on preventative action for positive long term effects.

More importantly, the Board will include you in the process and is keen to hear your opinion on what works in your communities to improve well-being.

Over the next few months we will be arranging several meetings and workshops for people who have an interest in being part of developing the Local Well-being Plan for Anglesey so they can share their ideas and opinions with us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

For more information and to view the documents associated with this assessment, visit:

WWW.GWYNEDDANDMONWELL-BEING.ORG
01766 771000
Ask for the Gwynedd and Môn Partnership Manager